

GENERAL ORDERS



The Newsletter of the

**Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc.
and The Iron Brigade Association**



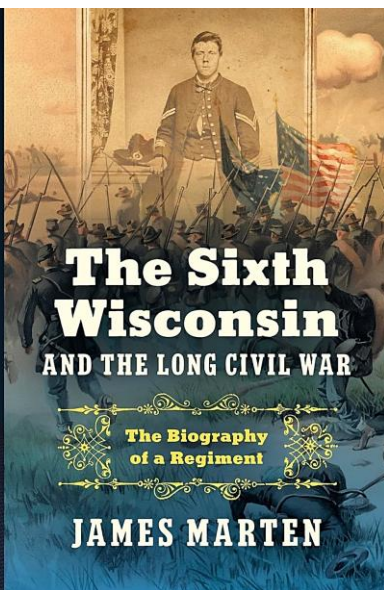
September 10, 2026

Dr. James Marten

The 6th Wisconsin and the Long Civil War

As one of the original regiments in the Iron Brigade, the Sixth Wisconsin fought in virtually all of the major campaigns of the Army of the Potomac from Second Bull Run through Appomattox, from the Cornfield at Antietam and the Unfinished Railroad Cut at Gettysburg through the confusing bloodbath of the Wilderness and the frustrating siege at Petersburg. After the war veterans struggled with the aftermaths of wounds and disease, commemorated their contributions, and remembered their fallen comrades. My talk will sample the war-time and post-war experiences of volunteers like Rufus Dawes, Captain of Company K and future commander of the Sixth, as well as draftees like Gottlieb Torke, one of hundreds of mostly German-immigrants who finished the war.

James Marten is professor of history emeritus at Marquette University, where he taught for thirty-six years. He is author, editor, or co-editor, of two dozen books, including *The Children's Civil War*, *Sing Not War: The Lives of Union & Confederate Veterans in Gilded Age America*, and his latest, *The Sixth Wisconsin and the Long Civil War: The Biography of a Regiment*. He was president of the Society of Civil War Historians from 2013 to 2015.



General Orders No. 9-26

September 2026

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September Meeting at a Glance

**The Wisconsin Club
9th and Wisconsin Avenue
Milwaukee, Wisconsin**

Jackets are required for dining room.

5:30 p.m. - Registration/Social Hour
6:30 p.m. - Dinner
7:30 p.m. - Program

Speaker and topic are subject to change. In case of inclement weather, listen to WTMJ or WISN for meeting status.

2026-2027 Speaker Schedule p. 7

milwaukeeecwrt.org

MCWRT Mission Statement

The purposes of the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee shall be to promote study of personalities and events leading to or associated with the American Civil War; to provide a forum for members and guests to exchange views; and to support study and remembrance of our own nation's history.

When Reservations are Cancelled

Please be aware that cancellations of dinner reservations within 48 hours of the meeting are subject to payment in full. The MCWRT is charged for these dinners whether they are used or not!

Your Cooperation is Appreciated

“Walk-in dinner” requests are sometimes difficult to honor. Remember, dinner reservations are to be made at least 48 hours prior to the meeting date. We are always happy to accommodate where possible, but we cannot always guarantee a dinner that evening if you have not called in or emailed your reservation. Thank you for your understanding.

Special Dietary Needs

We have quite a number of regular members who have opted for special entrees as options to the regular dinner being served. The Wisconsin Club and the Round Table will make every effort to meet any special dietary needs you may have. As a courtesy, **please give a reminder when making your reservations**, so we don't forget to serve you what you're expecting!

Non-Discrimination Statement

The Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc. does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, national origin, religion, age, sexual orientation, creed, ancestry, pregnancy, marital or parental status, gender identity or expression, veteran status, physical, mental, emotional or learning disability, or any other legally protected status in its educational programs, activities, or membership.

A Change in Command

With the passing of Lance Herdegen, it has become necessary to appoint a new Brigadier General Commanding of the Iron Brigade Association.

Ellen Kelling Vukovic has agreed to accept that position, and is uniquely qualified to do so. She is a direct descendant of Edwin A. Brown, Company E of the 6th Wisconsin Volunteers. Ellen has served the Milwaukee Round Table as President and Treasurer and a long-time MCWRT member.

The Brigadier General is the chief administrative officer of the Iron Brigade Association and presides at Association meetings when able to attend.

[illegible]**MCWRT Annual Fund**

The following members have made a generous commitment to the MCWRT by investing in that fund. This list reflects those donations made July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026.

Major Contributor (\$500 and above)

Susan Anderson, Paul Eilbes, Gerald Frangesch, Doug Haag, Van & Dawn Harl, Rebecca & Charles Jarvis, Grant Johnson

Patron (\$200 - \$499)

Mike Deeken, George Geanon, Gene & Jane Jamroz, Dan Nettesheim, Andrew Platta, Laura Rinaldi, Brad & Kathy Schotanus, Dave & Kay Wege

Associate (\$100 - \$199)

Don & Amy Bauer, Mike Benton, Crain Bliwas, Ellen & Jerry DeMers, Gary & Judy Ertel, Bill & Claudette Finke, Jim Heinz, Peter & Jean Jacobsohn, Bruce Klem, Steve Leopold, Kathy McNally, Jim & Monica Millane, Dennis Slater, Dan Tanty, Justin Tolomeo

Contributor (up to \$99)

George Affeldt, Gordon Dammann, Thomas Doyle, Lori Duginski, John Durr, Julian Gonzalez, Leon & Margaret Harris, Christopher Johnson, Rich Kallan, Jerome Kowalski, Jay Lauck, Fred Madsen, Rod Malinowski, Seth Maxfield, Paul & Susan Miller, Thomas Olsen, John Rodahl, Rick Schultz, Diana Smurawa, Anne & Dave Steinhilb, Dan VanGrunsven, Paul Zehren

Speaker Enhancement Fund

George Affeldt, Don and Amy Bauer, Jerry & Ellen DeMers, Thomas Doyle, Lori Duginski, John Durr, Paul Eilbes, Gary & Judy Ertel, Gerald Frangesch, George Geanon, Julian Gonzalez, Jim Heinz, John Helmenstine, Tom Hesse, Don & Laverna Hilbig, Peter & Jean Jacobsohn, Gene & Jane Jamroz, Dan Jones, Rich Kallan, Allan Kasprzak, John Lencheck, Steve Leopold, Rod Malinowski, Robin & Tom Martin, Kathy McNally, Jim & Monica Millane, Paul & Susan Miller, Thomas Olsen, John & Susan Petty, Laura Rinaldi, Diana Smurawa, Dan Tanty, Paul Zehren



Previous September meetings of the Milwaukee Civil War Round Table featured these speakers and topics.

- 2005 Richard McMurray: "Forty Years to a New Framework for the Civil War"
- 2006 Mike Kaufman: "The American Brutus, John Wilkes Booth"
- 2009 Lance Herdegen: "Those Damned Black Hats at Gettysburg"
- 2011 Bruce Allardice: "Civil War Baseball"
- 2012 Bjorn Skaptason: "Wisconsin and Shiloh"
- 2014 Frank P. Varney: "General Grant and the Rewriting of History"
- 2016 David Eicher: "Tales of Civil War High Command"
- 2017 Edward Bonekemper: "False Remembrance of the Civil War"
- 2018 Timothy B. Smith: "Difficult and Broken Ground- the Terrain Factor at Shiloh"
- 2019 Janet Croon: "The War Outside My Window"
- 2020 Ted Savas: "Lost and Found: The Archaeology of the Battle of Payne's Farm"
- 2021 Eric Wittenberg: "Seceding from Secession"
- 2023 Adolfo Ovies: "Cavalry of the Army of the Potomac"
- 2024 John Horn: "The Wilson-Kautz Raid"
- 2025 Dr. James Pula: "Overlooked and Underappreciated: Dan Butterfield"



The Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee was established in 1947 and is the second oldest of the more than 200 Civil War Round Tables still in existence in the United States and abroad. Current membership of the MCWRT is approximately 200.

Kenosha Civil War Museum

Second Friday Lecture Series

Sponsored by the Milwaukee Civil War Round Table and the Iron Brigade Association. Free and open to the public.

Freedom Seekers and the Underground Railroad in Illinois and on Lake Michigan

Friday, September 11 | 12pm – 1pm

Presented by: Dr. Larry McClellan

Dr. Larry McClellan's program is an exploration of the journeys of freedom seekers and the networks of response that became the Underground Railroad across Illinois and onward to Detroit and freedom in Canada. As Dr. McClellan will explain, for many coming to northeastern Illinois, their journeys to freedom combined both overland routes and travel on Lake Michigan.

Dr. Larry McClellan has written extensively about the Underground Railroad in Illinois and served on the state 2024 Task Force to create the Illinois Freedom Trails Commission. His major publications include 25 articles in the Encyclopedia of Chicago [2005]; *The Underground Railroad South of Chicago* [2019], co-author of *To the River, The Remarkable Journey of Caroline Quarlls, a Freedom Seeker on the Underground Railroad* [2019]. *Onward to Chicago: Freedom Seekers and the Underground Railroad in Northeastern Illinois* [2023], published by Southern Illinois University Press. This received the national 2023 Memorial Prize for the Advancement of Knowledge from the Underground Railroad Free Press and a book award from the Newberry Library in 2025. In 2022 he received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Illinois State Historical Society for his contributions to Illinois history and, in 2024, he served on the Illinois Underground Railroad Task Force reporting to the state legislature. His consulting, research and writing focus on freedom seekers and the Underground Railroad, and on African American and regional history south of Chicago.



Check this out on YouTube! Type in "The Kenosha Civil War Museum."



Theater Tonight.

Tonight will be performing the great piece "Uncle Tom's Cabin" Miss Harrison, as Topsy, will cause an audible smile as usual. And Miss Emma as Little Eva will again entrance the audience. The time for the departure of this company is fast approaching. Let's all see them before they go.

Fort Monroe, September 22nd.

The Richmond Examiner of September the 18th says that a flag of truce will carry down 260 officers and privates Yankee prisoners remaining at Richmond except 600 sick and wounded who's still in encumber the hospitals

Headquarters Army of the Potomac

Tuesday evening.

Information received today from a servant who deserted from the rebels yesterday, shows their loss in general officers in the late battles to be greater than ours. General Wright, of North Carolina, is wounded in two places. General branch of North Carolina, Longstreet and Major General Anderson are wounded. General Colquitt, of Georgia, is killed. The rebels admit their losses to have been 20,000 in the battle of Antietam, 30,000 since they entered Maryland. The people have suffered terribly since the occupation of the armies. In many cases families which a few days ago were in comfortable circumstances, are now desolate of the necessities of life.

All foliage and fuel, and also substance used by our army is promptly paid for. Farmers whose farms have been laid waste and buildings destroyed during the battles, are referred to the authorities at Washington for settlement. The movements of the rebels are mysterious. The military authorities here feel satisfied that the whole rebel force is still opposite the Potomac. Information to the effect that they would reoccupy Maryland is considered unfounded, as it would be entirely impracticable.

From the Second Wisconsin Regiment

Camp Second Wisconsin Volunteers.

Upton's Hill, Virginia, September 6, 1862

Dear Tribune:

The retrograde movements of the last 10 days have told fearfully upon our ranks. Our men look haggard and careworn, the effects of continual marching, skirmishing and fighting. It would seem impossible for men to pass through what our soldiers have in the last 10 days, but our situation has required the exertions made, and those brave Wisconsin boys were found equal to the task. We are in hopes to have rest, for God knows we are sadly in need of it. Since the 19th of August, our brigade has been under fire almost every day,

either artillery or infantry, and its thin ranks only too well tells the history of its laborers. With the exception of a few skirmishers on the Rapidan and Rappahannock rivers, we were not in strict contact with the enemy until Thursday evening, the 28th, and of this battle my letter will mostly concern.

On the day of the 28th we marched to Buckley's on the Warrenton Turnpike. There halted until 4:00 when we started for Bull Run battlefield. About 5:00 when within 1/2 mile of the old field we were halted, came to a front, loaded, and laid down by the side of the rail fence. The 6th and the 7th Wisconsin and the 19th Indiana remained behind. The rebels threw a few shells at us but done us no harm. About 6:00 the order was given for our regiment to March through a piece of woods, into an open field and advanced to the Ridge of the hill and engage the enemy. With the cheer of men obeyed the call and on reaching the Ridge received a volley from a rebel brigade, which we afterwards learned was the Stonewall Brigade. And again, a volley our men opened upon them. For one hour and 10 minutes the battle raged, both parties standing firmly and pouring volley upon volley into each other's ranks. The 6th and the 7th came up on our right, but having the cover of the hill, did not suffer a very heavy loss. The 19th Indiana regiment joined or left. With only our brigade and one New York regiment we fought against three rebel brigades, the Stonewall brigade of South Carolinian brigade and an Alabama Brigade.

A captain of the Stonewall Brigade who was taken prisoner asserted that for the first time the Stonewall Brigade were forced to turn their backs on the enemy, and they had fought on the peninsula I do not believe there is a battle on record, considering the smallness of the numbers engaged and the length of time, that will compare with the battle of Thursday Colonel E. O'Connor was killed. He nobly stood at his post during his whole duty; in fact, a braver or better man never led a regiment into an engagement. Major T. S. Allen was wounded twice, once in the left arm and again in the neck. He is now doing duty. He evinced the same spirit as when in the old battle. For pluck he can't be beat. Lieutenant Colonel Fairchild, I cannot speak too highly of him. Where I to speak too flatteringly it might be given to 1 more than another, but I ventured the sediment "Fairchild, the Second's model." Captain John Randolph of Company H was killed in the early part of the engagement.

Our regiment entered the engagement with 420 men and came out losing 286 killed wounded and missing. Companies C, H, K and G suffered more than any of the other companies. Every exertion in our power was made to care for the wounded after the battle and at 3:00 when we retired from the field, we were forced to leave our wounded in the care of Doctor Warren and William Allen only to fall into the hands of the enemy. Our dead were left unburied and we learned since had been stripped of their clothing and thus closed one of the harshest fought battles on record.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

2026 Fiscal Year
July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026

Summary of Accepted Financial Report
for 2025-2026

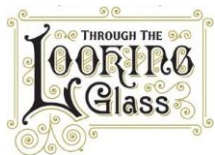
Beginning Balance:			\$5,230.34	Checking Balance 7/1/2025	
RECEIPTS					
	Dinner Receipts	\$19,740.00			
	Member Dues	\$6,820.00			
	Contribution-Annual Fund	\$8,031.00			
	Speaker Enhancement Fund	\$2,230.00			
	Book Raffle	\$967.00			
	Iron Brigade	\$0.00			
	Clothing	\$90.00			
	Pins	\$75.00			
	Surplus Book Sales	\$71.00			
	Miscellaneous	\$2,950.05			
	Total Receipts		\$40,974.05		
DISBURSEMENTS					
	Dinner Expense	\$22,334.88			
	Speaker Expenses	\$3,062.54			
	Printing	\$5,445.93			
	Postage	\$2,444.45			
	Contributions & Grants	\$5,550.00			
	Office Supplies	\$151.30			
	Plaques & Awards	\$1,250.00			
	Miscellaneous	\$944.00			
	Licenses & Renewals	\$130.00			
	Total Disbursements		\$41,313.10		
			\$4,891.29	Checking Balance 6/30/2026	
			\$260.00	Cash on Hand	
			\$6,623.78	Savings Balance	
			\$25,783.95	Certificates of Deposit	
			\$37,559.02	Total Capital	
				Fund Balances	
			\$13,455.86	Speaker Enhancement Fund	
			\$1,420.00	Donna A/ABT Fund	
			\$80.00	Guest Dinner Fund	
Respectfully submitted,			\$150.00	Gift Education Memberships	
Paul Eilbes			\$15,105.86	Total Fund set asides	
Treasurer					
			\$22,453.18	Working Capital	

The Driftless Area Civil War Club 2026-2027 Schedule of Meetings

Programs are held monthly on the 3rd Saturday of the month at
1:00 at the Odd Fellow Lodge at 112 Front Street Mineral Point.

Contact John Helmenstine at helmenstine@att.net for more information.

September 19	Laura Schiller -Illinois Cavalry	January 16	Mark Bishop – Old Abe, the War Eagle
October 17,	Leslie Goddard – Clara Barton	February 20	Show and Tell – Artifacts of the Civil War
November 21	John Beatty – Shiloh	March	To Be Determined
December 19	Andrea Nolan – Lincoln’s Counterfeiters	April	To Be Determined
		May	To Be Determined
		June	To Be Determined
		July	Robert Girardi – Andersonville and Illinois Prisons



Through the Looking Glass features are intended to tell the stories of common folks of the Civil War, whether they are civilians or military personnel. If you have access to the story of an ordinary citizen of this war-torn era and are willing to share it with our members, please consider submitting it to the **General Orders**. Thank you!



Private Rasho Crane – 7th Wisconsin Infantry

On February 2, 1864, fifteen-year-old Private Rasho Crane enlisted as a drummer in Company D of the 7th Wisconsin Infantry, part of the famed Iron Brigade. He enlisted alongside his two older brothers, his mother hoping that service as a drummer boy would spare him from the horrors of combat.

That hope would not last.

During the first day of the Battle of the Wilderness, the 7th Wisconsin was thrown into some of the war's fiercest fighting. The tangled, burning forests of Virginia became scenes of chaos as men were killed, wounded, or captured in staggering numbers. Young Crane was assigned as a stretcher bearer, helping carry the wounded from the field.

Amid the confusion and savage fighting in the Wilderness thickets, the 7th Wisconsin was overwhelmed by John B. Gordon's Georgia Brigade, and Crane was captured on May 5, 1864. He was later transferred to the famed Andersonville Prison — officially Camp Sumter — near Americus, Georgia.

There, beneath the brutal Georgia sun, he succumbed to dysentery on July 23, 1864. He was only fifteen years old. Private Rasho Crane was laid to rest in grave #3828 at Andersonville National Cemetery.



Michael Dunn – 46th Pennsylvania Infantry

He expected death before sunrise... instead he woke in rain, pain, and the unbearable fact that he was still alive.

In May 1864, during the brutal fighting at New Hope Church in Georgia, Union soldier Michael Dunn of the 46th Pennsylvania Volunteers suffered one of the war's most harrowing experiences. Struck by canister shot in both legs just before nightfall, he was left gravely wounded as the battlefield descended into chaos. As artillery thundered and gunfire filled the darkness, two comrades risked their lives to carry him away from the front lines. Laying him in a blanket, they dragged him nearly half a mile through broken ground, his injured legs trailing across stones and stumps as they moved as fast as they could through the storm of flying shot and shell.

Dunn later recalled that the men were not to blame for the harshness of his journey. The battlefield was still active, and survival depended on speed and instinct rather than gentleness. They pressed forward until they reached a safer position, where they finally stopped and laid him down. At that moment, Dunn believed both he and his comrades thought he would not survive the night. Rain began to fall heavily, soaking the wounded soldier as exhaustion and shock overtook him. Accepting what he believed to be his final moments, he drifted into sleep amid pain, mud, and cold water, expecting never to wake again.

But morning brought an unexpected return to consciousness. To his surprise, Dunn awoke alive, still lying in the rain-soaked aftermath of battle. The pain remained, and the reality of his injuries soon set in, but so did the fact that he had survived a night he fully believed would be his last. His account captures the fragile boundary between life and death for Civil War soldiers, where survival often depended on luck, endurance, and the desperate efforts of comrades who refused to leave them behind.

Year Joined	First	Last
Five Year members		
2021	Bob	Brown
	Paul F.	Heaton
	Robert L., Jr.	Johnson
	Richard & Diane	Kane
	Philip & Elizabeth	Kinsella
	Don	Korte
	Rachel	Millar
	Bob	Presman

Ten Year Members		
2016	Ted	Barnett
	Charles	McVay
	James & Monica	Millane
	David F.	Thompson
	Justin & Stacy	Tolomeo
	Nicole & Steve Pales	Wood Pale

Fifteen Years		
2011	George	Affeldt
	Van & Dawn	Harl
	Grant	Johnson
	Richard	Robb

Twenty Years		
2006	Thomas & Terry	Arliskas
	Julian, Jr.	Gonzalez
	Leon & Margaret	Harris
	John & Dorothy	Helmenstin
	Thomas	Hesse
	Bernard L.	Jene
	Allan	Kasprzak
	Steve	Loreck
	Steve	Martinie
	James J.	Melchior
	Ken	Miller
	Charles G.	Vogel

An organization is only as good as its membership. On this page, please find the names of those in the Milwaukee Civil War Round Table who have reached milestone anniversaries. Each and every one of you is appreciated.

At the forty-year mark, a member automatically joins the **Iron Brigade Color Guard**. Being in that august group awards that person with free membership in the MCWRT, accepted at the discretion of each individual in the Color Guard. Thank you for standing with the colors for so many years.

Twenty Five Years		
2001	Frank A.	Risler
	Diana	Smurawa

Thirty Years		
1996	Michael K.	Benton
	Maureen M.	Dorgay
	Thomas	Jasper
	Ellen Kelling BG CMDG IB	Vukovic

Forty Years - Iron Brigade Color Guard		
1986	John D.	Beatty
1986	Eric P.	Conradson
1986	Brian A.	Kangas
1986	Ronald J.	Wildasin
1984	Crain H.	Bliwas
1984	Eugene L. & Jane	Jamrozy
1984	Kathleen A.	McNally
1984	Daniel D.	Nettesheim
1982	Peter H. & Jean	Jacobsohn [
1981	John	Durr
1980	Andrew J.	Oren
1980	Daniel R.	Wartinbee
1976	Rebecca Anderson	Osborne
1972	David L.	Kinnamon

MILWAUKEE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE 2026-2027 SPEAKER SCHEDULE

September 10, 2026	James Marten
	<i>The 6th Wisconsin and the Long Civil War</i>
October 8, 2026	Joshua Lindamood
	<i>April 6, 1865: Black Thursday</i>
November 12, 2026	Robert Miller
	<i>Angels of the Battlefield: Catholic Nuns in the Civil War</i>
December 10, 2026	Stuart Dempsey
	(At the Bavarian Bierhaus) <i>So Outrageously and So Persistently Misrepresented: The 11th Corps at Chancellorsville and Gettysburg</i>
January 7, 2027	Dan Masters
	<i>Badgers to the Front: Wisconsin at Stones River</i>
February 11, 2027	Rob Girardi
	<i>Gouverneur K. Warren in the Gettysburg Campaign</i>
March 11, 2027	Doug Dammann
	<i>Tarheel and the Yankee: Civil War Veterans Who Played in the First Intercollegiate Football Game</i>
April 8, 2027	Dave Powell
	<i>Who Won the Battle of Chickamunga Creek?</i>
May 13, 2027	Dr. Lucas Wilder
	<i>Longstreet's East Tennessee Campaign</i>
June 10, 2027	Kevin Donovan
	<i>The Court Martial of Fitz John Porter: Fair or Fixed?</i>

Speakers/topics remain subject to change.



Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc. 2026 – 2027 Board of Directors

Name	Office/Position	Term Expires
Terry Arliskas	Program Chair	2028
Thomas Arliskas	Past President/Secretary	2028
Michael K. Benton	President	2029
Dale Bspalec	Second Vice President	2029
Roman Blenski	Quartermaster	2028
Mike Deeken	Member	2028
Paul A. Eilbes	Treasurer	2028
Tom Hesse	Past President	2029
Grant Johnson	Membership/Webmaster	2027
	Past President	
Bruce Klem	Past President	2027
Frank Risler	Member	2027
Justin Tolomeo	First Vice President	2029
David Wege	Editor, General Orders	2027

www.milwaukeeecwrt.org

CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE NEWS EMAIL NOTIFICATIONS

Would you like to receive an email reminder before each meeting? How about an email telling you about a special or upcoming Civil War event in our area? If you are interested in receiving an email reminder/notification please send your email address to Grant Johnson at: grant.johnson@responsory.com

Grant will be creating a database with email reminders set to go out a week before the scheduled event. This is a purely optional choice on each member's part. If you have any questions please talk to Grant at a Round Table meeting or email him at the listed email address.

Milwaukee Civil War Round Table Dinner Reservation for September 10, 2026

Mail your reservations by Friday, September 4 to:

Paul Eilbes
1809 Washington Avenue
Cedarburg, WI 53012-9730

Call or email reservations to:

(262) 376-0568
peilbes@gmail.com

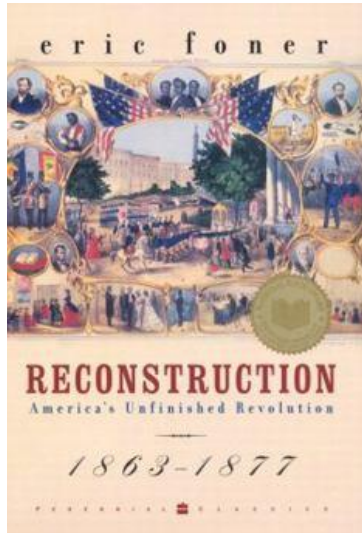
Enclosed is \$_____ (meal is \$35.00 per person) for _____ people for the
September 10, 2026 meeting of the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee.
(Please make checks payable to the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc.)



BETWEEN THE COVERS

Reconstruction, America's Unfinished Revolution

Eric Foner



This review is on Reconstruction, America's Unfinished Revolution 1863-1877, a book that I bought when I attended my first visit to the Gettysburg Institute Seminar. It was written by Eric Foner in 2014 as an updated edition from the original published in 1988. The book has 612 pages. I would say this is not a book for the faint of heart. This book traces the process of reconstruction from its beginning to the end and follows all the paths of its history. Mr. Foner explains his focus in explaining how reconstruction impacted the aftermath of the Civil War and the effect on emancipation on the nation by constructing his writing in two major parts. "The transformation of slaves into free laborers and equal citizens was the most dramatic example of the social and political changes unleashed by the Civil War and emancipation. A second purpose of the study was to trace the ways in which Southern society as a whole was remodeled and to do so without neglecting the local variations in different parts of the South."

As a result, this is a very complex discussion and follows in detail the ups and downs of the process and the variety of impacts to the people that were affected by emancipation. So, to do this, the book is very long and detailed, maybe overly so. While long and in some cases tedious, it is a fascinating and wrenching story of our nation's history.

Some of the events that stand out: the debate over black suffrage after emancipation and reconstruction (widely opposed), the disenfranchisement of former confederates and its effects, the inability to provide meaningful land ownership for former slaves, the post-war assaults on blacks by the Klan and other reactionary forces, and the ultimate reluctance to follow through on Reconstruction adequately. Slavery may have officially ended, but it was followed by exploitative labor peonage, discrimination and exclusion, the Poll tax and extreme poverty in an economically depressed region. Blacks were freer, but still miserable. Mr. Foner shows that at first, Reconstruction seemed to promise real change as former slaves were awarded some land (40 acres and a mule), they were able to vote and hold political office, and their voting power was enhanced by the exclusion of former confederates. Gradually, with rare exceptions, such as some educational advances, the train began to go off the rails on the whole promising enterprise and almost all of these advances were reversed.

Eventually, the Klan and other demons of the old South arose to wreak vengeance on the powerless human symbols of their wartime humiliation and deprive them of their freedom and often their lives as reconstruction ended. Mr. Foner shows how irresponsibility and negligence of the victors led directly to the promise of reconstruction stumble and then fail. If the South was indeed part of the Union, then everyone must share in the blame and burdens of what slavery entailed and what effective reconstruction demanded.

Ultimately, years later, blacks finally got the civil rights they should have received years ago, a process that was delayed by northern negligence. I thought Mr. Foner makes a good argument that the freed Blacks had certainly tried to make it on their own immediately after the War, only to be stymied by the Southern Democrats. Mr. Foner did a great job portraying that for the Southern White and Black populations the whole world had suddenly changed when slavery ended, the source of labor for the economy, the social structure, and the political structure. The question appeared as to how to fix things to make unification of all peoples work and really step out of the shadow of slavery.

This is an extremely long and complex book and I think the complexity of this work only serves to highlight the complexity of the problem that slavery had created for this country and breaking away from this situation required careful and continuous focus on backing out of that system. I found this a tough read at some points but, overall, I'm glad I did read it. As a result I have a much better understanding of what Reconstruction tried to do and how it fell short of success. As a result, to some extent it is still a problem this country is trying to come back from. I think I'd give this one a recommendation of reading it with a warning of be prepared for a perhaps tough read but at the end to have gained an idea of what the journey of reconstruction meant.

submitted by Bruce Klem

Ethnic Regiments of the Army of the Cumberland
presented by Dan Masters

The Upper Midwestern states of Illinois, Indiana and Ohio provided the bulk of the soldiers for the Army of the Cumberland, the Federal government's second largest Civil War army. Dan Master's program will highlight several of the ethnic regiments—including the 24th Illinois (German) 32nd Indiana (German), 35th Indiana (Irish), 2nd Missouri (German), 9th Ohio (German), 10th Ohio (Irish), and 15th Wisconsin (Scandinavian) -- that served with this potent fighting force.

John Don't Call Me Hunt Morgan and the Not-So-Great Raid of 1863
presented by Darryl Smith

Darryl Smith's presentation will discuss John H. Morgan's Indiana-Ohio Raid from a different perspective – one that shows the raid was not the successful effort that some historians claim it to be – and how it adversely impacted operations in Tennessee. The result was not some grand effort, but instead led to the destruction of a Confederate cavalry division.

Hazardous Duty: Civil War Shipwrecks of the Great Lakes
presented by Brendon Bailod

Raw materials from the Great Lakes region fueled the industrialization of America and played a key role in developing the Union's capacity during the American Civil War. Hundreds of ships were lost in the years prior to the Civil War due to southern opposition to harbor appropriations for the Great Lakes. Hundreds more were lost during the Civil War as they sailed east with cargoes of grain, iron ore and copper. This talk will tell the story of the Great Lakes role in the Civil War through the lens of Great Lakes shipwrecks.

The Western Sanitary Commission
presented by Dana Shoaf

The Western Sanitary Commission, though overshadowed by the larger United States Sanitary Commission in the east, performed invaluable work. Union General John C. Fremont, Reverend William Greenleaf Eliot, James E. Yeatman, and Dorothea Dix established the WSC in August 1861. Headquartered in St. Louis, the hard-working doctors, civilians, and nurses of the WSC established hospitals, administered medical services, and improved sanitation in camps. Additionally, the WSC established a fleet of hospital ships to travel throughout the sprawling Western Theater and provide aid from the Battle of Wilson's Creek until the end of the war.

Bus Trip: Williamsburg and Yorktown Tour

October 18-21, 2026

\$1150 per person for double occupancy, \$1375 per person for single occupancy
\$1225 per person for double occupancy for non-members, \$1450 per person for single occupancy for non-members

In celebration of the 250th Anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, the Civil War Museum invites you to join us on a three and half day tour of the Civil War, Revolutionary War, and early America sites of Williamsburg, Yorktown, and Fortress Monroe, Virginia. Our group will explore the historic locations connected to the dramatic conclusion of the Revolutionary War, General McClellan's Peninsular Campaign, the Seven Days Battles near Richmond, the USS Monitor Center and "Freedom's Fortress" at Ft. Monroe. The Civil War Museum has arranged for unique access to the sites as well as outstanding historians and authors to guide us on our explorations.

Included in the price of the tour is lodging, meals, guide fees, site fees, local bus service from Sunday evening, October 18 to Wednesday afternoon, October 21. We ask that you arrange your own transportation to and from the base hotel in Williamsburg, but from there the museum will take care of everything else.

We hope that you consider joining us on this unique opportunity to explore multiple facets of American history in and around Williamsburg, Virginia.



Civil War Travels and Historical Adventures

Surely some of you traveled to Civil War sites over the languid months of summer. If that is the case, please tell us about your adventures on this page. Send any submissions to wegs1862@gmail.com.

Preservation Successes



We often hear organizations asking for more funding, for more donations to muster support for land that will be “lost forever if we don’t act now.” If you feel the desire to see hard-won donations at doing the good work for which they were intended, please go to the website of the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation.

On the top of the page click on the Preserve tab next to the SEARCH box. It will take you to these success stories! There is a lot of winning going on, so much that the full articles themselves would not lend themselves to the space we have in our General Orders.

50 Acres Saved at Tom’s Brook

Major Victory Preserves Threatened Site of Historic Cavalry Clash



Two Key Parcels Preserved at New Market

One Critical Site Associated with the Opening of the Battle



Victory at Cross Keys

Union Church Site with Historic Cemetery Preserved

AND

98 Acres of Civil War Battlefield Preserved

**Battlefields Foundation Partners with the
Commonwealth to Save Historic Black Church**



Public-Private Partnership Announced to Establish Hoke’s Run Battlefield Park

The first Civil War battle in the Shenandoah Valley was fought here.



Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc.



MILWAUKEE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE QUARTERMASTER'S REGALIA

What better way to show off your pride in our organization! All items are made of first-rate, quality materials, modestly embroidered with the Round Table/Iron Brigade log, along with

ITEM	COST
Hooded Sweatshirt in Northern Blue.....	\$35.00
Baseball Hat.....	\$10.00
Blue Brief Case.....	\$25.00
Blue Light-Weight Sweatshirt.....	\$30.00
Blue Izod Polo Shirt.....	\$40.00
Blue Dress Shirt.....	\$40.00
Blue Fleece-Lined Jacket.....	\$60.00
Iron Brigade Pin.....	\$5.00
CWRT Pin.....	\$5.00
Bugle Pin.....	\$5.00
Iron Brigade Medal.....	\$25.00
Red River Medal.....	\$25.00
CWRT 60 Year Medal.....	\$10.00

Contact Roman Blenski, Quartermaster

4601 W. Holt Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53219

(414) 327-2847 dbcpmilw@gmail.com

You may also see Roman in person at the monthly meeting at the Book Raffle table.

