General Orders

The Newsletter of the

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

November 12, 2026 **Father Robert Miller**

Angels of the Battlefield

Catholic Nuns in the Civil War

When the Civil War began, there were virtually no trained nurses in America except Catholic nuns, who already were staffing 28 hospitals. Despite prejudice and resistance from Protestants like Dorothea Dix, nearly 700 nuns became quickly in demand on both sides by doctors and medical officers because of their quiet faithfulness, professional work ethic and nursing skills. They staffed hospital ships on the Mississippi, military hospitals and makeshift field stations across nearly all theaters of the war. These humble spiritual women performed any task asked of them in the horrific wartime medical conditions, all to ease the suffering of the sick and wounded. They labored in dangerous and sometimes hostile territory assisting in surgery, supervising wards, housekeeping, cooking and ministering on the battlefield. Many soldiers experienced a conversion or were baptized because of their quiet but powerful "Faith in action," and countless preconceptions and anti- Catholic prejudices were transformed as well.

From Union hospitals like the massive Satterlee (in Philadelphia), those in Washington DC, Pittsburgh, Louisville and Mound City IL, to Confederate hospitals in places like Richmond, Vicksburg, Atlanta, Jackson – nuns were everywhere, always on the move where needed, quietly giving unmatched service to wounded soldiers desperate for care and comfort. These Catholic women brought a unique female "active spirituality" (discipline, skill, compassion and quiet Faith) at a horrific deadly time of our history when death, disease and despair ravaged so many unfortunate victims. Their amazing story is rarely spoken of in Civil War talks, workshops or displays – and tonight we will give these forgotten women their due place in history, as we tell the story of the women called "God's geese" and the "flying artillery" - the "nuns of the battlefield"!

Rev. Robert J. Miller is a Catholic priest of 50+ years, formerly a full-time preacher with the Redemptorists, now retired from 35 years of inner-city Chicago ministry in the Archdiocese of Chicago. He has Masters Degrees in Religious Education and Divinity, authored 5 books on spirituality and faith, founded an inner-city Chicago housing corporation, and was an adjunct professor of Church History at the University of St. Mary of the Lake. A former President of the Chicago Civil War Round Table, he frequently speaks on topics of spirituality and history, especially on Civil War religion and chaplains.

His 2007 book, Both Prayed to the Same God – Religion and Faith in the Civil War, was the first book- length overview of the topic. His newest book - Faith of the Fathers – A Comprehensive Study of Catholic Civil War Chaplains - was published by Notre Dame Press in April 2025.

General Orders No. 11-26
November 2026

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November 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

milwaukeecwrt.org

Civil War Round Table News

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.

Update/Correction

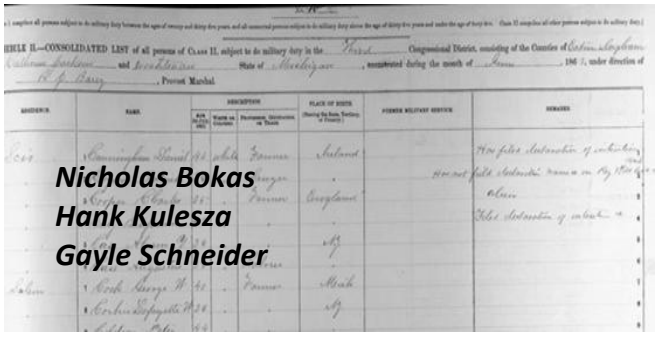
Our thanks to an eagle-eyed reader who caught a phrase in the October General Orders. That phrase said that the 2nd Wisconsin Colonel O'Connor's father sent a party to Gainesville to bury is son, but the body wasn't found.

That left the impression that the colonel's body was lost somewhere on the field of the battle. To correct that thought is this;

Colonel O'Connor's body was identified and reburied at Arlington National Cemetery in 1879. Accounts of Lucius Fairchild wrote about that experience.

To borrow from radio commentator Paul Harvey we can say, "Now you know the rest of the story."

The Muster Roll: NEW MEMBERS



Nicholas Bokas
Hank Kulesza
Gayle Schneider

MCWRT Annual Fund

The following members have made a generous commitment to the MCWRT by investing in that fund. This list reflects donations made July 1, 2026 through September 11, 2026.

Major Contributor ($500 and above)

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

Patron ($200 - $499)

Dale Bespalec, Michael Deeken, Gary & Judy Ertel, Gene &Jane Jamrozy, Kathy McNally, Laura Rinaldi, Justin & Stacy Tolomeo, Dan Van Grunsven

Associate ($100 - $199)

Mike Benton, Crain Bliwas, Ellen & Jerry DeMers, William & Claudette Fink, Robert Girardi, James Heinz, John Helmenstine, Jean & Peter Jacobsohn, Brian Kangas, Paul & Susan Miller, Leight Murray, Brad & Kathy Schotanus, Dennis Slater, Sam Solberg, Dan Tanty, Paul Zehren

Contributor (up to $99)

George Affeldt, Robert Christie, Larry Desotell & Deborah Wied, Lori Duginski, John Durr, George Geason, Julian Gonzalez, Jr., Brian Gunn, Leon & Margaret Harris, Don Hilbig, Christopher Johnson, Rich Kallan, Allan Kasprzak, Janet & Michael Key, Jay Lauck, Steve Loreck, Steve Magnusen, Rod Malinowski, Tom Mueller, Ann & Dave Steinhilb, Chuck Vogel

Speaker Enhancement Fund

George Affeldt, Don & Amy Bauer, Dale Bespalec, Ellen & Jerry DeMers, Tom & Karen Doyle, Lori Duginski, John Durr, Gerald Frangesch, Julian Gonzalez, Jr., Brian Gunn, James Heinz, John Helmenstine, Tom Hesse, Jean & Peter Jacobsohn, Gene & Jane Jamrozy, Matt & Heather Jensen, Dan Jones, Rich Kallan, Bruce Klem, Jay Lauck, Rod Malinowski, Tom & Robin Martin, John & Susan Petty, Laura Rinaldi, Diana Smurawa, Dan Tanty, Paul Zehren



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

2003 Eric Wittenberg: *Little Phil: A Critical Assessment of the Civil War Generalship of Philip H. Sheridan*

2004 Dorothy Kelly: *The War in East Tennessee*

2005 Edward Bonekemper: *Grant: A Victor, not a Butcher*

2007 John Simon: *Could the South Have Won the Civil War?*

2009 Patrick A. Schroeder: *Myths about Lee's Surrender*

2011 Gail Stephens:: *Jubal's in the Valley, Summer 1864*

2012 Thomas Clemens: *An Overview of the Maryland Campaign of 1862*

2014 Prof. Stephen Towne: *Detecting Deserters and Disloyalty - U.S. Army Intelligence Operations*

2016 Dave Connon: *Propaganda Campaign in Iowa*

2018 Paul Kahan: *The Presidency of U.S. Grant*

2019 Ethan Rafuse: *Back to the Chivalric Days of Yore: The Valley Campaign of 1862*

2020 General John Scales: *Did Forrest Make a Difference?*

2022 Dr. Mary Abroe: *Civil War Battlefields and Historic Preservation – An American Story*

2023 Earnest Dollar: *Hearts Torn Asunder: Trauma in the Civil War*

2024 Allen Ottens: *The Grant-Rollins Relationship During the Civil War*

2025 Chris Kolakowski: *Civil War to World War: Simon Bolivar Buckner, Sr. and Jr.*

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.

Courage Defined

Friday, November 13 | 12pm – 1pm
Presented by: Beverly Vallancourt

This 45-minute presentation features selected clips from two Civil War video series that tell the remarkable stories of Wisconsin and Illinois men and women who left their homes and families to serve their country. Discover the story of Dr. Samuel H. Everett, the first Union surgeon killed in action, Martin J. Hawkins, a participant in the daring Great Locomotive Chase, and William Shipley, an immigrant and the first soldier from Quincy, Illinois, to die in the Civil War. Along the way, you'll gain a deeper appreciation for the sacrifices of Union nurses, such as Elizabeth Leebrick, who tirelessly cared for and gathered supplies for the wounded and for volunteer soldiers such as Dyer Walker Hitchcock and Philip Cheek, who struggled to understand the staggering human cost of the war but fought on with courage and fortitude. Through personal stories and historical insights, this presentation reveals the courage, resilience, and humanity that defined those shaped by America's greatest conflict.

A Soldier's Eye View of the Mule Shoe: Battle of Spotsylvania

Friday, December 11 | 12pm – 1pm
Presented by: Steven Acker

Veterans of the Seven Days, Antietam, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, and more said this about the fight at Spotsylvania Court House: "All the men say that this has been the hardest fight since the war." "There is not a man in this brigade who will ever forget it (Spotsylvania)." This program will discuss the events leading up to May 12, 1864, fight then offer a soldier's-eye view of the twenty-two hours of intense fighting where some soldiers fired over two hundred rounds, and an oak tree was cut in half by musket fire. Maps, images, and first-person accounts from Union and Confederate soldiers will help us gain a deeper understanding of the Battle of the Mule Shoe.

FROM THE FIELD

Headquarters 7th Regiment Wisconsin Volunteers
near Middletown, Maryland
September the 16th 1862

Editors State Journal: It again becomes my duty to report the casualties in the 7th regiment Wisconsin Volunteers in the battle of South Mountain, Maryland fought on the 14th day of September 1862, in which the 7th lost heavily in killed and wounded as will be seen by the report below. About 4:00 on the evening of the 14th of September the 7th regiment was ordered forward through a cornfield on the right of the pike running through the gap in the mountain our left resting within the company distance of the pike. Skirmishers were sent forward and soon met the enemy's skirmishers.

A hot skirmish fire ensued, our skirmishers driving those of the enemy until the fire was so strong from the enemy that the skirmishers could advance no further. I then received orders to advance the 7th in line of battle. We advanced until the regiment was within 60 or 70 yards of the enemy without receiving anything more than an occasional shot from the enemy sharp shooters, when they opened the most destructive enfilading fire from behind the stone wall running parallel with the pike on our left. Also, an enfilading fire came from the woods on our right and a direct fire from behind a stone wall in our front. This state of things lasted for some 15 minutes when the 6th Wisconsin double-quicked it to our right and fired a volley that greatly relieved us by drawing the enfilading fire on our right. The Second Wisconsin doing the same on our left, thus leaving us to contend with the direct fire from our front only.

We fought until our cartridges gave out and were then ordered to hold the ground at the point of the bayonet. The enemy, seeming to know our condition, commenced to advance on us, when we came to a charge bayonet. And the order "Charge" being given our men advanced on them when they skedaddled. We held the ground until 11:00 at night when we were relieved by General Gorman's brigade.

Our men all fought nobly and desperately. I could not personally end in this connection without doing injustice to others equally brave and true. Company F was commanded by Sergeant William E. Stout, Company I by Sergeant Prutesman, and Company B by Sergeant Weeks. Great credit is due to these men for the manner in which they conducted themselves as line officers.

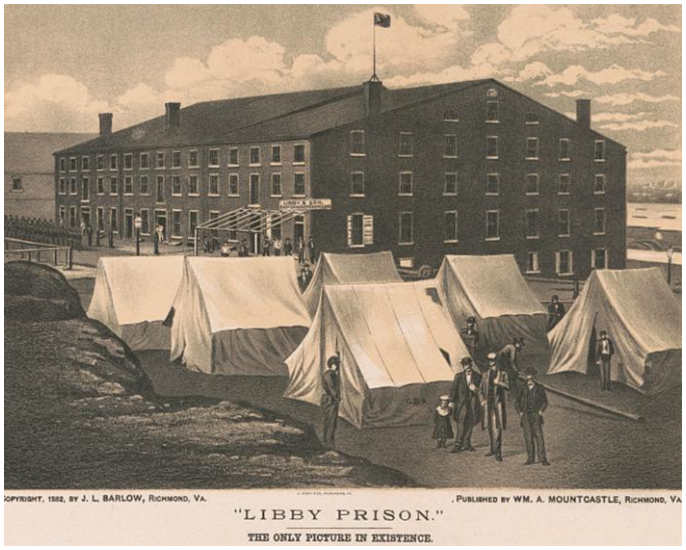
John B Callis
Captain Commanding 7th Regiment Wisconsin Volunteers



Captain Colwell of the Second Regiment killed in the battle of South Mountain. He was buried on the 28th with monastic honors. The people of his native place in large numbers joining in the sad possession which paid the last honors to his remains. The correspondence gives the following account of his death.

When he lay mortally wounded and his life blood ebbing away his last almost dying words were. "Advance to the right and pressed forward. Don't give way!"

These are words that will stand out boldly on the pages of history and inspire others to deeds of glory. "Advance to the right and all will be well." Then, as his faithful comrades were taking him from the field, he placed his arms around their necks and shoulders to better support himself. But his hold soon grew weak weaker still. His arms slipped gently from their shoulders. His pulse grew still. "My poor, poor wife," and the court of life was broken.



Released adjutant C. K. Dean, of the Wisconsin second, and Lieutenant T. J. Widvey, of the third, were among the released prisoners that arrived from Richmond at Fortress Monroe on the 24th instant. There are numerous friends in this state who will rejoice to hear of their safety and their release from the cruel and barbarous treatment inflicted upon the Union of prisoners by the rebel authorities. The release of prisoners confirms the previous reports of savage and heartless conduct of their captors. Not only were they cruelly treated but were nearly starved.

Thank you, James Johnson, for again providing these monthly pieces for *From the Field!*

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 - June**	To Be Determined
December 19	Andrea Nolan – Lincoln's Counterfeiters	**July 17**	Robert Girardi – Andersonville and Illinois Prisons

Kenosha Civil War Museum Bus Trip: Williamsburg and Yorktown Tour
October 18-21, 2026 (Please see the Museum website for more details.)



Two Special Round Table Announcements

You are invited and encouraged to wear period clothing to the November meeting in honor of Veterans' Day.

Our **December** meeting will be held at the Bavarian Bierhaus located at 700 W Lexington Blvd, Glendale, WI. Reservations will be due by **December 1st**.





Re-enactors who styled themselves "The Mudsills" had a group shot taken at Chickamauga. The unit they portrayed in this photo was the 125th Ohio Regiment. "The Mudsills" were from several states, and chose to often portray the 5th Kentucky. The boys still meet to reminisce and tell tales of by-gone days. The original Civil War regiment is shown on the left, while "The Mudsills" are arrayed on the right.

The following article about the **Horicon Guards** is the work of Carl G. Reinemann. His incredible story of one town's response to the war and the sacrifice it paid may be found in its entirety online on a podcast called One Shot at History. Reinemann is a public historian and writer who seeks to tell the stories of regular people who lived briefly in newspaper columns, courthouse records, and community memory, and then quietly faded away over time. Carl graciously gave his permission for use of his work in the General Orders.

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!

Horicon, Wisconsin in the Civil War

The 1st Wisconsin's Long Road — Perryville to Atlanta

The reorganized 1st Wisconsin Infantry left Wisconsin on October 28, 1861, bound for Louisville, Kentucky. For the next three years, it would fight across Kentucky, Tennessee, and Georgia as part of the Army of the Cumberland. Its battle record was one of the most extensive of any Wisconsin regiment.

In 1862, the regiment fought at the Battle of Perryville (Chaplin Hills), Kentucky on October 8 — suffering 55 killed, 89 wounded, and 9 captured, its heaviest single-day loss of the war. At Stones River (Murfreesboro), Tennessee, from December 30 to January 3, 1863, they fought again in bitter winter conditions.

The regiment's hardest moment came at the Battle of Chickamauga, Georgia, September 19–20, 1863, where they suffered 26 killed, 71 wounded, and 74 captured — a staggering toll of 174 casualties in two days. Five members of the regiment who had originally enlisted in Company C in 1861 were captured together at Chickamauga and later escaped from a Confederate prison together. After Chickamauga came the Siege of Chattanooga and the Battle of Missionary Ridge on November 25, 1863.

In May 1864, the 1st Wisconsin joined General Sherman's advance on Atlanta as part of the Third Brigade, First Division, Fourteenth Army Corps. They fought through the battles of Rocky Face Ridge, Resaca, Dallas, Kenesaw Mountain, Peach Tree Creek, and the Siege of Atlanta, before the final action at Jonesborough on September 1, 1864. As their term neared expiration, the regiment's veterans were transferred to the 21st Wisconsin Infantry, and the 1st Wisconsin was formally disbanded at Camp Washburn, Milwaukee, on October 21, 1864. In all, the regiment lost 300 men — 157 killed or died of wounds, and 143 to disease.

Captain Orestes B. Twogood — Horicon's First Officer



No name is more closely associated with Horicon's Civil War service than Captain Orestes B. Twogood. A son of William Twogood of Horicon, Orestes organized and commanded the Horicon Guards in Company C of the 1st Wisconsin Infantry from April 18, 1861, holding the rank of Captain with commission dating to November 15, 1860. He mustered out with his men on August 21, 1861.

Twogood returned to service that fall, commissioned Captain of Company D of the 10th Wisconsin Infantry on November 8, 1861. He served until May 19, 1863, when he resigned his commission.

Tragically, his story did not end well. The Rock River Democrat of Rockford, Illinois, reported on December 16, 1863, that Captain Twogood had died in Ottumwa, Iowa, on Monday the 14th. He had been visiting a sister there when smallpox attacked him. His brother-in-law, Colonel Alfred Chapin, commanded the 19th Wisconsin Infantry — the same regiment that included the three Goodenough brothers from Horicon.

Wisconsin sent **91,379** soldiers (some sources list **91,327** men) to serve in the Union Army during the American Civil War.

The troops from Wisconsin were organized into 53 infantry regiments, 4 cavalry regiments, 1 company of Berdan's sharpshooters, 13 light artillery batteries, and 1 heavy artillery unit.

Casualties & Losses: Killed in action or mortally wounded: 3,794 to 3,802 men.
Died of disease: 8,022 to 8,499 men, Killed in accidents: 400 men

AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD TRUST

Save More Than 340 Acres at Four Civil War Battlefields

The Opportunity

The Trust saved its first acre at Cedar Mountain decades ago, and we're not finished yet. Today we can save five parcels totaling more than 340 acres at four important Civil War battlefields: Cedar Mountain, Chickasaw Bayou, Fredericksburg, and The Breakthrough.

The total for all the land is worth nearly $4 million, but thanks to anticipated grants and other funding sources, we only need to raise the final $115,000 to preserve this land in perpetuity.

That means every dollar you give today can be matched $35-to-$1!

The History: Cedar Mountain

The largest of the five tracts at Cedar Mountain is this **337-acre parcel of land** in fast-growing Culpeper County, Virginia. Here, wide-open space seems to disappear as development encroaches further into historic battlefield territory.

The threat is real. This tract is a prize for developers, even though on August 9, 1862, in the suffocating summer heat, Union and Confederate troops fought through woods and farmers' fields until darkness finally ended the bloodshed. The Confederate Army claimed victory, and more than 4,000 soldiers became casualties that day.

Remarkably, much of the landscape they fought over still survives, but it is unprotected, and now is our chance to save it.

A residential subdivision here — on land that rests in the shadows of Cedar Mountain itself — would not only devastate the battlefield, its viewshed, and the history that unfolded there, but it would also attract more development to the area and put even greater pressure on the surrounding historic battlefields. That would be a disaster.

We don't want future generations to look across this land and see rooftops, roads, and fences where soldiers once marched, fought, and died. They should see the battlefield as it appeared in 1862.

In addition to this history at Cedar Mountain, we're working to acquire four small parcels that will help reconnect and restore historic landscapes at Chickasaw Bayou, Fredericksburg, and The Breakthrough.

Once modern structures are removed and the sites are restored, visitors will be able to experience these battlefields in a way that is much closer to what soldiers saw during the war.

These four battlefields tell a larger story.

At Cedar Mountain, Chickasaw Bayou, and Fredericksburg, Confederate troops forced back their opponents. But the Union armies kept fighting. They regrouped. They adapted. They endured setbacks and losses. They learned from their mistakes. And eventually, at The Breakthrough, after a year of setbacks and doggedness, month-by-month, the Union's perseverance helped bring the war to its conclusion.

For the American Battlefield Trust, persistence and determination have protected thousands of acres that otherwise would have been lost.

What exists as open countryside today could become a large residential subdivision or a utility-scale solar farm tomorrow.

And once that happens, the land is lost and the battlefield changed forever.

Your gift will be matched $35-to-$1 when you give today to help save five tracts of historic battlefield land. Please make a donation today.

To donate to this preservation effort, go to battlefields.org.

Go to the Preserve tab on the bottom of the page. This opportunity and several others are described there. A convenient and secure DONATE button is available to make your gift easy to give.

MILWAUKEE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
2026-2027 SPEAKER SCHEDULE

September 10, 2026 **James Marten**
The 6th Wisconsin and the Long Civil War

October 8, 2026 **Joshua Lindamood**
April 6, 1865: Black Thursday

November 12, 2026 **Robert Miller**
Angels of the Battlefield: Catholic Nuns in the Civil War

December 10, 2026 **Stuart Dempsey**
(At the Bavarian Bierhaus)
So Outrageously and So Persistently Misrepresented: The 11th Corps at Chancellorsville and Gettysburg

January 7, 2027 **Dan Masters**
Badgers to the Front: Wisconsin at Stones River

February 11, 2027 **Rob Girardi**
Gouverneur K. Warren in the Gettysburg Campaign

March 11, 2027 **Doug Dammann**
A Collection of Stories

April 8, 2027 **Dave Powell**
Who Won the Battle of Chickamauga Creek?

May 13, 2027 **Dr. Lucas Wilder**
Longstreet's East Tennessee Campaign

June 10, 2027 **Kevin Donovan**
The Court Martial of Fitz John Porter: Fair or Fixed?

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 Bespalec	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 Past President	2027
Bruce Klem	Past President	2027
Frank Risler	Member	2027
Justin Tolomeo	First Vice President	2029
David Wege	Editor, General Orders	2027

www.milwaukeecwrt.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.

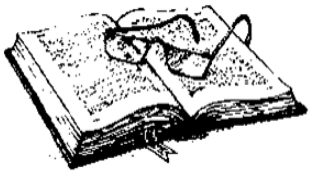
Milwaukee Civil War Round Table Dinner Reservation for November 12, 2026

Mail your reservations by Thursday, November 5 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 November 12, 2026 meeting of the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee.
(Please make checks payable to the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc.)

Name of Member _____



BETWEEN THE COVERS

Lincoln's Pathfinder: John C. Fremont and the Violent Election of 1856

The Pathfinder and the President: John C. Fremont, Abraham Lincoln, and the Battle for Emancipation

John Bicknell

This review is on the second volume of a series of books on Confederate Generals in the Western Theater. I ordered this book early in June from Amazon as it was the only one of the series of 4 that I didn't have and figured I should complete the series. The book is Confederate Generals in the Western Theater, Volume 2, Essays on America's Civil War. It was edited by Lawrence Lee Hewitt and Arthur W. Bergeron Jr. The book is a continuation on the groups of Confederate Generals who led units in the Western Theater of the Civil War. "The essays themselves are done by noted historians who have attempted to "shed light on more precise explanations of the Confederates' failure to win independence by the defeat in the West."

Some of the officers covered in this volume are more well-known than those in volume 1. For instance, essays on Longstreet & interactions with Bragg, Hardee, Hood and 2 on Joe Johnston. These officers were well known but played key roles in the Western theater. Though the Confederate generals are the central subject of each chapter, chapter content ranges to descriptions and often discussions of battles and maneuvering and reasons for victory or defeat and impart of this on the general tide of Confederate forces in the Trans-Mississippi.

This entire series is an effort to answer the basic question of how did the Confederacy lose the Civil War. Over time historians have focused on five basic reasons the South lost, "too few men, second-rate generalship, mediocre diplomacy, a national government hamstrung by states' rights and inferior politicians." So the essays attempt to highlight what these generals did in an effort to achieve success in the region. In doing so the essays I think are insightful and relevant. The analyses of each general's personality and strengths and weaknesses help to show how they accounted for his victories or defeats.

An example of poor leadership was the situation as highlighted in the essay between Longstreet and Bragg, the Battle of Chickamauga and the failure to take Chattanooga. Both officers displayed some poor generalship during and after the battle and what was a big victory for the Army of Tennessee turned into a stalemate. I think Longstreet exhibited a poor attitude in his time with Bragg's command and because of the poor morale with the senior leaders of that army resulted in less than stellar performance of the leadership and the tactical situation became poor While Longstreet's actions with Lee were good, he failed to improve the overall effectiveness of the command with Bragg and merely became another complainer and enemy of Bragg. This in turn led to the ultimate failure of the Army of Tennessee I believe.

The essays covering both Hood and Joe Johnston are another interesting discussion on their command impact to this region. Perhaps one can say a case of inaction by one officer and over action by the other further degrades the ability of the Confederacy to achieve much success in this theater. Some of the other essays do highlight some success achieved by the others, like Stewart, Hardee and perhaps with Van Dorn that I found interesting. Generals like Crittenden, Vaughan and Lyon might be not as successful but more unknown to the reader...

The general's previous military experiences and accomplishments or shortcomings before taking over in the Trans-Mississippi are covered. In most cases however, many of the generals were "homegrown" having a connection with their area of action and forces they commanded. The aim of explaining both the person and the operations of each general lends itself to tying together the course of the Civil War in the region. , I thought.

The Confederate Trans-Mississippi generals found themselves in a situation created partly by geographical distance from the capital of the Confederacy in Richmond and partly by the reality that the fate of the Confederacy would be determined by the outcome of the conflict in the East. Nonetheless, the Confederate Trans-Mississippi armies and their generals had a strategic job to do in their region—and for the time of the War, they performed it sufficiently, if not finally successfully.

At no time did the Confederate leaders either military or political contemplate abandoning the Trans-Mississippi region—and therein lies the importance of these Confederate generals and interest in assessing them for understanding of the Civil War as undertaken in this outstanding collection of essays. I found this volume as interesting as the first one and suspect the entire series will be that way. I recommend the series for anyone interested in learning more about the leadership these officers provide to the theater. I think you will find them very informative and interesting.

submitted by Bruce Klem

Preservation Success and a Plea

The 146-acre Funkhouser farm is protected at last. Now, help us remove the non-historic structures and return this hallowed landscape to the way it looked in 1864.



The purchase was the victory. Restoration is how the land begins to speak again. This land is more than acreage. It is a place where momentous events meet – ground that can still connect us to the people and choices that shaped our nation.

The grant that helped secure the Funkhouser farm requires the prompt removal of its non-historic structures. Completing that work will restore the battlefield's historic integrity, make the property safer for visitors, and eliminate the cost of maintaining buildings with no historic significance.

Removing these modern intrusions lets visitors see the contours of the battlefield more clearly and better understand what unfolded here. It is a practical project with a lasting purpose: protecting not just the ground, but its power to teach.

290	146	$52K
ACRES PROTECTED ACROSS THREE FISHER'S HILL PROPERTIES	ACRES PRESERVED FOREVER AT THE FUNKHOUSER FARM	NEEDED TO COMPLETE THIS ESSENTIAL RESTORATION

The goals of this plea are really quite simple to explain.

- Remove modern intrusions. Safely demolish the non-historic buildings and dispose of the debris responsibly.
- Recover the historic view, restoring the visual character of the landscape and revealing the ground as the soldiers encountered it.
- Welcome future generations. Create a safer, clearer, and more meaningful place for learning, reflection, and remembrance.

Post-preservation projects like tearing down a handful of non-historic structures are extremely important. Pushing back the hands of time and restoring some of these parcels isn't just a nice thing to do, it's imperative. Even if this work wasn't required by the grant agreement, removing these 20th- century buildings will help us to return the site to its 1860s appearance, making the property safer for visitors and eliminating the expense of maintaining buildings with no historical significance.

https://www.shenandoahatwar.org/fhrestoration

Wanderings



On the Road with Dave and Kay:
a.k.a. The Perryville Civil War Symposium

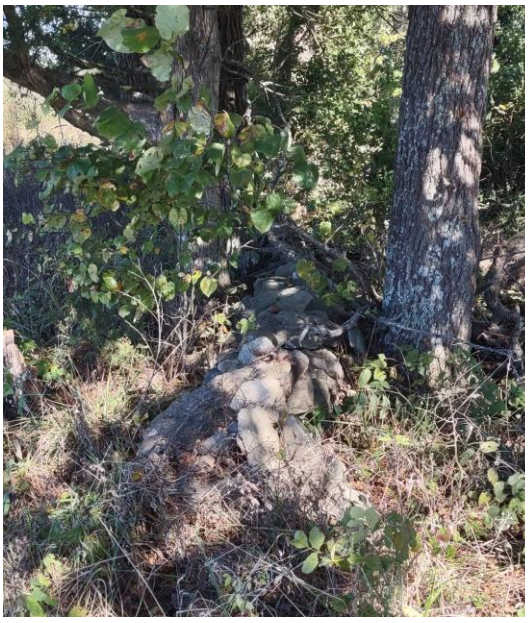
Some weeks ago, the illustrious editor of our General Orders, Dave Wege, announced he was planning on going to a Civil War seminar focusing on the Battle of Perryville which would take place on the actual Kentucky battlefield and was looking for travel partners. I replied that I was interested as I had re-enacted on that field at least three times back in the last century but had never had the opportunity to really explore the field.

Despite our best efforts, we could not enlist any other willing travelers, so at 6:00 a.m. on Friday morning, October 16, Dave and Kay Wege were at my door and off we went on a whirlwind tour of the south. We knew we were in the south when we entered a Walgreens and noticed a large shelf of Moon Pies for sale! The seminar was to begin on Friday night with a walking tour of Danville, Kentucky. This town was about ten miles from the Perryville battlefield and, after the battle, quickly became overrun with wounded as many public and private homes became makeshift field hospitals. We had good intentions of joining that tour, but a long day of driving along with some misty weather helped convince us that a good barbecue dinner might be the better option!



Now just to summarize, the Battle of Perryville was fought October 8, 1862 between the Confederate armies of Braxton Bragg and Kirby Smith versus Union forces under Don Carlos Buell. This battle was the climax of a Confederate attempt to wrestle control of Kentucky and although a victory of sorts was won on the field, Union reinforcements led to the withdrawal of Bragg's army, which would never return to the Bluegrass State. The fighting here was intense and while raging for a mere five hours, almost 8,000 men fell dead, wounded or were captured.

Rather than trying cover the entire battle, our excellent guides focused on specific areas of engagement and shared with us from their in-depth knowledge of the battle while interspersing both amusing and poignant human-interest stories. For us Badgers, we were rewarded by much coverage of 1st and the 10th Wisconsin Infantry and, later, Charles Starkweather's, 21st Wisconsin. All the guides were great but a special shout out to Darryl Smith who led two separate tours, one on Saturday and another Sunday morning.



Space prohibits me from sharing much more but this was a tremendous opportunity to learn more about a pivotal battle and one in which our own Wisconsin troops played an important part. On Saturday the Friends of Perryville treated us to a delicious barbecue dinner and, did I mention, the entire seminar was free! We were joined on the tour by Dave Powell who will be speaking to our Roundtable next April. Likewise, our January speaker, Dan Masters, was one of the presenters.

Personally, this quick trip was a special one as I had previously known Dave and Kay Wege as "acquaintances" from our Round Table but now I count them as dear friends. After all, Dave even let me drive for a while!

Respectfully submitted
by Andy Oren

Remnants of a stone wall the 1st and 21st used as breastworks.

Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc.



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