# General Orders

The Newsletter of the

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


**December 10, 2026** **Stuart Demsepey**

## So Outrageously and So Persistently Misrepresented:

### *The 11th Corps at Chancellorsville and Gettysburg*

*"In 15 minutes we were all cut to pieces. There was no place left us but to flee for our lives which we did with a right good grace."*
**Thomas Evans**
**soldier of the 11th Corps at Chancellorsville**

They were called "the Flying Dutchmen," the "Cowards of Chancellorsville," other inglorious names. Blamed for failure at Chancellorsville, scorned for not holding an impossible position against overwhelming numbers at Gettysburg, the 11th Corps became an easily ridiculed and often mocked unit in blue. Because the corps contained a high number of German-born immigrant soldiers (and was led in part by figures like Carl Schurz), biased contemporary northern newspapers and critics frequently scapegoated the unit.

History has not been generous to the memory of the Army of the Potomac's 11th Corps. Derided by their fellow soldiers and by the press, made scapegoats by army command, and almost uniquely unlucky, the officers and men of the corps endured not only the usual hardships of soldiering, but also the opprobrium of those they fought alongside and for. We will look further into their story, examining facts and misrepresentations, and casting light on the honor and sacrifice that marked the 11th's Civil War.

Stuart Dempsey had two relatives in the Eleventh Corps (73rd Ohio Infantry Regiment) who were killed/mortally wounded at Gettysburg. Both are buried in the National Cemetery. Stuart has been a Licensed Battlefield Guide since 2004. His talks are not only informative, but done in a compelling style that easily understood.



Stuart leads not only Civil War tours, but also other historic tours all over North America and in Europe. His tour website is listed below.

www.battlegroundhistorytours.com

**General Orders No. 12-26**
**December 2026**

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**December Meeting at a Glance**
**Bavarian Bierhaus**
**700 W. Lexington Blvd**
**Glendale, 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.

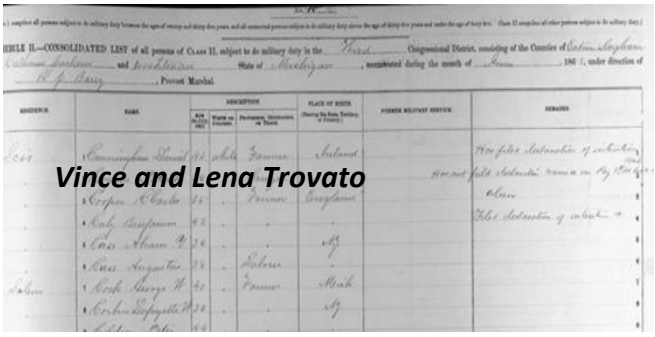
## Merry Christmas ~ Happy Holidays

The Board of Directors of the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee wishes you and yours a Merry Christmas and a prosperous and Happy New Year.

May your days be bright, your nights be warm, and the books you receive for presents be ones of which you don't already have multiple copies.

What a pleasure it is for the MCWRT to meet on a regular basis for fellowship and a chance to learn more about the American Civil War!

## *The Muster Roll:* NEW MEMBERS



***Vince and Lena Trovato***

### 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, Jeryl Anthony; 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 December meetings of the Milwaukee Civil War Round Table featured these speakers and topics.**

2004 Dr. David Zarefsky: *Lincoln, Davis, and Slavery*

2005 Steve Fratt: *Civil War Combat and the 19th Century Revolution in Military Affairs*

2007 Christmas Gala: Our 60th Year

2010 Samuel C. Hyde, Jr: *A Wisconsin Yankee in Confederate Bayou Country*

2011 Dr. James I. Robertson, Jr.: *The Untold Civil War*

2012 Dale Philips: *The Red River Campaign*

2013 Col. Kevin Weddle: *Lincoln's Forgotten Admiral*

2014 Jim Ogden: *The Fight at Reed's Bridge*

2015 David Keller: *Camp Douglas*

2016 Bjorn Skaptason: *What I Saw of Shiloh*

2017 David Dixon: *The Lost Gettysburg Address*

2019 Daniel Weinberg: *Abraham Lincoln Bookshop Artifacts*

2020 Steven Rogstad: *Stories from Among the Badgers*

2021 Dennis Doyle: *Illinois Regiments at Gettysburg*

2022 Garry Adelman: *Midwest Civil War Photo Extravaganza*

2023 Scott Mingus: *Unceasing Fury: Texans at the Battle of Chickamauga*

2024 Jon Sebastian: *We Are All in This War: The Northern Homefront*

2025 Brian Matthew Jordan: *Marching Home: Union Veterans and Their Unending Civil War*

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.**

### 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.

### Pearl Harbor Day Ceremony

**Monday, December 7 | 11am – 1pm**

Join us for a commemorative ceremony honoring the brave men and women affected by the attack on Pearl Harbor. The ceremony is led by Navy Ship Club 40. All are welcome to attend and pay tribute to this pivotal moment in history.

### Civil War Museum Teacher Seminar

**Friday, August 6 | 9:00am – 3:30pm | $50**

Check-in begins at 8:30am

Calling Wisconsin and Illinois educators! Join museum staff and education partners to learn new and creative ways to engage and teach students about the Civil War. The Civil War Museum Teacher Seminar includes presentations and performances from exciting guest speakers, guided tour and museum admission, catered food, professional development credits (for IL educators only), and more.

### Bus Trip: Williamsburg and Yorktown Tour

**Sunday, October 18-Wednesday, October 21**
**$1,150-$1,375 ($1,225-$1,450 non-members)**

**The lower rate is for single occupancy.**

**Online registration is closed. Please call the Civil War Museum at 262-653-4141 to inquire about availability.**




**The Christmas Dinner at Camp Randall**

The Christmas dinner for the soldiers at Camp Randall arranged under the auspices of the ladies aid Society of this city, was a completely successful affair there was an abundance of food and the best quality turkeys chickens mince pies sandwiches cakes Donuts green apples and jellies abound the mince pies were succulent numerous to allow one to every three soldiers the volunteers drafted men and the Ozaukee rioters were all treated alike so far as the dinner was concerned Captain E. R. Chase, who has the supervision of the drafted men in camp, took charge of the disposition of supplies and saw that they were equitably divided it was a lively and pleasant sight to witness the drawing of the Christmas rations and the men hastening away in Different directions to join their messes loaded down with delicacies. The ladies desire to acknowledge generally the generous manner in which our citizens aided them in their efforts and more particularly to express their thanks to Messrs Fuller Darwin and Williams the contractors for furnishing rations to the several camps in the state for a donation of $100 in cash to the aid society to Mr. M. E. Fuller for the five barrels of green apples besides other donations for the dinner to Mr. A. G. Darwin for the use of his teams on Christmas Day to Messrs. Sawyer and Bennett Superintendents of public property for their many acts of kindness and assistance and to Captain E. R. Chase for his valuable aid in distributing the food properly they also acknowledge contributions from the following towns and societies Vienna Stoner's Prairie Blooming Grove Windsor the Door Creek and liberty Prairie aid society Westport Sun Prairie Stoughton Aid Society Cottage Grove Aid Society and Oregon the donation from Stoners Prairie was especially generous in quantity and excellent in quality.

**Christmas Trees**

The several churches of the city prepared Christmas trees for the benefit of the Sunday school children which the little people enjoyed very much on Wednesday evening.

Congregational society was placed in the basement of the new capital with a large American flag occupying the background and made a beautiful appearance. The children had a bountiful supper served them in an adjacent room.

The Presbyterian society had their Christmas tree at the commercial school rooms of professor Tullis in in Klauber's Block.

The Episcopal and Baptist societies had theirs at their respective places of worship.

**Festivities**

The fireman's ball on Christmas Eve was one of the largest parties ever given in the city the capricious City Hall was crowded and the dance lasted until a late hour the receipts we understand for tickets of admission alone were about $200

The Chicago Times (Vallandigham Dem.) Attributes the troubles of this country to New England puritanism it says the uppermost thought in the public mind of the western and middle states is whether the restoration of lasting peace and the reconstruction of the union be possible in any other terms then the exclusion of the puritan section from the association in the common compact with New England excluded from the Union and slavery extended over the remaining portion of the country the times is of the opinion that we should have the luxury of an undisturbed Democratic rule

From the Second Regiment we learned from a private letter that the Second Wisconsin lost but one man killed in the Fredericksburg battle. Corporal Arthur Rangott of Company F there were 10 wounded but none of them mortally.

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Sisters,

More than eight years ago, you sent to us in America a document with the above heading. It is as follows:

"A common origin, a common faith, and, we sincerely believe, a common cause, urge us, at the present moment, to address you on the subject of that system of Negro Slavery which still prevails so extensively..."

And now, Sisters of England, think it not strange, if we bring back the words of your letter, not in bitterness, but in deepest sadness, and lay them down at your door. We say to you:

Sisters, you have spoken well; we have heard you; we have heeded; we have striven in the cause, even unto death. We have sealed our devotion by desolate hearth and darkened homestead, by the blood of sons, husbands, and brothers. ...

Sisters, what have *you* done, and what do you mean to do? ... we beg leave in solemn sadness to return to you your own words: "A common origin, a common faith, and we sincerely believe, a common cause, urge us, at the present moment, to address you on the subject of that fearful encouragement and support which is being afforded by England to a slaveholding Confederacy.

We appeal to you, as sisters, as wives, and as mothers, to raise your voices to your fellow-citizens, and your prayers to God, for the removal of this affliction and disgrace from the Christian world."

In behalf of many thousands of American women,

**Harriet Beecher Stowe**
**Washington, November 27, 1862.**



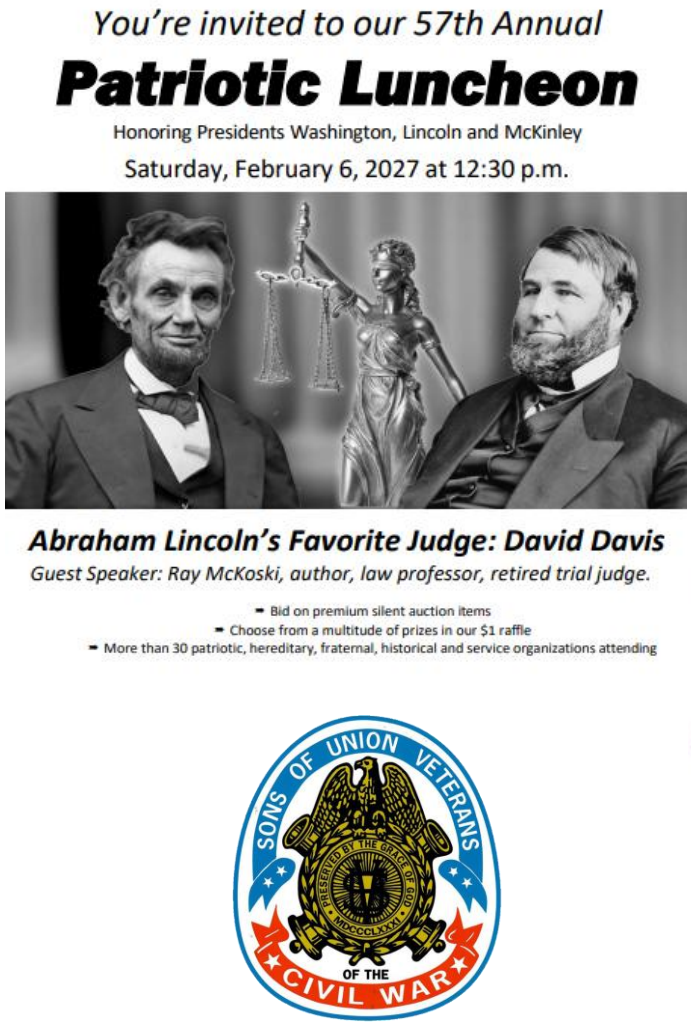
**Thank you, James Johnson, for again providing these monthly pieces for *From the Field*!**

# 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 |




The 57th annual Patriotic Luncheon, honoring Presidents Washington, Lincoln, and McKinley, will be held Saturday, February 6, 2027, at 12:30 pm, at Alioto's Restaurant, 3041 N. Mayfair Road.

Make plans to join those patriots, representing over 30 organizations, for this welcome tradition. Fine food, fellowship, and guest speaker, author, and retired judge Ray McKoski await!

Reserve your place today and know that your participation supports veterans' relief, historic preservation and patriotic programming in southeast Wisconsin. Program sponsorships are always welcome!

- Bid on premium silent auction items
- Choose from a multitude of prizes in our $1 raffle
- More than 30 patriotic, hereditary, fraternal, historical and service organizations atter

Alioto's Restaurant
3041 N. Mayfair Rd., Wauwatosa, Wis.

Luncheon buffet price: $30 per person.
Includes tenderloin tips or baked chicken; served with relish tray, buttered new potatoes, honey-glaz carrots, tossed garden salad, garlic bread sticks; cake and coffee table.

Hosted by C.K. Pier Badger Camp #1 and Auxiliary #4
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

We cannot accept walk-ins on the day of the event.
Please register by Jan. 30, 2027
Registration form and program advertising information on the reverse side.
For more information, call (414) 614-3690

The following article about the **Horicon Guards** is the work of Carl G. Reinemann. 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 7th Battery Wisconsin Light Artillery — Horicon's Largest Contingent

The 7th Battery Wisconsin Veteran Light Artillery — nicknamed the "Badger State Flying Artillery" — drew the largest single concentration of Horicon men of any unit in the war, with more than 20 local soldiers serving in its ranks. The battery was organized at Camp Utley in Racine and mustered into service on October 4, 1861.

The battery traveled to St. Louis on March 15–16, 1862, then to New Madrid, Missouri on March 19–20, reporting to General John Pope for the siege operations against the Confederate stronghold at Island No. 10. The 5th, 6th, and 7th Wisconsin Light Artillery Batteries were positioned on the river bank just 800 yards from the Confederate fortress, bombarding it steadily in close-range fire until the enemy withdrew. To complete the trap, Pope's engineers dug a canal 50 feet wide and 12 miles long — six miles of it cut through heavy timber where every tree had to be sawed off four and a half feet below the waterline — all completed in just 19 days. The Confederate garrison, caught between the canal and the river batteries, surrendered on April 8, 1862. Pope reported capturing nearly 7,000 prisoners, 123 pieces of heavy artillery, and large stores of supplies — a resounding Union triumph that opened the Mississippi River all the way down to Fort Pillow, Tennessee. After the surrender, the 7th Battery remained to garrison New Madrid and the island itself until June 1862, before moving into Tennessee and the rest of their Western Theater service.

Parker's Cross Roads proved costly for the Horicon men. William Chisholm was taken prisoner there on December 31, 1862, and was later discharged for disability. Alfred Walwork, a Horicon corporal and sergeant, was mortally wounded at Parker's Cross Roads on December 31, dying of his wounds on January 1, 1863. John Wilson of Horicon was captured at Humboldt, Tennessee, on December 20, 1862.

In August 1864, several more Horicon men in the battery were captured during the Confederate raid on Memphis. Henry Morrison and Peter Quick were both taken prisoner on August 21, 1864. Both eventually survived prison camp and mustered out with the battery in 1865. The 7th Battery was honorably discharged on July 20, 1865, having lost 1 officer and 9 soldiers to wounds and 19 more to disease.

## Horicon Men Across Many Regiments

Beyond the 1st Wisconsin and the 7th Battery, Horicon men spread across more than a dozen other Wisconsin regiments. The 16th and 17th Wisconsin Infantry each drew several volunteers. Thomas G. Boss served twice — first in Company C of the 1st Wisconsin in 1861, then re-enlisting in the 16th Wisconsin in September 1861. A veteran who re-enlisted for the duration, Boss was wounded at both Corinth and Atlanta before being discharged for wounds in March 1865. Henry Dyche of the 16th Wisconsin served the full duration as a corporal, mustering out in June 1865.

The 19th Wisconsin Infantry included three members of the Goodenough family from Horicon — Milo, Stillman, and William — a testament to the family sacrifices the war demanded. William Goodenough re-enlisted as a veteran, was taken prisoner at Fair Oaks, Virginia on October 27, 1864, and died on January 9, 1865, at the Confederate prison in Salisbury, North Carolina. His brothers Milo and Stillman, both received disability discharges earlier in the war.

The 12th Wisconsin Infantry's Chauncey Rounds, who served as a musician, died of disease at Vicksburg, Mississippi in August 1863. Lewis Griffin of the 16th Wisconsin died of disease near Corinth in June 1862. Henry Holton, also of the 16th Wisconsin, was killed outright at the Battle of Shiloh on April 6, 1862 — one of the bloodiest days of the entire war. William W. Griffin of the 7th Battery was killed on August 21, 1864, at Memphis, Tennessee, during the Confederate cavalry raid on the city. These deaths — by battle, by disease, far from home — were the price Horicon paid.

Several Horicon men served in the "hundred-day" regiments raised in 1864 for short-term garrison duty. The 39th Wisconsin Infantry drew Marshall Braman, Horace Gates, Willard Moody, Andrew Wescott, and others from Horicon for service from May to September 1864, under the command of Captain Salmon E. Tyler of Company K.

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<br>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.

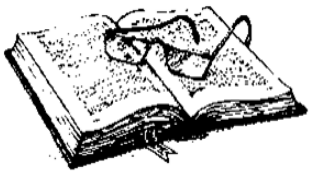
## Milwaukee Civil War Round Table Dinner Reservation for December 10, 2026

**Mail your reservations by Tuesday, December 1 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 December 10, 2026 meeting of the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee.**
**(Please make checks payable to the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc.)**

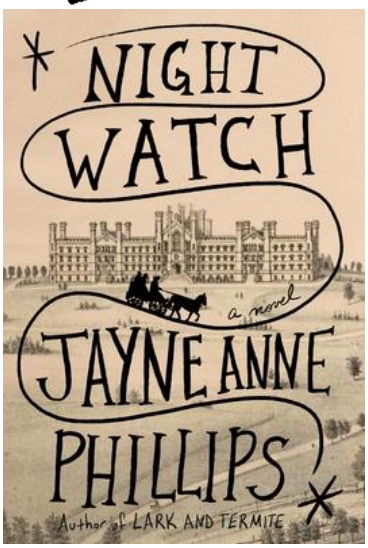
**Name of Member _____**



# BETWEEN THE COVERS

## Night Watch

**Jayne Anne Phillips**




Night Watch is a novel about a family's struggle to cope with the aftermath of the Civil War. It is a historical look at the Civil War era and its aftermath.by highlighting how the civilian population had to endure the happenings and impact of the war.

The author combines historical facts in this story and develops the novel by using this cast of characters to identify some of the enigmatic events that happened to the population on the home front as a result of the effect of a variety of events that occurred during the war. The author identifies an area in West Virginia as the setting she uses to tell the story. Weston, is a tiny city in West Virginal that has an asylum with historical significance. The Trans-Allegheny Lunatic Asylum is one that was developed by respected Quaker physician Thomas Story Kirkbride.in the 1850s. It is still standing today and a tourist attraction in Weston. Ms. Phillips includes actual information from the Civil War in impacting her characters and other numerous real-life events that occurred during the time, which make the tale much more interesting. I think and provides some realism to the reader.

In 1874, after the Civil War, civilians and veterans, freedmen, and runaways are haunted by erasure, trauma, and namelessness. As the story begins a family is slowly moving along a country road in a buckboard. The driver only known as Papa is riding with Eliza and twelve-year-old ConaLee has been the adult in her family for as long as she can remember. She and her mother, Eliza, who has not spoken in over a year, are on a journey in the buckboard. They are brought to the Trans-Allegheny Lunatic Asylum in West Virginia by a war veteran who has forced himself into their lives. Far from their family, a beloved neighbor, and the mountain home they once knew, they try to rebuild their lives.

As the story unfolds, the impact of war and race becomes clear. ConaLee's father disappeared after leaving for the war and never returned. At the asylum, ConaLee pretends to be her mother's maid, while Eliza slowly begins to respond to treatment. They become part of the facility's life, meeting the mysterious Night Watch, an orphan named Weed, the strict woman who runs the kitchen, and the remarkable doctor in charge of the institution.

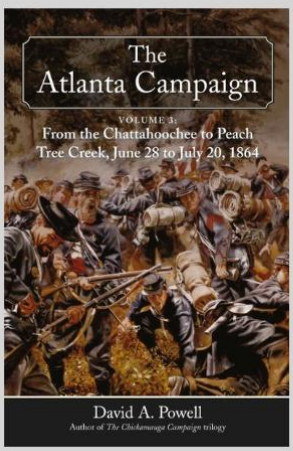
Jayne Anne Phillips's "Night Watch" skillfully described the horrors of the Civil War as it affected the men who went to war and the families they left behind. I had a hard time following the plot at first, because I wasn't sure of the relationships among the characters, the story wasn't told in chronological order, there were multiple narrators, and the characters' names changed throughout. Once I found my footing, I couldn't turn the pages fast enough.

This historical fiction novel recounted the absolutely catastrophic conditions at the Battle of the Wilderness in Virginia. One of the main characters, a Union soldier known as Sharpshooter, suffered a cracked skull, a traumatic brain injury, and the loss of an eye. Miraculously he survived at a war hospital in Alexandria but lost all memories of his past. A doctor took him under his wing and gave him a job there.

Another depressing part of the story took place in the ridges of the new state of West Virginia. A despicable deserter from the Confederate Army took advantage of the men being away at war and terrorized two women and four children, taking their wordily goods, squatting in their home, and forcing himself on one woman, impregnating her twice. Eventually, when he had usurped all their resources, he decided to move on and dropped off the woman he had turned into a mute and her eldest daughter at an "asylum for lunatics." He gave away the children he had sired.

These characters seem to leading their own lives separated mostly form each until near the end of the they all collide in a startling meeting and catastrophe, which I thought this was Agatha Christie like or maybe an O'Henry event, somewhat shocking but to me it helped to bring an understanding to the entire book in my opinion. I thought this to be an interesting read, although starting out somewhat confusing until I got further into the story. While it deals with a graphic rape that some readers may find disturbing, I think the author nails events that the home front had experience and was a problematic situation that civilians had to experience. I also thought this was a bit like the Cold Mountain story in certain parts. Though it's a novel, I recommend this book that highlights events that were not all that uncommon.

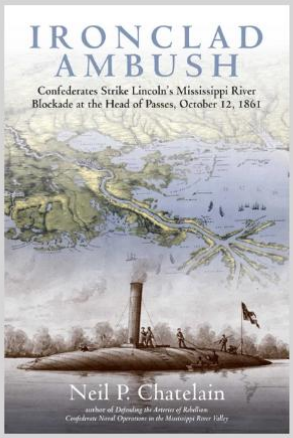
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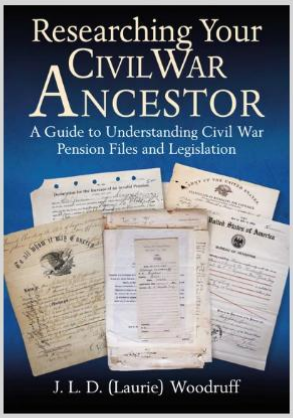
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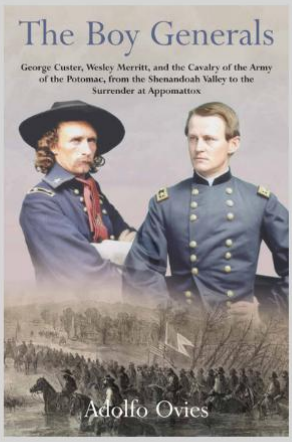
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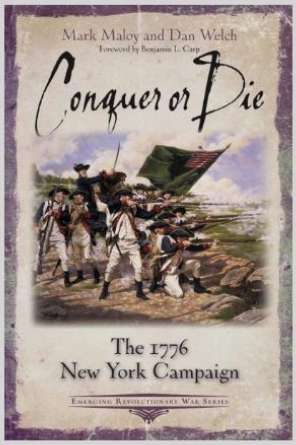



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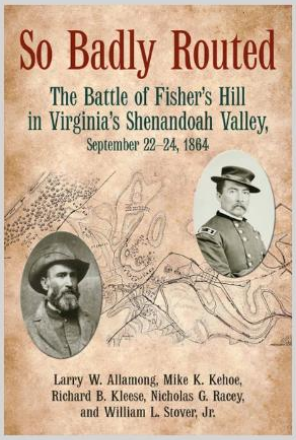
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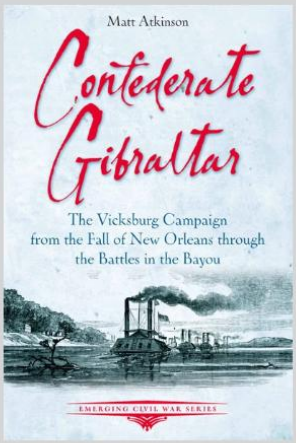

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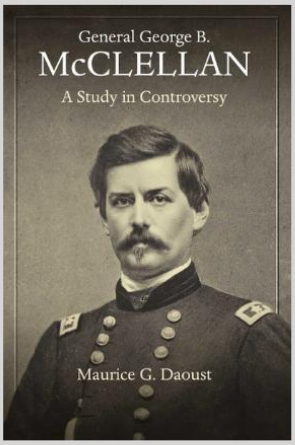
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It isn't too late to add to your Christmas list! Savas Beatie is coming out with a slew of new titles. The website is loaded with history, from authors who have been producing great stuff for years, to the new "young guns" who have added a fresh (and valid) set of ideas and interpretations. Savas Beatie has been around since its founding in 2004 by Ted Savas and Russel Beatie. The company describes itself as a "publisher of historical titles of distinction – independent, scholarly, and a bit old-fashioned."

*Wanderings*

# Return to the Valley: Battles for the Breadbasket



The Civil War Time Travelers made the long trip to the beautiful Shenandoah Valley. October in Virginia is exceptionally lovely, and the colors and temperatures did not disappoint. Sunshine illuminated the leaves and bathed the scenery in light and warmth.

The goal of the tour was to introduce people to both Jackson's magnificent 1862 Valley Campaign and the campaign of 1864, which saw the Breadbasket reduced to ashes, her defenders routed, and Lincoln's reelection almost certainly secured.

Jackson's only tactical defeat in the 1862 campaign was at Kernstown. Here his outnumbered army met a Union force led by Nathan Kimball. Poor information from Jackson's cavalry led him to believe Union forces had started to vacate parts of the Valley. He was determined to tie them up and keep them from reinforcing McClellan outside Richmond.

Our visit to Kernstown was complete with a hike up Pritchard's Hill for a panoramic view of the field of battle. Seemingly an insignificant rise of ground, the hill actually dominated the site. Conveniently, the park provided golf carts for folks who felt that the hill was too high to hike. Our group also was able to visit the restored Pritchard House, the artillery building, and a wonderful small museum. Steve, Chris, and Gary treated us to a great visit.

Our next stops were to be at Cross Keys and Port Republic. These two fights were the tail end of the 1862 campaign. Here Jackson and his subordinate Richard Ewell demonstrated a grasp of how much the knowledge of terrain matters. Using superb maps drawn by Jedediah Hotchkiss, the Confederate duo of Jackson and Ewell used the Valley's landscape – mostly Massanutten Mountain, its gaps, and the rivers to prevent Federal forces from uniting with the possibility of overwhelming numbers. Their success kept over 70,000 Federal troops tied up and away from Richmond, bolstered the flagging morale of the Confederacy, and saved the Breadbasket for another two years.

Lunch on this day was at the Cross Keys Vineyard, where a fine meal was enhanced by incredible vistas. The service, the food, and the scenery are highly recommended! Several Time Travelers secured bottled souvenirs at this stop.

It was time to move into 1864. On October 27, historian **Aaron Siever**, a relatively new face on the scene of Civil War touring, took our group on a tour of Civil War Winchester. Aaron was outstanding. He gave us quick looks at First and Second Winchester, managing to get our motorcoach to places many visitors never see. Our coach driver Carmen made this possible by being a genius behind the wheel. From there we went to lunch at Shaffer's BBQ, a stop along the historic Valley Pike in Middletown. Matt and his crew were phenomenal at Shaffer's, as was the chicken BBQ with all the fixings.

From there we went to Third Winchester, an absolute gem of a Civil War battlefield. Part of the group went on a four-mile trek across Redbud Run with Aaron, while a smaller group walked a mile to the site of Breathed's Battery, where we discussed the Devil Diarists of Winchester and visited the Huntsberry Farm site. Dinner that evening was at the incomparable Larrick Tavern at the Wayside Inn in Middletown. The Inn is absolutely not to be missed when one is in the Valley!

Wednesday found us at the Battle of New Market. We visited the VMI-affiliated Museum, learned about the cadets who were sacrificed to help win the battle, and briefly toured the Bushong Farm. Then it was off to a trip over Skyline Drive. Dinner was at the hotel that evening. Who should pop in but historical artist **Keith Rocco**. Keith gave us a wonderful talk about the process of creating historical artwork. That process is more involved than most would think

Thursday found us at the Strasburg Presbyterian Church, where surprise guest **Carolyn Ivanoff** told us the story of Civil War surgeon Captain George Loring Porter. He turned the church into a hospital. Porter later served as the doctor who dealt with the Lincoln Conspirators before their trial and execution in 1865. Carolyn did a fantastic job as always.

Our final day found us a Cedar Creek as we headed home. Our guides were NPS Rangers Chris and Jon. They took us to a newly opened site along Cedar Creek itself. Here we visited the remains of a bridge that was a focal point of action. Our group was among the first 250 folks to ever visit this location. That's how new it is! From there Ranger Chris took us to the Mt. Carmel Cemetery, where we heard the story of Sheridan's Ride and the breaking of the Confederate attack, a near-miss for Jubal Early after an ill-considered pause in his ferocious assault. A wayside exhibit at the cemetery features Keith Rocco's *Rally on the Battery*. After Keith's talk on Wednesday, we viewed the marker with much interest. The painting told a story that we understood!

Many thanks to our guides and historians. Thanks also go out to the speakers from our own group: Paul Eilbes speaking about John Harman, Jackson's profane and professional quartermaster; Steve Thomas, who spoke about John S. Mosby, the famous Gray Ghost of the Confederacy; Kay Wege, who shared insights into Eliza Clinedinst, remembered as the Mother of the New Market Cadets, and about Thomas Garland Jefferson, one of the cadets who was mortally wounded at New Market.



**submitted by Dave Wege**

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