



GENERAL ORDERS

The Newsletter of the
Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc.
Our 62nd Year
and The Iron Brigade Association



CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE OF MILWAUKEE, INC.

*The honor of your company
is requested at the Wisconsin Club,
Sunday afternoon, 6 December 2009.*

4:15 p.m.

Cocktails & Silent Auction

5:00 p.m.

Civil War Dance Presentation
West Side Victorian Dancers

6:00 p.m. Dinner

Historic and Holiday Piano Selections
Eileen Beamish

North Woods Salad

Your Choice of Sauterne Chicken or Angus Sirloin Steak
Classic Over-Stuffed Apple Pie

Dinner: \$29 per person.

See Page 5 for Complete Menu and Reservations.

Civil War attire is encouraged, but not required.

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DECEMBER GALA AT A GLANCE

Sunday, December 6, 2009

Holiday Gala

Wisconsin Club

9th & Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee
(Jackets required for dining room)

4:15 p.m. – Cocktails & Social Hour

5:00 p.m. – Dancing by and with
the West Side Victorian Dancers

6:00 p.m. – Dinner

Dinner – \$29 by reservation.

Deadline: Monday, December 1, 2009

See page 5.

Speaker and topic are subject to change.

In case of inclement weather, listen to
WTMJ or WISN radio.

Donations for Camp Randall Guns

The Awards and Donations Committee is asking members to consider making their Civil War related donations to the Camp Randall Guns Fund. "The project is local, the effects are real, and we're grabbing a piece of history," John Beatty has said. "One of these guns was captured at Shiloh. Can't get much more authentic than that."

Sadly neglected over the years, the old artillery pieces are literally disintegrating in place. Think of the Camp Randall guns next time you want to give of your hard-earned money.

John Beatty, Awards and Donations Committee chair,
at jdbeatty@amcivwar.com



In December 1947 Frank Vandiver spoke to the group. The topic that night was "Josiah Gorgas."

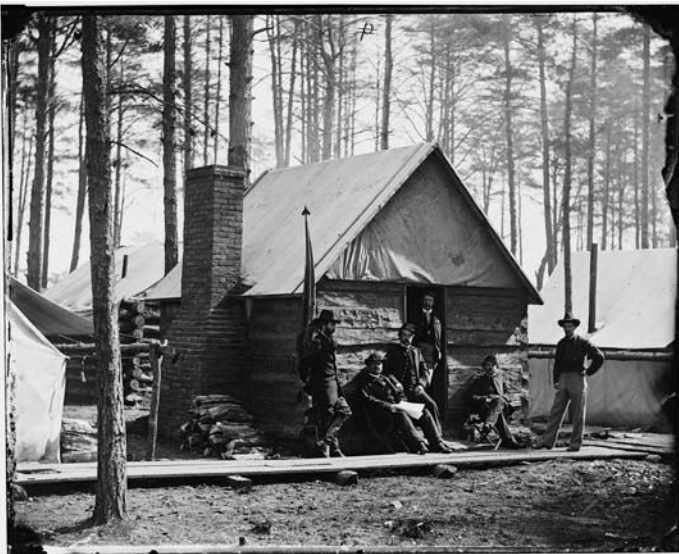
J. P. Renald spoke about "Capt. Wirz and Andersonville Prison" at the December 1953 meeting.

The topic at the December 1961 meeting, presented by Donald Gerlinger, was "Civil War Battlefields as They Are Now."

Stephen Z. Starr spoke to our group about "St. Leger Grenfell, The Camp Douglas Conspiracy and Cincinnati Conspiracy Trials."

In December 1985 Christopher M. Calkins was our speaker. His subject that day was "Ragged and Starved Confederates: Lee's Army 1864-65."

"Love and War in the Want Ads" was the title of Patricia Higgins talk in December 1993.



Brandy Station, Virginia. Officers in front of winter quarters, Army of the Potomac headquarters, February 1864. LC-B817- 7161.

ANNOUNCEMENTS • EVENTS • MEETINGS

December 12, 2009

Wreaths Across America
Wood National Cemetery, 11 a.m.

December 14, 2009

Civil War Christmas Party
Manitowoc Civil War Round Table
Manitowoc County Heritage Center, 5:30 to 8 p.m.
Cost: \$11.50 per person, RSVP by December 1

December 15, 2009

Prairieville Irregulars, 7 p.m.
Student Center Building, Carroll University
Speaker: Lance Herdegen

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ IN THIS MONTH • DECEMBER ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

December 9, 1861

In a 33 to 3 vote, the U. S. Senate approved setting up what would become the Joint Committee on the Conduct of the War.

December 1, 1862

President Lincoln issued his Proclamation of Amnesty and Reconstruction, pardoning those who "directly or by implication, participated in the existing rebellion" upon condition that they took an oath to support the Union. The President recommended three constitutional amendments:

- Every state which abolished slavery before 1900 would receive compensation.
- All slaves who had gained freedom during the war would remain free, and loyal owners compensated.
- Congress would provide for colonization outside the country of free colored persons with their consent.

December 13, 1862

The Battle of Fredericksburg. Robert E. Lee remarked of the battle: "I wish these people would go away and let us alone."

The cost of the battle: On the Federal side, 114,000 men were engaged with killed, wounded and missing totaling 12,653. On the Confederate side, approximately 72,500 men were engaged with killed, wounded and missing totaling 5,309. During the night of December 14, the Army of the Potomac began to withdraw across the Rappahannock River.

December 8, 1863

President Lincoln issued his Proclamation of Amnesty and Reconstruction, pardoning those who "directly or by implication, took an oath to the Union." There were exceptions to this pardon including high-ranking military officers, members of the Confederate government, all who resigned commissions in the U.S. Army and Navy to join the Confederacy and those who treated Negroes or whites "otherwise than lawfully as prisoners of war." Additionally, if at least one tenth of the citizens who voted in the 1860 election wished, a state government would be recognized in any seceded state. Citizens would be required to take an oath supporting the United States, and slavery would be banned.

December 13, 1864

Sherman's forces reached the sea. Sherman made contact with the Union fleet after the capture of Fort McAllister situated on the Ogeechee River below Savannah.

Civil War News

Rear Admiral Richard A. Buchanan, retired – U.S. Navy, became the second president of the Gettysburg Foundation on October 19, 2009. The nonprofit foundation was formed in 1999-2000 as the fundraising and management arm of Gettysburg National Military Park.

Previously, Buchanan was vice president of undersea systems at Raytheon Integrated Defense Systems. He also worked at Electronic Data Systems as the deputy for strategic operations on the Navy Marine Corps Intranet Program. Most recently, he served as the president of the United States Navy Memorial Foundation in Washington, D.C.

Senator Jim Webb (D-VA) and Mary L. Landrieu (D-LA) introduced the Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission Act of 2009 on October 22 to establish a Commission to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Civil War.

“As someone with ancestors who fought on both sides of the American Civil War, its 150th Anniversary has personal significance,” said Webb. “It is important that all Americans are aware of the many sacrifices made by soldiers and civilians alike, for which we emerged a stronger, more diverse and free nation. The intention of this commission is to ensure the proper recognition of the sesquicentennial, building upon previous legislative efforts to support education and commemoration of this turning point in American history.”

Longtime president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, **Richard Moe**, announced from the Trust’s Washington, D.C., headquarters his intention to retire from the job in 2010.

Civil War Fredericksburg: Then and Now, a new feature-length film, made its public debut on November 5, 2009. The film is a joint venture of the Fredericksburg Civil War Round Table and the nonprofit Central Virginia Battlefields Trust.

The high-definition DVD includes scenes from Stafford County, Slaughter Pen Farm, streetscapes and rooftop panoramas of Old Town Fredericksburg, aerial footage of different portions of the battlefield and artillery demonstrations by the gun crew at the military park.

The DVD is available in two versions: a single \$14.95 disc with the film, and a special, \$19.95 two-disc Educator’s Edition that includes period photographs, images and primary-source documents for teachers and their students to use in the classroom. The proceeds benefit Central Virginia Battlefields Trust’s preservation work.

To see a short trailer of the film or, to order a copy, visit www.cvbt.org.

The DVDs are also available at local National Park Service bookstores.

New Grant Book

Just in time for the gift giving season, a new book on U.S. Grant has been published.

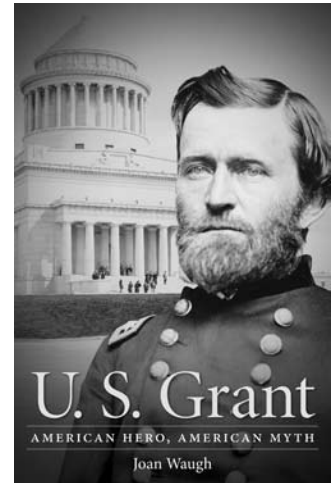
**U.S. Grant
American Hero,
American Myth**

by Joan Waugh
ISBN 978-0-8078-3317-9
384 pages, \$30.00

At the time of his death, Grant was the most famous person in America. In her new book, Joan Waugh traces Grant’s shifting national and international reputation. Waugh looks at how Grant’s reputation and place in history paralleled the rise and fall of the northern version of the Civil War where the United States was the victor and Grant was the symbol of that victory and the southern version that emphasizes the Lost Cause mythology.

In her study of Grant, Waugh shows how revered Grant was in his lifetime, the rise and fall of his memory and looks at how the memory of the war has fluctuated over time.

Joan Waugh is a professor of history at the University of California at Los Angeles. In 2003, Waugh was the featured speaker at the annual Frank L. Klement Lecture. Her topic that evening was “Personal Memoirs of U.S. Grant, A History of the Union Cause.”



Tom and Terry Arliskas at the 2007 CWRT Christmas Gala

FROM THE FIELD

Fredericksburg

Tomorrow we commence the crossing of the Rappahannock and will be sure to have a fearful fight — In fact I expect we will be licked, for we have allowed the rebs nearly four weeks to erect batteries and to slaughter us by thousands in consequence of the infernal inefficiency of the Quarter Master Genl and his subordinates. If we had had the pontoons promised when we arrived here we could have the hills on the other side of the river without costing over 50 men — Now it will cost at least ten thousand if not more... If tomorrow night finds me dead remember me kindly as a soldier who meant to do his whole duty.

Col. Samuel Zook, Brigade Commander, II Corps

Zook survived Fredericksburg but was fatally wounded at Gettysburg on July 2, 1863.

The horror of the occasion was heightened by the veil of fog, which obscured all objects 50 yards distant. About half an hour after the bombardment had ceased, the fog cleared away, leaving a picture which riveted every eye and sickened every heart. Mansions that for years had been the scene of a boundless hospitality and domestic comfort lay in ruins and smoldering ashes. Blackened walls and wrecked gardens were all that were left of numerous happy homes. The memory of those scenes will be hard to efface.

Pvt. James M. Dinkins, 18th Mississippi Infantry,
Barksdale's Brigade

At that moment I felt a sharp stinging pain on the right side of my face and presto, I knew no more. When I came to I was lying on the ground where I had fallen, and the company had advanced a short distance up the street. The balls were still flying thick around me and I realized I was wounded. I clapped my hand to my face to stop the flow of blood but it was no use. It flowed between my fingers and down onto my clothing and filled me full. I got up rather faint, and a feeling of madness came over me...I swore; I cursed the whole southern confederacy from Virginia to the gulf of Mexico; but on a second thought I realized it was war and banished such thoughts from my mind and made my way across the river.

Pvt. Josiah F. Murphey, 20th Massachusetts Infantry,
Hall's Brigade

Murphey sustained a wound that impaired his vision yet he completed his term of service in July 1864.

During the battle — just after our charge while we were down in the woods in a state of considerable excitement — a rabbit jumped up and ran here and there among the men, seemingly

frightened out of its wits. And no wonder, for in all directions it heard the rattle of small arms, and the roar of artillery and bursting of shells. In its imagination no doubt it was the last grand hunt of the world, a very Judgment Day. Finally the poor creature jumped up on a stump just in front of the line and squatted there, the most conspicuous position it could possibly have found.

Corp. Berry Benson, 1st South Carolina Infantry,
Gregg's Brigade

Benson survived Fredericksburg but was wounded in 1863 and captured at Spotsylvania in 1864. He was a prisoner of war at Elmira, escaped in October 1864 and rejoined his regiment, serving until Appomattox.

Bullets had been singing their little songs around my head and ears since arriving on the battle ground, piercing my uniform from head to foot, and cutting open the cartridge box by my side, yet strange to say, none of them inflicted any wound worth naming...I was getting ready to fire again, had taken the cartridge out of my cartridge box, bitten the end off it, — inserted it into the muzzle of my musket, — drew the ram rod from its place, and had just raised my right arm over my head to send the cartridge home, or down into the musket, when a bullet struck me in the uplifted arm, close up to the shoulder, and the limb dropped powerless at my side...A stream of warm blood now came rushing down the inside and outside sleeve of my uniform, then down the side of my pants into my right foot shoe, till it overflowed. Next, a dizziness in the head, and partial loss of sight came over me, accompanied by violent pain in the wounded part, and then growing very faint and weak from loss of blood, I fell down, flat on my face on the ground...My consciousness speedily returned, I suppose by the fall. I attempted to rise and make my way to the rear, or to somewhere out of the range of the enemy's fire, but I had scarce raised my head, when such a shower of bullets came around it, that brought me at once to conclude, that to move was dangerous and to rise up would be fatal. Accordingly I lowered it again, stretching my body out upon the earth, and lying as close to the ground as I possibly could, to let the enemy's bullets pass over me. No sooner had I done this, than one of my comrades was shot dead, and fell about 2 yards in front of me, right across my body...Poor fellow, he was afterwards riddled with bullets, and owing to the position of his body, it stopped many a ball that otherwise would certainly have entered my own. As it was, bullets kept constantly whizzing over me, around me, burying themselves in the ground not a foot from my head and throwing mud and dust all over my person. My situation was truly an awful one.

Pvt. William McCarter, 116th Pennsylvania Infantry,
Meagher's Brigade

McCarter survived. He received a Certificate of Disability for Discharge in May 1864.

Christmas Gala: A Program of Mid-Nineteenth Century Dance

Members of the West Side Victorian Dancers will perform dances of the Civil War era, including several holiday dances, at the December 6 Gala. They will also invite members and guests to join them in several selections.

The West Side Victorian Dancers are members of the West Side Soldiers Aid Society, a living history and veteran outreach non-profit. They have performed at the Kenosha Civil War Museum, Waterloo Sesquicentennial, Burlington Veterans Terrace and living history events throughout Wisconsin.

The Society offers dance sessions at the Hales Corners Library, Ben Hunt Room, on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m., and is available for presentations for private parties, schools, and organizations.

The work of the Society includes a Memorial Day weekend observance at the Soldiers' Home plot at Forest Home Cemetery,

participation in Adopt-a-Platoon, and support for VA Voluntary service and Dryhooch, a veteran outreach program.

On November 7, 2009, the Society joined Dr. Michael McBride, staff psychiatrist at Milwaukee VA, in a ceremony remembering Pvt. Albert Melms. Melms, a musician with the U.S. Regulars and 27th Illinois, died at the Milwaukee County Insane Asylum and was buried just north of that location.

On November 10, 2009, the Society sponsored a Marine Corps Birthday Reception at the VA Medical Center for patients, staff, family members and visitors, setting the stage for an annual event.

Under the leadership of Donna Agnelly, several members are creating a quilt with Civil War reproduction fabrics to benefit the mission of the West Side Soldiers Aid Society, including Dryhooch and Adopt-a-Platoon. See Donna or Patricia Lynch for details.



NORTH WOODS SALAD

Spinach and field greens topped with dried cranberries and white cheddar dressed with lingonberry vinaigrette

ENTRÉE (SELECT ONE)

Sauterne Chicken

Boneless breast roasted with lemon herb rub then nestled into sauterne wine reduction with shallots and mushrooms accompanied by calico rice, steamed broccoli, maple carrots and red pepper julienne.

Angus Sirloin Steak

Five ounces of top sirloin steak dusted in California garlic pepper, then char-grilled, served with garlic mashed potatoes with field mushroom sauté, sauce Bordelaise finished with steamed broccoli, maple carrots and red pepper julienne.

DESSERT

Classic over-stuffed apple pie baked in the Dutch style with frozen vanilla bean custard on the side.

Civil War Round Table Dinner Reservation for December 6, 2009

Mail your reservations by Monday, December 1, to:
Paul Eilbes
1809 Washington Ave.
Cedarburg, WI 53012-9730

ALSO, call in reservations to:
(262) 376-0568

Enclosed is \$ _____ (meal price \$29.00 per person) for _____ reservations for the December 6 meeting of the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee. (Please make checks payable to the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc.)

Please select an entree for each person in your party. Sauterne Chicken # _____ Angus Sirloin Steak # _____

Name of Member _____

General Orders, the official publication of the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc., is produced September through May and upon request of the Board of Directors.

Send submissions to **Donna Agnelly, Editor**, 420 Racine St., Unit 110, Waterford, WI 53185 or email to **dagnelly@tds.net** with "Civil War Round Table" in the subject line of your message. All submissions must be received by the Editor no later than the 10th of the month prior to the next issue. The Editor reserves the right to select articles and to edit submissions for style and length.

All address changes or problems receiving your *General Orders* should be directed through Membership Chairman Paul Eilbes.

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Yearly memberships available: Individual (\$35), Family (\$45), and Non-Resident (\$20).

Contact Paul Eilbes for information: (262) 376-0568.

The Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc., admits members of any race, color, national or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges and activities of the Round Table.

CWRT of Milwaukee, Inc. • 2009 - 2010 Meetings

December 6, 2009

Christmas Gala

January 7, 2010

Robert Girardi

Topic TBD

February 11, 2010

Paul Finkelman, Albany Law School

Lincoln and Emancipation

March 11, 2010

Eric Jacobson, Carnton Historic Plantation, Franklin, TN

Topic TBD

April 8, 2010

David O. Stewart, Trial Lawyer, Ropes & Gray, Washington

The Impeachment of Andrew Johnson

May 13, 2010

William W. Freehling, Virginia Foundation for the Humanities

The Strange, Difficult Triumph of Southern Secession

Speaker and topic are subject to change.

In case of inclement weather, listen to WTMJ or WISN radio.