



GENERAL ORDERS

The Newsletter of the
Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc.

Our 62nd Year
and The Iron Brigade Association



FEBRUARY 11, 2010

PAUL FINKELMAN

Lincoln and Emancipation

Who Emancipated the Slaves? The issue has been debated by scholars and activists. Was Lincoln the “Great Emancipator” or was he “forced into Glory” as one activist journalist put it? Was the Emancipation Proclamation the ultimate statement of a man who said “If slavery is not wrong, then nothing is wrong”? Or, was it the desperate act of a commander-in-chief who was losing a war? Was the Emancipation Proclamation a glorious statement of freedom, or, as the historian Richard Hofstadter put it, did it have “all the moral grandeur of a bill of lading”?



Our February speaker, Paul Finkelman, a Ph.D. historian and law professor will explore the complexity of emancipation and why the Emancipation Proclamation was written as it was, and why it was issued when it was. On the eve of the 201st anniversary of Lincoln’s birthday, we will try to better understand what America’s greatest president was doing on January 1, 1863.

Paul Finkelman, the President William McKinley Distinguished Professor of Law and Public Policy at Albany Law School, is the ninth most cited legal historian according to “Brian Leiter’s Law School Rankings.”

Professor Finkelman is the editor of *The Political Lincoln: An Encyclopedia* (2009) and was an advisor to the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission. He is the author or editor of more than twenty-five books and more than one hundred and fifty scholarly articles including those focusing on Lincoln, civil rights, civil liberties and the law of American slavery. Finkelman’s publications include *Dred Scott v. Sandford: A Brief History* (1995); *Slavery and the Founders: Race and Liberty in the Age of Jefferson* (2001); and *The Library of Congress Desk Reference to the Civil War* (2002).

Prior to Albany, Finkelman held the Chapman Distinguished Professorship at the University of Tulsa College of Law, the John. F. Seiberling Chair in Constitutional Law at the University of Akron and chairs at Cleveland State University Law School and the University of Miami. He received his B.A. in American Studies from Syracuse University (1971) and his Ph.D. in U.S. history from the University of Chicago (1976). He was also a fellow in law and humanities at Harvard Law School (1982-1983).

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February 2010

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FEBRUARY MEETING AT A GLANCE

February 11, 2010
 Paul Finkelman
 “Lincoln and Emancipation”

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

5:30 p.m. – Staff Meeting
 (Open to all members)

6:15 p.m. – Registration & Social Hour

6:45 p.m. – Dinner

7:30 p.m. – Program

Dinner – \$23 by reservation.
 Deadline: Monday, February 8, 2010
 See page 5.

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



Melanie Acker, Greenfield
Steve Acker, Jackson
Dennis Antonie, Mequon
Roy Berwick, Delafield
T. James Blake, Milwaukee
Fred R. Bonness, Milwaukee
Thomas Doyle, New Berlin
David J. Kane, Franklin

www.civilwarwi.org

Snow Cancels January Meeting

Paul Eilbes would like to thank the membership for their understanding and cooperation. A big thank you to Elaine Ottmann for her help in calling members to inform them of the cancellation.

NOTICE: For those members who prepaid for the January meeting: Your reservations will be honored for the February 11, 2010 meeting, but you should still call in to confirm that you will be attending.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ **IN THIS MONTH • FEBRUARY** ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

1862

February 12 Grant's troops have formed a ring around Fort Donelson and now await the arrival of Flag Officer Foote and his gunboats.

Foote, upon leaving Cairo the previous evening wrote Secretary of War Gideon Wells: "I leave Cairo tonight with the *Louisville*, *Pershing* and *St. Louis* for the Cumberland River to cooperate with the army in the attack on Fort Donelson."

1863

February 5 Queen Victoria addressed the British Parliament stating that Britain had abstained from attempting to "induce a cessation of the conflict between the contending parties in the North American States, because it has not yet seemed to Her Majesty that any such overtures could be attended with a probability of success."

February 8 Publication of the *Chicago Times* was suspended by military order for alleged disloyal statements. The order was later rescinded.

1864

February 3 With over 26,000 men, Major General William Tecumseh Sherman leaves Vicksburg to begin the Meridian, Mississippi Campaign. The goal of the campaign is to destroy Confederate-held railroads in the state and damage the enemy in and around Meridian. Cooperating with Sherman in the campaign were 7,600 cavalry from Memphis under the command of William Sooy Smith. Smith's cavalry would depart Memphis on February 6.

February 9 Colonel Thomas E. Rose of Pennsylvania led 109 federal officers in an escape through a tunnel out of Libby Prison in Richmond. 48 men would be recaptured, 2 would drown and the remaining 59 men would make it back to the Union lines.



February 8, 2010

Manitowoc Civil War Round Table, 7 p.m.
Manitowoc County Heritage Center

February 16, 2010

Prairieville Irregulars, 7 p.m.
Student Center Building, Carroll University
Speaker: Ricky Townsell and Matthew McNeeley



In February 1950, Louis A. Warren spoke to the Round Table members about "Legendary Lincoln."

Lincoln was the topic in February 1962 when Fred Schwengel's topic was "Lincoln Emerges December 3, 1861."

"The Prophecy of Nathan Bedford Forrest" was the focus of Robert Orr Baker's talk in February 1974.

In February 1980, James Lee McDonough visited our group and spoke about "The Last Day at Stone's River."

Dr. Richard A Sauers was our speaker in February 1990. The topic that day was "Ambrose Burnside's 1862 North Carolina Campaign."

"Union Generals as Patients" was the focus of Jack Welsh's talk in February 2001.

KENOSHA CIVIL WAR MUSEUM EVENTS

The Milwaukee Civil War Round Table and Iron Brigade Association are sponsoring two Theater Presentations at the Civil War Museum in February.

Caroline Quarlls: My Independence Day

Saturday: February 13, 2010, 1 p.m.

A runaway slave at the age of 16, Caroline set out on her journey for independence and freedom, taking her through southeast Wisconsin and northeast Illinois on her way to Canada.

Ida B. Wells: Child of the Civil War

Saturday: February 20, 2010, 1 p.m.

Born a slave in 1862, Ida began her activist career after refusing to leave a first-class ladies' train car in Memphis. Meet the irrepressible activist, lecturer, journalist and civil rights organizer as she continues her work in 1893 Chicago.

OTHER MUSEUM EVENTS

A New Look at Mary Todd Lincoln, Steve Rogstad

Tuesdays, March 2, 9, 16 and 23, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

\$60 Museum members/\$65 non-members

Civil War Arms and Marksmanship

Saturday, March 6, 2010, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

\$6 Museum members/\$11 non-members

Contact the museum for additional details: (262) 653-4140

Civil War News

➤ In a November press release, the Civil War Preservation Trust announced the beginning of a \$2.125 million national campaign to preserve one of the most historically significant unprotected landscapes of the Civil War. The 85-acre property, known locally as the **Wagner Tract**, was the scene of a bloody struggle during the **Battle of Chancellorsville** on May 2, 1863.

Civil War Preservation Trust president James Lighthizer said of the campaign, "This land at Chancellorsville is arguably one of the most historically significant pieces of hallowed ground CWPT has ever saved, and we have just got to get it. Just like our purchase of the Slaughter Pen at Fredericksburg three years ago, this is what we are in business to do. This is why we exist!"

➤ **Savas Beatie LLC** has teamed up with the Civil War Preservation Trust to raise money to help save historic land. Each and every time you purchase any book on any topic from their website and enter "CWPT" in the coupon-code box, Savas Beatie will donate 10% of the purchase price to the Civil War Preservation Trust.

➤ In **Virginia** a judge declared a draw between two Union and Confederate Civil War re-enactors. The judge found each man not guilty of assault after they pressed charges against each other over a September 2009 dispute.

The men were cavalry officer re-enactors participating in a re-enactment of the Battle of Stanardsville. The Confederate re-enactor claimed that the Union re-enactor knocked his hat off. The Confederate was accused of responding by firing a blank round from his revolver.

Both men were on horseback and both said their actions were accidental. The judge concluded that he could not find either man guilty "beyond a reasonable doubt."

➤ In a January 7, 2010 release, the **Civil War Preservation Trust** announced its land preservation accomplishments for 2009. CWPT helped to permanently protect 2,777 acres of hallowed ground on 20 different Civil War battlefields in five states in 2009. Among the sites protected in 2009 were: 47 acres at Appomattox Station, 85 acres at Chancellorsville, 35 acres at Sayler's Creek, 730 acres at five Shenandoah Valley battlefields, 253 acres at Trevilian Station and 94 acres at the Wilderness. The total value of the 2009 transactions totals more than \$38 million.

CWPT president James Lighthizer noted: "Despite the worst economy in recent memory, we pressed onward with our mission and achieved a level of success that surpassed all expectations. We posted one of the most successful years in this organization's history including our second-highest-ever tally for acres preserved in a calendar year."

➤ In a January 8, 2010 Park Service news release, **James Robert (Bob) Kirby** has been selected as the new superintendent of Gettysburg National Military Park and Eisenhower National Historic Site. According to Dennis Reidenbach, Regional Director of the Northeast Region, "Kirby has an outstanding track record as a successful superintendent and possesses the leadership qualities to lead the park as it prepares for the 150th anniversary of the Civil War."

Kirby is currently superintendent of Petersburg National Battlefield in Virginia. He will assume his new post in March.

Kirby was appointed superintendent of Petersburg National Battlefield in 2001. Prior to that he served as Assistant Supervisor at Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area.

Kirby has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Recreation and Leisure Studies and a Master of Science degree in Recreation and Park Management from San Francisco State University. He and his wife, Beth, have two children, Megan and James.

➤ On January 2, 2010 a farmhouse on property dubbed the "gateway to the Battle of the Wilderness" was destroyed by fire just days after its sale was finalized to the **Central Virginia Battlefields Trust**.

Although the farmhouse, built around the turn of the 20th century, is not historically significant the 93-acre farm it sat on is. The farm was the site of two Civil War field hospitals as well as having been marched upon by hundred of thousands of troops.

In August 2009, Central Virginia Battlefields Trust, a nonprofit land trust in Fredericksburg, reached a deal to buy the house and property. The group closed on the purchase Christmas week. The property is adjacent to the site of Wilderness Tavern where Confederate Lt. Gen. Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson's arm was amputated after the Battle of Chancellorsville in May 1863.

Civil War Round Table Dinner Reservation for February 11, 2010

Mail your reservations by Monday, February 8, to:
Paul Eilbes
1809 Washington Ave.
Cedarburg, WI 53012-9730

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

Enclosed is \$ _____ (meal price \$23.00 per person) for _____ reservations for February 11, 2010, 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 _____

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. • 2010 Meetings

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." Civil War military or civilian dress is welcome at the May meeting.

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

CIVIL WAR BALLS IN MILWAUKEE

AMERICAN HEROES BALL

Saturday, February 27, 2010, 7 p.m.

A Fundraiser for Reclaiming Our Heritage

HARD TIMES BALL

Saturday, April 10, 2010, 7 p.m.

Hosted by the West Side Soldiers Aid Society

**Tickets & information for both events: (414) 427-3776
Event location: Marian Center for Nonprofits, Milwaukee**