



# GENERAL ORDERS

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

## Our 62nd Year

and The Iron Brigade Association



OCTOBER 7, 2010

### EARL J. HESS

#### Soldier Life in the Trenches at Petersburg

*The army, although no longer marching and fighting day by day, is by no means idle; earth works, of much heavier construction than the temporary rifle-pits thrown up on the march from Culpepper; keep the spade and pick in constant requisition...The line of battle lies close on both sides, in the complicated system of trenches called rifle-pits, which generally consist of two main lines of embankment close together – one in front, the other behind the men – and any quantity of traverses, as shelters against cross-fire are called. Across these works the men stretch their tents and blankets, like an awning, in picturesque confusion, keeping as cool as the torrid climate – aggravated in the pits by the glare from the white sandy soil – and the rebel mortar shells will let them. Against the latter rifle-pits are no protection, and the soldiers burrow into the earth places known as gopher holes, into which they dive with astonishing rapidity when a shell is observed by the look-out coming his way. Some of the rifle-pits are covered with boughs, forming a continuous arbor; and giving increased protection against the sun. (Harper's Weekly, August 6, 1864)*



**Earl J. Hess, Ph.D.**, our October speaker, will explore the soldier's life in the trenches at Petersburg.

The Petersburg Campaign was the longest campaign of the war, lasting from June 15, 1864, to April 2, 1865. Field fortifications played a pivotal role in the operations of both armies at Petersburg. The trenches would ultimately stretch approximately thirty-five miles, cross two rivers, two rail lines and several major roads. Along the front of the trenches were obstructions used to trip up and delay the attacker. There was a minefield located before a section

of the Confederate works. Dams across creeks were created to form water barriers and countermines guarded against the underground approach by the enemy.

Thousands of soldiers would man these trenches. They would endure months under a blistering sun, pouring rain, snow and wind. Both Union and Confederate soldiers spent days in underground shelters that were safe but cramped. On duty on the picket lines these soldiers were exposed to sudden rushes by the enemy.

Dr. Hess grew up in rural Missouri and has been a student of Civil War history since he was a teenager. He completed his B.A. and M.A. degrees in History at Southeast Missouri State University. His Ph.D. in American Studies, with a concentration in History, was awarded by Purdue University in 1986. Dr. Hess has taught at a number of institutions, including the University of Georgia, Texas Tech University, and the University of Arkansas. Since 1989, he has been an assistant and associate professor at Lincoln Memorial University, in Harrogate, Tennessee, where he is also the director of the History Program.

Dr. Hess has published twelve books, twenty-three articles, and more than one hundred book reviews. Among his publications are *In the Trenches at Petersburg – Field Forti*

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October 2010

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#### OCTOBER MEETING AT A GLANCE

October 7, 2010

Earl J. Hess

"Soldier Life in the Trenches at Petersburg"

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, October 4, 2010

See page 5.

Speaker and topic are subject to change.

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

[www.civilwarwi.org](http://www.civilwarwi.org)

## Board of Directors

At the August 26, 2010, Board of Directors Meeting, the following individuals were elected, by the board, as our officers for a one-year term:

Michael K. Benton, President  
C. Judley Wyant, First Vice President  
Patrick J. Lynch, Second Vice President  
Paul A. Eilbes, Treasurer  
Charles G. Vogel, Secretary

Current Board of Directors:

Donna Agnelly	Ellen Kelling Vukovic
Thomas Arliskas	Jim Johnson
Roman Blenski, Jr.	Dan Nettesheim
Crain H. Bliwas	Frank A. Risler
A. William Finke	Jean Schwonek

## IN MEMORIAM



It is with sadness that we report the passing of the daughter of former Board Member Elaine Ottmann. At this time, Elaine has resigned her position on the board to take care of her four-year-old granddaughter. The board would like to thank Elaine for her contributions to the board and her dedication to the Round Table. Our sympathy goes out to Elaine, her husband Hank, and their entire family.

In accordance with the bylaws of the Round Table, the Board of Directors has elected Dan Nettesheim to the board to fill the vacancy.



Robert Grede – Franklin, Wisconsin  
David Thompson – Muskego, Wisconsin  
Jim Bolek – Oshkosh, Wisconsin

## Reminder

The annual dues notice was included in the September *General Orders*. If you have not already done so, please complete your renewal and send it with your check to Paul Eilbes. A postage paid envelope was included in the last *General Orders*. Round Table dues are billed annually at this time of year, regardless of when a member joined. Dues and any contributions made to the Round Table are tax-deductible.

For those members who have already renewed, thank you!

### October 2-3, 2010

Civil War Encampment at Trimborn Farm  
88th & Grange, Greendale

### October 10, 2010

The World Beloved: A Bluegrass Mass, 3 p.m.  
Humphrey Scottish Rite Masonic Center, Milwaukee  
Tickets \$17-\$25 at (414) 481-8801 or www.belcanto.org

### October 11, 2010

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

### October 19, 2010

Prairieville Irregulars, 7 p.m.  
Student Center Building, Carroll University  
Speaker: John Thielmann

### October 25, 2010

West Side Soldiers Aid Society, 7 p.m.  
Wadsworth Library, VA grounds  
Elaine Masciale, "Southern Comfort: Creating A Southern Aid Society"



At the October 1947 meeting, the topic presented by Stanley Horn was "The Battle of Nashville."

Benjamin P. Thomas spoke to the Round Table in October 1955 and gave the group "An Intimate View of Grant."

"The President and the General" was Gilbert C. Govan's topic in October 1963.

William Lamers was the speaker in October 1975. The topic at that meeting was "Personality and Command in the Civil War."

Alice and James Turlock spoke about "Joshua L. Chamberlain of Maine" at the October 1984 meeting.

"Gettysburg: the Battle and the Speech" was presented by Lewis P. Mallow, Jr., in October 1992.

In October 2004, Dr. Robert Zaworski visited our Round Table and gave us "An Underwater Look at the USS Monitor."

## October Speaker...continued from page 1

*fications and Confederate Defeat* (2009), *Trench Warfare under Grant and Lee – Field Fortifications in the Overland Campaign* (2007) and *Field Armies and Fortifications in the Civil War: The Eastern Campaigns, 1861-1864* (2005).

Dr. Hess is married to Dr. Pratibha A. Dabholkar, Associate Professor of Marketing at the University of Tennessee.

## Kenosha Civil War Museum

There are two lectures being sponsored by the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee and the Iron Brigade Association. The lectures are free public presentations.

### ILLUSTRATION IN THE CIVIL WAR

Ken Stark

Saturday, October 2, 2010, 1:00 p.m.

Wisconsin artist-author, Ken Stark, sketches while discussing "Illustrating the Civil War." The program corresponds with the latest book Mr. Stark wrote and illustrated *Marching to Appomattox – The Footrace That Ended the Civil War*. Some of Stark's original art will be displayed at the event.

### ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S WATCH

Doug Stiles

Sunday, November 7, 2010, 1:00 p.m.

In the 1850's, Abraham Lincoln purchased a watch from George Chatterton, a Springfield, Illinois jeweler.

In April 1861 Lincoln brought his watch to a Washington D.C. jeweler for repairs. Did the jeweler add an inscription inside the watch? A local family legend said he did.

Hear the story from Doug Stiles, a descendant of the jeweler, and his adventure discovering the truth with the help of the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History.

## Other Upcoming Museum Events

### UNCLE TOM'S CABIN

Civil War Media Club

Wednesday, October 6, 2010,  
7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Join museum curator Doug Dammann and the Media Club as they discuss the book, look at its impact on American society before the war, and view pieces from the Museum's collection related to slavery.

Advance Registration requested. \$10/\$5 Friends of the Museum



### BAUBLES, BANGLES AND BEADS – A LOOK AT CIVIL WAR ERA JEWELRY

Terry Arliskas

Saturday, October 23, 2010, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Whether worn as an ornament, a love token or a remembrance, jewelry of the Civil War era not only completed the well-dressed lady's attire but also denoted her position in society and sense of self. Learn about the styles and types of jewelry worn and how to identify jewelry of the period.

Advance Registration required. \$11 /\$6 Friends of the Museum



## BEL CANTO CHORUS

### COMMEMORATION OF THE CIVIL WAR

The Bel Canto Chorus is celebrating its eightieth anniversary and for the first time, it will present an entire concert season focused on a single theme: the American Civil War. Join the Bel Canto Chorus singers as they reflect on one of our nation's most difficult times through the soothing but unblinking eye of music.

#### The World Beloved: A Bluegrass Mass

Sunday, October 10, 2010, 3:00 p.m.

Humphrey Scottish Rite Masonic Center, Milwaukee

Evoking the echoes of angry abolitionists and heated secessionists, Carol Barnett's *Bluegrass Mass* reflects the troubled times and brings gentle joy and comfort.

A pre-concert exhibition in the Masonic Center Lobby features the faces of the Civil War through a special portrait photography display from the Civil War Museum. Reenactors in period dress will also be telling their personal stories from the past.

#### Remembrance: Legacy of the Civil War

Sunday, March 13, 2011, 3:00 p.m.

Christ King Parish, Wauwatosa

Joseph Baber's *An American Requiem, Op. 80* anchors this commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the beginning of the Civil War. Hear the legacy of our country's pain in letters home, and in poetry and speeches of the times, as it was torn apart in the epic struggle between North and South.

A pre-concert demonstration at the Gathering Space at Christ King Parish will feature the unique dances of the Civil War era presented by the Civil War Museum and the West Side Soldiers Aid Society.

#### Give Us Peace

Saturday, May 21, 2011, 7:30 p.m.

Oconomowoc Arts Center

Experience the fiery oratory of Frederick Douglass with Kirke Mechem's *Songs of the Slave*, and the poignant poetry of Walt Whitman through Ralph Vaughan Williams's *Dona nobis pacem*, as these works invite us to reflect on the Civil War and its legacy.

A pre-concert activity, presented by the Civil War Museum, Cushing's Battery reenactment unit and students of the Oconomowoc Area School District, will be available at the Oconomowoc Arts Center grounds and lobby where you can hear stories of the Civil War and its lasting impact on American history.

For tickets and more information on these events, please contact the Bel Canto Chorus at (414) 481-8801 or at: [www.belcanto.org](http://www.belcanto.org).

**October 8, 1861** • The Union Department of the Cumberland changed commanders. Brig. Gen. Robert Anderson of Fort Sumter fame had been in ill health for some time and now suffered a nervous breakdown. Brig. Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman assumed command of the Department, with headquarters in Louisville.

In Worcester, Massachusetts, Pvt. Day, Co. B, 25th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, wrote:

*We were today mustered into the service of the United States by Capt. John M. Goodhue, U.S.A. The company is designated as Company B, and the regiment as the 25th Massachusetts Volunteers. I suppose we are now stuck for these three years unless sooner shot...The officers are a fine looking body of young men, and I think, with a little flattery and catering to their vanity, we shall get along nicely with them.*

**October 7, 1862** • The Confederate Congress passed a bill increasing the pay of the soldiers by \$4 per month. It did not increase the pay of other government workers.

In Britain, Chancellor of the Exchequer, W.E. Gladstone proclaimed that Jefferson Davis and the Confederate leaders “have made a nation,” and he anticipated their success in the fight for separation. Gladstone’s remarks were highly criticized by both Britain and the United States.

**October 7, 1863** • A landing party under Acting Chief Engineer Thomas Doughty, *U.S.S. Osage*, travelled overland from the Mississippi to the Red River in an operation against two steamers said to be operating on the river and tied up on the riverbank. Doughty and his men reached the river and captured the steamer *Argus*. The other steamer, the *Robert Fulton*, came steaming upriver and Doughty ordered it to come to. He was now in possession of two steamers and nine prisoners. The *Argus* was burned immediately and the larger *Robert Fulton* was taken downriver. Unable to get the steamer across the bar at the mouth of the Red River, Doughty burned it and returned to the *Osage*.

**October 8, 1864** • Sgt. Barber, Co. C, Illinois Volunteer Infantry, en route to a prison camp wrote:

*During the day, Milton and I were drawn into a discussion with a violent rebel of the aristocratic sort. Our debate grew warm. Milton got his blood up and the guard interfered...We indulged in the hope all along that a speedy exchange of prisoners would be made and we would be free soon. Had we known that we were going to Andersonville prison pen, we would not have gone so quietly along. We had some opportunities to try to effect our escape, but we thought that a failure would subject us all to more rigorous confinement, and if we succeeded, it would be worse for those that remained. So we desisted. Besides, our guard put us upon our honor and trusted us.*

## Civil War News

In August, archaeologists from **Georgia Southern University** announced their unearthing of the hidden and thought to be lost Confederate Camp Lawton. The camp, located in Magnolia State Park north of Millen, Georgia, had been hidden underground for nearly 150 years. Its existence was known through historical documents. Camp Lawton was built in the summer of 1864 in an effort to relieve the overcrowded Andersonville Prison Camp.

The **Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum** has obtained hundreds of books from the estate of the late David Herbert Donald. The collection includes six editions of the Harvard historian’s Lincoln titles and approximately 30 books about the Civil War, slavery and other history the library did not previously have. In 2005, the museum and library gave Donald the only lifetime achievement award it has ever awarded.

Could the **Grant Farm** become a national park? The National Park Service is studying the feasibility of purchasing the 273-acre animal preserve and private residence and turning it into a national park. The study is called a reconnaissance study and is the first step in a lengthy process of considering the property as a national park or historic site. The August A. Busch Jr. Trust owns the property which is operated by the brewery. The farm has been in the Busch family for more than 100 years and has operated as an attraction for the last 55 years.

The **Civil War Preservation Trust** is prepared to buy about 240 acres around the site of Bentonville, North Carolina and add it to the 1,350 acre state-managed site. The new property will include land where troops fought on the first and third days of the battle, including woods, farmlands and fields. The trust has signed contracts with landowners to buy four tracts at Bentonville and is now waiting on the money to make the buys according to Mary Koik, a spokeswoman for the Trust.

After 43 years, **James “Bud” Robertson**, preeminent Civil War scholar, teacher and lecturer is retiring from teaching at Virginia Tech. The university’s oldest faculty member, Robertson plans to retire at the end of the current academic year. After ending his teaching career, Robertson will finish his latest book, *The Untold War*, a collection of information most people don’t know about the war, slated for publication in October 2011.



CWRT members and friends staffed the first Civil War genealogy table at German Fest. (From left) Jay Weber, Jeremy and Jim Johnson, John Thielmann, Robert Mann and Patrick Lynch.

## Twenty-Third Annual Harvest Ball

Memorial Hall, Racine, Wisconsin  
Saturday, November 6th, 2010, 7:30 p.m.

We of Heritage Military Music Foundation and The 1st Brigade Band invite you to join us for the 23rd Annual Harvest Benefit Ball! Many of you have honored us with your presence for most, and some perhaps all, of the preceding years.

Even the most well established of traditions must occasionally bow to change, however, and that is the case this year. While tickets will be available directly from us via the telephone number on this flyer, our contract with Memorial Hall now requires us to offer them through "Ticket Master," as well. We are pleased that the Ticket Master exposure may introduce new people to the Harvest Benefit Ball, but we are also concerned that too many new friends would make it difficult to kick up our heels during a raucous Virginia Reel or whirl about the floor to an exhilarating polka. Therefore, we will for the first time place a strict cap on the number of tickets that will be sold. This means that we cannot guarantee that tickets will be available at the door. We request that you order your tickets as early as possible.

We are pleased to announce that the Radisson Hotel Racine Harbourwalk is offering discounted prices on both "Standard" and "Marina View" rooms for those attending the 23rd Annual Harvest Benefit Ball. This elegant facility is located mere blocks from Memorial Hall. When you call for reservations, tell the kind folks at the Radisson that you are attending the 23rd Annual Harvest Benefit Ball.

We hope you will be able to help us "Make History Live" at the 23rd Annual Harvest Benefit Ball. We promise an evening of great music, splendid camaraderie, joyous dance, tasty hors d'oeuvres...and perhaps a bit of tom-foolery. As always, period dress is encouraged but not required. See you on November 6th!

Contact: Greg Davis  
Harvest Ball  
W4169 Pine Valley Rd.  
Belleville, WI 53508  
(608) 527-4222



Robert Redford presented a new film, *The Conspirator*, at the Toronto Film Festival. The film is set in 1865 Washington days after the assassination of President Lincoln and deals with the trial of the conspirators, centering on Mary Surratt. The film is set for a Spring 2011 release. For more information visit: [www.theamericanfilmcompany.com](http://www.theamericanfilmcompany.com).

A new 8-hour miniseries is in the works at HBO called *To Appomattox*, set to premier sometime in 2011. You can follow the progress of the film at [www.toappomattox.com](http://www.toappomattox.com). If you create a free account, you can also access some wonderful sketches and pictures that are part of the research on this project.



*The West Side Soldiers Aid Society hosted a Civil War Dance workshop in August 2010. They will be offering dance presentations at the November meeting of the Madison History Round Table and at the December 11 Victorian Christmas program at the Kenosha Civil War Museum. The new year will bring the 3rd annual American Heroes Ball (March 5) and the Grand Union Ball (April 16) at the Kenosha Civil War Museum. Information on lessons & performances: Patricia Lynch, 414-427-3776.*

## Civil War Round Table Dinner Reservation for October 7, 2010

Mail your reservations by Monday, October 4, 2010, 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 October 7, 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.

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## **CWRT of Milwaukee, Inc. • 2010 - 2011 Meetings**

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### **November 11, 2010**

Nevins-Freeman Recipient Robert Girardi, TBA

### **December 9, 2010**

Samuel C. Hyde, Jr., Ph.D., "A Wisconsin Yankee in the Confederate Bayou Country: The Civil War Reminiscences of a Union General"

### **January 13, 2011**

Lawrence L. Hewitt, Ph.D., "Slandered Heroes: Deserters Who Didn't"

### **February 10, 2011**

TBA

### **March 10, 2010**

Susan Boardman, Gettysburg Cyclorama

### **April 7, 2011**

Richard M. McMurry, Ph.D., TBA

### **May 12, 2011**

Tom Schott, Ph.D., Alexander Stephens

### **June 9, 2011**

Peter Carmichael, Ph.D., TBA

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