

Eastern Battlefields Tour 14-21 June

Reservations are now being accepted for an eight-day tour of the major eastern theater battlefields, sponsored by University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and guided by our own Bob Braun and by Robert Schmall, a UW-system instructor.

The tour will start in Milwaukee with a flight by Midwest Express to Washington, D. C. From the nation's capital the tour will go to Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Salem Church, the Wilderness, Cold Harbor, Richmond and Petersburg, and will conclude with a flight from Washington back to Milwaukee.

Contact Bob Braun, or Don Bracco at (262) 521-5460, or Kim Beck at (414) 227-3321 for more information.

Surgeon Group Meeting in March

The Society of Civil War Surgeons will hold its 10th National Convention March 28-30 in Indianapolis. The society is the largest organization of its kind dedicated to the study of Civil War surgery and medicine.

The program includes lectures, hospitality reception, Saturday dinner, and a tour of selected Civil War sites, including the Lilly Museum. After-dinner keynote speaker will be Sophia Hammond, great-granddaughter of Union Army Surgeon General William A. Hammond. Drs. Peter Jacobsohn and Robert Karczewski will be speaking at the meeting.

A pre-conference workshop, for an additional fee, will feature Alvan St. Jacques, an expert and teacher in moulage techniques.

For information contact Peter J. D'Onofrio, Ph. D., 539 Bristol Dr. SW, Reynoldsburg, OH 43068; pjdsocws@aol.com; www.civilwarsurgeons.org.

—From www.CivilWarNews.com, 11 January 02

Veterans Museum Luncheon and Tours

The Friends of the Wisconsin State Historical Society are sponsoring a luncheon at the Wisconsin Veterans Museum at noon Saturday, Feb. 22, to be followed by a lecture (speaker still to be announced) and personally conducted tours of the museum. The event is open to the general public. Parking is available in several nearby public parking structures. The museum, on Capitol Square, is a treasure house of Civil War memorabilia. It also holds extensive material dealing with the other wars in which Wisconsin men and women have fought and died. To make reservations or obtain further information, call (608) 258-0055 or e-mail friends-shsw@charter.net.

— John H. Thompson

1st Brigade Band Concert 30 March

The 1st Brigade Band will perform at 2:00 PM on Sunday, 30 March, 2003, at the Sharon Lynne Wilson Center for the Performing Arts to benefit the Elmbrook Historical Society. The Center is at 19805 Capitol Drive (Mitchell Park) in Brookfield. Tickets are \$15.00. For more information call (262) 781-6385, or www.elmbrookhistoricalsociety.com.

The 1st Brigade Band is an affiliate of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin and is supported and sponsored by Heritage Military Music Foundation, Inc.; a non-profit, educational, historical and patriotic organization. For more information on the 1st Brigade Band, see www.1stbrigadeband.org.

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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What If: Gettysburg Had Ended Differently, Part I

Idea

The all-time favorite among counterfactual fans is, was, and probably always will be, Confederate victory at Gettysburg. This has been so popular for so long that it has driven the theme of the battlefield park for at least half a century ("The High Water Mark of the Confederacy"). This is such a pervasive and attractive notion, and so interwoven into folklore, that even historians have been known to accept it at face value. Novels have been written about how the whole history of the world would have been changed if only the Rebels had defeated the Yankees in Pennsylvania.

Description

Though the details of a Confederate success at Gettysburg vary a great deal, the essence of the results is pretty much the same: The Confederates win at Gettysburg, then:

- Lee captures Washington;
- Britain and France recognize the Confederacy;
- The Union sues for peace.

From this a whole slew of other scenarios are played out that are beyond the scope of this essay. The gist is that the whole course of human history is changed because of the result of this one battle.

As attractive as this notion is to those who hold to it, it depends on far too many things. First, to capture Washington Lee would have had to destroy the Army of the Potomac, and then overcome the huge fortress garrison around Washington. The first is improbable since whole armies were rarely destroyed in the Civil War,

and never by armies of inferior size. The second borders on the impossible, since Lee went into Maryland in 1862 and Pennsylvania in 1863 to avoid having to tangle with the Washington forts that he knew he could not overcome. Somehow, Gettysburg fans like to think that this was the key to the defeat of the whole Union army.

Previous articles in this series have discussed the unlikelihood of Anglo-French participation in the war. Given that this was improbable anyway, the idea that the Union would have simply given up after a single battle borders on ludicrous, especially since the day after the end of the Gettysburg fight, the Confederacy was cut into two parts with the fall of Vicksburg. Further, with a Union army nearing Chattanooga, the Confederacy was in imminent danger of being cut into three parts. As demoralizing as a Confederate victory on Union soil might have been, it could not, under any circumstances, have immediately resulted in Union defeat and Confederate independence.

Conclusion I

With Union armies all over the South, the idea that Lincoln would have just abandoned all hope of victory is wishful thinking at best.

However, the Union could have lost the battle. We'll look at how, and what might have happened if they had, in our next installment.

Note: *The author does not endorse or use counterfactuals as historical tools.*

2003 Schedule

All meetings are at the Wisconsin Club Ballroom unless otherwise noted. *Speakers and topics are subject to change without notice.*

- March 13: Edwin C. Bearss, *A Comparison of Civil War and World War II Medical Treatment*. Nomination of

Board for 2003-2004 Season.

- April 10: Open. Election of Board for 2003-2004 Season.
- May 8: Open. Period costumes invited.
- June 12: John Michael Priest, topic to be announced.

Civil War Round Table Dinner Reservation for: February 13th, 2003

Mail *and* call in your reservations by February 7th to:

Paul Eilbes, 1809 Washington Ave. Cedarburg, WI 53012-9730

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

Enclosed is \$_____ (meal price \$20.00 per person) for _____ reservations for the next meeting of the Milwaukee Civil War Round Table. (Please make checks payable to the Milwaukee Civil War Round Table.)

Name of Member: _____

Meet the New Members

ROBIN MARTIN — Delafield, Wisconsin. Interest: Iron Brigade, unsung heroes.

LEE TURAY — Muskego, Wisconsin. Interest: Battlefield tactics.

JAY ZOLLICH — West Allis, Wisconsin. Interest: Board war games, reading, military history.



GO Submissions and Editorial Policy

All submissions to the *GO* are used on a space-available, date-required basis. Electronic submissions are preferred over paper. The Editor/Publisher reserves the right to edit all submissions for length, propriety, content, and house style.

Those submissions with a direct Civil War interest, or those that are date-sensitive, will be published first.

All submissions must be received by the Editor/Publisher at jdbeatty@amcivwar.com no later than the 10th of the month before the next *GO* (for example, submissions for the January *GO* must be received by 10 December). All address changes, or problems receiving the *GO*, are handled through the Membership Chairman, Paul Eilbes.

In the Event of Inclement Weather...

Since we live in a part of the Union that has such wonderful weather, the President will decide if there is to be any change in a meeting due to winter storms. Listen to WTMJ or WISN radio for news of meeting cancellations if the weather turns on us.

A Gentle Reminder

The Wisconsin Club and the General Staff of the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee would like to remind our members that jackets are required for the dining room. Please contact club management if you have any questions.