Thanks to Rhoda Sneller for hosting our website

Des Moines Civil War Roundtable

January 2026
Headquarters District Iowa
General Order No. 506

- The **First meeting** of the Spring campaign will **January 21** at the **The Machine Shed**
- The bar will open at 5:30 with the meal served at 6:30.
- Our program David Connon(DMCWRT) ***Even the Darkness Cannot Hide Thee: The Newest Iowa Confederates***
- Meal choices **Hickory Smoked Chicken and Smoked Pork Chop** at **$26.00**
- **Reservations & payment will be accepted until January 18.**

By command of Brigadier General Gordon McKenzie

Ronald R Nurmi
Colonel & Adjutant
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Our web address www.dmcivilwar.com

We have a price increase for the meal to **$26.00.**

It is time for many to renew your membership the dues are the same this year
$30.00 for Newsletter via PDF
$35.00 for Newsletter via USPS
$40.00 for families

If you have any question please contact me at dmcwrt@gmail.com or 515-491-3626

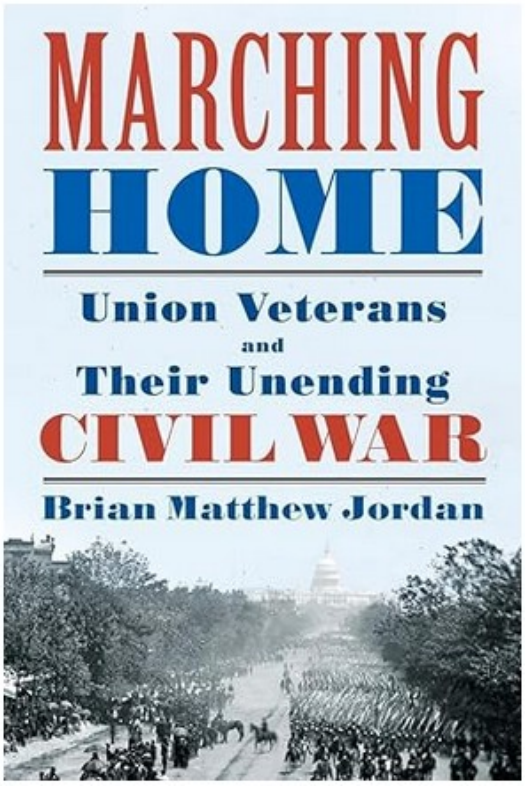
According to my records the following members had not renewed their membership for the 2025-2026 campaign. If this in incorrect please contact me for the correction. This is for the January through March.

Alberts,	Tom	Jan	Mouchka,	Jeremy	Jan
Capps,	Gene	Jan		Kristin	Jan
Collins,	Chuck	Feb	Rittle,	Ron	Jan
Herwig,	Steven	March		Marilyn	Jan
Moraniec,	Dave	March	Schmett,	Kim	Jan
				Connie	Jan

Marching Home: Union Veterans and Their Unending Civil War

DMCWRT Book Review by Chris Miller

Hurrah! The war is over! Hurrah! Now what do we do? Wars end in various ways. Grand marches in the Civil War and WWII. 'Oh. Where have you been,' from Korea, Gulf I and II.. Disembarking from a plane at a far off and over looked gate to avoid protests, in Viet Nam. In all wars, it is often an expensive and cumbersome process to get the troops demobilized, home, and have them take their place in community. It is even more rending when dealing with those who were damaged by that war.



Brian Matthew Jordan address these issues and more in his book, ***Marching Home: Union Veterans and Their***

t is a wide ranging study of what the returnees faced, felt and how they dealt with it. Spanning the country to provide documentation, anecdotes, and circumstances of these veterans, while providing context and meaning.

From the Grand March through Washington to the death of the last survivor, Dr Jordan takes us through the actions, struggles, and issues facing the veterans, their families, their states, and their nations. It is not always an uplifting story. The disconnect between the veterans and their community was often at odds, and it showed as issues were addressed in the near and long terms.

'Oh, so you're back then?' One can imagine their chagrin, or read it in the text, when their stay at home neighbors felt that the end of the war had settled all issues and it was time for the vets to get back to doing things as though nothing had intervened. Many people, families and loved-ones had no conception of what the vets had done, suffered, seen, felt, changed, or needed, that made them an object os scorn, pity, distrust, fear.

One of the early issues to arise was the viewpoints of the various parties. Here were vets who had, saved the Union, showed the Rebs the error of their ways, freed the slaves from a horrendous existence the vets had seen with their own eyes, seen black soldiers as prolific fighters, and a new standard set up in the South under the freedman's bureau. Some vets wanted more punishment for the South and were strong supporters of Reconstruction and martial law until they complied. There was a sense of betrayal at the urgency of the northern business community to 'normalize' relations and get business flowing again. A welcome back was sufficient and the important task was to forget the bad old war and get to business. We shouldn't dogpile on the Southerns-they could be customers. For many veterans, 'Let bygones be bygones,' was a kick in the pants for all they had done.

What do the governments owe those veterans? Health care? Many veterans returned carry extras, bullets, shrapnel, suppurating wounds, and 'nervousness.' Others returned without things. Arms, legs, sometimes both, or other combinations. What of them? States were sometimes ahead of the Federal Government in providing care and prosthetic devices. Dr. Jordan shows how Soldier Homes were established to take care of indigent, 'nervous,' or severely wounded vets. And yet it wasn't enough.

Paying for the service of all veterans with some kind of pension became an issue as veterans with seen and unseen wounds could not fit back into society. Trying to provide fair standards and keeping bureaucracy to minimum was an often unrealized goal.

DrJordan also deals with another category of veteran, the prisoner of war. Were they somehow less because of their capture? Were they more because of what they endured?

The influence of memory was a significant factor to the veterans. Telling their story was important to them and for many the best way to relieve their isolation was to meet with their fellow vets and share reminiscences together. Some wrote histories, memories, and collected memorabilia The development of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) led to local units, annual encampments and celebrations of, by, and for the vets were

meaningful and well attended. Dr. Jordan shows that there was tenseness at combined events. Dr. Earl Lowry, a long-time member of the DMCWRT was the Medical Officer in Charge of the 1933 encampment at Gettysburg. He would regale us with tales and idiosyncrasies of the event but I don't remember a comment on that issue. However, Dr. Jordan makes his case and it seems to follow his research.

The book finishes by accounting the shrinkage over time of the veterans. As the years pass, the numbers and influence of the vets were lost as death claimed more and more of them until last survivor passed away. There is a sadness to that end, and in fact throughout the book. The missed opportunities to do right by the people who saved the union and helped to provide a new birth of freedom that would rid the country of old attitudes and behaviors, stand out and Dr Jordan has provided a wonderful book that is a needed corrective to the standard look at the veterans.



Marching Home: A Story of Love, War, and Freedom

Jeff Kluever (DMCWRT)

ISBN 9798316882984

This is a very enjoyable book and a quick read. It is an accounting of the Battle of New Market Heights, but the battle is not central to the story. Although the account of battle action is one of the best I have read. I found myself running along with the Northern soldiers.

I found it a story of two Black men one born a slave (Ezekiel) and one free (Christian

Fleetwood) both attempting to find what they want.

Without telling too much of the story, I think you will find it a worthwhile read.

Contact Jeff Kluever at jeff.kluever@gmail.com or https://jeffkluever.com/.
You can buy the book from Jeff or Amazon at $20.00