



## Savas Beatie LLC

Editorial Office  
P.O. Box 4527  
El Dorado Hills, CA 95762  
militarybooks@sbcglobal.net (e-mail)  
[www.savasbeatie.com](http://www.savasbeatie.com) (web)  
916-941-6896 (phone)  
916-941-6895 (fax)

Corporate Office  
521 Fifth Avenue, Suite 1700  
New York, NY 10175  
212-546-0102 (phone)  
212-888-9664 (fax)

### Savas Beatie Author Named Chairman of the Wisconsin Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission

El Dorado Hills, CA, August 10, 2010 – Historian and author Lance Herdegen has been named the Chairman of the Wisconsin Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission. The Wisconsin Veterans Museum, under the direction of the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA), formed the Wisconsin Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission to honor the legacy, service and sacrifice of Wisconsin's citizen-soldiers.

Lance Herdegen, noted Civil War historian and former Director of the Institute for Civil War Studies at Carroll College in Waukesha, has been appointed as the Commission's Provisional Chairman. A highly regarded Civil War scholar, Herdegen most recently authored the book *Those Damned Black Hats: The Iron Brigade in the Gettysburg Campaign* (published by Savas Beatie LLC, Winner of The Army Historical Foundation's Distinguished Writing Award for Operational / Battle History, 2008).

He has worked closely with both the Wisconsin Veterans Museum and the Kenosha Civil War Museum in developing programs and exhibits. Herdegen's strong statewide connections and familiarity with veterans groups make him the ideal candidate for the position.

"I am honored to be selected," Herdegen said, adding, "I look forward to working with the rest of the commission to share the amazing contributions of Wisconsin's soldiers and the families who supported them on the home front."

From 1861 to 1865, Wisconsin sent over 91,000 men to fight, and suffered over 12,000 casualties. Known for their tenacity, leadership and skill on the battlefield, Wisconsin regiments were some of the most highly decorated and regarded of the war.

"We look forward to commemorating the Civil War, honoring its veterans and their descendents, and highlighting Wisconsin's role in shaping our nation's history," says WDVA Secretary Kenneth B. Black.

The Wisconsin Veterans Museum has long been the state's interpreter of the Civil War. Its award-winning galleries highlight the service and sacrifice of Wisconsin soldiers at Antietam, Gettysburg, and other epic battles, while its diverse educational programs showcase important Civil War topics. WDVA and its Museum are uniquely positioned to play a leading role in the Wisconsin Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission.

The Wisconsin Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission will bring together Wisconsin's museums, libraries, historical societies and veterans' organizations to develop educational programming, encourage exploration of Wisconsin's role in the war, and make resources available to the public.

"As the state's official military history museum and archives, it is a privilege to work with other Wisconsin historical institutions to bring this rich history to life," says Michael Telzrow, Director of the Wisconsin Veterans Museum. "It is an honor to take a leading role in forming this Commission."

WDVA anticipates working with other state agencies, including the Department of Tourism, to promote this unique commemoration. Public interest will be high and there are dozens of opportunities for highlighting heritage sites, county historical societies, veterans' organizations, and civic events.

In the coming months, additional positions on the Commission will be filled. The eight-member group will be comprised of volunteers with expertise in the subject and interest in furthering understanding of the war. A website with an event schedule and links to participating institutions will also be developed. The sesquicentennial will be commemorated between 2011 and 2015.

For more information on the Wisconsin Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission, please contact Jeff Kollath, Curator of Programs and Exhibitions at the Wisconsin Veterans Museum by calling (608) 261-0541, emailing [program.curator@dva.state.wi.us](mailto:program.curator@dva.state.wi.us) or visiting the Wisconsin Veterans Museum website at [www.WisVetsMuseum.com](http://www.WisVetsMuseum.com).

**About the Author:** Award-winning journalist Lance J. Herdegen is the former director of the Institute of Civil War Studies at Carroll University. He previously worked as a reporter and editor for the United Press International (UPI) news service covering national politics and civil rights. He presently is historical consultant for the Civil War Museum of the Upper Middle West. Herdegen is the author of many articles on 1861-65 topics and is regarded as an authority on the Iron Brigade and Civil War small arms. Included among his several book credits are *Four Years With the Iron Brigade: The Civil War Journal of William R. Ray*, *Seventh Wisconsin Volunteers*; *The Men Stood Like Iron: How the Iron Brigade Won its Name*, and *In the Bloody Railroad Cut at Gettysburg*. Herdegen recently presented a paper at Sydney Sussex College at Cambridge University in England. He has also appeared on the History Channel's "Civil War Journal" and various network and local television and radio shows. He lives in Walworth County, Wisconsin.

**About Savas Beatie, LLC:** Savas Beatie, LLC is a leading military and general history publishing company. Visit [www.savasbeatie.com](http://www.savasbeatie.com) for more information.

Contact:

Sarah Keeney, Marketing Director, Savas Beatie, LLC

Email: [sarahs@savasbeatie.com](mailto:sarahs@savasbeatie.com)

Phone: 916-941-6896

Fax: 916-941-6895