

BORDER STAR

Newsletter of the Civil War Round Table of Kansas City



551st Regular Meeting Wednesday, May 17, 2023

Milburn Golf and Country Club 7501 West 69th Street, Overland Park, KS 66204 Social hour begins at 5:30 p.m. and dinner is at 6:30 p.m.

This meeting will include a plated dinner at a cost of \$34.00 per person. Reservations are required in order to attend the dinner meeting.

Reservation Deadline: Tuesday, May 9th.

To make a dinner reservation, please contact Marlene Natoli:

mailto:marnatoli@att.net Phone: 913-764-1336

May Program



The speaker at our May dinner meeting will be Ms. Alisha Moore Cole. She will be presenting a program titled: "Heroes in Petticoats." It addresses the varying roles played by women during the American Civil War.

Ms. Cole is a Social Historian and Independent Museum Professional specializing in living history interpretation, exhibit design and installation, and research. She holds an A.A. and B.A. in Humanities/Fine Arts from Stephens College in Columbia MO.

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An IRC 501(c)(3)
Charitable Organization
Website- http://cwrtkc.org/
Join us on Facebook!

Dinner Meeting Reservations and Payments

- All reservations must be submitted to Marlene
 Natoli on the Tuesday, one week before the
 CWRT dinner meeting. This will ensure that an
 accurate count can be submitted to the Milburn
 Country Club on Wednesday, one week ahead of
 the dinner meeting, as specified in our contract
 with the Country Club.
- The "standing reservation list" will no longer be used for member dinner reservations. This will ensure that a monthly accurate reservation number can be submitted to Milburn Country Club, as specified in our contract. Please e-mail or call **Marlene Natoli** each month if you are planning on attending. To make a reservation, please contact Marlene at 913-764-1336 or by e-mail at mailto:marnatoli@att.net
- A reservation is required in order to attend the dinner meeting. Anyone who attends without a dinner reservation may not be seated, depending on the number of possible no-shows.
- Please note that the cost of a dinner is \$34.00 per person. If you make a reservation, but are not able to attend the dinner meeting for any reason, you *must* contact Marlene Natoli by either phone or e-mail prior to the reservation deadline to cancel. You could be responsible for your meal if you made a reservation, did not attend, and did not cancel before the deadline.
- You can pay for your meal at the dinner meeting or by mailing a check to **Dick Titterington**. Make check payable to the Civil War Round Table of Kansas City. Dick's mailing address is: 4125 NW Willow Drive, Kansas City MO 64116.
- You can also pay for your dinner using a credit or debit card. The Civil War Round Table of Kansas City is now accepting digital payments. This process is simple to use and secure. The Round Table uses the Square Digital Payment Processing System. Square charges the Round Table a fee for this service. The Round Table passes this fee on to its members who choose to use this service. The fees are slightly more if you pay online than paying in person at our dinner meetings. For more information or to see a schedule of the processing fees charged, visit our website https://cwrtkc.org/digital_payments/

Dinner Menu

Milburn Golf and Country Club will serve the following meal at the May dinner meeting: Sautéed salmon with lemon butter sauce, rice pilaf, and vegetable medley. Dessert will be S'mores Bread Pudding. All dinners are served with house salad and Milburn house dressing, sliced bread, iced tea, water, and coffee.

Gluten free and vegetarian meals are available with advance notice. Please advise **Marlene Natoli** if you require a gluten free or vegetarian meal when making your reservation.

This Month's Speaker

Ms. Alisha Moore Cole will be presenting the "Heroes in Petticoats" program at the May meeting of the Civil War Round Table of Kansas City. She is a Social Historian and Independent Museum Professional specializing in living history interpretation, exhibit design and installation, and research. Ms. Cole has worked with private, municipal, state, and federal run museums and programs in the Southeastern and Midwestern United States.

She holds an A.A. and B.A. in Humanities/Fine Arts from Stephens College in Columbia MO. Her thesis topics were: "The Moonlight and Magnolia Tradition in American Southern Literature" and "Wagner's Influence on Hitler." Ms. Cole's Interdisciplinary Master of Science degree was earned at the University of Missouri in Historic Preservation. Her thesis was titled: "The History and Symbolism of Freemasonry as Revealed Through Its Architecture."

Ms. Cole has been researching and presenting programs since the fourth grade on a wide variety of scientific, art, and history-related subjects.

Ms. Cole and her husband Paul are former members of the Civil War Round Table of Kansas City.

May Program: "Heroes in Petticoats"

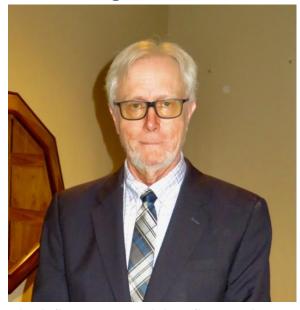
The May program of the Civil War Round Table of Kansas City is titled: "Heroes in Petticoats." It addresses the varying roles played by women during the American Civil War. Some women remained within the domestic sphere or temporarily extended its boundaries. Others entered the public sphere of men, never to return. Learning what women could accomplish during wartime planted the seeds of ambition and confidence that gave momentum to the women's suffrage movement.

Live Auction Book Sales

We would like to thank Round Table member **Arnold Schofield** for managing the book sales each month. The money raised during the book sales helps the Round Table bring in nationally known speakers. Arnold will auction off the following Civil War books and historical documents in May:

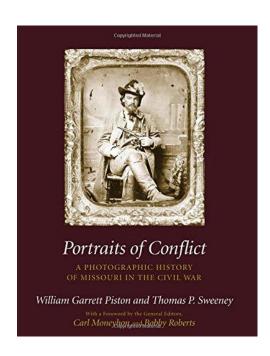
- <u>Battles & Leaders of the Civil War, Volume 1:</u>
 <u>The Opening Battles:</u> Castle reprint. In excellent condition with dust jacket and mylar cover.
- History of the Civil War: Reprint of the 1912 publication by Fairfax Press. Includes 737 Mathew Brady Photographs. In excellent condition with dust jacket.
- <u>Frontier Governor Samuel J. Crawford of Kansas</u>: Crawford served as Governor of Kansas from 1864-1866. This book was published in 1971 and is a first edition. It is also signed by the author Mark A. Plummer.
- Missouri Sketch Book: Edited by Clifton C. Edom. Hardback 1st Edition, 1963. In excellent condtion.

Last Month's Program



April Speaker, Dr. William Garrett Piston

At our dinner meeting on April 19th, **Dr. William Garrett Piston** gave an interesting presentation about the book that he co-authored with Thomas P. Sweeney titled: *Portraits of Conflict, A Photographic History of Missouri in the Civil War.* The meeting was very well attended. Attendance at the dinner meeting was 75!



The key points made during Dr. Piston's presentation are as follows:

- Dr. Piston's book is part of a series of books meant to include portraits and an overview of each Confederate State. The first book in the series was Portraits of Conflict – Arkansas.
- This was the only book that Dr. Piston worked on with Dr. Thomas P. Sweeney. Dr. Sweeney had the best collection of Civil War images related to the trans-Mississippi region.
- Dr. Piston's presentation focused on the following topics:
 - Photography in Missouri during the Civil War.
 - o Securing Missouri for the Union.
 - o Guerrilla war.
 - Missourians and the war on the rivers.
 - o Civil War medicine in Missouri.
- The Civil War was the first generation of Americans who would be sitting in front of a camera and then going off to face death. It might be the last image his family would ever see of him.
- Photography came to Missouri in the 1840's. St. Louis had a lot of photographers. Photography was a big city phenomena. There were also photographers in Kansas City, Jefferson City, Sedalia, Springfield, Rolla, St. Charles, and Hannibal. Photographers could copy another photographer's photos by taking photographs.
- During the 1850's and 1860's there were a lot of photographers in Missouri. Photographers needed a shop or studio, which could be in their

- home. Getting the light correct was tricky. Skylights provided additional light, which made a huge difference.
- Photographs became portable. Rudolph H. Goebel had a photoperipatetigraph wagon that he traveled around with to take photographs. It was another way to make money. Photographers could also take photographs of dead soldiers.
- Soldiers could draw inspiration from the home folks by having photos of their wives, sweethearts, and families.
- The photograph on the cover of his book is of George Maddox, a guerrilla fighter who served under Quantrill. In 1866, Maddox was the only guerrilla to stand trial for the Lawrence Raid. He was tried and acquitted.
- Dr. Piston said the term "guerrilla" was a matter of definition. It could be used against you. The Union government labeled all soldiers recuited in Missouri as guerrillas.
- The Missouri State Militia (MSM) were armed, anti-guerrilla fighters. The MSM got started in 1862 in response to the Confederates recruiting guerrilla fighters.
- James B. Eads (1820-1887) was a worldrenowned civil engineer. He lobbied the Lincoln administration and convinced President Lincoln to build ironclad gunboats on the western rivers. This greatly helped Grant's campaign against Confederate forts Henry and Donelson in 1862. The Confederates could never match the Union gunboats on the rivers.
- Commander John Roberts and Eads drew up a set of requirments for a fleet of armored gunboats that would operate on the Mississippi River. This resulted in city-class ironclads. Bands were painted on the smokestacks to identify each vessel.
- Eads wanted armored gunboats and the U.S. Navy built them in a hurry. However, lightly armored gunboats took a pounding from Confederate shore batteries. The USS Mound City was converted from an existing vessel into a heavily armored gunboat. The Eads shipyard built a total of seven city-class ironclads within five months. The cooperation between the U.S. Army and Navy was very high.
- Dr. Piston said there were about 180,000 African Americans that served in the U.S. Army. Approximately 2,000 runaway slaves served in the Western navies and made great contributions.

- Civil War medicine: Doctors on both sides worked on wounded soldiers. This is one of the best examples of compassion during the Civil War. The overwhelming number of physicians on both sides had never treated gunshot wounds. They had to learn on the fly. It is amazing how many civilians became great doctors.
- The wounded were sent to hospitals. The wounded soldiers in Missouri got the best medical care available at that time. The convention for both sides was that doctors were not captured and were allowed to treat the wounded.
- Dr. Piston showed numerous photos of Missouri soldiers, guerrilla fighters, doctors, buildings, and gunboats from the Civil War. He also told stories that went along with the photos.

Upcoming Civil War Round Table Programs

Our monthly dinner meetings are typically held on the third Wednesday of each month. However, the meeting in December of 2023 will be held on the second Wednesday of the month.

- June 21, 2023: Dr. Isaias McCaffery, professor of history at Independence Community College, will give a program titled: "Last Stand at Rebel Creek: The Osage as Union Allies in Civil War Kansas."
- July 19, 2023: Round Table member Rick Manfredi will be giving a program titled: "Did Missouri Secede?"
- August 16, 2023: Wayne Motts, President and CEO of the Gettysburg Foundation, will be giving a program about the George Spangler farm and Gettysburg field hospital.
- September 20, 2023: Douglas Waller, veteran CIA correspondant, will be giving a program about President Lincoln's Union spies.
- October 18, 2023: Dr. Ethan S. Rafuse will be speaking about Robert E. Lee and the fall of the Confederacy. Dr. Rafuse has written a book on this subject.
- November 15, 2023: The speaker will be Dr.
 Kristen Epps, professor of history at Kansas
 State University. The title of her program will
 be "Slavery on the Periphery."
- December 13, 2023: Dr. Diane Mutti-Burke, professor of history at UMKC, will be giving a program about refugees in the Civil War.
- **January 17, 2024:** Round Table member **Dick Titterington** will give a program titled:

- "Sterling Price Returns: His Counter-offensive to Retake Missouri in the fall of 1861."
- **February 21, 2024:** Round Table member **Arnold Schofield** will be speaking about the 8th Kansas Volunteer Infantry.

Upcoming Programs at the Harris-Kearney House in Westport

Civil War programs sponsored by the Westport Historical Society and the Monnett Battle of Westport Fund, will be held from 1–2 p.m. at the Harris-Kearney House, located at 4000 Baltimore, Kansas City MO.

- May 17, 2023: Mike Calvert, President of the Civil War Round Table of Western MO, will speak about the "First Battle of Independence, August 11, 1862."
- June 14, 2023: Dan Smith, Chairman of the Monnett Battle of Westport Fund will give a program titled: "Secret Order and Spies at the Battle of Westport."
- July 12, 2023: Round Table member Dick Titterington will give a program about "The Battle of Lone Jack MO."
- August 16, 2023: Chris Edwards, author and musician, will speak about "Quantrill's 1863 Raid on Lawrence, Kansas."
- **September 13, 2023:** Round Table member **Lane Smith** will give a program titled: "An Afternoon with Robert E. Lee."
- October 18, 2023: Dan Smith will be speaking about "Women at the Battle of Westport."
- November 15, 2023: Round Table member Dick Titterington will give program titled: "The Paw Paw Rebellion."

Executive Committee Meeting - June 3rd

There will be a meeting of the Round Table's executive committee at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, June 3, 2023. The meeting will be held at **Dan Smith's** office located at 6900 College Boulevard, Suite 510, Overland Park KS 66211. Capitol Federal has a branch in the lower level of the building. The meeting location is in the Financial Plaza, which is just east of the intersection of Metcalf and College on the north side of College. The Metcalf and College intersection is just south of the I-435 and Metcalf exit. Current members of the Round Table are welcome to attend. The meeting agenda will include programs and speakers, who are now booked for all of 2024, and the proposed changes to the Round Table's by-laws.

Member News

We would like to welcome the following new members:

- **Jim Hanni and Vicky Durand** live in Lawrence KS.
- **Jill Jaworski** lives in Fort Scott KS and works for the National Park Service. She heard about the Civil War Round Table of Kansas City from **Arnold Schofield**.
- **Dale Walters** lives in Topeka KS and joined at the dinner meeting in April.

We would also like to thank the following people for their generous donations of books to the Civil War Round Table:

- Round Table member **Bob Macoubrie**.
- Round Table member **Austin C. Turney**, who donated 261 books prior to the dinner meeting in April.
- Former member **Jim King**.

Remembering Rev. Dr. Herman Hattaway

Rev. Dr. Herman Hattaway passed away at the age of 84 on March 31, 2023. For 34 years he was a professor of history and religious studies at the University of Missouri Kansas City. He was a Civil War historian and wrote several books about the Civil War including How the North Won: A Military History of the Civil War, Why the South Lost the Civil War, and Shades of Blue and Gray: An Introductory History of the Civil War. Dr. Hattaway was also a speaker at many Civil War Round Table meetings. Our Round Table presented Dr. Hattaway with the Harry S. Truman Award in 1986. He was a mentor to other Civil War historians including Dr. William Garrett Piston and Dr. Ethan Rafuse, two of our speakers this year. Dr. Hattaway was a credit to his profession and will be greatly missed by his family, friends, and colleagues.

Sergeant Major's Roar

Battlefield Dispatches #557

Before Vipers Come Forth

Mr. Webster, one of my best resources, defines "Viper" as venomous or poisonous snake or a malicious or treacherous person! And, this word VIPERS, was the word and label that Union Major General Samuel Ryan Curtis used to describe the BUSHWHACKERS of Missouri. General Curtis believed that this was most fitting, because guerrillas commanded by Col. William

C. Quantrill killed his son, Major Zarah Curtis at the second battle of Baxter Springs on October 6, 1863!

One of the most effective ways to combat the Bushwhackers by the Union Army was to employee civilian "detectives" who could, would, and did successfully infiltrate enemy territory to gain information on and the location of the bushwhackers and their camps. The following correspondence describes the hiring and report of one of these detectives and is located in Volume 34, Part II, of the Official Records of the War of the Rebellion on Pages 374-377.

"Fort Leavenworth,

March 2, 1864.

Respectfully referred to Major General Rosecrans for his information.

This relates to the BUSHWHACKER COUNTRY, near the border, where the eggs should be CRUSHED "BEFORE THE VIPERS COME FORTH" in the SPRING.

S. R. CURTIS,

Major General"

"Headquarters, Fourth Sub-District, Central Missouri; February 19, 1864.

[To] Capt. J. H. Steger, Assistant Adjutant General:

Sir: I respectfully request that Brigadier General E. B. Brown, Commanding the District of Central Missouri, that he would allow me to EMPLOY TWO DETECTIVES on secret service on this [Missouri–Kansas] border. There are so many inducements for thieving and running off property over the border into Kansas, which if properly watched in a small way will do a great deal toward breaking up this lucrative branch of plundering. In connection with this request, I would also ask that the recompense allowed to such be stated, if the request be granted to employ them.

Very Respectfully, Your Obedient Servant,

JAS. H. FORD,

Col. 2nd Colo. Cav., Commanding, 4th Sub-Dist., Dist. of Cent. Mo."

"Headquarters, District of Central Missouri, Warrensburg,

February 23, 1864.

Respectfully returned to Colonel Ford, who is authorized to employ TWO DETECTIVES, the compensation not to exceed \$60 per month.

By order of Brigadier General Brown,

JAS. H. STEGER,

Assistant Adjutant General."

"Headquarters, Olathe, Kansas, February 19, 1864 Colonel Chipman,

Dear Sir: I respectfully submit the following brief report:

I have just returned from a five-day scout, within which time I traveled the middle and south part of Grand River and over a portion of Pawnee Fork, Deer Creek, Elk Fork and Big Creek. I did not come in contact or see any Bushwhackers, but had abundance of evidence that there was quite a number in the country. On Pawnee Fork I found a bushwhacking encampment consisting of flour, cooking utensils, clothing and one English carbine. The outward appearances of horse tracks indicated about 15 in number and they had been there for some time. Within a one-half of a mile from said encampment, I found corn and oat straw, which I destroyed as well as their camp.

I stopped at a house where Jim Weddington, a NOTROIOUS BUSHWHACKER, had stopped over night with 22 men. I saw another man, Henry Hedge, who lives five miles from Harrisonville, in Missouri, who stated that ten men took supper with him last Wednesday night, who claimed to be part of Dick Yeager's Gang. I also received information from a reliable source that a Mrs. Wilson, who lives on Big Creek, was noted in that country for keeping BUSHWHACKERS. Stated on Saturday night that 12 of Todd's men stayed at her house on Tuesday night previous; that they thought the abolitionists of Kansas thought that the massacre of Lawrence was a terrible thing; that it was only a foretaste of what they would get this summer. While they were watching the front, they would come [attack] on them in the rear.

You will recollect what you heard while here of Yeager and some of his men were seen out west on the

Santa Fe Road. From the above statement and having seen a number of fresh horse tracks working up those branches toward the Kansas line, I think it quite probable that they may be concentrating somewhere west on the Santa Fe Road, for the purpose of interfering with the trains going west or making a raid down through the state [of Kansas] toward Missouri. At least from the facts, I think that they should be looked after in that direction.

Another idea I would suggest and think of great importance, is that if the border counties of Missouri are not attached to this Department that you request of the General in command of that department to issue Special Orders to troops stationed at Pleasant Hill, Harrisonville, Clinton, and Germantown to be more active. They are living at these places, faring sumptuously, and to all appearances doing nothing. If the same order is issued to our troops at Santa Fe, Aubrey, and Cold Water Grove to keep out scouting parties every day from the different commands, they can prevent a concentration in that direction, consequently there would be no raid into Kansas from that direction. I have other matters to call to your attention to which I will defer till my return.

Yours Very Respectfully,

S. W. CARPENTER.

Scout Detective.

P. S.: I have hurt myself, so I will not be able to ride for four or five days. I wish you to inform me by the bearer whether I shall remain here longer or return to Fort Leavenworth."

"[Endorsement]

Fort Leavenworth,

March 2, 1864.

Respectfully referred to Major General Rosecrans, for his information.

This relates to the BUSHWHACKER COUNTRY, near the border, where the eggs should be crushed <u>BEFORE</u> the VIPERS COME FORTH in the SPRING.

S. R. CURTIS, Major General."

Now then, were the eggs of the vipers crushed before the Bushwhackers launched their spring offensive in Missouri? No, they were never completely eliminated, but the civilian detectives, if they survived and many did not, often provided reliable information for a successful Union counter-offensive and of Course the War Went On!

Photographs from the April Dinner Meeting

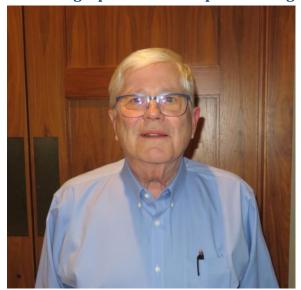


Ms. Karen Sweeney, wife of Dr. Thomas P. Sweeney

Don Bates invited Ms. Karen Sweeney to attend the April dinner meeting to hear Dr. Piston's program about the book that her husband co-authored. Ms. Sweeney said that Dr. Sweeney had an extensive collection of Civil War weapons, accouterments, photographs, and memorabilia from the trans-Mississippi region. She asked him what he wanted to do with it. Dr. Sweeney replied that he wanted his collection to tell a story. He wanted to build a museum to house the collection, however, no bank would loan them the money needed to build the museum.

Ms. Sweeney said at one time her husband had the opportunity to purchase the Bibles owned by Robert E. Lee, Thomas J. Jackson, and John Brown. However, Dr. Sweeney decided to purchase only John Brown's Bible. Years later, West Virginia Senator Robert C. Byrd wanted John Brown's Bible for the new John Brown Museum at Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, so the National Park Service purchased the Bible from the Sweeneys. Ms. Sweeney said the money obtained from the sale of John Brown's Bible allowed the Sweeneys to build their General Sweeny's Museum, located adjacent to the Wilson's Creek National Battlefield.

More Photographs from the April Meeting



New Member Ron Mills



Member Austin C. Turney and friend Paul Jefferson



Member Dr. Bruce Graham



Members David Perky and Dale Walters. Dale is a new member from Topeka.



Visitors Michael and Marilyn Silvey.

Michael said he attended his first Civil War Round Table of Kansas City meeting in 1959 at the age of 11.