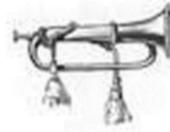




BORDER



BUGLE

Newsletter of the Civil War Round Table of Kansas City



EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

President

Father Dave Holloway

First Vice-President

Gary Nevius

Second Vice-President

To be determined

Treasurer

Dick Titterington

Secretary

Judy Smith

Director of Preservation

Arnold Schofield

Sergeant at Arms

Lane Smith

Chaplain

Father Dave Holloway

Historian

Don Bates, Sr.

Border Bugle Editor

Dave Pattison

dcpattis@gmail.com

Website Administrator

Dick Titterington

Board of Directors

Don Bates, Sr.

Blair Tarr

Les Thierolf

Chairman of the Board, Monnett Battle of Westport Fund (Ex-Officio)

Daniel L. Smith

Civil War Round Table of
Kansas City
4125 NW Willow Drive
Kansas City MO 64116

An IRC 501(c)(3)

Charitable Organization

Website- <http://cwrk.org/>

Join us on Facebook!

556th Regular Meeting Wednesday, October 18, 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, October 10th.

To make a dinner reservation, please contact Marlene Natoli:

<mailto:marnatoli@att.net>

Phone: 913-764-1336

October Program



Dr. Ethan S. Rafuse, professor of military history at the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, will be giving a program titled: "Robert E. Lee and the fall of the Confederacy." Dr. Rafuse wrote a book about this subject in 2008.

Dr. Rafuse will discuss Lee's struggle to defend the Confederacy against a relentless and determined foe and how even the best efforts of one of history's great commanders could not prevent the total defeat of his army and its cause.

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 October dinner meeting: Braised pork loin with mushroom & wine demi glaze, boursin mashed potatoes, and brussels sprouts. Dessert will be apple pie a la mode. 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



Dr. Ethan S. Rafuse

Dr. Ethan S. Rafuse is a professor of military history at the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth. He received his B.A. and M.A. degrees in history at George Mason University and Ph.D. in history and political science at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. After two years teaching military history at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, he joined the faculty at the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College (CGSC) in 2004.

Since joining the faculty at CGSC, he has given presentations to a wide variety of audiences, including Civil War Round Tables throughout the United States, the Naval War College, Annual Meeting of the Society for Military History, West Point Summer Seminar on Military History, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

and Museum, National Endowment for the Humanities' "Crossroads of Conflict" Teachers' Workshop, Gettysburg Foundation, National World War I Museum, Kansas City Public Library, the National Archives, University of Kansas' Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, etc.

Dr. Rafuse served as the 2018-2019 Charles Boal Ewing Chair in Military History at the U.S. Military Academy.

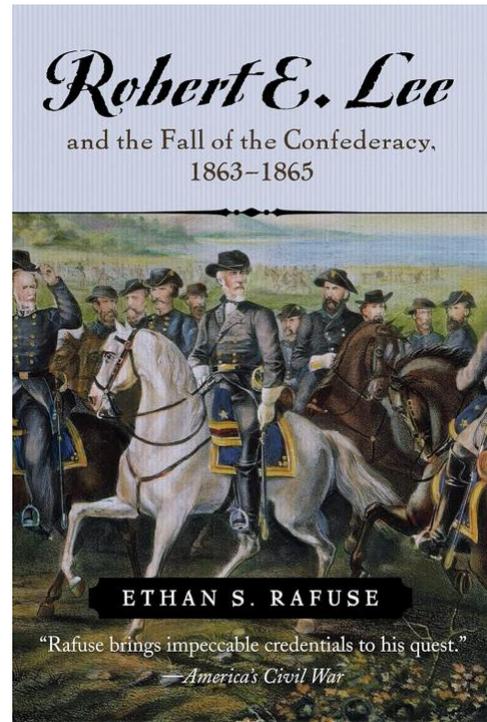
Dr. Rafuse was given the Harry S. Truman Award by the Civil War Round Table of Kansas City in December of 2019, in recognition of his outstanding work regarding Civil War history. He is a member of our Round Table and has been the speaker at several of our dinner meetings.

Dr. Rafuse has written numerous books on the Civil War including the following:

- *From the Mountains to the Bay: The War in Virginia, January-May 1862 (Modern War Studies)*, 2022.
- *McClellan's War: The Failure of Moderation in the Struggle for the Union*, 2011.
- *George Gordon Meade and the War in the East (Volume 23) (Civil War Campaigns and Commanders Series)*, 2003.
- *Robert E. Lee and the Fall of the Confederacy, 1862-1865 (The American Crisis Series: Books on the Civil War Era)*, 2008.
- *A Single Grand Victory: The First Campaign and Battle of Manassas (The American Crisis Series, Book 7)*, 2002.
- *Antietam, South Mountain, and Harpers Ferry: A Battlefield Guide (This Hallowed Ground: Guides to Civil War Battlefields)*, 2008.
- *Guide to the Richmond-Petersburg Campaign (U.S. Army War College Guides to Civil War Battles)*, 2014.
- *Stonewall Jackson: A Biography*, 2011.
- *Manassas: A Battlefield Guide (This Hallowed Ground: Guides to Civil War Battlefields)*, 2014.

This Month's Program:

Dr. Ethan S. Rafuse will be giving a program titled: "Robert E. Lee and the fall of the Confederacy." The program is based on the book that he wrote in 2008.



The following summary of Dr. Rafuse's book is from the Amazon website:

"The generalship of Robert E. Lee, the Confederacy's greatest commander, has long fascinated students of the American Civil War. In assessing Lee and his military career, historians have faced the great challenge of explaining how a man who achieved extraordinary battlefield success in 1862–1863 ended up surrendering his army and accepting the defeat of his cause in 1865. How, in just under two years, could Lee, the Army of Northern Virginia, and the Confederacy have gone from soaring triumph at Chancellorsville to total defeat at Appomattox Court House?"

"In this reexamination of the last two years of Lee's storied military career, Ethan S. Rafuse offers a clear, informative, and insightful account of Lee's ultimately unsuccessful struggle to defend the Confederacy against a relentless and determined foe. Robert E. Lee and the Fall of the Confederacy describes the great campaigns that shaped the course of this crucial period in American history, the challenges Lee faced in each battle, and the dramatic events that determined the war's outcome.

"In addition to providing readable and richly detailed narratives of such campaigns as Gettysburg, Bristoe Station, Spotsylvania, and Appomattox, Rafuse offers compelling analysis of Lee's performance as a commander and of the strategic and operational contexts that influenced the course of the war. He superbly describes and explains the factors that shaped Union and Confederate strategy, how both sides approached the war in Virginia from an operational standpoint, differences in the two sides' respective military capabilities, and how

these forces shaped the course and outcome of events on the battlefield.

“Rich in insights and analysis, this book provides a full, balanced, and cogent account of how even the best efforts of one of history's great commanders could not prevent the total defeat of his army and its cause. It will appeal to anyone with an interest in the career of Robert E. Lee and the military history of the Civil War.”

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 in October:

- *Kentucky & Missouri: Confederate Military History Volume 9* by Clement Evans. Blue & Gray Press reprint. In excellent condition with dust jacket and mylar cover.
- *Action Before Westport* by Howard Monnett. Published in 1964. In mint condition.
- *October 25th and The Battle of Mine Creek* by Lumir F. Buresh and signed by the author. Edited by Round Table member Dan Smith. Published in 1977. In mint condition with dust jacket and mylar cover.
- *The 116: The True Story of Abraham Lincoln's Lost Guard* by James Muehlberger. Published in 2015. In excellent condition with dust jacket and mylar cover.

Last Month's Program

At the dinner meeting on September 20th, Round Table member **Dan Smith** gave a well-researched and interesting program titled: “The Battle that Saved the Nation's Capitol: Monocacy July 9, 1864”

The Valley Campaign of June 1864-April 1865 was initiated by the Confederates out of necessity and yet is less well understood than other the major Civil War operations. Gen. Robert E. Lee's effort to relieve his embattled forces at Petersburg was a bold and daring plan under Gen. Jubal A. Early which nearly succeeded beyond all expectations. On the banks of the Monocacy River in Maryland, only forty miles from the White House, Early's numerically superior Army of the Valley met the much smaller Federal force under Gen. Lew Wallace.



September Speaker Dan Smith

Dan Smith's talk examined the details of this brief but extremely intense and bloody engagement at Monocacy. Gen. Wallace's valiant defense retarded and disrupted the Confederate advance on Washington, D. C. Gen. Wallace is better known today as the author of *Ben-Hur, A Tale of the Christ*. Yet, the heroics of the Federal forces under Wallace's command produced Medal of Honor recipients and resulted in a pivotal holding action ultimately saving the Capitol.

The following are some of the key points made during Dan's presentation:

- In the summer of 1864 the Union war effort is a failure. There is a stalemate at Petersburg. People are war weary. A lot of people don't agree with Lincoln. He may not even win the nomination for president. Some disapprove of Lincoln's handling of the war. General Grant was installed as the commander of the Union forces. However, he is considered a “butcher” after the battle of Cold Harbor.
- General Lee's Confederate Army of Northern Virginia is under siege at Petersburg. Crops are not accessible to Lee's army. Lee must do something to relieve the pressure on Petersburg and Richmond.
- The Battle of Monocacy was the product of necessity. Lee's brazen gamble almost succeeded. An outnumbered Federal army was forced to protect the Capitol at Washington D.C.
- On June 13, 1864, Lee set in motion a 14,000 man Army of the Valley under Lt. General Jubal

Early. This represented 1/5 of Lee's army. Early was an 1837 graduate of Westpoint. He was a rough and tough commander. Early had 9,000 infantry and 5,000 cavalry under his command.

- This campaign for both sides consisted of amazing logistics, rapid deployment, and battle plans on the fly. There was little advance planning.
- The Union had only 3,500 troops to oppose Early's army. Early ousted Union General David Hunter's army from the Shenandoah Valley on June 17-18, 1864. There was no definitive plan to invade Washington D.C. At the beginning of July, Early approached Harpers Ferry VA. Union General Franz Sigel occupied Maryland Heights. On July 5-6, 1864, Early crossed the Potomac River near Harpers Ferry.
- Union Major General Lew Wallace's headquarters were in Baltimore MD. He commanded the Union VIII Corps and was responsible for protecting New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, and eastern Maryland. The bridge over the Monocacy River had to be protected. Wallace vowed that the bridge would not be bothered without a fight.
- Brigadier General Erastus B. Tyler was the Union commander in Baltimore. Wallace arrived on July 5th. Tyler set up a defense of the stone bridge crossing the Monocacy River on the Baltimore Pike, utilizing rifle pits on a high bluff above the river and six artillery pieces.
- The government in Washington D.C. and General Grant took Early's advance seriously. Brigadier General James B. Ricketts commanded the 3rd Division of the Union's VI Corps. He had 1,600 troops that were deployed from Petersburg to Monocacy in 64 hours.
- Wallace gathered what cavalry he had. Colonel Clendenin's cavalry troops encountered the leading edge of Early's Confederate force on July 7th and was drastically outnumbered. Wallace's 2,500 infantry and 230 cavalry were inexperienced and outnumbered.
- Ricketts' troops left Petersburg on July 6th and arrived in Baltimore MD on July 7th. However, it took another 30 hours to get to Monocacy. Wallace now had 4,800 troops. He left Frederick MD on July 8th and advanced to Monocacy on July 9th to set up the Union's defensive line.
- The main battle at Monocacy began at 9:00 a.m. on July 9th. However, the main body of the

Confederate Army was still in Frederick MD demanding a \$200,000 ransom.

- The Confederates captured the Best farmstead and barn. The Confederates attacked Ricketts' force at the Worthington ford and house. From 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. the main body of Early's army, under Major General John B. Gordon's Division of 5,000 men, attacked the covered bridge on the Washington Pike. Wallace then ordered the bridge burned. The Union was under attack from both the right and left flanks. Gordon's Confederate Division suffered severe casualties attacking Ricketts' Division from the Georgetown Pike. Gordon said it was a desperate fight.
- The Confederates extended their lines to envelope the Union line. A total of 18 Confederate cannon hit both ends of Ricketts' line and he was forced to withdraw.
- After the Battle of Monocacy, Early's Army of the Valley then attacked Fort Stevens in Washington D.C. on July 12, 1864. Early broke off the attack and withdrew across the Potomac River to Lee's Ferry.
- Wallace did not give up the railroad bridge without a fight. He delayed Early's advance by one day. Wallace put up a stiff defense. The cost to defend Washington D.C. was 1,200 Union and 1,000 Confederate casualties (killed, wounded, and missing). Early left behind 400 wounded at Frederick MD.
- After the battle Wallace said: "These men died to save the Nation's Capitol and they did save it."
- There were two soldiers who were awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for their actions at the Battle of Monocacy: Lt. George E. Davis (Company K, Tenth VT) and Corporal Alex Scott (Company D, Tenth VT).
- In summary, Dan Smith there was no plan by the Confederates. It was: "Let's go north and see what happens." The Confederates went out to collect ransoms at Hagerstown and Frederick MD. The Confederates had no food, horses, or money. By collecting ransoms, the Confederates got greenbacks. If at Hagerstown on July 7th, the Confederates could have overtaken the Union at Frederick MD, they could have put more pressure on the Capitol at Washington D.C.

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.

- **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 Kansas regiments that fought in the Eastern Theatre of the Civil War, including the 8th Kansas Infantry.
- **March 20, 2024:** **Kendall D. Gott**, Army veteran of Desert Storm and the Senior Historian at the U.S. Army Combat Studies Institute will give a program titled: "Gone to Kansas, 1856."
- **April 17, 2024:** Former Round Table member **Dr. Dave Schafer** will give a program about Jayhawker and Abolitionist James Montgomery.
- **May 15, 2024:** **Michael Lang** will present a program about Lee's Maryland Campaign in 1862.
- **June 19, 2024:** **Dr. Rebecca Jo Plant**, associate professor in History at the University of California, San Diego, will give a program about her book titled: *Of Age: Boy Soldiers and Military Power in the Civil War Era*.
- **July 17, 2024:** **David N. Duncan**, President of the American Battlefield Trust, will be speaking about Battlefield Preservation.
- **August 21, 2024:** **Dr. Tai Edwards**, associate professor of history and director of the Kansas Studies Institute at Johnson County Community College will give a program titled: "The Civil War and Colonization of Indigenous Peoples."
- **September 18, 2024:** **Dr. Megan Bever**, associate professor of history and chair of the Social Sciences Department at Missouri Southern State University, will give a program titled: "At War with King Alcohol."

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.

- **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."

Member News

We would like to welcome new member **Lawson S. Rener**. Lawson is a dentist and lives in Kansas City MO. His family Civil War background includes approximately 20 Union officers and soldiers and over 90 Confederates, including Generals Hood, Lee, Stuart, Rodes, and Hanson and Confederate President Jefferson Davis.

We would like to thank **Dick Titterington** for volunteering to be our treasurer. Dick has been doing an excellent job as interim treasurer.

Round Table Executive Committee Meeting

There was a meeting of the Round Table's Executive Committee on Saturday, October 7th. The main topics discussed were the previous meeting minutes, the treasurer's report, membership dues for 2024, the slate of officers for 2024-2025, speakers for 2024-2025, the start time for our dinner meetings, and the plan for our Round Table to co-sponsor a Civil War symposium with Freedom's Frontier in 2024.

Regarding the start time of our dinner meetings, the Executive Committee proposes the following changes to take effect starting in January 2024: Social hour will be from 5:00-6:00 p.m. and dinner will begin at 6:00 p.m. This will allow Milburn Country Club's staff and our members and guests to get home earlier. That is what we are planning to do unless there are major objections.

Sergeant Major's Roar

Battlefield Dispatches #633 Regulate House Burning

During the Civil War, especially in Missouri as a result of the partisan guerrilla war, the burning of "enemy" houses and property was common place by

both sides. In 1862, it was so prevalent that the Union "command" chastised this common practice by its own troops and attempted to regulate this destruction of private property by limiting the ability of field commanders to burn said property, before they received authorization to do so from the "Commanding General" of their specific district. The following circular describes why and the action to be taken by commanders in the field. It and an example of "authorized burning" are located on Pages 678 and 282 in Series I, Vol. 13 of the Official Records of the War of the Rebellion.

"Circular letter to all Commanding Officers
Headquarters Northeast Missouri District,
Macon City, Mo., September 27, 1862.

Gentlemen: The "General" has learned with surprise and regret of the many instances in which houses have been burned and other property wantonly destroyed by the troops in this division. This is not only entirely unauthorized, but has been over and over again positively prohibited. In at least several of the cases reported, the grossest injustice was committed upon innocent persons and several poor families have been left houseless and dependent, when a very slight investigation would have shown that there was no possible ground for doing the burning. The Laws of War, as well as common humanity, forbid the devastation of a country except in extreme cases and the necessity of an act for which the Commanding General is held responsible cannot be left to the discretion of any subordinate who may think that such a measure is necessary.

In some few instances in which this has been done, it was not only necessary, but right that it should have been done, but the practice is becoming common to burn and destroy without limitation or common discretion and it must be **PROMPTLY STOPPED!**

If it is necessary that a house, which is the resort and protection of guerrilla bands, should be destroyed, a report of the facts will be made to these headquarters and if the necessity really exists, it may be done by proper authority and the troops not disgraced by the excesses which on several occasions have marked such conduct.

Your attention is also again and for the last time called to the unauthorized taking of private property by officers and soldiers of this command. In many cases private houses have been entered by soldiers not acting under authority of an officer and articles taken for which there was no shadow of authority. Besides the gross outrage thus committed, the effect upon these troops has been the worst possible. It demoralizes them and entirely destroys discipline. Such conduct is the direct

result of officers permitting a violation of the order against straggling and entering private houses.

This order must be strictly enforced. No officer or soldier can be allowed on the march to leave his ranks or colors without the direct permission of the commanding officer, of the column, and then only on the most urgent necessity; to permit natural necessities, halts will be made of five minutes at the end of every hour. In camp the men and officers must remain in their camp, except expressly permitted by the commanding officer to leave it. Under no circumstances will a soldier be permitted to enter a private house, except upon duty and by order of the officer or non-commissioned officer in charge of the party, who will be held to a strict responsibility for any impropriety committed.

I am gentlemen, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

GEORGE M. HOUSTON,
Major and Assistant Adjutant General."

"Office of Provost Marshall General,
Central Division of Missouri,
Jefferson City, Mo., September 22, 1862.

Colonel: At noon of the 24th instant the sentence (execution of Guerrilla Captain Nevins) was carried into effect and the HOUSE of the prisoner was BURNED to the ground! I ordered all of the HOUSES belonging to the men of Captain Nevins' gang to be BURNED to ashes and placed under arrest the citizens of the vicinity who openly avowed their Rebel sentiments!

F. J. White,
Major and Prov. Mar. Gen., Central Div. of Missouri."

Now then, granted the above burning of Captain Nevins' house and those of his gang predated the previously included circular, it certainly describes the action of a justified burning as indicated in the circular. However, Major White did not receive the permission of or had been authorized by the Commanding General to do so. How effective was the included "circular letter" with reference to the burning of enemy or suspected enemy houses? It was not very effective, because as the war deteriorated and became more savage the house burnings by both sides increased as the War Went On!

Photographs from September Dinner Meeting



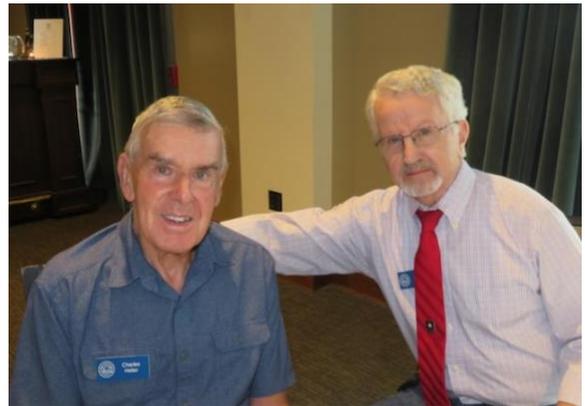
Sergeant Major Arnold Schofield auctioning Civil War books and assisted by Don Bates.



Former Presidents of the Round Table Don Bates and Dennis Garstang



Members Ford and Christine Maurer



Members Dr. Charles Heller and Ken Ford



Members Father Richard Frank and Terry Moore



Visitor Suzanne Harris

Suzanne said she heard some people talking about the Round Table, thought it sounded interesting, and thought she should check it out. We are glad you did!