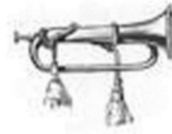




BORDER



BUGLE

Newsletter of the Civil War Round Table of Kansas City



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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!

557th Regular Meeting Wednesday, November 15, 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, November 7th.

To make a dinner reservation, please contact Marlene Natoli:

<mailto:marnatoli@att.net>

Phone: 913-764-1336

November Program



Dr. Kristen Epps, Associate Professor of History at Kansas State University, will be giving a presentation titled: "Slavery and Emancipation on the Kansas-Missouri Border." Dr. Epps will explore slaveholding in this region that was peripheral to the main plantation economy, the deep roots of the Underground Railroad, and the system's demise during the Civil War.

Dr. Epps also runs the editorial offices for the journal *Kansas History*. Her research focuses on the Bleeding Kansas era, especially the experiences of enslaved people and their journeys to freedom. Her first book, *Slavery on the Periphery*, came out with the University of Georgia Press in 2016.

Thank You Veterans

Saturday, November 11th is Veterans Day. We would like to thank all of our members who have served or are serving in the military. Thank you for your sacrifices and for helping to protect our freedoms.

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, contact Marlene at 913-764-1336 or e-mail her 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 November dinner meeting: Turkey breast, mashed potatoes, bread stuffing, giblet gravy, and green beans. Dessert will be pumpkin pie. 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. Also, if you have a food allergy, Marlene requests that you please be very specific on what items you can’t eat on that month’s menu when making your dinner reservation.

This Month’s Speaker



Dr. Kristen Epps

Dr. Kristen Epps is Associate Professor of History at Kansas State University. She is a historian of slavery, the sectional conflict, and the Civil War in the West.

Dr. Epps also serves as the editor of *Kansas History: A Journal of the Central Plains*. Her first book, *Slavery on the Periphery: The Kansas-Missouri Border in the Antebellum and Civil War Eras*, was published in 2016 by the University of Georgia Press as part of the Early American Places series.

Dr. Epps earned her Ph.D. at the University of Kansas in 2010, where she received the Marnie and Bill Argersinger Graduate School Award, awarded to the best dissertation across the university. She completed

her master's degree at The College of William and Mary and her bachelor's degree at William Jewell College. She has taught at the University of Central Arkansas, Colorado State University-Pueblo, and the University of Kansas. Dr. Epps has also held positions at the Kansas Historical Society, *The Journal of the Civil War Era*, and the Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture.

Publications by Dr. Epps include the following:

- *Slavery on the Periphery: The Kansas-Missouri Border in the Antebellum and Civil War Eras.* University of Georgia Press, 2016.
- “*The Kidnapping of Charley Fisher: Questioning the Legal Boundaries of Slavery in Bleeding Kansas.*” *Kansas History: A Journal of the Central Plains* 40, no. 3 (Autumn 2017): 150-167.
- “*Habeas Corpus, the Fugitive Slave Law, and Executive Authority.*” *The Journal of the Civil War Era*, February 13, 2017.
- “*Before the Border War: Slavery and the Settlement of the Western Frontier, 1825-1845*” in the book *Bleeding Kansas, Bleeding Missouri: The Long Civil War on the Border*, edited by Jonathan Earle and Diane Mutti Burke, 29-46. University Press of Kansas, 2013.
- “*Quantrill’s Raid on Lawrence,*” *Civil War on the Western Border*, August 29, 2013.

This Month’s Program

Dr. Kristen Epps will be giving a presentation titled: “Slavery and Emancipation on the Kansas-Missouri Border.” Dr. Epps will explore slaveholding in this region that was peripheral to the main plantation economy, the deep roots of the Underground Railroad, and the system’s demise during 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 November:

- *Missouri’s Confederate: Claiborne Fox Jackson and the Creation of Southern Identity in the Border West (Vol. 1) (Missouri Biography Series)* by Christopher Phillips; University of Missouri Press, 2000. In excellent condition with dust jacket.
- *The Civil War in the American West* by Alvin M. Josephy Jr.; A. Knopf Publisher, 1991. In

excellent condition with dust jacket and mylar cover.

- *Lincoln and the Border States: Preserving the Union* by William C. Harris; University of Kansas Press, 2014. In excellent condition with dust jacket.
- *Stonewall of the West: Patrick Cleburne & the Civil War (Modern War Series)* by Craig L. Symonds; University of Kansas Press, 1997. In excellent condition with dust jacket and mylar cover.

Arnold said there will also be a holiday book sale at the November dinner meeting.

Last Month’s Program



October Speaker Dr. Ethan S. Rafuse

At the dinner meeting on October 18th, **Dr. Ethan S. Rafuse**, professor of military history at the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, gave an excellent presentation titled: “Robert E. Lee and the Fall of the Confederacy, 1863-1865.” Attendance at the October dinner meeting was 65. The following is a summary of Dr. Rafuse’s program:

At Chancellorsville VA on May 2-3, 1863, Robert E. Lee divided his army and Stonewall Jackson routed the Union right flank. After two days of bloody fighting, Union General Joseph Hooker decided to retreat. This was Lee’s great pinnacle of triumph. However, two years later, Lee surrendered.

On March 9, 1865, Lee wrote to Secretary of War, John C. Breckenridge and gave his assessment of the Confederate fortunes. The military situation was not favorable. Lee had seen defeat coming for a long time.

Confederate Strategy, April 1861-May 1862:

The Approach:

- Defensive strategically.
- Defensive operationally.
- Attempt to cover all avenues of approach.

Results:

- Middle and western Tennessee is lost.
- Union coastal enclaves in NC, SC, GA, LA.
- Manassas, Fredericksburg, Yorktown, and Norfolk VA are lost.
- McClellan is at the gates of Richmond.

The Confederacy tries to defend all states equally. Although the Confederates won at Manassas and Wilson's Creek, their strategy allowed the Union to pick and choose where to fight. Union General McClellan wants to use artillery, the navy, and fortifications to dig into Richmond. This will take a long time and Lee is forced to change the Confederate strategy.

Confederate Strategy, June 1862-May 1864:

"Offensive-Defensive" Approach:

- Strategic defensive.
- Operational offensive.
- Concentrate forces in field armies.
- Take initiative to impose a war of maneuver.
- Exhaust Northern will to fight.

Results:

- Richmond saved.
- Central Virginia regained.
- Union offensives stalled in the west.
- Confederate hearts and minds sustained.
- Union frustration until 1864.

The Union has more men, artillery, etc. The Confederates have less, but can maneuver and move faster. The goal is to inflict enough defeats on the Union, in order to exhaust the North's will to fight.

Will the Confederates stay loyal to the Confederacy? It works until the spring of 1864.

Richmond to Sharpsburg and Back, 1862-1863:

Lincoln did not like McClellan's Peninsula Campaign. Lee defeats Union General Pope's army and advances into Maryland. McClellan moves slowly into Maryland and takes no risks. McClellan hopes that his plan will exhaust the Confederates. Following the battle of Sharpsburg (Antietam), Lee has to retreat back to

Virginia. Burnside is defeated at Fredericksburg. Hooker tries to fight like Lee but is defeated at Chancellorsville.

Making of Confederate Strategy, May 1863:

Lee wants to take the offensive into Pennsylvania. Hopefully, this will break the Northern will to fight. Lincoln gets the casualty numbers at Fredericksburg. If the North fights like this, Lee will lose more men that he cannot afford to lose. This is the cold arithmetic of attrition. Stonewall Jackson is frustrated. The Confederates can win a battle, but they can't do anything with it. The attrition at Chancellorsville is not good. Jackson is wounded by his own men and later dies.

Lee is then authorized to go fight the Gettysburg Campaign. Hooker is replaced by Meade, who will fight a McClellan type campaign. The Union wants to fight Lee on the Union's terms.

The Battle of Gettysburg, July 1-3, 1863:

Day 1: Lee's army runs into Union forces northwest of Gettysburg. This is what Lee is looking for. He wants to crush the Union advance by using a mass of the Confederate army against part of the Union army. Two Union Corps are isolated and the Confederates win a big victory on July 1.

Day 2: Transition Day. The Union wants to concentrate superior numbers. The battle transitions from a Lee type of battle to a Meade/McClellan type of battle. This leaves Lee no good option.

Day 3: Lee's infantry fights against Meade's artillery. Pickett's charge fails, but what was Lee's alternative?

The Hard Road to Petersburg – Overland Campaign:

U.S. Grant is now in charge of the Union army. Lee wants an aggressive campaign. Grant has troubles fighting Lee at the Wilderness and Spotsylvania. However, the attritional results are worse for the Confederates. Grant keeps moving south. Lee has to confront Grant. Grant gets close to Richmond. Grant looks at the campaign and wants to work with the Union navy. In June of 1864, Lee says he must destroy Grant's army before Grant can get to the James River.

The Final Offensive 1865:

By March 29, 1865 Lee is in trouble. On April 2-3, 1865 Lee decides to evacuate Petersburg VA. The Confederates are ground down by Union artillery.

Why Did the Confederacy Fail?

Similar to what Lee wrote to Secretary of War Breckenridge on March 9, 1865, the Confederates were worn down by superior resources. In Lee's farewell address to his army after the surrender at Appomattox, Lee said his army was compelled to yield to superior resources. The Union had overwhelming numbers and resources.

What Do Prominent Authors Say?

- Bell I. Wiley – The Confederacy died of “Big-man-me-ism.” Some of the Confederate leaders had big egos and didn't support Lee.
- Frank L. Owsley – The Confederacy died of States' Rights.
- David Donald – The Confederacy died of Democracy.
- Richard Beringer, etc. – The Confederacy died due to loss of will.
- Edward Pollard – The Confederacy died because of a “V.” At the Battle of Buena Vista, during the War with Mexico, Jefferson Davis formed his regiment into a V, in order to stop an attack by the Mexican forces that threatened to collapse the American line. As a result, Davis thought he knew everything about war.
- Richard N. Current – God was on the side of the heaviest battalions.
- Thomas Connelly – The Confederacy died because of Robert E. Lee, “The Marble Man.” Lee was too aggressive and outnumbered. He did not have enough resources to sustain an aggressive approach.

After the Civil War, when asked why the Confederacy lost, General Pickett said: “I always thought the Yankees had something to do with it.”

In summary, Dr. Rafuse said Lee needed to wear down the Union, but he didn't have the resources to do it. Also, the North sustained their will to fight.

Historian Gary Gallagher said Lee's Army of Northern Virginia was the Army of the Confederacy. Lee's defense of Virginia was sound. The Confederacy could not afford to lose Richmond. Lee had to defend the southern Capitol. There was a strong sense of States' pride.

President Lincoln met with General Grant at Petersburg and said: “I thought you were going to wait until Sherman showed up.” However, Grant wanted the Army of the Potomac to win the war. The big battles and casualties occurred in the East.

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.

- **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.”
- **October 16, 2024: Dr. Thomas Curran** will be giving a program titled: “Women at War: Female Confederate Prisoners & Union Military Justice.”

Upcoming Program at the Harris-Kearney House in Westport

November 15, 2023: Round Table member **Dick Titterington** will give program titled: “The Paw Paw Rebellion.” This program, 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.

Letter from our President Fr. Dave Holloway

Dear Members of the Round Table,

This month of Thanksgiving is an appropriate time to give thanks for the blessings we have received. I want to express thanks to the Round Table, as I come to the end of my term as President of the Round Table. The membership is why we are able to have the programs we have.

I especially want to give a big thank you to the Executive Board for their work in making the Round Table an enjoyable and edifying experience. Special thank you to Dick Titterington and Marlene Natoli for taking up the role of the Treasurer after the death of Susan Keipp. Gary Nevius for his great assistance in arranging future speakers. Dave Pattison continues to do wonderful work as editor of the *Border Bugle* and electronic messages. Judy Smith for her longtime work as Secretary. Other members of the Executive Committee: Don Bates, Dan Dooley, Chip Buckner, Les Thierolf, Lane Smith, Arnold Schofield and his book sales, Blair Tarr, Dan Smith and the Monet Fund.

The Round Table is in a very good place going forward and we have attracted many new members in the last two years. Thank you to the membership for word-of-mouth recruitment and attendance.

Have a Blessed Thanksgiving and God Bless,

Father Dave Holloway

Annual Business Meeting of the Round Table

According to the Civil War Round Table’s By-Laws, the annual business meeting of the Corporation shall be held each November, at which time the election of Officers and Directors shall take place. The following slate of Officers and Directors for 2024-2025 will be presented to members of the Round Table for election at the November dinner meeting:

Elected Positions:

- President: Gary Nevius
- 1st Vice-President: Deb Buckner
- 2nd Vice-President: Blair Hosford
- Secretary: Judy Smith
- Treasurer: Dick Titterington
- Monthly Meeting Coordinator: Marlene Natoli
- Director of Preservation: Arnold Schofield
- Past Three Presidents:
 - > Father Dave Holloway
 - > Dan Dooley
 - > Chip Buckner
- Directors:
 - > Les Thierolf
 - > Blair Tarr
 - > John Kussman

Appointed Positions:

- Sergeant at Arms: Lane Smith
- Chaplain: Father Dave Holloway
- Historian: Don Bates
- Newsletter Editor: Dave Pattison
- Website Administrator: Dick Titterington
- Chairman of the Board, Monnett Battle of Westport Fund: Dan Smith

Change in Dinner Meeting Start Time in 2024

Gary Nevius met with the Milburn Country Club on October 19th to discuss our catering contract for next year. The following change will 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’s staff and our members to get home at an earlier time. Gary said the cost of our dinners in 2024 will remain \$34 per person. Thank you, Gary!

Membership Dues Will Increase for 2024

Now is the time to renew your membership in the Round Table for 2024. Please note that annual dues will increase on January 1, 2024. Individual membership dues will be \$40 and membership dues for couples or families will be \$60. Non-resident membership dues will be \$20. However, as an incentive, if you renew your membership before January 1, 2024, you will only have to pay \$35 for an individual membership or \$55 for a couple or family membership.

Member News:

We are very sorry to report that **Janice Macoubrie, wife of Bob Macoubrie** passed away on October 10th. Janice attended her first Round Table dinner meeting last December. Please keep Bob and his family in your prayers.

We would like to welcome new member **Ron Lehr**. Ron lives in Independence MO. His great-grandfather was a member of the Mississippi Light Artillery. Other ancestors served in the 26th North Carolina regiment.

We would also like to welcome new member **Marcy Blakely**. She lives in Overland Park KS and is the daughter of Round Table member **Dale Walters**. Marcy has ancestors that served on both the Union and Confederate sides.

Annual Meeting of the Monnett Battle of Westport Fund

The annual meeting of the Monnett Battle of Westport Fund will be held on **Tuesday, November 14 at 10:00 a.m.** The location will be the Harris-Kearney House, 4000 Baltimore, Kansas City MO. Items on the agenda include the following:

- Big Blue Battlefield interpretation/preservation updates.
- Big Blue Battlefield Reenactment/Encampment, Fall 2024.
- Longer term leadership succession planning.

At the October dinner meeting, **Dan Smith** announced that all current members of the Civil War Round Table of Kansas City are also members of the Monnett Battle of Westport Fund and are invited to attend their annual meeting.

Sergeant Major's Roar

Battlefield Dispatches #653

The Talking Wire

At the beginning of the Civil War the "Telegraph" or "TALKING WIRE" was a relatively new invention with limited use. However, it quickly became adopted by the Federal forces and it was often said that President Lincoln had a cot in the main telegraph office in the War Department building and would anxiously wait to receive telegrams from various Generals concerning the status of their field operations. In the Trans-Mississippi Theatre of Operations, especially in Kansas and Missouri, the telegraph was in use and lines were always under construction. The following correspondence

describes the construction of a telegraph line that was to connect Saint Louis to Kansas City and is located on Pages 536 and 696 in Vol. 34, Part II of the Official Records of the War of the Rebellion.

"Assistant Quartermaster's Office,
Saint Louis, Mo., March 9, 1864.
Capt. Frank Eno,
Assistant Adjutant General, Department of the Missouri.

General:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of an ORDER from you directing me to extend the TELEGRAPH LINE from Warrensburg to Kansas City, following the line of the Pacific Railroad. A working party will be sent forward this evening to the point indicated.

I am, General, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

GEORGE H. SMITH, Capt. and Asst. Q. M., Supt. U. S. Military Telegraph.

Rough of Special Order:

Capt. George H. Smith, Assistant Quartermaster and Superintendent of Military Telegraph, Department of Missouri, is hereby authorized to construct a line of Military Telegraph to connect the city of Saint Louis with the State of Kansas. The line will be constructed over the route which shall be determined to be the most expeditious and the least expensive."

"Assistant Quartermaster's Office,
Saint Louis, Mo., March 22, 1864.
Major General Rosecrans, Commanding Department of the Missouri:

General:

I have the honor to report that the work on the TELEGRAPH LINE from Warrensburg to Kansas City is progressing as rapidly as possible and in view of its early completion and the extent of the military lines in Kansas and the fact that the message sent from this point on that line and to Kansas are subject to a tariff over the commercial lines from Saint Louis to the point where our military lines commence business, I beg to suggest that an independent telegraphic communication for military business between Saint Louis and Kansas City is needed.

The military line on that route commenced at Syracuse and the connection could be made either by an

additional wire on the Pacific Railroad, 168 miles of wire from Glasgow, Mo., through Boonville, Mo., an important point of the [Missouri] river, with only 45 miles of wire, including a cable across the Missouri River at Boonville. The latter would not be as direct a route, but in my opinion, it will be fully as efficient and a great saving of material.

GEORGE H. SMITH,
Captain and A. Q. M., Supt. of U. S. Mil. Tel.”

(First Endorsement)

“Headquarters Department of the Missouri,
Saint Louis, March 23, 1864.

Respectfully referred to Brigadier General E. B. Brown, Commanding the Central District of Missouri for his opinion. By command of Major General Rosecrans.

FRANK ENO, Assistant Adjutant General.”

(Second Endorsement)

“Headquarters Central District of Missouri,
Warrensburg, March 28, 1864.

Respectfully returned to Major General Rosecrans, Commanding the Department of the Missouri.

The extension proposed by Captain Smith of the Military Telegraph is much needed. I think that the greatest benefit will be received by the connection from Syracuse to Saint Louis and by the extension of the line from Kansas City. So as to connect with that from Fort Leavenworth to Fort Smith, Arkansas and thus give two lines from Saint Louis to that point and also two to Fort Leavenworth.

E. B. BROWN, Brigadier General, Commanding.”

Now then, eventually there was a spider web of telegraph lines in eastern Kansas and throughout Missouri. The maintenance of these lines was a constant problem because with a swift saber cut the enemy guerrillas could render the line inoperable. In late 1862 and throughout the winter of 1863, the First Kansas Colored Volunteer Infantry Regiment helped to construct the north-bound telegraph line from Fort Scott to Fort Leavenworth. This line probably went to Paola because it was a District Headquarters and then it went north to Kansas City and Fort Leavenworth. It is

believed that the first telegraph office in Fort Scott was located on the upper floor of a building in the northeast corner of Carroll Plaza. The “talking Wire did not replace the need for overland military messengers or couriers, but it did provide excellent instant communication as the War Went On!

Photographs from October Dinner Meeting



**Proposed President of the Round Table –
Gary Nevius**



**Proposed 1st Vice President - Deb Buckner,
being congratulated by Jim Tucker**

(Newsletter continues on next page)



Proposed 2nd Vice President – Blair Hosford



Dan Smith, Harry Wigner, and Bruce Schall



Sandy Ackerson, Harriet Duff, and Lane Bartram



Don Bates and Dr. David Meyers



Monet Kietzman and Lane Smith

Have a Wonderful Thanksgiving!