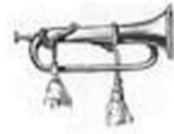




# BORDER



# 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!

## 565th Regular Meeting Wednesday, July 17, 2024

Milburn Golf and Country Club

7501 West 69th Street, Overland Park, KS 66204

Social hour begins at 5:00 p.m. and dinner is at 6:00 p.m.

The 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, July 9th.**

**To make a dinner reservation, please contact Marlene Natoli:**

<mailto:marnatoli@att.net>

Phone: 913-764-1336

## July Program



Dr. Rebecca Jo Plant will be giving a program titled: "The Problem of Underage Enlistment during the U.S. Civil War." Enormous numbers of boys and underage youths served in the military throughout the Civil War. These young enlistees significantly enhanced the size and capabilities of the armies on both sides.

Dr. Plant is a professor of history and an Academic Senate Distinguished Teacher at the University of California, San Diego. Together with Frances M. Clarke (University of Sydney), she coauthored *Of Age: Boy Soldiers and Military Power in the Civil War Era*, which was awarded the Gilder Lehrman Lincoln Prize and featured in the *Civil War Monitor* as one of "Best Civil War Books of 2023."

## Dinner Meeting Reservations and Payments

- A reservation is required in order to attend the dinner meeting. All reservations must be submitted to Marlene Natoli by Tuesday, July 9<sup>th</sup>. 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.
- 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> **Marlene said if you send her an e-mail and do not get confirmation back, then you do not have a reservation.**
- **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 are responsible for the cost of 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://cwrk.org/digital\\_payments/](https://cwrk.org/digital_payments/)

## Dinner Menu

Milburn Golf and Country Club will serve the following meal at the July dinner meeting: Caprese Chicken with roasted potatoes and roasted carrots. Dessert will be Lemon Italian Cake. 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. Rebecca Jo Plant** is a Professor of History and an Academic Senate Distinguished Teacher. Her research interests focus on gender and family history and the social and psychological impact of war in the nineteenth and twentieth-century U.S.

Born in 1968, Rebecca grew up in Kansas City, attended college at Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota, and later moved to Baltimore to pursue graduate studies. Rebecca received her PhD in history from Johns Hopkins University in 2001. That year her thesis was awarded the Lerner-Scott Prize from the Organization of American Historians for the best dissertation in U.S. women's and gender history. She taught for two years at Vanderbilt University before coming to the University of California, San Diego in 2002.

Rebecca's most recent book, coauthored with France M. Clarke (University of Sydney) is *Of Age: Boy Soldiers and Military Power in the Civil War Era* (Oxford University, 2023). She is also the author of *Mom: The Transformation of Motherhood in Modern America* (Chicago, 2010) and co-editor of *Maternalism Reconsidered: Motherhood, Welfare, and Social Policies in the Twentieth Century* (Berghahn, 2012).

She has held fellowships from the American Association of University Women, the Radcliffe Institute

for Advanced Study, the American Council of Learned Societies, and the Australian Research Council. Together with Judy Tzu-Chun Wu, she is currently coeditor of the journal and database *Women and Social Movements in the United States, 1600-2000*.

### This Month's Program

**Dr. Rebecca Jo Plant** will give a program titled: "The Problem of Underage Enlistment during the U.S. Civil War." Enormous numbers of boys and underage youths served in the military throughout the American Civil War. Constituting roughly ten percent of Union troops and most likely a similar proportion of Confederate forces—though surviving records allow for less certainty—these young enlistees significantly enhanced the size and capabilities of the armies on both sides. They also created a great deal of drama and chaos. They upended household economies by absconding with their vital labor power. They caused loved ones to suffer untold anxiety for their welfare. And they generated myriad encounters between ordinary people and the institutions of government, at times resulting in dramatic showdowns between military and civilian authorities.

How did the United States and the Confederacy respectively deal with the presence of so many young people in the ranks? The answers are often surprising and counterintuitive. In the United States, attempts to grapple with the problem of underage enlistment—and the backlash that it produced among frustrated parents—made the issue a conduit for larger debates. As the federal government asserted more authority over the state-based volunteers, and as service in volunteer regiments gradually came to look more like service in the regular army, Union families found it difficult if not impossible to recover underage sons. In the minds of many, the government's vise-like grip on underage soldiers came to epitomize the dangers inherent in the growing consolidation of military power.

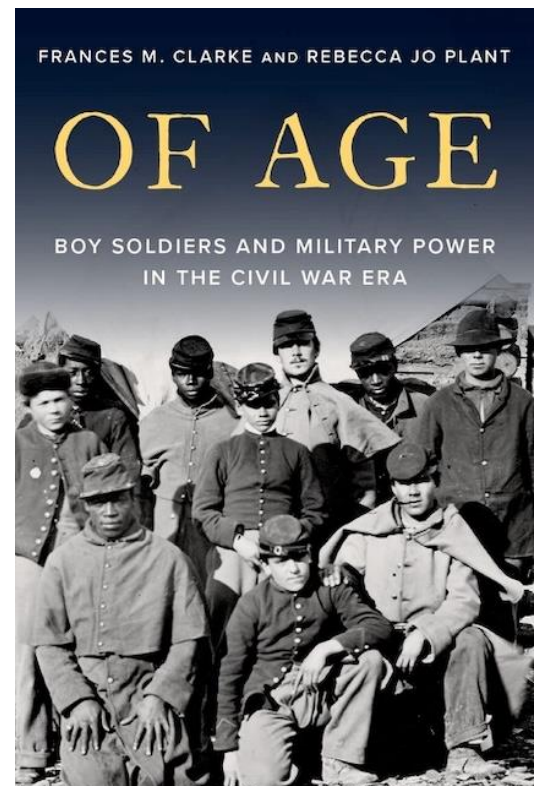
### Book: *Of Age, Boy Soldiers and Military Power in the Civil War Era*

The following text is from the Amazon website:

"*Of Age* is an innovative study of underage soldiers and their previously unrecognized impact on Civil War era America. The smooth faces of boy soldiers stand out in Civil War photography, their spindly physiques contrasting with the uniformed adults they stood alongside. Yet until now, scholars have largely overlooked the masses of underaged youths who served as musicians, carried wounded from the field, ran messages, took up arms, and died in both the Union and Confederate armies.

"*Of Age* is the first comprehensive study of how Americans responded to the unauthorized enlistment of minors in this conflict and the implications that followed. Frances M. Clarke and Rebecca Jo Plant offer military, legal, medical, social, political, and cultural perspectives as well as demographic analysis of this important aspect of the war. They find that underage enlistees comprised roughly ten percent of the Union army and likely a similar proportion of Confederate forces—but these enlistees' importance extended beyond sheer numbers. Clarke and Plant introduce common but largely unknown wartime scenarios. Boys who absconded without consent set off protracted struggles between households and the military, as parents used various arguments to recover their sons. State judges and the U.S. federal government battled over whether to discharge boys discovered to be under age. African American youths discovered that both Union and Confederate officers ignored their evident age when using them as conscripts or military laborers. Meanwhile, nineteenth-century Americans expressed little concern over what exposure to violence might do to young minds, readily accepting their presence in battle. In fact, underage soldiers became prevalent symbols of the U.S. war effort, shaping popular memory for decades to come.

"An original and sweeping work, *Of Age* convincingly demonstrates why underage enlistment is such an important lens for understanding the history of children and youth and the transformative effects of the U.S. Civil War."



## Last Month's Program



June Speaker – Dick Titterington



At the dinner meeting on June 19<sup>th</sup>, Round Table member **Dick Titterington** give a very interesting presentation titled: “The First Lost Cause: Confederate Missourians Exiled in Mexico.” This was a chapter of Missouri history that many of our members were not familiar with. Attendance at the June dinner meeting was 56.

At the end of the war, between 8,000 and 10,000 Confederates went into exile in Central and South America. Many Confederates from Missouri chose not to surrender but decided to go into exile in Mexico. Dick told us the story of Confederate Missouri leaders, Joseph O. Shelby, Sterling Price, and Thomas C. Reynolds, who chose exile in Mexico over surrender in the United States.

Dick’s presentation covered the following topics:

- Why go into exile?
- Why exile in Mexico?
- End of the war in the Trans-Mississippi region.
- Confederate Missourians march for Mexico.

- Former Confederates in Mexico City.
- Carlota, the Confederate Colony.
- The fall of Mexican Emperor Maximilian I.
- The Confederates return from exile.

## Upcoming Civil War Round Table Programs

Our monthly dinner meetings are typically held on the third Wednesday of each month. However, the December 2024 meeting will be held on the second Wednesday of the month.

- **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.
- **November 20, 2024: Dr. Mitchell Klingenberg** with the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, will give a program about Union General John Reynolds, who was killed on the first day at Gettysburg.
- **December 11, 2024:** This will be a musical program to celebrate the holidays.

## Upcoming Civil War Wednesdays Programs

The “Civil War Wednesdays” programs will be held on the third Wednesday of the month at the Westport Branch of the Kansas City Public Library, located at 118 Westport Road, Kansas City MO. The programs will start at 1:00 p.m. and end at approximately 2:00 p.m. There is no charge to attend these meetings at the library.

- **July 17, 2024: Dan Smith**, chairman of the Monnett Battle of Westport Fund, will be giving a program describing life in Jackson County during the American Civil War.
- **August 21, 2024: Dennis Garstang**, past president of the Civil War Round Table of Kansas City, will be giving a program titled “The Life and Times of General John Charles Frémont.” Frémont was in command of the US Department of the West during the summer and fall of 1861.

- **September 18, 2024:** **Alisha Cole**, with the Westport Historical Society, will be giving a program about the role of the Harris-Kearney House and the Wornall House during the American Civil War. Find out what their owners and occupants were doing at the time of the war.
- **October 16, 2024:** **Dick Titterington**, treasurer of the Civil War Round Table of Kansas City, will be giving a program titled: “Grant in Missouri: The Battle of Belmont.” Ulysses S. Grant began his Civil War career as the colonel of volunteers in the 21st Illinois Infantry and was quickly deployed in Missouri in 1861. His last command in Missouri was the Battle of Belmont.
- **November 20, 2024:** **Dick Titterington** will be giving a program titled: “The 1861 New Mexico Campaign: Valverde and Glorieta Pass.” Confederates invaded the New Mexico Territory in 1861 and fought two battles against the Union defenders.

### Executive Committee Meeting

The Executive Committee of our Civil War Round Table met on Saturday, June 8<sup>th</sup>. The following are some of the key items discussed:

1. Minutes of the meeting held on February 9, 2024, were reviewed and approved.
2. **Dick Titterington** presented his treasurer’s report.
3. While **Arnold Schofield** is recuperating, **Dick Titterington** will sell the auction books at our dinner meetings. Dick will put a price tag on each book and place them on the book sale table.
4. **Gary Nevius** reviewed the speaker lists for 2024, 2025, and 2026. He is still trying to confirm David Duncan as a speaker.
5. **Gary Nevius** said five speakers have been confirmed for the Disorder on the Border Symposium in August. There is still a need for more publicity.
6. **Gary Nevius** said a small task force will be convened to determine how to honor our members who are veterans. **Father Dave Holloway** will serve on the task force.
7. It was decided that the Round Table would continue to donate \$1,000 per year to the American Battlefield Trust.
8. **Dan Smith and Dick Titterington** are working to coordinate tours of the Battle of Westport that will be conducted the weekend of October 19-20, 2024. The Battle of Westport was fought on October 23, 1864.

### Member News:

We would like to welcome new member **Bill Stillely**. Bill is a lawyer and lives in Shawnee KS. He has three great-grandfathers who served in the Union Army. Bill heard about the Round Table from **Lane Smith** and decided to join at the June dinner meeting.

**Arnold Schofield** had been hospitalized with back complications. Arnold is home now and using a walker. He is having physical therapy twice a week and is progressing slowly. Arnold and Clara have moved into a smaller, single level home located at 2467 Jayhawk Road, Fort Scott KS 66701.

**Barbara Cordts** said **Phil Griffin** has been dealing with some serious health issues. Phil had to be hospitalized because of a rupture of his intestine caused by diverticulitis. He then developed a blood clot in one of his legs and is on blood thinners. Phil also plans to have back surgery at some point in the future.

It was good to see **Mike Epstein** at our dinner meeting in June (see photograph below). Mike has been dealing with prostate cancer. Mike served as the Round Table’s *Border Bugle* editor for many years.

**Don Bates** said he felt weak one day a few weeks ago and spent four days in Saint Luke’s South Hospital. The problems were dehydration and colitis. After being home a week, Don felt bad again and called 911. The EMT took him to Saint Luke’s on the Plaza. They did extensive testing and found that Don had low sodium and Stage 3 Chronic Kidney Disease. Don said most people his age have some problem with their kidneys. However, he only has one kidney. Don will be 88 years old in November. Don’s doctor told him to eat more fruits and vegetables.

Please keep all of these members in your prayers.

### Photograph from the June Dinner Meeting



**Round Table member Mike Epstein.**

## The U.S.S. Cairo River Ironclad

The following text is from the National Park Service's brochure on the U.S.S. Cairo, which is located at Vicksburg National Military Park:

### Seven Ironclads in 100 Days

Meet the deadline or pay \$200 a day. James B. Eads agreed to these terms for the construction of seven new ironclads. To speed production, a partner shipyard in Mound City, Illinois, built three of the boats, including the USS Cairo. Eads' shipyard in Saint Louis built the other four. All seven were delivered in 100 days at an average cost of \$101,808 each, and went on to play an instrumental role in securing the Mississippi River and its shallow tributaries.

### Designed to Fight

Named after cities along the Mississippi River Valley, the City Class ironclads like the *Cairo* (*pronounced kay-roe*) prowled the muddy water of the Mississippi River and its shallow tributaries. The City Class boats were 175 feet long and 52 feet wide and offered few comforts for the 176 sailors and officers that called the ironclad home. This formidable warship was equipped with 13 heavy cannon, protected by two and half inches of armor. The thickest armor surrounded the vulnerable boilers and engines located amidships (middle of the boat). The *Cairo's* engines provided a top speed of six knots when traveling with the Mississippi's current, and a meager three knots when traveling against. Under full steam, the boilers required nearly a ton of coal per hour and required frequent replenishment of the coal bunker below deck.

Raised from the murky waters of the Yazoo River in 1964, the mud and silt formed a protective barrier, leaving the *Cairo* and its contents in remarkable condition. The displayed ironclad still includes the original cannon, boilers, engines, hull, and armor.

### Seven Sisters

From their first action at Forts Henry and Donelson in 1862, to the Red River Expedition of 1864, the formidable City Class gunboats provided valuable assistance to the Union campaign on the Mississippi River. Despite an 880-ton displacement, the gunboats drafted a mere six-feet of water and it was said they "could navigate in a heavy dew." The *Cairo* is the only surviving example of the original seven City Class gunboats.

### Torpedoed and Sunk!

On December 12, 1862, the *Cairo* was guarding a mine-clearing expedition on the Yazoo River. Her commander, hearing small arms fire coming from up ahead, steamed around other gunboats into unexplored waters. Suddenly, explosions tore open the wooden hull. She sank quickly in 36 feet of water. No lives were lost and the crew was recovered by nearby vessels.

What sank the *Cairo*? Some historians believe Confederates, lying in wait along the riverbank, detonated the mines (called torpedoes in the Civil War) electrically with a crude galvanized battery. Other experts think the submerged mines were strung on a line across the channel. When the *Cairo* hit the line, her forward motion pulled the torpedoes against the sides of the hull where they detonated.

## Discovery of the Wreck of the U.S.S. Cairo

From Wikipedia: "Studying Civil War maps, Edwin C. Bearss of Vicksburg National Military Park set out to search for the lost ship using a simple magnetic compass. With the assistance of Don Jacks and Warren Grabau, the ship was found in 1956."

Ed Bearss wrote a book about the USS Cairo in 1966 titled: *Hardluck Ironclad, The Sinking and Salvage of the Cairo.*

## Photographs of the U.S.S. Cairo



Looking at the bow of the USS Cairo.



**Iron cladding and cannon ports on starboard side.**



**Piston, oscillating arm, and 15' wide by 22' diameter paddle wheel. The paddle wheel churned within a well near the back of the boat.**



**One of thirteen original cannon.**



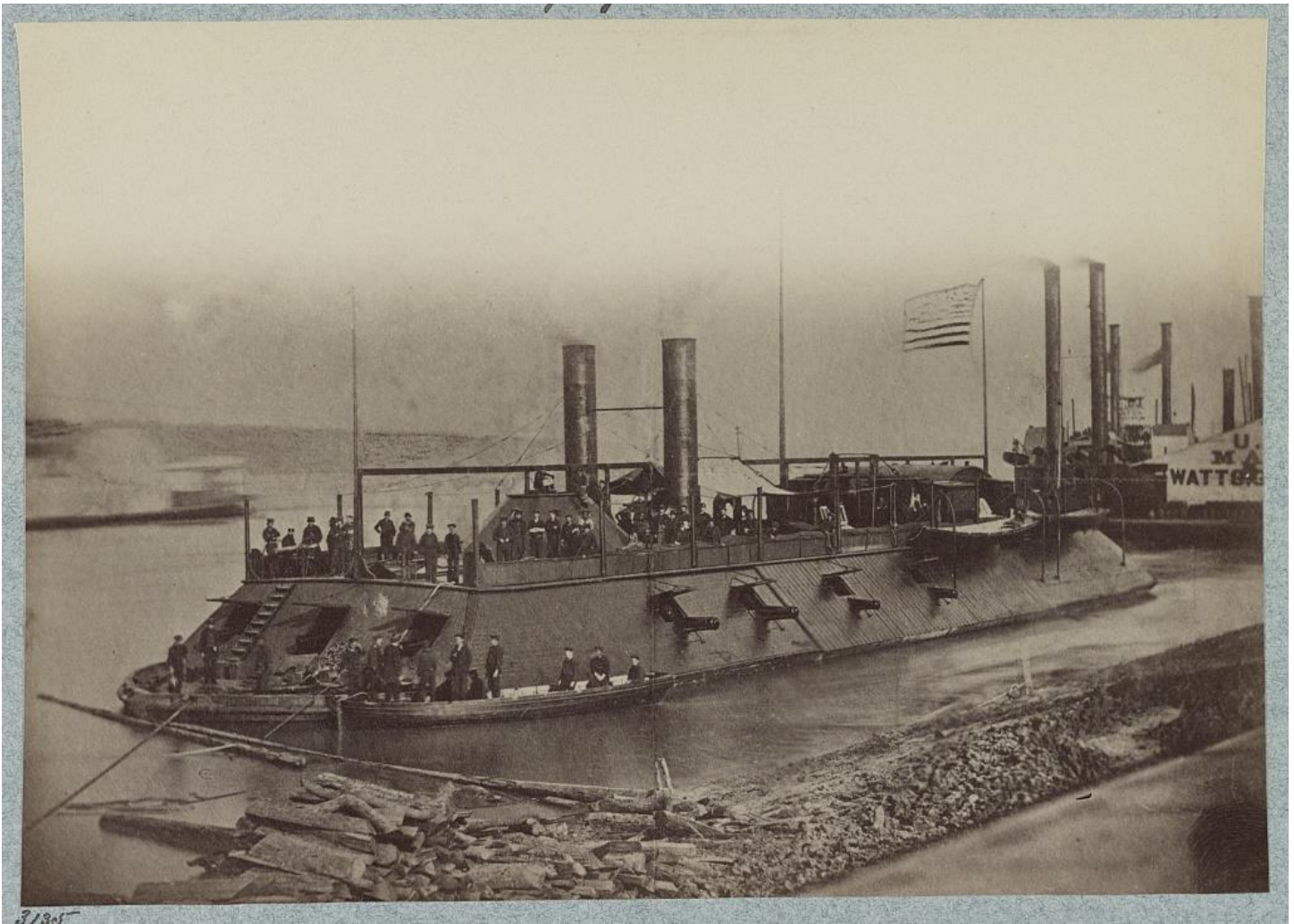
**Looking up at interior of pilothouse.**



**Five original boilers and steam drum. Fire from the burning of coal heated the boilers. Steam collected in the steam drum powered the engines of the Cairo.**



**Rudders on either side of the paddle wheel were used to steer the gunboat. These wooden rudders were controlled by cables attached to the wheel in the pilothouse.**



**Photograph of the USS Cairo, courtesy of the Library of Congress.  
This is the only known photograph of the USS Cairo taken before her sinking.**

**Commissioned: January 16, 1862.  
Torpedoed and sunk: December 12, 1862.  
Discovery of the wreck: 1956.  
Raised: December 12, 1964.**