



BORDER BUGLE

Newsletter of the Civil War Round Table of Kansas City



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Civil War Round Table of
Kansas City
P.O. Box 6202
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66206

An IRC 501(c)(3)
Charitable Organization

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

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463rd REGULAR MEETING

TUESDAY, Dec. 16, 2014

Holiday Inn, Overland Park

8787 Reeder Rd., Overland Park, KS 66214

Social Hour - Cash Bar - 6:00p.m Dinner - 6:30p.m.

December Speaker: Ethan Rafuse, See page 2



Attendance requires a paid dinner reservation.

*Please be sure our Treasurer receives all reservations by Friday November 15, 2014
along with payment of \$26.00 per person. Mail to:*

Paul Gault, 7118 N. Congress Ave., Kansas City, MO 64152

*Holiday Inn's deadline for reservation changes is the preceeding Friday afternoon, so
promptly report any necessary adjustments to Paul at 816-741-2962 or 816-522-8021.*

*Use your credit card at our website, <http://www.cwrtkc.org> and hit the Meeting &
Event tab fill out the reservation form and then make your payment in the box to the
left on that page through PAYPAL If you are using this service please send
me an email so I will not miss your reservation. pgault@sbcglobal.net.*

December Speaker: Ethan Rafuse "SHERMAN'S MARCH TO THE SEA"

Ethan S. Rafuse is a professor at the U.S. Army Command General Staff College. He grew up in northern Virginia, received his BA and MA degrees in history at George Mason University, and did his doctoral work at the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

He is the author, editor, or co-editor of eight books and monographs on Civil War and military history, including *McClellan's War: The Failure of Moderation in the War for the Union*; *Antietam, South Mountain and Harpers Ferry: A Battlefield Guide*; *Robert E. Lee and the Fall of the Confederacy*; *The Ongoing Civil War: New Versions and Old Stories* (with Herman Hattaway), and *A Single Grand Victory: The First Campaign and Battle of Manassas*, as well as articles, essays, and reviews in various academic and popular history publications.

He taught Civil War and military history at the U.S. Military Academy in 2001-2003. He lives with his wife and daughter in Platte City, Missouri.

Programs for 2015

January 27, 2015 : Dr. Ethan Rafuse, of the US Army Command and General Staff College, will speak about the Petersburg Campaign and Siege. Dr. Rafuse recently published his *Guide to the Richmond-Petersburg Campaign*.

February 24, 2015: Harold Holzer has agreed to speak on his book titled: *Lincoln and the Power of the Press: The War for Public Opinion*. Lane Smith confirmed with Kraig Smith, Sr. Coordinator for Public Affairs, Metropolitan Museum of Art.

March 24, 2015: Appomattox Courthouse. Lane Smith and Randy Dubin will present a two-part play about Appomattox. Part 1 of the play is titled: "April 9, 1865 - Road to Appomattox." Part 2 of the play is titled: "April 10, 1865 - Road from Appomattox." Lane will portray General Lee and Randy will portray General Grant.

April 28, 2015; Troy Strahan and his son, Liam, will be giving a first person presentation on Abraham Lincoln and Todd Lincoln. Troy and Liam will re-enact the famous photo of Abraham Lincoln and Todd Lincoln looking at a book together. Using this scene, Abraham and Todd Lincoln will be discussing famous people and the events that took place near the end of the Civil War.

May 26, 2015: Trial of the Conspirators. Daniel Weinberg, owner of the Abraham Lincoln Book Shop in Chicago IL, will be speaking about his book titled: *Lincoln's Assassins: Their Trial and Execution*.

June 23, 2015: Battle of Palmito Ranch, Texas on May 13, 1865: Last Battle of the Civil War, U.S.C.T. Speaker: Arnold Schofield.

July 28, 2015: Dr. Terry L. Beckenbaugh of the US

Army Command and General Staff College will be speaking about the Grand Review of the Armies. The Grand Review of the Armies was a military procession and celebration in Washington D.C. on May 23 and 24, 1865 following the close of the Civil War.

August 25, 2015 : Beth Foulk of Genealogy Decoded has agreed to speak about Civil War Women and Their Organizations. The title of her talk is "Up Close & Personal."

September 22, 2015: Civil War Round Table member Chip Buckner will present a program about his great-grandfather, Confederate General Simon Bolivar Buckner. General Buckner also served as the 30th governor of Kentucky (1887-1891).

October 27, 2015: The Border War. Dr. Diane Mutti-Burke, professor of history at UMKC, will speak about the book that she co-authored with Dr. Jonathan Earle titled: *Bleeding Kansas, Bleeding Missouri: The Long Civil War on the Border*.

November 17, 2015: The Battle of Brandy Station. Eric Wittenberg, an attorney from Ohio, will be the speaker. He has written several books on the Civil War, including cavalry officers and battles. Eric's latest book is titled: *The Battle of Brandy Station*.

December 15, 2015: Tom Rafiner (CWRT member) will speak about his recent book titled: *Cinders and Silence, A Chronicle of Missouri's Burnt District, 1854-1870*.

Thank You!

Our treasurers, Paul and Sylvia Gault, have done a wonderful job for many years. We greatly appreciate their service to the Civil War Round Table! Paul and Sylvia will be retiring as treasurers effective December 31, 2014. If any members of the Civil War Round Table are interested in serving as treasurer, please advise Dennis Garstang, Dave Pattison, or Paul Gault. Everyone take a moment to thank them for their unwavering service to this roundtable. Thank you!

Reminder, New Location!!!

Please remember that our meeting from this month forward will be held at the Holiday Inn off of 87th and I-35, just East at 8787 Reeder Rd., in Overland Park. The meeting will be held at the same time as usual, also the meetings for November and December will be held on the third Tuesday NOT the fourth Tuesday of the month due to the holidays. It is best to park in the back and use the rear entrance. For December we will be upstairs on the 8th floor. They have two rooms that will work for us and we are going to try them both out and then make our decision.

The Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri

has made the members of the Civil War Round Table of Kansas City a mighty fine offer. We can get a digital copy of their monthly newsletter which is where I get all of my coming events from for a measly \$5.00 a year!!! That includes the other half of the coming events I leave out because of the dates and all of the other information that it's filled with. If interested, you can send a check to "CWRTWM, P. O. Box 3019, Independence, MO 64055" in the amount of \$5. You would also need to include your e-mail address.

Menu for December

Chicken Parmesan. Breaded chicken topped with a rich marinara sauce and mozzarella cheese. Served over penne pasta with chef's choice of vegetable and dessert, salad and bread.

Dr. Albert Castel Dies

Dear Colleagues (current and former) and Friends of the Department,

I write to pass along the sad news that Albert E. Castel, emeritus professor of history at Western Michigan University passed away Friday, November 14, 2014. He was 86.

Albert Castel grew up in Wichita, Kansas, and at an early age knew that he wanted to be a historian. At sixteen he determined that one day he would write the story of the Atlanta campaign - a major turning point of the American Civil War. In 1992, shortly after he retired from Western Michigan University, he published that book, "Decision in the West: The Atlanta Campaign," and earned the prestigious Lincoln Prize for it. This should have come as no surprise to any who knew of his career path. Dr. Castel earned undergraduate and M.A. degrees at Wichita State University and a doctorate from the University of Chicago. His doctoral dissertation on Kansas during the Civil War was published and awarded the prestigious Beveridge Prize by the American Historical Association.

After graduation Dr. Castel joined the U.S. Army and, duty served, taught in California and Pennsylvania. In 1960 he joined Western Michigan University's Department of History and retired from WMU in 1991. He taught a full range of classes, with a focus on courses on the American Civil War. He was as demanding an instructor as he was knowledgeable about his subject matter—and he was most certainly an authority on the Civil War. Including the two works noted above, he published at least a dozen books, and countless articles, on the subject. His last publication came in 2011. It was a co-written monograph titled

"Victors in Blue: How Union Generals Fought the Confederates, Battled Each Other, and Won the Civil War." In recognition of his stature in the field, and his contributions to Civil War scholarship, the Kalamazoo Civil War Round Table offers, every two years, the Albert Castel Book Award in recognition of an outstanding book on the subject.

The department expresses its condolences to Dr. Castel's family on his passing and its gratitude for his many contributions to WMU, its students, and scholarship.

Sincerely,

José António (Joe) Brandão
Professor and Chair
Department of History
Western Michigan University
1901 West Michigan Avenue
Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5334



Don Bates to Bring Rare Saber for Sale!

Past President Don Bates will be bringing for sale his best Model 1860 Light Cavalry Saber in mint condition along with the scabbard. It was manufactured by C. Roby, West Chelmsford, Mass. who only made swords in 1864-65. Rare maker, mint condition. If someone buys it at our meeting, Don will donate a percentage to the CWRTKC.”



The campaign of General Sherman is striking and daring, but not more so than his advance from Chattanooga, of which it is a continuation. At Atlanta, with a slender line of railroad nearly two hundred miles long, exposed to the forays of the rebel cavalry, his position was uncertain. The advantages were not balanced by the risks. He has therefore made it useless for either party, and destroying as he goes, he carries a line of fire straight across the surface of the rebel section, cutting a terrible swath to tie sea.

General Sherman does not play at war. "War is cruelty," he says, "and you cannot refine it," and he believes that they who have brought war upon the country will justly feel its sharpest edge. Yet he only is wise who sees in Sherman's flashing sword the true olive branch. When the deluded Southern people feel that the Government is strong enough to pierce their section where it will; that the national armies can march and countermarch at their pleasure; that the shrewdest plans of their own Generals are outwitted and baffled; and those Generals perceive that they have lost their supreme military advantage of interior lines, a moral victory is won.

It may be true, as the rebels say, that the march of Sherman's army is merely like the flight of an arrow which cannot wound the air through which it passes. The rebel army may close in behind him. The territory he crosses may still own the rebel sway and he may

hold only the ground upon which he actually stands. But the first victory of such a campaign is not visible. Not a rebel soldier may fall before him, but the hearts of a host faint within them. Not a field may be permanently held by him, but the rebel owner knows that the tenure of his own possession is loosened. The arrow may not wound the air, but when you have learned that the air which you deemed impervious has been pierced by an arrow, you will hear" a hurtling all the time,

Sherman's campaign is one of great difficulties and dangers. The conviction of the rebels that, if they could embarrass or defeat him, their prestige would be regained, and their terrible disasters of the last year condoned, will incite them to the utmost effort of desperation to destroy him. It is the duty of all sensible Union men not to exult, not to be transported with excessive expectation, but to watch and hope and pray. All the circumstances—the absence of Hood's army, the blithe courage of Sherman's men, his own indomitable energy and great genius—favor our noble General. We may justly believe that he will keep his Christmas by the sea. But we ought to guard against the possible consequence of undue elation. If, forgetting the chances of war, we insist that there is nothing but absolute success to be expected at every step of Sherman's movement, we may find ourselves paying the penalty of our own folly in a depressing and overpowering reaction of feeling.

GUERRILLA DEPREDATIONS

The two illustrations on page 829 refer us to scenes of frequent occurrence along the border line separating the Union and Rebel armies, and hi the border States. The northern portion of Missouri is more infested with this scourge than any other section. There the citizens of the same State are arrayed against each other. The roost daring guerrilla operations of this war have been performed by Mosby In the east, and by Morgan and his fellows in the west.



COMING EVENTS.....

Posse of the Westerners

Tuesday, December 9, 2014—6:30 p.m. Golden Ox Restaurant, 1600 Genessee, Kansas City, MO. Deborah Buckner will portray Libby Custer and present “A Christmas on the Plains.” If you arrive by 6:30 p.m. you can order your dinner without a previous reservation. Prices range around \$25 depending on your entrée.

On Monday, December 8, 2014, Deborah will be a featured guest on KKFI-FM radio (90.1) between 12:30 and 1 p.m. to discuss being a Libby Custer re-enactor and her friendship with Olivia de Havilland who

portrayed Mrs. Custer in the film “They Died with Their Boots On.”

Civil War Round Table of Cass County

Tuesday, December 9, 2014—7:00 p.m. Harrisonville Public Library, 400 E. Mechanic, Harrisonville, MO. Show & Tell about Civil War ancestors. Bring a Christmas dessert to share.

Wornall House Holiday Candlelight Tours

Friday, December 12, 2014—6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. (last tour starts at 7:30 p.m.) Wornall House, 6115 Wornall Road, Kansas City, MO. Tours of the house begin every half hour. Buy tickets

online for \$7 by going to the Wornall House website. Dr. Bruce Prince-Joseph will play Christmas favorites on the Wornall family piano bought in the 1800s. Sing-along and storytelling as you take the hour long tour of this 1858 house and have a taste of Christmas in the kitchen.

Civil War Round Table of Kansas City

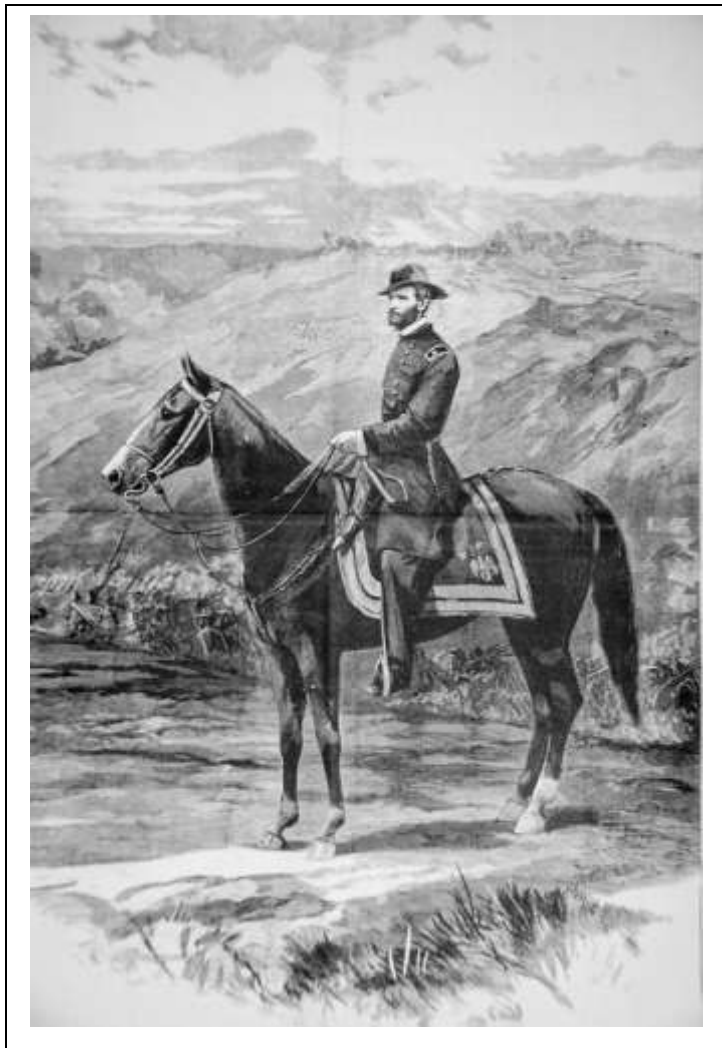
Tuesday, December 16, 2014—6:30 p.m. Dinner--\$27. Holiday Inn & Suites, 8787 Reeder Road, Overland Park, KS. The hotel is located south of 87th St. and east of I-35 and Hwy. 69. Access is off 87th on Reeder Rd. Sunset Ballroom on the 8th Floor. Park on the south side of the hotel and use the elevators in the lobby. Venue is yet to be decided for 2015. Dr. Ethan Rafuse: “Sherman’s March to the Sea.” For dinner reservations call Paul Gault at (816) 741-2962.

Missouri-Kansas Border War Network

Wednesday, December 17, 2014. Annual holiday gathering. More information to follow.

Independence Civil War Study Group

Wednesday, December 17, 2014—6:30 p.m.-Buffet Dinner. Courthouse Exchange, 113 W. Lexington, Independence, MO. Musical entertainment by Dave and Cathy Para. Buffet is \$20. Reservations to Terry Elliott by calling (816)353-7617 or by e-mail to twelliott@comcast.net.



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