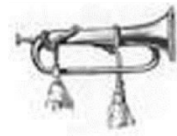




BORDER BUGLE



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
Shawnee Mission, KS
66206

An IRC 501(c)(3)
Charitable Organization

Website- <http://cwrtrkc.org/>
Join us on Facebook!

474th Regular Meeting

Tuesday, November 17, 2015

Sunset Ballroom, 8th Floor, Holiday Inn

8787 Reeder Rd., Overland Park, KS 66214

Social Hour - Cash Bar – 5:30p.m.

Dinner - 6:30p.m.

November Speaker

Distinguished author Eric J. Wittenberg, on the Battle of Brandy Station, June 9, 1863

Nationally renowned Civil War historian and author **Eric J. Wittenberg** will bring to life the dramatic story of the Battle of Brandy Station at this month's meeting. His extensive research of this epic cavalry engagement led to his book *The Battle of Brandy Station: North America's Largest Cavalry Battle* (History Press: 2010).



Attendance requires a paid dinner reservation.

Please be sure **Susan Keipp** receives all reservations by **12 noon on Friday November 13, 2015** along with payment of \$27.00 per person. Mail to:

Susan Keipp, 436 W. 88th Ter Kansas City, MO 64114-2912

Report any necessary adjustments to Susan at 816-333-0025 by 12 noon on Friday, November 13.

Use your debit/credit card at our website, <http://www.cwrtrkc.org>. Go to [Dinner Reservation](#) under the Meetings 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 **Susan** an email so she will not miss your reservation. skeipp@kc.rr.com.

A Message from Your President

Next Wednesday, November 11th is Veterans Day. Veterans Day is an official United States federal holiday honoring those that have served in the U.S. Armed Forces. Veterans Day was originally called Armistice Day and was first proclaimed by President Woodrow Wilson to mark the one-year anniversary of the end of World War I (the 11th hour of the 11th day, of the 11th month of 1918). Armistice Day evolved into the current Veterans Day holiday in 1954.

One of the things that make our Civil War Round Table so special is the number of veterans that make up our membership. You can tell who they are when they salute the American flag during the Pledge of Allegiance or wear lapel pins that reflect their branch of military service. At our dinner meeting this month, we will honor our veterans by asking them to stand and be recognized for their service to our country. We will thank them for defending our freedom.

I thank God for our veterans. I also thank God for our ancestors that served our country. We are all blessed to be born in the United States and live in a free society that our ancestors fought for. We must not take our freedoms for granted. Please join me in thanking our veterans at our dinner meeting on November 17th.

-- Dave Pattison

Meet Our Speaker for November

By Dan Smith

Nationally renowned Civil War historian and author **Eric J. Wittenberg** will bring to life the dramatic story of the Battle of Brandy Station at this month's meeting. His extensive research of this epic cavalry engagement led to his book [*The Battle of Brandy Station: North America's Largest Cavalry Battle*](#) (History Press: 2010).

The Battle of Brandy Station, June 9, 1863, marked a significant step in the evolution of the Union cavalry into a formidable tactical force in its own right during the war. Following his brilliant victory at Chancellorsville in May 1863, General Lee and his Confederate lieutenants planned the next daring phase which would culminate at Gettysburg in July. Disguising his force's location and preparations, Lee sought to completely surprise his adversary for as long as possible. Instead the chance encounter by General Alfred Pleasonton's Union cavalry caught the Confederates unawares. The desperate eleven-hour cavalry struggle that followed became the largest cavalry action ever fought in North America. The battle would prove the Yankee horsemen to be equals of the vaunted Confederate cavaliers.

Eric's presentation coincides with the recent important preservation successes by the Civil War Trust, preserving Fleetwood Hill at the heart of the Brandy Station field for future generations. The ribbon cutting ceremony

celebrating this success at Fleetwood Hill was held on October 26, 2015.

His special expertise as the leading authority on the cavalry in the Eastern Theatre, particularly of the Army of the Potomac, has led Eric, a native of the Keystone State, to write extensively on the cavalry at Gettysburg. He was the winner of the Bachelder Coddington Literary Award in 1998 for his book *Gettysburg's Forgotten Cavalry Actions*. His other works on the Gettysburg topic include *Plenty of blame to go around: Jeb Stuart's controversial ride to Gettysburg*; *Protecting the flank at Gettysburg*; *One continuous fight: the retreat from Gettysburg*; and *The Devil's to Pay: John Buford at Gettysburg*.

A prolific author, he has most recently had published *At Custer's Side: The Civil War Writings of James Harvey Kidd* (Kent State University Press: 2013). His other Civil War titles are: *The Union Cavalry Comes of Age: Hartwood Church to Brandy Station*; *Little Phil*; *With Sheridan in the Final Campaign Against Lee*; *Under Custer's Command*; *Glory Enough for All*; *We Have It Damn Hard Out Here*; and *Like a Meteor Blazing Brightly: Life of Colonel Ulric Dahlgren*.

Eric also has a web site and a separate blog (Rantings of a Civil War Historian) which are a treasure trove of Civil War history. They are located at www.ericwittenberg.com and <http://civilwarcavalry.com>. Be sure to order his books through the [Round Table's Amazon link](#) now to have it in time for the meeting and to help the Table with your purchase.

He obtained his undergraduate degree at Dickinson College, adjacent to the historic Carlisle Barracks and received his legal education at the University of Pittsburgh, School of Law. When he is not writing books, leading Civil War tours or preserving battlefields, Eric practices law in Columbus Ohio where he resides with his wife Susan.

The Sergeant Major's Book Auction

Arnold Schofield will auction two books at the meeting.

"Clashes of Cavalry: Civil War Careers of George A. Custer and Jeb Stuart" by Thom Hatch, Stackpole books, Mechanisburg, Pa. 2001.

"The Union Cavalry in the Civil War" by Stephen Z. Starr: Louisiana State Univ. Press, Baton Rouge, La. 2001.
Note: This is a 3 Vol. set of books.

All 4 Books are in Mint Condition.

Dinner Menu

Chicken Cordon Bleu: Lightly breaded chicken breast stuffed with ham and Swiss cheese, then topped with a white wine sauce. Served with chef's choice of vegetable and seasoned whipped potatoes. Served with a house salad, freshly baked bread with herbed butter, chef's choice of dessert, coffee, iced tea & water.

The Holiday Inn & Suites has advised they can provide the following 3 options for dinner:

- The main entree meal as selected by the Civil War Round Table.
- A vegetarian meal as determined by the chef.
- A gluten-free meal as determined by the chef.

The Holiday Inn & Suites indicated they cannot provide a low-carb meal.

Check out the Round Table's website for the [2015 menu selections](#).

2015 Bus Tour



Checkout the website to see the photos Dave Pattison took on the bus tour to Trading Post, Mine Creek and Fort Scott.

[Link to photos on website](#)

The Round Table's Website

Embedded throughout our emailed newsletter are links to the website. Just click on those links and find out what great information is available on the website.

[Civil War Round Table of Kansas City website](#).

Check out the Round Table's Facebook page, and make sure you "like" the page.

[Civil War Round Table of Kansas City Facebook Page](#)

Future Programs in 2015/2016

Visit our website to see the list of [Scheduled Meetings](#).

December 15, 2015: Civil War Round Table member **Tom Rafiner** will be speaking about his latest book titled: *Cinders and Silence, A Chronicle of Missouri's Burnt District, 1854-1870*.

January 26, 2016: **Darryl Levings**, editor and columnist with the Kansas City Star, will be speaking about "Newspapers in this Area during the Civil War" Mr. Levings is the author of the book, *Saddle the Pale Horse*.

February 23, 2016: **Ian Spurgeon** will be speaking about the 1st Kansas Colored Infantry. Mr. Spurgeon's latest book is titled: *Soldiers in the Army of Freedom: The 1st Kansas Colored, the Civil War's First African*

American Combat Unit.

March 22, 2016: Civil War Round Table member **James Speicher** will present a program titled: "The H. L. Hunley and Her Crews." The H. L. Hunley was a Confederate submarine that became the first submarine to sink an enemy warship. Mr. Speicher will recount the fascinating and tragic stories of the historic vessel and the lost souls who served her.

April 26, 2016: Civil War Round Table member **Arnold Schofield** will present a program titled: "Gardens of Stone." Mr. Schofield will discuss the burial of our Blue and Gray Patriots, with a special focus on the National Cemetery System.

May 24, 2016: **Dr. James F. Gentsch**, associate professor of history at the University of West Alabama, will be presenting a program on the role of geography on military operations such as Shiloh.

June 28, 2016: speaker tbd

July 26, 2016: speaker tbd

August 23, 2016: Civil War Round Table member Bill Quatman will discuss his book titled: *A Young General and the Fall of Richmond: The Life and Career of Godfrey Weitzel*.

September 27, 2016: Col. Kevin Weddle, PhD (Professor of Military Theory and Strategy at the US Army War College, Carlisle Barracks PA) will be speaking about his biography on Union Rear Admiral Samuel Francis Du Pont titled: *Lincoln's Tragic Admiral: the Life of Samuel Francis Du Pont*.

October 25, 2016: speaker tbd

November 15, 2016: speaker tbd

December 20, 2016: speaker tbd

October Meeting Photos

[Link to our website for more photos from the October meeting.](#)



Dr. Diane Mutti Burke speaking at the October meeting.

Sergeant Major's Roar

Battlefield Dispatches No. 435

"Best and Bravest"

Sunday October 25 was the 151st anniversary of five battles that occurred in eastern Kansas and western Missouri during the Civil War. These battles were the Battles of Trading Post, Mine Creek, Little Osage, Charlot's Farm / Shiloh Creek and Newtonia. There are many Union accounts of these battles, but few Confederate descriptions exist. The following is part of after action report was written by Confederate Major General Jo Shelby and describes his command's participation in the Battles of the Little Osage River, Charlot's Farm and Newtonia. General Shelby was one of the finest Cavalry Commanders in the Civil War and this report is included in the "Official Records of the War of the Rebellion, Series I, Vol. 41, Part I Reports on Pages 659 -661."

Day and night the retreat was continued until the evening [afternoon] of the 25th [of October], when my division, marching leisurely in front of the train, was ordered hastily the rear to protect it, while flying rumors came up constantly that Marmaduke and Cabell were captured with all their artillery. Leaving Colonel Jackman with his brigade to protect my left flank and guard the train, I hastened forward with Thompson's Brigade and Slayback's Regiment to the scene of action. I soon met beyond the [Little] Osage the advancing Federals, flushed with success and clamoring more victims. I knew from the beginning that I could do nothing but resist their advance, delay them as much as possible and depend on energy and night for the rest.

Battle of the Little Osage at approximately 2:30 p.m.

The first stand was made one mile north of the [Little] Osage River, where the enemy was worsted; again upon the river bank and again I got away in good condition. Then taking position on a high hill one mile south of the river, I halted for a desperate struggle. The enemy advanced in overwhelming numbers and with renewed confidence at the sight of the small force in front of them for Captains Langhorne and Adams and Lieutenant Colonel Nichols with their commands were ahead of the train on duty. The fight lasted nearly an hour, but I was at last forced to fall back.

Elliot, Gordon, Slayback, Hooper, Smith, Blackwell, Williams and a host of other officers seemed to rise higher and higher as the danger increased and were always where the tide of battle rolled deepest and darkest. It was an evening to try the hearts of my "BEST & BRAVEST" and rallying around me they even surpassed all former days of high and heroic bearing.

Battle of Charlot's Farm or Shiloh Creek at approximately sunset

Pressed furiously and having to cross a deep and treacherous stream, I did not offer battle again until gaining a large hill in front of the entire army, formed in the line of battle, where I sent orders for Colonel Jackman to join me immediately. It was a fearful hour. The long and weary days

of marching and fighting were culminating and the narrow issue of life or death stood out all dark and barren as a rainy sea. The fight was to be made now, and General Price, with the pilot's wary eye saw the storm cloud sweep down, growing larger and larger and darker and darker. They came upon me steadily and calm. I waited until they came close enough and gave them volley for volley, shot for shot. For fifteen minutes both lines stood the pelting of the leaden hail without flinching and the incessant roar of musketry rang out wildly and shrill, all separate sounds blending in a universal crash. The fate of the army hung upon the result and our very existence tottered and tossed in the smoke of the strife. The red sun looked down upon the scene and the redder clouds floated away with angry, sullen glare. Slowly, slowly my old brigade was melting away. The high toned and chivalric Dobbin, formed on my right, stood by me in all that fiery storm and Elliot's and Gordon's voices sounded his above the rage of the conflict: "My Merry Men fight on!"

All that men could do had been done. For five days and nights Thompson's and Slayback's commands had fought and now under concentrated and accumulated fire of heavy odds, the left of Thompson's brigade reeled back over the prairie, the Federals following with furious yells, but the right under Colonel Elliot met the advancing wave and broke their front line in every direction by charging furiously the rear of the enemy pressing hard after the left of Thompson's brigade.

Now Colonel Jackman, who had his duty well in another part of the field, came rushing up to avenge his fallen comrades. Going into line at a gallop and opening ranks to let the retreating brigade through, he charged down upon the rushing enemy like a thunderbolt, driving them back and scattering their front line badly. This charge saved us and the day's work was done. The Federals halted, reformed their lines, brought up artillery and fired away at long range. Very slowly the army moved away without molestation and darkness came down alike upon the dying and the dead and the stars came out and a weird and dreary silence hushed the air to stillness and repose.

On the night of the 25th [morning of the 26th], on the Marmaton River, colonel Jackman, by order burned that portion of the train devoted to the sacrifice and brought up the rear all that day and night to Carthage, [Mo.] where we encamped on the night of the 26th.

Battle of Newtonia, Missouri, late afternoon Oct. 28th

On the evening of the 28th, while comfortably resting a few miles south of Newtonia, a large Federal force drove in our outlying pickets quite briskly and came charging on with their usual vitality. Dismounting every man of my division, I formed my line of battle just in time to meet the onset. Jackman held the right and protected two pieces of Collin's artillery, which opened immediately with good effect. Thompson and Slayback were on the left and I sent with a detachment under Major Gordon to watch well my extreme left flank and then moved steadily forward with a loud and ringing cheer. The men never hesitated from the first, but drove the enemy all the time before them and advanced two miles into the prairie, exposed to a heavy artillery fire from the first and if I had had mounted regiment

of my own command I could have charged and taken their splendid battery. Two detached companies of Thompson's Brigade (Captain Langhorne's and Adam's) did excellent service on the extreme right.

Night closed the contest and another beautiful victory had crowned the Confederate arms. This success was of eminent advantage to our army, fought as it was when some were urging the old and horrible cry of demoralization, reinforcements and no ammunition. That night about 12 o'clock I withdrew, leaving Lieutenant Colonel Erwin to watch well the enemy's movements until the next day. He left at 8 o'clock the following morning and our retreat continued to Cane Hill, [Ark.] unmolested and undisturbed.

Now then, General Shelby and his command was the guardian angel of the Confederate Army commanded by Major General Sterling Price during the conclusion General Price's Campaign in Missouri and eastern Kansas in October of 1864. General Shelby and his command successfully defended and protected the rear of General Price's Army after the Battles of the Little Osage, Charlot's Farm and Newtonia as it proceeded south into northern Arkansas, through the Indian Territory (Oklahoma) to its safe sanctuary in eastern Texas. However, and of course the War Went On!



Events around Town

Check out the Round Table's [Google Calendar of events on the website](#).

Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri

Meets at 7:00 p.m. on the second Wednesday of the month in a new location, Perkins Restaurant, 3939 S. Bolger Drive, Independence, MO (across from Walmart). Call Beverly Shaw at 816 225-7944 for details. Check their Calendar (<http://www.cwrtwm.org>) to verify the date, location and find out about the next program topic. Visitors are always welcome!

Please Note: The December meeting will be a potluck luncheon on Saturday, December 5, at noon at the Loose Park Garden Center (52nd and Pennsylvania). **Kevin Fewell** will be giving a program based on his portrayal of Abraham Lincoln.

Independence Civil War Study Group

Meets every third Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the Perkins Restaurant, 3939 S. Bolger Drive, Independence, MO (across from Walmart).

Kansas City Posse of the Westerners

December 8 Meeting: Little Bighorn historian **Loren Langley** who will talk about the Battle of the Washita at the Golden Corral restaurant (near the Home Depot), 8800 NW Skyview Avenue, Kansas City, Mo. 64154. Dinner at 6 p.m. from the buffet menu. Cost is \$12 or less and non-members are welcome. For more information, see

Deborah Buckner or **Dennis Garstang** or call (816) 569-1180.

A Grand Army of Black Men

Mike Epstein forwarded the following photo of Rev. Dr. Larry Delano Coleman, former vice president of the Civil War Round Table of Kansas City. I am sure all of you also recognize Emanuel Cleaver II standing next to Dr. Coleman.



Accompanying the photo is the following description written by Dr. Coleman.

Between a rock and a hard place were black soldiers in the Civil War. They were not allowed to fight for 2 years, until 1863. When they were allowed to fight due to that "military necessity" described by Lincoln, they were still discriminated against in respect to their pay, provisions and commissions, for another year, until 1864.

But, most critically the only officers permitted them, these United States Colored Troops (USCT) were non-line of command officers, chaplains and doctors. All white were the rest of these valiant black troops' commanding officers. A few were quite good, most were not.

As it was with black soldiers, so was it with freed black slaves--the "contraband," as they were called.

Actually conditions were worse for the wives and children of the USCT, since their year-long boycott of unequal pay by the soldiers had an even greater adverse effect on their families. Their letters to home and from home to the soldiers, spelled out so plaintively in the book, *A GRAND ARMY OF BLACK MEN* edited by Edwin S. Redkey (1993), makes this all crystal clear.



"Cavalry Charge Near Brandy Station" by Edwin Forbes (Library of Congress)

Civil War Round Table of Kansas City
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