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Newsletter of the Civil War Round Table of Kansas City



479<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting Tuesday, April 26, 2016 Sunset Ballroom, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor, Holiday Inn 8787 Reeder Rd., Overland Park, KS 66214 Social Hour - Cash Bar – 5:30p.m. Dinner - 6:30p.m.

# **April Speaker**

The Sergeant Major, Arnold Schofield, will present a program titled, "Gardens of Stone."



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.

# Attendance requires a paid dinner reservation.

Please be sure **Susan Keipp** receives all reservations by **12 noon on Friday April 22**, **2016** 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 the Friday before the Tuesday meeting.

Use your debit/credit card at our website, <u>http://www.cwrtkc.org.</u> Go to <u>Dinner Reservation</u> 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. <u>skeipp@kc.rr.com</u>.

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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- <u>http://cwrtkc.org/</u> Join us on Facebook!

## A Message from Your President

I would like to thank all of our members who renewed their membership in the Civil War Round Table of Kansas City for 2016. Last month, **Dick Titterington** e-mailed the 2016 Member Directory to all members that have an e-mail address. Dick also mailed a paper copy of the 2016 Member Directory to any members that do not have an email address.

We currently have a total of 105 members. Our membership consists of 70 men and 35 women. Seventythree of our members live in Kansas, 31 live in Missouri, and one member, **John Hart**, lives in California. Fiftyseven of our current members were also members back in 2010. Our membership includes 12 former or current presidents of the Round Table.

I have thoroughly enjoyed serving as your president for the past 15 months. I have met a lot of very nice people and I greatly appreciate all of the support that the Executive Committee has provided. I always look forward to seeing everyone at our dinner meetings. I know that I will have a good dinner and hear an interesting program. I encourage everyone to go out of their way to greet newcomers and learn people's names. Our treasurer, **Susan Keipp**, does a great job of greeting new members and visitors when they arrive at the dinner meetings and introducing them to other members of the Round Table.

If you are interested in serving on the Round Table's Executive Committee next year, please let us know. We will be scheduling the programs for next year in the coming months. If there are any subjects that you would like to know more about, or any speakers that you would like to hear, please let us know that as well.

At the last Executive Committee meeting held on February 6th, the Executive Committee decided to purchase a new projector that will be used at our dinner meetings, in case the speaker does not provide their own projector. **Dick Titterington** has purchased the new projector and we are excited to try it out. Therefore, prior to **Arnold Schofield**'s presentation on April 26th, we will have a short slide show of the Shiloh and Fort Scott National Cemeteries.

Thank you for supporting the Civil War Round Table of Kansas City and sharing your love of history with us.

#### -- Dave Pattison

#### Thank You, Arnold!!!!

What a pleasant surprise at our March meeting! A big thank you to the Sergeant Major for remembering each of us with a rose in honor of Women in History Month.

Signed: The Ladies of the Round Table.

# **Don Bates's Book Collection**

As Don announced at the March Round Table meeting, he is selling a number of titles from his large collection of Civil War books. Most are in excellent condition. Many are signed by the author. For a list of the books in Don's collection <u>download this document</u> <u>from our website</u>.

## **Meet Our Speaker**

**Arnold W. Schofield** is a retired Public Historian with 50 years of public service. He was born and raised in the small village of Newton Upper Falls, Massachusetts, attended college on the GI Bill, and received a degree in United States History. His Public Service includes:

- 6 years in the US Army,
- 10 years as a civilian with the Department of Defense,
- 33 years with the National Park Service, and
- 7 years with the Kansas Historical Society, as Superintendent of the Mine Creek Battlefield State Historic Site.

His National Park Service career included tours of duty at Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, the Blue Ridge Parkway, and Fort Scott National Historic Site. While at Fort Scott he was the Site Historian and Cultural Resource Specialist.

Arnold is a recognized lecturer throughout the Midwest on Westward Expansion, the Permanent Indian Frontier, and Bleeding Kansas and the Civil War. Two of his special interests include the roles of the American Indians and African Americans in the Civil War.

Arnold has been involved with Civil War Battlefield Preservation for more than 40 years and is co-founder of the Mine Creek Battlefield Foundation, which has raised more than one million dollars, purchased 326 acres of prime battlefield land, reprinted the only book on the Battle of Mine Creek, assisted in the production of a video on the battle by Curtis Productions, and produced a brochure on Price's 1864 Campaign in Missouri and Kansas.

Arnold and his wife Clara have been married for over 26 years and have one son, named Austin. They live in Fort Scott KS. Arnold also writes a column for the Fort Scott Tribune.

## **The Sergeant Major's Book Auction**

Arnold Schofield will auction three books at the meeting.

- *Robert E. Lee: the Man & the Soldier, A Pictorial Biography.* Philip Van Doren. Stern; New York, 1963. Dust Jacket, Excellent Condition.
- *Grant & the American Military Tradition*. Bruce Catton. Little, Brown & Co., Boston, Mass., 1954, 1st Edition. Dust Jacket, Excellent Condition.
- Illustrated Life, Services, Martyrdom & Funeral of Abraham Lincoln. Philadelphia, T. B. Peterson & Bros. 1865, 1st Edition. Excellent Condition,

Inscribed, "Presented July 3, 1865". Very Scarce & Rare.

## **Dinner Menu**

**Chicken and Brandy Wine Sauce**: Served with mashed potatoes, California vegetable medley, house salad, freshly baked bread, and carrot cake for dessert. 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 <u>2016</u> menu selections.

## **Future Programs**

Visit our website to see the list of <u>Scheduled Meetings</u>.

May 24, 2016: Dr. Ethan Rafuse, from the US Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth KS, will be will be speaking about Union General Joseph Hooker. The title of his talk is: "Fighting Joe Hooker."

June 28, 2016: David G. Moore will be speaking about Union General William S. Rosecrans. Mr. Moore's book titled: *William S. Rosecrans and the Union Victory* was published in 2014. He has spoken at several Civil War Round Tables and Civil War battlefields and museums.

July 26, 2016: Robert Walz, from the US Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth KS, will be our speaker. The title of his talk is: "Railroads During the Civil War." According to Mr. Walz, the north did not have that much initial advantage in railroads (especially in the areas where the war was being fought), but managed its assets far better than did the south. In many respects, the south used railroads better tactically than the north initially (First Bull Run), but the north was far better strategically.

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: Round Table member Arnold Schofield will present a program titled: "The Frontier

Guard." Arnold's talk will be based on James P. Muehlberger's book: *The 116: The True Story of Abraham Lincoln's Lost Guard*. This book was published in December of 2015 and is the definitive account of the Frontier Guard who defended President Lincoln from a kidnapping and assassination plot in the opening days of the Civil War.

**November 15, 2016**: Paul Kahan will be speaking about Abraham Lincoln's Secretary of War, Simon Cameron. Mr. Kahan's book titled: *Amiable Scoundrel: Lincoln's Scandalous Secretary of War*, will be published in July of 2016.

**December 20, 2016**: Dan Smith will give a program abuot Col. Edward F. Winslow, 4th Iowa Cavalry, who had operational command of Federal forces at Byram's Ford during the Battle of Westport.

# **March Meeting Photos**

Link to our website for more photos from the March meeting.



Colonel James L. Speicher speaking about the H. L. Hunley and her crews.

# 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 <u>Civil War Round</u> <u>Table of Kansas City website</u>.

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

Civil War Round Table of Kansas City Facebook Page

# Sergeant Major's Roar

Battlefield Dispatches No. 448 1862 Fort Scott Hospitals

Today, Fort Scott is blessed with an excellent hospital and medical community. In 1862, however, the Union Army established a large General Hospital which for the time was very good, but by today's standards it was very basic. In the early fall of 1862, the Ladies of the Soldiers Aid society from Leavenworth visited the Fort Scott Hospital and their report was published in the Leavenworth Conservative which was as follows:

Report of the Condition of the Sick at the Hospitals at Fort Scott

To the ladies of the Soldiers Aid Society of Leavenworth, Kansas,

As delegates from your society and in compliance with the request of your officers, seconded by the Sanitary Commissioner of this Department, I have the honor to lay before you a report of the condition of our sick and wounded as I saw them on my recent visit to Fort Scott.

In Field and Post Hospital we found nearly five hundred sick and wounded; of the latter but few in number owing, I presume to the enemy being

"Like the circle, bounding earth and skies,

Allures from far yet as we follow flies."

Sunstroke, rheumatism and fevers (typhoid and brain) were the prevailing diseases that were mostly contracted on the late Southern Expedition. In one company there was but one who reported for duty. Their sufferings on the march were very severe. Without water and exposed to a scorching sun with the mercury at 120 Degrees, no wonder that disease thinned their ranks and claimed a greater percentage of victims than has yet the battlefield.

At the Post Hospital we found not far from two hundred and the patients occupying three separate buildings. These were divided into wards, each containing from twenty to twenty five patients, not including the upper halls which were also filled.

We were accompanied by the surgeon and head nurse, both seemingly happy to answer all our enquiries, giving us many items of interest. I noticed many countenances brighten at the approach of Aunt Sally's happy face. It seemed to reflect sunshine wherever she turned. She called them "her boys" as duty hurried her from her from one to another. She sometimes found trembling hands grasping her skirts, striving to detain her and her heart ached that she could not do more.

How many women in our land are at the present time giving all their strength and energies to this noble work. This indeed is a Holy Mission, one that Angels may love to look down upon. God grant that by their kind care many today be raised from their beds free of pain and languishing to again take up arms in defense Of "Liberty and Union."

In conversing with them, they almost universally gave testimony to the good care and attention. To every ten patients is detailed one male nurse. The wards are cleanly and now with open doors and windows are well ventilated. But the thought across my mind that in winter, with the present arrangements, it would be impossible to have that free circulation of pure air which is so essential to good health.

We accepted the invitation to go to supper with the nurses and convalescents. It consisted of tea, coffee, veal stew, baked bread, butter, apple and plum sauce and rice. There was abundance, well served and prepared with neatness, but I could not eat. The pale, worn faces of the suffers above, filled my mind, my heart was sad and not even for "Appearance Sake" could I do more than to sip my coffee.

In the field Hospitals we found many lying in the open tents upon the ground, some with and some without palates of straw or hay. To the hardened soldier in health to thus be through all the changes of our variable climate for this great exposure, how much more to see one wasting with disease, his system susceptible to every change. But in these field tents it is their choice to remain. They have a horror of the Post Hospital. They are there separated from their companions and many have dark forebodings, that if they enter its portals that they can never come forth alive. Here are sent the most aggravated cases, therefore a greater number of deaths and hence the impression filling the mind of the man weakened by disease.

In the General Hospital they have more comforts than they can possibly, under the most favorable circumstances, receive in the field.

One great need I discovered in all of the Hospitals – pure water and ice. Who has not, when burning with fever, been haunted with the thought of some favorite spring or "iron bound bucket" from which they drank in early childhood the cooling draught? Think of those poor men attempting to quench their thirst from a river so low that it stands in humid pools and this too without ice which we have learned to consider an indispensable luxury. Does it not, in such emergency, prove of your minds the propriety, as far as in our power, of providing substitutes? Domestic wines, pure brandies, syrups, jellies, canned and dried fruits are particularly needed; also Farina, corn – starch and sago.

The Surgeon informed us that they were at present well supplied with clothes and bedding, but cold weather was approaching and in the coming month there would be a large batch of fever patients and the supplies would be exhausted and they would gladly look to the benevolent in our community for night wrappers, shirts, drawers, stockings, slippers, sheets, pillow cases, bed ticks and comforters. Old linen and half worn sheets are especially mentioned.

Several of the men expressed a desire for reading material. They long for the news. Greater effort should be made to supply them with books and newspapers of the day, both secular and religious.

The canned fruits so generously donate by the Ladies of our society to our Sanitary Commissioner (Mr. Brown) were distributed by him and most eagerly and thankfully received. To all he seemed a welcome visitor particularly to the boys of the 2nd Ohio [Cavalry Regiment], with the majority of whom he was acquainted.

Doctors Woodard and Carpenter are laboring with unflinching energy for the welfare of those under their charge and seem fully aware of the responsibility of the trust committed to them. Their tenderness and skill are so generously acknowledged that we may have entire confidence that our gifts will be faithfully dispensed to those for whom they are designated.

This brief and very imperfect report is submitted with the hope that it may encourage us to continue the good work, laboring for those who are sacrificing the comforts of home, to the Society of Friends, health and often for the sanctity and glory of our Country. Mrs. J. H. V. Douglass

Now then, this organization and other benevolent organizations such as the Fort Scott Union Ladies Aid Society continued to supply the described items to various Union Hospitals in Leavenworth, Fort Scott, Kansas City and wherever a Union hospital was located in Eastern Kansas and Western Missouri until the Civil War ended in 1865.



## **Events around Town**

Check out the Round Table's <u>Google Calendar of</u> events on the website.

#### 2016 History Matters Program

**Joe Louis Mattox** will speak from 2-3 pm on Thursday, May 5, 2016 at the Battle of Westport Visitor Center and Museum. His talk will be "Slavery in Jackson County, MO: Why Africans became Colored People" or "Voices from Fort Africa in Missouri"

#### Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri

Meets at 7:00 p.m. on the second Wednesday of the month in a new location, Village Heights Community of Christ Church, 1009 Farview Drive, Independence, MO. Call **Beverly Shaw** at 816 225-7944 for details. Check their Calendar (<u>http://www.cwrtwm.org</u>) to verify the date, location and find out about the next program topic. Visitors are always welcome!

## 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).

• April 20, 2016--James Speicher will present "What it was like to be a Civil War soldier."

Beyond the above we are also scheduling the following:

- July 20, 2016--Laura Mielke, a professor at K.U., who will talk about antebellum and Civil War plays.
- September 21, 2016--**Mary Ellen McVicker**, a historian from Boonville, will speak about George Caleb Bingham, covering both his life and his art.
- December 21, 2016--We will once again enjoy the music of **Dave Para** and **Cathy Barton** for our Christmas dinner.

The other dates will be filled in later.

#### Kansas City Posse of the Westerners

May 10 Meeting: **Phil Young** will tell Western tales in his talk, "100 Miles North of Dodge City." The Westerners meet 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.

#### Corinth 1861—1865

Round Table member, **Mike Epstein**, submitted this article penned by Margaret Greene Rogers. Because of space limitations, we can only print an excerpt here, but read <u>the whole article on our website</u>.

Corinth, settled seven years prior to the civil war just east of the surveyed intersection of the Memphis and Charleston and the mobile and Ohio railroads, expanded rapidly, by 1861 both railroads were in operation; the population had increased to 1200; five churches, a college for females, at least three large hotels and numerous businesses had been established, and many fine homes graced the area.

During 1961 Corinth was a mobilization center for troops moving to Pensacola. Fla., Mobile, Ala. and Virginia. After the capture of Fort Donelson all confederate troops west of the Alleghenies and from the Trans-Mississippi area were ordered to Corinth to protect Gen. Albert Sydney Johnston's second line of defense (the Memphis and Charleston railroad) ...

Following the Battle of Shiloh, Corinth was a vast hospital center. churches, residences, hotels, warehouses and the college were filled with wounded: and more troops died of sickness and disease than were killed at Shiloh. Prior to the march on Shiloh Gen. Bragg had begun extensive inner and outer field fortifications surrounding the town. Work on these was vigorously renewed ... By October the city was better fortified than any other in the south. The huge federal army was broken up and spread throughout northern Mississippi, western Tennessee and northwestern Alabama. Halleck was ordered to Washington in July; and Grant was again the commanding general. In September we moved to Jackson, Tenn., leaving Rosecrans in command at Corinth.

Confederates Van Dorn and price determined to retake Corinth despite its strong defenses. On October 3, 1962, they attacked and drove the federals from the outer defense lines back to the inner batteries. Next day Hebert's troops broke the federal lines in two places on the northwest and penetrated the town to the railroad junction. There they encountered federal reserves and hand-to-hand fighting ensued ... Corinth was partially destroyed and abandoned by the federals in January, 1864. Later the same year Confederate John B. Hood used the city as a supply base for his army which was attempting to draw Sherman from Georgia.

Since Corinth was occupied at all times during the war by either confederate or federal troops, at least 200 generals were stationed in or near the city and over 100 skirmishes and/or raids occurred in the area, Corinth witnessed more military activity and strategy than any other town in the confederate west.

Read the whole article on our website.



Historic burial area at Fort Scott National Cemetery

Civil War Round Table of Kansas City P.O. Box 6202 Shawnee Mission, Kansas 66206-0202



