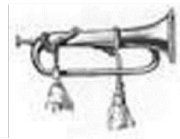




BORDER



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://cwrtkc.org/>

Join us on Facebook!

509th Regular Meeting

Tuesday, October 23, 2018

Sunset Ballroom, 8th Floor, Holiday Inn & Suites

8787 Reeder Rd., Overland Park, KS 66214

Social Hour - Cash Bar – 5:30p.m.

Dinner - 6:30p.m.

October Speaker



Retired U.S. Army colonel and former Gettysburg Licensed Battlefield guide, **Matt Spruill**, will be speaking to us about his new book titled: *Decisions at Stones River: The Sixteen Critical Decisions that Defined the Battle.*

Mr. Spruill last spoke to our Round Table in May of 2013 about the Battle of Gettysburg.

Attendance requires a paid dinner reservation.

Please be sure that **Susan Keipp** receives all reservations by **12:00 noon on Thursday, October 18, 2018** along with payment of **\$28.00 per person**. Mail to:

Susan Keipp, 436 W 88th Terrace, Kansas City, MO 64114

Report any necessary adjustments by calling Susan at 816-333-0025 or e-mailing her at: mailto:skeipp@kc.rr.com by 12:00 noon on the Thursday before the dinner meeting.

Due to problems with PayPal, Susan would prefer that members pay for their meals either at the dinner meeting or by mailing her a check prior to the dinner meeting.

Reservation Deadline: 12:00 noon, Oct. 18th

Make Your Dinner Reservations Early

Please note that dinner reservations are due to Susan Keipp by 12:00 noon on Thursday, October 18th. Late reservations will not be accepted. By contract, we must turn in our headcount three business days prior to the dinner meeting. The Holiday Inn has to order and prepare enough food and set the tables based on our headcount. Please do your part to make our treasurer's job go as smoothly as possible. Thank you!

Dinner Menu

London Broil – Slices of marinated flank steak, served with garlic mashed potatoes and chef's choice of vegetable, salad, bread, chef's choice of dessert, coffee, iced tea, and water.

The Holiday Inn has advised they can provide the following three 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 indicated they cannot provide a low-carb meal.

Meet Our Speaker



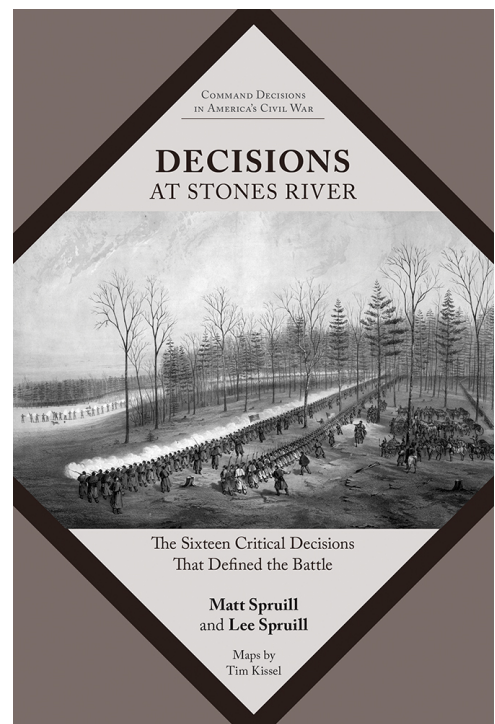
October Speaker - Mr. Matt Spruill

Matt Spruill is a retired U.S. Army colonel and a former Gettysburg Licensed Battlefield Guide. He has a BA in History from The Citadel and a MA in History from the University of Missouri. A graduate of the U.S. Army Command and Staff College and the U.S. Army War College, he was also on the faculty of both. For the last three decades, Matt has been studying, researching, writing, and speaking on the Civil War. He is the author of nine Civil War books and three revised second editions. Three of his books are part of the University of Tennessee Press' prestigious series "Command Decisions in the American Civil War." Matt conducts tours, historical seminars, and staff rides at Gettysburg, Antietam, Second Manassas, Seven Days, Stones River, Chickamauga, and Chattanooga. He and his wife, Kathy, live in Littleton, CO.

Program: Critical Decisions at Stones River

The Battle at Stones River (Murfreesboro TN) played a major role in the political life of Lincoln's presidency and in the following campaigns, that took the armies from there to Chattanooga and Atlanta. Matt will discuss the critical decisions that shaped this important Western Theater battle.

Critical decisions are those very few decisions that had a major impact on the battle. They not only affected the events that immediately follow, but the course of the battle from that point on. Had they not been made, the Battle at Stones River would have been different from the one we know today.



Mr. Spruill's Book: *Decisions at Stones River*

The Sergeant Major's Book Sales and Auction

We would like to thank **Arnold Schofield** for doing an outstanding job of raising money for the Round Table through his live auction and silent auction book sales. Arnold will auction the following books at the October dinner meeting:

- *Kentucky & Missouri: Confederate Military History*; Published by Blue & Gray Press, reprint, 1975; in excellent condition with dust jacket.
- *Price's Missouri Expedition: The Official Records*; Reprint. Excerpt published by the Westport Historical Society; in excellent condition; no dust jacket.
- *Action Before Westport* by Howard N. Monett; Westport Historical Society, Kansas City MO, 1964; in mint condition with dust jacket.
- *October 25th & The Battle of Mine Creek* by Lumir F. Buresh; signed 1st Edition; published by The Lowell Press, Kansas City MO; in excellent condition with dust jacket.
- *The Last Hurrah: Sterling Price's Missouri Expedition of 1864* by Kyle S. Sinisi; Published by Rowman & Littlefield in 2015; 1st edition; in mint condition with dust jacket.
- *Official Records of the War of the Rebellion: Series I, Vol. 22, Part 1 Reports*; National Historical Society, Harrisburg PA, 1971; in mint condition. Includes the actions at Honey Springs, Lawrence, and Baxter Springs.

Last Month's Program

At our dinner meeting held on September 25th, **Dennis E. Frye** gave an outstanding presentation about his new book titled: *Antietam Shadows: Mystery, Myth & Machination*. The following is a summary of Mr. Frye's presentation:

- The first chapter of Mr. Frye's book begins with a quote from Napoleon Bonaparte: "What is history but a fable agreed upon." Mr. Frye said history is not facts. History is nothing but our opinions. The only fact about the Battle of Antietam is that it was fought on September 17, 1862. We all have opinions, prejudices, etc. Historians have a tendency to repeat what other historians have written as facts.
- General Lee did not intend to fight at Antietam. He intended to invade Pennsylvania. Lee told President Davis of his plans. At Antietam, Lee's army was only 15 miles from Pennsylvania via Redeemer's Road.

- Lee's actions prior to the Battle of Antietam can be summarized in the following four-letter words: rest, wait, join, move, and risk.
- General McClellan was given two jobs by President Lincoln: Protect Washington D.C. and end Lee's invasion. McClellan accomplished both.
- The day before the Battle of Antietam, McClellan moved 20,000 troops, about one-third of his army, around the Confederate left, in order to cut off Lee's invasion route into Pennsylvania. At that point, McClellan knew that he had ended Lee's invasion and thought that Lee would retreat back into Virginia. Why Lee would stay and fight did not make sense. Did McClellan outthink Lee?
- A famous quote attributed to General Lee at Antietam is: "We will make our stand on those hills." Mr. Frye said he has spoken these words numerous times on battlefield hikes that he has led at Antietam. He found this quote was in Volume II of Douglas Southall Freeman's *R.E. Lee: A Biography*. In his footnotes, Freeman indicated that the quote came from a book written by William Henry Morgan of the 11th Virginia Infantry and published in 1911. However, Morgan was home on sick leave and did not actually fight at the Battle of Antietam. Morgan heard about the quote from some comrades who claimed Lee said it and Morgan then wrote about it 50 years after the battle. Mr. Frye said as good students of history, it is best when we act as detectives and question what we read.
- According to Mr. Frye, one of the best books written about the Battle of Antietam is *Landscape Turned Red* by Stephen W. Sears. Sears researched the letters McClellan wrote to his wife that were later saved by McClellan's family and donated to the Library of Congress. According to Mr. Frye, Sears hated McClellan and wrote that McClellan blew the opportunity to destroy Lee's army.
- McClellan was a democrat and ran against Lincoln in the election of 1864. Republicans attacked McClellan politically, because they did not want him to be known as the hero and savior of Antietam and did not want McClellan to be elected president.
- In the *Official Records of the War of the Rebellion* officers would often lie about what happened, in order to cast themselves in a good light.



September speaker **Dennis E. Frye**, former Chief Historian at Harpers Ferry National Historical Park



Arnold Schofield conducting live auction.

Upcoming Speaker Schedule

November 27, 2018: **Thomas Bogar** will give a program titled: "Backstage at the Lincoln Assassination."

December 18, 2018: **Aaron Barnhart and Diane Eickhoff** will be giving a program titled: "If It Looks Like a Man - Gender Identity, Female Soldiers, and 'Lady Bushwhackers' in the Civil War."

January 22, 2019: **Arnold Schofield** will give a program titled: "Legacies of the Civil War."

February 26, 2019: In honor of February being Black History Month, **Jim Ogle** will be giving a program about the town of Quindaro KS. Jim is the Executive Director of Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area.

March 26, 2019: **Larry Wood** from Joplin MO will be speaking about his book titled: *Bushwhacker Belles: The Sisters, Wives, and Girlfriends of the Missouri Guerillas*.

April 23, 2019: **Bill Piston** will be giving a program about Robert E. Lee and the "Lost Cause." Mr. Piston is a professor of history at Southwest Missouri State University in Springfield MO.

Member News

We are sorry to report that **Mike Epstein's** father passed away on September 25th. Mike is a long-time member of the Round Table and served as editor of the *Border Bugle* for many years.

We would like to welcome new member **Marcia Hicklin**. Marcia lives in Prairie Village and works as an IT project manager for PNC Bank. Several of Marcia's ancestors fought for the Confederacy, including her great-grandfather, who was with the notorious Archie Clement, who was shot by Federal soldiers in Lexington.

Round Table member **Chris Edwards** will be speaking to the Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri at their holiday luncheon on December 1st.

Dave and Marilyn Pattison are proud to announce the birth of their first grandson, Henry Joseph Pattison on October 5th. They also have three granddaughters.

The Sergeant Major's Roar

Battlefield Dispatches #537 Driving the Enemy

Tuesday, October 23, 2018 is the 154th Anniversary of the Battle of Westport, which was one of the largest battles in the Civil War in Missouri. Therefore, in keeping with this anniversary, the following is part of

the after action report by Colonel Charles Blair, which describes his participation and that of the troops that he commanded in this battle. The complete report is located in *Volume 41, Part I: Reports of the Official Records of the War of the Rebellion*

"Headquarters,
Fort Scott, Kansas,
November 25, 1864.

"Sir: I have the honor to submit herewith my report of my participation and that of the troops under my command in the stirring events connected with the recent invasion of the Department of Kansas and Missouri by the Rebel Army commanded by General Price.

"Reporting to General Blunt at the Gillis House I received orders to be in readiness to march at 3 a.m., but it took the whole night to collect the horses of the brigade, which, by some blunder, had been sent across the Kaw [River] and while in discharge of this duty, I missed the chance of getting some hard bread for my men, a sort of grab game being played by soldiers in its distribution. Colonel Montgomery got his regiment off promptly at the hour indicated and by daylight I had the residue of the brigade under march for Westport, at which point I arrived shortly after the battle had opened.

"Pursuant to General Blunt's orders I formed my brigade on the high ground south of Westport, overlooking a little creek, the southern acclivity of which was covered with a dense growth of timber and underbrush. After the line was formed and the artillery was in position, I dismounted the militia, leaving every sixth man to hold horses and pushed them through the timber to the front and on the left of the Fifteenth Kansas Cavalry under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Hoyt. Before us was an open field on the other of which was the enemy in considerable force and strongly posted behind a stone fence, which formed an admirable cover. We were partly protected by the edge of the timber and a rail fence.

"Firing was kept up rapidly and heavily for half an hour, the enemy being held firmly in check, but I attempted no advance, as I did not know whether our flanks were clear or not. In a short time the Fifteenth retired, in obedience to orders and very soon after I received an order through Col. S. R. Crawford, of the staff, to fall back to my first position. Accordingly I marched to the rear through the timber and formed immediately on the north bank of the creek without going clear back to my original position.

"A rumor reaching me that the enemy was attempting to flank our position on the right and fearing to wait for orders lest it might be accomplished, I dispatched a messenger to General Blunt to inform of what I was

doing and hastily threw my line up into the dense timber on my right, twice its own length and then pushed it steadily forward. At this time I received orders from General Curtis to make the move that I had already commenced. Thus reassured, I moved forward as rapidly as the thick undergrowth and ground would permit until I came to the edge of an open field and formed a junction with Colonel Hogan's regiment, which had been sent forward from a different direction. A heavy fire was here opened on us from a corn field which stretched from our right front and which seemed was filled with skirmishers and from a large brick house in an orchard just beyond, in which a party of sharpshooters was stationed.

"In a few minutes, several of our men had fallen and the fire was incessant and close. I immediately ordered the right of the brigade forward and DROVE the ENEMY from the corn field and house, while the left of the line kept through the stubble field on their flank. About half a mile to the front the cavalry and artillery came out the road on our left and joined the line, relieving Jennison's cavalry from its position in support of McLain's Battery. We then commenced "DRIVING THE ENEMY" steadily before us and from then till his retreat became a rout, it was as much as my dismounted could do to keep up with the artillery. As soon as the heaviest of the action was over I sent details back to bring up the horses and pushed forward with my dismounted men and artillery. Lieut. W. B. Clark's detachment of Company E, Fourteenth Kansas Cavalry and Capt. John Wilson's Company of Independent Cavalry Scouts became detached from my brigade early in the morning and acted as the body guard for Major General Blunt, charging to the support of a howitzer [small cannon] which General Blunt and his staff, with the gun detachment, were protecting with their pistols from a portion of the enemy who were endeavoring to capture it and participating also in the gallant charge on the enemy's rear, which was posted behind the stone wall at the mouth of the lane. In this last charge the detachment lost six horses and two men killed, besides having several men slightly wounded.

"I pushed on to Santa Fe, reaching there about sunset and stopped to feed, getting the first forage for my horses had eaten since we left the Blue. The men had eaten nothing for two days and were still without rations, their transportation still being in Kansas City. I had three or four head of cattle hunted up and killed by Colonel Hogan's regiment (Nineteenth Kansas State Militia), which were eaten without bread or salt. The residue of my brigade had nothing!

"Very Respectfully Your Obedient Servant,
C. W. BLAIR,
14th Ks. Cav., Comdg, 3rd Brigade, Army of the Border."

Now then, after the Union victory at the Battle of Westport, Price's Confederate Army moved south along the state line of Missouri and Kansas. Its next objective was to capture the huge supply depot at Fort Scott, but the Union pursuit caught up with the rear of the Confederate column at Trading Post early on the morning of October 25, 1864. From there four battles occurred on the 25th, three in Kansas and one in Missouri. The largest of these battles was the Battle of Mine Creek, which will be the subject of the next column and, of course, the War Went On!

Civil War Round Table of Kansas City History

The following article appeared in the *Kansas City Star* on September 14, 1989:

Civil War Rages 125 Years Later North to Defeat South Again at Westport

By: Elaine Adams, Staff Writer

The sound of rifle fire and thunder of cannons will resound in Swope Park this fall as North meets South in a 125th anniversary-sized edition of the Battle of Westport.

Hundreds of Civil War buffs, dressed for war and carrying weapons of the period, will recreate parts of the three-day battle on Oct. 21 and 22. Some will bring their own horses or cannons.

"We believe it will be the largest re-enactment west of the Mississippi River, ever," said **Steve Treaster**, immediate past president of the Civil War Round Table of Kansas City. He estimated the re-enactment would include about 1,500 people in period costumes—including 300 women and children—and up to 30,000 spectators.

Woolen uniforms of Yankee blue will be seen in abundance, one organizer said, but not so much rebel gray. By 1864, the Confederates had few uniforms left.

Herman M. Hattaway, a history professor at the University of Missouri-Kansas City, said reenactments are valuable because they stir up interest in the past.

"Most of them (re-enactors) are very, very careful and conscientious about the accuracy of their costuming," Hattaway said. "God forbid if they ever replace scholarly books, but they sometimes are catalysts to induce people to do some serious reading later. And in the meantime, they're kind of fun."

Unlike the real confrontation, the outcome this time won't be in doubt. The forces of Confederate Gen. Sterling Price will be squeezed from east and west by Union troops and forced to flee.

The re-enactment area is southwest of Byram's Ford, one site of the original battle, which ended Oct. 23, 1864.

It began Oct. 21 when Price, a 300-pound soldier who, it was said, could kill a horse just by sitting on it long enough, advanced toward Kansas City with a huge wagon train and thousands of troops, many of them unarmed.

The Confederates' original plan, according to Hattaway, had been to enter Missouri from Arkansas, attack St. Louis and perhaps invade Illinois. One purpose of the invasion was to divert Union troops from beleaguered Confederates east of the Mississippi River.

Union forces repelled Price's troops near St. Louis, so the rebels swept westward across central Missouri, capturing towns and stealing weapons, ammunition and other items. Hattaway said the Battle of Westport was another raid, but Treaster thinks Price and many Missourians with him still had visions of claiming Missouri for the Confederates.

On Oct. 21, east of Independence, Price met Union troops under the overall command of Maj. Gen. Samuel R. Curtis. Price pushed the Yankees west and captured Independence. The next day, the Confederates crossed the Blue River at Byram's Ford and the Yankees retreated to Westport.

But the Confederates also were being chased from behind by Maj. Gen. Alfred Pleasonton and more Union troops. A third Union group was closing in from the southeast.

On Oct. 23, Curtis' Yankees attacked the Confederates near what is now Loose Park, while Pleasonton's group attacked at Byram's Ford. The Southerners, knowing they couldn't win, retreated south along the state line.

Each side had lost 1,500 men.

"There were 14 skirmishes involved in the thing we call the Battle of Westport," said area historian Sonny Wells. "The town of Westport was involved in only one phase of the battle ... They could just as well have called it the Battle of Western Missouri."

Two days later, at the Battle of Mine Creek near Mound City, Kan., Union forces caught up with the rebels, who later exploded their reserve ammunition and burned their wagon train before the Yankees could capture them.

The battles of Westport and Mine Creek essentially concluded the Civil War west of the Mississippi. Hattaway said Price had started from Arkansas with 12,000 men but had only 6,000 at the end. The general had gained no material advantage for the Confederacy.

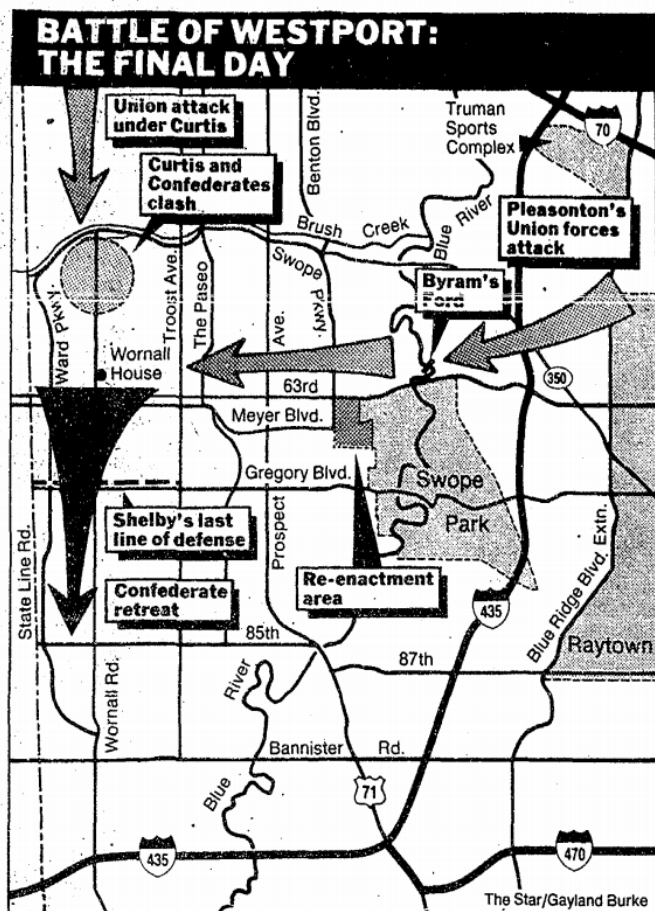
At the re-enactment, a 30-minute mock battle on Saturday, Oct. 21, will depict Price's successful crossing

of Byram's Ford on the second day. The soldiers will pretend a ravine in Swope Park is the Blue River.

The main event Sunday afternoon will be the recreation of the third-day battle at Byram's Ford, as well as the stand of Confederate Brig. Gen. Jo Shelby. His division, roughly positioned along what is now Gregory Boulevard from Troost to State Line, held off the Yankees until nightfall of the third day so most of the Confederates could escape.

The event is "totally free to the public," Wells said, adding that organizers solicited funds to avoid admission charges.

Sponsors are the Missouri Civil War Re-enactors Association, Civil War Round Table of Kansas City, Westport Historical Society and Monnett Battle of Westport Fund Inc., a fund-raising arm of the Round Table.



Ref: The *Kansas City Star*, September 14, 1989

Events Around Town

Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri

On Wednesday, October 10, 2018, **Bruce Mathews** will be giving a program on historic Elmwood Cemetery, which is located in Kansas City MO. The meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. at the Village Heights Community of Christ, Fellowship Hall, located at 1009 Farview Drive, Independence, MO.

The annual holiday luncheon will take place on Saturday, December 1, 2018. **Chris Edwards** will be giving a program about Quantrill's raid on Lawrence KS.

If you have any questions, please call **Beverly Shaw** at 816-225-7944.

Kansas City Posse of the Westerners

On Tuesday, October 9th, **Dick Titterington** will be giving a program about the 1862 Battle of Glorieta Pass. The meeting will be held at the Golden Corral restaurant (located near the Home Depot), 8800 NW Skyview Avenue, Kansas City MO 64154. Dinner is at 6:00 p.m. from the buffet menu. Cost is \$12.00 or less and non-members are welcome.

For more information, call **Deb Buckner** at 913-338-5689 or **Dennis Garstang** at 816-569-1180.

Kansas City Missouri Public Library

Justin Martin will be speaking about his new book titled: *A Fierce Glory: Antietam—The Desperate Battle That Saved Lincoln and Doomed Slavery* on Thursday, November 1 at 6:30 p.m. The program will be held at the Central Library located at 14 West 10th Street, Kansas City MO.



New Member Marcia Hicklin and Member Sam Rabicoff at the dinner meeting on September 25th.

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

