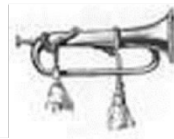




BORDER



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!

510th Regular Meeting

Tuesday, November 27, 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.



November Speaker

Thomas A. Bogar will be speaking about his book titled: *Backstage at the Lincoln Assassination*. Dr. Bogar has taught theatre history, dramatic literature, and theatrical production for forty years, most recently at Hood College in Frederick, Maryland, and directed over seventy theatrical productions. He holds a Ph.D. in theatre history/literature/criticism from Louisiana State University.

We would like to thank Chip Buckner for scheduling Dr. Bogar. This promises to be another interesting program, so bring a friend and enjoy the evening.

Attendance requires a paid dinner reservation.

Please be sure that **Susan Keipp** receives all reservations by **12:00 noon on Wednesday, November 21, 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: skeipp@kc.rr.com by 12:00 noon on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving.

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, Nov. 21st

Make Your Dinner Reservations Early

Please note that dinner reservations are due to Susan Keipp by 12:00 noon on Wednesday, November 21st. 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. If you need to cancel a reservation, please notify Susan as soon as possible, so that someone else can take your place.

Dinner Menu

Grilled Pork Loin – Pork loin grilled and served with a honey ginger sauce, served with butter 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



November Speaker - Dr. Thomas A. Bogar

Thomas A. Bogar has taught theatre history, dramatic literature, and theatrical production for forty years, most recently at Hood College in Frederick, Maryland, and directed over seventy theatrical productions. He holds a Ph.D. in theatre history/literature/criticism from Louisiana State University. In addition to *Backstage at the Lincoln Assassination*, he is the author of *Thomas Hamblin and the Bowery Theatre*, *American Presidents Attend the Theatre* and a biography of actor-manager John E. Owens. He is currently working on a biography of actress Maggie Mitchell. He is the recipient of two National Endowment for the Humanities fellowships and served as a judge for Washington's Helen Hayes Theatre Awards. He lives in Silver Spring, Maryland.

Book: *Backstage at the Lincoln Assassination*

At 10:14 p.m. on April 14, 1865, at Ford's Theatre in Washington, D.C., John Wilkes Booth pulls a trigger in the presidential balcony, leaps to the stage and escapes, as Abraham Lincoln lies mortally wounded. In the panic that follows, forty-six terrified actors, managers and stage hands scatter in and around the theatre, as soldiers take up stations by the doors and the audience surges into the street chanting, "Burn the place down!"

This is the exquisitely detailed, untold story of Lincoln's assassination: of these forty-six theatre employees that night, and what each of them witnessed in the chaos-streaked hours before John Wilkes Booth was discovered to be the culprit.

In *Backstage at the Lincoln Assassination*, theatre historian Thomas A. Bogar utilizes previously unpublished sources to tell the story of Lincoln's assassination from a unique new point of view: behind the curtain. Some theatre personnel closely connected to Booth were never questioned, while innocent figures were relentlessly pursued. Learn how Booth knew each member of the cast and crew in what had been for years a backstage tinderbox of Union-Confederate rivalry and conflict.

Backstage at the Lincoln Assassination also tells the story of what happened to each of these witnesses to history after the investigation was over, as they tried to move on with their lives.

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 November dinner meeting:

- *Life of W. T. Sherman* by the Honorable W. Fletcher Johnson and General O. O. Howard, Edgewood Publishing Company, 1891. 1st Edition. Good condition.
- *Official Records of Union & Confederate Navies in the War of the Rebellion: Series II, Vol. I; Parts 1-4*; Washington D.C., 1921. Original 1st Edition. Very good condition.
- *Annals of the War-Articles by Leading Participants*; Philadelphia Weekly Times 1879. Reprint by Morningside Press, 1988. Excellent to mint condition.
- *The Lion of the South: General Thomas C. Hindman* by Diane Neal & Thomas W. Kremm; Mercer University Press, Macon, GA, 1993. Mint condition with dust jacket.
- *Civil War on the Western Border 1854 – 1865* by Jay Monaghan, Bonanza Books Publishing Company, 1975. Excellent condition, with dust jacket.
- *Smithsonian Civil War; Inside the National Collection*; Smithsonian Books, Washington D. C. Mint condition.

Last Month's Program

At our dinner meeting held on October 23rd, **Matt Spruill** gave an interesting presentation about his new book titled: *Decisions at Stones River: The Sixteen Critical Decisions That Defined the Battle*. The following is a summary of Mr. Spruill's presentation:

- The Battle of Stones River took place on December 31, 1862 and January 2 and 3, 1863, near Murfreesboro TN. Confederate General Braxton Bragg commanded the Army of Tennessee. Union General William S. Rosecrans commanded the Army of the Cumberland.
- The battle did not happen as a result of random chance. Events occurred as they did because of the decisions made at all levels of command on both sides. Some decisions were normal ones that were made during any campaign or battle. Others were more important. A limited number of critical decisions shaped the way the campaign and battle unfolded.
- 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.

The sixteen critical decisions for the Battle of Stones River can be grouped into three specific time periods:

- Before the battle.
- When the armies collided on December 31, 1862.
- When the battle continued on January 2-3, 1863.

Matt focused his talk on the following three critical decisions:

- Bragg loses a division. Stevenson's division under Kirby Smith was sent to reinforce Pemberton in Mississippi. This weakened Bragg's combat strength for the attack on December 31, 1862.
- Bragg fails to significantly weight the main attack. Bragg decided to allocate two divisions to the main attack, two divisions to the supporting attack, and one division to protect the army's right.
- Rosecrans shifts units to the right. Rosecrans decided to send Rousseau's division to Sheridan's right and directed additional units to the far right as they became available, in order to meet the main Confederate attack on December 31, 1862.



October speaker Mr. Matt Spruill

Upcoming Speaker Schedule

- **December 18, 2018:** **Jim Beckner** will be giving a mid-19th Century Christmas program.
- **January 22, 2019:** Round Table member **Arnold Schofield** will give a program titled: "Legacies of the Civil War."
- **February 26, 2019:** **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 General Robert E. Lee and the "Lost Cause."
- **May 28, 2019:** **Jeff Patrick** will present a narrative based on the diary of a Union hospital steward.
- **June 25, 2019:** Round Table member **Gary Nevius** will provide a discussion of Civil War long guns, rifles, muskets, and carbines, using examples from his own collection.
- **July 23, 2019:** **Dr. Tim Smith** will be giving a program titled: "The Golden Age of Battlefield Preservation."
- **August 27, 2019:** Round Table member **Chris Edwards** will speak on Quantrill's Raid on Lawrence KS.
- **September 24, 2019:** **Bjorn Skaptason**, from the Abraham Lincoln Book Shop in Chicago IL, will be our speaker. The topic is to be determined.
- **October 22, 2019:** **Eric Wittenburg** will speak about the Battle of Brandy Station.

Executive Committee Meeting Last Month

An Executive Committee meeting was held on Saturday, October 13th. During the meeting some important decisions were made:

- The Round Table will continue to meet at the Holiday Inn & Suites in 2019. However, the cost of the dinners will increase to \$29.00 per person, in order to cover the cost of our meals, service charge, room rental, audio-visual equipment etc.
- For 2019 the cost of membership in the Round Table will increase to \$35.00 per individual or \$55.00 per couple. Membership dues had not been increased for many years.

Please Renew Your CWRT Membership

Please renew your membership in the Civil War Round Table of Kansas City for 2019. Membership dues go to pay for our speaker travel costs, as well as our administrative costs, which include website fees, bank charges, office expenses, post office box rental, etc. We currently have a total of 112 members. Membership renewals are due by December 31, 2018. You can either mail or give your check to **Susan Keipp** at an upcoming dinner meeting.

Remembering Betty Ergovich

Long-time Civil War Round Table member **Betty Ergovich** passed away on Monday, October 22, 2018. Betty served as president of the Round Table in 1999 and was presented with the Valiant Service Award in 2012. She most recently served as Historian for the Round Table.

Betty cared deeply about the Round Table and loved going to the Round Table dinner meetings. Betty suffered a stroke in 2016 and had been living in the memory care unit at Villa St. Francis in Olathe KS. Betty last attended a dinner meeting with her daughter Phyllis Ergovich-Marshall in February of this year.



Betty Ergovich - Photo taken at the CWRT dinner meeting held on December 19, 2017.

Member News

The latest issue of *Hallowed Ground*, which is published by the American Battlefield Trust salutes the following Round Table members for their contributions to battlefield preservation: **Gary Nevius**, Division Color Bearer and **Father Richard Frank**, Brigade Color Bearer. Thank you Gary and Father Frank for supporting battlefield preservation!

Lila Aamodt recently went on a trip to Mongolia and got to milk a yak while she was there. Mongolia has a population of about 3 million people and about 45% of the population lives in the capital city of Ulaanbaatar. Lila said the country is mostly grassland plains.

Marcia Hicklin is offering to sell some limited edition prints of the *Last Meeting of Lee and Jackson*. She has 14 of the 1,200 total that were published. Marcia's distant cousin, Rob Hicklin, has a gallery in Charleston SC and tracked down the original *Last Meeting of Lee and Jackson* in New Orleans. He bought the painting, had it restored, and sold it to the Museum of the Confederacy in Richmond. Marcia's cousin also has the original copper plates and had these prints made. Marcia is interested in selling these prints for \$100 each. She will bring a few to an upcoming dinner meeting, if anyone is interested in purchasing a copy.



The Last Meeting of Lee and Jackson

Sunday, November 11th is Veterans Day

We would like to thank all of our service men and women for serving our country and protecting our freedom. Thanks to you, we are able to enjoy the many rights and privileges that we have in this country.

Sunday, November 11, 2018 is also the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I. November 11th was originally called Armistice Day, in order to commemorate the armistice signed by the Allies and Germany to end the fighting on the Western Front. The armistice was signed at 5:00 a.m. on November 11, 1918 and was to take effect at 11:00 a.m. However, the Allied commanders decided to press their attacks on the German positions until 11:00 a.m. This resulted in 10,944 casualties, including 2,738 deaths, in the six hours after the armistice was signed. An excellent book on this subject is *Eleventh Month, Eleventh Day, Eleventh Hour, Armistice Day, 1918 - World War I and Its Violent Climax*, by Joseph E. Persico.

The Sergeant Major's Roar

Battlefield Dispatches #538

Day of Battles

October 25, 2018, was the 154th Anniversary of three battles in Linn and Bourbon Counties in the Civil War. They were the Battle of Trading Post or Marais des Cygnes, which occurred at dawn, Mine Creek at approximately 11:30 a.m. and Little Osage, just east of present day Fulton, at 2:30 p.m. All of these battles were part of the end of the Confederate Campaign commanded by General Sterling Price in Missouri and Kansas in the late summer and fall of 1864. They were also successful Confederate rear guard actions, which ultimately resulted in Union victories. During these battles, Colonel Charles W. Blair, the recent Commanding Officer of Fort Scott, was an Aide-de-Camp on General Pleasonton's staff and was an active participant and observer in all three of these battles. The following is an abbreviation of Colonel Blair's after action report describing these engagements and is located in Series I, Part I: Reports of the Official Records of the War of the Rebellion.

"Fort Scott, Kansas,
January 1, 1865

"Sir: As a volunteer Aide-de-Camp on your staff, I have the honor to transmit herewith, according to your direction, a brief report of the events of the 25th of October last, all of which I saw and part of which I was.

"When the column halted and no word was sent to the rear to bivouac [camp], I supposed that the advance had come to the timber of the Marais des Cygnes [River] and was clearing the obstructions which all thought that the enemy would create to oppose our forward movement. Accordingly, we waited patiently, standing by our horse's heads, without fire, food or forage [hay]. Toward morning becoming chilled by the rain and cold night air, I mounted my horse and accompanied by an orderly rode forward in search of fire.

"About midway up the column, I found a fire and had scarcely succeeded in warming my benumbed limbs when the sound of artillery called my attention to the front. I hurried to the front to see if I could be of any service in some other capacity. Ascending the high mound overlooking the stream I saw the [our] skirmish line about midway from its base to the timber pushing steadily to the front. I immediately started forward to overtake them. Pushing forward I joined the skirmishers just as they received fire from the enemy's skirmish line on the south bank of the river. On crossing the Marais des Cygnes River, we found to our surprise, no obstructions [to prevent our crossing], save two trees which had been felled in the road and which were rapidly removed by our advancing troops.

"Arriving on table land, which forms the summit level between the Marais des Cygnes and the [Little] Osage, we saw the enemy's line and this time it was evident he was in full force, although the whole line was not visible, his right being behind the brow of the hill which descended into MINE CREEK! When the brigade did come up on line the whole command advanced to short range and for a time the fire was incessant and terrific. Both lines seemed like walls of adamant, one could not advance and the other would not recede. The sound of musketry, the scream of shell, the hissing sound of canister and balls mingled with the shouts of the soldiers and the cries of the wounded, set off, too, by the walls of fire in front and girdles of steel behind, which marked both lines, formed a scene more easily remembered than described.

"During this terrible conflict I passed along the whole line and met your gallant staff officers everywhere, counseling, encouraging, exhorting and commanding and the tenor of the whole was "CHARGE!" It was evident that our only safety was A SUCCESSFUL CHARGE by which we might capture the guns [enemy cannon]. At length the movement commenced, slowly at first but increasing in velocity until it swept on resistless as an avalanche. A RUSH, A SCRAMBLE AND ALL WAS OVER! The guns were captured, the enemy broken and flying to the rear, while our victorious squadrons were in almost breathless pursuit. So rapidly was this accomplished that when our left pushed forward into a field on the south side of the ravine [creek] the

shell from our own artillery was crashing right into their midst.

"When I overtook the advance, I found it had halted at the foot of the precipitous mounds descending into the [Little] Osage Valley. Captain Hinton and myself pushed forward on to the skirmish line, away in the advance, almost as far as we could see over the smooth prairie and on arriving there, we could plainly see the rebel column moving straight in the direction of Fort Scott. The movement was then rapid and continuous till the skirmish was checked near the verge of the [Little] Osage timber. The skirmishers kept up occasional firing at them [the enemy] until the advance brigade came up and we all charged rapidly down into the timber, but the enemy disappeared before our arrival.

"We followed down the stream some distance and crossed [the Little Osage River] at the ford. The head of our column was there checked by a heavy fire from the field and it was evident another battle [the Battle of the Little Osage] was to be fought. General McNeil said that he wanted the men to ride right over them [the enemy] and saber them down as fast as they came to them. The men responded with a yell, the dismounted skirmishers tore down the fence in the face of a galling fire and the column swept through it like a tornado.

"In the rear of the corn-field, another enemy line was formed on the prairie which the brigade charged and broke at the first onset. A third battle line was formed still farther to the rear, where they held us at bay under a severe fire for about twenty minutes or more and until the whole brigade formed in line and charged. Before this impetuous charge they were again broken. As I passed through their temporary halting place, there was abundant evidence of the haste that they were in, in broken wagons, dismantled forges, fragmentary mess chests and smashed crockery with which the ground was strewn. The chase lasted about a mile to the top of the hill south of the valley of the [Little] Osage River and on getting view of the enemy again from the summit of this hill, I was gratified to observe that he was bearing to the east, thus giving me my first reasonable hope that Fort Scott might be spared [from attack]."

Now then, Colonel Blair's hope was realized and Fort Scott KS was not attacked by Price's Army. The last battle, which occurred on October 25, 1864, was the Battle of Charlot's Farm, which occurred a bit west and north of Deerfield MO and the "Day of Battles" was over 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 December 29, 2002:

Battlefield Campaign is to Promote, Preserve Getting grant for signs part of plan for Byram's Ford

By: Matt Campbell

A footpath in the woods, within hearing distance of the traffic on 63rd Street, leads to a place that had momentous consequences for Kansas City, for Missouri and for the nation. It is called Byram's Ford, a crossing place on the Blue River for Confederate and Union soldiers, and for travelers on the Santa Fe Trail.

But most Kansas Citians are unaware of Byram's Ford, much less where it is. Civil War preservationists and the Kansas City Parks and Recreation Department want to do a better job telling the story.

The parks department is seeking a grant for as much as \$50,000 from the National Park Service to design informational signs. But that is just a small step in a plan to preserve the larger site near Swope Park and to promote local awareness of the region's role in the Civil War.

Byram's Ford was the site of the Big Blue Battlefield, which was part of the Battle of Westport, the largest Civil War engagement west of the Mississippi River.

"The historic site possesses the potential to provide significant economic benefit as a key resource for heritage tourism," according to a 2002 development plan by the Monnett Battle of Westport Fund Inc., a nonprofit arm of the Civil War Round Table of Kansas City. The long-range plan calls for:

- Developing an interpretive center.
- Restoring part of the Big Blue Battlefield as much as possible to its 1864 appearance.
- Acquiring property and removing buildings.

Fully developed, the Monnett fund believes, the site could attract 200,000 visitors annually.

Last spring the Monnett fund donated another key acre to the parks department, bringing the official Big Blue Battlefield Park to about 84 acres. That is only a fraction of the larger battlefield, about 240 acres of which are owned by the parks department. Park offices at 4600 E. 63rd St. are on a main part of the battlefield. Other tracts are owned privately or by other city departments.

The Monnett fund, with help from Commerce Bank, has been accumulating land for decades, said **Daniel L. Smith**, fund chairman. About 20 acres of the property

centered on the ford are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Proponents of the battlefield project hope eventually to develop trails, kiosks and a visitors center in the building next door to the parks department. The building is being renovated for the Kansas City Water Services Department. That building occupies the crest of what is known as Bloody Hill, the dominant topographical feature of the Big Blue Battlefield.

"This is a magnificent project and one that the park department, as well as all (city) departments, should cooperate with 100 percent," parks Commissioner Bob Lewellen said when the latest acreage was donated.

"Your work on this should be appreciated by the citizenry," Lewellen told the battlefield preservationists. "Projects like this don't just happen, and so much will be lost if they don't happen."

The Battle of Westport took place over much of the Kansas City area Oct. 21-23, 1864. Confederate Gen. Sterling Price's army fought its way over Byram's Ford toward Westport, aiming for Fort Leavenworth. Union Gen. Samuel R. Curtis and the Kansas State Militia engaged Price's forces in what is now the Loose Park area.

Union Gen. Alfred Pleasonton's cavalry, in pursuit from the east, fought its way across Byram's Ford to hit Price's flank, forcing his troops to retreat from the Loose Park area. The Union victory marked the end of any serious Confederate designs for control in Missouri.

The Blue River flood-control project in the 1990s threatened to destroy Byram's Ford. A compromise with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers resulted in a levee on some of the battlefield, but the rechanneling project was moved north of the actual ford.

Events Around Town

Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri

November 2018 Membership Meeting: Wednesday, November 14, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. at the Village Heights Community of Christ fellowship hall, 1009 Farview Drive, Independence MO. Ted Stillwell, Anne Mallinson, and Jimmy Hunsucker will speak on: "Quantrill Men Reunions." There will be special emphasis on those held at Wallace Grove in Independence MO.

December 2018 Holiday Luncheon: Saturday, December 1, 2018 at noon at the Village Heights Community of Christ fellowship hall, 1009 Farview Drive, Independence MO. The Round Table will provide a meat dish, plates, utensils, drinks and cups, and everyone else is asked to bring a dish to share. Our program will be given by **Chris Edwards** about the Raid on Lawrence KS, and will begin about 1:00 p.m.

Chris has just published a new book on the subject titled: *Quantrill's Revenge* with **Dick Titterington** and he will have copies to sell. If you have any questions, please call **Beverly Shaw** at 816-225-7944.

Kansas City Posse of the Westerners

There will be a meeting on Tuesday, November 13, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. D. J. Champagne will give a program titled: "Women of the West, Wild?" 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.

Harris-Kearney House

Christmas Candlelight Tour of the Harris-Kearney House, on Friday and Saturday night, November 23-24, 2018 from 6:30-8:30 pm. The Harris-Kearney House, is located at 4000 Baltimore, Kansas City MO. Tours begin every 15 minutes. Call 816-561-1821 or 913-231-6749 to reserve your tour time. Adults are \$10. Retired military \$8. Active military free. Students \$6. Children 6 years old and under free. Post-Civil War Christmas festivities. Colonel John and Henrietta Harris and their family welcome you into their home to meet some of Westport's most interesting residents and soldiers returning home.

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



David Frensley, Blair Hosford, and Dan Turner at the CWRT dinner meeting on October 23rd.



Marlene Natoli, Mary Griffin, Debbi Roy, and Suzee Oberg at the CWRT dinner meeting on Oct. 23rd.

