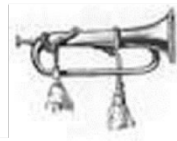




# BORDER



# BUGLE

Newsletter of the Civil War Round Table of Kansas City

## EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

### President

Simon Bolivar (Chip)  
Buckner IV

### First Vice-President

Ron Basel

### Second Vice-President

Dan Dooley

### Treasurer

Susan K. Keipp

### Assistant Treasurer

Dennis Garstang

### Corresponding Secretary & Recording Secretary

Judy Smith

### Preservation Director

Arnold Schofield

### Board of Directors

Don Bates Sr.  
Sylvia Stucky  
Les Thierolf

### Past Presidents

Don Bates, Sr.  
Dennis Garstang  
Dave Pattison

### Chairman of Board

### Monnett Battle of Westport Fund (Ex-Officio)

Daniel L. Smith

### Sergeant at Arms

Lane Smith

### Chaplain

Rev. David L. Holloway

### Historian

Don Bates, Sr.

### Border Bugle Editor

Dave Pattison

[dcpattis@gmail.com](mailto:dcpattis@gmail.com)

### Civil War Round Table of Kansas City

P.O. Box 6202

Shawnee Mission, KS  
66206

An IRC 501(c)(3)

Charitable Organization

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

Join us on Facebook!

## 511th Regular Meeting

**Tuesday, December 18, 2018**

**Sunset Ballroom, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor, Holiday Inn & Suites**

8787 Reeder Rd., Overland Park, KS 66214

Social Hour - Cash Bar - 5:30p.m.

Dinner - 6:30p.m.



## December Speaker

**Mr. Jim Beckner**, a well-known local historian and re-enactor, will be giving a Christmas program titled: "Civil War Santas."

Jim served as president of the Civil War Round Table of Kansas City in 2000 and is a member of the Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri. Jim also taught American History at Grandview High School.

This should be an interesting program, so bring your spouse, bring a relative, or bring a friend and enjoy the evening.

### Attendance requires a paid dinner reservation.

Please be sure that **Dennis Garstang** receives all reservations by **12:00 noon on Thursday, December 13, 2018** along with payment of **\$28.00 per person**. Mail to:

**Dennis Garstang, 6005 NW 103 Street, Kansas City, MO 64154**

Report any necessary adjustments by calling Dennis at 816-569-1180 (home) or 573-465-2020 (cell) or by e-mailing him at: [mailto:dgarstang@kc.rr.com](mailto:mailto:dgarstang@kc.rr.com) by 12:00 noon on the Thursday before the dinner meeting.

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

**Reservation Deadline: 12:00 noon, Dec. 13th**

## Make Your Dinner Reservations Early

Please note that dinner reservations are due to **Dennis Garstang by 12:00 noon on Thursday, December 13th.** Dennis says: "You snooze, you lose!" 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 Dennis as soon as possible, so that someone else can take your place.

## Dinner Menu

**Chicken Alfredo** – Grilled chicken breast served atop penne pasta with a rich alfredo sauce 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



**December Speaker - Mr. Jim Beckner**

**Jim Beckner** is a well-known local historian and re-enactor. Jim is a retired school teacher and coach. He taught American History, economics, psychology, and drivers education at Grandview High School for over 30 years. Jim also coached football, basketball, and golf.

Jim served as president of the Civil War Round Table of Kansas City in 2000 and is currently a member of the Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri. He has been a Civil War re-enactor for over 30 years. Jim is a member of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

Some of the many organizations that Jim has spoken to include the following:

- 2010 - The Civil War Round Table of Kansas City. Jim gave a presentation titled: "The Old Confederate Homes."
- 2012 - UMKC teacher workshop titled: "Crossroads of Conflict: Contested Visions of Freedom and the Missouri-Kansas Border Wars."
- 2012 - Cass County Public Library program titled: "Santa Through the Ages." Jim spoke about the Christmas traditions of the 1850's and 1860's including trees, cards, gifts, food, and Santa Claus of 150 years ago.
- 2013 - Independence MO Civil War Study Group. Jim spoke about Missouri secession flags.
- 2015 - Annual ceremony at the Confederate Memorial State Historic Site, where an old soldiers home once operated.
- 2015 - Trailside Center, Kansas City MO. Jim portrayed Jim Bridger, famous American mountain man, trapper, Army scout, and wilderness guide.
- 2016 - Lone Jack MO Civil War Battlefield. Jim gave the commemoration speech.

Jim and his wife Judi have been married for 54 years and live in Raymore MO.

## Please Bring Your Civil War Books to the December Dinner Meeting

December is one of the two months each year when we encourage our members to donate some Civil War books for the silent auction. This is a good way to pass along some of your Civil War books to others and it is a good way to pick up some Civil War books that you are interested in. The money raised through the silent and live auctions helps pay for our speakers' travel costs during the year. Thank you for supporting the Round Table!

## 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 Civil War books and memorabilia at the December dinner meeting:

- *Ghost Ship of the Confederacy "Alabama"* by Edward Boykin; Funk & Wagnalls Publishing Company NY, 1957. In excellent condition, with dust jacket.
- *Action Before Westport* by Howard Monnett; Westport Historical Society, Kansas City, 1964. In mint condition, with dust jacket.
- *Harpers Pictorial History of the Civil War*. Original bound editions 1866-1894, Starr Publishing Company, Chicago IL 1894. In excellent condition.
- *Gone with the Wind Booklet*, Bauer Publishing Company, Special Collector's Edition, June, 2018 with 200 photos and articles. In excellent condition.
- *War Songs & Poems of the Southern Confederacy* by H. M. Wharton 1904; Castle Books. Reprint 2000. In excellent condition.
- *Official Records of the War of the Rebellion, Series I, Volume 21, Serial No. 31*, Battle of Fredericksburg; National Historical Society, Harrisburg PA, 1971. In mint condition.
- *Official Records of the War of the Rebellion, Series I, Vol. 22, Serial No. 32*, Reports on Quantrill's Raid, Baxter Springs KS, Prairie Grove AR and MO. National Historical Society, Harrisburg PA, 1971. In mint condition.
- Framed Minnie Bullet Collection: Two (2) Frames each containing five (5) 58 caliber bullets. In excellent condition. Bullets were found at a Union campsite near Barnesville, Bourbon County KS. So much for each collection, take one or both frames.
- Replica 1864 Poker Deck Playing Cards, 1997 U.S. Games Systems Inc. Boxed and in mint condition.

In addition to the above books, Lane Smith has generously offered to donate his complete set of *Time Life: The Civil War* (28 volumes including index) for the book auction. These hardback books were published in 1983-1987 and are in excellent condition.

## Last Month's Program

At our dinner meeting held on November 27th, **Dr. Thomas A. Bogar** gave an excellent presentation about his book titled: *Backstage at the Lincoln Assassination, the Untold Story of the Actors and Stagehands at Ford's Theatre*. Dr. Bogar said it a story that no one knows about, about an event that everyone knows about.

Dr. Bogar told us about the largely anonymous actors, managers, and stagehands at Ford's Theatre on the night of April 14, 1865 and what befell them afterwards. Most of the 46 individuals were completely innocent, but were caught up in a terrifying round of arrests, interrogations, and life-threatening consequences.

Some of the people that Dr. Bogar introduced us to were John T. Ford, who owned Ford's Theatre, and his brothers Harry and James; the famous actress Laura Kenne; actor Harry Hawk; actor John Mathews; actress Helen Muzzy; stagehand Ned Spangler, who was sent to prison at Fort Jefferson in the Dry Tortugas; and the slow-witted "Peanut John", who held the reins for John Wilkes Booth's getaway horse.



November Speaker, Dr. Thomas A. Bogar



## Upcoming Speaker Schedule for 2019

- **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.
- **November 26, 2019:** **Connie Langum** will speak about the Battles of Newtonia.

## Executive Committee Decisions

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. Membership renewals are due by December 31, 2018. You can either mail or give your check to **Susan Keipp** or **Dennis Garstang** at an upcoming dinner meeting.

## Remembering Purd B. Wright III

Long-time Civil War Round Table member **Purd B. Wright III** passed away at the age of 88 on Thanksgiving, November 22, 2018. Purd was born in Kansas City MO in 1930 and attended an all boys boarding school in Kent CT. He earned varsity letters in football and rowing. He attended Princeton University, but left to join the Air Force in 1951.

Purd was assigned to the Strategic Air Command Survival School at Fort Carson CO and was trained as a combat intelligence instructor. Purd was sent to Morocco, where he served at Sidi Slimane Air Force Base and the Headquarters of the 5th Air Division. He was Honorably Discharged from the service at Camp Kilmer NJ in 1954. Purd went back to Princeton and graduated with Honors in History in 1956.

Purd was employed as a traveling salesman and sales manager for 41 years with International Paper Company, FMC Corporation, and GardenWay, Inc. He was a member of the Saddle and Sirlain Club of Kansas City and was a dedicated trail rider.

Purd and his wife Peggy have been regular attendees at our Civil War Round Table dinner meetings. Purd loved history. He will be greatly missed by all of those who knew and loved him.



**Purd B. Wright III** (photo taken on Oct. 24, 2015)

## Member News

Our treasurer, **Susan Keipp**, is having left knee replacement surgery on December 10th. Susan said she has had 27 surgeries and is worried that her luck is running out! Susan said she has had many people wish her well for her upcoming surgery and she wants to say: "Thank you and Merry Christmas!" We pray that her surgery is successful, her pain level is tolerable, and her rehab goes well.

Long-time Civil War Round Table member **Ed Shutt** is in poor health, due to a heart condition, and has moved out of state to be with family. Ed is also a member of the Wyandotte County Historic Society, but has not been able to attend any of their meetings for two years.

The December dinner meeting will be **Chip Buckner's** last meeting as president of the Round Table. We would like to thank Chip for his service to the Round Table. Chip has really enjoyed telling puns at our dinner meetings.



**Chip and Deb Buckner (photo taken Dec. 19, 2017)**

**Dan Dooley** will be taking over as president of the Round Table in January of 2019. **Reverend David Holloway** has volunteered to serve as first vice-president. If anyone is interested in being on the Executive Committee of the Round Table, please let Chip Buckner or Dan Dooley know.

**Mike Epstein** is offering to sell his Civil War decanter of Confederate General Robert E. Lee (see photo at right) for \$100. If interested, please contact Mike at 913-831-6225 or <mailto:cwrtkc@att.net>. Mike provided the following description:

"The Confederates" Robert E. Lee Whiskey Collectors Porcelain Decanter: This is one of four collectors bottles in "The Confederates" collection. Manufactured in 1967 by the McCormick Distilling Company. The bottle is of Confederate General Robert

E. Lee and is still in its original packaging. It is beautifully hand-painted. It is just a bottle. There is no liquid inside of it. Due to dry rot of the cork, the cork has been removed and the head has been attached to the body with hot glue to prevent damage to the head piece. The head piece can easily be removed and a new cork installed, if so desired. The box is in good condition and has no rips or tears. The bottle is also in good condition. The bottle measures 12 inches tall. The box measures 6.5" wide, 5.5" deep, and 13.75" tall. Thanks for Looking!



**General Robert E. Lee Decanter**



## The Sergeant Major's Roar

### Battlefield Dispatches #470

#### General Lee & Santa Claus

In 1867, the Civil War had been over for two years and the southern states were in the process of recovering and rebuilding from the devastation it had created. Much was beginning to be written about the war in both the north and south and a small book titled: *General Lee and Santa Claus* was published before Christmas in 1867. It was an attempt, and no doubt succeeded, in restoring the southern children's belief in Santa Claus, because he had not delivered any gifts to them during the four years of the war. Mrs. Louise Clack was the author of this book and in the following letter to General Lee, three little girls asked him to answer the following question:

"Please tell us whether Santa Claus loves the little rebel children, for we think he doesn't because he did not come to see us for four Christmas Eves."

"Dear General Lee,

We think you are the goodest man that ever lived and our Auntie says you will go right straight to heaven when you die; so we want to ask you a question, for we know the truth about it and we know that you always speak the truth.

Please tell us whether Santa Claus loves little Rebel children, for we think he don't because he did not come to see us for four Christmas Eves. Auntie thinks you would not let him cross the lines and we don't know how to find out unless we write and ask you. We all love you dearly and want to send something, but we have not anything nice enough. We lost all our toys in the war. Birdie wants to send you one of our little white kittens – the one with black ears – but Auntie thinks maybe you don't like kittens.

We say little prayers for you every night, dear General Lee and ask God to make you ever so happy.

Please let us know about Santa Claus as soon as you can. We want to know for something very, very, very particular, but we can't tell even you why until Christmas time, so please excuse us.

Your Little Friends,

Lutie, Birdie, and Minnie"

This letter was sent the following day and in about a week this answer was received:

"My Dear Little Friends,

I was very glad to receive your kind letter and to know by it that I have the good wishes and prayers of three innocent little girls named Lutie, Birdie and Minnie.

I am very glad that you wrote about Santa Claus, for I am able to tell you all about him. I can assure you he is one of the best friends that the little Southern Girls have. You will understand this when I explain to you the reason for his not coming to see you for four years.

The first Christmas Eve of the war I was walking up and down in the camp ground when I thought I heard a singular noise above my head and on looking to find out from whence it came, I saw the queerest, funniest looking little old fellow riding along in a sleigh through the air. On closer inspection, he proved to be Santa Claus.

"Halt, Halt!" I said, but at this the funny fellow laughed and did not seem inclined to obey, so again I cried "Halt!" And he drove down to my side with a sleigh full of toys.

I was very sorry for him when I saw the disappointed expression of his face when I told him he could go no further South and when he exclaimed, "Oh what will my little Southern children do?" I felt sorry for I love little children to be happy and especially at Christmas. But one thing I was certain, I knew my little friends would prefer me to do my duty rather than have all the toys in the world. So I said, "Santa Claus, take every one of the toys you have back as far as Baltimore, sell them and with the money you get buy medicines, bandages, ointment and delicacies for our sick and wounded men. Do it quickly and it will be all right with the children." Then Santa Claus sprang into his sleigh and putting his hand to his hat in true military style said, "I obey orders, General" and away he went.

Long before morning he came sweeping down into camp again with not only everything I had ordered, but with many other things that our poor soldiers needed. And every Christmas he took the toy money and did the same thing and the soldiers and I blessed him for he clothed and fed many a poor soul who otherwise would have been cold and hungry.

Now, do you not consider him a good friend, I hold him in high respect and trust that you will always do the same.

I should be pleased to hear from you again my dear little girls and I want you ever to consider me,

Your True Friend,

General Lee"

\*\*\*\*\*

Now then, General Lee's answer to "Lutie, Birdie, and Minnie" would have been a typical expression of his love for the children of the south and his veterans. Mrs. Clack's little book for her "Little Southern Friends" was one many publications that helped the folks of the south adjust to their new life and world that evolved after the Civil War. In a way, her book was a premonition of the famous letter that was written in 1897 by the editor of the New York Sun newspaper, who responded to a little girl's request and said: "Yes Virginia, there is a Santa Claus." Therefore, Thank You Mrs. Clack for another wonderful Christmas Story and wishing everyone a very MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY HOLIDAYS.

## Holiday Tours

### Bingham-Waggoner Holiday Tours

Open until Dec. 30, 2018. Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sunday 1-4 p.m. Located at 313 W. Pacific Avenue, Independence MO. "Tis the Reason for the Season." Closed Dec. 23-25, 2018. Admission: \$6 for adults, \$3 for children ages 6 to 16. The beautifully decorated Carriage House is also available for group rentals for 10 to 50 guests. Call (816) 461-3491. If you would like to volunteer your musical talent to play the Steinway piano or your own instrument for tours, please call (816) 461-3491.

### Candlelight Tour of Fort Scott, KS

Friday and Saturday, December 7-8, 2018 from 6:30-9:30 p.m. on Friday and 5-9:30 p.m. on Saturday. Fort Scott National Historic Site, 1 Old Fort Boulevard, Fort Scott KS. Witness magical scenes from the past and the ambience of 700 candle lanterns. Admission is \$8 for ages 6 and above.

## Photos from December 2017 Dinner Meeting



**Mary Vorsten and Reverend David Holloway**



**Randy and Nancy Durbin**



**Gary and Bonnie Christy**



**Dave and Marilyn Pattison**





**Jerry and Judy Smith**



**Don Bates and Ray Borden**

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

