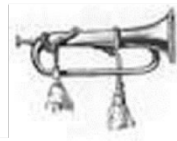




BORDER



BUGLE

Newsletter of the Civil War Round Table of Kansas City

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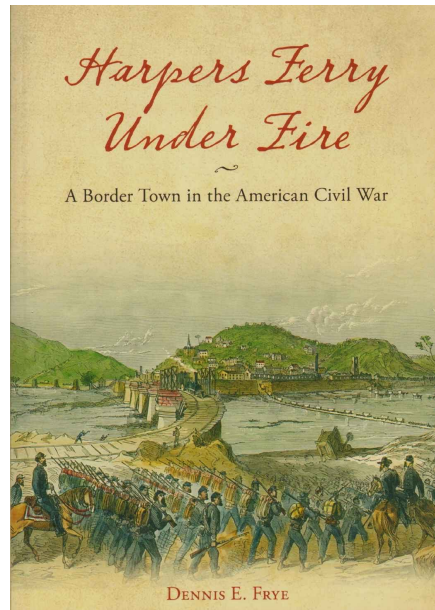
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Civil War Round Table of
Kansas City
P.O. Box 6202
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An IRC 501(c)(3)
Charitable Organization
Website- <http://cwrtkc.org/>
Join us on Facebook!

**Due to the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic,
the CWRT dinner meetings scheduled for
the remainder of 2020 have been cancelled.**

**Our monthly dinner meetings will
resume when it is safe to do so.**



September Speaker

Dennis E. Frye was scheduled to give a program about Harpers Ferry during the Civil War. Dennis retired from the National Park Service (NPS) at Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, where he served for more than three decades - 20 years as Chief Historian. Dennis spoke to our Round Table at the dinner meeting in September of 2018, about the Battle of Antietam. Because the dinner meeting this month had to be cancelled, Dennis has graciously agreed to speak to our Round Table in 2022.

Letter from our Round Table's President

The following letter was issued to members of our Round Table on August 10, 2020:

"To All Members of the Civil War Round Table of Kansas City:

"In consultation with the executive committee and in recognition of the ongoing struggles in our community with regard to the spread of the corona virus, the decision has been made to cancel all further monthly meetings of the Round Table for the remainder of 2020. Only a significant development, such as the introduction of a vaccine, or a remarkable reduction in new virus cases would alter this decision.

"In the past several weeks we have seen event after event cancelled in our area. Many organizations have already announced that they have decided to forgo any further events through the end of this year. From the Kansas City Symphony and KC Rep to the American Royal World Series of Barbeque to Worlds of Fun, difficult decisions have been made to stem the tide of the virus.

"We reached our decision reluctantly and with heavy hearts. But we recognize that our first obligation is to the safety of our members, many of whom are in the most vulnerable category regarding the effects of the virus. The early theory of the virus "fading" during the hot summer months was proven wrong. There has not been a reduction, but an increase in diagnosed cases in recent weeks. While hope remains for a slowing of the spread due to increased diligence regarding social distancing and the wearing of masks, there is no guarantee that a sufficient reduction will be achieved anytime soon. We simply cannot continue month to month with cancelations, and promises of "better days." Thus, it became apparent that the only prudent action was to cancel through the end of the year.

"We do have some good news. We already have a tremendous slate of speakers lined up for next year. We will still work at retaining our membership with an eye on 2021. Membership dues will still be due in November or December. In recognition of the brevity of this year's activities we are announcing a "bonus" for next year. The first dinner meeting in 2021 *that you attend* will be free of charge. If you return in January (assuming a January meeting) that dinner will be free. If you wait until March, the same free dinner will await you. Since the cost of the dinner is roughly the amount of the annual dues, we are, in essence, returning those dues to you. We hope this will encourage you to rejoin our group, and continue to attend meetings next year.

"I need not tell you how painful this letter was to write. But that pain pales in comparison to the heartache we on the executive committee would feel if we conducted a meeting and one of our members contracted the virus as a result. This was the overreaching reason for our decision.

"Until we meet again, I pray you will stay safe, stay well, act responsibly, and "keep your powder dry". Thank you all for your loyalty, your dedication, and your exhibition of keen interest in our nation's history.

"Regards,

Dan Dooley

President,
Civil War Round Table of Kansas City"

This Month's Program Cancelled



Dennis E. Frye speaking at the Civil War Round Table dinner meeting in September 2018

Dennis E. Frye retired from the National Park Service (NPS) at Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, where he served for more than three decades - 20 years as Chief Historian. **Arnold Schofield** was his first NPS supervisor. While with the NPS, Dennis earned the Department of Interior's "Distinguished Service Award," the highest honor of the department. Dennis has written two books on Harpers Ferry:

- *Harpers Ferry Under Fire - A Border Town in the American Civil War* (2012).
- *Confluence: Harpers Ferry as Destiny* (2019). Co-authored with Catharine Magi Oliver.

Dennis also received the American Battlefield Trust's highest honor, the "Shelby Foote Award," and was awarded the "Nevins-Freeman Award" by the Chicago Civil War Round Table for his years of scholarship and his national leadership role in battlefield preservation. Dennis is a founder of today's American Battlefields Trust (formerly Civil War Trust) and a co-founder of the Save Historic Antietam Foundation, and served as president of both organizations. While president of the American Battlefields Trust, Dennis earned the Kansas City CWRT's "Harry S. Truman Award" for his efforts to help preserve Bryam's Ford at the Westport Battlefield.

Dennis has authored 10 books and 101 articles, writing for every major Civil War publication; and he is a tour guide in national demand, leading programs for the Smithsonian, National Geographic, and the New York Times, as well as universities and Civil War organizations around the country. Dennis has made frequent national television appearances, including on PBS, the History Channel, Discovery Channel, Travel Channel, A&E, Fox News, CSPAN, and Voice of America.

Dennis is a native of the Antietam/Harpers Ferry area, and he and his wife Sylvia have restored and reside in the post-Antietam headquarters of General Burnside, where President Lincoln conferred with Burnside.

Book: *Harpers Ferry Under Fire - A Border Town in the American Civil War*

The following is a brief summary of Dennis Frye's book titled: *Harpers Ferry Under Fire - A Border Town in the American Civil War* (2012) from the Amazon website:

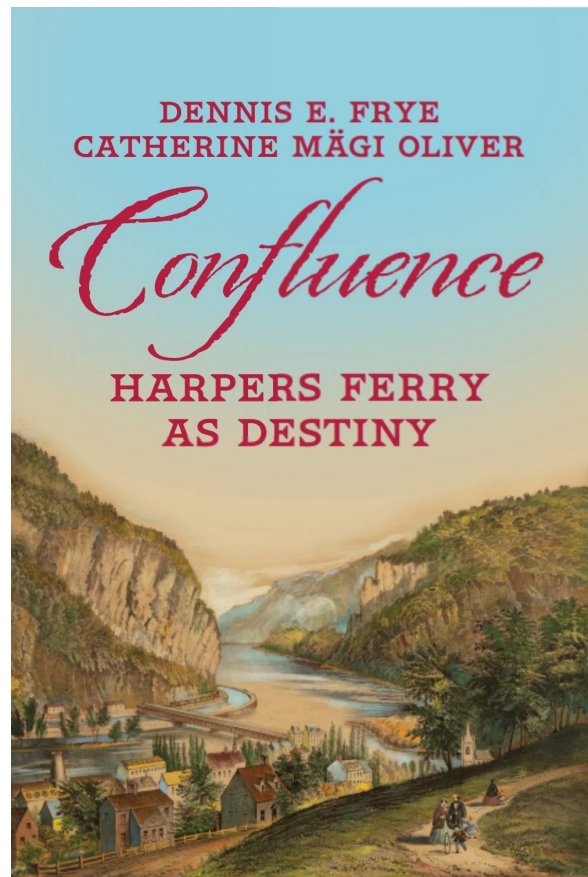
"Harpers Ferry experienced the Civil War like no other place and was a case study of repeated invasions, military operations, martial law, and endless danger. Journey into the Civil War with stories from those who lived, worked, fought, and died in a border town. This narrative is complemented by full color and black-and-white illustrations, photographs, and maps.

Book: *Confluence: Harpers Ferry as Destiny*

The following is a brief summary of Dennis Frye's book titled: *Confluence: Harpers Ferry as Destiny* (2019) from the Amazon website:

"One place. Countless stories. Harpers Ferry has long been a gathering point of the American story. From explorers and innovators to warriors and reformers, passionate souls with wildly diverse causes have flowed again and again into this tiny village, shaping the town - and, in many cases, the country. Focusing on personal, human experiences recorded in journals, letters, and

other documents, *Confluence: Harpers Ferry as Destiny* offers a view of Harpers Ferry history that is both sweeping and intimate. Come discover the national dramas that have converged at Harpers Ferry: Slavery and the quest for freedom; War, expansion, and revolution; Natural disaster upon natural disaster, and the enduring human spirit that has refused to relinquish hope. Published in honor of Harpers Ferry National Historical Park's 75th anniversary, *Confluence* also includes a perspective on the rebirth of this war- and flood-ravaged town as a national park. Under the stewardship of NPS, Harpers Ferry has continued to evolve, continued to reveal new stories."



Upcoming Speaker Schedule for 2020-2021

- **October 27, 2020: Judy Cook** was scheduled to give a program dressed in period attire titled: "Life on the Home Front." This program has been cancelled.
- **November 17, 2020: Wayne Motts**, CEO of the National Civil War Museum in Harrisburg PA was scheduled to be our speaker. This program has been cancelled.
- **December 15, 2020: Round Table member Deb Buckner** was scheduled to give a program about Libby Custer, wife of George Armstrong Custer. This program has also been cancelled.

- **January 26, 2021: Dr. Harry Laver** with the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth is scheduled to be our speaker. He will give a program about the relationship between General Ulysses S. Grant and General Robert E. Lee.
- **February 23, 2021: James S. Martin**, Dean of Academics at the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth is scheduled to be our speaker. He will give a program titled: "Black Military Heroes of the Civil War."
- **March 23, 2021: Dr. Jeff Gentsch**, Professor of Military History at the University of West Alabama is scheduled to give a program titled: "The Battle of Shiloh and the Evolution of Artillery, 1861-1870."
- **April 27, 2021: Dr. Chris Phillips** is scheduled to give a program about Missouri in the Civil War.
- **May 25, 2021: Jeffry D. Wert** from Centerville PA is scheduled to speak about his new book titled: *Civil War Barons*.
- **June 22, 2021: Teresa Roane**, archivist for the United Daughters of the Confederacy in Richmond VA, will be out speaker. She will address the role of minorities in the logistical operations of the Confederate Army.
- **July 27, 2021: Ron Coddington**, publisher of *Military Images*, a full color magazine published quarterly, will be our speaker. He will present photographic images of the Civil War.
- **August 24, 2021: Dr. Ginette Aley**, Professor of History at Kansas State University, will give a program about the Civil War on the home front. She has co-edited a book titled: *Union Heartland: The Midwestern Home Front during the Civil War*.
- **September 28, 2021: Dr. Joseph M. Beilein Jr.**, assistant professor of history at Penn State University, Erie PA will be our speaker. He will be speaking about bushwhackers in Missouri. Dr. Beilein is the author of the book titled: *Bushwhackers: Guerrilla Warfare, Manhood, and the Household in Civil War Missouri*.
- **October 26, 2021: Dr. Paul Kahan** will give a program about his book titled: *The Presidency of Ulysses S. Grant*.
- **November 16, 2021:** Speaker to be determined.
- **December 21, 2021: Arnold Schofield** will be discussing the book written by Robert E. May titled: *Yuletide in Dixie: Slavery, Christmas, and Southern Memory*.

Member News

Suzee Oberg sent the following e-mail on August 25th:

Dear Friends and Cousins:

Yesterday was my appointment at my surgeon's office and I don't have to go back until November 23rd. He is satisfied that all is well in my legs....

All in all I am getting everything under control health wise and the surgeries seem to have done the trick. And my house is getting a face-lift, so maybe now I can start back on the genealogy that I have been missing.

Love to all

Thank you for the update Suzee. We are so glad that you are doing better.

We would like to welcome new member **Craig Rastorfer**, who lives in Kansas City MO. Craig is a commercial real estate appraiser for UMB Bank. He is primarily interested in the Battle of Westport and local Civil War history, but is interested in regional and national Civil War history as well.

We would like to thank the following members who have volunteered to help to our treasurer **Susan Keipp**: **Marlene Natoli**, **Sam Rabicoff**, and **Harry Wigner**. **Gary Nevius** will be working with Susan and the volunteers to determine the job descriptions for each volunteer. Susan still plans to handle all of the bookkeeping responsibilities and corporate paperwork.

Civil War Trivia Questions

The following trivia questions are based on the book titled: *2,000 Questions and Answers About the Civil War* and the chapter titled: "Transportation and Communication." The answers to the trivia questions are shown on page 6.

1. In what vehicle did Lt. Col. Robert E. Lee travel in 1861 from Fort Mason, Texas, to Washington?
2. On what transportation system was Sherman dependent during the Atlanta campaign?
3. What important military message was found by the enemy, after being used as a wrapper for cigars?
4. What railroad crossed the Susquehanna River at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania?
5. Whom did Robert E. Lee call the "eyes of the army", who "never brought me a piece of false information"?

6. What noted Confederate leader refused to write a letter that would be in transit on Sunday?
7. When he was ordered to Washington from western Virginia by President Lincoln on July 22, 1861, how long did it take General McClellan to travel the distance?
8. What as the most active and successful Southern port for blockade running?
9. Though not a word might be said, what message was communicated when cooked rations for three days were issued?
10. What Confederate general had on his staff a wire-tap expert who sometimes penetrated the Federal telegraph network?
11. What vital supply line crossed the river at Harpers Ferry, Virginia (now West Virginia)?
12. In battle, while the cavalry and artillery relied on buglers for directive signals, whom did the infantry rely on for directions of maneuvers?
13. What Federal office was described as "haunted by Lincoln day and night - often very late"?
14. When ordered from Richmond to Chattanooga late in 1862, how long was Joseph E. Johnston's journey to his new post?
15. What epochal document signed by Lincoln was destroyed by fire at the State Department?

Sergeant Major's Roar

Battlefield Dispatches #626

A Grand Gallop

The following is Part II of Private Eugene Ware's description of the Battle of Wilson's Creek, which occurred west of Springfield MO on August 10, 1861. It has been edited from Ware's personal memoir of his participation in the Civil War, which was published in 1907.

"At one time we were charged by a large detachment of Louisiana troops. They made the most stubborn fight of the day. They had nice new rifled muskets from the armory at Baton Rouge, which armory had by secession leaders been judiciously filled, before the war from Northern arsenals. We were borne back by the charge of the Louisiana regiment, slowly in the course of firing, as much as fifty feet. Squads of Rebel cavalry had been seen in our right rear and while the enemy was safe in running, we were not. No man deserted the ranks.

"We succeeded in repulsing the Louisiana troops, although we were not numerically superior. Our former victory had given us great confidence and no man broke

ranks or ran. As the Louisiana troops yielded back, we followed them some little distance down the slope and when they were gone, we put in about fifteen to twenty minutes gathering fine shotguns and fine rifled muskets and looking over the poor fellows that were killed or wounded on the hill in front of us.

"I was afraid that I would run out of ammunition and helped myself to the cartridges in the box of a dead soldier who was labeled as a "Pelican Ranger". He had the same kind of gun that I had and used the same kind of ammunition. I now have two bullets left that I took from the cartridge box, my only mementoes of the battle. The Louisiana boys showed lots of "grit".

"After a few minutes, another attack was made, but it was weak and feeble. It must have been made by a sort of "Butternut Militia" gang. One of them behind a tree perhaps 50 yards in front of us, after his associates had retired rose up and deliberately fired a double-barrel shotgun, both barrels, at us. He injured no one that we knew of, but someone dropped him suddenly and Seeger of our Company ran forward and got his shotgun, kept it and took it back to Iowa, a splendid stub and twist gun. I saw it all done, in fact I fired at the man behind the tree while he was reloading his shotgun, but don't think I hit him.

"About this time, we heard yelling in the rear and we saw a crowd of cavalry coming on a "GRAND GALLOP", very disorderly, with the apex pointing steadily at our pieces of artillery. We were ordered to face about and step forward to meet them. We advanced down the hill toward them about forty yards to where our view was better and rallied in round squads of fifteen or twenty men, as we had been drilled to do, to repel a cavalry charge. We kept firing and awaited their approach with fixed bayonets. [Note: This is an excellent example of using the tactic of forming a "HOLLOW SQUARE OR CIRCLE" to defend against a cavalry attack.]

"Our firing was very deadly and the killing of horses and riders in the front rank piled the horses and men together, as they tumbled over one another, from the advancing rear. The charge, so far as it's force was concerned, was checked before it got within fifty yards of us. There were 800 of them. This cavalry charge was led by a man named Laswell, formerly from our State, Ottumwa, Iowa, who had gone to Texas and we got him.

"Some few spasmodic efforts were made to dislodge us, all of which we repulsed. Finally the hostile artillery in front ceased firing and there came such a lull; finally the last charge of the day was made, which we easily repulsed and the field was ours.

"The last charge was not very much of a charge. It was a mixed heterogeneous charge. I remember one very funny thing that happened in it. A "Union" Lieutenant came along inquiring for his regiment

because he was lost. Of course we did not know where his regiment was. I was near the end of our Company line when he pulled out a long plug of chewing tobacco, thin and black. I grabbed it and bit off a chew; the man next to me wanted a chew, so I handed it to him. Then it went to the next and so on down the line. The lieutenant followed it for a while and then he gave up and passed on, leaving the remnant of the plug with our Company! Every man that took a chew first blew out a big wad of cartridge paper blackened with gunpowder which he had bitten off in loading [his musket].

"Word had been passed along the line that [Union General] Lyon was killed. A big "Regular Army Cavalry Soldier" on a magnificent horse rode down alongside the rear of our Company and along the line. He appeared to have been sent for the purpose of bracing us up. He shouted and swore in a manner that was attractive, even on the battlefield, and wound up with a great big oath and the expression: "LIFE AIN'T LONG ENOUGH FOR THEM TO LICK US IN". After this last repulse, the field was ours and we sat down on the ground and began to tell funny incidents that had happened. We looked after the boys who were hurt, sent details off to fill the canteens, and we ate our dinners, saving what we did not want of our big crusts and hanging them over our shoulders again on our gun slings.

"Our drill had given us more than one advantage. In the first place: Not much of us could be seen by an advancing regiment while we lay on the ground. We were sort of an unknown quantity and could only be guessed at. Second: We could take a rest and deadly aim and pour in a terrific volley while lying on the ground. This would shock the advancing line if it indeed did not bring it to a dead halt. It embarrassed their alignment and reduced their momentum. Third: When they began to fire, we rose on one knee and the air was soon full of smoke. They always shot over our heads, as we could see them under the cloud of smoke. The smoke was inclined to rise, but if they were advancing, they were on foot and could not see under the smoke. If they advanced, they were soon enveloped in their own smoke, their officers could not see their own men and the men became bewildered at their situation and by their losses in killed and wounded. On the other hand, the air was clear behind us and our officers could manage their men and we were not staggered by losses. Fourth: Our men could not break to the rear and run, because they could be seen. While the ranks of the enemy could dissolve and the skulkers could get to the rear in the smoke, practically unseen. Hence, by reason of our drill and situation, we could not be dislodged by anything, but a very strong force. And we were comparatively safe in comparison with an attacking column. Above all other factors of safety was our drill."

Now then, one might think that by Private Ware's description, the Battle of Wilson's Creek was a "Union" victory. Yes, the First Iowa defended its position very well, according to Ware. But eventually, the Union forces retreated to Springfield MO and the battle was a Confederate victory and, of course, the War Went on!

Answers to Civil War Trivia Questions

1. An Army ambulance.
2. The single-track Western and Atlantic Railroad.
3. Lee's General Order No. 191, the famous Lost Order?
4. The Pennsylvania Railroad.
5. Cavalry general J. E. B. Stuart.
6. Stonewall Jackson.
7. Four days, on horseback and by rail.
8. Wilmington, North Carolina.
9. "Prepare to attack."
10. Cavalryman-raider John Hunt Morgan.
11. The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad.
12. Drummers.
13. The telegraph office of the War Department.
14. Five days, by train.
15. The Emancipation Proclamation.

Harpers Ferry - Jefferson Rock

One of the most scenic spots in Harpers Ferry is Jefferson Rock. The following is from the Harpers Ferry National Historical Park website:

Visiting Jefferson Rock

Jefferson Rock is a popular destination in Harpers Ferry. It is situated along the Appalachian Trail between the Lower Town and Camp Hill areas of the park. The location offers gorgeous views of the surrounding mountains, the confluence of the Potomac and Shenandoah rivers, and the water gap.

To access Jefferson Rock from Lower Town, first go to the stone steps located between the African American History Museum and the Civil War Museum on High Street. Climb the steps and proceed past St. Peter's Catholic Church to the next set of steps. Continue to follow the path past the ruins of St. John Episcopal Church until you reach Jefferson Rock. Please note, due to the nature of its location, Jefferson Rock is not accessible to those with physical limitations."

History of Jefferson Rock

Several large masses of Harpers shale, piled one upon the other, comprise Jefferson Rock. The name of this landmark derives from Thomas Jefferson, who stood

here on October 25, 1783. His description of the view first appeared in the Notes on the State of Virginia, published in 1785:

"The passage of the Patowmac through the Blue Ridge is perhaps one of the most stupendous scenes in Nature. You stand on a very high point of land. On your right comes up the Shenandoah, having ranged along the foot of the mountain a hundred miles to seek a vent. On your left approaches the Patowmac in quest of a passage also. In the moment of their junction they rush together against the mountain, rend it asunder and pass off to the sea. The first glance of this scene hurries our senses into the opinion that this earth has been created in time, that the mountains were formed first, that the rivers began to flow afterwards, that in this place particularly they have been so dammed up by the Blue Ridge of mountains as to have formed an ocean which filled the whole valley; that, continuing to rise, they have at last broken over at this spot and have torn the mountain down from its summit to its base. The piles of rock on each hand, but particularly on the Shenandoah, the evident marks of their disruptions and avulsions from their beds by the most powerful agents in nature, corroborate the impression.

"But the distant finishing which nature has given the picture is of a very different character. It is a true contrast to the former. It is as placid and delightful as that is wild and tremendous. For the mountains being cloven asunder, she presents to your eye, through the cleft, a small catch of smooth blue horizon, at an infinite distance in that plain country, inviting you, as it were, from the riot and tumult roaring around to pass through the breach and participate in the calm below. Here the eye ultimately composes itself; and that way, too, the road happens actually to lead. You cross the Patowmac above the junction, pass along its side through the base of the mountain for three miles, the terrible precipice hanging in fragments over you, and within about 20 miles reach Frederictown and the fine country around that. This scene is worth a voyage across the Atlantic."

In July, our daughter visited Harpers Ferry while hiking part of the Appalachian Trail. She said many places were closed due to the pandemic. Before visiting Harpers Ferry, you should check their website to find out what facilities are open and what facilities are closed.



Sunrise View from Jefferson Rock, Harpers Ferry. (Photo courtesy of Harpers Ferry National Historical Park)

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