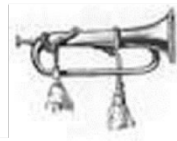




# BORDER



# BUGLE

Newsletter of the Civil War Round Table of Kansas City



***HAPPY HANUKKAH AND MERRY CHRISTMAS!***

**Due to the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic, the CWRT dinner meeting that was scheduled for December 15, 2020 has been cancelled.**

**We are planning to have an in-person meeting on Tuesday evening, January 26, 2021, with no meal, seated lecture-style, and with appropriate social distancing. Attendees will be required to wear masks. We will also hold our meetings at a new location in 2021: Milburn Country Club, located at 7501 West 69th Street, Overland Park KS.**

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Father Dave Holloway

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**Civil War Round Table of  
Kansas City  
436 West 88th Terrace  
Kansas City MO 64114**

**An IRC 501(c)(3)  
Charitable Organization  
Website- <http://cwrtkc.org/>  
Join us on Facebook!**

## December Program



**Elizabeth Bacon Custer**  
(Photo courtesy of Wikipedia)

Round Table member **Deborah Ground Buckner** was scheduled to be our speaker this month. Unfortunately, this program has been cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Deb was planning to give a first person presentation as Elizabeth "Libbie" Bacon Custer, wife of Brevet Major General George Armstrong Custer. Deb gave a first person presentation as Libbie Custer at our Round Table dinner meeting on December 20, 2011. The title of her program that night was "A Civil War Christmas."

## This Month's Program Cancelled



**Civil War Round Table members Chip and Deborah Buckner (photo taken December 19, 2017).**

**Deborah Ground Buckner** is an attorney and a long-time member of the Civil War Round Table of Kansas City. She has been presenting "living history" as Elizabeth Bacon Custer since 2004, something she determined to do at age 15 after reading three of Mrs. Custer's books:

- *Boots and Saddles: or, Life in Dakota with General Custer* (1884).
- *Tenting on the Plains: or, General Custer in Kansas and Texas* (1887).
- *Following the Guidon* (1890).

Fortunately, Deb's fascination with a Union Army General is accepted with understanding by her husband, Chip, who is the great-grandson of Confederate General Simon Bolivar Buckner.

Deb and Chip were married in the Graham-Tyler Memorial Chapel at Park College, in Parkville MO on June 3, 1989. Deb has a Bachelor's degree in political science from Park College, a Master's in public administration from State University of New York in Albany NY, and a juris doctorate from the University of Missouri - Kansas City. Deb and Chip's daughter, Jordan, is also a member of our Round Table.

## Elizabeth "Libbie" Bacon Custer

The following text is from Wikipedia:

**Elizabeth Bacon Custer** (April 8, 1842 - April 4, 1933) was an American author and public speaker, and the wife of Brevet Major General George Armstrong Custer, United States Army. She spent most of their marriage in relatively close proximity to him despite his numerous military campaigns in the American Civil War and subsequent postings on the Great Plains as a commanding officer in the United States Cavalry.

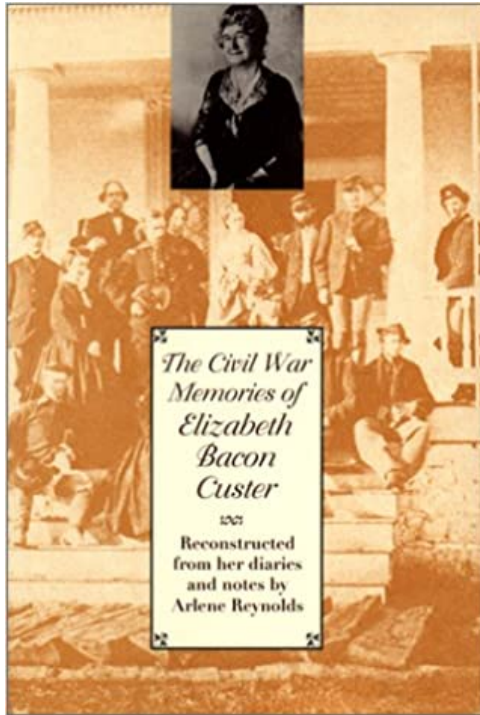
Left nearly destitute in the aftermath of her husband's death, she became an outspoken advocate for his legacy through her popular books and lectures. Largely as a result of her decades of campaigning on his behalf, General Custer's iconic image as the gallant fallen hero amid the glory of Custer's Last Stand was a canon of American history for almost a century after his death.

Elizabeth Custer never remarried and died in 1933, four days short of her 91st birthday. She has been portrayed by a number of actresses, starting in the 1940s in films and later on television.



**1864 photo of George Armstrong Custer, in uniform, seated with his wife, Elizabeth "Libbie" Bacon Custer, and his brother Thomas Ward Custer standing (photo courtesy of the Library of Congress).**

**Book: *The Civil War Memories of Elizabeth Bacon Custer: Reconstructed from her diaries and notes by Arlene Reynolds***



A book about the Civil War memories of Elizabeth Bacon Custer was published in 1994. The book was compiled and edited by Arlene Reynolds. The following is a summary of the book from the Amazon website:

"In her first year of marriage (1864-1865) to General George Armstrong Custer, Libbie Custer witnessed the Civil War firsthand. Her experiences of danger, hardship, and excitement made ideal material for a book, one that she worked on for years in later life but ultimately never published.

"In this volume, Arlene Reynolds has produced a readable narrative of Libbie Custer's life during the war years by chronologically reconstructing Libbie's original, unpublished notes and diaries found in the archives of the Little Big Horn Battlefield National Monument. In these reminiscences, Libbie Custer adds striking, eloquent details to the Civil War story as she describes her life both in camp and in Washington. Her stories of incidents such as fording a swollen river sidesaddle on horseback, dancing at the Inaugural Ball near President Lincoln, and watching the massive review of the Army of the Potomac after the surrender have the engrossing quality of a well-written novel.

"For general readers and students of women's history, this book tells a fascinating story of a sheltered girl's maturation into a courageous woman in the crucible of war. And for both devotees and detractors of her husband, it offers an intimate glimpse into his youth, West Point years, and early military service."

**Upcoming Speaker Schedule for 2021**

- **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 our 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 14, 2021:** Arnold Schofield will be giving a program titled: "Blue and Gray Yuletide - Home and Away."

### Please Renew Your Membership for 2021

Now is the time to renew your membership in the Civil War Round Table for next year. The membership dues are the same as this year: \$35 per individual or \$55 per couple. Membership dues help pay for the travel costs for our speakers who live out of town and pay for our administrative expenses. We have a great list of speakers lined up for 2021. Please mail your membership dues to **Susan Keipp**, 436 West 88th Terrace, Kansas City MO 64114 by December 31, 2020.

We currently have 109 members in our Round Table. Susan reports that 40 members have renewed their memberships as of December 14th. Thank you for supporting our Round Table!

### Election of Officers and Revisions to the Civil War Round Table By-Laws

Thank you to all of our members who voted to approve the proposed Round Table officers for 2021 and the proposed revisions to the Civil War Round Table By-Laws dated October 3, 2020. Our secretary, **Judy Smith**, reported that both of these proposals were approved unanimously. The officers for next year are as follows:

- President: Dan Dooley
- 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President: Father Dave Holloway
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President: Gary Nevius
- Treasurer: Susan Keipp
- Assistant Treasurer: Marlene Natoli
- Secretary: Judy Smith
- Director of Preservation: Arnold Schofield

### Remembering John M. Jenks

Former Round Table member **John M. Jenks** passed away on October 28, 2020 at the age of 89. He was a member of our Round Table from 2001 to 2015. John graduated from the University of Michigan with a bachelor's degree in Business Administration. He worked 30 years for the Phillipsburg Division of Bell & Howell in Chicago IL. John moved to Leawood in 1990 to live near his grandchildren. His memorial service took place at Church of the Ascension in Overland Park KS on November 13th.

### Member News

**Terry Moore's** brother passed away on September 17th. Terry had been taking care of his brother, James Wayne Moore, for the last couple years - he was taking immunotherapy. The Civil War Round Table made a contribution to the American Cancer Society in memory of Terry's brother.

**Don Bates** was injured in an automobile accident in November. Don sent the following e-mail on November 27th:

*"I had the misfortune of being broadsided by a person blowing through a stop sign on November 17, the day before my 84th B-Day. She fortunately hit the driver's side "front" fender, knocking me forward into a light post at 91st & Glenwood [in Overland Park]. I was taken by ambulance to St. Luke's South for head, neck, and chest x-rays. Nothing broken but needless to say [I am] very sore and stiff. She was cited for failure to yield for running through the stop sign going north. I was on 91st and my car was totaled, so will go car shopping next week. Not going to replace that Lincoln MKZ that I dearly loved but will buy a compact 4 door, a year or two old. I thank God that she did not hit my driver's door, or it might be a different story. My advice is stay young and lucky. I am so looking forward to gathering with all of my friends in our Round Table, and to that vaccine against Covid, and going into a more normal world with a new administration...."*

Don said he has been going to massage therapy and is doing better.

**Suzee Oberg** recently had an aneurysm repaired. On December 8th, Suzee reported that she was at home and the surgery went well. The procedure was very painful, but she thinks the aftermath will be easier to get over than her previous surgeries.

**Susan Keipp** will be having surgery on one of her heart valves on December 24th. She plans to stay overnight in the hospital. Please keep Susan in your prayers this Christmas season.

**Father Dave Holloway** said he plans to retire on December 31st. We wish Dave all the best in retirement. Dave is currently serving as first vice-president of our Round Table.

We would like to thank **Gary Nevius** and **Father Richard Frank** for their extremely generous donations to the American Battlefield Trust. In the Fall 2020 issue of the American Battlefield Trust's *Hallowed Ground* magazine, Gary was listed as a Division Color Bearer and Father Frank was listed as a Brigade Color Bearer.

## Honoring His Father on Veterans Day

On Veterans Day, November 11th, I sent out an e-mail thanking members of our Round Table who have served in the military. One of the responses that I received was from **Ken Ford**:

*"Thank you, Dave.*

*While I'm proud of my 7 years as a Vietnam Era (non-combat) veteran, I'm much more proud of my WWII combat veteran and Korean War combat veteran father, Jerold E. Ford. May he rest in peace.*

*God Bless you and your family.*

*Ken"*

I asked Ken if he would be willing to write an article about his father that I could include in the December *Border Bugle*. Ken sent me the following tribute, which I found to be particularly heart-felt and meaningful:

### Jerold Ellis Ford, Sr., Staff Sergeant, Combat Veteran, U.S. Army, WW II and the Korean War

Every day, in my "in-home" office, I look on one of my bookshelves and pay silent tribute to the flag that draped my father's coffin in February 1998. Dad lived almost 80 years, having been born on May 30, 1918, during the Spanish Flu epidemic. He was laid to rest at Auburn Cemetery, next to my mother, who passed away in 1989. They were married 50 years. Although he never talked much about his military service, I am aware that he served with General George Patton's 3rd Army, in Germany and with General MacArthur's Army in Japan and the Philippines. He was a Cook. One of my earliest memories is mom and dad, driving our old 1949 DeSoto, across Kansas (from St. Joseph MO, my hometown) to Camp Carson (yes, it was "Camp" Carson), when dad was honorably discharged from the U.S. Army (1951).

When we returned to St. Joe (As an aside - Only those who were born in St. Joseph are permitted to call it "St. Joe."), I remember dad - who was a butcher, by trade - sitting me down, taking off his shirt asking me, "Son, do you see any INK on me?" Of course my answer was "No." That's when dad said, "We brand cattle and steaks, son." Of course, that was his "not so subtle" way of telling me that I should never allow myself to be "branded" with tattoos - indicating to the world that I am just a piece of meat; not a human being. I can assure you that my father's son has no INK on him, either.



**Jerold Ellis Ford, Sr.  
Staff Sergeant, Combat Veteran, U.S. Army,  
World War II and the Korean War**

Jerry Ford was a natural comedian. He knew more jokes than Henny Youngman or Bob Hope. If he was telling a joke about a Swede, he spoke with a Swedish accent - the same with other European and/or Oriental

languages. He never lost his sense of humor or his love for every one with whom he came into contact.

Dad was a graduate of Elementary School only - no high school, no college. But, he was one of the smartest men ever born. He had an excellent memory and was very "witty." While I was in elementary and high school (in St. Joe), dad supported his family by working as a butcher on weekends and by having a number of jobs during the week - He sold insurance; he sold World Books; he had his own little grocery store; he had a "potato chip" route, selling Checker Chips. In short, Jerry worked hard, everyday, to put food on his family's table.

Dad is the reason I joined the U.S. Army, two weeks after I was graduated from high school. He's the reason I was able to have the G.I. Bill pay for my undergraduate degree and my master's degree - thanks also to you taxpayers.

I've been told that I am a "Three-Part" man - 1/3 my father; 1/3 my grandmother (Anna Chouteau) and 1/3 U.S. Army. That's an accurate description of yours truly. I couldn't be more proud of my dad. He was not only a great father, he was (and always will be) my hero and my closest friend. I love you, dad. Rest in Peace. You've earned that privilege. God Bless You and our beloved United States of America.

Ken Ford  
Civil War Round Table of Kansas City

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Thank you, Ken. You had a great father. He was a true American hero and you are a testament to the man that he was.

### 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: "Persons, Sites, Actions, and Things." The answers to the trivia questions are shown on page 8.

1. What milk product, patented in 1856, became an important part of the Union soldiers' diet.
2. What was the name of Robert E. Lee's beloved horse, now memorialized at Washington and Lee University?
3. What was the name of Jefferson Davis' last home, which after his death became a home for Confederate veterans and their wives or widows and is now a museum?
4. What state university, whose students left en masse in 1861 to join the University Grays or

the Lamar Rifles, is best known by its nickname, the antebellum term for the mistress of a southern plantation?

5. When the Federal government confiscated Mrs. Robert E. Lee's ancestral mansion where the Lees lived before the war, what use was made of the property?
6. As an 18-year old first lieutenant, what future U.S. general earned the Medal of Honor at Missionary Ridge, an award given to his son 79 years later, making them the only father-son combination to ever receive the distinguished medal?
7. Nurse Clara Barton performed many services for Union soldiers that would later be performed by what organization which she founded in 1881?
8. In what year were conquered banners returned peacefully to the South?
9. What smooth-bore piece of heavy artillery, used by both sides for coastal fortifications, seemed to perpetuate the name of a famous explorer?
10. The familiar forage cap with a round crown and visor worn in both armies was called by what French name?

### Sergeant Major's Roar

#### Battlefield Dispatches #636

#### The White Band

During the Civil War, deception was a common practice and an integral part of guerrilla operations by both the Union and Confederate forces. One of the most common ways to deceive the enemy was to wear the enemy's uniform. However, another more brazen mode of deception was to understand an enemy's current secret means of identification and use it to one's own advantage. Both sides would often wear a strip of a specific colored cloth, attached to their disguised civilian or guerrilla uniform, that was visible on their hat, jacket, or shirt which would identify the users as friends, not the enemy. However, one had to be careful, because wearing an outdated or wrong strip of cloth could be deadly! The following after action reports describe the successful use of a "WHITE BANDS" of cloth worn by Confederate guerrillas in Missouri, which allowed them to escape from a precarious situation and to fight another day. Both of these reports are located in Series I. Vol. 13 of the Official Records of the War of the Rebellion on Pages 321- 323.

"Headquarters Enrolled Missouri Militia,  
In the field, near Lancaster, Mo., October 19, 1862.  
General Lewis Merrill,  
Commanding, District of Northeast Missouri.

General:

A portion of my command came up with Bill Dunn and his band of guerrillas, about 100 strong, three miles south of Uniontown, on the east side of Schuyler County, on Saturday, the 18<sup>th</sup>. About a mile south of their encampment my force fell in with a portion of the Lancaster Enrolled Missouri Militia. After moving half a mile they drove in Dunn's pickets [guards], which was their first notice of the locality of his camp.

Captain Marquess, with part of the command, followed the pickets, being in the center. Captain B. W. Bell moved on a road leading to the right and the Lancaster men moved to the left. Captain Bell moved to a position on the edge of the brush, with an old field in his front. Marquess divided his force and moved on to the brush after the enemy, directing Lieutenant Hamlin to take a position still farther to the left. The accidental discharge of a gun aroused the enemy and starting to return, came in contact with Captain Marquess' squad, when he opened fire on them. They then fell back and endeavored to retreat on Lieutenant Hamlin's line and received his fire. They again fell back and moved upon Captain Bell's position and received his fire. Being on open ground Captain Bell secured ten prisoners. They again fell into the brush and put on the "WHITE BAND" and approached Lieutenant Hamlin's line and he, taking them to be our men, permitted them to pass to his left and they thereby escaped.

Four men are known to have been killed. The enemy being in an almost impenetrable brush, my men did not examine the field until morning, when the balance of the dead and wounded had been removed by the enemy.

We captured ten prisoners, 25 horses, 25 guns, and all their camp equipage. No casualties on our part. It appears that they have scattered in very small squads, as we cannot hear of them or find their trail.

Very Respectfully, Your Obedient Servant,  
S. M. White,  
Colonel, Commanding."

\*\*\*\*\*

"Lancaster, Mo., October 21, 1862.  
Brigadier General Merrill,  
Macon City, Missouri.

Dear Sir:

I have the honor to report to you the skirmish that took place 12 miles northeast of Lancaster on the 18<sup>th</sup> instant, between a portion of Enrolled Missouri Militia, under my command and a detachment of the Second Missouri Cavalry and about 150 guerrillas under the command of the NOTORIOUS Captain William Dunn.

On the morning of the 17<sup>th</sup> instant I sent out Capt. David G. Maize in the direction of Uniontown, in Scotland County, with a small force of the Enrolled Missouri Militia from this Post to look for Rebels.

At daylight the next morning, Captain Maize discovered that he was in the neighborhood of a large force of them and sent back for re-enforcements to me at Lancaster. I sent what men I could spare, under command of Second Lieutenant Thomas Law of the Second Missouri Cavalry and First Lieut. W. W. Bruce of the Enrolled Missouri Militia of this place, making a force, all told of 57 men and officers. They came up with the Rebels posted in a thicket, 1 1/2 miles south of the village of Uniontown in Scotland County.

Captain Maize, assisted by Lieutenants Law and Bruce, opened fire on them. Captain Bell, of the Enrolled Missouri Militia of Adair County, came up about the same time with a considerable force under his command and aided us in the fight, which lasted one and a half hours and resulted in the total rout of the Rebel forces. Seven of the Rebels are reported killed and a number of them were wounded. Ten were taken prisoners and among them the noted guerrilla Tom Palmer. The number of horses captured by my men was 12, arms, saddles, and blankets unknown, as they were gathered up by various Companies engaged and carried off. Captain Bell of Kirksville took charge of the prisoners and most of the horses and took them with him.

The Rebels wore "WHITE BANDS" ON THEIR HATS and thus SAVED them from UTTER DESTRUCTION, as our men mistook them at first for our own men.

On the morning of the 18<sup>th</sup>, let me add, Capt. N. Williams and Lieutenant Grimshaw, with 17 men, were marching into the village of Uniontown. When near the village, they were fired on by some 20 men, who they thought were Enrolled Missouri Militia (AS THEY ALL HAD ON WHITE HAT-BANDS), but before they found out their mistake the GUERRILLAS fled out of the village. One man of the Enrolled Missouri Militia was wounded; also three horses.



The skirmish first mentioned in this report took place late in the evening and the Rebels made good their retreat under the cover of night.

I have the honor to be Sir, Your Obedient Servant,  
JOHN BAKER,  
Lieutenant Colonel, Commanding Post at Lancaster, Mo."

\*\*\*\*\*

Now then, here are two separate incidents when Confederate Guerrillas were successful using the "WHITE BAND" of the enemy to deceive their enemy and escape to fight another day and, of course, the War Went On!

## Answers to Civil War Trivia Questions

1. Gail Borden's condensed milk.
2. Traveller.
3. Beauvoir, at Biloxi, Mississippi.
4. Ole Miss, the University of Mississippi.
5. Arlington National Cemetery surrounds Arlington House.
6. Arthur MacArther, Jr., father of General Douglas MacArther, of World War II fame.
7. The American Red Cross.
8. 1905 (President Grover Cleveland had approved their return in 1887, but indignation among Northerners caused him to revoke the order.)
9. The Columbiad.
10. Kepi.

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