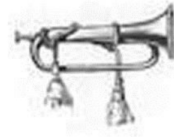




# BORDER BUGLE



Newsletter of the Civil War Round Table of Kansas City



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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://cwrk.org/>  
Join us on Facebook!

## 534th Regular Meeting Tuesday, December 14, 2021

Milburn Golf and Country Club

7501 West 69th Street, Overland Park, KS 66204

Social hour begins at 5:30 p.m. and dinner is at 6:30 p.m.

This meeting will include a plated dinner at a cost of \$32.00 per person. Reservations are required in order to attend the dinner meeting. Please note that wearing masks at the dinner meeting is optional. See page two.

**Reservation Deadline: 12:00 noon on Wednesday, December 8th.**

**To make a reservation, please contact Susan Keipp:**

[skeipp@kc.rr.com](mailto:skeipp@kc.rr.com)

Phone: 816-333-0025

## December Program



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

Round Table member **Deb Buckner** will give a first person presentation as Elizabeth "Libbie" Custer, wife of Brevet Major General George Armstrong Custer. Deb's program is titled: "A Christmas on the Plains." It is based on events in Kansas and the Dakota Territory, but involves General Custer and Captain George Yates.

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."

## Important Reservation Information

The following is our Civil War Round Table's reservation policy:

- A reservation is required in order to attend the dinner meeting. Anyone who attends without a dinner reservation may not be seated, depending on the number of possible no-shows.
- Reservations are required by 12:00 noon on the Wednesday prior to the dinner meeting, in order to ensure that Milburn Country Club has an accurate count for meal preparation and staffing. **To make a reservation, please contact our treasurer Susan Keipp at 816-333-0025 or by e-mail at [skeipp@kc.rr.com](mailto:skeipp@kc.rr.com)**
- The cost of a dinner is \$32.00 per person. If you make a reservation, but are not able to attend the dinner meeting for any reason, you *must* contact Susan Keipp by either phone or e-mail prior to the reservation deadline to cancel. Meals are prepared based on reservations and the Round Table must pay for meals whether or not they are served. You could be responsible for your meal if you made a reservation, did not attend, and did not cancel before the deadline.

## Masks Are Optional at the Dinner Meetings

As announced by president Dan Dooley at the November 16th dinner meeting, masks will be optional going forward.

## Dinner Menu

Milburn Golf and Country Club will serve the following meal at the December dinner meeting: Oven roasted prime rib, winter vegetable medley, and dauphinoise potatoes au gratin. Dessert will be a brownie with peppermint ice cream. All dinners are served with house salad with Milburn house dressing, sliced bread, iced tea, water, and coffee.

Gluten free and vegetarian meals are available with advance notice. Please advise **Susan Keipp** if you require a gluten free or vegetarian meal when making your reservation.

## Meet Our Speaker

**Deborah Buckner**, her husband, Chip, daughter, Jordan, and father-in-law, Bill, are all members of the Round Table. Deb is a resident of Overland Park, a licensed attorney and a former state government lobbyist. A childhood fascination with General George Armstrong Custer turned her into an amateur historian with a Custer library of over 150 volumes. At age 17, she decided one day she would perform a "one-woman

show" as Elizabeth Bacon Custer, a dream finally realized in 2004 with many presentations in the years since then. She received several pages of mention in the book *Custerology: The Enduring Legacy of the Indian Wars and George Armstrong Custer*, by Michael A. Elliott.

Deb and Chip were married in the Graham-Tyler Memorial Chapel at Park College, in Parkville MO in 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.



**Civil War Round Table members Chip, Jordan, and Deb Buckner (photo taken December 18, 2018).**

## 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).

### Live Auction Book Sales

We would like to thank Round Table member **Arnold Schofield** for managing the book sales each month. The money raised helps to pay our speakers' travel costs. At the December dinner meeting, Arnold will auction the following Civil War books:

- *Civil War Treasury of Legends & Folklore* by B. A. Botkin. In excellent condition, with dust jacket and mylar cover.
- *Singing the New Nation: Confederate Music* by E. Lawrence Abel. In excellent condition with dust jacket.
- *Bugles, Banners, and War Bonnets* by E. Reedstrom. In excellent condition, with dust jacket and mylar cover.
- *Gone with the Wind* by M. Mitchell. First Edition, 6th Printing, November 1936 and a small collection of related articles in the *Kansas City Star* from 1966-1967.

**Susan Keipp** also plans to raffle off a number of Civil War books during the December dinner meeting.

### Last Month's Program



**Dr. William Garrett Piston**  
(photo taken April 23, 2019)

At our dinner meeting held on November 16, 2021, **Dr. William Garrett Piston** gave a program about Confederate Major General John S. Marmaduke's campaign in Missouri in 1863, based on Dr. Piston's latest book titled: *"We Gave Them Thunder": Marmaduke's Raid and the Civil War in Missouri and Arkansas*.

Dr. Piston is Professor Emeritus of history at Missouri State University. He earned his PhD in 1982 from the University of South Carolina. Dr. Piston previously spoke at our Round Table dinner meeting in April of 2019.

### Upcoming Speaker Schedule

- **Wednesday, January 19, 2022: Dr. Harry S. Laver** with the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College will be speaking about the relationship between Union General Ulysses S. Grant and Confederate General Robert E. Lee.
- **Wednesday, February 16, 2022:** Round Table member **Arnold Schofield** will be speaking about the First Kansas Colored.
- **Wednesday, March 16, 2022:** Speaker to be determined.
- **Wednesday, April 20, 2022: Matt Spruill** will be speaking about the Battle of Chickamauga.



- **Wednesday, May 18, 2022: Dr. Christian McWhirter**, Lincoln Scholar, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, will be our speaker. Dr. McWhirter has edited the Lincoln papers and will be speaking most likely on the Gettysburg address.
- **Wednesday, June 15, 2022: Mr. Jeffry D. Wert** from Centerville PA will be speaking about his new book titled: *Civil War Barons*.
- **Wednesday, July 20, 2022: Mr. A. Wilson Greene** will be speaking about the Petersburg Campaign. He served most recently as the director of the Pamplin Historical Park Museum at Petersburg. He is currently writing a three-volume treatise on the Petersburg Campaign for the University of North Carolina Press.
- **Wednesday, August 17, 2022: Mr. Jeff Patrick** will give a program about the Battle of Wilson's Creek.
- **Wednesday, September 21, 2022: Mr. Dennis E. Frye** will give a program about Harper's Ferry WV.
- **Wednesday, October 19, 2022: Ms. Judy Cook** will give a program titled: "War on the Home Front."

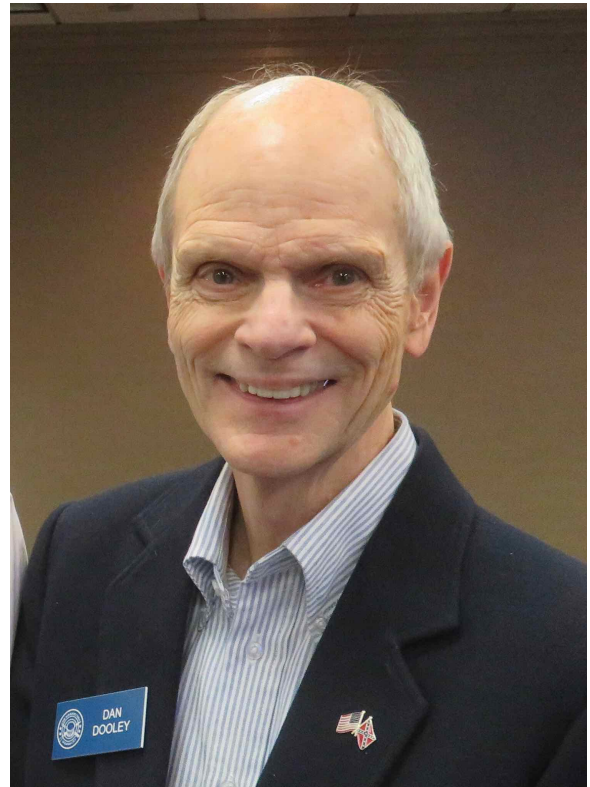
Beginning in 2022, our monthly dinner meetings will be held on the third Wednesday of each month, except for the December dinner meeting, which will be held on the second Wednesday (December 14th).

### Thank You Dan Dooley

We would like to thank **Dan Dooley** for his three years of service as president of our Round Table. Dan graciously agreed to serve a third year as president in 2021, in order to provide continuity during the coronavirus pandemic.

Dan always took the job as president seriously. He provided excellent leadership by consulting with the other members of the Executive Committee prior to making important decisions. Dan was instrumental in moving our dinner meetings to the Milburn Golf and Country Club, which has been a huge blessing. He also planned and organized the field trip to Lexington MO.

Dan always treated our Round Table's speakers, members, and visitors with respect. He liked to give short Civil War history lessons during the dinner meetings, such as the fate of Confederate submarine H. L. Hunley, the oldest living Union and Confederate widows, and the military career of Confederate General Albert Sidney Johnston. In short, Dan was an excellent president and an excellent representative of our Round Table. Thank you Dan!



**Round Table President Dan Dooley**  
(photo taken March 28, 2017)

### Slate of Officers for 2022 Approved

At the dinner meeting on November 16th, the following slate of officers for 2022 were voted on and approved by the Round Table members present:

- President: Father Dave Holloway.
- First Vice President: Gary Nevius.
- Second Vice-President: Dick Titterington.
- Treasurer: Susan Keipp.
- Secretary: Judy Smith.
- Director of Preservation: Arnold Schofield.
- Board of Directors: Blair Tarr to replace Sylvia Stuckey, who is rotating off of the Board.

### Please Renew Your Membership for 2022

Now is the time to renew your membership in the Round Table for 2022. Attached is the membership renewal form. The membership dues go to pay for our speakers' travel costs, our administrative expenses, and contributions for Civil War battlefield preservation. Membership dues for next year are the same as they were for this year: \$35 for an individual or \$55 for a couple. There are currently 107 members in the Round Table. Thank you for supporting the Round Table.

We hope you have a Merry Christmas and a Happy Hanukkah!

## Memorial Service for Col. James L. Speicher

A memorial service for former Round Table president **Col. James L. "Spike" Speicher** will be held on Saturday, December 4, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. at St. Luke's Episcopal Church (5325 Nieman Road, Shawnee KS 66203), with a reception to follow at 3:30 p.m. at the Shawnee Civic Centre (13817 Johnson Drive, Shawnee KS 66216). James had been living in Apollo Beach FL with his wife Katherine and died on September 11, 2021.

## Sergeant Major's Roar

### Battlefield Dispatches #644 A Coffin and Chicken Pot Pie

During the Civil War, Christmas was a special day, which was remembered by soldiers of the Blue and Gray who were far away from home, even if they were on campaign. The following entries are from the journal of First Sgt. Charles W. Porter of Company F of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wisconsin Cavalry, which was on campaign with the Army of the Frontier, in northwestern Arkansas, in December of 1862. The original journal is owned by the Wisconsin Historical Society and an edited version was published by the Bushwhacker Museum titled: "In the Devil's Dominion."

"Sunday, December 21, 1862:

Today I was employed making a COFFIN for John G. Hutchins, who died in our Regimental Hospital last evening. He was one of our last recruits from Wisconsin. We buried him in the cemetery at Cane Hill with military honors at sunset. Lieut. Clark B. Wilsey went to Rheas Mills and returned this evening. Today was pleasant.

Monday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>.

This morning our company went out on picket [camp guard]. I spent part of the day at writing in my journal. This forenoon was clear and pleasant, afternoon cloudy. Some of the Indian regiment left us for some point, where I did not learn. Major E. A. Calkins of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of our regiment was placed in arrest today for drunkenness and disorderly conduct.

Tuesday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>.

There was a heavy rain last night. This morning our company returned from picket. I was employed at writing today. Rainy all day.

Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>.

I was employed today making out Company Returns [monthly reports]. The day was cloudy and rainy. There was a portion of our Company that went out six miles after 'WHEAT' to be ground in a mill by our camp for our company's use. A prospect for warm biscuits now in place of "Hardtack" [a very hard cracker].

Thursday, December 25<sup>th</sup>.

As today is "CHRISTMAS", our thoughts were naturally turned "Homeward" to mother's good Christmas dinners of roast turkey and other nice eatables too numerous to mention here. But we tried to substitute a dinner in my mess by getting "CHICKEN POT PIE" and WARM BISCUITS and BUTTER and for supper APPLE DUMPLINGS, which was set up to us by our cook Willis A. Hawes. I think we praised the cook and done our repasts justice. Some of the boys were card playing and other amusements. I spent a portion of the day writing in my journal.

Friday, December 26<sup>th</sup>.

Today we had orders to pack up and to be ready to move tomorrow. After getting everything ready I spent the remainder of the day writing out our company Returns [reports] to be sent to Washington, D. C. Our boys came in from picket duty today and report all quiet on the line. Today was pleasant.

Saturday, December 27<sup>th</sup>.

This morning the entire command was prepared to move out. At 8 o'clock A. M. we started in a southerly direction. At 10 o'clock A. M. we were marching over a portion of the Boston Mountains on the road to Van Buren [Arkansas]. This afternoon our course lay through a valley between the mountains. A stream called Cove Creek took a meandering course through this valley, which we crossed twenty times today. After marching twenty miles, we camped at 9 o'clock P. M. Today was quite pleasant."

\*\*\*\*\*

Now then, the duties of First Sgt. Porter and any First Sergeant were varied as described in these entries from his journal, from making a coffin for one of his deceased soldiers to completing routine paper work and reports, as the war went on!