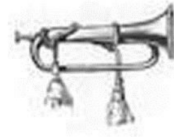




# BORDER BUGLE



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

## 540th Regular Meeting Wednesday, June 15, 2022

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 a mask at our dinner meetings is optional.

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

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

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

Phone: 816-333-0025

## June Program



**Mr. Gary Jenkins**, former Intelligence Unit detective with the Kansas City Police Department, will be presenting a program titled: "Freedom Seekers: Stories from the Western Underground Railroad."

Mr. Jenkins tells the story of how Kansas abolitionists established a series of safe houses from Kansas, north through Nebraska, Iowa, Illinois and around Lake Michigan, to Detroit and across to safety in Ontario, Canada.

## Dinner Meeting Reservation Policy

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.

## Dinner Menu

Milburn Golf and Country Club will serve the following meal at the June dinner meeting: Beef short Rib with natural sauce, mashed potatoes, and green beans. Dessert will be vanilla panna cotta with macerated berries.

All dinners are served with house salad with Milburn house dressing, sliced bread, iced tea, water, and coffee.

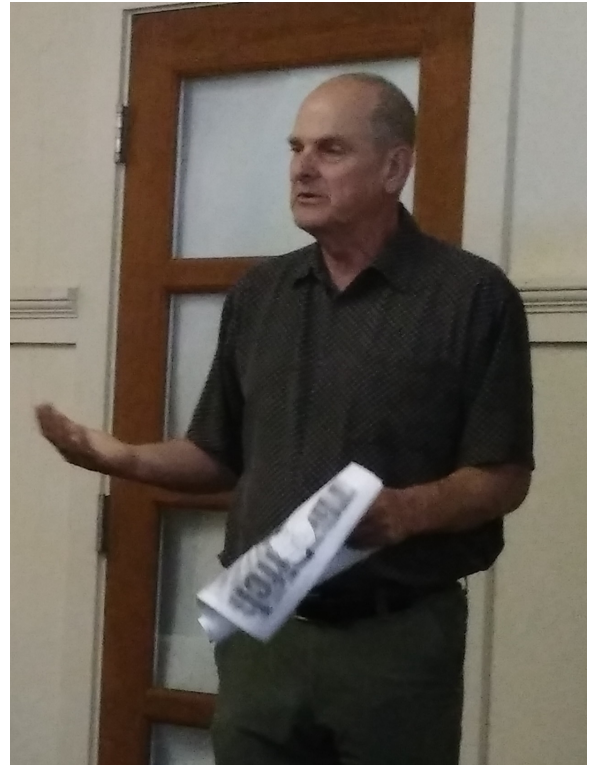
Gluten free and vegetarian meals are available with advance notice. Please advise **Susan Keipp** if you require a gluten free or vegetarian meal when making your reservation.

## Meet Our Speaker

**Mr. Gary Jenkins**, former Intelligence Unit detective with the Kansas City Police Department, has produced four documentary films, created the Kansas City Mob Tour app, authored three books, and currently produces and hosts his own true-crime podcast, titled "Gangland Wire Crime Stories." In this popular true-crime podcast Gary tells many stories about the Kansas City mafia, interviews experts on mafia families in many other cities, and has found many former mafia members to tell their stories.

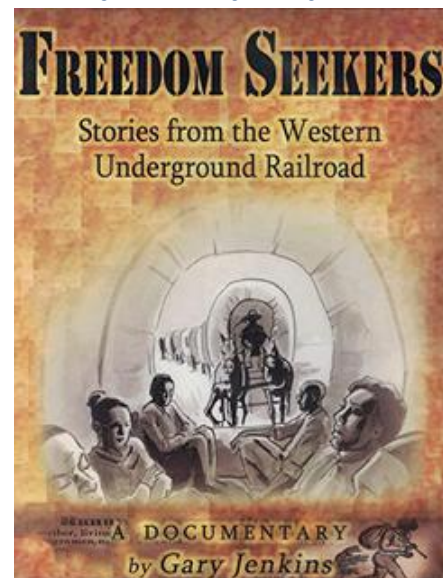
Gary independently produced *Negroes To Hire: Slave Life and Culture on Antebellum Missouri Farms*, which won the Jackson County Historical

Society award for the best historical documentary film of the year in 2011. In 2012, he produced *Freedom Seekers: Stories From the Western Underground Railroad*. Both of these films are used in many educational history programs and African American Study programs. Gary authored two companion books for these films. The first is titled *John Brown and The Last Train*. The second book is titled *The Immortal 10: A Story from the Western Underground Railroad*.

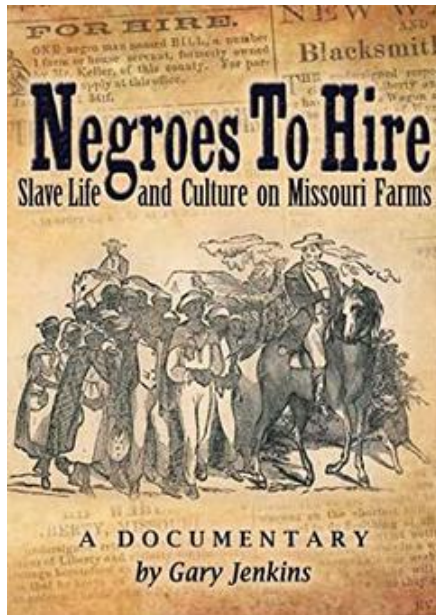


**Mr. Gary Jenkins (photo taken in 2015 at the Battle of Westport Visitor Center and Museum)**

## Documentary Films by Gary Jenkins



*Freedom Seekers* brings an understanding of the regional issues relating to antebellum slavery and the antislavery movement that helped shape the western Underground Railroad. Slaves, with the help of stationmasters and conductors, had to dodge professional slave catchers, federal marshals, and slaveholders on a grueling thousand-mile journey to freedom. Viewers will learn how the Kansas/Missouri political conditions created the opportunity for the perhaps less known escape route along the western frontier. This film uses primary source documents, historians, interviews with slave descendants, moving readings and dramatic depictions to tell exciting stories of Underground Railroad activities.



*Negroes To Hire* tells the intriguing story of life on slaveholding antebellum farms in Missouri. The WPA Slave Narratives provide compelling first-hand accounts of the day-to-day existence of those held in bondage. Along with insightful commentary by noted historians, authors and educators, this unique documentary sheds new light on a controversial and troubling subject. Not just history, but a shared heritage between African-Americans and European-Americans. A better understanding of this relationship allows us to see our shared humanity, and not fear our differences. The filmmaker is the descendant of Missouri slave masters and the primary educator in this film is a descendant of Missouri slaves. They worked together to bring a balanced view of slavery. They believe this film breaks though myths and will generates open discussions of the subject. They have screened it for many groups and the post-film discussions appear to heal old wounds.

## Live Auction Book Sales

We would like to thank Round Table member **Arnold Schofield** for managing the book sales each month. Arnold will auction off the following Civil War books in June:

- *The West Point History of the Civil War* by C. Rodgers, T. Seidule, and S. Watson; Simon & Schuster Publishing, New York, 2014. In excellent condition with dust jacket.
- *The Peace that Almost Was: 1861 Washington Peace Conference* by Mark Tooley; Nelson Books, Nashville TN, 2015. In excellent condition with dust jacket.
- *The Confederate Soldier in the Civil War; Campaigns, Battles, Soldier Life, Naval History and More.* 2000 Reprint of Original 1895 Publication. Edited by W. C. Davis and B. L. Wiley; Tess Press, New York. In excellent condition with dust jacket and mylar cover.
- *Virginia at War 1861-1865.* Five volume set. Edited by W. C. Davis and Dr. James I. Robertson, Jr.; University of Kentucky Press, 2005-2012. Each volume is in excellent condition with dust jacket.
- *Sheridan: The Life and Wars of General Phil Sheridan* by Roy Morris, Jr.; Crown Publishers, New York, 1992. In excellent condition with dust jacket.

## Civil War Book Donations

Thanks to the generous donations of Civil War books by our Round Table members, we have not had to purchase any books for the book table or the live auction book sales this year. We would especially like to thank **Bob Macoubrie** and **Dennis Garstang** for their generous donations of Civil War books.

**Arnold Schofield** said he currently has a surplus of Civil War books and he has run out of room in his garage to store any more books! Therefore, Arnold requests that Round Table members not bring any more Civil War books to the dinner meetings until after the first of the year.

If it is absolutely necessary for you to dispose of your Civil War books, please contact Arnold or **Don Bates**. Otherwise, wait until the first of the year to donate your books. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.



## Last Month's Program



**Dr. Christian McWhirter**, Lincoln Historian at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Museum, was our speaker at the Round Table dinner meeting on May 18th. The title of his program was: "Who Freed the Slaves?"

For generations Abraham Lincoln has been heralded as the "Great Emancipator." But for just as long, debates have raged over how exactly the institution of slavery ended in America and who delivered the killing blow. Dr. McWhirter discussed the competing points of view on emancipation and Lincoln's actions in the broader context of the American Civil War and anti-slavery movement.

Arnold Schofield said Dr. McWhirter was a good speaker and gave a very interesting program. From the Southern viewpoint, Dr. McWhirter presented their rationale in defense of slavery. He also said that Lincoln changed his views regarding slavery during the Civil War.

The May dinner meeting was very well attended (57 people) and the audience was very involved during the question and answer period. Dr. McWhirter said he enjoyed speaking to our Round Table.

## Upcoming CWRT-KC Programs and Speakers

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 of the month (December 14th).

- **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. Due to other schedule commitments, Mr. Frye's program will be conducted via Zoom during the September dinner meeting.
- **Wednesday, October 19, 2022: Ms. Judy Cook** will give a program titled: "War on the Home Front."
- **Wednesday, November 16, 2022:** Round Table member **Dr. Daniel Cudnik** will give a program titled: "A Forensic Study of the Lincoln Assassination."
- **Wednesday, December 14, 2022:** The program will either be a speaker from the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College or we will have a holiday program featuring Christmas music from the Civil War era.
- **Wednesday, January 18, 2023: Dr. Ethan Rafuse** will be speaking about Robert E. Lee and the fall of the Confederacy. Dr. Rafuse has written a book on this subject.
- **Wednesday, February 15, 2023:** In honor of Black History Month, **Arnold Schofield** will be speaking about the 2nd Kansas Colored Infantry.
- **Wednesday, March 15, 2023: Dr. Harry S. Laver** with the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College will be our speaker. The tentative title of his presentation is "Learning the Art of Joint Operations: General U. S. Grant and Rear Admiral Andrew H. Foote."
- **Wednesday, April 19, 2023: Dr. Bill Piston** will be speaking about a book that he and Tom Sweeney co-authored containing photographs of Missourians in the Civil War.

## Programs at the Battle of Westport Visitor Center and Museum

The Battle of Westport Visitor Center and Museum is continuing to offer a series of Civil War related presentations as part of Civil War Wednesdays at the Harris-Kearney House (4000 Baltimore Avenue, Kansas City MO). The Harris-Kearney House will be open from 11:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. for Civil War Wednesdays.

The following programs are scheduled to begin at 1:00 p.m. The cost to attend is \$6.00 per person, per program.

- **June 15, 2022:** **Jeremiah Thalheimer** will give a program titled: "Civil War in the American West."
- **July 13, 2022:** Round Table member **Dan Smith** will give a program titled: "Blacks in Blue at the Battle of Westport."
- **August 17, 2022:** **Dick Titterington** will be speaking about Order Number 11.
- **September 14, 2022:** **Alisha Cole and Jennie Thalheimer** will give a program about Civil War Medicine.
- **October 19, 2022:** **Dick Titterington** will give a program titled: "Civilian Life in Jackson County during the Civil War."
- **November 9, 2022:** **Jeremiah Thalheimer** will be speaking about Marines in the Civil War (tie in with The United States Marine Corps birthday on November 10th).

## Member News

**Don Bates** had surgery to remove one of his kidneys on May 23rd. The surgery was successful and Don came home from the hospital the following afternoon. Don said the tumor was as large as the kidney. He is waiting on the results of the biopsy. Don said this type of cancer is usually self-contained and it shouldn't take long for him to heal.

On May 24th, **Arnold Schofield** reported that he was suffering from a severe case of bronchitis.

**Susan Keipp** said **Jim Voelker** is home from the hospital and has scheduled nurses to check on him.

**Bruce Schall** brought three guests to the May dinner meeting and two of his guests, Bruce and Charlene Gordon, said they would like to join our Round Table.

## Next Executive Committee Meeting

The next meeting of the Round Table's Executive Committee will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, June 11, 2022. The meeting will be held at the Overland Park Chamber of Commerce building located at 9001 West 110th Street, Overland Park KS.

## Sergeant Major's Roar

### Battlefield Dispatches #711 Gray Ghosts

During the Civil War, guerrilla warfare was conducted throughout the entire state of Missouri. In a way to conduct this type of warfare in an entire state, this was unusual. Guerrilla warfare was conducted in parts of other states such as the mountains of eastern Tennessee, western North Carolina, and the northern parts of Alabama, Georgia, and Virginia. However, it is believed that the guerrilla war in Missouri was the most, vicious, brutal and barbaric of all. The following was one of the best descriptions of Missouri's guerrilla war, which was published more than fifty years ago in *Kirby Smith's Confederacy* by Robert L. Kirby, on Pages 44-47:

"The Rebel guerrillas in Missouri, without much assistance, encouragement or control from Confederate Headquarters, consisted of innumerable gangs of bushwhacking irregulars, which preoccupied and to some degree pinned down, most of General Curtis' 37,000 bluecoats. The partisans' motives were seldom noble and their methods were rarely appealing, but they were among the most EFFECTIVE SOLDIERS employed by the Confederate States. As General Hindman reported to the War Department, the "GRAY GHOSTS" of Missouri "rendered important services to the regular Confederate forces by interdicting Federal communications, intercepting Yankee couriers, annihilating Union patrols, wrecking bridges, blocking passes, blocking roads, destroying wagon trains and transports (steamboats), tearing up railways, breaking telegraph lines, capturing towns and thus compelling the enemy to keep a large force that might have been employed elsewhere.

The Rebel irregulars waged war not only against faceless invaders, but also against neighbors and relatives who might otherwise have assisted the Federals. The partisans acknowledged no distinction between hostile soldiers and lukewarm citizens, anyone who did not cooperate with them was an enemy and enemies, whether soldiers or civilians, were given no quarter. A veteran Captain of the Seventh Kansas Cavalry recalled that the guerrillas made no effort to observe "the common amenities of Civilized War. It was a "Fight to the Death", protested the Kansas Captain. "It was our intention to "Fight to the Death", replied a Missouri Bushwhacker.

The Rebel irregular was customarily condemned, out of hand, as a pirate and assassin. On March 13, 1862, Union Headquarters at St. Louis published a general order advising citizens that: "Every man who enlists in a partisan company forfeits his life and becomes an outlaw. All persons are hereby warned that if they join any guerrilla band they will not, if captured, be treated as ordinary prisoners of war but will be HUNG AS ROBBERS AND MURDERERS." On March 30, 1863, General Curtis even deprived Confederate guerrillas of the slight comfort of a drumhead court-martial (in Missouri), by telling his subordinates that there was no reason to accept a bushwhacker's offer of surrender. Curtis added that irregulars were to be LIQUIDATED IMMEDIATELY "If they are unfortunately taken alive." Union General Blunt advised all officers in his District of Kansas, that Rebel partisans "shall not be treated as prisoners of war, but summarily tried by drumhead court martial and if proved guilty, be executed (by hanging or shooting on the spot), as no punishment can be too prompt or severe for such unnatural enemies of the human race." These orders and others like them were not idle threats. In October 1862, General John McNeil, in charge of Missouri's Rolla District, hanged ten guerrillas in the Palmyra Courthouse Square. Nevertheless, the Confederacy's SHADOW SOLDIERS continued to break the rules of "Civilized Warfare".

It would be misleading to attempt to describe Missouri guerrilla units as if they were elements of a regular army, disciplined to wage conventional war. The guerrilla was disciplined, but disciplined to think for himself, to avoid the appearance of organization, to seek safety in anonymity. The irregular operated in a theater (area) nominally controlled by the enemy; he could never allow himself the luxury of acting like a soldier. To preserve his anonymity he continued to farm or he pursued some other innocuous occupation until a summons from his Chief called him to war. Then he might absent himself for a night, a couple of days, or perhaps a week; but he soon returned home, resumed his civilian identity and in order to stay alive, forgot where he had been.

The Missouri Bushwhacker was an effective soldier precisely because he did not join an Army, put on a uniform and march bravely off to some far distant front. He fought a better war at home than he could under Generals Holmes or Robert E. Lee. He knew his own country and his own people better than any outsider possibly could. The Union Generals in St. Louis and Springfield and the Rebel brass down at Little Rock, Arkansas had to plot their grand strategies with the help of piles of paper; regimental returns, reconnaissance reports, intelligence reports, quartermaster and commissary reports, ordnance reports and most especially maps (not very good maps, at that). The local partisan needed no paper; he planned his operations by watching the current depth of nearby streams, by knowing the condition of neighboring pastures, by feeling the mood of soldiers and civilians, by listening to whispers in the breeze. He was intimately aware of things which no map and no morning report could ever convey. Free of the debilitating inertia induced by complex organization, he could choose his own time and place to attack and he could melt back into the populace before the nearest Union General could find the right map to design a response."

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Now then, the Confederate Missouri Partisan Ranger or Bushwhacker was indeed a formidable foe, who attacked swiftly by surprise, and then normally disappeared as quickly into the "Fog of War" as "Gray Ghosts" to fight another day, as the War Went On.