

BORDER STATE

Newsletter of the Civil War Round Table of Kansas City



543rd Regular Meeting Wednesday, September 21, 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, September 14th.

To make a dinner reservation, please contact Dick Titterington

myrtlewarbler@gmail.com

Phone: 816-377-9453

1 Hone: 010-577-74

September Program



Mr. Dennis E. Frye will be speaking to our Round Table 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 has written two books about Harpers Ferry. He last spoke to our Round Table in September of 2018 about the Battle of Antietam.

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

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Charitable Organization
Website- http://cwrtkc.org/
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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 this month, please contact our treasurer Dick Titterington at 816-377-9453 or by e-mail at myrtlewarbler@gmail.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 **Dick Titterington** 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 September dinner meeting: Chili glaze salmon with fingerling potatoes and asparagus. Dessert will be chocolate mousse.

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 **Dick Titterington** if you require a gluten free or vegetarian meal when making your reservation.

Meet Our Speaker

At our dinner meeting on September 21, 2022, **Mr. Dennis E. Frye** will give a program about Harpers Ferry during the Civil War. Due to his other schedule commitments, Dennis' program will be conducted via Zoom during the dinner meeting.

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. **Arnold Schofield** was his first NPS supervisor. While with the NPS, Dennis earned the Department of the 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).
- <u>Confluence: Harpers Ferry as Destiny</u> (2019). Co-authored with Catharine Magi Oliver.



September Speaker Mr. Dennis E. Frye

Dennis 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.

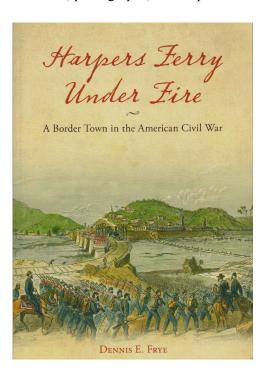
Dennis has authored 10 books and 101 articles, writing for every major Civil War publication; and he is a tour guide in national demand, leading programs for the Smithsonian, National Geographic, and the New York Times, as well as universities and Civil War organizations around the country. Dennis has 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 conferenced 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: <u>Harpers Ferry Under Fire - A Border Town in the American Civil War</u> (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."

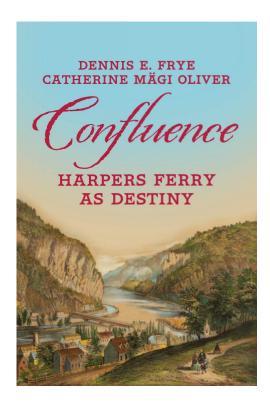


Book: Confluence: Harpers Ferry as Destiny

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, <u>Confluence</u> 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."



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 September:

- Antietam 1862: The Civil War's Bloodiest Day by Norman Stevens; Praeger Illustrated Military History Series, 1994. In excellent condition.
- Landscaped Turned Red: The Battle of Antietam by Stephen W. Sears; Ticknor & Fields Publishing Company, New York, 1983. In good condition with dust jacket.
- <u>Civil War Battlefields: Then and Now</u> by James Campi, Jr.; Thunder Bay Press Publishing Company, 2012. In near mint condition with dust jacket.
- <u>Civil War 100: Ranking the 100 Most Influential People in the War Between the States</u> by Robert Wooster; Citadel Press, 1998. In near mint condition with dust jacket.

Last Month's Program



August Speaker Mr. Jeffrey L. Patrick

At our dinner meeting on August 17th, Jeff Patrick gave a very interesting presentation titled: "Greyhounds: The First Iowa Infantry and the Campaign and Battle of Wilson's Creek." The First Iowa was one of the best units in General Nathaniel Lyon's Union army. Jeff talked about some of the men that served in the First Iowa and their uniforms. Jeff also discussed General Lyon's campaign from his arrival in St. Louis MO on February 6, 1861 to his death at the Battle of Wilson's Creek on August 10, 1861. Years later, two of the Iowans received the Medal of Honor for their actions at Wilson's Creek.

Jeff began working for the National Park Service in 1992, and is currently the museum curator at Wilson's Creek National Battlefield in Republic, Missouri. He holds a Master of Arts Degree in History from Purdue University. He is the author or editor of a number of books and articles on American military history.

Upcoming Civil War Round Table of Kansas City 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, 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: Brad Zimmerman, who manages the Chestnut Theatre in Olathe, will treat us to a musical program, featuring singers dressed in Dickens era attire.
- 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.
- Wednesday, May 17, 2023: Ms. Alisha Cole
 will be speaking about Clara Barton, who was a
 hospital nurse during the Civil War, and who
 founded the American Red Cross.
- Wednesday, June 21, 2023: Dr. Isaias McCaffery, professor of history at Independence Community College, will give a program titled: "Last Stand at Rebel Creek: The Osage as Union Allies in Civil War Kansas.
- Wednesday, July 19, 2023: Speaker to be determined.
- Wednesday, August 16, 2023: Wayne Motts, President and CEO of the Gettysburg Foundation, will be giving a program about General George A. Custer at Gettysburg and in Kansas.
- Wednseday, September 20, 2023: Douglas Waller, veteran CIA correspondant, will be giving a program about President Lincoln's spies.

Upcoming Battle of Westport Visitor Center and Museum Programs and Speakers

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.

- 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

We would like to welcome new member **Karl Schletzbaum**, who lives in Overland Park KS. Karl's paternal ancestors served in the Kansas Militia and the Union Army.

We are very sorry to report that **Lila Aamodt** has pancreatic cancer. Please keep Lila, her family, and her medical team in your prayers.

Suzee Oberg is scheduled to have back surgery on September 2nd. We pray that Suzee's surgery and recovery are successful.

George Leff recently had surgery on one of his feet. He still has a couple more weeks to go with his foot in a boot before he is allowed to go out.

Jim Tucker recently had cochlear implant surgery, in order to help him hear better.

We would like to thank **Dick Titterington** for handling the dinner reservations this month. Our treasurer, **Susan Keipp**, will be traveling to Europe from September 6-20. Susan said she plans to return in time to help out at the dinner meeting on the 21st.

Next CWRT-KC Executive Committee Meeting

Father Dave Holloway has scheduled the next meeting of the Civil War Round Table's Executive Committee to be held at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, October 15th. 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 #714 Shot & Decently Buried

During the Civil War, by 1864 in Missouri, justice could be extremely swift for a captured Confederate Partisan Ranger or Bushwhacker. Often within twenty-four hours of his capture, the enemy guerrilla was tried and convicted by a military commission in the field, sentenced and executed by hanging or a firing squad, and buried. The following correspondence describes such an incident and is located in Volume 34 of the Official Records of the War of the Rebellion on Pages 259, 286-287.

"Warrensburg, Mo., April 22, 1864. [To] Major General Rosecrans:

The Missouri Republican newspaper, April 19, first page, fourth column, has an account of Paddy Mullins, which is clearly proved by evidence forwarded to headquarters. He belongs to Brownlow's band of six [bushwhackers] who infested Cooper County last summer and their return from the south a few weeks since, ROBBED a store two miles north of Tipton. Two of the band, Brownlow and Cowall, were caught last year, tried by Military Commission, and sentenced TO BE SHOT, which was confirmed, but made their escape from the jail at Boonville. I have ordered MULLINS TO BE SHOT on Saturday the 23rd, at 4 p.m.

E. B. BROWN, Brigadier General."

"Brownsville, Missouri, April 25,1864.

[To] Col. John F Philips,

Comdg. Second Sub-District of Central Mo., Sedalia, Mo.,

Sir: I have the honor to report to you the capture and execution of a BUSHWHACKER at this place on the 24th instant. The particulars are as follows: On the morning of the 23rd instant, being informed that a BUSHWHACKER was in the neighborhood, I immediately sent out my men in every direction and with the aid of the citizen guards, succeeded in capturing him late in the evening, and at 9 o'clock on the morning

of the 24th instant, I had him "SHOT and DECENTLY BURIED!"

R. M. BOX,

Capt. Company H, Seventh Cavalry, Missouri State Militia."

"Brownsville, Mo., April 25, 1864. [To] Col. John F. Philips;

Colonel: I herewith send you the statement of the BUSHWHACKER that I had shot on the morning of the 24th instant in his own words as follows:

"I spent the summer and fall of 1863 from June 1 to December 7, 1863, in Platte, Clay, and Buchanan counties. I was with the Rebel colonels John Calhoun Thornton and John W. Winston (both of Platte County). At sometimes there were only two or three of us together, at other times there was a considerable company of us together. On the 7th of December, I, in company with six other men, started south, went to Arkansas (not thinking it safe for us to remain in Missouri through the winter). In the latter part of March I started back to Missouri in company with four other men, two of whom stopped in Texas County, Missouri; the others came back with me to this side of the Osage River and crossed the Osage River, above the mouth of Linn Creek, on the 19th instant. On the 20th we came in contact with some Federal soldiers and I think the two men that were with me were killed or captured. I was making my way back to Platte County, expecting to rejoin Colonels Thornton and Wilson, if there, and spend the coming summer as I did the last. I don't belong to the Confederate Army nor have not since August 1. 1862. 1 have never taken the Oath [of Allegiance], nor ever intended to submit to the Federal authorities, if I could help it.

My name is James A. Johnson.

The above are the important points of his statement.

Your Obedient Servant,

R. M. BOX,

Captain, Company H, Seventh Cavalry, Mo. State Militia."

Now then, many Missouri Confederate guerrillas did not have a trial or decent burial, because they were immediately killed during combat or when they were pursued by Union forces. Burial then often did not happen or they were interred in a very quick, shallow, unmarked grave. Therefore, for a Confederate guerrilla to be "Shot and Decently Buried" was unusual, especially in 1864, as the war in Missouri had become more brutal and barbaric and the War Went On!

Harpers Ferry West Virginia

One of the most beautiful and historic towns in America is Harpers Ferry WV. Harpers Ferry is located at the confluence of the Potomac River and the Shenandoah River. It is surrounded by Maryland Heights, Loudon Heights, and Bolivar Heights. If you have not been to Harpers Ferry, I highly recommend going there. You can park at the National Park Visitor Center and take a shuttle bus to the lower town. Touring the lower town is like going back in time to the 1850's.

The Appalachian Trail passes right through Harpers Ferry. Hiking trails lead to the top of Maryland Heights and Loudon Heights for beautiful views of Harpers Ferry, the rivers, and the surrounding area.

Harpers Ferry changed hands several times during the Civil War. You can visit the engine house, where John Brown and his raiders were captured during their ill-fated raid in October of 1859. You can also tour Boliver Heights, which is where the Union Army surrendered 12,693 men to Confederate General Stonewall Jackson's troops prior to the Battle of Antietam.

Civil War Round Table member **Arnold Schofield** served a tour of duty in the National Park Service at the Harpers Ferry National Historical Park. I first met Arnold during the John Brown Symposium in October of 2009, which was the 150th anniversary of John Brown's raid.

On the evening of October 16, 2009, Dennis Frye, Chief Historian at Harpers Ferry National Historic Park, led a group of 300 people on a 5-mile hike, starting at the Kennedy Farmhouse in Maryland and ending at the engine house in Harpers Ferry. We followed a horse-drawn wagon and hiked during a light rain, which added a sense of realism to the event. Periodically, Dennis Frye would halt the procession and ask us to imagine what John Brown and his men were thinking as they walked slowly toward their ultimate fate. Those men were going to war. That was a night I will always remember.

Dave Pattison