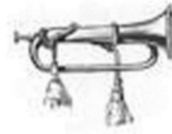




# BORDER



# BUGLE

Newsletter of the Civil War Round Table of Kansas City



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Civil War Round Table of  
Kansas City  
4125 NW Willow Drive  
Kansas City MO 64116

An IRC 501(c)(3)

Charitable Organization

Website- <http://cwrk.org/>

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## 561st Regular Meeting

Wednesday, March 20, 2024

Milburn Golf and Country Club

7501 West 69th Street, Overland Park, KS 66204

Social hour begins at 5:00 p.m. and dinner is at 6:00 p.m. (note new time)

The meeting will include a plated dinner at a cost of \$34.00 per person.

Reservations are required in order to attend the dinner meeting.

**Reservation Deadline: Tuesday, March 12th.**

**To make a dinner reservation, please contact Marlene Natoli:**

<mailto:marnatoli@att.net>

Phone: 913-764-1336

## March Program



This month's program will feature Professor **Kendall D. Gott**, who is an Army veteran of Desert Storm and the Senior Historian at the U.S. Army Combat Studies Institute. He will be giving a presentation titled: "Living in Bleeding Kansas Between the Factions."

This is a brief discussion of the trials and tribulations of the common people, as they learned to cope with the violence swirling about them.

## Dinner Meeting Reservations and Payments

- A reservation is required in order to attend the dinner meeting. All reservations must be submitted to **Marlene Natoli** by **Tuesday, March 12<sup>th</sup>**. This will ensure that an accurate count can be submitted to the Milburn Country Club on Wednesday, one week ahead of the dinner meeting, as specified in our contract with the Country Club.
- Please e-mail or call **Marlene Natoli** each month if you are planning on attending. To make a reservation, contact Marlene at 913-764-1336 or e-mail her at <mailto:marnatoli@att.net> **Marlene said if you send her an e-mail and do not get confirmation back, then you do not have a reservation.**
- **The cost of a dinner is \$34.00 per person.** If you make a reservation, but are not able to attend the dinner meeting for any reason, you *must* contact **Marlene Natoli** by either phone or e-mail prior to the reservation deadline to cancel. You are responsible for the cost of your meal if you made a reservation, did not attend, and did not cancel before the deadline.
- You can pay for your meal at the dinner meeting or by mailing a check to **Dick Titterington**. Make check payable to the Civil War Round Table of Kansas City. Dick's mailing address is: 4125 NW Willow Drive, Kansas City MO 64116.
- You can also pay for your dinner using a credit or debit card. The Civil War Round Table of Kansas City is now accepting digital payments. This process is simple to use and secure. The Round Table uses the Square Digital Payment Processing System. Square charges the Round Table a fee for this service. The Round Table passes this fee on to its members who choose to use this service. The fees are slightly more if you pay online than paying in person at our dinner meetings. For more information or to see a schedule of the processing fees charged, visit our website [https://cwrtrkc.org/digital\\_payments/](https://cwrtrkc.org/digital_payments/)

## Dinner Menu

Milburn Golf and Country Club will serve the following meal at the March dinner meeting: Italian sausage lasagna and asparagus with garlic bread. Dessert will be Tiramisu. All dinners are served with house salad and Milburn house dressing, sliced bread, iced tea, water, and coffee.

Gluten free and vegetarian meals are available with advance notice. Please advise **Marlene Natoli** if you require a gluten free or vegetarian meal when making your reservation. Also, if you have a food allergy, Marlene requests that you **please be very specific** on what items you can't eat on that month's menu when making your dinner reservation.

## This Month's Speaker and Program



**Professor Kendall D. Gott at Fort Donelson National Battlefield**

Professor **Kendall D. Gott** is a retired army officer and retired senior historian of the Combat Studies Institute at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. He is the author of several studies on American history including the book: *Where the South Lost the War: An Analysis of the Fort Henry-Fort Donelson Campaign, February 1862.* In addition, Kendall has turned to authoring the following historical novels:

- *Steamboat Seasons and Backwater Battles;*
- *Ride to Oblivion: The Sterling Price Raid into Missouri, 1864;*
- *Steamboat Seasons: A Dawn of a New Era;*
- *Gone to Kansas 1856: Fire and Tribulation.*

In January, Professor Gott left his adopted home state of Kansas and now resides near Mapleton, Illinois with his wife, Julia, and their dachshund, Carly.

The title of Professor Gott's program is: "Living in Bleeding Kansas Between the Factions." This a brief discussion of the trials and tribulations of the common people as they learned to cope with the violence swirling about them.

## Live Auction Book Sales

We would like to thank Round Table member **Arnold Schofield** for managing the book sales each month. The money raised during the book sales helps the Round Table bring in nationally known speakers. Arnold will auction off the following Civil War books in March:

- *A Battle from the Start: The Life of Nathan Bedford Forrest* by Brian Steel Wills. Published in 1992. First Edition. In mint condition with dust jacket.
- *The Wartime Papers of R. E. Lee*. Edited by Clifford Dowdy and L. H. Manaring. Published in 1961. First Edition. With dust jacket.
- *The Personal Memoirs of Ulysses S. Grant, Complete Annotated Edition*. Edited by John F. Marszale. Published in 2017. First Edition. In excellent condition with dust jacket and mylar cover.
- *Pea Ridge: Civil War Campaign in the West* by William L. Shea and Earl Hess. Published in 1992. First Edition. In mint condition with dust jacket and mylar cover.

## Last Month's Program



**Speaker Mr. George Pettigrew**

At our dinner meeting on February 21<sup>st</sup>, **Mr. George Pettigrew** gave an outstanding program titled: "From Slave to Soldier" about his great-grandfather Isaac Johnson and the Buffalo Soldiers.

Mr. Pettigrew told us the story of how his great-grandfather, Isaac Johnson, went from being enslaved, to being a soldier, to being an Original Buffalo Soldier and what that meant. Mr. Pettigrew also told us how the Buffalo Soldiers came to be and how they got that iconic name. He presented the over 150-year historic tale of an Original Buffalo Soldier, according to oral family history and military records, as told by his great-grandson.

Attendance at the February dinner meeting was 65.

## Upcoming Civil War Round Table Programs

Our monthly dinner meetings are typically held on the third Wednesday of each month. However, the December 2024 meeting will be held on the second Wednesday of the month.

- **April 17, 2024:** Former Round Table member **Dr. Dave Schafer** will give a program about Jayhawker and Abolitionist James Montgomery.
- **May 15, 2024:** **Michael Lang** will present a program about Lee's Maryland Campaign in 1862.
- **June 19, 2024:** **Dr. Rebecca Jo Plant**, associate professor in History at the University of California, San Diego, will give a program about her book titled: *Of Age: Boy Soldiers and Military Power in the Civil War Era*.
- **July 17, 2024:** **David N. Duncan**, President of the American Battlefield Trust, will be speaking about Battlefield Preservation.
- **August 21, 2024:** **Dr. Tai Edwards**, associate professor of history and director of the Kansas Studies Institute at Johnson County Community College will give a program titled: "The Civil War and Colonization of Indigenous Peoples."
- **September 18, 2024:** **Dr. Megan Bever**, associate professor of history and chair of the Social Sciences Department at Missouri Southern State University, will give a program titled: "At War with King Alcohol."
- **October 16, 2024:** **Dr. Thomas Curran** will be giving a program titled: "Women at War: Female Confederate Prisoners & Union Military Justice."
- **November 20, 2024:** **Dr. Mitchell Klingenberg** with the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, will give a program about Union General John Reynolds.
- **December 11, 2024:** This will be a musical program to celebrate the holidays.



## Civil War Wednesdays Programs at the Harris-Kearney House in Westport

The programs will be held on the third Wednesday of the month at the Harris-Kearney House, located at 4000 Baltimore, Kansas City MO. The programs will start at 1:00 p.m. and end at approximately 2:00 p.m. Attendees are requested to pay \$6 per person, as a donation to the Monnett Battle of Westport Fund.

- **April 17, 2024: Mike Calvert**, president of the Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri, will be giving a program about the Second Battle of Independence, which occurred on October 22, 1864, during Sterling Price's Westport Campaign.
- **May 15, 2024: Lane Smith**, past president of the Civil War Round Table of Kansas City, will be giving a program about Confederate President Jefferson Davis's capture, imprisonment and pending trial for treason.
- **June 19, 2024: Dennis Garstang**, past president of the Civil War Round Table of Kansas City, will be giving a program titled "The Life and Times of General John Charles Frémont." Frémont was in command of the US Department of the West during the summer and fall of 1861.
- **July 17, 2024: Dan Smith**, chairman of the Monnett Battle of Westport Fund, will be giving a program describing life in Jackson County during the American Civil War.
- **August 21, 2024: Dick Titterington**, treasurer of the Civil War Round Table of Kansas City, will be giving a program titled: "Grant in Missouri: The Battle of Belmont." Ulysses S. Grant began his Civil War career as the colonel of volunteers in the 21st Illinois Infantry and was quickly deployed in Missouri in 1861. His last command in Missouri was the Battle of Belmont.
- **September 18, 2024: Alisha Cole**, Westport Historical Society, will be giving a program about the role of the Harris-Kearney House and the Wornall House during the American Civil War. Find out what their owners and occupants were doing at the time of the war.
- **October 2024:** There will not be a program in October due to the 160<sup>th</sup> Commemoration Encampment at Bloody Hill on the Big Blue Battlefield, scheduled for Saturday, October 19.
- **November 20, 2024: Dick Titterington**, treasurer of the Civil War Round Table of Kansas City, will be giving a program titled: "The 1861 New Mexico Campaign: Valverde and Glorieta Pass." Confederates invaded the New Mexico

Territory in 1861 and fought two battles against the Union defenders.

## CWRT-KC Partners with Freedom's Frontier

At the dinner meeting on February 21<sup>st</sup> **Gary Nevius** announced that the Civil War Round Table of Kansas City will partner with Freedom's Frontier to sponsor a Civil War symposium at the Truman Library, located in Independence MO, on Saturday, August 17, 2024. The symposium will focus on Civil War activities that took place in western Missouri and eastern Kansas. More information regarding the symposium will be provided later.

## Civil War Round Table Membership

Thank you to everyone who renewed their membership in the Civil War Round Table for 2024. The membership roster has been updated and we currently have a total of 107 members.

## Member News:

We would like to welcome new member **Nathan Cockrell**, who lives in Lees Summit. Nathan attended the January dinner meeting as a guest of **Lane Bartram**. Nathan's paternal great-great-grandfather Francis M. Cockrell entered the Missouri State Guard in 1861, culminating with leading the 1<sup>st</sup> Missouri C.S.A. as a Brigadier General until his capture at Fort Blakley in 1865.

Long-time member of our Round Table, **Jacque Stroud** sent **Dick Titterington** the following update on February 12<sup>th</sup>:

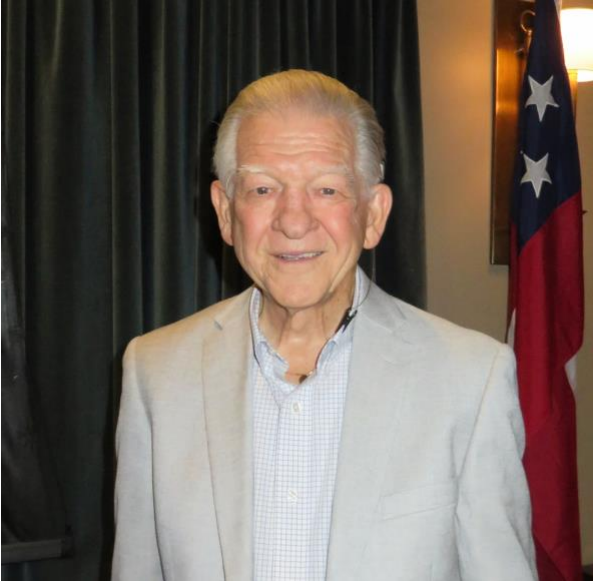
*"Hi Dick – Thanks for the dues reminder. Most certainly we want to support the CWRT-KC even though it is difficult now to drive in the night and we may not be able to attend many meetings. Enclosed is our check for \$60.00 for 2024. Now at ages 92 and 93, we have health issues that limit our outside activities, but we miss greatly CWRT members and programs. Herschel had a cornea transplant two weeks ago in Overland Park (Dr. Tim Cavanaugh), so we have many post-op appointments in your area. Our contact information remains the same as in the past. How 'bout those Chieeefs!"*

Thank you, Jacque. We certainly miss seeing you and Herschel at our dinner meetings.

Happy Birthday to **Sergeant Major Arnold Schofield** who turns 82 on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. We hope you have many more!

## A New Civil War Round Table is Formed

The John Knox Village Civil War Round Table filed as a Missouri domestic non-profit corporation on January 16, 2024. The Round Table is being headed up by **Charlie Peoples**, who lives in Lees Summit. Their first program was also held on January 16<sup>th</sup>. The speaker was **Dick Titterington**, who gave a program about the Battle of Westport. **Arnold Schofield** has also been scheduled to speak. Charlie attended our February dinner meeting and said starting up the John Knox Village Civil War Round Table has been a lot of work.



**Charles Peoples, President of John Knox Village Civil War Round Table**

## Sergeant Major's Roar

### **Battlefield Dispatches #749 Sickness and Hospitals Part II**

Throughout the Civil War, the care of the sick, wounded, dying, and dead soldiers was a chronic problem for both the Union and Confederate forces. Simply put, neither side was prepared for the magnitude of problems that they faced with a long war, because this was the first time there was a war that evolved as the Civil War did. This is not to say that there was not progress between 1861-1865 in the medical aspects of the war. There were many amazing, innovative medical advances that occurred during the Civil War. However, they did not diminish the fact that more soldiers on both sides died of disease than were killed in combat. The following column is the conclusion of a report by the President of the U. S. Sanitary Commission, which describes some of the answers to some of the medical problems faced by the

Union Army at the beginning of the Civil War. It is located in Vol. 8 of the Official Records of the War of the Rebellion on Pages 486-487.

“U. S. Military Hospital, corner Chestnut and Fifth Sts. Saint Louis, Mo., January 3, 1862.  
Major General Halleck

General: There is great difficulty for surgeons of regiments and regimental hospitals to procure the necessary medicines for the proper care of the sick. It is the subject of universal complaint among them. The fault is in the supply table, which is entirely inadequate to the present extraordinary development of the Army. Pulmonary and bronchial diseases are very prevalent at this season of the year – almost epidemic—and large quantities of expectorants are required, while the supply table for the regiments in the field scarcely furnishes scarcely any. We deem it absolutely essential to the health of the soldiers that this should be remedied as speedily as possible. Could you witness the sufferings which I today witnessed, tomorrow’s sun would not go down without an order correcting it.

The Sanitary Commission has already had to supply a number of regiments with the proper medicines. Others have had to apply to the Governors of the States from which they came; all of which is manifestly wrong and injurious to the service. An order from yourself to supply the Regimental Surgeons, such articles as the government furnishes the Post and General Hospitals, and to be furnished in such quantities as may be necessary will obviate the difficulty. We trust that an order to this effect will be issued at once, as the necessity is most pressing.

We find on examination, that there is great deficiency in the supply of ambulances to regiments in the field. Of the regiments examined, three have two ambulances each, eight regiments one each, and fifteen were without ambulances. The necessity for supplying the deficiency is apparent, the allowance being twelve ambulances to each regiment.

On recommendation of the Sanitary Commission, General Fremont ordered that each regiment in this division should be supplied with twelve of Irving’s patent cots for the sick. These cots were made with straps and serve the purpose of stretchers. They weigh 20 pounds and will cost \$4.50 each or \$54 to supply a regiment. Quite a number of regiments were supplied with them, but for some reason unknown to us, the order was suspended. We would recommend that the order be renewed.

From a recent examination of the Camps and Hospitals at Rolla, [Mo.] made by Dr. Douglas, of the United States Sanitary Commission, we find that there are at that post 1,542 sick out of an aggregate strength of 14,762. This

includes the sick at post and Regimental Hospitals and in Camp.

At various Posts along the line of the main stem of the Pacific Railroad, there were found over 1,300 sick in hospitals alone. How many were sick in Camp was not ascertained. Language cannot be found too strong to describe the condition of many of the Regimental and some of the Post Hospitals. They were sickening to behold.

We would recommend, as there is now an abundance of room in our General Hospitals, that the very sick and those who are likely to continue so for any length of time shall be sent to this City. There are Hospital [railroad] cars, provided with beds and all the necessary conveniences for the comfortable transportation of the very sick. An order to this effect would gladden the hearts and greatly ameliorate the conditions of many sick and suffering soldiers.

The source of the most sickness in this Division can be traced to the crowded condition of some of the tents and barracks, especially the Wedge Tent, which averages five and a half persons to a tent. Bad as this tent is, the close and crowded barracks are even worse. Two companies are crowded into a barracks 30 by 60 feet, 11 feet high. The air is most foul and it breeds disease and death.

At Camp Benton the Commander of the Post has most promptly complied with the recommendation of Dr. Warriner, the Inspector of Camps for the United States Sanitary Commission, in improving the ventilation, but with the number of inmates no amount of ventilation will suffice. The regulations allow 225 square feet for 6 men. At these barracks there is but 60 feet for 6 men which is entirely inadequate.

The smallpox has made its appearance at several Posts and in one of our hospitals; every precaution has been taken to prevent its spreading, but in order to arrest and mitigate the horrors of this dreaded disease it is necessary that some obligatory order be issued to Colonels of Regiments, holding them responsible for the prompt execution of the same.

Among the other duties which devolved upon the Sanitary Commission was the obtaining from the community at large, such additional means of increasing the comfort and promoting the moral and social welfare of the men in camp and hospital, as may be needed and cannot be furnished by Government Regulations. To carry out this object, an appeal has been made to the community through the press and have been most generously responded to. The various Ladies Aid Societies as well as individuals have showered their offerings upon us. From Massachusetts alone we have received over 150 boxes of supplies. We have already distributed over 18,759 articles consisting of shirts,

drawers, socks, comforts, and a variety of other articles of comfort and usefulness, besides 1,000 books.

The Commission feels the necessity of having another medical gentleman on our Commission and would respectfully recommend the appointment of Dr. S. Pollok, a gentleman of acknowledged ability and experience as a sanitarian.

JAMES E. YEATMAN,  
President Sanitary Commission.”

\*\*\*\*\*

Now then, as the extended Civil War evolved, both the Union and Confederate Governments improved the operations of their respective Medical Departments. Also, the Ladies Aid Societies in both the north and south continued to provide articles which relieved the suffering of sick, wounded, and dying soldiers throughout the Civil War. However, the dying of soldiers from sickness and disease remained constant, as the War Went On.

### The Amazing Stories of “Happy Jack” Graham

I asked Round Table member **Dr. Bruce Graham** if he would share the stories about his great-grandfather, John W. Graham (aka “Happy Jack”) with the Round Table. He e-mailed the following:

“I would love to share the stories of my great-grandfather and the 8<sup>th</sup> Kansas volunteer infantry. He tried to leave a legacy of his incredible life behind even though he was marginally illiterate. His duties included chasing Missouri guerrillas, suppressing a Sioux revolt in Nebraska, then being overrun and critically wounded at the battle of Stones River at Murfreesboro TN. His unit went on to fight with the Army of the Cumberland at the battles of Chickamauga, Missionary Ridge, the Atlanta campaign, and many other engagements.

“After the war he took advantage of the Homestead act and lived in a sod house in western Kansas. He was nearly killed in a raid by the Cheyenne Indians. The reason for his survival was the use of the new Sharps repeating rifle. Despite terrible hardships in his life, he reportedly always had a positive attitude. His nickname was “Happy Jack.” One of his sayings was a quote from one of his most admired people, Abraham Lincoln. “People are about as happy as they make their minds up to be.”

“Along with letters and stories that have been passed down, I have his discharge papers and a medal he received for gallantry, purportedly at the battle of Stones River, where Company D of the 8<sup>th</sup> Kansas infantry was attached to another unit in the Army of the Cumberland.



“Jack immigrated with his parents from Northern Ireland to Boston MA. When Jack was 9 years old, his father was murdered and Jack became the breadwinner for his mother and two younger brothers, by working in a glass factory.

“The family moved to western Kansas by covered wagon. He describes the town of Westport and living in a sod house.

“At age 16 Jack left home and worked on a cattle ranch where he became a cowboy. He describes run-ins with Indians and rustlers. In 1861, he joined the Union Army at Fort Leavenworth KS at age 26. His unit moved around frequently, mainly chasing Missouri guerillas. He expressed frustration regarding the rebels’ hit and run tactics. He has a lot to say about Southern sympathizers, how the Union cavalry was poorly trained and commanded, and about Kansas red legs and Jayhawkers as para military organizations under marginal control of the army.

“Jack describes his long march to Murfreesboro TN in cold conditions. His unit was overrun by an attack from a brigade of Confederate forces under General Braxton Bragg on the Union right wing. Jack helped push a cannon nearly a mile, since the horses and artillery men were killed. They formed a new defensive line. He placed triple cannister in the cannon, even though he “didn’t know what he was doing”, and fired it, which halted the rebel advance. The recoil of the cannon drove Jack into a tree, which crushed his pelvis, broke his ribs, and damaged his hearing. After spending months in the hospital, he was discharged from the army.

“One funny quote was by his good friend Sam, who stood next to him in battle line at Stones River, when they witnessed 5,000 Confederates coming out of the woods toward them in battle formation. Sam said: “Those fellers look like they mean business.” He had a good sense of humor even in the face of great danger.

“In 1868 Jack took advantage of the Homestead act and settled in a sod house with his new wife in northwest Kansas. There he was attacked by the Cheyenne Indians under Tall Bull and was nearly killed. Over 300 settlers were killed in that uprising. He was saved by the use of a Sharps repeating rifle and his military experience. I have a Cheyenne war club that he retrieved, which has been passed down to me as a family heirloom.

“My great-grandfather got his nickname “Happy Jack” when he was a cowboy. He was the youngest of the crew and took a lot of good-natured ribbing. He always took it well, with a constant smile on his face. The tough cowboys took him under their wing as a little brother and gave him the nickname. This positive attitude followed him into the military. He did his best to improve morale even when things were miserable. He taught his unit a lot of songs, which they frequently sang.

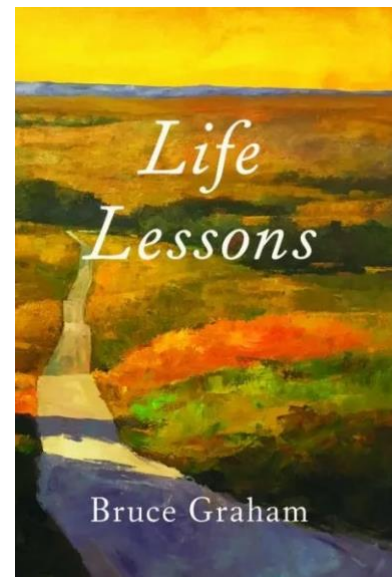
“He had a hard and difficult life but he never saw it that way. He always loved to quote one of his favorite people, Abraham Lincoln, “People are about as happy as they make up their minds to be.” He would frequently say “If life gives you lemons, make lemonade.”

“Jack had no formal education but tried to leave a rudimentary written record of his life and times. To read some of his letters is many times hilarious, because of the misspellings, poor grammar, and terrible penmanship.

“Jack stressed the importance of education with his four children. His daughter Ella had a college degree, which was uncommon for a woman at that time. His son Wallace got a business degree and wound up owning the same glass factory that Jack once worked in. He became a millionaire. His son James (who was my grandfather) became a physician and surgeon and a professor of anatomy and surgery at K.U. His son Harry became a veterinarian and rancher in Colorado.

“There is so much more to this guy. A whole book could be written about him. The first chapter in my book (*Life Lessons*) is all about Happy Jack. The book is a series of short stories about people in my family. There is a moral of life to each story. It is available on Amazon books and Barnes & Noble. However, a single chapter can’t touch the extent and magnitude of his fascinating life.”

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Dr. Graham’s book *Life Stories* was published in 2022. The following text is from the Barnes & Noble website:

“The stories of the fascinating family members chronicled here by Bruce Graham include tales of high adventure, love, war, building, sacrifice, faith and gaining wisdom. Of succeeding in business and sports, of the profession of medicine, of the counterculture, drug and alcohol abuse, Christian redemption, firsthand accounts

of President Harry Truman, and much more. There is a moral of life to be found in each chapter. Together, his family's stories have served as inspirations that over time helped shape the beliefs and values by which the author has tried to guide his own life.

“About the Author: Bruce D. Graham M.D. is a board-certified General and Colon Rectal surgeon who lives in Shawnee, Kansas. He is married and has three children. He received a B.A. at the University of Missouri where he was also a collegiate wrestler. He received an M.S. at the University of Arkansas and an M.D. at the University of Missouri. His General Surgery and fellowship in Colon and Rectal Surgery training was at Michigan State University. He has been in private practice in the Kansas City area for over thirty years. He is an associate clinical professor at the University of Kansas. He has published numerous scientific papers. He is an amateur historian, an avid fisherman, and gardener.”

### **Photo from the February Dinner Meeting**



**Photo taken at the Milburn Country Club  
prior to dinner.**