

# BORDER STAR

Newsletter of the Civil War Round Table of Kansas City



## 568th Regular Meeting Wednesday, October 16, 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.

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, October 8th.

To make a dinner reservation, please contact Marlene Natoli:

mailto:marnatoli@att.net
Phone: 913-764-1336

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

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### October Program



**Dr. Thomas F. Curran** will be giving a program titled: "Rebel Women and Union Military Justice: The Case of Drucilla Sappington."

Dr. Curran earned his doctorate from the University of Notre Dame in 1993 and currently teaches American history at Cor Jesu Academy, a Catholic high school for girls in St. Louis, Missouri.

Dr. Curran's presentation is drawn from his book titled: <u>Women Making War: Female Confederate Prisoners and Union Military Justice</u>. His presentation focuses on one of those women, Drucilla Sappington.

#### **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, October 8<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 if you are planning on attending. To make a reservation, call Marlene at 913-764-1336 or e-mail her at mailto:marnatoli@att.net If you send Marlene 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://cwrtkc.org/digital\_payments/

#### **Dinner Menu**

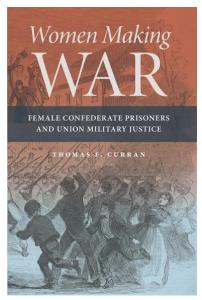
Milburn Golf and Country Club will serve the following meal at the October dinner meeting: Boursin chicken, green beans, and roasted fingerling potatoes. Dessert will be bread pudding. All dinners are served with house salad and Milburn house dressing, sliced bread, iced tea, water, and coffee.

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

Dr. Thomas F. Curran earned his doctorate from the University of Notre Dame in 1993 and currently teaches American history at Cor Jesu Academy, a Catholic high school for girls in St. Louis, Missouri. A native of Massachusetts, he is the author of Soldiers of Peace: Civil War Pacifism and the Postwar Radical Peace Movement (Fordham University Press, The North's Civil War Series, 2003); Women Making War: Female Confederate Prisoners and Union Military Justice (Southern Illinois University Press, 2020); most recently Funny Thing About the Civil War: The Humor of an American Tragedy (McFarland Publishers, 2023) and numerous articles and book chapters.

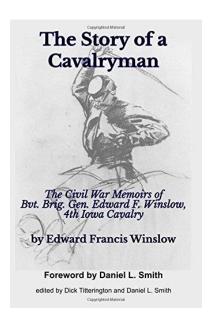


Dr. Curran's presentation is drawn from his book Women Making War. During the Civil War, at least four hundred and forty women are known to have been arrested in St. Louis or to have been sent there after their arrest elsewhere. They faced charges related to offenses ranging from overt displays of support for the southern Confederacy to offering aid and comfort to those fighting against Federal authority to more direct activities such as spying, smuggling, sabotage, and even service in the Confederate army itself. Federal authorities took the rebellious women's activities seriously, considering them of a treasonable nature, and responded with measures they deemed the women's actions justly deserved. For a majority of these women, arrest and imprisonment were consequences of conscious decisions they made to do what they could to advance the southern cause and assist those in armed rebellion against the United States government. What happened in St. Louis had a broader

impact on the Federal army's treatment of civilians, especially women, elsewhere. This presentation focuses on one of those women, Drucilla Sappington. Through her experiences, many of the important and interesting aspects of this story come to light.

#### **Last Month's Program**

The scheduled speaker in September, **Dr. Megan Bever** had to cancel her speaking engagement because she became ill with COVID two days before the dinner meeting. **Dick Titterington** graciously agreed to fill in as our speaker. Dick gave an excellent presentation about Union Brevet Brigadier General Edward F. Winslow of the 4<sup>th</sup> Iowa Cavalry. The title of Dick's presentation was: "The Story Making of a Cavalryman." Attendance at the September dinner meeting was 53.



Dick said Winslow was an amazing man. Winslow had no military training. He volunteered to join the Union Army, raised a regiment of cavalry, and ultimately became a general. Dick's program covered the following main topics:

- Introduction. Winslow was born in 1837.
- Antebellum Life.
- Early Civil War years.
- Independent command.
- Up against Nathan Bedford Forrest.
- The 1864 Battle of Westport Campaign.
- Wilson's Cavalry Raid.
- Post Civil War years.

Winslow was a devout man, who was against slavery and wanted to preserve the Union. As the secession crisis worsened, Winslow believed "the Confederacy was engaged in the perpetuation of evil and the destruction of the Union."

Colonel Oscar H. LaGrange of the 1<sup>st</sup> Wisconsin Cavalry said: "Winslow was gentle by nature but filled with the aggresiveness of the cause, and while he earned the love of his subordinates, he compelled the confidence of his superiors. His keen intelligence molded the purpose of his men. His will inspired them and made them think themselves invincible."

Company F of the 4th Iowa Cavalry recruited men from Wapello and other nearby counties. They were mustered into service on November 23, 1861. Twenty-four-year-old Edward F. Winslow was commissioned captain.

Winslow served under General William T. Sherman during the Vicksburg Campaign and was promoted to colonel. Winslow fought unsuccessfully against Nathan B. Forrest at Brice's Crossroads in June of 1864. He fought against Sterling Price at the Battles of Westport and Mine Creek in October of 1864.

Winslow was promoted to Brevet Brigadier General following Wilson's cavalry raid through Alabama and Georgia in March and April of 1865. From May-July of 1865, Winslow was assigned command of Atlanta GA and was ordered to rebuild the railroads that were destroyed. He was also in charge of feeding 28,000 destitute, starving refugees in the Atlanta area.

After the war, Winslow declined Sherman's offer of a colonelcy in the Union Army and was mustered out of the service on August 10, 1865.

In conclusion, Dick summarized the life of Edward F. Winslow:

- Learned construction from his father in Maine.
- Relocated to Iowa as a young man and started building railroads.
- Volunteered and was elected captain of Company F of the 4<sup>th</sup> Iowa Cavalry.
- Appointed colonel of the 4<sup>th</sup> Iowa Cavalry.
- Became a Brigade and Division commander.
- Brevet promotion to Brigadier General.
- Became a successful railroad executive after the Civil War.
- Winslow died in 1894 of heart failure. He and his wife did not have any children.

#### **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.

• 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, who was killed on the first day at Gettysburg.

- **December 11, 2024:** This will be a musical program to celebrate the holidays.
- January 15, 2025: Chris Kolakowski will be speaking about his new book titled: <u>Tenth Army Commander: The World War II Diary of Simon Boliver Buckner</u>, Jr.
- February 19, 2025: Sergeant Major Arnold Schofield will be our speaker.
- March 19, 2025: David Cannon will be speaking about Josiah Bushnell Grinnell and the Iowa Underground Railroad.
- April 16, 2025: Round Table member Todd Stettner will be giving a program about Judah Benjamin, who served as a U.S. Senator from Lousiana and who served as Attorney General, Secretary of War, and Secretary of State for the Confederacy.
- May 21, 2025: Dr. Jared Peatman of the George Washington University Center for Excellence in Public Leadership will give a program about his book titled: <u>The Long Shadow</u> of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address.
- June 18, 2025: Dr. Joseph Beilein, Jr. will be giving a program titled: "A Man By Any Other Name: Quantrill."
- **July 16, 2025: A. Wilson Greene** will be giving a program about the Petersburg VA Campaign.

#### **Upcoming Civil War Wednesdays Programs**

The "Civil War Wednesdays" programs will be held on the third Wednesday of the month at the Westport Branch of the Kansas City Public Library, located at 118 Westport Road, Kansas City MO. The programs will start at 1:00 p.m. and end at approximately 2:00 p.m. There is no charge to attend these meetings at the library.

- October 16, 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.
- November 20, 2024: Dick Titterington 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.

#### **Honoring Our Members Who Are Veterans**

The following is a message from our president, **Gary Nevius** to members of the Round Table:

"Dear Members of the Round Table:

"We have heard from a number of you regarding your military service experience. We know that there are more of you out there. Please let us know of your military service, the military service of a spouse or the military service of a close relative (parent, son or daughter only). We need this information by the October 16 dinner meeting.

"Please email your information to Gary Nevius at: <a href="mailto:jhawk1863@gmail.com">jhawk1863@gmail.com</a>

"Please provide the following information: Your Name, Name of Veteran, Relationship, Service Branch, Years of Service, War or Theater of Service.

"If you prefer to provide this information at the next dinner meeting, there will be a sheet at the welcome table for your convenience. Those not responding by October 16 will not be recognized in November.

"Thank you for participating and THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!"

#### **Member News:**

We would like to welcome new member **Robert Riesmeyer**, who lives in Wellington MO. Robert works for Travel Unrivaled, a tour & travel company.

**Arnold Schofield** said his back surgery has been scheduled for October 7<sup>th</sup>. We pray that Arnold's surgery is successful.

**Dan Smith** announced that there will be a 160<sup>th</sup> Battle of Westport living history event taking place on Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The event will take place in the Byram's Ford Battlefield area, east of Bloody Hill (located at 4800 East 63<sup>rd</sup> Street). There will be Battle of Westport re-enactors and food available.

**Bill Buckner** recommends two books written about his grandfather, Simon Bolivar Buckner, and his father, Simon Bolivar Buckner, Jr.

- <u>Simon Bolivar Buckner: Borderland Knight</u> by Arndt M. Stickles (1987)
- <u>Tenth Army Commander: The World War II</u> <u>Diary of Simon Boliver Buckner, Jr.</u> by Chris Kolakowski (2024).

**Chip Buckner** said he was a speaker at the Quasquicentennial (125<sup>th</sup> anniversary) of the Battle of Perryville in 1987 and met author **Chris Kolakowski**.

#### **Executive Committee Meeting Canceled**

At the September dinner meeting, **Gary Nevius** announced that there will not be a meeting of the Round Table's Executive Committee on October 12<sup>th</sup> for the following reasons:

- Gary will be out of town.
- There will not be an election of officers this year, since the officers elected last year are currently serving a two-year term.
- There are no proposed changes to the Round Table's by-laws.
- The list of programs and speakers for 2025 has been finalized.

## Photographs from the September Dinner Meeting



Bill Buckner and his son Chip Buckner



Dale Walters and his daughter Marcy Barkley

#### Sergeant Major's Roar

#### **Battlefield Dispatches #802**

#### Stampede

According to my friend, Mr. Webster. a stampede is "A sudden headlong rush of startled animals." This was and is normally associated as having happened with cattle as they were being driven in large numbers, especially during the large cattle drives after the Civil War. However, the "stampede" described in this column was one of horses, not cattle, and is described by Orderly Sergeant Charles W. Porter in his Civil War journal as follows.

#### Sunday May 18, 1862:

This afternoon there was a boat arrived at the landing near the Fort [Leavenworth] with a large number of "HORSES" for our Regiment. I was detailed with a number of soldiers to bring them up and to place them in an enclosure which occupied the afternoon. The day was warm and pleasant.

#### Saturday May 24, 1862:

At 9  $\frac{1}{2}$  o'clock, we had our usual parade, after which we rode our horses out to the country to water and graze, where we spent the day. The day was very warm. We returned to camp without accident.

#### Sunday, May 25, 1862:

We had no parade today, so as soon as we dispensed with our breakfast, we saddled our horses and rode out to the grazing grounds and spent the day grazing our horses. The day was spent by us in a very satisfactory manner, though the day was very hot.

#### Thursday June 5, 1862:

This morning, after performing our usual duties, the Companies took out their horses to graze. I remained in Camp to make up company papers. While in my tent writing, a terrible thundering sound attracted my attention. I ran out to ascertain the cause, when I discovered that the "HORSES" of our Regiment to the number of "1,200" had "STAMPEDED" and were coming direct upon our camp! I hurried what men I found out of their tents to find a retreat in "TREES", when the horses came upon us and tore down tents, demolishing camp kettles, and our dinner was as a consequence cut short, no one was seriously hurt. The day was warm and pleasant.

#### Friday June 6, 1862:

This morning, after our accustomed duties, the horses were taken to their grazing grounds, but no stampede today. The day was quite hot. I was doing some Company writing today."

\*\*\*\*

Now then, Sgt. Porter never mentioned what caused the "STAMPEDE", but precautions were probably taken to prevent it from happening again, because this is the only horse stampede he mentioned in his entire journal from 1862-1865, as the War Went On!

#### Photographs from the Unveiling Ceremony of Historic Markers on the Battle of Westport Battlefield

**Dan Smith**, Chairman of the Battle of Westport Fund, took part in an unveiling ceremony of a series of ten historic markers interpreting the Byram's Ford Battlefield of the Battle of Westport on Thursday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>. The ceremony took place on the grounds of the battlefield atop the portion of the field known as "Bloody Hill."

Congressman Emmanuel Cleaver, II (MO-5) provided principal remarks concerning the battle's significance to the community and the region. The significance of the marker atop Bloody Hill is two-fold. The marker first addresses the fact that the Union victory at Westport lead a few weeks later to the 1864 election and resulting adoption of the Missouri Emancipation Ordinance. The marker also describes a notable figure from the battle, Lt. Patrick Henry Minor, an African (1829-1865)commanding American Douglas' Independent Colored Battery, who was the first regularly commissioned Black officer to command Black troops in combat on October 22-23, 1864.

The ceremony also served to bring to the public's attention the upcoming BOW 160 commemoration marking the 160<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Westport on Saturday, October 19, 2024. As part of the ceremony, the Battle of Westport Fund will be announcing the launch of the latest phase of its Saving Kansas City's Battlefield initiative for raising an additional \$1,000,000 for further land acquisition and improvements on the battlefield.

The following photographs were provided by member **Bob McCoubrie**.



Dan Smith, Chairman of the Board of the Battle of Westport Fund



Congressman Emanuel Cleaver, II



Dan Smith unveiling the historic battlefield marker