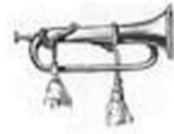




BORDER



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/>

Join us on Facebook!

571st Regular Meeting Wednesday, January 15, 2025

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 \$35.00 per person.

Reservations are required in order to attend the dinner meeting.

Reservation Deadline: Tuesday, January 7th.

To make a dinner reservation, please contact Marlene Natoli:

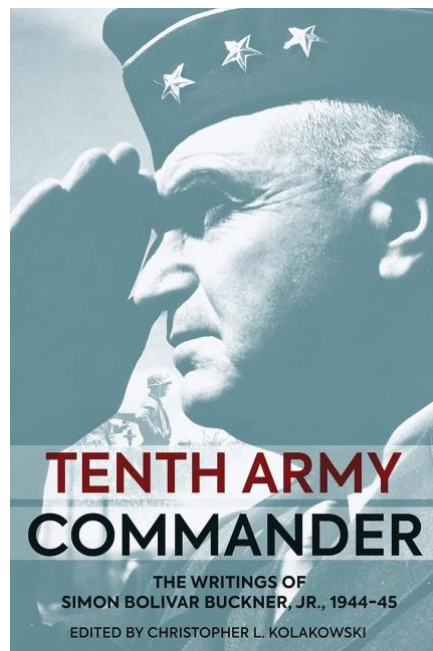
<mailto:marnatoli@att.net>

Phone: 913-764-1336

January Program

At our dinner meeting on January 15th, **Christopher L. Kolakowski** will be speaking about his new book titled: *Tenth Army Commander, the Writings of Simon Bolivar Buckner, Jr., 1944-45.*

Simon Bolivar Buckner Jr. was a major figure in the Pacific War, directing the defense of Alaska and leading the Tenth Army in the Battle of Okinawa until his death by enemy fire on June 18, 1945. The son and namesake of a Confederate general, he led a remarkable life and is the senior American killed by enemy fire in WWII and the 20th Century. This program will cover General Buckner's background, family, and career, with an emphasis on his time in the Pacific.



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, January 7th.** 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.
- **Please note that the cost of a dinner is now \$35.00 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/

Dinner Menu

Milburn Golf and Country Club will serve the following meal at the January dinner meeting: Mediterranean Chicken Roulade with lemon basil sauce, asparagus, and roasted potatoes. Dessert will be Chocolate Gateau. 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



Christopher L. Kolakowski is Director of the Wisconsin Veterans Museum, a position he has held since January 6, 2020. He was born and raised in Fredericksburg, Va. but his mother's family has very deep roots in the Badger State. Chris received his BA in History and Mass Communications from Emory & Henry College, and his MA in Public History from the State University of New York at Albany.

Chris has spent his career interpreting and preserving American military history with the National Park Service, New York State government, the Rensselaer County (NY) Historical Society, the Civil War Preservation Trust, Kentucky State Parks, the U.S. Army, and the MacArthur Memorial. He has written and spoken extensively on various aspects of military history and leadership from 1775 to the present, and was the inaugural Director of the General George Patton Museum and Center of Leadership at Fort Knox, Kentucky.

Chris has published three books on the Civil War and three on World War II in the Pacific. He is a reviewer and contributor to the *Air Force Journal of Indo-Pacific Affairs* and a Senior Fellow at the Consortium of Indo-Pacific Researchers. His latest book, titled *Tenth Army Commander*, is about General Simon Bolivar Buckner Jr., who was killed in battle on Okinawa.

Book: *Tenth Army Commander*

The following text is from the Amazon website:

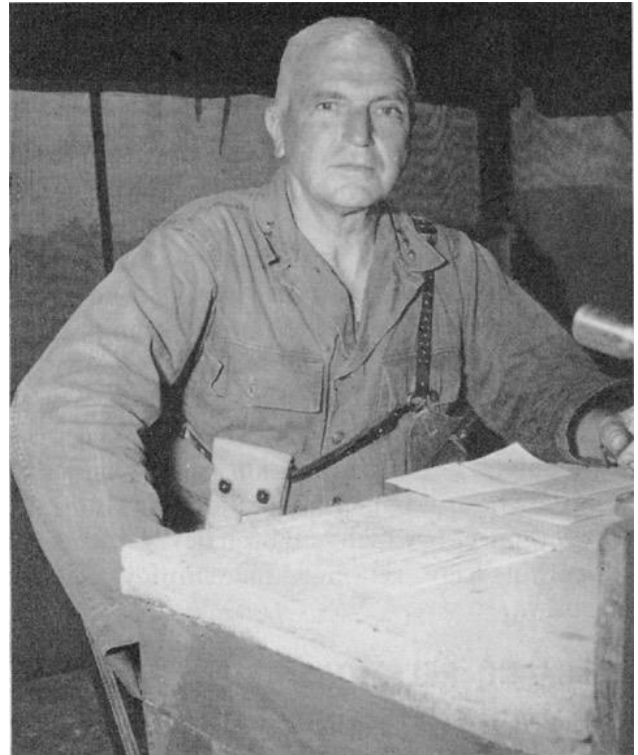
"...an outstanding volume, which is extremely beneficial for two key reasons. First, it adds significantly to one's understanding of the Battle of Okinawa and to the operations of the Alaska Defense Command. Second, it provides readers with an opportunity to become acquainted or to greatly improve their understanding of General Buckner." - *Military Review*.

General Simon Bolivar Buckner Jr. was a major figure of the Pacific War, both for his command in Alaska and in his key role heading Tenth Army during the Battle of Okinawa in the spring of 1945. Buckner was the senior U.S. officer killed by enemy fire in World War II when Japanese artillery cut him down on June 18, 1945, one month shy of his 59th birthday. The shelling ended a remarkable life – son of a Confederate Lieutenant General and governor of Kentucky, the “Child of the Democracy” in the 1896 Presidential election campaign, educated at West Point, myriad service as a student and instructor at various Army posts and schools from 1917 to 1936, command in Alaska from 1940 to 1944, and ultimately of Tenth Army from 1944 to his death.

General Buckner kept a diary covering the period from January 1, 1944 to June 17, 1945, which has never been fully published until now. Buckner made notes every day, often in great detail; his chief of staff thought Buckner wanted to write a memoir after the war, but the papers were scattered after his death. In addition to the Okinawa material, Buckner's diaries discuss his departure from Alaska and service in Hawaii as Tenth Army commander. Topics include his daily life in wartime Hawaii, troop training, comments on war events, gossip, notes on his travels to Guam and the Philippines, and his role in the Smith vs Smith controversy after the Battle of Saipan. The diary text is augmented by letters from General Buckner to his wife Adele during March to June 1945, and a letter from the Tenth Army Chief of Staff to Adele detailing Buckner's death.

Tenth Army Commander is an important account from a too-long-silent voice among Pacific War leaders.

General Buckner is the father of Round Table member **William C. “Bill” Buckner** and the grandfather of Round Table member **Simon Bolivar “Chip” Buckner**.



General Buckner at Okinawa 1945. (Photo courtesy of Wikipedia).



The last photograph taken of General Buckner (r) before he was killed by Japanese artillery fire. (Photo courtesy of Wikipedia).

Last Month's Program



The Dickens Carolers (l to r): Perry White, Janelle Grimes, Dalene White, and Brad Zimmerman.

The Dickens Carolers, Kansas City's premiere professional Christmas Caroling company performed during our dinner meeting on December 11th. They celebrated their 41st season of holiday caroling in 2024. Brad Zimmerman, founder and manager, said the Dickens Carolers have a total of 26 singers. The carolers were costumed in beautiful turn-of-the-century attire and added a festive spark to our dinner meeting. They sang the following Christmas songs:

- "Joy to the World"
- "Angels We Have Heard on High"
- "Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella"
- "Carol of the Bells"
- "Deck the Halls"
- "Jingle Bells"
- "Frosty the Snowman"
- "It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas"
- "Have a Holly, Jolly Christmas"
- "White Christmas"
- "We Wish You a Merry Christmas"

Upcoming Civil War Round Table Programs

Our monthly dinner meetings are typically held on the third Wednesday of each month except for December which will be the second Wednesday of the month.

- **February 19, 2025:** **Sergeant Major Arnold Schofield** will be speaking about Colonel Jennison's raiders.
- **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 Louisiana 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: *The Long Shadow 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."

Upcoming Course on Bleeding Kansas

Round Table Treasurer **Dick Titterington** will be teaching a SPARK Life-long Learning course at UMKC this winter titled: "Bleeding Kansas: Where the American Civil War Began." The 6-week course will be taught on Wednesdays, January 15 to February 19, 2025, from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at UMKC, 4825 Troost Avenue, Kansas City MO, room 112 or via Zoom. Attendance requires paying a fee (\$40) for the class and a fee (\$50 annual or \$15 per quarter) to become a member of SPARK. For more information visit:

<https://lifelongspark.org/events/bleeding-kansas-where-the-american-civil-war-began/>

Dick said if things go according to plan, he will follow this course up with three more courses at SPARK:

- Border State Contest: The Struggle for Missouri at the Start of the American Civil War.
- Guerrilla War in Missouri and Kansas from 1862-1864.
- Price's 1864 Invasion of Missouri and Reconstruction in Missouri.

Please Renew Your Membership for 2025

It is time to renew your membership in the Civil War Round Table for 2025. The dues for 2025 are the same as they were for last year: \$40 per individual, \$60 per couple, or \$20 per non-resident of Kansas or Missouri.

Our annual membership dues cover expenses associated with obtaining quality speakers, primarily for transportation and lodging. The dues also cover administration expenses such as website service fees, bank charges, corporate reports and returns, office supplies, postage, award plaques, name tags, etc.

Please mail your dues payment to our treasurer, **Dick Titterington**, 4125 NW Willow Drive, Kansas City MO 64116, or you can pay him at the next dinner meeting.

Member News:

We would like to welcome new member **Gib Kerr**, who lives in Kansas City MO. Gib works for Cushman & Wakefield in commercial real estate. He has recently published a book titled: *Un-Cancel Robert E. Lee*. Gib's great-great grandfather served in the Arkansas First Mounted Rifles. He was a member of our Round Table back in the 1990's.

We would like to thank **Arnold Schofield** for his auction of Civil War books, memorabilia, and framed prints at the December dinner meeting. Arnold raised a total of \$225 for the Round Table.

We would like to congratulate **Dick Titterington** for receiving the Round Table's Valiant Service Award. Dick has done an outstanding job as treasurer, website administrator, and speaker at several of our dinner meetings.

We would also like to congratulate **Judy Smith** for receiving the Round Table's Valiant Service Award. Judy has done an outstanding job as secretary for many years. Judy takes the minutes at our Executive Committee meetings and issues the meeting minutes. Judy also has been in charge of the beautiful table decorations at our December dinner meetings.

Dan Smith, Chairman of the Monnett Battle of Westport Fund, said Flatland KCPT published a three-part series on our battlefield reclamation effort. Here is the link to part III: <https://flatlandkc.org/news-issues/battle-of-westport-big-blue-battlefield/>

Photographs from the December Dinner Meeting



Round Table president Gary Nevius presenting treasurer Dick Titterington with the Valiant Service Award.



Round Table president Gary Nevius presenting Secretary Judy Smith with the Valiant Service Award.



Member Dennis Garstang and his wife Mimi.



Member Don Bates and his friend Mary Ann Pinkerton.

Sergeant Major's Roar

Battlefield Dispatches #805 Three Cheers and a Tiger

During the Civil War, on January 1, 1863, there was a celebration in Fort Scott. However, it was not a celebration of the New Year, it was a celebration by soldiers of the 1st Kansas Colored Volunteer Regiment to honor and recognize the implementation of the "Emancipation Proclamation" that freed the slaves in the Confederate States. However, because Missouri was classified as a "Border State" along with Kentucky, Maryland, and Delaware and they were technically not recognized as Confederate States, the Emancipation Proclamation did not apply to them. This did not matter to hundreds of Missouri slaves who believed that it did and they escaped and fled to the surrounding states of Kansas, Nebraska, and Illinois.

The following description of the celebration in Fort Scott was written by a reporter and was published in the "Anglo-African Newspaper" in New York City on January 31, 1863.

"January 1, 1863, was a cloudy, but not disagreeable day at Fort Scott Kansas, home to the 1st Kansas Colored Volunteer Infantry. A little past one o'clock in the afternoon, the men marched in a "Dress Parade" by Companies, Stacked Arms, and then took their places at the tables, which were in the form of a parallelogram, were set in front of Headquarters. Everyone sang the "Star Spangled Banner and then the speeches began, marking the first official day of the "EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION."

Captain Ethan Earle of Company F led off with some appropriate comments, after which Lieutenant A. T. Sholes gave "THREE CHEERS AND A TIGER" for President Lincoln. Next to speak was the commander of Fort Leavenworth, who predicted that "before many months roll over our heads, the official reports of some of our Generals down south will electrify the land with the details of battles, wherein Colored Men will be mentioned favorably as having fought and bled for their country."

A hymn written for the event was sung and then Colonel James M. Williams, commanding the 1st Kansas rose. Speaking with all the flowery effusion expected of serious orators of that day, Williams observed that the efforts of Blacks under arms, "will be no mere struggle for conquest, but a struggle for their own freedom, a determined and as I believe, irresistible struggle for the dis-enthralment [freedom] of a people who have long suffered oppression and wrongs at the hands of our enemies.

Another hymn followed, after which a white Arkansan refugee praised Western Soldiers and a second original song was presented. Then the Regimental Adjutant stepped forward to read aloud the second paragraph of the Emancipation Proclamation:

"That on the first Day of January, in the year of our Lord One thousand Eight Hundred and Sixty Three, all persons held as slaves within any State, or any designated part of a State, the people whereof shall be in Rebellion against the United States, shall be then and thenceforward and FOREVER FREE and the Executive Government of the United States, including the Military and Naval Authority thereof, will recognize and maintain the freedom of such persons and will do no act or acts to repress such persons, or any of them, in any efforts they make for their actual freedom."

"Now boys" said the Adjutant, pointing to the Stars and Stripes, "do you understand that? It means that you may hunt, shoot and destroy" every slaveholder in the land and that flag and all under it shall not hinder, but aid you in such righteous retribution." His remarks were met with what was described as "tumultuous cheering."

Speaking next, Captain William D. Mathews, Commanding Company D, said "Today is a day for great rejoicing with us. As a thinking man, I never doubted that this day would come. Now is our time to strike. Our own exertions and our own muscle must make us men. If we fight, we shall be respected. I see that a well-licked man respects the one who thrashes him." A verse of "Dixie", with appropriately changed lyrics, followed. Then the Regiment's Surgeon made a few observations and the Adjutant stepped forward to deliver the keynote address, in which he extolled the Service of Negroes in America's War for Independence and in the War of 1812.

According to a reporter's account of this entire affair, "The John Brown Song", with its stirring "Hallelujah Chorus", was then sung by the entire Regiment with thrilling effect and the festivities terminated with Nine Cheers for "A Free Union and its President Abraham Lincoln", which were given with a will and vim that made the welkin [the vault of heaven or sky] ring. So celebrated the FREEDMEN OF MISSOURI Soldiers of the Union, the never to be forgotten New Year's Day in 1863."

Now then, twelve days later on January 13, 1863 in Fort Scott KS, the 1st Kansas Colored Volunteer Infantry Regiment was mustered into or joined the Union Army. In doing so, they were the FIRST BLACK REGIMENT FROM A NORTHERN STATE TO JOIN THE UNION ARMY. Unfortunately, Captain William D. Mathews,

the commanding officer of and who had recruited the soldiers of Company D, had to resign his commission and leave the regiment. This occurred because Captain Mathews was an African American and only “White” Officers were authorized to command or supervise “Black” soldiers in 1863. However, this would change by the summer of 1864 when William D. Mathews was commissioned as a Captain in the all Black “Kansas” Independent light Artillery Battery as the War Went On!

For more information on the 1st Kansas Colored Infantry, read Ian Michael Spurgeon’s book: *Soldiers in the Army of Freedom, The 1st Kansas Colored, the Civil War’s First African American Combat Unit.*

