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

580th Regular Meeting
Wednesday, November 19, 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, November 11th.
To make a dinner reservation, please contact Marlene Natoli:
mailto:marnatoli@att.net
Phone: 913-764-1336

November Program

AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD TRUST

At our dinner meeting on November 19th, **Mr. David N. Duncan**, President of the American Battlefield Trust, will be giving a program about battlefield preservation.

The American Battlefield Trust was founded in 1987 and is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, whose primary focus is on saving battlefields of the American Revolution, the War of 1912, and the Civil War.

The American Battlefield Trust and its members have saved more than 60,000 acres in 25 states.

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, November 11th.** 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 $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://cwrtkc.org/digital_payments/

Dinner Menu

Milburn Golf and Country Club will serve the following meal at the November dinner meeting: Turkey breast, mashed potatoes, bread stuffing, and green beans. Dessert will be Pumpkin pie. 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

Mr. David N. Duncan, president of the American Battlefield Trust, spent more than 20 years as the organization's primary fundraiser and Chief Development Officer before taking the helm in October 2020 with the retirement of longtime president O. James Lighthizer.

Mr. Duncan, 61, was born in Roanoke, Virginia and grew up in nearby Salem in a home full of history books, precipitating his passion for history. He has a Bachelor of Science degree from James Madison University, where he majored in communications.

Mr. Duncan started his career as a copywriter for a small direct marketing firm, Response Dynamics of Tyson's Corner, Virginia. He rose through the ranks to become Creative Director, supervising a team of copywriters who specialized in creating compelling marketing and fundraising messaging for charitable, nonprofit organizations and political campaigns.

In late 1999, when two predecessor battlefield preservation organizations merged into what is today's American Battlefield Trust, Mr. Duncan saw an opportunity to put his years of fundraising experience to work in the pursuit of his passion for history and for the preservation of American battlefields. After a personal letter to Lighthizer and four interviews with staff and board members, he was hired as Director of Membership in March 2000.

Mr. Duncan's impact was immediate. His first three fundraising letters in 2000 brought in $485,000, almost three times more than projected, with the response from membership almost twice the national average. Before year's end his title had been expanded to Director of Membership and Development.

Working with dedicated and generous trustees, individual donors, and foundations, Mr. Duncan has led the way in raising more than $300 million in private donations since joining the nonprofit. These donations have been used to help preserve more than 60,000 acres of battlefield land at more than 160 battlefields of the American Revolution, War of 1812 and Civil War in 25 states, including Gettysburg, Antietam, Fredericksburg, Vicksburg, Princeton and virtually all of the country's most historic battlegrounds.

Relying on the personal touch as the bedrock of his fundraising strategy, Mr. Duncan has traveled tens of thousands of miles and crisscrossed the country to personally meet Trust supporters and potential donors, sitting down with them face-to-face and talking about the organization's mission, its goals, its successes, and the threats to battlefield preservation.

When Mr. Duncan became Trust president in 2020, the organization was actively pursuing important battlefield land acquisition opportunities at Antietam (Md.), Stones River (Tenn.), Perryville (Ky.), Brandywine (N.J.) and other pieces of hallowed ground while promoting an ever-growing catalog of educational initiatives highlighted by the opening of the Liberty Trail heritage driving route connecting South Carolina's historic Revolutionary War battlegrounds.

Mr. Duncan is married to Karen King Duncan. They live in Fairfax, Virginia. They have two adult daughters and one granddaughter.

Last Month's Program

At our dinner meeting on October 15th, the speaker was **Dr. Michael J. Forsyth,** associate professor and director of the Department of Command and Leadership at the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth KS. He gave an excellent presentation about leadership during the Red River Campaign, which took place in 1864 in the Trans-Mississippi Theatre of the Civil War. Attendance at the dinner meeting was 55.

Dr. Forsyth covered the Red River Campaign from the perspective of the command teams on both sides. Neither command team got along in terms of their interactions and this tended to affect the outcome of the campaign in negative ways. For the Confederates the infighting between General E. Kirby Smith and Major General Richard Taylor was so severe that it watered down their victory in the campaign, so that it was in fact a hollow one at best. However, on the Federal side, while they lost the campaign tactically, the two commanders, Major General Nathaniel P. Banks and Rear Admiral David Dixon Porter, overcame their differences for the greater good of saving the Union fleet on the Red River and ultimately preserving the force for use another day, which had some positive consequences for the Union war effort.

October Speaker Dr. Michael J. Forsyth

Upcoming Civil War Round Table Programs

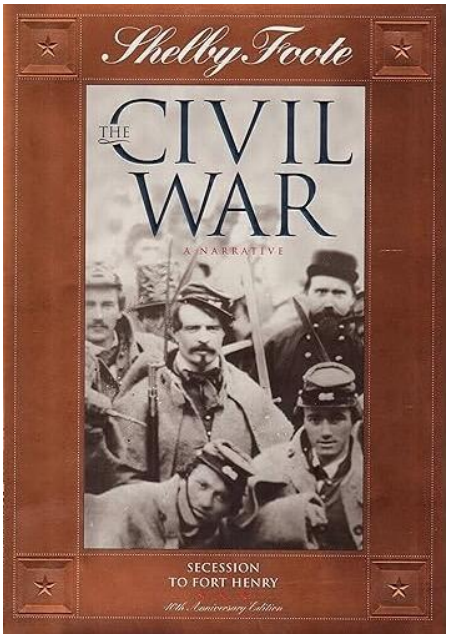
Our monthly dinner meetings are typically held on the third Wednesday of each month except for December which will be the second Wednesday of the month.

- **December 10, 2025: David Von Drehle** will be giving a program about his book titled: *Rise to Greatness – Abraham Lincoln and America's Most Perilous Year*.
- **January 21, 2026: Ralph Monaco** will give a program titled: "Scattered to the Four Winds, General Order No. 11 and Martial Law in Jackson County MO, 1863."
- **February 18, 2026: Eric Smallwood** will be give a program about the Wakarusa War.
- **March 18, 2026: John Hopkins** will give a program about the Battle of Gettysburg 50th Anniversary Reunion in 1913.
- **April 15, 2026: Dr. Chris Mackowski**, Editor-in-chief and co-founder of Emerging Civil War will be our speaker.

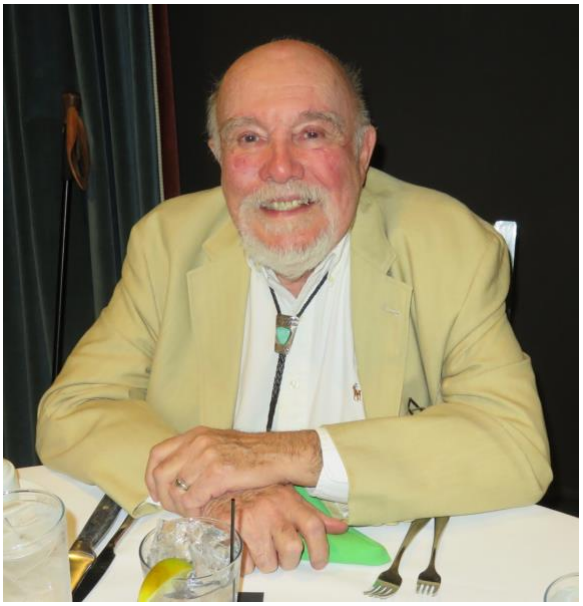
- **May 20, 2026: Dr. Brian Matthew Jordan** will be our speaker. His topics are: "Final Resting Places: Reflections on the Meaning of Civil War Graves" and "More Than an Eagle on the Button: Black Lives beyond the Battlefield."
- **June 17, 2026: Kellie Gormley** will give a program titled: "Cease Firing! Life and Death at Swope Manor (an inn in downtown Gettysburg)."
- **July 15, 2026:** Round Table member **Dick Titterington** will give a program titled "Gunpowder Girls: Tragedy at Civil War Armament Factories."
- **August 19, 2026: James Hessler** will give a program about the dispute between Union Generals George Meade and Daniel Sickles over command of the Union troops at the Peach Orchard during the second day at the Battle of Gettysburg.
- **September 16, 2026: Robert J. Amsler, Jr.** will give a program about railroads during the Civil War and their use as both strategic and tactical assets.
- **October 21, 2026: David Jackson** will give a program titled: "Lockdown: Outlaws, Lawmen, and Frontier Justice in Jackson County MO."

November Book Sales

Arnold Schofield said there will be a silent auction for the following set of books: *The Civil War, A Narrative* by Shelby Foote (see below). This is a complete set containing 14 volumes of the 40th Anniversary Edition, published in 1998-1999. The set is in mint condition. *The Civil War, A Narrative* was originally published in 1958-1959 as a 3-volume set, in a large book edition.



Remembering George Leff



We are very sorry to report that **George Leff**, a long-time member of our Round Table, died on October 14th at the age of 87. George died peacefully, surrounded by his family. The following obituary is from the Neptune Society website:

"George, born in St. Louis [on June 22, 1938], displayed his mischievous nature from a young age. With the help of his best childhood friend, David Allen, he formed a ragtag group of 13 boys known as The Bompart Avenue Gang. Together, the boys spent their days playing corkball and engaging in various forms of mischief. Through all the changes that life brought, George and David Allen remained steadfast in their close friendship. George spent his summers on his aunt and uncle's homestead in Prairie Home, Missouri, where he learned the value of hard work and developed a lifelong passion for spending time in the great outdoors.

"George's family moved to Kansas City when he was a teenager. He graduated from Shawnee Mission North High School and continued his studies at the University of Kansas. He built a successful career as a small business owner and later worked as a financial advisor and investor.

"In 1964, George's life took a romantic turn when he met Kay at a holiday gathering. Their relationship blossomed quickly, and they were married in August of the following year. Together, they embarked on a remarkable 60-year journey filled with laughter, adventure and love. George was a devoted father to their two sons, Kevin (Erin) and Dave (Heather), and a proud grandfather to Addie.

"George lived life to the fullest, embracing his bold and eccentric personality. His love for life manifested in various artistic pursuits, including photography,

silversmithing and leatherwork. He was an excellent cook and enjoyed a nice drink. He was known for his captivating storytelling, regaling others with tales of his youth, time in the military, and hunting trips with his best friends, Gary and Larry.

"George cherished the time he spent with friends and family on "The Farm," a small piece of land he owned with his longtime friend, Rich. He particularly enjoyed the warmth of the wood stove in the winter. The Farm was the setting of countless adventures, boisterous gatherings and quieter moments shared with Kay, his two boys and many friends.

"As George aged, he found genuine happiness in golfing, clay shooting and participating in Civil War Round Table meetings. During his retirement, he diligently maintained regular office hours and enjoyed trading in the options market.

"Of all his hobbies, interests and personal connections, George's greatest joy in recent years was spending time with Kay and their beloved dog, Sugar Bear.

"George's warmth, sharp wit and remarkable storytelling will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

"A private family service will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Ronald McDonald House, Tunnels to Towers Foundation or an animal rescue group of your choice."

Thank You Veterans

November 11th is Veterans Day. We would like to thank the 17 members of our Round Table who have served in the United States military:

- Phil Baker, Army
- Don Bates, Sr., Army
- William C. Buckner, Army
- Dr. Daniel Cudnik, Air Force
- John Dillingham, Army
- Ken Ford, Army
- Dennis Garstang, Navy
- Paul Gault, Army
- Rev. Dave Holloway, Navy
- Tom Jones, Air Force
- Bob Macoubrie, Army
- Ford Maurer, Army
- Bruce Schall, Army
- Arnold Scofield, Army
- Gerald Smith, Marines
- Lane Smith, Army
- Dan Turner, Army

Thank you, Veterans, for serving our country and for the sacrifices that you made in protecting our freedoms.

Member News

It was great to see **Mary and Phil Griffin** at our Round Table meeting last month. Mary said she was thankful for all of the cards, letters, and prayers that she received following her surgery.

We would like to welcome new member **Joel D. Benson** who is retired and lives in Maryville MO. Joel heard about our Round Table from a friend, who is a member of the Knoxville TN Civil War Round Table.

Annual Business Meeting of the Round Table

According to the Civil War Round Table's By-Laws, the annual business meeting of the Corporation shall be held each November, at which time the election of Officers and Directors shall take place. At the October dinner meeting, Round Table president **Gary Nevius** announced that the following slate of Officers and Directors for 2026-2027 will be presented to members of the Round Table for election at the November dinner meeting:

Elected Positions:

- President: Deb Buckner
- 1st Vice President: Blair Hosford
- 2nd Vice President: Dick Titterington
- Secretary: Mary Griffin
- Treasurer: Dick Titterington
- Monthly Meeting Coordinator: Marlene Natoli
- Director of Preservation: Arnold Schofield
- Board of Directors: Blair Tarr, Todd Stetner, and John Kussman.

Please Renew Your Membership for 2026

Now is a good time to renew your membership in the Civil War Round Table for 2026. The dues for 2026 are the same as they were for this 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 an upcoming dinner meeting.

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Sergeant Major's Roar

Battlefield Dispatches #815

Home Post

During the Civil War, whenever a volunteer regiment joined the Volunteer forces of the Union Army, the town or city from which it joined was considered to be the "Home Post" of the regiment. This was true in Fort Scott where five regiments considered it (Fort Scott) to be their "Home Post." The first of these regiments was the Sixth Kansas Volunteer Cavalry. It was organized and mustered into the Union Amy in August of 1861 and was a hybrid or mixed regiment that contained four Infantry Companies (A, B, C & H) and four Cavalry Companies (D, E, F & G). In March of 1862, because of the imperfect and irregular way most of the initial Kansas Regiments had been organized, they were all re-organized with permanent designations. The Sixth Kansas became a complete Cavalry Regiment consisting of Companies A-K. All of this information and the balance of this column is located in the Military history of Kansas Regiments by W. S. Burke on Pages 119 -150 that was published in the 1890's.

"Soon after the consolidation [re-organization] was made, one battalion consisting of companies C, H, and K under the command of Major Campbell was detached and ordered to report to Colonel Clayton of the Fifth Kansas [Cavalry] and marched with its command to Carthage, Missouri, while the balance of the regiment remained at Fort Scott. In the month of May [1862], the battalion rejoined the regiment at Fort Scott and with companies D, E, F, and G were ordered to Paola to be re-armed and equipped.

"In the month of June, the regiment concentrated at Fort Scott and Companies C, H, and K under the command of Captain Greeno were detached and ordered to report to Colonel Doubleday of the Second Ohio Cavalry, to accompany his expedition south into Indian country [now eastern Oklahoma] and participate in the battle of Cowskin Prairie. This command went into camp at Baxter Springs, where the Sixth Regiment joined it on the 20th of June, excepting Company B, which was left at Westport, Mo., under the command of Major Ransom.

"On the second day of July, 1862, the Sixth accompanied the expedition, under command of Colonel Weer, into the Cherokee Country and on the 4th of the same month succeeded in overtaking and engaging a Rebel force under the command of Colonel Clarkson, which resulted in his capture, together with the main portion of his command and all of his camp and garrison equipage. The Sixth was sent in pursuit of those that had escaped capture.

"On the same day, a detachment of two companies of the regiment under the command of Captain Greeno attacked a camp of Rebels under command of Colonel Stand Watie at Stand Watie's Mills and after a spirited engagement, succeeded in routing the enemy and capturing a large quantity of sugar and other commissary stores, which were destroyed for want of transportation.

"On the 5th of July, the entire command went into camp at Wolf Creek, where it remained until the 10th, when it moved south to Grand River and encamped at Flat Rock Creek, eighteen miles from Fort Gibson.

"Whilst the command was in camp at Flat Rock, about the middle of July 1862, Colonel Weer, commanding the division, sent a detachment of sixty men of the Sixth Kansas and one hundred Indians under the command of Captain Greeno, to Tallequah, the capital of the Cherokee Nation, who succeeded in capturing John Ross, the principal Chief, Colonel William Ross, Major Pegg and eight other officers of the Rebel Army. Two hundred Indians belonging to Colonel Drew's Regiment deserted and joined the Federal command and returned with it to camp.

"About the same time, Major Campbell, with six companies of the Sixth Kansas made a very successful reconnaissance to the Arkansas River, opposite Fort Gibson, and engaged the enemy across the river and returned to camp without loss."

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Now then, the Sixth Kansas continued to serve throughout the balance of the war in southwestern Missouri, northwestern Arkansas, and the Indian Territory (present eastern Oklahoma) and compiled an excellent, proud service and combat record. By the end of the war the Regiment lost during its service four officers and 81 enlisted men killed and mortally wounded and three officers and 140 enlisted men by disease, for a total of 228. It was mustered out of and discharged from the Union Army at Fort Leavenworth on August 27, 1865. After the war, many of the veterans of the Sixth returned home and lived and died in Fort Scott and Bourbon County.

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Battles for Chattanooga TN – Part 2

Orchard Knob, November 23, 1863

The following information is from the Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park:

"At the time of the Civil War, Orchard Knob was outside the city limits of Chattanooga. It offered clear views of Lookout Mountain, Missionary Ridge, and Chattanooga – exactly what Union General Grant needed to guide his troops during the battles for Chattanooga. [However, Orchard Knob was held by the Confederates.]

"The Final Struggle Begins: Just before 2:00 p.m. on November 23, 1863, Southern soldiers were alarmed by what unfolded before them. On the outskirts of [Union] Fort Wood and Chattanooga, upward of 20,000 Union soldiers formed in dense lines opposite just 600 Confederates stationed on Orchard Knob.

"Suddenly, the tat-a-tat-tat of drums, the blare of bugles, and the yell of officers cut through the silent afternoon. The mass of men surged forward in one grand motion. Like a great blue wave, Union soldiers crashed around the knob, sending its Confederate defenders scurrying toward Missionary Ridge.

"As the sun sank below the horizon, the first of three days of desperate fighting ended with the Stars and Stripes waving triumphantly over Orchard Knob."

Maryland and Illinois Monuments and Bridges' Battery, Illinois Light Artillery on Orchard Knob.

Park Entrance Gate to Orchard Knob.

Maryland and New York Monuments on Orchard Knob.

The Battle of Missionary Ridge, Nov. 25, 1863

The following information is from the Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park:

"On the morning of November 25, 1863, Major General Ulysses S. Grant's Union Army began its attack against General Braxton Bragg's Confederates who occupied this ridge and the slopes below. After unsuccessful attacks [by General Sherman] on the northern end of the ridge and the slow march of General Hooker's troops from the south, Grant ordered Major General George H. Thomas' troops in the center to seize the Confederate rifle pits at the base of the ridge.

"The Federals stormed the rifle pits, forcing Confederates to retreat up the slopes [on the west side of Missionary Ridge]. Then, without orders, the Federals swarmed up the slopes in pursuit, swept over the crest, and routed the poorly positioned defenders.

"Confederate gunners here had trouble aiming their cannons low enough to hit the Federals swarming up the slopes. Also, Confederates defending this position hesitated to fire into their own men, who were retreating up the hill in front of the Federals.

"The outnumbered Confederates broke and fled down the slope [on the east side of Missionary Ridge]. Only darkness and the rearguard action of Major General Patrick R. Cleburne saved the Confederates from destruction.

"The Union victory at Missionary Ridge left Chattanooga firmly in Union hands, and set the stage for General Sherman's advance against Atlanta in the spring [of 1864]."

Total casualties resulting from the Battles for Chattanooga were 5,824 for the Union and 6,667 for the Confederates.

A Tour of Missionary Ridge

Missionary Ridge has seven military reservations (parcels of land set aside to commemorate the battle) and a mortuary monument for Union Colonel Edward H. Phelps who was killed during the battle. There is also a monument to the 8th Kansas Volunteer Infantry Regiment.

It is approximately six miles from the Sherman Reservation at the north end of the battlefield to the Iowa Reservation at the south end. The two-lane road that runs along the crest of the ridge is a winding road that has only a few pull off locations. There are beautiful homes along the east side of the road. Cannons and troop position tablets are located in the front yards of many of the homes. One property on the west side of the road has two cannons pointing directly at the front of the house!

Turchin Reservation. Dent's Alabama Battery.

Ohio Reservation. Ohio Monument and Fifth Company Battalion Washington Artillery.

View of Lookout Mountain, Raccoon Mountain, and Chattanooga from Missionary Ridge.

Bragg Reservation. Base of the Illinois Monument.