



# Buck and Ball

Official Newsletter of the Civil War Round Table of the Ozarks

www.cwrto.com

February 2012

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## Next Meeting

Wednesday, February 8, at 6:30 p.m. at The Library Center, 4653 S. Campbell Ave., in Springfield.

Our speaker will be William C. (Bill) Winter. He is the author of the most recent book from the Missouri History Museum: *Captain Joseph Boyce and the 1<sup>st</sup> Missouri Infantry, CSA*. Bill's earlier book, *The Civil War in St. Louis: A Guided Tour*, is one of the Missouri History Museum's most popular books. His work on Civil War topics has also appeared in *Gateway Heritage* and the *Missouri Historical Review*. One of Bill's favorite activities is leading tours of the Civil War sites in and around St. Louis.

Bill is a graduate of the University of Illinois, and he did his graduate work at Michigan State University. After brief and not all that glorious service as a junior officer in the United States Army, Bill and his wife Judy returned to St. Louis, where Bill worked for McDonnell Douglas (now Boeing) and Southwestern Bell (now AT&T). At AT&T, Bill is a project leader for responses to complex telecommunications requirements for the Department of Defense, particularly the U.S. Army. Bill's topic is Captain Joseph Boyce and the 1<sup>st</sup> Missouri Infantry, CSA.

Civil War Roundtable of the Ozarks  
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www.cwrto.com

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Meeting Continuously  
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## President's Message for February 2012

Did the skilled riverine workers of St. Louis win the Civil War for the Union in February 1862? You could make the case for answering that question in the affirmative. It is artificial, of course, to label any one event as the turning point of the war, yet our desire to make sense of a complex past is one reason that we become fascinated with alleged “decisive moments.” Some have argued that the fall of New Orleans doomed the Confederacy, while others cite the battles of Vicksburg or Gettysburg. The battle of Antietam is a popular candidate for the decisive moment, because Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation followed on the heels of that Union victory. Those who argue that the Civil War was won in the west frequently contend that U.S. Grant’s victories in February 1862 at Fort Henry and Fort Donelson in Tennessee shattered the Confederacy’s cordon defense, opening the heartland of the South to invasion. In short, the Confederacy never recovered from Grant’s success early in 1862.

Grant’s advance into Tennessee depended upon a new element in American military history, the river ironclad, and the ironclads that supported his campaign were built in St. Louis by James B. Eads, a civil engineer. These vessels were so crucial to Grant’s success that one might argue that the date of Eads’s August 1861 government contract to build them was the decisive day, the turning point of the Civil War. Exaggerations aside, there is without doubt a strong connection between the work that went on at the Carondelet Marine Ways shipyard just south of St. Louis and the North’s ultimate victory. The speed with which Eads completed his work was breathtaking by any standards. Only six months after Eads won his contract, the *Carondelet*, *St. Louis*, and *Cincinnati* went into battle, supported by the *Essex*, an existing boat Eads converted into an ironclad.

Photo # NH 63376 USS Carondelet (1862-1865)



U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

Photo courtesy National Archives

Although Eads brought hundreds of workers to St. Louis and his other facilities, such as those at Mound City, Illinois, he could never have constructed the ironclad fleet that supported Grant had not St. Louis already been home to a very large number of skilled craftsmen who prior to the war had made their living building and repairing boats for service on the Missouri, Ohio, and Mississippi rivers. These men (some of whom may have been free blacks) are the unsung heroes of the Northern war effort. As this month marks the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Grant’s first two victories, the battles that set him on the road to fame, we might pause to remember the toil and

sweat of those anonymous civilian workers in St. Louis, without whose efforts the Civil War might have followed a different path.

Bill Piston  
CWRT Ozarks President

**Civil War Round Table of the Ozarks**  
**Minutes for the meeting of 11 January 2012**

President Bill Piston called the first meeting of 2012 to order at 6:00 pm. There were approximately 50 people in attendance. President Piston welcomed a guest attending the meeting. The elected Board Members for 2012 were introduced to the Round Table:

Vice President – Dan Cunningham  
Secretary – Steve Buffat  
Treasurer – Rick Quinn  
At Large Member – Herb Primrose  
Programs – President is currently serving as Program Chair  
Wilson’s Creek Liaison – Ted Hillmer  
Past President – Ted Hillmer

President Piston also introduced the appointed Staff Members for 2012

Webmaster – John Rutherford  
Buck & Ball – Michael Price  
Refreshments – Nancy Piston  
Walt Hammer – (Position not indicated)

Vice President’s Report: Dan indicated that he still has medallions and lapel pins for sale

Treasurer’s Report: Rick Quinn presented the Treasurer’s Report. As of 30 December 2011, the balance is \$1832.00. As of 10 January 2012, there is a balance of \$1778.23 plus \$5275.67 in the money market account for a total of \$7053.90.

President Piston announced that Minutes and Treasurer’s Report will be in the Buck & Ball in January.

Ted Hillmer, the Superintendent of Wilson’s Creek discussed the 2012 Wilson’s Creek Calendar, the Museum move to the Visitors Center, and the December Luminaria event with 1500 Luminaries.

President Piston announced that he will be hosting the Library Center event “Let’s Talk about It”. The series starts in February and Dr. Piston will be leading the discussion of various books. It is a five part discussion series on Thursday evenings from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. starting on February 2. It will also include a guest speaker in March.

There was no old or other new business for discussion.

Speaker: Jeff Patrick “Old Soldiers Never Lie: Humorous and Bizarre Stories from the National Tribune.”

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm

Stephen J. Buffat  
Secretary  
CWRTO

### **Civil War Website Director Wins Missouri Humanities Council Award**

Brian Grubbs, project director of a digitized collection of Civil War documents and photographs through the Springfield-Greene County Library District, has won a 2011 Missouri Humanities Council Award for Distinguished Achievement in Literature. Brian and other awardees will be honored at a spring event.

Community & Conflict: The Impact of the Civil War in the Ozarks, went live in June 2009 at ozarkscivilwar.org two years after the project began. It is part of the Missouri Digital Heritage Initiative funded by a Federal Library Services and Technology Act grant administered by the Missouri State Library.

The Community & Conflict website opens with a haunting musical score and video collage. The reader can select from categories containing photos, letters, journals and eyewitness accounts of civilian and military life in the Ozarks region and Trans-Mississippi Theater from 1850-1875. The materials are from the archives of 22 universities, museums, organizations and individuals in six states.

Brian and staff assistants also wrote a manual of best practices for others taking on similar projects. Groups in Kansas City, St. Louis, Columbia and Cape Girardeau are now doing digital imaging projects, following Brian’s general framework.

# Pea Ridge Sesquicentennial Commemoration

Pea Ridge National Military Park Foundation is partnering with Pea Ridge National Military Park to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Pea Ridge on March 9-11, 2012. This historic event will kick-off on March 9th on the Bentonville Downtown Square with a cavalry re-enactment on the actual site where the Union and Confederate Armies met in March 1862 before the Battle of Pea Ridge. That evening, Bobby Horton will perform in concert "Songs and Stories of the Civil War" at the Bentonville Shewmaker Center. All other events will take place March 10th and 11th at Pea Ridge National Military Park and include soldier encampments, battlefield talks and guided hikes, artillery and rifle firing demonstrations, a battlefield luminary Saturday evening and memorial service Sunday. The kick-off is free to the public, but the concert is a ticketed event. All park events will cost the regular park admission of \$5 per adult or \$10 per vehicle.

For questions, concert tickets or more information, contact the park at 479-451-8122, visit us at [www.pearidgefoundation.com](http://www.pearidgefoundation.com) and/or like us on Facebook.



# Upcoming Events

## Civil War Book Discussion Group At The Library Center

Monday May 21 at 7:00 in meeting room A for *The Class of 1846: From West Point to Appomattox: Stonewall Jackson, George McClellan, and Their Brothers* by John C. Waugh.

Monday September 24 in meeting room A with *Mrs. Lincoln: A Life* by Catherine Clinton.

Monday November 19 in meeting room A for *Starving The South: How the North Won the Civil War* by Andrew F. Smith.

## Lincoln Assassination Programs

The Library Center is hosting two special programs related to the assassination of Abraham Lincoln

Watch a special screening of *The Conspirator* on April 15 at 1:30 in auditorium. Directed by Robert Redford and starring Robin Wright, this film dramatizes the case of Mary Surratt, the woman executed by the United States government. Inspired by the book *The Assassin's Accomplice: Mary Surratt and the Plot to Kill Abraham Lincoln* by Kate Clifford Larson. A discussion will follow the film.

"The Assassination of President Lincoln and the Trial of the Conspirators" by Historian Hal Funk, May 15 at 7:00 in the auditorium.