



Buck and Ball

2023

Newsletter of the Civil War Round Table of the Ozarks

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www.cwrto.com

February 2023

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Walt Hamer

Fundraising

TBA

Book Raffle

Janet Perry



Wednesday, February 8, 2023

The Library Center

6:30 pm

Michelle Brooks

“Finding the Founders:

The 62nd U.S. Colored Troops”

Michelle Brooks has been studying the history of Jefferson City and Lincoln University for more than 20 years, first as a reporter for the *Jefferson City News Tribune* and today as a published author. Her books include *Hidden History of Jefferson City* and *Lost Jefferson City*, with The History Press, and *Interesting Women of the Capital City* and *Buried Jefferson City History*, through Kindle Direct Publishing. She is a research analyst at the Missouri State Archives.

She will speak on FINDING THE FOUNDERS: 62ND U.S. COLORED TROOPS. All but a handful of the surviving soldiers of the 1st Missouri Infantry of African Descent, later the 62nd U.S. Colored Troops, had some degree of literacy. Fighting in the last battle of the Civil War – The Battle of Palmito Ranch – may have been their foremost military accomplishment, but they made an immense impact in their Missouri communities as preachers, teachers, farmers, and political leaders. They also influenced the future of all Black Missourians by founding Lincoln Institute in Jefferson City in 1866. They trusted Richard Baxter Foster, a white lieutenant with the 62nd, with their dream and their significant contributions. Foster was a school teacher who rode with John Brown in Kansas before the war and returned there to found several pioneer Congregationalist churches after establishing the school. Sgt. Major John Jeffries, who earned the highest noncommissioned rank among the 62nd soldiers, was among Lincoln Institute's first students and then an early instructor. He then moved to Rolla to establish a school there and then opened his own business. He is the epitome of the 62nd USCT's story. Meet these individuals who were freed from slavery by military service and returned from war to build their communities.

President's Message February 2023

Although many of you know me quite well, a brief introduction is in order. I am a native of Johnson City, Tennessee. I receive a B.A. and M.A. from Vanderbilt University and a Ph.D. from the University of South Carolina. My interest in the Civil War dates to 1961, when my second-grade teacher, Mrs. Treadway, taught us about the then just-beginning Civil War Centennial. When the bell rang for recess, we went outside and started playing Civil War. I have never really stopped. Soon thereafter I learned that I was named for my paternal grandmother's uncle, William Thomas Garrett, who served in the Army of Northern Virginia. My grandparents lived next door to us. My grandmother was a Virginian (my father was born there, too) but my paternal grandfather was from Maine. Thanks to that regional duality, I went through the Centennial, 1961-1965, with an equal interest in both sides of the conflict. By chance, my first adult-level Civil War reading was Bruce Catton's *Grant Moves South*, which my father had purchased when it was published in 1960. I still have that book, which bears my

father's bookplate. Its sequel, *Grant Takes Command*, was a gift to me from my grandfather. I still have that one, too.

I went to the University of South Carolina in the fall of 1977 to study under Thomas L. Connelly, who was known for his writings on the Confederate Army of Tennessee. If you have not read his books *Army of the Heartland* and *Autumn of Glory*, I recommend them to you. Tom was a Nashvillian, like my mother, which help to cement our relationship as student and mentor. When I arrived in South Carolina, he had just published *The Marble Man; Robert E. Lee and His Image in American History*, which went beyond biography to address how and why Lee, a "rebel," became a post-war hero to many white Americans, North and South. Inspired by this, I wrote a dissertation that became my first book, *Lee's Tarnished Lieutenant; James Longstreet and his Place in Southern History*, which explores how and why Lee's trusted subordinate fell from grace during the Reconstruction period, and went from being a hero to a villain in the eyes of many of his contemporaries, and most historians since.

Nancy and I met in graduate school and married in 1982, after she completed her master's degree and I received my doctorate. We initially taught Social Studies at the Louise S. McGehee School, a private girls' school in New Orleans. In 1988 I was offered a position at Southwest Missouri State University. From then until my retirement in 2017 I focused most of my scholarship on the Civil War in Missouri.

The Round Table was meeting in the 89er Restaurant on Glenstone Avenue when I joined in 1988. After the 89er closed, we tried several different venues before settling happily at The Library Center. This is my third time serving as president, and I look forward to an exciting year. My thanks to those who are serving as our officers, and to all of you whose interest preserves our nation's complex and diverse history. – Bill Piston

A 2023 Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Calendar Is Yours When You Renew Your Membership!

The 2023 Wilson's Creek Calendar, produced by the Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Foundation, features photographs of documents, journals, diaries, daguerreotypes, flags, uniforms, and weapons that tell the story of the men and women impacted by the Battle of Wilson's Creek. Compiled with the assistance of the Battlefield's curatorial staff, and expertly produced by Foundation Board Member Steve Ross, the 2023 calendar lists the meetings of the CWRT Ozarks each month.

As in the past, the Round Table made a donation to defer the cost of the calendars, and now has calendars to give to new members and to current members when they renew. Membership is \$35 for couples, \$25 for individuals, and \$10 for full-time students. If paying by

check, make the check out to CWRTTO. Our mailing address is P.O. Box 3451, Springfield, MO 68008-3451.

December 14, 2022 Minutes Civil War Round Table of the Ozarks

We had a wonderful Christmas meeting. There was lots of food and we all had a great time. Lots of prizes were given.

We also voted on our officers for the coming year:

President—Bill Piston

Vice-President- Jim Gallion

Secretary-Bill Perry

Treasurer-Tim Noonan

Connie Langum was appointed Program Chair and Walt Hamer membership chair.

Next meeting is February 8, 2023.

February Book Raffle



Landscape Turned Red; the Battle of Antietam by Stephen W. Sears. Of all the days on all the fields where American soldiers have fought, the most terrible was September 17, 1862. The Civil War raged on that date at Antietam Creek took a human toll never exceeded in United States history. *Landscape Turned Red*, winner of the Fletcher Pratt Award for best nonfiction book about the Civil War, is the definitive work on this climactic and bitter struggle.

The Destructive War is the winner of the Bancroft Prize in American History. In this book,

Charles Royster looks at William Tecumseh Sherman and Stonewall Jackson, the men who came to embody the apocalyptic passions of North and South, and re-creates their characters, their strategies, and the feelings they inspired in their countrymen.

Masters Without Slaves: Southern Planters in the Civil War and Reconstruction, is the winner of the Allan Nevins Award of the Society of American Historians. This book is gracefully written and cogently organized. It illuminates the tragedy of slavery for whites, the self-destruction of the planter class, which preferred death to any accommodation with the blacks.

Lincoln and Chief Justice Taney. James F. Simon has written an exciting and notable book where Abraham Lincoln and Roger B. Taney, the president and the chief justice, two men of the highest intelligence and passionate judgment, argued the future of this democratic republic.

A Black Woman's Civil War Memoirs. Born a slave, Susie King Taylor gained her freedom during the Civil War and joined a northern regiment in South Carolina to work as a laundress, teamster, teacher, and nurse. Her memoirs were privately published in 1901. Now, ably introduced by Will Lee Rose, Taylor's valuable firsthand account becomes easily available.

Headquarters in the Brush: Blazer's Independent Union Scouts. Thanks to Darl L. Stephenson, a military intelligence specialist, Blazer and his people, finally, in this book, get the respect they earned.



2023

Civil War Round Table of the Ozarks Membership Application or Renewal



Civil War Round Table of the Ozarks

P.O. Box 3451,

Springfield, MO 65808-3451

"Meeting Continuously since 1960"

We appreciate your past participation in the CWRTTO and we look forward to your involvement in the coming year. See forms on the next page!

RENEWAL

Name: _____

2023 Couples Membership.....\$35.00 ☐

2023 Individual Membership.....\$25.00 ☐

2023 Student Membership.....\$10.00 ☐

Please update your personal information

In the form below.

NEW MEMBER

Name: _____

Address _____

City _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email Address _____

Phone: Cell/Home _____

Yearly Due	1 st Qtr.	2 nd Qtr.	3 rd Qtr.	4 th Qtr.
Individual	\$25.00	\$20.00	\$15.00	\$10.00
Individual/Spouse	\$35.00	\$30.00	\$25.00	\$20.00
Full Time Student	\$10.00	\$7.50	\$5.00	\$2.50

Mail Check to:

CWRTO, P.O. Box 3451,

Springfield, MO 65808-3451

Payable to: CWRTO