



MARCH 2023 NEWSLETTER

Meeting Date: Monday, March 20, 2023 | **Time:** 7:00 PM

Social Hour: 5:30 PM | **Dinner:** 6:00 PM | **Presentation:** 7:00 PM



James Hessler | *Speaker for March 2023 Meeting*

James Hessler has worked as a Licensed Battlefield Guide at Gettysburg National Military Park for two decades. Jim has authored or co-authored three full-length books on the Gettysburg campaign: *Sickles at Gettysburg* (2009), *Pickett's Charge at Gettysburg* (2015), and *Gettysburg's Peach Orchard* (2019). His books have received several distinguished awards. He also authored articles in *Gettysburg Magazine*, *America's Civil War*, and *Hallowed Ground Magazine*.

Jim currently co-hosts the popular *Battle of Gettysburg Podcast*. His other media appearances include Travel Channel, C-SPAN, NPR, PCN-TV, and other outlets. He was one of the primary content designers for the American Battlefield Trust's mobile Gettysburg application.

Jim is a frequent speaker for Civil War Round Tables and other historical groups nationwide. In addition to Gettysburg, he leads tours of several other battlefields and historic sites across the country. He currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Little Bighorn Associates Board of Directors and is a former Executive Council member for the Association of Gettysburg Licensed Battlefield Guides.

Follow Jim's Facebook page at *James Hessler's Gettysburg History* to receive updates on Jim's current and future projects. ■

PRESIDENT'S REPORT | KENT MASTERSON BROWN

First of all, I hope each and every member of the Kentucky Civil War Roundtable had a wonderful Holiday season and that the New Year will bring each of you happiness, health, and prosperity.

I thought it would be good to give members an indication of how the Civil War Roundtable movement is doing generally in this strange time in which we live. I have had the opportunity to address many of the Civil War Roundtables across the country. From August, 2022 until January 15, 2023, I have addressed the Knoxville (Tennessee), Mid-Ohio (Marietta), Lynchburg (Virginia), Gettysburg (Pennsylvania), Richmond (Virginia) and Louisville (Kentucky) Civil War Roundtables. All have had overflow crowds, and, each time, I have given the members the greetings from the Kentucky Civil War Roundtable. Many of the members ask me how the Kentucky Civil War Roundtable is doing. I tell them that it is doing extremely well with great crowds and great speakers. Judging from what I have observed, the movement is alive and well. Of all those roundtables, though, the Kentucky Civil War Roundtable remains the oldest and most distinguished. I am proud to be its president.

Our March 20th meeting is bound to be very entertaining as our speaker, Jim Hessler, a prominent licensed battlefield guide at Gettysburg, will speak about his fine biography of none other than Major General Daniel E. Sickles, perhaps the most controversial figure of not only the Battle of Gettysburg but the entire Civil War. See you there! ■





TREASURER'S REPORT | CHRIS E. ANDERSON



This year the Kentucky Civil War Roundtable turned seventy years old. Although our membership has declined some during the pandemic, we currently have 224 members. We welcome new members. Applications are available on our website www.kycwt.org. Our goal is to get our membership back to 300.

Our dues, which have not increased in five years, do not cover our budget and we are dependent upon donations and fundraising to cover expenses. As such the 2023 dues will be \$125 for single and \$150 for couple memberships. This amount will afford you the privilege of attending five meetings either in person or virtually from our website. Dues invoices for 2023 were emailed back in August. If you did not receive your invoice, please contact Susie at kcwrt.susie@gmail.com. Anyone who has not paid by March 31st will be dropped from membership. If you do not intend to renew your membership please let Susie know.

We finished the year in good shape financially. Although our membership dues income declined some, we raised \$5,870 from various fund sources including \$3,452 from nineteen donors through the Blue Grass Community Foundation Good Giving Challenge in November. Our expenses were within budget at just over \$30,000 and we finished very close to a break even for 2022.

As we are a 501(c)3 tax exempt organization dues are tax deductible as are your contributions. Our members are very generous and their support is greatly appreciated. Please consider the Roundtable in your charitable giving and estate planning throughout the year. Anyone wishing to see our financial statements can request them from me.

To encourage students to attend our meetings and become members we are waiving the guest fee and asking members to sponsor them by paying for their meal. If you are interested in being a student sponsor, please let Susie know. Also, we are waiving the \$25 guest fee for any first-time visitors. ■

SECRETARY'S REPORT | BILL SWINFORD



I joined the KCWRT in 1979. Prior to that I attended several meetings as a guest. I met Chris Anderson shortly after joining. Chris has been an integral part of the Organization's leadership for many years. Chris was a successful CPA and a partner with Barr and Anderson. He succeeded Jack Cunningham as Treasurer of the KCWRT and has served in that capacity for over 20 years.

In addition to the usual treasurer duties, Chris has assisted in the Memorial Day tour at the Lexington Cemetery, the Perryville Battlefield tours conducted by Kent, and several other battlefield tours. Chris is stepping down as Treasurer after the March meeting. Thank you, Chris, for all you have done and your many contributions to the KCWRT.

Report of the Nominating Committee:

The following individuals have been nominated by the nominating committee to serve a three (3) year term:

1. **Darryl Terry, Treasurer**
2. **Dr. Billy Forbess**
3. **Tommy Heathman**

I am happy to report that each of the nominees has accepted their nominations and we will vote on their nomination at the March meeting.

If you are interested in serving on the KCWRT Board, please see me after the meeting so that your name can be submitted to the nominating committee. ■

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT | SUSIE MORTON



Hello Members! Like Kent, I wish each of you a healthy and happy 2023! Just a few reminders for you. March 31st is the deadline to pay your 2023 dues. I have sent you updated invoices with the current rates now due. As always, pay by check, credit card or on the website. Contact me at 859-221-7199.

Meeting Reminders:

RSVP by Wednesday, March 15th at 4 PM. I must turn in meal count at 5 PM that day. Your cooperation with this would be greatly appreciated. All meals need to be paid for before the event. You can pay by check, credit card or on the website. ■



Capt. John Esten Keller's Account of the Surrender of General Morgan

(The following account of the surrender of Gen. John Hunt Morgan at the end of his Indiana-Ohio raid in 1863 is written by Francis Keller Swinford of Lexington, and is based entirely on information provided by her grandfather, Capt. John Esten Keller, who rode with Morgan on this raid. Capt. Keller, his death in 1933, was a familiar and prominent figure in Lexington. Mrs. Swinford was the mother of KCWRT member Bill Swinford).

The Confederate soldier who bore the distinction of having gone farther North, armed and in uniform, than any other member of the Confederate forces was Capt. John Eston Keller of Lexington, Kentucky. He died in October 1933 at the age of 92, and was, at the time of his death, president and chaplain of the Confederate Veteran Association of Lexington.

The following story was told by Keller in an address given in Frankfort at a state meeting of the United Daughters of the Confederacy and before various other groups. He said his story was meant to expose a "monumental war lie" concerning the surrender of Confederate General John Hunt Morgan.

Capt. Keller, while a Lieutenant in Company F, Fifth Kentucky Cavalry, was one of the soldiers who followed General Morgan throughout the famous Ohio raid.

LOSS AT BUFFINGTON ISLAND

Keller was with Morgan during the disastrous defeat at Buffington Island, Ohio on July 19, 1863. Though not generally known, it was here that General Morgan, with some 1700 men, tired and worn by sixteen days of continuous riding and fighting with little or no rest, met and fought for two hours 10,000 United States Infantry, 3000 cavalry, several battalions of artillery, the Union Navy and the shape of six gunboats, and all of Governor Brough's 100,000 militia who could find standing room.

Defeated but still undaunted, Morgan managed to escape with about 400 men to elude the Yankees for six more days. Finally on July 26, his command having dwindled to 250 men and a fresh swarm of enemies gathering around him, he had no alternative but to surrender.

SURRENDER STRATAGEM

He surrendered in this fashion: Realizing that he would not be allowed to surrender on "terms" if he surrendered to an officer of the regular troops who were pursuing him, Morgan decided that his best chance was to give himself up to a militia officer. He therefore fell in with a group of Ohio militia under the command of Capt. Burbeck. It was a common thing for Morgan to fall in with

various bodies of the Ohio militia, as neither side wore distinctive uniforms by then, and to travel miles with the troops who were searching for him.

He had introduced himself to Burbeck as General Hobson of the Union forces. Riding along with Burbeck, he asked the Capt. how he would like to capture General Morgan. "The best in the world," replied Burbeck. Whereupon Morgan replied, "Suppose he should agree to surrender to you, would you make favorable terms with him?" "He might make his own terms," responded Burbeck. Morgan identified himself properly and the officers dismounted.

The terms were that General Morgan and his officers should be allowed to keep their horses and sidearms and the men their horses and that they should be allowed to return to the Southern lines within ten days.

KELLER CARRIED FLAG

This "terms" surrender took place, according to Capt. Keller, at Salineville, Ohio in Columbiana County. While Morgan and Burbeck were seated in front of a store writing the terms of surrender, they saw a long cloud of dust about a mile away.

Fearing that the approaching federal force, not knowing that Morgan had surrendered, would fire on them, the General commanded Lieutenant Keller to take a flag of truce, which was his old hat, turned inside out and impaled on his bayonet, rode out about a mile on the road leading north from Salineville. He was approached by Capt. J.C.F. Reynolds who escorted him to Colonel Frank Wolford, to whom he delivered Morgan's message.

WOLFORD TOOK CHARGE

Wolford, Reynolds, and Keller rode to Salineville and met with Morgan and Burbeck. Wolford, of course, assumed charge of matters and commanded General Morgan and all of his commissioned officers to accompany him to Wellesville, Ohio, some twenty miles south of Salineville. Morgan with twenty-seven officers, of whom Keller was one, proceeded with Wolford without guard to Welles-

ville. Here they were given the complete run of the leading hotel and were allowed the privileges of its bar, cigar stand and other accessories at Wolford's expense. The next morning they proceeded on to Cincinnati where they landed in the city jail. Colonel Wolford did all he could to have the terms carried out, but they were repudiated and Morgan and some of his officers were sent to the Ohio Penitentiary at Columbus.

OTHER VERSIONS

The story of the surrender at, as told by Keller, refutes many stories, still pretty prevalent, about the place of surrender and to whom. General James H Shackleford is sometimes given the credit for having received the sword of surrender. It is also interesting to note that there is in East Liverpool, Ohio, a monument, erected in 1909, in the form of a large, heart-shaped red granite boulder, six feet in length and four and a half feet at its widest point. A large bronze tablet is placed upon the side facing the road, bearing this inscription:

"This stone marks the spot where the Confederate Raider, General John Hunt Morgan, surrendered his command to major George W Rue, July 26, 1863 and is the farthest point north ever reached by any body of Confederate troops during the Civil War."

The discrepancy between these stories and Keller's is apparent. General Basil Duke in his history of Morgan's cavalry mentions that he surrendered first to Capt. Burbeck and later to Colonel Frank Wolford, but his does not mention the town in Ohio where this took place.

GAVE BURBECK CREDIT

Keller was very desirous, during his lifetime, of placing the laurels for Morgan's capture where they belonged upon the brow of Capt. Burbeck and Colonel Wolford, and of divesting Rue and Shackleford for the glory. He wrote several articles and made many speeches before various groups in order that this might be effected. However, it was just his word against many and against the rather conclusive evidence of a monument.

It was not until the year of his death, in 1933, that he received a letter which proved his contention beyond doubt. Yes, the proof is in the pudding, and the pudding in this instance happens to be in this letter, written April 2, 1933, by an Episcopal clergyman, the Rev. S.D. McConnell of Easton, Md., who had read an account of the surrender in an article about Capt. Keller, published in The Living Church, a national publication of the Episcopal Church, in the April 8, 1933, edition. The letter, now in the possession of the author, reads as follows:

My Dear Sir,

In my 89 years I send you my greetings.

It happens that I was one of the Pennsylvanians which received your surrender at Salineville, Ohio, July 26, 1863.

There are few of us left. I'm a clergyman of the Episcopal Church for 60 years and I am glad to greet you and that brotherhood which is above Confederate and union.

*Very truly yours,
S.D. McConnell*

Capt. Keller later wrote to the Rev. Mr. McConnell, "When you penned those few lines to me little did you realize their importance," but he died a few months later before they were ever made public. ■

UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST

Camp Nelson National Monument Winter Lecture Series

- **February 25th:** Dr. Holly A Pinheiro, author of *The Families' Civil War: Black Soldiers and the Fight for Racial Justice*
- **March 25th:** William Marvel, historian and author of over twenty books, including the definitive modern biography of General Ambrose Burnside

All programs will be presented 11:00am – 12:30 pm at the Jessamine County Public Library, 600 S. Main Street, Nicholasville, KY. They are free and open to the public. For more information about the 2023 Lecture series, email cane_info@nps.gov or call (859) 881-5716.

Kentucky Military History Museum Speaker Series (via Zoom)

- **March 9th:** Dr. Dwight Pitcaithley, "Kentucky and the Secession Crisis: A Documentary History"
- **April 25th:** Dr. Jonathan S. Jones, "Opium Slavery: The Civil War, Veterans, and America's First Opioid Crisis"

Both programs are presented 6:30-7:30 pm via Zoom and are free. To register for either or both events, email khseducation@ky.gov. For more information go to history.ky.gov/

KENT M. BROWN | President
(859) 455-9330 | kmb@usa.net

BILL SWINFORD, JR. | Secretary
(859) 536-1786 | cwswinford@windstream.net

SUSIE MORTON | Administrator
(859) 221-7199 | kcwrt.susie@gmail.com

BILL FARMER | Vice President
(859) 266-7997 | bill@billfarmer.org

CHRIS E. ANDERSON | Treasurer
(859) 229-4799
chris.anderson@unifiedtrust.com

W. ALAN DENNY | Editor
(606) 401-3564 | dennywa2000@yahoo.com