

IN MEMORY OF
Patrick McDermott



MAY 2023 NEWSLETTER

Meeting Date: Monday, May 15, 2023 | **Time:** 7:00 PM

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



DR. PATRICK LEWIS: *"My Countrymen, You Are Substantially Free": Finding Juneteenth in Kentucky*

Dr. Patrick Lewis is the Director of Collections & Research at the Filson Historical Society and co-editor of *Ohio Valley History* journal. A Trigg County native, he graduated from Transylvania University and holds a Ph.D. in History from the University of Kentucky. He previously worked for the National Park Service and the Kentucky Historical Society and has won grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and the James Graham Brown Foundation. Lewis is author of *For Slavery and Union: Benjamin Buckner and Kentucky Loyalties in the Civil War* (University Press of Kentucky, 2015) and co-editor of *Playing at War: Identity & Memory in American Civil War Era Video Games*, under contract with LSU Press. ■

PRESIDENT'S REPORT | WHAT IS JUNETEENTH?

Juneteenth (short for "June Nineteenth") marks the day when federal troops arrived in Galveston, Texas in 1865 to take control of the state and ensure that all enslaved people be freed. Juneteenth honors the end to slavery in the United States and is considered the longest-running African American holiday.

Although the Emancipation Proclamation came into effect on January 1, 1863, the Federal government could not enforce it in places still under Confederate control. And even after Confederate General Robert E. Lee had surrendered at Appomattox Court House in April 1865, slavery remained relatively unaffected in Texas. Freedom finally came on June 19, 1865, when 2,000 Union troops arrived in Galveston Bay, and Union General Gordon Granger stood on Texas soil and read General Order No. 3: "The people of Texas are informed that, in accordance with a proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free."

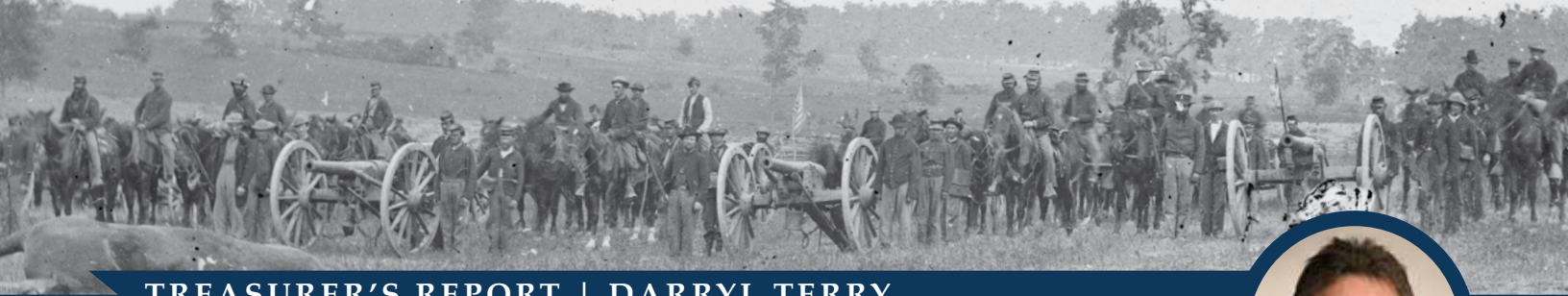
This day came to be known as "Juneteenth," by the newly freed people in Texas. Although it has long celebrated in the African American community as a second "Independence Day," this monumental event has, until recently, remained largely unknown to many Americans.

In 1979, Texas became the first state to make Juneteenth an official holiday. In June 2021, Congress passed a resolution establishing Juneteenth as a national holiday. President Biden signed it into law on June 17, 2021.

Incidentally, General Granger, who died at Santa Fe, New Mexico in 1876, was married to the former Maria Letcher, daughter of a Lexington, Kentucky physician. Granger is buried in the Lexington Cemetery. ■

– Kent M. Brown





TREASURER'S REPORT | DARRYL TERRY



Another meeting and always a great time to bring a guest and build OUR membership. Susie has applications available at the meetings or you can apply on the website.

To encourage students to attend our meetings and become members, we are waiving the guest fee and asking a member 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.

The Board of Directors will meet in the next couple of months and approve a budget which allows for the current

schedule of five in-person meetings over the year.

Dues do not cover all the expenses in the budget, and we are dependent upon other donations and fundraising to cover expenses. Dues invoices for 2024 will be sent out in August. If you have any questions, please contact Susie at kcwrt.susie@gmail.com. It is important to keep in mind that we need around \$5,000 in extra giving or gifts to break even.

We can accomplish raising \$5,000 through charitable giving, fundraising and additional gifting and growing our membership. We are a 501(c)3 tax exempt organization, making dues tax deductible as are your contributions. Please consider the Roundtable in your charitable giving and estate planning throughout the year. ■

SECRETARY'S REPORT | BILL SWINFORD, JR.



We are coming off of two of our most successful meetings (attendance wise) in a few years. We have another great program scheduled for May and then we head into our summer break. Many thanks to Kent and Genevieve Brown and Chris and Susan Anderson for their kind donations to the silent auction. The KCWRT raised \$1,500 thanks to their generosity.

We still need volunteers for the cemetery tour on Saturday, May 27, 2023. I volunteered last year and arrived around 8 a.m. Volunteers are needed to collect money and to instruct the attendees where to park (not on graves). Volunteers meet

on the road behind the Henry Clay monument and should bring a folding chair and a small table and something to place money in. Attendees can also prepay for the event on the website or by calling, texting or emailing Susie (contact information is in this Newsletter and on the website). Last year our share was \$800. This is a great event. Plan on being at the cemetery at least 3 and ½ hours.

We will again be participating in the Good Giving Community Challenge as we did last year. More information will follow in the fall newsletter. And, while I am on the subject, members and friends can always make tax deductible donations to the KCWRT. We are a Section 501(c)(3) entity. See you at the Meeting! ■

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT | SUSIE MORTON



Hello Members! How nice it was to see so many members at our April meeting! I would say that our first ever April meeting was quite the success. I am sending out a special thanks to the Dessert Fairy and let them know how much we appreciate the Marshmallow Peeps for us to enjoy after our meal.

Meeting Reminders: Please RSVP by **Wednesday, May 10th at 4 PM**. I must turn in our meal count at 5 PM that day.

The two constants for making reservation for a meeting are:

RSVPs must be made the Wednesday before the meeting and all meals must be paid for before the meeting. It would make my job so much easier if everyone could follow these simple rules.

Cemetery Tour Reminder: RSVP just like you do for the meeting. Go to the website, call, text or email me that you are coming and, though not mandatory, it would be nice to have payment before the event ■

Lexington Cemetery & Louisville's Cave Hill Cemetery Tours
More info can be found on kycivilwarroundtable.org/special-events/

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