



OCTOBER 2023 NEWSLETTER

Meeting Date: Monday, November 20th, 2023

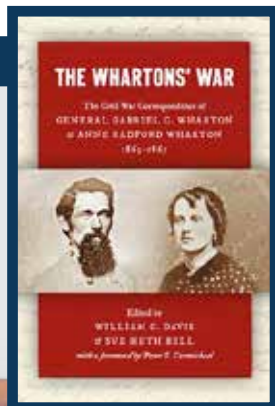
Social Hour: 5:30 PM | **Dinner:** 6:00 PM | **Presentation:** 7:00 PM



WILLIAM C. "JACK" DAVIS

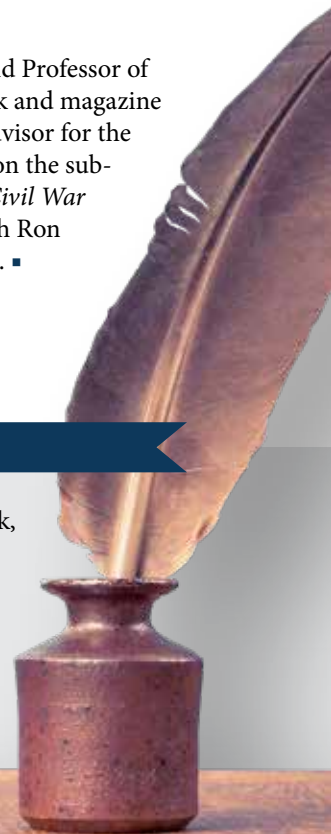
"John Breckinridge and the Flight of the Confederate Government, the Fall of Richmond, His Escape, and His Exile: Preparing A Screenplay."

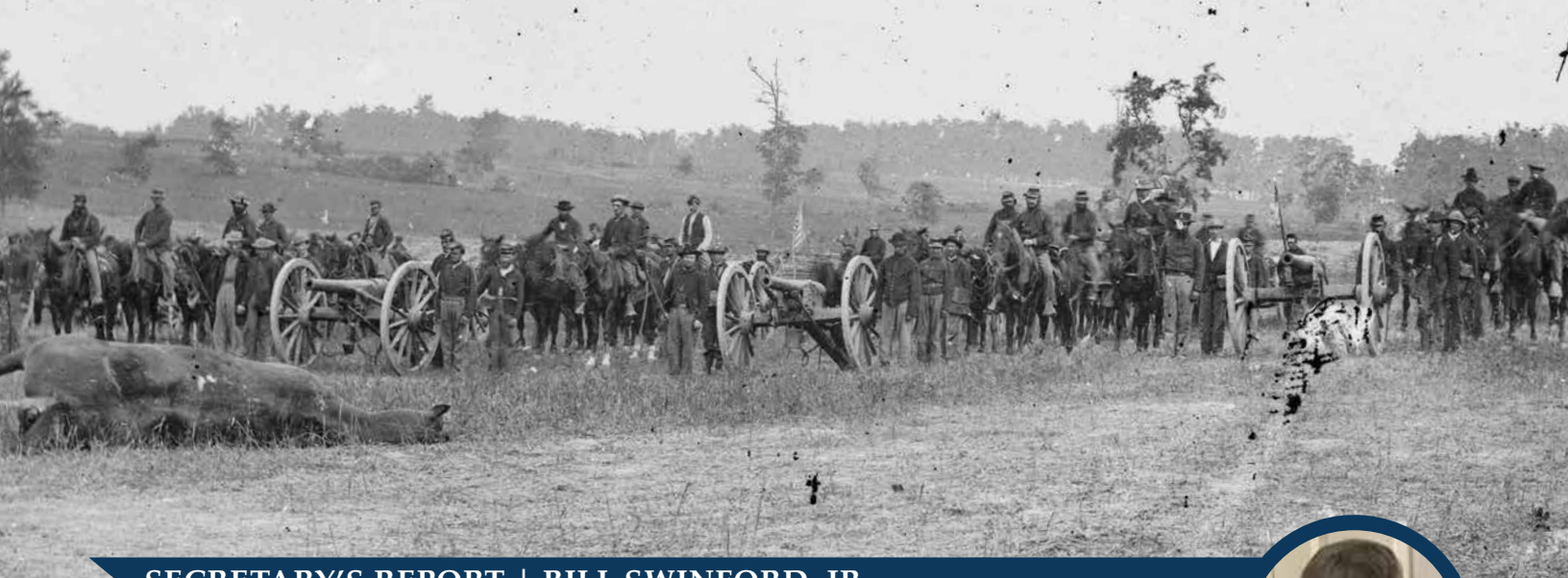
WILLIAM C. "JACK" DAVIS, retired Executive Director of the Virginia Center for Civil War Studies and Professor of History at Virginia Tech, previously spent 31 years in editorial and marketing management in the book and magazine publishing industry. He has consulted for numerous film and television productions and was senior advisor for the A&E and History Channel series "Civil War Journal." Davis is the author or editor of more than sixty books on the subject of Civil War and Southern history, and most recently co-edited with Sue Heth Bell, *The Whartons' War: The Civil War Correspondence of General Gabriel C. Wharton & Anne Radford Wharton, 1863-1865*. He is currently working with Ron Maxwell, director of the epic films "Gettysburg" and "Gods and Generals," on two docudrama series for television. ■



JACK DAVIS BOOK RAFFLE

At the November meeting we plan to raffle off two copies of Jack Davis's recent book, *The Wharton's War: The Civil War Correspondence of General Gabriel C. Wharton and Anne Radford Wharton*. Plan to bring a few extra bucks to the meeting and buy some chances to win one of Jack's great works. We owe a debt of gratitude to Jack for donating the books to our cause! ■





SECRETARY'S REPORT | BILL SWINFORD, JR.

The November 20, 2023 meeting concludes our calendar year meeting schedule. We have three more meetings scheduled in 2024 to conclude our 2023/2024 Program. Remember, due to conflicts with either the hotel or conflicts in speaker's schedules, we are deviating from the past practice of the 3rd Monday of the traditional months. The Kentucky Civil War Roundtable will not meet in January of 2024. The schedule for the Spring of 2024 is as follows:

Monday, March 11, 2024 | Monday, April 8, 2024 | Friday, May 10, 2024

The KCWRT is a Sec 501(c)(3) Corporation. Gifts to the KCWRT are tax deductible. ■



TREASURER'S REPORT | DARRYL TERRY

As we close out this year, we continue to work on improving the Roundtable's finances. We ended September with \$11,119 in our operating account and a certificate of deposit in the amount of \$25,000.

We are starting to receive current membership dues for the new year, and we currently count membership numbers of 207. We have already added three new memberships. To date we have received 98 membership dues payments, and we anxiously await the other 109 membership payments in the short term. A continuing push will be in growing new memberships.

Even with membership growth, we will still need to do additional fundraising and look for ways to increase our financial base. Thank you for your continued support of the Kentucky Civil War Roundtable. ■



REPORT FROM MARK HENDERSON: CWRT SUSTAINABILITY CONFERENCE

The Civil War Roundtable Congress held its 2023 Sustainability Conference at the Adams County Historical Society Museum in Gettysburg on August 25th through 27th. Members of Civil War Roundtables from around the country met to discuss membership expansion and retention issues. CWRT groups ranging from less than 25 members to over 100 members were represented.

Regardless of membership size, each CWRT group expressed similar concerns about flat or declining membership and the difficulty in attracting younger members. There were no one-size-fits-all answers, but plenty of ideas worthy of further discussion for the Kentucky Civil War Roundtable.

The CWRT Congress has a Sustainability Challenge program to assist Roundtables to improve sustainability by providing a rewarding experience for members. The CWRT Congress has voluntary participation with no membership or dues requirements. Its primary mission is to provide free services to help inspire and assist CWRT leaders to adapt, adopt and maintain strategies for sustainability. Their website is www.cwrtcongress.org.

Finally, a trip to Gettysburg should include a visit to the Adams County Historical Society Museum and to the Seminary Ridge Museum & Education Center.



UPCOMING EVENTS

BOURBON TASTING FUNDRAISER

We're hosting a Bourbon Tasting event on Monday November 13th at the Chevy Chase Inn located at 813 Euclid Avenue. The event is from 5:30-7:00. The Chevy Chase Inn, the oldest bar in Lexington, is known for its rustic, laid back charm.

Mr. Matt Preston, head of the Lexington Bourbon Society, will be our expert of the evening for the tasting. So, come join us, along with our very own Vice President and co-owner, Bill Farmer, Jr. to sample bourbon and other fine spirits, swap stories and maybe some tall tales. Admission is \$50, cash or checks payable to KCWRT at the door. This is a fundraising event, so all proceeds benefit the Roundtable. Seating may be limited so come early! Parking is available across the street or just Uber it.

GOOD GIVING CHALLENGE

Mark your calendars for November 28th – December 1st. Again this year, we are participating in the Good Giving Challenge. This is an online giving challenge for local nonprofits hosted by Blue Grass Community Foundation and Smiley Pete Publishing. This gives our members and other supporters the opportunity to make fully tax-deductible contributions online via credit card at minimal administrative expense. Last year we raised nearly \$3000, and this year we are hoping to raise \$5000.

The online link is www.bggives.org/kycivilwarroundtable. Remember - only credit card contributions are accepted and are fully tax deductible.

OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST

KENTUCKY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Kentucky Historical Society Civil War History Day 2023, Saturday, October 28th (10:00 am – 5:00 pm). Learn about the Civil War in Kentucky in the inaugural KHS Civil War History Day. In this all-day event, visitors will meet and hear from prominent scholars in the field and view Civil War artifacts presented by KHS curators. Staff will lead specialized tours exploring the history of the Civil War and its aftermath and how it continues to affect Kentucky today. Kentucky Historical Society, 100 S. Broadway St., Frankfort, Kentucky. Admission is \$15 for KHS members and educators, \$25 for non-members.

THE GETRUDE POLK BROWN LECTURE SERIES

On Great Fields – The Life and Unlikely Heroism of Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain, by Ronald C. White, Tuesday, November 21st (6:00 – 7:00 pm). From the New York Times bestselling author comes the dramatic and definitive biography of the history-altering professor turned Civil War hero. The Kentucky Center – Bomhard Theater, 501 W. Main Street, Louisville. Admission is \$26.33.

CAMP NELSON NATIONAL MONUMENT

3rd Annual Luminaria and Memorial Walk, Saturday, November 11th (6:00 pm – 7:00 pm). The National Park Service invites you to participate in the 3rd Annual Remembrance Memorial and Luminaria Walk to mark the anniversary of Camp Nelson's largest expulsion. On November 23, 1864, the US Army forcibly expelled four hundred African American refugees from the camp during a winter storm, resulting in the deaths of 102 people. The November Expulsion garnered national attention and led to the establishment of the Home for Colored Refugees at Camp Nelson. On March 3, 1865, Congress passed legislation emancipating the wives and children of US Colored Troops.

The special event will feature interpretive talks by NPS staff and special guests, and a guided walk to Graveyard No. 1, where over one hundred luminaries will be lit to honor the people expelled and other freedom seekers who sought refuge at Camp Nelson. The ½ mile walk will be conducted over paved roads and a mowed grass path. Visitors should wear comfortable shoes/boots and warm clothing and bring flashlights.

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