



SEPTEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER

Meeting Date: Tuesday, September 5th, 2023

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



PRESIDENT'S REPORT | KENT MASTERSON BROWN

Welcome Back to Lexington: Brian Steel Wills:

"Confederate General William Dorsey Pender: The Hope of Glory"

Brian Steel Wills is the Director of the Center of the Study of the Civil War Era and Professor of History at Kennesaw State University in Kennesaw, Georgia. A native Virginian, Brian was for many years a professor of history at the University of Virginia's College at Wise, Virginia. While there, he was named the Kenneth Asbury Professor of History and received the Outstanding Faculty Award from the Commonwealth of Virginia.



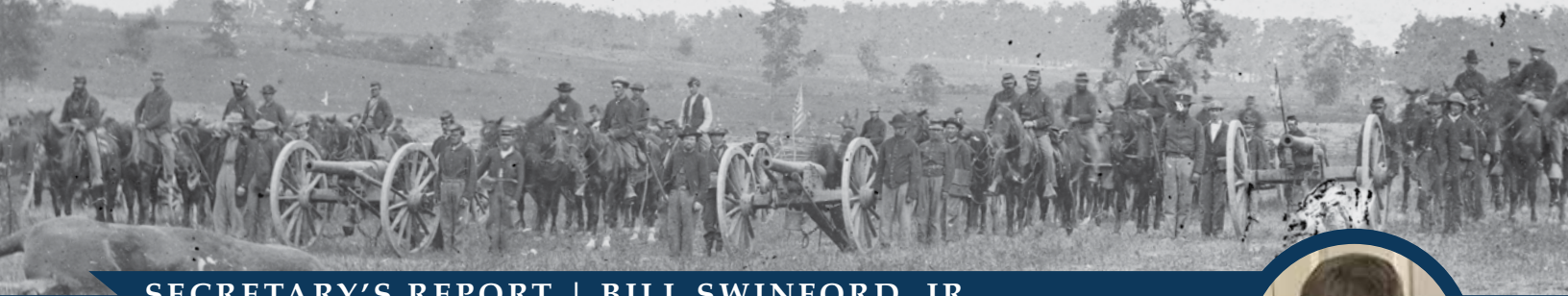
Brian is the author of numerous books relating to the Civil War, including his most recent work, *The River Was Dyed with Blood: Nathan Bedford Forrest and Fort Pillow*. He also wrote *A Battle from the Start: The Life of Nathan Bedford Forrest*, reprinted as *The Confederacy's Greatest Cavalryman: Nathan Bedford Forrest*, which was History Book Club and a Book of the month Selection. He has also authored *The War in Southeastern Virginia*; *No Ordinary College: A History of the University of Virginia's College of Wise*; *Gone with the Glory: The Civil War in Cinema*; *George Henry Thomas: As True as Steel*; and *Confederate General William Dorsey Pender: The Hope of Glory*, the subject of his talk for our September meeting. Brian has also published an updated edition of the James I. "Bud" Robertson, Jr. Civil War Sites in Virginia. ■

TREASURER'S REPORT | DARRYL TERRY

It is with excitement we announce the 2023-2024 speaker series with the Roundtable. Kent as always has an all-star roster lined up for the meetings. The Board met for the annual meeting and reviewed the financials for the last two years. A decline in membership over the last 3 years puts added pressure on our budget. As with almost everything since Covid-19, increased pricing continues to put pressure on the ability to maintain top notch presentations. Currently we are not able to fund our present obligations. This led The Board to the decision that we need to increase our dues for the next year. Single memberships will now be at the \$150 level and couple memberships will be \$200.

Going forward, we ALL need to take on the challenge to promote and grow the organization through membership. We hope to incorporate fundraisers, increase our participation in the Good Giving Challenge and increase membership to confront these escalating costs. This remains your organization and we are asking all hands-on deck to increase members, seek new sources of cash flows as we look forward to a great future for the Roundtable. ■





SECRETARY'S REPORT | BILL SWINFORD, JR.



There is much to report since we last met. The schedule for the upcoming year has mostly been set in stone and it promises to be a good one. Due to scheduling conflicts with Embassy Suites, we were not able to secure our traditional dates of the 3rd Monday of each month. Here is the schedule as we know it to date:

Tuesday, September 5, 2023 – Brian Steel Wills

Monday, November 20, 2023 – William C. Davis

Monday, March 11, 2024 – TBD

Monday, April 8, 2024 – Mel Hankla

May Meeting* – Scott Hendrick

* Scott Hendrick will be our Speaker for the May meeting. We are currently trying to work out a date that works with his schedule. Stay tuned for updates.

DUES INCREASE FOR UPCOMING YEAR

The Board voted to unanimously increase the KCWRT dues for the upcoming year.

Individual: \$150 | Couple: \$200

The good news is that we negotiated dessert back in our dinner menu.

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP

153 Individuals

27 Couples

The KCWRT is always looking for new members. First time guests do not have to pay the guest fee, only the dinner fee. There are also 'sponsorships' (waiving the guest fee) for students.

FUNDRAISING

In order to maintain the KCWRT high level of quality speakers, we need to increase our endowment. The KCWRT is a Sec 501(c)(3) corporation. Gifts to the KCWRT are tax deductible.

The KCWRT will again be participating in the Blue Grass Good Giving Challenge. There will be more details to come from Chris Anderson on this. ■

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT | SUSIE MORTON



Hello Members! I hope you all have enjoyed a pleasant Summer. We are keeping you on your toes with this first meeting! Here is everything you need to know about the September meeting:

The most important thing to know is that our meeting date is **TUESDAY, September 5th!** That means you'll need to RSVP by Wednesday, August 30th at 4 PM. I must turn in our meal count at 5 PM that day. RSVP online, call or text me at 859-221-7199 or email me at kcwrt.susie@gmail.com

Another thing to note for this meeting is that due to the different meeting date I won't be at the meeting as I'll be sailing on a cruise in Alaska. As excited as I am to be

seeing the 49th state of our Union, I am sad that I will not be there to welcome you all and share the evening with you. If you must cancel your reservation after the 2nd of September, please contact Darryl Terry at 859-771-5092 to let him know you won't be able to attend.

And, as always, your meal must be paid for before the event. You can pay online, with a check or with a credit card.

I will be emailing invoices for the 2024 Dues toward the end of August. If you have any changes in your email address, let me know. Those of you who receive your correspondence through the USPS, if you have an updated mailing address, please let me know that as soon as possible so I can update my records. Enjoy the Meeting and see you in November! ■

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