



GENERAL ORDERS No. 1

RE: September 2026 Meeting

Main Presentation: Welcome back to the 2026 – 2027 Madison History Roundtable season. This month we welcome Tracey Roberts. Tracey is a retired Senior Lecturer (Emeritus) in the UW-Platteville History department. Tracey Lee Roberts is a retired Senior Lecturer (Emeritus) from the University of Wisconsin- Platteville. She has written dozens of papers about the people and events in the upper Midwest with a special focus on the Upper Mississippi River Lead-Zinc Mining District. She most recently presented to the MHRT group in November 2022 about “*Treachery and Cunning: The Dodge Family in the Upper Mississippi River Valley*”.

This month Tracey will be providing a presentation titled: ***Forces for Good: Abolitionists in the Lead Mine District.*** Unknown to many upper Midwesterners, slavery was an entrenched institution in the Old Lead Mine region of Illinois, Wisconsin, and Iowa. Enslaved workers were brought up the Mississippi River from the early years of the 1800s. Many early leaders who arrived to the lead mines were enslavers including military leaders such as Jefferson Davis at Fort Crawford in Prairie du Chien, WI; the Johnson brothers, one of whom became the Vice President of the United States under Martin Van Buren; Henry Dodge of Dodgeville, the first Territorial Governor of Wisconsin; and George Wallace Jones, Surveyor-General of the Wisconsin and Iowa Territories and a US Senator from Iowa from 1848-1859.

This presentation will outline the many forces for good that pushed back against this brutal, “peculiar institution” and its powerful regional leaders. Free Blacks, religious exhorters, early Whig and Republican politicians, and women’s groups used a variety of methods to help enslaved people to freedom, fight against the illegal actions of enslavers with court cases, and encourage average white Americans to rally against the illiberal practice of holding men, women, and children in bondage.

Date: September 10, 2026

Place: Hop Haus Brew Pub, 2975 Sub-Zero Pkwy, Fitchburg, WI

Social: 6:00 PM

Optional Dining: 6:15 PM. Order from the menu when you arrive. To support Hop Haus staffing, they request the number of people planning to dine. Please make your dining request by the Wednesday before the meeting via email Madison.history.roundtable@gmail.com, MHRT website or by calling Rich Fronek at 608-669-0970. Leave your name and number of those dining. **DO NOT REPLY TO THIS EMAIL TO INDICATE DINING REQUESTS.** *Note; you can come to the meeting without dining.*

Business Meeting: 7:00 PM

Presentation: 7:15 PM. Free to the public. No reservations needed

Upcoming Events:

- September 12th, 2026; 8:30 – 3:30 – Great Lakes Civil War Forum - “*The Upper Middle West At War*”
- October 8th, 2026 – MHRT Meeting – Chris Kolakowski - *French General Henri Navarre and the 1954 Battle of Dien Bien Phu - Vietnam*

Book Sale – We will be offering a book sale at the monthly meetings. Each book is \$1, take as many as you like. You are also welcome to bring a book for sale. Proceeds go to the MHRT.

Publicity: Find out about the Madison History Roundtable at our web site <https://www.madisonhistoryroundtable.com> Facebook (Madison History Roundtable) and email madison.history.roundtable@gmail.com. Spread the word to your friends, colleagues and co-workers.

Membership: Dues for a single person remain \$30/year. If you want to sign up as a couple/family, dues are \$50. The season runs September – May. Dues are used to cover the operating and speaker expenses of the Madison History Roundtable. You can mail your dues to the **MHRT Treasurer – 9 Flad Circle, Madison, WI 53711**. If you have a personal PayPal account, you can send in your dues to the MHRT PayPal email address: wsayles1950@gmail.com. Attending meetings are free and open to the public. Guests can check us out before deciding if they want to become a member.



MHRT Website: Check out our web site at: <https://www.madisonhistoryroundtable.com>. You can find information on the MHRT schedule, list of speakers and meeting dates amongst other information. You can also “signup” for MHRT membership. We will be periodically be updating the web site with meeting notices, upcoming events and activities. Let us know what other information you might want posted on the site.

By Order of

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