



BORDER BUGLE

Newsletter of the Civil War Round Table of Kansas City



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Civil War Round Table
Of Kansas City

P. O. Box 6202

Shawnee Mission, KS 66206

An IRC 501(c)(3) charitable
organization

392th REGULAR MEETING

TUESDAY, April 25, 2006

Homestead Country Club

6510 Mission Road, Prairie Village, Kansas

Social Hour-Cash Bar-6:00p.m.

Dinner-6:30p.m.

APRIL SPEAKER

DR. LOREN HUMPHREY, M.D.,

Dr. Loren Humphrey, author of "Johnny Come Home", a historical novel about a Union soldier in the Civil War, will present a discussion on "The Civil War in Northeast Missouri" about the forces that kept Missouri in the Union and how control of the railroads won the war in Northeast Missouri. Copies of his book will be available for purchase and signing at the meeting.

Commander's Call

James L. "Spike" Speicher

Our 391st meeting is history. We had a great speaker with Mr. John Coski. From feedback I have received everyone seemed to enjoy his presentation on the Confederate Battle Flag.

But now we look forward to our April 25 meeting. Our speaker that evening will be Dr. Loren Humphrey, M.D., from Columbia, Missouri. The title of his presentation is "The Civil War in Northeast Missouri" and it will concentrate on the value of the railroads and how control of them ensured Union victory in the state. Dr. Humphrey is the author of the

Cont' on page 2

*Please be sure that we have your reservation by Friday April. 21. Return reservation
In the enclosed envelope with required payment of \$20.00 per person to;*

Paul Gault, 7118 N. Congress Ave., K.C. Mo. 64152, .

If you have questions or your payment is unavoidably tardy, please contact either Treasurer Paul Gault at 816-741-2962 or Assistant Treasurer Betty Ergovich at 913 441-6462.

Attendance requires a paid dinner reservation.

book Johnny Come Home, a novel based on historic events, which he describes in his presentation. Dr. Humphrey will have copies of that book available as well as one or two others he has authored.

Just four days after our meeting there will be an historic event for the Civil War Round Table of Kansas City and for the Monnett Battle of Westport Fund, Inc. On Saturday the 29th of April we will host the Cannon Dedication Ceremony at the Big Blue Battlefield. Dan Smith is the driving force behind this event and it is shaping up to be a "really big show", as Ed Sullivan used to say. Mayor Kay Barnes has indicated she will attend as will numerous other city, county and state officials. The event runs from 10:00 am until 4:00 p.m. on the grounds of the Kansas City, Missouri, Water Department building on 63rd just west of Manchester Trafficway (about three miles west of I-435). There will be living history campsites with uniformed reenactors, historical displays, musket firing demonstrations, and more. There will be cannon firing demonstrations with a full-scale 6-pound field piece about every 30 minutes. The actual dedication ceremony will occur at 11:30 followed by a catered lunch. This will be one event you don't want to miss.

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If you have any comments, ideas, or concerns the contact information for me is: home- 913.962.9986; work- 816.512.8727; and e-mail colspike@hotmail.com.

Deo Vindice.

Spike



UPCOMING SPEAKERS:

May 23- Mr. Jim Beckner, member of the Civil War Round Table of Kansas City. Mr. Beckner's presentation "**Missouri Guerillas in Virginia.**" Jim will portray Charles Woodson as if it were May 23rd, 1895. Mr. Woodson will tell his life story emphasizing his Civil War years as a Missourian in Virginia fighting as a Confederate soldier/guerilla.

June July and August are Summer Sessions To Be Announced...

September 26- Mr. Greg Biggs, former associate editor of "*Blue and Gray*" magazine. Mr. Biggs' presentation on "**Tactical Perfection: Nathan Bedford Forrest at Brice's Crossroads**" will look at what many historians consider to be a tactically perfect battle in the Civil War.

October 24- Dr. Richard Sommers, United States Army Military History Institute at Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania. Dr. Sommers is the author of the acclaimed book *Richmond Redeemed*, which is the definitive work on the Siege of Petersburg. As the leading authority on that siege, Dr. Sommers' presentation will focus on that nine-month period.

November 28- Mr. Bill Quatman, member of the Civil War Round Table of Kansas City. Mr. Quatman's presentation on "**The Fall of Richmond**" will be discussed from the viewpoint of Union General Godfrey Weitzel, who was in Richmond at the time. General Weitzel is a direct ancestor of Mr. Quatman.

December 19- Christmas meeting with entertainment.

MENU FOR APRIL 25, 2006:

Spinach and Arugula Salad with Sherry
Vinaigrette, Salmon with Dijon Dill Sauce, Buttered
Parsley Potatoes, Steamed Broccoli and Lemon Pie.

**BATTLEFIELD DISPATCHES**

Part 4

[Killed by Indians]

“At the bridge we had an easy time until the / Sioux began to work south when we were sent / on a ten days Scout on the Powder River under Major Bridger as chief of Scouts coming back by Independence Rock and Devils Gate on the Sweetwater and although we found no Indians we found plenty of game; Elk, Deer, Antelope, Bear and Buffalo. We had been back at the bridge but a short time when a detail from Co. A. was sent on a scouting trip to the lower Bridge about 30 miles down the river; they found a small band of Cheyenne and in the fight we lost our first man killed by Indians. George Glidden of Easton, Kansas. He had always happened to be on sick Report or detached service at the time of a fight and had never been in an engagement of any kind and was not detailed to go on the trip, but traded places with one of the detail and was killed by the first shot fired.

[Fatal Fishing Trip]

“Shortly after we were ordered over south on the Bridger’s Pass Stage road going back down the North Platte by way of Fort Laramie and / west up the Laramie River to Fort Halleck. Before reaching Laramie (at Deer Creek) we lost our / second man. Silas Henshaw of Jackson Co., Mo. had gone about 200 yards from Camp fishing when 3 Indians crept up and shot him with arrows and although mortally wounded he made a brave fight. He drew his 44 [Caliber] revolver and the first shot killed one of their horses, the next wounded an Indian when they made their getaway. Before help got to him, he died in about 24 hours.

[Stagecoach Mail Delivery]

Co. A was scattered. 8 men at a station from Medicine Bow 8 miles east of [Fort] Halleck to Sulphur Springs 8 miles west of Bridger’s Pass. I was stationed at Pine Grove, 8 miles East of Bridger’s Pass. Co. M of the 11th Kas. was stationed from the first station west of Vyes Road Ranch (Sulphur Spring) to Green River. Our duty was to not only guard the stage from one end to the other of our line, but to haul it, as all the stage horses had been run off by the Indians before we got there. 4 of us must put our Cavalry horses on the stage and ride on the stage, the other 4 on horseback no passengers taken, only letter mail.

[Last Fatality & Galvanized Yankees]

“We lost but one man after we reached Fort Halleck. Sergeant H. C. Gale in command at Medicine Bow Station was shot from ambush when he was within 100 feet of the station door by a French Renegade, on July 5, 1865. Late in the fall of 1865 we were relieved by troops [prisoners] who had been recruited from Military Prisons [Galvanized Yankees: former Confederate soldiers] with the understanding they were not fight the rebels, but would be sent to the mountains. Our last shot at an Indian was at Virginia Dale about 35 miles N.W. [Northwest] of Camp Collins. It was long range shooting [&] no damage was done that we know of.”

[Homeward Bound]

“We were then on our way to Fort Kearney, Neb. by way of [Fort] Laramie, Plains, Virginia Dale, La Porte, Greeley, Fremont’s Orchard, Julesburg and down the Platte River to [Fort] Kearney where we turned in our Horses, Arms, and Equipments and made our way on foot via / Marysville, Onaga and Holton, Kansas to Fort Leavenworth where we were mustered out within ½ mile of where the Regiment mustered in 3 years before.

W. F. Nichols,
Colorado Springs, Col.
18 East 2nd Street, Ivywild.
Apr. 4, 1910

end of story**VOLUNTEER!****Be A Part of History!**

The John Wornall House Museum needs docents to lead tours and interpret their wonderful site. Step into history for three hours twice a month. Weekday shifts available. Please tell your friends! Call Paula at 816-44-1858.

**COMING EVENTS....**

April 22-23: “Civil War on the Border”, this 10th annual Civil War reenactment at the Mahaffie Stagecoach Stop, in Olathe will feature Union and Confederate camps, battles, military demonstrations, living history activities, food vendors and more. Call 913-971-5111 or visit www.olatheks.org/visitors/mahaffie.

April 23: Trails West Library, 11401 E. 23rd St, Independence, Mo. **“The Civil War in Jackson County”**, the fighting in Jackson County began with the Kansas-Missouri Border War, 6 years before the Civil War. Bushwhackers and outlaws kept it going for

another 15 years following the end of the war. Speaker is Ted Stillwell. Sunday, 3:00pm.

April 23, 2006; SCV Confederate Memorial Day Ceremony, Woodlawn Cemetery, Independence.

April 29, 2006; Cannon dedication at Byram's Ford on 63rd Ave. from 10:00-3:00.

April 29, 2006: "Civil War on the Western Border" with Deb and Tom Goodrich, a bus tour. Join authors Tom and Deb Goodrich for a narrated bus tour back to the past. Back to those turbulent times when our state was formed....Back to "Bloody Kansas." We will visit the sites of battles, raids and massacres. We will visit museums. We might even see a lovely ghost from the past. WE WILL HAVE FUN!!! Leave Topeka 8:30am Saturday, April 29. Meet at "The Ritchie House," 1116 SE Madison St., (just SE of Downtown, next to I-70, return at 6:00pm. \$60.00 per seat includes donuts, coffee, lunch, snacks, drinks and admission to museums. Call for info and credit cards; 785-357-0510, send cash or checks to: Bus Tour, 1278 SW Collins, Topeka, KS 66604.

May 2-July 29, 2006: Rally Round the Flag: Civil War Battle Flags in the Missouri State Museum Collection, Jefferson Landing State Historic Site, Jefferson City, MO, 573-751-2854.

May 6-7, 2006: Battle of Athens Spring Open House, Battle of Athens State Historic Site, 660-877-3871.

May 13, 2006: Politics 1856: The Missouri Kansas Issue, Battle of Lexington State Historic Site, Lexington, 660-259-4654. The Holmes Brigade will re-enact a picture of early turmoil as Kansas statehood is debated. The event is free, but regular fees apply to tours of the Anderson House.

May 19-21, 2006: Civil War Reenactment, Maximum Effort, Jefferson City, Missouri.

May 20, 2006: Pottawatomie Massacre Day, learn about John Brown, tours, re-enactments, and traditional games, Lane Fairgrounds near Ottawa, Ks, call 785-242-1411 or www.visitottawakansas.com online.

May 20, 2006: Marais des Cygnes Massacre Commemoration. A commemoration of the massacre at Marais des Cygnes will be held at the Mine Creek Battlefield State Historic Site near Pleasanton, Kansas. Call 913-352-8890 for details.



WEBMASTER FOUND!

Thank you so much for volunteering. Our new webmaster is Dick Hodgman. It's a work in progress, but he's having so much fun, it's up and running so go for a test drive and let him know what you think. It's interactive, you can upload your own images, so have some fun. <http://www.cwrtkc.org/index.html>.

WILSON'S CREEK NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD NEWS RELEASE

Spring hours of operation for Wilson's Creek National Battlefield were announced today by Superintendent T. John Hillmer, Jr. Hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. for the Visitor Center and 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. for the tour road will go into effect beginning Sunday, April 2, 2006 with the national change to Daylight Savings Time.

An entry permit of \$3.00 per adult or \$5.00 per family is required for all persons using the battlefield including walkers, joggers and bicyclists. Entering or remaining in the battlefield during other times is not permitted. A listing of programs and events can be found on the internet at www.nps.gov/wicr.

Administered by the National Park Service, Wilson's Creek National Battlefield preserves the site of the first major engagement of the Civil War in the West, site where the first Union general was killed in the Civil War and evokes the rural character experienced by the combatants. The site is considered to be one of the best-preserved battlefields in the National Park System. Wilson's Creek National Battlefield is located 10 miles southwest of Springfield, Missouri, at the intersection of Highway ZZ and Farm Road 182. To receive more information call (417) 732-2662, extension 227.



GROUP TO BUY CIVIL WAR SITE IN CARTHAGE

CARTHAGE — A group of battlefield enthusiasts has announced plans to purchase some of the land on which Union soldiers clashed with Missouri's pro-Confederate governor and militia in the early days of the Civil War.

The Battle of Carthage occurred not long after Union forces chased Gov. Claiborne Jackson and members of the Missouri State Guard from the state Capitol.

Jackson retreated to southwest Missouri. About 1,100 Union soldiers then marched into the region, seeking to prevent Jackson's army of about 4,000 armed and 2,000 unarmed men from linking up with Confederate troops in Arkansas.

The troops clashed on July 5, 1861, on land about 10 miles north of Carthage.

Facing overwhelming odds, the Union troops retreated.

About 200 Confederate troops died in the fighting, which also claimed 44 Union soldiers.

A few acres of the battlefield is a State Historic Site. But the Battle of Carthage Inc. has come up with a plan that would dramatically increase the amount of preserved land.

The president of the not-for-profit group, Gordon Billheimer, said a one-year option has been acquired on 260 acres of battlefield land.

If \$800,000 can be raised to buy the property, owners Clifford Leffingwell and his wife have pledged to donate another 60 acres to the project. The group also hopes to raise additional money to pay for maintenance costs.

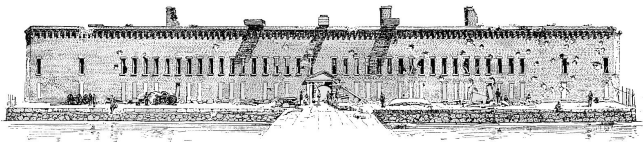
"It would give us 320 acres of pristine battlefield land," Billheimer said. "We have an opportunity for all time to preserve a representative portion of this hallowed battlefield, and to maintain it in the condition it was when the battle took place."

Re-enactments would be allowed on the site, which would make it unique. He said many other battlefields don't allow re-enactments.

He said the group will be seeking federal and foundation grants, plus local support.

Some of the money the group raised during a 2003 re-enactment, along with donations from local attorneys, was used to cover the purchase option.

February 19, 2006
The Associated Press



Bill McClellan
St. Louis Post Dispatch 5-30-2005

AS OF SUNDAY morning, there were no flowers, fresh or otherwise, on Grave 15009 at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery. But if you enjoy meandering through the cemetery and then letting your mind wander, this grave site is well worth visiting.

Along with the graves on either side, 15008 and 15010, it contains the remains of about 175 men of the 56th U.S. Colored Infantry Regiment. That unit was organized in St. Louis in August of 1863. It was made up almost entirely of freed slaves and was sent to Arkansas, where it spent its first year on post duty at Helena and Little Rock.

The regiment saw action in the summer of 1864. It fought in a series of battles in eastern Arkansas that Civil War historians would refer to as minor skirmishes, but four officers and 21 enlisted men of the 56th were killed in action or died from their wounds. The unit served under Brig. Gen. Napoleon Bonaparte Buford. He

reportedly praised the regiment after a battle at Wallace's Ferry. "Their memory will not perish," he reportedly said.

But the story of the 56th really gets interesting after the war. In August of 1866, the troops were sent to St. Louis to muster out. They came up the Mississippi River from Helena on two steamers. Imagine the men boarding the steamers. Most fellows returning home from war dream of returning to their old lives. These men dreamed of their new lives. They were going to be free men. Slaves to soldiers to free men. I see them leaning against the railings as the steamers plow toward St. Louis.

On the trip, several men died of undiagnosed illnesses. That was not unusual. Twenty-five men had been killed in action or died from wounds, but 474 others had died of various illnesses during the regiment's 3-year existence. Medicine and Medical care must have been scarce and primitive.

There was, in that day, a Quarantine Hospital on the banks of the Mississippi just south of the Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery. All riverboats coming from below the mouth of the Ohio River had to stop and the passengers were checked for yellow fever, cholera and other communicable diseases. Any passenger showing symptoms had to stay at the hospital until the symptoms disappeared. Many, maybe most, ended up in unmarked graves. The steamers bearing the men of the 56th stopped at the hospital. The doctors inspected them and cleared them. They reboarded the steamers and headed up the river to St. Louis. They arrived that evening. The regimental commander kept the men on board that night. No liberty. The next morning, more men were sick. The commander suspected cholera. The steamers returned to the Quarantine Hospital. The cholera was confirmed, and the entire regiment was moved into the hospital.

In the next few weeks, 178 enlisted men and one officer died. They were buried on the grounds. In 1939, their remains were moved to the national cemetery. An obelisk was erected at Grave 15009. "Their memory will not perish."

Who knows about that? But it's a peaceful spot in the cemetery. Shaded nicely. Their neighbors are fellows who died in 1943 — fellow infantrymen Eugene Clark, Romero Coleman and Horace Jackson and Navy cook Hubert Alexander.

The old Quarantine Hospital later became a tuberculosis sanitarium and was renamed Robert Koch Hospital. It was torn down about 15 years ago.

The Robert Koch Hospital Road just south of the I-255 bridge now leads to a quarry. There are bones all around just under the surface, I'm told and unmarked headstones in the heavy brush. There was a talk a few

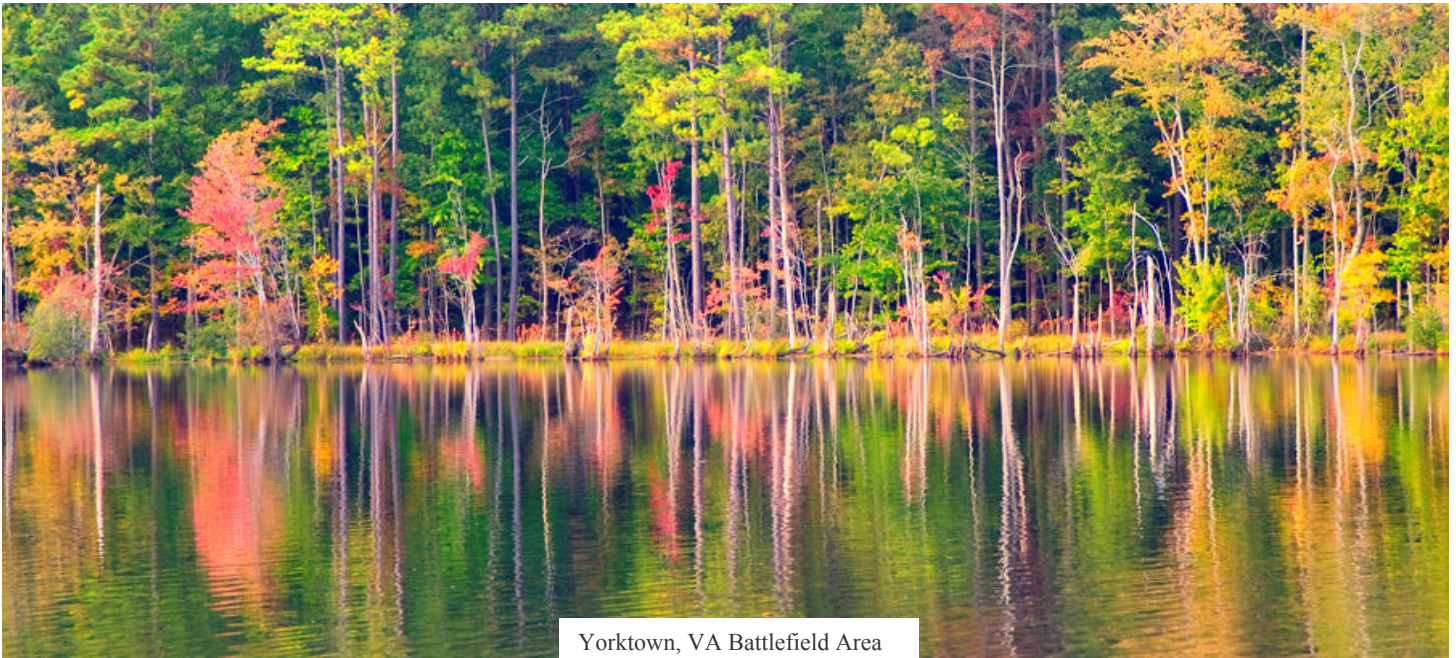
years ago about putting a casino on the site, but the idea went nowhere.

I spent a few minutes there Sunday, thinking about the fellows of the 56th Colored Infantry Regiment. Did the fellows stay at the hospital willingly or were there armed guards? Did anybody slip away? Not that it matters. It was a long time ago. But give a thought today to the fellows from the 56th who came so close to making it home.

DID YOU KNOW?

Common entertainment included playing cards. However, there was a tax levied when purchasing playing cards but only applicable to the "Ace of Spades." To avoid paying the tax, people would purchase 51 cards instead.

Yet, since most games require 52 cards, these people were thought to be stupid or dumb because they weren't "playing with a full deck."



Yorktown, VA Battlefield Area

Civil War Round Table of Kansas City
P.O. Box 6202
Shawnee Mission, KS 66206

