



# 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



## 429<sup>th</sup> REGULAR MEETING

**TUESDAY, April 26, 2011**

**Homestead Country Club**

6510 Mission Road, Prairie Village, Kansas

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

Dinner-6:30p.m.

## APRIL SPEAKER ALICIA SCOTT

Alicia Scott will present "Remember the Sultana" in April. She is the great grand-daughter of Wesley Lee, a survivor of the steamship Sultana explosion, north of Memphis in April, 1865. Lee, a Union soldier from Ohio, was on the overcrowded ship headed north to return home after time in Andersonville prison at the end of the civil war.

Ms Scott is a Social Gerontologist who enjoys genealogy, cooking and spending time with 'seniors' in her spare time. She currently serves as Community Outreach Coordinator for a local non-profit Hospice and lives in rural Platte County with her husband on a small acreage.

### Attendance requires a paid dinner reservation.

*Please be sure our Treasurer receives all reservations by Friday, April 22,  
along with payment of \$25.00 per person. Mail to:*

**Paul Gault, 7118 N. Congress Ave., Kansas City, MO 64152**

*Homestead's deadline for reservation changes is the following Monday afternoon, so  
promptly report any necessary adjustments to Paul at 816-741-2962 or 816-522-8021.*

*If unable to reach him, call Assistant Treasurer Betty Ergovich at 913 441-6462.*

## BATTLE OF CARTHAGE TOUR

**April 30, 2011:** Why this battle: Missouri was an important state for both the North and the South. No state was more hotly contested in 1861 than Missouri which had more than twice as many incidents of violence that year than any other state. Was Missouri a neutral state? Who were the primary players and what sparked the campaign that led to this battle and the abandonment of neutrality?

Who were the soldiers that participated in this battle and what were their commitments? What was the importance to the outcome of the battle? The impact of this campaign and battle determined the future path that Missouri would take. The battle was fought on July 5, 1861. This being the sesquicentennial of that battle it only seemed appropriate that this is the time to study and review the major impact of this battle. Join us on that tour for a very informative tour of Missouri and that battle, a tour that will be hosted by Roundtable members. Even though the Burnt District occurred after this battle our first stop will be at that monument in Harrisonville with our second stop at the Bushwhacker Museum in Nevada before we begin the tour on Civil War Road at Carthage and conclude at the Civil War museum of Carthage. Our tour guide will be Steve Weldon, the battlefield historian for the Battle of Carthage. Official registration for this tour will begin at the Feb 22nd meeting and the tour is open to all organizations and the public.

As of the printing of this month's BB we have 32 registered for the Apr 30 Battle of Carthage bus tour. We have had several other inquiries and may have to cut off registration. If you're thinking of going you may want to hurry up and get your registration in.

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Battle of Westport Museum...

The museum officially opened for this year on April 1st. One of the visitors was a couple from Omaha, Ne who are members of a Military History group. On May 13 they plan to bring their bus tour group to Leavenworth, Kansas City and the museum among other historical locations. The museum is open on Fridays and Saturdays from 1pm to 5pm. We could still use more volunteers so if you or you and a partner could volunteer one of those days once a month your help would be greatly appreciated. Please call Dan Smith at 913-648-0952 if you can help us as a volunteer.

Programming & Tours.....

The year 1861 saw few major engagements in the Civil War. However Missouri saw twice as many incidents of violence than any other state that year. So we have focused this year on much of the Border. To commemorate that year our RT is taking the July 5, 1861

Battle of Carthage Tour on April 30. If you can go on that tour and have not received a flyer, please go to the web site, click on the Battle of Carthage Tour and the flyer and enrollment form will pop up, or call Lane Smith at 913-649-1515. The reenactment for the Battle of Carthage is May 14 – 15. Go to their website for additional information. Our June 28 speaker is John Hillmer, National Park Supt for Wilsons Creek. He will be speaking of the battle itself and the reenactment that will take place Aug 12-14th. They are expecting between 3,000 and 4,000 re-enactors that weekend so it should be a very good weekend for those who may attend. Sept 16-18 is the reenactment for the Battle of Lexington. More information to follow from the RT for that reenactment and any possibilities of a tour.

Now, there was a lot of activity in 1862. As this is the sesquicentennial, we are attempting to secure speakers for many of those eastern and western battles: Pea Ridge, Shiloh, 7 Days, 2nd Manassas (2nd Bull Run for those of northern leanings) and Antietam (Sharpsburg for those of southern leanings). We'd like Fredericksburg but we may not be able to fit that battle into our schedule. We are also preparing for 1863 (2013). So our future programming & tours is centered around the sesquicentennial and it should be both educational, entertaining and interesting.

## SPEAKERS 2011

**May 24:** Joseph K Houts, Jr., Vice President, Community Development Center, Commerce Bank, St. Joseph, MO *"Medicine and the Founding of the Sanitation Commission"*

### SUMMER SESSIONS:

**Jun 28:** John Hilmer: Superintendent of Wilson's Creek. Battle of Wilson's Creek and the upcoming re-enactment

**July 26:** Dan Smith: Civil War History of Jackson County

**Aug 23:** Col. James Speicher: "The H. L. Hunley"

**Sep 27:** Glenda J. Wallace, Chief, Eastern Band of The Shawnee, "American Indians and The Civil War"

**Oct 25:** Arnold Schofield, *"Thunder in the Valleys"*

**Nov 22:** Doug Mischler as: *"Jefferson Davis"*

**Dec 27:** Dave Para and Cathy Barton Para *"Music of the Civil War"* & Silent Book Auction

## 2011 LOCAL AND COMING EVENTS

**April 19 On Exhibit at the National Archives at Kansas City**

**April 19 - October 22, 2011**

Lee and Grant provides a major reassessment of the lives, careers, and historical impact of Civil War generals Robert E. Lee and Ulysses S. Grant. The exhibit

presents photographs, paintings, prints, coins, reproduction clothing, accoutrements owned by the two men, documents written in their own hands, and biographical and historical records to reveal each man in his historical and cultural context, allowing audiences to compare the ways each has been remembered for almost 150 years.

#### **Lee and Grant Speaker Series**

**April 27 at 6:30** Dr. Bryan LeBeau - Ulysses S. Grant and National Memory

**May 17 at 6:30** Dr. Timothy Westcott - Robert E. Lee: From General to Academician

Coming soon: Divided Loyalties: Civil War Documents from the Missouri State Archives, December 27, 2011.

National Archives at Kansas City, 400 West Pershing Road, Kansas City, MO 64108, 816-268-8000

[www.archives.gov/central-plains](http://www.archives.gov/central-plains) , Free Admission

Hours: Tuesday – Saturday, 9:00am - 5:00pm

**April 20, 2011** - Author Gregory Wolk will discuss his new book, A Tour Guide to Missouri's Civil War: 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 20 Plaza Library Branch 4801 Main St., Kansas City, Mo. For reservations call 816-701-3407 or go to [www.kclibrary.org](http://www.kclibrary.org) and click on Events.

**April 23, 2011** - The Missouri Paranormal Society will be hosting a public ghost investigation at the Wornall House on April 23rd. For a \$50 fee (half goes to them and half supports the Wornall House) you get to go along. Starting at 7pm, you will learn about all their equipment, and then actually do a real paranormal investigation in this historic 1850's house. They have room for only 8 – 10 guests, and spaces go quick, so call us right away to reserve your spot.

Because space is so limited, we make you pay in advance. You can do that by calling Kandice at 816-444-1858 and putting it on a credit card (visa, MC, or Discover) or send a check, or even drop by with cash if you want. Just do it quick!

Thanks so much for supporting this great old house, and happy haunting!

Kandice at the John Wornall House Museum.

**April 26, 2011** – David Goldfield will discuss his vivid narrative history of the Civil War, America Aflame, which offers the first major new interpretation of the era in 20 years. Central Library, 14 W. 10<sup>th</sup> St. KC, Mo Reception 6:00p.m., Program at 6:30p.m.. RSVP: [kclibrary.org](http://kclibrary.org), (816) 701-3407.

**April 28-30, 2011** - The Civil War in The American West, The Eighth Fort Robinson History Conference. Fort Robinson State Park, Crawford, Nebraska. Sponsored by the Nebraska State Historical Society and the Nebraska Games and Parks Commission. For information call 402-471 3272

**April 30, 2011** – Bus Tour: “Battle of Carthage, Mo.” More information to come in next month’s Border Bugle or see Lane Smith

**April 30, 2011** - Have you ever wanted to attend a formal ball ala Gone with the Wind? Now is your chance! Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Majors request your presence at a ball held at their home. This is an interactive performance event and you will get to participate in everything from the dances themselves (don't worry, we will help you!) to the pie auction or the right to lead the grand march (a popular Civil War tradition). It will be fun for the whole family.

Time: 7pm – 10pm (you may come and go as you please)

Where: At the Alexander Majors Historic House, 8201 State Line Road

Cost: \$15 per person includes a dessert buffet and three hours of entertainment (bring extra money to bid on pies, the chance to lead the Grand March, and for other fun extras) Dress: No dress code! Come in period or modern attire. Important: You must buy a ticket ahead of time by calling 816-444-1858 or emailing [Kandice@wornallhouse.org](mailto:Kandice@wornallhouse.org). We expect this event to sell out, so get your tickets early!

**May 13-15, 2011** – Carthage, Mo., Sesquicentennial Battle of Carthage Re-enactment. Saturday Battle will be in downtown Carthage, street to street. Saturday night dance. Other activities will be scheduled. We are pleased and excited to inform you that the Sunday. Battle will be a re-enactor only battle on a 1,000 acre. pristine site. fighting (as happened in the actual 1861 battle).

**May 21, 2011** – Westport Historical Society, 1855 Harris-Kearney House, Kelly's Irish Brigade, Westport Blue and Gray Social Society present, “Confederate Weekend,,” Events, Demonstrations and Confederate Ball

**June 17-19, 2011** – Booneville, Mo., Re-enactment.

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## MENU FOR APRIL

California Spring Mix Salad, Grilled Turkey Medallions Whipped Sweet Potatoes, Succotash, and Chocolate Mousse

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## NEW MEMBERS

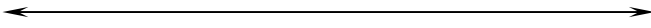
Jim & Laurie Stiles, 4503 W. 63rd Terr., Prairie Village, KS 66208, (913) 722-1089, e-mail: [jimandlauriestiles@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jimandlauriestiles@sbcglobal.net)

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## LARGE BOOK COLLECTION DONATION

"Frances Gunnels, Jay Gunnels widow kindly donated Jay's collection of 523 Civil War Books to the CWRTKC to sell at the meetings. The money raised by these sales is to allow us to have funds to bring in future

speakers. Fran said that of all of the organizations to which Jay belonged, the Civil War Round Table of Kansas City was his favorite. Although not a founding member of the Round Table, Jay did become a member during the year it was founded. Thank you Frances Gunnels!



## *“The Sargeant Major’s Roar”*

### *Battlefield Dispatches #115*

#### *“A Screw Loose Lose Somewhere”*

Humor was rare in the after action reports or letters of the Civil War or of any war for that matter because of the horrific nature of war itself. However, occasionally a little bit of humor work’s it’s way into a piece of correspondence and the title of this column is not a misstatement. It is a direct quotation from a frustrated Union officer who had more important things to worry about than the absence of a basic office, furniture for his sub-district headquarters and as a consequence of having to pay rent for the room out of “his own pocket” because of the lack of government funds. All of this appears to be the result of bad communications, cross communications or lack of any communications at all. This situation reminds me of the universal expression that is one of many that originated in World War II and is still in use today. SNAFU: SITUATION NORMAL ALL FOULED UP, that’s the printable version!

In the spring of 1864, Colonel Thomas Moonlight was in command of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sub-District of South Kansas with his “Headquarters”, if one could call it that, at Mound City, Kansas.

Colonel Moonlight was a good officer, with a very good combat record who was well respected by his troops and had little tolerance or patience for administrative or logistic mistakes. In the following letter he describes exactly what he thinks of an administrative & logistical blunder! The letter is located on [Page 468 in Series I, Vol. 34 of the Records of the War of the Rebellion.](#)

Mound City, Kans., May 5, 1864.

[To] Capt. George S. Hampton,

Assistant Adjutant-General:

Captain: I agree with you that my position here has never been right to insure a proper supervision over the affairs of the border and as Company F of the 11<sup>th</sup>, has taken station at Potosi [Southeast of present Pleasanton on the Military Road] I feel that his portion of the border is now properly protected. A company of infantry, or

what is the same, dismounted cavalry, is sufficient for this place, sour views coincide exactly. I am free to confess that I came here against my will, but the acquaintance of the citizens has been freely cultivated & I assure you we have all become bosom friends. The conduct of the command here has been exemplary in the extreme & a lasting friendship has sprung up between them & this people. I also flatter myself that affairs of the “border” are rapidly harmonizing & at last the citizens are with us as soldiers & protectors. This has & will be my special aim, for my judgment, it is the only way to success aside. Much as I now regret leaving this place, I am ready, for I deem it essential to the interests of the border.

I think Olathe is my proper station, with Colonel Hoyt at the Trading Post; that is, so long as your headquarters remain at Paola. In the event of a change, Paola should be my headquarters. AS I AM NOW WRITING YOU PRIVATELY & FREELY, I WILL SPEAK ON “OTHER MATTERS”. When I came down here, it was with the understanding with Lieut. Francis that “QUARTERS” for myself & adjutant would be furnished, as also our “OFFICE”! He now telegraphs me that by direction of the “Chief Quartermaster”, Insley, he cannot do it. I have seen “Insley” & he denies ever giving any such instructions, so that there is “A SCREW LOOSE SOMEWHERE”! I am yet without a table, desk or chair & but little stationary & I know this could easily be avoided by making proper exertions on receipt of my requisitions. I have borne with it until “PATIENCE HAS CEASED TO BE A VIRTUE”! I must before I leave, PAY the RENT of this room out of my own pocket, for my word is pledged & boarding in hotels & running around as I have been & will have to still is a pecuniarily [financially] a poor business with nothing coming in!

I will now ask of you one favor, that you will permit me to retain Company B with me wherever I am stationed. The company love & respect me & I admire & esteem them for their soldierly & gallant conduct. In the event of any change keep one company here.

Respectfully & truly yours,

T. Moonlight,

Colonel.”

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It is not known, if Col. Moonlight ever received his furniture or was reimbursed for paying the rent for a room out of his own pocket. What is known, is that he continued to be a good field commander & he & his regiment, the 11<sup>th</sup> Ks. Vol. Cavalry, protected the Union right flank with a rapid forced march on October 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> 1864 during Price’s Campaign in Missouri & Kansas. This successful rapid march resulted in the successful defense of Mound City, prevented the complete destruction of Fort Lincoln on the north bank of the Little Osage River & the reinforcement of Fort

Scott. In 1865, Col. Moonlight was awarded a brevet promotion to Brigadier General.

After the Civil War, he returned to his Kansas farm and became involved in politics. He served as the Kansas Secretary of State and also as a state senator. From 1887 to 1889, Retired General Moonlight served as the governor of the Wyoming Territory and later he served as the U.S. Minister to Bolivia. He died at 66 years of age at Leavenworth, Kansas & is buried there in Mount Muncie Cemetery.



## BOOK LIST

The Civil War Round Table is creating a list of favorite and recommended books to be posted on our website and shared with others (like museums and libraries) wishing to build a reading list for their patrons. Please send your selections, including title and author, to Alisha Cole at [amcole2@mac.com](mailto:amcole2@mac.com).

## SPEAKER'S BUREAU

With the arrival of the Civil War Sesquicentennial, the demand for speakers on the Civil War will be tremendous. Our Round Table is compiling a list of speakers, their contact information, and their topic(s) for area libraries, schools, and organizations. It will also be posted on our website. If you are interested, please send your name, information for contact and introduction, fees, and a description of your topic(s) to Alisha Cole at [amcole2@mac.com](mailto:amcole2@mac.com).

**"Interested in the Old West?"** The Kansas City Posse of the Westerners International meets monthly on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday at the Golden Ox Steak House for a delicious dinner and an Old West talk. The Golden Ox is at 1600 Genesee St, KC, Mo. Or check it out at <http://www.goldenox.com/history.php>

For more info contact Dennis Garstang at 816-569-1180 or [dgarstang@kc.rr.com](mailto:dgarstang@kc.rr.com)  
Thanking you in advance, I remain  
Respectfully  
Dennis Garstang

## MUSEUM AND SPRING HOURS OF OPERATION ANNOUNCED FOR WILSON'S CREEK NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD

Spring hours of operation for Wilson's Creek National Battlefield were announced today by Superintendent T. John Hillmer. Hours of 8 a.m. to 7p.m. for the Tour Road and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. for the

Visitor Center will go into effect beginning Sunday, April 3, 2011.

The Civil War Museum, located on State Hwy ZZ, just north of the visitor center, will be open to the public beginning Friday, April 1, 2011. Hours for the museum are 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

An entry permit of \$5.00 per adult or \$10.00 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. Additional information can be found on the internet at [www.nps.gov/wicr](http://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. The site is considered to be one of the best-preserved battlefields in the National Park System. The battlefield is located 10-miles southwest of Springfield, Missouri at the intersection of State Hwy ZZ and Farm Road 182. More information can be obtained by calling (417) 732-2662.

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## 96th Annual ASALH Convention 2011 National Black History Theme: *African Americans and the Civil War* Call For Papers

The Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) is soliciting papers and panels for its upcoming 96th Annual Convention (deadline: April 30, 2011).

**Deadline for Submission of Panel and Paper Proposals: 30 April 2011.** All proposals must be submitted electronically to ASALH through the All Academic online system at <http://www.asalh.org/callforpapers.html>.

Please go to this website for complete details, this is important!!!!!!

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This is an excerpt from National Parks Magazine from an article called "The War that Shaped America" by Bill Gwaltney in Q&A form.

Spring 2011

**Q:** How important is it to protect the land in and around these historic places?

**A:** These are places where hundreds, thousands, sometimes tens of thousands of people died, so it's important to preserve the memory of the sacrifices they made. At the same time, the more science and technology and tools we have, the more these places reveal. Once you plow over a place, the information that seems to be constant fodder for Discovery



Channel shows like *Civil War Chronicles* is lost. So we need to protect them not only as historic sites and places to honor those who died, but as places where information can still be retrieved.

I'm reminded of a story about an older couple that happened to be in a Civil War site when then-NPS chief historian Ed Bearss was leading an interpretive walk. When the walk was over, the couple asked where the wife's great-grandfather, a First Sergeant who was in such-and-such a regiment during such-and-such a company at this time, might have stood in the battle. Ed Bearss—with the kind of assuredness that only a Civil War history buff could muster—said, "If you walk with me, I'll show you. That regiment would have been right here, and your great-grandfather would have stood right here." The woman cried.

The Park Service, because of its attention to detail and focus on this kind of history, could actually show this woman where her ancestor stood during this particular battle. It's almost like a magic trick. But it's only because these places are protected that that's possible.

(This brought tears to my eyes too.)

Letter From the Editor...

Well, it's been coming for a year or two and it's hard to do after being given the Valiant Service Award by the Round Table just last year, but I'm getting burned out on doing the Border Bugle after 11 years and need a break, a long break. So, I'm asking you budding reporters and typists to come forward and volunteer to pick up the reins for me. I would like to retire after the January Newsletter of 2012, I might even do the Roster for 2012, but that's it. I really appreciate all the kind words and support I've been given for all these years, and I won't say it wasn't fun, but I hear the odd sound of an old Volkswagen exhaust system calling my name and they need help again and I want to do something for the Vintage VW Club of America again and I can't do both. I know you understand. So please, let me or Lane, or Alisha or someone know you're interested, it's not hard, you can use my format if you want, or try something completely new. I'll show how I do it. Thank you so much for letting me be your editor.

Sincerely  
Mike Epstein

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P.O. Box 6202  
Shawnee Mission, KS 66206-0202

