



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 2602
Shawnee Mission, KS
66206
An IRC 501(c)(3)
Charitable Organization



425th REGULAR MEETING TUESDAY, December 21st, 2010

Homestead Country Club

6510 Mission Road, Prairie Village, Kansas

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

Dinner-6:30p.m.

DECEMBER 2010 MEETING

DECEMBER CHRISTMAS PARTY

PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY. THERE WILL BE "NUT CRACKERS" AT EACH TABLE, CHRISTMAS MUSIC AND SEVERAL VIGNETTES BY ROUNDTABLE MEMBERS IN ADDITION TO OUR ANNUAL BOOK SALE. IT SHOULD BE A VERY PLEASANT EVENING OF MUSIC, CELEBRATION AND COMRADERY. THERE WILL BE A VERY SHORT BUSINESS MEETING TO INFORM THE MEMBERSHIP OF OUR FUTURE PLANS FOR NEXT YEAR AND BEYOND.

A Very Merry Christmas, A Happy Chanukah, Happy Kwanzaa, & Happy New Year!!!!

PLEASE! Don't forget to pay your dues before January so we can update our mailing list and we can have your correct mailing address or e-mail address. We also need to know how you want to receive your Border Bugle. We would love to see you all go GREEN and receive it by e-mail. Hope to see you soon.

Please be sure that we have your reservation by Friday Dec. 17th. Return reservation in the enclosed envelope with required payment of \$25.00 per person to; Paul Gault, 7118 N Congress Ave., Kansas City, MO 64152.

If you have questions or your payment is unavoidably tardy, please contact Assistant Treasurer Betty Ergovich at 913 441-6462.

Attendance requires a paid dinner reservation.

MEETING DECEMBER 2010

December: Period Music, Good food, Spirits, Vignettes & Silent Book Auction and of course, our friends!

SPEAKERS 2011

Jan 25: Wes Franklin, Director, Newton County Historical Society, "*Battle of Newtonia*"

Feb 22: Daniel Hadley, Vice President, Lone Jack Historical Society, "*Battle of Lone Jack*"

Mar 22: Patricia Moss, Patricia Moss Art and Family History Services, "*George Caleb Bingham and Order No. 11*"

Apr 26: Alicia Scott, Community Outreach Coordinator, Kendallwood Hospice, "*The Sultana*"

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: to be announced!

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

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

Nov 22: "*Jefferson Davis*" (see Lane Smith for presenter's name)

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

There will be a Symposium featuring David Blight, Dwight Pitcaithley, Arnold Schofield and Jim Denney on March 26, 2011. This will be held at the Midwest Genealogy Center in Independence, MO. The program will be repeated the following day, March 27 at Brown vs. Board of Education National Historic site in Kansas. The times for both programs will be announced later.

MENU FOR DECEMBER 2010;

Ceaser Salad, London Broil, Twice Baked Potato, Green Beans Almondine, & Pecan Pie with Chocolate Bourbon Sauce



2010/2011 LOCAL AND COMING EVENTS

Dec. 18: Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Majors Christmas Tea (At the Majors House)

Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Majors request the honor of your presence at a Christmas Tea. Your hosts would like to welcome you to their historic home at 81st and State Line where you can experience a real Victorian Christmas, complete with music, dancing, period costumes, and more. Mr. Majors' band of Pony Express Riders may even deliver some Christmas mail to the frontier home!

When: Saturday December 18

Where: The Alexander Majors House, 8201 State Line Road

Time: Please choose either the 2:00 p.m. or the 7:00 p.m. event.

Cost: \$15 per person

For more information, call Kandice at 816-444-1858 or see www.wornallhouse.org

Reservations requested

May 13-15, 2011 – Carthage, Mo., Re-enactment

June 18-19, 2011 – Booneville, Mo., Re-enactment

August 12-14 2011 – Springfield, Missouri. Wilson's Creek Re-enactment Planned for 2011 The Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Foundation has begun planning a maximum-effort Civil War reenactment to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Wilson's Creek. The reenactment will take place during the weekend of August 12-14, 2011.

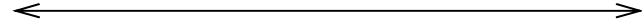
Excitement is already building for the Civil War sesquicentennial, and as the second major battle of the war, Wilson's Creek compels a great deal of attention in the reenactment community. The Western

Division of the Blue-Gray Alliance, a re-enactor organization, will help design battle scenarios and handle all military aspects of the reenactment.

Due to the high level of interest, the Blue-Gray Alliance anticipates that this will be a well-attended event, with more than 3,000 re-enactors and huge crowds of spectators. Although a location has not yet been selected, it will be held as close to Wilson's Creek National Battlefield as possible. Watch for more details and updates on the Foundation web site at www.wilsonscreek.com.

Sept. 16-18, 2011 – Lexington, Mo., Reenactment

October 1-2, 2011 – Leasburg, Mo., Battle of
Morristown near Harrisonville, Reenactment



LIBRARY DONATION

Recently, the KCCWRT received a donation of a large personal Civil War Library from an anonymous benefactor. Therefore we will be able to offer a small selection for a silent auction at each of our regular meetings from September – May. Members are still encouraged to bring donations of Civil War and related books to the regular large silent book auctions at the December and May meetings. If there are any questions please do not hesitate to contact Arnold Schofield.

NEW MEMBERS

Gary Minsey, 2517 W. 65th St. Mission Hills, KS
66208, 913-362-4514 email OU4514@aol.com

“The Sargeant Major’s Roar”

Battlefield Dispatches # 148

“Tenting Tonight”

By the winter of 1863, a popular refrain echoed in many Union & Confederate camps, posts, garrisons & armies on campaign wishing for what had become a long Civil War to end in peace throughout the land. The thoughts of the following verse are as meaningful today for any soldier, sailor, marine or air force personnel serving in “Harm’s Way” and their families at home as they were for “Johnny Reb” & “Billy Yank”.

“Many are the hearts that are weary tonight,
Wishing for the war to cease.
Many are the hearts looking for the right,
Wishing for the Dawn of Peace.
Tenting tonight, tenting tonight,
Tenting on the old campground.”

Nearby, in Balltown, Missouri; Captain Charles W. Porter, commanding officer of Co. F, 3rd Wisconsin Cavalry recorded the following entry in his personal journal on Christmas Day, December 25, 1863.

“Friday, December 25.

We received word from the Fort [Scott] that Quantrill’s troop was expected to attack us. Capt. Vittum sent me to Balltown to notify Captain Carpenter, J. Doppler accompanied me. I took dinner at Mr. Austins with Capt. Carpenter & with him spent the afternoon there very agreeably with the ladies [Mr. Austins wife & daughters]. I attended a dance in the Camp tonight. Today cloudy. Rain this evening.”

Elsewhere in Missouri, Christmas Day was not a very festive occasion and the “War” did not stop for a minute on December 25, 1864, as indicated by the following reports. All of the reports are located on Pages 930 & 931 in Vol. 41, Part IV of the Official Records of the War of the Rebellion:

“Macon, December 25, 1864.

Brigadier General Fisk,
Saint Louis, Mo.:

Matters are getting in bad shape in Chariton County. Captain Stanley telegraphs that Jim Jackson’s band [of bushwhackers] are roving at pleasure and killing indiscriminately. Several men living near Westville were killed by the gang yesterday. They go in squads of six or seven men. Have you any orders?

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
C. T. CHRISTENSEN,

Lieut. Colonel & Assistant Adjutant
General.”

“Macon, December 25, 1864.

Commanding Office,
Glasgow, Mo.:

James Jackson & his band of 6 or 8 men are roving through Chariton County killing indiscriminately! Send a scout at once into that county, in the neighborhood of Westville & HUNT HIM THOROUGHLY. Will start a scout from here tonight. Be careful & avoid collision.

By order of Brigadier General Fisk:

G. A. HOLLOWAY,
Assistant Adjutant General.

“Bucklin, December 25, 1864.

Brigadier General Fisk:

Yesterday evening [Christmas Eve] a band supposed to be James Jackson with 6 or 7 men, killed James Loan & his son at their homes near Westville, in Chariton County. I heard of 4 others in the same vicinity that were killed still later in the evening; it is probably correct. There is a suspicious person in that vicinity which I should like to hear from you concerning. I received a note from him tonight requesting me to meet him at Mrs. Bett's. It was signed Capt. A. J. Pickett & A. N. West & M. J. Bett. STANLEY, Captain."

The "Civil War", as any war, takes no "Holiday". Therefore, in this "2010 Holiday Season", I hope that we who are safe at home and not in Harm's Way will at some point in time thank and say a prayer for the safety of all those & their families who are currently in Harm's Way because the WAR WENT & GOES ON!



ATTENTION

In keeping with the spirit of a Round Table being "a meeting of peers for discussion and exchange of views," I would like to propose that the summer sessions of the CWRT of KC be an opportunity for members to share and discuss their personal research and areas of interest. A member would make an informal presentation which would be followed by questions and discussion. The presenting member would also provide a written piece of his/her presentation to be posted on the CWRT of KC website to contribute to the body of knowledge of everyone about the Border War/Civil War era.

If you are interested in sharing your research without CWRT, please contact Lane Smith or Alisha Cole.
Thank you.

Alisha Moore Cole
First Vice President
Civil War Round Table of Kansas City

WINTER HOURS OF OPERATION ANNOUNCED FOR WILSON'S CREEK NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD

Winter hours of operation for Wilson's Creek National Battlefield were announced today by Superintendent T. John Hillmer, Jr. Hours of 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. for the Tour Road, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. for the Visitor Center, and 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. for the Museum and will go into effect beginning Sunday, October 24, 2010.

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.

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 Highway ZZ and Farm Road 182. More information can be obtained by calling (417) 732-2662.

Angela R. Pirotte
Administrative Assistant
Wilson's Creek National Battlefield

MISSING OVERCOAT

Hi everyone. Last year we asked everyone to check and see if they didn't accidentally, walk off with Blair Tarr's Tan Overcoat and we got no response, I thought I would try again this year. His coat has his last name on the neck tag and a bottle of Aleve in one pocket. Your coat has a pair of blue knit gloves in it and was left at the Country Club for to pick up with instructions to the people there. If you have Blair's coat, PLEASE bring to the meeting.

Thanks,
Mike



CHRISTMAS DURING THE CIVIL WAR

d.burgin@tripod.com

Many of today's American Christmas customs are rooted in the early 19th century. Perhaps ironically, they came to maturity during the Civil War, when violence, chaos, and staggering personal losses seemed likely to drown out the choruses of "Peace on Earth."

Many of the artists of the period, Winslow Homer, Thomas Nast, and Alfred Waud created visual chronicles of the spreading influence of many holiday traditions we enjoy today, including Santa Claus Christmas trees, gift-giving, caroling, holiday feasting, and Christmas cards.

Nast and Homer drew scenes of the wartime practice of sending Christmas boxes filled with homemade clothes and food items to soldiers at the front. The war made an impact on the nation, both North and South, in the ways Christmas was observed.

Christmas boxes like the ones Homer and Nast pictured gave their recipients a much-needed mental and physical boost. When in 1861, for the first *Harper's Weekly* Christmas cover of the war, Homer drew overjoyed soldiers reveling in the contents of Adams Express boxes from home.

The most beloved symbol of the American family Christmas--the decorated Christmas tree--came into its own during the Civil War. Christmas trees had become popular in the decade before the war, and in the early 1860s, many families were beginning to decorate them. Illustrators working for the national weeklies helped popularize the practice by putting decorated table-top Christmas trees in their drawings.

On the home front, the homes were mostly decorated with different kinds of pines, holly, ivy and mistletoe. While there were many families who spent lonely Christmases during the war, they still had a Christmas Tree which was the centerpiece for the home. Most trees were small and sat on a table.

The decorations were mostly home made, such as strings of dried fruit, popcorn, pine cones. Colored paper, silver foil, as well as spun glass were popular choices for making decorations. Santa brought gifts to the children. Those gifts were home made, such as carved toys, cakes or fruits.

It was only a matter of time before the Christmas tree made its way into military camps. Alfred Bellard of the 5th New Jersey remarked about the arrival of the newly popular Christmas icon to his camp along the lower Potomac River.

"In order to make it look much like Christmas as possible, a small tree was stuck up in front of our tent, decked off with hard tack and pork, in lieu of cakes and oranges, etc".

Christmas carols were sung both at home and in the camps. Can you imagine how homesick the soldiers would become singing these songs. Some of the most popular ones were "Silent Night," "Away in the Manger," "Oh Come All Ye Faithful," and "Deck the Halls".

By 1863, the Union blockade of the Southern coasts had made it nearly impossible for Santa Claus to visit homes in the South; scarcity of goods and the consequent high prices put both store-bought presents and raw materials for homemade gifts out of the financial reach of many Southern consumers. Quite a few mothers explained to their children that even Santa Claus would not be able run the formidable blockade.

Ella Gertrude Clanton Thomas of Augusta, Georgia, told how a simple act of faith on the part of her children caused her to dig deeper for a holiday offering on Christmas Eve:

"I have written so much that it is now after 9 o'clock and yet I have said nothing of Turner's and Mary Bell's party which we gave them last week in lieu of the Santa Claus presents. Mary Bell has been told that Santa Claus has not been able to run the blockade and has gone to war-- Yet at this late hour when I went upstairs Thursday night of the party I found that the trusting faith of childhood they had hung their little socks and stockings in case Santa Claus did come. I had given the subject no thought whatever, but invoking Santa Claus aid I was enabled when their little eyes opened to enjoy their pleasure to find cake and money in their socks."

Santa Claus apparently had a much easier time visiting homes in the North than those in the South that Christmas. According to a letter Sarah Thetford sent to her brother George, *"Santa arrived in here in Michigan dressed in a buffalo coat with presents fastened to his coat-tail...and a corn-popper on his back."* She continued that she had *"often heard Santa Claus described, but never before saw the old fellow in person."*

Sometimes Santa Claus worked behind the scenes of wartime savagery to bring a bit of Christmas cheer to those who otherwise had little reason to celebrate. Following General William T. Sherman's capture of Savannah, Georgia, and presentation of it as a Christmas gift to Lincoln in 1864, about 90 Michigan men and their captain in turn gave a token of charity to Southern civilians living outside the city. Christmas Day, the soldiers loaded several wagons full of food and other supplies and distributed the items about the ravaged

Georgia countryside. The destitute Southerners thanked the jolly Union Santa Clauses as the wagons pulled away under the power of mules that had tree-branch "antlers" strapped to their heads to turn them into makeshift reindeer.

2011 MEMBERSHIP DUES 2011

The Membership Dues for 2011 remain the same as last year. As you are aware, it is our annual dues that cover expenses associated with obtaining quality speakers, principally for transportation and lodging, as well as for the mailing and printing costs of the Board Bugle and Annual Roster. Dues for 2011 may be paid at any time prior to December 31, 2010. Observing this deadline will insure timely distribution of our Annual Roster. You may remit these separately, or include them with your November or December dinner reservations. Please complete the form below to insure that we have the correct information for the roster.

2011 CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE OF KANSAS CITY DUES

Dues deadline is December 31, 2011

\$30 per year (individual)* \$45 per year (couple)

Payable to the Civil War Round Table

_____, _____
Individual Name *spouse (if Couple Membership)*

Address *City,* *State,* *ZIP*

(_____) _____
Phone *email*

Please circle if you wish to have the your Border Bugle sent to you via the internet and help us save cost: Yes or No

* Non-resident memberships are \$10, which covers receiving the Border Bugle.

Mail to: Paul Gault, 7118 N. Congress Ave., Kansas City, MO 64152-2948

Civil War Round Table Of Kansas City
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Shawnee Mission, KS 66206-0202

