



BORDER

BUGLE

Newsletter of the Civil War Round Table of Kansas City



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400th REGULAR MEETING

TUESDAY, March 27, 2007

Homestead Country Club

6510 Mission Road, Prairie Village, Kansas

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

Dinner-6:30p.m.

MARCH SPEAKER

TOM SMITH

Hollywood filmmaker, Thomas G. Smith, will be giving a behind-the-scenes look at the making of Ted Turner's epic Civil War film "GODS AND GENERALS." He will also discuss "Massacre At Baxter Springs," an account Tom wrote of the tragic Civil War adventures of his great-grandfather, William Clark. Smith was born in central Illinois, and graduated from Northwestern University. Following college, he entered the Air Force where he served for three years. In 1980 he joined George Lucas and for five years, ran Lucas's visual effects facility, "Industrial Light and Magic." He then produced feature films for Lucasfilm, Walt Disney and the Jim Henson Company. Tom spent more than a year working on, Ted Turner's Civil War epic "Gods and Generals." Preparation for this project gave him further insight into details of a Civil War soldier's life. Following the film, he gathered his research material on his great-grandfather William Clark and finished "Massacre at Baxter Springs."

In 1863, Clark volunteered for the 3rd Wisconsin Cavalry. He never returned home. The family knew little about his fate except that the 18-year-old lad had joined the Cavalry and was killed in Kansas five weeks later, his body presumably buried in an unmarked grave near where he died. His wife having died in a tornado, he left behind an orphan son, William Clark Jr. to be raised by his grandparents.

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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

**Please be sure that we have your reservation by Friday March. 23. 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.

Late in her life, Tom's aunt Kathryn began to investigate her grandfather's military service. Before she died, she passed on collected documents to her brother Hiram, (Tom's dad) who in turn gave them to Tom. They included his signed enlistment and documents recording his death at Baxter Springs, Kansas on October 6, 1863. The papers languished in Tom's files for more than 10 years. After his father's death, Tom began to put the pieces together, to learn more about what happened to his great-grandfather. He now had the luxury of two things Kathryn and Hiram didn't have: the power of Internet and the ability to travel to historical libraries across America. What followed was a four-year search of public records in Kansas, Wisconsin and at the National Archives. One of his most fertile discoveries was a previously unpublished handwritten account of the Baxter Springs ambush, written by 2nd Lt. H.D. Bannister. Bannister commanded Clark's Wisconsin unit during William Quantrill's attack near Baxter Springs.

In his presentation, Tom will project maps, photos and artwork concerning the Baxter Springs Massacre along with behind the scenes pictures of the making of "Gods and Generals."

He and his wife Elaine live in southern California. They have three grown children and four grandchildren. Elaine has her own deep ancestral roots in the early history of Kansas. Tom is a member of the Directors Guild and has been an active member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences for 27 years.

Three-time Emmy Award nominee, twice as producer of primetime TV specials and once as director. Winner 2002 Saturn Award for work as producer of the Jim Henson Company's "Jack and the Beanstalk" (Primetime CBS miniseries.) Winner British Academy Award for work on visual effects while executive producer of Disney's "Honey, I Shrunk the Kids."



MENU FOR MARCH 2007

House Salad w/Ranch Dressing, Bavarian Pork Loin, Smashed New Potatoes Steamed Vegetables, Cheese Cake w/Strawberry Sauce

SPEAKERS FOR 2007-

April 23; John Sellers. John is the Civil War and Lincoln specialist at the Library of Congress, and serves on the National Bicentennial Committee. Like Ed Bearss, anything John chooses to speak on is interesting. Topic to be announced.

May 22; Anthony Waske. Andy teaches languages at temple University. For more years than he can count, he has reenacted General George Meade at Gettysburg, and

he is the founder of the Meade Society in Philadelphia. Truly, Andy is the epicenter of the Civil War community in Pennsylvania, an area that has so many links to the Kansas/Missouri border. "John Geary in Kansas."

Summer Sessions, Speakers to be announced.

September 25; Tom Perry. Tom is the founder of the JEB Stuart Birthplace Preservation Trust. He studied under our good friend Bud Robertson at Virginia Tech, and has donated his extensive collection of research on Jeb and his family to the Center for Civil War Studies at that university. "Jeb Stuart in Kansas."

October 23; Robert Krick. Bob's reputation as historian at the Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania Courthouse Battlefield is well-known to the Civil War community. Topic to be announced.

November 27; Fred Chiaventone. Fred is retired from the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, having taught nearly every upper level officer serving now in Iraq and Afghanistan. His novel of the Little Bighorn, *A Road We Do Not Know*, was nominated for the Pulitzer. Fred's most recent manuscript, *Gone to Kingdom*, is based on the guerilla warfare in Kansas and Missouri. "Military Lessons from the Civil War."



BATTLEFIELD DISPATCHES

Battlefield Dispatches # 23

Bushwhackers "Armed to the Teeth"

Very often, during the Civil War "Irregular Forces" such as Partisan Rangers, Guerrillas, Bushwhackers and Redlegs were armed with better weapons than the opposing Union or Confederate soldiers. This was not unusual because members of the "Irregular Forces" could individually purchase better weapons on the open market, take them from prisoners or dead enemy soldiers, rob or steal them from civilians. Eventually, as the Civil War progressed Union or Confederate combat cavalry veterans learned that ONE revolver was simply not enough, so they acquired one or two more.

The following "after action" report describes the attack on the small "Union" town of Lindley in north central Missouri on July 15, 1864 by Bushwhackers who were "ARMED TO THE TEETH." The report is located on pages 71 & 72 in Series I. Vol. 41 of the Official Records of the War of the Rebellion.

[To: Brigadier General C. B. Fisk, Commanding, District of Northwest Missouri at St. Joseph, Mo.]

“Trenton, Mo., July 18, 1864

Dear Sir: on the morning of the 15th instant a party of bushwhackers, numbering (27), came into the little town of Lindley, in this county [Grundy County], and robbed the citizens of money, horses, guns and pistols. They were pursued by Capt. E.L. Winters with what men he could hastily collect and overtaken some (8) miles from the place robbed. A fight ensued, in which (5) of Captain Winters' men were wounded. The bushwhackers again fled. The captain overhauled them again in the afternoon and fought them in which he had (1) man killed and (1) mortally wounded. The bushwhackers were all well armed, with from TWO to FOUR REVOLVERS and ONE and TWO SHOTGUNS EACH! Our men were but poorly armed and were scarce of ammunition. How long, oh, how long must we suffer with these FIENDS in HUMAN SHAPE? If the loyal Enrolled Missouri Militia were armed they would soon stop this bushwhacking. Why this is not done I cannot imagine. We need help, and we look to those in power to furnish it, and if aid is not furnished soon I fear the loyal men will take the matter in their own hands. Then, I fear, they would violate the orders of Provost Marshall McWrath, who I fear, is not thoroughly loyal to the core; at least, he acts very favorable to rebels, as I am informed.

Hoping that aid to loyal men will soon be furnished,
I am, very respectfully, your obedient
servant,

R. A. DE BOLT,

Chairman of County Committee of Safety for
Grundy County, Mo.”

It is not known if the requested aid was ever furnished and the violent Guerrilla / Bushwhacking War continued throughout Missouri until and beyond the end of the Civil War! More of this in future columns!



PASSOVER IN CAMP 1862 A REMINISCENCE OF THE WAR

Excerpts from an article by Joseph A. Joel from the Jewish Messenger, March 30, 1866

The following memoir is a charming account of how some Civil War soldiers found a way to commemorate the feast of freedom when they were far from home. It not only illuminates the importance of Passover in America, but it is by a man who was, in a direct and significant way, opposing slavery.

The approaching feast of Passover reminds me of the winter of 1862 when I fought for the Union cause in the Civil War. After a difficult march of several hundred miles we established our Winter-quarters. While there, our camp duties were not of an arduous character, and being apprised of the approaching Feast of Passover, 20 of my comrades and co-religionists belonging to my Regiment, united in a request to our commanding officer for relief from duty in order that we might keep the holidays. Our commander readily agreed to this request, and as our first point was gained, and the Paymaster had just visited and left a healthy supply of greenbacks, our next business was to find a suitable person to proceed to Cincinnati, Ohio, to buy us Matzos. Our cook, being a co-religionist, readily undertook the task of traveling there and sending the items back. We anxiously awaited the arrival of our *Mazzot*. About the middle of the morning of *Erev Pesach* a supply train arrived in camp, and to our delight, several barrels of *Matzos*. On opening them, we were surprised and pleased to find that our thoughtful cook had enclosed two *Hagodahs* and prayer-books. When the party of foragers we sent to the country returned with two kegs of cider, a lamb, several chickens and some eggs, we knew we were almost set for the Seder nights. Horse-radish or parsley we could not obtain, but in lieu we found a weed, whose bitterness, I apprehend, exceeded anything our forefathers "enjoyed."

At dark we had all prepared, and were ready to commence the service. There being no *Chasan* present, I was selected to read the services, which I commenced by asking the blessing of the Almighty on the food before us, and to preserve our lives from danger. The ceremonies were passing off very nicely, until we arrived at the part where the bitter herb was to be taken. A great commotion ensued as we ate the herb. It was very bitter and fiery like Cayenne pepper; it excited our thirst to such a degree that we forgot the law authorizing us to drink only four cups, and the consequence was we drank up all the cider. Those that drank the more freely became excited, and one thought he was Moses, another Aaron, and one had the audacity to call himself a Pharaoh. This slight incident did not take away our appetite, and, after doing justice to our lamb, chickens and eggs, we resumed the second portion of the service without anything occurring worthy of note.

In the wild woods of West Virginia, away from home and friends, we consecrated and offered up to the ever-loving God of Israel our prayers and sacrifice. I doubt whether the spirits of our forefathers, had they been looking down on us, with our arms by our sides ready for an attack, faithful to our God and our cause, would have imagined themselves amongst mortals, enacting this commemoration of the scene that transpired in Egypt.

Since then a number of my comrades have fallen in battle defending the flag, they volunteered to protect with their lives. I have myself received a number of wounds all but mortal, but there is no occasion in my life that gives me more pleasure and satisfaction than when I remember the celebration of Passover of 1862.



Society of Women and The Civil War Conference

The Society of Women and the Civil War (www.swcw.org) is contacting Civil War Round Tables throughout the country in the hope of expanding our membership. We will be holding our 9th conference in Chester County PA from July 27th - July 29th, 2007. Our members include authors, researchers, archivists, historians, librarians, genealogists, teachers, re-enactors, etc. Our conferences have been held at Hood College, Shenandoah University, the Museum of the Confederacy, and Virginia Tech University. Since its inception in 1997, SWCW has become one of the premier organizations promoting research and the dissemination on information on women and the Civil War.

We would like to extend an invitation to join SWCW to all those interested in the contributions of women during the era of the Civil War. Please visit our website www.swcw.org.

Bonnie Mangan
SWCW Board Member
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NEW MEMBERS

Christie Kennard, 6600 W. 65 Terr, Overland Park, KS 66202.



CIVIL WAR TRIVIA

1) Henry Clay was known as the "Great Compromiser" because he opposed civil war and proposed several successful compromises to postpone it. He had seven grandsons; three wore blue and four wore gray during the Civil War.

2) Confederate General George Pickett ranked last in his graduating class at West Point. Union General Geprge B. McClellan was in the same class and ranked second.

3) Jefferson Davis served as the U.S. Secretary of War (1853-57), during which time he introduced the rifle to the U.S. military. This new invention was far more accurate than the standard-issue smoothbore muskets and, ironically, would give the Union a technological edge in firepower over the Confederacy.



It has come to my notice that some cotton pickers comin' into the Southland ain't even speakin' English like it was intended to be spoke. In fact, some recently arrived pea pickers is even havin' difficulty in UNDERSTANDIN' it:

I ain't goin' to offer no college education, but the following will give you a little start in the proper use of the real English language.

Maybe befoe long youall'll be able to tell what we're talkin' about.

A
auto (should)—"I auto go to work, but Ahm tared."

ax (question)—"Ah ax you this."

aster (question)—"Ah aster last night."

abode a piece of wood, as "han me a bode to hit this mule."

B
bud what wobbles sweet in the spring time

barn (hatched)—as "I was barn in Kentucky."

braid (lot braid) what you eat when u'nins is out of bisquits.

bun what you do to your hand when you stick it in the far.

bread (raised) Ah was bread in Caintucky

balks (a square thang) like a "match balks"

C
cad (to tote) as "I cad ma bride over the threshold."

caw whut you ride in (a Fode caw).

chile a youngun.

cheer (whut you sit on.) Pull up a cheer and set down.

cotton pickin' affectionate term "cotton pickin' Yankee".

D
did (not alive) as "He's did."

dam Yankee affectionate term for those barn nawth of South Carolina

Roy C. Ranck Remembered Fondly

Roy C. Ranck, Jr., past president of the Westport Historical Society in 1983-84 and again in 1994, was remembered by his good friend Orvis Fitts, also a past president, at a memorial service on December 21, 2006:

"Roy Courtney Ranck was my friend. We first met over 30 years ago when we both served on the Executive Board of the Westport Historical Society. We both were past presidents of the Society, but it was Roy more than any other person who devoted countless hours to the preservation of the historic Harris-Kearney House in Old Westport. Not only did he help raise funds for the restoration, but he also spent many hours personally working to restore the house. Roy was a consummate craftsman. He could do almost everything—plumbing, carpentry, electrical, etc. And after the house was restored and open for tours, he was the leading expert who knew more than anyone about the history of the house. Much of what the Harris-Kearney House is today is because of Roy Ranck. In addition, he organized and led a number of historical guided bus tours sponsored by the Society to many historical sites. Several years ago Roy and I came out of retirement, so to speak, and led a Westport Historical Society guided bus tour to the following Kansas historic sites: Council Grove, Z Bar Ranch in the Flint Hills and Cottonwood Falls. The Westport Historical Society owes much to Roy Ranck for what he accomplished over the years.

Roy was also my colleague in the Civil War Round Table of Kansas City. We made many a tour all over the country to national Civil War battlefields. We roomed together in various motels. He was a most considerate roommate. You really get to know a person when you share an overnight room together. On the all-day guided bus tours of the Battle of Westport, Roy and I were together on the same bus. I was the tour guide and he was the guide who directed the bus driver. Roy knew the streets of this city like the back of his hand. After the Monnett Battle of Westport Fund (a tax exempt component of the Round Table) acquired nearly 100 acres of the Big Blue Battlefield in the Byram's Ford area, Roy again helped in the work to preserve that historic Civil War battlefield for future generations.

Several years ago, Dale Fowler, past president; George Hicks, past Native Sons president; Roy, and myself decided to explore the original site of the Town of Kansas on the Missouri

River waterfront. This site was the beginning of what is now Kansas City, Missouri. We were appalled at what we saw—old foundations, lots of trash, overgrown weeds, a total disreputable and neglected site. A letter was written, signed by Roy Ranck, then president of the Native Sons of Greater Kansas City, to the Landmarks Commission of Kansas City. We requested that the City take action to preserve that historical site. Today an elevated walking bridge has been build from the end of Main Street to the south bank of the River. I understand the City has or is in the process of acquiring ownership of the property. Much yet remains to be done, but Roy Ranck again was involved in saving a local historic site.

I could go on and tell you more, but I think those of you who did not know this part of Roy Ranck's life now know what he has done to preserve our heritage of historical sites.

On a more personal note, Roy did a beautiful job in framing a wide-angle photo for me of my World War II Navy Blue Raider Squadron 1995 reunion in Colorado Springs. The framed photo is on the wall behind my desk. I always think of Roy when I view that framed photo.

Roy Courtney Ranck was a gentleman, a man of great personal integrity, a patriot who served his country in time of war, a man who worked to save our heritage of historical sites, a loving and compassionate husband and father, and he was my friend."



Bring Life to History and History to Life

We are planning a Heritage event that will include an 1858 J. O. Shelby wedding, music, dancing, gospel singing and story telling as well as a Military Ball, and a Country Fair July 21, and 22, 2007; the proposed crowd for this event is 800-900, historians, re-enactors, tourists and area enthusiasts.

Our focus for these two days is to replicate 1858 as closely as possible, including featured performers, folk artisans, children's games, and a farm market. In addition to this event, the peach growers in the area will be marketing a Peach Fest that will showcase the bounty of the area's peaches.

We want to bring tourists, fruit lovers and area Civil War historians down Scenic By-Way 24 to the river-town of Waverly for the day, or the weekend.

We would like to invite you to participate with us to help make these days as special as they were in

1858. All those trades that were present as daily life in 1858 in which you are skilled we would like to help you showcase and sell. We would like some demonstrations as well. There are no fees and no city tax. The event will be held outside close to the Warren House an 1852 Georgian home where the wedding will occur. Please let me hear from you at your earliest convenience.

Our desired goal for this event is to provide an experiential, opportunity for an intergenerational and diverse population that will bring history to life.

Charlene McFadden
108 West Kelling Box 177
Waverly, MO 64096
660-493-2770 ext. 2314(?)
ecmfadden@galaxycable.net



2007 BORDER WAR FORUM

Shawnee Indian Mission State Historic Site and the Monnett Battle of Westport Fund present the 2007 Border War Forum, a provocative and engaging look at the 1854-1865 period in Kansas and Missouri history.

March 22,2007: "Civil War Medicine" presented by George Wunderlich, Executive Director, National Museum of Civil War Medicine, Frederick, Maryland.

April 26,2007: "Women of the Border War" presented by Jean Warren, Women's Historian and Author, co-owner of James Country Mercantile, Liberty, Missouri.

May 24,2007: "Ebony Warriors March to Glory, Role of African-American Troops in the Civil War with special emphasis on Missouri and Kansas" presented by Arnold Schofield, Site Administrator, Mine Creek Battlefield State Historic Site and Marais des Cygnes State Historic Site, Pleasanton, Kansas

June 28,2007: "American Indians in the Civil War" presented by Alisha M. Cole, Site Administrator, Shawnee Indian Mission State Historic Site, Fairway, Kansas and Grinter Place State Historic Site, Kansas City, Kansas.

Homestead Country Club
6510 Mission Rd., Prairie Village, KS 66208
Social Hour-Cash Bar-6:00 p.m.
Dinner-6:30 p.m.

Attendance requires a paid dinner reservation.

Reservation with required payment of \$23.00 per person per event to: Betty Ergovich, 23414 West 54th Street, Shawnee Mission, KS 66226-2709. Checks to be made payable to Monnett Fund. For more information, please contact Alisha Cole at 931-262-0867.



My entry in the CWPT Photo Contest, the category was "Close-Up".