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Civil War Round Table of
Kansas City

P.O. Box 6202

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An IRC 501(c)(3)
Charitable Organization

Website- <http://cwrtkc.org/>

Newsletter of the Civil War Round Table of Kansas City



437th REGULAR MEETING

TUESDAY, March 27, 2012

Homestead Country Club

6510 Mission Road, Prairie Village, Kansas

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

Dinner-6:30p.m.

MARCH SPEAKER

PROFESSOR WILLIAM. GARRETT PISTON

*"BATTLE OF PEA RIDGE-
MARCH 6-8, 1862"*

The battles of Wilson's Creek, Pea Ridge, and Prairie Grove were three of the most significant engagements of the Civil War west of the Mississippi River. They influenced the course of the first half of the war in the region and helped shape Union military efforts to control the Trans-Mississippi while significantly contributing to Confederate defeat.

Following the fall 1861 campaign by General Sterling Price at Wilson's Creek and Lexington, the Pea Ridge campaign effectively drove Confederate forces out of Missouri. At the Battle of Pea Ridge on March 6, 7 and 8, 1862, the Confederate Army of the West under General Earl Van Dorn had about 16,000 men available for the upcoming struggle, while the Federal Army of the Southwest of General Samuel Ryan Curtis was outnumbered with about 10,250 troops. The Confederate advantages in men and artillery relative to their Federal foe was greater than any other Confederate force in a single campaign during the war.

Continued on Page 2

Attendance requires a paid dinner reservation.

*Please be sure our Treasurer receives all reservations by Friday, March 23,
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 913 722-9411.

After Pea Ridge, the war in Missouri turned to an insurgency as organized Confederate armies were largely confined to central Arkansas or deployed in Mississippi. Although the Pea Ridge campaign received less public attention than the military action east of the Mississippi, it was a major factor in maintaining the relentless Union pressure in the western theater that resulted in the ultimate capture of Vicksburg in July 1863.



Dr. Piston

We will learn more about the details of the decisive Battle of Pea Ridge in Northwest Arkansas from Professor William Piston. His incisive analysis of the personalities of the military leadership on both sides coupled with their bold and aggressive strategies will provide an engaging discussion and insight into this important engagement fought 150 years ago this month.

A native of east Tennessee, Dr. Piston received his undergraduate and masters degrees at Vanderbilt University. He obtained his doctorate in Civil War history at the University of South Carolina. Since 1988, he has been a member of the Department of History at Missouri State University, where he specializes in American military history and the Civil War and Reconstruction. He is the author or co-author of a number of books and articles, including *Carter's Raid: An Episode of the Civil War in East Tennessee* (1989); *Lee's Tarnished Lieutenant: James Longstreet and His Place in Southern History* (1987); *Wilson's Creek: The Second Battle of the Civil War and the Men Who Fought It* (2000); and *Portraits of Conflict: A Photographic History of Missouri in the Civil War* (2009). Piston is an associate editor for *North & South* magazine and is active in a variety of local and national organizations, including the Society for Military History, the Society of Civil War Historians, and the Longstreet Society.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I want to thank the 15 members of the Executive Committee who attended and participated in our March 10 meeting. These dedicated people spent over three hours of their time endeavoring to improve the way our Round Table functions for the benefit of the entire membership. Two of these are professional historians who drove in the meeting from out of town; Arnold Schofield, Fort Scott, Kansas and David Schafer, Topeka, Kansas. One of the primary and continuing efforts is future programming and we have almost

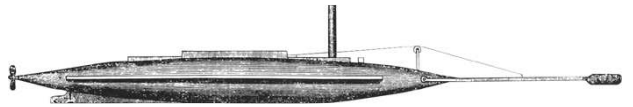
completed lining up our speakers for next year. Accolades are also due to Mike Epstein using his graphic talents month after month efforts editing the *Border Bugle*. Believe me, you would be surprised at the time and detailed efforts **all of these folks** put forth to "keep the train running down the track". Also a special thanks goes out to Judy Smith for her endeavors in writing the minutes of each of these Executive Meetings with so many participating, and also to our Treasurer Paul Gault for calmly keeping me on track.

See you March 27 when we are privileged to have Dr. Piston enlighten us on our Trans-Mississippi Battle of Pea Ridge.

DVB, Sr.

THE STEVE TREASTER PRESERVATION AWARD

At the February meeting the Steve Treaster Preservation Award plaques were given to Colonel Jack Brooks and Lt. Commander Orvis Fitts. These two distinguished former military officers worked in tandem over many years in obtaining property in the Byram's Ford area, out by Swope Park. They also spent time in the beginning preservation efforts down at Mine Creek (Kansas) which of course culminated in the purchase of land which was given to the State of Kansas where a beautiful site center and marked trails are now located. The late Dr. John Spencer and Arnold Schofield first led the Mine Creek Foundation and spent countless hours in their efforts to obtain more land.



SPEAKERS 2012

April 24: Kendall Gott; "Shiloh"

May 22: Matt Spruill "7 Days Battles"

Summer Meetings at the Plaza Library, 4801 Main, K.C., Mo. 7:00 p.m. (6:30 – 8:45p.m.)

June 26: Don Bates "Missouri's Mystery Massacres"

July 24: Dan Smith; "Jackson County in The Civil War, Part 1"

Aug 28: Dan Smith; "Jackson County in The Civil War, Part 2"

Sept 25: Ethan Refuse; "2nd Bull Run"

Oct 23: Arnold Schofield; "Island Mound"

Nov 27: Dr. William Feis; "Espionage Covert Action and Military Intelligence"

Dec 18: "The Battle of Stone's River"

MENU FOR MARCH 2012

Irish Potato Soup, Irish Loin of Pork, Bubble and Squeak (mashed potato with cabbage casserole), Buttered New Peas, and Irish Crème Brule.

OLD MEMBER, WELCOME BACK....

Jim Tucker, 3636 N. Walnut St. Kansas City, MO.
64116, 816-454-4848



“The Sargeant Major’s Roar”

Battlefield Dispatches #307

“Artillery: A Killing Machine”

In keeping with the Sesquicentennial or 150 Year Commemoration of the Civil War, this column features two “Artillery” After Action Reports that describe the deadly use of artillery or cannons in the Battle of Pea Ridge in northeastern Arkansas on March 7-8, 1862. The effective use of artillery in the Civil War, or for that matter in any war was to create a DEVISTATING KILLING MACHINE! To be a member of a Civil War Artillery / Gun Crew was a hazardous occupation with for the most part a very short life expectancy! The main reason for this was that the enemy was always attempting to & very often succeeded in destroying the ‘Union” or “Confederate” artillery and KILLING the gun crews. The following after action reports are located on Pages 265-269 in Series I, Vol. 8 of the Official Records of the War of the Rebellion.

“Report of Capt. Junius A. Jones, 1st
Independent Iowa Light Artillery.

Camp near Elkhorn Tavern, March 9, 1862.

Sir: In accordance with my duty, I beg to leave to report that on the morning of the 7th instant I proceeded to your camp with my battery. Upon arriving at Elkhorn Tavern, I sent Lieut. Gambell, with the left section [of the battery, some 200 yards farther north, on the Springfield road, to take a position against the Rebels & proceeded on the road to the right & easterly from the tavern some 800 yards to take position against the same force. I found Lieut. Gambell actively engaged the rebel guns having him [the enemy] in in perfect range of Grape, Shell & Shrapnel [Artillery ammunition]. The fire of the Rebels was GALLING in the EXTREME. Just as I delivered [fired] my second round Reese Parkhurst, acting as No. 3 [Cannoneer], was KILLED, a CANNON BALL taking off his left leg & a piece of rock striking him in his head. I then had the prolonges [long ropes used to manually drag cannon] fixed to fire retiring when necessary. Shortly after this even, one of my caissons was exploded by a shot from the Rebels & another was lost to me by a runaway team running into

the caisson team, which took fright & they in running away capsized it down a slope, breaking the pole & otherwise disabling it. The team escaped. Two of the horses were subsequently recovered by Lieut. David as was by him two of my ammunition chests & contents. By this time the Rebels fire began to tell on my men. Kirk W. Henry was disabled by a piece of shell striking him in the mouth; Sgt. H. R. Horr was severely hurt by a spent round striking him in the groin; W.F. Conner was slightly wounded in the hand; D.J. Duvall was struck over the eye with a piece of shell, disabling him for some time; Thomas Brown was injured by a piece of shell, wounding him in the right side; I. B. Nelson was wounded in the right hand & back; Clark Woodmansee was wounded in the right shoulder by a grazing ball, Samuel Black was wounded in the right ankle by a grazing solid shot; James Molesworth was disabled by a spent round striking him in the hip & John Easton, detailed from the 4th Iowa, was wounded in the right arm slightly by a grape shot [very small cannon ball about the size of a golf ball]. After these casualties the limber of the 2nd caisson was exploded by the Rebels, burning severely E. Skivinki, the driver of the wheel team.

About this time Lieut. Gambell was disabled by a grape shot passing through his left leg above the knee & between the bone & tendons. MY ammunition becoming exhausted, I began to fire retiring.

The second piece [cannon] had nearly reached the road when I was hit by a spent round shot below the groin on the left leg, which compelled me to retire from the field, being unable to sit on my horse. When I left the scene of action the last piece was retiring. We were keeping up the fire, waiting to be relieved by the Dubuque Battery. Lieut. Williams kept the field with the last piece & afterwards collected the left & center sections & drew them up in battery in a field east & south of the tavern, where they were afterwards joined by Lieut. David with the right section, who being the senior officer took command.

After I retired Gustavis Gustavison, No. 3 of the piece remaining in action, had his right leg shot off by a solid shot [a solid cannon ball] & William Selden no. 6 of the same piece, was wounded severely in the ankles by a fragment of a shell. Gustavison has since died from shock & amputation.

For the labors of the right section & the subsequent service of the battery I refer you to the report of Lieut. David. I should have noted that to keep the ammunition of the capsized caisson from the rebels we exploded it.

In conclusion, I am pleased to state that with the exception of Lieut. Gambell & William Shelden the wounded will be ready for duty in a short time.

JUNIUS A. JONES,
Captain, First Iowa Battery.”

“Report of Capt. Mortimor M. Hayden, 3rd
Independent Battery Iowa Light Artillery

Sugar Creek, Ark. March 9, 1862.

Colonel: Herewith please find statement of the part taken by this command in the action of the 7th & 8th instant:

Pursuant to your order I sent forward one section of the battery, in charge of Lieut. M. C. Wright, who took position in the road directly in front & under a heavy fire from the enemy's battery. Lieuts. W. H. McClure & J. Bradley, with their respective sections, were ordered forward to engage the enemy on the right & left of the first section. Supported by the 9th Iowa Infantry, we held this position until the Rebel Guns had disabled 10 Pieces & KILLED & WOUNDED many of both MEN & HORSES. The engagement now became general along the whole line with both artillery & infantry. The enemy's fire becoming to severe, we withdrew, leaving behind our disabled limber & several killed & wounded horses. We then took position about 300 yards in the rear of the point where our fire was first opened, remaining there until near evening (having held the enemy in check during the entire day), at which time the whole division fell back to a large open field, where it halted during the night. Here the enemy pursued, but being vigorously engaged by our artillery & infantry were driven back with severe loss. During the engagement we attempted to plant the pieces of the battery upon a commanding hill, but failed in the endeavor, an immense force of the enemy's infantry charging upon us, carrying away one of my guns & killing & wounding 2 of my own & several of the battery horses.

On the morning of the 8th, we took position on the enemy's left, unsupported by either infantry or cavalry, opening fire on the slope where our guns were captured the previous day. Shortly afterwards the enemy opened upon us from a battery in our front to which we then turned our fire, SILENCING his GUNS & DRIVING HIM FROM THE FIELD. Our loss is 2 men killed & 17 wounded. We LOST 23 HORSES KILLED & 3 disabled. Three of our guns & one limber were captured by the enemy.

I desire to make mention of the COOLNESS & BRAVERY of the whole command during the entire engagement, especially of Lieutenants Wright & Bradley, who fearless of all personal danger met the enemy with a spirit worthy of the highest commendation & cannot overlook the efficient services rendered by Sergeants House, Harkins & Weaver, alike of Corporals Maritn, Guilford, Goldthorp & Rowles. The latter while

spiking [disabling] the last GUN left upon the field, was severely wounded in both legs.

I am, Colonel, very respectfully,
M.M. HAYDEN
Commanding.”

Now then, no Kansas troops participated in this battle, but many “Union” Regiments from Missouri, Illinois, Indiana & Iowa did. The military mission of the “Union” Army of the Southwest (Mo.), commanded by Major General Samuel Ryan Curtis, was to destroy or drive the “Confederate” Army of Missouri, commanded by Major General Sterling Price, from the Show-me-State. Price's Army was not completely destroyed, but it was driven or forced from Missouri and was defeated in this, the Battle of Pea Ridge, Arkansas on March 7 & 8, 1862 & of Course the War Went On!



Photo of Elkhorn Tavern, Pea Ridge Battle Field by Mike Epstein

THE CIVIL WAR LECTURE SERIES

Shepherd's Center's Adventures in Learning Program will present a 10 week series on the American Civil War from January 6, 2012 to March 9, 2012. These presentations will be at the South Broadland Presbyterian Church, 7850 Holmes, Friday mornings at 11 a.m. Presenters will include:

March 2 Christopher Gabel “Railroads in the War”

March 9 Jim Beckner “Civil War Artifacts” Will show artifacts and discuss the personal issues soldiers experienced.

The Friends of Arrow Rock and the Arrow Rock State Historic Site are sponsoring a series of lectures highlighting aspects of the Civil War in recognition of the sesquicentennial observance.

April 7: "The Civil War in the Boonslick," by Jim Denny, Civil War historian and author of *The Civil War's First Blood: Missouri 1854-1861*

The series is free and open to the public. It is supported by an endowment funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities and generous donors.

For more information, contact Kathy Borman, at the Friends of Arrow Rock, 660-837-2321.

DEATH OF FORMER MEMBER

Former long time member Dr. Harold Smith passed away on Friday Feb. 17, 2012. He has not been an active member for the past couple of years due to health reasons. Dr. Smith was Librarian Emeritus at Park University. Smitty helped Paul Gault at the check in table for many years. He will be missed by many.

CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS

We are looking for people who are interested in learning a little local history and being a museum guide at the Alexander Majors House & Museum for a few hours on a weekend afternoon. You do not have to be a history major or expert speaker. Information about the house, the barn and the collection will be provided to you.

Please RSVP or for more information. Email at Elizabeth@wornallhouse.com

See you at the Barn at Alexander Majors House Museum, 8201 State Line Road, Kansas City, MO 64114.

UNION PACIFIC TRAIN TO SHILOH RE-ENACTMENT

I received a note from Beverly Shaw, the Treasurer for the Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri which sounded very interesting, here it is: Charles Childs is a member of the Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri and a retired Union Pacific employee. He brought to our attention at the meeting last Wednesday that Union Pacific is providing a vintage train to take Civil War reenactors from Kansas City to the Shiloh Battlefield for the reenactment. They will be picking up the Kansas City contingent on March 27.

I'm not sure where I came across this correspondence from Terry Crowder who I believe is with the MCWRA, but here it is:

"Thanks John. Appreciate your reply and offer.

Security is so very tight and UP is handling all of that as well as special gents to assist with all the intimate details of loading, transporting, and all accommodations for 350 civil war soldiers who will be on this train.

UP had not announced to much on this as we are still 60 days out and they want to get closer to the event time before they move. Still finishing final arrangements for the artillery pieces and the construction inside one of the cars for carrying all the weapons.

What I am hoping for and looking for help with is this. We have a 1861 Marine Corp 19 piece band that is coming (if) and will be on board to play at the St. Louis overnight stop. They are what we call period correct and they are paying the cost of getting there (KC) What we need is a donation to pay for the transport of their equipment (trailer) transport as well as their food. In exchange for a ticket to ride with me in the Generals Car from KC to St. Louis.

UP is donating the train and we have to pay for food for the two day ride. Thought you may know someone who would be interested in helping make this once in a lifetime event happening.

I am attaching the flyer link for the Shiloh event that this is leading up to as well...
<http://www.shiloh150.org/>

Thanks again and look forward to hearing back from you.

***Brig. General
Terry Crowder, Commanding"***

Sounds to me like a cool place to be on Tuesday of our meeting and if there is any way to help them, would be something very nice to do. This will be at Union Station.

Mike

KIMMSWICK POST OFFICE RESTORATION FUND RAISING EVENT

May 5, 2012 3:00pm to 8:00pm

Tin Cup Gifts & Bistro

6025 Third Street Kimmswick, MO 63053

Our charming little Post Office is one of Kimmswick's most beloved places. Our United States Post Office has been in continuous operation in the City of Kimmswick since 1858. The current Post Office building is about 100 years old. The building was donated to the City Of Kimmswick by Lucianna Gladney-Ross in December 2010. The building needs lots of work and the goal of the City of Kimmswick is to maintain the charming look and feel once the renovation is completed. It is going to be a long and hard project for which we are appealing to your hearts for support.

Raising funds to restore the Post Office in Historic Kimmswick has been an ongoing grass-roots

effort and we are proud to announce that Tin Cup Gifts and Bistro has stood up to help us in our efforts.

The Fund Raising Event Tin Cup Gifts and Bistro has volunteered to host a fund raising event to be held on May 5, 2012, 3:00pm to 8:00pm. The event will have several aspects:

- * A silent auction of high quality items donated by several residents and supporters of the Post Office restoration project. (All proceeds going to the Post Office Fund.)

- * An opportunity to make cash donations to the Post Office fund.

- * An incredible spread of Tin Cups' famous Balls, Appetizers, and Sauces. (cost is \$25.00 per person)

- * There will be a cash bar provided by the host which will offer Missouri Wines and beer.

- * Music by local performers.

- * An opportunity to mingle and socialize with the true believers in Kimmswick.

Contacts; Reservations for the Tin Cup event are recommended. Call 636-464-4747.

Donations for the silent auction are being accepted and for more information call Michael Erbschloe at 314-221-1886 or email michaelerbschloe@cityofkimmswick.org

The Old Post Office Project page on the City of Kimmswick Website:

<http://www.cityofkimmswick.org/oldpostofficeproject.html>. The City of Kimmswick Website:

<http://www.cityofkimmswick.org/>. The Post Office Facebook page:

<http://www.facebook.com/Kimmswick.Post.Office>



Photo taken from Pea Ridge, Pea Ridge Battlefield, by Mike Epstein

Civil War Round Table of Kansas City
P.O. Box 6202
Shawnee Mission, KS 66206-0202



For those of you receiving the Border Bugle by e-mail, additional photos of Pea Ridge Battlefield taken by Mike Epstein on pages 7 and 8, Enjoy! P.S. Tell the others what they missed!





