



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

412th REGULAR MEETING

THURSDAY, May 28, 2009

Homestead Country Club

6510 Mission Road, Prairie Village, Kansas

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

Dinner-6:30p.m.

MAY 2009 SPEAKER

LAUREN COOK WIKE

“They Fought Like Demons”

Lauren Cook Wike has spent well over a decade researching the phenomenon of women who disguised themselves as men for the purpose of enlisting to serve as soldiers in our nation’s bloodiest conflict, the American Civil War. Her work has been featured in *Smithsonian Magazine*, *The New York Times*, *The New York Times Book Review*, *Civil War: The Magazine of the American Civil War Society*, *The Washington Post*, and many other newspapers, magazines, and journals.

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NOTE: This month and this month only, the payment will be sent to Betty Ergovich, her address and phone number is below. Your return envelopes will have her address already on them so there’s nothing you need to do, but if you’re late, don’t call Paul, he won’t be there and you Won’t have a reservation. Thanks.

Please be sure that we have your reservation by Friday May 24. Return reservation

In the enclosed envelope with required payment of \$22.00 per person to;

Betty Ergovich, 23414 W. 54th St., Shawnee Msn., KS 66226.

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.

She is the editor of the only collection of letters by a woman soldier known to exist, titled *An Uncommon Soldier: The Civil War Letters of Sarah Rosetta Wakeman, alias Pvt. Lyons Wakeman, Co. H, 153rd New York State Volunteers, 1862-1864* (New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 1995). Her larger history documenting the experiences of over 250 women and their military experiences, *They Fought Like Demons: Women Soldiers in the American Civil War* (Baton Rouge, LA: Louisiana State University Press, 2002), was co-authored with DeAnne Blanton of the National Archives.

Wike is an institutional advancement professional with over two decades of experience, primarily in higher education. She currently serves as Director of Annual Fund and Alumni Affairs at Methodist University in Fayetteville, North Carolina.

SPEAKERS FOR 2009

May 28, (Thursday, at Homestead CC), Lauren Cook Wike: *"They Fought Like Demons."*, Silent Book Fair, and wear your period clothing.

SUMMER MEETINGS

No Meal, Just Water, Coffee, and Tea, & No Cost!

June 23, Jean Warren, (from James Country Mercantile in liberty, MO.), *"Women on the Kansas-Missouri Border."*

July 28, Joe Louis Mattox, *"African American Troops in the Civil War."*

August 25, Panel From The Missouri-Kansas Border War Network, *"The Continuing Conflict."*

September 22, Howard Mann: *"Tragedy on the St. Joseph & Hannibal RR."*

October 27, Dave Metheneys: *"John Brown."*

November 17, Orvis Fitts: *"Arlington National Cemetery"*

December 15, Silent Auction, Book sale and Vignettes with Dinner.

MENU FOR MAY, 2009;

Caesar Salad, Rainbow Trout, Baked Potato with Sour Cream, Dilled Green Peas, and Double Layer Chocolate Cake

COMING EVENTS.....

Museum of History, Topeka

This special exhibit runs January 29 -July 26, 2009, and commemorates the bicentennial of Abraham Lincoln's birth and the sesquicentennial of his visit to Kansas. Artifacts and images tell the story of his political career, from the Lincoln-Douglas debates through his assassination. Items in the exhibit include Lincoln presidential campaign medals and pins, an "Admit Me Free" flag used in the 1860 campaign, and a blood-stained piece of a theatre program from the night Lincoln was shot, kshs.org/exhibits/current/upcoming.htm.

"CIVIL WAR WEST OF THE MISSISSIPPI" SEMINAR

The Civil War Round Table of the Ozarks is holding its second "Civil War West of the Mississippi" Seminar on Friday, October 9, and Saturday, October 10th, 2009 at the Clarion Hotel, 3333 S. Glenstone, Springfield, MO. The two day event will feature: Dr. LeeAnn Whites, University of Missouri on Women's Civil War topics (and our banquet speaker), Rick Hatcher: Fort Sumter National Monument on Ft. Sumter and the CSA Hunley, Doug Scott: National Park System (retired) on Archeology at Trans-Mississippi Battlefields-Black Jack, Centralia, Wilson's Creek, MO and Pea Ridge, Arkansas, Kip Lindberg and Matt Matthews: on Kansan Redlegs and Jayhawkers, Bill Gurley, University of Arkansas on: Battlefield medicines in the Trans-Mississippi Confederate Army, and Blair Tarr: Kansas State Historical Society on Kansas Civil War Battleflag Restoration Program. For more information call: 417-732-7308 or visit our website at: <http://histQry.misspuristate.edu/WGPiston/CWRT/cwrt.htm>

The Civil War Round Table of the Ozarks has met continuously since 1960. It provides a | forum where persons of diverse backgrounds meet to explore their common interest in our nation's greatest conflict. Come get to know us and join-with us as we celebrate the (Sesquicentennial of the Civil War in 2011-2015! Vendors Welcome! Respectfully,
Len Eagleburger, Media Director Executive Board Member At Large, Civil War Round Table of the Ozarks,

<http://history.missouristate.edu/WGPiston/CWRT/cwrt.htm>.
Ieneagleburger@sbcglobal.net417.863.2241.

Wilson's Creek National Battlefield

June 27-28 Union Soldier Living History Weekend-Artillery firing demonstrations, 1:00-4:00pm, stop No. 5.

July 5, & 8; See June 27-28

July 25; Moonlight Tour tickets go on sale for the September 12th event, \$5.00 each.

(417) 732-2662 or www.nps.gov/wicr.

The National Archives at Kansas City is one of 13 facilities nationwide where the public has access to Federal archival records. Serving the Central Plains Region, the archives holds records from the states of Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota. Explore the region's history and your own by discovering our exhibit galleries and programs or delving into our research rooms. This large, state-of-the-art facility houses 60 million pages of historical records as far back as 1815 that provide unique evidence of the impact of Federal policies and programs in the Midwestern states. The National Archives at Kansas City serves educators, genealogists, historians, journalists, lawyers, students and others who are researching historical information. We are very excited about our first two exhibits:

It's Big! (75th Anniversary of National Archives and Records Administration), May 22, 2009-January 23, 2010 This exhibit features big documents, big ideas, big personalities, and big events from our region. Documents, maps, and photographs from the archives holdings tell stories of human and historical interest.

The Kansas-Nebraska Act, May 30 2009-December 31, 2009. This exhibit will center on the Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854 and will focus on the act's impact on the region, its role in the "Bleeding Kansas" conflict, and how it affected national sentiment on the slavery question. The original document will be borrowed from Washington, D.C. for a maximum of 3 months; after that time, a reproduction will be used.

Hours & Admission Exhibit Gallery hours: Tues.-Sat, 9:00am - 5:00pm, **Research hours:** Tues.-Sat., 8:00am - 4:00pm. 400 W. Pershing Road, Kansas city, MO. 64108.

The Kansas City Store at the National Archives hours: Tues.-Sat., 10:00am- 4:00 pm Hours subject to change due to special programs and weather.

Please check our website for current hours.To receive

news about forthcoming events and programs, please visit our website: www.archives.gov/central-plains/kansas-city/

NEW MEMBERS.....

Lowell D. Tawney, 6808 Streamns, Shawnee, KS 66203, Phone 913-322-7845, email ldtawney@everestkc.net

The "Battle Hymn of the Republic" and Memorial Day

By LCDR Orvis Fitts, USNR (RET)

Director of Archives
Rolling Hills Presbyterian Church
Overland Park, Kansas
26 May 1996, Revised May 2002
with Permission

During the Civil War, Julia Ward Howe, noted writer and speaker, accompanied her husband, Dr. Samuel Gridley Howe, to Washington, D.C. in November of 1861. Dr. Howe had business there as a member of the U.S. Sanitary Commission, which later became the American Red Cross. After attending a military review near the city, the Howe party sang popular army songs including "John Brown's Body" during the carriage ride return trip. The melody of the song was from a Methodist camp meeting hymn first heard in the 1850s. It has been attributed to a southerner named William Steffe and was called "Say, Brothers Will We Meet You Over on the Other Shore." A member of the party, Reverend James Freeman Clarke, asked Julia, "Why don't you write some good words for that stirring tune?" Clarke's suggestion lingered in Julia's mind, and when she awoke before dawn the next morning in the Willard Hotel she later said, "As I lay waiting for the dawn, the long lines of the poem began to twine themselves in my mind. I must get up and write those verses down before I forget them." She believed that God had inspired her. The words were based on the Old Testament's Book of Isaiah, Chapter 63, and especially verses 1 through 6. Mrs. Howe sent it to the Atlantic Monthly. It was regarded as a poem and printed in February 1862. She was paid \$5 for the five verses. Soon after the poem was published, civilians and soldiers all over the North were singing it to the tune of "John Brown's Body"

It is believed Charles McCabe, Chaplain of the Union 122nd Ohio Volunteer Infantry Regiment, was the first person in the military to put the words and music together as the "Battle Hymn of the Republic." In May 1862 he was captured and taken to Libby Prison in Richmond, Virginia. When news of the victory at Gettysburg was received in July 1863, McCabe stood on

a box in the prison and in his fine baritone voice sang the "Battle Hymn." The other prisoners joined in and the walls of the prison echoed. The Southern jailers came to listen. When McCabe was exchanged, he was assigned duty to raise funds for the Sanitary Commission. At the White House in Washington, D.C. he sang the hymn to an audience and invited them to join in the singing. The response was electrifying, and above the applause the voice of President Lincoln called out "sing it again." McCabe did. Lincoln called McCabe's White House performance "the best I ever heard." Chaplain McCabe and all the others of the Civil War era are gone, but the inspiring music with its majestic words remain with us.

The Battle Hymn of the Republic became the dominant hymn for the North during the Civil War, and today it is a universal hymn for all Americans. Prior to his death, Winston Churchill, Prime Minister of Great Britain during World War II and whose mother was an American, directed the hymn be sung at his funeral. It was sung by all the mourners including members of the Royal Family in Westminster Abbey on January 30, 1965.

After the Civil War, the Grand Army of the Republic was organized in 1866. Honorably discharged men from the Union forces were eligible to join. Membership peaked to nearly 410,000 in 1890. In 1868 General John A. Logan, Commander of the G.A.R., issued a general order establishing Decoration Day, now Memorial Day, on May 30th in the Northern States to honor those who died to preserve the Union. The G.A.R. was officially closed in October of 1956 by a Federal court after the death of Albert Woolson, Duluth, Minnesota, the last surviving veteran of the Union Army.

A similar organization was established in 1889 for Southern servicemen called the United Confederate Veterans. The last documented Rebel, Pleasant Crump of Alabama, died in 1951. Several states of the old Confederacy observed their own day for honoring Confederate dead. Alabama, Georgia, and Mississippi observed April 26th; North and South Carolina May 10th; Louisiana and Tennessee June 3rd; and Virginia on May 30th. After World War I, the various dates for the most part came to an end when May 30 honored all Americans who died in all our wars.

One concept of the beginning of Memorial Day was on an April morning in 1863 at a cemetery in Columbus, Mississippi, when Southern women scattered spring flowers on the graves of both Southern and Northern dead during the "War Between the States." An older woman had decorated the graves of her two sons and then walked to two other graves in the corner of the cemetery. Another woman asked, "Why are you decorating the graves of two Union soldiers?" The woman replied that "somewhere in the North a mother or young wife mourns for her dead as we mourn for ours,

and when peace comes, all of them will be heroes. We want someone to do this for our loved ones in nameless graves, and we must do it for those in our cemetery." Four years later the story appeared in the New York Tribune, and then was printed in newspapers all across the country. This act was credited as the beginning effort to replace hatred with love, and to again truly make our country a nation united.

Other versions of the origins of Memorial Day include the decorating of Union graves in the Washington, D.C. area on April 13, 1862 and in 1863 and 1864 by Sarah J. Evans. In 1875 G.A.R. Post 12 in Des Moines, Iowa credited Evans as the "originator of Memorial Day." Others who claim to be the first were Boalsburg, Pennsylvania where Union graves were decorated on July 4, 1865; Jackson, Mississippi where Confederate graves were decorated on April 26, 1865; and Hopkinton, Iowa where a Union monument was dedicated on November 7, 1865, to honor 24 Union soldiers who died from Lenox College.

The Federal Government in 1966 declared Waterloo, New York, to be the official birthplace of Memorial Day because residents were among the first to officially designate Memorial Day on May 5, 1866, and Memorial Day became an annual community holiday. Businesses were closed, and soldiers' graves were decorated with flags and flowers.

Veteran organizations now conduct special ceremonies, flags are flown at half-mast, and graves are decorated with flowers and flags. Today the observance includes the dead from all the wars engaged in by the United States, and in a broader scope, it also includes the deceased loved ones from all American families. In 1971, by act of Congress, Memorial Day now falls on the last Monday in May and is a legal holiday. The preceding Sunday is observed as Memorial Sunday in churches throughout the Nation.

Our American Civil War is the single greatest tragedy our Nation has ever endured. We fought each other. Memorial Day and "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" are a legacy of that terrible conflict.

BIBLIOGRAPHY *The Retired Officer Magazine*, May 2002

- The Origins of Memorial Day by Victor M. Parachin *America's Civil War*, March 1994
- The Battle Hymn of the Republic by Victor M. Parachin *Civil War Chronicles*, Summer 1993
- The Song That Wrote Itself by Louise Hall Tharp *Blue & Gray*, February 1991
- The Great Imposters by William Marvel *Civil War Times Illustrated*, Sept./Oct. 1989
- The Message of Julia Ward Howe by Peggy Robbins *Civil War Times Illustrated*, September 1984
- March to the Music by William Maher *The World Book Encyclopedia*, Volumes 7 & 11
- The Grand Army of the Republic Memorial Day or Decoration Day

The Harry S. Truman Award

Every year the Civil War Round Table of Kansas City distributes to each member a Membership Roster. The first statement you will read is our mission statement.

“The mission of the Civil War Round Table of Kansas City is to promote historical, educational, literary, and preservation activities related to the Civil War.”

Our most visible method of accomplishing our objective is our monthly meetings with a pleasant meal, hopefully entertaining and educational speakers, and the conviviality of spending time with others who have the same passion as our other members for the history of the Civil War. As an organization with a lofty mission statement, we have other activities that are also important in obtaining our goals. Of those, the most recognizable is the Harry S. Truman Award.

A short tag line in your Roster about the award on page eight reads:

“The Harry S. Truman Award was established by the Executive Committee of the Civil War Round Table of Kansas City in 1959 with Bruce Catton the first awarded”.

There is a story behind this award, but as Harry Truman once said, “The only thing new is the history you haven't already read.”

A note on one recipient's news release stated:

“The Harry S. Truman Award was named in honor of the late President Truman who was instrumental in helping to organize the first meeting of the Civil War Round Table of Kansas City in February of 1958. Mr. Truman himself was a speaker at an early Round Table meeting and attended on several occasions to hear featured presentations by other Civil War scholars and historians. Local members, Dr. Howard N. Monnett, author of “Action Before Westport”, Dr. Bert Maybee, the first president, and Lumir Buresh, author of “October 25th and the Battle of Mine Creek” were previously given the Harry S. Truman Award.”

President Truman was our founder according to another news release.

“Former President Harry S. Truman instigated the original meeting of local Civil War buffs to discuss the possibility of forming a Civil War Round Table of Kansas City. This led to action by Dr. Maybee in placing an advertisement in the Kansas City Times to all interested Civil War buffs to attend an organizational meeting in February, 1958, at the Bellerive Hotel. Dr. Maybee was elected president at that meeting.”

However our founding father, President Truman, remained somewhat of a mystery to fellow members. According to Orvis Fitts in 1984:

“Strangely, we have no documented record of Mr. Truman ever being a member of the Round Table. However, he personally addressed the Round Table as a speaker at one of the meetings, and attended meetings himself on several occasions.”

Mr. Truman took his less-than-anonymous membership seriously and used his knowledge and thoughtful perspective to be instrumental in the development of the first award. Orvis Fitts recalled, “In 1959 the Harry S. Truman Award, in honor of the former President, was presented for the first time to the nationally known Civil War historian, Bruce Catton, at one of the Round Table's monthly dinner meetings. It is my understanding that President Truman personally arranged for Mr. Catton to address the Civil War Round Table of Kansas City at that time.” A photograph of the first award shows ex-President Truman handing what appears to be a richly embossed plaque with crossed U.S. and Confederate flags to Bruce Catton.

The Executive Committee of the Civil War Roundtable of Kansas City shall select all recipients of the Harry S. Truman Award. The following criteria will apply in the determination of qualified persons to receive this award.

- 1) The award does not necessarily have to be given on an annual basis, but should not be given at a time interval of less than a year. It can be awarded to deserving person at the discretion of the Executive Committee based on appropriate time periods.
- 2) Nominees considered shall be persons who have:
 - Made a significant contribution to the dissemination and preservation of Civil War military history.
 - Been recognized as an authority on their particular area of expertise in Civil War military history.
 - Researched and written a distinguished book(s) on Civil War military history.
 - Organized or sponsored a significant project that enhances the knowledge and understanding of Civil War military history.
 - Actively participated in the selection, development, or preservation of historic Civil War military sites.
- 3) A recipient does not have to qualify in each of the criteria listed in item No. 2. The recipient may qualify in one or more of the criteria established. This shall be a matter of determination by the Executive Committee in the selection process.
- 4) The Harry S. Truman Award shall be presented to the designated recipient at one of the regularly scheduled dinner meetings of the Civil War Round Table of Kansas City.

The Civil War Round Table of Kansas City has a proud heritage and based on the criteria listed above, a wonderful memory of an honored President and our mission, we are accepting nominations for issuing this

award to a nationally recognized and influential Civil War historian, author or preservationist.

Please submit your nominations to Howard Mann, President, The Civil War Round Table of Kansas City.

**CONFEDERATE MEMORIAL DAY 2009
103RD ANNIVERSARY OF LION LUCERENE
MONUMENT
“YEAR BY YEAR OUR RANKS GROW
THINNER”**

WHEN - Sunday, May 31, 2009 - The main program will start at noon. There may be simple foods and drinks for sale or you may bring your own. You will need to eat a little earlier than usual. Lightning, fierce rain or a tornado will be the only reasons to move into the Chapel.

WHAT - Confederate Memorial Day Service. For details see program below.

WHERE - Just north of Higginsville, MO at the Confederate Memorial State Site. From I-70 go north on 13 Hwy, through Higginsville to AA and turn right (east). This site is under the control of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources.

WHO MAY ATTEND AND PARTICIPATE - Any man, woman, or child who wishes to sincerely pay their respects to the 800 Confederates and their families that are buried here. These Southerners represent all those who participated in the “late, great unpleasantness”. They all suffered and sacrificed a great deal.

The Memorial is open to all races, genders, creeds, religions, and residents from all states. It is respectfully requested that Northern state flags not be used. The American flag and all Southern flags, including the misused and misunderstood “Battle Flag” may be used. The more flags the better.

WHY - Memorial Day is meant to be more than a three day weekend. The State of Missouri does not have an official Confederate Memorial date. The men at the Home tried to use the Sunday closest to Jefferson Davis’ birthday on June 5th. We are trying to carry on that tradition. The Sons and the Daughters of Confederate Veterans are charged with “NOT FORGETTING”. Our Missouri site is unique, special, and better preserved than most any in the United States. Let’s take advantage of this great facility. The 800 souls here deserve one day of our attention. If those of us with Southern heritage do not care WHO WILL?

RULES -

1. All final decisions will be made by Jim Rehard, Director of Western Missouri DNR.
2. This is a MEMORIAL SERVICE not a forum for politics or political correctness.
3. The DNR does not allow black powder, modern weapons or ammunition of any kind on these grounds. ALL weapons are subject to inspection by Jim Beckner or any DNR employee. Do not let children of any age under 16 handle any kind of weapon. Canon are welcome but can not be fired and do not bring the ammunition.

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

