



# BORDER BUGLE

Newsletter of the Civil War Round Table of Kansas City



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

**TUESDAY, Nov. 22, 2005**

**Homestead Country Club**

6510 Mission Road, Prairie Village, Kansas

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

Dinner-6:30p.m.

### Dr. Kyle S. Sinisi on

### *The Last Hurrah: The Price Raid of 1864*

The past month marked the passage of the one hundred forty-first anniversary of the events associated with the Price Raid. For our locale, this campaign was the most significant of the Civil War.

We are pleased to welcome Dr. Kyle S. Sinisi, Associate Professor of History at The Citadel, to our rostrum this month to reflect upon those events and their impact upon the immediate Trans-Mississippi theatre and the larger military operations.

In the fall of 1864, Confederate General Sterling Price gathered forces in Arkansas among three divisions in an effort to occupy the state of Missouri and attempt to rally the inhabitants to the Southern standard. The Mexican war hero and former governor of Missouri anticipated that Missourians, long suffering under the oppression of the Unionist state government, would welcome his army enthusiastically.

Dr. Sinisi will analyze whether Sterling Price was wildly optimistic and misguided or an able commander operating under difficult circumstances. Were his objectives realistic? What other actions, if any, should the Confederates

*Cont. on page 2*

**DON'T FORGET, MEMBERSHIP  
DUES ARE DUE!!!**

*Please be sure that we have your reservation by Friday Nov. 18. 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.**

Civil War Round Table  
Of Kansas City  
P. O. Box 6202  
Shawnee Mission, KS 66206  
An IRC 501(c)(3) charitable  
organization

Dr. Sinisi Cont.

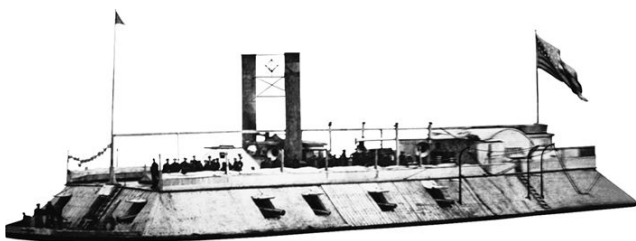
commanders have taken? These are among the provocative issues, which Dr. Sinisi will explore with us.



Our speaker specializes in the study of the government and military of the Civil War era. He is the author of *Sacred Debts: State Civil War Claims and American Federalism, 1861-1880* (Fordham University Press, 2003) and a co-editor of *Warm Ashes: Issues in Southern History at the Dawn of the Twenty-First Century* (University of South Carolina Press, 2003). *Sacred Debts* arose from his investigation of the Price's Raid Claims Commission. He is currently at work on a book-length manuscript *The Last Hurrah: The Price Raid of 1864* that examines Sterling Price's Confederate invasion of Missouri in 1864.

Reared in New Orleans, Kyle S. Sinisi graduated from the Virginia Military Institute in 1984 with a BA in history. Following four years of active duty service in the United States Army, he attended Kansas State University where he earned both the MA and Ph.D. Before coming to The Citadel in 1994, he taught one year at Georgia Southern University.

Dr. Sinisi resides near Charleston, South Carolina with his wife and their two young sons.



## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

As we approach the end of the year it is time for the election of new officers for the upcoming year of the Kansas City Civil War Round Table. At the November meeting our nomination committee consisting of past presidents Don Bates, Sr, Arnold Schofield and Blair Tarr, will be presenting a slate of candidates. We will be electing two directors and the second vice-president. Please bring potential candidates for these positions to the attention of the members of the nominations committee.

The meeting of the executive committee met last month and considered our financial position. We are slightly ahead of last year and we concluded that we would be able to maintain our dues without any increase.

Our dues for 2006 are now due. Please be sure to include your dues payment with this month's dinner reservations. A single membership is \$30.00 and a couple membership is \$45.00. We also believe that we will be able to hold the line for the coming year on the dinner charges.



## PARTNERS DEDICATE GENERAL STERLING PRICE'S CABIN

Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Foundation in partnership with Wilson's Creel NB and other partners are dedicating General Sterling Price's Headquarters cabin on September 21st at 10:00 a.m.

The dedication will be held at the cabin site within the tour road. Follow the signs on the tour road. The location is on Wire Road (gravel) between stops two and three.

The cabin is a replica of the structure that General Sterling Price utilized as his headquarters the morning of the battle fought on August 10, 1861.

The original Edwards Cabin that served as the Confederate Headquarters was destroyed after the Civil War.

This cabin, also built by the Edwards, was moved to the Battlefield in the early 1970s by the Foundation. The cabin is located on the approximate site of the original cabin location.

Wilson's Creek NB Foundation funded the project with donations from several individuals and a Cost Challenge Grant from the National Park Service, Midwest Region located in Omaha, Nebraska.

General Sterling's Price Great Great Grandson Al Price and other direct decedents include Ryan Sterling Price, Edwin Lakenan and Albert Magnus

donated funds toward this project along with Roger Howard representing Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway.

Superintendent Milliner stated that this was "a project that was long anticipated by our visitors".

Furthermore, this will allow the park to provide another structure that can be utilized to educate over 200,000 visitors per year on the events that led up to the battle.

Administered by the National Park Service, Wilson's Creek National Battlefield preserves the site of the first major battle of the Civil War in the West.

The Confederate victory on August 10, 1861, focused national attention on the war in Missouri, leading to greater federal military action. Wilson's Creek National Battlefield is located 10 miles southwest of Springfield, Missouri, at the intersection of Highway ZZ and Farm Road 182.

To receive more information call (417) 732-2662, extension 227.



## **WILSON'S CREEK ADDS MUSEUM TO BATTLEFIELD EXPERIENCE**

Visitors to Wilson's Creek National Battlefield are reminded that a new museum is part of their overall battlefield experience.

The former General Sweeny Museum of Civil War History was acquired by the National Park Service as an addition to the battlefield on August 10, 2005.

Located on State Route ZZ, just north of FR 182, the museum is a short drive from the visitor center.

The museum contains many exhibits featuring hundreds of artifacts from the Civil War in the western United States.

Museum hours are currently 9-5 p.m., daily.

Entrance fees of \$3.00 per person, maximum of \$5.00 per car load can be paid at the museum or at the visitor center located at the main entrance to the battlefield.

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.



## **LITTLE BLUE BATTLEFIELD IS PLACED ON MISSOURI'S LIST OF ENDANGERED PLACES**

By Kelly Garbus

JACKSON COUNTY, Mo. — Proposed highway construction and housing development has forced Little Blue Battlefield onto Missouri's Top Ten Most Endangered Places.

The listing is sponsored by the Missouri Alliance for Historic Preservation, a non-profit organization that seeks to promote, support and coordinate historic preservation.

The Battle of the Little Blue, Oct. 21, 1864, was a prelude to the Battle of Westport, which occurred two days later. The running battle began along the Little Blue River east of Independence, Mo., when Confederate troops under the command of Gen. Sterling Price clashed with Union forces commanded by Maj. Gen. James G. Blunt.

Tim Cox, president of the 80-member Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri, said the battle was the last tactical maneuver by the Confederacy to gain control of Missouri and portions of the Trans Mississippi territory.

Price's force, estimated between 12,000 to 15,000, overwhelmed about 3,000 Union troops who were forced to fall back, first to Independence and then to Westport, where Union reinforcements eventually triumphed. Cox said the defeat helped usher in closure to the war in the west.

Cox, on behalf of the round table, nominated the battlefield to the Top Ten list to help generate awareness and preserve portions of the battle site. His application to the Missouri Alliance described the battlefield as encompassing about seven-and-a-half square miles in an area bounded by Old Blue Mills Road on the west and north, Missouri Highway 7 on the east and just south of U.S. 24 Highway on the southern border.

Historic features of the land include the 1856 Lawson Moore Home, which was vacated by a pro-Southern family during the war as a result of Order Number 11, which ordered residents in several counties to leave unless they proved their loyalty.

The home served as a hospital during the battle and today still has several visible bullet holes and shell marks. The grounds also include a couple of springs that may have been used by troops during the battle.

Other historic highlights within the battlefield area include the former Jabez Smith property, home to what may have been the largest slave settlement in the state. More than 200 slaves died there in the 1850s as a result of a cholera epidemic, Cox said.

There is also the Lewis-Gregg Cemetery, where Revolutionary War soldier Nathaniel Lewis is buried, and Blue Mill, a grist mill located on the Santa Fe Trail and listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



Cox said the land also includes rocky limestone bluffs and ledges that served as "high ground" during the battle.

Part of the challenge in preserving key portions of the battlefield is in dealing with several different jurisdictions. The battlefield encompasses city and county jurisdictions, and, to an extent, the federal government, which is helping to fund a major thoroughfare that will pass through the area.

The best that preservationists can hope for may be to target strategic areas within the site and get small parcels of land donated or set aside as easements, so monuments and kiosks can be erected to tell the story.

Cox hopes people will come forward with donations that would help in purchasing key parcels of ground. He also hopes to save the cemetery and maybe have a visitor's center that tells about the battle, along with a driving tour and historical markers.

At the very least, he would like to gain permission to search lands prior to development and try to recover artifacts that could be displayed in a museum.

Vicki Nave, a member of the Independence Heritage Commission which promotes and educates people on the historical heritage of Independence, said many people in the community grew up with stories of the Civil War and kind of took it for granted. She said increasing development in the area has pushed the preservation issue to the forefront.

"It wasn't until the last decade that it became more important," she said. "Once it's gone, it's gone, you can't bring it back. It's hard to point to a piece of asphalt and say, This is where 20,000 men tried to kill each other."

The Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri is hosting meetings for battlefield- neighbors and is part of an informal group of people interested in the site. For more information contact Tim Cox at (816) 478-8833 or [littlebluebat-tlefield@comcast.net](mailto:littlebluebat-tlefield@comcast.net).

Source: The Civil War News, Vol. 30, Num. 9, (October 2005), page 18. Tumbridge, Vermont.



## **WILSON'S CREEK NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD**

Visitors to the national battlefield now have a new site to stop by to ponder the bloody Civil War battle.

Edwards Cabin served as the headquarters for Maj. Gen. Sterling Price's pro-Confederacy Missouri State Guard. It has been restored and is open to the public.

"It's great. It's preserving history," said Gary Miller of Joplin, who attended an on-site dedication ceremony for the cabin Wednesday morning.

There, noted Civil War historian Edwin Bearss of Arlington, Va., narrated what happened near the cabin on Aug. 10, 1861, when Union Brig. Gen. Nathaniel Lyon launched a surprise attack on Price and Confederate Brig. Gen. Ben McCulloch.

Lyon approached his enemy from the north, and his colonel, Franz Sigel, assailed from the south.

But the Southerners were to win the battle Lyon was killed at Bloody Hill northwest of the cabin, and Sigel's men were held up at the Sharp Farm south of it.

The cabin survived the battle, but it was later abandoned and destroyed. Its owner, William Edwards, built another cabin three miles away.

In 1965, Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Foundation purchased the second cabin and moved it to the battleground where the first cabin once stood near the historic Wire Road.

It sat there for 39 years without any repair or improvement. Considered a safety hazard, it was not open to the public.

In April 2004, the National Park Service's regional office announced a \$20,000 grant to repair the cabin.

The foundation contributed another \$53,000 to complete the project, including a \$5,000 donation from descendants of Price and \$10,000 from BNSF Railway Company, said April McDonough, the foundation's executive director.

Foundation officials said they hope the restored cabin will provide a glimpse into the life of early settlers in the Ozarks. It features a front porch, old-style windows and a fireplace. There is a back ramp for wheelchair users.

09/22/2005 Springfield News-Leader (MO)

## **DID YOU KNOW?**

Personal hygiene left much room for improvement. As a result, many women and men had developed acne scars by adulthood. The women would spread bee's wax over their facial skin to smooth out their complexions. When they were speaking to each other, if a woman began to stare at another woman's face she was told, "mind your own bee's wax." Should the woman smile, the wax would crack, hence the term "crack a smile." In addition, when they sat too close to the fire, the wax would melt . . . therefore, the expression "losing face."

## **MEMBERSHIP DUES!**

## BLACKS EARLY TO JOIN CIVIL WAR

Regarding the Feb. 16 article about my friend Joe McGill, Iowa's only African-American Civil War re-enactor ("Iowan Looks to Highlight Blacks Role in Civil War").

Begun by the federal government in 1829, and still not completed 31 years later when Maj. Robert Anderson and his troops occupied it in 1861, Fort Sumter was built on a low-lying island at the entrance to the harbor at Charleston, S.C.

The article states that only after President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation at the beginning of 1863 were African-Americans allowed to serve in the Union Army.

While generally true for most of the 180,000 African-Americans who were Union blue, the 1<sup>st</sup> South Carolina Colored Regiment began with former slaves recruited by Brig. Gen. David Hunter in the South Carolina sea islands in May 1862.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Kansas Colored Infantry was recruited that August and won a fight at Island Mound in Bates County, Mo., on Oct. 28, 1862. That was three months before the famous 54<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts Colored Infantry, celebrated in the movie "Glory," was even authorized.

Iowa, too, furnished one such regiment, later known as the 60<sup>th</sup> Regiment U.S. Colored Troops, who performed garrison duty in Arkansas. Only about 400 of the men came from Iowa's small African-American population; the rest of the regiment came from Missouri.

Galin Berrier,  
530 N.E. Fourth St.,

Ankeny



Recently I had the rare opportunity to arrive in Harper's Ferry, W.V. on the 166<sup>th</sup> anniversary of John Brown's Raid. I had no idea and what a great surprise as you can see by the photo. We were entertained and taught by two of the country's most important leaders of the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass.

I told the President and Mr. Douglass that I was friends with the Senator James Lane, the President acknowledged the same, I told him that we here in Kansas were under the impression that he had given Senator Lane permission to raise troops here sometime before the 54<sup>th</sup>. Well, he said that was not true! I let it go not wanting to debate that which I know not a whole lot more than that on.

It was a moving experience, I don't know who it was that played Mr. Douglass, but it was Max Daniels who played President Lincoln, he and his wife Donna (a.k.a. Mary Todd Lincoln), have played the Round Table before.



## MONNETT BATTLE OF WESTPORT FUND, INC.

The Monnett Battle of Westport Fund of the Civil War Round Table of Kansas City promotes the preservation of battle sites and artifacts related to the Battle of Westport, Big Blue Battlefield, Byram's Ford, and other elements of Price's Campaign. Important preservation and interpretation of key battlefield and ~~historic sites from Independence to Westport~~ has occurred because of Monnett Fund projects and collaborations with other area organizations.

If you would like to support and learn more about this ongoing effort, please contact Dan Smith at [battleofwestport1864@yahoo.com](mailto:battleofwestport1864@yahoo.com). As it's "action arm," your membership in the Civil War Round Table of Kansas City makes you eligible to participate. There are no extra dues-just an opportunity to be part of keeping history alive in our own area.

### NEW MEMBERS:

**Lane Smith**, 7411 W. 100 Place, Overland Park, KS 66212

**Donald Lewis**, 940 NE Jason Ave, Lee Summit, MO 64086-5003

**Dan Verbeck**, 11895 McLinney Lane, Platte City, MO 64079

### HURRICANE KATRINA TO BLAME

As was feared, Beauvoir and the Jefferson Davis Presidential Library suffered heavy damage from Hurricane Katrina. These two structures can and will be restored given time and funding. However, it is with great sadness that the Library pavilion (where Jefferson Davis penned "The Rise and Fall of the Confederate Government", the Hayes cottage, Soldier's Home Barracks replica, and director's home were totally destroyed.

Artifact search and recovery has already begun, with restoration to begin soon. Replicas of those buildings totally destroyed will be built after the restoration of Beauvoir House and Presidential Library are complete.

Contribute: [www.beauvoir.org/](http://www.beauvoir.org/)

#### LITTLE KNOWN FACTS:

In the lore of the U.S. Presidency, Lincoln was the first President to be assassinated; William H. Harrison was the first to die in office; while Andrew Jackson was the first to suffer an assassination attempt. On January 30, 1835, late in Jackson's second term, Richard Lawrence, a deranged house painter, fired a pistol at Jackson as he left the U.S. Capitol building. The pistol misfired and the would-be assassin produced another pistol which also misfired. Miraculously, both caps exploded but neither pistol fired although both were otherwise found to be in perfect working order. The odds of two pistols simultaneously misfiring has been reckoned at 125,000 to 1. Lawrence was declared insane, institutionalized and died an inmate in 1861.

#### MENU FOR NOVEMBER 22, 2005:

Spinach salad with eggs, almonds, shaved onions and raspberry vinaigrette Atlantic salmon with a Dijon mustard chive sauce Parsley potatoes Broccoli Chocolate pecan pie with bourbon caramel sauce.

←  
**CIVIL WAR TIMES**, December 2005, top story, "Wilson's Creek, Pivotal Early Battle in the West".

Civil War Round Table of Kansas City  
P.O. Box 6206  
Shawnee Mission, Kansas 66206

## 2006 CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE OF KANSAS CITY MEMBERSHIP DUES

Deadline Is December 31, 2005

\$30 per year-per individual,

\$45 per year-per couple

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail(optional): \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to receive the Border Bugle by  
E-mail? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

\*Non-Resident members are \$10, which covers  
receiving the *Border Bugle*.

**Mail To: Paul Gault, 7118 N. Congress Ave., Kansas City, MO 64152-2948 for New Members and Extra Newsletters.**

←  
**DECEMBER'S MEETING:** Lots of Holiday fun and books!!!

