



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



406th REGULAR MEETING TUESDAY, November 18, 2008

Homestead Country Club

6510 Mission Road, Prairie Village, Kansas

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

Dinner-6:30p.m.

NOTE:

New Price
for meals;
\$22.00 per
person.

NOVEMBER 2008

MULTI EMMY AWARD FILM MAKER,

SHANE SELEY

Shane Seley will be showing the video his company, Wide Awake Films, just finished for the Wilson's Creek Battlefield and he will discuss the process of telling history in film. Shane, a Kansan, now lives with his wife and children in Liberty, Missouri. He has worked with Bill Kurtis on productions for A & E, and has produced film for AT&T, CBS Sports, Sprint, Jiffy Lube, and most importantly, the Civil War Preservation Trust. Shane and his partners, Ed Leydecker and Robert Lee Hodge, are at work on a sequel to KCPT's *Bad Blood*, which characterized the Bleeding Kansas era.

*Please be sure that we have your reservation by Friday Nov. 14. Return reservation
In the enclosed envelope with required payment of \$22.00 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.

**SPEAKERS FOR 2008
AND BEYOND.....**

December 5-6, Wornall House, Annual Candlelight Tour.

December 16: In addition to musical entertainment, the Christmas meeting will feature a couple of special guests and door prizes. You won't want to miss our last meeting of the year. It will be the capstone of a truly wonderful year. Have Some Fun and the don't forget to bring your wallets and purses, it's the Silent Book Auction to raise money for the CWRTKC and The Monnett Battle of Westport Fund.

2009

January 27, **Connie Slaughter Langham,** "Wilson's Creek."

February 24, **Bill Quatman,** "General Godfrey Weitzel."

March 24, **Ron Hawkins:** "General Longstreet."

April 28, **William L. Shea,** "Generals Hindman or Genl Curtis."

May 26, **Lauren Cook Wike:** "They Fought Like Demons.", Silent Book Fair, and wear your period clothing

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

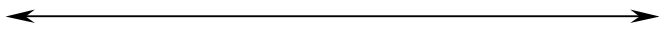
October 27, **Dave Metheneys:** "John Brown."

November 24, **Orvis Fitts:** "Arlington Cemetery"

December, **Book sale and Holiday Dinner**

MENU FOR NOV. 2008;

Pumpkin Soup, Roasted Pork Loin, Oven Roasted Potatoes, Baby Carrots with Honey Glaze, Pecan Pie with Chocolate Bourbon Sauce.



COMING EVENTS.....

November 15: 150th Anniversary of the Wornall House.

November 28 and 29: The 3rd Annual Holiday Candlelight Tour of the Harris-Kearney House.

December 5-6, Wornall House, Candlelight Tours, 816-444-1858



**BATTLEFIELD
DISPATCHES #92**

"STRIKE TERROR"

One would think that by November 1862, that there would not have been any ambivalence in the minds of Union officers about waging "Total War" in western Missouri, but there was! After all the "War" had been waged for more than 18 months & was getting worse day by day, especially in Missouri where Missourian's were killing Missourian's with a fondness that would evolve into hate! Brigadier General Benjamin Loan commanded the Central District of Missouri, with his headquarters in Jefferson City and expressed his misgivings about "House Burning", but did not condemn one of his subordinates for doing so because he (Loan) wanted to "STRIKE TERROR into the SOULS of these CRAVEN REBELS". How he hoped to accomplish this is described in the following letter that is located on Pages 791 & 792 of Vol. 22, Part II of the Official Records of the War of the Rebellion.

Headquarters Central District of Missouri,

Jefferson City, November 14, 1862.

[To] Maj. Gen. Samuel R. Curtis,

Commanding Department of Missouri, St. Louis:

General: I have just returned from above. Jackson County I left in comparatively good condition. La Fayette will require a GOOD DEAL of SEVERITY before it can be restored to its allegiance. I left about 250 of the inhabitants in confinement & ordered others to be arrested. Some 50 men fled the country to avoid arrest, who will probably never return & some 50 others gave their parole to leave the state in ten days, not to return during the war. The commandant there has not been in my opinion as efficient as he should have been. Indeed, it is hard to say who is commandant there or who ought to be. General Vaughan of the Enrolled Militia & Colonel McFerran of the first Cavalry, Missouri State Militia, commanding the post seem to exercise concurrent jurisdiction; both PLEASANT, MILD, AMIABLE, GENTLEMEN, BUT DEFICIENT in the decision of character & fixedness of purpose that is required to deal

successfully with REBELS SO FIERCE, DEIANT, DOMINEERING, INSULTING & OVERBEARING as are the rebels there. I spent more than two weeks in la Fayette. The county is now in a condition that honest men can stay at home without DANGER of ASSASSINATION! The thieves, bandits & guerrillas have been driven out of the country. They have all gone south to join Cockrell, who lies not far from Pleasant Gap in Bates County, with a force of from 700 to 800 men. Quantrill & the guerrillas that infested La Fayette & Jackson on their way south accidentally fell in with an Ox Train sent by col. Catherwood from Harrisonville to Sedalia & captured the train, teamsters & most of the escort. A copy of Col. Catherwood's report is transmitted herewith. I also enclose herewith a copy of a letter written by Lieut. Col. P. A. Thompson of the 5th Mo. Cav. M. S. M. to Col. Penick, at Independence, relating to the same matter. Col. Thompson's statement I believe to be more correct than the official report. I have ordered Col. Catherwood here under ARREST. This disaster I think is attributable to DISOBEDIENCE of ORDERS.

On my way to Saline County I sent forward from Lexington a small command of about 10 men, under Captain George Wakerlen, Co. E, 5th Regt. Cavalry, M. S. M. On the Marshall Road, the next morning, before I had come up with the column, I found the farmhouse & outbuildings on the farm of a man by the name of Webb were in FLAMES. On overtaking Capt. Wakerlen, he said the premises had been BURNED BY HIS ORDER; that BUSHWHACKERS had been harbored there & that the last of them ran into the brush as his advance guard came up. That upon inquiry he found that Webb had taken his MALE SLAVES & the YOUNGEST & STRONGEST WOMEN SOUTH; that he was in the REBEL ARMY; that he had employed an OVERSEER to live at his house & take care of some OLD NEGRO WOMEN & CHILDREN; that the BUSHWHACKERS made the house a kind of headquarters & that the OVERSEER was joined with them; thereupon he ordered the DESTRUCTION of the PREMISES! I CANNOT APPROVE OF THE ACT & YET I AM NOT PREPARED WHOLLY TO CONDEMN IT. Saline County is in a very bad condition & I must send a more efficient commander there than lieut. Colonel Wilson of the Enrolled Militia; a clever gentleman & a good man, but entirely to MILD.

The Enrolled Militia along the line of the railroad west of here are worse than useless as a whole. There are some good companies among them, but most of them should be relieved from duty. If some were appointed outside the State where we could send a few of the DISLOYAL CITIZENS & hold them under guard the effect would be most beneficial. The rebels in the district have hitherto LAUGHED to scorn the power of the government because they have never been made to feel its' FORCE. They have laughed at the orders issued & derided the forces sent to execute them. I have been endeavoring to convince them of their mistake & think I will do so as soon as I can get some of my officers disposed of & their places filled by more efficient men; but to ship a few prominent men under guard from the State & hold them in CLOSE CONFINEMENT would be worth to this district more than (3) regiments of soldiers. It would be a manifestation pf power & determination on the part of the government that would "STRIKE TERROR" into the SOULS of these CRAVEN REBELS for most of them are cowards!

Very Respectfully, General, your obedient servant,
BEN LOAN
Brigadier General commanding."

Gen. Loan was a very good Union officer from Missouri and in less than a year he would no longer hesitate to BURN HOUSES or WAGE "TOTAL WAR" because that was how the Civil War was fought with a VENGEANCE in Missouri!



WHY BATTLEFIELDS MATTER

John Hennessy [author of "Beyond the Battlefields," Summer 2008] has led tours of the Manassas battlefields, been the featured speaker at Civil War groups, and written books about Manassas battles. He has always been interesting and informative.

It therefore astounds me that he describes his view of the war as rather narrow. More puzzling is the visitor to the battlefield who didn't want to hear about the forces involved and the fact that men were killed and wounded. For crying out loud, it

was a battlefield, not a golf course.

I dare say that the soldiers involved in the battle had a rather narrow view also. That view was most likely limited to staying alive, not letting their buddies down, not disgracing themselves, and winning the battle. Once the shooting started, I doubt seriously if they were thinking about tariffs, states rights, constitutions, abolishing slavery, preserving the Union, or anything else that was a factor in conditions that led to the war.

My wife and I have been to numerous Civil War battlefields where six of our great grandfathers and great, great uncles fought for the Confederacy. We wanted to stand where our ancestors stood and to get a feel for the part they and their units played in the battles. Two of those ancestors were wounded, one at Gettysburg and one at Yellow Tavern.

Anyone primarily interested in causes of wars; social, political, and economic factors; and anything going on away from the battlefield would be better served by reading, attending lectures, or taking classes. Otherwise, they're wasting the time of the interpreter and possibly interfering with serious students of the battles, who also want to learn from these rangers.

WALTER DUNN TUCKER
Commander (Retired),
United States Naval Reserve
Richmond, VA

John Hennessey responds:

I agree with a good deal of Commander Tucker's letter. Battlefields are about battles—they are and always will be. These are profound places of remembrance. Those who don't "get" that—like the disgruntled visitor at Manassas—miss one of the major reasons these places were set aside.

But battles matter beyond the pure (and horrible) human experience of the men who fought. Nations wage war for profound reasons. Commander Tucker is quite right that in the midst of combat, soldiers generally don't ponder politics, war aims, causes, or consequences. But battles clearly derive from a cause, affect the political environment, and contribute to the consequences of war that help transform a nation. Pointing those things out to visitors adds to the profound significance of the men who fought on these fields.

For soldiers, battle was a struggle for victory and survival. For a nation, battles were a component of a national transformation—one that means different things to different people. We will always remember, commemorate, and honor deeds of almost unbelievable

courage and devotion. But shouldn't we also try to help visitors understand why courage, sacrifices, and battles matter?

It's no disservice, no dishonor to anyone, for visitors to leave our park with a greater understanding of how and why the Civil War helped shape our nation. We are not moving away from the tradition of remembrance and understanding—we are adding to it.

Having been involved in Civil War battlefield preservation and interpreting that history for about 15 years now, I agree with John Hennessey. I have spent long hours studying the tactics, movements, successes, and failures of both Union and Confederate troops so that I may try to convey the most accurate information to visitors in the Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania region. After many tours and programs, all of which end with a question-and-answer period, I had a similar encounter to Mr. Hennessey when an individual asked a simple question: "So what?"

This was a question I was not prepared for. What the individual wanted to know was after all the battles, all the maneuvering, what was the point of it all? Needless to say I now use this question after my tours. I propose it myself. I now strive to dig deeper than the military aspect of the war.

TOM VAN WINKLE President,
Friends of Wilderness Battlefield
and Director of Communications,
Central Virginia Battlefields Trust
Spotsylvania, VA

* *Stolen from the National Parks Magazine, Fall 2008, page 6.*

**BATTLE OF WESTPORT
VISITOR'S CENTER
OPENS...**

On Saturday, October 15, 2008, a dream has come true, all the hard work and sweat has paid off and the new Battle of Westport Visitor's Center has opened in the Swope Interpretive Center, (a historical building itself), just inside Swope Park at Swope Parkway and Meyer Boulevard. It's door will be open from 11:00a.m. to 3:00p.m., Wednesdays through Fridays and 10:00a.m. to 4:00p.m. Saturdays through early December.

The ceremony was short but sweet with speeches from Dan L. Smith, (Chairman Monnet Battle of Westport Fund and Past-President Civil War Round Table of Kansas City), Connie Langham, (Wilson's Creek National Battlefield), and the past-mayor of Kansas City, Mo., Minister, and House of Representative from Missouri's 5th District, Emanuel Cleaver II. The Mayor was actually funny. I'm sorry to say I do not know the name of the small choir that was there, but they were great.

Michelle Martin came up from Oklahoma to share her incredible photos with everyone in a very moving slide digital slide show, way to go Michelle, they were beautiful!

I'm sure there are lots of other people to thank, the ones I recognized were, Alisha Cole, Lane Smith, Alana Smith, James, (Spike), Speicher, The Sons of Union Veterans and the handful of hard core re-enactors that came out and everyone else who helped make this a success. The displays were really nice and told the story in a riveting style. A must see!

*Your Roving Reporter,
Mike Epstein*



2009 MEMBERSHIP DUES 2009

The Membership Dues for 2009 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 2009 may be paid at any time prior to December 31, 2008. 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.

2009 CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE OF KANSAS CITY DUES

Dues deadline is December 31, 2008
\$30 per year (individual)* \$45 per year (couple)
Payable to the Civil War Round Table

_____	_____
<i>Individual Name</i>	<i>spouse (if Couple Membership)</i>
_____	_____
<i>Address</i>	<i>City, State, ZIP</i>
(_____)_____	_____
<i>Phone</i>	<i>email</i>

Please circle if you wish to have the your Border Bugle sent to you via the internet: **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
P.O. Box 6202
Shawnee Mission, Kansas 66206



Welcome New Members: Joe L. Mattox, 5645 Wayne Ave, Kansas City, MO 64110, 816-361-5658,
Sean Richardson, 4017 Wyoming St, Kansas City MO, 64111, 913-967-9210 seanr16@sbcglobal.net