



# 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

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

**TUESDAY, Nov. 17, 2009**

**Homestead Country Club**

6510 Mission Road, Prairie Village, Kansas

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

Dinner-6:30p.m.

## NOVEMBER 2009 SPEAKER

### JIM LIGHTHIZER

Please join us for an evening with Jim Lighthizer, President of the *Civil War Preservation Trust* and recipient of our highest honor, the "*Harry S. Truman Award*" for those who have gone beyond the call of duty in Civil War preservation in all it's aspects.

## SPEAKERS FOR 2009

**November 17, Jim Lighthizer**, 2009 Recipient of the *Harry S. Truman Award*, President of the *Civil War Preservation Trust*, Special award meeting, don't miss it.

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

*Please be sure that we have your reservation by Friday Nov. 13. Return reservation*

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

*Paul Gault, 7118 N. Congress Ave., Kansas City, MO. 64152.*

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.**

**MENU FOR NOVEMBER, 2009;**

Tomato Basil Soup, Beef Brisket with Brown Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Steamed Broccoli, and Double Layer Chocolate Cake.

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**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/](http://www.archives.gov/central-plains/kansas-city/)



*“The Sargeant Major’s Roar”*

Battlefield Dispatches # 157

**DEMONIC VIPERS**

Throughout his tenure as the commanding officer of the Department of Kansas, Major General Samuel Ryan Curtis, was constantly faced with waging a war in three basic directions. These directions consisted of defending eastern Kansas from raids by the Confederate Guerrillas in Missouri, enemy attacks into Kansas from the Indian Territory (present Oklahoma) and attacks on the commercial & military traffic along the Santa Fe, Oregon & Smokey River Trails by various Plains Indian Tribes & possibly Confederate Guerrillas. Periodically, the civilian merchants of Kansas City would send letters to General Curtis requesting better military protection fort their wagon trains on the Santa Fe & Fort Scott roads. The following is General Curtis’s response to such a letter and is located on Pages 500 & 501 in Vol. 34, Part II, Correspondence of the Official Records of the War of the Rebellion.

“Headquarters Department of Kansas,  
Fort Leavenworth, March 4, 1864.  
Citizens of Kansas City,  
GENTLEMEN: I find on my return from the Arkansas River your letter of the 12<sup>th</sup> ultimo, asking me to station troops:

“Along the Santa Fe & Fort Scott roads, in sufficient numbers & at suitable points for the protection of the trade & travel upon both of these routes.”

And after saying:  
“Our people in, New Mexico & southern Kansas, are dreading a repetition of the ROBBERIES & MURDERS of the spring of 1863.”  
You add:  
“We respectfully ask that you will give us such assurances of the protection of their & our interests within your department as will enable us to guarantee to our patrons safety of person & property.”

In reply I can only assure you that I shall try to dispose of the forces of my command in such a way as will best protect life & property of every kind.

The commercial channels you name run through & near important settlements & towns & will therefore deserve & receive my special attention. But while we have WAR we may not secure the BLESSINGS OF PEACE. The outrages committed on the unarmed & unoffending people of this department would disgrace savage or Sepoy warfare & it is not surprising that the people of New Mexico & SOUTHERN KANSAS are “dreading a repetition.” It would be a disgrace to humanity & the age to have repeated the COWARDLY MASSACRES of BAXTER SPRINGS & LAWRENCE. But who can give us assurances against such secret organizations, or who can determine the number & location of forces to “guarantee” safety & security against such INHUMAN BARBARTIES? I can only exert my best judgment faithfully & I promise you that my troops will do their best to prevent, repel & avenge any repetition of the infernal raids upon the soil of Kansas or within my department.

I also confidently rely on your citizens and the troops of your department [the Department of Missouri] to cordially unite in these efforts & with such a determination on both sides of the border, I know such things can be & will be prevented. You & I know where the VIPERS have assembled to arrange, organize & project their FIENDISH ASSAULTS on the commercial channels & depots of this country & you must perceive the necessity of watching the NESTS & DESTROYING the EGGS that hatch the DEMONS that DISGRACE HUMANITY.

I know that commercially you are great suffers. Your beautiful & once prominent city has been paralyzed & impaired by the infamous folly of a disloyal, wild & wicked population that harbored & helped bushwhackers in the broken, tangled woodlands south of your important position.

They were the worst foes to you and to Missouri, as they are a disgrace to the world & your lines of commerce through my department & your happiness & prosperity at home must hereafter, as before, depend much on the efforts of your selves & your loyal neighbors in aiding the troops on both sides of department lines in giving timely notice & material aid when even a sign of such foes shall

appear in any portion of our common country. Knowing your loyal devotion to our cause & confiding in your generous sympathy toward the loyal people of this department, I confidently assure you of a cordial co-operation by the troops & people of my command to secure to you & to ourselves all possible security & finally to suppress the ravages of this ungodly rebellion & restore peace, prosperity & happiness to our whole country.

Assuring you personally of my anxious & devoted efforts to protect your commercial interests in & out of my command, I remain gentlemen, your very obedient & humble servant,

S. R. Curtis,  
Major General.”

Now then, was General Curtis and his troops able to destroy the eggs of the DEMONIC VIPERS before they hatched and conducted their FIENDISH ASSULTS on the citizens, their commercial traffic and troops Missouri & Kansas in the spring of 1864? No, not completely & the WAR WENT ON!

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*"History is who we are and why we are the way we are"*

David McCullough

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For those of you who have been with the round table for awhile might remember Gil Bergman. Well, he is still alive and well in North Kansas City somewhere and I still get things from him for our Border Bugle from time to time and here is a little something he thought we would be interested in.

### ***The Soldier from Independence: A Military Biography of Harry Truman***

Author: D.M. Giangreco

Foreword: Alonzo. L. Hamby

Harry S. Truman was Commander-in-Chief at one of the (if not the) critical moments in American-and global-military history: when the decision had to be made to drop the Bomb. As to his military credentials, however, he is often dismissed as little more than a weekend warrior, the Kansas City haberdasher. Yet nothing could be farther from the truth, as this book makes dear. Revealing the little-known facts of Truman's remarkable military performance--as a soldier and as a politician-- The

Soldier from Independence adds a whole new dimension to the already fascinating character of the thirty-third president of the United States. Author D. M. Giangreco shows how, as a field artillery battery commander in World War I, Truman was already making the hard decisions that he knew to be right, regardless of personal consequences. Giangreco describes how Truman saved a neighboring infantry regiment from a surprise German attack, only to be rebuked by his regimental commander. Truman would have been court martialed, which certainly would have derailed any future career in politics, but for the intervention of commander of American forces in France General John J. "Black Jack" Pershing. The book also recounts Truman's activities as head of the Senate Armed Forces Committee during the build-up to and early years of WWII--activities that made him the most powerful man in military affairs next to President Roosevelt. Truman oversaw the end of the war, stood up to Stalin, and met the test of North Korea's invasion of the south. He also had the fortitude to stand up to General Douglas MacArthur, one of America's most revered wartime leaders, and ultimately fired the Far East commander who has been characterized as the American Caesar. Filling in the details behind these world-changing events, this military biography supplies a heretofore missing-and critical-chapter in the story of one of the nation's most important presidents.

Format: Hardbound  
Pages: 304  
Length: 5.5 x 8.5  
ISBN-13: 9780760332092  
ISBN: 0760332096  
Catalog ID: 145475

Also, the latest edition of the State Historical of Missouri's Missouri Historical Review (Vol. 104, No. 1, October 2009) features an article title "Far More Than a Romantic Adventure: The American Civil War in Harry Truman's History and Memory" by Ethan S. Rafuse.

←—————→  
**NEW MEMBERS**.....

**Dwight Sutherland Jr.**, 3601 W. 64th St. Mission Hills, KS 66208, phone 913-384-1418, email [dsutherland@nhrk.com](mailto:dsutherland@nhrk.com)

Here's a little something that I received three years ago this month from a friend and civil War Re-enactor here in the Kansas City area, Sandy Sanders. Sorry it took so long to put in.

Mike

You may already know all of this - but it's interesting. Subject: Arlington Cemetery

On Jeopardy the other night, the final question was How many steps does the guard take during his walk across the tomb of the Unknowns -- ---- All three missed it ---This is really an awesome sight to watch if you've never had the chance Very fascinating. Tomb of the Unknown Soldier

1. How many steps does the guard take during his walk across the tomb of the Unknowns and why? 21 steps. It alludes to the twenty-one-gun salute, which is the highest honor given any military or foreign dignitary.

2. How long does he hesitate after his about face to begin his return walk and why? 21 seconds for the same reason as answer number 1

3. Why are his gloves wet? His gloves are moistened to prevent his losing his grip on the rifle.

4. Does he carry his rifle on the same shoulder all the time and if not, why not? He carries the rifle on the shoulder away from the tomb. After his march across the path, he executes an about face and moves the rifle to the outside shoulder.

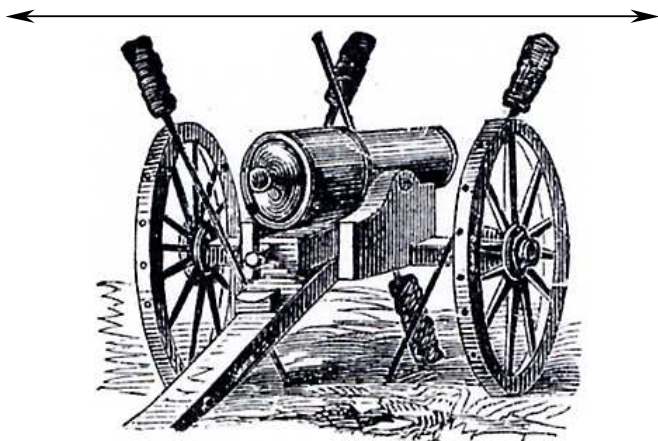
5. How often are the guards changed? Guards are changed every thirty minutes, twenty-four hours a day, 365 days a year.

6. What are the physical traits of the guard limited to? For a person to apply for guard duty at the tomb, he must be between 5' 10" and 6' 2" tall and his waist size cannot exceed 30." Other requirements of the Guard: They must commit 2 years of life to guard the tomb, live in a barracks under the tomb, and cannot drink any alcohol on or off duty for the rest of their lives. They cannot swear in public for the rest of their lives and cannot disgrace the uniform {fighting} or the tomb in any way. After two years, the guard is given a wreath pin that is worn on their lapel signifying they served

as guard of the tomb. There are only 400 presently worn. The guard must obey these rules for the rest of their lives or give up the wreath pin. The shoes are specially made with very thick soles to keep the heat and cold from their feet. There are metal heel plates that extend to the top of the shoe in order to make the loud click as they come to a halt. There are no wrinkles, folds or lint on the uniform. Guards dress for duty in front of a full-length mirror. The first six months of duty a guard cannot talk to anyone, nor watch TV. All off duty time is spent studying the 175 notable people laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery. A guard must memorize who they are and where they are interred. Among the notables are: President Taft, Joe E. Lewis {the boxer} and Medal of Honor winner Audie Murphy, {the most decorated soldier of WWII} of Hollywood fame. Every guard spends five hours a day getting his uniforms ready for guard duty.

ETERNAL REST GRANT THEM O LORD, AND LET PERPETUAL LIGHT SHINE UPON THEM. In 2003 as Hurricane Isabelle was approaching Washington, DC, our US Senate/House took 2 days off with anticipation of the storm. On the ABC evening news, it was reported that because of the dangers from the hurricane, the military members assigned the duty of guarding the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier were given permission to suspend the assignment. They respectfully declined the offer, "No way, Sir!" Soaked to the skin, marching in the pelting rain of a tropical storm, they said that guarding the Tomb was not just an assignment, it was the highest honor that can be afforded to a serviceperson. The tomb has been patrolled continuously, 24/7, since 1930.

God Bless and keep them.



## New Civil War Web Site Highlights Trans- Mississippi Theatre

It was fought—brother against brother—nearly 150 years ago on our own soil, yet the Civil War remains of great historical and personal significance to Americans and a popular topic with the public. Although the Civil War is probably the most thoroughly researched conflict in U.S. history, the trans-Mississippi theater has not been documented as extensively. Relatively speaking, few have researched and gathered the documents that tell the important stories about the western region's involvement.

Until now, that is. For the past two years, librarians, historians, and regional partners have worked to create a unique web site and online resource entitled "Community & Conflict: The Impact of the Civil War in the Ozarks." The site contains more than 2,500 pages of historical documents gathered from institutions and individuals throughout the region. The digital collection includes letters, maps, diaries, court and government documents, and photographs that document life in the Ozarks during 1850-1875. Researchers can explore the themes of slavery, agriculture, military life, women and children, civilian refugees, and other issues that represent a crucial period in the history and culture of the region. The site, [www.ozarkscivilwar.org](http://www.ozarkscivilwar.org), opens with a stirring video created by Wide Awake Films, that introduces the themes and topics of the collections. A researcher's dream, the site features high-caliber scans of documents, transcriptions with side-by-side comparisons to scanned images, keyword, geographic and thematic searches, historic interpretation, links to other site, and bibliographic citations.

The Wilson's Creek National Battlefield, the Greene County Archives and Records Center, the History Museum for Springfield-Greene County, the Jasper County Records Research Center, the University of Missouri Western Historical Manuscript Collection in Rolla, and Dr. William Piston and David Richards from Missouri State University have contributed collections and provided invaluable staff support to this project, which was made possible through a Library Services and Technology Act Digital Imaging Grant funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services and coordinated by the Missouri State Library. The Bugle Call, Wilson's Creek NBF, Summer 2009

## 2010 MEMBERSHIP DUES 2010

The Membership Dues for 2010 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 2010 may be paid at any time prior to December 31, 2009. 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, 2009  
\$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 66206-0202

