



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 6202

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An IRC 501(c)(3)

Charitable Organization

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



433rd REGULAR MEETING

TUESDAY, November 22, 2011

Homestead Country Club

6510 Mission Road, Prairie Village, Kansas

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

Dinner-6:30p.m.

NOVEMBER SPEAKER

DAVE SCHAFER

**"BORDER STATE SON: HARRY S. TRUMAN
AND THE WAR BETWEEN THE STATES"**

The Civil War echoed through Harry Truman's lifetime like the lingering notes of a distant trumpet. For Harry Truman the war was always there; a backdrop ever-present in his border state heritage. Truman's ancestors survived the war on the Missouri - Kansas border, but his family--especially his pro-Southern mother and grandmother--harbored grudges for the rest of their lives. Young Harry heard his ancestors' war stories and became fascinated with the war. Truman grew up revering Lee and Jackson, but in time came to admire Grant and Lincoln, too. His knowledge of Civil War history influenced his political career and informed some of his presidential decisions. In 1958, the former president helped found the Civil War Round Table of Kansas City and became the organization's first speaker with his presentation of "An Amateur Historian's View of the Civil War." Schafer will include a story he forgot to tell that night.

Continued on page 2

Attendance requires a paid dinner reservation.

*Please be sure our Treasurer receives all reservations by Friday, November 18,
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.

Dave Schafer Continued.....

Dave Schafer has worked for the National Park Service for 24 years. He began his career at Fort Scott National Historic Site (NHS) and from 1992 to 1999 was stationed at Harry S Truman NHS (the Truman home) in Independence, Missouri. He is now chief of interpretation, education, and cultural resources at Brown v. Board of Education NHS in Topeka, Kansas.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The membership renewal for 2012 has now begun. The fees remain the same at \$30 per individual and \$45 for two family members. Please get those renewals to Paul as soon as possible.

There is no better time to belong to the RT than during this Susquicentennial of the Civil War. This year we tried to address events, battles, incidents etc that occurred in 1861, and the sequence that they occurred. Other than Bull Run, most of the 1861 activity occurred in Missouri. We first addressed the July 5, 1861 Battle of Carthage, at the time the largest land engagement of the CW, by taking a bus tour to Carthage in April. We then addressed the Battle of Wilsons Creek by having Ted Hilmer of the Wilsons Creek Nat'l Park service address our RT as our June speaker and then encouraged attendance at the Battlefield reenactment of that battle that took place in August. We also took a bus tour of the Lexington Battle in Sept which also included a stop at the Liberty Arsenal, its capture in April 1861 by Southern forces, and the major impact that capture would have on the events that would take place in Missouri in 1861. Included in this issue of the BB is programming for the year 2012. Again we have tried to address the battles, events, proclamations etc that occurred during the year 1862 and, as much as possible, in the sequence that those events occurred. Because of the numerous events of that year we simply cannot address every event etc however, when you review the programming we have addressed major events that did occur that year. Our goal is to take the membership through the CW by addressing 1863 and 1864, as much as possible, in the same sequence that those events occurred.

You will never have better programming than at this time. Get those membership renewals in and let's enjoy these next three years.

Election of Officers

At the November meeting, we elected new officers and positions for the Round Table for the year 2012. Your new officers for 2012 are as follows: President Don Bates, Sr., 1st Vice-Pres Dennis Garstang, 2nd Vice-Pres Dave Pattison, Treasurer Paul Gault, Assistant Treasurer Mary Vorsten, Secretary Judy Smith,

Preservation Director Arnold Schofield, Board of Directors, Les Thierolf, Alisha Cole and Dave Schafer, round table Historian Betty Ergovich, Past Presidents Lane Smith, Howard Mann and Jack Brooks, Chairman of the Board Monnett Battle of Westport Fund Dan Smith, Sargeant at Arms Jim Speicher, Chaplain Reverend David B. Holloway and Border Bugle Editor Mike Epstein

Border Bugle Delivery

At our Sept Executive Committee meeting it was determined that effective January 1, 2012, a hard copy of the Border Bugle will no longer be mailed through the postal service to those who have email addresses. The savings is approximately \$600 per year plus the additional time and effort to publish those copies that have to be sent. In short, it is simply an expense we can no longer afford. Those who do not have email will continue to receive a copy of the BB. Lane Smith, President. *Please be sure to update your e-mail address with Paul Gault if you want to receive your Border Bugle!!!!*

An additional comment by the editor goes out to all of those individuals, historical societies and round tables that we now send the Border Bugle to gratis, your hard copy will also cease starting in January. We would love to share our Border Bugle with all other round tables and historical societies interested in receiving the Border Bugle and if you would send me your e-mail address to cwrtkc@att.net, I will make sure you still get it each month. Your address will NOT be given to anyone else for any purpose I can assure you. Thank you. Mike Epstein, Border Bugle Editor.

SPEAKERS 2011/2012

Dec 20: Deborah Buckner presents: "A Civil War Christmas," a First Person Interpretation of Christmas as Elizabeth "Libbie" Custer, not to be missed! Dave Para and Cathy Barton Para "Music of the Civil War" & Silent Book Auction

January 24: Kendall Gott; "Ft Henry/Ft. Donaldson"

February 28: Dr. Jennifer Webber; "Emancipation Proclamation"

March 27: Bill Piston; "Battle of Pea Ridge"

April 24: Kendall Gott; "Shiloh"

May 22: Matt Spruill "7 Days Battles"

Summer Meetings at the Plaza Library, 4801 Main, K.C., Mo.

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”

2011 LOCAL AND COMING EVENTS

November 13, 2011, *Darryl Levings’ Saddle the Pale Horse.* Central Library, 14 W. 10th St., Kansas City, MO. Journalist with the Kansas City Star, Darryl Levings discusses his new work of historical fiction that follows Price’s Raid in 1864 from crossing the border from Arkansas to clashes at Westport and Mine Creek. To register call 816 701-3400.

November 17, 2011, *Outlaws of Missouri!* 2 pm South Independence Library, 13700 E. 35th St., Independence, MO. Ages 7 and up-children. Jesse James, Calamity Jane and others are why Missouri is sometimes called the Outlaw State. Learn about Missouri outlaws and the people who chased them. To register call 816 461-2050.

November 17, 2011, Daniel Woodrell: *The Outlaw Album*, 6:30 pm Central Library, 14 W. 10th St., Kansas City, MO. Author Daniel Woodrell discusses his new collection of short stories, *The Outlaw Album*. He is the author of *Woe to Live On*, the basis for “Ride with the Devil.”

November 19, 2011, *Fight at the Mockbee House*, 7 pm Historic 1897 Courthouse on Harrisonville Square, Harrisonville, MO. An original drama with music and dance to remember the 150th anniversary of how Cole Younger clashed with local Federal authorities and took to the brush to join Quantrill’s band. \$2 per person.

November 25 & 26, 2011, Harris-Kearney House Museum, Holiday Candlelight Tour, The first Christmas of The Civil War. 6:00-9:00p.m. Tours every 15 minutes. Reenactors will be portraying the first Christmas of the Civil War. The 1855 Harris-Kearney House, 4000 Baltimore, Kansas City, MO will be decorated for the season. Admission is \$8 for adults and \$5 for students/children. Under 5 are free. Refreshments will be served. Reservations can be made at 913 648-0952.

November 28, 2011, *Quantrill’s Mother*, 7 p.m. North Independence Library, 317 W. 24 Hwy., Independence, Mo. Barbara Hughes portrays Caroline Quantrill and discusses her son’s exploits. To register call 816 252-0950.

November 30, 2011, *Johnny Reb and Billy Yank*, 6:30 p.m. Central Library, 14 W. 10th St., K.C., Mo. Shawn Faulkner of the Military History Dept. of the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth will talk about the daily lives of soldiers including food, clothing, shelter, and medical care. What motivated soldiers on both sides to fight and endure the hardships of war? To register call 816 701-3400.

November 30, 2011, *Legacies of the Civil War: Why Mark Twain Matters*, 7 pm, Johnson County Public Library, 9875 W. 87th St., Overland Park, KS. Twain expert Martin Zehr will speak about the author’s ongoing relevance in American literature.

December 3, 2011, *The Real Santa Claus*, 2 pm National Frontier Trails Museum, 318 W. Pacific, Independence, MO. Dressed as a Civil War Santa, Jim Beckner will tell how modern Christmas traditions began. Free with regular admission fees of \$6 for adults, \$5 for seniors 62 & Older, \$3 for youths 6-17, and free for children 5 and under.

MENU FOR NOVEMBER

Butternut Squash Soup, Roasted Pork Loin, Whipped Sweet Potatoes, Vegetable Medley, Pecan Pie with Chocolate Bourbon Sauce

“The Sargeant Major’s Roar”

Battlefield Dispatches #40 “Commendation & Condolence”

Yesterday was “Veterans Day” or as it was traditionally named “Armistice Day” when “Veterans of all Wars” living & deceased are honored, recognized & remembered throughout the United States. Therefore, this column is dedicated to all veterans who have served, are currently serving & will serve in the Armed Forces of the United States defending the “Freedom” we as a nation enjoy.

During any war when all of the officers or non-commissioned officers of a unit are killed, replacements are awarded a “Battlefield Commission” on the spot to maintain the “Continuity of Command.” However, promotions as a result of a Letter of Commendation” were often lost when the letter disappeared forever in the administrative “Fog of War.” The following “Letter of Commendation” & recommendation for promotion was submitted as the result of the leadership & bravery in combat of Col. John E. Phelps of the 2nd Union Arkansas Cavalry against enemy forces in the 1864 Confederate Campaign in Missouri & Kansas. It is located on pages 544 & 545 of Volume 41 Part IV of the Official Records of the War of the Rebellion & is as follows:

“ Headquarters District of Southwest Missouri,
Springfield, Mo., November 12, 1864.
Major-General Pleasanton,

Commanding Cavalry, in the Field:

General; I have the honor to submit the following special report under the provisions of

paragraph 743, Revised Army Regulations, relative to the conduct of 1st Lieut. John E. Phelps, 3rd Regular Cavalry & colonel 2nd Arkansas Cavalry Volunteers, during the last campaign against the rebel army commanded by General Price in Missouri. This officer deserves special mention for the following acts of GALLANTRY & good conduct, viz:

1st. On the morning of October 8, while the enemy appeared to be in full force in front of Jefferson City, he moved out with a portion of his own regiment, CHARGED the enemy's line & broke it & drove his rear guard in confusion some 2 miles, killing & capturing a number of the enemy & settling the question as to whether the enemy was about to attack or was retreating.

2nd. At Boonville on the 11th day of October with a portion of his own regiment & the 6th Provisional Enrolled Mo. Militia he attacked the enemy in position by my order, drove in his entire skirmish line upon the army in position, where he fought them till night, killing & wounding more than 100 of the enemy & losing but 2 men killed and 2 wounded.

3rd. At Dover, having moved from Cook's Store at midnight on the 19th of Oct. for the purpose, with his own regiment & the 6th Mo. State Militia Cav., he attacked more than three times his number & put them to rout capturing 7 commissioned officers & 6 men & leaving a number of the enemy dead & wounded on the field & obtained the 1st positive information that the enemy was at that time moving rapidly west.

4th At Independence he moved with his regiment (dismounted) directly upon the enemy's line & through the town without halting with so much impetuosity that he captured a staff officer of General Cabell's & the general's sword & by the movement contributed largely to the capture of the enemy's artillery taken there.

5th At Big Blue, on the 23rd, he made a most gallant CHARGE at the head of his regiment upon the enemy's artillery & was prevented from taking it only by an intervening stone wall.

6th At Marais des Cygnes he CHARGED in a most gallant manner across the river with his regiment & drove the enemy from the timber, where he was felling trees across the road & immediately ATTACKED him in the open prairie, whereby the enemy was compelled to form for battle & whereby our army was enabled to achieve the brilliant result which immediately followed at the Battle of the Osage [Mine Creek].

For these most faithful and gallant services I RESPECTFULLY RECOMMEND that Col. John E. Phelps, 2nd Arkansas Cavalry Volunteers & 1st Lieut. 3rd Cavalry Regular Army be promoted one grade in the Regular Army & be brevetted Brigadier -General of Volunteers.

I have the honor to be very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN B. SANBORN

Brigadier- General Commanding."

[Note: this commendation was not lost in the "Fog of War" because on March 13, 1865, less than 4 months after his bravery in combat, Col. Phelps was promoted to Captain in the Regular U.S. Army & to Brigadier General of Volunteers.]

LETTER OF CONDOLENCE

During WWI, one of the most feared pieces of correspondence a family could receive was a telegram that began "WE REGRET TO INFORM YOU". This was official notification that a loved one had been killed or was missing in action [combat]. It is not known exactly when the Defense Department started using telegrams, however, the words in the following Civil War letter are timeless & are similar to what a family would receive today from a Company Commander or Senior Non-Commissioned Officer:

"Camp 3rd Iowa Cavalry
December 22nd, 1864

Mr. Asbach:

Dear Sir:

Your note of the 6th inst. was received this evening & I at once reply as I know how anxious you will feel to hear of the matter spoken in the same.

I REGRET TO INFORM YOU that the detachment which took part in the Battle of the Osage [Mine Creek] in Missouri [Kansas] which resulted in the defeat of Price & in which your SON JOHN was KILLED has not yet joined the company & consequently, I am unable to give you full particulars. He was in the LINE of BATTLE & our regiment was charging, WHEN HE WAS STRUCK IN THE HEAD by a ball [bullet] & instantly KILLED. We all regret his loss, as he was a good soldier, brave & true & will long be remembered by his comrades.

His effects will be sent [to] you as early as possible.

Very Respectfully,
Geo. W. Johnson, Capt.
Co. "M" 3rd Iowa Cav."

[Please Note: The original letter was donated to the Iowa State Historical Society by & a copy provided to Mine Creek Battlefield SHS through the generosity of Mrs. Joyce Nigbor from Madison, Wisconsin who is a Great, Great Niece of Pvt. John Asbach.] THANK YOU VETERANS ONE & ALL!

NEW MEMBERS.....

Barbara R Owings, 11332 Oak St Kansas City MO
64114 816-943-4088 email bobobrbr@everestkc.net

FIRST NEGRO REGIMENTS..

While going through some Civil War period newspapers to put on eBay, I came across this small article I thought was interesting and made me wonder, let me quote from The Boston Evening Transcript, "Friday, October 31, 1862: *From Newbern; Negro regiments garrisoning Wilmington. Death of two rebel colonels. New York, 31st(October). The steamer haze from New York has arrived, The Wilmington (NC) Journal announces the arrival of seven regiments of Negroes to garrison the town and fortifications during the sickly season. They have been in a camp of instruction under white officers three months..*" The Kansas Historical Society Website or Kansaspedia says the 1st Kansas was formed in August of 1862 but the 77th Pennsylvania website has an article on the Unsung Heroes of the Civil War and a story of the 1st Kansas Colored Infantry and says it was formed at Fort Scott in the Spring of 1862. I just thought it was interesting that this group of 7 regiments had formed as early as June or July, 1862 again, long before the famous 54th Mass. Who were they and what state were they from?

FALL INTO WILSON'S CREEK NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD'S HISTORY

The oranges and reds of autumn are on display during these warm days and cool nights at Wilson's Creek National Battlefield. Visitors who explore the interconnected trails will be rewarded with cooler weather and pockets of deciduous trees, which change to rich reds, orange, and yellow in the fall. You can bring history alive as you visit the battlefield and experience the environment that has been preserved for all America. Whether your mode of transportation is walking, jogging, biking, horseback riding, and/or how the majority of our over 150,000 visitors enjoy the park, driving in your favorite vehicle, you will not be disappointed as you experience the battlefield as the soldiers did on that morning of August 10, 1861.

The battlefield has several key interpretive media and artifacts to assist you in creating a memorable experience for your visit: the finest Trans-Mississippi River collection of artifacts in the United States, an electric map that describes battle tactics, the largest Civil War library in the National Park Service system, a great Visitor Center to assist you with your visit, the friendliest Park Rangers, the new 26 minute film, and a 5-mile tour road with eight wayside stops to explain what occurred on that warm and humid morning of August 10, 1861.

Whether you drive or walk, your visit to the park will be filled with the spectacular autumn colors. One

can almost hear the soldiers wake from their shelters, prepare the morning coffee as they look around the camp sites with the morning fog laying low to the ground with the sun streaming through the trees. Come out to the battlefield to learn about the history of this special place located in the greater Springfield area.

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. The battlefield is located 10-miles southwest of Springfield, Missouri at the intersection of Highway ZZ and Farm Road 182. More information can be obtained by calling (417) 732-2662.



Chickamauga Reenactment 1996

By Mike Epstein

2012 MEMBERSHIP DUES 2012

The Membership Dues for 2012 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 2012 may be paid at any time prior to December 31, 2011. 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.

2011 CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE OF KANSAS CITY DUES

Dues deadline is December 31, 2011
\$30 per year (individual)* \$45 per year (couple)
Payable to the Civil War Round Table

Individual Name

spouse (if Couple Membership)

Address

City, State, ZIP

(_____)_____
Phone

email

* 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, KS 66206-0202

