



BORDER BUGLE

Newsletter of the Civil War Round Table of Kansas City



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386th REGULAR MEETING

TUESDAY, Oct. 25, 2005

Homestead Country Club

6510 Mission Road, Prairie Village, Kansas

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

Dinner-6:30p.m.

Professor William C. Davis:

The Image of War:

The Civil War Through Photography

We are extremely pleased and honored to welcome native son Professor William C. Davis to the rostrum of the Civil War Round Table of Kansas City. He has graciously agreed to discuss the topic of photography in the American Civil War and to share the path that started his prolific career as a historian and biographer of the Civil War.

The American Civil War was the first armed conflict, which was widely documented by photography. Unlike earlier conflicts, historians and buffs alike can view a wide array of probing graphical representation of the individual resolve of the participants and the absolute mayhem of conflict. The adage that a picture is worth a thousand words amply illustrates the power of the early photographer to convey the impact of war to the civilian population in a way no prior reporting could. Through the six-volume work, which he edited for National Historical Society through the 1980s, our speaker collected an amazing collection of scenes of the campaigns that led successively to Appomattox. Professor Davis is certainly no stranger to our membership. He is a native of Independence, Missouri. He is currently holds the position of Professor of History at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, in

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

Please be sure that we have your reservation by Friday Oct. 21. 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.

Blacksburg, Virginia. He also is Director of Programs of the University's Virginia Center for Civil War Studies. After leaving Independence for northern California, he earned BA and MA degrees from Sonoma State University in 1968 and 1969. He was awarded the distinction of Doctor of Humane Letters by Lincoln Memorial University in 1976.



Professor William C. Davis

For twenty years, he was a managing editor of book and magazine publishers. The managing editor at Historical Times including Civil War Times Illustrated. After leaving the publishing industry, he spent the next decade working as a writer and consultant. The author or editor of more than 40 books and numerous documentary screenplays in the fields of Civil War and Southern history, Professor Davis was the senior consultant for the History Channel series "Civil War Journal." Rights to his recent book *Three Roads to the Alamo: The Lives and Fortunes of David Crockett, James Bowie, and William Barret Travis* have just been sold to a motion picture production company. He has twice been nominated for the Pulitzer Prize in History and is the only three-time winner of the Jefferson Davis Award given for book-length works on Confederate history. His more recent books are *The Union that Shaped the Confederacy: Robert Toombs and Alexander H. Stephens* and *An*

Honorable Defeat: The Last Days of the Confederate Government. At Virginia Tech, Professor Davis has returned to his roots since virtually all of his ancestors hail from the Old Dominion, some as far back as 1610.



MINE CREEK BATTLEFIELD STATE HISTORIC SITE

"THE UNTOLD STORY"

by Orvis N. Fitts

Part 5

In retrospect, the Mine Creek Battlefield State Historic Site would not exist today if there had been no Linn County Historical Society. One of the earliest objectives of the Society was the preservation of the battlefield. Over the years, it was a monumental task, but those early people leading the Society were never deterred in achieving their goal. Dan Smith, Bernard West, Anna Mary Crawford, and Ola May Earnest, who is still president, are among those people who made it happen. It was Dan Smith who over the years persevered in confronting and overcoming the many obstacles that would have defeated a person less dedicated. Dan's friend and cohort, Lumir Buresh, was also dedicated to the cause. His book "October 25th and the Battle of Mine Creek" was a key factor in the ultimate preservation of the battlefield.

Credit must be given to those Linn County Commissioners who approved the first purchase of 40 acres, and then gave title of the property to the State of Kansas. Senator Robert Talkington gave critical support in the Kansas Legislature in securing funding to purchase the next 80-acre segment of the battlefield. Talkington again helped secure funding in the State Legislature to purchase the 160 acres north of the creek. Linn County Commissioners also appropriated funds to assist in the 160 acre purchase. Through the years, the Civil War Round Table of Kansas City fully supported the Linn County Historical Society in the preservation of the battlefield.

It was Dan Smith again who persuaded the Linn County Commissioners to vote a resolution requesting the State of Kansas to return the battlefield to the County. After all the years of benign neglect, this action energized the Kansas State Historical Society to

form the Mine Creek Development Steering Committee. From this new beginning, progress to develop the battlefield continued and culminated in the 1998 construction of the visitor's center.

The formation of the Mine Creek Battlefield Foundation was the brainchild of Dr. John Spencer and Arnold Schofield. The earlier archeological survey by Dr. Bill Lees proved the extent of the battlefield was well beyond the 280 acres owned by the State of Kansas. To save this surrounding property from development, it was urgent that what was available for sale be added to the battlefield. It was an extraordinary act for Dr. Spencer, Dale Sprague, Charles Conley, and Bill Pollock to use their own money for the down payment and take out a bank loan pending the formation of the Foundation. Over time more battlefield acres are likely to be purchased in addition to the 320 acres now owned by the Foundation. It is the intent to eventually transfer title of all the land to the State of Kansas. What is the future of the Mine Creek Battlefield State Historic Site? Much yet remains to be done. Foundation property will need to be incorporated with that owned by the State of Kansas.

New and weatherized walking trails with interpretive narrative markers will have to be put in place. Static artillery pieces need to be purchased and properly located on or near the walking trails. More landscaping in terms of tree removal and eliminating the stock ponds should be done. Perhaps the most critical item will be the necessary funding and employment of qualified personnel to staff the battlefield. To date lack of proper funding to hire qualified people has been a deterrent to the proper operation of the battlefield. The Mine Creek Battlefield State Historic Site has the potential to be the top tourism attraction of all the historic sites owned by the State of Kansas.

The "Untold Story" would not have been possible without the cooperation and help of Ola May Earnest, President of the Linn County Historical Society. She made available the archival documents and other material of the Society so this story could be told.

Orvis N. Fitts

Orvis N. Fitts, Past President
Civil War Round Table of Kansas City
Past Chairman, Monnett Battle of Westport Fund
Overland Park, Kansas
January 2005

The End

ANOTHER GREAT HISTORIAN PASSES FROM OUR RANKS

THIS YEAR: 06/28/2005 MEMPHIS, Tenn. -
- Novelist and historian **Shelby Foote**, whose Southern storyteller's touch inspired millions to read his multi-volume work on the Civil War, has died. He was 88.

Foote, a Mississippi native and longtime Memphis resident, wrote six novels but is best remembered for his three-volume, 3,000-page history of the Civil War and his appearance on the PBS series "The Civil War."

He worked on the book for 20 years, using a flowing, narrative style that enabled readers to enjoy it like a historical novel.

"I can't conceive of writing it any other way," Foote once said. "Narrative history is the kind that comes closest to telling the truth. You can never get to the truth, but that's your goal."

That work landed Foote a leading role on Ken Burns' 11-hour Civil War documentary, first shown on the Public Broadcasting Service in 1990.

"He was a Southerner of great intellect who took up the issue of the Civil War as a writer with huge sanity and sympathy," said Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist Richard Ford, a friend and fellow Mississippi native.

Foote's soft drawl and gentlemanly manner on the Burns film made him an instant celebrity, a role with which he was unaccustomed and, apparently, somewhat uncomfortable.

Foote attended the University of North Carolina for two years and served in World War II, though he never saw combat.

Foote's first novel, "Tournament," was started before the war and published in 1949. Then came "Follow Me Down" in 1950, "Love in a Dry Season" in 1951, "Shiloh" in 1952 and "Jordan County" in 1954.

That same year, Random House asked him to write a one-volume history of the Civil War. He took the job, but it grew into a three-volume project finally finished in 1974.

In 1999, the Modern Library ranked Foote's "The Civil War: A Narrative" as No. 15 on its list of the century's 100 best English-language works of nonfiction.

Though hardly a recluse, Foote had long been known around Memphis as having little

interest in parties and public gatherings. And he was often outspoken about his likes and dislikes.

"Most people, if the truth be told, are gigantic bores," he once said. "There's no need to subject yourself to that kind of thing."

Foote was born Nov. 7, 1916, in Greenville, a small Delta town with a literary bent. Walker Percy was a boyhood and lifelong friend, and Foote, as a young man, served as a "jackleg reporter" for Hodding Carter on The Delta Star. As a young man, he would also get to know William Faulkner.

He tried journalism again after World War II, signing on briefly with The Associated Press in its New York bureau.

Married three times, Foote has a daughter, Margaret Shelby, and a son, Huger Lee. He and Gwyn married in 1956, three years after he moved to Memphis.



MENU for October 25, 2005; Mixed greens tossed with feta cheese, roasted red peppers, red onions, herb vinaigrette, Chicken stuffed with ham and cheese, Chived mashed potatoes, Sautéed asparagus Madeira chicken jus, Apple strudel ala mode

UPCOMING SPEAKERS:

November 22, 2005: Kyle S. Sinisi, *The Last Hurrah: The Price Raid of 1864*. Dr. Sinisi is a professor of history at the Citadel. His talk to us will be based on his book in publication by Scholarly Resources on the Price Raid. His *Sacred Debts* published by Fordham University Press in 2003 arose from his investigation on the Price's Raid Claims Commission.

December 20, 2005: Period Music, Mrs. Libby Custer, a past President, so don't miss, it's also a good time to renew your membership!

COMING EVENTS:

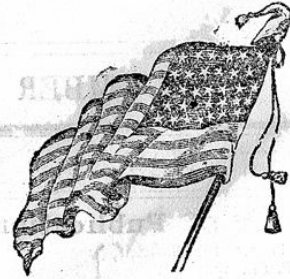
October 8th, 2005: Lexington, Missouri. Historical Character and Cemetery Tour from 4:00pm to 8:00pm. The Friends of the Anderson House will decorate, relay the traditions and serve typical Christmas goodies of four ethnic groups who settled early Lexington. A fee will be charged.



From The Leavenworth "Daily Conservative", 1862

The Daily Conservative.

SUNDAY MORNING, FEB. 23, 1862.



Our twenty-four State Senators classify themselves politically as follows: Republicans, 17; Union, 3; Union Democrats, 2; JOHN BROWN 1, Democrat, 1.

The Senator who has the audacity to outrage public sentiment by calling himself a John Brown man is John J. Ingalls of Atchison.

In the House there are sixty-two Republicans and about the same proportion of "scattering."

SKIRMISH NEAR INDEPENDENCE.

KANSAS CITY, Feb. 22, 1862.

BRIG. GEN. CHAS. DOUBLEDAY: A detachment of my command met, while patrolling near Independence, a body of rebels under one Quantrill; a skirmish ensued; three of the enemy were killed and five taken prisoners. My command lost one killed and three wounded. I will send particulars by courier.

PURINGTON.

The above is a copy of a telegraphic dispatch received to-day from Major George W. Purington, of the 2d Battalion Ohio Cavalry, which left Fort Leavenworth Thursday for Kansas City. THOS. W. SANDERSON, Capt. and A. A. Gen. Doubleday's Brigade.

MUTINY IN CAMP

Unknown Source Material given to me by Arnold Schofield

One day the Adjutant was walking about the camp, met a colored soldier, rather roughly asked the soldier rather an impertinent question; the soldier's reply was not very complimentary to his "hinglish blood" gave the soldier a blow with his fist, he was arrested and placed into the guardhouse. A party of about twenty of the soldiers Company

went to the guardhouse and took the soldier back to his company. No reasoning, commands or threats of the officers of the company would induce the Company to give up the rescued soldier.

The officers (white) were driven out of the Company and all the men with loaded muskets and fixed bayonets, formed in Company at right angles of the line, in left of the Regiment, and announced their determination to keep the soldier and "fight their way out of the Regiment as long as they had a live man left." Efforts were then made to suppress the Mutiny by force, every Company was applied to in _____ from the left eight to the left right except mine to turn out and aid in the suppression. Not an officer could be found who could induce or command a single soldier to turn out and not a single colored man would even advise the sentenced to give up. The soldiers all were in perfect sympathy with the sentenced.

In this state of affairs, Maj. Ward came to my company which was on the right at some distance; stated to me in presence of my men, the situation, that every company had been applied to for aid and not a single man could be found to help restore order and said "our only hope is in you and your company. If you can do nothing, our Regiment is broken up in disgrace: can you do anything to help us"? I replied, "I will try, go back to the mutineers, and I will soon let you know".

I assembled my men, told them their duty and obligation in the case; that white soldiers in such cases were bound to go if ordered or be punished as mutineers. The fate of the Regiment, your homes and reputation are all at stake. You know that I have promised you that I would never require you to go where I would not lead you. I promise you that if you follow me, strictly obey my orders and promptly and earnestly all will end well, and I stake my life for your honor and fulfillment of my promises, and you know if the mutineers resist, I am the first man to be killed.

I now ask you, will you follow me? Every man who will shoulder his musket and those who will not go, step to the rear and lay his musket on the ground".

At the word Shoulder Arms, every musket went promptly up. I then said, "load your muskets with balls and fix bayonets". At this time I had only 46 men in line, the rest being on duty out of camp.

The company of mutineers had 85 all with loaded muskets and bayonets fixed.

I then fixed myself at the head of the company, ordered right face, left turn, trail arms, forward, double quick time march. We went down in front of the Regimental line as quick as it was possible, passing the right of the mutineers about fifty yards. My order left turn, shoulder arms, when directly in front of the mutineers my order Front face, Ready, Aim. These orders were promptly obeyed and the click of the cocking muskets spoke the terrific earnestness of the men at this moment. The Major called out, "hold on Capt". The muskets of the mutineers came quickly to order; the rescued soldier and twenty of the leaders were delivered up and quietly marched over to the Fort Guardhouse and my men returned to their tents.



DID YOU KNOW?

In the heyday of sailing ships, all war ships and many freighters carried iron cannons. Those cannons fired round iron cannon balls. It was necessary to keep a good supply near the cannon. However, how to prevent them from rolling about the deck? The best storage method devised was a square-based pyramid with one ball on top, resting on four resting on nine, which rested on sixteen. Thus, a supply of 30 cannon balls could be stacked in a small area right next to the cannon. There was only one problem...how to prevent the bottom layer from sliding or rolling from under the others.

The solution was a metal plate called a "Monkey" with 16 round indentations. However, if this plate were made of iron, the iron balls would quickly rust to it. The solution to the rusting problem was to make "Brass Monkeys." Few landlubbers realize that brass contracts much more and much faster than iron when chilled. Consequently, when the temperature dropped too far, the brass indentations would shrink so much that the iron cannonballs would come right off the monkey. Thus, it was quite literally, "Cold enough to freeze the balls off a brass monkey." (All this time, you thought that was an improper expression, didn't you?.)

**THINK EARLY: THINK
MEMBERSHIP DUES...**

FOR OUR MISSOURI MEMBERS ONLY

BATTLEFIELD LICENSE PLATES AVAILABLE

You too can have a Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Missouri license plate to display proudly on your vehicle, commemorating the historic battle and serving the memory of the men who fought and died at Wilson's Creek. To receive instructions and the required forms, send your name, address, phone number, and a donation of \$25.00 (\$50.00 for a two year plate) to the Wilson's Creek Foundation, PO Box 8163, Springfield, MO 65801.



For more information,
contact the Foundation office at (417) 864-3041.

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.**

*Got a friend who likes history? Maybe he or she would like to join?? Need a newsletter for a potential member?
Give Paul Gault a call for new members and extra newsletters.*

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

