



# BORDER

# BUGLE

Newsletter of the Civil War Round Table of Kansas City

## EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

### President

*Deb Goodrich*

### First Vice-President

*Howard Mann*

### Second Vice-President

*Lane Smith*

### Treasurer

*Paul Gault*

### Assistant Treasurer

*Betty Ergovich*

### Secretary

*Diane Hinshaw*

### Preservation Director

*Arnold Schofield*

### Board of Directors

*Don Bates Sr.*

*Don Bates Jr.*

*Brian Lawson*

### Past Presidents

*James Speicher*

*Daniel L. Smith*

*Blair D. Tarr*

### Ex-Officio

*Daniel L. Smith*

### Chairman of Board

### Monnett Battle of

### Westport Fund

*Daniel L. Smith*

### Sargeant at Arms

*Don Bates Sr.*

### Chaplain

*Rev. David B. Holloway*

### Border Bugle Editor

*Michael J. Epstein*

[mikenwuf@att.net](mailto:mikenwuf@att.net)

Civil War Round Table of

Kansas City

P.O. Box 2602

Shawnee Mission, KS

66206

An IRC 501(c)(3)

Charitable Organization

Think  
about  
Dues for  
2009

405<sup>th</sup> REGULAR MEETING  
TUESDAY, October 28, 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.

## OCTOBER 2008

### MICHAEL BURLINGAME

### "CAN ANYTHING NEW BE SAID OF LINCOLN"

Retired professor **Michael Burlingame** is the most devoted researcher of our 16th president and has written several books examining his life, including *The Inner World of Abraham Lincoln*. His topic for our CWRT is "Can Anything New Be Said of Lincoln." Michael's latest work, *Abraham Lincoln: A Life* will be published November 14 and is the first multi-volume biography of Abraham Lincoln to be published in decades. Incorporating the field notes of earlier biographers, along with decades of research in multiple manuscript archives and long-neglected newspapers, this remarkable work will both alter and reinforce current understanding of America's sixteenth president.

Published to coincide with the 200th anniversary of Lincoln's birth, this landmark publication establishes Burlingame as the most assiduous Lincoln biographer of recent memory and brings Lincoln alive to modern readers as never before.

**Please be sure that we have your reservation by Friday Oct. 24. 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.....

**October 28, Michael Burlingame:** “Can anything new be said of Lincoln.”

**November 18:** Multi-Emmy-Award film-maker, **Shane Seley:** Shane will be showing the video his company, Wideawake 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.

**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.”

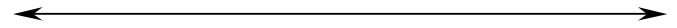
**October 27, Dave Metheneys:** “John Brown.”

**November 24, Orvis Fitts:** “Arlington Cemetery”

**December, Book sale and Holiday Dinner**

## MENU FOR OCT. 2008;

Spinach greens with mushrooms, egg, tomato, red onion, and warm roasted garlic lemon vinaigrette Grilled Turkey Medallions, with Green Chile and Paprika Sauce, Sweet Potato Soufflé, Vegetable Medley, and Apple Crisp with Vanilla Ice Cream



## COMING EVENTS.....

**October 18-19, 2009,** The Monnett Battle of Westport Fund will have a grand opening of the **Battle of Westport Visitors' Center and Museum** on Oct 18 and 19, 2008.

To organize and prepare, we need YOU! We are having a planning meeting on Tues. June 10 at 6:30pm at the visitors' center located at 6601 Swope Parkway. Please bring your calendars (so we can set deadlines) and all of your ideas.

Some possible ideas are to have reenactors, displays, cannons, guns, flags, campfires, a dance, a period fashion show, a dinner, and ??????????

If you know of someone who's name is not on the address list who would like to come to the meeting, please bring them along!

Please let us know if you can attend.

Thanks so much for your support!

Dan & Alana

*(Editor's note, the dates in this are old, but I'm sure they can still use your help)*

**October 25:** 175th Birthday Celebration for Westport.

**October 31:** 6<sup>th</sup> Annual walk with Civil War Spirits.

For a haunting, but not scary, treat the Lone Jack Historical Society invites children of all ages to join the 6th annual Walk with Civil War Spirits. The walk is planned for Halloween, Wednesday evening, October 31, from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Lone Jack Civil War Museum, 301 S. Bynum, Lone Jack.

Follow your spirit guide back into history on the hallowed ground where men fought and died defending our liberties. Search out the spirits of those who lived and died in the Border area. Was that another guide's lantern or a soldier's ghost gliding past that tree? What's that on your cheek - the night wind or a spirit's touch?

The evening is free but donations to the museum are appreciated. The Lone Jack Historical Society is an all volunteer organization that manages the museum. For more information call Alinda at 816-805-1815,

**November 15:** 150th Anniversary of the Wornall House.

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



## BATTLEFIELD DISPATCHES #89

### “PRAIRIE THUNDER”

On October 25, 1864 the thunder of artillery echoed down the Marais des Cygnes, Little Osage & Marmaton River Valleys and across the eastern Kansas prairie. The sounds of Union & Confederate cannons being fired & the explosion of their ammunition caused much consternation, worry & fear on every farm & in every town, including Fort Scott, where the sounds of the big guns were heard.

On Tuesday, October 25, 1864, Colonel Charles W. Blair, the commanding officer of Fort Scott was not in Fort Scott! He had commanded the Brigade of Kansas Militia at the Battle of Westport on October 23<sup>rd</sup> & was now, on this day, an Aide-de Camp (assistant) to Major General Samuel Ryan Curtis who commanded the “Union” Army of the Border that was pursuing the Confederates south from Kansas City on their way to attack Fort Scott. Col. Blair’s brigade was marching as the rear of the Union column, but he did not stay there. He went forward to the SOUNDS OF THE GUNS!

The following are excerpts from Col. Blair’s official report in which he describes the Battles of Trading Post, Mine Creek, Little Osage & Charlot’s Farm or Shiloh Creek that occurred on Tuesday, October 25, 1864. The official report is located on Pages 601- 606 of Vol. 41 of the Official Records of the War of the Rebellion.

“HDQRS., Sub-District No. 2,  
South Kansas, Fort Scott, Kans.,  
Jan. 1, 1865

Sir: As volunteer aide-de-camp on your staff, I have the honor to transmit, herewith, according to your direction, a brief report of events of the 25<sup>th</sup> of October last, all of which I saw & part of which I was.

On the march of the night before from West Point, [Mo.] down, my brigade occupied the rear of the column & when the column halted & no word was sent to the rear to bivouac [camp], I supposed that the advance had come to the timber of the Marais des Cygnes & was clearing the obstructions which all thought the enemy would create to oppose our forward movement. Accordingly, we waited patiently, standing by our horses’s heads without FIRE, FOOD or FORAGE. Toward morning becoming chilled by the rain & cold night air, I mounted my horse & accompanied by an orderly, rode forward in search of fire. About midway up the column I found a [camp] fire & had scarcely succeeded in warming my benumbed limbs when the SOUND OF ARTILLERY called my attention to the front. I immediately started forward & as soon as it was light enough to distinguish objects, I saw that it was impossible for [my command] to get over the [Marais des Cygnes] River till a late hour.

#### “Trading Post”

Ascending the high mound [on the north side of the river] overlooking the stream, I saw [our] skirmish line [advancing] about midway from its base to the timber pushing steadily to the front. I immediately started forward to overtake them, having been joined by Sergeant-Major Rebstein of my brigade. Pushing forward, I joined the skirmishers just as they received fire from the enemy on the south bank. On crossing the river we found to our surprise, no obstructions, save two trees, which had been felled in the road & were rapidly removed by our advancing troops.

#### “Mine Creek”

Arriving on the table-land, which forms the summit level between the Marais des Cygnes & the [Little] Osage rivers, we again saw the enemy’s line & this time it was evident he was in full force, although his whole line was not visible, his right

being behind the brow of the hill which descended into MINE CREEK. Meanwhile the gallant brigade on our right was steadily advancing, with skirmishers well out [in front]. The artillery was playing with great rapidity & considerable effect. I looked at the enemy's line close, serried & vomiting fire; I looked at the little brigade that was unflinching & steadfast in its front. It was evident that here THE BATTLE was to be fought & the desperate issue joined on which the FATE OF THE SOUTH TIER OF KANSAS [including Fort Scott] depended.

The enemy's artillery was playing on this line with fearful effect & we had nothing but musketry to reply, but the men were steady & self-possessed & perfectly easy under fire. When it [the other brigade] did come on line the whole command advanced to short range & for a time the [GUN]FIRE was INCESSANT & TERRIFIC! Both lines seemed like walls of adamant, one could not advance; the other would not recede! THE CRASH OF MUSKETRY, the SCREAM OF SHELL, the HISSING SOUND OF CANISTER & BALLS, MINGLED with the SHOUTS of SOLDIERS & the CRIES of the WOUNDED, set off, too, by the WALLS of FIRE & girdles of steel behind, which marked both lines, formed a scene more easily remembered than described.

During this terrible conflict I passed along the whole line & met your gallant staff officers everywhere counseling, encouraging, exhorting & commanding & the tenor of the whole was "CHARGE"! It was evident that our only safety was a SUCCESSFUL CHARGE by which we might capture the guns. At length the movement commenced slowly at first, but increasing in velocity until it swept on resistless as an avalanche. A rush, a scramble & all was over. The guns were captured, the enemy broken & flying to the rear, while our victorious squadrons were in almost breathless pursuit.

#### "Little Osage"

Having rid myself of this responsibility, I again hurried to the front. When I overtook the advance I found it halted at the foot of the precipitous mounds descending into the [Little] Osage Valley. Almost as far as we could see over the smooth prairie & on arriving there we could plainly see the REBEL COLUMN moving straight

in the direction of Fort Scott. The movement was then very rapid & continuous till the skirmish line was checked near the verge of the Osage timber [on the north bank of the Little Osage River]. The woods seemed alive with rebel soldiers but in rapid motion. The skirmishers kept up occasional firing at them until the advance brigade came up & we all charged rapidly down into the timber, but the enemy disappeared before our arrival.

We followed down stream some distance, crossed at the ford & just as we were emerging from the timber on the south side, the head of the column was fired on by the enemy's skirmishers. We soon dislodged them, however, & pushed on toward a corn-field to the left of the road. The head of the column was here checked by a HEAVY FIRE from the field & it was evident that another battle was to be fought! Accordingly the general formed his brigade in close column of companies & made them a little speech while forming to the effect that it made no difference whether there were 1,000 or 10,000 men on that field, he wanted them to RIDE RIGHT OVER THEM & SABER THEM DOWN AS FAST AS THEY CAME TO THEM! The men responded with a YELL, the dismounted skirmishers TORE DOWN THE FENCE in the face of a GALLING FIRE & SWEPT THROUGH IT LIKE A TORNADO!

In the rear of the corn-field, another line was formed on the prairie, the right resting on a skirt of timber fringing a small stream, which the advance of the brigade, rapidly deploying into line CHARGED & broke at the first onset. A third line of battle was formed still farther to the rear, in a low basin, where there had been an evident intention to encamp & which was surrounded by a semi-circle of hills where they [the enemy] held us at bay under a severe fire for about twenty minutes or more & until the whole brigade formed in line & CHARGED! Before this impetuous charge they were once again broken & as I passed through their temporary halting place there was abundant evidence of the haste they were in, in the BROKEN WAGONS, DISMANTLED FORGES, FRAGMENTARY MESS CHESTS & SMASHED CROCKERY with which the ground was strewn. The chase this time lasted about a mile to the top of the hill south of the valley of the [Little] Osage & getting view of the enemy again from the summit of this hill, I was gratified to observe that he was bearing very palpably to the east, thus giving me my

first reasonable hope that FORT SCOTT might be SPARED!

“Charlot’s Farm / Shiloh Creek”

As I had been a sharer in all the fighting & a participant in every CHARGE heretofore during the day, I determined to get a good position & look at one from a safe distance, as I saw the enemy had formed two lines of battle a mile or more to our front. Accordingly, I secured the highest spot of ground in the vicinity, took out my field-glass, unused in all previous events of the day & deliberately watched the operations. Major-General Pleasonton directed this attack in person assisted by Major McKenny, who as usual, was in the front. Of the perils or particulars I cannot speak, but of the results I can say that both lines broke & fled before our forces got even within respectable distance.

“Homeward Bound”

I then turned the head of my “Gallant Gray” homeward & never drew rein till I struck our picket [guard] post 3 miles from Fort Scott, where some 40 of our citizens with Col. Perry Fuller at their head, were impatiently expecting news from the ‘TRIUMPHANT ARMY of the BORDER.’”

So ended Colonel Charles W. Blair’s participation in the defense of Kansas during the 1864 Confederate invasion of the Jayhawk State!



It seems to me that a lot of our membership is made up of veteran’s of one war or another. I don’t think we have any WWI vets in our round table, but we do have quite a few WWII vets in our midst. I don’t know about you, but I have a great curiosity about their lives, it’s more tangible, it’s right in front of us. Studying the Civil War is great don’t get me wrong. But I thought we all might like to hear a little about our vets. I would like to ask each and every vet who can and who wants to, to tell me their best day and worse day in the service, try to keep it down to one whole issue, okay, not quite that long, but something.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for all you’ve done.

Your Editor

-----October 2, 2008

Dear fellow history lover,

I'd like to see if you would be interested in this fall's break-out book, \*The Rebel and the Rose\* by Wesley Millett and Gerald White, for your coverage consideration.

Rebel and the Rose is a story set in April of 1865. A Civil War navy paymaster, James A. Semple, was entrusted by President Davis with a current day fortune. This fortune was in Confederate gold; \$86,000 in coins and bullion that would be worth \$2 million in today's currency. James Semple had instructions to secure the money in the false bottom of a carriage, transport this, and make sure it was safe- but Semple disappeared into the night.

Millett and White reveal what happened to this loot for the first time. \*Rebel and the Rose\* is a captivating story with Semple nearly evading capture all the way to the swamps of Georgia, where our "rebel" meets his "rose" in the enchanting Julia Gardiner Tyler, the widow of former U.S. President John Tyler.

Already nominated for the \*Jefferson Davis Award\*, \*The Rebel and the Rose\* is a history buff's delight. Authors Wesley Millett and Gerald White spent nearly twelve years in making this moving story really come to life.

Please let us know if you would like to receive a complimentary copy of the book and we'll be happy to get one on its way. Thank you for your consideration.

Best Regards,  
Errine Garnett  
Publicity Assistant  
Cumberland House Publishing  
615-832-1171 x 19  
errine.garnett@cumberlandhouse.com

*P.S. As far as this editor knows, we have not taken advantage of this offer.*



**\*MISSOURI\* \*BOOK NEWS\***

One of your members, Ronald D. Smith, has recently published a book with the University of Missouri Press entitled, “*Thomas Ewing, Jr.: Frontier Lawyer and Civil War General.*” Ronald D. Smith tells the story of the Thomas Ewing Jr. and his remarkable family.

Columbia (MO)—An Ohio family with roots in the South, the Ewings influenced the course of the Midwest for more than fifty years. Patriarch Thomas Ewing, a former Whig senator and cabinet member who made his fortune as a real estate lawyer, raised four major players in the nation's history—including William Tecumseh "Cump" Sherman, taken into the family as a nine-year-

old, who went on to marry his foster sister Ellen. Ronald D. Smith now tells of this extraordinary clan that played a role on the national stage through the illustrious career of one of its sons.

In "Thomas Ewing Jr.: Frontier Lawyer and Civil War General", Smith introduces us to the Ewing family, little known except among scholars of Sherman, to show that Tom Jr. had a remarkable career of his own: first as a real estate lawyer, judge, soldier, and speculator in Kansas, then as a key figure in national politics. Smith takes readers back to Bleeding Kansas, with its border ruffians and land speculators, reconstructing the rough-and-tumble of its courtrooms to demonstrate that its turmoil was as much about claim-jumping as about slavery.

He describes the seat-of-the-pants law practice in which Ewing worked with his brothers Hugh and Charlie and foster brother Cump. He then tells how Tom came to national prominence in the fight over the proslavery Lecompton Constitution, was instrumental in starting up the Union Pacific Railroad, and became the first chief justice of the Kansas Supreme Court.

Ewing obtained a commission in the Union Army—as did his brothers—and raised a regiment that saw significant action in Arkansas and Missouri. After William Quantrill's raid on Lawrence, Kansas, he issued the dramatic General Order No. 11 that expelled residents from sections of western Missouri. Then this confidant of Abraham Lincoln's went on to

courageously defend three of the assassination conspirators—including the disingenuous Samuel Mudd—and lobbied the key vote to block the impeachment of Andrew Johnson.

Smith examines Ewing's life in meticulous detail, mining family correspondence for informative quotes and digging deep into legal records to portray lawmaking on the frontier. And while Sherman has been the focus of most previous work on the Ewings, this book fills the gaps in an interlocking family of remarkable people—one that helped shape a nation's development in its courtrooms and business suites. \*Thomas Ewing Jr.: Frontier Lawyer and Civil War General\* retells a chapter of Kansas history and opens up a panoramic view of antebellum America, the Civil War, Reconstruction, and the Gilded Age.

#### About the Author

Ronald D. Smith is an attorney in Larned, Kansas. *Thomas Ewing, Jr.: Frontier Lawyer and Civil War General* \*(978-0-8262-1806-3, \$44.95 cloth) is available at local bookstores or directly from the University of Missouri Press. Individuals placing orders should include \$5.00 shipping and handling for the first book and \$1.00 for each additional book.

For more information on this title, for excerpt possibilities, or to interview the author, please contact Beth Chandler at [chandlerb@umsystem.edu](mailto:chandlerb@umsystem.edu) or by phone at (573) 882-9672.

---

Civil War Round Table of Kansas City  
P.O. Box 6202  
Shawnee Mission, Kansas 66206-6202

