



# BORDER BUGLE



Newsletter of the Civil War Round Table of Kansas City



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[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

## 414<sup>th</sup> REGULAR MEETING THURSDAY, Oct. 27, 2009

### Homestead Country Club

6510 Mission Road, Prairie Village, Kansas

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

Dinner-6:30p.m.

## OCTOBER 2009 SPEAKER

DAVE METHENEYS;

“JOHN BROWN”

It's December 1, 1859. You're a Washington reporter for "Harper's Weekly" and on assignment of most importance. You've been selected to be the last person to talk and interview John Brown the day before he's hanged for high Treason in the State of Virginia. Come join us and hear what John Brown has to say.

## SPEAKERS FOR 2009

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

**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 October. 23. 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.**

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## MENU FOR OCTOBER, 2009;

Spinach Salad, Rainbow Trout Muniere,  
Cous-Cous, Braised Previncial Vegetables, and  
Apple Pie w/Ice Cream.

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**HAPPY BIRTHDAY CWRTTO**  
Civil War Round Table of the Ozarks,  
Happy 49<sup>th</sup> Year!!!

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Hello,

My name is David Moore and like you, I have a passion for the Civil War. For the past 10 years I have worked daily on a book, which I have finally completed. The book, which is on CD is over 4,650 pages and lists day by day the events that took place.

I have a web site, which can be viewed at [www.moorecivilwar.com](http://www.moorecivilwar.com), and has more information about who I am and about my book.

In order to get the word out I am selling my book on CD for only \$20.00 includes shipping. If you know of someone who is interested in the Civil War please pass on my name and my web site [www.moorecivilwar.com](http://www.moorecivilwar.com).

Thank you for your time,  
David T. Moore  
Moore's Civil War Reference.  
[www.moorecivilwar.com](http://www.moorecivilwar.com)

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## COMING EVENTS.....

### **HEADSTONE DEDICATION CEREMONY**

For

#### **William Sidney Shepherd**

Last Union Soldier From The Battle Of Westport  
Living In Kansas City, Missouri, Unmarked For  
Over 71 Years!

**SUNDAY OCTOBER 25TH 2009, 2:00 P.M.**

**145<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Westport**

Memorial Park Cemetery

8251 Hillcrest Rd. Kansas City, Mo.

(Enter At Gate 4)

Mr. Epstein, I thought your membership might be interested in attending this ceremony. If you could put this information in your newsletter that would be great, that is , if your newsletter comes out before Oct. 25th. Attached is a copy of

the flyer. The best way to get to this cemetery is to take the 87th St. exit off of I-435 (east side of KC), go west about 20yds and go right at Hillcrest Rd, going north past 83rd St and the office(Gate 1) and turn right at Gate 4. Stay left as you enter past the Globe, and turn left towards the Pyramid of Rocks. If there are any Yankee reenactors that want to participate in the ceremony they should be there no later than 1:30pm. If anyone has any questions they can email me at [morebel50@yahoo.com](mailto:morebel50@yahoo.com) , or call me at 816-254-0067. Thanks! Jon

**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”*

145<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
of  
The Battle of Mine Creek

“THUNDER on the PRAIRIE”

Sunday, October 25, 2009 marked the 145<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Mine Creek that was the largest Civil War battle in Kansas and the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest “Cavalry” battle of the entire Civil War. Before and during this battle the thunder of artillery fire echoed across the rolling prairie in the valley of Mine Creek. The “Union” victory at Mine Creek convinced Confederate Major General Sterling Price not to attack the large Federal supply depot at Fort Scott and to change the direction of his “Army of Missouri” to march east into the friendly state of Missouri. The following official “Union” reports of the Battle of Mine Creek have been edited because of spatial constraints and the complete reports are located on Pages 495,496,332 & 354 in Vol. 41, Part I Reports in The Official Records of the War of the Rebellion.

Report of  
Major General Samuel Ryan Curtis

“Battle of the Osage, October 25, 1864.

Mine Creek, a branch of the Osage [River] and the Osage at this point, are small streams several miles apart, both skirted with timber and surrounded by open prairie country. After the affair of Trading Post, considerable delay and consequent separation of troops had occurred at the crossing of the Marais des Cygnes. While General Sanborn halted to breakfast his brigade, General Pleasanton led the advance, consisting mainly of Colonels Benteen’s and Philips’ brigades, in rapid farther pursuit of the enemy. About three miles from Trading Post the enemy formed on the north side of Mine Creek and made stubborn resistance. The brigade of Colonel Philips, composed of Missouri troops, came into line of battle and commenced firing at long range, his men displaying good discipline good discipline and great gallantry.

Colonel Benteen, whose brigade comprised Iowa, Indiana and other troops came up on the left side of this line. Meantime the heavy roar of cannon induced me to hurry forward my own escort with two little howitzers [cannon] and other artillery, at the utmost speed. Colonel Benteen met some of my staff officers on his arrival at the left, who suggested an immediate cavalry charge. The Colonel had already resolved on this movement and only waited for the same order to be communicated to Colonel Philips. Major Weed conveyed the order to Colonel Philips. Colonel Benteen’s brigade came into line in a moment and dashed against the enemy’s right, outflanking and surrounding it, gaining position on and beyond the creek. Colonel Philips also, with his brigade moved quickly upon the enemy, so as to overpower a large detachment of them, who immediately surrendered as prisoners of war, among them were two rebel generals, Marmaduke and Cabell, killing another (General Graham) and many colonels and other officers & taking altogether 500 or 600 men. General Pleasanton, being in command of the advance had directed the general movement and took an active part in the field. General Lane, Col. Blair, Col. Crawford, Col. Roberts, Maj. Weed, Maj. McKenny, Maj. Hunt & Maj. Curtis of my volunteer and regular staff & Captain Hinton & others of General Blunt’s staff were also very active in the field on this occasion, which occupied perhaps 30 minutes.

The rear brigades were also coming up at full speed and the enemy again forming on a hill about a mile in front [& south of Mine Creek]. This point he soon abandoned and we halted to form close up our extended lines. After our rear brigades came near, the whole force advanced with caution in two lines, pressing the enemy beyond the ridge which divided Mine Creek and [the Little] Osage river.

Being mostly a prairie country the troops of both armies were in full view and the rapid onward movement of the whole force presented the most extensive beautiful and animated view of hostile armies I have ever witnessed. Spread over the vast prairies, some moving at full speed in column, some in double lines and others as skirmishers, groups striving in utmost efforts & shifting as occasion required, while great clouds of living masses moved steadily southward, presented a picture of prairie

scenery such as neither man nor pencil can delineate.

Major General Samuel Ryan Curtis  
Commanding, Army of the Border.”

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Lieut. Colonel Frederick Benteen’s  
Report

“The morning of the 25<sup>th</sup> broke & gave promise of a dull and dreary day, when I was ordered with my brigade to march to the [Marais des Cygnes] River and cross, receiving from you [Major General Alfred Pleasanton] the order to charge the enemy whenever the opportunity offered. The skies now cleared & the sun smiled out upon the scene as if foretelling the glorious day that awaited us. After forming, a few advanced skirmishers were thrown out to prevent a too sudden approach upon the enemy, who might be behind any of the numerous hills of the undulating prairie. Three short miles were scarcely accomplished when one of the advanced skirmishers galloped back & reported that the enemy was only a few hundred yards ahead in line of battle, in large force, & with 8 pieces of artillery. About the same time Major Hunt of General Curtis’ staff came up & told me the enemy’s exact position, stating that there was a brigade already in position in his front, but too weak to begin the attack. I at once determined to form on the left of this brigade, especially as a few more paces brought us in view of the line of rebels; seeing the position which he had his artillery, I immediately surmised that the rebel commander had committed a fatal blunder & resolved to capture it. I sent an officer to the commanding officer of the brigade on my right with the information that I was going to CHARGE and a request for him to CHARGE with me, for GOD’S SAKE and at the same time formed my command in column of regiments in the same manner I had formed them for marching and immediately SOUNDED the CHARGE. The line of the brigade on my right was soon passed, but it did not charge with us; this brigade I have since learned was the one commanded by Col. J. F. Philips of the Missouri State Militia. The fire of the enemy was so hot that for a moment it staggered even my own gallant regiment, but it soon recovered & went on with an exulting YELL. At the time the CHARGE was

SOUNDED, I gave the orders for the different regiments to execute a right half wheel [partial right turn]] & dispatched my staff to see it executed, then to completely cut off the enemy’s chance to escape with his artillery. The maneuver was successfully executed and we captured the guns in a shorter space of time than is necessary to record it. THEN BEGAN A FIERCE HAND-TO-HAND FIGHT, ONE THAT SUPASSED ANYTHING FOR THE TIME IT LASTED I HAVE EVER WITNESSED.

The enemy was completely routed and driven in the wildest confusion from the field: several of his wagons were abandoned in the narrow road that crosses the creek just in the rear of his position. Many of his force were left dead & wounded upon the field & in our hands. It is a matter of impossibility for me to state the number, as I had no opportunity of passing over the scene of the conflict afterward.

F. W. Benteen,  
Lieut. Col., 10<sup>th</sup> Missouri Vol. Cavalry,  
Comdg. 4<sup>th</sup> Brigade.”

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Colonel John F. Philips  
Report

“The enemy took position on the open prairie with Mine Creek, a tributary of the Osage, in his immediate rear. The enemy was formed at 600 yards distance in treble [three] lines and in overwhelming force. My ground was high & commanding. Here the whole rebel army and train were in full view. The scene was grand, the work before us of fearful import. An aide was sent to inform the Major General commanding [MG Alfred Pleasanton] that Price’s army was in my immediate front and that I confronted him with my little command [approx. 1200 troops] in line of battle. The enemy’s vastly superior numbers [approx. 8,000 troops] enabled him to outflank me, which he evidently intended to do, by his movements. To meet this I was compelled to extend my line to the right by opening files & swinging off one squadron some 60 yards. I had no reserve force; the enemy had 8 guns [cannon] in position, which he now began to use. As yet no artillery had come to my assistance, it having been delayed at the Marais des Cygnes by obstructions placed there by the enemy.

At this juncture Benteen’s brigade [approx. 1800 troops] came up on my left & as soon as his advance regiment [the 10<sup>th</sup> Mo. Vol. Cav.] got into

position I began the attack. Benteen's brigade came down on the enemy's right handsomely & fiercely. Two pieces of our artillery came up and opened fire. My brigade attacked the enemy's center and left with tremendous energy, when the fighting became general and terrific. The impetuosity of the onset surprised and confounded the enemy. He trembled & wavered & the wild shouts of our soldiers rising above the din of battle told that he gave way. With pistol we dashed into his disorganized ranks and the scene of death was as terrible as the victory was speedy and glorious. Major General Marmaduke, Brigadier General Cabell, some colonels, several line officers, four cannons, one stand of colors [flags] & a large number of prisoners were captured by this brigade. The ground in our front was strewn with the enemy's dead, dying & wounded. Every gun the enemy pointed at us fell into our hands. Our advantage was followed up as energetically as possible, making the rout complete. This successful charge produced great consternation and demoralization among the enemy, as evidenced by his rapid flight, the destruction of much of his [supply] train, the disgorging and scattering of his ill-gotten plunder. As soon as my brigade could be reorganized I moved forward & advanced to where the enemy was reported to be for a renewal of the fight.

JOHN F. PHILIPS  
Colonel, Commanding Brigade."

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So ended the Battle of Mine Creek, the largest Civil War battle in Kansas and the second largest cavalry battle in the entire Civil War and of course the WAR WENT ON!



**The Civil War**  
**And**  
**Indian War Medals**

In 1907 the United States Government authorized the issue of a Civil War Medal to those Union Veterans still living. The ribbon portion of the Medals are half blue and half gray. A Navy Medal and an Army Medal were issued.

The metallic front portion of the Army Medal features a portrait of President Abraham Lincoln with his historic words from his second

inaugural address "With malice toward none with charity for all." The reverse side features the words. "The Civil War" and the years "1861-1865" all encircled by a wreath.

The metallic front portion of the Navy Medal features the historic sea battle between the USS Monitor and the CSS Virginia with the words "The Civil War" and the years "1861-1865". The reverse side features the Navy emblem with the eagle and fouled anchor with the words. "United States Navy for Service" partially encircled by a half wreath.

The last veteran of the Civil War to die was Union Albert Woolson of Duluth, Minnesota who died in 1956. There is a statue of Albert Woolson in a water front park in Duluth and also at Gettysburg. He outlived them all both Union and Confederate. The last documented Confederate veteran was Pleasant Crump of Alabama who died in 1951.

Also, in 1907 the United States Government authorized the issue of an Indian Wars Medal for the veterans still alive who fought in the Indian Wars. The ribbon portion of the medal was red with two vertical black stripes.

The metallic front portion of the medal features an Indian warrior with spear astride a horse with the words "Indian Wars" with a half wreath circle. The reverse side features an eagle grasping a bundle of arrows with the words "United States Army for Service" with a half circle of small stars.

The last battle of the Indian Wars took place with the Sioux in the winter at Wounded Knee in South Dakota on 29 December 1890. In reality, it was a massacre as the U.S. 7th Cavalry indiscriminately killed 300 Indians, men, women, and children. Thirty-one U.S. troopers also died, but some were killed in their own crossfire. The frozen Indian bodies in the snow were later collected, placed in wagons, and transported for burial.

At that time, there were accusations the U.S. 7th Cavalry considered it "pay back time" for what the Sioux and Cheyenne did to Custer and the 7th Cavalry at the Little Big Horn in Montana on the 25th of June 1876.

In past years, I have visited the Wounded Knee historic site on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. A small church now stands on the high ground where four small fast-firing Hotchkiss cannons were located. The cannons were firing on Indians running to escape down a nearby ravine. The ravine and surrounding area was littered with dead Indian bodies including their Chief, Big Foot. The Wounded Knee Massacre is one of many tragic events that happened to our Native Americans who were the original inhabitants of what is now the United States of America.

Eighteen 7th Cavalry troopers who participated in the killing of those Indians were awarded the Medal of Honor. The Medal of Honor was first established for the Army in 1862. It is awarded for heroism "above and beyond the call of duty." I do not understand how those eighteen troopers were awarded our Nation's highest military decoration?

September 2009

*Orvis N. Fitts*

LCDR Orvis N. Fitts, USNR (RET)  
Past President, Civil War Round Table of Kansas City

Civil War Round Table of Kansas City  
P.O. Box 6202  
Shawnee Mission, Kansas 66206-0202

