



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

Shawnee Mission, KS 66206

An IRC 501(c)(3) charitable
organization

394th REGULAR MEETING

TUESDAY, September 26, 2006

Homestead Country Club

6510 Mission Road, Prairie Village, Kansas

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

Dinner-6:30p.m.

SEPTEMBER SPEAKER

MR. GREG BIGGS

Mr. Greg Biggs, former associate editor of "Blue and Gray" magazine. Mr. Biggs' presentation on "Tactical Perfection: Nathan Bedford Forrest at Brice's Crossroads" will look at what many historians consider to be a tactically perfect battle in the Civil War.

Commander's Call

James L. "Spike" Speicher

Greetings to all and welcome back from our summer furlough. I hope you were all able to attend our three summer sessions. Our Second Vice President Dan Verbeck arranged for three very good presentations. My thanks to Dan for a job well done. Things are also shaping up well for 2007 as First Vice President Deb Goodrich reports that most of her speakers are confirmed. She promises a great 2007.

As we kick off the last half of my tenure as President, I want to assure you that some of the best is yet to come. *Cont' on page 2*

Please be sure that we have your reservation by Friday May 19. 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.

Our speakers for September, October, and November are going to be outstanding to say the least.

Our September speaker is Mr. Greg Biggs. Greg hales from Clarksville, Tennessee and is an accomplished speaker having addressed hundreds of Round Tables from coast to coast and border to border, as well as being a prolific writer. He is a former Associate Editor of Blue & Gray Magazine and has held leadership positions in the Tennessee and Ohio Civil War Round Tables. His presentation is entitled "Tactical Perfection - Nathan Bedford Forrest At Brice's Crossroads." He has given this talk to at least fifteen Round Tables from Virginia to Texas to California. It is the story of the War Between the States' most tactically perfect battle, a double-envelopment of a superior force. It is a thrilling tale so don't miss it.

As you know one of our very few fund raising projects is our silent auction book sale. Our next sale is scheduled for the December meeting. However, I have been advised by our book sale coordinator (Arnold Schofield) that we pretty much out of books. I would ask each of you to please go through your personal libraries and find some books you no longer need or want that you can donate for our book sale. If you have some books please bring them to any of the meetings between now and December and give them to Arnold. I would really appreciate it.

I hope to see all of you on Tuesday September 26th.

If you have any comments, ideas, or concerns the contact information for me is: home- 913.962.9986; work- 816.512.8727; and e-mail colspike@hotmail.com.

Deo Vindice.

Spike

September 2006



UPCOMING SPEAKERS:

September 26- Mr. Greg Biggs, former associate editor of "Blue and Gray" magazine. Mr. Biggs' presentation on "**Tactical Perfection: Nathan Bedford Forrest at Brice's Crossroads**" will look at what many historians consider to be a tactically perfect battle in the Civil War.

October 24- Dr. Richard Sommers, United States Army Military History Institute at Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania. Dr. Sommers is the author of the acclaimed book Richmond Redeemed, which is the definitive work on the Siege of Petersburg. As the leading authority on that siege, Dr. Sommers' presentation will focus on that nine-month period.

November 28- Mr. Bill Quatman, member of the Civil War Round Table of Kansas City. Mr. Quatman's presentation on "**The Fall of Richmond**" will be discussed from the viewpoint of Union General Godfrey Weitzel, who was in Richmond at the time. General Weitzel is a direct ancestor of Mr. Quatman.

December 19- Christmas meeting with entertainment.

MENU FOR SEPTEMBER 26, 2006:

Homestead Greens with Tomatoes, Cucumbers, Carrots and Red Cabbage with Ranch Dressing, Pork Chop with a Forest Mushroom Sauce, Mashed Potatoes, Vegetable Medley and Lemon Crunch Pie.



BATTLEFIELD DISPATCHES

Battlefield Dispatches #4

Ebony Warriors "Freedom fighters"

During the past 30 years the role of the African-American Soldier in the Civil War has finally been recognized, studied and published in various books and magazine articles. Approximately 187,000 Black soldiers served in the Volunteer Forces of the Union Army and an additional 20,000 served in the United States Navy. However, there is very little information on and recognition of the Black Militia Soldiers who responded to an immediate crisis like the "Minute Men of the American Revolution." In Kansas a number of Black Militia Companies were organized to assist in defending the state from the Confederate invasion, commanded by Major General Sterling Price, in October

of 1864. Two of these companies were from Linn & Bourbon County.

Company "E" (Colored) of the 1st Battalion, Irregular Kansas State Militia was organized at Mound City, Kansas on October 15, 1864. It was commanded by Capt. H. C. Seaman (white) and consisted of the following individuals who were defending their freedom and homes in and around Mound City: 1st Lieut. Miles Rainwater, 1st Sgt. Gilbert Van, 2nd Sgt. Lewis Martin, 3rd Sgt. London Martin, 1st Corp. Benjamin Parks, 2nd Corp. Austin Bell, 3rd Corp. Andrew Tutt, Privates Steven Ridge, Henry Fristo, George drew, Willis Johnson, Joseph Van, Andrew Lawrence, Joseph Willingham, William

Russell, David Van, Lewis May, Bunos Porter, John Bell, Spencer Reed, Charles Lawrence, Moses Daniel, Harrison McDowell, Charles Pea, James Mills, Green Logan, Samuel Lindsey, Randal Wagoner, James Kid, Zacharus Lindsey, Payton Martin, Elijah Rodman, Andrew Kates, Harry Rogers, Esari Whitfield, George Allen Garr, Moses Symonds, Rodford Simpson, David Hare, Robert Martin, Josiah Cook, William Allen, Thoams Brown, Edmund Walker and Green Russell. This company was part of the Union garrison, which successfully defended Mound City and defeated the attacking Confederates early in the morning of October 25, 1864 before the Battle of Mine Creek. I would like to thank Ola Mae Ernest of the Linn County Historical Society for sharing this very rare roster of Company "E".

On October 13, 1864; two days before Company "E" was organized in Mound City, the Commanding Officer at Fort Scott, Captain D. S. Vittum, issued the following order:

"1st Lieutenant William D. Matthews of the Kansas Independent Light "Colored" Artillery Battery, Commdg. Colored Militia at this Post will enroll all able bodied Colored Men in Bourbon County and assemble them at this Post immediately."

Lieutenant Matthews was the "Black Officer" who organized and commanded the "Black" Militia Company that was stationed in the forward Rifle Pits (trenches) on the south bank of the Maramaton River at the base of "Red Hill" in Fort Scott. Unfortunately, the roster (list) of these soldiers has not been located, but the following "Commendation" was discovered Lieut. Matthews Military Service Record:

"Headquarters Fort Scott, Kansas

November 18, 1864.

Lieut. W. D. Matthews, Colored Light Artillery, Fort Scott, Kansas. Sir: On leaving this post pursuant to order from the Department Headquarters, I desire to express to you my sincere thanks for the patient industry and skill with which you have discharged your various duties since I placed you on duty to assist in preparing the Post for a vigorous defense against the probable attack of the enemy. You have been a model of proper discipline and subordination, strictly attentive to duty, promptly obedient to orders and acting with a wise discretion in all matters requiring the exercise of you individual judgment. Trusting that you maybe successful in the service and in life, I am,

Very Respectfully Yours,
Charles W. Blair,
Colonel, Commanding Post."

This was very unusual because during the Civil War, it was very rare for a "White Officer" (Colonel Blair) to complement a "Black Officer" with an "Official Commendation" in writing. After the crisis of Price's Invasion had past, the "Minute Men" of these Black Militia Companies returned to their homes in or near Mound City or in Jerden's Row in Fort Scott. After the Civil War was over, Lieutenant Matthews received an "Honorable Discharge" and returned to his home in Leavenworth, Kansas.

COMING EVENTS.....

September 23, 2006; Wilson's Creek Battlefield "Moonlight Tour": Evening living history program highlighting events before, during and after the Battle of Wilson's Creek, 7:45 p.m.-Tickets required: \$5.00 each.
Wornall House Museum; October Exhibit: "Remembering the Battle of Westport, October 3-November 17. 816-444-1858

Wilson's Creek National Battlefield News Release: Wilson's Creek National Battlefield is considering changing its entrance fee rates. Under a new proposal, the fees will change from \$3.00 per person or \$5.00 per vehicle to \$5.00 per person and \$10.00 per vehicle. The Annual Park Pass will also change from \$15.00 to \$20.00. Entrance fees at Wilson's Creek National Battlefield have not changed since the mid-1990s. The changes reflect an increased value of the visitor experience with the inclusion of a new museum facility opened to visitors in August, 2005. If approved, the proposal could be implemented during the summer of 2006.

Another change that will take effect will be persons 16 years of age or older will now be subject to

Trust, and AT&T Company plus a number of individual people. Ted Foote, a past president of the Society and of the Civil War Round Table of Kansas City, helped Douglas write the narratives for the historical markers. The maps and illustrations on the historical markers were selected by Douglas.

The Parks and Recreation Department contributed the labor to install the narrative markers and the Parrott cannon tube. Both the cannon tube and historical markers were mounted on wood supports. The Civil War Round Table contributed to the project by funding a large cast aluminum battle map of the area that also was mounted on wood supports. At that time the cost was over \$1,000 for the battle map.

By 1989 the wood supports for the cannon tube had deteriorated, and the cannon tube was now on the ground. Over \$10,000 was contributed by members of the Round Table to purchase a cast aluminum gun carriage for the cannon tube. In July 1990, a dedication ceremony was held for the now properly mounted rifled Parrott cannon tube. The Parrott static cannon represents the Confederate battery of Captain Richard Collins that was in action in the general area during the Battle of Westport.

Several years later the wood supports for the battle narrative markers were collapsing. The Monnett Battle of Westport Fund secured a grant of \$15,525 from the Neighborhood Tourism Development Fund to renovate the historical markers. The Parks and Recreation Department provided the architectural expertise and labor to redesign the markers and mount them on steel supports. Also, the Monnett Fund paid \$800 to have the cast aluminum battle map sent back to the Sewah Studio Foundry in Marietta, Ohio to be completely refurbished. When the map was returned, it was then mounted and framed with steel supports. This occurred in 1997, and that fall the Smithsonian conducted their first Civil War guided battle tour to the Trans-Mississippi area, which included the Battle of Westport. After the tour, the Smithsonian stated it would be the intent to conduct the tour every three years.

After the Monnett Fund had acquired nearly 100 acres in the Byram's Ford area, not all of which was contiguous, application was made in 1989 to the United States Department of the Interior to have the immediate Byram's Ford area placed on the

National Register of Historic Places. It was approved. The letter of citation was presented to the Monnett Fund during the reenactment of the 125th Anniversary of the Battle of Westport, which took place in Swope Park.

The Monnett Fund in 1988 had prepared a plan for the "Development and the Interpretation of the Big Blue Battlefield" in the Byram's Ford area. Among other items, the plan called for a static replica cannon on Bloody Hill near the historical narrative marker "Pratt's Artillery". This was the approximate location of Confederate Hynson's Texas Battery and Harris' Missouri Battery on Bloody Hill during the Battle of the Big Blue on 23 October 1864.

In May 1995, a ceremony was held in Loose Park near the cannon and historical markers, in which the Monnett Fund conveyed title to all their property in the Byram's Ford area to the City of Kansas City, Missouri, Parks and Recreation Department. The Monnett Fund did not have the resources to maintain the battlefield in the future. However, the Monnett Fund would continue to work with the City and Parks and Recreation to interpret and develop the battlefield. It was after this change in ownership that Orvis Fitts, Chairman, and Jack Brooks, President, of the Monnett Battle of Westport Fund resigned their positions. It was time for younger people to take over for the planning and work yet to be done to truly make the Big Blue Battlefield a viable historic Civil War Battlefield.

End of Part 1



*12-Pounder Field Gun-Napoleon, Federal Manufacturer
This is just like the one at Byram's Ford that was
dedicated on Saturday, July 22, 2006.*

**BEST-SELLING AUTHOR JEFF SHAARA DONATES
BOOK ADVANCE TO HISTORIC PRESERVATION
GROUPS**

Shaara heeds his book's message to protect endangered Civil War Sites by donating to the Civil War Preservation Trust and other preservation groups.

(Washington, D.C.) - Jeff Shaara, six-time bestselling novelist, backed the urgent preservation message in his just-released non-fiction book, Jeff Shaara's Civil War Battlefields, by donating his entire publication advance to the Civil War Preservation Trust (CWPT) and several historic preservation groups. Shaara also included the Central Virginia Battlefield Trust, Old Blandford Church in Petersburg, Va., and the Museum of the Confederacy in his generous \$50,000 gift.

The author of Gods and Generals and The Last Full Measure has chronicled ten major battles in both eastern and western theaters of the war. The chronological narrative takes place on battlefields and other historic sites that appear well preserved today. However, in making his gift, Shaara recognized the dangers that many of these sites face because of encroaching development. Shaara said: "If we erase the ground, the hillsides and valleys, the creek beds and rivers, the trench lines and earthworks, then we lose the spirit of our history. We lose the ability to walk in the footsteps, to see what the world looked like to those people who changed our history. No writer can give that to us with as much poignancy as we will find when we walk that ground and see it for ourselves."

CWPT President James Lighthizer praised Shaara for recognizing the importance of preserving the threatened Civil War sites in this country. Lighthizer said that "in an unprecedented show of support and generosity, Shaara has also promised to donate a sizable percentage of the royalties from the sale of this book."

The new book, released on April 25, is aimed at

readers who may not be familiar with the history of the Civil War beyond what they learned in high school. Shaara uses his own experience as a visitor and his considerable talent as a writer to convey what happened at the ten battlefields, why the events were important, and through maps and photographs, presents a vivid case for preserving the land today.

Shaara and Lighthizer agree that the key to understanding the Civil War is to first understand the ground on which it was fought. To that end, the Civil War Preservation Trust and its predecessor organizations have saved more than 22,000 acres of hallowed ground in the past two decades.

With 75,000 members, CWPT is the largest nonprofit battlefield preservation organization in the United States. Its mission is to preserve our nation's remaining Civil War battlefields. Since 1987, the organization has saved more than 22,000 acres of hallowed ground. CWPT's website is located at www.civilwar.org.

New Members:

Steve Hayes, 301 E. Bannister, Kansas City, MO 64114

Conrad R. Mowrey, 12306 East 77th Terr., Kansas City, MO 64138

Gene Feldhausen, 9829 N Monclair, Kansas City, MO 64154, 816-891-6535, Eugene@fslawoffice.net

John Dillingham, 4040 NW Claymont Dr., Kansas City, MO 64116, 816-842-5504

Patricia Groover, 7424 Campbell, Kansas City, MO 64131, 816-361-4432, psgroover@aol.com

Larry Colman, 8801 E. 63rd Street, #208, Raytown, MO 64133, 816-737-3840, LCOLE81937@aol.com

Jim Lisky, 11305 West 49th Street, Shawnee, KS, 66203, (913) 631-1429, JLisky2001@yahoo.com
(relative of General Phil Sheridan).

Dear Friends,

Earlier this week, the **Civil War Preservation Trust** had the sad duty to announce the death of Conor J. Lighthizer, the 28-year-old son of our president, Jim Lighthizer, and his wonderful wife, Gloria. The sudden, unexpected loss of Conor has been a heavy blow to his parents and the entire Lighthizer family.

Although nothing can make up for the loss of Conor, the sympathy and comforting words of CWPT members and friends are helping his parents, siblings and relatives get through this difficult ordeal. On behalf of the Lighthizer family, we want to thank you for your messages, thoughts and prayers.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be sent in Conor's name to the Maryland Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, 200 E. Joppa Road, Suite 105, Towson, Md. 21286 (or visit www.jdrf.org)

Grand opening of the North and East building Exhibits, **Shawnee Indian Mission Historic Site**, Saturday, September 16, 2006, Nine o'clock to 5 o'clock. Please join us for the opening ceremonies at ten o'clock. 3403 West 53rd Street, Fairway, Kansas. R.S.V.P. 913-262-0867 by Sept. 9.

I know this will be too late, but wanted to let you know that they are open now.

A new trails center called the "**Trail Side Center**" has opened at 9901 Holmes in the old bank building that was renovated to look like the new fire station there. It is operated by the *Historical Society of New Santa Fe* and the administrator is Chuck Loomis. Mark your calendars for Thursday October 5th, 2006 as our very own Orvis Fitts will be speaking and includes a slide presentation. It starts at 7:00p.m., and is opened to the public. For more information, you can call Chuck at (816) 942-3724 or Jim Beckner at (816) 322-3736.

For Sale: Personal Memoirs of U. S. Grant. New York: Charles L. Webster & Co., 1885-6. 2 volumes 584/647 pages. First edition. Original cloth with shoulder strap insignia on the spines; gilt on covers very bright, bit a scuffing about extremities, yet a very good set. Union Bookshelf 35: "Bruce Catton places Grant's memoirs on the top of his list of Civil War classics. Ralph Newman states, 'No Union list of personal narratives could possibly begin without the story of the victorious general. A truly remarkable work, not only in the military field, but as a work of literature, the book itself was the result of General Grant's last and greatest victory-his fight against death itself.'" DORNBUSCH II, 1986. NEVINS II 59. NICHOLSON p. 327. \$150.00 firm with \$50.00 of the sale going to the CWRTKC. Mike Epstein, 913-831-6225 or cwrtkc@kc.rr.com.