



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 2602
Shawnee Mission, KS
66206
An IRC 501(c)(3)
Charitable Organization



413th REGULAR MEETING

THURSDAY, Sept. 22, 2009

Homestead Country Club

6510 Mission Road, Prairie Village, Kansas

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

Dinner-6:30p.m.

SEPTEMBER 2009 SPEAKER

HOWARD MANN

“Tragedy on the St. Joseph and Hannibal RR”

Howard Mann has been our past 2nd Vice-President, our 1st Vice-President and now our President. He’s writing a book on the 10th Kansas Infantry at this time and knows an awful lot about the Civil War in general. Howard also makes sure that St. Like’s Hospital has everything it needs to run smoothly, that’s quite a job.

SPEAKERS FOR 2009

September 22, Howard Mann: *“Tragedy on the St. Joseph & Hannibal RR.”*

October 27, Dave Methenys: *“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 Sept. 18. 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.

MENU FOR SEPTEMBER. 2009;

House Salad, Pork Piccata, Parsley New Potatoes, Asparagus, and Strawberry Shortcake.

COMING EVENTS.....

“CIVIL WAR WEST OF THE MISSISSIPPI” SEMINAR

The Civil War Round Table of the Ozarks is holding its second "Civil War West of the Mississippi" Seminar on Friday, October 9, and Saturday, October 10th, 2009 at the Clarion Hotel, 3333 S. Glenstone, Springfield, MO. The two day event will feature: Dr. LeeAnn Whites, University of Missouri on Women's Civil War topics (and our banquet speaker), Rick Hatcher: Fort Sumter National Monument on Ft. Sumter and the CSA Hunley, Doug Scott: National Park System (retired) on Archeology at Trans-Mississippi Battlefields-Black Jack, Centralia, Wilson's Creek, MO and Pea Ridge, Arkansas, Kip Lindberg and Matt Matthews: on Kansan Redlegs and Jayhawkers, Bill Gurley, University of Arkansas on: Battlefield medicines in the Trans-Mississippi Confederate Army, and Blair Tarr: Kansas State Historical Society on Kansas Civil War Battleflag Restoration Program. For more information call: 417-732-7308 or visit our website at: <http://histQry.missouristate.edu/WGPiston/CWRT/cwrt.htm>

The Civil War Round Table of the Ozarks has met continuously since 1960. It provides a forum where persons of diverse backgrounds meet to explore their common interest in our nation's greatest conflict. Come get to know us and join-with us as we celebrate the (Sesquicentennial of the Civil War in 2011-2015! Vendors Welcome! Respectfully,
Len Eagleburger, Media Director Executive Board Member At Large, Civil War Round Table of the Ozarks,
<http://history.missouristate.edu/WGPiston/CWRT/cwrt.htm>.
Ieneagleburger@sbcglobal.net417.863.2241.

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.

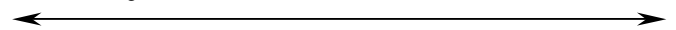
The Kansas City Store at the National Archives hours: Tues.-Sat., 10:00am- 4:00 pm Hours subject to change due to special programs and weather. Please check our website for current hours. To receive news about forthcoming events and programs, please visit our website: www.archives.gov/central-plains/kansas-city/

Battle of Lexington Monument Ceremony Saturday, September 26, 2009

Phelps Camp #66 of the Sons of Union Veteran's of the Civil War (Springfield) reports that the Lexington Monument dedication ceremony will be held on Saturday, September 26, 2009. Congressman Ike Skelton will be able to attend. In addition, on April 28, Congressman Skelton recognized the Battle of Lexington State Historic Site on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives, and noted that "later this year, a second monument will be put up [at the site] to tell the Union side of the story."

For more information contact Jeff Patrick at 417-732-7308 or email at:

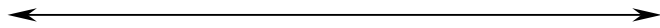
tam1rn@juno.com



NEW MEMBERS.....

Ann Niepman, 630 Sunset, Liberty, MO. 64068, phone 816-781-3840

Nancy Cramer and Bob Weiss, 10621 Bellefontaine Ave, Kansas City, MO 64127 -1736, nncymod1@kc.rr.com.



New Member Sells Civil War Books

Dear Mike (Mr. Epstein): I am now a private bookseller and KC Civil War Roundtable member of another book for you to put into your newest newsletter. It is "General Sterling Price and the Civil War in the West" by Albert Castel, 2009, Published by the Louisiana State University Press. I charge the "fair trade" price for the book which is \$24.95.

The reason that this recent book is so important (as you know), you really cannot understand the Civil War in MO really well unless you know more about this General...Please be sure that interested people should either call me; Bob Weiss at 816-965-6352 or e-mail me with their contact phone # at zappori@yahoo.com.

I also have this book, Pickett, Profile of a Man (softcover), By Camille Pickett Franklin, Civil War Press, 2004. Available by Order, @\$22.50.



“The Sargeant Major’s Roar”

Vipers in Springtime

No, the subject of this column is not the very expensive 20th Century horseless carriage of the same name (viper) and it is not about the poisonous snake of the same name! According to Mr. Webster, a less used definition of a VIPER, today, is a “MALICIOUS, SPITEVILE or TREACHEROUS PERSON”. What a perfect word to describe Kansas “Redlegs” (maverick soldiers & civilian outlaws) and Missouri “Guerrillas / Bushwhackers” in the Civil War. I wish that I had used this word in the latter context, but I did not. Viper was used to describe the “Bushwhackers by Major General Samuel Ryan Curtis (Commander of the Department of Kansas) in a wonderful brief piece of “Victorian Prose” to Major General William Rosecrans who commanded the Department of Missouri in 1864. General Curtis had a very personal reason to despise the “Bushwhackers”, because one of his sons (Major Zahara Curtis) was killed by “Bloody Bill Anderson” in the 2nd Battle or Massacre as it is commonly known at Baxter Springs, Kansas on October 6, 1863. This and the subsequent report are located on Pages 376 & 377 in Vol. 34, Part II of the Official Records of the War of the Rebellion.

“Fort Leavenworth, March 2, 1864.

Respectfully referred to Major General Rosecrans, for his information.

This relates to the “Bushwhacker Country”, near the [Missouri/Kansas] border, where the eggs should be crushed before the “VIPERS” come forth in the spring!

S. R. CURTIS,
Major General.”

[Note: Normally the “guerrillas’ on both sides did not wage war in the middle of the winter. They usually went into a brief hibernation at home only to charge forth with the coming of spring. General Curtis mailed the latter note to General Rosecrans as an “Endorsement” of the following report.]]

“Headquarters
Olathe, Kansas; February 19, 1864.

Colonel Chipman,
Chief of Staff, Dept. of Kansas.

Dear Sir: I respectfully submit the following brief report: I have just returned from a five days’ scout [patrol in enemy territory], within which time I have traveled the middle & south part of the Grand River & over a portion of Pawnee Fork, Deer Creek, Elk Fork & Big Creek [in Missouri]. I did not come in contact or see any bushwhackers, but had an abundance of evidence that there were quite a number in the country. On Pawnee Fork I found a bushwhacking encampment, consisting of flour, cooking utensils, clothing & one English carbine. The outward appearances of horses tracks indicated 15 in number and that they had been there for sometime. Within one-half of a mile from said encampment I found corn & oat straw, which I destroyed as well as their camp. I stopped at a house where Jim Weddington, a NOTORIOUS [or famous] BUSHWHACKER, had stopped over night with 22 men. I saw another man, Henry Hedge, who lives 5 miles from Harrisonville, in Missouri, who stated that 10 men took supper with him on last Wednesday night, who claimed to be a part of Dick Yeager’s gang. I also received information from a reliable source that a Mrs. Wilson, who lives on Big Creek, was noted in that country for keeping bushwhackers. Stated on last Saturday night that 12 of Todd’s men staid at her house on Tuesday night previous; that they thought the abolitionists of Kansas thought the massacre of Lawrence was a terrible thing; that it was only a foretaste of what they would get this summer. While they were watching the front they would come on them in the rear.

You will recollect what you heard while here of Yeager & some of his men were seen out west on the Santa Fe road. From the above statement & having seen a number of fresh horse tracks working up those branches [creeks] toward the Kansas line. I think it quite probable that they may be concentrating somewhere

west on the Santa Fe Road for the purpose of interfering with the [wagon] trains going west or making a raid down through the state toward Missouri. At least, from the facts, I think they should be looked after in that direction.

Another idea I would suggest & think of great importance, that if the border counties of Missouri are not attached to the Department of Kansas, to issue special orders to the troops stationed at Pleasant Hill, Harrisonville, Clinton & Germantown to be more active. They are living at these places, faring sumptuously & to all appearances doing nothing. If the same order is issued to our troops at Santa Fe, Aubry & Coldwater grove to keep out scouting parties every day, from different commands, they can prevent a concentration in that direction, consequently, there would be no raid in Kansas from that direction [in Missouri]. I have other matters to call to your attention to which I will defer till my return.

Yours, Very Respectfully,
S. W. CARPENTER
Scout Detective.

P.S. I have hurt myself so I will not be able to ride for 4 or 5 days. I wish to you to inform me by the bearer whether I shall remain here longer or return to Leavenworth.

S. W. CARPENTER.”

It is not known if General Rosecrans reacted to this report & note from General Curtis. What is known is that the eggs were not completely crushed and the “VIPERS” did come forth in the spring of 1864 to bite & fight once more and the deadly WAR WENT ON!



The First Black Regiment in the North, The 1st Kansas Colored Volunteer Infantry

Some people ought to know better than to make Orvis Fitts upset, and don't try to tell us Kansan's that the 54th Mass was the first Black regiment mustered into the United States Army during the Civil War. Anyway, the June issue of *Civil War Times* tried to do just that and Orvis got 'em! Here is a reprint of the letter to the editor of that magazine.

1st Black Regiment in the North

The article "Glory at Battery Wagner," by Gerald Henig in the June issue, contained a reference to the 54th Volunteer Massachusetts as "the brainchild of Massachusetts Governor John Andrew, and the first black regiment raised in the North." This is not correct.

The 1st Kansas Colored Volunteer Infantry was

organized at Fort Scott, in Kansas, on August 5, 1862, and mustered into Federal service on January 13, 1863. The 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry Regiment was organized on March 30, 1863, and mustered into Federal service on May 13, 1863. The 1st Kansas fought its first battle at Island Mound, Mo., on October 29, 1862. Kansas was admitted to the Union as a free state on January 29, 1861; therefore the 1st Kansas was the first African-American volunteer regiment raised by a Northern state, not the 54th.

I don't know how many times I have seen this error in print, and each time I have to refute this erroneous statement. It would appear proper research is not being done.

Orvis N. Fitts, USNR (ret.) Overland Park,
Kan.

In the October issue was another short paragraph from Orvis, it states:

“I thought your readers might be interested to know that a the preserved flag of the 1st Kansas colored Infantry Regiment shown in August's “mail Call” is on display at the Kansas Museum of History in Topeka.”

In the October issue of *Civil War Times Illustrated*, there is also an article about the new Missouri Park to honor the 1st Kansas Colored Infantry Regiment at the Battle of Island Mound in Missouri. I reprint the article here, (without permission).

New Missouri Park to Honor 1st Kansas Colored Infantry

State officials as well as volunteers are working to establish a state park in an area of Bates County, Mo., where the 1st Kansas Colored Infantry skirmished with Confederate guerrillas in October 1862. The encounter is known today as the skirmish of Island Mound.

The 250-man 1st Kansas, believed to have been the first African-American soldiers to see fighting in the war, had fortified its position inside a farmhouse on the property of John Toothman near the Kansas-Nebraska border. The Union troops managed to keep a larger guerrilla force at bay until the Rebels drove them into a river bottom. But the Kansans, many of them former slaves from Missouri and Arkansas, then held on until the guerrillas withdrew.

In the course of that engagement, the Union force lost eight men killed and another 11 wounded. Accounts place Confederate casualties as high as 30 killed. At the time of the skirmish, the 1st Kansas had not yet been officially mustered into the Union Army; it would be redesignated the 79th U.S. Colored Troops in December 1864.

The Missouri Division of State Parks recently purchased 40 acres of farmland where the fighting took place, which will be designated as a state historical site. Although the specific site of the skirmish and the

Toothman homestead are still undetermined, they are believed to lie within the designated acreage according to Brant Vollman, an archaeologist with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources. Testing is currently underway on the property to determine what happened exactly where.

On August 6, 2009, Orvis received a letter from the Missouri Parks Foundation inviting him to be present at a meeting to inform him of the intention of making a the Battle Site of Island Mound a State Park. Howard Mann, Jack Brooks, and Orvis attended the meeting, Orvis said it was very informative, for more questions, please ask Orvis.



Round Table Member Dies, Will be Deeply Missed; Kenney B. Hicklin

By Orvis Fitts

Kenney Hicklin – age 98, obituary in Sunday paper, June 28, 2009. A long time member of our Civil War Round Table and Monnett Fund. Kenney was a key person in placing the Battle of Westport historical markers as funds were raised to buy each marker. We dug the holes, missed the cement, erected the markers, etc. Others in the work party, Lumir Buresh, Charles Pickett and Orvis Fitts. After digging a number of post holes, we conferred the PHD degree “Post Hole Digger” . Lumir would always measure the depth of the hole and most of the time he would say, “deeper”. We would then groan and pick up our spades to again dig.

Kenney always mixed the cement for the post holes. After all the markers were in place, each Spring, Kenney would drive the circuit to inspect every marker. He then made a written report to me so we could repair any marker that has been damaged, sometimes a marker would be so badly damaged it would have to be shipped back to the foundry in Ohio for a complete restoration.

Kenney Hicklin was a staunch member of our round table and the Monnett Fund. He contributed much to the success of our Battle of Westport Historical markers. He was my friend and a fine gentleman. I truly miss him.

Orvis Fitts,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Orvis H. Fitts".

Past President, CWRT of KC

P.S. I also received an article written by Kenney Daughter to Beverly Shaw as well as a copy of his bio written by Kenney himself. It's a little lengthy for the

newsletter, but if anyone would like, I will put it in PDF form and e-mail it to you. E-mail me at mikenwuf@att.net. You can also access the Kansas city Star archives and read the article from the Monday, July 13, 2009 newspaper, section A page 13.

“Devil” Redux

Ang Lee spent four months in Kansas City in the summer of 1998 shooting his Civil War drama, "Ride With the Devil," with Tobey Maguire, Jeffrey Wright, Skeet Ulrich, singer. Jewel, Simon Baker and Jonathan Rhys Meyers.

The movie's theatrical run was a disaster. Released during an executive turnover at Universal Pictures, the film was dumped on just a few screens nationally. But it found a second life through a bare-bones DVD release. In some quarters it's considered a forgotten masterpiece.

Now, Lee reports, a much-expanded director's cut of the film will be released next spring by the Criterion Collection, makers of high-end DVDs. "I just finished doing a director's commentary," Lee said, "and it will feature lots of deleted stuff. The central part of the movie has a whole new vibe now. I took lots of stuff out of the movie because the people at the studio were telling me to tighten things up, and I've always wished I hadn't."

The new cut includes an expanded segment about Quantrill's raid on Lawrence.

From Don Bates Jr.

ALBUQUERQUE, New Mexico (AP) — Until a few years ago, the memory of three African-American soldiers was buried beneath the sandy, desert in New Mexico, their remains left behind by the military and to the mercy of looters. With some investigating and modern forensics, government archaeologists excavated the remains and identified them as Army Pvts. Thomas Smith, David Ford and Levi Morris. They were among the famed Buffalo Soldiers, African-American members of the U.S. Army who served at remote outposts on the Western frontier in the years after the Civil War.

On July 28, more than 130 years since their deaths, they will finally be laid to rest with full military honors at the Santa Fe National Cemetery. They will have named headstones with birth and death dates, and forensic sketches of what they looked like when they were alive will be displayed next to each casket during the service.

Retired Army Maj. Gen. Julius Parker, one of the highest ranking African-American military officers, will deliver the eulogy while members of the Tucson-based Arizona Buffalo Soldiers Association, dressed in period uniforms, will serve as pallbearers.

The ceremony marks the end of an exhaustive project by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, which exhumed more than 60 sets of human remains of men, women and children in 2007 after widespread grave looting was discovered at the historical Fort Craig cemetery in southern New Mexico.

The soldiers were among the remains found in the looting investigation. "It's a feeling of intense satisfaction and relief to know [these soldiers] will not be forgotten and that they will be remembered and taken care of," said Jeff Hanson, an archaeologist with the agency's Albuquerque office.

The soldiers will be buried near the unidentified remains from Fort Craig's cemetery. Those remains were earlier buried at the national cemetery and memorialized with a 1,200-pound granite and bronze marker.

"The ceremony for these soldiers will be a nice closure," said Lisa Croft, deputy manager for the Bureau of Reclamation.

Ernst Ulmer, Artist, Dies at 86 on June 9, 2009.

Ulmer served in the Navy during World War II. During his service, he penned notes home professing his love for his bride, Mary Malloy Ulmer. On the return address line, he drew a picture of his latest work duty, be it mopping the decks or peeling potatoes.

Friends said that Ulmer attended the Kansas City Art Institute using the GI bill. He later earned a master's degree in fine arts. While raising his four children, Ulmer worked as an architectural delineator before computers were prevalent.

His work made an architect's blueprints come to life. He made it all look easy, but the process demanded a skillful combination of math and artistic expertise, Breidenthal said.

"Dad would take the blueprints, and off of that he would make a building," his daughter said.

He used his skills to build much of his own home and help his family with residential additions and remodeling projects. Ulmer could listen to someone's idea for a few minutes and pen the dimensions on a napkin.

With his children grown, Ulmer indulged his passion for creating fine art. He was comfortable with almost any artistic endeavor and painted with all media, including oil and watercolor. His pieces include everything from Civil War scenes and historical landmarks to sensual nudes and portraits of businessmen and his family.

In 2006, then-Gov. Kathleen Sebelius presented Ulmer with the Kansas Artist of the Year award. The distinguished honor was well deserved, not just for his talent but also for his constant devotion to the arts, friends said.

Ulmer volunteered to judge contests and often aided other artists.

But he also continued to learn and challenge himself into his final days. Twice a week he met with friends at Bob Holloway's art studio in the Waldo area. They painted together and discussed their art.

"Anytime you can see Ernst work, you respect his ability. He was just so good," Holloway said.

Ulmer's spirit will not be forgotten by his friends and family. And thanks to several murals in the public domain, his artwork can be treasured by the community, too.

Among the places where his murals can be viewed are the Leavenworth County Court house; Salvation Army and Security Bank in downtown Kansas City, Kan.; and St. Joseph Church in Leavenworth.

Civil War Round Table of Kansas City
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