



# BORDER



# BUGLE

Newsletter of the Civil War Round Table of Kansas City

## EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

### President

*Dennis Garstang*

### First Vice-President

*Dave Pattison*

### Second Vice-President

*Simon Bolivar (Chip)  
Buckner*

### Treasurer

*Paul Gault*

### Assistant Treasurer

*Howard Mann*

### Corresponding Secretary & Recording Secretary

*Judy Smith*

### Preservation Director

*Arnold Schofield*

### Board of Directors

*Les Thierolf  
Dave Schafer  
Don Bates Sr.*

### Past Presidents

*Don Bates Sr.  
Lane Smith  
Howard Mann*

### Chairman of Board

### Monnett Battle of Westport Fund (Ex-Officio)

*Daniel L. Smith*

### Sergeant at Arms

*Lane Smith*

### Chaplain

*Rev. David B. Holloway*

### Historian

*Betty Ergovich*

### Border Bugle Editor

*Michael J. Epstein*

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

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

An IRC 501(c)(3)  
Charitable Organization

Website- <http://cwrtkc.org/>

## 453rd REGULAR MEETING TUESDAY, February 25, 2014

**Homestead Country Club**  
6510 Mission Road, Prairie Village, Kansas  
Social Hour-Cash Bar-6:00p.m.  
Dinner-6:30p.m.

## FEBRUARY SPEAKER DANIEL L. SMITH

## “BATTLE OF OLUSTEE FEBRUARY 20, 1864 SABLE ARM AND THE JAYHAWKER IN THE BAYOU”

A relatively modest force of 5,000 Federal troops set out to restore Florida to the Union with high hopes in early 1864. The disaster which befell them at Ocean Pond or Olustee in northern Florida on February 20, 1864 is the subject of this month's talk to our Round Table by our member Daniel L. Smith.

Although not a strategically significant battle in itself, Olustee's outcome for the participants and their fate after the battle were the very definition of the war's challenges. The blood bath resulting from the Yankee's encounter with equally resolute Confederate defenders was a testament to the courage and challenge presented by the “Sable Arm.” In the mix is the abolitionist Kansas Jayhawker James Montgomery who was making manifest in Florida the threat that John Brown first posed at Harper's Ferry. A number of firsts were to emerge from this fierce engagement. The common themes of the Civil War: miscommunication, confusion in the fog of war and inadequate knowledge of the topography, all play their roles in this Union tragedy and Confederate victory.

*Continued on Page 2*

### Attendance requires a paid dinner reservation.

*Please be sure our Treasurer receives all reservations by Friday, Feb. 21, 2014  
along with payment of \$26.00 per person. Mail to:*

***Paul Gault, 7118 N. Congress Ave., Kansas City, MO 64152***

*Homestead's deadline for reservation changes is the following Monday afternoon, so  
promptly report any necessary adjustments to Paul at 816-741-2962 or 816-522-8021.*

*If unable to reach him, call Assistant Treasurer Howard Mann at 816-932-5663.*

*Continued from Page 1, Daniel L. Smith*

Mr. Smith is a trial attorney, historian and chairman of the Monnett Battle of Westport Fund. As a fifth generation Kansan and native of Linn County Kansas, he became acquainted with the saga of James Montgomery and the "Jayhawks" at an early age. While in high school he was a summer intern for Congressman Joe Skubitz in 1969 and researched the Battle of Mine Creek at the National Archives and Library of Congress. He is a past president of the Linn County Historical Society and a life member of the Kansas State Historical Society. He obtained funding for the acquisition of lands for the Mine Creek Battlefield site in 1974 and 1978. He served as president of our Round Table in 1980 and again in 2005.



In 1977 he edited the books *October 25<sup>th</sup> and the Battle of Mine Creek* and *Border Warfare in Southeast Kansas*. More recently he has served as a speaker and consultant on Civil War topics to the Missouri Humanities Council and the National Park Service on matters pertaining to the revision of the Civil War Sites Advisory Committee's listing for battle sites in Missouri.

Mr. Smith received his undergraduate degree in political science with honors from the University of Kansas in 1973 where he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. He graduated from Duke University Law School in 1976. He is listed in *Who's Who in America* and *Who's Who in American Law*.

## SPEAKERS 2014

\* **March 2014: Bjorn Skaptason - United States Colored Troops and the Campaign of Brice's Crossroads.**

\* **April 2014: Sam Gill - Confederate General Jo Shelby's Raid**

\* **May 2014: Mark Christ - The 1864 Camden Expedition and the Battle of Poison Spring, Arkansas.**

\* **June 2014: Don Bates, Sr. – Grant's 45-Day Overland Campaign, Wilderness to Cold Harbor**

\* **July 2014: Barbara Justice, Park Ranger, Battle of Monocacy**

\* **August 2014: Robert Jones - Battle of Mobile Bay**

\* **September 2014: Walter Busch - Battle of Pilot Knob, Missouri.**

\* **October 2014: Dan Smith - Battle of Westport.**

\* **November 2014: Arnold Schofield - Aftermath of Westport (Price's retreat to Texas).**

\* **December 2014: Dr. Ethan Rafuse – Sherman's March to The Sea.**

## ATTENTION!!!

As Dennis announced at the January dinner meeting, we will no longer be able to meet at the Homestead Country Club after April of this year. Starting on May 27, 2014, we will be meeting at the Meadowbrook Country Club, located at 9101 Nall Avenue, Prairie Village KS 66207. The summer meetings will still be held at the Alexander Majors House. We will resume meeting at the Meadowbrook Country Club on September 23, 2014.

## MENU FOR JANUARY 2014

Creamy Tomato Basil Soup, Mustard Crusted Pork Tenderloin w/Balsamic Cherry Sauce, Au Gratin Potatoes, Buttered Corn and Cherry Poke Cake w/Whipped Topping..

## BATTLE OF WESTPORT 150 COMMEMORATION

Plans are underway for the Commemoration of the Battle of Westport in October, 2014. There will be a series of lead-up events beginning in early 2014, creating excitement, building anticipation, and educating our community about this important event in our shared past. A website is being finalized and will be launched soon along with a Facebook page.

A committee has been formed, chaired by George Vesel, to plan the Commemoration. The committee is meeting monthly at the Harris-Kearney House in Westport. If you would like to become involved, contact George Vesel at 816-797-9452 or [BattleofWestport150@gmail.com](mailto:BattleofWestport150@gmail.com).

Look for monthly updates in the Border Bugle and be sure to "Like" us on Facebook.

## NEW MEMBERS.....

**Roger Stanton**, 8431 Linden Lane, Shawnee Mission, KS 66207, 913-381-8683, [rstanton@stanton-law.com](mailto:rstanton@stanton-law.com).

There will be a Civil War Round Table executive committee meeting at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, February 22, 2014. The meeting will be held at Don Bates Sr.'s office, which is located at the following address:

Reece & Nichols Realtors

7600 State Line

Prairie Village KS 66208

The primary purpose of the meeting will be to discuss programs for 2015.

## BATTLE OF WESTPORT

### BOW 150 MEETING SCHEDULE 2014

We meet every third Wednesday, 7pm, at the Battle of Westport Museum in Swope Park unless otherwise notified by e-mail. As we get closer to our October event there may be more added to the schedule. We hope that you can make many of them. The list of dates is below. The first few months of 2014 will be critical for us for supporting our reenactment event October 24-26, 2014. If anyone can come forward to assist in fund-raising it would be greatly appreciated.

Thanks,

George Vesel

Meeting dates - Feb 19, Mar 19, Apr 16, May 21, Jun 18, Jul 16, Aug 20, Sep 17, & Oct 15.

[battleofwestport150@gmail.com](mailto:battleofwestport150@gmail.com)

## *"The Sergeant Major's Roar"*

*Battlefield Dispatches #365*

## ***"Thieving, Robbing, & Murdering"***

In the spring of 1863, the "BUSHWHCKER" problem that Colonel Charles W. Blair, the commanding officer at Fort Scott, had previously predicted would occur with the "coming of the leaves of spring" became a reality and he continued to ask for reinforcements to combat the guerrillas and to protect the supply trains going south to Fort Gibson in the north eastern part of the Indian Territory [present Oklahoma]. All of this is indicated in the following letter which is located in Series I, Vol. 22, Part I Correspondence of the Official Records of the War of the Rebellion on Page 274.

"Headquarters,  
Fort Scott, Kansas; May 7,

1863.

[To] Major General Blunt,

Commanding District of Kansas:

Sir: I regret to inform you that the BUSHWHACKERS are getting more TROUBLESOME and VENTUROUS every day. I have every reason to believe that they had concentrated to attack the returning [supply] train from Fort Gibson, but I was informed of the time and place of the intended attack, and by marching infantry and artillery 65 miles in little over a day, got to the place (Baxter Springs) simultaneously with the train. Since then they [the BUSHWHACKERS] have been prowling in small parties in every direction, "THIEVING, ROBBING and MURDERING".

Yesterday word was brought to me of four incursions on Drywood, 12 miles south of here. I started off immediately with what cavalry I could muster and about 50 infantry in wagons and in an hour was at Drywood., but scoured the country in vain. They had robbed Mrs. Jewell and three or four other persons of money and valuables, taking two horses only. I rode all day and night and on my return this morning to Fort Scott was met with the news that another small party of BUSHWHACKERS had last night gone to the house of Mr. Baker, on the Marmaton, 5 miles from here and robbed his house and killed him. He was one of the most upright and respected citizens, a man highly esteemed by everybody. Our whole community is in a state of feverish excitement on the subject. I have a faint trace of the murder and shall pursue it to the last.

But my cavalry, not over 100 of which are mounted, is pretty well ridden down and must start back to [Fort] Gibson as soon as the train is ready and I am therefore much crippled. I FEAR FOR THE SAFETY OF THE TRAINS. A hundred men are but a poor escort for 150 wagons and yet it is about all I can mount, leaving myself without pickets and only what scouts can be furnished from my outpost at Morris' Mill [on the Drywood, 12 miles south of Fort Scott].

In order to effectively check this BUSHWHACKING within the precincts of the post, there should be two or more companies of cavalry for escort duty alone and they, with what there is here, would be enough. Then there should be two or more for outpost and escorting duty; one stationed partly at Redfield and partly north of there, toward the Marmaton and one on Cox Creek, up toward the head of Cow Creek. These with the present one at Morris' Mill, having nothing to do but scour the country, could keep it entirely clear of these VERMIN! This is the only way life and property can be made safe here. I fear there will be no crops raised unless something of this sort can be done and yet I hesitate very much to ask for it, for by the return of all of these troops recently hereto Springfield I

perceive that you have scarcely anything left with which to defend your district, although it has been largely increased. If it is possible to increase our cavalry here without detriment to the service elsewhere, I beg you to do it.

I rejoice very much that you have established a station [outpost] at Baxter Springs. On my return from there last week I had just sat down to write a letter suggesting the matter for your consideration; when I received your order. It will materially lessen the danger to our trains.

Is it possible for any of Captain Insley's recent purchases of horses to be issued to these cavalry companies on duty at this post? The force might be largely increased by getting horses for the dismounted [troops].

I have the honor to be, General, very respectfully, your obedient servant.

CHARLES W. BLAIR,  
Major, Commanding Post."

---

Now then, did Colonel Blair receive all the reinforcements and horses that he requested? Of course he DID NOT, but he received a sufficient amount to carry on offensive operations in Missouri, to minimally protect Fort Scott and for escort duty to protect the southbound wagon trains and of Course the War Went On!

---

## HARPER'S WEEKLY

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1864

### A GROSS INJUSTICE.

There is one gross injustice to our soldiers which Congress should not lose a week in correcting, and that is the pay of the colored troops, If colored men are apes, don't enlist them. If the prejudice of race and color is insuperable, yield to it. But why should the American people do an unpardonably mean thing ? If we are ashamed to acknowledge the heroism of the colored troops at Milliken's Bend, at Port Hudson, at Fort Wagner—upon every field, in fact, and in every battle where they have been tried—let us at least be manly enough to say to them, " We can not treat you honorably, so go home!"

Man for man, the colored troops at present enlisted are not inferior to any of our soldiers. Whole regiments were recruited under the express statement from Washington that they were to be treated like all other soldiers. Whole regiments, finding that we did not keep our word, have declined to receive any pay whatever, and have respectfully preferred to wait until we were ready to fulfill our promises, meanwhile performing cheerfully the most incessant and onerous

duties. How long would any regiment of white men, however brave and loyal, which had been enlisted like the Fifty-fourth Massachusetts (colored)," under the promise of thirteen dollars a month and three dollars and a half for clothing, remain quiet under a monthly payment of seven dollars and three additional for clothing? And who would blame them for demanding the fulfillment of the contract or a release from service ?

Do we at this moment need all the stalwart arms we can gather to the national cause or not? Is this a time when we can wisely disband the fifty or sixty thousand colored soldiers already in the service ? And is there one Senator or Representative in Congress, excepting Fernando Wood's men, who does not know that the people wish the colored troops to be paid equally with all others? "I suppose my body will stop a bullet as well as another," said a colored soldier with bitter sarcasm.

The prejudice from which this injustice springs is part of the foul fruit of slavery. , What is called an instinctive antipathy is merely the feeling inevitably associated with the color of an enslaved race. If the Thracians had been of a blue complexion, the Romans would have declared that they had an instinctive antipathy to blue men. For why should not a Frenchman or an Englishman have it toward the black race as well as we? "How did you feel," naively asked a gentleman, at a dinner-table in this city, of an Englishman who had been describing a visit to the West Indies, "when you found yourself sitting at table between two colored men ?" " They were gentlemen," was the answer, "and I felt as I do at this moment."

But the point for every honest man to ponder is this: We invited the colored men to fight for us; they have shown themselves brave, clever, and obedient, and we refuse to pay them what we pay other soldiers. Not to speak again of the sheer breach of faith and wanton injustice of such conduct, a distinction like this, even if it were honorably made, tends to maintain a feeling of caste which would be fatal to the army. All that we ask is fair play for every man who will risk his life for the country; and against foul play, whether with Americans, Englishmen, Frenchmen, Irishmen, or Germans, whether with white, black, or red men, we shall not fail to protest as earnestly and persistently as we

---

**The Monnett Battle of Westport Fund will hold its annual meeting on Saturday, March 1, 2014, at 10:30 a.m. at the Battle of Westport Visitor Center and Museum at 6601 Swope Parkway in Kansas City, Missouri. The museum is located at the Meyer Boulevard entrance to Swope Park. Members of the Civil War Round Table and those interested in helping with the commemoration of the 150th Battle of Westport event are encouraged to attend. Light refreshments will be served. For more information, contact Dan Smith.**



William Matthews was so enthusiastic about the new First Kansas Colored Volunteer Infantry in 1862 that he was one of the first to volunteer. Matthews' enthusiasm spread and he convinced a number of ex-slaves to enlist in the regiment. The Leavenworth businessman soon was appointed captain, the highest ranking African American officer in the regiment.

At the beginning of the Civil War, African Americans were not allowed to serve in the U.S. military. By the summer of 1862 it was clear that additional troops were needed. To meet the need, Congress passed two bills that allowed the participation of black soldiers in the Union Army. The measure lacked popular support and the U.S. Army did not begin recruiting black soldiers until 1863.

Ignoring the federal army regulations, U. S. Senator [James H. Lane](#) of Kansas quickly organized the First Kansas Colored. Recruiting began in mid-August with headquarters in Mound City. By October the 1 Kansas had six companies, around 600 men.

"An effort is being made in Leavenworth to raise a regiment of negroes. There are contrabands enough in Fort Scott to fill up two companies." Fort Scott Bulletin.

"The blacks behaved nobly and have demonstrated that they can and will fight." Lawrence Republican.

When President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation in January 1863, the Union Army began enlisting black soldiers. The [First Kansas Colored](#) was the first black regiment from a northern state.

"I never saw such fighting as was done by the negro regiment . . . they make better soldiers in every respect than any troops I have ever had under my command." --Major General [James Blunt](#)

The federal army refused to allow black officers. Matthews and his commanding officers were unable to gain an exemption for his service.

The First Kansas Colored was assigned to escort Union supply trains south to Indian Territory (present-day Oklahoma). When a large force of Texans attacked their supply train at Cabin Creek, the unit successfully protected the train. This marked the first time that black and white troops fought together. Fifteen days later the First Kansas Colored held the Union line against Confederate advances at Honey Springs, Indian Territory. The battle also was significant because for the first time American Indian, African American, and white troops fought together. The First Kansas Colored captured the flags of the Texas regiment after only 20 minutes.

The regiment's greatest test came at the battle of Poison Spring in April 1864. When the Confederates ambushed the Union supply train, the African American troops took the brunt of the attack and suffered great losses. Many of the black soldiers who were captured or wounded during the battle were executed. The sacrifice of the First Kansas Colored served as inspiration for other black troops, who used the battle cry, "Remember Poison Spring!"

The cost was high for the First Kansas Colored soldiers. Around 25 percent of the regiment was killed in action or died. They faced bigotry from some of the white soldiers and officers. They received less pay than their counterparts. Yet the black soldiers succeeded in proving their ability.

Matthews went on to serve as a first lieutenant in Douglas' Independent Colored Kansas Battery. The First Kansas Colored served out the remaining years of the war in Arkansas. Its three regimental flags are preserved at the Kansas Museum of History.



## ACCESS THE BLACK HISTORY RECORDS

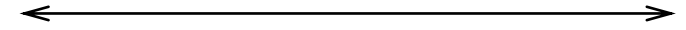
In recognition of Black History Month, Fold3 is offering free access to all publications in its [Black History Collection](#) through the end of February.

The titles within the collection present revealing documents that cover the history and contributions of millions of African Americans. [Slavery Era Titles](#) include records from the Amistad court case, South Carolina Estate Inventories, documents of the American Colonization Society, and two sets of records from Washington, DC, regarding slaves and their emancipation there in 1862. The [Civil War Era Titles](#) are the most prolific, with records from the Southern Claims Commission, military service records for the U.S. Colored Troops, and many related publications.



Join us as Fold3 recognizes Black History Month with free access to these titles for the month of February. Explore millions of military records, photos, and government records documenting the history of African Americans from before the Civil War to the war in Vietnam.

Also, we encourage you to create a tribute on the [Honor Wall](#) to recognize African Americans in your family's history. Launch your journey from Fold3's [Black History Collection](#) web page or browse the collection [here](#).



## COMING EVENTS IN OUR AREA

AND FOR MORE, BE SURE TO TAKE YOUR Border Bugle by e-mail!!!

### Bleeding Kansas 2014

Sunday, February 16, 2014—2 pm. Constitution Hall State Historic Site, Lecompton, KS. Timothy Westcott: "Bellicosity Endorsed: The 1855 Lexington Pro-Slavery Convention. \$3.

### Remember the Sultana

Tuesday, February 18, 2014—7 pm. North Oak Library, 8700 North Oak Trafficway, Kansas City, MO. Just days after the assassination of President Lincoln, Union soldiers who had been captured were to be sent home. This tragic story tells of the last days of the steamship Sultana and the hundreds of soldiers who lost their lives due to one man's greed. The presenter is a descendant of one of the lucky men who survived. To RSVP call 816 436-4385.





#### An Evening with Frederick Douglass

Wednesday, February 19, 2014—6:30 pm. Central Library, 14 W. 10th St., Kansas City, MO. Re-enactor Charles Everett Pace brings his one-man show to Kansas City to portray prominent abolitionist and social reformer Frederick Douglass. To RSVP call 816 701-3407.

#### Independence Civil War Study Group

Wednesday, February 19, 2014—7 pm. Southview Manor Apartments, 2600A Hub Drive, Independence, MO. Jennifer Kerr, a lawyer, historian, and college professor from Lexington, MO: “The Bad Girls of Lexington and Lafayette County during the Civil War.”

#### Civil War at Sea: The First Modern Naval War

Thursday, February 20, 2014—6:30 pm. Central Library, 14 W. 10th St., Kansas City, MO. On the 150th anniversary of the Confederates’ loss of the CSS Hunley John T. Kuehn of the U. S. Army Command and General Staff College examines the largely underappreciated role that naval warfare played in the Civil War.

#### Underground Railroad: The Who, What, and Where Did It Go?

Saturday, February 22, 2014—2 pm. Blue Ridge Library, 9253 Blue Ridge Blvd., Kansas City, MO. Cultural historian Brother John shares secret codes, secret symbols, secret agents and songs. To RSVP call 816 761-3382.

#### The Abolitionists

Saturday, February 22, 2014—1 pm. Fort Scott National Historic Site, Old Fort Boulevard, Fort Scott, KS. Through innovative use of reenactments, this three-episode series puts a face on the anti-slavery movement by exploring the roles of William Lloyd Garrison, Frederick Douglass, Angelina Grimke, and Harriet Beecher Stowe. Free.

#### Bleeding Kansas 2014

Sunday, February 23, 2014—2 pm. Constitution Hall State Historic Site, Lecompton, KS. Ed Shutts, Wyandotte County Historian and Lecturer: “Free State Kansas: The Wyandotte Constitutional Convention.” \$3.

#### Triumph of the Spirit

Thursday, February 27, 2014—7 pm. South Independence Library, 13700 E. 35th St., Independence, MO. Shirley Johnson portrays Harriet Tubman in a two-act play which shares her trials and tribulations. RSVP to 816 461-2050.

#### Arrow Rock 2014 Lecture Series

Saturday, March 1, 2014—10 am. State Historic Site Auditorium, Arrow Rock, MO. Diane Eickhoff and

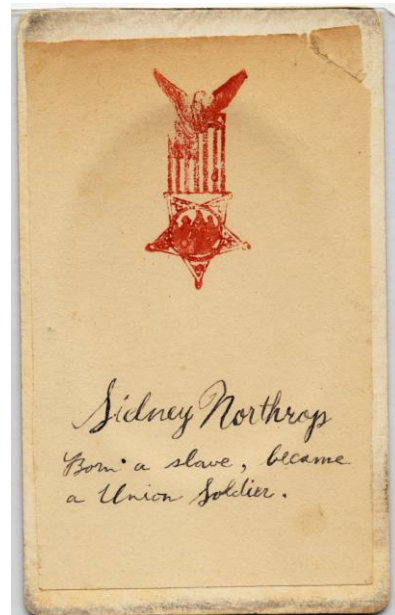
Aaron Barnhart: The Big Divide, The Civil War in Missouri and Kansas.

#### Guided Discussion of “The Abolitionists”

Saturday, March 1, 2014—1 pm. Fort Scott National Historic Site, Old Fort Boulevard, Fort Scott, KS. Professor Kristen Oertel, Mary Frances Barnard Associate Professor in 19th century American History at the University of Tulsa, will lead a guided discussion of the three-episode film series called “The Abolitionists.” Free.

#### 1850s Town Hall Political Meeting

Sunday, March 2, 2014—2 pm. Constitution Hall State Historic Site, Lecompton, KS. Members of the Lecompton Reenactors portray some of the famous Kansans from “Bleeding Kansas” such as James Lane, John Brown, Clarina Nichols, and David Atchison. \$3.



CDV image of a Black Civil War soldier I used to own. Hand painted over photo. Photo taken as a GAR member later in age.

