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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

Website- http://cwrtkc.org/

Newsletter of the Civil War Round Table of Kansas City



445th REGULAR MEETING TUESDAY, March 26, 2013

Homestead Country Club

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

MARCH SPEAKER FRANK A. O'REILLY "THE BATTLE OF CHANCELLORSVILLE, MAY 1-3, 1863" LEE'S GREATEST TRIUMPH AND LOSS

Frank O'Reilly, historian for the National Park Service's Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park, will address the Civil War Round Table of Kansas on Tuesday, March 26, 2013 on the Battle of Chancellorsville battlefield. We are honored that Frank has taken the time from his busy schedule to visit us.

In the Battle of Chancellorsville, Gen. Robert E. Lee achieved one of his most brilliant victories in decisively besting Gen. Joseph Hooker's numerically superior Federal Army of The Potomac. At the same time, Bobby Lee suffered arguably his greatest loss as a result of this battle because of the mortal wounding of General Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson. As the leading Jackson scholar, our distinguished speaker will share his insights into the bitter irony surrounding the circumstances of Jackson's wounding and his ultimate death nine days later.

Frank A. O'Reilly graduated in 1987 with a B.A. in American History from Washington & Lee University. He served on the staff at continued on page 2

Attendance requires a paid dinner reservation.

Please be sure our Treasurer receives all reservations by Friday, March. 22, 2013 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.

March Speaker, Frank A. O'Reilly continued...



the "Stonewall" Jackson House in Lexington, and even guest lectured at Washington & Lee University on Civil War topics while still an undergraduate. Immediately upon his graduation, he began his career with the National Park Service in 1987 as historian the Fredericksburg

Spotsylvania National Military Park. There he worked with chief historian Robert K. Krick. He also serves as the historian of the Stonewall Jackson Shrine. He has prepared and published an authoritative map study detailing the troop movements during the three days of the Battle of Chancellorsville. His intimate knowledge of the battlefield terrain is a result of his extensive experience conducting battlefield studies and tours of Civil War battle sites with colleagues James McPherson and Edwin Bearss.

He has been lauded by Robert K. Krick, his colleague and predecessor as historian at the Fredericksburg National Military Park, as a preeminent authority on both the Battles of Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville. His highly acclaimed book, *The Fredericksburg Campaign: Winter War on the Rappahannock*, released by LSU Press in December, 2002, was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize and was awarded the James I. Robertson Book Prize in 2003...

His other book credits include *Stonewall Jackson at Fredericksburg: The Battle of Prospect Hill* (1993). He has written numerous articles on the war in Virginia, and introductions to several books, including Phil Sheridan's memoirs, the History of the 1st Massachusetts Cavalry, and the 155th Pennsylvania's Under the Maltese Cross. He has contributed several pieces to James M. McPherson's Atlas of the Civil War; Civil War Regiments; Civil War, and America's Civil War publication. He frequently appears in video documentaries including Civil War Journal.

SPEAKERS 2013

April 23: James L. Speicher – A Personal Side of Robert E. Lee

May 28: Matt Spruill – Gettysburg

Summer Sessions

June 25: Lane Smith – "Decisions at Vicksburg"July 23: Arnold Schofield, Battle of Honey Springs

August 27: Dr. Diane Mutti Burke, Order #11 & Civil War Refugees

September 24: Glen Roberts – Chickamauga October 22: Arnold Schofield - Baxter Springs, KS November 19: Kevin Knapp – Civil War Balloon Corps December 17: Dr. Michael E. Monaco, Civil War Medicine

Note: Summer Sessions will be held at the Alexander Majors House at 8201 State Line Road, Kansas City, MO 64114.

MENU FOR MARCH 2013

California Spring Mix Salad, Roasted Pork Loin, Mashed Potatoes and Gravy, Grilled Vegetables , and Irish Crème Brule.

"The Sergeant Major's Roar"

Battlefield Dispatches #351 "A Day of Jubilation"

One hundred and fifty years ago, January 1, 1863, was a magic day and a day of jubilation in the camp of the First Kansas Colored Volunteer Infantry Regiment in Fort Scott Kansas. On this day, there was a joyous celebration commemorating the issuance of the "Emancipation Proclamation." This document, signed by President Abraham Lincoln, declared that all slaves within the boundaries of the Confederate States of America were now and forever free from their bondage. However, the proclamation did not free all the slaves because it did not apply to the slaves in the border states of Missouri, Kentucky, Maryland or Delaware. The slaves in these states would have to wait a bit for their legal freedom. The slaves of Missouri and Maryland were declared free by state action in 1864 and those in Kentucky & Delaware by the passing of the 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution in 1865.

However, in Kansas, many slaves had achieved their basic "Freedom" in 1861 and throughout the Civil War by escaping from slavery in Missouri, Arkansas and the Indian Territory (present Oklahoma) and traveling on a very often perilous journey to the "Land of Freedom" as they believed "Old John Brown" called Kansas. During the Civil War, African Americans traveled to Kansas by the following methods, walking unescorted, following Kansas troops returning home in wagons, riding horses or mules or being transported in "Union Refugee" wagon trains from places like Fort Gibson, Indian Territory or Fort Smith, Arkansas. As a result of this migration, Fort Scott became a haven for refugees

from which many African Americans were recruited for and joined the First & Second Kansas Volunteer Infantry Regiments and eventually in 1864 the Kansas Light Artillery Battery Colored.

The First Kansas Colored Volunteer Infantry was the FIRST African American regiment from a northern state to join the volunteer forces of the "Union Army". It was baptized by the blood of battle on October 28th & 29th, 1862 in the Battle of Island Mound, Missouri where it defeated Confederate guerrilla forces in combat. As a result of this victory, it was the FIRST African American Regiment to defeat Confederate forces in combat during the Civil War. From early November 1862 until May of 1863 the First Kansas was stationed in winter quarters at Fort Scott. Its' camp was northeast of the town on the north side of the Marmaton River.

It was there on January 1, 1863, that the regiment approximately 500 strong, celebrated The Emancipation Proclamation with a 'Day of Jubilation' that included speeches, songs and a special dinner. On January 31st, the "Anglo-African", a Black newspaper in New York City, published a description of this celebration which has been highlighted and edited as follows.

"January 1, 1863, was a cloudy, but not disagreeable day at Fort Scott, Kansas, home to the 1st Kansas (Colored) Volunteer Infantry. A little past one in the afternoon the men marched in a dress parade by companies, stacked arms and then took their places at the tables, which in the form of a parallelogram were set in front of Headquarters.

Everyone sang the "Star Spangled Banner" and then the speeches began, marking the first official day of the Emancipation Proclamation.

Captain Ethan Earle [commanding officer of] Company F led off with some appropriate comments, after which Lieutenant A. T. Sholes gave "three cheers and a tiger" for President Lincoln. Next to speak was the commander of Fort Leavenworth, who predicted that "before many months roll over our heads, the official reports of some of our Generals down South will electrify the land with details of battle wherein colored men will be mentioned favorably as having fought and bled for their country."

A hymn written for the event was sung and then Colonel James M. Williams, commanding the 1st Kansas, rose. Speaking with all the flowery effusion expected of serious orators of that day, Williams observed that the efforts African Americans under arms "will be no mere struggle for conquest, but a struggle for disenthralment of a people who have long suffered oppression and wrong at the hands of our enemies." Another hymn followed, after which a white refugee from Arkansas praised the Western soldiers and a second original song was presented.

Then the Regimental Adjutant [Captain Richard Hinton] stepped forward to read aloud the 2nd paragraph of the Emancipation Proclamation:

"That on the first day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, all persons held as slaves within any State or any designated part of a State, the people whereof shall be in Rebellion against the United States, shall be then and thenceforward and forever FREE; and the Executive Government of the United States, including the military and naval authority thereof, will recognize and maintain the freedom of such persons and will do no act or acts to repress such persons or any of them, in any efforts that they make for their actual freedom."

Speaking next, Captain William D. Mathews, Commanding Officer of Company D, said "today is a day for great rejoicing with us. As a thinking man I never doubted this day would come. Now is our time to strike. Our own exertions and our own muscle must make us men. If we fight we shall be respected. I see that a well-licked man respects the one who thrashes him. [Note: Captain Mathews was an African American and was not mustered into the Union Army because in 1863 "Black men were not permitted to be "officers" in the army. This would change by 1864 and Mr. Mathews was commissioned as a Captain in the Kansas Colored Light Artillery Battery.]

A verse of "Dixie", with appropriate changed lyrics followed. Then the regimental surgeon made a few observations and the adjutant stepped forward to deliver the keynote address, in which he extolled the service of African Americans in America's War for Independence and in the War of 1812.

Then, "The John Brown song, with its stirring "Hallelujah Chorus" was then sung by the entire regiment with thrilling effect and the festivities terminated with nine cheers for "A Free Union and its President Abraham Lincoln."

The First Kansas Colored volunteer Infantry remained in Fort Scott until May of 1863. Then it was transferred on campaign and served with distinction in Arkansas and the Indian Territory where it compiled an excellent record in the crucible of combat and of course the War Went On!

←

NEW MEMBERS.....

R. Scott Richart, 11817 Summit, Kansas City, MO. 64114, 816-942-6121, rsrichart@wmamlaw.com

David R. Frensley, 11307 Madison Ave., Kansas City, MO. 64114-5239, 816-942-6370, davfrens@frensleylaw.com

CIVIL WAR SESQUICENTENNIAL SERIES 2013

All program at the Central Library, 14 W 10th St, Kansas City, Mo and begin at 6:30 p.m.

- 1) Grant's Masterpiece The campaign for Vicksburg, Thursday, April 18, 2013
- 2) African American Troops in the Civil War, Thursday, July 18, 2013
- 3) Quantrill's Lawrence Raid and The Guerrilla War, Wednesday, August 21, 2013
- 4) Gettysburg: The Most Important Event of 1863? A Roundtable Discussion, Tuesday, November 19, 2013.

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.

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

Battle of Westport Visitors Center and Museum

Alisha Cole has volunteered to manage the Battle of Westport Visitors Center and Museum. The site will be opening for the 2013 season in April. Plans are underway to host a monthly program on topics related to the Civil War. More information will be made available as they become available.

If you are interested in participating in the programming and/or being a docent at the Visitors Center and Museum, please contact Alisha Cole at amcole2@mac.com.

COMING EVENTS.....

March 23, 2013, Executive Committee of the Civil War Round Table of Kansas City. Everyone is welcome. The meeting will be held at Reece & Nichols Realtors, 7600

State Line Rd. Prairie Village, KS 66208, 913-652-4316, contact Don Bates Sr. if needed.

Ancestry Day in Blue Springs

Saturday, March 16, 2013-8:30 am-5 pm., Adams Pointe Conference Center, 1400 NE Coronado Drive, Blue Springs, MO. \$30 registration through March 1; \$35 after March 1. Box lunch available for \$15.95 or eat on your own. Presented by Ancestry.com and the Midwest Genealogy Center. Go to www.mymcpl.org/events and click on "Featured Programs" on the left side. There will also be free classes at Midwest Genealogy Center, 3440 S. Lee's Summit Road, Independence, MO on March 14, 15, and March 17, 2013.

Mourning During the Civil War

Monday, March 18, 2013—7 pm South Independence Library, 13700 E. 35th St., Independence, MO. Barbara Hughes portrays Amanda Pine Stout who is mourning for her brother

who died in the war. RSVP to 816 461-2050.

Sarah Dodge Morris and the Osage Indians

Tuesday, March 19, 2013—10 am. Midwest Genealogy Center, 3440 S. Lee's Summit Rd., Independence, MO. Barbara Hughes portrays Sarah

Dodge Morris. RSVP to 816 252-7228.

The Story of Watkins Mill

Thursday, March 21, 2013—7 pm Clay County Museum, 14 N. Main St., Liberty, MO. "Watkins Mill" by Amanda Coonce. \$3 donation.

American Antislavery Writings

Tuesday, April 2, 2013—6:30 pm Central Library, 14 W. 10th St., Kansas City, MO. James G. Basker: "American Antislavery Writings: Colonial Beginnings to Emancipation." RSVP to 816 701-3400

Black Powder Shoot-James Farm

Saturday, April 6, 2013—8 am to noon. James Farm, 21216 James Farm Rd., Kearney, MO. Test your skills with a Cap & Ball Revolver or Cartridge

Revolver; replicas OK. Fixed sights & dueling stance only. \$15 entry fee. Registration at 8 am; shoot begins at 9 am. 1st, 2nd, and 3rd prizes. Historically accurate costume encouraged. For info call 816 736-8500.

Park Day at Lone Jack, Missouri

Saturday, April 6, 2013—9 am-1 pm Lone Jack Battlefield, 301 S. Bynum Rd., Lone Jack, MO. Please bring your own gloves and rakes (label rakes for easy identification). Lots of sticks and leaves to pick up. To register call Alinda Miller at 816 805-1815.

Park Day at Black Jack, Kansas

Saturday, April 6, 2013—9 am-3 pm Black Jack Battlefield & Nature Park, 163 E. 2000 Road, Wellsville, KS. Please bring gloves and wear sturdy shoes. Equipment needed such as lopping shears, hand shears, hand saws, rakes, wheelbarrow, etc. to cut down scrub trees and prune up the nature area near the barn and silo. Snacks and drinks provided. For info call 785 883-2106

Ladies Spring Brunch-Butler, Missouri

Saturday, April 6, 2013—10:30 am.Bates County Historical Society, 802 Elks Drive, Butler, MO.Special Guest Speaker: Mrs. J. O. Shelby, "My Life with the General." Also on display will be the museum's collection of Quilts and Coverlets. Tickets are \$14. Call 660 679-0134.

Kansas Territorial Characters

Sunday, April 7, 2013—2-3:30 pm. Constitution Hall State Historic Site, 319 Elmore St., Lecompton, KS. Reenactment of an 1850s Territorial Kansas town hall political meeting. \$3-Adults; \$1-Students.

Posse of the Westerners

Tuesday, April 9, 2013—6 pm-Dinner (\$25). The Golden Ox, 1600 Genessee Street, Kansas City, MO. Linda Emley, manager of the Ray County Museum: "Alexander Doniphan." For dinner reservations call Ann Schultis at 816 456-0669.

Civil War Encampment-Fort Scott, KS

Sat. & Sun., April 13-14, 2013. Weekend of Civil War history as the Union Army reoccupies Fort Scott, KS. Events of 1863 featured.

Impressions of the Civil War-Nevada, MO

Sunday, April 14, 2013—2 pm. Bushwhacker Museum, 212 W. Walnut St., Nevada, MO. Opening of Dan Woodwards's series of paintings centered on the Civil War in Missouri.

The Civil War Round Table of Kansas City invites you to a day with QUANTRILL

A guided bus tour

Saturday, May 4, 2013 – 8:30 am to 5:00 pm

Bus leaves 8:30 am SHARP from: Johnson Co. Community College, southeast parking lot (go south from I-435 Exit #82 to 113th & Quivira).

Tour includes stops at:

- At towns that Quantrill raided like Olathe, Gardner, & Shawnee
- Along the Oregon-California Trail on way to Lawrence Raid, incl. Hesper and Franklin Village
- Both a walking and riding tour of Lawrence, recounting the 1863 raid
- Following Quantrill's escape route from Lawrence thru Brooklyn

Lunch will be provided, details later.

In addition, as we travel, we will see and/or discuss:

- William Clarke Quantrill where he came from, who he was, his burial story, etc.
- Kansas Territorial history and the Border War

- Both the Santa Fe and Oregon-California Trails
- Supporting characters in the Quantrill story such as James Lane, Cole Younger, Frank and Jesse James, Bloody Bill Anderson, George Todd, Dick Yeager, etc
- Civil War and MUCH MORE!

-Cost \$48.00 per person – for reservations call:

Paul Gaul, (816) 741-2962 7118 N. Congress Ave. Kansas City, MO 64152 Make checks to CWRT

Includes: Maps, handout materials

- Lunch
- Snacks and drinks

Come join the Fun & History

Guide: Ross Marshall

"CONFLICTING LOYALTIES"

COMING SOON!

BATTLE of WESTPORT FRIENDS!

Conflicting Loyalties, the first novel in my Navy Gray Series about the Civil War at Sea, will be launched as an e-book and paperback after a few internet and administrative details are completed. Look for the upcoming release announcement in a few days.

Hib Kline

USS Monitor Civil War Sailors buried at Arlington National Cemetery – 150 years later

www.Foxnews.com More than 150 years after the USS Monitor sank off North Carolina during the Civil War, two unknown crewmen found in the ironclad's turret when it was raised a decade ago were buried Friday at Arlington National Cemetery.

The evening burial, which included a gun salute and a band playing "America the Beautiful," may be the last time Civil War soldiers are buried at the cemetery overlooking Washington.

"Today is a tribute to all the men and women who have gone to sea, but especially to those who made the ultimate sacrifice on our behalf," said Navy Secretary Ray Mabus, who spoke at a funeral service before the burial.

The Monitor made nautical history when the Union ship fought the Confederate CSS Virginia in the first battle between two ironclads on March 9, 1862. The battle was a draw.

The Monitor sank about nine months later in rough seas, and 16 sailors died. In 2002, the ship's rusted turret was raised from the Atlantic Ocean floor, and the skeletons of the two crew members were found inside.

On Friday, the remains of the two men were taken to their gravesite by horse-drawn caissons, one pulled by a team of six black horses and the other pulled by six white horses. White-gloved sailors carried the caskets to their final resting place near the cemetery's amphitheater.

A few men attending the ceremonies wore Civil War uniforms, and there were ladies in long dresses from the time. The ceremony also included "Taps," which was written the same year that the Monitor sank and became associated with military funerals as early as the Civil War.

The sailors buried Friday would not have recognized some parts of the graveside service, however. The military band played "America the Beautiful," which wasn't written until three decades after the Monitor sank. And the flags that draped the silver coffins were modern ones with 50 stars, not the 34-star American flag of the early 1860s.

The cemetery where the men will lie, however, has strong ties to the Civil War. Arlington was established as a military cemetery during the war and is on grounds formerly owned by the Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee. One of the cemetery's first monuments was a memorial to unknown Civil War soldiers.

A marker with the names of all 16 men who died onboard the Monitor will ultimately be placed at the gravesite of the sailors buried Friday. Researchers were unable to positively identify the remains, though they tried reconstructing the sailors' faces from their skulls and comparing DNA from the skeletons with living relatives of the ship's crew and their families. Medical and Navy records narrowed the possibilities to six people.

What is known is that one of the men was between 17 and 24 years old and the other was likely in his 30s. A genealogist who worked on the project believes the older sailor is Robert Williams, the ship's fireman, who would have tended the Monitor's coal-fired steam engine.

Relatives of some of the men who died attended Friday's ceremony. Diana Rambo of Fresno, Calif., came with four other family members. She's related through her mother, Jane Nicklis Rowland, to Monitor crewman Jacob Nicklis, who died when the ship sank. The family didn't know a relative had served on the ship until they received a letter requesting DNA, but Rambo said she's since learned more about the "connection to history that we never knew we have." She said after the ceremony that she's less concerned about knowing for certain who was buried Friday.

"It kind of doesn't matter. It was all about honoring the 16," she said of the ceremony.

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





Photos by Mike Epstein Chancellorsville Battlefield 2004

"Negroes as Soldiers," Harper's Weekly. March 14, 1863

We devote pages 161, 168, and 169 to illustrations of the negroes as soldiers. So much ignorant prejudice is still entertained in many parts of the North to the employment of colored troops that it is due to the country that the capacity of the negro to drill and fight

can not be too strongly insisted upon.

The picture on page 161 represents the negro learning the use of the Minnie rifle. The drill masters in the Department of the South report that the negroes in the South Carolina regiments evince great aptitude at learning the manual of arms. They are more docile than white recruits, and when once they have mastered a movement they retain the knowledge perfectly. Similar testimony is borne by officers in the West. One of them predicts that with proper drill and training the negroes will be the steadiest rank and file in the world.

With regard to their fighting qualities we cannot do better than reproduce the following extracts. The first is from a letter to the New York Times, describing the battle, or rather the skirmish of Island Mounds, where a detachment of the First Kansas Colored Volunteers attacked and routed a band of rebels. He says:

The detachment under Gardner was attacked by the foe, who swept down like a whirlwind upon it. One volley was fired in concert, which emptied several saddles, and then this devoted body was separated by the

force of that sweeping charge. The fight thus became a hand to hand encounter of one man to six. The rebels were mostly armed with shot-guns, revolvers, and sabres, our men with the Austrian rifle and sabre-bayonet. The latter is a fearful weapon, and did terrible execution in the hands of the muscular blacks. Six-Killer, the leader of the Cherokee negroes, fell with six wounds after shooting two men, bayoneting a third, and laying a fourth hors du combat with the butt of his gun. Another one, badly wounded, Sergeant Ed. Lowrey, was attacked by three men; he had discharged his rifle, and had no time to load again, when they fell upon him with revolver and sabre. He was then badly hurt with a shot-gun wound. One man

demanded his surrender, to which the reply was a stunning blow from the butt of the rifle, knocking him off his horse. The negro, when approached, had his sabre-bayonet in hand, about to fix it on his gun. The prostrate man got a crashing blow from it on the skull as he fell, and then, as the other charged, the bayonet was used with effect on the nearest horse, and the butt of the gun on the next man.

Captain Crew, retaining his position at the head of the few men who keep together, retreated with his face to the enemy, firing his revolver as he did so. He

> fell with a terrible wound in the groin, but again rose and retreated. Surrounded by half a dozen of the foe, he was ordered to surrender. "Never!" he shouted, at the same time calling to the half dozen negroes around him to die rather than give up. He then fell dead with a bullet in his heart. His body was instantly rifled of revolver and watch, though his purse was not found. Five minutes afterward the rebel who took the watch was killed by one of the negroes, who again took the watch from him and brought it into camp.

> So ended the battle of Island Mounds, which, though commenced through the rash and impetuous daring of the officers, yet, under most unfavorable circumstances, resulted in a complete victory to the negro regiment.

What I narrate I saw myself, and having witnessed several engagements since this rebellion commenced, I know what fighting amounts to. H.



Chancellor House



Jackson's troops splash through shallow ford across Poplar Run on May 2, 1863. At that time it was not paved and was deep mud.

Chancellorsville Battleground beyond the Plank Rd. toward Parkview Heights.



Guiney's Station where Gen. Stonewall Jackson was brought after being mortally wounded.

General Stonewall Jackson's death bed at Guiney's Station. He died on May 10, 1863.

