



# 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/>



## 454th REGULAR MEETING

**TUESDAY, March 25, 2014**

**Homestead Country Club**

6510 Mission Road, Prairie Village, Kansas

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

Dinner-6:30p.m.

## MARCH SPEAKER

**BJORN SKAPTASON**

## “UNITED STATES COLORED TROOPS AND THE CAMPAIGN OF BRICE'S CROSSROADS”

Bjorn Skaptason holds a M.A., in history from Loyola University Chicago. He worked as a seasonal ranger at the National Park Service's Shiloh National Military Park and Corinth Civil War Interpretive Center for two summers while studying at Loyola. He still returns to Shiloh yearly on the anniversary of the battle to help lead special interpretive hikes of the battlefield. He has previously published essays on Ambrose Bierce at Shiloh for the Ambrose Bierce Project Journal, on the United States Colored Troops in the campaign and battle of Brice's Crossroads for the West Tennessee Historical Society Papers, and in the Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society on The Chicago Light Artillery. A dealer in antiquarian books, Bjorn produces and guest hosts Virtual Book Signing™, a live Civil War book discussion program webcast from Abraham Lincoln Book Shop in Chicago.

Continued on page 2

### Attendance requires a paid dinner reservation.

*Please be sure our Treasurer receives all reservations by Friday, Mar. 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, photo of Bjorn Skaptason



## MENU FOR JANUARY 2014

Potato Soup, Chicken Breast Marsala, Confetti Rice, Green Beans Almandine, and Carrot Cake with Cream Cheese Frosting.

## 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.

## SPEAKERS 2014

- \* **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.

**Dinner meetings will be year-round once we move to Meadowbrook!**



## NEW MEMBERS.....

**Debbi Roy**, 8346 Hadley, Overland, Park, KS 66212, 913-383-0270, [droy8108@kc.rr.com](mailto:droy8108@kc.rr.com)

**Daniel B. Cudnik M.D.**, 10419 W. 116<sup>th</sup> St., Overland Park, KS 66210, 216-389-5028, [dcudnik@ameritech.net](mailto:dcudnik@ameritech.net)



## 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 - 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 #389*

## **“Executed by Firing Squad”**

During the Civil War in Missouri, the capturing & taking enemy Guerrillas or “Bushwhackers”, if one is of the northern persuasion, prisoners was not normally done! In the combat, be it a skirmish or a “running chase”, the guerrillas were normally or more often KILLED rather than taking them as prisoners. In fact, there were often standing orders that guerrillas were to be KILLED & NOT TAKEN AS PRISONERS. However, if there were any doubts as to the status of the enemy soldiers, especially later in the war; they would be taken prisoner until their actual status could be determined. If it was learned from citizens or other sources that they were indeed guerrillas, then they would be EXECUTED BY A FIRING SQUAD. Such was the case of the two “BUSHWHACKERS” that are mentioned in the following After Action Report. [This report is located on Pages 856 – 858 in Series I, Vol. 34, Part I Reports of the Official Records of the War of the Rebellion.](#)

“Germantown, Missouri;  
March 31, 1864.

Sir: for the information of the General Commanding the District of Central Missouri, I have the honor to transmit, through your Headquarters the following report:

About 10 o’clock on the 26<sup>th</sup> instant, Mr. Short of Deepwater Township, Henry County, Mo., came to my headquarters and informed me that a party of BUSHWHACKERS was in his neighborhood menacing the citizens and committing the most OUTRAGEOUS ACTS of PLUNDER, also threatening those who had enrolled for police duty at this station. I immediately dispatched a detachment under the command of Sergeant John W. Barkley of my Company in pursuit. One of the BUSHWHACKERS had in the mean time been severely wounded by Mr. Archibald Colson, a citizen of the neighborhood. This enabled Sergeant Barkley to overtake the band who had taken their wounded confederate along with them. Barkley came upon them about 1 a.m. and ordered them to SURRENDER; this their leader DEFIANTLY REFUSED! They were strongly posted in the house of a citizen named Matthew Dunn, against whom strong suspicion as an accomplice of the desperadoes rests.

The leader gave his name as Captain A. D. Jones, C. S. Army and told Barkley that he was able to defend himself, at the same time opening fire on Barkley’s detachment, which was promptly returned. A

part of the band who had been plundering in the neighborhood now came dashing up with wild [Rebel] Yells, firing rapidly and shouting to their comrades in the house to come out; this the leader attempted to do, but as he opened the door, a volley of bullets from Barkley’s men warned him that if he attempted to rush out certain DEATH would be the result! He accordingly retreated and a fight was kept up during the night.

Barkley not knowing what force might attack him from the outside, sent to Johnstown for reinforcements, which were promptly sent by Capt. Galen G. Norton, Second Colorado Volunteers, Commanding the station, but the BUSHWHACKERS surrendered before they arrived. About daylight, finding that they could not escape, the leader proposed to surrender on the condition that they would be treated as prisoners of war. Barkley told them that if they could prove themselves Confederate soldiers they should be treated as such, but if they were BUSHWHACKERS, they must take the consequences, assuring them that they should have a fair trial, whereupon they surrendered and were brought to camp. They were DRESSED in FEDERAL OVERCOATS & equipped with U.S. Arms (Remington Revolvers) & accoutrements with a large quantity of ammunition. On being brought into camp they were placed under strict guard, food was given to them of which the leader partook voraciously. The other fellow, who called himself Ratliff was sullen & refused to eat. Neither would give any truthful answer to any question asked them.

After they had been allowed to rest for three hours & the citizens whom they had robbed had collected & identified an amount of property which Sergeant Barkley had captured in their possession, I called on Captain Norton, Captain Deviny, Lieutenant Atkinson, Lieutenant Page and Sergeant John W. Barkley to try their case. The witnesses were duly sworn in & identified the men belonging as belonging to the [Guerrilla] band who had committed a number of OUTRAGES during the winter. Jones, the leader, made a shrewd defense until he found himself trapped, when he became bold & said that if the affair was to do over again he would have sent some of the squads to the lower regions [hell] before he went there; at any rate he said that “if he had to DIE, he had paid for his life nine times.”

At 10 a.m., on the 27<sup>th</sup>, pursuant to the resolutions passed on (see evidence & sentence enclosed) I had them EXECUTED! They were allowed to write to their friends, submitting for inspection & were allowed to send their money & trinkets to their friends also. It was only at the last moment that they made themselves known. The leader proved to be the NOTORIOUS BENTON GANN of La Fayette County who has long commanded a marauding band on the border. The other was George Herold of Cass County one of Gann’s men.

They refused to give any useful information & said that their trial had been fair and that they were not AFRAID TO DIE WHICH BOAST THEY MADE GOOD. They CALMLY WALKED to the GRAVE, looked CONTEMPTUOUSLY on the detail [Firing Squad] assembled), said that they were ready, quietly folded their arms, knelt down & met DEATH with a dauntlessness worthy of a better cause.

The wounded man, who calls himself Jones & who had received a number of buckshot in his body I have sent to Clinton to be operated on by Surgeon Hart. I think he will die. He is one of the most desperate men I have ever seen. He positively refuses to give any information & SCOWLS on those who come near him. He ought to have been EXECUTED at once, but humanity revolts at the thought of executing any one so horribly mutilated as he is at present; but if not ordered to the contrary, I shall EXECUTE HIM IF HE RECOVERS!

All praise is due Mr. Archibald Colson, Mr. Hibler & others who fought the desperadoes until Sergeant Barkley's detachment arrive & his success was attributed to the gallant conduct of Mr. Colson, who SHOT DOWN the man Jones, who being so severely wounded, impeded the flight of his comrades, thus enabling Sergeant Barkly to overtake & capture them. Sergeant Barkly deserves the highest praise & gallant manner in which he conducted the affair. Such men are justly entitled to the highest credit and should be promoted for gallantry. This achievement is one of the many acts of skill & bravery exhibited by Sergeant Barkley since he has been a member of my Company. I would respectfully suggest that as testimonials of their bravery that Sergeant Barkley & Mr. Colson each receive a revolver from those captured from Gann & party. The highest praise is due the loyal citizens of Deepwater Township for their assistance in ferreting out those lawless bands. Mr. Short who reported on the marauders on the 26<sup>th</sup> instant deserves great credit. The trial of Gann & Herold was informal, but was resorted to obtain the facts in the case. Please find the evidence enclosed.

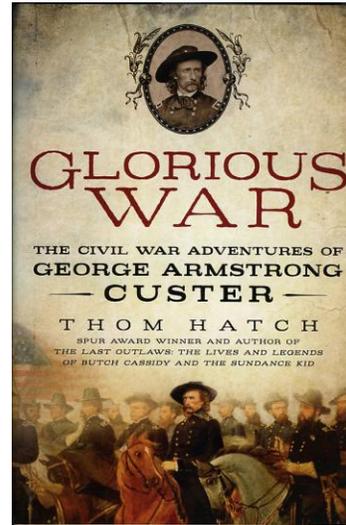
I have the honor to remain, yours respectfully.

J. H. LITTLE,

Captain, Company E, First Cavalry,  
Missouri State Militia."

---

Now then, guerrillas Gann & Herold didn't dodge the "Grim Reaper" to fight again, but died defiantly and calmly & were EXECUTED by the BULLETS from a FIRING SQUAD & of Course the War Went On!



## BOOK REVIEW

"GLORIOUS WAR  
The Civil War  
Adventures of George  
Armstrong Custer"

By Thom Hatch

This thrilling and definitive biography of George Armstrong Custer's Civil War years is nothing short of a heart-pounding cavalry

charge through the battlefield heroics that thrust the gallant young officer into the national spotlight in the midst of the country's darkest hours. From West Point to the daring actions that propelled him to the rank of general at age twenty-three to his unlikely romance with Libby Bacon, Custer's exploits are the stuff of legends.

Always leading his men from the front with personal courage seldom seen before or since, he was a key part of every major engagement in the east. Not only did Custer capture the first battle flag taken by the Union and receive the white flag of surrender at Appomattox, but his field generalship at Gettysburg against Confederate general Jeb Stuart had historic implications in changing the course of that pivotal battle.

For decades, historians have looked at Custer strictly through the lens of his death at the Little Bighorn, casting him as a failure. While some say the events of that battle illustrates the worst of America's bloody westward expansion, this view unjustly eclipses Custer's other outstanding achievements and incredible service to his country. This biography of thundering cannons, pounding hooves, and stunning successes tells the true story of the origins of one of history's most dynamic and misunderstood figures. Award winning historian Thom Hatch reexamines Custer's early career to rebalance the scales and show why Custer's epic fall could never have happened without the spectacular rise that made him an American legend.

*St. Martin's Press*

\$28.99

# HARPER'S WEEKLY

SATURDAY, March 19, 1864

## THE TWENTIETH U. S. COLORED REGIMENT.

Union Square is fast becoming historic ground. Less than ten years ago we stood there one evening while a band played a serenade; after which Fernando Wood introduced James Buchanan from the balcony of the Everett House to the crowd beneath. Last week we stood there, while from a platform beneath the balcony the son of Rufus King, in lofty and touching words, presented the flag of the Union and of Liberty to the first regiment of colored troops that has marched from this city to defend both. Elsewhere in this paper there is a picture of the scene; and no scene of the war has been more striking or significant. In the same Square three years ago there was the first great gathering of the American people in support of the war; when General Anderson and the soldiers of Sumter were the heroes of the hour, and the war begun in Charleston harbor had been continued in the streets of Baltimore. Last spring, in the same Square, was the great meeting upon the anniversary of Sumter, preceded by the formal dedication of the Loyal Club-House. This spring's spectacle completes the cycle. The seed that Buchanan planted and wood watered produced the attack on Sumter, and the riots in Baltimore and New York; and no less, by God's grace, it produced the meetings of April 1861 and 1863, and the honorable and hearty God-speed to the colored soldiers.

The day was soft and bright. The winds of March forgot to blow; and at 11 o'clock the regiment arrived from Hiker's Island, where it had been encamped, and marched down the Fifth Avenue. Windows and door-steps were thronged with eager forms, and under waving handkerchiefs and friendly salutations the brave men marched by. At 1 o'clock they wheeled into Union Square from Fourteenth Street. The music of drums and trumpets mingled with the loud huzzas of the great crowd. The windows and steps here also were solid with welcoming hands and faces, and on the Loyal Union Club-House the flag was flying, as on the chief buildings in the Square. A line of policemen kept the space clear where Seventeenth Street crosses the Square. The tops of the houses were dotted with spectators. A huge platform was built out from the windows of the Club-House and filled with ladies; and a smaller stage, from which the speech of presentation was to be made, stood between the Club-House and the Everett House. The regiment advanced into the open space amidst the cheers and tears of those who felt the significance of the spectacle. The soldiers had handled their muskets but five days; but when they obeyed the "order arms" there was a solid, simultaneous ring upon the pavement, which enforced the heartiest applause. Then President King of Columbia College rose, and in a

few noble and thrilling sentences, fervent, cheering, and pathetic, addressed Colonel Bartram, and handed him the national and regimental flags. The Colonel, who has seen constant service since the war begun, and who has commanded colored troops, and believes in them, made a manly and modest reply. Cheers were given for the Colonel and the troops. The band played the national airs. Then the regiment raised a mighty shout, and was dismissed for a time to lunch and say good-by. The officers went into the Club-House for oysters and coffee; and toward 4 o'clock the line was formed, and the march began down Broadway.

Everywhere the soldiers were greeted as a great city ought to greet its defenders, and as it has saluted every departing regiment since the Seventh marched on the 19th of April, three years ago. The flag of the country waved over them in benediction. The prayers of all noble hearts follow them. For these soldiers go to peculiar dangers. Officers and men, they have counted the cost; and for union, liberty, and peace they are willing to pay the price. "It has been the habit of those among us," said Colonel Bau-TRA3I, "who sympathize with the traitors now in arms against us, to sneer at what they are pleased to term the cowardice of the negro. I hope that Port Hudson, Fort Wagner, and Olustee have forever settled this question." Yes, and he and his soldiers will settle it still further, and thereby help to lift the bitter prejudice from the national heart. To no holier work could any man be devoted. God bless the Colonel, the officers, and the men of the Twentieth United States Colored Regiment and the cause they go to defend!

## COMING EVENTS IN OUR AREA

*And for more, be sure to take your Border Bugle by e-mail!!!*

**"A Cemetery Stroll Into the Past"** will take place Saturday, April 26th, from 4 to 7 p.m. in Weston's historic Laurel Hills Cemetery. Re-enactors in period costume will stand by "their" graves and give short first person monologues about individuals buried there which includes Union and Confederate soldiers as well as slaves. This event is part of Platte County's 175th birthday celebration and is sponsored by Weston Community Theatre. Admission is free but donations will be gratefully accepted.

### **"Slavery by Another Name"**

Saturday, March 15, 2014—2:00 p. m. Plaza Library. 4801 Main St., Kansas City, MO. Documentary film about the virtual slavery of African Americans through the use of prison labor and sharecropping. Nominated for the Grand Jury Prize at the Sundance Film Festival. Randal M. Jelks, associate professor at the University of Kansas, provides opening and closing remarks. To RSVP call 816 701-3481.

## Wars ranked by total number of US military deaths

Rank	War	Years	Deaths	Deaths per Day	US Population in First Year of War	Deaths per Population
1	American Civil War	1861–1865	625,000	420	31,443,000	1.988% (1860)
2	World War II	1941–1945	405,399	416	133,402,000	0.307% (1940)
3	World War I	1917–1918	116,516	279	103,268,000	0.110% (1920)
4	Vietnam War	1961–1975	58,209	11	179,323,175 (1960)	0.030% (1970)
5	Korean War	1950–1953	36,516	45	151,325,000	0.020% (1950)
6	American Revolutionary War	1775–1783	25,000	11	2,500,000	0.899% (1780)
7	War of 1812	1812–1815	15,000	15	8,000,000	0.207% (1810)
8	Mexican–American War	1846–1848	13,283	29	21,406,000	0.057% (1850)
9	War on Terror	2001–present	6,717	1.57	294,043,000	0.002% (2010)
10	Philippine–American War	1899–1902	4,196	3.8	72,129,001	0.006% (1900)

"Deaths per day" is the total number of US military killed, divided by the number of days between the dates of the commencement and end of hostilities.

"Deaths per population" is the total number of US military deaths, divided by the US population of the year indicated.

Sent in by Orvis Fitts

### Grant Takes Command, 1864

Thursday, March 13, 2014—6:30 p. m. Central Library, 14 W. 10<sup>th</sup> St., Kansas City, MO. Ethan S. Rafuse: "My Earnest Endeavor." The U. S. Army Command and General Staff College's Ethan Rafuse analyzes Grant's personality, his military strategies, and the operations he personally directed in 1863-64 against Robert E. Lee. To RSVP call 816 701-3400.

### Defying Slavery

Thursday, March 13, 2014—7:00 p. m. Woodneath Library, 8900 NE Flintlock Rd., Kansas City, MO. Diane Mutti Burke: "Defying Slavery: The Enduring Struggle for Freedom and Civil Rights." To RSVP call 816 883-4900.

### Mid-Missouri Civil War Round Table-Columbia, MO

Tuesday, March 18, 2014—7:00 p. m. Boone County Historical Society Museum, 3801 Ponderosa Drive, Columbia, MO. Rudi Keller: "Fifty Year Military Career of William B. Royall." Rudi is a writer for the Columbia Tribune and collects the 150 year ago articles about the Civil War which are being published and collected in bound volumes which can be ordered from the newspaper.

### Independence Civil War Study Group

Wednesday, March 19, 2014—7:00 p. m. Southview Manor Apartments, 2600A Hub Drive, Independence, MO. Gregg Higginbotham: "The 1970s and 1990s Exhumations of Jesse James.

### "Laura Flanery, the Woman Who Walked to Texas"

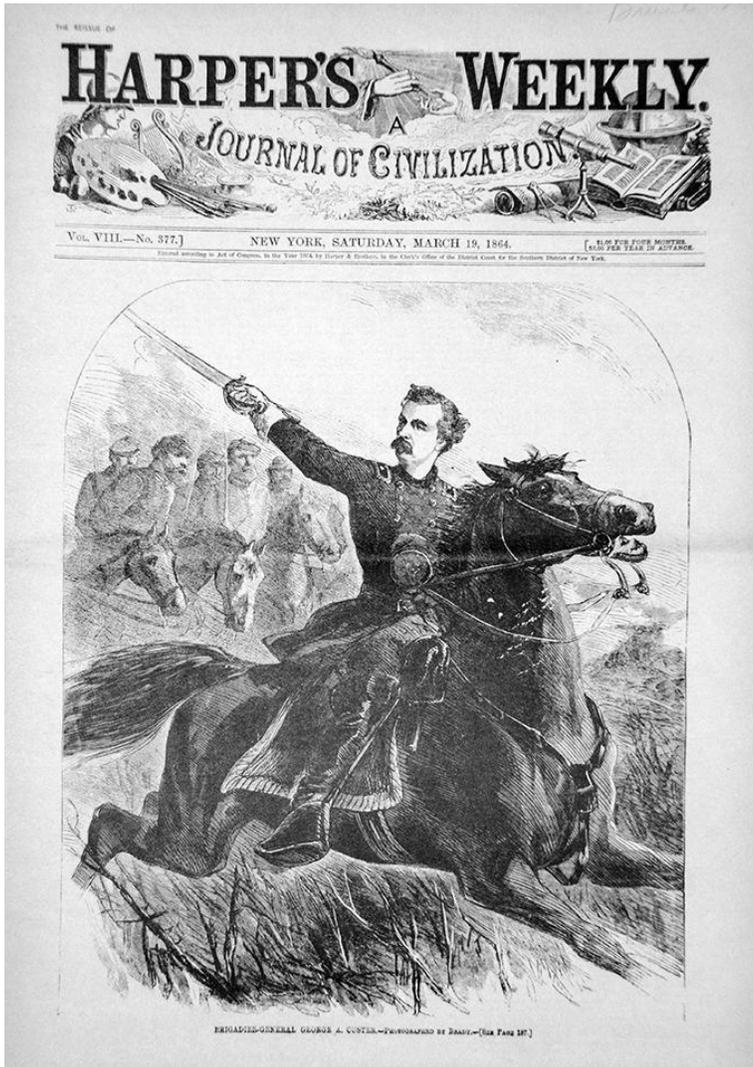
Thursday, March 20, 2014—7:00 p. m. Buckner Library, 19 E. Jefferson St., Buckner, MO. Barbara Hughes: "Laura Flanery" in first person and PowerPoint. To RSVP call 816 650-3212.

### Order No. 11 In Bates County

Saturday, March 22, 2014—10:00 a. m. Bates County Museum, 802 Elks Drive, Butler, MO. In Robertson Hall there will be a musical program in the morning consisting of Hank Roberts, a local songwriter and performer, who has a CD of original Civil War music called "Missouri Sounds." There will also be two talks—Tom Rafiner giving an update on his Bates County research and Aaron Barnhart and Diane Eickhoff talking about The Big Divide. Lunch on your own at a restaurant in Butler or brown bag it. At 2:00 p. m. there will be a dedication ceremony at the Bates County Courthouse for the historical bronze plaque. A program will follow in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor courtroom.

## KANSAS CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY'S CIVIL WAR SESQUICENTENNIAL LECTURES

13 Mar 2014 - Ethan S. Rafuse, Grant Takes Command  
 8 May 2014 - Louis Dimarco, Warhorses: Cavalry in the Civil War  
 22 Jul 2014 - Christopher R. Gabel, Railroads and the Civil War  
 23 Oct 2014 - Terry L. Beckenbaugh, Price's 1864 Missouri Campaign



MARCH 19, 1864 HARPER'S WEEKLY COVER, THE GLORY BOY HIMSELF, CUSTER!

U.S. Grant receiving his commission to Lt. Genl from President Abraham Lincoln, Harper's Weekly, March 26, 1864

