



BORDER



BUGLE

Newsletter of the Civil War Round Table of Kansas City

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

An IRC 501(c)(3)
Charitable Organization

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

449th REGULAR MEETING TUESDAY, October 22, 2013

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

OCTOBER SPEAKER ARNOLD SCHOFIELD

"BATTLE OF BAXTER SPRINGS, KS"

Arnold Schofield was born on April 3, and raised in the small New England village of Newton Upper Falls, Massachusetts.

He was honorably discharged from the U.S. Army. While working for the Department of Defense, he received a degree in history in 1972.

He is married to Clara Martens Schofield, who is the director of Social Services at the Sisters of Mercy Hospital. They have one son, Austin William.

Arnold was Superintendent of the Mine Creek Battlefield State Historic Site located two miles south of Pleasanton, Kansas for 7 years, (I think). He has now retired from the National Park Service.

Before moving to Kansas to work at Fort Scott National Historic Site, Fort Scott, Kansas for many years, he was the resident blacksmith at Harper's Ferry National Historic Park, Harper's Ferry, WV.

He is our past President of 2003 and has been given the Steven Treaster Civil War Preservation Award in 2012 as well.

You may call him Sergeant Major if you will!

Attendance requires a paid dinner reservation.

*Please be sure our Treasurer receives all reservations by Friday, Oct. 18, 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.

SPEAKERS 2013

November 19: Maj. Kevin N. Knapp – “Military Ballooning During the Civil War”

December 17: Dr. Michael E. Monaco, “Civil War Medicine”

MENU FOR OCTOBER 2013

Squash Soup, Grilled Turkey Medallions, Oven Roasted Potatoes, Roasted Vegetables, and Apple Crisp with Ice Cream.

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.

The visitor's center is open April through October, Thursday-Saturday, 1-5 p.m. No admission fees. Donations are accepted. Come visit now as we will be closing for the Winter soon!

NEW MEMBERS.....

Jon Hart, 13 Jefferson Ave., San Rafael, Ca. 94903, 416-479-5435, jh@johnhart.com. Descendent of John

Benton Hart of the 11th Kansas Cavalry, Co. I, who left a memoir of the Battle of Westport period.

Joe Schlageck, 7153 Mill Cove, Manhattan, Ks. 66503, 785-410-9911, jgschlageck@yahoo.com

Scott Schlageck, 1016 Iowa, Lawrence, Ks. 66044, 685-532-8505, sschlageck@gmail.com

David H. Jerome, 1803 Chestnut Dr., Pleasant Hill, Mo. 64080, 816-489-8223, davidjerome1974@gmail.com

“The Sergeant Major’s Roar”

Battlefield Dispatches #375

“Outpost At Baxter Springs”

It In the summer of 1863, with the successful “Union” occupation of Fort Gibson, Indian Territory [present Oklahoma] it was necessary to improve and protect the line of communication between Fort Scott and Fort Gibson. Since there was no telegraph line connecting these two forts, it became necessary to establish permanent outposts and the first was at Baxter Springs. A second reason for establishing these outposts was to provide additional protection of the “Union” supply trains that were constantly traveling south on the “Old military Road” from Fort Scott to Fort Gibson. The following letters describe the rationale for establishing an outpost” at Baxter Springs and is located on Pages 478 - 479 in Series I, Volume 22, Part II Correspondence of the Official Records of the War of the Rebellion.

“General Orders, “Headquarters District of the Frontier,
No. 11 Assistant Adjutant General’s Office,
Fort Scott, Kansas, August 22, 1863.

To facilitate communication with the troops in the field, Captain M. H. Insley, Depot Quartermaster, is directed to establish a military express between this post and Fort Blunt, C. N. [Fort Gibson renamed in Honor of Major General James G. Blunt], to make semi-weekly trips, each trip to be made in as short a space of time as possible.

The Post Quartermaster at Fort Blunt and the commanding officer of the OUTPOST at BAXTER SPRINGS will have charge of the stock and control of the expressmen while at their stations, under instructions as may be furnished them by Captain Insley and other officers and men are hereby prohibited from any interference whatever with the men or animals employed on this special and important duty.

With this express in operation public business, officers in the field will have no further excuse for

delays in the rendition of the various reports and returns required by the different departments of the service.

Private letters will not be carried by this express, except when of great importance and when the public matter is so light as in so doing to work no detriment to the public service.

By command of Major General Blunt:

H. Z. Curtis

Assistant Adjutant General”

“Headquarters District of the Frontier,
Fort Scott, Kansas, August 26, 1863.

Lieut. Col. C. W. Marsh,

Asst. Adj. Gen., Dept. of the Missouri, Saint
Louis, Mo.:

Colonel: As will be seen by General Orders No. 11, from these Headquarters, I have taken the liberty to establish an OUTPOST at Baxter Springs, 58 MILES south of this Post and to organize an express to Fort Gibson (generally called here Fort Blunt), with as change of riders and horses or rather mules, at the OUTPOST. The distance from Baxter Springs to Fort Blunt is 105 miles (whole distance from here [Fort Scott] is 163 miles and another post with a small force, I think may be established below Cabin Creek, say 50 miles from Baxter Springs. A very little system will reduce time for carrying dispatches through from this post to fort blunt (quickest time yet made, four days [96 hours]) to 36 hours.

Lieut. j. b. Pond of Company C, 3rd Wisconsin Cavalry will have the command at Baxter Springs of about 75 men and officers of his regiment and one company of the 2nd Kansas (Colored) Infantry, commanded by a Lieutenant.

This Lieutenant pond has greatly distinguished himself during the past 6 months in this country IN FIGHTING GUERRILLAS, fighting them at all times in their own style, principally at night, watching the crossings of streams, suspected houses, etc. He is a brave and gallant officer and if the new corps is to be organized at Washington with the specified object in view of FIGHTING GUERRILLAS in their own way, I would beg to recommend Lieutenant Pond for advancement therein.

I do not, of course pretend to know the plans of the Government concerning future Army movements in this Western country, but it has occurred to me that if an expedition against Texas should move up the Red river, as was suggested in a recent telegram from the Commanding General, the main portion of the forces at Fort Blunt may be sent through the Indian Territory or Arkansas to join it and that then, communication being kept up on this line, this express may constitute by far the speediest route for dispatches that can be had with that force. As by that, the express may for a still more immediate connection with a telegraph line, start from

Springfield, Missouri instead of Fort Scott. Springfield to Baxter Springs cannot be more than 10 or 15 miles farther from here to the same point.

I have the honor to forward, for the information of the Commanding General, a particular map of the route hence to Fort Blunt, MEASURED by an ODOMETER and notes by Captain Boyd, 2nd Colorado Volunteers and lieutenant Gould, Adjutant Fifth Indian Regiment.

I have the honor to be, Colonel, respectfully,
your obedient servant,

H. Z. CURTIS,

Major & Assistant Adjutant General.”

Now then, this military “Pony Express” between Forts Scott and Gibson appears to have continued for the balance of the Civil War as did the “outpost” at Baxter Springs. In early October of 1863 this outpost was attacked by Quantrill’s Guerrillas, but it survived and of course the War Went On!



COMING EVENTS.....

Westport Historical Society

The 1855 Harris-Kearney House

Got Ghosts? The 1855 Harris-Kearny House Does

Join Heartland Paranormal Investigative (HPI) on Saturday, October 19th for an investigation of the 1855 Harris-Kearney House Museum. The cost is \$25.00 per person and is limited to only 10 individuals.

Here is what you will experience: Starting at 1:00 pm, you will receive instruction on our investigating techniques, and how to use all the equipment deployed for the investigation. You will then help the Team setup the equipment for the investigation and be part of the investigation planning process. We will break for supper at 5:00 pm (supper is not covered by the cost; The Westport Historical Society will provide snacks and drinks) and then reassemble at 6:30 pm; we will begin the investigation at 8:00 pm, ending the investigation around midnight. HPI will provide all the equipment necessary for the investigation, but you are free to bring Digital Voice Recorders, cameras, camcorders, EMF meters, etc.

Wear comfortable clothing and shoes. Bring an open mind and be prepared to participate in a very comprehensive investigation of the house. No prior experience necessary; we will teach you what you need to know.

Book your slot for the investigation early as the 10 slots will fill up quickly! To book your spot for the investigation, contact the museum at (816)561-1821. All

proceeds from the investigation go to the Westport Historical Society.

Located at 4000 Baltimore, in Kansas City, MO, the 1855 Harris-Kearney House is the oldest remaining residence in Kansas City. The house was built by the Harris family in 1855, and is now a museum owned and operated by the Westport Historical Society. The WHS was founded in 1950 to promote, preserve, and foster public interest in the significant history of Westport, Missouri, the Town of Kansas, and Missouri, as well as their founders.

The 1855 Harris-Kearney House Museum is open for tours Wednesday-Saturday, from 1-5pm. For more information, visit our website, www.westporthistorical.com. Contact us at 816-561-1821, westporthistorical@gmail.com, or find us on Facebook.

October 26 – Celebrate Old Westport and Re-enactment of Order #11 1855 Harris-Kearney House, 10 am – 4 pm.

The Wornall/Majors House Museums

October Ghost Tours & Paranormal Investigations!

All Ghost Tours & Paranormal Investigations are at the Alexander Majors House this year! October 18, 25, 26, and 31

For more information and to purchase tickets, visit: www.wornallhouse.org. Advance registration and payment is required. Tickets will sell out fast!

GHOST TOURS

Participate in a lantern-lit tour of the Alexander Majors House (8201 State Line Road) and hear all about the ghosts and legends of the Civil War as well as the strange events and ghosts who are said to still haunt the Majors House and the Wornall House! Tours last one hour.

NEW THIS YEAR:

Chef Shannon Kimball and his ghostly assistants will be onsite each evening (10/18, 10/25, 10/26, and 10/31) starting at 5:30 p.m. to serve a menu that will have you howling with delight! Pumpkin chowder with a side of severed fingers, monster meatballs, broken ribs of beef, bat wings, mulled cider death punch, ghost hunter cake pops and fried worms. These made from scratch, frightening foods are sure to fill your appetite and set the mood for a night of haunting fun! Food will be served until 8:00 p.m.

Tickets:

\$15 Per Person for Tour Only

\$25 Per Person for Tour and Food

Paranormal Investigations

Experience a real-time ghost hunt with investigators from ELITE Paranormal of Kansas City and Mid-Continent Paranormal Research Society! Learn how to use equipment, ask questions, and actually try to detect paranormal evidence. This one is okay for young teens (with supervision from a parent/caregiver, as long as the young teens are able to sit quietly in a room and wait for equipment signals), older teens, and adults.

Tickets:

\$50 Per Person

Our Mission: To Engage Community by Bringing History to Life through Hands-on, Innovative Programs and Experiences.

Construction to repair the foundation at the John Wornall House is now underway with Pishny Restoration Services. For updates on our progress, visit our Facebook page.

Please consider making a contribution to our capital drive to repair the foundation, facade, and interior of the John Wornall House. Click here to read the press release and here to donate.

Become a Member of the Museums. For more information, call (816) 444-1858. Your support is invaluable to our success, especially during this time of growth.

Thank you in advance for your generosity.

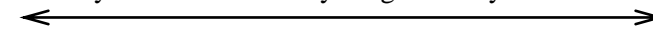


Exhibit: Order No. 11 Arrives at The Box Gallery

Now through October 25, 2013. Commerce Bank Building, 1000 Walnut St., Ste. 221, Kansas City, MO. Hours are Monday-Friday from 8 am-8 pm. Free and Open to the Public. Order No. 11: Martial Law on the Missouri Border. Civil War-era objects and reproductions, map graphics, original portrait of two Missouri sisters caught in the war, a reproduction sculpture of a Civil War-era handcart, and a video which elaborates on the display.

Exhibit through end of 2013 - Columbia, MO

Walters History Museum, East Gallery: Missouri's Civil War 1863: Divided at Home. Boone County Museum, 3801 Ponderosa St., Columbia, MO. Thurs.-Sun. (12:30-4:30 pm.). Sat. (9:30 am-4:40 pm.) \$2.00. Artifacts, clothing, authentic weapons, and personal effects from the tumultuous time of 1863 in Missouri.

Remember the Sultana

Monday, October 14, 2013—7 pm., Oak Grove Library, 2320 S. Broadway, Oak Grove, MO. The Sultana was a steamship launched in 1863. Days after the assassination of President Lincoln, Union soldiers who had been captured were to be sent home. Hundreds lost their lives due to one man's greed. The presenter is a

descendant of one of the lucky men who survived. RSVP to 816690-3213.

Strong Women on the Border

Wednesday, October 16, 2013—7 pm. Southview Manor Apartments, 2600 A Hub Drive, Independence, MO. Jean Warren from James Country Mercantile tells how women kept their families fed, protected, and cared for during the Border War and Civil War.

Guided Tour of Black Jack Battlefield, Wellsville, KS

Saturday and Sunday, October 19-20, 2013. In conjunction with Baldwin City's Maple Leaf Festival. Black Jack Battlefield and Nature Park, 163 E. 2000 Road, Wellsville, KS. Hear John Brown and Henry Clay Pate and their followers talk about events leading up to the battle. Saturday tours at 1 pm and 3 pm. Sunday tours 11 am, 1 pm, and 3 pm. Free.

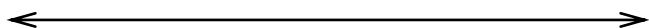
Ghosts of Order No. 11 Cemetery Walk-Woodlawn Cemetery

Sunday, October 20, 2013—2-4 pm (last tour begins at 4 pm) Woodlawn Cemetery, 701 S. Noland Rd., Independence, MO. Parking at Newcomers Funeral Home. Cost is \$10 for adults and \$5 for students (ages 8-18). Tours start every 10 minutes in small groups to grave sites where "ghosts" will share personal stories about their experiences during Order No. 11.

Civil War Program, October 30th, 1:30 p.m. Please join us in the atrium area for the first of a series of Civil War programs on the historic happenings in and around the Kansas City area. We will be having a series of speaker, events and trips that focus on the history of Kansas City and the surrounding area during the Civil War. This is in observance of the 150th Anniversary of the Gettysburg Address. We are honored this month to have Arnold Schofield speak on the "Mine Creek Battle," the only recorded Civil War battle in Kansas. In 2014, it will mark the anniversary of the Battle of Westport. The Atrium is at 7300 W. 107th St., Overland Park, Kansas, 913-381-6000 for more information. Thank you Orvis Fitts for this information!

Walk with the Civil War Spirits—Lone Jack, MO

Thursday, October 31, 2013—7-9 pm. Historic Lone Jack Cemetery, Lone Jack, MO.



Fort Blair, aka: Fort Baxter (1862-1865)

During the Civil War, Baxter Springs was situated on the old military road that made its way from Fort Smith, Arkansas, through Fort Scott, Kansas and southwest to Fort Gibson in Indian Territory. Initially the site was primarily utilized as a rest stop for the

wagon trains that supplied the troops and for military personnel assigned to protect them from hostile Indians along the journey. However, when the Civil War began, the region soon found itself under attack from Confederate regular and guerilla forces.

In the Spring of 1862, a field camp, first called Camp Baxter Springs, was built by Colonel Charles Doubleday's 2nd Ohio Brigade and Colonel William Weer's 2nd Kansas Brigade to garrison about 6,000 troops.

Several more field camps would be established along the route, including Camp Little Five Mile, built by Colonel John Ritchie's Indian Home Guards in June, 1862, which was located to the southeast across the Spring River. Two more field camps were built near here in the summer of 1863, including Camp Joe Hooker and Camp Ben Butler, both constructed by Colonel James Williams' 1st Kansas Colored Troops.

In the beginning, life at the camp was easy and at times very dull, leading one soldier to write in June 1862, "Here we camp, with nothing to do but eat, drink, swim, sleep and read -- the latter only when we are fortunate enough to procure newspapers or books."

In July, 1863, the decision to build a permanent post was

made and Colonel Charles Blair sent Lieutenant John Crites with companies C and D of the 3rd Wisconsin Cavalry to build it on August 17th. Though the post was officially called Fort Blair, it was more commonly referred to as Fort Baxter. When complete, it consisted of a block house and a few cabins surrounded by breastworks made of logs, rocks and dirt.

Crites was soon reinforced by a detachment of the Second Kansas Colored Infantry under command of Lieutenant R. E. Cook, and early in October further reinforcements were added under Lieutenant James B. Pond of the Third Wisconsin Cavalry, which provided a 12-pound howitzer.

History of Baxter Springs

Baxter Springs, the largest community in Cherokee County, was once a rest stop for the Osage Indians as they traveled toward their summer hunting grounds. Chief Black Dog and members of this tribe paused at the mineral springs that once flowed just south of what is now East Seventh Street. They believed that the water had miraculous healing properties, and they routed their trek purposely to partake of the flowing springs. From Baxter's Place to Baxter Springs

In the spring of 1849, John J. Baxter, his wife and eight children moved from Missouri to 160 acres of land near Spring River. His land included a spring,

which flowed from the side of a hill near what is now Military Road, where he set up and operated an inn and general store, which came to be known as "Baxter's Place." "Baxter's Place" was incorporated in 1868 and was renamed Baxter Springs in honor of its early settler.

Baxter Springs Massacre

I'll leave this for Arnold.

"The First Cowtown in Kansas"

In 1868, a great demand for beef in the northern cities brought Texas cattlemen and stock raisers collecting large herds of cattle on the southern plains to the area, using Baxter Springs as a stopping point on their journey to the northern markets. Because of this, Baxter Springs is known as "The First Cowtown in Kansas," because the cattle drovers found the location a welcome break after months on the dusty trail. The numerous saloons provided all the amenities a poor cowboy could use.

During this time, an active Stockyards and Drovers Association was organized for the purpose of buying and selling cattle. Corrals were constructed for approximately 20,000 head of cattle with ample grazing lands and fresh water.

Baxter Springs grew rapidly, thanks to the stimulating economy. The city government then issued \$150,000 in bonds to entice the Missouri

River, Fort Scott and Gulf Railroad to extend its line into southeastern Kansas. More bonds financed a new school, a courthouse (now the Johnston Public Library), and street improvements. The bonded indebtedness was more than they assessed of the city, however, and when the railroad moved to Texas, so did the cattle drives, leaving the city deeply depressed.

"Spring River"

Early visitors to southeast Kansas were often impressed with its beauty. The river that flows through this section of land was fed by many springs and was remarkably clear. As early as 1838, the river was known as Spring River. A cable-ferry boat was instituted in 1867 and operated into the early 1880's when the first bridge was built over the river. As the city grew, so did the activities around the river. Citizens of Baxter Springs celebrated the Fourth of July and the Old Soldiers and Sailors Reunions, which followed the Civil War and continued until 1914, and also brought fame to the city. In the latter part of the nineteenth century, a three-story frame structure with two turbine water wheels, and a grinding capacity of 50 barrels of flour a day was built and known as the Baxter Springs Flouring Mill. It was the only manufacturing plant in town. Today the river is used mainly for fishing and camping.

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

