



BORDER BUGLE

Newsletter of the Civil War Round Table of Kansas City

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460th REGULAR MEETING

TUESDAY, Sept 23, 2014

Meadowbrook Country Club

9101 Nall Ave., Prairie Village, Kansas 66207

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

Dinner - 6:30p.m.

September Speaker

Walter Busch

“Battle of Pilot Knob, Mo.”

Walter E. Busch, site superintendent and director of the Fort Davidson State Park and Pilot Knob Battlefield site, will speak to the Civil War Round Table of Kansas City this month.

In September 1864, Major General Sterling Price's army of 12,000 Confederate soldiers marched into Missouri in a bid to foment a popular revolt in the state. This massive cavalry force soon arrived at the southern terminus of the St. Louis and Iron Mountain Railroad in Pilot Knob. There, Fort Davidson stood garrisoned by only 1,500 Union soldiers led by the detested Brigadier General Thomas Ewing Jr. General Price saw an opportunity to overwhelm the much smaller Union command and obtain additional arms for his army. Our speaker will explain the actions of the two opposing forces on September 27, 1864 in the Arcadia Valley of southeast Missouri and the battle's larger impact upon the remainder of Price's Missouri Expedition.

For the past 14 years, Mr. Busch has been the historian and site director of Fort Davidson State Historic Site which includes the Pilot Knob Battlefield. During his tenure he has supervised four reenactments at the Pilot Knob site.

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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/>

Join us on Facebook!

Attendance requires a paid dinner reservation.

Please be sure our Treasurer receives all reservations by Tuesday, September 16, 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.

Use your credit card at our website, <http://www.cwrtkc.org> and hit the Meeting & Event tab fill out the reservation form and then make your payment in the box to the left on that page through PAYPAL If you are using this service please send me an email so I will not miss your reservation. pgault@sbcglobal.net.

Speaker: Walter E. Busch, continued.....



As the site's historian, he has compiled an astounding on-line database of Union Soldiers at Pilot Knob and Confederate Soldiers of Price's Raid, currently standing at over 21,000 names. He has also served for 18 years as a professor of history at Mineral Area College.

He is a past president of the Civil War Round Table of St. Louis and is currently secretary of the Missouri State Parks' Civil War Sesquicentennial

Committee.

He has also been active in the Sons of Union Veterans. He is a recipient of that organization's prestigious Cornelius Whitehouse Award. He has been the commander of the Missouri Department of the SUV and is serving as the Chair of the SUV's National Committee on Civil War Memorials. Among his other honors, he was inducted into the Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels.

Mr. Busch's published works include the following:

General You Have Made the Mistake of Your Life or Myths & Mistakes: the Life of General Thomas Ewing. Two Trails Publishing.

Fort Davidson and the Battle of Pilot Knob: Missouri's Alamo. The History Press
General Sterling Price's Great Missouri Raid: The Missouri Democrat Articles. Mo Div. of State Parks.

"Found! One Undocumented Civil War Rank"
The Company of Military Historians. 2006.

Speakers 2014

- * **October 28, 2014: Dan Smith - Battle of Westport.**
- * **November 18, 2014: Arnold Schofield - Aftermath of Westport (Price's retreat to Texas).**
- * **December 16, 2014: Dr. Ethan Rafuse - Sherman's March to The Sea.**

Programs for 2015

January 27, 2015 (confirmed): Dr. Ethan Rafuse, of the US Army Command and General Staff College, will speak about the Petersburg Campaign and Siege. Dr. Rafuse recently published his *Guide to the Richmond-Petersburg Campaign*.

February 24, 2015 (confirmed): Harold Holzer has agreed to speak on his book titled: *Lincoln and the*

Power of the Press: The War for Public Opinion. Lane Smith confirmed with Kraig Smith, Sr. Coordinator for Public Affairs, Metropolitan Museum of Art. The St. Louis CWRT has scheduled Harold Holzer to speak on 2-25-15.

March 24, 2015 (confirmed): Appomattox Courthouse. Lane Smith and Randy Dubin will present a two-part play about Appomattox. Part 1 of the play is titled: "April 9, 1865 - Road to Appomattox." Part 2 of the play is titled: "April 10, 1865 - Road from Appomattox." Lane will portray General Lee and Randy will portray General Grant.

April 28, 2015 (confirmed): Troy Strahan and his son, Liam, will be giving a first person presentation on Abraham Lincoln and Todd Lincoln. Troy and Liam will re-enact the famous photo of Abraham Lincoln and Todd Lincoln looking at a book together. Using this scene, Abraham and Todd Lincoln will be discussing famous people and the events that took place near the end of the Civil War.

May 26, 2015 (confirmed): Trial of the Conspirators. Daniel Weinberg, owner of the Abraham Lincoln Book Shop in Chicago IL, will be speaking about his book titled: *Lincoln's Assassins: Their Trial and Execution*.

June 23, 2015 (confirmed): Battle of Palmito Ranch, Texas on May 13, 1865: Last Battle of the Civil War, U.S.C.T. Speaker: Arnold Schofield.

"The Sergeant Major's Roar"

Battlefield Dispatches #400

"Bits & Pieces"

A fascinating aspect in the study of the Civil War is that there are many smaller interesting threads that are incidents or happenings which are often overlooked, but help bind the fabric into the mosaic of the entire war. This column contains a number of such incidents that occurred in September of 1864 that are briefly described in Series I, Vol. 41, Part III Correspondence of the Official Records of the War of the Rebellion on the following pages:

Page 12; Deer & Bear Hunting Tactics:

"Saint Louis, September 1864.

Brigadier General Douglas,
Mexico, Missouri:

Turn all your wits to teach our men the secret of expeditions to STILL HUNT and SURPRISE the enemy. All that is wanted is to adopt the DEER and BEAR HUNTING TACTICS! Our men must have routes and at times to avoid being seen at all. No stopping at farm houses or any other place to be seen.

W. S. ROSECRANS,
Major General.”

Page 31: Wartime Work Release:

“Glasgow, Mo., September 2, 1864.

Major General Rosecrans,

The steam ferry belonging to the State Penitentiary left Jefferson [City] Thursday morning, manned, piloted and crewed by convicts. She was fired into at Rocheport and taken after her Captain was killed and Pilot mortally wounded. Capt. Eads of the [Steamboat] Tutt reports that the commanding officer at Jefferson told him about 200 Rebels crossed near Rocheport during Tuesday night and that the boat was released the next morning.

HENRY SUESS,
Major.”

[Note: Quite a form of 19th Century work release by crewing a ferryboat only to be captured by Confederate Guerrillas / Bushwhackers. It is not known if the convict crew was killed or recruited by the guerrillas.]

Page 95: An INFERNAL MACHINE:

“Saint Louis, Mo. September 7, 1864.

Col. E. D. Townsend,

Assistant Adjutant General:

A fact proper to be known in connection with others previously reported to the Secretary of War is that an INFERNAL MACHINE exploded last night in the principle storehouse of Quartermaster’s Stores in this city and but for the vigilance of the watchman in charge \$1,500,000 of government property would have been destroyed. It was contained in a VALISE filled with COMBUSTIBLE MATERIALS and exploded by CLOCK-WORK, set to run till 12:30 o’clock at night.

W. S. ROSECRANS,
Major General.”

[Note: Sabotage was common in major cities of the North and south and was especially prevalent in Saint Louis, Missouri. Often wood used to fuel steamboats was hollowed hot, filled with gunpowder that exploded in the firebox & destroyed the boat. However, a TIME BOMB mechanized by a running clock the ultimate advanced sabotage device of the time.]

Page 29: SPIES KILLED:

“Cape Girardeau, Mo., September 2, 1864.

Brigadier General Ewing:

Have just received a dispatch from Captain Edwards, at New Madrid. Says one of his SCOUTS came across TWO SPIES AND KILLED THEM. Other two SCOUTS are still out and I will notify you as fast as

they get in. My posts are all weak, but as soon as I can locate this Rebel force I will concentrate and move against them.

H. M. HILLER,
Lieutenant Colonel, Commanding.”

[Note: According to both the Union & Confederate Articles of War a captured SPY could be and was executed on the spot without a trial or Court Martial.]

Page 12: NIGHT PATROLS:

“Headquarters Sub-District 3, Dist. of South Kansas
Paola, Kansas, September 1, 1864.

Captain Henry Pearce,

Company C, Eleventh Kansas Vol. Cav.,
Coldwater Grove, Kansas.

Captain: Lieut. Col. P.B. Plumb has made the following change in the patrol system in his command on the border to wit: Two men will leave Aubrey, going SOUTH, EVERY 10 MINUTES after 7 P.M. for TWO HOURS, making twenty four men. They will go to a point halfway below on the Aubrey and Coldwater Grove Road and meet the pickets from Coldwater and then go East or West, as the case may be to another road and observe the same order in going back. North of Aubrey the patrol will consist of one man instead of two. You will make the same change in your system of patrols until further notice.

IRA I. TABER,
First Lieut. and Acting Assistant Adjutant General.”

Page 83, SALUTES:

“Headquarters, Dept. of the Missouri,
Saint Louis, mo., September 6, 1864.

Special Orders No. 247:

In accordance with the President’s proclamation of the 3rd instant a SALUTE OF 100 GUNS [cannon] will be fired at 12 m. tomorrow, the 7th instant within the limits of the city of Saint Louis in HONOR of the RECENT VICTORY of our arms at ATLANTA, GEORGIA. COL. N. Cole, Chief of Artillery, department of the Missouri, is charged with the execution of this order.

By command of Major General Rosecrans:

FRANK ENO,
Assistant Adjutant General.”

[Note: Salutes for this and many occasions were fired in Fort Scott using large cannon such as 24 Pounds. Think of the many headaches from the deafening continuous sound of the guns!]

Page 98: HOSTILE INDIANS:

“Field Headquarters, Dept. of Kansas,

Camp at Chalk Creek, on Solomon River,
September 7, 1864.

Orders:

For the purpose of dividing forces so as to make further search after HOSTILE INDIANS, the company of Pawnee Scouts is attached to the Battalion of Colonel Summers and Major R. H. Hunt will also transfer a mountain howitzer [small cannon] from the First to the second Battalion. The commanders of the will divide the company's supplies and be ready to march at 7 o'clock tomorrow morning. The First Battalion Eastward and the Second under direction of General Mitchell Westward.

S. R. CURTIS,
Major General .”

[Note: In 1864, Major General S. R. Curtis Commanded the Dept. of Kansas & was responsible for defending the eastern & southern borders against Confederates in Missouri and the Indian Territory and keeping the Santa Fe & Smokey Hill River Trails open and protecting the settlers in central Kansas by waging a war against the Plains Indians. Therefore, he was conducting a war on 3 fronts which was almost a Mission Impossible, but he managed to accomplish same.]

Page 109 & 110: TALKING WIRE:

“Kansas City, Missouri; September 8, 1864.

Major Smith,

Commanding, Independence;

Sergeant Coy starts for the Blue, near Raytown, at daylight tomorrow with thirty five men. You will send out a large party with the TELEGRAPH REPAIRER to PUT UP the LINE [known as the Talking Wire] between your station and Pleasant Hill. Perhaps your force may be able to cooperate with Coy. Coy's party wear no badges but he will be mounted on his big gray horse which all know. Send Sergeant Tibbits or an officer in charge.

R. S. ROE,
Acting Assistant Adjutant General.”

Now then, all of these smaller incidents offer a pause to the major facets of the Civil War in Missouri and Kansas. However, they were indeed part of the war's fabric and of Course the War Went On!



The 150th anniversary of the Battle of Pilot Knob will take place Sept 20-28, with concerts, speakers, hikes, a grand ball, and battle re-enactments on Sept 27-28. For Battle of Pilot Knob details, call (573)-546-3454 or click on www.missouricivilwar.net.

BATTLE OF WESTPORT 150 - OCTOBER 23, 24, 25 and 26, 2014

In the fall of 1864, Confederate General Sterling Price launched an invasion into Missouri with the goal of causing a popular uprising among the state's southern sympathizers. The 150th anniversary of the first of the engagements of Price's Raid or Missouri Expedition is being commemorated this month at Pilot Knob under the direction of Walt Busch our speaker for September.

After the Pilot Knob engagement, Price's army struck northward and westward along the Missouri River until reached Independence and the outskirts of Westport, Missouri. In the climax of the Missouri Expedition and the ten years of conflict on the Missouri-Kansas border, the Confederates clashed on October 21-23, 1864 with two Federal armies at the Battle of Westport, the largest battle fought west of the Mississippi.

For the past three years, the Battle of Westport 150 Committee of the Monnett Battle of Westport Fund of our Round Table has been meeting monthly to plan and prepare for the commemoration of 150th anniversary of this major battle. As many of our Table know, the Battle of Westport is one of only two battle sites in Missouri that has been given the top designation by the National Park Service as a Class A battle.

To mark its 150th anniversary, the Battle of Westport, sometimes referred to as the Gettysburg of the West will be commemorated on October 23 through 26, 2014 on portions of the original battlefield in Swope Park and Byram's Ford with a series of engaging exhibitions, living history demonstrations, displays and reenactments which will allow visitors to step back in time to the days of the most dramatic event of Kansas City's history.

A highlight of the opening day on the precise anniversary date, Thursday October 23, 2014 will be an abbreviated walking tour of the Brush Creek portion of the battle led by Bjorn Skaptason. We are fortunate to have Bjorn guide this and several other tours during the event. His experience as both the principal of the Lincoln Book Store in Chicago, birthplace of the Round Table movement, and his experience as a National Park Service guide at Shiloh will make for an outstanding opportunity for participants. This walking tour will return to Loose



Park where a special commemoration ceremony will be conducted in the late afternoon by members of the Sons of Union Veterans and Sons of Confederate Veterans.

Friday, October 24, 2014 is education day. The event is open to the public although primarily intended for students and youths in grades K through 12. Private and public school students as well as home schoolers are welcome to attend the event. There will be a number of various demonstrations of Civil War era military activities as well as civilian and domestic artisans. The day will include a bus tour for the student's of the nearby Byram's Ford Battlefield site. An informative walking tour will also be conducted at Forest Hill Cemetery that afternoon.

On Friday evening, a brief skirmish will be presented on the Byram's Ford site. This will be followed by a barbeque dinner held on the battle site where visitors will meet and mingle with the soldiers. The dinner requires advance purchase of tickets to attend.



The Main Event of the commemoration will be held on Saturday October 25 focused in Swope Park and the Battle of Westport Visitor Center and Museum. A highlight of this day will be the presentations of Civil War medicine.

The demonstration will include talks by George Wunderlich, executive director of the National Civil War Medicine Museum of Frederick, Maryland. Illustrating these talks is an outstanding medical demonstration unit along with an embalming detail. Dr. and Mrs. Stroud will further illustrate Civil War medicine with their extensive and fascinating collection of medical operating tools and devices. The Museum will have a special loaned exhibit of recently located artifacts recovered from the Byram's Ford site including Bloody Hill. There will be guided tours of the Byram's Ford site and the area that is under restoration as part of the Monnett Fund's Saving Kansas City's Battlefield initiative.

There will be a series of Chautauqua style presentations by various Civil War personalities including Gen. R. E. Lee by Lane Smith of our Round Table. A variety of musical entertainers will be presenting. Children's activities with opportunities for hands on experience will be provided near the Museum. The Mounted Color Guard from Fort Riley will be encamped for the day in front of the Museum and

provide cavalry demonstrations. There will be special presentations of Douglas's Independent Colored Battery which at Westport was the first black regiment to be commanded by a black officer, Lt. Patrick Henry Minor.

A definite highlight on Saturday will be two battle reenactments with cavalry, artillery and infantry regiments presented in the morning and again in the afternoon.

On Sunday morning Bjorn Skaptason will conduct a demanding three hour walking tour of the



Brush Creek portion of the battlefield. In the afternoon there will be final battle reenactment in Swope Park in the area adjacent to the Museum.

Visit www.battleofwestport150.org for specific schedule times and locations for the events. Also details for purchasing tickets for the Friday evening meal with the troops on the battlefield can be found on the website.

There will be a meeting of the Executive Committee at 10:00 am on Saturday, October 4, 2014. The location of the meeting will be Don Bates' office:

**Reece Nichols
7600 State Line
Suite 210
Prairie Village KS 66208
Office Phone: 913-383-1400**

The Westerners meeting, October: Local author Terry Elliott will give a talk on the last of the outlaw days in Indian Territory and specifically the notorious Buck Gang on Tuesday, Oct. 14th, at the Golden Ox restaurant, 1600 Genessee. Everyone is welcome. Please arrive prior to 6:30 p.m. to make your dinner reservation. For additional information call (816) 569-1180.

Battle of the Little Blue and Second Battle of Independence

The Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri would like to invite you to join them for a half day school bus tour of the Battle of the Little Blue (first day of the Battle of Westport in eastern Jackson County)

on Saturday, Oct. 18, 2014 starting at 9:00 a.m. at the Blue & Grey Book Shoppe, 106 E. Walnut St., Independence, MO. We will travel to the site of the crossing of the Little Blue at Ripley Junction Park and follow the route of the troops to the Independence Square. The tour costs \$10 and checks may be mailed to Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri, P. O. Box 3019, Independence, MO 64055. Please give us the names of those going on the tour. The bus will return about 11:30 a.m.

We invite you to have lunch in Independence or bring a brown bag and join us at 1:00 p.m. at the Sermon Center Powerhouse Theatre, Truman Road and Noland, for a multimedia presentation of the Second Battle of Independence. We will attempt to tell the story through the eyes of civilians as well as soldiers using re-enactors, music, sound effects, and projected images of maps and illustrations. One vignette is of Mrs. Hill describing the battle in a letter to her sister. Another is of the guerrilla Dave Poole and others burying George Todd.

For questions call Beverly Shaw at 816 225-7944.

The sesquicentennial celebration of the 1864 battle at Newtonia will be held on two separate dates. On Saturday, September 27, 2014, we will be part of Newtonians annual Fall Festival. This has been a ritual ever since we were founded as a support group. We will have the Ritchey Mansion open and have several activities throughout the day.

On Tuesday, October 28, which is the official anniversary date, we will have a special event which will include some speakers and a special ceremony to commemorate the men who died at Newtonia on October 28, 1864.

The October celebration will be held on the lawn of the Ritchey Mansion, unless cold weather sends us inside. Refreshments are planned for this event.

The American Civil War Museum on Monday unveiled preliminary designs for its new museum building in Richmond.

The new building, a joint enterprise of the Museum of the Confederacy and the American Civil War Center at Historic Tredegar, is to be built at the site of the Tredegar Iron Works on the James River.

Groundbreaking is tentatively set for early next year, and the new museum could be open by July 2016, according to a museum announcement.

As a result, Historic Tredegar's "In the Cause of Liberty" exhibit, located in Tredegar's foundry building, may close as early as Thanksgiving to make way for construction, the announcement said.

Second Battle of Independence Vignettes Saturday, October 18, 2014—1 p.m. The Sermon Center Powerhouse Theater, corner of Noland Rd. and Truman Road, Independence, MO. Free. The Second Battle of Independence was a continuation of the Battle of the Little Blue and will be seen through the eyes of soldiers and civilians who witnessed it.

Black Powder Shoot at the James Farm

Saturday, September 13, 2014—8:00 a.m. to Noon. James Farm, 21216 James Farm Rd., Kearney, MO. \$15 entry fee. Cap & Ball Revolver or Cartridge Revolver; replicas O.K. Fixed sights and dueling stance only. First, second, and third prize.

Price's Raid, Then and Now- Westport Library

Saturday, September 13, 2014—2 p.m. Westport Library, 118 Westport Road, Kansas City, MO. Aaron Barnhart and Diane Eickhoff present a fresh look at the last great campaign of the Civil War in the Trans-Mississippi. To RSVP call 816 701-3488.

Battle of Centralia Reenactment

Saturday & Sunday, September 13-14, 2014. Battlefield is three miles southeast of Centralia, MO. Both the Battle of Centralia and the Mount Zion Battle will be reenacted each day. Saturday night there will be a dance in the camp and night firing of Civil War cannons. Visit the soldier camps to observe cavalry, infantry, artillery, and medical corps. One time parking fee. Music, crafts, Civil War authors, and food vendors.

Siege of Lexington-Presentation and Book Signing

Saturday, September 20, 2014—2:00 p.m. Battle of Lexington State Historic Site, 1101 Delaware, Lexington, MO. Larry Wood will give a presentation about his new book "The Siege of Lexington." He will also answer questions and sign copies.

Freedom Festival-John Brown Museum State Historic Site

Saturday and Sunday, September 20-21, 2014. Sat.—10:00 a.m.- 6:00 p.m. Sun.—Noon to 6:00 p.m. John Brown Museum, 1000 Main Street, Osawatimie, KS. Civil War weapons and drill demonstrations, a reenactment of the Battle of Osawatimie, and a battle between Union troops and Confederate partisans. Frontier artisans, carriage rides, and other family fun activities.

Ghosts of the Civil War-Woodlawn Cemetery

Sunday, September 28, 2014—2:00-4:00 p.m. Woodlawn Cemetery, 701 S. Noland Road, Independence, MO. Presented by the Friends of the National Frontier Trails Museum. Walking tour starts every 10 minutes to hear from presenters at gravesites. \$10 for adults and \$5 for students.

6th Annual Bates County Heritage Dinner

Thursday, October 2, 2014—6:30 p.m. Robertson Hall, 802 Elks Drive, Butler, MO. Free will donation dinner catered by Butt-head BBQ. Call (660) 679-0134 for reservations. Guest speaker: Lee Ward, author of

Coffins, Kits and More: Stories of the Civil War Embalmer will speak about "Jesse James, Alive then Dead."

At 6:00 p.m. prior to the dinner there will be a dedication and ribbon cutting for the George Ann Fisher Memorial Exhibition Building on the grounds of the Bates County Museum.

From Farmstead to Field Hospital

From September 27 through November 9, 2014. John Wornall House, 146 W. 61st Terrace, Kansas City, MO. An exhibit to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Westport in partnership with the Metropolitan Medical Society of Greater Kansas City, the Clendening History of Medicine Museum, University of Kansas Hospital, and the Kansas City Public Library. Call (816) 444-1858 for hours.

152 Years Ago This Month.....

Fort Scott

Sep. 16th, 62

Dear wife & children,

It is with pleasure I imbrase this opportunity of writen to you a few lines to let you know that I am still here in the 5 ward in fort Scott. I have had the Direary & have the piles. Since I writ to you the Direary is stopt, I feal some redused in strength. I feal in hopes I wont git any worse. I am taking some medson & think it will help me. I wish I was at home & have the chance of eating your cooking, I would soon git well. I feal in hopes I will git to come to my sweet home before long. The pay master & the inspecting surgint- when they both come ther will be some Discharges Given then I feal in hopes I will Git one. Ther is some here that have bin triing as long as I have. They seame to think ther is A chance as soon the in Specting General comes. I wish it was so- you could have A chance to come in A wagon As I stated to you in the last letter I writ to you. I look for you every Day. I Know you have a veary bad chance to come & likely no chance. If you cant come make your self as content to our lot as you can. I wood like fore you to come if you & children are well & can come conventley . The wards here are all full of sick & disabled men that are left here expecting discharged. Ther is 3 companeys of the 3 west consant [Wisconsin] has just come in town from Leavenworth. I cant say any thing A bout our boys that went Don to Carthage. We here som few rumors but nothing reliable. We heare they have bin fiten A little. Jula I reckon you had as well git a carte made top put the molasses in. I would like for you to write and let me know how the turnips, loockes[?], & potatoes & how the corn come out. I have been looking fore A letter from you. I hope I will git one in the morning. The male comes in in the morning, it only leaves [every] other day for the Mound City. I

wood veary mutch to come home but I can not now. I want you to write your true love & direct to fort Scott. I think I will stay here som time with out I Git A discharge. I feale in good hopes I will Git one (turn over). Ther is preachin here evere Sabbath. We have som tracks[?] & Destripet once or twice a weak so we have something to read. Fort Scott is improving ther is severel bilding goin up here. The hospiles are cep in mutch condishun than they was last winter. I think I am over the direary for this time I am mutch better than I was this morning. I must take this to office. Alis, Cary[?], & Miley & Hiram your pa say howdy to you & want to see you veary, but you must be good children & mind your ma. Jula Ann want you to writ if you can. I hope you will excuse my letter. I must close these few lines by saying I Doo louve you & the children, I remain your loven husband. B.F. to Jula Ann & the children Irwin.

[Benjamin F. Irwin, (Trading Post, Ks.) 6th Kansas, Co.D, mustered in 8/25/61, discharged for disability on 10/22/62.] This letter is on great 2 color patriotic stationary which reads: "UNION" "Restore the union- hang the leaders and pardon the people." 4 pages period ink.

September 18, 1864

Two Civil War battles were fought at Cabin Creek--both were Confederate raids on Union supply wagon trains moving from Fort Scott toward Fort Gibson. On July 1-2, 1863, Stand Watie and the Confederates failed to stop the wagon train as it crossed Cabin Creek about 10 miles south of what is today Vinita. It was one of the first battles in which African-Americans fought as a unit west of the Mississippi River. On September 18, 1864, Watie and the Confederates won the Second Battle of Cabin Creek, capturing 740 mules, 130 wagons, and more than \$1.5 million in supplies, for which they received commendations from President Jefferson Davis and the Confederate Congress. Monuments to the leaders and soldiers of both sides were erected by the United Daughters of the Confederacy and are maintained by the Oklahoma Historical Society and the Friends of Cabin Creek at the battle site.



Battle of Pilot Knob, photos by Mike Epstein



On opposite sides of Missouri this fall, the Civil War battles will bring to life the to take control of the state. In the fall of 1864, Gen. southeast Missouri from Arkansas with 12,000 and fought across the state toward Kansas City. without skirmishes, including two large battles in

The 150th anniversary of the Battle of Pilot 20-28 with concerts, speakers, hikes, a grand ball, Sept 27 and 28.

The Confederates tried to take Fort

because the region's rail line made it strategically important, but the battle left as many as 1,000 Rebels dead or wounded.

Few Union soldiers died in the fight, but they knew they couldn't last a second day. They slipped away during the night and blew up the fort after escaping, which will be remembered during the ball on Sept. 27.

From Pilot Knob, Gen. Price headed north but found St. Louis too heavily fortified with Union troops and set out westward where his advance culminated in the Battle of Westport in Kansas City, the largest battle fought west of the Mississippi River. On Oct. 24-26, the event will be commemorated on parts of the original battlefield in Swope Park and Byram's Ford. The exhibition will include an education day and dinner on the battlefield with the soldiers on Friday evening. Saturday will feature Chautauqua presentations, music, period demonstrations, children's activities, tours of the Byram's Ford Battlefield, and battle re-enactments with cavalry, artillery, and infantry. A battle re-enactment also will be held on Sunday. •

For Battle of Pilot Knob details, call (573) 546-3454 or click on www.missouricivilwar.net. For Battle of Westport details, including ticket information for Friday's meal, visit www.battleofwestport150.org. AAA.com

150th anniversary of two Confederacy's final attempt Sterling Price entered Confederate cavalymen Hardly a day passed Pilot Knob and Westport.

Knob will take place Sept. and battle re-enactments on

Davidson at Pilot Knob





1998 Cabin Creek Re-enactment, Photos by Mike Epstein



Fisher's Hill, Virginia, Battle Sept. 22, 1864, photos by Mike Epstein