#### VOLUME 44, No. 2

#### **FEBRUARY 2001**

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Menu for February 27, 2001 Meeting, Salad, Baked Chicken, Wild Rice and Corn O'Brien 346<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting Tuesday, February 27, 2001 Social: 6:00pm Dinner: 6:30pm Leawood Country Club 8901 Sagamore, Leawood, KS (89<sup>th</sup> Street east of Lee Blvd) cash bar – dinner \$18.00

# Featured February Speaker Chris Taber

Chris Tabor currently lives in Butler, Missouri, where he specializes in the study of the events of the border war and the Civil War that took place in and around Bates County, Missouri. Chris and his family settled in Missouri, six years ago after Chris left the U.S. Marine Corps, after 10 years of service, which included a tour of combat during the Persian Gulf War and service in Somalia during Operation Restore Hope. Chris is currently employed as a Program Manager at a major telecommunications company, and holds a Bachelor of Geography degree as well as a Master of Public Administration degree from U.M.K..C. For the past several years, he has focused his research upon the "Skirmish at Island Mound," the first engagement in the Civil War in which an African-American regiment engaged the forces of the Confederacy. Chris is currently working on a comprehensive book about the formation and early history of the I" Kansas Colored Volunteers.

#### **Topic Summary:**

Officially designated as the "Skirmish at Island Mound, Mo.", the action fought by the 1st Kansas Colored Volunteers on October 29th, 1862, in Bates County, Missouri, marked the first time that an African-American regiment experienced combat during the Civil War. No quarter was asked and none given by either side during the fight, which involved brutal hand-to-hand combat. The 1st Kansas Colored Volunteers lost eight men that day, one white officer, six African-Americans, and a Cherokee Indian. Eleven men were wounded, one white officer, and ten African-Americans. These nineteen men represent the first combat casualties sustained by an African-American regiment during the Civil Continued, page 2

We need a volunteer to take home and bring the boxes of regalia and for sale items, to the meetings. We're not asking you to run the table, just do the transporting and storage for the club. Also, if you haven't paid your dues, this is your last newsletter and your name is not in the roster for this year.



#### **NOTICE : NOTICE : NO**

Reservations must be received by FRIDAY, February 23, 2001

Mail to: Dave Landes 1409 SW 9<sup>th</sup> St Lee's Summit, MO 64081

The price of the dinner is \$18.00. Make checks payable to: *The Civil War Round Table of Kansas City (CWRTKC)*. Please note any special dietary needs with your reservation.

#### **EMERGENCY ONLY**

Call: Dave Landes 816/246-5447 or as an alternative number ONLY, call Paul Gault at 741-2962. DO NOT leave duplicate reservations at both numbers. The Round Table is billed for all meals prepared. Members will be charged for reservations not cancelled by the Friday before the meeting.

(Continued from page one)

War. The battle is remarkable for its early date in the chronology of the African-American experience in the Union Army during the Civil War, occurring before the Emancipation Proclamation and a full 8 months before the 54<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts made their famous assault on Fort Wagner. Also, the conduct and bravery displayed by the African-American troops during the fight at Island Mound answered once and for all the question on the lips of many white people, in both the North and the South, regarding the use of African-Americans in the military; "Could they... would they fight?"

Although the State of Missouri, the National Park Service and many scholars, acknowledge the primacy of this battle in the history of the African-American fighting man's experience during the Civil War, there is no monument or memorial to the bravery and sacrifice made by the men of the 1st Kansas Colored Volunteers that day. I invite you to join me in celebrating this historic event, and ask your support in helping to preserve the ground upon which these men helped to strike a blow for freedom — the first struck by an African-American regiment during the Civil War.

Civil War Education Association (CWEA) presents upcoming tours and events. Contact CWEA at 800-298-1861 or email cwea@mnsinc.com for more information.

Mar 22-24, 2001 – The Irish in the American Civil War: A Symposium and The Irish at Antietam: A Field Tour. Hagerstown, MD

Mar 24, 2001 - How to conduct Civil War Research: An in-depth Workshop

**April 6-8**, Wilson's Creek national Battlefield presents, "1861 Storm Over The Land", A symposium. Springfield, MO. For information, call 417/732-2662, or e-mail <a href="wicrnb@hotmail.com">wicrnb@hotmail.com</a> or visit our website at: <a href="www.nps.gov/wicr">www.nps.gov/wicr</a>. April 7th banquet speaker is Mr. Robin Reed, Executive Director of The Museum of the Confederacy in Richmond, VA. His subject, "Robert E. Lee: The Man and the Soldier".

#### **Upcoming Speakers in 2001:**

March: Orvis Fitts: "The Life of General James Blunt"

April: Ed Shutt: "The Post War Saga of Leading Civil War Figures"
May: Mike Lawson: "England's Fascination with the American Civil War"

### Upcoming Events 2001 and beyond...

**April 5-8,** 23<sup>rd</sup> Confederate Historical given by Ed Bearss. Contact Jim Beckner for more info.

**June 21-24,** 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of the Little Big Horn. Tour and reenactment. Contact Jim Beckner for more information.

Aug 4-5, Battle of Glasgow, MO (1861 and 1864). Contact Norman Rohlfing, 660-248-3483. Amenities.

Sept. 22-23, Battle of Pilot Knob, MO. All amenities. Contact Terry Cadenbach, 4mocay@usmo.com

Oct. 19-20, Battle of Marshall, MO. Contact Scott Hughes.

Nov. 2-4, Battle of Cabin Creek, OK. Contact Willie Huckabee or Bill Griggs.

May 2002 Battle of Westport (possibly).



# President's Corner....

January 31, I attended the funeral of Judge Arthur J. Stanley Jr., with services at the Main Post Chapel at Fort Leavenworth and Interment at the Fort Leavenworth Judge Stanley died National Cemetery. January 27, two months short of his 100th birthday. Founder Round Table President Jay Gunnels, also attended the services. Arthur Stanley had a distinguished military career (World Wars I and II) and was a long tine Attorney and Federal Judge. A dedicated scholar and historian, he vas a Past President of the Kansas State Historical Society (1974-75). He was also a long time member of the Civil War Round Table of Kansas City and until a few years ago vas still a dues paying member.

On February 9, I will attend the monthly dinner meeting of the Civil War Round Table of Chicago. Founded December 3, 1940, it meets the second Friday of each month at the Holiday Inn Mart Plaza in downtown Chicago. Their dinners cost \$30 for members and \$35 for non-members. There is a \$5 walk in charge for those not making a reservation. I will make a brief report on their organization and dinner program at the February meeting\*

Since 1995 He have held our Bound Table meetings at the Leawood Country dub. Our \$18 dinner charge has remained unchanged during that time. Regrettably, due to rising meal costs and banquet set up fees, the organization will very soon have to increase the cost of our monthly dinners. The Executive Board is considering all options to keep the necessary increase to a minimum.

Judge Arthur J. Stanley Jr., 99, died peaceably in his sleep Saturday morning, Jan. 27, 2001, at St. John's Hospital, Leavenworth, KS. Judge Stanley was born March 21, 1901, in Lincoln, Co., KS, to Arthur J, Stanley and Bessie Anderson Stanley. He was born in the same barn where his father was born. H moved to Kansas City, KS, in 1911.

## MONNETT BATTLE OF WESTPORT FUND, INC.

The Monnett Battle of Westport Fund, Inc. is a tax-deductible foundation organized under the auspices of the Civil War Round Table of Kansas City. The Fund has acquired over 100 acres of Big Blue Battlefield land, later donated to Kansas City, Missouri Parks and Recreation. It also provided funding for the Battle of Westport auto tour sign and Big Blue walking tour signs and the Loose Park cannon carriage.

The Monnett Fund is currently planning a more accessible and larger public battlefield at the Big Blue in conjunction with Parks and Recreation. A recent topographical survey was done at the instigation of the Monnett Fund to provide a basis for that planning. Additionally, other landowners in the battlefield area have been identified. Initial contact has been made with some of these landowners, who may be potential sellers of battlefield land in the future. With the assistance of Jim Beckner, a State of Missouri interpretive marker will be sited at the Big Blue Battlefield in the near future.

Membership in the Monnett Fund is open to all members of the Round Table, in good standing. Contact the Monnett Fund Secretary, Harriett Duff, to let her know of your interest if you wish to become a member.

# Bleeding Kansas .... Territorial Counties

Feb. 25, Riley County: "The struggle for status and statehood" by Cheryl Collins, director Riley County Museum.

Mar.11, Johnson County, "Competing Visions", by Joel Rhodes, Ph.D., Assistant Curator, Johnson County Museum.

Mar. 25, "Lykins (Miami) County: Preachers and Politics", by John Nichols, Miami County Historical Society.

A program on the "Saga of the First Kansas Colored during the Civil War," will be presented by Chester Owens Jr. at the Shepard's Center of Kansas City Kansas at the monthly meeting on Friday, Feb. 16, at 11:00am at the First Baptist Church, 29<sup>th</sup> and Minnesota Ave. Guests are welcome to attend a long time civic leader and historian, Mr. Owens is also a Civil War reenactor. For further info. Contact Ed Shutt at (913) 342-9556.

Feb. 27, this day in the Civil War... Missouri, 1864: A minor battle at Sharon, MO. 1865: Another small battle near Sturgeon in Boone County, MO. Virginia 1862: The Confederacy gives Jeff Davis authorization to suspend habeas corpus and a call for martial law goes out to Portsmouth and Norfolk. 1864: Andersonville, GA. Federal prisoners begin to arrive at an unfinished prison compound called Camp Sumter.



SKUTTLEBUTT .....DRED SCOTT DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE ON

**INTERNET!** ST. Louis—Efforts to preserve the court records of Dred Scott's unsuccessful challenge of Missouri's slavery law, which helped poush the nation

toward civil war, have moved to the internet. The Missouri state archives worked with St. Louis Circuit Court and Washington University to pout 170 pages of the original Scott documents on a web site at <a href="https://www.library.wustl.edu/vlib/dredscott">www.library.wustl.edu/vlib/dredscott</a>. State officails formally announced the Web site on Monday, Martin Luther King Day. Preservation efforts are vital because some records in the Scott case have been lost, and many court records from the same period are "crumbling into dust," said historian Lea Vandervelde. In 1857, the U.S. Supreme Court struck down the ban on slavery in the territories and denied Scott his freedom....

**COMPROMISED FLAG PROPOSED!** Atlanta—The Georgia House on Wednesday approved a compromise state flag that would shrink the Confederate battle emblem to one of five small symbols at the bottom. After being quickly [passed by the House Rules Committee, the proposal was approved by the Democrat-dominated House, 94-82. The House also added the motto "In God We Trust." The bill goes to the Senate, where it is expected to be voted on this week....

WE SHOULD BE PROUD! Glen F. McConnell, Chairman of The Hunley Commission in the South Carolina Senate Building in Columbia, South Carolina, send us a warm thank you and I quote: "Mr. Jim Beckner, On behalf of the Hunley Commission, I want to thank you for the generous contribution from the Civil War Round Table of Kansas City for the burial of the courageous Hunley seamen. This will certainly help in ensuring that these brave men will receive the honor and dignity they so richly deserve. We have not yet determined a specific time for the funeral next year. We expect to open the submarine around January 16,2001 and depending on what we find, will establish a timeline under which to operate. We will, of course, keep you advised. Again, we sincerely appreciate your interest and support. With warmest personal regards, I am

Sincerely, Glenn F. McConnell Chairman, Hunley Commission."

The Border Bugle
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