

VOLUME 46, No. 3

MARCH 2003

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Menu for Mar. 25, 2003

Salad of Mixed Greens,
Cheery Tomatoes w/
Vinaigrette, Jamaican Jerk
Pork W/Mango Chutney,
Sweet Potato Cakes, stewed
Peas and Pearl Onions,
Key Lime Pie

364th Regular Meeting

Tuesday, March 25, 2003

Social: 6:00pm Dinner: 6:30pm

Homestead Country Club, 65th and Mission Rd.

Prairie Village, KS

Cash bar – dinner \$20.00

Featured March Speaker;

Mr. Bill McKale:

**U.S. Cavalry Museum.
"Fort Riley: 1854 – 1865;
Bleeding Kansas & The War.**

William McKale is the Director of the Museum Division, Fort Riley University, Fort Riley, Kansas. McKale is a native Kansan, having attended Kansas State University and earning B.S. and M.A. degrees in American History. He served as a Lieutenant in the United States Army from 1973 to 1975 and then taught school for the Army and in the Geary County School system.

In 1981 he joined the staff of the U. S. Cavalry Museum and has been there since. He has published articles in the Journal of America's Military Past, Journal of the American West and other local publications. In 2000, he co-authored, "Fort Riley: Citadel of the Frontier West" with Bill Young.

The Civil War Round Table of Kansas City wants to remind you that the new 2003 Roster is out and at the meeting for you to pick up.

**Coat and Tie Suggested, "Business" Casual Accepted,
Attendance Requires Dinner Reservation, Thank You.**

RESERVATIONS

Reservations must be received by
FRIDAY March 21, 2003

Mail to: Paul Gault
7118 N. Congress Ave.
Kansas City, MO 64152-2948

The price of the dinner is \$20.00. 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: Paul Gault at 816-741-2962 or as an alternative number ONLY, call Steve Harris, 816-444-1747. 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.

Gbillheimer@alumni.w/u.edu, 417-359-5422

May 16,17,18, 2003; K.C. Military Show. K.C. Expo Center by the airport. Saluting Armed Forces Day. Friday 5-9pm, Sat. 9am-5pm, Sun., 9am-3pm. Admission \$5.00, children under 12 free.

September 20-21, 2003; Lone Jack, MO.: Sanctioned. Contact Todd Conner, 660-563-3472

October 25-26, 2004; Mine Creek, KS; Contact John Spencer, 620-223-2302

October 25 & 26, 2004, Tentative: Battle of Mine Creek, Kansas . Sunday historical battle, Saturday generic battle.

Various Dates; Civil War Education Association has many programs throughout the year, for more info contact them at: 800-298-1861, Fax: 800-550-1347, e-mail: cwea@earthlink.net, www.cwea.net.

Upcoming Speakers for 2003

March 25, 2003: Mr. Bill McHale: U.S. Cavalry Museum."Fort Riley: 1854 – 1865; Bleeding Kansas & The War.

April 22, 2003: Mr. Ralph Jones; Director, Honey Springs Battlefield Park; "Battle of Honey Springs: Indian Territory" & Honey Springs Battlefield Oklahoma State Park.

May 27, 2003: Mr. Richard Hatcher III; Historian, Fort Sumter, National Monument; "The CSS Hunley: The Rest of the Story".

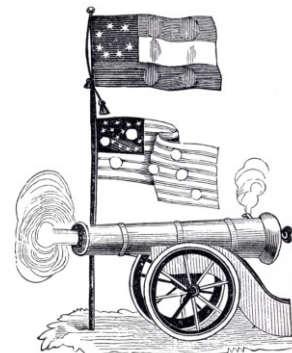
September 23, 2003: Dr. Doug Scott: Midwest Archeological Center, Lincoln, Nebraska; "Archeology at Sand Creek & Forensic Archeology."

October 28, 2003: Dr. William Shea: Univ. of Arkansas, Fayetteville, Arkansas; "Major General Samuel Ryan Curtis".

November 25, 2003: Cathy Barton & Dave Para, Booneville, Missouri & Guest readers from KCCWRT; " Musicology & Poetry of The Civil War." (Nov/Dec meeting).

All speakers for 2003 are tentative but most have a verbal agreement so far.

May 3-4th 2003; Battle of Carthage, MO.: Maximum. (Benefit). Contact Gordon Billheimer,



Part 3 in a series of 8

Civil War Letters, Diaries, And Stories:

(Addressed to - Miss Emeline D. Marshall, Wurtsboro, New York)
St. Helena Island S.C.
March 1st 1863

“Miss Marshall,

I was highly gratified this afternoon with the reception of your kind letter. It found me on St. Helena Island in S.C. instead of New Berne N.C. Was sorry to hear of your sudden illness but then the quick return of your health was soothing. I hope it has returned as permanently as ever. We've changed our positions materially since last I wrote you. Were then at Yorktown Va. now in South Carolina yet no nearer the end of the war as I can see than when we started.

We've traivailed by sea the most of the way except from Morehead City to Newbern and back a distance of about thirty six miles which we rode on the cars.

Had rather stormy weather while on the ocean which made heavy seas roll likewise the ship hence sea sickness. Sometimes the water would seem to part as to make an entrance away down in the submarine world.

The day before we landed in Port Royal or Hilton Head Harbor the weather was calm and foggy when all at once heavy cannonading broke out which was very musical. Twas the day the English Ship was captured that was laden with iron to make iron clad gun boats for the rebs. Every time weve moved weve expected to meet the terrific enemy but havent seen him lately. A few days ago we were ordered to embark very hastily which we done, and sailed about a mile; orders countermanded, and, accordingly disembarked the same day, on the same wharf we left, and went back to the same camp that we left, and



put our tent poles in the same holes we took them out in the morning. This is the way the war goes on (Official quarreling merely).

We expect to expedite in a very few days again where for I know not - for Charleston I presume. Got a nice camp here with pretty shade trees such as live oak pitch pine palmeto etc. Get water by digging about 5 feet - all sand. Ev'y company has got a nice well or spring of water by their respective cook stands and two extra ones for the Hospital Dept and Drum Corps. Oranges and figs grows here.

Now your questions.

Christmas I spent hazing about camp eating oysters Ꝣc. Mr B's question is rather a curious one but I would suggest that I'd have a number more if I should be permitted to survive the war if not before. That is if they will allow me to forage as they did when I got that one. I know John Groo but not his lass. I like the life of a soldier as well as ever. I don't think our present prospects are ve'y encouraging in reference to the warfare. Thank you for the merry Christmas and hapy New Year. I believe times are as good with me as they were in the old one and a little better. Havent seen any sleighing since I left home don't want to. Had a few flakes while at Yorktown. Ha'nt seen any since not a flake. No frost since weve been in this State.

The troops health is good; those that have been here some sixteen months says healths generally better here than any place they've found.

You can see by my writing that I've only guessed at things.

I remain your friend and well wisher with many thanks for your kind letter.

R. R. Gillett

P.S. Please write as soon as you get this direct to Hilton Head, S.C. May be I'll reply from Charleston (Cant see it)

I use Uncle Sams paper it dont cost me anything."

GENERAL JO SHELBY: The 1863 Missouri Raid

For Glory & Southern Retribution

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Part 3 of 9

The Southern command's reactions to this plan were quite tepid. They did not see Shelby as the right man to lead an expedition. His temperament was considered ill

sued to lead, and many thought he lacked the poise and experience necessary to evade the thousands of troops who would converge upon his small band. Perhaps he was well suited to lead a brigade, but little else. Additionally, the skeptics pointed out he lacked the equipment they deemed necessary for a successful invasion. Undeterred, Shelby pleaded his case with Missouri Governor Thomas Reynolds who interceded with Kirby-Smith. The political pressure, plus meeting between Smith and Shelby led to approval by the leadership of the Trans-Mississippi. Shelby was ordered to make preparations.(24)

The leader of the Iron Brigade quickly chose his troopers. He selected 200 men led by Captain David P. Gordon, 200 from David Shank's command and 200 additional troops from the commands of Lt. Colonel James C. Hooper and Major Ben Elliot. Four artillery pieces ably led by Lt. David Harris and Captain Richard Collins completed his selection process.

On September 22, 1863 Shelby rode out of Arkadelphia, Arkansas with 600 cavalrymen, two pieces of artillery and twelve ammunition wagons. General Sterling Price shouted, "You must not fail," to Shelby, and reminded him there was promotion to brigadier general awaiting him at the conclusion of a successful mission. Sergeant Salem Ford summarized the feelings of many in the column when he remarked, "all are enthusiastic and consoling themselves with the promises of great things ahead."(25)

Four days from its origin Shelby's command stumbled upon Confederate loyalists and bands of irregulars camped at Caddo Gap in the Ouachita Mountains. A charge by the raiders scattered men who were committing many of the atrocities along the border. Nearby Shelby's scouts discovered another camp of 200 militiamen and Confederate deserters. Once again Shelby's command quickly routed the group, capturing and shooting many of the deserters.(26)

Shelby's Iron Brigade continued through northwest Arkansas. One trooper noted the mindset of the men throughout the raid was marked by the, "desire for vengeance." Shelby failed to keep tight control over his men as they advanced. One local citizen wrote Jefferson Davis stating, "The plundering which accompanied Shelby's raid had made the Southern uniform more feared than the Northern."(27) At Roseville, Arkansas, Shelby's raiders discovered an odd combination of 300 deserters from the 3rd Illinois, Hindman's Confederate army and United States Colored Troops. Shelby unleashed Quantrill's veteran cutthroats upon the camp. As he had in past campaigns, Shelby used the guerillas as shock troops to do much of the units dirty work. Once again, deserters were shot and the USCT troops were stripped, whipped and returned to their masters. Moving quickly Shelby pushed his troopers toward Huntsville, Arkansas. The weather had turned colder and an early frost deeply troubled Shelby. (28)



In addition to the weather Shelby fretted because the raid had fallen behind schedule. On September 30, with great urgency, the troopers clattered into Bentonville, Arkansas. Shelby's small command doubled in size with the arrival of Colonel John T. Coffee's 400 men and Colonel DeWitt Hunter's 200 new recruits. This meeting posed a dilemma for the commander of the raid. The new troopers would give Shelby better numbers on the offensive, but also meant his rate of advance would be somewhat slower. Erring on the side of firepower Shelby accepted the offer of more troops. The command thundered into Missouri heading toward Neosho, catching the Federals totally unaware. (29)

Dressed primarily in captured Federal uniforms the raiders were able to close in on the war-ravaged community without a challenge. The first shots sent 200 Federal scurrying for the protection of the brick courthouse. Within one half hour Shelby had tightened the noose on the structure and opened fire with his two artillery pieces. Thirty minutes later a white flag fluttered from the courthouse. The prisoners would only slow the mobile column, so the prisoners were paroled.(30)

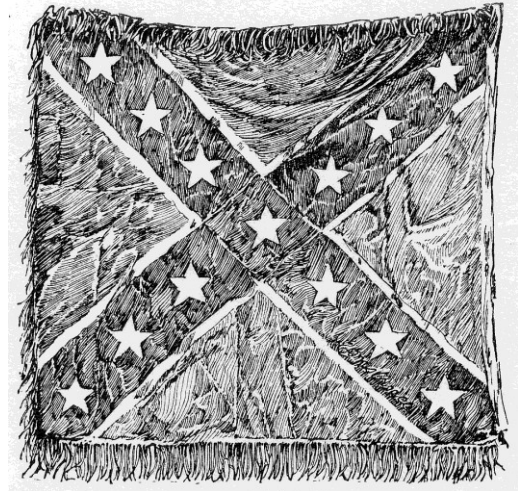
The victory at Neosho was exactly what Shelby planned for. Inside the courthouse was a treasure of supplies. Medical supplies, heavy overcoats, pistols and much more were scooped up by the raiders and carried away. Quickly, Shelby moved his command through Bower's Mill, scattering the thieves and deserters who inhabited the town. When his troopers moved on, one soldier noted, "everything was burned and the ground purified."(31)

The raid picked up speed as the cavalymen trotted north. Not until October 6 did General John Schofield, commander of the western theater, realize that Shelby's command was pointed in the direction of the central Missouri. Shelby created a diversion by sending Quantrill's raiders riding along the Missouri-Kansas border. This action caused considerable alarm and completely distracted Schofield and General Thomas Ewing's forces along the boundary. While the Federal command was preoccupied with more border warfare, Shelby's raiders bested 200 Federal cavalymen in a one-hour fight at Warsaw on October 7. The next target was the German settlement of Cole Camp where Shelby's unit, with all the troopers clad in captured Union uniforms, was mistaken for a crack Federal cavalry brigade. The townspeople boasted to the disguised raiders of killing Confederate soldiers home on leave. Upon hearing these stories Shelby identified himself and shot the Union men. In retribution, the Southern cavalymen stripped Cole Camp of all foodstuffs and belongings. As dawn crept over the horizon Shelby steered his command to the northeast toward Florence where according to his official report they discovered, "vast herds of horses" they exchanged for their tired mounts. Once again these two

Federal outposts Shelby overran were well stocked with supplies eagerly carried off by the Iron Brigade. By this time Shelby's men had led traveled over 500 miles in 15 days.(32)

Shelby continued to confuse the Federals as to their position. Quick work by Shelby's advance scouts in pulling down the telegraph wires limited the communications between the various Federal command districts. To them it appeared Shelby was in numerous locations all at one time. However, the raiders were finally discovered just south of Tipton where Shelby's troopers skirmished with nearly 1000 Federal soldiers under the command of Lt. Col. Basil F. Lazear who had managed to locate Shelby's rearguard. (33)

Until next month.....



Letter sent Governor Holden:

February 28, 2003

Dear Governor Holden:

The Civil War Round Table of Kansas City was established by former Democrat President Harry S. Truman on returning to his home town in 1958. President Truman, despite having a strong Southern and Confederate background, was a strong believer in human rights. He would be appalled at your insensitivity toward different people and cultures as demonstrated by you having the Confederate flag taken down at Missouri sites. The people who fought and died at these sites were Missourians, Americans, who did what they thought was best at the time. Have you not forgiven the British, Japanese, Germans, and Russians who attempted the annihilation of

Americans? The Southerners did not want war but they were not afraid to fight for what they believed.

Almost everyone sees this disregard for our heritage as more than just your attempt at political gain. It is seen as intolerance and imposing your values on others. Treading on others' identities and rights as well as disrespect for Missouri's ancestors.

A poll by the St. Louis Post Dispatch shows that two-thirds of Missourians think you are wrong. So do we at the Civil War Round Table of Kansas City.

The American flag flew over slavery for **seventy-three years**. The Confederate flag flew only **four years**. The American flag has forced its way into seven-eighths of the world. Surely we can allow a flag from our history to fly over a small percent of land in our own country. It is sad that biker groups, hate groups and others have used the Confederate flag improperly but in this country they have that right. Let us look past that and allow those Americans who want to honor their ancestors the privilege of doing so. We would never attempt to tell anyone of any color, religion, or different philosophy how or to whom they can pay their respects.

We feel you should rescind the decision to take down the Confederate flags at Missouri sites.

Sincerely yours,

Arnold Schofield President
James Beckner Preservation Chairman



This Month in Civil War History:

March 1852: The complete novel *Uncle Tom's Cabin, or Life Among the Lowly*, is published in Boston. Within a year it will sell over one million copies and its portrayal of slave life serves to arouse both Northerners and Southerners. **March 1855:** Elections for a territorial legislature are held in Kansas. Several thousand Pro-Slavery Missourians cross into Kansas and vote, thus electing a pro-slavery legislature. The election is recognized by the Federal governor of the territory. **March 1857:** The Supreme court hands down its decision in the Dred Scott case, and a majority declare that the Missouri

Compromise of 1820 is unconstitutional. Scott is a black slave whose owner took him from the slave state of Missouri into the free state of Illinois and territory north of the latitude 36 degrees 30', and then back into Missouri. Scott sued for his freedom, but the court rules that he never ceased to be a slave and so could not be considered a citizen with the right to sue in a Federal court. But the most far reaching impact of the decision comes from the claim that Congress has no right to deprive citizens of their property—such as slaves—anywhere within the United States. An outburst of protest from Northerners and Republicans greets the decision. **March 1859:** The Supreme Court reverses a decision of the Wisconsin Supreme Court in *Ableman vs. Booth* and rules that state courts may not free Federal prisoners. Booth had been convicted in a Federal Court for having rescued a fugitive slave, and in upholding this conviction, the United States Supreme Court confirmed the constitutionality of the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850. The Wisconsin legislature declares that 'this assumption of jurisdiction by the Federal judiciary...is an act of undelegated power, void and of no force.' Although in this instance it is an anti-slavery state defying the Federal authority, this is yet another case of a state asserting its rights. In any case, the Federal government rearrests and imprisons Booth. **March 25, 1861: Washington:** The capitol is alive with rumors from Charleston, South Carolina, but there is little reliable information about the situation there. The next day, President Lincoln and his Cabinet meet to discuss Fort Sumter and how to best deal with the mounting crisis. **March 24, 1862: Slavery:** The emancipation issue continues to be one fraught with emotion. In Cincinnati, Ohio, the abolitionist Wendell Phillips speaks and is greeted with a barrage of eggs and rocks. Lincoln, commenting on the prospect of compensated emancipation, notes in a letter to newspaperman Horace Greeley that 'we should urge it persuasively, and not menacingly, upon the South.' **March 26, 1862: Trans-Mississippi:** State militia in Missouri clash at Hammondsville with Confederate forces; at Warrensburg pro-Unionists confront Confederates; the latter are repelled in both cases. In Colorado Territory there is an encounter between Southern cavalry and Union forces near Denver City resulting in the capture of 50 Confederate cavalrymen. In New Mexico Territory, Confederates meet a troop of Union soldiers coming toward Santa Fe from Fort Union. There is a fight between the two forces at Apache Canyon, resulting in a victory for Union troops who fall back to an area near Glorieta. Confederate troops regroup after the skirmish and follow the victorious Union forces. **March 22, 1863: Trans-Mississippi:** In Missouri, Union forces are attacked and defeated by some irregular raiders near Blue Spring. In the sharp skirmishing, nine are killed, several are injured and five are taken prisoner. **March 24, 1864: Washington:** Grant and Lincoln confer at the white House. **Western Theatre:** Confederate

cavalry under Nathan Bedford Forrest capture union city in West Tennessee. Trans-Mississippi, Red River Campaign: Federal General Banks, commander of the Department of the Gulf and leader of the campaign, arrives in Alexandria, Louisiana, only to discover two new snags in the operation: first he is ordered to return Sherman's troops-10,000 men under A.J. Smith-to that general by 15 April, for the Atlanta Campaign; second, it becomes clear that the river is so low as to make barely possible for his fleet to move away from Alexandria. Nonetheless, Banks issues orders to his troops for an advance to Shreveport. **March 25, 1864: Western Theatre:** Threatened by cavalry sent by Sherman, Forrest's Confederates withdraw from Paducah, Kentucky, toward Fort Pillow on the Mississippi River. **March 11, 1865: Trans-Mississippi:** Fighting takes place today at the Little Blue River in Missouri as well as Washington, Arkansas. Eastern Theatre: Siege of Petersburg: Confederate troops led by General John B. Gordon launch a full-scale assault on Fort Steedman and nearby Federal lines. Union troops are caught completely by surprise and the Southern troops easily capture the Federal stronghold as well as the enemy entrenchments next to the fort. The initial success quickly evaporates as Northern troops counter attack later in the day and drive the Confederates out of all their newly acquired positions, including the fort itself. During the day the North suffers close to 1150 casualties, while the South loses nearly 4000, many of whom are taken prisoner.



NEW MEMBERS:

Raymond J. Mead, 7404 W. 101st St., Overland Park, KS 66212, 913-648-5789



Civil War Round Table of Kansas City
P. O. Box 6202
Leawood, Kansas 66206



Park University 2003 Black History Month Lecture Series;

Dr Gary Gallagher, from the University of Virginia, presented the fourth in a series of lectures at Park University Monday, February 24, entitled "A Contested Historical Landscape-Understanding and Interpreting the Civil War."

You can see it on the world wide web by going to the following address: <http://captain.park.deu/blackhistory/video.aspx>. Or www.park.edu, link button at bottom of screen "Special Event" then link to "Black History Month" then link to "Lecture" then scroll down to Feb 24 and link to "view the lecture on line."



Are you tired of hearing about the cutbacks in funding, join the Kansas State Historical Society and help them battle this uphill war. If it's money they need, then please join or contact them for some really wonderful publications on Kansas history. You won't believe what they have in the basement and what's new on the shelf.

1-785-272-8681 Ext. 453 or 454, www.kshs.org.

CALL TO ARMS!!!

Anyone who would be interested in doing the Border Bugle starting next January 2004 issue, to contact me or any of the officers of your round table no later than September or October, 2003 please.

