



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

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An IRC 501(c)(3)

Charitable Organization

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

SUMMER MEETINGS

June, July, & August 2011 7:00P.M.

Where: Kansas City Public Library
4801 Main St.

Kansas City, Missouri

FREE, No meals, (not sure of beverages being available)

This is your only Border Bugle until September, do not discard!

June 28: Ted Hilmer: Superintendent of Wilson's Creek National Battlefield, will present a PowerPoint presentation on the Battle of Wilson's Creek and the upcoming re-enactment in August, 2011.

July 26: Dan Smith: "Civil War History Of Jackson County." On the border where the violence in Territorial Kansas had presaged the coming Civil War, the citizens of Jackson County Missouri tried in vain to remain neutral in the face of the hostilities at Fort Sumter and the capture of the Liberty Arsenal. The four years that followed in Jackson County were marked with the horrors of insurgency and total war even before Sherman's famed March to the Sea. The talk will focus on the events in this pivotal Missouri border county that shaped the ordeal for civilians and soldiers alike in this crucible of conflict.

August 23: Col. James Speicher: "The H. L. Hunley"

Due to our limited size of the Summer issue of the Border Bugle, the Coming Events section has been whittled down considerably. Please refer to your May issue for events through the Summer or check us out online at <http://cwrkbc.org/>

MEMORIAL DAY

The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, at their annual Memorial Day Service, honored 18 veterans of WWII at the VFW Post 846 in Overland Park. Four of those veterans are members of our RT. They were Charlie Kopke, Orvis Fitts, Jack Brooks and John Coleton. We proudly presented each member with a certificate of appreciation to honor their service. Soldiers, we thank you for your service.

JULY-AUGUST 1861

A long, hot summer. As Maryland and western Virginia waver over secession and the Union adjusts to wartime measures, Rebels claim the first major battle victory: July 5, 1861, Missouri State Guard troops defeat Federal forces under Col Franz Siegel at the battle of Carthage. July 11-13 Federal victories at Laurel Hill, Rich Mountain and Corrick's Ford secure western Virginia for the Union. The first death of a Confederate general, Robert Garnett, occurs at Corrick's Ford. July 20, The New York Tribune compares Northern Peace Democrats to copperhead snakes, the name sticks. July 21, The first major battle of the war takes place at Manassas, Va. (Bull Run for those of northern persuasion). July 25, To keep the border states from seceding the Congress approves the Crittenden-Johnson Resolution declaring the war is about saving the Union rather than ending slavery. Aug 5, The US imposes its first income tax, 3% of annual incomes over \$800. By the way, the US Army officially abolishes flogging. Aug 6, Pres Lincoln signs the Confiscation Act allowing the govt to seize property, including slaves, being used to support the confederacy. Aug 10 Gt Lyon is the first Union general to be killed in battle at Wilson's Creek. Aug 14, Martial law is declared in St Louis. Aug 20, Proceedings begin to separate W Va. from Va.

NEW MEMBERS

Michael D. Fitzgerald, 5445 Cherry, Kansas City, MO 64110, 816-333-1113, m.d.fitzgerald@hotmail.com. Great grandfather Richard Fitzgerald fought with the Kansas "home guards" at Big Blue and Mockabee farm.

Austin C Turney (Austin & Ruth's son) 1501 Pennsylvania St, Lawrence, KS 66044, 785-550-5728, cleanmac@netzero.net.

Robert J. Voelker, 10705 W. 102nd St, Overland Park KS 66214, 913-541-0737.

FALL SPEAKERS

Sep 27: Glenda J. Wallace, Chief, Eastern Band of The Shawnee, "American Indians and The Civil War"

Oct 25: Arnold Schofield, "*Thunder in the Valleys*"

Nov 22: Doug Mischler as: "*Jefferson Davis*"

Dec 27: Dave Para and Cathy Barton Para "*Music of the Civil War*" & Silent Book Auction

COMING EVENTS

August 12-14: "The Battle of Wilson's Creek." For Immediate release! The Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Foundation announced today (June 13, 2011), that tickets for the 150th Anniversary Re-enactment of the Battle of Wilson's Creek are now on sale.

The three-day event scheduled for August 12-14, 2011, will draw over 3,000 re-enactors from across the country and 50,000 to 60,000 spectators. The weekend will feature not only the battle scenario reenactments such as "the fight in the cornfield" and "the fight for bloody hill," but also a period wedding, military ball, 1860s baseball game, church service, and duel. There will also be period craft demonstrations, old time peace fair games for children, authentic Civil War sutlers, period music, and modern food vendors. The reenactment site is adjacent to Wilson's Creek National Battlefield.

An exciting special activity will be a family camping area. This completely authentic area will be available for family groups who want to camp with the soldiers in period tents and experience the life of a Civil War soldier up close. Limited space is available for the family camping experience, and more information is available on the reenactment web site, www.wilsons creek150.com.

Tickets for the August 12-14 reenactment can be purchased online by going to www.wilsons creek150.com. The price for a one-day adult ticket is \$20.00 in advance and \$25.00 at the gate. Children 12 and under are free when accompanied by an adult. A three-day pass is also available for \$50.00 in advance and \$60.00 at the gate. Onsite parking for the event is free.

The www.wilsons creek150.com website also features a calendar of events leading up to the reenactment, the reenactment activities schedule, registration information for re-enactors, additional information, and regular updates. All

proceeds from the 150th Anniversary Reenactment, sponsored by the Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Foundation, will benefit the national battlefield.

October 8: Battle of Lexington Tour cosponsored with the CWRT of Western Missouri.

BUFFALO SOLDIERS

By Orvis Fitts

The Emancipation Proclamation signed by President Abraham Lincoln on 1 January 1863 included the voluntary enlistment of former slaves into Union Armed Forces. During the Civil War, 180,000 former slaves served in the Armed Forces of the United States. This was a crowning indignity to the Confederacy. In Richmond, VA. the Confederate Congress passed a resolution that any Union white officers serving with Negro troops, if captured, would be executed. It was never carried out as the North threatened retaliation-for every white Union officer executed a captured Confederate officer would then also be executed. Over a third or about 60,000 black Union soldiers were casualties of the war. All Negro army units had white officers. An independent artillery battery at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, was the exception which had black officers. This battery served in the Battle of Westport in October 1864.

During the Civil War, the Negro had proved his worth as a Union soldier fighting with great spirit and gallantry. After the war, Congress passed legislation on 18 July 1866 authorizing six regiments of Negro troops, two of cavalry and four of infantry. This legislation gave a former slave an opportunity to play a role in the settlement of the West. The two cavalry regiments were designated the Ninth and Tenth United States Cavalry.

General Grant recommended two officers with brilliant Civil War records to command the new cavalry regiments ~ Colonel Edward Hatch of Iowa for the Ninth and Colonel Benjamin Grierson of Illinois for the Tenth. It was Colonel Grierson, after confronting "Old Fogies" in the army that wanted to disband Negro regiments, who stated "colored troops will hold their place in the Army of the United States as long as the government lasts."

Despite difficulties of discrimination and the refusal of some white officers to serve with colored troops, by early summer of 1867 the Ninth and Tenth Cavalry began two decades of service on the Great Plains and in the mountains and deserts of New Mexico and Arizona. It was continuous campaigning against the Comanches, Kiowas, Apaches, Cheyennes, Arapahoes, and Sioux. Their duties also involved keeping law and order on the frontier when civil authorities would call for help.

By September of 1867, the Tenth Cavalry had been fighting the Indians in Kansas for several months. By that time, the Indians began calling the black troopers "Buffalo Soldiers". Troopers of the Tenth and later of the Ninth accepted the title and wore it proudly. The regimental crest of the Tenth Cavalry featured a buffalo.

The Ninth and Tenth United States Cavalry were a major factor in making the West a peaceful area for future cities and towns, farms, and fertile fields. In spite of racial prejudice and discrimination, those Negro troopers organized in 1866 made a significant contribution to the settlement of the West. By 1891 their combat record spoke for itself. The Ninth and Tenth United States Cavalry were two first-rate regiments.

At Fort Leavenworth just off Grant Avenue, over-looking a small lake, there is a statue of a mounted black cavalry trooper. This statue is a memorial to those 9th and 10th cavalry black troopers.

Orvis N. Fitts



LCDR, USNR (RET)

26, April 2011



Photos Mike Epstein, Wilson's Creek Battle Re-enactment, 2000



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