



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/>

441st REGULAR MEETING

TUESDAY, October 23, 2012

Homestead Country Club

6510 Mission Road, Prairie Village, Kansas

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

Dinner-6:30p.m.

OCTOBER SPEAKER ARNOLD SCHOFIELD "ISLAND MOUND"

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.

NOTE: DINNERS ARE NOW \$26.00 PER PERSON, THANK YOU!

Attendance requires a paid dinner reservation.

*Please be sure our Treasurer receives all reservations by Friday, Oct. 20,
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 Mary Vorsten at 816-333-0494.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

For those of you who missed our September meeting, you missed a most pleasant meeting. To begin, we had a wonderful BBQ dinner and meeting with our CWRT friends. We next honored our beloved Sgt. Major with the Steve Treaster Preservation Award. Arnold retired from the National Park Service as Senior Research Historian at the Fort Scott National Historic Site several years ago. He was next Manager of the Mine Creek Battlefield Site and before that he and Dr. John Spencer founded the Mine Creek Foundation, which allowed them to make timely purchases of additional land for this important site. I cannot emphasize enough the importance of their timely acquisition of these additional acres of this battlefield site. The Civil War Trust fights this battle everyday trying to add back land that encompasses Civil war battlefield sites. Dr. Spencer and Arnold had the foresight to do it while it was still farm land rather than allow the land to be developed. Dr. Spencer, deceased, was awarded the first Treaster Preservation Award in 2004. Arnold took over the duties of Preservation Director of our RT from Jim Beckner and besides this responsibility writes "The Sgt. Major's Roar" for our Border Bugle. We finished with a wonderful presentation on Second Bull Run by Ethan Rafuse from The Command and Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

WE NEED YOU is our plea for officers to serve. At the October meeting I will present a slate to be voted on at the November meeting. Please call or email me with your desire to serve and help us to continue to advance the cause of our CWRTKC.

Col. John Brooks is still in rehab from injuries suffered from a fall, Lt. Commander Orvis Fitts is staying close to home so please keep them in your thoughts.

DVB, Sr.

SPEAKERS 2012

Oct 23: Arnold Schofield; *"Island Mound"*

Nov 27: Dr. William Feis; *"Espionage Covert Action and Military Intelligence"*

Dec 18: Lt. Col. Rick Barbuto: *"The Battle of Stone's River"* Silent Book Auction.

MENU FOR OCTOBER 2012

Mixed Greens with Walnuts, Orange Sections, Champagne Vinaigrette, Grilled Citrus-Marinated Chicken Breast with Tomato Lemon Herb Sauce, Oven Roasted Potatoes, Vegetable Medley, and Peach Cobbler with Ice Cream.

"The Sergeant Major's Roar"

Battlefield Dispatches #340

"Will They Fight"

This coming Sunday & next Monday, October 28th & 29th, is the 150th Anniversary of a small but significant Civil War battle near Butler, Missouri called the "Battle of Island Mound." This battle is very important in the history of the Civil War because it was the first engagement in which African American soldiers defeated Confederate forces in combat. These soldiers were members of the 1st Kansas Colored Volunteer Infantry Regiment which on January 13, 1863 became the FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN REGIMENT from a NORTHERN STATE to join "Union Volunteer Forces" of the United States Army. This occurred at Fort Scott two and one half months after approximately 230 of it's soldiers were baptized in the blood of combat in the Battle of Island Mound, Missouri. The following report is the only after action report that is known to have survived to date of this battle & is located in Series I, Volume 53 of the Official Records of the War of the Rebellion, Pages 455-458.

Report of Major Richard G. Ward,
1st Kansas Colored Infantry

Dear Sir: I hereby respectfully submit the following report taken by that portion of your command which accompanied me to Missouri:

By order of Major B. S. Henning, I started from Camp William A. Phillips [at Fort Lincoln, west of present Fulton, Kansas on the north bank of the Little Osage River] on October 26, with 160 men & 6 officers, joining Capt. Henry C. Seaman & command comprising some 64 men (colored) & a small party of white scouts & moved by way of Mound City & Camp Defiance to the Dickey's Crossing of the Osage, in Bates County, Missouri, at which point we arrived Monday afternoon.

Shortly after crossing the stream we were made aware of the presence of the enemy in force by their scouts & by information from citizens who stated that Cockrell, Campbell, Hancock & Turman had concentrated their forces on Osage [Hog] Island & that their combined force amounted to 700 – 800 men, all splendidly mounted. We immediately took possession of old man Toothman's house (a noted guerrilla) & commenced skirmishing [engaging] with the enemy's scouts & pickets, we trying to draw them off the island & the enemy trying to draw us into the bushes. Tuesday [October 28th] we were engaged all day in desultory skirmishes [small fire fights], but the wind was so high we were unable to injure them with our sharpshooters, they taking good care to keep a respectful distance.

At night, after a consultation with Captain Seaman, we concluded to send runners [messengers on horseback] to Kansas for a force of cavalry sufficient to aid us in dislodging the enemy. Accordingly, we sent three, one to you at Fort Lincoln, one to Fort Scott & one to Paola. Wednesday morning [October 29th] I detached Captains Armstrong & Crew with a force of 60 men to engage the attention of the enemy, while Captain Seaman, Captain Thrasher, of his command & Lieutenant Huddleston, with a force of some 50 men, foraging, as we were entirely out of food with the exception of beef & parched corn. Captain Armstrong found a force of the enemy some 2 miles from camp & immediately threw out his skirmishers, under the command of Orderly Sergeant Smithers of Company B, who immediately moved forward to the attack & drove the enemy from position to position until they had been driven some 4 miles from camp, the enemy shouting to the boys to "come on, you d___d n____rs," & the boys politely requesting them to wait for them, as they were not mounted. We succeeded in killing seven men, with no loss on our side and the boys felt highly elated on their return at their success.

While at dinner [noon meal] the enemy made a dash at our pickets & ran them into camp & then drew off. Suspecting that they were concentrating troops behind the MOUND south of us, we threw out a small party of skirmishers to feel toward THEM & ASCERTAIN THEIR FORCE & RETAKE OUR PICKET GROUND. The boys soon drove the enemy over the hill and the firing becoming very sharp, I ordered Lieut. Joseph Gardner to take a force of some 20 men & proceed to rally the skirmishers & return to camp, while I placed Captain Armstrong's force (consisting of detachments from Companies A, B, E, H & G) under arms. I here found that Capt. Crew & Huddleston had left the camp & had gone toward where our skirmishers were engaged. Becoming uneasy at the prolonged absence of Gardner & the skirmishers, I marched Armstrong's force toward the firing & placed them behind the bluffs & went forward myself to reconnoiter the position of affairs. I found a detachment of the enemy posted on a mound immediately south of me & some scouts occupying a mound west of me, on the right. I sent Adjutant Hinton to that point to ascertain where our force (Gardner's) was. He returned with the information that they were at a house some 800 yards south of the mound & were making preparations to return, feeling confident that the enemy would attempt to cut them off. I ordered Armstrong to move by the right flank & gain a position in the rear of the mound & dispatched a messenger to camp to inform Captain Seaman of the position of affairs & requesting him to place other forces under arms and to be ready to move immediately. No sooner had this happened then the ENEMY CHARGED with YELL toward Gardner's little

band of 25 men. The boys took the double-quick over the mound in order to gain a small ravine on the north side, but while they were on the north slope the enemy came upon them. Nothing dismayed, the little band turned upon their foes & as their guns cracked many a rider-less horse swung off to one side. The enemy cried out to the men to surrender, but they told them never. I have witnessed some hard fights, but I never saw a braver sight than that handful of brave men fighting 117 men who were all around & in amongst them. Not one surrendered or gave up a weapon.

At this juncture Armstrong came into the fight like a lion, yelling to his men to follow him & cursing them for not going faster when they were already on the keen jump. He formed them in line within 150 yards & poured in a volley. The enemy charged down the slope & were met by a volley from Captain Thrasher's command, who had just been posted by Seaman. They were swung to the right in order too out flank Armstrong & gain his rear. I immediately ordered a detachment of men under Lieutenant's Dickerson & Minor across the open angle between Thrasher's & Armstrong's which was executed with promptness. The enemy finding themselves foiled wheeled their force & dashed up the hill. The brave Armstrong saw them through the smoke (they, the enemy having set the prairie on fire⁰, charged his brave lads through the fire & gave them a terrible volley in the flank as they dashed by. This ended the fight, although they had re-enforcements arriving, estimated by some & our best judges to be from 300 – 400 strong. They did not wish "any more in theirs." They had tested the n____rs & had received an answer to the often mooted question of "WILL THEY FIGHT."

Here commenced the most painful duty of the day --- the removal of the killed & wounded. On that slope lay 8 of our dead & 10 wounded, among the former the brave, lamented & accomplished Captain Crew. He fell as a brave man should fall, facing the foe, encouraging his men to never yield & casting defiance at the enemy. Three of them rode up to him & demanded him to surrender, saying that they would take him to their camp. He told them never. They said that they would shoot him then. "Shoot & be d___d," was the reply of this heroic soldier & set them the example by running backward & discharging his revolver at them, but almost immediately fell, pierced through the heart, groin & abdomen. Among the wounded was Lieutenant Gardner. He fell shot in the thigh & knee by a heavy load of buckshot. While in this situation unable to move, one of the cowardly demons dismounted & making the remark that he would finish the d___d son of a b____h, placed his revolver to his [Gardner's] head & fired. The ball, almost by a miracle, did not kill him; striking his skull & glancing around his head, came out on the other side. He will recover.

REVISIONS TO THE BY-LAWS OF THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE OF KANSAS CITY

The following revisions were approved by the Executive Committee of the Civil War Round Table of Kansas City.

Article IV - Executive Committee, Section III:

The times and places for the meetings of the Executive Committee were moved to the Standing Rules. The Section now reads: "The Executive Committee shall meet at such reasonable times and places as the President shall designate."

Article VII - Elected Officers, Section II:

The provision for the offices of President, First and Second Vice-Presidents to serve 2 consecutive one-year terms, moved to Standing Rules. The Section now reads: "All terms of Office shall be for one year, and shall commence 1 January following the elections."

Article VIII - Duties of Elected Officers, Section V:

The Treasurer Removed requirement for the Treasurer to be bonded. Standing Rules were added to the By-Laws. The purpose of the Standing Rules is to provide rationale, clarification, and continuity to the Executive Committee in the operation and work of the Civil War Round Table of Kansas City. Portions of the By-Laws were moved to the Standing Rules to allow for flexibility and clarification and have been previously noted. An addition to the Standing Rules not previously a part of or addressed in the By-Laws is as follows: "The President will be responsible for keeping records and operating files from the former President and updating said files throughout his/her term of office. At the end of said President's term all such files shall be passed to the next President or placed on file at the Battle of Westport Museum and Visitors Center in Swope Park."

Members of the Civil War Round Table should also note: When the By-Laws of the Corporation are altered, modified, or amended by the Executive Committee with a majority vote, the alterations, modifications, or amendments will be published to the membership in the next edition of the "Border Bugle" following the vote by the Executive Committee and will be read by a member of the Executive Committee at the next regular meeting of the Round Table. No vote of the membership regarding the alterations, modifications, or amendments will be taken.

To obtain a complete copy of the revised by-laws, please contact President Don Bates.

It is hard to make distinctions where every man did his whole duty & I hereby return my thanks to every man and officer of the expedition for their splendid behavior. Captain Armstrong having called my attention to the good behavior before the enemy of Private Scantling of Company B, Private Prince of Company E, I hereby make honorable mention of them in this report. Captains Armstrong, Pearson & Seaman also highly command Orderly Sergeant Smithers of Company B for his coolness & assistance before the enemy. There are undoubtedly numerous instances of men being as meritorious as these, but I have not space in this already long report to particularize. Accompanying this you will find a list of killed & wounded, heroes all, who deserve the lasting gratitude of all the friends of the cause & race. Thursday the enemy fled & nothing of interest occurred until you arrived & took the command.

I have the honor to be sir, most respectfully, your most obedient servant,

R. G. WARD
Captain, Company B."

Now then, the Battle of Island Mound certainly answered the questions could the African Americans be trained & "Will they Fight." Approximately 187,000 African Americans joined the Volunteer Forces of the Union Army during the Civil War and fought for their freedom and that of their families and of course the War Went On.



“BATTLE OF ISLAND MOUND, MISSOURI”: MEMORIALIZING THE FIRST BLACK TROOPS TO FIGHT IN THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR

By Rev. Larry Delano Coleman

On October 28-29, 1862, the First Kansas Colored Volunteer Infantry fought and won the profoundly historic battle now modestly known to history as the “Skirmish at Island Mound, Missouri.” These unusual troops dislodged a twice-larger contingent of Confederate irregulars from “Hog Island,” a bivouac in the Osage River, 8 miles southwest of Butler, in Bates County, Missouri. From it, rebels had launched murderous attacks into Kansas, a newly admitted “free” state that had fought a “Border War” with Missouri since 1954, when the Kansas-Nebraska Act was enacted. That Act brought forth many names to the fore like John Brown and U.S. Senator James Lane, who formed this incredible unit of freedom fighters. This mélange of men-- escaped slaves, freed men and one Cherokee Indian and his “slaves” plus their white officers-- routed their enemy in a battle involving cavalry raids, infantry maneuvers, smoke, fire, and hand-to-hand combat, ending in retreat by the defeated rebels, whose leader said “They fought like tigers!”

This was the first battle in which black troops had fought in the American Civil War, albeit under the flag of Kansas. These men were organized and armed by Kansas’ U.S. Senator, James Lane, prior to President Abraham Lincoln’s issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863, and prior to Lincoln’s desperate war measure finally authorizing the muster of black troops into Union forces later that year. Their battle field success, coupled with embarrassing Union losses elsewhere, as graphically emblazoned on the nation’s awareness by Harper’s Weekly, validated the need for black troops to fight and to win “The Freedom War,” as slaves termed the so-called “Civil War.” Or, the Union would be no more!

This historic battle banished the white supremacists’ lie that black troops could not fight and would not fight for their own freedom. Indeed blacks’ fight for freedom assumed many forms and dated back to their initial importation into Virginia in 1619 as “servents.” Escaping slavery individually was the primary means of obtaining freedom; purchasing one’s own freedom was another. Yet, armed revolt was always simmering just beneath the placid veneer of peace.

The bloody “Stono Rebellion” in South Carolina in 1739 led the way! It was led by a literate slave named “Jemmy” from Angola, resulting in the deaths of 22 whites and 44 blacks. Later, free man, Denmark Vesey, who had purchased his freedom from lottery ticket winnings, conceived an African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) Church-based plot in 1822, in Charleston,

using Bible study, and the church’s class-leader structure, as cover. Vesey’s elaborate plan was betrayed by a fearful slave, who warned his master to get away; he, in turn, alerted the militia who hung dozens of slave, and who shut down the A.M.E. Church there till after the Civil War.

In Virginia, Gabriel Prosser, a 25-year old blacksmith and preacher in 1800, also organized about 1,000 slaves to revolt in Richmond. But, his plan was frustrated by a sudden, violent thunderstorm storm, which washed away bridges and roads delaying its August 30 commencement. But, like the others, it too was betrayed by a slave before it could be reorganized. Then, in 1831, the greater liberator, Nat Turner, a slave and a self-taught preacher, rose up and slew over 60 white slave masters in Southampton Virginia, near New Jerusalem. This bold stroke for freedom sent shock waves across the nation, especially as “Prophet” Nat Turner, who quoted scripture and saw hieroglyphics written in blood, eluded capture for 3 weeks after his rebellion was quelled. In October 1999, tiny Brooks Chapel A.M.E. Church of Butler, Missouri, located in Bates County, Larry Delano Coleman, Pastor, hosted a community-wide celebration to commemorate the memory of the 8 men who died near Butler, during the Battle of Island Mound. The battle’s occurrence was unknown to the locals of both races, being lost to history and lore. At that celebration, money was raised for the erection of a monument to those heroic fallen soldiers, which was superintended by the Amen Society, a benevolent corporation created by attorney/pastor Coleman, and run by his church members.

Finally, on October 20, 2008, the bronze statue of a fully armed black soldier, designed by sculptor, Joel Randall, of Edmund, Oklahoma, was unveiled on the north side of the court house square in Butler to citizens amid great public fanfare and political acclaim! Uniformed First Kansas Colored Volunteer Infantry re-enactors from Oklahoma marched and drilled. Dr. Jimmy Johnson, a descendent of an original First Kansan, and a history teacher, gave background about the unit. A parade was hosted; Pastor Rev. Dr. Larry Delano Coleman preached a sermon entitled “Angels Rolled the Stone Away.” The anointed sculptor, Joel Randall described his involvement in, and inspiration for his beautiful life-like design. A free dinner was hosted by Butler-area churches on the Fairgrounds serving to all comers. Proclamations were read by city, county and local museum officials. Walter Wright, then-President of the Amen Society spoke in tribute to Elnora Burton, the Amen Society’s original President, whose name appears on the statue, who had died a few years earlier. Two U.S. Congressmen, Emanuel Cleaver II and Ike Skelton, appropriately framed the national importance of the dedication and complimented the Butler cooperative spirit exhibited throughout the festivities.

More than civic importance, however, the statue's erection and dedication, was of great spiritual and religious importance for the entire region and for country! Pastor Coleman learned about the battle from Noah Andre Trudeau's book, *LIKE MEN OF WAR: Black Troops in the Civil War 1862-1865*, while visiting Ft. Scott, Kansas' federal bookstore. When he saw Butler, Missouri, on a map in the front of that book, he was shocked, as he was ignorant of anything historic about Butler, notwithstanding its border with Kansas. His "official" church members—all 3 of them—were also ignorant of such. So, they all resolved to acclaim this victory and to erect a notable tribute to these now, apparently, forgotten men, "in Jesus' holy name," totally undeterred by their laughably small numbers!

It turns out that these fallen men, these heroes were not forgotten. Unbeknown to Pastor Coleman, or to the members of his flock, Chris Tabor, a white ex-Marine and cartographer, then a resident of Butler, was researching the history of the battle and was writing prolifically about it. Amazingly, a rash of articles written by Tabor, along with illustrations and photographs appeared in the Butler weekly newspaper, *The News-Xpress*, on the same weekend as the Amen Society's celebration at City Hall, which was attended by over 300 people! That October 1999 event was when and where these two passionately Christian men, Coleman and Tabor, met and became fast friends, neither knowing about the others' efforts or existence.

Eventually, Tabor led Coleman out to the Toothman Farm, where the battle was fought, and where "Fort Africa," as the sable soldiers' had named their fortifications. Ironically, it was erected, on the abandoned farm of inveterate, Confederate rebel, John Toothman. Tabor doggedly pursued recognition for the site as an historic battleground with state and federal authorities. Coleman, meanwhile, accompanied Realtor Bob Baer on site visits to adjoining properties in the expectation that "the Lord will make a way, somehow" through purchase or otherwise, for the famous battleground to be secured.

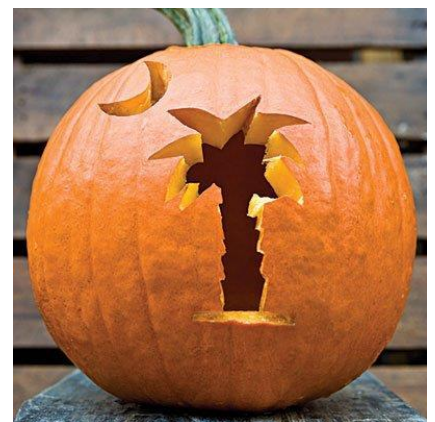
Further deepening the mystery, the State of Missouri, which had long resisted according sorely-sought recognition to the "Battle of Island Mound," purchased 40 acres of the Toothman Farm, including the "Fort Africa" site. The state constructed thereon a visitor's center, and made it a part of its state park system under the Department of Natural Resources. The State's dedication services are October 26-27, 2012, in Butler, and at the site, now deeply hallowed in history.

This paper recounts for posterity the evolutionary process of this observance from the perspective of one, central to its execution.

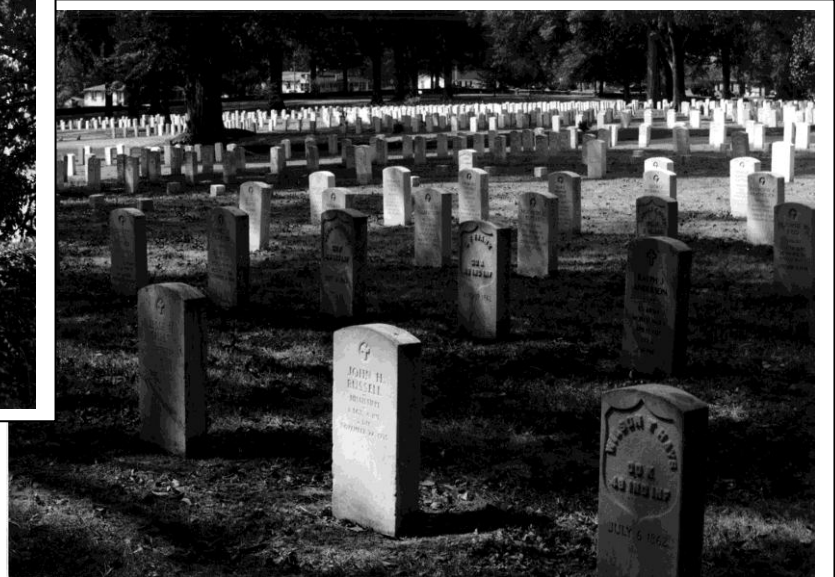
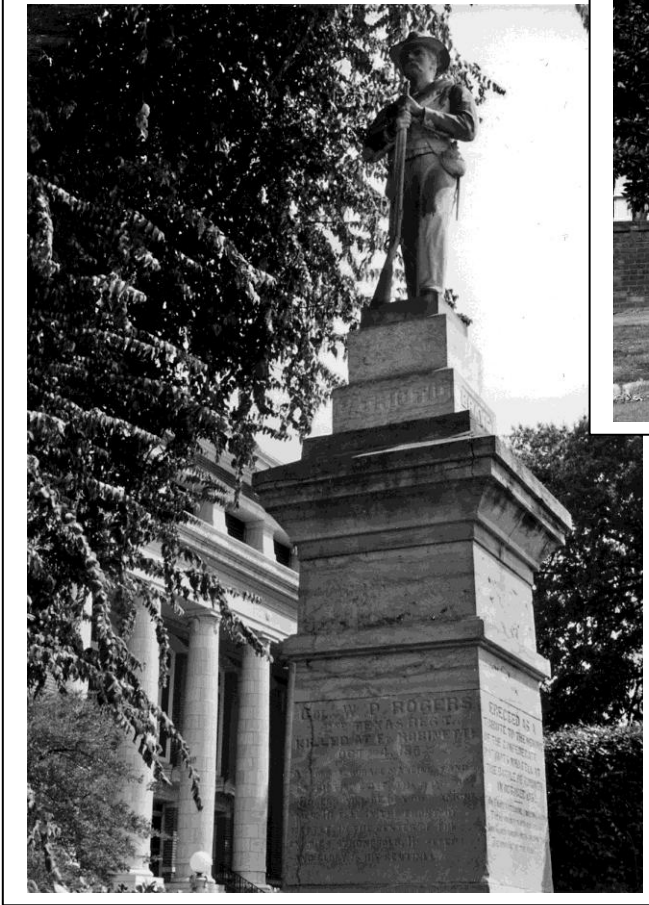
Civil War Round Table of Kansas City
P.O. Box 6202
Shawnee Mission Ks. 66206-0202



Happy Halloween



Battle of Corinth, Mississippi, Oct. 3-4, 1862
General's Headquarters
W.P. Rogers Monument, 2nd Texas
Corinth National Cemetery

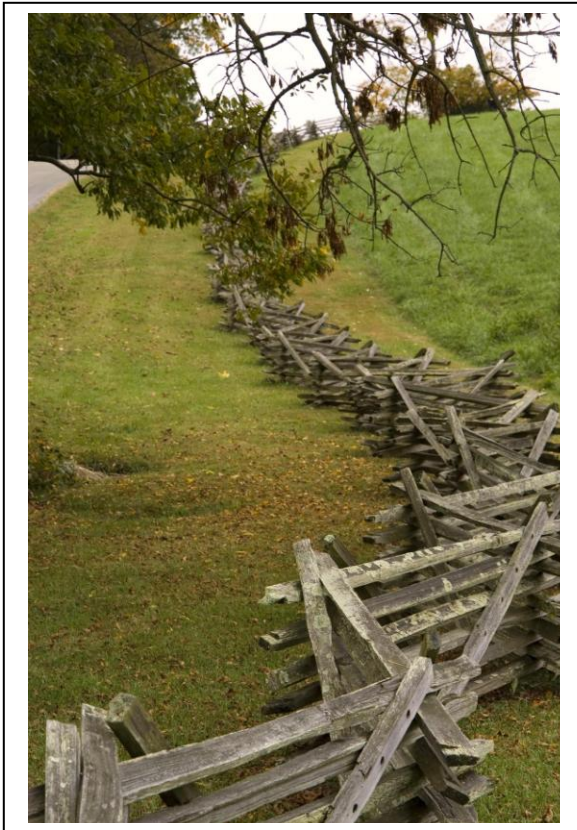


"Col. Rogers...He was one of the bravest men that ever lead a charge. Bury him with military honors."

-Maj. Gen. W.S. Rosecrans
Commanding Army of the Cumberland
October 4, 1862



Battle of
Perryville
Oct. 8, 1862



Perryville, Oct. 8, 1862



1st Kansas Colored
Island Mound, Oct. 28-29, 1862

