

BORDER



BUGLE

Newsletter of the Civil War Round Table of Kansas City



469th Regular Meeting Tuesday, June 23, 2015

Sunset Room, 8th Floor, Holiday Inn

8787 Reeder Rd., Overland Park, KS 66214 Social Hour - Cash Bar – 5:30p.m. Dinner - 6:30p.m.

June Speaker

"The Battle of Palmito Ranch"

Our speaker will be the Civil War Round Table of Kansas City's very own <u>Arnold Schofield</u>. The Sergeant Major will speak about the Battle of Palmito Ranch. This battle took place in Texas on May 13, 1865. It was the last battle of the Civil War and involved U.S. Colored Troops.

Join us for an evening of entertainment and education as we continue to commemorate the sesquicentennial of the American Civil War.



Please note that Round Table Treasurer Susan Keipp is on vacation so Paul Gault is handling reservations for the June Meeting.

Attendance requires a paid dinner reservation.

Please be sure **Paul Gault** receives all reservations by noon on Friday June 19, 2015 along with payment of \$27.00 per person. Mail to:

Paul Gault, 7118 N. Congress Ave., Kansas City, MO 64152

Holiday Inn's deadline for reservation changes is the preceding Friday afternoon, so promptly report any necessary adjustments to **Paul at 816-741-2962 or 816-522-8021**.

Use your debit/credit card at our website, http://www.cwrtkc.org. Go to Dinner Reservation under the Meetings 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 Paul an email so he will not miss your reservation. pagult@sbcglobal.net.

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A Message from Your President

One of the outstanding members of the Civil War Round Table of Kansas City is Sergeant Major **Arnold Schofield**. Last month, our speaker **Dan Weinberg**, asked about the members in our Civil War Round Table. I said that I am very impressed with the depth of knowledge within the Round Table. For example, **Arnold Schofield** is an expert on Civil War battles and skirmishes fought west of the Mississippi River. Dan said every Civil War Round Table needs a local skirmish asset such as Arnold.

Arnold helps the Civil War Round Table of Kansas City in many ways:

- Arnold lives in Fort Scott KS and yet he attends almost every dinner meeting and executive committee meeting.
- Arnold serves as our Preservation Director and was presented the Steve Treaster Civil War Preservation Award in 2012.
- At each dinner meeting, Arnold brings books for the silent book auction and conducts the live auction for one or more rare Civil War books. This raises money for the Round Table and the Monnett Battle of Westport Fund.
- Each edition of the Border Bugle contains a feature titled: "The Sergeant Major's Roar." This article is researched and written by Arnold.
- Arnold is a regular speaker at our dinner meetings. In the past three years, Arnold has presented programs on the battles of Island Mound, Honey Springs, and Baxter Springs, as well as the Aftermath of Westport (Price's retreat to Texas).
- Arnold has also volunteered to be a substitute speaker, in case the scheduled speaker cannot attend our dinner meeting.
- This October, we will have a bus trip to the Mine Creek Battlefield. Arnold helped plan the bus trip and will be our tour guide.

I first met Arnold at the John Brown Symposium in Harpers Ferry WV in October of 2009. During an outdoor luncheon, Arnold got everyone's attention when he shouted: "Attention!" so that the speaker, **Dennis Frye**, could begin his talk. I quickly realized that when Arnold speaks, people listen. Arnold has been a member of the Round Table for many years. We are very blessed to have such a valuable asset as Arnold.

-- Dave Pattison

Meet Our Speaker for June

Arnold Schofield is the Preservation Director for the Civil War Round Table of Kansas City and needs no introduction to members of the Round Table. For many years Arnold Scofield served as the park historian at the Fort Scott National Historic Site. After retiring from the National Park Service, he went to work for the Kansas State Historical Society as the superintendent of the Mine Creek Battlefield State Historic Site.

Here's a link to the video of a presentation given by Arnold Schofield at a Civil War Symposium ...

<u>The Civil War 150: Origins, Animosities and Legacies of</u> the Missouri/Kansas Border Wars

Here's a link to some photos that appeared in the Wichita Eagle ...

<u>Arnold Schofield leading a battlefield tour at the Mine</u> Creek Battlefield State Historic Site in Kansas.

Everyone is familiar with the Sergeant-Major's Battlefield Dispatches that appear regularly in The Border Bugle.

<u>Here's a link to the "Battlefield Dispatches" Arnold</u> Schofield wrote for the Nevada Daily Mail.

New Members

Let's welcome two new members to the Round Table!

Phil Baker, a retired Lt-Col in the US Army, was a history instructor at the Command and General Staff College (CGSC) in Fort Leavenworth. Phil is a former member who decided to come back to the Round Table.

Jan Gippo is a new member from Overland Park with interests in Civil War battles and tactical strategy.

Make sure you give our two new members a warm welcome at our next meeting!

Dinner Menu for June 2015

Grilled Chicken: Lightly breaded boneless chicken, stuffed with spinach and topped with roasted pepper sauce. Accompanied with herb whipped potatoes and chef's choice of vegetable. Served with a house salad, freshly baked bread with herbed butter, chef's choice of dessert, coffee, iced tea & water.

The Holiday Inn & Suites has advised they can provide the following 3 options for dinner:

- The main entree meal as selected by the Civil War Round Table.
- A vegetarian meal as determined by the chef.
- A gluten-free meal as determined by the chef.

The Holiday Inn & Suites indicated they cannot provide a low-carb meal.

Check out the Round Table's website for the <u>2015</u> menu selections.

The Round Table's Website

Embedded throughout our emailed newsletter are links to the website. Just click on those links and find out what great information is available on the website.

Check out *Member News* on the <u>Home page</u> currently featuring new members **Phil Baker** and **Jan Gippo**.

We're very excited about the <u>Mystery Photo</u>. See if you can figure out who is pictured in the mystery photo. Do you have a mystery photo that will stump the Round Table's members? Let Dick Titterington know.

We are introducing a new feature to the website, <u>Civil</u> <u>War Site Photos</u>! Dave Pattison visited Galena, Illinois and brought back some photos. <u>Click on this link to see</u>.

Each week, Dick Titterington posts a list of articles from around the internet to the <u>Articles Blog</u> of the website.

We conducted a survey of our members to find out how they used the website. For more information, check out the <u>detailed website survey results</u> on our website.

Round Table members **Mike Epstein** and **Ron Basel** are working together to take the organization's <u>Facebook page</u> to another level. Why don't you check it out? Make sure you "like" the page.

<u>Civil War Round Table of Kansas City Facebook Page</u>

Future Programs in 2015

Visit our website to see the list of Scheduled Meetings.

July 28, 2015: Dr. Terry L. Beckenbaugh of the US Army Command and General Staff College will be speaking about the Grand Review of the Armies. The Grand Review of the Armies was a military procession and celebration in Washington D.C. on May 23 and 24, 1865 following the close of the Civil War.

August 25, 2015: Beth Foulk of Genealogy Decoded has agreed to speak about Civil War women and their organizations. The title of her talk is "Up Close & Personal."

September 22, 2015: Civil War Round Table member **Chip Buckner** will present a program about his greatgrandfather, Confederate General Simon Bolivar Buckner. General Buckner also served as the 30th governor of Kentucky (1887-1891).

October 27, 2015: Dr. Diane Mutti-Burke, professor of history at UMKC, will speak about the book that she co-authored with Dr. Jonathan Earle titled: *Bleeding Kansas, Bleeding Missouri: The Long Civil War on the Border.*

November 17, 2015: Eric Wittenberg, an attorney from Ohio, will be speaking about the Battle of Brandy Station. He has written several books on the Civil War, including cavalry officers and battles. Eric's latest book is titled: *The Battle of Brandy Station*.

December 15, 2015: Civil War Round Table member **Tom Rafiner** will be speaking about his latest book titled: *Cinders and Silence, A Chronicle of Missouri's Burnt District, 1854-1870.*

January 26, 2016: **Darryl Levings**, editor and columnist with the Kansas City Star, will be speaking about "Newspapers in this Area during the Civil War" Mr. Levings is the author of the book, *Saddle the Pale Horse*.

February 23, 2016: Ian Spurgeon will be speaking

about the 1st Kansas Colored Infantry. Mr. Spurgeon's latest book is titled: Soldiers in the Army of Freedom: The 1st Kansas Colored, the Civil War's First African American Combat Unit.

March 22, 2016: Civil War Round Table member James Speicher will present a program titled: "The H. L. Hunley and Her Crews." The H. L. Hunley was a Confederate submarine that became the first submarine to sink an enemy warship. Mr. Speicher will recount the fascinating and tragic stories of the historic vessel and the lost souls who served her.

April 26, 2016: Civil War Round Table member **Arnold Schofield** will present a program titled: "Gardens of Stone." Mr. Schofield will discuss the burial of our Blue and Gray Patriots, with a special focus on the National Cemetery System.

May 24, 2016: Dr. James F. Gentsch, associate professor of history at the University of West Alabama, will be presenting a program on the role of geography on military operations such as Shiloh.

May Meeting Photos

Link to our website for more photos of Daniel Weinberg at the May meeting.



Events around Town

Many more events on our website.

Saturdays at the Museum

When: June 27, 2015, 10:00 a.m.

Where: Battle of Westport Visitor Center and Museum, 6601 Swope Parkway, Kansas City, MO

Kansas City film maker, **Gary Jenkins**, will be screening his documentary, "Negroes to Hire: Slave Life and Culture on Missouri Farms." See how Missouri's slavery system differed dramatically from the South, and hear directly from the mouths of former slaves about their lives through recordings of the Missouri Slave Narratives by the Federal Writers Project.

When: July 11, 2015, 10:00 a.m.

Where: Battle of Westport Visitor Center and Museum, 6601 Swope Parkway, Kansas City, MO

Kansas City film maker, **Gary Jenkins**, will be screening his documentary, *Freedom Seekers*, about the western Underground Railroad. Learn about how the Kansas/Missouri political conditions created the opportunity for the Underground Railroad along the western frontier. Freedom Seekers will reveal the secrets of the Western Underground Railroad. This film uses primary source documents, experts, moving readings and dramatic depictions to tell exciting stories of Underground Railroad activities. Viewers will see the pristine ruins of Quindaro, the Kansas town where every resident was a Stationmaster or Conductor.

Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri

Meets at 7:00 p.m. on the second Wednesday of the month at the Villages of Jackson Creek (lower level), 3980-A South Jackson Drive, Independence, MO. Check their Calendar (http://www.cwrtwm.org) to verify the date, location and find out about the next program topic. Visitors are always welcome!

Independence Civil War Study Group

Meets every third Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the Courthouse Exchange, a restaurant across from the Historic Truman Courthouse in Independence. The address of the Courthouse Exchange is 113 W. Lexington Avenue, Independence, MO. <u>Topics listed on our website</u>.

Kansas City Posse of the Westerners

Robert Jones, President of the Kennesaw, Georgia Historical Society, will be talking about *Doc Holliday*, the American gambler, gunfighter, dentist, and a good friend of Wyatt Earp. Tuesday, June 9, at the Golden Corral restaurant (near the Home Depot), 8800 NW Skyview Avenue, Kansas City, Mo. 64154. Dinner at 6 p.m. from the buffet menu.



Doc Holliday

Cost is \$12 or less and non-members are welcome. For more information, see **Deborah Buckner** or **Dennis Garstang** or call (816) 569-1180.



June 1861: Missouri Goes to War

154 Years Ago ...

Concerned with the security of the Federal arsenal in St. Louis, Brigadier General William S. Harney sent a telegram on January 29, 1861 that ended up changing the course of history in Missouri.

"Repair forthwith with your command to Saint Louis Arsenal."

The man on the receiving end of this telegram was none other than Captain Nathaniel Lyon, Company B, Second Infantry, US Army.

Less than four months after arriving in St. Louis, Captain Lyon, with support from Frank Blair, marched several thousand newly mustered Federal volunteers out to Camp Jackson, surrounding the Missouri



Nathaniel Lyo

State Militia encampment. Lyon send in his aide with a message for the Brigadier General Daniel M. Frost, the State Militia commander. Lyon's message demanded the immediate, unconditional surrender of Frost's forces. Camp Jackson was the shot heard far and wide throughout Missouri. Many Missourians were outraged by this overt act of Federal coercion, positioning the state on the brink of war.

But just one month later, Lyon's actions tipped Missouri over the brink and into war.

After General Harney was relieved of his command, Nathaniel Lyon, now Brigadier General of Federal Volunteers, assumed command of the Department of the West on May 31, 1861. Harney's removal set off alarm bells in the mind of Missouri Governor Claiborne Fox Jackson. Jackson knew Lyon was a hothead, willing to do anything to keep Missouri in the Union. But Governor



Claiborne Fox Jackson

Jackson knew he and his commander of the Missouri State Guard, Major General Sterling Price, needed time to get the State Guard into fighting shape.

Moderates on both sides knew the situation in Missouri was a powder keg which could explode at any time. Jackson and Lyon agreed to meet and find a way to keep peace in the state. Jackson invited Lyon to come to Jefferson City, but Lyon refused. He thought Jefferson City was a *secesh* town. So Jackson agreed to go to St. Louis and meet with Lyon there. Lyon actually issued a safe conduct pass for Governor Jackson for the visit to St. Louis.

"It is hereby stipulated on the part of Brigadier General N. Lyon, U. S. A., commanding this military department, that, should Governor Jackson or ex-Governor Price, or either of them, at any time prior to or on the 12th day of June, 1861, visit St. Louis for the purpose of such interview,

they and each of them shall be free from molestation or arrest on account of any charges pending against them, or either of them, on the part of the United States, during their journey to St. Louis and their return from St. Louis to Jefferson City."

Jackson, accompanied by his aide, Thomas L. Snead, and Sterling Price checked into the Planters House Hotel on June 10, 1861. The next day on June 11, Lyon, accompanied by his aide, Major Horace A. Conant, and Frank Blair, went to the hotel, arriving there around 11:00 a.m.



Meeting at the Planters' House Hotel

Nathaniel Lyon began by telling them that Colonel Frank Blair would speak for the Federal government. Governor Jackson wanted Federal troops removed from the state. If that occurred, Jackson said he would disband the Missouri State Guard. Price spoke about the agreement he had reached with Brigadier General William S. Harney. Price wanted to continue to support the terms of that agreement. About four hours had passed when Lyon became frustrated with the meeting and stood up to speak. Lyon did not believe Jackson or Price and felt their statements regarding peace in the state were disingenuous. According to Thomas L. Snead, who was present as an aide to Governor Jackson, Lyon made the following statement before abruptly leaving the room.

"Governor Jackson, no man in the State of Missouri has been more ardently desirous of preserving peace than myself. Heretofore Missouri has only felt the fostering care of the Federal Government, which has raised her from the condition of a feeble French colony to that of an empire State. Now, however image from the failure on the part of the Chief Executive [Jackson] to comply with constitutional requirements, I fear she will be made to feel its power. Better, sir, far better, that the blood of every man, woman, and child of the State should flow than that she should successfully defy the Federal Government."

So the attempt to negotiate peace in Missouri had failed. Maybe neither party had really been interested in peace. Given how far apart their positions were, certainly four hours were not enough to resolve their differences. But one thing was clear. The Federal government's commander in the State of Missouri had just concluded that negotiations were over and that Missouri was going to war.



Frank Blair

Four days later on June 15, Brigadier General Nathaniel Lyon arrived in Jefferson City and occupied the state capital with 2,000 Federal troops. Governor Jackson, other state officers and most of the General Assembly had fled to avoid capture by the Federals. The next day Lyon steamed upriver and on June 17 easily swept aside a small force of Missouri State Guard in what came to be known as the Battle of Boonville.

The Missouri state government elected in 1860 was in exile, and Missouri was at war.

By Dick Titterington



Union Colonel Theodore Barrett Confederate Colonel John "Rip" Ford Commanders at the Battle of Palmito Ranch



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