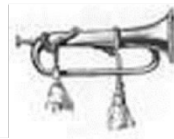




BORDER



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/>

Join us on Facebook!

507th Regular Meeting

Tuesday, August 28, 2018

Sunset Ballroom, 8th Floor, Holiday Inn & Suites

8787 Reeder Rd., Overland Park, KS 66214

Social Hour - Cash Bar - 5:30p.m.

Dinner - 6:30p.m.



August Speaker

Dr. Leo E. Oliva will give a program about soldiers on the Santa Fe Trail during the Civil War and Fort Larned KS.

Dr. Oliva said he looks forward to meeting our Round Table members and especially our president. **Chip Buckner's** great-grandfather served on the Santa Fe Trail, including command of the small military post Fort Atkinson just west of present Dodge City.

We would like to thank **Arnold Schofield** for scheduling Dr. Oliva.

Attendance requires a paid dinner reservation.

Please be sure that **Susan Keipp** receives all reservations by **12:00 noon on Thursday, August 23, 2018** along with payment of **\$28.00 per person**. Mail to:

Susan Keipp, 436 W 88th Terrace, Kansas City, MO 64114

Report any necessary adjustments by calling Susan at 816-333-0025 or e-mailing her at: skeipp@kc.rr.com by 12:00 noon on the Thursday before the dinner meeting.

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 **Susan** an email, so that he will not miss your reservation. mailto:skeipp@kc.rr.com

Reservation Deadline: 12:00 noon, August 23

Make Your Dinner Reservations Early

Please note that dinner reservations are due to Susan Keipp by 12:00 noon on Thursday, August 23rd. Late reservations will not be accepted. By contract, we must turn in our headcount three business days prior to the dinner meeting. The Holiday Inn has to order and prepare enough food and set the tables based on our headcount. Please do your part to make our treasurer's job go as smoothly as possible. Thank you!

Dinner Menu

Fried Chicken Breast – Fried chicken breast with mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, salad, bread, chef's choice of dessert, coffee, iced tea, and water.

The Holiday Inn has advised they can provide the following three 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 indicated they cannot provide a low-carb meal.

Meet Our Speaker

Kansas historian **Dr. Leo E. Oliva** from Woodston KS will speak at the Civil War Round Table dinner meeting on August 28th. His topic is the Santa Fe Trail and the Civil War, including Union-Confederate engagements and increasing conflicts with Indians during the war that required the attention of troops and supplies that were diverted to the Indian wars and not available for the larger conflict.

The importance of the Civil War in the West is often ignored or considered insignificant. The contest for control of the Santa Fe Trail and military posts in New Mexico had important consequences for the larger conflict. Dr. Oliva will recount the incidents and assess their significance. He challenges students of the Civil War to consider the effects of the conflicts along the historic trail on the course and outcome of the Civil War.

Dr. Oliva became interested in frontier military history during the 1959 centennial celebration of the founding of Fort Larned KS and has been researching and writing about frontier military posts, western trails, and Indian-white relations ever since. A graduate of Fort Hays State University, he earned a Masters degree in American history and a Ph.D. in American studies at the University of Denver. He is the author of several books (including *Soldiers on the Santa Fe Trail* in 1967 and six of the eight books in the Kansas Forts Network Series) and many articles about the frontier West and Kansas. He was editor of the Santa Fe Trail Association

quarterly, *Wagon Tracks*, for 25 years and writes a weekly newspaper column on "Our Kansas Heritage." He is a member of the Humanities Kansas Speakers' Bureau.

Publications by Dr. Oliva include:

- "Fortification on the Plains, Fort Dodge, Kansas, 1864-1882," *Brand Book* of the Westerners, Denver Posse (1960), 137-179.
- *Soldiers on the Santa Fe Trail*, University of Oklahoma Press, 1967.
- "Missouri Volunteers on the Santa Fe Trail," *The Trail Guide*, Kansas City Posse of the Westerners (June and Sept. 1970), 40 pages.
- "The Aubry Branch of the Santa Fe Trail," *Kansas Quarterly* (Spring 1973), 18-29.
- "Fort Atkinson on the Santa Fe Trail, 1850-1854," *Kansas Historical Quarterly*, XL (Summer 1974), 212-233.
- Fort Hays, Frontier Army Post, 1865-1889, Kansas State Historical Society, 1980.
- Fort Larned on the Santa Fe Trail, Kansas State Historical Society, 1982.
- Fort Scott on the Indian Frontier, Kansas State Historical Society, 1984.
- Santa Fe Trail Trivia (Third Edition, with Bonita M. Oliva), Western Books, 1989.
- "The Santa Fe Trail in Wartime: Expansion and Preservation of the Union," *Journal of the West*, XXVIII (April 1989), 53-58.
- Fort Union and the Frontier Army in the Southwest, National Park Service, 1993.
- "The 1829 Escorts," *Confrontation on the Santa Fe Trail*, Santa Fe Trail Association 1996, 17-24.

The Sergeant Major's Book Sales and Auction

We would like to thank **Arnold Schofield** for doing an outstanding job of raising money for the Round Table through his live auction and silent auction book sales. Arnold will auction the following books at the August dinner meeting:

- *Lincoln's Bishop* by Gustav Niebuhr, 1st edition, 2014; Harper Collins Publishing Company. In mint condition with dust jacket.
- *Lincoln, Little Crow & the Beginning of the Frontier's End* by Scott W. Berg; Pantheon Books NY, 2012. In mint condition with dust jacket.
- *A True Story of Charles W. Quantrill & His Guerrilla Band* by J.P. Burch; published by J. P. Burch, Vega TX, 1923. In mint condition.

- *The Devil Knows How to Ride: W.C. Quantrill & his Confederate Raiders* by Edward E. Leslie; Random House Publishers, NY, 1996. In excellent condition with dust jacket.
- *Official Records of the War of the Rebellion: Series I, Vol. 3*, Missouri, Arkansas, Kansas and the Indian Territory from May 10–November 29, 1861. Published by the National Historical Society, Harrisburg PA, in 1971. Reprint. In mint condition. Includes the battles of Wilson's Creek, Lexington, and Belmont.

Last Month's Program

At our dinner meeting on July 24th, **Bill McFarland** gave a very interesting presentation about the 8th Kansas Volunteer Infantry. This regiment, known as the "Kansas Greyhounds", was organized in 1861 as a Home Guard unit, but was soon ordered east. Ironically, when it was mustered out in January 1866, this regiment that had been recruited with the guarantee that it would serve only within the state of Kansas, had traveled 10,750 miles and was the last Kansas regiment to be discharged after the war. The 8th Kansas Volunteer Infantry participated in 17 battles, including the battles of Perryville, Chickamauga, Missionary Ridge, the Atlanta Campaign, and Nashville. This regiment also performed provost duty at Nashville and San Antonio.

Mr. McFarland said regiments are made up of individuals and he told a number of human-interest stories about some of the men that served in Company F of the 8th Kansas Volunteer Infantry. These men came from Olathe, Gardner, Shawnee, and Leavenworth KS.

- Colonel John A. Martin was born in Pennsylvania and came to Kansas at the age of 18. He led the 8th Kansas Volunteer Infantry throughout most of their history. Following the war, Colonel Martin was elected governor of Kansas in 1884 and 1886. He died in 1889 and was buried in his Civil War uniform.
- Captain John Conover was a hardware clerk from Leavenworth KS. He was promoted to major and then Lt. Colonel and became commander of the 8th Kansas Volunteer Infantry. After the war, John Conover and John Richards formed a partnership and started the famous Richards-Conover hardware store in Kansas City MO. Conover died in 1914.
- Private Moses McCleary was only 14 years old when he enlisted in the 8th Kansas. After the war, McCleary married and became the father of 11 children. In his later years, McCleary wrote a short history of his life. He said his association with the 8th Kansas is the only history of his life worth remembering.

- First Sergeant Harrison Jones was part of the color guard that carried the flag of the 8th Kansas up Missionary Ridge. Jones was wounded during a charge made by the regiment at the Battle of Nashville and was captured. When the enemy line broke, Jones escaped and with the assistance of a corporal from another company, made prisoners of 23 of Jones' former captors.
- Private John Baker known as "Sergeant Jack" was an actor before the war. However, he was an alcoholic and wouldn't show up for some of his engagements. Baker was always drinking and would quote Shakespeare while marching. Baker later deserted was assigned six months of hard labor. However, he was captured and died in Confederate hands.



Speaker Mr. Bill McFarland

Upcoming Speaker Schedule

September 25, 2018: **Dennis E. Frye**, Chief Historian at Harpers Ferry National Historic Park, will be giving a program titled: "McClellan and Lee: A New Perspective."

October 23, 2018: **Matt Spruill** will be speaking about his new book titled: *Decisions at Stones River: The Sixteen Critical Decisions that Defined the Battle.*

November 27, 2018: **Thomas Bogar** will give a program titled: "Backstage at the Lincoln Assassination."

December 18, 2018: **Aaron Barnhart and Diane Eickhoff** will be giving a program about women soldiers in the Civil War. This program was originally scheduled for March of 2018 and had to be rescheduled.

January 22, 2019: **Arnold Schofield** will give a program titled: "Legacies of the Civil War."

February 26, 2019: In honor of February being Black History Month, **Jim Ogle** will be giving a program about the town of Quindaro KS. Jim is the Executive Director of Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area.

March 26, 2019: In honor of Women's History Month, the program will feature a first-person presentation by a Civil War nurse.

Member News

On July 25th, **Susan Keipp** reported that **Suzee Oberg** had to be rushed to the emergency room because of a severe stomach infection. Suzee is now home from the hospital and is doing much better.

At our July dinner meeting, **Gary Nevius** reported that the Kansas House of Representatives passed legislation on July 23rd that could help make the historic Quindaro Townsite a National Commemorative Site through the National Park Service. The Quindaro Townsite was once a key locale on the Underground Railroad and a flourishing abolitionist community. The Townsite needs new infrastructure to help attract visitors.

Don Bates has agreed to take on the role of historian for the Round Table. Don has been a member of the Round Table since 1979 and served as president of the Round Table in 2002 and 2012. Thank you, Don!

The Sergeant Major's Roar

Battlefield Dispatches #518

Frying Bacon & Capturing Steamboats

In November and December of 1862, the Union Army of the Frontier was conducting a campaign in northern Arkansas, which concluded with the capture and occupation of Van Buren, Arkansas, in which the Kansas Volunteer Cavalry Regiment actively participated. The following description of the capture of Van Buren was described by Corporal Albert Greene in his memoir titled: "Campaigning with the Army of the Frontier" which was published in Vol. XIV of the 1915-1918 Kansas Collections.

"In camp bacon was frying in the pans, coffee was boiling in camp kettles, and a pair of revolvers were hanging on a sapling near a camp fire. I came within one of getting the pistols, but a miss is as good as a mile and the other fellow got them. They were regulation U. S. Navy [Colt] Revolvers in fine condition. One man killed and several wounded were the results of the skirmish.

"Another stand was made at Dripping Springs and a Texas regiment made a good fight for a few minutes and then fled the field. Our howitzers broke their lines and they became demoralized. The citizens came out of their homes as we passed by, some to cheer, some to curse and the women to cry. It was a running fight, in which horseflesh was at a premium. The road was strewn with broken down wagons, camp equipage, baggage, and plunder. Prisoners taken by the Second Kansas were being passed to the rear all the time. A few dead and dying rebels were seen at the roadside, but they attracted little attention.

"At length we came to a lane and then a log store – a hamlet called "Logtown" and, a little further along, we came to the top of a high bluff overlooking the Arkansas River with Van Buren at the foot of the hill. The river stretches away in sight for miles beyond, which is a wooded region for more miles and in the distance a range of blue mountains forming a lovely picture of diversified landscape.

"Our Company being in the front now – the Second Kansas having gone after three STEAMBOATS that were racing down the river at full speed – we had a fine view and were enjoying it to the full, when both Generals rode up and General Blunt inquired of Captain Earle, "What have we here?" Captain Earle who was a little nearer to the edge of the mountain replied, pointing across the river, "A Rebel battery over yonder seems to be about all." General Blunt looked in the direction indicated and said something to one of his aides, who galloped to the rear.

"In a few minutes, Rabb's Battery of black guns came up with the horses on the jump. One of the guns was run out to the very edge of the cliff and carefully sighted, Blunt supervising it himself. The shot fell about 100 yards short of the Rebel Battery, but it was a fine shot. Then Blunt dismounted and helped to sight the

gun and, at this discharge, the shot fell plump in the midst of a group of the enemy around their guns, causing a great tumult. Their shots, in the meantime, reached only about half way up the side of the mountain and burst near a large white house, on a shelf of the mountain below us. Both sides were using solid shot, but our people now tried [exploding] shells and at the explosion of the first one in close proximity to their battery the enemy limbered up and got out of range. A regiment of infantry supporting the battery was in line behind a thin stretch of Cottonwood trees, along the high water mark of the river, about one hundred yards beyond the battery, and at the far edge of the sloping sandy beach. These troops soon followed the battery out of range and made it necessary to take a new position.

"Our regiment was now formed in platoons of twelve and marched down a winding, gullied road into town [Van Buren, Arkansas]. As we moved, the guidons were fluttering, flags of the infantry and batteries were unfurled, and in this order the line marched impressively down, all in platoon formation with the bands ready, but not playing. Orders were passed along the line to brace up, cease smoking and talking, and to present a soldierly appearance. As we looked back (when the officers were not watching) it was a grand sight to see.

"About halfway down the side of the mountain is a long low frame residence, with a porch or "gallery" as they say down here, running the whole length. At the eaves of the porch, on a gilt sign, are the words: "American Bible Society Repository." As we came along in the front of this building, the family, including a number of slaves, appeared on the porch. One of our buglers, a reckless fellow, absolutely undisciplined, rode up in front of the spectators and rising in his stirrups and raising his bright trumpet high above his head, shouted in camp meeting tones, "I preach here dis day fo weeks and maybe not den." An old aunty, with a red bandana wrapped over her wooly head like a turban, threw her arms in the air, looked upward and said in the most solemn tones, "glory, bless God, de yeah ob jubilee am come!" Our Company burst out in a laugh and instantly an aide galloped back and shouted to the nearest band: "Play, Play, for God sakes Play!" They struck up the "Star Spangled Banner" and as soon as the other bands heard it, they joined in and, in this way, we entered Van Buren.

"After marching through town and giving everyone a chance to see a real Army and a victorious one, we countermarched to a back street and dismounted, leaving every fourth man in charge of the horses. The next thing was to find something to eat. Our boys struck for the river, where the Second Kansas had brought back THREE CAPTURED STEAMBOATS. We swarmed aboard and into the galleys and found lots of good things like corn pone, spare ribs, candied yams, peas, pies,

chicken and fish and no end of bottled and barreled liquors of all kinds. In a short time there were not less than four or five thousand men there and throughout the town, helping themselves to whatever they could lay their hands on in the way of eatables. Coming out of one of the boats I saw a number of hogsheads of raw brown sugar, which the boys had begun to appropriate. While I was diving my hands in for a grab, someone said in a thick muddled voice: "Soldier, take some with me." This man had his "beegum" hat filled with the sugar and was piling more in for dear life. He had found something stronger than sugar, however, for he was already comfortably "full." It was our Colonel! I never saw him in that condition before. The three boats had by this time been hauled up to the levee and were being despoiled of their movables. They were the "Fredrick Notrebree", the "Rose Douglas" and the "Key West", all sternwheelers. The "Violet", a little side wheeler I have seen on the Kansas River, lay alongside of the bank disabled."

Now then, very often during the Civil War both the troops of the Blue and Gray would often capture necessary supplies such as food, which was used to supplement their regular rations. Such was the case in the capture of Fort Smith when the Union troops captured three Confederate steamboats on the Arkansas River that were loaded with food stuffs for the enemy. Needless to say that the captured food was a welcomed relief to the "Union" troops from their standard rations and the necessity of "Frying Bacon" and, of Course, the War Went On!

Civil War Round Table of Kansas City History

The following article appeared in the *Kansas City Star* on October 24, 1998:

A Civil War battlefield gets its due. "Backwater" clash in Kansas is the focus of a new visitors center.

By: Tom Perrin, Staff Writer

PLEASANTON, Kan. - Even as the battles were being fought, people elsewhere downplayed conflicts in these parts as the backwater of the Civil War. Suffice to say this wasn't the thinking of the 2,500 Union soldiers and 7,000 Confederate troops who clashed October 25, 1864, at the Battle of Mine Creek.

The grand opening today of a visitors center will mark another step in a century-long movement to bring more recognition to the confrontation that took place about 60 miles south of the Kansas City area.

"Scholars have been concentrating on the war in the east since the war ended. The new ground is not there to be broken," said Kip Lindberg, site curator for the State Historical Society. "The new ground for scholarship is out west." Mine Creek didn't have big names like Grant and Lee, or the bloodshed of Shiloh, but it was an important battle, because it ended the Confederates' hopes in the west.

The Confederate troops were led by General Sterling Price, a former Missouri governor and a hero of the Mexican War. Price's detractors said he had "the roar of a lion, the spring of a guinea pig." On September 19, 1864, Price and his men crossed the Arkansas border into Missouri on horseback, hoping to draw the attention of Union troops farther east and south. Historians believe Price's goal was to win Missouri over to the Confederacy, and if not, at least return with recruits and supplies.

The Union army, of course, had other ideas. Price had intended to take the Union supply center in St. Louis but changed course and veered toward Jefferson City. The Confederates did some damage but failed to take the state capital. Price then set his sights on the supply post at Fort Leavenworth, but Kansas called out a militia of 16,000 to help guard the border.

To the east, Union General Alfred Pleasonton's cavalry division was in pursuit. (The town of Pleasanton is named for the general, although it spells its name differently. Not even Ola May Earnest, for 18 years the president of the Linn County Historical Society, knows how that came to be.) On Oct. 23, Confederate and Union troops fought at Westport, and Price's troops began to retreat southward into Kansas, burning and pillaging as they went.

Despite being pursued by Pleasonton and Gen. Samuel Curtis, the Confederates dragged along a wagon train of plunder, a herd of cattle and a flock of sheep. The Confederate trek south was plodding, and 100 men were taken prisoner October 24 as they crossed the Marais des Cygnes River. Some wagons and cattle were lost. Six miles south, the Confederates stalled again at Mine Creek, struggling to scale the creek's steep southern bank with horses and wagons. This set the stage for the battle.

Lt. Col. Frederick Benteen arrived with the Union vanguard October 25 and ordered an attack. The cavalry charge, complete with blaring bugles and drawn sabers, quickly broke the Confederate line. While the Rebels enjoyed a huge numerical advantage, Union troops were better-trained and carried superior weapons.

"The Confederates were on the run, and they were exhausted," Lindberg said. "They'd been in the saddle for days on end with no rest." The battle lasted just 30 minutes. About 300 Confederate soldiers died, 300 were wounded and 600 were captured, including two generals.

The Union casualties were much lighter: 15 dead and 110 wounded. One man was captured, but he escaped two days later. The Union victory also saved Fort Scott, farther south, from attack.

The story is told in greater detail at the 280-acre battlefield site and 3,000-square-foot visitors center, which will include an exhibit, a gift shop and a meeting room. Eventually, Lindberg wants to offer a video or a slide presentation. The goal at the site, Lindberg said, is to tell the story from the viewpoint of the men who fought the battle, not just the generals.

The program today begins at 10 a.m., and a ribbon cutting is at noon. Cavalry demonstrations are every half-hour from 1 to 4 p.m. Construction on the \$460,000 visitors center began in April and was supposed to be finished last month Lindberg said. However, the weather and other hitches would delay completion a few weeks. About 50 percent of the exhibit will be in place today.

"When we're done, it will not only be something the historical society can be proud of, but also the descendants of the men who fought here," said Lindberg, who formerly worked for the National Park Service at Wilson's Creek National Battlefield near Springfield.

Eighty percent of the money for the visitors center came from the U.S. Department of Transportation, the rest from the state. The Civil War Round Table of Kansas City, a longtime proponent of a battlefield park, donated \$10,000 for exhibits.

The movement to establish a park at Mine Creek dates to the 1890s, when local Civil War veterans made a request. Nothing much happened until 1974, when the state historical society acquired 120 acres. An additional 160 acres were purchased in 1978.

In the late 1980s and early 1990s the land was returned to its native state with the planting of prairie grasses. In 1989 the 125th anniversary of the battle was commemorated with a re-enactment.

A busload from the Round Table is expected Saturday. "I think it's important to Kansas, because this is the Civil War battle in Kansas between uniformed troops," said Steve Treaster of Shawnee, a former president of the Round Table. "Everything else in Kansas was basically guerrilla activity. The opening of the visitors center is the realization of a dream for Earnest. The county historical society's museum in Pleasanton has battle artifacts on display, including cannonballs and bayonets. It won't be open today, though.

At the battlefield, a walking trail goes through gently rolling prairie grassland and a wooded area.

"There's a feeling among people who appreciate the Civil War that walking a battlefield, you can see the ghosts appear," Treaster said. "You see it in a different

way than reading a book." The state historical society thinks the site will be a magnet for school field trips and day trips, especially from the Kansas City area.

"We fully anticipate to be one of the most visited state historic sites," said Terry Marmet, director of historic sites and facilities. "It's kind of a new undertaking for us, so we don't know what to expect in terms of visitation, but long-term we think we can attract 20,000 to 50,000 visitors a year."

Visiting the site: The Mine Creek Battlefield State Historic Site is located south of Pleasanton KS, 1/2 mile west of the intersection of U.S. 69 and Kansas 52. The visitor center is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday, from March 14 through October 13. Admission is \$6 for adults and \$3 for children.

Events Around Town

Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri

On Wednesday, August 8, 2018, Barbara Hughes will be speaking about "The Harris and Lobb Families of Blue Springs MO.

The meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. at the Village Heights Community of Christ, Fellowship Hall, located at 1009 Farview Drive, Independence, MO.

If you have any questions, call **Beverly Shaw** at 816-225-7944.

Kansas City Posse of the Westerners

On Tuesday, August 14, 2018, Ken Johnson will be speaking on "Post Traders - 1868-1890."

The meeting will be held at the Golden Corral restaurant (located near the Home Depot), 8800 NW Skyview Avenue, Kansas City MO 64154. Dinner is at 6:00 p.m. from the buffet menu. Cost is \$12.00 or less and non-members are welcome.

For more information, call **Deb Buckner** at 913-338-5689 or **Dennis Garstang** at 816-569-1180.

National World War I Museum and Memorial

The following events are scheduled for this month and next:

- Presentation by D. M. Giangreco on Harry S. Truman, Thursday, August 23.
- Family-friendly weekend event: "Living the Great War", Saturday and Sunday, August 25-26.
- Pershing Lecture Series: Program titled: "The AEF's War" by Shawn Faulkner, Wednesday August 29th.
- "Night at the Tower" fundraiser, Saturday September 15.

For more information, please visit their website: <https://www.theworldwar.org>

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 [Civil War Round Table of Kansas City website](#).

Check out the Round Table's Facebook page, and make sure you "like" the page.

[Civil War Round Table of Kansas City Facebook Page](#)

Historic Photos of Fort Larned, Kansas



Fort Larned, 1867.



Fort Larned Guard Squad

(Photos courtesy of the National Park Service)



Company C, 3rd Kansas Infantry Regiment, in front of Infantry Barracks, Fort Larned KS, 1867.
(Photo courtesy of the National Park Service)

Civil War Round Table of Kansas City
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