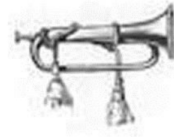




BORDER BUGLE



Newsletter of the Civil War Round Table of Kansas City



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Civil War Round Table of
Kansas City
436 West 88th Terrace
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An IRC 501(c)(3)
Charitable Organization
Website- <http://cwrk.org/>
Join us on Facebook!

536th Regular Meeting Wednesday, February 16, 2022

Milburn Golf and Country Club

7501 West 69th Street, Overland Park, KS 66204

Social hour begins at 5:30 p.m. and dinner is at 6:30 p.m.

This meeting will include a plated dinner at a cost of \$32.00 per person. Reservations are required in order to attend the dinner meeting. Please note that wearing masks at the dinner meeting is optional. See page two.

Reservation Deadline: 12:00 noon on Wednesday, February 9th.

To make a reservation, please contact Susan Keipp:

skeipp@kc.rr.com

Phone: 816-333-0025

February Program



In honor of Black History Month, Round Table member, **Arnold W. Schofield** will give a program about the First Kansas Colored Volunteer Infantry Regiment.

The First Kansas Colored was the first Black regiment organized in a northern state, the fourth Black regiment to be mustered into federal service, and the first such unit to enter combat in the Civil War. Composed primarily of former slaves, the First Kansas Colored regiment saw major combat in Missouri, Arkansas, and the Indian Territory (Oklahoma).

Important Reservation Information

The following is our Civil War Round Table's reservation policy:

- A reservation is required in order to attend the dinner meeting. Anyone who attends without a dinner reservation may not be seated, depending on the number of possible no-shows.
- Reservations are required by 12:00 noon on the Wednesday prior to the dinner meeting, in order to ensure that Milburn Country Club has an accurate count for meal preparation and staffing. **To make a reservation, please contact our treasurer Susan Keipp at 816-333-0025 or by e-mail at skeipp@kc.rr.com**
- The cost of a dinner is \$32.00 per person. If you make a reservation, but are not able to attend the dinner meeting for any reason, you *must* contact Susan Keipp by either phone or e-mail prior to the reservation deadline to cancel. Meals are prepared based on reservations and the Round Table must pay for meals whether or not they are served. You could be responsible for your meal if you made a reservation, did not attend, and did not cancel before the deadline.

Masks Are Optional at the Dinner Meetings

As announced by president **Dan Dooley** at the November 2021 dinner meeting, the wearing of masks will be optional going forward.

Dinner Menu

Milburn Golf and Country Club will serve the following meal at the February dinner meeting: BBQ beef burnt ends, cheesy potatoes, green beans, and cole slaw. Dessert will be Brownie Sundae. All dinners are served with house salad with Milburn house dressing, sliced bread, iced tea, water, and coffee.

Gluten free and vegetarian meals are available with advance notice. Please advise **Susan Keipp** if you require a gluten free or vegetarian meal when making your reservation.

Meet Our Speaker

Sergeant Major Arnold W. Schofield is a retired Public Historian with 50 years of public service. He was born and raised in the small village of Newton Upper Falls, Massachusetts, attended college on the GI Bill, and received a degree in United States History. His Public Service includes:

- 6 years in the US Army.
- 10 years as a civilian with the Department of Defense.
- 33 years with the National Park Service.
- 7 years with the Kansas Historical Society, as Superintendent of the Mine Creek Battlefield State Historic Site.

Arnold's National Park Service career included tours of duty at Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, the Blue Ridge Parkway, and Fort Scott National Historic Site. While at Fort Scott he was the Site Historian and Cultural Resource Specialist.

Arnold is a recognized lecturer throughout the Midwest on Westward Expansion, the Permanent Indian Frontier, and Bleeding Kansas and the Civil War. Two of his special interests include the roles of the American Indians and African Americans in the Civil War.

Arnold has been involved with Civil War Battlefield Preservation for more than 40 years and is co-founder of the Mine Creek Battlefield Foundation, which has raised more than one million dollars, purchased 326 acres of prime battlefield land, reprinted the only book on the Battle of Mine Creek, assisted in the production of a video on the battle by Curtis Productions, and produced a brochure on Price's 1864 Campaign in Missouri and Kansas.

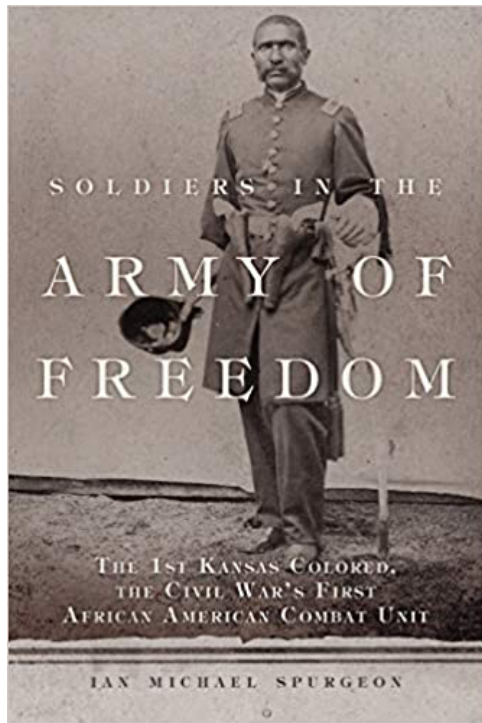
Arnold served as president of the Civil War Round Table of Kansas City in 2003. He received the Steve Treaster Civil War Preservation Award in 2012 and the Valiant Service Award in 2009 and again in 2016. Arnold currently serves as Director of Preservation for the Round Table.

Arnold and his wife Clara live in Fort Scott KS. Arnold also writes a column for the *Fort Scott Tribune*.

Book: *Soldiers in the Army of Freedom*

At our Round Table dinner meeting in December of 2016, Dr. Ian Michael Spurgeon gave a program about the First Kansas Colored Infantry based on his book titled: *Soldiers in the Army of Freedom*. The following is a summary of Dr. Spurgeon's book from the Amazon website:

"It was 1862, the second year of the Civil War, though Kansans and Missourians had been fighting over slavery for almost a decade. For the 250 Union soldiers facing down rebel irregulars on Enoch Toothman's farm near Butler, Missouri, this was no battle over abstract principles. These were men of the First Kansas Colored Infantry, and they were fighting for their own freedom and that of their families. They belonged to the first black regiment raised in a northern state, and the first black unit to see combat during the Civil War.



"Soldiers in the Army of Freedom is the first published account of this largely forgotten regiment and, in particular, its contribution to Union victory in the trans-Mississippi theater of the Civil War. As such, it restores the First Kansas Colored Infantry to its rightful place in American history.

"Composed primarily of former slaves, the First Kansas Colored saw major combat in Missouri, Indian Territory, and Arkansas. Ian Michael Spurgeon draws upon a wealth of little-known sources—including soldiers' pension applications—to chart the intersection of race and military service, and to reveal the regiment's role in countering white prejudices by defying stereotypes. Despite naysayers' bigoted predictions—and a merciless slaughter at the Battle of Poison Spring—these black soldiers proved themselves as capable as their white counterparts, and so helped shape the evolving attitudes of leading politicians, such as Kansas senator James Henry Lane and President Abraham Lincoln. A long-overdue reconstruction of the regiment's remarkable combat record, Spurgeon's book brings to life the men of the First Kansas Colored Infantry in their doubly desperate battle against the Confederate forces and skepticism within Union ranks."

Live Auction Book Sales

We would like to thank Round Table member **Arnold Schofield** for managing the book sales each month. At the February dinner meeting, Arnold will auction the following Civil War books:

- *African American Faces of the Civil War* by Ron Coddington; John Hopkins University Press. In mint condition, with dust jacket and mylar cover.
- *Firebrand of Liberty* by Stephen V. Nash; W. W. Norton & Company, New York 2008. In mint condition with dust jacket and mylar cover.
- *From Manassas to Appomattox: Memoir of General James Longstreet, C.S.A.* 1990 Reprint by Mallard Press. In excellent condition with dust jacket.
- *General G. Moxley: Recollections of a Confederate Officer* (served on General Longstreet's staff). 1994 Reprint. K & K Publishing Company. In excellent condition with dust jacket.
- *Quantrill & the Border Wars* by William E. Connelly. 1996 reprint of 1909 edition. Smithmark Publishing Company. In excellent condition with dust jacket.
- *North with Lee and Jackson* by James A. Kegel; Stackpole Books Publishing Company, 1996. In excellent condition with dust jacket.
- *Lee: An Abridgement of the Four Volume: R. E. Lee* by D. S. Freeman. Edited by Richard Harwell, 1961, Scribner & Sons Publishing Company. In excellent condition with dust jacket.

Last Month's Program



January Speaker - Dr. Harry S. Laver

At our Round Table dinner meeting on January 19th, **Dr. Harry S. Laver**, with the U. S. Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth KS, gave a program titled: "Grant vs. Lee." He gave a biographical summary of each general and then gave a detailed discussion of General Grant's Overland Campaign, which began in May of 1864 and ultimately led to Lee's surrender at Appomattox in April of 1865. Dr. Laver covered the battles of the Wilderness, Spotsylvania Court House, the North Anna River, and Cold Harbor, and the siege at Petersburg. Some key points made during Dr. Laver's presentation and the Q&A session are as follows:

- Grant and Lee are the two "rock stars" of the Civil War. If the Civil War was like the playoffs in sports, Lee would be the #1 seed and Grant would be a #35 or #36 seed. Everyone has a thought about which one was the best general.
- General Grant's army and General Lee's army first met at the Battle of the Wilderness. Grant was 42 years old and had recently been promoted to Lieutenant General. Lee was 57 years old and had been in command of the Confederate army since June of 1862.
- The Overland Campaign was essentially Grant saying to Lee: "If you are the general that you think you are, come out and fight me" and Lee saying to Grant: "If you are the general that you think you are, compel me to come out and fight."
- Lee's army was seemingly trapped at Richmond but could still cause damage to Grant. Lee defended a city that Grant did not want or need. Strategically, it was not a good idea for Grant to try and capture Richmond. Grant knew he had more resources, but he did not enough resources to assault Richmond. Grant decided on a siege at Petersburg. Lee had no additional resources.
- This was war between the Civil War's best generals. Neither man made a mistake. The exhaustion of Confederate resources led to Grant defeating Lee. Grant had greater resources and Grant was willing to use those resources to bring Lee to battle.
- Mrs. Lincoln said Grant was also willing to be a butcher. However, several times Grant chose to maneuver around Lee's right flank rather than assault the Confederates. Grant said he regretted assaulting Lee's well-defended position at Cold Harbor. Overall, Grant's casualty rates were better than Lee's.
- Grant had overwhelming resources. The South was counting on the 1864 presidential election in

the North to change the direction of the war. Grant and Lincoln knew this. Lee recognized that he didn't have the resources to win militarily. He can't win a decisive battle. The goal is to exhaust the will of the North to fight the war, similar to what Washington did during the American Revolution. There was a peace movement in the North. Even with the politics of war, Grant still had a strategic advantage over Lee. Grant had more time on his side.

- At the beginning of the war, Lincoln told his cabinet to tell England and France to stay out of the war. Lincoln also told his cabinet to get the war finances under way. The United States government had been functioning for 80-90 years. However, the Confederacy was brand new. The challenges facing Jefferson Davis were enormous.
- The South also had slavery. That was a public relations issue. The South did not want the war to be about slavery. Lincoln didn't either when the war began. There were still a number of slave states in the Union. It all changed when Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863.
- Grant couldn't completely encircle Lee's army because he did not have unlimited resources. There were a total of five campaigns going on simultaneously. Grant can't commit it all. Lincoln never studied strategy, but realized that the North had more resources. The South had shorter interior lines. The advantage to the North was to attack in all locations at the same time. Lee couldn't reinforce Joseph E. Johnston's army against William T. Sherman's army.

Upcoming Speaker Schedule

- **Wednesday, March 16, 2022:** Round Table member **Todd Stettner** will be giving a program titled: "Soldiers, Sailors & Spies: Jews in the Civil War." Todd will discuss stories of the 6,000-7,000 Jewish soldiers who served with the Union and the 2,000-3,000 who served with the Confederacy. There are many interesting facets about this including the first Jewish chaplains, Grant's expulsion of the Jews in the Western Theatre, six Jews who won the Medal of Honor and some prominent Confederate Jewish ladies who were spies.
- **Wednesday, April 20, 2022:** **Matt Spruill** will be speaking about the Battle of Chickamauga.

- **Wednesday, May 18, 2022: Dr. Christian McWhirter**, Lincoln Scholar, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, will be our speaker. Dr. McWhirter has edited the Lincoln papers and will be speaking most likely on the Gettysburg address.
- **Wednesday, June 15, 2022: Mr. Jeffry D. Wert** from Centerville PA will be speaking about his new book titled: *Civil War Barons*.
- **Wednesday, July 20, 2022: Mr. A. Wilson Greene** will be speaking about the Petersburg Campaign. He served most recently as the director of the Pamplin Historical Park Museum at Petersburg. He is currently writing a three-volume treatise on the Petersburg Campaign for the University of North Carolina Press.
- **Wednesday, August 17, 2022: Mr. Jeff Patrick** will give a program about the Battle of Wilson's Creek.
- **Wednesday, September 21, 2022: Mr. Dennis E. Frye** will give a program about Harper's Ferry WV. Due to other schedule commitments, Mr. Frye's program will be conducted via Zoom during the September dinner meeting.
- **Wednesday, October 19, 2022: Ms. Judy Cook** will give a program titled: "War on the Home Front."

In 2022, our monthly dinner meetings will be held on the third Wednesday of each month, except for the December dinner meeting, which will be held on the second Wednesday of the month (December 14th).

Please Renew Your Membership for 2022

If you have not already done so, please renew your membership in the Round Table for 2022. We have a great list of speakers and programs lined up for the remainder of this year. The membership dues go to pay for our speakers' travel costs, our administrative expenses, and contributions for Civil War battlefield preservation. Membership dues for this year are the same as they were for last year: \$35 for an individual or \$55 for a couple. You can either mail Susan Keipp a check or pay her at the February dinner meeting. The 2022 CWRT-KC Member Directory will be issued in March. Thank you for supporting the Round Table!

Member News

Father Dave Holloway was not able to attend the January dinner meeting because he went on a retreat in south Florida from January 17-21. Dave planned to visit the Vicksburg, Andersonville, and Olustee, Florida Civil War sites, as well as the Tuskegee Airman Museum.

However the Tuskegee museum is only open on weekends and was closed the day he was there. Dave said Andersonville not only has an exhibit pertaining to the prison there, but also a museum exhibit put together by the National POW organization covering the history of POW's going back to the Revolutionary War.

Susan Keipp had surgery on her left hand and wrist on January 17th and will be in a cast for three months. She sent the following e-mail after her surgery: "All went well thanks to the power of prayer. Am in a cast from elbow to fingers. He replaced the 3rd joint, the one closet to the wrist, fused it and the middle joint. I may wind up right-handed, but for now that outcome is not a pretty sight. Will see Wednesday how driving is."

At the dinner meeting in January, **Jim Voelker** said he is having some heart-related issues that have greatly affected his health. Please keep Jim in your prayers.

Dr. Dan Falvey said he visited **Roger and Judy Stanton** on January 11th. Dan e-mailed the following update on Roger's condition: "I had a chance to talk briefly with Roger, who seemed in pretty good spirits, although his short-term memory isn't very good any more and he can't concentrate on reading, listening to audiobooks, or even watching TV for more than a few minutes....Since Roger uses a walker, he had not been down in his basement library since his stroke in late 2020.... Judy has Parkinson's but is still able to drive and apparently they have regular nursing care for Roger several days a week." Dr. Falvey said he is researching his great, great uncle, General Joseph Hooker.

Dave Pattison received a very nice e-mail from our January speaker, Dr. Harry S. Laver on January 21st:

"Dave,

Thanks so much for sending me the *Border Bugle*. And thanks again to you and the entire Round Table for giving me the opportunity to speak to the group. It was a real pleasure to get to chat with a number of the members, and as with my previous visit, their depth of knowledge is impressive.

Thanks again!

Best wishes, Harry"

Susan Keipp made the following donations to the American Battlefield Trust on behalf of the Civil War Round Table of Kansas City:

- \$50 on October 21, 2021 to preserve two tracts of land at Gaines' Mill and Cold Harbor battlefields.
- \$50 on December 8, 2021 to preserve two tracts of land at Gettysburg Battlefield.

Update on the American Battlefield Trust

Gary Nevius gave an update on the American Battlefield Trust during the January dinner meeting:

- The American Battlefield Trust had a successful year last year. In 2021 the Trust saved 1,200 acres of battlefield land and had over \$30,000,000 worth of transactions. So far the Trust has preserved 54,000 acres at 150 different battlefield sites, some of which are Revolutionary War sites.
- The American Battlefield Trust began as the Civil War Trust 30 years ago. The original goal was to save battlefield land. Now they are also emphasizing education. In 2021 there was a total of 36 million hits to the American Battlefield Trust website. Eighty percent of the hits were from students, who because of COVID were using virtual learning.
- In 2006, the Trust acquired the 208-acre Slaughter Pen Farm battlefield at Fredericksburg. In order to buy this property, the Trust had to take out a loan for \$12,000,000. The Trust still owes \$1,200,000 and needs to raise \$400,000 by April 1st in order to make their next loan payment. If that money can be raised, a long-time supporter said he would donate \$800,000 in order to pay off the remainder of the loan.

Sergeant Major's Roar

Battlefield Dispatches #699

No Mere Struggle

During the Civil War, 159 years ago on January 1, 1863, there was a special celebration, which occurred in Fort Scott KS. It was not your typical New Year's celebration. Rather, it was a joyous occasion with speeches, music, and singing in the camp of the First Kansas Colored Volunteer Infantry Regiment that celebrated the announcement and issuing of the "Emancipation Proclamation" which declared that thousands of African American Slaves in the Confederate States were "Forever Free"! On that day, there was a reporter in Fort Scott from the *Anglo African*, which was an African American newspaper that was published in New York City, who described this celebration, which was eventually published in the January 31, 1863 edition of his newspaper as follows:

"January 1, 1863, was a "cloudy, but not disagreeable" day at Fort Scott, Kansas, home of the 1st Kansas Colored volunteer Infantry. A little past one in the afternoon, the men marched in a dress parade by Companies, stacked arms and then took their places at the tables "which in the form of a parallelogram, were set in front of Headquarters." Everyone sang the "Star-Spangled Banner" and the speeches began, marking the first official day of the Emancipation Proclamation.

Captain Ethan Earle of Company F led off with appropriate comments, after which Lieutenant A. T. Sholes gave "three cheers and a tiger" for President Lincoln. Next to speak was the commander of Fort Leavenworth, who predicted that "before many months roll over our heads, the official reports of some of our Generals down south will electrify the land with the details of battle wherein colored men will be mentioned favorably as having fought and bled for their country."

A hymn written for the event was sung and Colonel James M. Williams, commanding the 1st Kansas, rose. Speaking with all the flowery effusion expected of serious orators of that day, Williams observed that the efforts of blacks under arms will be "No Mere Struggle" for conquest, but a struggle for their own freedom, a determined and, as I believe, irresistible struggle for the dis-enthralment of a people who have long suffered oppression and wrong at the hands of our enemies.

Another hymn followed, after which a white Arkansan refugee praised Western soldiers and a second original song was presented. Then the regimental adjutant stepped forward to read aloud the second paragraph of the "Emancipation Proclamation":

"That on the First Day of January, in the year of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Sixty-Three, all persons held as slaves within any State or designated part of a State, the people whereof shall be in rebellion against the United States, shall be then and thenceforward, and FOREVER FREE; and the Executive Government of the United States, including the military and naval authority thereof, will recognize and maintain the freedom of such persons and will do no act or acts to repress such persons, or any of them, in any efforts they make for their actual freedom."

"Now boys", said the Adjutant, pointing to the Stars and Stripes, "do you understand that? It means that you may hunt, shoot, and destroy every Rebel slaveholder in the land and that flag and all under it shall not hinder but aid you in such righteous retribution." His remarks were met with what was described as "tumultuous cheering."

Speaking next, Captain William D. Mathews, commanding company D, said: "Today is a day for great rejoicing with us. As a thinking man, I never doubted that this day would come. Now is our time to strike. Our own exertions and our own muscle must

make us men. If we fight, we shall be respected. I see that a well-licked man respects the one who thrashes him."

A verse of "Dixie", with appropriately changed lyrics, followed. Then the Regiment's Surgeon made a few observations and the Adjutant stepped forward to deliver the keynote address, in which he extolled the service of Blacks in American's War for Independence and in the War of 1812.

According to a reporter's account of the entire affair, "The John Brown song, with its stirring "Hallelujah chorus," was then sung by the entire regiment with thrilling effect and the festivities terminated with nine cheers for a "Free Union and its President Abraham Lincoln", which were given with a will and vim that made the welkin ring. So celebrated the Freedmen of Missouri - now soldiers of the Union - the never-to-be-forgotten New Years Day in 1863."

Now then, The First Kansas Colored Volunteer Infantry Regiment was mustered into the Union Army at Fort Scott twelve days later on January 13, 1863. By this date, it became and was the first "African American Regiment" from a NORTHERN STATE of eventually more than 187,000 African-American soldiers who joined the Volunteer Forces of the United States during the Civil War.

The Civil War and Me Through the Years

The following article was written by Round Table member **Suzee Oberg**:

THE CIVIL WAR AND ME THROUGH THE YEARS

In 1956, as a sophomore at Oklahoma State University, I was enrolled in an American History class taught by a professor [Berlin B. Chapman] who selected me and three other students to take part in the dedication of a Civil War battlefield. We were given several songs to learn and sing as a part of the program. We were bussed 16 miles to the site of the first battle in Oklahoma at Twin Mounds or Round Mountain, sang our songs along with the rest of the program, which was recorded and put into a time capsule, and had a good time while earning "A's" in the class.

As a child, I had learned a little about the Civil War from my grandmother, whose father, Charles Wood Daniels, had fought in Company E, 8th Illinois Infantry, and was later involved with one of the largest old soldier's reunions in the country. Numerous times I had

listened to her tales of the fun she had while attending those festivities in Baxter Springs, Kansas at the turn of the 20th Century. She kept on display several pieces of glassware with the dates and family names engraved on them as precious mementos of that time.

It was the same year as my Oklahoma Battlefield adventure that my grandfather, Ira Louthan Hartzell, suffered a stroke and became bedridden. Before his death, he was comforted by my mother reading his father's Civil War diaries to him. The diaries and letters belonging to his father, James Naulin Hartzell and the 7th OVI, were kept in the big safe in the basement. Eventually, I inherited the Civil War diaries, letters, money, and other war related artifacts from my grandparent's home in Westwood.

When I began working on my genealogy, the Civil War service of the ancestors became important to list. It was only then that I learned that my Swiss immigrant great grandfather, Joseph Soldan Els, had enlisted to defend his home in Co A, Independence Home Guards. His two brothers also enlisted in the Union Army.

In the 1990s and 2000s, I began attending a genealogical reunion conference held where ten of my direct ancestors lived together in the Germanna Colonies in Virginia in the early 1700s. It was held in places mentioned in the Civil War diaries. The office of our Germanna Memorial Foundation is directly across the highway from "The Wilderness". In fact, one year I was invited to a Wilhoit cousin's home that was where the Battle of North Anna had occurred on their farmland. The family stated that both Grant and Lee had sat in their dining room, though not at the same time of course. They took me and the other kinfolk on a hayride around the battlefield, where archeologists were actively digging for artifacts. I must mention that some of my Virginia cousins who still live in the Culpeper and Madison area refer to the war as "The War of Northern Aggression".

The Civil War artifacts that I have are letters and diaries kept during the war, pension papers, bullets, buttons, Confederate money, a fading Alliance, Ohio newspaper front page, about the death of an ancestor with a picture of his house and the statement that it was on the underground railroad. I have the souvenir glassware engraved with the names and dates of attendance of the reunion in Baxter Springs and photographs of the tents there. I have a letter from a relative who attended the reunion as a girl and a description and speech given by my great grandfather Daniels about the reunion, which is in a 1904 history of Cherokee County, Kansas. Medals from reunions and a diary that was kept by James Hartzell, while traveling across the country on a train on the way from Cape Girardeau, Missouri to a reunion in California, round out my war related treasures.

I have not studied the Civil War battles and officers like a lot of our members have but I thoroughly enjoy learning from our speakers and reading the books they have written about the historical conflict.

Suzee Soldanel Oberg

The Battle of Round Mountain

Suzee Oberg furnished the following article, which is from the *Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture* and was written by Chad Williams:

The Battle of Round Mountain(s) and the Battle of Red Fork are designations for the first battle of the Civil War fought in Indian Territory. The names refer to the numerous hills located north of the Red Fork (Cimarron) River in southeastern Pawnee County. Now inundated by the waters of Lake Keystone, the former nearby town of Keystone gave its name to the "Keystone site" that was long accepted as the actual battleground location.

In 1949 researcher John H. Melton, along with historians Berlin B. Chapman and Angie Debo, and the Payne County Historical Society presented evidence locating the Round Mountain battle four miles west of Yale in Payne County. The proponents of the Yale site designated the engagement as the "Battle of Twin Mounds," in reference to a pair of landmark elevations where they believed the skirmish took place.

For years, defenders of the two sites have brought passion and controversy to discussions concerning the Battle of Round Mountain. Scholars and historians continue presenting evidence supporting one locale or the other. Although a consensus on the true battleground may never be reached, the ongoing debate will guarantee interest in the event.

Following the outbreak of hostilities between the United States and the Confederate States of America in 1861, the inhabitants of Indian Territory had to decide which side they would support. Although the majority allied themselves with the Confederacy, many professed an allegiance to the Union. One such group was a band of Upper Creek Indians led by Opothleyahola, who organized his followers for an exodus to Kansas. In addition to Creek supporters, Opothleyahola gathered Unionists from among the Comanches, Delawares, Kickapoos, Seminoles, Wichitas, and Shawnees. African American slaves and freed men also joined, in hope of relocating in the north. The column of nearly seventeen hundred men, women, and children traveled in wagons, on horseback, and by foot, carrying as many of their possessions as possible.

Opposing Opothleyahola's forces was Col. Douglas H. Cooper, whose Confederate command of

approximately thirteen hundred troops consisted of Texas cavalry, Choctaw and Chickasaw mounted riflemen, a Creek regiment, and Seminole warriors. Initial contact occurred on November 19, 1861, when Confederate outriders were surprised by Opothleyahola's scouts north of the Red Fork (Cimarron) River. Unable to stand their ground, the Confederates executed a fighting retreat while awaiting reinforcements. The two sides battled before darkness, and the danger of a prairie fire concluded the engagement.

Having slowed the Confederate advance, Opothleyahola's force pushed further north during the night. Declaring the battle a victory, the Confederates did not pursue but instead withdrew to regroup and resupply. Exact casualty numbers are unknown, but Cooper claimed to have killed more than one hundred Unionists while losing a handful of men.

On December 9 at Chusto Talasah, the Confederates again attacked Opothleyahola's people in an action as inconclusive as the Battle of Round Mountain. Finally, on December 26 a Confederate force led by Col. James M. McIntosh routed Opothleyahola at Chustenahlah, sending his followers toward Kansas, stripped of their belongings.

Round Mountain Battlefield Dedication

Suzee Oberg also furnished the following article from the *Stillwater Daily News-Press* about the Round Mountain Battlefield dedication ceremony:

A&M Students Plan Role in Dedication

A&M history students will have a major role in the dedication of a monument to be erected on the site of the first battle of the Civil War in present Oklahoma.

The dedication program will be carried on KSPI [radio station] at 2:30 p.m. April 15. History students will sing Civil War songs and discuss the history of the battlefield on the broadcast.

The monument is to be erected at Twin Mounds [Round Mountain], a location 16 miles east of Stillwater on Highway 51. The inscription on the \$1,200 monument was written by former A&M cartographer, Dr. Angle Debo, retired historian.

Principal chief of the Chickasaw nation Floyd Maytubby, and Elmer L. Fraker, Historical society secretary, will be featured speakers at the one hour and 15 minute program.

Five Confederate flags will be on exhibit and explained by the Payne County Historical society. Among the organizations to be represented at the event are ... A&M history students.