



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 2602

Shawnee Mission, KS

66206

An IRC 501(c)(3)

Charitable Organization

409th REGULAR MEETING TUESDAY, February 24, 2009

Homestead Country Club

6510 Mission Road, Prairie Village, Kansas

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

Dinner-6:30p.m.

FEBRUARY 2009 SPEAKER

BILL (WEITZEL) QUATMAN, ESQ.

Major-General Godfrey Weitzel: The Engineer Who Seized Richmond

Bill Quatman's grandfather was George B. Weitzel, a distant relative of Major-General Godfrey Weitzel, the Union officer who led his all-black 25th Army Corps into the burning city of Richmond on the morning of April 3, 1865. The amazing story of Godfrey Weitzel has fallen into obscurity, overshadowed by the more familiar names of the Civil War. Major George C. Strong once said of Godfrey Weitzel, "A braver and stronger man doesn't live." Godfrey's exceptional military career began at age 14 when he was accepted to West Point. Against all odds, the tall young plebe rose to the top of his class of 1855, catching the attention of Superintendent Robert E. Lee. His career advanced under two unlikely mentors, P.G.T. Beauregard and Benjamin Butler, who promoted the bright young engineer, recognizing his skills despite his youth. Appointed by Butler to two terms as mayor of New Orleans, Ulysses S. Grant eventually gave Godfrey Weitzel command of all troops north of the Appomattox River during the War's final operations.

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Please be sure that we have your reservation by Friday Feb. 20. Return reservation in the enclosed envelope with required payment of \$22.00 per person to; Paul Gault, 7118 N. Congress Ave., K.C. Mo. 64152.

If you have questions or your payment is unavoidably tardy, please contact either Treasurer Paul Gault at 816-741-2962 or Assistant Treasurer Betty Ergovich at 913 441-6462.

Attendance requires a paid dinner reservation.

On April 4-5, 1865, Weitzel spent two days in private meetings with Abraham Lincoln in Jefferson Davis' former Richmond home. General Weitzel was the president's confidant as Lincoln tried one last effort to end the awful war by negotiation, sparing further bloodshed. Weitzel's post-war career was spent designing lighthouses, dams and locks on the Great Lakes, including the massive "Weitzel Lock." His grave sits unnoticed in a family plot in Cincinnati. But in Arlington Cemetery the *Ord and Weitzel Gate* stands in tribute to one of the War's most interesting characters. Come hear the whole story, one you've never heard before!

SPEAKERS FOR 2009

February 24, Bill Quatman, "General Godfrey Weitzel."

March 24, Ron Hawkins: "General Longstreet."

April 28, William L. Shea, "Generals Hindman or Genl Curtis."

May 28, (Thursday), Lauren Cook Wike: "They Fought Like Demons.", Silent Book Fair, and wear your period clothing

September 22, Howard Mann: "Tragedy on the St. Joseph & Hannibal RR."

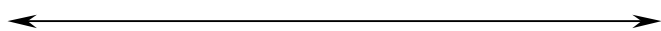
October 27, Dave Metheneys: "John Brown."

November 17, Orvis Fitts: "Arlington National Cemetery"

December 15, Silent Auction, Book sale and Vignettes with Dinner.

MENU FOR FEB. 2009;

Iceberg Lettuce with Tomato, Egg, Red Onion, Cheese Cubes and Choice of Dressing, Chicken Chardonnay Parmesan Risotto, Green Beans Almandine, and Cheesecake with Cherry Sauce



COMING EVENTS.....

"Bleeding Kansas 2009"

"Lincoln in Kansas" exhibit, Kansas Museum of History, Topeka

This special exhibit runs January 29 -July 26, 2009, and commemorates the bicentennial of

Abraham Lincoln's birth and the sesquicentennial of his visit to Kansas. Artifacts and images tell the story of his political career, from the Lincoln-Douglas debates through his assassination. Items in the exhibit include Lincoln presidential campaign medals and pins, an "Admit Me Free" flag used in the 1860 campaign, and a blood-stained piece of a theatre program from the night Lincoln was shot, kshs.org/exhibits/current/upcoming.htm.

Bleeding Kansas 2009 Program Series, Constitution Hall State Historic Site, LeCompton

Join us 2 p.m. Sundays, January 25 - March 1, for a series of talks and dramatic interpretations on the violent conflict over the slavery issue in Kansas Territory 1854 through 1861. Topics include legendary Kansans in the state capitol, LeCompton during territorial Kansas, Abraham Lincoln, and Governor Andrew Reeder. kshs.org/places/constitution.

The Reel Civil War: The Civil War in the Cinema will be presented at the 13th annual Civil War Seminar at Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia, on March 27 - 28, 2009. For more information go to www.liberty.edu/index.

The latest issue of the *Rural Missouri* magazine has an interesting article about the well-known Civil War battlefield painter, Andy Thomas from Carthage, MO. With no photos to use for reference, Andy instead scoured diaries and books searching for realistic elements to put in his paintings. Visit www.ruralmissouri.coop/09pages/09FebAndyThomas.

Saturday, February 21, 2009 - 2:00 p.m.- 5:00 p.m.
Black History Day-Hermann, MO
Deutsheim State Historic Site, Hermann.
Lecture on how German resistance to slavery helped include former slaves in the community. Free admission.

Sunday, February 22, 2009 - 2:00 p.m.
Bleeding Kansas 2009 - Constitution Hall Historic Site, LeCompton, KS. *The Civil War's First Blood* by James Denny, MO, Department of Natural Resources. Book signing.

Tuesday, February 24, 2009 - Dinner at 6:30 p.m.
Civil War Round Table of Kansas City Homestead Country Club, 6510 Mission Road, Prairie Village,

KS. Cost is \$22 per person. For reservations call Paul Gault at (8 1 6) 74 1 -2962. *General Godfrey Weitzel* by Bill Quatman.

February 28, 2009 - March 1, 2009 - 11:00a.m.
Battle of Sand Ridge, Sikeston, MO. Scott Matthews' farm and downtown Sikeston, MO. Civil War battle reenactment and encampment and a variety of period events. Free admittance. For information call 471-2566.

Sunday, March 1, 2009 - 2:00 p.m.
Bleeding Kansas 2009 - Constitution Hall Historic Site, Lecompton, KS. *Governor Andrew Reeder: At the Request of My President* by Rex Patty, first-person presenter.

Through April 19, 2009
Alexandee II and Abraham Lincoln Exhibit at Union Station. Tickets are \$9.50 each or \$6.00 for groups of 15 or more. Call 816-460-2020 or go to www.unionstation.org.



***True Tales of the Tenth Kansas
Infantry***
By Howard Mann
Part Two

***The Joys of Jayhawking: Words from the
Perpetrator's Mouths***

This definition may be subdivided into several motivations behind jayhawking, retribution and revenge, foraging and starvation, military strategy and criminal behavior. One additional aspect of jayhawking was the question of was this behavior ever punished and, if so, to what severity?

1. Retribution and Revenge

Contrary to setting excuses for jayhawking, there are many references to aspects of retribution and revenge for acts, perceived or real, perpetrated by the Missouri population or the Missouri State Guard. Numerous officers of Lane's Brigade experienced first hand the violence of the Kansas border troubles from 1856 through 1860. Their long-reaching memory left little forgiveness for the invasions of Missouri Ruffians including the 1856

George W. Clarke raid through Linn County and Charles Hamelton's Marais de Cygnes Massacre in 1858. Henry E. Palmer, a member of Lane's Brigade, related a particularly poignant story.

"After Osceola we camped at West Point, Mo., on the Kansas line. I was on duty as sergeant of the guard on picket nearly a mile from the main camp. It had been raining all night - a cold, drizzly October rain. At ten A.M. we saw a woman approaching from down the dreary, uninhabited roadway. She was on foot and was carrying a baby hugged to her breast, with four little children also walking - two boys and two girls, the oldest a girl of seven years. All were in their nightclothes and all wet to the skin; children crying and suffering with cold and hunger. We soldiers quickly shed our coats to shelter them from the storm and gave them our dog-tent by the rail camp fire. The babe was dead. I sent for a wagon and soon we had them in camp. The mother died from this exposure within thirty-six hours. The four children were sent to four different homes by friendly officers and soldiers."

"The story told by the woman before her death revealed the fact that her husband had, as a member of the Missouri legislature of '60 and '61, bitterly fought the secession scheme. He was a rich man - owned 500 acres of improved land, fine house, barn and other outbuildings, and owned several slaves, yet he loved the flag and was for the Union. In January, 1861, he freed his slaves, and then his neighbors damned him as a "black abolitionist." They finally, in July, 1861, drove him from his home. The Union army was the only safe resort; so he joined Montgomery's Kansas regiment, and was, on this October day, 110 miles south of West Point. Bushwhackers had at divers times robbed his home until every head of stock had been driven away save a yolk of old, worn-out oxen. His wife with one old, black aunty had remained at the persecuted home, and during her confinement, in August, no friends came to see her, only the old slave woman, who would not accept her freedom, being left to help her. On this cold, dreary October night the bushwhackers came for their last damnable raid, burst in the doors suddenly, drove her and her children out into the storm, and set fire to the house, barn and other outbuildings. The burning home gave generous heat until morning, when the old colored woman yoked the oxen to an old wagon, filled the box with straw, loaded in the

children, and started for Kansas. Within four miles of our camp a band of bushwhacking fiends rode out of the brush and asked: "Where are you going?" Answer: "To Kansas." "Go on, and give our compliments to your husband." With this reply they shot the oxen and rode away, leaving a helpless mother and five children, near no habitation, to walk in the rain and mud to our camp. When the soldier husband and father heard the news, only four survivors of his once happy family were left, and they in four different homes widely separated. **Did he thirst for revenge?**

The viciousness of early clashes with the Missouri State Guard created a horrible scenario of murder. In the Cass County *Democrat*, June 10, 1926 a description of the battle of Morristown, Missouri noted: "taken prisoner Rutherford Hook, Robert Hamilton, Mr. Davis, Mr. Sublett and two other men whose names we did not know..... were captured and taken about a mile west of town and made to dig their graves, after which all but Davis and Hook were shot and buried in the graves they had dug. ~~Hook and Davis were released, probably on account of their youth.~~"


Henry E. Palmer, of Lane's Brigade, also saw the executions but attributed them to retribution. He writes "...and only a few weeks later in a fierce little battle at Morristown, Mo., where I learned by first lesson of the horrors of what was then called the "border war." In a charge upon the rebels commanded by Gen. James S. Rains, Col. Hampton P. Johnson, a gallant officer of the Fifth Kansas cavalry, was killed. We won the fight and captured several Confederates, seven of whom were called before a drumhead court-martial and sentenced to death. Their graves were dug and they were compelled to kneel down by the edge of the grave, when they were blindfolded, and shot by a regularly detailed file of soldiers; the graves were then filled up and we marched away. It was a sickening evidence that we were fighting under the black flag. This execution was in retaliation for the murder, only a few days previous, of seven men of our command."

Lieutenant Joseph H. Trego, Third Kansas, a cavalry company, saw a certain justice in jayhawking: "It does me good to use the luxuries of these fellows that have always been the enemies of Anti-slavery men particularly in Mound City and vicinity. Just think of it, Montgomery is using every

thing for himself and men that belonged to his persecutors, except what they cou[l]d carry away with them."

During the consolidation of Fremont's forces in Springfield, Missouri in the late fall of 1861; Lane's Brigade saw first-hand offenses by the Missouri State Guard. Lieutenant Henry Miles Moore, Fifth Kansas Cavalry, met the pro-Union Smith family: "They (rebels) have ruined all the union men in this section. Gen Thom Harris of Hannibal, Mo., with his command camped at old Rev Obadiah, 10 miles from here last week. Smith's a Missionary Baptist & a strong union man. They destroyed everything he had, killed his stock in his door yard, etc. & Gen Harris be shit the bed he slept in & either wiped his back sides with the bed clothes or daubed his fingers in it & wiped them on the bed.... a miserable brute, Harris must be."

More retaliation was seen as just when other rebels were identified as murderers of Kansas men. First Sergeant Luther Thrasher, Third Kansas confided to his diary: "In an hour we swept through Potosoi, a little village (one l if you please) in Linn Co. near the line. Twas here or near here that a horrible murder was perpetrated last night and which we are now off to avenge. A band of Mo. ruffians came out from Butler, called an old man out from his house and deliberately shot him down without any provocation whatever.... Double damnation on their heads."



**CIVIL WAR
CANNONBALL KILLS
RELIC COLLECTOR**

CHESTER, Va. (AP) — Like many boys in the South, Sam White got hooked on the Civil War early, digging up rusting bullets and military buttons in the battle-scarred earth of his hometown.

As an adult, he crisscrossed the Virginia countryside in search of wartime relics — weapons, battle flags, even artillery shells buried in the red clay. He sometimes put on diving gear to feel for treasures hidden in the black muck of river bottoms.

But in February, White's-hobby cost him his life: A cannonball he was restoring exploded, killing him in his driveway.

Ancestor of the Month

John Quincy Adams
Union, 95th Illinois Infantry
Ancestor of Richard Joslyn

More than 140 years after Lee surrendered to Grant, the cannonball was still powerful enough to send a chunk of shrapnel through the front porch of a house a quarter-mile from White's home in this leafy Richmond suburb.

White's death shook the close-knit fraternity of relic collectors and raised concerns about the dangers of other Civil War munitions that lay buried beneath old battlefields. Explosives experts said the fatal blast defied extraordinary odds.

"You can't drop these things on the ground and make them go off," said retired Col. John F. Biemeck, formerly of the Army Ordnance Corps. .

White, 53, was one of thou-sands of hobbyists who comb former battlegrounds for artifacts using metal detectors, pickaxes, shovels and trowels.

"There just aren't many areas in the South in which battlefields aren't located. They're literally under your feet," said Harry Ridgeway, a former relic hunter who has amassed a vast collection. "It's just a huge thrill to pull even a mundane relic out of the ground."

From Newtonia Battlefield

More tornado cleanup new shed roof coming

While the cleanup of the house and lawns from the May 10 tornado is complete, there is still much to do. Outbuildings and the grounds were not covered by insurance, so we are working our way through those issues. Thankfully, we have had woodcutters come cut firewood from our downed trees. That's just less we have to deal with. The woodcutters are welcome.

The board recently approved \$3,600 to replace the roof on what is left of our shed/garage. Portions of the building were completely blown away, but we still have a small section, which is essential for storage and for keeping our tools and lawn mowers. We solicited bids and accepted one from a local construction crew affiliated with our Mennonite neighbors. The roof will be metal.

Speaking with National Park Service officials about whether to even keep the standing portion, we were told the Service would greatly appreciate our keeping it. They, and we, are hopeful the property will one day be turned over to the Park Service. Budgets are so tight; there would be no way for the Service to replace any facility such as this so they want us to keep everything we possibly can.

John Quincy Adams (related to Presidents John and John Quincy Adams) was born in North Orange, Massachusetts to Melvin and Mary Marble Adams on February 4, 1842.

He was one of 11 children, and moved with his parents in 1858 to Greenwood, McHenry County, Illinois. It was four years later in September 1862, when he enlisted as a member of Company H, 95th Illinois Infantry, to fight in the "war for the preservation of our national integrity."

He participated on many notable engagements operating in McPherson's famous corps, under General Grant's command. During the Siege of Vicksburg, in a charge upon fortifications, suffered a serious wound while occupying an advanced position in the skirmish lines of the sharpshooters. This engagement happened on May 19, 1863, and was known as the "Charge of Champion Hill".

In recognition of his act of bravery he was awarded a "Silver Medal". During his subsequent recovery in the field hospital he served as assistant to the surgeon in charge, Doctor J. W. Green.

In a later campaign, at Brice's Crossroads, on June 10, 1864, their command encountered N. B. Forrest's Cavalry, which turned into a disastrous defeat for his unit. Fortunately Adams was elsewhere recovering from an illness, so he thus possibly escaped an early death.

After an honorable discharge in 1865 he retired to Marengo, Illinois where he practiced his profession of dentistry for 44 years, having received a degree in dentistry from the Philadelphia Dental College.

He was active in Republican politics and served as Postmaster of Marengo during a period of 13 years under three Republican administrations. He helped establish rural free delivery in the community, and helped perfect, manufactured and sold a new type of "neatly shaped" galvanized iron mailboxes for the rural routes.

He was a member of the "Harley Wayne" Post of the Grand Army of the Republic.

As an amateur archaeologist he helped in the discovery of an ancient "mound builder" in a gravel mound in East Coral. He reassembled all of the skull bones.

A most fascinating hobby was that of zoo-keeper in his own backyard, where the citizens would come on Sunday afternoon and see his collection. By 1888 he had

prairie chickens, a flock of carrier pigeons, a Siberian husky, 2 harness-broken goats, a pet wolf, 4 talking crows, and 2 bears, one of whom responded to the name of "Doc". He had planted a tree for the bears to use as a gymnasium,

He lived to be the ripe old age of 80, being buried in Greenwood Cemetery in November 1922.

Welcome Our New Member.....

Dennis Garstang, 6005 NW 103 St. , Kansas City, MO 64154, Phone 816-569-1180, email dgarstang@kc.rr.com

CIVIL WAR TRIVIA

50. The Upper South included Arkansas, Missouri, Kentucky, Tennessee, Virginia, North Carolina, Maryland, and Delaware. These states provided half the men who fought of the Confederacy, some 425,000 soldiers. These same states sent more than 230,000 Caucasian soldiers and, later, more than 80,000 African-American troops to the Unions armies.

51. Maryland was a slave state. When the war began, pro-Southerners in Baltimore attacked Union troops and disrupted rail lines into the city. The

possibility of Maryland seceding panicked Lincoln's government into declaring martial law in the state. The official state song stills recalls the oppressive Union measures taken during that period of 1861.

52. Clara Barton became proficient at shooting. She could put nine balls within a six-inch space at a distance of 50 feet, but is remembered as a nurse.

53. Before the Civil War, the South had many military schools, both private and public. These were mostly used to educate young men for civilian life rather than as professional soldiers. Almost all of these closed soon after the war began because their faculties and students joined the Confederate army. However, Virginia Military Institute operated through the war until destroyed by Yankee raiders in 1864.

54. In 1862, the Chicago Tribune reported that while many men were slow to respond to the war cause, both Northern and Southern women were eager to volunteer in their places. When they couldn't actually join the fighting, they volunteered as spies, mail riders, guerillas, scouts, and saboteurs.

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

