



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



422nd REGULAR MEETING

TUESDAY, September 28, 2010

Homestead Country Club

6510 Mission Road, Prairie Village, Kansas

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

Dinner-6:30p.m.

SEPTEMBER 2010 SPEAKER

TOM RAFINER

"CIVIL WAR CASS COUNTY"

SSSHHHHHHHH. "Do you know what their family did to mine during the War"? You would expect that statement to be made during or shortly after the War. Tom Rafiner, a resident of Parkville, has completed a study of Civil War Cass County and in his many interviews this was one of the recent statements made to him. Titled "Missouri Families and General Orders No.11" Tom has studied the complete 1860 census of Cass County, of course almost all of the county residents were displaced by Order #11. Who were these people, where did they go, who came back, and what were their stories? Tom has completed a book to be published in Dec.

Join us for a very interesting presentation of a border county and the horrors of "the Border War".

Please be sure that we have your reservation by Friday Sept. 24. Return reservation

In the enclosed envelope with required payment of \$25.00 per person to;

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

If you have questions or your payment is unavoidably tardy, please contact
Assistant Treasurer Betty Ergovich at 913 441-6462.

Attendance requires a paid dinner reservation.

SPEAKERS 2010

September: Author Tom Lafinere: Civil War Cass County

October: Frederick Douglas

November: Jim Beckner, The Old Confederate Homes

December: To be determined & Silent Book Auction

MENU FOR SEPTEMBER 2010;

Spinach Salad with Goat Cheese, Pecan, and Tomatoes, Rainbow Trout Muniere with Parsley Butter, Parmesan Risotto Braised Provencal Vegetables, and Chocolate cake with Raspberry Sauce.

2010 LOCAL AND COMING EVENTS

Sept. 23, Tivoli Theatre in Westport will run “**The General**”, When his beloved train and girlfriend are abducted by Yankee spies, a Confederate railroad engineer sets off in dogged pursuit. Buster Keaton’s comedy-filled with hugh sight gags involving men and machines and filmed to look like a Mathew Brady photo-is nothing short of brilliant.

Sept. 25-26, Pensacola, OK – Battle of Cabin Creek Reenactment

Pilot Knob, MO – Battle Reenactment

West Liberty, KY – Battle Reenactment

Greenbush, WI – Battle Reenactment

Oct. 2, The State Historical Society of Missouri Annual Meeting, Columbia, MO. Lots of information I have no room for, contact me or Harper, Kimberly [harperk@umsystem.edu] for an e-mail of the complete agenda and activities, looks great!

Oct. 02-03 New Madrid, MO – “Joining the 1st” Confederate Living History

Clay County Historical Society presents the 25th Annual Historic Homes Tour

14 N. Main, Liberty MO 64068

www.claycountymuseum.org

For more information : Carolyn Hatcher 816-415-0066

The Clay County Museum will present the 25th Annual Historic Homes Tour **Saturday, October 2 and Sunday, October 3, 2010, from 1pm to 5pm each day.** In celebration of the upcoming Civil War Sesquicentennial, **all antebellum homes and buildings** will be featured on the tour this year. Those buildings and homes are: The Pharis Farm, EE highway east of Liberty, The Colonel Routt home on E. Franklin in Liberty, the Stone-Corbin home on E. Franklin in Liberty, the Jesse James Bank building on N. Water in Liberty, and Woodneath on Flintlock Road in Kansas City. The Clay County Museum on the west side of the square in Liberty will also be open during the tour.

Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased at the Clay County Museum, Crybaby Farm, or James Country Mercantile, all on or near the square in Liberty, and the Smithville Historical Museum in downtown Smithville.

All properties except Woodneath are furnished with period furnishings. Woodneath offers a unique opportunity to view an antebellum home prior to restoration.

All proceeds benefit the Clay County Museum and Historical Society.

White Hall, IL – Battle Reenactment

Oct. 09-10 Perryville, KY – Living History

Columbus, KY – Battle Reenactment

Brownville, NE – Battle Reenactment

Oct. 16-17 Houston, MO – Battle Reenactment

Fort Smith, AR – Massard Prairie Battle Reenactment

Fort Sill, OK – Living History Timeline

London, KY – Camp Wildcat Battle Reenactment

Oct. 23-24 St. Louis, MO – Election of 1860 Living History

Jacksboro, TX – Battle Reenactment

Lumpkin, GA – Struggles of Secession Westville

Village Living History

Oct. 30-31 (Halloween)

August 12-14 2011 – Springfield, Missouri. Wilson's Creek Reeriactment Planned for 2011 The Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Foundation has begun planning a maximum-effort Civil War reenactment to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Wilson's Creek. The reenactment will take place during the weekend of August 12-14, 2011.

Excitement is already building for the Civil War sesquicentennial, and as the second major battle of the war, Wilson's Creek compels a great deal of attention in the reenactment community. The Western Division of the Blue-Gray Alliance, a reenactor organization, will help design battle scenarios and handle all military aspects of the reenactment.

Due to the high level of interest, the Blue-Gray Alliance anticipates that this will be a well-attended event, with more than 3,000 reenactors and huge crowds of spectators. Although a location has not yet been selected, it will be held as close to Wilson's Creek National Battlefield as possible. Watch for more details and updates on the Foundation web site at www.wilsonscreek.com.

August 15-21, 2010 – Lawrence, KS., “Civil War On The Border”.



LIBRARY DONATION

Recently, the KCCWRT received a donation of a large personal Civil War Library from an anonymous benefactor. Therefore we will be able to offer a small selection for a silent auction at each of our regular meetings from September – May. Members are still encouraged to bring donations of Civil War and related books to the regular large silent book auctions at the December and May meetings. If there are any questions please do not hesitate to contact Arnold Schofield.

TOURS

The RT will sponsor a Mine Creek tour in October. We certainly hope that many of you will be able to attend. More to follow on that tour later in the season.

NEW MEMBERS

Raymond A. Behrens, 1300 Creekmoor Dr. Raymore MO 64083, 816-348-9487, email rab2747@yahoo.com

Dave Schafer, 1935 SW Bowman Court, Topeka, KS 66604
1-785-783-7776, email rangerdave42@juno.com

SHE'LL BE MISSED!

MARGARET S. SOUTHALL Margaret Southall, a lifelong resident of the Kansas City area, passed away Friday, August 13, 2010 in Overland Park, KS. She was born Margaret Suzanne Bell in Kansas City, MO on October 5, 1928. Margaret was a member of Delta Zeta and graduated from the Central Missouri State College in Warrensburg, MO receiving a Bachelor's Degree in Education. She would later go on to earn her Masters Degree in Education from Webster University. On June 14, 1952 Margaret married Richard John Southall II and celebrated a marriage of 52 years during which she and her husband enjoyed sharing the cultural events of the city including music, art, and literature. They were members of Rolling Hills Presbyterian Church for over 40 years. For nearly 30 years she taught elementary education in the Shawnee Mission school district. She was an active member of the P.E.O and A.A.U.W. organizations and also enjoyed participating in multiple book clubs. After her retirement, Margaret volunteered with the Johnson County Public Library for several years. She loved to read and wanted to share the power of reading with others, so she also volunteered and tutored individuals through the literacy program Literacy Kansas City. Margaret was preceded in death by her husband, Richard (Dick) Southall in October, 2004. She is survived by her daughter, Rev. Susan Southall of Enid, OK and her sons, Richard Southall, Jr. of Lenexa, KS; James Southall of Kansas City, MO; and Robert Southall and wife Candi of Shawnee, KS. In lieu of Flowers the family suggests donations to Literacy Kansas City. Memorial service will be held Tuesday, August 17, 2010 at 10:30 a.m. at Rolling Hills Presbyterian Church, 9300 Nall Avenue, Overland Park, KS. Share a memory, sign an online guestbook, or express your condolences at www.overlandparkchapel.com. D.W. Newcomer's Sons Overland Park Chapel, 8201 Metcalf Avenue, Overland Park, KS 66204, PH: 913.648.6224
Published in Kansas City Star from August 15 to August 16, 2010

Just when you thought it was safe to go to the bookstore, it's the Civil War's 150th Anniversary coming up and a whole lot of new books are hitting the shelves, here's a few. Sorry for the solicitation.
Your Editor

I would like to bring to your attention what I believe is a unique book and an unknown but very moving story that may be of interest to your roundtable-- ***Hiram's Honor: Reliving Private Terman's Civil War***, ISBN 978-0615-27812-4.

A recent comment from a Pennsylvania reviewer:
"Max R. Terman has masterfully crafted an engrossing novel that is difficult to set down. Once you begin reading, you are transported back nearly 150 years to the time of division, heartache, and chaos that became known as the American Civil War. His ancestor's story comes to life in a fascinating new work that is certain to become a classic among historical novels..." Civil War author and historian from York, Pa. For the complete review, see

<http://scottmingus.wordpress.com/2010/03/12/book-review-hiram/>

Max R. Terman, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus, Tabor College ,
400 S. Jefferson, Hillsboro, KS 67063
maxt@tabor.edu, <http://hiramshonor.blogspot.com>
620-947-5753

Mike,

Some of your fellow members at the CWRT of Kansas City may be interested in my new book, "Financial Fraud and Guerrilla Violence in Missouri's Civil War, 1861-1865," which explores a previously unknown financial conspiracy at the start of the war. The book explains the reasons for the puzzling intensity of Missouri's guerrilla conflict, and for the state's anomalous experience in Reconstruction. In the broader history of the war, the book gives the first account of an archaic form of military mobilization used in the antebellum United States.

Yale University Press's announcement of the book can be viewed at:

<http://yalepress.yale.edu/yupbooks/book.asp?isbn=9780300151510>

A video trailer on the book can be viewed at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4ivXrgqOziQ>

Best regards,

Mark Geiger, Postdoctoral Fellow, United States Studies Centre, John Woolley Building, A20 Science Road, University of Sydney, NSW 2006 Australia, 61 2 9036 9072 (office), 61 2 9351 6877 (fax)
mwgeiger1@gmail.com

Civil War Enthusiasts

The Mary Whitney Phelps Tent No. 22 Tent (Chapter), Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War, 1861-1865, based in Springfield, Missouri, has announced publication of its 400-page book on Civil War historical markers and monuments in 24 southwest Missouri counties. Those counties include: Barry, Barton, Cedar, Christian, Dade, Dallas, Douglas, Greene, Hickory, Howell, Jasper, Laclede, Lawrence, McDonald, Newton, Ozark, Polk, St. Clair, Stone, Taney, Texas, Vernon, Webster, and Wright. ***Marking Civil War History in the Ozarks: A Guide to Civil War Markers and Monuments in Twenty-Four Southwest Missouri Counties*** was compiled and edited by the tent's current president, Frances Carver Black, and was a project led by Sally Napier Bueno, 2009 president. Tent members contributed photographs and information from various counties. This guide book includes 187 historical markers and monuments—both Union and Confederate—and over 250 photographs, background information on the major battles in southwest Missouri, interesting facts about many of the monuments, and an every-name, every-place index.

Proceeds from book sales will be used to mark historic sites, support veterans, and fund other projects.

This book will appeal to history buffs, Civil War enthusiasts, and those interested in the history of the Ozarks. It will be a valuable guide book during the upcoming Civil War Sesquicentennial (2011-2015) as tourists flock to Civil War sites. Only a limited number of copies have been ordered. The organization is now accepting orders. The cost of the book is

\$15 (plus shipping and handling). To access the order form (or for more information), visit <http://duvmissouritent22.org/>.

Sally Lyons McAlear, SallyMcAlear@MissouriState.edu
[Emeritus Staff/MSU], Press Correspondent
Mary Whitney Phelps Tent No. 22
Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War, 1861-1865,
(417) 887-1699

Dear Members of the Civil War Round Table of Kansas City:

We have an extraordinary prepublication offer for members of your round table, offering a savings of \$975. My firm, History, Inc. is presently in production for one of the most important visual CD-ROM series ever produced: The Definitive Pictorial History of the American Civil War (See: <http://www.definitivecivilwar.com/>), eleven volumes, including Cumulative Index, which are presently being offered at very attractive discounts (89.95 per volume, \$900 overall), and which will be released volume by volume on CD-ROM beginning this coming September 2010 to commemorate and in conjunction with the 150th Anniversary of the American Civil War (begins April 2011). This unique work, we are convinced, will be universally sought by your members and all other devoted Civil War enthusiasts and researchers and will become the gold standard pictorial reference on the American Civil War for decades to come. Your Civil War collection will not be complete without it. **See even deeper discount below.**

The Definitive Pictorial History of the American Civil War consists of more than 10,000 color and b/w images with accompanying comprehensive text (approximately 4000-4500 pages, 8½" x 11" page size). This work retails for \$1,449.95, presently discounted to \$899.95 for those ordering as the series is released, beginning in September 2010. As a special prepublication offer to your members, **I am offering an even deeper publisher's prepublication discount of 65% off the retail price to any round table member ordering and prepaying at this time: Members can get this entire work on 11 CD-ROMS for \$525.00 USD** (check only, payment made to and sent to History, Inc., P.O. Box 250, Wilmette, IL 60091; History, Inc. Federal I.D. No.: 36-4228869; include contact information—print out and send with payment the order reservation form at site, print out from the link "Download Order Page Only" at bottom of page on site; each Volume on a separate CD-ROM will be sent to you each month as they are produced). This is a savings of \$975! **This offer expires on August 13, 2001.**

(there is more, but I have no more room in this issue, Mike)
Sincerely,

Jay Robert Nash, President & Publisher, History, Inc.
Phone: 847-256-2468, Email: jrniii@comcast.net

"The Sargeant Major's Roar"

Battlefield Dispatches # 86

BAXTER SPRINGS: Oct. 6, 1863!

October 6, 2010 was the 147th Anniversary of the Battles & Massacre at Baxter Springs, Kansas so they should be remembered. Battles yes, because there were (2) at that

location on the same day. Was there a Massacre? Traditionally, written history states that there was a massacre, but who wrote that history? For the most part, the published history of any war is written by the victorious side. In the case of Baxter Springs, the Yankees or "Union Hounds" won the first battle and lost the second larger battle to the Confederate "Foxes" or guerrillas commanded by William Clark Quantrill. From the "NORTHERN PERSPECTIVE" the aftermath of the second battle indicates that there was a massacre of Union combatant & non-combatant soldiers. From the "SOUTHERN PERSPECTIVE" the second battle was "Southern Victory" and not a massacre.

Battle is a generic almost neutral word commonly associated with war. Massacre, however, is usually applied to an engagement by any survivors or by the victim's fellow soldiers and in the text of aligned newspaper articles. Mr. Webster defines massacre as "the indiscriminate merciless killing of a large number of human beings". Therefore, I trust that the following objectively edited after action report will answer the question of whether there was a massacre at Baxter Springs or not. The report is located on Pages 690 – 693 in Vol. 22, Part I: Reports of the Official Records of the War of the Rebellion.

"HEADQUARTERS

Fort Scott, Kans., October 15, 1863.

Sir: I have the honor to report to you for the information of the Major-General commanding, the following particulars, as far as they came to my knowledge or under my observation, of the late disaster at Baxter Springs:

On the 4th of October, Major General Blunt, his staff consisting of Maj. B.S. Henning, 3rd Wis. Cav., provost-marshal; Maj. H. Zarah Curtis, Assist. Adj. Gen., Lieut. J.E. Tappan 2nd Colorado Cav., aide-de-camp; Lieut. A. W. Farr, 3rd Wis. Cav., judge-advocate, his clerks & orderlies, brigade band & two parts of two companies of cavalry, respectfully under the command of lieut. Robert Pierce, 14th Ks. Vol. Cav. & lieut. Josiah G. Cavert, 3rd Wis. Cav., left this place [Fort Scott] for Fort Blunt, Cherokee Nation [formerly Ft. Gibson, Oklahoma].

About 4 o'clock on the morning of the 7th of October, Lieut. Tappan returned, informing me that about 1 o'clock the day previous [Oct. 6, 1863], General Blunt had been attacked within a few hundred yards of Lieut. Pond's camp at Baxter Springs & the ENTIRE COMMAND, except the general himself & about 10 men, had been either KILLED or taken prisoners & the baggage & transportation captured & destroyed. He was further under the impression that Majors Curtis & Henning & Lieut. Farr were prisoners.

Within an hour I was en route to the general's relief with 3 companies of the 12th Ks. Vol. Infantry & 2 companies of the 2nd Ks. Colored Vol. Inf. & about 100 cavalry, under Lieut.'s F. Josling & W. B. Clark. Twenty miles out I received a dispatch from Gen. Blunt that he was safe with Lieut. Pond, who had been fortunate enough to repulse the enemy in their attack on his camp. I pushed on without stopping & arrived at Baxter Springs, a distance of 70 miles, in the afternoon of the second day, although it was the first heavy [forced] marching the infantry had ever attempted.

The graves were being dug and the dead being carried in for burial as I arrived. It was a fearful sight: some 85

bodies, nearly all shot through the head, most of them shot from 5 – 7 times each, horribly mangled, charred & blackened by fire. The wounded, who numbered 6 or 7, were all shot at least six times & it is a remarkable fact, with the exception of Bennet of the 3rd Wis. Cav., all who were alive when they were brought in are in a fair way of final recovery.

[In the second battle], it seems that the enemy perceived General Blunt's little column, which had halted for the wagons & band to close up & they [Quantrill & his men] immediately formed in line to attack it. They formed in two lines, one on the prairie and the other under the cover of the timber & commenced the advance. For safety, however, he [Gen. Blunt] formed his little force in line of battle & sent the wagons, with the band, clerks & orderlies, cooks and other non-combatants to the rear & then rode about 50 paces to the front accompanied by his staff, to reconnoiter & endeavor to ascertain to certainty what the approaching force was. [Note: according to other documented sources most of Quantrill's men were wearing "Union" uniform jackets to deceive any enemy, which they did at Baxter Springs.] Whatever doubts he [Gen. Blunt] may have entertained were soon dispelled, for the front line, firing a volley & RAISING THE GUERRILLA YELL, CHARGED FORWARD AT FULL SPEED. The general turning in his saddle to order his body guard to advance & fire, saw, with shame & humiliation, the whole of it in disgraceful flight over the prairie. There was nothing left for him but to follow & attempt to rally them. He accordingly turned with his staff officers, all except Major Henning, to endeavor to overtake the fugitives. By this time the enemy were upon & all around them & their escape with life seemed almost a miracle. Gen. Blunt finally rallied some 15 men & charging his foremost pursuers compelled them in turn to retire. He then started Lieut. Tappan with 4 men to me & determined with the balance to watch the enemy. They killed our men as fast as they caught them, sparing none. The members of the band were shot as they sat in the bandwagon & it was then set on fire. They rifled all the trunks, boxes, etc. in the different wagons & set them on fire, with the bodies of the teamsters in them & all others [cooks & orderlies] who happened to be in them when taken. The non-combatants were slaughtered as ruthlessly as the soldiers. Lieut. Farr was killed early in the struggle. Major Curtis came very near escaping, although his full uniform & showy horse made him a conspicuous mark. He was some distance in advance of his pursuers, when, just as his horse was gathering himself to spring over a deep ravine, he was struck on the hip with a ball [bullet], which so stung or frightened him that he missed his leap & falling short, threw the major over his head. The horse gathered himself almost instantly & galloped wildly over the prairie. The major was taken prisoner & then brutally murdered. [Note: Major H. Zarah Curtis was a son of Major General Samuel R. Curtis & Ft. Zarah on the Santa Fe Trail, near Ft. Larned, was named after & in honor of him.] Gen. Blunt hovered near the enemy until near night & then returned to the melancholy work of caring for the wounded & collecting the dead. But few were left alive, as their evident intention was to kill all. The bodies of Major Curtis & Lieutenant Farr were not found until late the next day.

Lieut. Pond is entitled to great credit for his gallant defense of his camp [Note: Lieut. Pond was awarded & received the Congressional Medal of Honor for his brave actions on Oct. 6, 1863.] Lieut. Pierce strove hard to rally his

flying soldiers, but the men seemed struck by a sudden & uncontrollable panic & I met many of them within 10 miles of Fort Scott as I moved out with my force. The enemy left between 20-30 dead on the field & as their wounded were taken away in some captured ambulances & buggies, it is impossible to state the number.

Disastrous as this engagement has been, it would have undoubtedly have been as bad, if not worse, if Gen. Blunt & his force had not been near. In that event, a more careful & combined attack would have been made on Pond's camp, which, with the force around it, must have finally succumbed & every person there would undoubtedly have been PUT TO DEATH.

The names & number (accurately) of our killed & wounded will be forwarded in a subsequent report.

Charles W. Blair

Lieutenant Colonel, Commanding."

Was there a massacre at Baxter Springs on October 6, 1863?

If one accepts Mr. Webster's definition of "massacre" as "the indiscriminate merciless killing of a large number of human beings", then the word is most appropriate for what happened in & after the second battle of Baxter Springs, Kansas! Yes, it was a southern victory, but this victory also included a massacre and of course the War Went On!

"Audie Murphy's Wife – A Great Lady Has Passes"

List of decorations: Medal of Honor, Distinguished Service Cross, Silver Star (with Oak Leaf cluster), Legion of Merit, Bronze Star (with oak leaf cluster and Valor device, Purple Heart (with 2 Oak leaf clusters), U.S. Army Outstanding Civilian Service Medal, U.S. Army Good Conduct Medal, Presidential Unit Citation (with First Oak leaf cluster), American Campaign Medal, European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal (with one Silver Star, Four Bronze Service Stars (representing 9 campaigns) and one Bronze Arrowhead (representing assault landing at Sicily and Southern France, WWII Victory Medal, Army of Occupation medal, Armed Forces Medal, French Fouragere in Colors of the Croix de Guerre, French Legion of Honor – Grad of Chevalier, French Croix de guerre (with Silver Star), French Croix de guerre (with Palm), Medal of Liberated France. Belgian Croix de guerre (with 1940 Palm), additionally, Murphy was awarded: The Combat Infantry Badge with Rifle Bar, and Expert Badge with Bayonet Bar.

Pamela Murphy, widow of WWII hero and actor, Audie Murphy, died peacefully at her home on April 8, 2010. She was the widow of the most decorated WWII hero and actor, Audie Murphy, and established her own distinctive 35 year career working as a patient liaison at the Sepulveda Veterans Administration hospital, treating every veteran who visited the facility as if they were a VIP.

Any soldier or Marine who came into the hospital got the same special treatment from her. She would walk the hallways with her clipboard in hand making sure her boys got to see the specialist they needed.

If they didn't, watch out. Her boys weren't Medal of Honor recipients or movie stars like Audie, but that didn't matter to Pam. They had served their country. That was good enough for her. She never called a veteran by his first name. It was always "Mister." Respect came with the job.

"Nobody could cut through VA red tape faster than Mrs. Murphy," said veteran Stephen Sherman, speaking for thousands of veterans she befriended over the years. "Many times I watched her march a veteran who had been waiting more than an hour right into the doctor's office. She was even reprimanded a few times, but it didn't matter to Mrs. Murphy. "Only her boys mattered. She was our angel."

Audie Murphy died broke in a plane crash in 1971, squandering millions of dollars on gambling, bad investments, and yes, other women. "Even with the adultery and desertion at the end, he always remained my hero," Pam told me.

She went from a comfortable ranch-style home in Van Nuys where she raised two sons to a small apartment - taking a clerk's job at the nearby VA to support herself and start paying off her faded movie star husband's debts. At first, no one knew who she was. Soon, though, word spread through the VA that the nice woman with the clipboard was Audie Murphy's widow. It was like saying General Patton had just walked in the front door. Men with tears in their eyes walked up to her and gave her a hug.

"Thank you," they said, over and over.

The first couple of years, I think the hugs were more for Audie's memory as a war hero. The last 30 years, they were for Pam.

One year I asked her to be the focus of a Veteran's Day column for all the work she had done. Pam just shook her head no.

"Honor them, not me," she said, pointing to a group of veterans down the hallway. "They're the ones who deserve it."

The vets disagreed. Mrs. Murphy deserved the accolades, they said. Incredibly, in 2002, Pam's job was going to be eliminated in budget cuts. She was considered "excess staff." "I don't think helping cut down on veterans' complaints and showing them the respect they deserve, should be considered excess staff," she told me. Neither did the veterans. They went ballistic, holding a rally for her outside the VA gates. Pretty soon, word came down from the top of the VA. Pam Murphy was no longer considered "excess staff."

She remained working full time at the VA until 2007 when she was 87.

"The last time she was here was a couple of years ago for the conference we had for homeless veterans," said Becky James, coordinator of the VA's Veterans History Project. Pam wanted to see if there was anything she could do to help some more of her boys. Pam Murphy was 90 when she died last week. What a lady.

Dennis McCarthy, Los Angeles Times on April 15, 2010

Civil War Round Table of Kansas City
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