



The Bushwhacker

April 2010

Civil War Round Table of
Saint Louis Newsletter

Dr. Doug Mishler of Reno, Nevada as
Jefferson Davis



Dr. Doug Mishler brings history to life by his unique first person accounts of several historic figures. Theodore Roosevelt, Henry Ford, William Lloyd Garrison, Captain William Clark are other impersonations that he portrays. To improve his impersonations, he started a theatre several years ago and has acted in several plays and directed several more. He has a Ph. D in American cultural history and is an independent scholar who has taught at the University of Nevada and Western Washington University. He is the author of a history of the Ringling Brothers Circus.

SILENT AUCTION

The following is a sampling of items for April's Silent Auction (all with Certificate of Authenticity):

Confederate Autographs:

Brigadier General Lawrence O'Bryan Branch (killed at Antietam) and Major William Worrell Vass
1863 Harper's Weekly clipping covering Lincoln's Gettysburg Address
1864 Union Pay Voucher

MEETING DATE: APRIL 28TH, 2010

MEAL SERVED AT 6:30p.m.

TWO HEARTS ON LINDBERGH BLVD NEAR GRAVOIS.

Doors are open around 5:30 p.m.

Please make RESERVATIONS BY APRIL 14

**Let us know if you are eating.
Please reserve via our Web Site at <http://civilwarstlouis.org/main/>
Or reply to the e-mail sent to you
or Call Gary at 314-623-2062**

Upcoming Speakers

- May 26, Greg Clemmer, author of "Old Allegheny and Valor in Gray", speaking on Edward "Allegheny" Johnson

A Note From Our President

Ya'll Come, Ya Hear!

As president of the St. Louis Civil War Round Table, it is my duty to declare April as Confederate History Month. We look forward to welcoming to our April 28th meeting "Jefferson Davis, CSA President". You'll also be happy to know that we did not make the same mistake as the current governor of Virginia.

See this link: http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20100408/ap_on_re_us/us_confederate_history_month

Now is the time to come to the aid of your city!

Your Civil War Round Table is looking for two volunteers to aid our city's commemoration of the sesquicentennial of America's Civil War. We need an attorney and an accountant to provide pro bono services to our local group of civic organizations participating in:

"Freedom's Gateway: St. Louis in the Civil War"

Please stand up and come forward to help make this an unforgettable event in our city's history and to honor those who served to make our nation greater and people freer. Contact your president Bill Jackson for more information.

Bill Jackson, President

Civil War Round Table - St. Louis: "Bringing History to Life"

A Note From The Board

It's time for election of officers for the next campaign. The following nominations have been accepted by the board for 2010-2011:

President - Bill Jackson

Vice President - Bob Katsev

Treasurer - Mary Riggs

Assistant Treasurer - Walt Busch

Secretary - Phil Baker

Assistant Secretary - Ed Rataj

Board Member (3 year term) - Curt Wittbracht

Board Member (3 year term) - Barry Rinderknecht

Board Member (3 year term) – OPEN

At least one nomination for a three-year term board member is needed. Additional nominations for all officer positions are also welcomed. Please see Bill Jackson or Paul Hauser before the April meeting begins if you want to put your name in nomination for a specific office position.

CWRT Raffle

The St. Louis Civil War Round Table is selling raffle chances for the print "The Battle of Wilson's Creek" by Andy Thomas. The tickets are \$5 each, and we are limiting the amount of tickets to 130. The print will be raffled off when either all the tickets are sold or the May meeting of the 2009-2010 Campaign, whichever comes first. The limited edition print, #22 of 450, was donated by Paul Hauser.

March Meeting

John Voehl captivated us as President-elect Abraham Lincoln as his train departs Springfield IL on Feb. 11, 1861, enroute to Washington City for his inauguration. We saw the scene through his eyes, his fears and hopes. He was a Lincoln look-a-like John Voehl, the accomplished Lincoln and presenter historian who has been active in nearly 400 such presentations since 1966. He first introduced himself, ready to leave his home in Springfield, Illinois to entrain to Washington on Feb 11, 1861 for his first inauguration. He then held his audience in rapt attention as he described the events of his presidency, the critical Civil War period and the many people, civilian and military, who were so important to the history of that time. As an historian, Mr. Voehl has never stopped adding to his knowledge of, and insights about, Lincoln and that era. As such, he surely caused enthusiastic members of his audience to do the same. He spoke of assassination threats, our founding fathers, inauguration, emancipation and his vision for a transformed USA. The question and answer session following provided additional insights into Lincoln as President, Commander-In-Chief, politician, and family man.

The March 24 meeting also included comments from guests Charles & Ruth Funck, representing Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States and the Dames of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States.

Off The Shelf

Marching with the First Nebraska, A Civil War Diary

by August Scherneckau, edited by James E. Potter and Edith Robbins, translated by Edith Robbins, University of Oklahoma Press, 2007

Despite its title, this book has much of interest for those wanting to learn more of St. Louis and the Civil War.

Scherneckau was a German immigrant living in Grand Island, Nebraska when he enlisted in the 1st Nebraska Infantry in the fall of 1862. When he joined the regiment in Pilot Knob, Missouri, the regiment had already participated in the battles of Ft. Donelson and Shiloh (this is not a battle book – Scherneckau also missed the battle of Cape Girardeau). He chronicles the regiment's fruitless and grueling winter 1862-63 campaign in Brig. Gen Davidson's Army of Southeastern Missouri through southern Missouri and northern Arkansas.

In April 1863, Scherneckau along with the rest of his Company H, was detailed to St. Louis for provost duty. Between then and December 1863, he spent a total of almost five months in St. Louis. This time was broken up with escorting prisoners to and from St. Louis and helping the regiment build Ft. Davidson at Pilot Knob in the summer of 1863 (there is much detail of the Pilot Knob area). Almost a third of the book is devoted to St. Louis. His diary (extended entries which were sent periodically in letters back home) contains a wealth of detail about various military sites including Schofield Barracks, Benton Barracks, and the Carondelet shipyards (where he spent about two months on guard duty). For much of his time in St. Louis, Scherneckau was quartered in Schofield Barracks, which stood just across from the Brant mansion (Fremont's former HQ). He also mentions in an 1864 entry an additional barracks, Schofield Barracks #2 built one street beyond on Chouteau Avenue.

The 1st Nebraska was mounted in St. Louis in November 1863 and became the 1st Nebraska Cavalry. Scherneckau and the regiment moved to Batesville, Arkansas where it chased and fought with guerrillas in northeast Arkansas.

I would highly recommend this book for anyone interested in a very literate first person account of wartime St. Louis and the life there of a soldier.

Submitted by Harold Nichols

Off The Wall

DAHLGREN'S LEG

At twenty one, Ulric Dahlgren was a cavalry officer and perhaps the youngest colonel in the army. Shot in the foot on July 6, 1863 near Hagerstown, Maryland. Ulric was taken to Washington to recover but lapsed into a coma. His leg was amputated below the knee. He recovered, was fitted with an artificial leg, and returned to duty.

Twenty eight year old Brigadier General Hugh Judson Kilpatrick convinced President Lincoln to approve a daring plan to release the prisoners of war being held in Richmond, Virginia at Libby and Belle Isle prisons. Dahlgren heard of the plan and wanted to be a part of the action. He was to lead a unit of five hundred men across the James River west of Richmond and enter the city from the south, drawing away the southern defenders while Kilpatrick entered from the north.

But the raid fell apart and the troops retreated. Lieutenant James Pollard of Company H of the Ninth Virginia Cavalry organized a band to ambush Dahlgren's group. Dahlgren was shot and killed on March 2, 1864 and left lying face down in the mud. Some papers, a cigar case and his artificial leg were taken from the body. The clothes were stripped off of his body, the little finger of his right hand severed to remove his ring, and the body was dumped into a shallow grave.

Martin Hogan, one of Dahlgren's scouts, had been captured. He pleaded with his captors for a proper burial of Ulric. Edward Halbach, a schoolteacher living near where the body had been buried obtained a wooden casket and carved Ulric Dahlgren's name on a small headboard. On March 6, 1864 a train carried the coffin to Richmond's York River Railroad Station in the baggage car where it was opened to the public. Jefferson Davis ordered the casket buried in a "secret grave".

Lieutenant Pollard took the papers and the artificial leg to Richmond and turned them over to General Fitzhugh Lee. The papers supposedly contained orders directing that Jefferson Davis was to be assassinated. The artificial leg was put on display in a nearby shop window and then returned to Lieutenant Pollard. A few months later Pollard lost a leg and tried to have Dahlgren's leg fitted for his own use, but it was too short. John. N. Ballard of John Singleton Mosby's command was wounded on a raid near the Bull Run Mountains. His splintered leg bone was amputated. When Ballard rejoined his unit the following winter he had been outfitted with Dahlgren's leg, which he used for the last 10 months of the war.

Ulric's father, Rear Admiral John A. Dahlgren, in charge of the Washington Navy Yard, attempted to have his son's body returned. The body had been moved from the "secret grave" by northern sympathizers, but was finally returned after the war. In a macabre gesture, an aide "had Ulric's amputated leg sealed inside the cornerstone of a gun foundry being built at the Washington Navy Yard to honor the only portion of the youth's remains that the Confederates had not defiled." There is no further mention of the disposition of the artificial leg

References:

- Schultz, Duane, "The Dahlgren Affair, Terror and Conspiracy in the Civil War", W. W. Norton & Company, 1998
- Wert, Jeffrey D, "Mosby's Rangers, The True Adventures of the Most Famous Command of the Civil War", Touchstone, 1990

Calendar of Events of Interest

April 17, 2010

WILSON'S CREEK NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD PRESENTS "MEAN FOWT FIGHT"

Wilson's Creek National Battlefield will present its long awaited film presentation of "Mean Fowt Fight" on Saturday, April 17th at 10:30 a.m. at the Visitor Center. The film was administered by Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Foundation for Wilson's Creek National Battlefield and produced by Wide

Awake Films, LLC, located in Kansas City, Missouri. Superintendent Hillmer stated, "The longer version of the film will provide a greater insight into the history of the battle that occurred here on August 10, 1861" and, in addition, "the importance of preserving Wilson's Creek NB for decades to come".

Wide Awake Films, LLC, specializes in high-quality, historically-accurate documentaries. Since 1991, their award-winning production team has traveled across the United States filming large-scale re-enactments and producing original, award-winning Civil War documentaries. Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Foundation has been working with this company for several years to produce a high quality film that will educate the visitors to the battlefield of a very complex event that occurred in Missouri. The long version will be available to purchase at the Visitors Center through Eastern National. If you have not visited the battlefield, or have not visited for years, programs and events have changed. You should consider visiting the only National Battlefield within the State of Missouri, located in Republic. The library is an excellent resource for tracing your ancestors, and the Civil War Museum is filled with artifacts that can only be observed here at Wilson's Creek. Come for a visit.

Angela R. Pirotte

Administrative Assistant; Wilson's Creek National Battlefield National Park Service
417-732-2662, ext. 221 FAX 417-732-1167

April 17, 2010

54th Annual Lincoln Tomb Ceremony at Oak Ridge Cemetery in Springfield, Illinois. The ceremony will take place at 10:00 a.m. This event is a tribute to the memory of President Lincoln. It is sponsored by the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States. There will be a luncheon following at the State House Inn, 101 E. Adams St. with Mr. & Mrs. Max Daniels portraying President & Mary Todd Lincoln. Advance reservations are required. If interested contact Robert M. Petrovic at 636-274-4567 or rpetro7776@aol.com

April 25, 2010

Humorist, satirist, and chronicler of humankind, Mark Twain wove tales with wit, wisdom, and the sharp bite of social criticism. As part of Missouri's annual statewide reading program in celebration of the Mark Twain Centennial, Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site will host George Frein as Mark Twain on Sunday, April 25, 2010, at 1:00 p.m. Mark Twain and Ulysses S. Grant became friends in the 1870s, and it was Twain's publishing company that published Grant's Memoirs. Written while Grant was fighting against the cancer that would take his life on July 23, 1885, the Memoirs became the biggest best seller of the time, providing Mrs. Grant with royalties of nearly \$500,000. Come and learn more about Grant & Twain's relationship, and hear Mark Twain discuss his perspectives on 19th century life!

May 3, 2010

United Daughters of the Confederacy meets the first Monday of the month at the Gatesworth on I-170 at Delmar. For more information please contact Sheri Horton @ 314-775-9969

May 15-16, 2010

Used Book Sale at the Chatillon-DeMenil House!

Saturday, May 15 from 8am-4pm, and Sunday, May 16 from 12-4pm.

The lovely Chatillon-DeMenil House will be open during book sale hours for free walk-through tours. All money raised will be used for maintenance of the House. After buying your books, stroll down the block to enjoy the Cherokee Street History Fair – it's all happening the same weekend! The Chatillon-DeMenil House is located at 3352 DeMenil Place at the corner of Cherokee Street. For more information, call the House at 314-771-5828, or call Edna Dieterle at 314-892-6175. If you have any books you would be kind enough to donate for "the Cause", you can bring them to the April CWRT meeting and give them to Edna, or just call Edna to make arrangements for pick up or delivery.

June-September, 2010

If you have anything coming up this summer that you think we might like to attend, send it to me at this e-mail address for the May issue of the Bushwhacker.

Special Events

Board member Bob Defer has volunteered to head a sub-committee to work on special events for our CWRT. He's looking for others to join him on the committee. Please e-mail him at:

BobDoris@sbcglobal.net

Help make a day at Ft. Davidson in June a fun event with a car caravan and a special tour, with behind the scenes highlights.

Bill Jackson, President

School Work

I have written a micro-grant for \$200 from "We Are Teachers". The way you win the grant is by having the most votes on the website. Below is the link to the voting.... The name of the grant is Civil War in St. Louis . Thanks so much for your help and support!

Florence Borman

Seventh Grade Social Studies

Nipher Middle School

Kirkwood, MO

<http://www.weareteachers.com/web/library-services/microgrant>

I would like to thank Civil War Round Table member Jim Hubbard for sharing his knowledge, time, and enthusiasm with our 200 seventh graders at Nipher Middle School in Kirkwood.

Florence Borman

(Editorial Note) Even though Jim Hubbard is not a member of the Civil War Round Table, the request went out through us, so I am crediting Edna Dieterle for contacting Jim. Could be wrong though.

I know Jim well, and he has been a re-enactor for many years. Thanks, Jim. Gary L. Scheel