



The Bushwhacker

January 2011

The Civil War Round Table of Saint Louis

The Total Insecurity of Life

Gen. John C. Fremont and Civil Liberties in St. Louis

Associate Professor Silvana R. Siddali

Professor Siddali, St. Louis University History Department, earned her Ph.D. in History of American Civilization from Harvard University in 1999. She has published "From Property to Person: Slavery and the Confiscation Acts, 1861 – 1862" (LSU Press, 2005) and "Missouri's War: The Civil War in Documents" (Ohio Univ. Press, 2009) as well as numerous articles and book chapters.

In the first year of the Civil War in Missouri, military and political blunders sharply polarized public opinion in a state torn by internal divisions. Nearly every community experienced internal dissension and even fighting, and families were often bitterly divided. These problems were greatly inflamed by the hasty actions of Union military commanders such as John C. Frémont. When Gen. Frémont declared martial law in the fall of 1861, he angered Missouri residents and exacerbated the problems of disloyalty and internal fighting. Moderate Missourians blamed the hotheads and "fanatics" of both sides for the ongoing violence that plagued them.

Using letters, newspaper editorials, and sermons, her talk will examine public response to Fremont's declaration of martial law in St. Louis, and will explore the national repercussions that resulted from his proclamation.

MEETING DATE: JANUARY 26, 2011

MEAL SERVED AT 6:30 pm

TWO HEARTS ON LINDBERGH BLVD NEAR GRAVOIS

Doors open around 5:30 pm

Please make RESERVATIONS by JANUARY 19

Let us know if you are eating

Please reserve via our Web Site at

<http://civilwarstlouis.org/main/>

or Call Gary Scheel at 314-623-2062

Bushwhacker deadline: Three weeks prior to each meeting. Please submit items of interest to Walt Bittle waltb50@centurytel.net OR John Harris ce342@swbell.net.

Upcoming Speakers

- February 23, 2011 – Nicole Etcheson, Alexander M. Bracken Professor of History at Ball State University, “*The Border Ruffian Conspiracy*”
- March 23, 2011 – Mark Plummer, Professor Emeritus, Illinois State University, “*The Sterling Price Raid Into Missouri and Kansas, Autumn 1864*”
- April 27, 2010 – Peter Cozzens, Historian/Author, “*General John Rawlins: Right Hand to Greatness*”
- May 25, 2010 – Earl J. Hess, Historian, Author, “*Soldier Life in the Trenches at Petersburg*”

A Note From Our President

The year 2011 started off with a bang. If nothing else, we now know to take storm-warning sirens seriously. This being the Sesquicentennial of the start of the Civil War, things are happening, including these . . .

Member Greg Wolk, also of the Civil War Heritage Foundation, in the December 3 issue of *Webster-Kirkwood Times*, described the planned 35-mile U.S. Grant Driving Trail – “stretching from Pacific MO to Jefferson Barracks”. Eight informational panels will describe various aspects of Grant’s life and related Civil War themes.

From Sunday through Tuesday, August 12 to 14, there will be major reenactments of the Battle of Wilson’s Creek near Springfield MO as part of the Blue-Gray Alliance Sesquicentennial Program. That organization will sponsor similar events near battle sites all over the nation, into and throughout 2012 as well. Check out Len Eagleburger’s “Ozarks CW Sesquicentennial Weekly” website on page 4 for details.

Here in St. Louis, we enthusiastically look forward to the opening of the St. Louis Civil War Museum at Jefferson Barracks. The opening is scheduled for April, the month the war began so dramatically in Charleston Harbor exactly 150 years ago. It will be wonderful new historical resource for people all over the state and region. To get in on early membership, check their website for details.

Phil Baker

Officers, 2010 - 2011

President – Phil Baker
Vice President – Bill Jackson
Secretary – Paul Hauser
Assistant Secretary – Ed Rataj
Treasurer – Mary Riggs
Assistant Treasurer – Curt Wittbracht
Board Member – Bob Buxton
Board Member – Bob Katsev

Board Member – Larry Lapinski
Board Member – John Mullen
Board Member – John Nischwitz
Board Member – Barry Rinderknecht
Board Member – Gary Scheel
Board Member – Bob Schultz
Board Member – Mike Scully
Bushwhacker Editor – Walt Bittle
Assistant Editor – John Harris

November/December Meeting Recap

President Baker opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance to remind us of its origin and symbolism. Members were encouraged to bid early and often on the Silent Auction items on display. Following the monthly raffle and the members-only raffle, John Nischwitz ran us through the ringer with his trivia expertise.

Mike Scully then introduced Round Table member Lt. Colonel Harold Knudsen, who reviewed the military ideas and accomplishments of CSA General James Longstreet. Taking us into, through, and beyond the Civil War, LTC Knudsen expertly reviewed Longstreet's contribution to the art and science of warfare, up to and including how his strategy and tactics are used in the modern day.

Events of Interest

January 15, 2011

Court Ordered Slave Sale

The first Slave Sale held at the Old Courthouse since 1862 will take place at 10:00 am on Saturday, January 15. This is the first event of the Civil War Sesquicentennial Commemoration in the St. Louis area. For further details, e-mail the National Black Tourism Network at NBTN@earthlink.net or call Angela Da Silva at 314-865-0708. Event sponsored by National Park Service and Chatillon-Demenil House, among others.

February 27, 2011

Sherman Day

Annual Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War commemoration at the grave of William Tecumseh Sherman in Calvary Cemetery in St. Louis. For more information visit www.mocivilwar150.com

April 28, 2011 - May 1, 2011

A Tipping Point

This event will be held at Jefferson Barracks and will depict events that took place during the Missouri Volunteer Militia's encampment known as Camp Jackson in early May, 1861. For more information visit www.mocivilwar150.com

May 10, 2011 – June 1, 2014

Civil War Missouri: A House Dividing

"Civil War Missouri: A House Dividing" is an exhibit within the Missouri State Museum, located on the first floor of the State Capitol building in Jefferson City, Missouri. The exhibit will include: "Slavery's Echoes," "Hands On Civil War" and Civil War Cannon Diorama. For more information visit www.mocivilwar150.com

August 12 – 14, 2011

Wilson's Creek Reenactment 2011

The Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Foundation is planning a maximum-effort Civil War reenactment to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Wilson's Creek. Watch for more details and updates on the Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Foundation web site at www.wilsonscreek.com.

November 12, 2011 – March 16, 2013

The Civil War in Missouri

The Missouri History Museum will have a comprehensive exhibit exploring the complexities of the Civil War in Missouri. For more information visit www.mophistory.org.

Publications

General Price's Raid

Roundtable member Walt Busch has created a book with articles from the Missouri Democrat that deal with General Price's Raid. It is in a three ring binder and has 475 pages with an additional 23 pages of photos and maps. The price for this book is \$29.95. There is also a CD that has the same information as the book, but includes bonus articles from the Missouri Republican and archives at Fort Davidson Historic Site. The price for the CD is \$20.00. The price for the book and the CD is \$40.00. For more information contact Walt Busch at webusch@hotmail.com

Markers and Monuments in Missouri

The Springfield Chapter of Daughters of Union Veterans is publishing *Making Civil War History in the Ozarks – A Guide to Civil War Markers and Monuments in Twenty-Four Southwest Missouri Counties*. For more information, visit <http://duvmissouritent22.org/>.

Missouri Historical Review

This is a quarterly publication of The State Historical Society of Missouri. It includes articles of general historical interest, as well as many Civil War-related articles and book reviews. The October issue contained an excellent article titled *The Third Iowa Cavalry in Sterling Price's 1864 Missouri Raid*, as well as an informative review of a new book titled *Jayhawkers: the Civil War Brigade of James Henry Lane*. Annual dues are \$20. For more information, visit <http://shs.umsystem.edu>.

Other News

Missouri Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission

A website that ultimately will serve as a clearinghouse for all Civil War-related activities in Missouri is up and running – www.mocivilwar150.com

More Sesquicentennial News

Len Eagleburger of the Civil War Round Table of the Ozarks is coordinating interesting newspaper and magazine articles about Civil War topics into a weekly e-newsletter. If you are not already on his e-mail list, you can join by contacting him at leneagleburger@sbcglobal.net.

Endangered Battlefields

The Civil War Preservation Trust is accepting nominations through its website for its annual report on endangered Civil War battlefields. The 2011 endangered battlefields report will be released next spring in Washington, DC. Any Civil War battlefield is eligible for nomination and consideration. The chosen sites will be selected based on geographic location, military significance, and the immediacy of current threats. Individuals and groups are encouraged to fill out the nomination form available online at www.civilwar.org/endangerednomination.

News From Gettysburg

The Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board has postponed a final decision about allowing a Casino within sight of the Gettysburg Battlefield. In public remarks earlier this week, Governor Ed Rendell again reiterated his opposition to the idea that a casino might be built near the battlefield. Although he has no vote in the proceedings, the governor's attitude clearly reflects that of countless Americans who have expressed their very strong opposition. Keep up with the ongoing controversy and find out what you can do by logging on to The Civil War Preservation Trust website at www.civilwar.org

Part Of The Wall

The Last Survivor of Alton Prison

Samuel Aaron Harrison was living in Texas County, Missouri, at the beginning of the Civil War. He served first in the Missouri State Guard, fighting in the battles of Wilson's Creek and Lexington, and then in Coleman's Missouri Cavalry Regiment. He was wounded in the shoulder at the Battle of West Plains, Missouri and carried a Minie ball in his shoulder the rest of his life. Late in 1864, near the end of Price's Raid as some units were separated and disbanding, he tried to make his way home, but was captured near Rolla and sent to Alton Prison for the rest of the war. After the war, he married and raised a family and moved to Phelps and Dent County, Missouri. After his first wife died, he married my grandmother's widowed great-aunt, living with his combined family until he died in 1940. My father (born in 1914) used to tell the story of how "Uncle Sammie" would let the kids feel the Minie ball in his shoulder. In 1938, he got permission to remove a stone from the remains of the Alton Prison to use for Uncle Sammie's headstone. The plaque (in Anutt Cemetery, Dent County, Missouri) reads:



SAMUEL A. HARRISON
APRIL 10, 1842 – AUG 30, 1940
LAST SURVIVOR OF CIVIL WAR PRISON
ALTON ILLINOIS. DECEMBER 1864 TO
JUNE 3, 1865. THE STONE REMOVED
FROM OLD CELL WALL BY SPECIAL
PERMISSION

Submitted by John Harris

Off The Shelf

Missouri's War, The Civil War in Documents

by Silvana R. Siddali, Ohio University Press, 2009

Missouri's War: The Civil War in Documents is part of "The Civil War in the Great Interior" series, which examines how people in the Middle West experienced the Civil War and the role they played in preserving and redefining the nation.

The chapters are Slavery in Missouri; Missouri Divides; Missourians Confront War; Missouri's Battles; Civilians Cope With War; Bushwhackers, Jayhawkers, and Prisoners; First Steps Toward Emancipation; and Reconciliation and Promises. Each chapter starts with a narrative framework, followed by a wide variety of documents (with background information on each document) to illustrate the diverse opinions and positions related to each topic.

Even though I noticed a few minor errors in the narratives, the book is a great read. Professor Siddali exercised no apparent bias in her selection of documents and presents the widest variety of views with the documents selected. I highly recommend this book.

Submitted by John Harris

**The Assassin's Accomplice –
Mary Surratt and the Plot to Kill Abraham Lincoln**
by Kate Clifford Larson (2008)

Prompted by news that Hollywood will soon release a movie about the infamous Mary Surratt, I decided to catch up on the latest research. It didn't take long for the author to reveal her biases and conclusions. This is from the fourth page of the introduction:

This biography was begun with the supposition that Mary Surratt was far more innocent of the charges against her than the original trial had determined, and that her unjust hanging was the result of a frenzy of revenge bolstered by a stunned Federal Government determined to exert its power. Even a woman would not escape the government's single-minded goal to avenge Lincoln's murder. But the research itself led to an altogether surprising conclusion: Mary Surratt was not only guilty, but was far more involved in the plot than many historians have given her credit for.

Before the movie comes out, whatever its historical accuracy, read this book.

I also recommend *The Lincoln Assassination Encyclopedia* by Edward Steers (2010)

Submitted by Walt Bittle

Off The Wall

GONE WITH THE WIND

November 5 through 7, 2010 was the weekend that I discovered I was a "Windie". This event has been held since *GWTW*'s fiftieth anniversary in 1989, usually in Atlanta. The St. Louis conference held this year coincided with the seventieth anniversary of the movie's showing in St Louis at Loew's Theater. The more-than 100 participants hailed from all parts of the country. Plantation life at *White Haven* [Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site] was first on the agenda with a panel citing the similarities between *White Haven* and *Tara* in Margaret Mitchell's book, plus exhibits and a panel of *GWTW* bloggers. That evening, there was a reception at the Forest Park Drury Hotel, followed by the *Fiddle-Dee-Dee Follies*, an irreverent spoof and salute to the *GWTW* movie.

Saturday, there was a Market Bazaar at the Drury featuring Civil War books and movie items, and an autograph signing session with three actors from the movie. There were also collections of *GWTW* memorabilia and gorgeous original artwork for sale. At lunch, a birthday celebration for Margaret Mitchell and Vivien Leigh was held, and the film, *The Atlanta Premier of GWTW*, was shown. The three actors who played Beau Wilkes were available for questions and autographs. That evening was the *Gateway to the Wind Charity Ball*, which benefited Rainbows for Kids.

Sunday included a brunch at St. Louis University's Cook Hall, with a screening of *The Making of a Masterpiece*. The documentary was produced by Sally Tippet Rains with actors from the movie. Questions were also answered from panelists who had connections with Margaret Mitchell, Vivien Leigh, Clark Gable, or others in the movie.

It was a fabulous weekend. I was surprised there were so many young people there, many obviously as smitten with the book and movie as I was in my youth. My interest in the Civil War era began with reading *Gone With The Wind* and seeing the movie.

Submitted by Murnai Winter

Editorial Cartoon of the Month



South Carolina's "Ultimatum."

Captions:

South Carolina's Governor Pickens: "Mr. President, if you don't surrender that fort at once, I'll be blown if I don't fire."

President James Buchanan: "Oh Don't! Governor Pickens, don't fire! Til I get out of office."

This cartoon was published by Currier and Ives in early 1861, during the last days of Buchanan's term in office. Fort Sumter, flying the Stars and Stripes, is in the background – as is an approaching steamship (possibly the *Star of the West*). The cannon is labeled "Peace Maker" and the gun carriage stamped "U. S." implying the source of the cannon threatening the fort.

During this campaign, *Bushwhacker* will include a cartoon that was published 150 years ago (to the month) reflecting editorial comment on current events, thanks to the efforts of member Bob Schultz who has created ***Political Cartoons of the American Civil War***, a 52-page book of contemporary cartoons from many sources accompanied by a Powerpoint® disc suitable for presentations to organizations or in school settings to supplement conventional study materials on the Civil War. Available to members for \$10 each (see Bob Schultz at the next meeting) or for \$14.95 postage paid. Contact waltb50@centurytel.net for further details.

St. Louis Civil War Round Table November/December 2010 Trivia

1. The US War Department brought together a vast collection of documents on Southern civilians in 1891-92, designated as "Confederate Papers Related to Citizens or Business Firms – including rolls, bills of lading, invoices, telegrams, passes, employee lists, and others". What was the value of this collection to the Federal Government?

The great monetary value of these records was the documentation of aid given to the Confederacy, and therefore evidence of disloyalty to the Union. This evidence led to the rejection of claims seeking compensation for property damage cause by Federal troops.

2. The Hanes and Ketchum Manufacturing Company produced what item for the Confederacy?

Hand Grenades. The Hanes was a spherical design with percussion igniters around the circumference. The Ketchum design was like a large dart with a percussion igniter in the tip.

3. What Confederate Major General was captured twice in 1864 – in two different theaters?

Edward "Allegheny" Johnson – at Spotsylvania and at Nashville

4. At the time of his death at Pine Mountain, General Polk had in his pockets three copies of *Balm For the Weary and Wounded* by CSA Chaplain Charles T. Quinjtard, inscribed by Polk for three of his fellow general officers. To whom did he intend to give these inspirational books which were spattered with his blood?

Joe Johnston, William Hardee, and John Bell Hood

5. General Richard Ewell attributed his recovery from a lower leg amputation to what remarkable elixir?

Madeira wine

6. What four eastern railroads carried the bulk of the Civil War traffic for the North?

New York Central, Pennsylvania, Illinois Central, Baltimore and Ohio (B&O)

7. What CW field artillery piece was very unpopular with the cannoneers and why?

Parrott Rifles – they had a tendency to burst without warning. General R. E. Lee requested that all Parrott Rifles of the Army of Northern Virginia be recast.

8. What was the favorite field piece of the "redlegs"?

The 3-inch Ordnance Rifle – due to its accuracy, range, and striking power

9. In what year did the US War Department authorize the Civil War Service Medal for all veterans of the War? The gold medallion suspended from a Blue and Grey ribbon was authorized in what two variations?

In 1907 – in both Army and Navy designs. By that time many, if not most, veterans had passed on.

10. After the capture of Atlanta in 1864, Spanish Queen Isabella II renounced all claims for damages due to what event decided by an 1841 US Supreme Court decision?

The release and return to their African homes of the freed slaves (52 adults and four children) of the slave ship *La Amistad*. Isabella had pressed Spanish claims with eight US Presidents.

Copyright 2010 © John A. Nischwitz

Brochures

Lately, we've started placing our brochures in libraries, community centers, historic areas, and the like. Given the sheer breadth of the territory from which our members come, volunteers to help in this effort are most welcome. There will be a supply of brochures at all our meetings.