



Buck and Ball

Official Newsletter of the Civil War Round Table of the Ozarks

www.cwrto.com

June 2012

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Next Meeting

Wednesday, June 13 at 6:30 p.m. at The Library Center,
4653 S. Campbell Ave., in Springfield.

“Within the Shadow of a Dream,” by Christy Hyman, National Park
Service

Ms. Christy Hyman received her B.A in Women’s and Gender Studies from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, and her Master’s in history from Virginia State University in Petersburg. Since June 2011 she has been a Park Ranger at the George Washington Carver National Monument in Diamond, Missouri, where she has developed cultural and historical programming drawing on specified interpretive themes to enliven the visitor experience and teach the public about the life of George Washington Carver. Prior to that, she was a museum educator at the Center Hill Museum in Petersburg, Virginia; a curatorial assistant at Hope Plantation in Windsor, North Carolina; and a historic interpreter for the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources in Creswell, North Carolina. She has also served as a consult for several film projects and has acted in several productions.

Ms. Hyman’s talk, “Within the Shadow of a Dream,” examines the world of free blacks during the antebellum period and the Civil War. She examines Harriet Wilson (the first African American to publish a novel) and Dangerfield Newberry (a member of John Brown’s Harper’s Ferry Raid), placing them within the context of a litany of laws that governed their existence as they dared to push the boundaries of their circumscribed status. The reviled status and hardships experienced by free blacks helps to explain why, once war broke out, free blacks felt compelled adhere to whatever demands the Confederacy made of them. Only by understanding the plight of this inarticulate demographic group can one place their wartime contributions and actions in proper context.

Civil War Roundtable of the Ozarks
P.O. Box 3451
Springfield, Mo. 65808
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An IRS 501 (c) (3)
Charitable Organization

Meeting Continuously
Since 1960

President's Message for June 2012

During the month of June 1862 Eastern readers of *Harper's Weekly* searched its pages eagerly for news of the conflict in Virginia, where Robert E. Lee's appointment to command led to a series of bloody engagements that have become known as the Seven Days campaign. By contrast, the Trans-Mississippi Theater appeared to be quiet. Buried in the pages of the June 7 issue of *Harper's* was an illustration by Alexander Simplot of the interior of a "Sanitary Steamer."



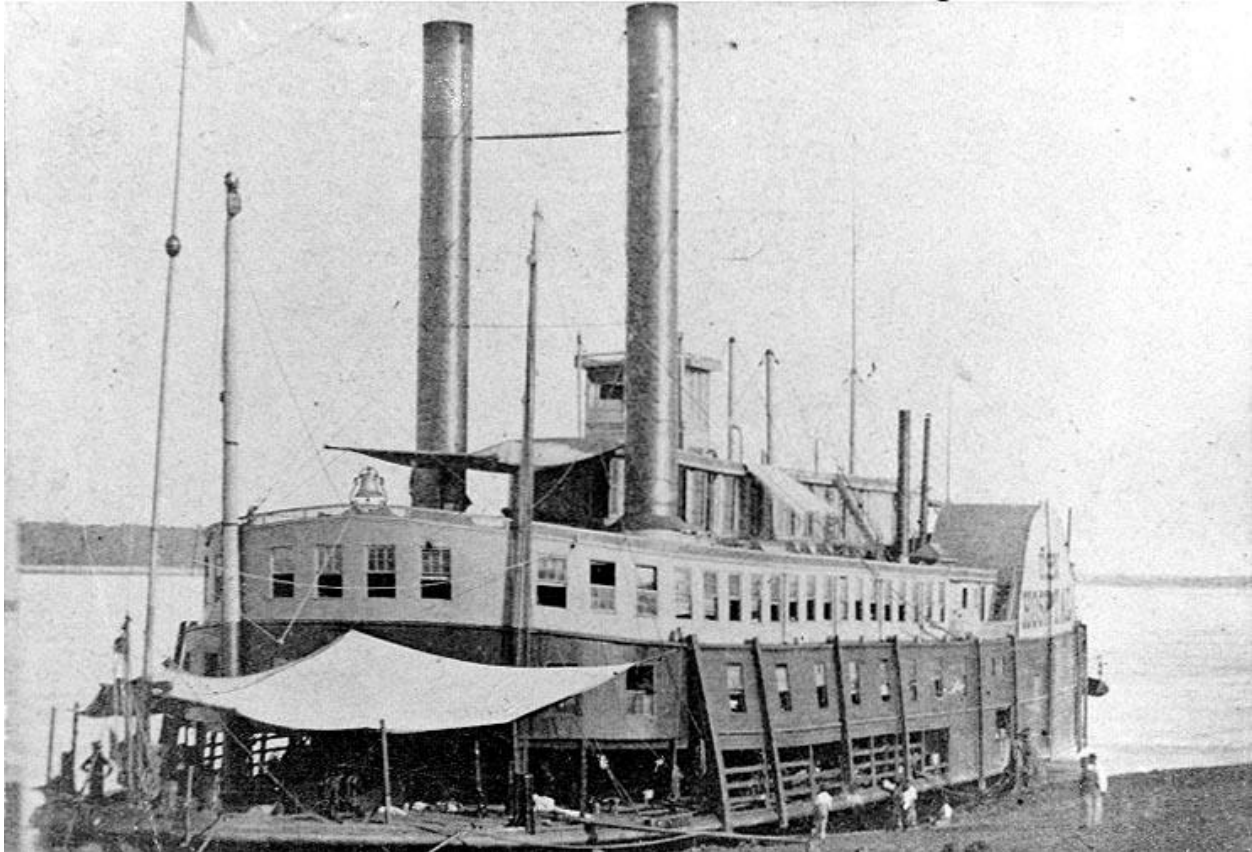
Harper's Weekly, June 7, 1862

Simplot submitted his drawing to the paper's editors, who had it transformed into the engraving above and placed with a series of pictures illustrating Union Major General Henry Halleck's operations around Corinth, Mississippi. Simplot probably identified the vessel by name in his original drawing; if so, the editors did not see fit to include it. This is unfortunate, as this back-page and all-but-forgotten drawing actually illustrates a virtual revolution in military medicine that was occurring in 1862, thanks in no small part to the citizens of St. Louis.

Headquartered in St. Louis, Major General John C. Fremont enjoyed only a short tenure as commander of the Department of the West. Indeed, his greatest contribution to the Union war effort may have been his authorization on September 5, 1861, of the Western Sanitary Commission. Fremont did so at the urging of his wife, Jesse Benton Fremont, daughter of the late Senator Thomas Hart Benton of Missouri. A civilian organization designed to assist the military, the Western Sanitary Commission grew out of earlier civilian relief efforts in St. Louis, particularly the St. Louis Ladies' Union Aid Society, whose founders included Adeline Couzins and Anna Wedell Clapp. Thanks to the cooperative efforts of the military and such civilian support groups, a number of vessels were rented or purchased to assist with the evacuation and

treatment of the wounded resulting from the ongoing Union campaign to open the Mississippi River. By the time Harper's published its modest illustration of the interior of an unnamed Sanitary Steamer, the medical fleet included the following vessels: *Ben Franklin*; *City of Louisiana*; *R. C. Wood*; *Continental*; *Crescent City*; *Imperial*; *D. J. January*; *City of Memphis*; and *Red Rover*. Some were in service only briefly, but the *Red Rover*, which was built in 1859 at Cape Girardeau and joined the Union's Mississippi flotilla in May 1862, was one of the most advanced medical facilities in the United States.

Photo # NH 49981 USS Red Rover on the Western Rivers during the Civil War



***USS Red Rover*. Photograph courtesy of the Naval Historical Center**

It is commonplace to describe medical practices during the Civil War as primitive, but war drives innovation. In addition to its treatment and surgical rooms, the *Red Rover* boasted three steam-operated elevators, a laundry, bathing facilities, nine toilets, two kitchens, and an icebox that could hold 300 tons of ice. Although it rated little coverage in Eastern newspapers, by June 1862 wounded and sick Union soldiers in the Trans-Mississippi were receiving the most advanced medical care in the world.

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You won't want to miss our June program. Christy Hyman of the George Washington Carver National Monument in Diamond, Missouri, will talk on the experiences of free blacks during the Civil War. Faced with a world of prejudices and legal constrictions in both the North and the South, free Africa Americans had to negotiate a veritable minefield throughout the Civil War.

Field trips, anyone? At the June meeting we will discuss the possibility of touring Civil War sites in St. Louis and viewing the art collection at The State Historical Society in Columbia.

I hope to see you at the June meeting. – Bill Piston, CWRT Ozarks president.

Civil War Round Table of the Ozarks Minutes for the meeting of 9 May 2012

On 9 May 2012, the CWRTO met at the Air and Military Museum of the Ozarks (AMMO). Meeting was open by President Piston at 6:35 pm. President Piston said the June meeting will be about the Black Confederates. He also thanked the AMMO museum directors for inviting the CWRTO members to the museum. Meeting was turned over to Ray Hopper, the spokesperson of the Museum. Mr. Hopper told of the beginnings of the museum which opened in 1988. He mentioned key points of the museum which included a WWII fighter plane, a Vietnam Cobra helicopter and a 1941 Chevrolet Army truck. Mr. Hopper talked about many war era uniforms plus much more. He invited everyone back.

Ted Hillmer, the Superintendent of Wilson's Creek mentioned some basic information about the Battlefield to the AMMO members present. Ted reported that the Battlefield is trying to get the Sweeney Museum pieces displayed by April or October 2012.

Mr. Hopper mentioned membership at the AMMO museum is \$25 for single individuals and \$35 for family. He also mentioned an ongoing project of recording Veterans military stories.

Meeting was adjourned so that all CWRTO members could view the museum.

Stephen J. Buffat
Secretary
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2012 Fund Raiser
States of America Coin Bear Collection. All New and
Uncirculated By Limited Treasures

**57 Bears Total with uncirculated state coins attached to paw.
This complete set contains the 50 States of the USA and 6 Territories.**

These include: American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, and Washington, DC.

The One Dollar George Washington Bear is also included.

Description:

White Bear is 8 inches tall and has an Uncirculated State Quarter on its Paw. State name, the date, and number position for entrance into the USA is on every colorful Bear.

Released in 2009, the Original offering price was \$9.95 each. (\$567.15)

The Round Table is offering this collectors' item for \$400.00 to the first bidder.

Call Jim Scaminaci at home 887-7844 or cell 214-808-2443

There are only 4 statues available!

Civil War Book Discussion Group At The Library Center

Monday July 23 at 7:00 in meeting room A, *Midnight Rising: John Brown and the Raid that Sparked the Civil War* by Tony Horwitz.

Monday September 24 in meeting room A with *Mrs. Lincoln: A Life* by Catherine Clinton.

Monday November 19 in meeting room A for *Starving The South: How the North Won the Civil War* by Andrew F. Smith.

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**WILSON’S CREEK NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD
TO WAIVE ENTRANCE FEES FOR
“NATIONAL GET OUTDOORS DAY”**

Wilson’s Creek National Battlefield will be joining other national park units, across the country, in offering a fee-free day on Saturday, June 9th, in honor of National Get Outdoors Day.

“National Get Outdoors Day encourages healthy, active outdoor fun,” says Supt Ted Hillmer. “I can’t think of a better place to get outdoors and have fun than at Wilson’s Creek NB, or any of the almost 400 national park units around the country.”

National Get Outdoors Day is part of Great Outdoors Month, proclaimed by the President, to encourage Americans, especially youth, to participate in outdoor activities and enjoy the beauty of public lands.

To learn more about the dates and times of Ranger activities in the park and where they meet, please go to www.nps.gov/wicr. You may also call the park’s visitor center at 417-732-2662, extension 227. For more information about National Get Outdoors Day, visit <http://www.nationalgetoutdoorsday.org>, and for more on national park fee-free days, go to www.nps.gov/findapark/feefree.

Wilson’s Creek National Battlefield preserves and commemorates the first major battle, of the Civil War, in the West. Administered by the National Park Service, the 1,920-acre battlefield is located 10 miles southwest of Springfield, Missouri, at the intersection of ZZ Highway and Farm Road 182, east of Republic.



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