



Buck and Ball

Official Newsletter of the Civil War Round Table of the Ozarks

www.cwrto.com

March 2012

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Next Meeting

Wednesday, March 14, at 6:30 p.m. at The Library Center, 4653 S. Campbell Ave., in Springfield.

Our March program, "Pea Ridge: The Greatest 'What If' Battle of the Civil War," is presented by CWRT Ozarks President Bill Piston. A native of Tennessee, Bill received his B.A. and M.A. from Vanderbilt University and his Ph.D. from the University of South Carolina. He has taught at Missouri State University since 1988. Bill and CWRT Ozarks webmaster John Rutherford have an article on the Battle of Springfield, January 8, 1863, that will appear in *Springfield's Urban Histories*, an anthology edited by Stephen McIntyre that will be published by Moon City Press this fall.



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P.O. Box 3451
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An IRS 501 (c) (3)
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Since 1960

President's Message for March 2012

There will be no large-scale re-enactment marking the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Pea Ridge, March 7-8, 1862. I regret this, as re-enactments certainly publicize National Park sites. Through their pageantry and excitement, they help capture the next generation of custodians of our nation's heritage. I first visited Pea Ridge in 1988, only a few weeks after arriving in Springfield. My guide was the late Leo Huff, retired lieutenant colonel, U.S. Army; newly retired teacher; and longtime member of the CWRT Ozarks. We got there only to discover that the tour road was closed for paving. Leo was embarrassed, as he had played up the battlefield during our trip down, letting me know what a special place I was about to see. I saw only a part of it that day, but the rest on a subsequent trip, also with Leo. Pea Ridge National Military Park is indeed a special place, and I have watched it improve steadily over the last twenty-four years. The Pea Ridge of 1988 and 2012 are different in many ways. There is now modern interpretative signage, featuring specially commissioned paintings by Carthage artist Andy Thomas. Mile upon mile of reconstructed fence lines make the vast greenswards of Pea Ridge resemble 19th Century farm land rather than a golf course. The museum has been refurbished to include interactive exhibits and there is a new introductory film. Look closely to spot the CWRT Ozarks members appearing in it.

Those living west of the Mississippi won't be surprised to learn that during the war Pea Ridge received little attention back East. *Harper's Weekly* featured some of the first reporting of the fight, but merely by printing Union Major General Samuel R. Curtis's after-action report, accompanied by this generic illustration:



The only detail the artist got right was the fact that Northerners and Southerners shot at each other during the battle.

There is perhaps some excuse for Easterners overlooking Pea Ridge, for in March 1862 much of the country's attention was focused on the famous duel between the *USS Monitor* and *CSS Virginia*. Although the *Monitor* was Johnny-come-lately to the Missouri-built ironclads that had already seen action at Fort Henry and Fort Donelson, its revolving turret design was a dramatic innovation in naval technology. If you haven't seen the webpage of the Mariner's Museum in Norfolk, Virginia, with its Monitor Center and full scale reproduction of the famous ironclad, I recommend it to you. Here is the link: <http://www.marinersmuseum.org/> . If you

have actually visited the Monitor Center, I am deeply jealous. The *Monitor* and *Virginia* were a source of endless fascination to me during the 1961-1965 Civil War Centennial. I must have drawn a hundred pencil or crayon pictures of that naval battle. I can still recall the thrill I felt in 1962, when taking a ferry from Norfolk to Cape Charles. My father pointed to the distant waters of Hampton Roads, where the famous battle of the ironclads was fought. It seemed wrong to me that those waters were not somehow visibly different from the adjacent Chesapeake Bay.

In the category of shameless self-promotion, let me recommend to you a new anthology of Civil War related articles reprinted from *The Missouri Historical Review*. The title is *A Rough Business: Fighting the Civil War in Missouri*. It is published by The State Historical Society of Missouri, so you know the profits go to a good cause. This issue of the *Buck & Ball* contains information on an event at Drury on March 12, where copies of *A Rough Business* will be for sale. You can also order it directly from the Society: <http://shs.umsystem.edu/index.shtml> The Society also doing an anthology devoted to Civil War diaries and letters. John Bradbury is editing that one.

I hope to see you all at our March meeting. Don't forget to pay your dues if you haven't already done so.

Bill Piston
President, CWRT Ozarks

FEBRUARY 8, 2012 MINUTES OF THE CWRTO

President Piston opened the meeting of the Civil War Round Table of the Ozarks February 5, 2012. In attendance was one guest. a sheet requesting members to update their email address was passed around. Treasurer Richard Quinn reported an operating balance of \$2012.67. Income from last meeting is \$285.27. Money Market amount is \$5,276.13. Report was approved by members. Membership was noted at 32 members paid. Ted Hilmer gave the Wilson's Creek Battlefield report. There is a 6.7% increase in visitors at the battlefield over last year. Twenty dollars is still the amount for a season pass. Volunteers are requested at the park. Arts in the park will be coming up in May. There will be a contest for best group on the topic of the Civil War. Hy-vee market will be in charge. Further details forthcoming. Also in March a lecture on Pea Ridge and in April Dianne Moody Burke UMKC will talk on Slavery in Small Households in the Civil War.

Jim Scaminaci reported that there is still horses to purchase for a fund raiser. Horses are \$50.00 each. Contact Jim at 417 887- 7844. There are Beanie Bears to purchase for \$450.00 for all bears. They will not be sold individually. These bears represent the 50 states plus territories, plus a George Washington bear. They all have uncirculated quarters attached to their foot, contact Jim.

Dr. Piston introduced our speaker, author William C. Winter. The topic was his recently completed book Captain Joseph Boyce and the 1st Missouri Infantry, C.S.A., a truly enjoyable lecture. Books on Captain Boyce were available. Mr. Winter gives tours of St. Louis Civil War historical sites. A brief statement by Dr. Piston of a possible tour by members of the CWRTO of these sites could be something the members might consider.

A book raffle took place after Mr. Winter's talk. Books were won by Ted Hillmer, Ann Harkreader, and Toni Roush. Meeting was adjourned.

Minutes by Dan Cunningham Vice President

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

Horse Sculptures

The Civil War Round Table of the Ozarks was the recipient of fourteen "Sesquicentennial Civil War Horse" sculptures. Through the generosity of the Creamery Arts Center, we are offering these beautiful art pieces to our members. The retail price is \$225.00.

The Round Table is offering these art sculptures for only \$50.00.

They are boxed and can be shipped.

There are only 7 statues available.

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Specifications:

The material is a white satin Resin that simulates marble.

Weight is approximately 25 lbs.

Height: 24.5 in.

Width: 24 in.

Base: 9 x 18.5 in.

Call or email: James Scaminaci Tel. 887-7844 or jamescaminaci@sbcglobal.net



2012 VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT MEETING TO BE HELD AT WILSON'S CREEK NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD

An overview of the 2012 spring/summer volunteer program at Wilson's Creek National Battlefield will be held in the Visitor Center multi-purpose room on Friday, March 2, at 6:30 p.m. "Come and be part of something special," according to Superintendent Ted Hillmer. "We need your help and assistance in making history come alive".

A variety of topics will be discussed during the meeting, including 2012 volunteer opportunities, special events at the battlefield, and upcoming volunteer training schedule. The meeting is expected to last approximately one to one ½ hours.

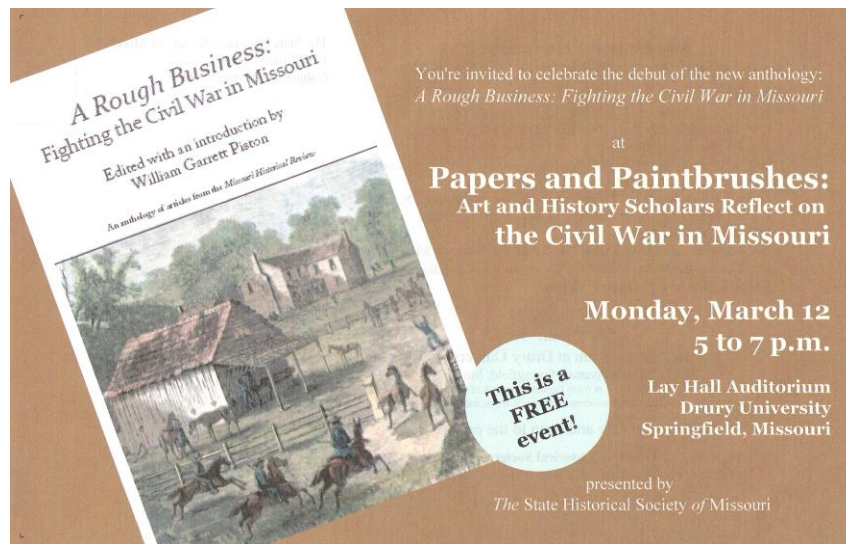
Immediate needs include interpretive volunteers to provide assistance presenting programs and tours for school groups in April/May and to provide volunteer staffing for the Visitor Center information desk. Additional opportunities for spring, summer and fall of 2012 will also be discussed at this time. Anyone interested in volunteering at the battlefield is encouraged to attend. Volunteers should be at least sixteen years of age to participate in activities. Volunteers are asked to contribute at least eight hours per month at the battlefield.

Reservations are not required for the meeting.

Administered by the National Park Service, Wilson's Creek National Battlefield preserves the site of the first major battle of the Civil War in the West. The Confederate victory on August 10, 1861, focused greater national attention on the war in Missouri, leading to greater federal military action.

Wilson's Creek National Battlefield is located 10 miles southwest of Springfield, Missouri at the intersection of Highway ZZ and Farm Road 182. To receive more information call (417) 732-2662, extension 385.

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Papers and Paintbrushes: Art and History Scholars Reflect on the Civil War in Missouri

Featuring:

- The debut of the new anthology, *A Rough Business: Fighting the Civil War in Missouri*. This collection of 14 articles from the *Missouri Historical Review* traces the brutal conflict from a military history perspective and describes how it adversely impacted people in all areas of the state.
- "Why the Civil War Was Different in Missouri": a lecture by Dr. William Garrett Piston, professor of history at Missouri State University in Springfield.
- "Picturing the Battlefield: Artists' Visions of The Battle of Wilson's Creek": a lecture by Dr. Joan Stack, Curator of Art Collections for *The State Historical Society of Missouri*.

**Monday, March 12
5 to 7 p.m.**

Lay Hall Auditorium at Drury University
900 N. Benton Avenue, Springfield, Mo.

Parking is available on the street or in Lot 6 (on Benton just north of Central High School).
There are also open lots at the southeast corner of Central and Drury Lane.

This event is free and open to the public.

**Presented by *The State Historical Society of Missouri*
For more information, visit www.shs.umssystem.edu**

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Save the Date

You are invited to join the Mary Whitney Phelps Tent No. 22, Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War, 1861-1865, as they celebrate the 200th anniversary of the birth of Mary Whitney Phelps with a *new* historical marker in Phelps Grove Park.

Sunday, April 29, 2012

1:00 p.m. — 2:30 p.m.

Phelps Grove Park

Corner of Brookside and Virginia

Springfield, Missouri

In case of rain, the event will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church gymnasium, located one block west of the park.

Upcoming Events

Civil War Book Discussion Group At The Library Center

Monday May 21 at 7:00 in meeting room A for *The Class of 1846: From West Point to Appomattox: Stonewall Jackson, George McClellan, and Their Brothers* by John C. Waugh.

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.

Lincoln Assassination Programs

The Library Center is hosting two special programs related to the assassination of Abraham Lincoln

Watch a special screening of *The Conspirator* on April 15 at 1:30 in auditorium. Directed by Robert Redford and starring Robin Wright, this film dramatizes the case of Mary Surratt, the woman executed by the United States government. Inspired by the book *The Assassin's Accomplice: Mary Surratt and the Plot to Kill Abraham Lincoln* by Kate Clifford Larson. A discussion will follow the film.

"The Assassination of President Lincoln and the Trial of the Conspirators" by Historian Hal Funk, May 15 at 7:00 in the auditorium.