



The Border Star

Official Monthly Publication of the Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri

• **Founded 1992**

• **Incorporated 1994**

"Studying The Border War and Beyond"



May 2004

In Memory of Sonny Wells

The Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri

2004 Officers

President ----- Timothy A. Cox
1st V.P. ----- ~ Open ~
2nd V.P. ----- Arthur R. Kelley
Secretary ----- Karen K. Wells
Treasurer ----- Beverly J. Shaw
Historian ----- Paul Tate

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Dr. Gerald Anderson, Emeritus
Mike Calvert Harriett Lionberger
Terry McConnell Charlotte Tindall
Randall Todd

The Border Star Editor

Dennis Myers
18034 Kent Circle
Independence, MO 64057
(816) 257-5754

Meetings

2nd Wednesday of the month - 7:00 pm
Old Blake Museum - 106 E. Walnut
Independence, Missouri
Visitors Always Welcome!

Annual Dues

Individual ----- 15.00
Family ----- 22.50
Student (under 21) ----- 5.00
Newsletter Only (no meetings) -- 9.00

For information:

Tim Cox ----- 478-8833
Beverly Shaw ----- 478-7648
Art Kelley ----- 373-4101

Mailing Address:

C.W.R.T. of Western Missouri
4947 S. Peck Avenue
Independence, MO 64055

I'VE SEEN THE ELEPHANT, AND. . .

Thoughts from Tim Cox, President

I've seen the elephant, but kept on going, deriving strength, hope and enthusiasm from fellow Civil War enthusiasts and members of The Round Table. We have many challenges ahead of us as a group, but things are looking up:

- Our new Newsletter Editor, Dennis Myers is doing a great job. By the way, he found a flattened minnie ball at The Little Blue last weekend!
- I'm excited about The Little Blue Reveille scheduled for June 12th. The Guardians group is working with us on this and we have had great support from John Ruddy and The Ft. Osage School District, Representative Curt Dougherty and Councilman Will Swoffer, along with area neighbors. Please get involved and help!
- Beverly Shaw keeps us all on schedule and helps keep the wagons moving!
- Blair Tarr, President of The Kansas City Round Table is giving good advice on preservation strategy.
- Jim Beckner has continued to show his networking skills in helping our group. We appreciate his membership.
- Mark Wealand, a caretaker of The Lewis-Gregg Cemetery, welcomes the task of preservation at The Little Blue. We welcome his friendship and commitment.
- The Dyes, Earl Brown Jr., Mark Swanson, Dee Glass, Clay Wilkes and others at The Guardians meetings are dedicated to working on The Little Blue preservation.
- Dr. Lindsey has committed a contingent of the 10th Missouri (Confederate reenactors) to the Reveille.
- Ted Stillwell and Betty Key are hosting us at the Old Blake Museum. We are extremely grateful for this. Come see it! Ted is speaking at next meeting, 05/12/04.
- Friends of Lone Jack (Randall Todd, John Drago, Charlotta Remington and Alinda Miller) are now partners in preservation.
- The Sonny Wells Little Blue Battlefield Memorial Fund continues to grow, now over \$1,700.

See you next month, details of The Reveille will be featured then.

ELEPHANT TALES

The expression "see the elephant" is an old one, perhaps dating to Hannibal and his use of elephants in battle. Of course, in 19th century America, everyone loved to see the elephants at the circus when they came to town, always the featured attraction. Gold Rush travelers used the term to refer to the remarkable sights they had seen in their adventures out west. Finally, Civil War soldiers used the expression in referring to their first glimpse of combat, "I seen the elephant!"

SONNY'S TRIBUTE

In honor of Sonny, we will be placing the Round Table "Medallion with Ribbon" in the upper right hand corner of The Border Star throughout the remainder of the year. It was never so evident, as I discovered in finishing my classes in the Liberty School District and at Blue River Community College, how much I learned from Sonny, as I used the expression, "Sonny said," many, many times. We will all greatly miss his afternoon telephone calls.

Little Blue Reveille

Reveille has been sounded and the troops have now been called to action!

Come one, come all, to the first "Little Blue Reveille" on Saturday, June 12th, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., at The Blue Hills Elementary School, 1911 N. Blue Mills Road, Independence (about ¼ mile north of the intersection of Blue Mills Road and 24 Highway). In case of rain, the event will be held inside the school.

The Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri, in cooperation with The Guardians of The Little Blue, the Fort Osage School District, preservationists, historians and neighbors of the Little Blue Valley area, are sponsoring this fun event to publicize, educate, and inform the public about The Battle of The Little Blue (part of Price's Great Missouri Raid, October 21st and 22nd, 1864). There will be exhibits, a continental breakfast, tours, music and reenactors present.

The purpose of this gathering is, of course, to have fun and learn about Civil War history. However, it also marks efforts toward preserving the battlefield with fund raising efforts geared toward enhancing ***The Sonny Wells Little Blue Memorial Fund***. Information will be available concerning the threat to The Little Blue Battlefield via possible commercial development and the impending Missouri River Corridor (MRC) road project.

Planning is well underway so please mark your calendar to attend.

Contact Tim Cox (478-8833), Beverly Shaw (478-7648) or any Board Member about what you can do to help make this event a success. We need everyone to become a "Guardian" of The Little Blue. There is little time.

Summary of March and April Meetings by Beverly Shaw

Tim Cox has completed an application for a grant from the American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP) to pay a consultant to work on a National Register of Historic Places designation for the Little Blue Battlefield. Tim also had to procure a DUNS I.D. number for use on the application and that has

been accomplished. No word on the status of the grant is expected for several months. To be eligible to receive the ABPP grant, the Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri will apply for 501(c)(3) not-for-profit status with the IRS which Tim and Beverly Shaw are currently working toward.

Max and Donna Daniels ("Abe and the Babe") gave the Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri a \$500 donation to pay for the filing fee for the 501(c)(3) application. They were thanked at the April 2, 2004 Lincoln program at the First Christian Church of Kearney, Missouri and presented a framed photograph of themselves with Sonny and Karen Wells, Bea Cornish, Beverly Shaw and Harlan Klukow at last year's Lincoln program.

The family of Sonny Wells suggested memorial contributions to the First Christian Church of Kearney, Missouri or to the Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri for the preservation of the Little Blue Battlefield. As of April 26, 2004 we have received \$1,745 designated for the battlefield preservation and \$25 for the coffee fund in Sonny's honor. These funds are being deposited to our savings account and will be used only for battlefield related expenses such as printing additional tour booklets, publicity and possibly educational projects, surveys, markers, property purchases, etc. Further fundraising will, of course, be necessary to accomplish many of these long-term goals.

As a beginning activity, the Board decided to hold a Little Blue Reveille on Saturday, June 12, 2004, at the Blue Hills Elementary School. Discussion included having a continental breakfast and tables for interested groups to present literature and have representatives present. We would like to have our Little Blue Battlefield Tour booklets for sale so people could take the self-guided tour. We could charge for the continental breakfast and the booklets and make this a fundraiser as well as educational. Donna Daniels is a Vice-President of the Chicago Civil War Round Table and is going to approach that group about a donation.

Tim Cox has been attending meetings at the Harris-Kearney House to help plan the 140th anniversary tour of the Battle of Westport in cooperation with the Kansas City Round Table and the Westport Historical Society. The date for this is scheduled to

be October 9, 2004 and would be an all-day bus tour starting at the Harris-Kearney House at 4000 Baltimore in Kansas City, Missouri. We hope to persuade the committee to start the tour at the Little Blue and work their way back into Kansas City in chronological order. We are thinking of providing the noon repast at the shelter house at the Little Blue Battlefield Park off 24 Highway and making the meal a fundraiser for us. We would have guides from our group step on the bus to explain this part of the campaign. After lunch the bus would travel to the Big Blue or Byram's Ford where the Monnett Fund of the Kansas City Round Table have plans for a visitor's center and other preservation endeavors.

Dennis Myers did a wonderful first issue of our newsletter on the sad occasion of Sonny Wells' death. The Board authorized Beverly Shaw to print extra copies and distribute them to past members of the Round Table and to other groups who were acquainted with Sonny. Karen has received many heartfelt notes from countless individuals and groups who expressed their appreciation for Sonny's efforts and his life. Dennis will begin work on a website for the Round Table which will have appropriate links to related groups.

Tim Cox is working on arranging future speakers for our meetings and in setting up a July picnic. We were very pleased with our new meeting place at the Old Blake Museum and look forward to continuing to meet there.

Volunteer Needed for Memorial Day

A Confederate volunteer is needed for Memorial Day, Monday, May 31, 2004. This Color Guard assignment will begin at approximately 11:00 a.m. at the Union Cemetery in Kansas City, Missouri and last for about two hours. Uniform can be provided. Please contact Beverly Shaw at (816) 478-7648 to discuss details.

Lewis and Clark Stamps

On May 14, 2004, the United States Postal Service will offer three stamps to commemorate the Lewis and Clark Expedition. In Atchison, Kansas, a special ceremony will be held at 10:00 a.m. at Riverfront Park. In Missouri, a ceremony will be held at St. Charles Frontier Park Trail at 11:00 a.m.

New Address for Dr. Anderson

Gerald Anderson, Board Member Emeritus of the Civil War Round Table, has moved to the Missouri Veterans Home at Cameron, Missouri. His new address is:

Gerald Anderson
1111 Euclid, A-111
Cameron, Missouri 64429
Telephone: (816) 632-6010

New Round Table Members

We are happy to welcome Don and Sarah Moorehead of Buckner, Missouri. Don is a former Civil War reenactor and lives near the projected road site at the Little Blue Battlefield.

Robert Grover of Independence, Missouri is very active with the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution.

As always, please feel free to invite guests to meetings. If you would like a newsletter mailed to someone, call Beverly at (816) 478-7648.

Former Member Kelton Smith

Recognized in Kansas City Star Article

In Steve Penn's column of April 17, 2004, Kelton Smith was called "Unpaid But Not Unheralded" for his volunteer service as a tour guide at the Liberty Memorial in Kansas City, Missouri. Kelton also arranged for the Director to come to our meeting for a presentation last year. He enjoys assisting veterans in their pursuit to recover lost medals. Kelton and his wife, Marilyn, cherish seeing sites where history was made and are planning a trip to London this summer. "I've already visited some battlefields in Europe," Kenton said. "I love going to places that have a big historical significance."

2004 Missouri Highway Maps

The new issue of the official highway map for the state of Missouri is dedicated to the Lewis and Clark expedition. Maps are available at the Missouri Tourism Visitor's Center off I-70 by Kauffman Stadium and at Department of Revenue offices.

Copies of the 2003-2004 Missouri Blue Book Available

Extra copies of the "Official Manual of the State of Missouri" are available free to the public. The book provides extensive factual information on state, local and federal government officials, agencies and programs. Other sections include a feature article on Missouri in the age of Lewis and Clark written by Peter Kastor, assistant professor at Washington University.

Missouri residents may obtain a copy of the Blue Book (so named for its cover except when James Kirkpatrick of Windsor, Missouri was Secretary of State and the cover was green) by sending a written request to the following address:

Publications Division
Secretary of State
P.O. Box 1767
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

Copies may also be obtained by;

Fax to: (573) 526-2970 or by sending an E-mail to:
publications@sos.mo.gov.

Passages

We extend condolences to the family of Donald Lee Bardgett who passed away April 10, 2004. Don was able to be with us at the 2002 Christmas Party. He and his wife, Margaret, lived in Kansas City, Missouri but were not able to attend all of our meetings. However, their hearts were always with us. Don taught English and Social Science in Raytown. He was a Scoutmaster for ten years and a member of the Tribe of Mic-O-Say.

Don was most proud of serving eight years in the U.S. Air Force including the Cuban Missile Crisis. He also enjoyed telling of his experiences in the cold of Greenland.

We extend condolences to Bea Cornish, honorary member of the Civil War Round Table and donor of the Confederate flag which came from her United Daughters of the Confederacy Chapter. Bea lost her best friend and brother-in-law, Frank Bedenik on April 19, 2004.

Condolences to Art Kelly in the loss of his sister, Ethel Hartzell of Harrisonville, Missouri on April 20, 2004.

Calendar

CWRTWMO – Regular May Meeting

Wednesday, May 12th, 7:00 p.m.

Old Blake Museum – 106 E. Walnut Street

Program: "Harry Truman and the Civil War" by Ted Stillwell

CWRTWMO Board Meeting

Wednesday, May 19th, 7:00 p.m. at Beverly's.

Guardians of the Little Blue

Tuesday, May 25th, 2004, 7:00 p.m.

Blue Hills Elementary School

1911 N. Blue Mills Road

(Just north of Blue Mills Road and 24 Highway)

All are encouraged to attend as we work to protect and preserve this important Civil War battle site.

CWRTWMO – Regular June Meeting

Wednesday, June 9th, 7:00 p.m.

Old Blake Museum – 106 E. Walnut Street

Program: "2nd Colorado" by Charles McCorkendale and Tim Cox

Little Blue Reveille

Saturday, June 12th, 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Little Blue tours, exhibits, reenactors, food

Blue Hills Elementary School

1911 N. Blue Mills Road

(Just north of Blue Mills Road and 24 Highway)

Guardians of the Little Blue

Tuesday, June 29th

Tuesday, July 27th

Tuesday, August 31st

Little Blue and Westport Tour – 140th Anniversary

Saturday, October 9th

Probably date for bus tour event (Little Blue, Big Blue, and Westport) in conjunction with the Kansas City Civil War Round Table and the Westport Historical Society.

Meeting Site

The Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri meets at the Old Blake Museum, 106 E. Walnut Street, Independence, Missouri (northeast corner of Walnut and Main). Parking for the meeting is at any street parking near by and a few spaces across the street at the Plasterers' Union building, 301 S. Main. Please do not use any other private parking until we receive permission from business owners.

Presentation of Check



On April 2, 2004, the President and Mrs. Lincoln (Max and Donna Daniels) presented Tim Cox with a check in the amount of \$500 as a gift for the Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri to file for 501(c)(3) status.

Letter of thanks to all members & friends

Dear Friends,

The large vase of red, white and blue flowers was so beautiful...THANK YOU for sending this, so apropos floral arrangement for Sonny's visitation and Celebration of Life. As you may have noticed, at Sonny's head was a 34 Star Flag and at his feet was a First National. For the family visitation the day before, all the red, white and blue arrangements were placed around the 34 Star Flag and the spring flower bouquets and plants were placed around the First National.

To this day, I do not know if this was a plan or just a happenstance but how appropriate.

I want to extend a sincere gratitude to each and everyone for all of your generous memorial gifts and the delicious food that was brought to our house, which helped feed our family and out-of-town friends, and also for all of your thoughts, prayers, calls, cards and special messages of condolences.

To see so many of you at Sonny's visitation and service meant more to me than you will ever know. As I said at the last meeting, "Sonny's memorial gifts should somehow be used to make a difference...and we need to make them count for Sonny."

And those kind expressions of sympathy tell us how special Sonny was to each of you...and please know that you ALL were a special part of Sonny's life.

Sonny's Internet Guest Book will be open for one year, thanks to a dear friend, so if you haven't visited www.legacy.com, please do so and then enter Wells and the state of Missouri. Then click on Sonny's name and you can view and/or sign his Guest Book, as many of you already have done. I thank you for your wonderful thoughts and remembrances of Sonny.

THANK YOU so very much for all of your kind expressions of sympathy, but most of all for your love and caring friendship, which will always be remembered by me and my family. You are helping to heal our broken hearts.

I am challenging myself and maybe each of you also, to study and learn all we can about the Civil War so that we can finally match up to Sonny's knowledge when we meet him just beyond the moon, where he is waiting for me and all of you.

Love in remembrance of Sonny...Karen and Family

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WHO WE ARE

The Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri is a non-profit organization dedicated to the promotion and understanding of all aspects and phases of the U.S. Civil War period, especially WESTERN MISSOURI and the "BORDER WAR" conflict.

Re-enactors - (Men, women, children, and families portraying Civil War era personalities - Both Union and Confederate).

Geneologists - (Family history researchers - Many related to Civil War veterans).

Historians - (Veteran and novice researchers of local and national Civil War history).

Preservationists - (Interested in battlefield, cemetery, monument, artifact, and historic site preservation).

Teachers - (Area high school and grade school teachers and other educators).

Authors - (Published writers of both local and national Civil War history).

Anyone interested in Civil War history. Meetings open to both members and non-members. COME ONE, COME ALL!



WHAT WE DO

Monthly Meetings - Featuring "Speaker of the Month" or "Round Table Sessions," refreshments and socializing with others of like interests.

Field Trips - Excursions to local history sites, first-hand learning, refreshments.

Annual Picnic - Complete with Civil War fare, when we dare, games, usually a cannon or two, dancing the "Virginia Reel."

Christmas Party – Prizes, Christmas feast, celebration of Christmas past, costuming.

Monthly Newsletter – "The Border Star" for our members, Civil War trivia, puzzles, border warfare articles, national Civil War articles.

