

December 2002

The Border Star

Monthly publication of the Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri, Inc.

The Civil War Round Table
of Western Missouri, Inc.

Officers for 2002

President Harold F. Wells
"Sonny"

1st Vice Pres. Tim Cox

2nd Vice Pres. Art Kelley

Treasurer Beverly Shaw

Secretary Fran Mason

Historian Paul Tate

Newsletter

Editor
Sonny Wells

Board Members

Dr. Gerald Anderson

Mike Calvert

Tom Carroll

Harriett Lionberger

Lucky Mason

Terry McConnell

Kelton Smith

Charlotte Tindall

Randall Todd

Karen Wells

Meetings

Second Wednesday
of the month at 7 pm
at Little Blue
Community College,
3 miles East of Hwy 291
on 23rd Street. (Hwy 78)
in the Law Enforcement
Training Building

Visitors
Always
Welcome

for more information

Sonny Wells 628-9910

Tim Cox 478-8833

Beverly Shaw 478-7648

from the Pres...

Our yearly tradition, *the Christmas Party*, is upon us. Decorating the hall, digging into the feastly grub, the door prize drawings and Karen's special mixture, "The Recipe". If you have not had the chance to experience one of our December meetings, make sure you do not miss this one.

On Saturday, December 7th at 11:00 we will start decorating. Hopefully finish in 20-30 minutes so we can start setting up the food line.

Sliced Turkey, 99% fat free, sliced Honey Baked Ham, 95% fat free, and sliced lean Roast Beef, 98% fat free, will be supplied by the Coffee Fund. Wheat bread and white bread and all the trimmings will be on the table.

Ladies are invited to bring a favorite covered dish of some kind, surprise us, and the men are simply invited to bring a dish. Oops, sorry dear. Coffee, Apple Cider (slightly aged), 2 liter bottles of at least 4 sodas and "The Recipe" will also be on hand. We will have four bottles of Squirt this year so we won't run out. Lord forbid ye might have to drink "The Recipe" straight!

What is "The Recipe" you ask? Ask me that again on December 8th, after you have attended the party on December 7th.

We usually start serving at Noon but may start a little earlier this year because the building opens at 1:00 for the Pearl Harbor Memorial Service.

After dinner and some socializing we will start the drawings for the door prizes. Everyone who attends should put their name on a ticket to go into the drawing pot. Round Table members will sign two tickets and visitors will sign one ticket. Everyone has a chance to win something.

The Pearl Harbor service starts at 1:30. Should be over by 2:30. It is the plan to share cookies and coffee with those who attend the service.

It is my hope we can be all cleaned up and have the cookie trays ready by 1:30 so everyone can attend the service.

The reception to be over within 35-40 minutes. We should be all cleaned up and out of the building by 3:30, give or take a minute or two.

I will have to go up to the sanctuary about 1:00 to start setting up. Sometha drawing will have to be over by then.

If you have a couple of dozen cookies sitting around the house it would not hurt to bring them along, just in case.

Dress is casual. Santa hats and Christmas decoratives are encouraged.

Directions from Independence. Hwy 291 to first stoplight, Conoco station on corner. Turn right on Hwy 33 to next stoplight, about 6 blocks. At stoplight take a right for one block, then a left into the Church parking lot.

Any questions, call Karen or me at 816.628.9910.

See you on December 7th at 11:00, or thereabouts. Bring a friend

On the Calendar

December 2002

**Saturday, Dec. 7th
Annual Christmas Party
Liberty Christian Church**

11:00--Decorate

11:45--Eat

12:30--Door Prizes

Followed by

Pearl Harbor Memorial Service

Doors open 1300 (1:00 pm)

Service starts 1330

Bell Tolls 1355

Of Special Note...

As soon as the Monuments and Memorials book is in our hands we will start calling people and arranging to get the books delivered to the members. I expect this will be around December 15th, but that may vary.

If, for what ever reason, I cannot get the book to you before Christmas, they will be available at the January meeting.

Remember, with the 4 new members coming on board at the November meeting all of the books made with the grant money from the KC 150 Foundation are assigned.

The books will have a \$29.95 price sticker on them. If you wish to buy another copy the price will be \$19.95 to members and 24.95 to non-members.

There may be as many as 40 books for sale. The waiting list already has 14 names on it.

One more place has been added to the Unmarked Sites list. The 63rd Street Bridge near Byram's Ford had a Civil War Memorial on it when first opened in the 1930's. The plaque was stolen in 1939. The plaque was replaced in 1963, but disappeared again in the early 70's.

Kelton Smith brought this site to out attention and Katy Horstman, archivist for KC Parks & Rec, did the research which helped to verify all the information. This is very near where the old Civil War Memorial used to be over by the old Pepsi plant on Manchester, near the old railroad tracks.

Dues for 2003 now being accepted.

At the Board Meeting....

The Board of Directors regular monthly meeting was on Wednesday, November 20, 2002, at 7 pm in the Board Room at the Regional Law Enforcement Training Building at Little Blue Community College.

Nine members were present.

After an update on the progress of the Civil War Monuments book and the situation with William Jewell College the discussion turned to the list of those who are to receive the books. In all, 135 books have been set aside to cover the KC 150 Foundation grant. That is 14 less than we have on the list of possible recipients. The difficult process of elimination has begun.

Reports...

The Newsletter....80 printed, 73 mailed.

Bill submitted and paid

Treasurer's Report....was given.

Coffee Fund Report...Beg. Bal. \$ 31.38,

Annon. Donation \$ 4.00

Donation \$5.00

Purchases \$ 8.36, In Jar \$ 20.35

New Bal. \$ 52.37

Officer's Reports .

Secretary passed out minutes

2nd V. P.....Reported as usual

1st V. P.....Not present.

President.....

New Business

Discussed plans for Christmas Party and Pearl Harbor Memorial Service. Both at Liberty Christian Church on Saturday, December 7th.

Delay in delivery date on the Monuments & Memorials book caused by having to re-work the pages about William Jewell. A search is underway to find the plaque formerly on Jewell Hall.

New Business

Tim's son suffered a broken leg, both bones, at football practice a couple of weeks ago. He will be in a wheel chair for some time. Best wishes to the family during this unusually trying time.

Election of Officers for 2003

A nominating Committee of three persons was appointed by the President in September.

Art Kelley, Tom Carroll and Terry McConnell were chosen to carry out the very difficult task of finding Officers and four new Board Members.

At the November meeting Art, speaking for the committee, reported the following nominees for the Board of Directors, two year term::

Dr. Gerald Anderson

Mike Calvert

Robert "Lucky" Mason

Randall Todd

This change will serve as a way or reducing the size of the Board as we are reducing the number of nominees each year from 6 to 4.

Officers will remain unchanged except Beverly Shaw will be Secretary for the Regular Meetings and Karen Wells will be Secretary for the Board Meetings.

A motion to elect the slate of officer by acclimation was accepted, seconded and passed.

The work of the committee was very much appreciated.



Recently discovered photo of
6 Man Cemetery near Lone Jack
with the dove still on the top

Interesting Tidbits

Kelton Smith remembers seeing the brass plaque on the 63rd Street Bridge over the Big Blue River. He contacted a few people about it and eventually came in contact with Kathy Horstman, the archivist at the Kansas City Parks and Recreation office.

She found records and documents showing the American Brass Civil War Marker was installed on the north face of the southwest pillar of the bridge in 1934.

That marker was stolen in March of 1939. Letters were found in her files from Mr. William Ayers, dated Dec. 27, 1939, and Mr. Crittenden, dated Aug. 21, 1941, urging replacement of the marker.

Another letter from Ayers, dated Febr.. 25, 1953, asks the Park Board to replace the marker.

An article in the Kansas City Star, undated, indicated the marker is being replaced but the marker was not in place until 1963. The replacement marker was stolen by vandals in the early 1970's and has never been replaced.

The bridge was remodeled in 1997. There was no mention of replacing the brass marker at that time and has been none since.

Special thanks to Kelton for bringing this site to our attention and to Kathy for doing all the research on the plaques.

Another site which has surfaced is the old Stone Barn in North Independence on land that is now part of the Rubble Landfill.

Stories about this barn have been around for years. It was known as "The Hanging Barn" because on more than one occasion Federal Troopers who had not returned from scouting missions were found hanging inside.

Another story about the barn, this one from Clay County, tells of a group of men who were headed south to fight at the Battle of Lone Jack were set upon by a Federal patrol and took refuge in the old barn. The men returned to Liberty the next morning because one of the men was seriously wounded. That man died the next day and was buried at....you guessed it....the cemetery at William Jewell College.

The Stone Barn site is very hard to get to and is not easily seen from the Kentucky Road Cutoff because of the trees and brush.

Lucky Mason has been to the barn and has pictures of it. He can give you directions on how to get to the site. The descendants of the family who built the barn now live in Florida.

Civil War Battle Recalled

John Owen, eldest son of Martin Baber and Jane Haggard Owen, was born May 29, 1832 and died August 24, 1862, age 30 years. John Owen married Catherine Elizabeth Brown, November 4, 1858, and they were the parents of two children, John Edwin and Catherine Jane.

John Owen left his home and family near Ballard, North Bates

had been critically injured. Leaving their young son with neighbors, she took their baby daughter, about 11 months, to be at his side. She rode horseback with a side saddle and carried the baby. Along the way they were stopped by bushwhackers and vigilantes; she explained their purpose and was allowed to continue unharmed. She was assisted in caring for him by a farm family in the community. John Owen lived nine days after he was injured and that is why a separate grave for him. A casket was built from walnut lumber which was stored in the loft of a barn on the farm.

The Lone Jack Battle regarded as the bloodiest in Missouri saw 102 Union and Confederate soldiers killed in fierce hand-to-hand combat, more than 244 soldiers wounded and 75 listed as missing. The five-hour struggle occurred when Colonel Henry Foster and his Union troops were caught in an ambush attempting to prevent the Southern forces of Colonel Upton Hayes from getting reinforcements. In that battle the Confederate soldiers didn't have uniforms, they were basically civilians and farmers that had joined the Sixth Missouri Infantry.

After the battle two trenches were dug and lined with green corn stalks.

It has been said all the Confederate soldiers killed in the battle are buried in a trench with one monument. It is presumed another black stone honors the Union dead. Some Union soldiers were taken to Fort Leavenworth for burial.

A small marker was placed on the grave of John Owen at the time of burial. Twenty years later, Mrs. Owen, John Edwin, Catherine Jane and a brother of John Owen returned to Lone Jack Cemetery to place a new monument marker. This is the inscription that can still be read:

"Farewell my wife and children all,

From you, A father, Christ dost call.

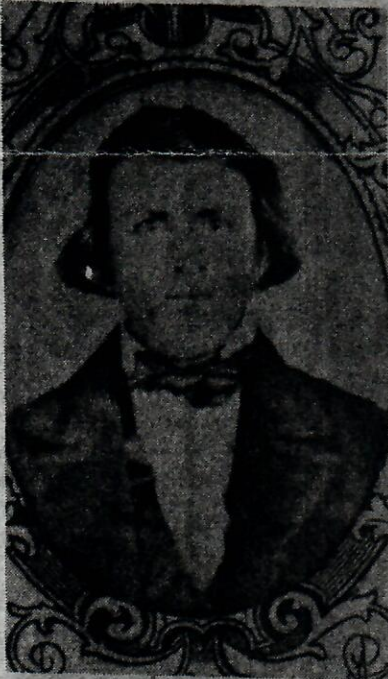
Mourn not for me-it is in vain,
To call me to your sight again."

Mrs. Owen remarried to D. W. Cloud in 1882, a veteran of the battle of Lone Jack.

Catherine Jane Owen, daughter of John Owen, was married to John G. Cantrell. To this union were born nine children, Lillie, Gilmon, Alice, Ola, Beulah, John, Nettie, Clinton and Carlisle.

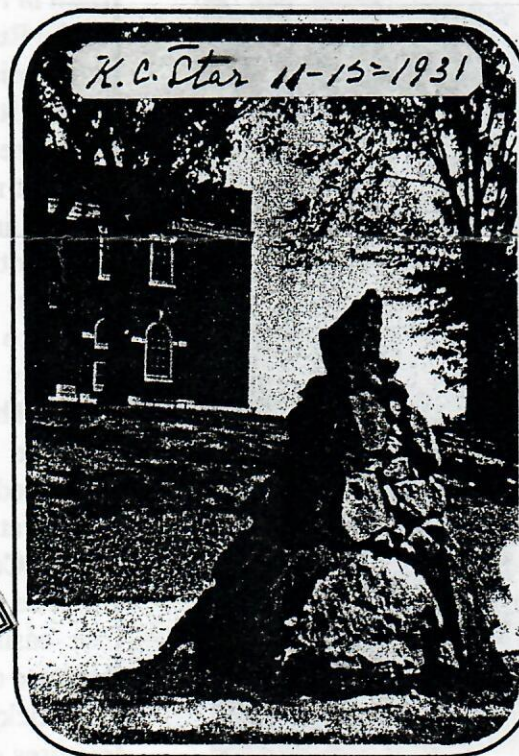
The mimi ball which pierced John Owen's chest remains in the possession of the family.

By Jane Rook
Great Granddaughter of John Owen



John Owen
Civil War Veteran

County, to serve in the Confederate Army and was in the midst of the battle of Lone Jack. The day after the end of the battle, Catherine Elizabeth, his wife, was notified he



MEMORIAL AT A ONE-TIME STRONGHOLD OF THE CONFEDERACY

The marker placed on the campus of the William Jewell college, Liberty, Mo., by the class of 1931 is a substantial evidence of the passing of sectional feeling from Clay County. The cairn of "lost" rock bears a bronze tablet with the following inscription:

"Civil War Memorial—Jewell Hall was used as a hospital and barracks and this hill was fortified by the Federal troops under Col. John Scott after their defeat at the Battle of Blue Mills Ferry, September 17, 1861. A line of rifle pits—was thrown up from the present location of Marston Hall, along the western contour of the hill to the point now occupied by the president's home—This memorial erected in these trenches by Class of 1931."

Found at the Clay County Archives
by Kevin Fisher, Archivist

Christmas Party
Sat., Dec. 7
Set up at 11 am
Eat at 11:45
Door Prizes at 12:45
Be There!