



March, 2002

THE BORDER STAR

A Publication of the Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri

from the pres....

It is that time again. March is here and the Lincoln's are coming very soon. This year they will be making 10 school appearances and doing 4 evening programs plus traveling to Lincoln, Nebraska, for a meeting with the mayor of the city named for the 16th President and a photo session at the Lincoln statue and large stone tablet with the Gettysburg Address carved in it on the west side of the state capitol.

Sunday, March 17, from 4-6 pm, there will be a reception for the Lincoln's at the Hampton Inn in Liberty, on the NW corner of I-35 and Hwy 152. This will be their only appearance in our area. All are welcome.

Dinner with the Lincoln's is set for 6:30 pm on Monday, March 18, at Harrisonville High School. Cost \$15. Call 380-2760 or 7648 for details.

At the Thursday evening presentation at Marshall Auditorium, CGSC, Fort Leavenworth, they will be giving the "Log Cabin" program they usually do in the schools. Most adults never see this program. They will close with the famous speeches and the "mustn't be late for the theater" scene.

In addition to preparing for the Lincoln's I have been busy updating my pamphlets on the Medal of Honor recipients of Pearl Harbor, Iwo Jima, Little Big Horn and Gettysburg and the booklet on recipients buried in Missouri.

And let us not forget the Civil War monuments book. Several took copies of the pages on monuments that need more information. The quicker I get them back, the sooner the book will go to the printers.

The Medal of Honor reception on February 23 at Harrisonville went well. Ivan Stull, President of the Civil War Round Table of Cass County stopped by as did Terry McConnell and a couple of others from our group.

I received word of the passing of Frankie Parks at the Board Meeting. I have known Frankie for over 25 years. I knew she was in failing health but I did not expect her to leave us this quickly.

A letter from her daughter had an unusual enclosure...Frankie's 2002 Christmas letter. I put it back in the envelope and will open it again on Christmas Day. I sent a condolence to the family from the Round Table.

The 44th Annual Missouri Conference on History is scheduled for April 19-20 at the Marriott Country Club Plaza Hotel. Tim has made contact with the sponsors to register us for the History Expo. More info to follow.

The Carroll Mansion, home of the Leavenworth County Historical Society, sent a notice of their Annual Dinner scheduled for March 15 at the Riverfront Community Center. Cost is \$20. Call 913.682.7759 for details.

It is 1:28 am! Be sure to bring a smile with you to the next meeting.

At the Board Meeting....

The Board of Directors met on Wednesday, February 20, 2002, at 7 pm in the Board Room at the Police Training Building on East Hwy 78.

Charlotte and Harriett brought obits telling of the passing of Francie M. Park. Francie had been living with her daughter in Arizona the past couple of years.

I sent a condolance card to the family. In return I received Frankie's 2002 Christmas letter in which she told of her illness.

Francie had been with us from the beginning and had kept in touch.

After the usual reports we got into the business of the group.

Help is needed with the finalizing of the monuments book. Some of the sites have very little information about them. One was unknown even to the Historical Society in that County.

If anyone can adopt a monument and do some research on it's origin, it would speed up the process. Call me, I have a few left.

Art Kelley is seeking to bring all the name tags up to date. If you have lost your name tag or need a new one let Art or Sonny know and we will see to it toot-sweet.

Participation in the History Conference is looking more and more like a possibility. Over 80 have applied for booth space which is limited to 40. Dates are April 18-20 at the Marriott on the Country Club Plaza. Tim is checking on the hours we would need to staff the display booth.

Jack Miles' new book on Jesse James is out. Jack will be speaking on his book at our April 10th meeting and will bring a few copies to autograph.

I announced the schedule for the Lincoln's visit. there are no presentations in the Independence area this year.

The Board Meeting for the month of March has been moved back one week because of the Lincoln's schedule.

On the Calendar

March 2002

Wednesday March 13, 7 pm

CWRTWMO Meeting

Harriett Fraizer on
Blacks in the Civil War
She will have books for sale

March 17-22

The Lincolns Evening Schedule

Sunday the 17th, 4-6 pm

Reception at Hampton Inn in Liberty

Monday the 18th, 7:30 pm

Dinner and Evening Program at
Performing Arts Center in Harrisonville

Tuesday the 19th, 7:00 pm

Evening Program at
Wyandotte County Historical Society
126th & State Ave., KCK

Thursday the 21st, 4-5:30 pm

Foreign Officers Association gathering
Tampico Club, BOQ, Ft. Leavenworth

Thursday the 21st, 7 pm

Special Presentation at
Marshall Hall, CGSC,
on post, Fort Leavenworth

Friday the 22nd, 6:30 pm

Covered Dish Dinner at
Karen & Sonny's

Wednesday the 27th, 7 pm

Board Meeting

(Note Change of Date)

Sunday the 31st

Easter Sunday

Wednesday, April 10th, 7 pm

CWRTWMO Meeting

the new Jesse James book
with author Jack Miles

Does *History* Change History?

from Hill's Manual of Social and Business Forms,
Published by Hill Standard Book Co. in 1888
Section on--*Causes of the War of Rebellion*
Chapter--*The Battles of the Late Civil War*
page 358, col 2, item 2

Skirmish at Blue Mills, Mo.--September 17, 1861

The Third Iowa Regiment encountered a band of Confederates and was compelled to retreat.

Receiving reinforcements they again rallied, when the Confederates retired. The Union loss was 12 Killed and 85 wounded.

Is this the Battle of Liberty, the Battle on the road to Blue Mills Landing, the Battle of Blue Mills or exactly what battle was this?

The date fits the Battle of Liberty, the details of the engagement do not. The Third Iowa was one of the units involved at Liberty but there is no mention of the Caldwell County Volunteers and the Adair County Militia which were also there.

In fact it was a patrol of Caldwell County troops which rode into Kit Childs' cavalry camp on the morning of the 17th and got all shot up.

The Confederates did not "retire". They sprung a trap on the Union troops, defeated them soundly and then moved on to Lexington.

The Unions were never reinforced. They did not even retrieve their dead until after dark, some 8 hours after the battle.

The dead were buried at William Jewell College and later removed to Fort Leavenworth National Cemetery. There were 12 killed in battle and 3 who died the next day from wounds suffered. The 85 wounded is only 5 more than usually given.

The 1885 History of Clay County calls this battle by three names and says over 50 Confederates were killed and 200 left wounded on the field.

Reading further you will find a description of the Siege of Lexington. The text states that the Unions were attacked on the 21st of September and for several days held off their attackers. Wanna bet?

I wonder if the folks at the Battle of Lexington State Historic Site have ever seen this book. It is a sure bet this text is not on their recommended reading list.

If one reads the reports of the Confederate Officer and then reads the reports of the Union Officer and then reads the above mentioned account of the September 17th battle, you would be sure to come to the conclusion there were three battles near Liberty on that date.

FRANCIE MEISNER PARK



Francie Meisner Park of Mesa, AZ, born July 25, 1919, passed away February 10, 2002. She was born in Piper, KS, to Fred and Callie (Shirtcliff) Meisner.

After graduating from Spring Hill, KS, High School in 1937, she joined KCKN Radio and retired from Jackson County, MO, Personnel in 1992. She was a Link instrument instructor and one of 1074 Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASPS) from WWII. They were the first women U.S. Military Army Air Corps pilots, Sept. 1942-Dec. 20, 1944. They flew all planes in the inventory, 60 million miles at 134 bases. She was CAA 202746 CIFI (Certified Instrument Flight Instructor), 1945-1947 and 1970-1975 in both Kansas Cities, KS and MO, Marshall, MO and Stephens College, Columbia, MO. She married pilot John Russell Park in 1947. She is included in three books, Martin Bowman's "Handbook of the U.S. Air Forces 1939-1945" and "Stearman," and Marjorie H. Roberts' "Wingtip to Wingtip" for Junior High School readers. She was a member of historical societies: American Aviation, Stearman, Jackson County and Westport, MO; Creation Science, MO and Origins Science, AZ; Mesa Genealogy; Civil War Roundtables of Western MO and Scottsdale AZ; Women Military Aviators; and American Legion Post 26 of Mesa, AZ. She is survived by daughter, Jonnie Gaye Park Bernard of Mesa; son, James Stephen Park of Mesa; brother, Lawrence

Meisner of Kansas City, KS; five granddaughters and six great-grandchildren of Mesa, AZ.

**The Civil War
Diaries of
Irvin Parker &
C.D. Lotspeich
Co. A, 16 Mo. Inf.
C.S.A.**

Compiled and
Indexed
by Robert Kennedy
and
Robert Lotspeich

60 pages
\$15

available thru
Pleasant Hill
Historical Society
P. O. Box 31
Pleasant Hill, Mo.
64080
or call
540-4010

*You are invited to join us
when*

Max and Donna Daniels

in their roles as

Abe & Mary Todd Lincoln

*appear at a reception
on Sunday, March 17, 2002
from 4-6 pm
at the Hampton Inn
I-35 and Barry Road (Hwy 152)
in Liberty*

Period Dress Welcome

Still photos welcome, no videos please

This will be their only appearance North of the River

THE GETTYSBURG ADDRESS

The Battle of Gettysburg was fought on July 1st, 2nd and 3rd, 1863. On Nov. 19, 1863 a portion of the battlefield was dedicated as a cemetery. Lincoln delivered a short speech which was to become immortal.

FOURSCORE and SEVEN year ago OUR FATHERS brought forth on this CONTINENT a new nation conceived in LIBERTY and dedicated to the PROPOSITION that all men are CREATED EQUAL. Now we are engaged in a great CIVIL WAR testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so DEDICATED, can long endure. We are met on a great BATTLEFIELD of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field as a final resting-place for those who here gave THEIR LIVES that that nation might live. It is ALTOGETHER FITTING and PROPER that we should do this. But, in a larger SENSE, we cannot dedicate, we cannot CONSECRATE, we cannot hallow this ground. The BRAVE MEN, living and dead, who STRUGGLED here have consecrated it FAR ABOVE our poor power to add or DETRACT. The world will little note nor long REMEMBER what we say here, but it can NEVER forget what they did here. It is for us the living rather to be dedicated here to the UNFINISHED WORK which they who fought here have thus far so nobly ADVANCED. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great TASK remaining before us - that from these HONORED dead we take INCREASED DEVOTION to THAT CAUSE for which they gave the last FULL MEASURE of devotion - that we here HIGHLY RESOLVE that these dead shall not have died IN VAIN, that this NATION under God shall have a NEW BIRTH of FREEDOM, and that GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE, BY THE PEOPLE, FOR THE PEOPLE, SHALL NOT PERISH from the EARTH.

THE GETTYSBURG ADDRESS

R N O I T O V E D E C N A V D A
E L P O E P E H T F O V E D R S
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