



The Border Star

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THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE OF WESTERN MISSOURI INC.

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ANNUAL DUES

Individual \$15.00
Family \$22.50
Student (under 21) \$5.00

MEETINGS

2nd Wednesday of month at 7 PM
Truman H.S. Library, 3301 S.
Noland Rd., Independence, MO
July - Annual Picnic
September - Cemetery Tour
December - Christmas Party

**VISITORS
WELCOME!**

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, October 11, 2000

7:00 PM at

Truman High School Library

3301 S. Noland Road

Independence, Missouri

The Irish in the Civil War

Presented by: Pat O'Neill, Author

Refreshments

Field Trip to Higginsville a Success

The rain didn't deter 15 members and guests from enjoying the field trip on September 23 to the Confederate Memorial State Historical Site. After a very informative slide presentation at the Site, those on the trip toured the Memorial Cemetery and some people even took time to do a little genealogical research while there. Everyone had a choice to have lunch at Captain "Mickey's" or Lt. "Sonic's". The group then ventured on to other sites such as Jonathan Newman Edwards gravesite and home (outside tour of the home only), the site of Page Cemetery and city, Capt. Asbury's home (now a restaurant and Bed & Breakfast), and a visit to the site where Joe Shelby's house once stood. It was a disappointment to find that the home of Joe Shelby's uncle, located east of Lexington on 24 Highway, was no longer standing. A fun tour on a rainy day!

Austin Bean Days!

Thanks to Sonny Wells for setting up a display at the recent Austin Bean Day event. Well over a thousand others attended the annual event!

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

October 2000

- 11 7 PM - CWRT-WMo Meeting - Truman High School Library. Program: The Irish in the Civil War presented by Pat O'Neil.
- 14-15 Reenactment - Booneville, Missouri
- 14-15 Mahaffie Farm, Olathe, KS - Buffalo Bill at Old Glory Blowout and Wild West Show.
- 18 7 PM - Board Meeting - Truman Campus - Room 101
- 21 Little Blue Tour - Details Below
- 21-22 Civil War Event - Baker Plantation House in Danville, MO. Burning of Danville by Bloody Bill Anderson, reenactment, surgery unit and guerilla camp set ups. Call: 573-564-1000.

November 2000

- 4-5 Civil War Event - Atoka, Oklahoma, Battle of Middle Boggy. Call: 316-942-2690.
- 8 7 PM - CWRT-WMo Meeting - Truman High School Library. **Missouri Flags:** L.T. Shelton, Curator of Collections, State of Missouri. **Election of Officers**
- 15 7 PM - Board Meeting - Truman Campus - Room 101

December 2000

- 2-3 Reenactment, Battle of Prairie Grove, Arkansas. Call: 417-781-8874.
- 8 Christmas Party - Details in November newsletter.

January 2001

- 10 7 PM - CWRT-WMo Meeting - Open Meeting

Little Blue Tour - October 21

Tour begins at 9:00a.m. Meet at 1859 Jail, Truman & Main, Independence, MO. There will be a 20-minute review of Price's 1864 raid prior to tour. Total time is 3 hours. Cost: \$3/adults and \$2/children under 16. Booklet with Battlefield Map: \$5.00, and 1989 Battle of Westport Official Program: \$5.00

RESERVATIONS SUGGESTED

Call 816-478-8833 or 816-628-9910

MEET THE AUTHOR, PAT O'NEILL

"From the Bottom Up, the Story of the Irish in Kansas City."

Napoleon said: "History is the version of past events people have decided to agree on." It was knowing that the Irish never agree on much of anything--but have great fun arguing the facts -- that Pat O'Neill embarked on a five year quest to chronicle the history of the Irish in Kansas City. The result -- and the bone of some contention -- is his new book, *"From the Bottom Up, the Story of the Irish in Kansas City."*

O'Neill is a fifth-generation Kansas Citian. His great-great-grandfather, a butcher, and his great-grandfather, a shoestore operator, came together to Kansas City aboard a train in the early 1880s. The early O'Neills had a propensity for loitering in city council chambers, the anteroom at 1908 Main, and saloons, not necessarily in that order.

Mr. O'Neill's book chronicles the observances, thoughts and political passions of Irish immigrant Michael O'Doherty, who performed Indian containment duties in the years leading up to the Civil War. He then became an ardent supporter of the Irish Fenian Brotherhood of Civil War veterans who carried out armed but futile attacks on Canada in the mid-1860s. He recently published a separate article on the subject in national magazine, *Irish America*.

In keeping with the family tradition, O'Neill, in the daylight maintains a respectable business front, as president of O'Neill Communications, a 5-person firm specializing in media relations, publicity and professional business writing.

Be with us on October 11th as he shares with us, tales and illustrations from his book, *From the Bottom Up*.

Editor's Note: In the last issue of The Border Star, a detailed chart of Union Army Statistics was provided. This very unique table was taken directly from Dwyer's Compendium, and used asterisks to denote Confederate troop enlistment figures from some Union, Confederate, and "Border States." The asterisks were not used to identify Confederate States as such.

Nominating Committee Appointed

Art Kelley and Bob Benson are co-chairing the nominating committee for 2001 officers and board members. If you are called to serve, please give it careful consideration.

The proposed slate of officers will be presented and voted on at the November meeting. Nominations will be accepted from the floor, and we would welcome any comments.

WANTED: There is a definite need for someone to step forward and take over the position of newsletter editor. The Nov/Dec newsletter will be the final one published by this editor. Men and women are both more than qualified for this position! Please step forward and let a board member know of your interest!

Do You Know Your Vexillology Terms?

"Vexillology", although difficult to pronounce, simply means "the study of flags."

BORDER: An edging to a flag which is of a different color than the field of the flag and is used for either decorative purposes or to prevent fraying.

CANTON: This is also known as the union of the flag, referring to the upper left-hand corner of the flag.

ENSIGN: The national flag as used on a ship.

FIMBRATION: A narrow edging, often white, used to separate different colored features on a flag. The rules of heraldry prohibit the placing of color upon color.

FLY: The length of the flag.

FLY END or FLY EDGE: The width of the flag at the point farthest from the staff.

HOIST: The width of the flag at the point nearest the staff.

JACK: A small flag designating nationality and flown at the bow of a naval vessel while in port.

MULLETT: An heraldic device said to have originally represented the rowel of a spur, more often referred to now as a star. It is most often shown with five points, although more are used at times.

SAINT GEORGE'S CROSS; An upright cross in "+" form, this feature was derived from the flag of England.

SALTIER or SALTIRE: A cross traversing a flag from corner to corner in "x" form. Also referred to as a Saint Andrew's cross. This feature was derived from the flag of Scotland.

Lone Jack Battlefield

There will be a Veterans Day celebration on Saturday, November 11 at the Lone Jack Battlefield site. Contact Faye Dennison for further information. 524-3215.

The museum is open Mon.-Sat. from 9am-5pm and on Sundays 1-5pm throughout October, then will be open on Saturday's only from 9am-4pm and Sunday's 1-4pm through March 2001.

How Well Do You Know the Missouri State Flag?

Nearly 100 years after achieving statehood, Missouri adopted an official flag on March 22, 1913. Mrs. Marie Elizabeth Watkins Oliver, wife of Former State Senator R.B. Oliver, designed the flag. The flag consists of three horizontal stripes of red, white and blue. These represent valor, purity, vigilance and justice. In the center white stripe is the Missouri coat-of-arms, circled by a blue band containing 24 stars, denoting that Missouri was the 24th state. Two huge grizzly bears standing for courage, support the circular shield in the center which has three parts:

1. Motto "United We Stand, Divided We Fall"
2. Right section represents the United States.
3. Left section contains a moon, representing a new state, and a grizzly bear standing for courage.

Source: WWW.mosl.sos.state.mo.us/otman/svflag.html

Did you know that Battle Flags used on land by Confederate troops were usually in three sizes? —

INFANTRY FLAG: This flag was the largest size, 48 inches to a square side.

ARTILLERY FLAG: This flag was the middle size, 36 inches to a square side; and

CAVALRY FLAG: This flag was the smallest size, 30 inches to a square side.

The different sizes of flags made it easier for the commanders to tell what unit was where, and it also told what type of unit it was. The Battle Flag, for instance, was always in front of the regiment. This way soldiers always knew where they were to be, and if a soldier was separated from his unit, all he had to do was look for his regiment's flag.

This writer will not even attempt to give any more information about the Confederate Flags, because there were many derivations of flags used. For all the information you ever wanted to know about Confederate flags, read Devereaux D. Cannon, Jr.'s book, *The flags of the Confederacy, an Illustrated History.*



Story of Patsy O'Donnell's Insubordination

Shot of a Drunken Militiaman Started the Civil War in what was Called the "Rock Creek Fight."

Jackson County's first bloodshed of the Civil War is purported to have been on the site of the Rock Creek school, an area now a part of Kansas City. William Z. Hickman, in his "History of Jackson County," published in 1920, states that he wanted to set the record straight with regard to the "Rock Creek Fight." He stated that the story was "absolutely true in every particular because he was a member of Capt. Thomas W. Arnold's company, and was present and saw the whole thing."

According to Hickman's account, Militia companies had been forming over the state, because of the tense feeling, before Claiborne Jackson's call for volunteers for the Southern cause, June 12, 1861. Two companies, The Blues and Grays, had been formed in Independence. Two Independence merchants, Captain Arnold and Capt. George W. Whitehead were in command.

Upon the governor's proclamation, runners were dispatched by Captains Arnold and Whitehead, their men soon congregating. Both companies, well uniformed and fairly well drilled, were lined up, and complimented on their good showing by Co. Edmunds B. Holloway.

Holloway, formerly of West Point, had resigned his commission to join the South. Soon his soldiers were joined by men from all over... they came by companies, squads and single, armed with every imaginable kind of weapon: shotguns, squirrel rifles and pistols of all makes. (Hickman admitted the arms had been mostly obtained in the Confederate raid on the Liberty arsenal on April 20, 1861).

When Captain Arnold's company had been ordered out, one member of his company couldn't be found... a little Irish shoemaker named Patsy O'Donnell. Word was left for him to join the others if and whenever he appeared. Well, he did appear, so it seems, gloriously drunk. He talked back to Captain Arnold, who threatened him with arrest.

Feeling pretty feisty, Patsy told Captain Arnold, "Yez haven't got a man in yer company can irrest me, sir!" The Captain told a big, broad-shouldered farmer by the name of Dealy Noland, to "Knock him down, Dealy!" Dealy responded with one well directed punch, which landed under Patsy's left ear. The Captain said, "Jump on him!", which Dealy immediately did. Captain Arnold then called for a rope to hog tie Patsy up, leaving him to think over what he had said.

"About 5 o'clock, a picket ran into camp to report that the Federals were coming down the hill on the east side of Big Blue. (These were two companies of infantry and three of cavalry under the command of Capt. W.E. Prince.) Colonel Holloway ordered his men to fall in and the two Independence companies were ordered to march out first, the others falling in behind.

By this time, Patsy began to sober up and begged to be released to go with his company. He apologized to the Captain and promised to obey orders. He was given his gun and belt and permitted to fall in with the others.

The two companies were marched a half mile up the road and were stationed on the west side of the road, just inside a rail fence. Two other companies were placed behind one piece of artillery at a small turn in the road. It wasn't long before the head of the Federal column came into sight... bearing a flag of truce. When Colonel Holloway saw it, he rode out to meet the officer, whom he recognized as one with whom he had served in the Army. They shook hands and commenced talking.

Hickman states in his book that "What was said was never known and will never be known, for just at that time Patsy O'Donnell yelled: 'shoot the d--n rascals!' and fired his musket at them. Firing commenced immediately. Colonel Holloway fell from his horse, mortally wounded; the Federal commander and his aide ran out of range, but did not fire a shot. Panic started... pandemonium broke loose...about one-third of the men firing in every direction ... none behind the artillery fired a

Shot. Colonel Holloway was taken to the house of Barnett M. Noland, nearby, where he died that night; Bud McClanahan and Thomas Cooper were taken to the home of Albert G. Oldham ...where McClanahan died next morning."

Cooper recovered and the only man killed outright was a Lee's Summit farmer, Charles Harbaugh. Miss Amanda Harbaugh, niece of Charles, now 100, said that she was a child of 5 at the time of the incident, and dimly recalls the excitement of the Rock Creek fight and that her own father had "hid out to stay out of trouble."

Records at Ft. Leavenworth state that Capt. W.E. Prince had ordered Capt. David S. Stanley to go with his company to the rebel camp (gathered in Mr. Oldham's pasture) and demanded an explanation of their aims and purposes... and when he had approached with a flag of truce and demanded an interview with Col. Edmunds B. Holloway ... Stanley noticed, during the parley ... that he was being surrounded, and called Holloway's attention to the matter. Holloway replied that his force was a mob, without discipline, and could not be controlled, whereupon Stanley ordered a quick retreat, was fired upon at once by Holloway's men, resulting in the killing of Holloway and two of his men.

Source: W.Z. Hickman, 1920 History of Jackson County and Independence Examiner, June 1957

THE CIVIL WAR DISCOVERY TRAIL

The Civil War Discovery Trail links more than 500 sites in 28 states to tell the story of the American Civil War. (Missouri is listed in this guide.) Destinations include battlefields, historic homes, plantations, stops on the Underground Railroad, museums, parks and more.

The Civil War Trust's Official Guide to The Civil War Discovery Trail, a Frommer's travel guide, features historical information, maps, photographs and introduction by noted scholar and winning author, Dr. James M. McPherson. The Civil War Discovery Trail was created by The Civil War Trust with support from the National Trust for Historic Preservations, the Nat'l Park Service, state agencies and communities across the nation touched by the war. The Civil War Trust is a non-profit, membership organization that works to preserve our Nation's most important Civil War sites. To order the Guide, call toll free 1-888-CWTRAIL (\$11.95 plus shipping). All proceeds support the work of The Civil War Trust. Call 1-800-CWTRUST for further information.