



# The Border Star

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

October 1999

Vol. VII No. 10

## THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE OF WESTERN MISSOURI INC.

### 1999 OFFICERS

President	Timothy A. Cox
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice Pres.	H. Sonny Wells
2 <sup>nd</sup> VP	Faye Dennison
Secretary	Bonnie Sommerville
Treasurer	Beverly Shaw
Historian	Toby Giese

### 1999

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Janaan Adams  
Frank W. Adams  
Dr. Gerald W. Anderson -  
Robert Benson -  
Michael Calvert  
Art Kelley -  
Fran Mason -  
Robert L. Mason -  
Charles McCorkendale -  
Claudetta McCorkendale -  
Joel and Dorie Semler -  
Paul Tate  
Karen Wells -

### NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Fran Mason 796-8954

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Beverly (816) 478-7648

### ANNUAL DUES

Individual 15.00  
Family 22.50  
Student (Under 21) 5.00

### MEETINGS

The second Wednesday of  
the month at 7:00 p.m.  
in Truman H.S. Library  
July - Annual Picnic  
September - Cemetery Tour  
December - Christmas Party

**Visitors Welcome**

## NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, October 13

at

Truman High School - Library  
3301 S. Noland Road  
Independence, Missouri



Time: 7:00 p.m.

Program: *G.A.R. and the Ex-Confederate Assn.*

Presenter: *Sonny Wells*

*(Program will cover what these organizations were, rules to get in, social functions of the groups, and there will also be a display of grave markers.)*

**Refreshments Provided**



## Election of Officers

*The election of Officers and Board Members will take place at the November 10<sup>th</sup> meeting. A list of nominees considered for election is on page 3.*

## CWRT-WMo Manscheim Library Collection

There are over 80 books in the Manscheim Library collection, which is in the safe-keeping of Sonny and Karen Wells.

A list of the books can be viewed at regular meetings or a copy can be obtained from Sonny Wells. The books can be checked out (with the exception of a very few signed first edition books) through Sonny or Karen.

Call before a meeting and the book requested will be brought to the next regular meeting. It can be checked out for four weeks, then returned at the following meeting.

For further information about the collection, contact Sonny or Karen Wells.



# SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

## October

- 1-31 War of the Rebellion of Western Missouri Display at Bingham Waggoner Estate - (**Important** details next column)
- 12 Lunch & Learn - Blue River Community College - Program: Get Out and Stay Out - Historian Mark Scherer explores Mormon expulsion from Missouri in 1838\*\*\*
- 13 7 PM - CWRT-WMo Meeting - Truman High School Program: Vicksburg - Missourian against Missourian
- 16-17 Wyandott Days at Wyandotte County Park, Bonner Springs, KS
- 20 7 PM Board Meeting - Truman Campus, Rm. 101
- 23 4:30 PM Weiner Roast at Fran and Lucky Mason's - Open to all members and guests.  
5:00 PM - Tour Joseph Shelby's Hospital now owned by the Masons - (See details next column)
- 23 Battle of Westport Guided Bus Tour - Sponsored by the Monnett Battle of Westport Fund and the Westport Historical Society (See details next column)
- 23-24 Battle of Plattsburg - 135<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reenactment Battles on Sat. and Sun. Ladies Tea and Fashion Show, 1800s Ball w/Period Music, Church Services. Ph: 816-370-2532 for information.

## November

- 4 7 PM - Jackson County Genealogy Society- Topic: TBA Presenter: Sonny Welis - Wm. Chrisman HS Library
- 6 9 AM - 4 PM - Northland Genealogy Society - Discovering Your heritage. (Contact Sonny for details)
- 10 7 PM - CWRT-WMo Meeting - Election of Officers
- 17 7 PM Board Meeting - Truman Campus, Rm. 101

## December

- 4 Christmas Party - Details Next Newsletter
- 14 Lunch & Learn - Blue River Community College - Program: Jonathan Newman Edwards - Joseph Kelley, Director of 1859, Jail presents life and times of Edwards. \*\*\*

\*\*\*Lunch & learn programs begin at Noon and last 1 hour. Bring own lunch or order a box lunch for \$5 by calling 816-472-2000.



## October 23 Weiner Roast

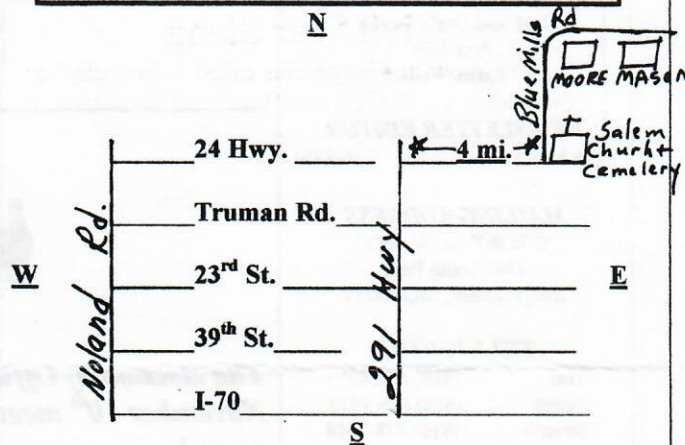
All members and guests are invited to an old-fashioned weiner roast at the home of Lucky and Fran Mason, **20405 E. Blue Mills Road, Independence**, on October 23, 1999 from 4:30 PM to 9:00 PM. Bring lawn chairs, roasting sticks, and wear warm clothing. **Everything provided!** You can't beat a deal like that!

The Masons recently purchased the Lawson Moore house which served as a temporary hospital and headquarters for Joe Shelby during the Battle of the Little Blue

Thus far they have removed approximately 30 tons of debris, etc. from the house and grounds. This is a one-time offering to tour this 1856 home, before renovations of the house begin. The tour will begin promptly at 5:00 PM.

**Directions:** From 291 and 24 Highways, go east four miles to the New Salem Baptist Church (there is a cemetery behind this church). Turn north 7/10 of one mile. The road will curve back in an easterly direction. As soon as you go around the curve you will see the 1856 house (yes, you can now actually see it!). The next house is Mason's, which has a white fence across the front with brick pillars.

**RSVP BY OCTOBER 21 - 816-796-8954**



## Bingham Waggoner Special Exhibit

The War of the Rebellion of Western Missouri display has now been set up at the Bingham Waggoner Estate. Many artifacts and memorabilia are on loan for this event from members of the CWRT-WMo.

The display is in commemoration of the 135<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Independence, and will be featured through October - Admission free to CWRT-WMo members showing membership card.

**Hours:** M-S: 10 AM - 4 PM and Sunday: 1PM - 4 PM



## More About the Battle of Westport Tour

Retrace the events of this Battle 135 years later by touring the same sites at the same time of year.

Check-in for the all-day tour will begin at the Harris-Kearney House, 4000 Baltimore, in Westport at 7:45 AM. Coffee and cookies will be served. After a brief orientation, buses will leave promptly at 8:30 AM. Estimated return to Harris-Kearney House is 4:30 PM

Tour includes lunch at the Holiday Inn Sports complex. Featured speaker will be Kip Lundberg, Curator of the new Battle of Mine Creek Visitors Center, describing the aftermath of the Battle as escaping troops headed south through Kansas.

Space for the tour is limited - registration deadline is on October 8th. Cost is \$35.00. Call 816-561-1821 for reservations.

## GRANT APPROVED

A letter of Acceptance has been received by our president, Tim Cox. This notification states that we have been approved for the KC-150 Grant for Civil War markers! More to follow!!!

### Special Showing

of  
*"Ride With The Devil"*

*A special showing of "Ride With the Devil" at the Ward Parkway Theater will be held on November 11. It is by invitation only to people who were directly involved in the movie.*

*Watch for openings at local theaters in the very near future!*



## Friends of Historic Lone Jack

Membership in the recently formed group "Friends of Historic Lone Jack" will continue to be open to new members. The group has been formed to preserve the unique history of the Lone Jack area, namely, the Museum and Civil War cemetery! This is a worthwhile endeavor and membership is encouraged.

Contact Faye Dennison at 524-3215 or the museum at 816-566-2272 if interested!



## Recognition

Toby Giese was guest speaker at the Lee's Summit Rotary Club on September 23. His topic was "Local Missourians from 1836 to 1942."

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### Civil War Slang

Did you know that bacon was called "Sow-belly" or "Sow-bosom". Coffee was "Java" and biscuits were "Sinkers", "Weevil fodder" or "Death bells"?

Watch for more Civil War Slang in the Next Issue!

## Upcoming Election - November 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting

In November we will have the annual election of officers and board members. Art Kelley served as chairman of the nominating committee and he visited with people up for election. Following is a list of the nominees to be presented at the meeting:

Nominations will be accepted from the floor and we would welcome any comments.

President	Tim Cox ✓
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	Mike Calvert ✓
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Faye Dennison ✓
Secretary	Bonnie Sommerville ✓
Treasurer	Beverly Shaw ✓
Historian	Paul Tate ✓

### Board Members - Term to Expire 12/31/2001

Charles McCorkendale -  
Claudetta McCorkendale -  
Sonny Wells -  
Karen Wells -  
Robert "Lucky" Mason -  
Fran Mason -  
Joel Semler -  
Dori Semler -  
Terry McConnell ?

### Board Members - Term to Expire 12/31/2000

Dr. Gerald Anderson -  
Robert Benson -  
Art Kelley -

(These three Board Members will not be voted on at this election)



## A VIEW FROM THE BALCONY

The following letter is taken from Fred L. Lee's book Gettysburg of the West. It seems only appropriate to print this letter witnessing the events that took place from the balcony of the Bingham-Waggoner Estate on October 23, 1864

Independence, Mo., Oct., 23, 1864

Dear Katie...

After receiving your letter I was fearful lest you had started to Missouri. We are all alive so far as I know. Mr. Hill and Mr. Campbell went over to Clay county a few days ago, or started there, and I hope arrived safely. I have braved a storm that is beyond all description. For the past two weeks the Federals have been massing all the forces they could on the border to capture Price and his army. It is estimated they had some 15,000 or 20,000 men. Ten thousand Kansas militiamen have been in camp here since Monday, also a regiment of Colorado troops. Three thousand of the militiamen were camped about our lot from Monday until Friday evening, when they were ordered out to meet the Rebels, as they called them.

The fighting commenced about 9 o'clock in the morning, 6 miles from town, on the Lexington Road. The Confederates were laboring under a great disadvantage, as the Federals had picked their ground and were entrenched behind rock fences. The Confederates had to charge all these fences. It would be impossible for me to tell you how many were killed and wounded but I understand that in this engagement the Federal's loss was greater than that of the Rebels. George Todd, the famous guerrilla, was mortally wounded in one of the charges, and died in town. Major Smith, a brave and courteous Federal officer who had command of the post here for the past eight months, was killed. A great many other officers met a similar fate in the desperate fighting near town.

General Curtis gradually fell back until about 5 o'clock in the evening. Then the Confederates entered Independence, and for a time the fighting ceased. The Federals retreated to the Blue, the Confederates passing out as far as Rock Creek, where they rested a while and then took up their march to meet the enemy. At midnight we heard sharp firing right in front of town. Price's rear guard was stretched across the country for 6 miles. General Pleasanton attacked it in the morning with 10,000 cavalry. The fighting lasted all day, the roaring of the cannon and the clash of small arms was terrific. I am told that the list of the dead and wounded was distressingly large.

The Confederates began to retreat about 3 o'clock, fighting desperately every foot of the way. They passed through town again, firing with small arms at the oncoming Federals. The latter pushed so closely that at times they were not farther than 90 yards behind the Confederates.

From the balcony in front of our house, which is very high, we had a clear view of the battle for more than a mile. We saw the Federals capture a battery in Noah Miller's field. It was magnificently defended, and no less bravely attacked. We could see the far-off flash of red fire coming out of the guns and pistols and men fell by the dozens. It was one of the most sublimely thrilling sights that no one could imagine.

From there on the Blue the fighting was fierce. The opposing forces were so close together that they used small arms almost exclusively, until they got to the blue, when the cannonading commenced again. The guns would be wheeled into line with incredible swiftness and almost before you could count, the grape and cannister would be sweeping into the face of the charging legions. It seemed like the fighting extended all around us. The smoke rose high and almost darkened the sky.

The fighting ended about dark and was resumed again this morning (the 23<sup>rd</sup>) at about 7 o'clock in the neighborhood of Westport. It seems that General Price was only making a raid into Missouri, but some of the Southerners were hopeful that he would succeed. This evening a report comes that he is crossing the Kaw River and that he has suffered terribly, but as to this we do not know for certain. What happened here about Independence is all we know. There is a great deal of confusion. The dead and wounded are being carefully attended to today. The Jones Hotel is being used as the confederate hospital, while the wounded are being taken to the Bank. Twice within the last ten days the town has been left almost entirely in charge of the women and children. The first evacuation was caused by a false rumor that Price was close at hand with an overwhelming force. This rumor came in the night and it caused a great deal of excitement. By morning nearly all the men in town had disappeared, except my boarders and Mr. Hill. That day some bushwhackers came into town, took some clothing from the stores and disappeared without doing any damage. They behaved much better than their reputations warranted.

The very latest news of the battle is that the armies were fighting in John Wornall's lane, and that his house is being used as a hospital. The Confederates are marching and still fighting desperately. What the issue of this tremendous battle will be God alone knows.

Affectionately, Your Sister

Reference: The Kansas City Genealogist  
Vol. 31, No. 4, as provided by the Heart of  
America Genealogy Society, Aug. 1964