



The Border Star

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

June 1999

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THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE OF WESTERN MISSOURI, INC.

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1999

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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 - June 9th, 1999

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

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Program: **OPEN MEETING**

This is an "OPEN" meeting. Members are encouraged to bring their Civil War memorabilia, stories, or anything related to the Civil War period to share with the group. Participants may have 5-10 minutes for their presentations.

Open meetings are FUN and INFORMATIVE!!!

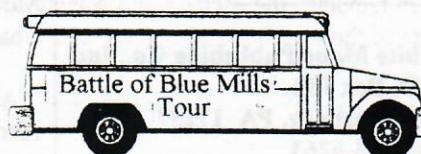
Refreshments provided

LITTLE BLUE BATTLEFIELD TOUR

Special thanks to those members who participated in the Little Blue Battlefield tours. Tour guides were Tim Cox and Lucky Mason, with the assistance of wagonmasters Bob Benson and Art Kelley. Tour assistants were Bob Werline and Bonnie Sommerville. "Toll Takers" were Ginny Werline and Beverly Shaw. Many thanks to Kay Cox for her contributions.

The Round Table especially wants to thank Sonny for all of his research and work in putting together the Little blue Battlefield books. (Of course, we can't forget the board members who helped put them together at a "special meeting" called just for that purpose.

I know there are others who helped make this event the huge success that it was. THANKS TO EVERYONE INVOLVED!





Thanks to Tom Goodrich

Special thanks to Tom Goodrich for an interesting and informative program on May 12. Tom lived up to his reputation by not boring any of his audience.

Members couldn't resist purchasing some of his books after such a fine review of his works. (This editor purchased Scalp Dance and can hardly wait to read it!).



Speaking of Books!! Recommended Reading

To See the Elephant - About the Civil War, reflects the view of the grunt soldier - written by one of them. The letters of John A. McKee, a noncommissioned volunteer from Ohio, were compiled by James R. James of Topeka.

James is not a historian, but a lawyer and former clerk in the Kansas Supreme Court and judicial administrator of the state court system. He has great interest in the Civil War as his grandfather was a member of the 15th Kansas Volunteer Cavalry, a unit that fought in the Battle of Westport in 1864.

The title "*To see the elephant*" is an expression used in the last century to indicate that a soldier had experienced wartime combat.

A must read book!

--- and more Summer Reading

An Artilleryman's War: At the outset of the Civil War, the training of the Regular Army provided the Union with the means to hold off the Confederates until more manpower could be recruited.

This is a study by Michael Ingrisano focusing on the regulars of the 2nd U.S. Artillery Regiment in peace and at war as exemplified by the eleven-year military career of Gus Dey, a Prussian immigrant.

The book sheds light on the role of the artillery in the Regular U.S. Army before and during the Civil War. It is a first rate account of the war in the overlooked Trans-Mississippi Theater. Smooth prose breathes life into this remarkable story of drama and death, hardship and suffering.

Copies can be obtained from the published, your local chain book store, or signed and inscribed direct from the author.

ISBN: 1-57249-101-9 --\$24.95

Michael N. Ingrisano, Jr. or White Mane Publishing Co., Inc
1839 Rupert Street P.O. Box 152
McLean, VA 22101-5434 Shippensburg, PA 17257
703-356-5538 888-948-6263

AROUND TOWN

June is an extremely busy month with many activities going on in the CWRT-WMo region. One of the main events is *The City of Independence* "Celebrate 150 Years" weekend.

A brochure outlining the weekend events is enclosed. It appears to be a fun-filled family weekend, which includes, parades, antique car show, veterans activities, strawberry festival, encampments, blacksmithing demonstrations, concerts, dances, conversations with the Trumans, worship service, and much, much more!!!

NOTE: One special event not on the schedule is the Independence Pioneers Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution rededication ceremony of the 1827 Log Courthouse marker. The ceremony will take place on Saturday, June 5th, from 9:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. at the courthouse, 107 W. Kansas, Independence.

This editor will present the "History of the 1827 Court House", accompanied by the Sons of the American Revolution Color Guard and other members of the D.A.R. Hopefully some of our members can attend this historic event.

Note of Appreciation - Designers' Showhouse

Beverly Shaw would like to thank the following members who worked as docents for the Designers' Showhouse on May 13 from 5 PM - 8 PM: Sue Valentine, Connie McQuain, Bob Benson, Faye Dennison, Sonny Wells, Karen Wells, and Jerry Klukow.

Rumor has it that Sonny even got the string quartet playing in the formal living room to favor us with several Civil War songs.



Caring Thoughts . . .

Members of the CWRT-WMo extends condolences to Charles McCorkendale and his wife Claudetta in the recent loss of Charles' father.

Also, keep Dorothy Moore in your thoughts and prayers as she recovers from a broken ankle, and Tim Cox's wife as she recuperates from knee surgery.

Schedule of Events

June

- 4-6 **The City of Independence - "Celebrate 150 Years"**
(See enclosed brochure for schedule)
- 5 **Settler's Day at Shoal Creek History Site, KC North, MO**
- 7-12 **Heartland Chautauqua - Lexington, MO 6:30 p.m.**
Mon. - Sat. - FREE - "Inside the Civil War"
- Different historical characterizations each evening
Under the Big Tent at Lexington Battle Site*
- 7 - Tent Raising at 5:30 p.m. - H.S. Jazz Bands
8 - Gen. Wm. Tecumseh Sherman - "Bridge of Harmony"
9 - Sojourner Truth - Gt. Leonard Wood Dixieland Band
10- Elizabeth VanLew - "Mountain Glory"
11- A.A. Burleigh - "Swing Tyme" from Higginsville
12- Louisa May Alcott - Lexington 2nd Baptist Choir
- 9 **CWRT-WMo Meeting - 7 PM - Truman High School**
Library - 3301 S. Noland Rd. **Program:** "Open Meeting"
- 14* **Civil War Balladeer - North Independence Branch - Mid-Continent Library, 24 Hwy & Spring - 7:00 p.m. (See article below) - Registration required.**
- 16 **Board Meeting - 7 PM - Truman Campus, Rm. 101**
- 19* **The Great Jesse James - Black Powder Shoot Out**
9:00 a.m. - High Noon - 2216 James Farm Rd., Kearney, MO- (816) 628-6065 (See article below)

July

- 9-11 **Trans-Mississippi Civil War Conference - University of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri**
- Military and Civilian Sessions**
- 9- PreConference Hands On Workshops - Evening Opening Session and Scavenger Hunt.
10- Infantry, Cavalry & Artillery Schoolings along w/Civilian Sessions - Evening Period School
11- Sessions and Wrap-up
- Contact Trans-Mississippi Civil War Conference Committee
P.O. Box 499, Walford, Iowa 52351 or
TransMisConf@unidial.com

- 14 **Picnic - Lone Jack Historic Site & Museum - 6:00 p.m.**
- 17-18 **Honey Springs, OK - Olathe Union Guard Encampment**
- 21 **Board Meeting - 7 PM - Truman Campus, Rm. 101**
- Aug.**
- 11 **Michael N. Ingrisano, Jr. - "An Artilleryman's War"**
Meeting in Judge Scofield's Court Room in Court House on Indep. Square - Refreshments in JCHS Archives

*** Civil War Balladeer - June 14**

The Civil War produced a rich musical legacy which is still a part of our popular culture today. Through song we can learn much about the motives, feelings, and experiences of the generation who experienced those tragic years.

This presentation will look at the humorous, the sad, the exciting, the mundane, as well as the triumphs and tragedies that took place during the Civil War era. Register at the library or by calling 252-0950.

*** Jesse James Shoot Out - June 19**

\$10.00 Entry fee or \$15 donation which includes a 1-year Johnny Reb membership to *The Friends of The James Farm*. Gun, powder + ball provided for extra \$5/person.

Test your skill on the favorite targets of "Buck & Dingus, AKA Frank & Jesse, and win a prize! Cap & Ball revolver fixed sights only.

Top prizes will be donated by JR's Guns of Kearney, MO and will include a beautiful replica colt 1861.36 steel frame navy revolver. Other prizes include shooting range memberships. **Call 816-628-6065 for registration and information.**

A NOTE FROM THE 2ND VP

Fifty-eight persons attended the May 12th meeting of which 17 were visitors. The following are visitors who attended: Zack and Emily Zankowski-Donnini, Lee's Summit; Barbara Burner and Alex, Lee's Summit; Richard and Bea Nash, Prairie Village; Carl Beer, Lake Lotawana; Allen Spellerberg, Blue Springs; Anne Haney, KCMO; Stan and Pam Kasiske, Greg Farmer, John Greathouse, Bill Wall, Lee Lewis, and Mala Barnes, all from Independence.

Welcome to new member Tim Renick of Leavenworth, Kansas.

Written by Faye Dennis, 2nd VP

The City of Independence Celebrates 150 Years

The CWRT will participate in the 150-Year Celebration Parade in Independence on Saturday, June 5. Members who wish to participate will meet in the parking lot at Kansas and Liberty at 9:00 a.m.

Members are encouraged to wear period costume, or at least their CWRT T-shirts and/or caps. If you would like a costume, call Sonny or Karen as they do have some available to loan. Their number is 628-9910.

BE THERE!!!

Preservation Prevails!

An article recently appeared in the Kansas City Star that confirms persistence does win. It seems the Memphis, Tennessee Park Commission planned to oust the Jefferson Davis statue, which stands in the middle of Confederate Park in Memphis and rename the 90-year old park.

The new name would have been familiar: the Richard and Annette Bloch Cancer Survivors Park. Opponents of the park have no quarrel with a cancer survivors park, so long as it's not Confederate Park.

The selection of Confederate Park as a survivor's park met a great deal of opposition. A cartoonist for the Memphis Commercial Appeal drew a cartoon that asked: "Which symbol speaks better for Memphis?" Over a rebel soldier carrying a Confederate flag, a caption read "Fought to preserve slavery and lost," while the caption over a cancer survivor in a wheelchair read "Fought to preserve life and won."

Interestingly enough, Confederate Park, was landscaped by another Kansas Citian, architect George Kessler. The trees, walkways, flowers and benches is considered the best remaining example of Kessler's work.

A great-great-grandson of a Confederate soldier, John T. Wilkinson III, second in command of the Tennessee Division, Sons of the Confederate Veterans, can see Confederate Park from his downtown law office. He opposed moving the statue to another nearby park. He said, "monuments as our ancestors saw fit to erect should be preserved.... People ought to respect each others' heritage and let them be proud of what they want to be proud of and work toward a little mutual education." Slavery, he said, "might have been the occasion for the war, but certainly not the cause of war. The problem primarily was a sectional conflict with economic overtones."

The statue was unveiled in Confederate Park on October 5, 1964, and it appears that opposition to moving the statue caused the park board to back down. The survivor's park will go up in a nearby location.

Source: Kansas City Star

Medal of Honor Tour a Success

Sonny Well's Medal of Honor Tour went very well. A 22-page booklet which gives historical data about the 14 Medal of Honor recipients in KC will be available for inter-ested parties. See Sonny!

Funds for CWRT-WMo

The CWRT Board is thinking about applying for grant money.

This may be possible through The Kansas City 150th Anniversary Legacy Fund, which complements major celebratory activities through grants to projects sponsored by small organizations.

Be thinking about topics for projects that may qualify for such a grant. Preference will be given to activities that provide a lasting visual presence or a tangible product or outcome to a project, i.e. landscaping plan or a neighborhood oral history project.

This topic will be discussed further at our June 9 meeting.

Tim Cox, Pres.

A Bit of Humor in the Face of War

The following ad appeared in *The Texas News*, April 22, 1865.

"The rapid fluctuations in the value of Confederate currency make it necessary for us to suspend our policy of taking subscriptions at \$48 per year in this currency. The new subscription rate will be \$8 per year in gold. Because gold is difficult to obtain, *The Texas News* will accept butter, eggs, poultry, and other supplies at full value on subscriptions."

Submitted by: Arthur R. Kelley

Credit given to *The Texas News* author Ralph W. Steen, Editor, in his "Miscellany of Texas History in Newspaper Style."

Thanks to Bonnie Sommerville & Fran Mason for bringing cookies to the last meeting.

Bushwhacker Museum

This museum in Nevada, Missouri is a one-of-a kind regional historical studies center, where local and national history connect! It includes The Old Jail and The New Museum, both just off Nevada's Courthouse Square.

The museum is on the lower level of the Nevada Public Library, comprising some 13,000 square feet of exhibit, storage, and work space.

During the Civil War Nevada became known as "the Bushwhacker Capital," and was burned to the ground by Federal troops on May 26, 1863. Now you might ask "What's a Bushwhacker?" A bushwhacker is defined as (1) one accustomed to beat about or make his way through the bush (forest); a backwoodsman., or (2) In the Civil War, a Confederate guerrilla ("little warrior). - *Oxford English Dictionary*.

Research featuring genealogy, local history, the Osage Indians, early exploration and settlement, and the War Between the States are accessible to the public by advance appointment.

The museum is open daily 10 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. and Sundays 1 to 4:30 P.M.