



The Border Star

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

April 1999

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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

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 - April 14th, 1999

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

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Program: *Memories of President Lincoln*

Presenter: Dr. Fred R. Pfister, Free Lance Writer and former
Professor of English, portrays the poet Walt Whitman.

Dr. Pfister, portrays the poet Walt Whitman (A Nurse in the Civil War). He will tell about the influence of the Civil War and the assassination of Lincoln. In his role he IS Whitman, as he presents the man, his time, and the experiences of a watcher of the War Between the States.

Refreshments provided

FIELD TRIP - MAY 1, 1999

Join fellow CWRT members on a field trip to Bates County, Missouri. The group will meet at Lee's Summit High School, 50 Hwy. and 291 Hwy., at 8:30 a.m., leaving at 9:00 a.m. to visit all sites talked about in the February program, presented by Sonny Wells.

Tour sites include Camp Montgomery, Brown's Mound, Camp Daniel Boone, Johnstown, Settle's Ford, Ball Town, Hog Island, Miami Crossing, and Spy Mound, to name a few!

A tour is scheduled at the Nellie Brown House at 10:00 a.m. This lovely 1860's antebellum home with slave cabins in back, sits in a wooded lot with three tall catalpa trees (like those in the Brown Cemetery just down the road to the west.) According to Carol Unnewehr, current owner, because of a Federal grant, the slave cabins only must be open to the public 10 or 12 days a year. The house itself was not a part of the grant; therefore, the owner is not obligated to open it for tours. However, Ms. Unnewehr has graciously consented to allow our group to tour the home as well as two rooms of the slave cabins. There will be a nominal fee to tour the house. The cost will be about \$5/ea. for a group of 15. The more members attending, the less the cost for this tour. This is an opportunity not to be missed!

~ ~ ~ Happenings Around the Area ~ ~ ~



The President and Mrs. Lincoln to Return No More!

For health reasons, this probably was the last visit for Max and Donna Daniels, portraying the Lincolns. The Lincolns visited 12 schools and made 5 evening performances during their trip. In all, they appeared before over 4,000 students and about 800 adults. They were made honorary members of "Big Red One".

Young students were pleased with the T-Shirts they won, which had the statement "I pulled Abe's Beard" on them.

Max and Donna Daniels have portrayed the Lincolns nationwide for more than 15 years, appearing in several historical documentaries. Perhaps the following poem published in The Saturday Evening Post, Jan/Feb. '99 says it best.

Lincoln Remembered by Mark Tipton

From a humble background, the backwoods, and poor, dirt poor, really;

Long and lanky and awkward, but hard-working, determined to learn, to make something of himself.

And honest—"Honest Abe." Enterprising and yet a failure: A failure in business, a failure in politics, a repeated failure.

Repeatedly knocked down and yet always rising again. Hopeful, optimistic, even in the face of failure.

Steadily progressing, learning, maturing, earning a good name, a good reputation.

Patient—forming his beliefs, growing in confidence. Willing to face a challenge and not back down.

Standing for his principles. Recognizing the value of others and taking a stand for them, even in the face of crisis, even in the face of civil war.

A man of conscience, bearing a tremendous burden—the weight of a nation at war—on his back alone, it seemed.

Never enjoying a restful night—war always on his mind:

Brothers divided, killing one another, a nation torn in two, the bloodgates opened.

"Will it ever end?" "Is it worth the fight?" "All the bloodshed?"

Still, sticking to his principles, despite intense criticism from all directions, it seemed.

What a burden he had to bear. And then success, Victory!

The end of bloodshed and hope for peace—the great burden lifted.

With compassion for his enemies, swift to forgive, wanting so much to reunite divided brothers and a divided nation, to bind up wounds and move on.

Finally taking a moment to breathe deeply, a sigh of relief.

And then BANG! Gone. Slain.

"Now he belongs to the ages."

In life exemplary,

In death revered:

Abraham Lincoln.



The photos above were taken on March 17 when they met with Governor Graves at the State Capitol Building in Topeka. Although only 15 minutes were scheduled, the Governor spent almost a half an hour with the Lincoln. Top Photo: The Lincolns (Max and Donna Daniels) with Governor Graves; and Below: the Governor with Sonny Wells.

Special thanks to CWRT members who helped serve apple cider and doughnut holes, and to Toby Geise for taking pictures on Sunday Evening, March 14 at the Liberty Christian Church.

Schedule of Events

April

- 10 **The Art of the Victorian Hair Wreath - Leila Cahoon**
Owner of the Hair Museum - JC Archives, Rm. 103
Independence Square Courthouse
- 14 **CWRTWMO Meeting - 7 PM**
Library at Truman High School - 3301 S. Noland Rd.
- 17-18 **Reenactment - Butler (Olathe Union Guard -**
Call Phil Campbell, 782-6972)
- 21 **Board Meeting - 7 PM**
Truman Campus, Rm. 101
- 22-25 **Civil War Reenactment of the Battle of Pea Ridge**
Keokuk, Iowa. Call 1-800-383-1219 or 1-319-524-5599
or www.cdm-sites.com/KACT for details.
- 27-28 **Big Homes Tour - Sponsored by Jolly 60s Tour**
Group - Cost \$89/person. Will visit Wildwood
House, Arbor Lodge, Dodge House, John Brown's
Cave, and more. Call Sonny for more details.

May

- 1 **Bates County Tour - See Details on Page 1**
- 1-2 **Civil War Days at Mahaffie**
- 8 **Little Blue Tour - See Insert for details**

JCHS - Childrens author Evelyn Bartlow will present
a program on Emily and the Santa Fe Trail, followed
by a book signing.
- 12 **CWRTWMO Meeting - 7 PM**
Library at Truman High School - 3301 S. Noland Rd.
- 13 **Designers' Showhouse - 5:00p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**
55th & Ward Parkway
- 19 **Board Meeting - 7 PM**
Truman Campus, Rm. 101
- 22 **Medal of Honor Gravesite Tour - In cooperation**
with Westport Historical Society, CWRT-WMO will
tour via bus 14 Medal of Honor gravesites. Call
Sonny Wells for details. (More info in May newsletter)



Designers' Showhouse

Volunteers are still needed to serve as docents on May 13, 1999 from 5pm to 8pm at 55th and Ward Parkway. Please call Beverly Shaw, 478-7648 if you are available to help.

Gone to the Dogs

During the Civil War, the troops, whoever held possession of Independence, made themselves very much at home in the courthouse, using it as sleeping quarters or for hospital purposes.

"Uncle Jim" Peacock, police judge of Independence told the following story.

"They didn't take very good care of the courthouse in those days, and sometimes the doors would stand open over night. In cold weather the town hogs got into the habit of sleeping in the room used by the county court. As a result the room became infested with fleas.

When the time came for the spring term of court, the judges found it impossible to give their attention to business, so annoying were the little pests.

But a bright idea struck one of the judges. Sheep raising was at that time a great industry, and many flocks were to be found in the edge of town. Nothing delights a flea more than to hide in the thick wool of a sheep, where he can bid defiance to all the assaults of his enemies. A flock of sheep was borrowed and fastened up over night in the court room. Next day not a flea could be found there; and the judges were left free to transact public business in peace and dignity."

This story may or may not be given full credence; however "Uncle Jim" Peacock was an authority on such matters!"

Source: July 28, 1905 and August 27, 1937 Independence Examiners

Note: Judge Peacock is buried in Woodlawn Cemetery, northeast of the Sexton's Building

Confederate Prisoners buried at Ft. Leavenworth National Cemetery

Bayne, J.W. - Pvt. Co. B 12th Mo. Cav. - Oct. 1864
Breashers, George W. - Searcy's Ark. Sharp Shooters
Burland, John - 7th Mo. Cav. - Oct. 1864
Gregg, Jesse - Searcy's Ark. Sharpshooters
Halston, John A. - Co. H Fristoe's Mo. Cav. - Oct. 1864
Jones, M.K. - Arkansas
Moulton, Mevy

These are the only Confederates buried in the cemetery according to Cemetery Officials. In August of 1912, seven bodies believed to be Confederates, were transferred here from Liberty, Mo. They are buried with 19 Federal Soldiers which were brought in from Liberty in old Section B. All 26 have tombstones marked "Unknown U.S. Soldier".

(Compiled by Sonny Wells)

Letter from a Soldier

This letter was written by John Craft to his sister, Mary Craft Dowden. This letter is typed from a copy of the original letter. The copy was faded and hard to read, so parts of it are omitted.

April 19, 1862
Alpine Station, Va
Near Hancock, Co.
Washington, Md.

My Dear Sister

I take my pen in hand writing a few lines to let you know that I am well and hope that these few lines find you enjoying good health. I received your letter last evening and was glad to hear from you. I almost came to the conclusion that you had entirely forgotten me. The second day that we arrived here I sent you a letter but I suppose that you did not get it you wish to have my likeness (photo). I have no chance to get it but as soon as I can get it I will send it and if you wish to send your likeness I would be glad. On the 16th of this month I Received a Letter from home and they are all well my father said he was coming to see me at Easter but I don't think that he will not come at this time the 29th of March we Left Camp Campbell one day after pay day. We marched about 4-1/2 miles to place called bladensburg, Maryland then we took the Cars and was Landed at this place we had a ride on the cars we have good quarters brick homes to which we have our quarters in it is quite warm for the few past days and everything Looks good and is growing—the Rebels are not so close by us in this place. That is no body of them there (?) Some Secession in this place But they are to few to do anything Union is to strong in this place. There is some talk of some regiment Soon to be Discharged I hope that all the Soldiers ma soon have a chance to Come home to see friends this Rebeliam is a horrible affair and hope that it ma soon be Crushed. The fifth of this month I sent 20. Dollars home and did not hear from it it has not yet arrived. I dont know what is the reason that it did not Come to its place. I hope that it ma soon Come to its proper place—we are about 40 miles from Cambuild that is our Company each Company of this regiment is divided Each company is at a post along this Railroad I suppose that we shall stay here as Long as we will be in Service I have not been sick since I was in service and Like it Everyday better.

Yours kindly
and affectionate Brother

John Craft

addreps

Hancock Washington
County Md
Co _ 54 PA Regt



Editor's Note: Vera Lyne of Oak Hill, Kansas provided the above copy of a daguerreotype of her g-grandmother's brother. Her g-grandmother was Mary Craft Dowden and she settled in the Kansas City area. The photo above was framed in a beautiful gold frame in perfect condition. Vera has in her possession other pictures of family members who served on the Union side during the Civil War.

I greatly appreciate her so willingly sharing the photos and letters with me. From what I can tell (with my limited knowledge), her g-uncle was in the Calvary and possibly was an officer (note the braid on his uniform sleeve). Next month I will print another letter that John Craft sent to his sister.

Of course punctuation and spelling were both poorly written during this period of time.

Raffle

The clock donated by Dean Mitchell will be raffled at our April meeting. Raffle tickets will be \$.50/ea or 3/\$1.00.



50-50 Raffle



Commencing with our April meeting, a fund-raising raffle will be held at each meeting. Members may purchase a raffle ticket for \$1.00 each. The winner of the drawing will keep half of the proceeds from the sale of tickets, and the other half of the proceeds will go into the general fund.

PRESERVATION WEEK



NATIONAL TRUST for HISTORIC PRESERVATION™

“Protecting the Irreplaceable”

May 8, 1999

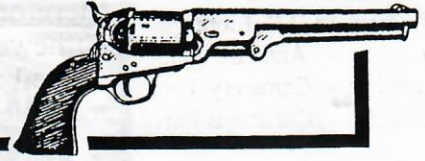
Civil War Battlefield Tour

In conjunction with "The Buck Stops Here" celebration and Preservation Week 1999 the Independence Heritage Commission and the Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri will be sponsoring a tour of sites associated with the Civil War battle at the Little Blue, a part of General Sterling Price's 1864 Raid in Missouri. ~~Tours~~^{Tours} will begin outside the 1859 Jail Museum (217 N. Main Street on the Independence Square) at 10:30 am, and 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 8, 1999. The cost will be \$1.00. Transportation will be provided, however, seating is limited so feel free to call ahead and reserve a seat. The tour is approximately two hours in length and will include visits at the following ~~sites~~^{sites}:

- Little Blue Park and battle scenario at battlefield plaque
- Five Generals Meeting site. En route see old spring and old trail markings
- Moonlight's position on Sibley Road
- Jackman's Charge on Moonlight site
- Shelby's Hospital Site
- Shelby's Second Charge Site
- Oregon Trail/Battle Line marker
- St. Mary's Massacre Site including story of the massacre

For more information or to make a reservation contact Christina Leakey at 3257424.

ON THE TRAIL OF QUANTRILL



A TOUR OF THE LAWRENCE RAID



This Autumn, "Ride With the Devil" will be released in theaters throughout America. The movie will recount the lives of two fictional Bushwhackers who rode with Quantrill. The grand climax will be the Lawrence Massacre. Before you see the film join me, Tom Goodrich, author of *Bloody Dawn--The Story of the Lawrence Massacre*, and retrace the actual route Quantrill took to and from Lawrence. This dramatic, day-long tour will officially begin on the Missouri border where Quantrill crossed the stateline. We'll follow the guerrilla leader's path as he and his 450 men stealthily wended their way toward Lawrence. After a tour of the town and lunch, we'll retrace the retreat as Quantrill fights his way back to Missouri. In addition to many points of interest in Lawrence itself, there are numerous, little-known sights along the way. Saddle up and come along! Join me as we hit the trail of Quantrill!!

Cost: \$30

Lunch: Self-pay

Limit: 15 persons

Leave: Sunday, April 11, 10 a.m.

Where: Steamboat "Arabia" Museum parking lot (rear)



Send cash, check or money order to: Tom Goodrich, 5523 SW Crawford, Topeka, KS, 66610,
or call: 785-256-6543