



The Border Star

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

February 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!

Wednesday, February 10th, 1999

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



Time: 7:00 p.m.

Program: Civil War in Bates County

Presenter: Sonny Wells

Refreshments to follow

Plan On It!



Kudos to Bonnie Sommeerville of the CWRT

Bonnie is an amateur poet who entered a poetry contest in the spring of 1998 sponsored by the National Library of Poetry. Her poem "Heroes" was chosen to receive the Editor's Choice Award.

In August she received an invitation to attend the eighth annual convention in Washington, D.C. of the International Society of Poets as a new inductee in the Society. Bonnie attended three days of workshops and symposiums, and was given the opportunity to read her poetry in front of her peers.

There were 300,000 worldwide entries for the initial poetry contest, of which 2 percent were chosen to have their poems included in a poetry book published by the National Library of Poets, titled A Picture of Elegance. Bonnie's poem "Heroes" was chosen for this honor. Out of the 2 percent included in the book, 700 poets participated in the "Poet of the Year 1998" competition. Sommeerville's original poem "The Wild Cat," written in Hoosier dialect was chosen as one of the 160 semi-finalists.

Bonnie's other published poetry includes "Country Jam," published by Sparrowgrass Poetry Forum in their anthology Poetic Voices of America Fall 1990; and "Oh Lord Before I Found You," which appeared in the Sparrowgrass Poetry Forum publication of Sparrowgrass Ten Years of Excellence 1988-1998. Her next published poem will be "Here Lies In Honored Glory."

Bonnie's goal is to publish her own book of original poetry in the near future.

Missouri's Medal of Honor Recipients

How many Medal of Honor recipients are buried in Missouri soil? How many others who served in Missouri units are buried outside of Missouri?

Franklin D. Roosevelt said of one Missourian's act of bravery, "I consider this to be the single most daring act of heroism in the entire war..." as he gave a posthumous Medal of Honor to the soldier's father.

A new booklet titled Missouri's Medal of Honor Recipients, 1863-1998, answers these questions and many more.

The book is divided into four sections. It lists the cities in which the recipients are buried, the recipients by war of service, those who served in Missouri units but are buried elsewhere, and two pages of related data.

The listings also reveal how many of the recipients have Medal of Honor markers.

Each recipient is listed by name, rank and unit, date and place of birth, place of enlistment, date and place of death, site of burial, date of award, date and place of heroic act and reason for award.

Pictures of the original Army and Navy Medals of Honor as well as the numerous changes in the Medals are included.

The booklet is an accumulation of data from four Medal of Honor researchers over a period of some twenty years.

The data was compiled, verified and organized into a booklet in the fall of 1998.

Each entry has been verified and documented. For example, one M.O.H. listing shows Charles Bieger, Pvt., 4 Mo. Cav., as being buried at Mount Hope Cemetery in St. Louis. Not so.

The Charles Bieger buried in St. Louis died in 1960 at age 84. The Charles Bieger who received the Medal of Honor died on August 10, 1930, while visiting his son in St. Louis. He is buried at Hollywood Park Cemetery in Hollywood, California.

The booklet lists 65 Medal of Honor recipients buried in Missouri, 34 of which are Civil War.

In addition, there are 20 who served in Missouri units but are buried out of state, including several who are at Arlington National Cemetery.

In Western Missouri there are Civil War Medal of Honor recipients buried at Butler, Rockport, Sedalia, Trenton, Warrensburg and five in Kansas City. One is yet to be located in St. Clair County near Appleton City in old Bean Cemetery.

At 2 pm on Saturday, June 12, 1999, a Medal of Honor Memorial marker will be dedicated at the gravesite of Civil War recipient John A. Falconer in Sunset Cemetery in Warrensburg.

The navy flyer who single-handedly shot down five of the nine Japanese attack bombers and crippled a sixth before running out of gas and crashing into the sea while trying to protect the carrier U.S. S. Lexington on February 20, 1942, ...Edward H. O'Hare of St. Louis, MO. He is listed on the Wall of the Missing at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (a/k/a Punchbowl). LEST WE FORGET!

Submitted by Sonny Wells

**REMINDER: DUES ARE STILL BEING
ACCEPTED**

Schedule of Events

February

10 CWRTWMO Meeting - 7 PM
Library at Truman High School - 3301 S. Noland Rd.
Program: *Civil War in Bates County - Sonny Wells*

17 Board Meeting - 7 PM
Truman Campus, m.101

March

10 CWRTWMO Meeting - 7 PM
Library at Truman High School - 3301 S. Noland Rd.
Program: *Personalities at Ft. Riley- Bill McHale*

Answers to What's in a Name?

Mudwall Jackson	BG William Jackson CS
Little Napoleon	MG George McClelland US
Ole Wooly Horse	MG John C. Fremont US
Old Lop Ear	MG Jubal Early CS
Flying Dutchman	MG Franz Sigel US
Bloody Chaplain	Col. John M. Whitehead US
Missouri Swamp Fox	BG Jeff Thompson CS
Retreating Joe	Gen. Joseph E. Johnson CS
Granny	Gen. Robert E. Lee CS
Old Beeswax	Adm. Raphael Semmes CS
Pathfinder of the Seas	Adm. Matthew F. Maury CS
Old Bald Head	LG Eichard S. Ewell CS
Black Jack	MG John A. Logan US
Kill Cavalry	BG Hugh J. Kilpatrick US
Old Pap	Gen. Sterling Price CS

WANTED

Secretary to take minutes at the Board of Directors meetings. Due to transportation difficulties, Dorie Semler has relinquished her position as secretary for the Board.

Contact Tim or any Board Member if you are interested in filling this position.

Next Board Meeting is Wednesday, February 17, 1999.

Any Roundtable member interested in serving on committees for upcoming special projects need only to contact Tim or any Board Member.

*YOUR HELP IS WELCOME AND
APPRECIATED!*

Civil War and Masonry in Missouri

by Ray V. Denslow, @1930,208 pages, Indexed

This book was being "retired" by the Nebraska State Historical Society when it was purchased, along with two dozen other old books for \$1.00.

The original owner lived in Des Moines, Iowa. The book contains a chapter on the attitude of Missourians about the War and makes special mention of Grand Masters of the Missouri Grand Lodge including Sterling Price and William Penick.

Price was a member of Warren Lodge #74 at Keytesville. The three pages on Price give much information about him and his Civil War service.

Penick is spoken of in glowing terms in the book. Not exactly the way the people who labeled his men as "Pinick's Thieves" referred to him during the occupation of Liberty in 1863. Penick did not preside over the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge as he was on military duty at the time. His address was submitted by the Grand Secretary.

Again, much biographical data is included in the three pages about him.

Others who are mentioned in the book include Oscar Gamble, John S. Marmaduke, John H. Turner and John F. Houston.

There is much about "Army made Masons" and the Masonic Loyalty Oath, two subjects of great concern to the Missouri Lodge.

It seems the troops from Nebraska wanted to hold their meetings while stationed in Missouri. The Missouri Lodge refused to sanction these meetings or recognize those who joined the Nebraska Lodge while the Nebraskans were stationed in Missouri.

The dissatisfaction with the college in Lexington, the effort to sell the College and the fuss over the "Monitor Lodge" of Nebraskans make for some very interesting reading. Chapter 11 focuses on the activities of the Lodges of Missouri during the war years 1861-1865.

It tells which ones folded, which ones went inactive and tells of the annual reports submitted.

The following are from the book:

Rising Star Lodge #13 of Barry, "was unfortunate in being located in Bushwhacker territory." Submitted reports in 1863 and 1865. "In good moral standing ...has about 60 members, 45 of which are active...a good hall and funds in the treasury," wrote the District Deputy in 1865.

Independence Lodge #76 made returns in 1862 and 1865. At a public meeting on April 19, 1862, the Independence Lodge issued a statement in which it pledged... "that we will give no countenance, aid or support in any manner whatsoever to any person...or states who are endeavoring by force of arms to overthrow the government of the United States..."

Lodge #115 at Sibley reported their hall was burned on June 23, 1864. None of the property of the Lodge was saved.

A lot of good Historical data in a small blue book.

The book will be on display at the February meeting. Those who wish to look at the book should use white gloves. The book will be returned to the owner, who lives in Omaha, very soon.

Submitted by Sonny Wells

CIVIL WAR BATTLE RECALLED

Faye Dennison has submitted the following article which she found in *The Adrian Journal, Adrian, MO, Thursday, March 27, 1986.*

John Owen was born May 29, 1832 and died August 24, 1862, at the young age of 30. John died as a result of wounds received in the battle of Lone Jack.

He was married in November 1858 to Elizabeth Brown and they were the parents of two children, John Edwin and Catherine Jane. John served in the Confederate Army and was in the midst of the battle of Lone Jack.

When his wife Catherine heard he had been critically injured, she left their young son with neighbors and took her baby daughter (about 11 months) with her. She

was stopped by bushwhackers and vigilantes along the way, but she explained her purpose and was allowed to continue unharmed.

A farm family assisted her in caring for John. A casket was built from walnut lumber which was stored in the loft of a barn on the farm...thus he was buried separately from the other soldiers who were buried in trenches in Lone Jack.

Mrs. Owen placed a small marker on John's grave at the time of his burial. However, twenty years later, she and her two children, along with John's brother returned to Lone Jack Cemetery to place a new monument.

Jane Rook, great-granddaughter of John Owen submitted this article to The Adrian Journal

The inscription can still be read:

*"Farewell my wife and children
all.*

*From you, A father, Christ dost
call.*

*Mourn not for me—it is in vain,
To call me to your sight again."*

Mrs. Owen remarried D.W. Cloud in 1882, a veteran of the battle of Lone Jack.

Catherine Jane Owen, daughter of John Owen, married John G. Cantrell, and they had nine children.

The mini ball which pierced John Owen's chest remains in the possession of the family.

CENSUS OF SLAVES, THEIR OWNERS AND "FREE COLORED": 1850 AND 1860

a Book Review by Faye Dennison



This book is the first volume in the series Jackson County in Black and White compiled by Annette W. Curtis.

This transcription of the 1850 and 1860 Jackson County, Missouri slave census schedules is enhanced by including information about the owners from the corresponding Federal Census Population free schedules. Other bonuses in this volume are the "Free Black" households and households including people identified as "Indian". Several pages of statistics derived from both the free and slave census schedules will help scholarly well as family researchers.

The largest slaveholder in Jackson County, Missouri (maybe in Missouri), died between 1850 and 1860. He was Jabez Smith.

Probate records contain the names of 311 of his slaves living at that time, and they are in family groups. Slaves were only a small part of his estate. That Jabez Smith lent money to the city of Independence, county of Jackson, freighters and many named individuals is of special interest.

This paperback book includes a name index and is 80 pages in length. Copies are available at the Lone Jack Museum and at the Bruce R. Watkins Cultural Heritage Center for purchasing.

Submitted by Faye Dennison

(Information about the second issue will be included in the March issue of the Border Star).

Jackson County Historical Society Archives presents Come into the Archives Series

Bleeding Kansas

A series of talks on the violent conflict over the slavery issue in Kansas Territory 1854 through 1861

February 13, 1999

Andrea Warren, author of *Pioneer Girl Growing Up On The Prairie* will discuss her book as well as her passion for writing history for children. A book signing will follow.

March 13, 1999

Local historian Ken Lee will present *How Your Zoo Grew*, a shistory of the Swope Park Zoo.

April 10, 1999

Leila Cahoon, owner of the Hair Museum will present *The Art of the Victorian Hair Wreath*.

May 8, 1999

Children's author Evelyn Bartlow will present a program on *Emily and the Santa Fe Trail*, followed by book signing.

Room 103, Independence Square Courthouse
112 West Lexington, Independence, MO

February 14

"Pawnee: Kansas Territory's Bloody Legacy" by Major Scott Price, Author and Historian

February 28

"A Punitive Crusade: Nathaniel Lyon and his War in the West, 1861" Christopher Phillips, Prof. Emporia State University

March 14

"Ft. Scott's Bleeding Kansas War" by Arnold Schofield, Historian, Ft. Scott Nat'l Historic Site

March 28

"The New Freedom Road: Shattering the Shackles from the Land of Bondage" by Tim Westcott, Prof., Baker Univ.-Overland Park

April 11

"Bleeding Kansas, Miserable Missouri: Doctors in Territorial Kansas" by Dr. Herschel Stroud, Historian and Reenactor

April 18

"Colonel John Ritchie: Territorial Freedom Fighter" by Second Lt. Dave Young, Kansas Air Nat'l Guard

April 29

"Prelude to Civil War" a play by J. Howard Duncan, performed by the LeCompton Reenactors. 7:00 pm

Admission: Free
Time: 2:00 p.m.

Constitution Hall State Historic Site
LeCompton, KS
Ph: 785-887-6520