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THE BORDER STAR

A Publication of the Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE OF WESTERN MISSOURI, INC.

1996

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1996

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ANNUAL DUES

Individual	15.00
Family	22.50
Student (Under 21)	5.00

MEETINGS

The second Wednesday
at 7 pm, in the Library,
at Truman High School,
3301 South Noland Rd,
Independence, Missouri,
except July, August
and December.

**Visitors Always
Welcome**

FROM THE PRES.....

What a great Board meeting last month. The business at hand was taken care of in an orderly, yet festive manner. Everyone contributed ideas and suggestions.

The motion to apply for IRS 501 (c)(7) Tax Exempt Certificate passed and will be submitted to the general membership for approval at the February meeting.

It was decided the Spring Tour will be to the Pharis Farm & Cabin, with a side trip to the ruins of the Missouri Arms Depot, a/k/a the Liberty Arsenal or Multnomah.

The cost of printing the newsletter is going up about 6 cents per copy.. The total cost including the envelope, mailing label, stamp and newsletter will now be around 52 cents.

The Board decided to maintain our newsletter exchange with other round tables.

In case you did not know our Round Table exchanges newsletters with Sentry in Omaha, Nebraska State in Lincoln, Mid-Missouri at Columbia, Ottumwa, Wichita, Little Rock, Tri-State at Quincy, Ill, Mid-New England at Burlington, Vt. and St. Louis.

We also send to the Missouri State Archives, The Missouri State Historical Society, The Civil War Associates (Jerry Russell) and The William Clarke Quantrill Society.

I am currently printing 100 copies of which about 75 are mailed out to the membership, 15 to the above mentioned and 10 brought to the meeting for visitors.

I would remind everyone to pick up your name tag, agenda, and board meeting minutes when you enter and return the name tag to Mary Ann as you leave.

Also, to bring a copy of any newspaper article involving the group or a member of the group to Toby to put into the scrapbook. I will get him copies of the newsreleases.

Lt. Col. James Ahrens, an instructor at Wentworth Military Academy in Lexington, will be our program at the February 14th meeting. His topic is **The Battle of Lexington**.

LTC Ahrens did a staff ride of the battlefield for Rep. Ike Skelton a few years ago.

Also, in regard to the Valentine's Day meeting...all those with period cloths are requested to come in period dress, especially the ladies. The gentlemen are reminded to bring a small, inexpensive, yet lovingly selected, heart shaped gift of some kind to give to a lady, wife, girlfriend, new acquaintance, good looking stranger or all of the above.

The March meeting will be on the making of the movie **Gettysburg** with appearances by re-enactors who were on the production staff and in the Pickett's Charge scenes.

Details of the tours at Union Cemetery on legal Memorial Day have been discussed with the president of the UCHS. Formal announcement will be made soon.

Jo Anna and Richard Dale, long time volunteers and program underwriters for KCPT, had their picture in The Star Magazine on Sunday, January 21st. Check page 10.

Troy Chrisman, in addition to his sports column in the Blue Springs Examiner, had an interview with a supposed descendent of William C. Quantrill.

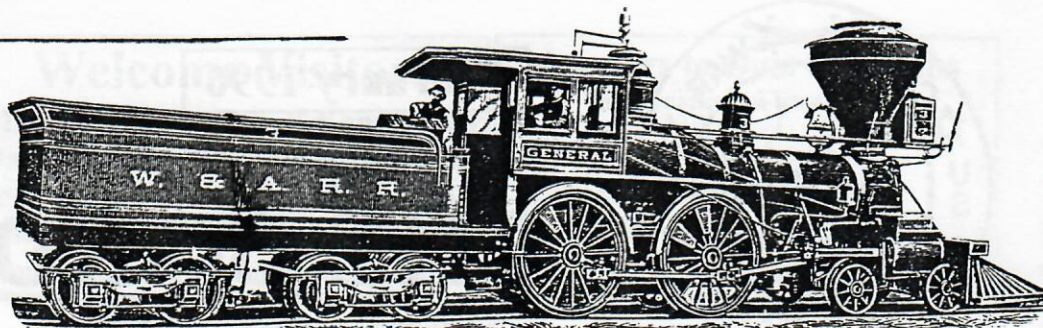
A Personal note...

The night of the Board meeting we received a late call from Tilden, Nebraska. Karen's father had slipped into a coma and was not expected to make it through the night.

Jack passed away on Friday morning about 1 am. We did not get to Tilden until Saturday night after driving the last 60 miles on solid ice. The funeral was on Monday. Burial at St. Pauls Cemetery, Buffalo Creek, near the farm where Karen was born.

The cards, calls and kind thoughts have been most appreciated.

General Ormsby M. Mitchell had a plan. To Southerners it became known as, "The damndest scheme to ever emanate from the brains of the Yankees". Historians nowadays simply call it....



The Great Railroad Chase

From his base of operations at Nashville, Tenn, Gen. Mitchell asked a well known contraband trader, James Andrews, to put together a plan to disrupt the Atlanta to Chattanooga Railroad.



The plan called for a small group of raiders to make their way south, meet at Marietta, Georgia, seize a locomotive and make their way back north destroying telegraph lines, burning bridges, taking up and bending tracks along the way back.

Andrews recruited 19 volunteers from an Ohio brigade camped nearby.

Andrews also brought along three civilian traders who were familiar with the railroad's routine.

Dressed in civilian cloths, the group made their way south, meeting as planned at Marietta.

On April 12, 1862, sixteen men boarded a north bound passenger train with several boxcars entow pulled by the locomotive *The General*.

Four others, including one soldier, Martin Hawkins, had fallen asleep and missed the train. They caught up with the others near Big Shanty, Ga.

When the passengers and crew stopped for breakfast at Big Shanty, Andrews and his men uncoupled all but three of the boxcars and took off. They headed north, pausing only to cut telegraph wires.

Conductor William Fuller was so angered by the theft of his train he started chasing it.

On foot at first, then on a hand cart with engineer Jeff Cain working the other side, and finally thru a secession of three engines, the last one being the *Texas* which was headed south and had to do the entire pursuit in reverse.

At Calhoun, a squad of ten soldiers of the 1st Georgia Volunteers climbed on board and thus joined the pursuit.

The *Texas* puffed along, slowly gaining on the raiders.

Southbound traffic had forced the *General* onto a siding. Over an hour was lost on the siding and the *General's* lead had dwindled to almost nothing.

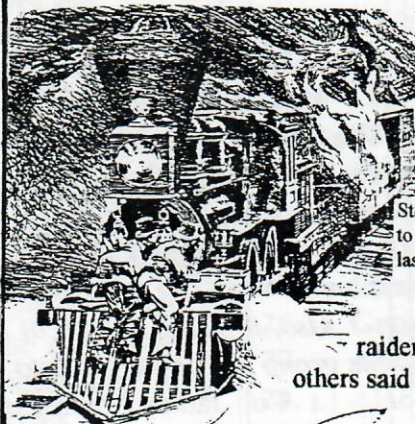
There was now no time to blow up bridges or cut telegraph lines. Instead, the raiders began dropping crossies onto the tracks but failed to slow the pursuers.

The raiders then uncoupled two boxcars and let them roll back down the tracks and slam into the pursuers.

The impact failed to slow the *Texas*. The last boxcar

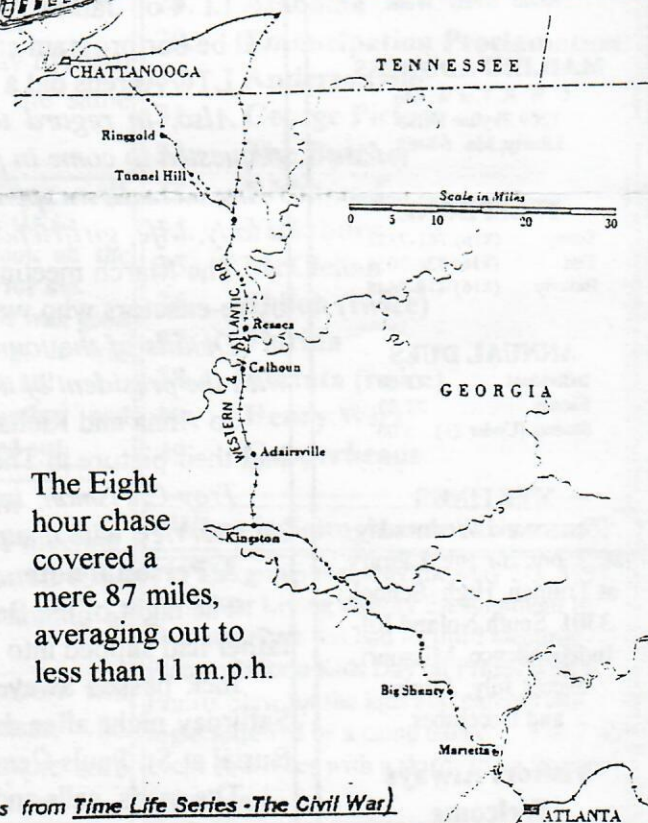
was then set ablaze and the coupling released.

This boxcar also slammed into the *Texas* but again failed to slow it down.

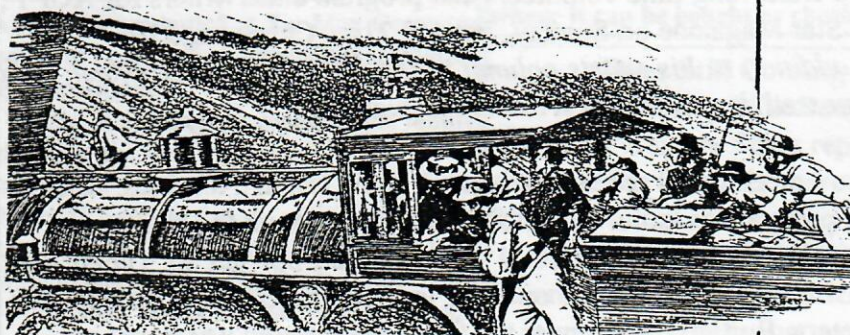


Steaming in reverse with soldiers clinging to her cow catcher, the *Texas* pushes the last boxcar dropped by the *General*.

Although several of the raiders recalled the car was burning, others said they had failed to set it aflame.



The Eight hour chase covered a mere 87 miles, averaging out to less than 11 m.p.h.



With bell clanging, Fuller races after the *General*.

(Pictures from *Time Life Series -The Civil War*)

Near Ringgold, the *General* ran out of wood. The raiders were forced to abandon the train and flee into the thick woods and heavy brush of western Georgia.



With their engine out of fuel and the pursuing *Texas* in view, the raiders took to the woods. When Andrews gave the order to scatter, the boys lit out like a flock of quail, recalled one of the raiders

Within a week, all of the raiders had been captured.

On June 7, 1862, Andrews, two of his civilian friends and five soldiers were executed.

Just before the executions the 14 others, including one civilian, Andrew Murphy, had escaped.

Six of the escapees were recaptured. These six were exchanged in March of 1863.

The other eight had all made it back safely.

Medals of Honor were awarded to the 19 soldiers involved. Only one of the 4 civilians involved survived.

The *General* is on display near Big Shanty and the *Texas* is on display in Atlanta.

Only one of the raiders is buried in the Kansas City area.

Daniel Dorsey is at Leavenworth National Cemetery.

His grave has a Medal of Honor Memorial Marker.

Editor's Note Now look closely at the list and do some counting....22 were said to have been captured, yet 19 and 4 add up to 23. Where is the missing one and who is he?

Only 16 boarded the train at Marietta. The 4 who missed the train caught up with the others later. What happened to the other two, or is it three?

Sources say, "the other 14 escaped." That would have to be 13 soldiers and the one civilian, Andrew Murphy.

The lists show 5 soldiers executed and with 13 escaping, that means one soldier is unaccounted for. Could he be the one who told on the others and which one was he? Did a turncoat receive a Medal of Honor?

Why do most books say there were 22 raiders when in fact it is plainly shown that 19 soldiers, 3 civilians, Campbell, Murphy, & Shadrack, and Andrews were involved? That makes 23. Shall I go on?

The Raiders

*Andrews,	James J.			Organizer Civilian, Not eligible for Medal of Honor
Bensinger,	William	Pvt.	Co. G	21 Ohio Inf. Awarded March 25, 1863, #2 of first 6
Brown,	Wilson W.	Pvt.	Co. F	21 Ohio Inf. Awarded September of 1863
Buffin,	Robert	Pvt.	Co. H	21 Ohio Inf. Awarded March 25, 1863, #3 of first 6
*Campbell,	William			Civilian, Not eligible for Medal
Dorsey,	Daniel A.	Cpl.	Co. H	33 Ohio Inf. Awarded September 17, 1863
Hawkins,	Martin J.	Cpl.	Co. A	33 Ohio Inf. Awarded Sept. of 1863, One of 4 who missed train
Knight,	William J.	Pvt.	Co. E	21 Ohio Inf. Awarded September of 1863
Mason,	Elihu H.	Sgt.	Co. K	21 Ohio Inf. Awarded March 25, 1863, #4 of first 6
Murphy,	Andrew			Civilian, Not eligible for Medal One of 4 who missed train at Marietta, Escaped
Parrott,	Jacob	Pvt.	Co. K	33 Ohio Inf. Awarded March 25, 1863, #1 of first 6
Pittinger,	William	SMJ.		21 Ohio Inf. Awarded March 25, 1863, #5 of first 6
Porter,	John R.	Pvt.	Co. G	21 Ohio Inf. Awarded September of 1863
Reddick,	William H.	Cpl.	Co. B	33 Ohio Inf. Awarded March 25, 1863, #6 of first 6
*Robertson,	Samuel	Pvt.	Co. G	33 Ohio Inf. Awarded September of 1863, Posthumously
*Ross,	Marion A.	SMJ		2 Ohio Inf. Awarded September of 1863, Posthumously
*Scott,	John M.	Sgt.	Co. F	21 Ohio Inf. Awarded August 4, 1866, Posthumously
*Shadrack,	Perry			Civilian, Not eligible for Medal. One of 4 who missed train at Marietta, Executed
*Slavens,	Samuel	Pvt.	Co. E	33 Ohio Inf. Awarded July 8, 1883
Smith,	James Ovid	Pvt.	Co. I	2 Ohio Inf. Awarded July 6, 1864
*Wilson,	John A.	Pvt.	Co. C	21 Ohio Inf. Awarded September of 1863, Posthumously
Wollam,	John	Pvt.	Co. C	33 Ohio Inf. Awarded July 20, 1864
Wood,	Mark	Pvt.	Co. C	21 Ohio Inf. Awarded September of 1863

*=The 8 executed on June 7, 1862. Other 14 escaped, 8 got back.
The 6 who were recaptured were exchanged in March of 1863.

The Dodge City Trip

The reason I was not at the January 10th meeting was because I was in Dodge City speaking to the Kansas State Genealogical Society.

I spoke at the Wednesday night dinner and did three programs for them on Thursday.

The programs were on Civil War, Researching Union Army Veterans, Researching Confederate Veterans and Researching The Border War.

I had prepared a handout of books and sources of information.

As usual, I ran over my time limit and as a result had to stay an extra hour to show the slides on Civil War Markers and Monuments.

I had the newly finished booklets listing the Medal of Honor Recipients of Gettysburg, Vicksburg and The Little Big Horn with me.

The booklets were very well received and were the subject of much conversation.

The booklets list name, rank, unit, DOB, DOD, Date of award and place of burial, if known. The kind of stuff genealogists really dig.

After Wednesday night's dinner I was approached by a woman who asked me if I knew anything about the Lotspeichs of Cass County.

"Oh boy, do I," I answered, and reeled off a few lines about the old Lotspeich Orchard down by Garden City, where Quantrill's raiders used to hide out, and stuff like that.

She grabbed me and planted a big kiss on my left cheek. "I've been searching for years for them and you even pronounced it correctly."

She told me how the family had moved from central Missouri to Cass County about 1858, but had moved back into Henry County during the War (most likely during Order #11).

I took her name and address and have passed it on to the Cass County Societys.

On Thursday, I was approached by the Great-Grandniece of the men who were killed and are buried at Six Man Cemetery south of Lone Jack, as mentioned in Martin Rice's writings.

She is sending me copies of the family diary's of the War years.

Think about it, I drive nearly eight hours, to speak to a group of people who are clear across the state from us, and all they want to talk about is The Border War.

It never ceases to amaze me how much interest there is in the war along the border.

Met some nice folks. Had a good time.

Welcome Visitors

Marcia Beanland of Kansas City
Dawn Howle of Kansas City
Joan McFall of Independence

Here's hoping you enjoyed your visit and will soon be joining the group.

Answers to the "Mean One"

So far I have heard from only three who have completed the word puzzle in last month's issue.

Joel Semler, who thru his wife Dori, threatened to shoot me.

Toby Giese, who along with Joel finally figured out the lady spy's name was spelled wrong (no h on Sara) and **Dave Kesinger**, who mailed his to me.

I have not heard yet from **Becky** in Sedalia or **Mary Ann** in KCK, but I am sure they have been blowing the dust off some old books also.

A list of the answers will be printed up and at the back table at the February 14th meeting.

In the meantime, another simplified puzzle of Civil War Noteables has been finished and will appear in the March issue. No room for a quiz this month.

A prize has already been donated for the winner of the next "Meanie" which will be in the April Issue. It will be a match dates to events quiz.

These quizzes are a fun way to learn more about the War and at the same time test your memory.

Calling All Book Readers

If you have read a good book on the Civil War, please write a review for me.

Tell about the book, where it was good or bad and what, if anything, it was lacking. Don't be bashful. Tell it all!

Name of the Book, the author and where it can be bought or checked out.

Dues Still Coming In

At the January 27th Board meeting, Treasurer Beverly Shaw reported 1996 membership renewals were running at 85% of current membership.

Included in the new members will be one from Hutchinson, Kansas, who is joining the group just to make sure he gets the Border Star newsletter.

Answers to Quiz Questions

(not location on letter cube)

1. Fort Sumter
 2. Stars and Bars
 3. Jefferson Davis
 4. Abraham Lincoln
 5. South Carolina
 6. Tennessee
 7. Robert Anderson
 8. Montgomery
 9. Bull Run
 10. Antietam
 11. Robert E. Lee
 12. Ulysses S. Grant
 13. Stonewall
 14. Greenbacks
 15. Monitor
 16. Merrimac
 17. David Farragut
 18. William Sherman
 19. Julia Howe
 20. Dortha Dix
 21. Clara Barton
 22. Rose Greenhow
 23. Sarah Edmonds
- (True Spelling Sara)
24. Ambrose Burnside
 25. Chancellorsville
 26. Gettysburg
 27. Appomattox
 28. Alabama
 29. Emancipation Proclamation
 30. Andersonville
 31. George Pickett
 32. The Butcher
 33. Richmond
 34. Vicksburg
 35. McClellan
 36. Shiloh (twice)
 37. Florida
 38. Atlanta (twice)
 39. Henry Wirz
 40. Copperheads

What is Sonny's tom cat's name?

The group planning the May 2-3, 1997, Civil War Living History Encampment in Overland Park has had its third meeting. Plans call for a Kids Day on Friday with a Prairie Stew for the kids and parents that night followed by a camp dance. The 2 day event concludes with a skirmish on Saturday afternoon.