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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.

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NEWSLETTER

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ANNUAL DUES

Individual 15.00
Family 22.50
Student (Under 21) 5.00

MEETINGS

Meetings held the second Wednesday
at 7 pm in the Library, at Truman
High School, 3301 So. Noland Rd.
except July, August and December.
Visitors Always Welcome

FROM THE PRES.....

The appointment of a Nominating Committee signals the end of another year of programs, tours and picnics.

The present group of Officers and Board Members has been very business like and efficient. Yet, has been lots of fun to work with.

Amid the smiles and joking around, the business of the group went very quickly and easily, even when it seemed the going might get a little tough.

It would take pages to tell of each person's contributions to the Board and the group. Rather, let me simply say what a genuine pleasure it has been to work with such a positive thinking and forward looking group. I urge all members to continue to be supportive to the new officers and board members.

Anyone wishing to be considered for one of the four open board positions or wishing to nominate a person for such a position, please contact Tim Cox, Nominating Committee Chairman.

Some of you have asked why I was so against the burial of part of William Clarke Quantrill's skeletal remains, at the Confederate Home Cemetery.

There are several reasons. Mostly because Quantrill did not meet the legal requirements to be buried at the cemetery which were....

- 1. An honorably discharged Confederate Veteran with papers to prove it,*
- 2. A resident of the State of Missouri for a minimum of two years.*
- 3. Must be intigent, no means of supporting one's self.*

Once admitted to the Home, one became eligible for burial at the Home.

Which of these criteria did Quantrill meet? None of them! Quantrill never had a legal residence in Missouri, much less an honorable discharge.

Plus, arrangements had been made to quietly place these bones with the rest of his bones in the family plot in Dover, Ohio.

How many people you know are buried in two places?...

Please tell me, Sir, what two states do you want to be buried in? I could go on but what is the use. What's done is done, even if they did have the wrong person on the cover of the program.

Tim's latest Civil War Movie Review

The movie *Dark Command* is a 1940 release from Republic Pictures starring a young John Wayne, as the heroic town Marshall, Walter Pidgeon, as a villain named Cantrell (Quantrill), Marjorie Main (Ma Kettle), as Cantrell's mother, and Roy Rogers, Gabby Hayes and Claire Trevor in feature roles.

The film depicts Lawrence, Kansas, as a battleground in the fight against the hated and sadistic raiders. The film cost \$700,000 to make which was the most expensive Republic Pictures film made to date.

One scene shows Roy Rogers in a Confederate Uniform, Hollywood style.

One reviewer call it "semi-historical Hokum".

Note...Tim admits he has not seen this film yet but has read much about it. I have seen the film and am concerned people may accept to much of the myth as fact and thus get a distorted view of the history of our area. (SW)

The Ghosts of Old Fort Leavenworth

On Friday, October 27th, at 7 pm, John Reichley will be doing his annual presentation of *The Ghosts of Old Fort Leavenworth*.

The program starts with a slide show on the 7 or 8 still active *spirits* which still reside at the Fort.

Afterwards we drive around and see the homes of the *spirits*.

The evening ends with a stop for some hot chocolate and chatter.

A booklet telling the stories of the *Hauntings* is for sale at the door.

The program is done in the main auditorium at Bell Hall, the home of the Command and General College.

Go to the first stop light north of the Buffalo Soldiers Memorial and turn right. Bell Hall is the very last building of the right, setting almost on the river bluff.

Those wishing to follow Karen and I should meet at McDonald's one block west of I-35 on Barry Road (Hwy 152) at 6 pm.

The car pool will depart at 6:15 sharp for the 40 minute trip to Bell Hall.

The Friday show is usually the most crowded of the two shows so time is important.

I have to admit some of the tales John tells are a bit hard to explain.

The photo of the spirit's face in the fire is really amazing.

And the story of the old woman who reads History books to the youngster is really spooky.

Then there is the story of the flushing toilet when the family was away. A real surprise on this one.

How about the old organ which starts playing in the middle of the night or day.

What a great trip to take just three days before Halloween!

Costumes are optional. Call Sonny or Karen for more info.

Join us.....if you dare....

Welcome Visitors & Guests

Among those signing the guest book at the Civil War 103 Class

Michael Reed Michael Calvert
Holly Willcoxon Eleanor Bassett
Derek Hellinberger Bob Adams
Gregg Farmer Josh & Cindy Briner
all of Independence, and

Bill & Lucille Jewett Prairie Village
Jim & Lavetta Harrison Lee's Summit
Bonnie Summerville Higginsville
David White Lee's Summit
Ivan Slaughter Greenwood

A copy of the Border Star will be sent to each.

UPDATE ON BOOK LIST

The two page listing of the books donated to the CWRT of WMo in memory of Bob Maienschien by his family is complete.

The Board voted not to release the list as planned until someone knowledgeable of the potential value of the books, particularly the first editions, has had a chance to look at them and check them out.

Name the Civil War Tune

Can you name the tune these words come from?

1. "The Union for-ever,
Hurrah boys, Hurrah,"
2. "Ye Men of Valor, gather round
the Banner of the right,"
3. "Let the hero born of woman
crush the serpent with his heel,"
4. "You can never win us back,
Never! Never!"
5. "We are tired of War,"
6. "His musket falls slack,
his face dark and grim,"
7. "Bear Gently, So Gently,
the roughly made Bier,"
8. "Jeff Davis was a hero bold,"
9. "On Shiloh's dark & bloody ground,
the dead and wounded lay,"
10. "Away down South in
the Land of Traitors,"

Answers at Oct. 11 meeting & in next Issue

ALERT-Theft of Civil War Items From Cemeteries

July 1993-Large bronze eagle stolen from the grave of Brig. Gen. Adolph von Steinwehr in Albany Rural Cemetery, Menands, N.Y.

May 1994-Forest Hill Cemetery in Dunmore, Pa, sells a bronze Civil War cannon from the G.A.R. plot on the basis that all the veterans were gone and the cannon wasn't needed.

The cemetery sold the gun for, are you ready for this?, \$10,000!

Also now missing is the cannon from the Washburn Street Cemetery in Scranton, Pa. Estimated value for this original iron gun was \$5,000.

The thievery and sales continue all up and down the East coast..

But where will they go when the supply of such artifacts dries up in the East? Probably to our area as the supply of such items has already been drained in Illinois and Indiana.

There was an attempt to steal the cannon from the G.A.R. Memorial at the Louisburg, Ks., cemetery a few years ago.

Civil War grave markers have become hot items among military memorabilia collectors.

Two years ago the two Younger brother's stones and George Todd's original stone were offered to the Quantrill Society for \$125 each.

Efforts to charge the owner with possession of stolen property failed because no police report of the theft from the graves had been made.

A well meaning historically minded person called the owner to try to negotiate a selling price and inadvertently tipped the owner off as to the legal procedures currently going on.

The owner placed the stones in the hands of an attorney and the price is now \$1500 each.

If there is a cannon , statue or fancy CW marker in a cemetery near you, please take the time to check and make sure it is still there.

Civil War Postcard Sets

The postcard sets which match the Civil War stamp sets were pulled off the market by the Postal Service because of the printing errors on two of the cards.

The errors included spelling Stand Watie last name Waite on the back of his stamp and having the wrong date (by 20 years!) on the Battle of Chancellorsville stamp.

These sets are now available thru the Philatelic Fulfillment Service Center of the Postal Service which is located in the Hunt Midwest caves under Worlds of Fun the entrance to which is just off I-435.

There are numerous other items which pertain to the Civil War series available also.

# 8833 Set of 20 Civil War Post Cards	7.95
#88833 Same set First Day Cancel	9.95
# 8832 First Day Program w/stamps	9.95
# 8831 Uncut sheet of 6 stamp sets	38.40
# 8834 Autographed sheet of 6 sets	125.00
# 8830 Commemorative 96 page book	29.95
# 5526 Legends of the West Stamp Set	5.80
# 9925 Legends-First Day Program	5.95
# 9926 Legends of the West-postcrds	7.95
#9926L First Day Laramie Postmark	9.95
#9926T-First Day Tuscon Postmark	9.95
#9926N First Day-Lawton Postmark	9.95
# 9922 Legends-uncut sheet of 6 sets	34.80
#08826 Legends-Commem 80 pg book	24.95
# 9923 Legends of the West 3 pc set	
Book, card set & Program	34.95

Those of you who ordered items at the September meeting will be able to pick them up at the October meeting.

There is a S & H charge of about 5%. Thus \$9.95 items total 10.49 and 7.95 items total 8.43.

I will try to get a copy of the First Day Program Booklet and the Commemorative Book for display.

I also noted in the book there are still some uncut sheets of 6 sets of the Marilyn Monroe stamps for sale.

Just like the Civil War set, only 10,000 of these sheets were printed.

To get a copy of the catalog call 1-800-STAMP-24 or mail to PFSC, Box 419636, KC, Mo 64141-6636

Welcome New Members

A warm howdy to Cindy Golden. Cindy works with Tim Cox and has been a multi-time guest. Now she is our newest member.

The Bowlin's of Grain Valley are the first to pay their dues for 1996.

Ann sent me a reminder that Orson B. Green was a musician in the 100 Ohio Inf't, not Indiana and his birthdate was 1834 not 1824.

She also enclosed 1996 family dues for Thomas Benton Bowlin, William Wallace Bowlin and herself.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

OCTOBER

- 7-8 Re-Enactments-Centralia, Mo. and Nebraska City, Nebraska
- 11 CWRTWMO Meeting-
Mosby and Mosby's Raid
- 14-15 Re-enactment-Winterset, Iowa-
part of Covered Bridge Festival
- 18 Board Meeting-
- 27 Ghosts of Fort Leavenworth Tour

NOVEMBER

- 4 Program-Mid-Cont. Libr, Ex Sp
Medal of Honor Recip. of Mo.
- 8 CWRTWMO Meeting-
Confederate Home of Missouri
& Election of 1996 Officers
- 11 Veterans Day-
Display your flag
- 15 Board Meeting-
Last Meeting of 1995 Board
- 23 Thanksgiving

Coming

Saturday, December 9

The Christmas Party

Loose Park Garden Center

51st & Wornall

1:00-4:30

All members, Family, Friends
Guests, Visitors and Civil War Buffs
are Invited to Attend

ARE YOU AWARE?

Of the over 1400 known Civil War engagements in Missouri only 4 are shown of the Civil War Battlefields Map sold at National Park Service Visitors Centers across the U.S.

October Program

The program for October will be on General Mosby and his famous raid into Indiana and Ohio.

Toby Giese, author of *The Saga of John Fillmore Blake, The Last Missouri Rogue*, will be the speaker.

By the time Toby is finished it is expected that everyone will know the site of the only Civil War Battle in the State of Indiana.

Mosby was a colorful, dashing and romantic kind of leader and programs about him are not very common in our area.

Mildred Ray celebrates 100th

All the excitement around Dick and Shirley Ray's house is certainly explainable. Dick's mother Mildred, known to many as Mrs. Sam Ray, celebrated her 100th birthday.

Congratulations to Mildred on reaching such a milestone.

Plans to do some exploring and artifact searching at the site of the Multnomah antebellum plantation just west of Liberty have been made.

Setting a date is the hold up. I do not have an open weekend until November 18th and then the third weekend in December.

Any ideas? Please let me know.

Answers to Battle Names Trivia

1. The Battle of Bull Run (Va.) is also called the Battle of Manassas.
2. The Battle of Pea Ridge (Ark.) is also called Elkhorn Tavern.
3. The Battle of Stone(s) River (Tn.) is the Battle of Murfreesboro.
4. The Battle of Antietam (Md) is the Battle of Sharpsburg.
5. The Battle of Wilson's Creek (Mo.) is the Battle of White Oaks.
6. The Battle of Blue Mills (Mo.) is the Battle of Liberty
7. The Battle of Lexington (Mo.) is the Battle of the Hemp Bales.

The other trivia question on this page was in the Schedule of Events.

Happy Birthday to who?

The Battle of the Ravines

West of Pleasant Hill, Mo.

July 11, 1862

One history book calls it "The Skirmish at the Sears Farm", another calls it "The Battle at the Sorency Barn. To most it is simply called

The Battle of the Ravines.

By combining the writings of several participants, a fairly clear picture of the engagement emerges.

In early July of 1862, a force of 90 men of the 1st Iowa Cavalry under a Lt. Bishop is sent out from Clinton on patrol.

This force is severely mauled by a force of Confederate guerrillas led by Quantrill and Bill Thrailkill on Sugar Creek just east of Wadesburg.

This enrages Major James C. Gower, commander of the 1st Iowa Cavalry, who vows to capture Quantrill.

Gowers orders Captain William A. Martin of the 7th Missouri Cav. and his 65 men to move west from Warrensburg.

Captain Martin Kehoe with Co. A and Co. D of the 1st Missouri Cavalry out of Harrisonville, are to combine with Lt. Benj. White of Co. C, 1st Missouri Cavalry from Butler, and head east.

Gower's own unit comprised of 65 men under Captain William Ankeny, of Clinton, and 75 men from Warrensburg head west.

On the morning of July 10, 1862, the troops rendezvous on the Lotspeich Farm near Wadesburg. (Not Lots Peach Farm, as one book has it)

They beleive Quantrill's force has 60-65 riders in it. In reality, Quantrill's group had split up after the Sugar Creek fight and he had only 27 men with him.

Gower also had information that the guerrillas were camped just to the south, near present day Garden City.

Cautiously, Gower's force surrounded the suspected campsite.

On Gower's signal they rushed the camp only to find it cold and abandoned. This further angered Gower.

The command is split up and fans out in all directions in an attempt to find the ever elusive Quantrill.

About 2 pm Kehoe's unit spots the enemy following the Big Creek bottoms just east of Rose Hill, to the south of Gower.

Word is sent to Gower who re-unites his force and strikes out in pursuit.

Kehoe follows at a distance but does not attack, as ordered.

Quantrill, apparently knowing he is being followed, turns east thru the brushy up the heavily overgrown creek bed.

bottom land and then back north, loosing Kehoe in the process.

Quantrill and his men dine at the Hornsby farm south of Kingsville and then move up Brushy Creek to the north before turning west and camping the night on the Carlisle farm just 3 miles east of Pleasant Hill, which is occupied by Federal Troops.

John McCorkle wrote, "*on north side of Big Creek...Pleasant Hill was on our left three miles*".

Kehoe and his men camp the night at the Hornsby farm not realizing until much later that Quantrill and his men had ate there just 4 hours previously.

The morning of July 11th Quantrill rises early, slips through Pleasant Hill and stops for breakfast about six miles to the west at a place known as Swearingin's Barn, wrote McCorkle.

Kehoe is also up early. Although historians disagree on his motives and the circumstances, the fact remains he left camp ahead of the others against orders.

About 7:30 Kehoe's scouts exchange shots with the pickets guarding the lane leading to the barn.

Kehoe sends word to Gower and then decides not to wait. He is not going to let them get away this time. He is going to attack the apparently unsuspecting guerrillas.

He notices some of their horses are still tethered near the house and some are even unsaddled over by the barn. Some of the men appear to be sunbathing in plain sight.

What Kehoe did not see was the seven men with long rifles hidden in the fence row down the lane. "We baited them," wrote McCorkle.

Kehoe's patrol charges down the lane, sabers and pistols drawn.

Once inside the trap the long guns open up. Frank James, Cole Younger, George Todd and others considered to be the best marksmen in the guerrilla band are having a field day.

Six troopers fell with the first volley. Another nine, including Kehoe himself, fell wounded in the first few minutes.

The patrol withdrew to await Gower's reinforcements and lick their wounds.

Gower arrives about 11:30, sets up a skirmish line and advances on the farmsite.

This initial attack by Gower's own unit is beaten back with the loss of 7 more lives.

It should be noted here that it is totally unlike Quantrill to wait around three hours for the yanks to reform and attack him, but that is apparently what happened here.

Quantill withdraws into a series of ravines and seeks to escape by heading west

The Federal Cavalrymen pursue and catch up to the fleeing guerrillas near the James Wilson farm where some heavy hand to hand fighting occurs.

It is here Quantrill is supposed to have been wounded in the leg.

The guerrilla escape by splitting up into small groups and, using the heavy brush as cover, heading west to the Harrisonville Road.

They camped the night in Dupree's Orchard before moving on to Stonestreits farm the next day.

The Union troops fell back to Pleasant Hill to treat their wounded. Two more died the next day.

Gower returned to his headquarters in Clinton without even a prisoner to show off.

Although the guerrillas lost 7 horses and had several wounded, both Sly Akers and John McCorkle denied and loss of life among their group in their writings.

Other sources show heavy losses including 1 killed.

Union losses were 19 killed, plus the two who died the next day of their wounds, and 35-50 wounded, depending of which source you beleive.

The dead were buried in the north part of the Pleasant Hill Cemetery, according to Major Gower's official report.

The gravesite was located in 1981 in the unused area of the old cemetery, just to the southeast of the maintenance building.

The site was dedicated in 1986 and now has a mass grave marker from the VA.

Only four of the names of those killed have been determined.

There are at least two possible battle sites. One being at the far east end of the Lake Winnebago Airport and the other about a mile west of the Airport.

Local descendants say the east airport site is the place but the layout does not fit the described battle scenario.

The western site fits the ravine layout and lane scenario the best and the people who live on it say it was the site of a battle but they do not know which battle.

@ Harold "Sonny" Wells Revised Sept 1995

Suggested Readings

The Battle of the Ravines

by John Thornton Buckner

Three Years with Quantrill

by John McCorkle

Not Suggested Reading

My Three Years with Quantrill,

as told by Captain Harrison Trow

By Burch