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# THE BORDER STAR

A Publication of the CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE of  
WESTERN MISSOURI 1209 Skyline Dr. Liberty, MO 64068

## 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

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

## FROM THE PRES.....

My thanks to all those who sent information for use in future newsletters. In all, eight items were received. Keep 'em coming. They help a bunch.

Bob Werline accompanied me to the Fort Bibb, Alabama, re-enactment and brought along a video camera. Footage was taken of the ruins of the furnace where ore was melted into ingots to be sent to the Selma Iron Works to be made into cannons. Flat sheets were also made to be used on the Confederate ironclads, according to the plaque at the site.

The walls of the furnace were 14 bricks thick in some places and the dome of the heating furnace is still pretty much intact. A most interesting historical site if I dare say so.

It is possible Bob has a piece of melted slag found on the grounds, a brick from the old furnace, found nearby, and a copy of an 1862 picture of the original complex.

The video has some footage of the 15-20 ft high earthworks built around the hill to protect the site. The little snake which slid across the cameraman's boot had a little to do with the shakiness of some of that portion of the video.

About 600 re-enactors, over 30 sutlers and the 5th Alabama Band showed up. The band played music while the battle re-enactment was in progress.

Although I counted only 23 cannons on the field, the sponsors said 27 had checked in. Most were Mountain Howitzers, only 3 field guns.

The current "April Fool's issue" of *Pitch Weekly* has a very poor taste article about the Battle of Westport, including a cover picture of a yankee general holding a sheep. The implication is not exactly Sunday School type stuff. It is the March 30-April 5 edition, issue #359.

**DO NOT BUY THE MAGAZINE.** look it up at the library or borrow one someplace.

The editor's name is Bruce Rogers. Phone 561-6061 if you care to voice your opinion about this type of journalism. An organized effort is underway to get historically minded people to call the paper and let them know there are people in this area who do care about our historical sites.

The Civil War Round Table of Ottumwa, Iowa, will be visiting Keytesville, Glasgow and Lexington on Saturday, May 20th. I will join them for dinner that night in Lexington and then meet them at 9:00 am on Sunday at the Little Blue Battlefield site to begin a tour which will include the Little Blue Battlefield, the Battle of Albany and Bloody Bill's Grave.

Anyone interested is welcome to join in and at the same time meet some nice folks from Iowa who share our common interest.

The talk to the History Club at Truman High School drew a full house. It was nice to see former CWRTWMO member Nancy Lewis again and chat some with her.

The Independence NEA newsletter had a nice article, with pictures, about the presentation in their March 29, 1995, issue.

Next meeting..April 12, 7 pm in the Library at Truman High School. Program will be on the Battle of Lone Jack. See you there.

Be sure to ask Bob about the Kansas City Southern Freight train which roared thru our tent at Clinton, Mississippi, over the weekend!

## VISITORS included

Carla Stoebeck,	Independence
Roger Jones,	Independence
Elmer McGhee	Independence

## New Members include

Toby Giese	Kansas City
Michelle Holman	Pleasant Valley

## New Sons of Confederate Veterans

### Camp Forms In Independence

Are you the descendent of a Confederate Veteran? If so, you may want to join the newly formed SCV Camp.

Contact Lou Saunders at (816) 478-0914 for more information.



### Book Review

## BLACK SOUTHERNERS IN GRAY

by Richard Rollins

Review by Roger A. Bomar

This publication is a collection of seven essays and four reviews of other essays which could very easily serve as a catalyst for even more scholarly research on the subject of Blacks in the Confederacy and the CS Army.

The book does not present the usual two dimensional view of the Black/White experience in the Antebellum South.

Rather, it is an enticing glimpse of a more realistic "...Southern Bi-Racial Society".

A few years ago no one would have believed a book that said:

*\*Free Southern Blacks enlisted in State Militias as enlisted men and officers to fight Yankees.*

*\*Southern Slave Blacks held fund raisers for "The Cause" and Southern Free Blacks donated large sums of money and property to the Confederate Cause.*

*\*Blacks belonged to United Confederate Veterans groups and were highly respected by their white fellow members.*

*\*Blacks received Confederate's Pensions.*

Other books such as Bell Wiley's "The life of Johnny Reb" and "American Slavery 1619-1877" bring out differences in the life styles of Southern Blacks and Northern Blacks, but this one looks at things from a different slant.

It is interesting to note that when Northern Blacks were being subjected to Jim Crow Laws and not allowed to settle in Northern States, free Southern Blacks were able to attain such a position on wealth that could donate large sums to the Confederate cause, the reviewer notes.

Also noted was the fact that Professor James H. Brewer, the Black author of "The Confederate Negro" was ostracized in the Black community of the 1960's for his book be-cause it portrayed Blacks as supporting the Confederate cause.

This is a shame that such an attitude toward these "Confederate Negroes" would exist because *"to be without a history, is like being forgotten, and to be forgotten is the worst fate of all."*

Roger's nearly two page review was very enlightening and showed that he has done much research in this field.

More from him on this book and others on this subject would be a welcome addition at the upcoming open round table.

Roger closes his review by stating, .... *"I welcome scholarly works that can correct the stereotypes engraved in our minds from such fictional....works as "Uncle Tom's Cabin" and "Roots".*

### FRANCIE PARK MOVING

The upcoming meeting will be the final time we will have to share with Francie Park as she will be moving to Arizona to live with her daughter.

Francie has been with the group since its inception in December of '92. Francie's new address will be:

**Francie M. Park**  
**1838 West Isleta Ave.**  
**Mesa, Ariz 85202**

**Keep in touch Francie,we'll miss you**

### CHANGE OF UNIFORM BUT NOT OF MIND

Following a particularly fierce little engagement in which a rag-tag force of about 300 Confederates held off a Union force of over 900 for nearly five days, 43 captured Confederates were brought before a Union Colonel and offered amnesty if they would sign the loyalty oath, agree not to take up arms against the Federal Government and join the Union Army Reserve Corps.

All but one very dedicated young man accepted the offer, some even volunteering to galvanize and go West to fight Indians.

When approached by the Union Colonel the strong willed young Reb replied, "...you're sure lucky we didn't have another 150 good Southern boys out there or we'd have kicked your Yankee butts."

The Colonel ordered the young Reb stripped to his skivies, thrown into an isolated cell and fed only hard tack and water.

After ten days the young Reb relented, signed the loyalty oath and was again brought before the Colonel this time in a brand spanking new Federal uniform.

"Well," the Colonel said, "what do you have to say now?"

"Sir," the young lad replied as he saluted briskly, "we sure are lucky them Rebs didn't have another 150 good Southern boys out there or they would have kicked our Yankee Butts!"

from Southern Humor, no source cited

### BOOK REVIEW

## My Folks and the Civil War

by Marge N. Sullivan @ 1994

Review by Becky Carver

This book is a collection of stories submitted by real people sharing family stories of their loved ones who lived, died, laughed, cried, won and lost in the Civil War years 1861-1865.

Stories from the battlefield as well as the homefront, sharing experiences of those who waged the war and those who "tended the hearth fires".

This is a book you can relax in a big chair with, lay it down and pick it back up again at your leisure.

There are many stories from Missouri, Kansas and Iowa plus many other locations.

Published by Capper Press of Topeka

ISBN: 0-941678-42-3

Price: under \$7.00

### Patrick H. Marriott was a Yankee!

Following last month's story on *Which was he?* I heard from Pat Garry, a counselor at Pleasant Hill High School and a descendant of **Cpl. Marriott's**, who had seen the story in the Pleasant Hill Times article.

Mr. Garry forwarded to me copies of **Cpl. Marriott's** discharge certificate and a small article about him from an old newspaper.

Mr. Garry informed me that some of **Cpl. P. H. Marriott's** descendents still live in the area.

The man buried at Pleasant Hill was an honorably discharged **Union Army soldier**.

Possibly this is another case of two men sharing a similar name.

Another possibility is that if there were two men with such similar names they may have been related.

My thanks to Mr. Garry for sharing some of his family's heritage with me and clearing up at least this part of the *Which was he?* mystery.



## REPORT ON KCPT

The popcorn was good, the Pizza was late but it also was good, the tours of the editing room and control room were facinating and the chairs were comfortable. What more can I say.

Actually, there is a lot more to say. The KCPT staff loved our T-shirts. We ended up giving one to the station manager, the volunteer co-ordinator and the set manager.

They also liked our misprinted ball caps. We gave the last one of those to the station manager, who admitted to being a Civil War nut.

The staff met with us prior to air time and explained how to answer the phones, what questions to ask and how to fill out the forms.

They also advised us on how to handle the idiot calls.

There were busy times and they were slow times. It was kind of neat but at times boring.

There were prank calls, a couple of uncouth calls, one call offering a 5 cent donation, but for the most part just nice people offering donations to support KCPT, KC's public TV station.

Phone calls the next morning revealed to me that each person was shown in close up shots several times but "Ole Handlebars George" was the most frequently seen.

And who can blame the camera man for that? George, with glowing smile and handlebars has to be one of the most photogenic people around.

The station staff made a special point to ask us to come back again.

Those who participated in the telethon were: Connie McQuain-Sue Valentine-Loretta Krump-Charles McCorkindale-Tim Cox-Beverly Shaw-Dr. Gerald Anderson-Bob Benson-Mary Ann Hazzard, George Weinhold, Karen & Sonny Wells.

The twelve of our group were supplemented by Mrs. Bea Cornish, Past President of the Missouri Division, United Daughters of the Confederacy and close friend of several of our members.

A big thank you to all who participated, not only from me but from the folks at KCPT.

## WHO AM I?



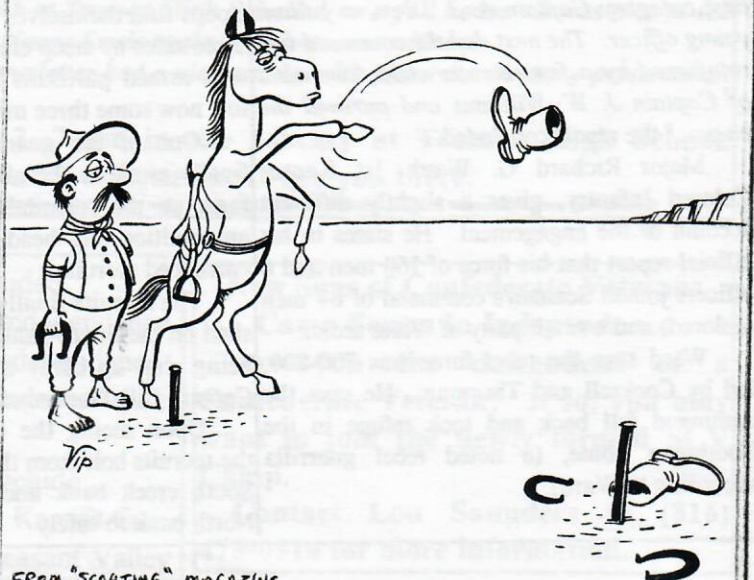
Name \_\_\_\_\_

1st Unit \_\_\_\_\_

Famous Unit \_\_\_\_\_

### Match the Officer to his Nickname

- |                            |                               |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Mudwall Jackson         | __A. MG Franz Sigel US        |
| 2. Little Napoleon         | __B. Col. John Whitehead US   |
| 3. Ole Wooly Horse         | __C. BG Jeff Thompson CS      |
| 4. Old Lop Ear             | __D. MG Geo. McClelland US    |
| 5. The Flying Dutchman     | __E. Gen. Sterling Price CS   |
| 6. The Bloody Chaplain     | __F. BG William Jackson CS    |
| 7. The Missouri Swamp Fox  | __G. LG Richard S. Ewell CS   |
| 8. Retreating Joe          | __H. MG John A. Logan US      |
| 9. Granny                  | __I. Adm Raphael Semmes CS    |
| 10. Old Beeswax            | __J. Gen Joseph E Johnston CS |
| 11. Pathfinder of the Seas | __K. BG Hugh J Kilpatrick CS  |
| 12. Old Bald Head          | __L. Gen Robert E. Lee CS     |
| 13. Black Jack             | __M. MG Jubal Early CS        |
| 14. Kill Cavalry           | __N. Adm Matthew Maury CS     |
| 15. Ole Pap                | __O. MG John C. Fremont US    |



FROM "SCOTTING" MAGAZINE



## The Battle of Fort Toothman

Bates County, Missouri

Henry Toothman was not exactly the most popular man in Bates County, Missouri. In fact, old man Toothman was said to have been a crusty old gieser and a strong Republican to boot.

So when Captain Henry C. Seaman of the 5th Kansas Cavalry appeared in early May of 1862, with over 200 fresh Black recruits, it was only logical that Toothman's farm would be their camp.

The Black recruits would soon become the 1st Kansas Colored Infantry, but for now they were part of the 5th Kansas Volunteers.

The recruits were drilled by experienced White officers out of Fort Scott, using broom handles and fence poles for weapons. The only real guns in camp were in the hands of the officers and the HQ company escort, all White men.

The volunteers were outfitted with old, worn out Mexican War uniforms, some with bullet holes in them, most with no linings.

Very few tents were made available to the recruits, thus many of them slept on the open ground while the officers and escorts made their headquarters in the Toothman's big two story house.

Earthen walls were built around the house enclosing about one square acre with walls 8 to 12 feet tall. A log hewn entry way was built into the South wall to serve as an entrance.

On October 26, while on training maneuvers between the camp, now called Fort Toothman, and Butler, Captain Seaman's command was attacked by partisans.

"...attacked by a force of 500 under Cockrell," Seaman wrote in his official report. "After a severe engagement, the enemy was defeated with considerable losses. Our loss was 10 killed & 12 wounded including in the first category Captain A. J. Drew, a gallant young officer. The next day the command was reinforced by a few recruits under command of Captain J. W. Williams and pursued the enemy." the report concluded.

Major Richard G. Ward, 1st Kansas Colored Infantry, gives a slightly different account of the engagement. He states in his official report that his force of 160 men and 6 officers joined Seaman's command of 64 men (colored) and a small party of White scouts.

Ward says the rebel force was 700-800, led by Cockrell and Thurman. He says the command fell back and took refuge in the Toothman home, (a noted rebel guerrilla according to Ward).

"The wind was so high we were unable to injure them with our sharpshooters," wrote Ward. "Also, they stayed out of range."

That night runners were sent to Fort Lincoln, Fort Scott and Paola requesting cavalry reinforcements.

A foraging crew stumbled onto the rebel camp only two miles from the Federal camp and drove them back some four miles, the enemy shouting to the boys, "come on, you damned n---rs," and the boys *politely requesting the rangers to wait for them as they were not mounted*, Ward reported.

The boys returned to camp highly elated at their success in the skirmish, Ward added.

The new battle tested recruits returned to Fort Scott in mid September and became their own unit within a few weeks. The First Kansas Colored Infantry was now officially in the war!

A new group of Black recruits set up camp at Fort Toothman in late April of 1863. It is this group which becomes involved in what has become known as

### The Battle of Fort Toothman.

On June 1, 1863, while the officers are taking their after lunch nap, a band of 12-15 mounted Confederate Rangers appear on the ridge just Southeast of the fort.

Without disturbing the officers who were known to get quite testy if their nap was disturbed, the guards form a skirmish line and advance on the rangers, who fire a few meaningless pistol shots at the guards.

The guards are joined by other recruits and a volley was fired at the rangers who quickly rode over the hill and took up another position on a high ridge farther South to await the advancing troops.

Pistol shots are fired, a volley is returned, the horsemen fall back a short ways and the troops advance on them.

This happens at least three times until the troops find themselves trapped, surrounded on three sides by steep creek banks with about 60 well armed partisans between them and the fort now some three miles distant.

One of the guards who stayed behind finally awakens the officers who immediately form up the remainder of the troops, issue ammunition and head out to rescue the now entrapped recruits.

The recruits finally find shelter in a small shed on the South bank of the river. They are being shot up badly by the partisans led by Captain Bill Thurmond.

Upon seeing the rescue party approach, the recruits bolt from the shed, down the steep South creek bank and try to scurry up the North bank to safety.

The partisans close in and open fire. In all, 17 of the 22 recruits are killed along the North bank. Two more died the next day of their wounds.

The casualty list also included two Lt.'s who were killed leading the attempted rescue charge.

The dead recruits were buried in a mass grave just North of the earthworks.

The two White officers were buried just a short distance away. They were later transferred to the new National Cemetery at Mound City, Kansas.

The recruits were never moved.

J. S. Pierce, an old Bates County Settler, told it this way when interviewed for the book *Old Settler's History of Bates County*.

...Fort Toothman was a regular U.S. Fort, and garrisoned by regular U.S. troops, colored, and must have been established there in late 1862.

The colored troops ...150-200, were foraging upon the country for a living, and in order to punish them these Southern men planned an attack. They sent out a few men to approach the fort and entice the colored troops out. The rest of the force was quietly disposed for action a short distance south on the low land of the Marais des Cygnes River. ...The scheme worked. ...A man stationed in a tall cottonwood signaled the Southerners when to attack.

The battle raged fast and furious until the few who escaped were inside Fort Toothman. Both sides were mounted, and the Southern men had the advantage of fresh horses, and the colored troops had to retreat with fagged horses and up the bluffs towards the fort. Hence they were cut down mercilessly, and only one or two survived. ... The colored troops remaining were soon afterward ordered to some other post.

James Drysdale, in a similar interview for the same book tells about seeing the house, the earthen walls and the fresh dirt of the burial site.

Captain Seaman's official report says they were attacked by over 200 rebels led by Cockrell and Thraillkill.

There is no marker of any kind at this site to this day, only the remains of 19 soldiers who died fighting for the cause they believed in, names known only to their God.

#### Sources

Old Settler's History of Bates County, Missouri  
Kansas Regiments in the War of Rebellion  
Missouri Sketch Book  
Dwyer's Compendium of the War of Rebellion,  
Regimental Histories  
Bates County History, by W. O. Atkeson, 1918