



The Border Star

Official Monthly Publication of the Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri

• Founded 1992

• Incorporated 1994

"Studying The Border War and Beyond"



November 2004

In Memory of Sonny Wells

The Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri

2004 Officers

President ---- Timothy A. Cox

1st V.P. ----- ~ Open ~

2nd V.P. ----- Arthur R. Kelley

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Charlotte Tindall

The Border Star Editor

Dennis Myers

18507 E. 78 Highway

Independence, MO 64057

(816) 769-6490

Meetings

2nd Wednesday of the Month

7:00 pm

Old Blake Museum - 106 E. Walnut

Independence, Missouri

Visitors Always Welcome!

Annual Dues

Individual -----	15.00
Family -----	22.50
Student (under 21) ----	5.00
Newsletter Only -----	9.00

For information:

Tim Cox ----- 478-8833

Beverly Shaw ----- 478-7648

Art Kelley ----- 373-4101

Mailing Address:

C.W.R.T. of Western Missouri

4947 S. Peck Avenue

Independence, MO 64055

I'VE SEEN THE ELEPHANT, AND. . .

Thoughts from Tim Cox, President

I've seen the elephant, and therefore want to relate to you the following newsworthy items:

October Program – October 13, 2004 – Michael Grossi and The Postmen of The Civil War

Round Table member Michael Grossi captivated us all with his first person impression of a civilian postman, at the October meeting of The Round Table. Wow! Michael not only related to us his vast knowledge of postal operations during the War, but shared his visual props with us as well - from his antique postal scale, to the intricately reproduced sheets of stamps, to the rubber stamps Michael has acquired.

Here are a few points of note from the presentation:

- * The Confederates never had "gummed" stamps, and at one time even tried using boys to apply wallpaper paste to them.
- * Soldiers sometimes paid postmasters a penny a page to read or write for them as needed.
- * You could cut a 20 cent stamp in half if you needed a 10 cent stamp.
- * If you "wrote a fair hand" during the War, you were the equivalent of today's computer geek.
- * The Military Post Office traveled with the armies, contracting with civilian mail handlers.
- * In 1864, the Confederates appointed 3 female Postmasters.
- * Soldiers did not pay for postage themselves, but sent their mail "postage due."
- * About 20 private companies existed, such as the "Adams Express" and "Southern Express," that sneaked mail for you through enemy lines, for a premium charge.
- * If mail was sent from the South to occupied land in the North, the items ended up in the Richmond "Dead Letter Office."

Thank you for this presentation Mike, it was fantastic. This was an adjunct performance to that given at The Reveille this June past, also featuring Mr. Grossi's knowledge of "Spencerian Script." Michael exhibited previously at The National Postal Museum, and by special invitation of the Smithsonian, traveled abroad to France to present as well.

November Election and Pre-Book Sale Reception – November 10, 2004

In lieu of our Regular Monthly Meeting normally scheduled on November 10, 2004, please attend a special Pre-Book Sale Reception to preview the books for the Little Blue Fund Raiser Book Sale that will begin on November 11 (please see the flyer that accompanies this newsletter). Refreshments will be served and there will be an opportunity to buy books.

Our Annual Election of Officers will also be conducted at that time. The Election Nominating Committee (Pat Dye and Art Kelley) has been working very hard to secure nominations, and as always nominations will be taken from the floor on November 10th.

Guardians of the Little Blue: The next meeting of The Guardians of The Little Blue will be Monday, **November 15, 2004**, at Blue Hills Elementary School, 1911 No. Blue Mills Road, from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm. Please come and see what you can do to help preserve the Battlefield.



Calendar

CWRTWMO – November Book Pre-Sale Reception

Wednesday, November 10th, 7:00 p.m.

Old Blake Museum – 106 E. Walnut Street

In lieu of our regular meeting this month, we'll give members a preview of the upcoming Little Blue Battlefield Book Sale.

CWRTWMO Board Meeting

Wednesday, November 17th, 7:00 p.m. at Beverly's.

Guardians of the Little Blue Battlefield

Monday, November 15, 2004, 7:00 p.m.

Blue Hills Elementary School

1911 N. Blue Mills Road

(Just north of Blue Mills Road and 24 Highway)

All are encouraged to attend as we work to protect and preserve this important Civil War battle site.

CWRTWMO Christmas Party

Saturday, December 4, 2004

Christmas Party with Union Cemetery Association
Loose Park, Kansas City, Missouri

CWRTWMO – January Regular Meeting

Wednesday, January 12th, 7:00 p.m.

Program: "Open Round Table"

Old Blake Museum – 106 E. Walnut Street

Please contact Tim to sign up for your 5 to 10 minute "show and tell" presentation.

CWRTWMO – February Regular Meeting

Wednesday, February 9th, 7:00 p.m.

Program: "American Battlefield Protection Program"
by Connie Langum

Connie is the Midwest Coordinator, employed by The National Park Service at Wilson's Creek Battlefield
Blake Museum – 106 E. Walnut Street

CWRTWMO – March Regular Meeting

Wednesday, March 9th, 7:00 p.m.

Program: "Guerrillas in Elmwood Cemetery"
by Richard Stewart

Richard is a volunteer historian with Elmwood Cemetery.

Dues

Its that time again; payment of annual dues. Please direct payment to Treasurer Beverly Shaw:

Individual	15.00
Family	22.50
Student (under 21)	5.00
Newsletter Only	9.00

Meeting Site

The Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri meets at the Old Blake Museum, 106 E. Walnut Street, Independence, Missouri (northeast corner of Walnut and Main). Parking for the meeting is at any street parking near by and a few spaces across the street at the Plasterers' Union building, 301 S. Main. Please do not use any other private parking until we receive permission from business owners.

Ruth Laree Benson

Please keep longtime member and friend Bob Benson in your thoughts and prayers. Bob's mother, Ruth Laree Benson, recently passed away at the age of 103 ½. Visitation was held last Friday, with burial at Mt. Moriah Cemetery.

Ms. McConnell

Please keep Terry McConnnell's mother, L. E. McConnell, and Terry, in your prayers and thoughts. Ms. McConnell has undergone a recent hospitalization at St. Mary's Hospital and is now convalescing.

History Expo 2005

Many of you will remember the History Expo 2002 that was held on the Plaza. Our group manned a booth at the conference, along with many other area history organizations. It was a great time to hear speakers, meet others, and publicize our Round Table. There will now be a repeat event, only this time NARA (National Archives and Records Administration) is sponsoring this meeting in conjunction with the 79th Annual Kansas History Teachers Association Conference.

History Expo 2005 will be at the Doubletree Hotel in Overland Park, Kansas, April 21-23, 2005. Additional information will follow in the next newsletter.

Save the Little Blue Buttons

Just \$1.00 each

