



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"



June 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
Secretary ----- Karen K. Wells
Treasurer ----- Beverly J. Shaw
Historian ----- Paul Tate

Board Members

Dr. Gerald Anderson, Emeritus
Mike Calvert Harriett Lionberger
Terry McConnell Charlotte Tindall
Randall Todd

The Border Star Editor

Dennis Myers
18034 Kent Circle
Independence, MO 64057
(816) 257-5754

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 (no meetings) -- 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, as well as numerous others from our Round Table, The Guardians of The Little Blue, neighbors of the Valley, and other friends of metro Independence and Kansas City as we prepare for the Reveille. It's a busy time – but well worth it I'm sure!

By the way, said elephant was invited to the doins on June 12, 2004, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Blue Hills Elementary School and will attend. Will you? Will you see the elephant that day? I hope so, we need you!

To date we've received tremendous support from the community. At a later date, we will thank all contributors to the Reveille.

I do want you to know, however, that now is the time for us to make an impact on saving what we can of The Little Blue Battlefield. As you know the MRC road project and commercial development threaten the site. We're seeking National Register status, a possible visitor site, and maybe land acquisition at some point. However, The Reveille is the beginning. We need your attendance, your word of mouth, your distribution of Reveille flyers, and participation by non-profit and for-profit groups in manning a table on June 12th. We also need funding and publicity!

The Reveille

Activity

*Reenactors *Classroom Overview of The Little Blue Battlefield *Auto Tours of The Little Blue Battlefield *Moonlight's Beamers (initial performance of this choir) *Civil War Shoppe *Little Blue Battleflag selection and voting *Food – a.m. and p.m. (pastries, popcorn, hot dogs, hamburgers, brats, pop, coffee and more) *John & Diane Lehman (Guitar and Hammer Dulcimer) *MRC literature *Preservation Info

History Booths

*New Salem Baptist Church *2nd Colorado *George Todd *Lawson Moore Home *H.E. Palmer *Colonel Moonlight *Five Generals *Lewis-Gregg Cemetery *Smith Slave Cemetery *Blue Mill

Group Booths

*Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri *Kansas City Round Table *Hughes Camp – SCV *SUV *Wide Awake Films *Jackson County Historical Society *Friends of Lone Jack

The event continues to develop and unfold. My apologies if I've not mentioned other committed participants at this time. I know there are many other undecideds.

Please call me to find out how you can help. We still can use food and paper good contributions, period dress participants and choir voices! Yes, we need Beamers to sing "Rally Round The Flag," as did Moonlight's men almost 140 years ago!

See you next month, with a successful Reveille wrap up. (Say that 10 times.) Sounds like Elmer Fudd, you screwy elephant.

ELEPHANT TALES

The expression "see the elephant" is an old one, perhaps dating to Hannibal and his use of elephants in battle. Of course, in 19th century America, everyone loved to see the elephants at the circus when they came to town, always the featured attraction. Gold Rush travelers used the term to refer to the remarkable sights they had seen in their adventures out west. Finally, Civil War soldiers used the expression in referring to their first glimpse of combat, "I seen the elephant!"

Little Blue Reveille

Reveille has been sounded and the troops have now been called to action!

Come one, come all, to the first “Little Blue Reveille” on Saturday, June 12th, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., at The Blue Hills Elementary School, 1911 N. Blue Mills Road, Independence (about ¼ mile north of the intersection of Blue Mills Road and 24 Highway). In case of rain, the event will be held inside the school.

The Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri, in cooperation with The Guardians of The Little Blue, the Fort Osage School District, preservationists, historians and neighbors of the Little Blue Valley area, are sponsoring this fun event to publicize, educate, and inform the public about The Battle of The Little Blue (part of Price’s Great Missouri Raid, October 21st and 22nd, 1864). There will be exhibits, a continental breakfast, tours, music and reenactors present.

The purpose of this gathering is, of course, to have fun and learn about Civil War history. However, it also marks efforts toward preserving the battlefield with fund raising efforts geared toward enhancing *The Sonny Wells Little Blue Memorial Fund*. Information will be available concerning the threat to The Little Blue Battlefield via possible commercial development and the impending Missouri River Corridor (MRC) road project.

Planning is well underway so please mark your calendar to attend.

Contact Tim Cox (478-8833), Beverly Shaw (478-7648) or any Board Member about what you can do to help make this event a success. We need everyone to become a “Guardian” of The Little Blue. There is little time.

Civil War Picnic on July 14, 2004

The July meeting of the Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri will be a picnic at the shelter house at the Ripley Junction Park. This is also part of the site of the Little Blue Battlefield and located at the end of Old Lexington Road, south from 24 Highway. Directions and additional information will appear in the July newsletter. The Round Table

provides meat and drinks and members and guests bring side dishes. There is no electricity at the park so we will need to leave by nightfall.

Calendar

CWRTWMO – Regular June Meeting

Wednesday, June 9th, 7:00 p.m.
Old Blake Museum – 106 E. Walnut Street
Program: “The 2nd Colorado” by Charles McCorkendale and Tim Cox

Little Blue Reveille

Saturday, June 12th, 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Little Blue tours, exhibits, reenactors, food
Blue Hills Elementary School
1911 N. Blue Mills Road
(Just north of Blue Mills Road and 24 Highway)

CWRTWMO Board Meeting

Wednesday, June 16th, 7:00 p.m. at Beverly’s.

CWRTWMO – July Meeting / Picnic

Wednesday, July 14th
Ripley Junction Park / Little Blue Battlefield
Old Lexington Road and 24 Highway

CWRTWMO – August Meeting

Wednesday, August 11th
Old Blake Museum – 106 E. Walnut Street
Program: Jim Beckner and “The H. L. Hunley”

Guardians of the Little Blue

Tuesday, August 31st, 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.

Little Blue and Westport Tour – 140th Anniversary

Saturday, October 9th
Probable date for bus tour event (Little Blue, Big Blue, and Westport) in conjunction with the Kansas City Civil War Round Table and the Westport Historical Society.

Notes From the Treasurer

The Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri has experienced extraordinary income and expenses in the last several months so I wanted to let you

know how our accounts stand. When Sonny Wells passed away, his family designated the Little Blue Battlefield Preservation as a recipient of memorial gifts which is administered by our group. We are holding those funds in the savings account for use in battlefield preservation activities. For the April newsletter we did an expanded mailing to individuals and groups who knew Sonny and appreciated his efforts to keep Civil War history alive. We also made an effort to fax articles and pictures highlighting his life to local newspapers.

Another extraordinary source of income was a \$500 gift from Max and Donna Daniels (“Abe and the Babe”) to help apply for our 501(c)(3) status. In response, we presented them with framed photographs from last year’s Lincoln presentation.

Our Civil War Round Table was asked by the Union Cemetery Historical Society to form a color guard for their annual Memorial Day ceremony on May 31, 2004. The board determined this to be a worthwhile project and authorized the treasurer to purchase, for our group’s use, the Union flag used during the Civil War (34 stars) and the Confederate First National Flag (not to be confused with the battle flag that has been misused in contemporary America), plus flag poles and appropriate hardware. This has all been bought and will be used on May 31st as well as at subsequent events.

Expenditures for April and May 2004 include:

* April and May Newsletters and labels for future newsletters	181.10
* Postage	6.50
* Photocopies	4.54
* Sonny’s Memorial (and flowers)	87.71
* Max and Donna Daniels presentation photos	25.19
* Two flags, poles and hardware	238.48

This leaves a checking account balance of \$543.52 as of May 24, 2004. Expenditures will drop for future newsletters as we are deleting names of those who have not paid dues or a subscription fee.

The savings account balance is \$3,204.07 of which \$1,160.00 is restricted to the Little Blue Battlefield Preservation.
~Beverly Shaw, Treasurer

Memorial Day Services at Union Cemetery

On Monday, May 31, 2004, a color guard from our group will carry the Civil War flags of the Union and the Confederacy for a ceremony beginning at noon. This will give sufficient time for those attending activities at the Liberty Memorial to come to Union Cemetery located at 227 E. 28th Terrace, Kansas City, Missouri. Union Cemetery (named because of the union of the cities of Kansas City and Westport) is located just south of Crown Center and one block east of Main Street.

Parking is available on the roads inside the cemetery gates. The Color Guard is composed of Don Moorehead in Union artillery uniform with red piping on the jacket, Kurt Wells, a Union officer’s uniform, Michael Grossi and Mark White in Confederate uniforms and commanded by Kevin Wells in a Union officer’s uniform. They will bear the colors up the hill to the flagpole where the American flag will be raised. By custom, the American flag is flown at half-staff until noon on Memorial Day. After the Pledge of Allegiance, introductions and invocation, there will be a short presentation by Tim Cox, portraying George Caleb Bingham. At the conclusion, the color guard will bear the flags back down the hill.

Please plan extra time to take a self-guided tour of Union Cemetery after the ceremony to see the graves of many Kansas City notables, the unusual Woodmen of the World markers and the Civil War graves. Each grave will be marked with a flag that was placed by a Boy Scout. Bea Cornish, honorary member of our group and board member of the Union Cemetery Historical Society, traditionally bakes cookies for the Boy Scouts the day they place the flags and the day they are removed.

Address Change for Dr. Gerald Anderson

Since moving to the Missouri Veterans Home at Cameron, Missouri, Dr. Anderson has been transferred to a different unit:

Dr. Gerald Anderson
Missouri Veterans Home
1111 Euclid – Room A-123
Cameron, Missouri 64429

Passages

Condolences to Don and Kathy Moorehead and Jakob Moore. For Don Moorehead, a new member of the Civil War Round Table and former member of Dr. Hodge's Artillery Unit, this will be an especially poignant Memorial Day service because his daughter, Elizabeth "Becky" Moore, passed away on May 23, 2004 of complications from stem cell therapy. However, Don wanted fulfill his commitment to help with the color guard. Our sympathy is with Don, Kathy and their grandson, Jakob Moore, who lives with them. Cards may be mailed to the Mooreheads at P.O. Box 134, Buckner, Missouri 64016.

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.

Symphony Designers' Showhouse

The Junior Women's Symphony Alliance sincerely thanks the following members for being tour guides at the 35th Annual Symphony Designers' Showhouse on May 6, 2004.

Beverly Shaw, Lee Jackson, Karen Wells, Bill Jewett, Lucille Jewett, Art Kelly, Janann Adams, Barbara Adams, Sue Valentine, Connie McQuain and Harlan Klukow

Connie McQuain became the "kitchen maven" with tips on where to find the refrigerator and freezer (not an easy task in designer kitchens) and Barbara Adams who acquainted visitors with the decorating secrets of the second floor landing and master suite.

In spite of the fact that Beverly and Harlan's Blazer was rear ended on I-35 on the way to the Showhouse, a good time was had by all. FYI... there were no injuries to passengers and a fire truck stopped to divert traffic while the four vehicles involved waited for police. A pleasant, young fireman even gave us cups of cold water. Luckily all

drivers had licenses' and insurance so reporting was fairly easy. Other volunteers from our group held the fort just fine.

New Civil War Books

Does it seem as if there could not be anything more to say or write about the Civil War? Apparently that is not the case as here are three new books:

The Civil War in Depth I & II – History in 3-D by Bob Zeller, Chronicle Books, San Francisco, California, 1997. These are picture books with minimal text but the pictures are awesome. The stereo photos (think View Master when you were young) allow you to see details so that faded, blurry images jump off the page, in stark relief.

The Saber and the Ring, A Saga of Civil War Days by Patrick Brophy. This romantic tragedy has a pre-publication price of \$14.95 plus \$3.50 postage. Beverly Shaw has order forms. Proceeds will benefit the Vernon County Historical Society and the Bushwhacker Museum. Mr. Brophy has been a speaker at a previous Round Table meeting.

First Blood: The Story of a Quantrill Raider by Larry Wood, JoNa Books, Bedford, Indiana. This fiction/history book sells for \$14.95 plus \$3.00 shipping. Beverly Shaw has order forms. This historically accurate novel follows William Quantrill through the eyes of a fictitious member of the raiders. Larry Wood of Joplin, Missouri is the author of two non-fiction books called *The Civil War on the Lower Kansas-Missouri Border* and *The Civil War Story of Bloody Bill Anderson*.

Fourth Curator Begins at Mine Creek

Dan Hickman has been hired by the Kansas State Historical Society as the full-time curator of the Mine Creek site, south of Pleasanton, Kansas, east of U.S. Highway 69. There will be a reenactment at Mine Creek the weekend of October 23-24, 2004, which is the 140th anniversary of the Battle of Westport and General Sterling Price's campaign. Our Civil War Round Table, in cooperation with the Kansas City Round Table, the Monnett Fund and the Westport Historical Society, is planning local battlefield tours in October 2004.

Lewis and Clark Volunteers Still Needed

If you are available to help over the July 3rd and 4th 2004 weekend, please call Beverly Shaw at (816) 478-7648 and she will send you a packet of information. Kansas City, Missouri will be hosting a National Signature Event called “Heart of America: A Journey 4th” in beautiful Berkley Park on the Missouri River. Saturday will end with a spectacular laser show and Sunday’s finale will include a huge fireworks display. This weekend of activities and programs is expected to bring a record number of local and national visitors.

Lewis and Clark Journals

Gary Moulton will speak about the Lewis and Clark Journals, which he edited, on Sunday, June 13th at 2:00 p.m. at the new Kansas City, Missouri Library located at 14 W. 10th Street in the old First National Bank building, in downtown Kansas City. Admission is free and you will have an opportunity to view the beautiful, new Kansas City Library.

Historic Lexington, Missouri

Lewis and Clark River Days – June 17th and 18th
Experience life in 1804 America with “The Discovery String Band,” the MDC Osage Dugout Canoe, period crafts and food demonstrations, the “Birds of Prey Shows” and Native American and frontier encampments.

Vintage Homes Tour – June 19th and 20th
Five homes along the Missouri River bluff will be featured along with a walking tour of the Highland Avenue Historic District.

For additional information, call: (660) 259-4711

The Missouri Irish Brigade

Sacred Hills Encampment, June 26th - June 27th in St. Joseph, Missouri. For additional information, contact the MIB: jpbairkc@yahoo.com or visit their website located at: <http://www.geocities.com/missouriirishbrigade/index.html>

The Great Jesse James Frontier Revolver Shoot Out

While this June 12th date conflicts with our Little Blue Reveille, there are two evening activities of interest: A 6:00 p.m. pig roast and auction and a 7:00 dance with music by Missouri Town. To be

held at the James Farm in Kearney, Missouri. For information, call: (816) 628-6065. Sponsored by the Clay County Parks and Recreation Department and the Friends of The James Farm.

Civil War Happenings

Dateline Boston, Massachusetts: May 8, 2004, vandals toppled 127-year old, 1,000 pound, bronze statue of a Union Civil War soldier, snapping off its head and musket. This was part of the Soldiers and Sailors Monument on the Boston Common, the city’s most elaborate memorial. Officials believe the statue can be repaired.

Dateline Enterprise, Alabama: May 16, 2004, Alberta Martin, the last known Civil War widow is beset by a heart attack at the age of 97 years. Never mind that the Civil War ended 139 years ago. Mrs. Martin was known as the last Confederate widow until last year when the last Union widow, Gertrude Janeway, died.

Mrs. Martin was a 21 year-old widow with a son when she married William Jasper Martin, 82, a former Confederate Army Private in Alabama in 1927. They were married nearly five years and had one son before the veteran died in 1932. Members of the Sons of Confederate Veterans convinced state officials to approve her for a Confederate widow’s pension that was still contained in Alabama law. She made appearances at Confederate heritage events, traveling from Gettysburg, Pennsylvania to St. Louis, Missouri, often with a Confederate battle flag draped over her lap.



Alberta Martin