



# **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"*



**August 2004**

*In Memory of Sonny Wells*

## **The Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri**

### **2004 Officers**

*President* ----- Timothy A. Cox  
*1<sup>st</sup> V.P.* ----- ~ Open ~  
*2<sup>nd</sup> 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  
18507 E. 78 Highway  
Independence, MO 64057  
(816) 769-6490

### **Meetings**

2<sup>nd</sup> 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, and I am **not** discouraged, even though The Round Table did not receive approval of our 2004 grant application to the American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP) for funding toward obtaining National Register status for The Little Blue Battlefield.

The letter we received from the United States Department of the Interior reads, in part:

"This year's grant round was very competitive. Nearly all the project proposals addressed serious threats to battlefields and each project had merits. Of the 59 proposals submitted, only the top 12 could be funded. To see a list of this year's selected projects, please visit our web site at [www2.cr.nps.gov/abpp](http://www2.cr.nps.gov/abpp)."

After the initial disappointment of the rejection (we had worked so hard on this), I looked at the web-site and realized two things: 1) We were in competition, not just with other Civil War sites, but other battlefields from other periods of time, i.e. Revolutionary War, War of 1812, Indian Wars, etc. as well, and 2) Some of these grant winners were from prominent locations, such as Princeton, NJ (George Washington and The Revolutionary War) grant recipient.

As we mentioned in last months comments about the Reveille, there are a good many people working behind the scenes on this Little Blue Battlefield preservation project, and we are networking with folks that may with help us in the future.

I know I'll now turn my efforts toward contacting the State of Missouri and get the ball rolling toward the application procedure for National Register status. I'm confident we can get this done. We must stay the course and not lose any momentum. The patriots who fought on The Little Blue, nearly 140 years ago, are depending on us, as well as Sonny!

Enjoy the summer, see you next month. Remember, "Elephant sightings strengthen!"



## **We Chose This Flag**

Through an overwhelming mandate of the people, this fictional flag was chosen as the official battle flag of the Little Blue. Done by a vote of the people, through the Internet, the Reveille, via E-mail and at the Annual Picnic in July this flag will be seen in future publications.

## **Calendar**

### CWRTWMO – Regular August Meeting

Wednesday, August 11<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m.

Old Blake Museum – 106 E. Walnut Street

Program: “H. L. Hunley – Confederate Submarine” By  
Jim Beckner

### CWRTWMO Board Meeting

Wednesday, August 25<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m. at Beverly’s.

### Little Blue Battlefield Preservation Meeting

Tuesday, August 31<sup>st</sup>, 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 – September Meeting

Wednesday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m.

Old Blake Museum – 106 E. Walnut Street

Program: “Cole Camp” - Bob Owens & Lou Harms

### CWRTWMO Board Meeting

Wednesday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m. at Beverly’s.

### CWRTWMO – October Meeting

Wednesday, October 13<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m.

Old Blake Museum – 106 E. Walnut Street

Program: “American Battlefield Protection Program” by  
Connie Langum, Midwest Coordinator, National Park  
Service (Wilson’s Creek)

### Little Blue and Westport Tour – 140<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Saturday, October 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>

Bus tour - Little Blue, Big Blue, and Westport, in  
conjunction with the Kansas City Civil War Round  
Table and the Westport Historical Society.

### CWRTWMO Board Meeting

Wednesday, October 20<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m. at Beverly’s

### CWRTWMO – November Meeting

Wednesday, November 10<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m.

Old Blake Museum – 106 E. Walnut Street

Program: “Guerrillas in Elmwood Cemetery”

Presented by Richard Stewart, Elmwood Historian

### CWRTWMO Board Meeting

Wednesday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m. at Beverly’s.

### CWRTWMO Christmas Party

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

## **Everyone Is Invited**

### OCCASION:

A Party for Sonny's 1st Birthday in Heaven!

### DATE:

Sunday, September 5, 2004

### TIMES AND PLACES:

5:00 p.m. - Unveil Sonny's tombstone in a short  
ceremony at Glenridge Cemetery

5:45 p.m. - Potluck dinner and entertainment at The  
Boardwalk, 108 W. Washington, downtown Kearney,  
MO. (drinks, plates, etc. provided)

For more information please call Karen Wells at (816)  
628-9910

## **The Little Blue Picnic At Ripley Junction**

“Sizzle, Pop, Sizzle, Pop,” so went Harold Klukow’s  
grill at The Picnic. Nearly 40 hungry Round Table  
members and guests feasted on fare prepared by Jerry on  
this Wednesday, July 14<sup>th</sup>, evening, over his open flame  
operation. Hamburgers, hot dogs, fried chicken, and of  
course Fran’s cobbler, were among the treats enjoyed by  
all.

Special mention needs to be made once again for the  
generosity of Richard Abbott, who presented “The  
Group” with a new batch of birdhouses, free for the  
taking. They were quickly snatched up. Thanks much  
Richard, we really appreciate your kindness.

After the feast was concluded at the shelter house,  
discussion ensued about the beginning of The Battle of  
The Little Blue, which commenced at “the bridge  
crossing.” Dramatic readings concerning this crossing,  
were taken from soldiers’ diaries and journals and were  
orated by such individuals as Art Kelley, and John  
Martin. Now, who did I forget to mention? I know  
someone and I apologize for doing so.

Hopefully, Tom Garland’s grant will go through and a  
walking/biking trail can be constructed that mirrors the  
old “Lexington to Independence Road” that the soldiers  
used during the battle. As mentioned previously, the  
centerpiece of this project will be a re-created, wooden  
“covered bridge,” much the same as the one there on  
October 21, 1864. The great news is that we do have  
confirmation, from a soldier’s diary, that the bridge was a  
covered bridge during the battle!

The only sad note of the day was that the grass was too  
long for the traditional egg toss. Oh well, maybe next  
year.

## **Marion, Iowa Correction**

We recently reported that Marionville, Missouri, according to an exhibit at the Marion Historical Society in Marion, Iowa, was named after Swamp Fox Francis Marion of South Carolina Revolutionary War fame. Instead, Marionville, Missouri was named after John Marion Moore. We thank Betty Ergovich for providing correct information.

## **Summer Meeting and Program at Bates County Museum**

On Saturday, August 7, 2004, the Bates County Museum will host a day of "Remembering Lewis and Clark" from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Museum Annex on Elks Drive in Butler, Missouri. Bates County had one of the first settlements in Missouri at Harmony Mission in 1821. The First Kansas Colored Volunteer Infantry became the first black unit to see combat in the Civil War. Under the infamous Order #11, Bates County citizens were ordered to leave and all property was burned to the ground.

On August 7, 2004, the Missouri Conservation Department will bring hand hewn dugout canoes made from cottonwood and have interpreters in costume to explain how they were made and show examples of equipment used. Each canoe weights 3,000 pounds and has traveled 300 miles on the Missouri River.

Briscoe Lodge #54 will sell their wonderful brisket sandwiches around the lunch hour from their trailer on the south side of the building with seating in the shade or inside the building.

Bring your lawn chairs to set up for a 1:00 p.m. program given by Jim Two Crows Wallen who portrays George Shannon, the youngest member of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. The program is titled; "I Became Befuddled a Few Times, but I Weren't Never Lost." You can journey with Wallen as he meets the Indians, helps a dying friend, captures a prairie dog and conquers the native trails to the Pacific and back.

The Annex on Elks Drive will be open for this one day to see the progress being made in the remodeling. There will be booths for various organizations such as the Papinville Museum and the new Bates County Family History Center. You are invited for a fun day of interesting activities. There is no admission fee and all are welcome!

## **Jackson County Historical Society**

Director of the Jackson County Historical Society, Jim Giles, is stepping down, the organization recently announced.

Giles, who spent four years as executive director, will go to work for the National Kidney Foundation's local division. Giles plans to continue working with the society to help find a new director and finish planning various fall events.

## **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.

## **The Missouri Irish Brigade**

October 1-3, 2004 – Last Campaign in the West, Battle of Franklin, Spring Hill and Nashville.

October 23-24, 2004 – Battle of Mine Creek, Pleasanton, Kansas.

For additional information, contact the MIB: [jpbairkc@yahoo.com](mailto:jpbairkc@yahoo.com) or visit their website: <http://www.geocities.com/missouriirishbrigade/index.html>

## **Save the Little Blue Buttons**

Just \$1.00 each

