



August 2003

The Border Star

Monthly publication of the Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri, Inc.

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Meetings

Second Wednesday
of the month at 7 pm
at Blue Ridge Mall,
40 Hwy & I-70, in
the Community Room,

Visitors

Always

Welcome

for more information

Sonny Wells 628-9910

Tim Cox 478-8833

Beverly Shaw 478-7648

from the Pres...

The Western Outlaw and Lawmen Historical Association met in Kansas City July 17-19. Part of the program was a BBQ dinner at the James Farm on the evening of the 17th and a bus tour of famous outlaws graves on the 18th.

On the way to the James Farm the bus stopped off at Jesse's grave. Surprisingly, most of the people on the bus had never been to the grave.

My 5 year old grandson, Carson Wells, also showed up dressed up as a "Young Jesse" or so the picture in the Kearney paper called him.

More surprises were yet to come. As the bus pulled into the farm two horsemen rode up and started shooting into the air. The gunmen escorted the bus to the James Cabin where young Jesse took the mic. "O.K. everybody, this is a stick-up. Everybody off the bus and keep your hands up high", he said waving his wooden pistol (made by Grandpa Wells).

He then proceeded to pass among the passengers collecting their dimes and quarters. Even the bus driver contributed to the cause.

A small poster which showed pictures of Carson and his dad (our son, Kevin) stated "I was robbed by Little Jesse and his dad at the James Farm on June 17, 2003", was given out to the bus passengers.

In anticipation of a second bus I had been working with Larry and Helen Daniels on the bus route, the script and the stories to tell. They had done some research on their own and added many details to the script.

The second bus did not show up and the third bus canceled. Lucky for me as I was not doing to well that day and the Daniel's ended up having to handle the main bus, a 55 passenger job. They wore CWRTWMO nametags and did a simply outstanding job. Bonnie Sommerville was also there to help out when needed.

Our group was applauded for its efforts to mark graves and for the Monuments Book project. A freewill donation was taken and donated to the Round Table. In all \$86.00 was contributed. I told them the money would be used to place books in schools who up to this point do not have one.

The tour visited the graves of the Younger's, Ollie Shepherd, George Todd, the 2nd Colorado Memorial, Frank James, Clell Miller, plus the 1859 Jail, the Liberty Bank and the Howard Home in St. Joe.

Members of the group carried Frank's tombstone to his grave and set it up. Many, many pictures were taken. The stone was then taken back to my truck. Those carrying the marker away showed some emotion.

I received a very gracious thank you letter from Wilbur Zink, the program chairperson. He wrote many had told him this was the best tour they have ever had in the 12 year history of their group.

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On the Calendar

August-September, 2003

Wednesday, August 13th, 6:30 pm Special--The Little Blue Battlefield

**Ripley Junction Park Shelter House,
East 24 Hwy & Little Blue River.**

**Detailed explanation of the battle,
self guided tour to follow.**

Maps will be distributed.

Open to the Public

Lawn Chairs suggested as seating is limited

August 15-24

**8th Annual Civil War on the
Western Border, Lawrence, Ks.**

**If you missed "Ride with the Devil",
now is your chance to see it. It will be
shown 4 times during this event. FREE!**

Saturday, Aug. 16th & 23rd, 1-3:30 pm

Sunday, Aug. 17th & 24th, 1:30-4 pm

at Lawrence Visitors Center,

402 No. 2nd St. 785-865-4499

Saturday-Sunday, August 16-17

Battle of Lone Jack

Contact the Visitors Center for more info

Wednesday, August 20th, 7 pm

CWRTWMo Board Meeting

Site to be announced

Wednesday, September 10th, 7 pm

CWRTWMo Meeting

Community Room at Blue Ridge Mall

(Use North Mall Entrance)

**Open Round Table on
The Grinter Farm Fight**

Bring your notes-lets tell it all!

Special Note

**A workshop, sponsored by the National Park
Service and the Wilson's Creek National
Battlefield Foundation will be held on Friday and
Saturday, September 12-13, 2003, at the
Wilson's Creek Battlefield Visitors Center.
For more information contact the Battlefield
Office at 417-732-2662, Ext. 221.**

At the Board Meeting

The Board met on Wednesday, July 16, at 7 pm,
at Beverly Shaw's residence. Nine were present, two
had already informed me they would not be able to
attend. Several important items were discussed.

All present signed a get well card for Dr. Anderson
whose recent fall has left him incapacitated.

Special thanks to Beverly for the home made cookies
and ice cold sodas

REPORTS...

Historian Paul Tate--Recovering slowly. Will be
able to ride in car soon, he thinks.

The newsletter--90 printed, 86 mailed,
Bill submitted and paid.

Coffee Fund--Previous Bal. \$79.00, Spent 50.00
In Donation Jar \$--0-- New balance \$29.00,

Treasurer--Report submitted.

2nd V. P., Reported over 40 at picnic.

1st V. P., Passed out info on new highway project.

President--Reported on possible upcoming activities.

NEW BUSINESS

Call from KC Parks & Rec about helping restore
the old tablets, missing for several years, to the Swope
Park Flag Pole. One of the four tablets had excerpts
from Lincoln's Gettysburg Address.

Civil War Courier has offered a reduced price,
\$15 per year, to all Civil War Round Table members.
The newspaper is looking for more input about the
Border War and the War in the West.

What about using the 1859 Jail as a regular
meeting place? The 1st V.P. will look into this further.
Hope to have an answer by the September meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Tim shared some of the updated material on the
proposed new highway. Next month's meeting is
specifically set up to show everyone as much as
possible about the Little Blue Battlefield. Maps will be
handed out for use on a self guided tour. The public is
invited to set in on this meeting. Notices are being
sent to all local papers.

Support Group? Is it time to set up a Little Blue
Battlefield Support Group to help educate the public
about the battlefield and raise funds to put down
markers to better explain what happened at this site?
Many believe that time has come.

The September meeting will be an Open Round
Table on the Grinter Farm Ambush and the resulting
monument to the 2nd Colorado Cavalry in Woodlawn
Cemetery. Bring your articles and books, let's get it
down correctly for once, if that is possible.

from the Prez, con't

Although the WOLA convention was a big job to get done these past 3 weeks, it was not the only thing going on.

Tim has been working hard getting information about the proposed **Missouri River Corridor Highway** project which we fear will affect several Historic sites in our area including the Little Blue Battlefield.

Tim will update us on his findings at the August 13th meeting. He is hoping to get enough public interest to set up a meeting to organize a Little Blue support group opposing the proposed new highway.

Beverly made the arrangements for us to use the **Ripley Junction Park and Shelter House**. That is what Jackson County Parks and Recreation now calls the former Little Blue Battlefield Park. They ask that we be out by Sundown, about 8:15.

We will start grilling the brats and dogs at 6:30, start the program by 7:00. No business meeting. Could use some chips, maybe even a flashlight and lawn chairs.

Elmwood Cemetery has a new fella digging into the old records trying to find a Quantrillmen buried on their grounds. I gave him 3 names from Ms. Julian Evans' list which she showed as possible Q's, burial unknown. He found all three buried at Elmwood. Turns out they were all Confederates who attended the Wallace Grove reunions but none of them rode with Quantrill.

Frank James' Government issued Confederate tombstone will be on display at the Clay County Archives and Historical Library through the first of September. It will then be on display at other James related sites until the end of April 2004. The 1859 Jail, which had indicated they wanted to have it on display changed their mind. Ms. Church said it was too controversial and since it was not on his grave when they buried him there, why put it there now. The truth be known, the marker that is on the grave now was not there the day he was buried. Should we remove it also?

The folks on the WOLA Tour had a few comments about the situation, none of which are printable.

Update on Monument Books. There are now only 18 of the Second Printing color books remaining. There are also 5 of the First Printing remaining, which we set back some time ago. There are about 100 of the Black & White books remaining.

On the Calendar of Events I forgot to mention the upcoming Ice Cream Social sponsored by the Westport Historical Society on Saturday, August 16th, 2:00-4:00. Call Beverly for details, 478-7648..

New Civil War C.D.

Memories of the Boys in Blue

Produced by D.E.W. Music

9246 Madison, Omaha, Nebr. 68127

Retail \$15

"...a tribute to all veterans, not just the Civil War veterans.."the intro states. This one has mostly songs of the G.A.R. and mostly songs you may have never heard before.

The Boys who wear the Blue are Turning Grey,
Our Grand Old Veterans,

I'm a Veteran of '63,

Memorial Hymn to the G.A.R. and

The Unknown Blue and Gray,

just to name a few. The disc is a limited edition offering. Over a dozen songs in all plus some poems and recitations.

Made in Omaha by Ware House Productions.

I was robbed by *Little Jesse* & his dad at the James Farm, Kearney, Missouri July 17, 2003



Little Jesse on Shadow

Special Meeting OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

**Wednesday, Aug. 13, 2003
6:45 pm**

**Ripley Junction Park
(a/k/a/ Little Blue Park)
East 24 Hwy & Little Blue River**

**The Battle of the Little Blue,
Day 1 of the Battle of Westport**

**A detailed description of the battle
to be followed by information on the
proposed new highway which could
drastically affect the battlefield.**

**Self guiding maps of the
battlefield and adjoining
area will be given out.**

**Copies of the 1989 Battle of Westport
Commemorative Booklet will be
available at the original \$3.00 price.**

**PROGRAM IS FREE
TO ALL**

(Bring your own lawnchairs)

Directions to site

**Take 24 Hwy east past Salem Church
Stoplight. First right past McCune Home
turn off takes you right to the park.**

Sponsored by

**The Civil War Round Table
of Western Missouri, Inc.**

Notes on the WOLA Tour

It was surprising how many of those registered for the seminar had not been to Jesse's grave or any other of the sites on the tour.

These were Civil War and Old West enthusiasts from all over the country and even one from Canada.

The big bus, 55 passengers, was followed by 8 cars full of people we could not get on the bus.

Many followed the bus because they were afraid they would not be able to find Jesse's grave and then the James Farm without specific directions.

It was more surprising how many had no idea where Cole younger was buried, or who Ollie Shepherd was, where George Todd was buried and even Frank James. One fella from Oklahoma thought Frank was buried in Oklahoma.

They were many comments from the tourists about how great the tour was. Actually, this tour was not even hard to put together. It was harder to glean the data down to what there was time to talk about between stops.

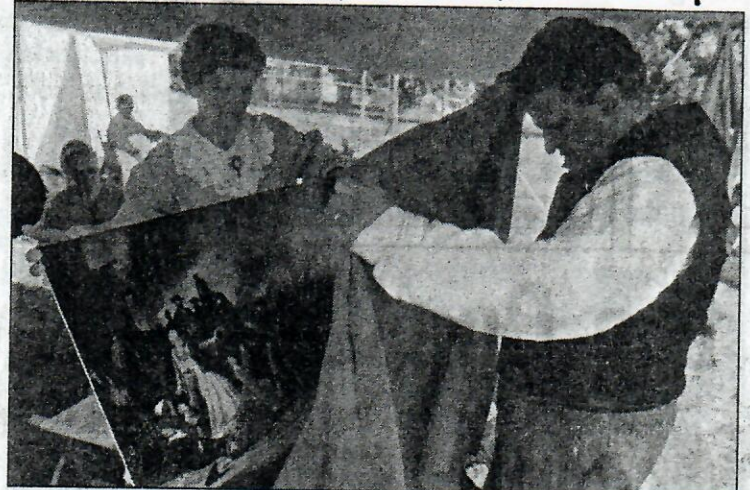
My original 3 page script became 7 pages by the time Larry and Helen got done with it.

Starting with Will Turpin's unmarked grave over by World's of Fun and ending with the inscription on Fielding Kenley's grave "Here lies a Confederate Soldier", the Historical data was simply outstanding.

They even touched on the old Railway Station where Cole used to sit and rock while chewing on an old cigar and wave at the passengers as trains passed.

Even the bus driver said it was one of the most interesting tours he had ever driven. Plus, it was the first time he had ever been robbed.

Do You Remember this? What Year?



PAUL BEAVER/The Examiner

Tim Cox, right, of Independence as George Caleb Bingham covers his photograph of Bingham's painting "Marshal Law" (Order Number 11) with help from Karen Wells of Kearney, Mo., at the Civil War encampment.