

July 2003

The Border Star

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

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NEWSLETTER

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MEETINGS

The second Wednesday
of the month at 7 pm,
July-Annual Picnic.
Fall-Historic Tour.
December meeting is
Annual Christmas Party

**Visitors
Always
Welcome**

from the Pres...

Most of the over two dozen who attended the June meeting were shocked to learn of the new highway which will cut the Little Blue Battlefield in half and even destroy part of the battlefield area. Lucky Mason, whose property lies adjacent to the new highway's proposed site, had called me asking for time to inform those at the meeting of the proposed plan. Nearly everyone there signed a petition opposing the plan and several sent E-mails to the MDot web site. Maybe, just maybe, some of the millions scheduled to be spent on this boondoggle highway could be used to repair some of the roads which are in need of fix up at this time.

While Karen and I were in Montana, some new data about the Little Big Horn came out. A high percentage of the men in the 7th Cavalry were Civil War Veterans and some of them were rather well known. The Sunday, June 22nd issue of the Billings Gazette had color photos of some of the drawings made by a participant in the battle and interviews with some of the Indians who fought there. (See last page of this issue for some of the information)

Paul Tate is home after some back surgery. He expects to be at the picnic. Please...no back slapping this year.

Beverly Shaw reports the Junior Women's Symphony presented a check to the Kansas City Symphony for over \$130,000, most of which was proceeds from the Volker Estate Home Tour.

Beverly also donated a copy of H. C. Cornuelle's book, *Mr. Anonymous*, to our book collection. Many pictures of old Kansas City are in the book.

The Tornadoes which raced through the Northland a few weeks back did more damage than many realize. Among the buildings scheduled to be razed during the cleanup are the first Henry C. Routt home, just east of William Jewell College. This is the home, along with a big barn, where most of the goods removed from the Liberty Arsenal were hidden. This is a major loss to the Civil War buffs in the Liberty area.

The Clay County Archives Building also suffered some damage, mostly a few broken windows, when the big storm cloud passed within a half a block of the building. Just a block north of the building over 30 homes suffered major damage and hundreds of trees were uprooted.

Shall we do a Little Blue Battlefield Tour this Fall? We did not do one last year. Proposed date--Saturday, October 18th. Or maybe late September. Cost will have to be \$5 per person as bus rates have gone up.

On the Calendar

July-August, 2003

**Friday, July the Fourth
Independence Day**

Fly the Colors

Wednesday, July 9th, 6-9 pm

Our 11th Annual Picnic

Phil Roberts Park/Pitcher Cemetery

**Blue Ridge Blvd. & Blue Ridge Extension
(about one mile north of Royal's Stadium)**

Bring a dessert or salad, or surprise us.

**Church's Chicken, coffee, tea, sodas, ice, cups,
will be furnished. (Lawn Chairs will not.)**

Please bring your own tableware

Saturday, July 12th, 9:30 am

**Program--Understanding 19th
Century Tombstones**

Mid-Continent Library Genealogical Center

24 Hwy & North Main, Independence

Public Invited, No Fee

Wednesday, July 16th, 7 pm

CWRTWMO Board Meeting

Site to be announced

August 15-24

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

*Pamphlet will be available at the picnic
listing dates and times of activities.*

**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

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.

Pre-registration preferred but not required.

At the Board Meeting

The Board met on Wednesday, June 18, 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 Paul Tate.

REPORTS...

Historian Paul Tate--will miss a couple of meetings due to recent back surgery.

The newsletter--80 printed, 80 mailed, 4 more copied. Bill submitted and paid.

Coffee Fund--Previous Bal. \$65.00, Spent 11.85

In Donation Jar \$16.50, New balance \$69.65,

Treasurer--Report submitted.

2nd V. P., Reported 27 present at June meeting.

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

President--Reported on possible upcoming activities.

NEW BUSINESS

More and more libraries and groups are asking for a copy of our newsletter. Should we increase the number we print and how shall we cover the cost.

Currently costs about 67 cents per copy but is likely to go up slightly, especially if stamps go up and copies start costing more.

Suggestion was made to offer a \$9.00 per year, "Newsletter" category to our mailing list. Notice of same will be in our next two newsletters. Effective startup date is September of 2003.

Our June speaker had to attend the funeral of his brother in Illinois and asked to re-schedule his program for a later date. In his place I did a program on the Medal of Honor Recipients of the Siege of Vicksburg. Interviews with several of the men were part of the presentation. Copies of these interviews will be available at the picnic thanks to head copy maker Sharon Kelly. These interviews make shambles of what you read in the History books. They are really worth reading. Of the 16 men who received the Medal while fighting in a Missouri unit, only 2 were actually from Missouri.

OLD BUSINESS

Now that the trip to Montana is out of the way we can get the book labeling project going. I have purchased the new labels and will be printing them as soon as the newsletter is in the mail. I hope to be able to have a "Labeling Party" on July 12th or 13th.

We will not be able to have our Christmas Party at the Liberty Church this year. One of the classes has a Christmas Luncheon scheduled for the first Saturday, the day we usually use. How about the 1859 Jail, and invite the volunteers to join us?

ODDS & ENDS

Gettysburg

The big 140th Anniversary Battle of Gettysburg Re-enactment, originally scheduled for the first weekend in July, has been canceled and re-scheduled for mid August.. Heavy rains, almost daily over the last three weeks, left the campsites standing in water. Mowers were unable to get into the fields and health problems were a major consideration.

Over 18,000 confirmed reservations had been made by reenactors and reenactment groups. That number is expected to drop dramatically.

The Newsletter

An increasing number of libraries, Civil War interest groups and other interested groups have expressed an interest in receiving our regular monthly newsletter. While we are flattered at the interest this does present a financial problem for the group.

The average newsletter costs us about 70 cents to get in the mail. Broken down it is thus:

| | |
|--------------------------------|------|
| Copies, front & back, per copy | .24 |
| Stamps, | .37 |
| Envelopes, 80 in a box, \$1.99 | .025 |
| Return Label, 60 per sheet | .015 |
| Mailing Label, 30 per sheet | .03 |

Just 10 special requests cost us an extra \$7.00 per month. We currently have 12 such requests and are sending to all who have requested copies..

It is possible a new editor will be taking over the newsletter after the first of the year, but for now it is my plan to continue to use the 4 page set up with pages 1 and 2 for business and calendar purposes and pages 3 and 4 for historical and special interest items. I am always open to suggestions on improving this format and welcome items from other members. But we need some help to keep the newsletter going.

Effective with the October 2003 issue I will mail newsletters only to those groups who have become a "Special Interest Member". The cost will be \$9.00 per year, which is about half of our annual membership fee.

Representatives of such member groups would be welcome to attend meetings, dinners, picnics and the Christmas Party, but most likely would not.

I anticipate some increase costs within the next year and that is why I am suggesting \$9 instead of \$8.

Members and other Civil War Round Table groups will continue to receive the newsletter at no cost.

The Board of Directors considered this at the last meeting and wants to know how others feel about such a move. Please, members and associates, drop us a line and let us know how you feel about this proposal.

The Proposed New Highway

Lucky Mason and two of his neighbors attended the MDot hearing about the new highway. The news they came home with was shocking, to say the least.

The main battlefield at the Little Blue would be cut in half, the rock formation Col. Moonlight placed his cannons on would be completely bulldozed, a church, a school, a cemetery and a funeral home would all be affected, not to mention the main street area of Sugar Creek.

Special time was set aside at the June 11th meeting for Mr. Glass and Mr. Swanson to show the plans to those at the meeting. All letters, pro or con, had to be received by MDot by June 16th.

Some of the group took down the E-mail address, others of us signed a petition which was forwarded to the planning committee.

Lucky told us that engineers were at the Moore House last week taking soil samples and core samples. How about those soldiers in the unmarked graves by the Moore House. How will this affect them, or will it? Maybe now is the time to get markers up at the Little Blue, the well, Moonlight's artillery position, the Moore House, and maybe a few others.

From the outline, some 400 pages of it, it is clear the planners know the area was a battlesite, but maybe they do not know the full extent of the battle area.

Just so all of our members know the extent of this battle, the first day of the 3 day Battle of Westport, let us adjust our meeting schedule and plan on meeting at the Little Blue Battlefield Park on the second Wednesday in August and having an in depth look at the area and the engagements in that area.

The Vicksburg Program

When Kent Pooi had to go to Illinois for a family funeral, I filled in for him by keeping the subject on the Siege of Vicksburg but changing the text to the Medal of Honor Recipients of the same encounter.

In all, 16 were awarded to men who fought in Missouri units, although only 2 of them were actually from Missouri.

In 1897, a Chicago newspaper printed interviews with some of those who had recently been awarded the belated Medals. What the veterans had to say was not exactly what the History books say, and they said it with great detail. Some thought their Medals came from the Congress, others correctly identified the source of the Medals as the War Department. Included in the maps was a detailed drawing of the Confederate defenses at Vicksburg. Copies of some of the interviews will be available at the picnic.

Wooden Leg, a Cheyenne warrior at the Little Bighorn battle, drew scenes from the battle many years later. The drawings are now at Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument. In this drawing, Wooden Leg captures a soldier's rifle during the Reno retreat.

Even in Little Bighorn victory, Cheyenne losses were significant

Stories By **LORNA THACKERAY**
Of The Gazette Staff

The night before the 7th Cavalry found the huge Indian village stretched for miles along the Little Bighorn River, Cheyenne warriors danced until dawn in their camp circles.

None knew that so many soldiers were so close or how ready the Army was to engage in battle.

Surely these young men, many in the immortal stages of adolescence, never imagined this social dance could be their last. They flirted and talked with young women and visited the camps of their Sioux allies.

"Everybody thought, 'Now we are out of the white man's country. He can live there; we will live here,'" Cheyenne Chief Two Moon told an interviewer for McClure's Magazine in 1898.

From the Lakota camp down river, Sitting Bull sent a message telling everyone to prepare for a big celebration.

"Cheyennes then went to work to cook, cut up tobacco and get ready," Two Moon said. "We all thought to dance all day. We were very glad to think we were far away from the white man."



Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument

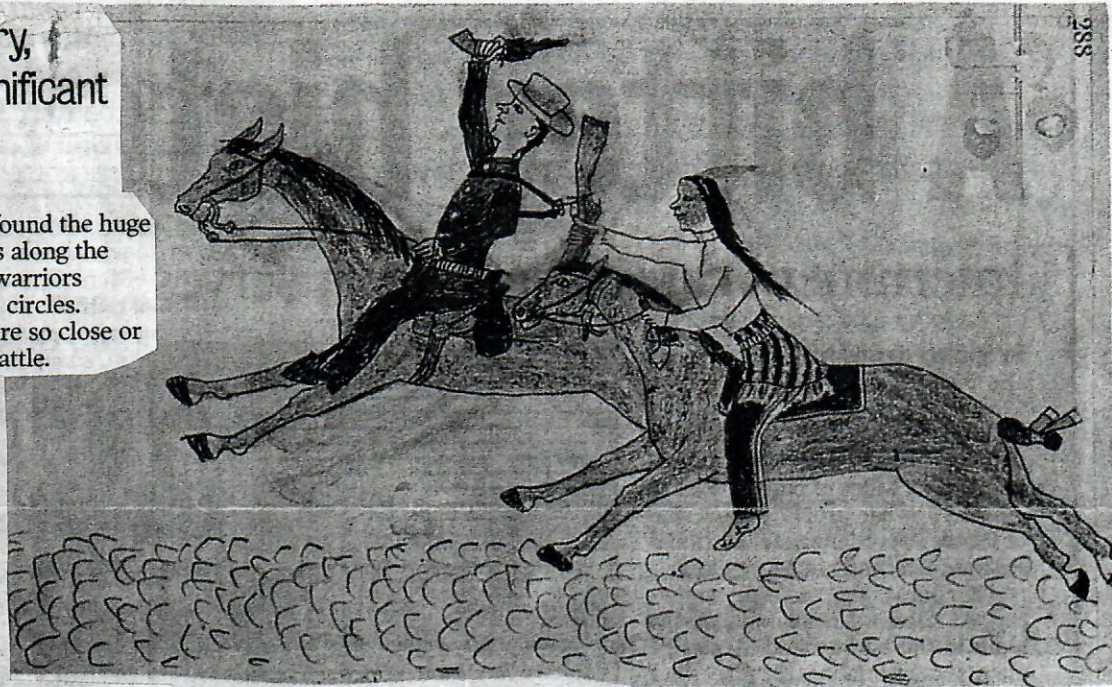
In drawing at top, Wooden Leg takes a rifle from a Seventh Cavalry trooper who died at the Little Bighorn River during Reno's retreat.

Late on the morning of June 25, 1876, while some in the camp were still resting, three companies of soldiers under the command of Maj. Marcus Reno crossed the river and attacked the sprawling village. Alarm spread along the Little Bighorn from Sitting Bull's camp to the Cheyenne circles, which were farthest upstream.

Warriors sent for their horses, painted for battle and rode out to meet their fates.

Roman Nose, a boy of about 16, joined two Lakota warriors in pursuit of Reno's men as they retreated back across the river toward the bluffs on the opposite side. He was shot on the west side of the river.

Little Whirlwind, also about 16, died in a confrontation near the river with one of the Arikara scouts recruited by Reno's boss, Lt. Col. George A. Custer.



Some of the Northern Cheyenne casualties are referred to as the 'Suicide Boys.' These young men vowed to fight to the death in attacking the soldiers. Thought to be among their number were Noisy Walking, about 18; Limber Bones (Limberhand), about 20; Closed Hand and Cut Belly, about 30. Wooden Leg believed that all were unmarried and had no children.

Limber Bones and another warrior named Black Bear, about 20, died not far from the new memorial northeast of Last Stand Hill. Noisy Walking was severely wounded near where Lame White Man, the Southern Cheyenne war leader, was killed — probably by a Sioux who had mistaken him for a cavalry scout.

Markers for Noisy Walking and Lame White Man have recently been placed where they fell just west of Last Stand Hill.

Noisy Walking died the next day in his parents' lodge shortly after Wooden Leg visited him.

"As I sat there looking at Noisy Walking, I knew he was going to die," Wooden Leg told Marquis. "My heart was heavy. But I could not do him any good, so I excused myself and went away."

Cut Belly was mortally wounded somewhere in the vicinity of the present national cemetery and died a few days later when the tribe had moved to the Powder River.

Other names on the Cheyenne list of fallen are Black Cloud, Black Coyote, Black Fox, Closed Hand, Flying By, Full Beard, Hair Lip, Hump Nose, Left Hand, Old Man, Own Red Horse, Swift

Cloud, Young Bear and an unknown Cheyenne woman.

When interviewed after the battle, many of the warriors said only six or seven Cheyenne died as a result of the battle. The accounts could have underestimated casualties because those interviewed may not have been aware of casualties outside their immediate circle or those who died later.

Some of the discrepancy may be chalked up to confusion over the interpreters' translation of Cheyenne names. Black Cloud, Black Coyote and Black Fox, for instance, might be the same person. So might Little Whirlwind and Swift Cloud or Hump Nose and Roman Nose.

Those who died were not left on the battlefield, but buried in the traditional way in cliffs, caves and rock outcrops.

The losses of those young men rippled through the Cheyenne circles.

"My heart that had been made glad because of the victory was made sad by thoughts of our own dead and dying men and their mourning relatives left behind," Wooden Leg said.

He said that the mourners tore down their lodges, cut them to pieces and burned them. Everything inside was abandoned.

"These bereft people, according to our customs, now had to live during their time of mourning without any lodge or any property of their own," Wooden Leg said. "They dwelt outside or with hospitable friends."

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