

June 2003

The Border Star

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

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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...

About a dozen were on the tour to visit some of the lesser known monuments as shown in the new book. Visitors Kent Tooie, who served as our official photographer, and Peggy Smith, Historian for the Westport Historical Society were welcome editions to the group.

The Order #11 Memorial, on Red Bridge Road by the former City Hall Annex, is in bad need of repair, although I do not know of a single person who would contribute funds to repair it.

The only trouble spot was in finding the Olathe Cemetery. I swear they must have moved that thing. We were only two blocks from it and drove right past it. Eventually everyone made it to the site. We probably all asked the same policeman for directions.

The meeting at the Clay County Archives and Historical Library was to allow our people to become more familiar with the facility and its staff people, who are all volunteers, and the amazing amount of Genealogical and Historical data kept there. All marriages since before 1820, all court and probate records since 1822, Old school records, cemetery records and obits going back over 150 years, and now they are working on a master index of all such records. All this and only 5 file folders of data on the Civil War.

After the meeting I took the Board members on a quick tour of the tornado damaged area at William Jewell College and the area to the east along H Highway. To put it simply...you won't believe it until you see it.

The set up at the Strawberry Festival at Antioch Community Church was a fun time. The reaction of some of the youngsters to laying on the rope bed was rather surprising. No one stayed on it for more than 5 seconds!

Even the adults got into the knickers game. Some of them actually caught the ball in the cup and got a free mint for their efforts.

As usual it was the weapons display which received the most attention. See Odd's & Ends article for more info.

Our July meeting will be our annual picnic. Pitcher Cemetery/Phil Roberts Park will be the site. More info in next month's newsletter.

The B & W reprints of the Civil War Monuments and Memorials book arrived on May 5th. The color reprints will be available in mid June.

A sticker which says..."Donated to your school library by (Name), a member of the Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri, Inc.", is being put on the back of the cover of each book which someone sponsors. Corporate sponsors may change the wording if they wish.

On the Calendar

June-July, 2003

Wednesday, June 11th, 7 pm

CWRTWMo. Meeting

Missourians at the Siege of Vicksburg

Speaker Kent E. Tooi,

**Feature Writer, Sun Newspapers of the Northland
at Blue Ridge Mall Community Room**

Saturday, June 14

Flag Day

Fly the Colors

Wednesday, June 18th, 7 pm

CWRTWMo. Board Meeting

at Beverly Shaw's

Friday, July the Fourth

Independence Day

Fly the Colors

Wednesday, July 9th, 6 pm to 9 pm

Our 11th Annual Picnic,

Pitcher Cemetery & Bud Roberts Park

Blue Ridge Blvd. & Blue Ridge Extension

(About 1 mile north of Royals' Stadium)

Covered Dish Dinner

**(I'd put bring a dish but someone would
ask if she had to be a blonde!)**

Coffee, Sodas & Ice furnished

Saturday, July 12th, 9:30 am

Program--Understanding Tombstones

Mid-Continent Library Genealogical Center

24 Hwy & North Main, Independence

Public Invited, No Fee

Wednesday, July 16th, 7 pm

CWRTWMo Board Meeting

Blue Ridge Mall Community Meeting Room

Special Note

Karen and I will be out of the area from

Thursday, June 19th thru Wednesday, June 25th.

**Should you need any assistance during our
absence, contact Tim Cox, 478-8833,**

Beverly Shaw, 478-7648 or Terry McConnell

At the Board Meeting

The Board met on Wednesday, May 28 at 7 pm, at the Clay County Archives and Historical Library in Liberty. Ten board members and two visitor were present. Several important items were discussed.

OPENING TOPIC--Explanation of how the Archives operates and extent of their records. Group took a short tour of the facility and discussed how our book collection would benefit their work.

Motion to place our book collection in the Archives facility was made and seconded. Motion passed 10 to zero with one abstention.

REPORTS...

Historian Paul Tate--need copies of old newsletters for State Archives and KC Public Library.

The newsletter--80 printed, 79 mailed,

Bill for \$50.92 submitted and paid.

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

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

Treasurer--Reported submitted.

2nd V. P., reported 24 present at May meeting.

1st V. P., Excused--illness

President--Reported on Strawberry Festival

OLD BUSINESS

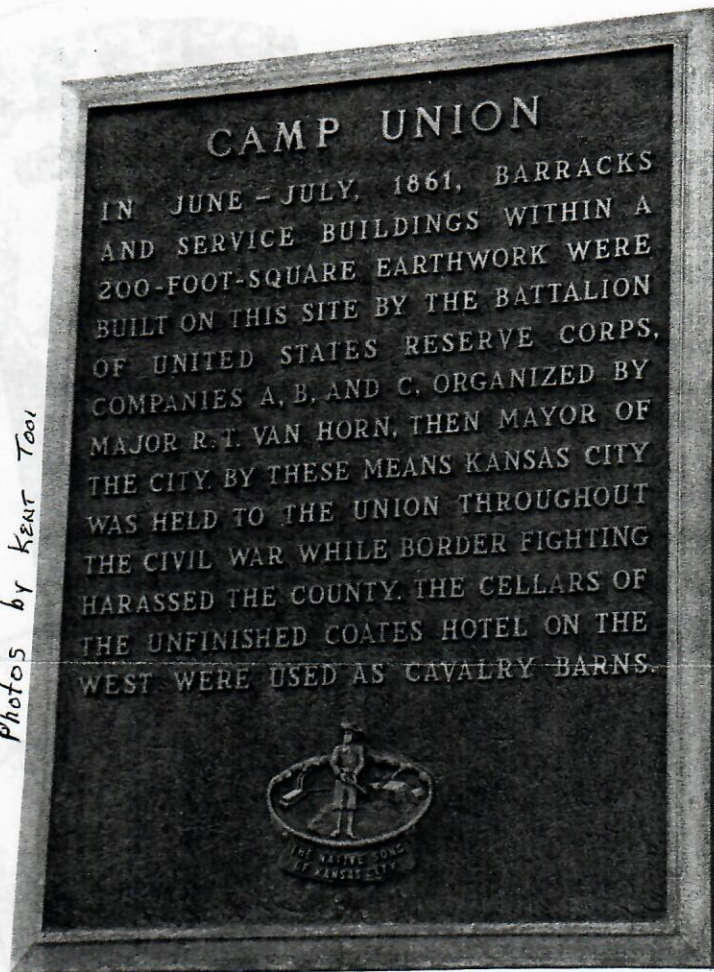
Monuments and Memorials book now being sold at the James Farm Visitors Center. Very soon at Bingham-Waggoner House and at Westport Historical Society. Jim Beckner has asked for some books for the Greater KC Round Table. Ads will appear in KC Star and Northland papers next week. New printing of color edition expected in mid-June. Three already spoken for. over 20 of B & W edition now sold.

The Board voted to turn all the data collected during the research for the Monuments book to be donated to the Clay County Archives and Historical Library to preserve for future use by our members or others following up on our project.

The speaker at our June 11th meeting will be Kent Tooi of Kearney. Kent is a Civil War and Medal of Honor buff who is also a free lance writer. His topic will be Missourians at the Siege of Vicksburg. Be prepared for some surprises. While it is true Missourians fought on both sides at the site many of those who in federal blue with Missouri units may not have actually been from Missouri.

OLD BUSINESS

Only 5 of the first printing of the Monuments book remain and these are being kept back to present to speakers or other special occasions. One has been added to the book collection.



William H. Ward
Medal of Honor
Seige of Vicksburg

On May 3, 1863, attempted to run shore batteries in an old tug boat pulling two barges laden with supplies bound for General Grant's forces.

Under the guns of his Confederate captors, made several trips back into the raging river to rescue injured crew members.

POW

Awarded
 Jan. 2, 1895

Buried
 Highland Park
 Cemetery,
 Kansas City, Ks.



Odds & Ends

The Board did not meet on the third Wednesday, as usual because so many were out of town, for one reason or another, we could not have had a quorum.

The Board Meeting was held on Wednesday, May 28, at 7 pm at the Clay County Archives and Historical Museum Building, the former Frank Hughes Memorial Library, 210 East Franklin Street, in Liberty.

A & E is doing a new program about Clay Counties' favorite son, Jesse. I spoke with one of the script writers for nearly an hour and gave them a few ideas. Basically, I said he is more folklore than fact. He did not father 32 children and he certainly did not rob 26 banks.

As for the "supposed Jesse's" in Grandbury, Texas, and southeast Kansas, Buffalo Chips!!!

I attended the big Civil War Camps at Grandbury for several years. I have pictures of J. Frank Dalton's grave when the marker said "J. Frank Dalton", gave the dates, and under that said "also known as Jesse James". Who are they trying to kid? Only themselves.

When the new "Jesse James" marker was placed it was put down on the grave one space north of where the old J. Frank Dalton marker had been. The result was they dug up the wrong body a few years back. Will the stories ever cease?

The Civil War display at the Strawberry Festival at Antioch Community Church went over very well. We had over 500 visitors. Even Pastor Brown got into the spirit and dressed as a Civil War Minister.

Thanks to all those who helped out in setting up the tent and setting up the displays. Special thanks to those who helped Karen pack everything away and take down the tent. as I was out of gas by that time.

Then there is Jennifer. This young lady walked up to the tent and asked if she could assist in any way. Turns out she was just out walking after being stranded by a late arriving bus and put up in a motel overnight. She was sent by an Angel, in my opinion.

Turns out she is a recent graduate of a college in Galveston, Texas, and was on her way to attend a girlfriend's wedding in Aberdeen, South Dakota, when the bus schedule got messed up. Her help was most appreciated. So was the hug I got when she left. Before you get to flustered about the hug...bear in mind that Karen was there and also got a hug.

Steve and Carol Olson, volunteers at the Clay County Archives and Historical Museum, were also on hand to help out. They also had info about the Archives to hand out.

Government Issued Tombstones for Civil War Veterans

There are several different kinds of Veterans' grave markers issued by the Veterans Administration. Any honorably discharged veteran, including Confederate veterans, are eligible for the markers if they meet established guidelines.

Originally, starting in 1866, every discharged veteran was eligible for a marker. Over the years that has changed considerably.

The original markers were 10" wide, 3 and 3/4 inches thick and 23-25 inches long. They were made of a soft Georgia Marble and weighed about 180 pounds. Only 16 inches stuck out of the ground and many times not even that much.

The lettering, inside the outline of a federal shield, was all in straight lines, "Geo. Smith", followed by "Co. E" and his unit, "30 S. C. H. A." (South Carolina Heavy Artillery). It was not uncommon to omit the soldier's rank on these early markers.

Smith's is a typical **10 inch, Type A** marker, many times very hard to read.

If the name was longer, it may have been necessary to arch the name to get it on the stone. This is called a Type B marker. **Geo. B. Foot, Co. C, 62 Ill. Inf.** is an example of a **12 inch, Type B** marker, note the slightly altered, deeper outline on the shield and better defined letters. The name is arched, as mentioned, but the company and unit remain in straight lines.

There was also a third style of marker called a Type C. On this style the name is completely arched, much like a semi-circle. This style is quite rare in 10 inch markers, much more common in the 12 inch style. **Aninbury Hayden, Co. F, 33rd U. S. C. T.** (U. S. Colored Troops) is an example of a **10 inch, Type C** marker.

The 10 inch markers were used until the Veterans Law of 1887 was passed. One of the provisions of this law was to increase the size of the grave markers.

The markers were now to be 12 inches wide, a full 4 inches thick, and 37-39 inches long. They were to stick out of the ground 24 inches and now weighted from 215 to 230 pounds.

After 1900, the use of a first name and middle initial became more common. The Type A straight line name was used very little and the arch, Type B, and semi-circle, Type C, became common. Rank was still optional but became more common.

In 1927, markers for Confederate Veterans buried in National Cemeteries was approved. A peaked top with a wreath carved into the face near the top and the letters "C.S.A." at the bottom of the lettering appear on all such markers.

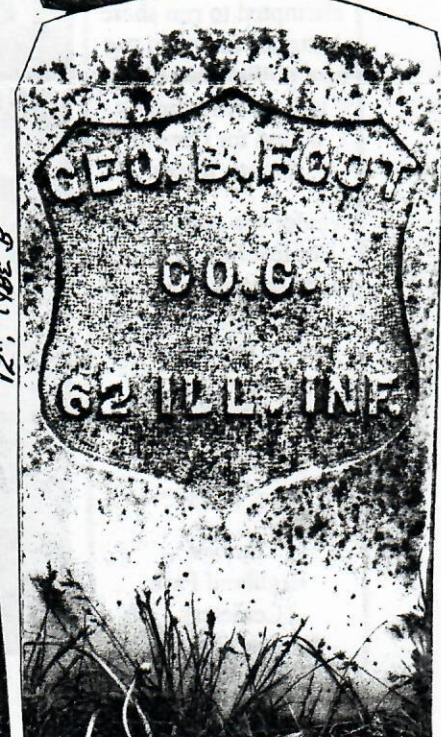
Other changes have come about over the years which have affected who is eligible for a V. A. Marker. For instance, if your name already appears on a private or family marker you are not eligible for the V. A. issued marker. This is why the markers placed at the Camden Point Cemetery a couple of years ago were not legal.

V. A. also requires the marker must be placed on the exact grave of the veteran.

In 1974, a provision was added to provide for a special Medal of Honor Memorial Marker, as part of the Bi-Centennial Celebration. A Medal of Honor recipient is eligible for a marker even if he already has a private marker or previously issued V. A. marker. The previously issued V. A. marker is supposed to be destroyed when the new Medal of Honor marker is placed.

In 1994, the law was changed to make the upright stone markers flat faced with all lettering and outlines engraved into the stone. There is also a flat 12 inch by 24 inch marker available, in both regular and Medal of Honor style.

Another recent change allows mention of the Purple Heart, Silver Star, Bronze Star, Navy Cross and Distinguished Service Cross on the tombstone if the veteran had been awarded any of these decorations.



PHOTOS BY KENT KOOL