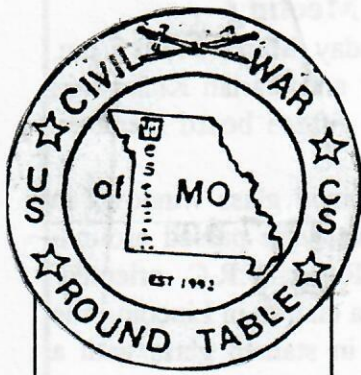


April 2003

The Border Star

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



2003 OFFICERS

President	Harold F. Wells
1st Vice Pres.	Timothy A. Cox
2nd V. P.	Arthur Kelley
Secretary	Karen Wells
Treasurer	Beverly Shaw
Historian	Paul Tate

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dr. Gerald W. Anderson
Michael Calvert
Tom Carroll
Harriett Lionberger
Robert L. Mason
Terry McConnell
Kelton Smith
Charlotte Tindall
Randall Todd

NEWSLETTER

Sonny Wells

MAILING ADDRESS

C. W. R. T. of W. Mo. Inc.
17216 N.E. 134th Terr.
Kearney, Mo. 64060-8909

TELEPHONE

Sonny (816) 628-9910
Beverly (816) 478-7648
Tim (816) 478-8833

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...

Because of the uncertainty surrounding the use of the meeting room this newsletter will be mailed a day or two later than usual.

A formal request, complete with copies of our Articles of Incorporation, the liability insurance policy, a cover letter about our tax exempt status and other documents showing community activities we are involved in, was presented to the President of the Metropolitan Community Colleges on Tuesday, April 1st. As of this mailing, no answer to our request.

Important...Beverly has checked out the Community Meeting Room at Blue Ridge Mall. It is big enough and easy to get to, Program on preservation of documents by Jonathan Casey of the Liberty Memorial Staff.

Directions--From the east--Exit I-70 at the Hwy 40 exit. Stay in left lane, turn left. Take a right at first stoplight. Past Appleby's to Community Lane entrance. Enter, past Post Office, down one level by steps or elevator.

From west--use Sterling exit to light at 43rd. Left to 1st Mall entrance.

The finding of the Camp Union marker is due in large part to Orvis Fitts, former President of the Civil War Round Table of Greater Kansas City and former Chairman of the Howard Monnett Battle of Westport Fund.

After talking with me Orvis put in a call to George Hicks, another long time Round Table member. George then called Cal Padgett. It was Cal who remembered where the Native Sons of Kansas City had re-installed the marker after the Coates House Fire. Thanks to Orvis, George and Cal, and let us not forget Peggy Smith, for their help in locating the marker.

I have been requested to do a series of programs on Civil War related topics starting in July by the Mid-Continent Library system. A complete listing will appear in a future newsletter.

There is a pre-Civil War Living History event scheduled at Fort Scott the week before Easter. Over the years many of us have made the two hour trek down there to see this event.

Call the Fort or the Fort Scott Chamber of Commerce for more information.

I have begun the task of turning over all of my files and records to Historical groups in the area. In February I gave the Clay County Archives a bunch of stuff relating to Clay County and the Civil War in that area and the Confederates buried in that county.

On Manday, March 31st, I met with the President of the Union Cemetery Historical Society and turned over to him hundreds of documents relating to the Civil War soldiers buried there and the tours I did there for several years.

The records I turned over to Cass County a year ago have been returned.

On the Calendar

April May 2003

Wednesday, April 9th, 7 pm
Blue Ridge Mall Community Room

See directions in *from the Prez*.

Program will be on preservation of
old pictures and documents.

ALSO-Discussion on what programs
would you like to have.
Make plans to be there.

Wednesday, April 16, 7 pm
Board Meeting

At Beverly & Jerry's house

Tuesday, April 22, 9 am

Battle of Big Blue Tour

Pastor Royce's Jolly 60's Group

Part 2 of 3 part series

Weekend of April 25-27

Battle of Pea Ridge Reenactment

Keokuk, Iowa

This is a good one. If you have an interest
in this battle, you should plan to attend

Saturday, May 3, 9 am

Civil War Monuments Tour

(Not a CWRTWMo. event)

Meet at Harris Kearney House

Thursday, May 8, 5 pm

Designer Showcase Docents

Contact Beverly Shaw if you are
not already signed up.

Wednesday, May 14, 7 pm

Regular Meeting, CWRTWMo

Site yet to be determined

Program on the Battle of New Market, Va.
The Charge of the VMI Cadets

Wednesday, May 21, 7pm

Board Meeting

at Beverly & Jerry's home

Friday, May 23, 4 pm-Dusk

150th Anniversary Strawberry Festival,

Antioch Community Church

Set up Civil War Display

At the Board Meeting

The Board met on Wednesday, March 26, at 7 pm, at the home of Beverly Shaw and Harlan Klukow in Independence. Eleven of the fifteen board members were present.

Photos of some of the stained glass windows in churches in southeast Nebraska were passed around. All of the windows are G.A.R. or W.R.C. oriented. One of them is of the dome of a church in Lincoln. the entire dome of the church is in stained glass with a likeness of President Lincoln in the center.

Thank you letters from the State Historical Society of Missouri for the donation of a monuments book and a 1989 Battle of Westport booklet were passed.

Paul Tate has also been contacted by the State group asking for copies of our newsletters going back as far as 1997. They offered to pay for the copies.

REPORTS...

Historian Paul Tate reported on new items added to the files and the letter from Jeff City.

The newsletter report--80 printed, 76 mailed, cost 57.47. Bill submitted and paid.

Coffee Fund--new balance \$52.00,

Treasurer--Reported submitted.

Art Kelley, 2nd V. P., reported only 26 members present at January meeting.

Tim Cox, 1st V. P., brought in letter from Police Academy he had received advising as to new fee policy. It will cost us \$75 per nite to use the room.

The President turned over to the secretary two checks which had been received, including another \$50 donation, in thank you for receiving the monuments book. Information about a new meeting room site was requested. Nothing new at this monemt.

Sonny also gave to Beverly a check for \$125 to reimburse the treasury for a previous check to the Benskin Bus Service which was not delivered because the company went out of business.

Update on the Monument book. Of the 65 set aside for members, 63 have been picked up or mailed. The other two will go out as soon as possible.

Of the 135 set aside for schools, libraries, etc., 61 have been distributed. We have 74 books left. In addition Beverly turned in two unclaimed books, bringing the total in stock to 76.

The Independence School district has requested, through Don Ross, 17 books instead of the 12 originally allocated. Motion was made, seconded and passed to allow the increase.

Docents for the Designer Showcase Home Tour are still needed. Contact Beverly Shaw for more information. Thursday, May 8th is our date.

The Old Stone Barn

by Sonny Wells

Over the years I have given so many people directions to get to this unique piece of Jackson County history it is difficult to know where to begin.

The barn is on the site of the old Independence landfill, now maintained by Waste Management Company.

The easiest way to get to the site is to go to the second building near the entrance and tell them you want to go see the old stone barn. If someone is available they will drive you to the site.

That is what Harold and Kay Barchers did a few weeks ago. Upon hearing this Lucky Mason responded the Barcher's way was sure much easier than his way of climbing across the fences, walking along the creek bed, climbing out of the creek and hiking across a field, or words to that effect. Lucky also mentioned something about nearly breaking Fran's ankle.

The barn is very hard to get to unless you take advantage of the offer from the Waste Management staff.

The history of the barn is somewhat questionable. Of the stories about the barn only one is actually written down.

Several men, said to number about a dozen, from Clay County, volunteers with Captain McCarty's old unit, were on their way to Lone Jack to join in the battle.

As they crossed the Missouri River at Allen's Landing they were ambushed by a Federal Patrol. They were chased up a small stream and took refuge in an old stone barn.

A short fire fight ensued until darkness set in. The next morning the Federal's were gone. The Clay Countians mounted up and went back to Liberty.

This report shows up as only two lines on the report of actions in Clay County, printed in 1868. But shows up with more details in the Camp Thomas McCarty Duty Roster of the 1893 Ex-Confederate Association Reunion.

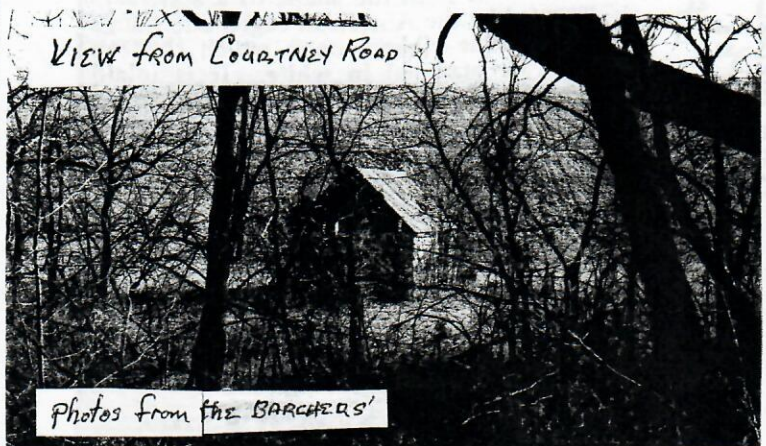
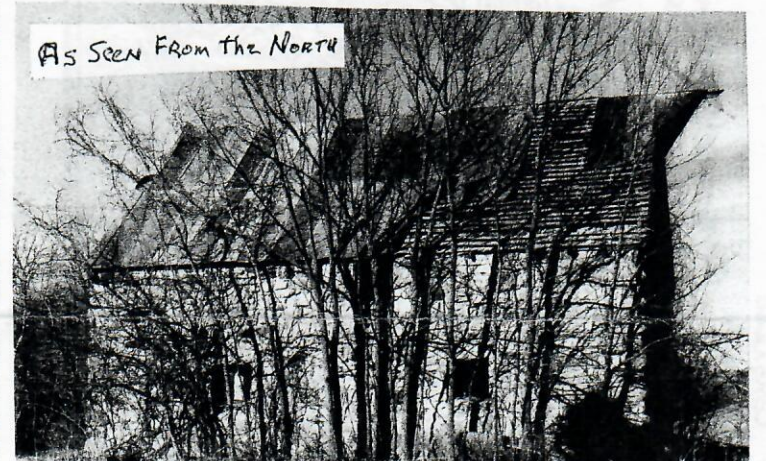
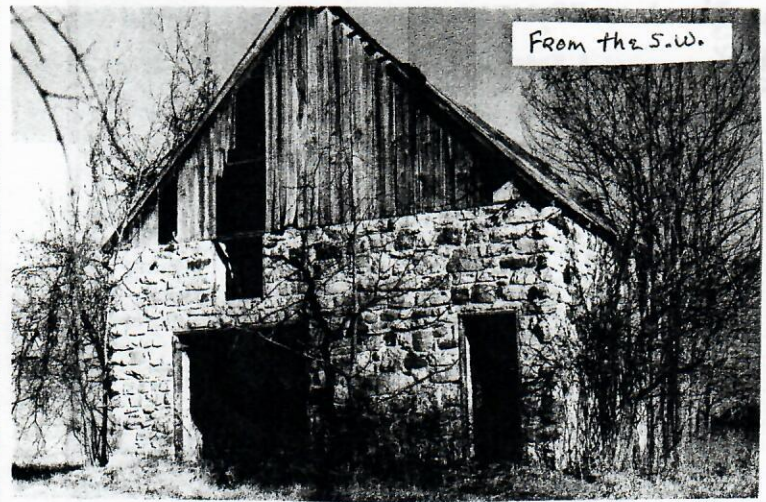
The story I doubt the most is about the three Federal soldiers who were captured near Blue Mills Landing. They were supposedly placed on horses with their hands bound, blindfolded and gagged with nooses around their necks.

The next morning when other soldiers came looking for them the tracks led directly to the barn. The barn was surrounded and the doors were broken down whereupon the horses bolted. The three soldiers were hanged by their own men who had spooked the horses.

Adding fuel to this story is the fact there are three graves in the old Mann-Fann Cemetery less than a mile from the old barn which bear Union Army tombstones supposedly put down in later years to honor the three soldiers.

The stones indicate the men were from the 15th Kansas Cavalry, the same unit which was on occupation duty along the Missouri River in early October of 1864.

Everything fits but I really question this one. Great Folklore, but not enough facts to back it up.



NOT TRUE

Gold Medal of Congress is NOT the same as a Medal of Honor.

Changed Design of Medal SAME DESIGN USED Today

Changed Pattern on Ribbon

Note Date

HE SAVED HIS REGIMENT'S FLAG.

A Medal To Colonel Ricksecker for Heroism in Civil War Battle.

While Col. John H. Ricksecker is up in the Minnesota lake district fishing there has been received at his home, 3348 Troost Avenue, a gold medal voted to him by Congress for bravery in the battle at Franklin, Tenn., November 30, 1864.

Colonel Ricksecker was a private in Company D, Ohio Infantry Volunteers. During the battle at Franklin he rescued

Believed to be July 9, 1914 THIS IS 1904 Re Issue NOT an original

K.C. Journal [Date not listed]



THE RICKSECKER MEDAL.

the flag of his regiment in the midst of a hail of Confederate bullets.

The gold medal is a replica of a bronze medal, voted Colonel Ricksecker during the second administration of President Lincoln. It is in the shape of a star, surmounted by the American eagle, and hangs from a blue ribbon, upon which thirteen stars are stamped in white. It is inlaid with green enamel and bears the profile of the Goddess of Liberty. A bar bears the word "Valor." On the relief side is the record of Colonel Ricksecker's heroism.

After the war Colonel Ricksecker moved to Rice County, Kansas, where he was placed in command of the Second Regiment, Kansas National Guard. He is one of the few remaining buffalo hunters who became well known during the early days of the Kansas frontier.

Missouri Killed by a Train. LEAVENWORTH, KAS., July 9. Lee John-

Civil War Medal of Honor in KC

by Sonny Wells, MOHHS

Over the years I have made mention of all of the Civil War Medal of Honor recipients buried in the greater Kansas City area except two. After today, that will be down to one.

John Henry Ricksecker was awarded the Medal of Honor on February 3, 1865. You have already figured out by the early date of the award this one involved the Colors. You are right.

Ricksecker captured the flag of the 16th Alabama Artillery at the Battle of Franklin, Tenn., on November 30, 1864. You may remember the Battle of Franklin was a slaughter. Gen. Bragg sent wave after wave of Confederate troops against a very strong and well fortified Union position.

Ricksecker was born on November 14, 1843, in Mansfield, Ohio. He grew up in Portage County, Ohio. He enlisted in Co. D, 104th Ohio Volunteer Infantry on November 14, 1863, at age 20.

He was discharged in June of 1865, in Washington, DC, after being in the Grand March.

After the War he removed to Rice County, Kansas, where he led Buffalo Hunts and wagon train rides. In 1873, he moved to Kansas City, Kansas, serving as an officer in the newly formed Kansas Army National Guard. He retired in 1882 as Commander of the 2nd Regiment, K.A.N.G.

He moved to Kansas City, Missouri in 1895, where he entered into a real estate firm with a brother and became president of the Ricksecker Realty Company upon his brother's retirement.

Ricksecker lived at 3348 Troost until his death on August 2, 1929, at age 85. He was active in the G.A.R. on both a state and national level.

He is buried in the family plot at Forest Hill Cemetery just down the hill from another Civil War Medal of Honor recipient, Wilbur Fiske Moore.

When the Department of the Army changed the style of the Army Medal of Honor in 1904, Ricksecker received a replacement for his original issue medal. He did not destroy the old medal, as instructed by the Army. As a result, his great-grandson, John Henry Ricksecker II, has both of the medals is a shadow box in his office.

As far as is known there are no Ricksecker descendants still living in the Kansas City area, John II having moved to Lake City, Florida in 1993.

An article in the Kansas City Journal, undated, tells of Ricksecker having received a Gold Medal, voted to him by the Congress for bravery.

The article shows a drawing of the newly issued award, plainly a 1904 Re-issue.