



March 2003

The Border Star

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

from the Pres...

NO MEETING IN MARCH

Because of the uncertainty about the meeting room and the busy schedule with the Lincoln's coming in the following week, the regularly scheduled March meeting has been pushed back to April. The program will be the archivist from the WWI Memorial talking about preserving old pictures, documents and letters.

If the room we have been meeting in is going to start costing us \$25 per hour, we will have to find a new meeting site.

The hosts of the Lincoln program on Monday, March 24th at 7 pm, have invited the members of the Round Table to join them that night.

The Antioch Community Church is located 3 blocks south of Antioch Shopping center. It was once the home of the Sugar Tree Grove Anti-Horse Thief Association,

The original church building is still standing but is no longer used. It had three doors. Men on the left, women on the right and slaves in the back door to the basement. Holes were cut in the floor and stove vents inserted so the slaves could hear the sermons.

The exact address is 4805 North Antioch Road. The pastor has requested the special students program. This is the one we usually do for 2nd thru 5th graders which most adults never get to see.

The program concludes with Lincoln's two most famous speeches, the late to the theater scene and Mrs. Lincoln's laments.

This is followed by questions from the audience and a receiving line. Refreshments will be served.

Video cameras and flash cameras are welcome at the reception and during the question session, but not during the performance.

Directions to the church--across the Paseo Bridge to the I-29-I-35 split. Follow I-35 to the first exit, which is Antioch Road. Left (north) at the stoplight, passing under the bridge, to 4805 North Antioch.

Or...north on I-435 to I-35 (North of World's of Fun). Go left at the split, back towards KC. on I-35. Exit at Antioch Road, turn right (north).

The Lincoln's only other appearance in the KC area this year will be at the United Methodist Church in Liberty on Friday, March 21st at 7 pm. For directions call 781-4554.

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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**

On the Calendar

March--April 2003

**Wednesday, March 19th
Thru Monday, March 24
Lincoln's Here**

**Wednesday, March 26, 7 pm
Board Meeting
Site to be announced**

**Wednesday, April 9th, 7 pm
Regular meeting, usual place
Program will be on preservation of
old pictures and documents.
OR The Battle of Pea Ridge, Ark.
ALSO-Discussion on the reviews of
God's & Generals
Make plans to be there**

**Wednesday, April 16, 7 pm
Board Meeting
Site to be announced**

**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**

The Case of the Missing Marker

The book *Historical Points in Greater Kansas City*, compiled by Peggy Smith in 1970, lists a Civil War marker which is not included in our book.

On page 3 it states there is a plaque on the corner of 10th & Central, in the old Garment District, which makes mention of "Camp Union".

It is known the Union Officers stayed in the Coates House and the enlisted men slept on the ground near the old corral out behind the Hotel.

What Peggy saw, and still remembers, was this plaque on the wall on the corner of 10th & Central on the back side of the old hotel.

It is my guess the plaque was destroyed or damaged in the big Coates House fire and was never repaired or replaced.

The plaque was placed in 1958 by the Native Sone of Kansas City, according to Peggy's book.

At the Board Meeting

The Board met on Wednesday, February 19, at 7 pm, in the Board Room at the Police Training Building. All but two of the fifteen board members were present.

Since it had been three months since the board had met, going through all the mail was quite a chore.

Thank you letters have been received from several people and organizations regarding the book.

Historian Paul Tate reported on the updating of the records and files.

The newsletter report--80 printed, 74 mailed, cost 49.70. Bill submitted and paid.

Coffee Fund--new balance \$52.00.

Treasurer--Reported submitted.

Art Kelley, 2nd V. P., needs some new stick on tags for visitors and some plastic name tag holders.

Tim Cox, 1st V. P., brought in several letters he had received over the past few months and passed them around.

The President reported on the expenses incurred during the publication and distribution of the monuments book. To date receipts total \$571.50. A \$50 donation toward these expenses has already been received from an anonymous donor.

Update on the Monument book. Of the 65 set aside for members, 61 have been picked up or mailed. The other four may go out this week.

Of the 135 set aside for schools, libraries, etc., 54 have been distributed. We have 81 books left.

Report on Christmas Party--After a contribution from our Jolly 60's guests, the balance expended was \$82.57. I took \$22.57 from the coffee fund, leaving a balance of \$20.00, and submitted a bill for \$60. Motion to pay this amount was made, seconded and passed on a voice vote.

The Bus Bill--So old I had forgotten all about it. I had paid the bus company some time ago out of my own account. Motion to reimburse that amount was made, seconded and passed on a voice vote.

Room Rent--Effective March 1, 2003, a rental fee of \$25 per hour is to be charged for use of the meeting room. If this comes true, we will need to find a new meeting room.

Spring Tour--I proposed a Spring Tour on Sat., May 3rd. I proposed to have other historically minded groups join us. The proposal did not receive a second and the matter was dropped.

Reprint--I proposed a reprint of the monuments book in Black and White. I explained why I thought this was needed. The reprints would cost less than \$7 each. No action was taken on this matter.

Report from Kelton Smith

(Retired teacher)

My comments about finding out they did not teach any Civil War History in the high schools almost caused Kelton to consider coming out of retirement.

Kelton brought with him to the board meeting several class schedules, some Missouri Education Guidelines and topic books to show that classes on the Civil War in Missouri are indeed taught in the high schools. "It is the law, they must teach it," he said..

When going into the high schools in the Northland I have been asking two questions...

1. Do you teach anything on the Border War?
2. Do you teach anything about the Civil War in Western Missouri?

The answers I have been getting have surprized me, almost to a school they say No.

Kelton feels it is because I have been asking the questions wrong.

He says the information is there, in the supplements, if the students care to look it up. From the books and guidelines he showed us, there is no doubt that is true.

Within the supplements is information about the burning of Lawrence, the Battle of Wilson's Creek, the life of Jesse James [The students prefer Custer to Jesse, Kelton told us] and much more.

The guidlines simply do not allow enough time for the teachers to spend much time dwelling on any subject. Spending too much time in one area means you will have to cut something else out at the end.

Our goal was to put one of the monument books in every school library which included in its Civil War course of study a class on the Civil War in Western Missouri, the Border War, or anything close to that.

The question now is are we wasting out time in trying to promote the Civil War Heritage of our area by distributing this book. I do not think we are wasting our time and effort and Kelton agrees.

Kelton knows the right people to talk to within the Kansas City Missouri School District and is setting up a meeting to discuss how this book can be best be utilized within the Kansas City Missouri schools.

Using this as a guideline, we we also contact the Indepcencence School District again, they did not answer our first letter, to see where best usage of this material can be made. We have made no contact with the Center School District, the Lee's Summit School District, or the KCK School District.

Should we reprint the monuments book or not?

What ever happens, it can surely be said this organization did its upmost to further the interest in the Civil War History of this area

Gods & Generals

NOTE--Karen and I enjoyed the film. Kevin shows up seveal times in the last 20 minutes.

COMMENTS--Have you seen enough comments trashing Gods & Generals? It is amazing how these critics, supposeddy with their eye on what movie goers will like and not like, can continue to put out male buffalo chip material and read trash into what is not meant to be trashey at all.

The one I read last night refered to the friendship that devoleped between Stonewall Jackson and the little 5 year old girl in very poor terms.

Stop and realize Jackson had not seen his new daughter yet and this little girl was possibly filling an empty spot in his life at that time. Just because he was a general does not mean he was not a human.

Others have pointed out some historical errors, most of which are very debateable.

As to the VMI Cadets being used at the First Battle of Manassas, there is no question the cadets were there but they were being held in reserve.

I could not tell if the cadets were actually depicted as being in the battle. One of the New York critics, probably a draft dodger himself, made a big point about that.

Actually the VMI Cadet Corps was called to arms on eleven occassions during the war.

The only time they actually participated in a battle was at New Market, Virginia, on May 15, 1864. Any of you who have visited VMI or the Hall of Valor Museum at the New Market battlefield know how special that encounter is to the Corps of Cadets at VMI.

Every year, at about 4:15, on May 15th, the exact time of the charge by the cadets, there is a very solemn parade, marching past the statue of General Jackson, which stands in front of the barracks, across the parade grounds, to the statue of *Virginia Mourning her Dead*.

The roll of the Cadet Corps on that day is then read. When they get to the names of those killed in the battle a secretly selected cadet calls out "Killed on the field of Battle, Died with Honor, Sir."

You may be one of those who can control their emotions well, I am not, but I will buy you a Big Mac if you don't shed a tear at this ceremony.

No moment is as hallowed on the grounds of "The I" as this moment.

Our youngest son, Kurt, spent a year and a half at VMI. We still have his dress uniform even though it does not fit him anymore. I will try to remember to bring it to the April meeting.

CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE OF WESTERN MISSOURI
February 12, 2003

Announcements

Lincoln Tour: Monday, March 24 at 7:00 p. m.
Antioch Community Church
4805 N. Antioch

Program: "April 14, 1965" (changed To School Program)

Royals Game: April 19. Medal of Honor Ceremony

Keokuk, IA: April 26-27 Reenactment

Bus Tour: May 3 Lesser known monuments from
our book.

Designers'
Showhouse: May 8 Volunteer Docents (4-8 p.m.)

May 23: Sugar Tree Grove Anti-Horse Thief picnic
at Antioch Community Church

July 17-19 Friends of James Farm Reunion in Kansas City.
Sonny is organizing a tour on July 18.

Business for Board Meeting:

We will consider whether to have the Monuments book reprinted in black and white to distribute to all the 4th grade classes who study Civil War history.

Most all our members have received their copies. The remainder are being mailed out.

We are starting to receive thank you letters from the various libraries and archives which have received copies.

Two editorial copies are on display tonight. One will be presented to the historian to put in our scrapbook and the other will be available for members to select pages for their personal collection.

Show & Tell Program:

Sonny showed Civil War Battle stamps that he has collected.

Bob Benson brought Byram's Ford remnants that he found by using a metal detector.

Fran Mason said she appreciated the newsletter article about Jacob Hicks because she has a "J. T. Hicks" photo from her family's collection.

Larry Daniels told of his reserach of the Croley family and the wars in which they fought.

Bud Green collects Lincoln books and read from the first debate with Mr. Douglass in 1855.

No business meeting.

Beverly Shaw, Treasurer