



February 2003

# The Border Star

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

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

## Officers for 2003

**President** Harold F. Wells  
"Sonny"

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## Newsletter

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Sonny Wells

## Board Members

Dr. Gerald Anderson

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## Meetings

Second Wednesday

of the month at 7 pm

at Little Blue

Community College,

3 miles East of Hwy 291

on 23rd Street. (Hwy 78)

in the Law Enforcement

Training Building

## Visitors

## Always

## Welcome

for more information

Sonny Wells 628-9910

Tim Cox 478-8833

Beverly Shaw 478-7648

## from the Pres...

Karen and I were at the Northwest Airlines terminal in Tampa, waiting to check in for the return flight to Memphis and then KC, when the news first flashed on the TV screen...Space Shuttle breaks up over Texas.

Very few saw the news flash, too busy talking I guess. I told Karen and everyone around went still for a second then started in again. It was not until CNN came on with a Special Report that the news sank in.

This tragedy is fresh in our minds. But what will it be like 100 years from now? As we, and all Civil War buffs know, things get forgotten to often. To mention a few...The Sultana Disaster, the mass grave at William Jewell College, the Battle of Muddy River Bottoms...I could go on for pages.

Is this the day we change things? Will we, the history minded people of the generation, help change the pattern of forgetting.

Do you remember the logo which appears on the back page of all the Medal of Honor Programs? Let us not forget.

The weather forced cancellation of the Board Meeting and the rescheduled Board Meeting. Thus there was no Board Meeting in January. Since then several things have happened.

Much new information about the Civil War, as taught in the local schools has surfaced. There is no class on the Border War in any of the Kansas City or Independence high schools. NONE! Only one high school even offers a class on the War in Missouri and it is an extra credit class.

A class on the Civil War in Missouri is taught in the 4th grade of all schools which follow the Missouri guidelines. This class does not give any attention to the Border War unless the teacher takes the time to work it into the class. Are we in a position to provide a book to every 4th grade class in the five county area? How about a reprint will all the pictures, except the cover, in black and white. Will cut the cost by over half and put us into a position to supply books to most of the classes in the area. Think about it.

Plans for a spring tour to some of the lesser known sites shown in the Civil War Monuments book are being made. After three requests to visit some of these sites I figures I had better start planning. At present the tour will visit 6 sites, ending up at the Order No. 11 Memorial in Hickman Mills.

Our scheduled speaker for the February 12th meeting has had to ask for a switch in dates to April or May. Thus the meeting will be a show and tell of Civil War items the members have and want to show to the rest of us.

**Please Note...**Karen brought the Sea Flu home with her and has been very ill for a few days. Sonny had a bad episode and had to be taken off the ship in a wheel chair. We will need more help than usual this time. All assistance will be very much appreciated.



## **On the Calendar**

**February-March 2003**

**Wednesday, February 12th, 7 pm**

**Regular Monthly Meeting**

**Usual Place**

**Program--Show & Tell**

**(Speaker on Preservation of old Documents  
had to move to date in April or May)**

**Friday, February 14th**

**Valentines Day**

**Monday, Feb. 17th**

**Presidents Day**

**Fly your Flag**

**Wednesday, February 19th, 7 pm**

**Important Board Meeting**

**Make plans to be there**

**Saturday, February 22nd**

**George Washington's Birthday**

**Wednesday, March 12th**

**Regular Monthly Meeting**

**Site to be announced**

**(Cannot meet at Little Blue College)**

**Mon., March 17 - Mon., Mar. 24**

**The Lincolns are in the area**

**Mon.--Lincoln, Nebraska**

**Tues.--Nebraska City, Nebraska**

**Wed.--Smithville Upper Elementary School,**

**Thurs.--Bell Hall, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas**

**Fri.--Liberty United Methodist Church**

**Sat.--Cookies & Cookies with the Pres.**

**Mon.--Antioch Christian Church**

**Wednesday, April 9th, 7 pm**

**Regular Monthly Meeting**

**Hoping for a program on the**

**Battle of Pea Ridge**

**Wednesday, April 16th, 7 pm**

**Regular Board Meeting**

**Dues for 2003 now being accepted.**

## **News from the Board**

As has been the case in the past few years the Board of Directors did not meet in December. Should the situation warranted a meeting all members had been advised a call would have been made to meet.

The January 15, 2003, meeting was canceled because of an impending cold front and possible ice and snow.

Do I have to tell you the ice and snow never made it. O.K., I won't.

The meeting was rescheduled for the next Wednesday, same time, same place.

Same song, second verse. Meeting canceled. It was very cold, nothing else.

Among the subjects the Board will consider are the following...

Should this Round Table endorse, not sponsor, the Lincoln's visit to our area. They will be in this area for five days and will be making 12 few appearances.

Should this Round Table invite other Civil War and Historical minded groups to be a part of a local Spring Tour of some of the sites shown in the Monuments book?

I am thinking of the Westport Historical Society, the Jackson County Historical Society, the Civil War Round Table of Greater Kansas City, the Sons of Union Veterans, and so on.

Also on the agenda is question of a Late Spring Tour, since we did not do our usual Fall Tour. What should we do in 2003, and when should we do it. Maybe a day trip to the new Bushwhacker's Museum in Nevada?

### **Christmas Party Expense**

<b>Total Spent on food</b>	<b>127.57</b>
Deli Meats, Ice, plates & acc., sodas	
<b>Slush Fund</b>	<b>16.24</b>
<b>Total Spent</b>	<b>143.81</b>
<b>Paid by Visitors</b>	<b>45.00</b>
<b>Round Table Expense</b>	<b>98.81</b>
<b>Donations Received</b>	<b>-16.24</b>
<b>From Coffee Fund</b>	<b>-22.57</b>
<b>Bill to be submitted</b>	<b>60.00</b>
Slush is Karen & Sonny's donation	



# Photos by Jacob Hicks portray area



Thanks largely to old-time photographer Jacob Thornton Hicks, Clay County has a pictorial history of itself dating back to the late 1850s.

Hicks was the first professional photographer in Ray and Clay County. He began his work in the days of the old daguerreotypes and made photographs of members of nearly all families in the county.

Many of his glass plate negatives and some prints he made were preserved by relatives Nadine Thompson, now deceased, and then Mary Prehn, of Annapolis, Maryland. Prehn recently presented boxes of Hicks' work to the Clay County Museum and Historical Society.

Hicks was born in 1840 in Liberty. His parents had moved to Liberty earlier that year with two other young sons.

Martha was a milliner, and for about 50 years ran a millinery business in Liberty from her home on South Water Street. Her husband was probably a jeweler. Thornton died the year after the family moved to Liberty. Probate records show his possessions as that of a jeweler: chains, watches, springs, dials, pins, and a bench to work on.

Martha Hicks lived to be 83. In her obituary it was noted that "Mother Hicks" was quiet, unassuming and kind, "the loss of so good and excellent an old lady will be generally lamented." Martha died June 17, 1897.

Jacob Hicks had a gallery on the second floor of a building on the north side of the Liberty Courthouse square. Entry to the gallery was gained from Water Street. The building still stands.

His first photographs included one of early William Jewell College President William Thompson.

Hicks apparently set up a gallery first in Liberty. Then for a short time he had a gallery in Richmond. While in Richmond he became engaged to a young woman. However, in the cyclone of 1878 (as it was referred to then) Hicks, his fiancée and another person took cover under a stairway in a building. His fiancée was torn away by the force of the winds and killed.

Hicks left Richmond the next day and never returned. He also never married.

The work of an early photographer and his subjects required much patience. The early photographic plates and chemicals were not as light sensitive as today's and so the subject had to sit for a lengthy period of time while the film was exposed. An iron rod would be placed against the subject's back and a clamp placed against his head to hold the body and head still. The subjects never smiled because it was too hard to hold a smile for such a long time without moving.

The use of projectors to enlarge the images was not done for many years. So whatever size of glass plate or negative was used was the finished size of the photograph. Like Hicks, photographers always had studios with a northern exposure or on a second floor so they could have access to the light from the north coming through skylights. They would put their exposed negative next to the photographic paper in a printing frame and leave it in the sunlight to be exposed.

"Uncle Jake," as he was known by many, was looked up to as a quiet, earnest, conscientious gentleman of the "old school." He was strictly honorable in all his dealings and had a kindly spirit that was ever present, according to his obituary.

The obituary also commented that Hicks chose with scrupulous care his intimate friends and companions and had a high regard for Christian principles.

Hicks was an intimate friend of David Whitmer, an early Mormon leader who settled in Richmond

after leaving the Mormon Church. At one time his collection of photographs of early day county residents included the only original photograph of Whitmer. He also had the original photograph of Bill Anderson, the guerrilla who was killed in a skirmish at Old Albany north of Orrick and whose body was brought to Richmond and interred in the Old City Cemetery.

Hicks also took early photographs of the James family which are valuable today.



Hicks died suddenly March 31, 1924, at the age of 83.



## DR. DOUGHERTY'S DIARY.

Extracts From a Journal Kept  
During War Times in Clay  
County by One of Its  
Old Citizens.

Dr. William W. Dougherty, who died in Liberty, December 27, 1890, began to keep a diary when a young man and with a few interruptions continued the practice until a few years before his death. Unfortunately, only one volume has been preserved, which covers a period from January 1, 1863, to December 11, 1868, in opening the volume on New Year's day, 1863, he says:

"This being the first day of the new year I have concluded to commence, again, to keep some account of events as they transpire. I have endeavored in the past to keep a journal and did so from July 4, 1854, to sometime in 1858, and at the very time when such a thing would have been most interesting, I stopped. I regret it now very much, as the events of the past two years have been more interesting than any of my past life. The Civil war, which is now devastating our once happy land, is making history which will be read in future times with more interest than any war in the world's history."

Saturday, January 3. As I was going down town this morning Charley Haynes overtook me and asked the cause of so much excitement. I told him I had heard none and he informed me that orders had come from Lexington for all of Colonel Moss' regiment to assemble immediately as there were fifty thousand Confederates marching on that town. After I got to the square the number fell to five thousand, and by night the excitement had about subsided. It was believed that there was not any considerable number of Confederate soldiers in the state as the Missouri Republican had published that Gen. Blunt had driven all the command of Gen. Hindman into Arkansas.

Sunday, January 4. The militia from Clinton county came in this evening and Col. Moss received marching orders for Lexington and intends to start at 4 a. m., tomorrow.

Monday, January 5. Got up at four o'clock this morning to see the militia leave for Lexington but was disappointed, as the order had been countermanded.

Wednesday, January 7. The report is that Rosecrans has whipped Bragg at Murfreesboro, Tenn., and that there has been long and very hard fighting at Vicksburg, Miss.

Monday, January 12. We have received no paper today. It is currently reported that Springfield has been captured by the Confederates and 1500 prisoners taken. Some think it is false news. There is no reliance to be placed in anything you hear or read these days.

Friday, January 23. There is a rumor that Gen. Sherman has captured Gen. Marmaduke and most of his command.

Tuesday, February 17. Capt. McCarty has resigned and A. W. Tracy has been elected captain of the company.

Wednesday, February 18. A recent copy of the Republican says France has offered to mediate but the offer was rejected by the administration.

Friday, March 6. The Conscription Bill has passed Congress and is now the law of the land. None exempt between the ages of 18 and 45 except idiots, fathers of motherless children, the only support of widowed mothers, governors of states, the judiciary and the Vice President of the United States.

Saturday, March 7. No important news in the paper concerning the war. There is a denial of what we heard about the fight at Vicksburg. Lewis and Kerr (Capt. L. B. Dougherty and his brother Kerr) were at Big Black Bridge, 15 miles above Vicksburg, on February 8.

Monday, March 9. The report is that Gen. Van Dorn has captured 4,000 Federals at Jackson, Miss.

Saturday, March 14. A Kansas "Red Leg" made an attack on Frank Gordon last night, but failed. The attack was in Gordon's yard and Gordon rushed into his house the fellow following with a drawn pistol. Gordon drew a gun and the man fell upon his knees, supplicating mercy, which was granted. The man asked for a negro girl belonging to (name not legible) and said he came for her.

Wednesday, April 15. Lieut. Col. Van Horn came here this evening and camped with his men at the fair grounds. A flag pole and U. S. flag were raised. (These troops left for St. Joe on the 18th).

Thursday, April 30. Capt. Garth and his company were out scouting today.

Thursday, May 7. The war news is that fighting on the Rappahannock is very severe on both sides and that the Federals have taken Fredericksburg.

Monday, May 11. The news today is that the Federals have taken Richmond and that Jeff. Davis is a prisoner. (This news was about 2 years premature.)

Wednesday, May 13. The paper contradicts the report about the taking of Richmond and Jeff. Davis. It is reported that militia have been fighting among themselves at Richmond, Mo., and troops from the arsenal have been sent there to quell the disturbance.

Friday, May 15. The paper contained the report of the death of Stonewall Jackson. No other important news in it. The fighting seems to have stopped in Virginia.

Wednesday, May 20. As I was going down town this morning Mrs. Burns met me at the door and asked if I was a prisoner. I did not know what she meant. She said a great many citizens had been arrested and taken before the Provost Marshal, Ed. Rhea in order to find out who would take up arms in defense of the city. They were expecting an attack at any time from a body of men who had attacked Richfield (Missouri City) yesterday evening and killed Capt. Sessions, the lieutenant of the 20th regiment, at the arsenal, and a private. The militia were all ordered to Richfield and the citizens armed themselves and guarded the town. Great excitement prevailed all day.

Friday, May 22. The papers intimate that Vicksburg is doomed as Grant is close to it with overwhelming numbers.

Monday, May 25. I heard today of the shooting of a man named O'Neal by the Arsenal troops at Richfield on Saturday evening and also that Mr. Carpenter of Carpenter's Store has been killed by bushwhackers.

Wednesday, May 27. It is reported that the guerillas, Scott and Hart, and several others, have been killed by the men under Capt. Garth.

Friday, June 12. Hart, the guerilla, was in this vicinity today. Capt. Garth and John Thomason pursued but did not capture him.

Sunday, June 21. I went this morning to see the noted guerilla Arnold. The militia captured him last night. He is badly wounded in the chest, legs and arms. He has a daring, rather ferocious appearance. I think that he will die from his wounds. Great curiosity prevails to see him. He is at the Thompson House.

Sunday, July 5. I waited a long time for the paper but did not get one. Capt. Gant brought one in the evening and wanted to hear the news. I read it to him. The report is that Lee is worsted in Pennsylvania, that Richmond is invested and that Vicksburg has surrendered.

Monday, July 20. Joe Hart was killed near Chillicothe. A diary he kept and many other papers found on his person. They will be published.

Tuesday, July 21. The Republican contains very important news. Gen. Lee has returned to Virginia. Port Hudson has yielded and the Confederacy seems to be gone, generally.

Monday, August 24. The news is that Quantrell burnt Lawrence last

Friday morning and Lane and Jenison are threatening Missouri with vengeance.

Saturday, August 29. The company of soldiers from St. Joe, and above them, behaved most desperately. Some 10 of them got drunk and took the town. They drove everyone from the streets and cursed and swore in an awful manner, using the most indecent language until every woman in town was afraid to show herself. After they got tired they left for their camp at the fair grounds. All the officers commanding them seem to have been absent and the men had their own way. The same men went to the cemetery and broke and defaced some of the gravestones.

Monday, August 31. There seems to be some apprehension of the Kansas Jayhawkers coming in. It is reported that Charleston has been taken.

Thursday, September 3. Col. J. H. Moss returned home last night and it is said he has been authorized to arm the citizens of Clay county for self-defense.

Sunday, September 6. I heard that the militia killed a man named Donovan last night near Jno. Keller's place. He and two or three others were riding along the road and were ordered to halt when they fired and threw themselves down on their horses and rode away. The militia fired and Mr. Donovan fell. Such is the report.

### Notes of the Civil War.

The year 1863 saw the beginning of the fall of the Southern Confederacy, with Lee's disastrous campaign in Pennsylvania, and the great battle of Gettysburg.

Monday, September 7. This being county court day and a mass meeting having been called to hear Col. J. H. Moss make a speech, a great many persons came to town. It looked like old-times to see the yeomanry pouring in from their homes, which they had seldom left for many months. Moss commenced to speak about 1 p. m. and spoke in his usual electrical style for several hours. Riley called the meeting to order and appointed Thos. C. Gordon chairman and E. N. Samuels secretary, and the following committee on resolutions: W. Brining, W. A. Morton, M. Haynes, Gregg and Riley. After the speech the committee reported, but being called out before that time, I did not get to hear the report. The meeting was a large one and the audience intensely interested. Moss spoke with much force and was heard with marked attention. The people were listening to things that involved matters of great moment, even life and death.

Tuesday, September 8. The emigrants from Jackson county, their homes are crowding thickly upon this side of the river without shelter or much to eat. "When this cruel war is over what a happy time there'll be," as the song says.

Wednesday, September 9. The Ray county soldiers are camped in the court house yard with their tents all around the yard. One company is under command of Dr. Tiffin.

Thursday, September 10. There seems to be considerable excitement in regard to organizing the citizens into companies for the purpose of repelling Kansas "Red Legs" and "Bushwhackers" should they invade this region.

Friday, September 11. The "Red Legs" from Kansas are taking all the negroes, horses, etc., from the upper part of the county, with no one to oppose them. The times are truly distressing and seem to be getting worse.

Wednesday, September 23. The report is current that Rosecrans has been badly defeated by Johnson and Bragg.

Monday, October 26. A great many people were in town today. There is an immense amount of property to be sold during this term of court, land, negroes, stock, town property and everything that can be sold. Such distress has never before been known in Clay county. The candidates for circuit judge spoke today. Col. Doniphan made a flaming speech. He said the people could obtain for themselves security and safety by going to the ballot and voting to sustain the provisional government and putting down the radicals who were destructionists. Col. Moss also spoke in corroboration of Col. Doniphan.

Saturday, Nov. 14. It is reported that John Cooke has been killed somewhere in Virginia. (John Cooke was a brother-in-law of Gen. J. E. B. Stuart and a maternal cousin of Capt. L. B. Dougherty.)

I have selected only two subjects, the weather and the war (during the year 1863) and give you some items that I think will prove interesting, at least to the older ones who passed through "the times that try men's souls."

Chas. L. Dougherty.

From Clay County Archives