



November 2002

The Border Star

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

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...

Poor are the people that have no History, Shameful are the people who have it...and forget it. That is the wording which will be on the back page of the monuments book, right below our logo. Or should that be *destroy it?* Makes one think, doesn't it.

On Saturday, October 19th, I went up to a certain unnamed college to take one last set of picture for the monuments book. What I found dumbfounded me.

The *Historic Jewell Hall* brass plaque, which had been removed from the building in 2000 and ended up in a flower bed over by Green Chapel, was gone. In its place was the *Civil War Trenches* brass plaque from the 1931 Red Rock monument. The *1931 Trenches* plaque is now in those bushes along the front lip of a rock ledge to the left of the chapel entrance over 40 feet from the actual trench line. The *Historic Jewell Hall* plaque, which had been there, was no where to be found. Fresh cedar mulch was all over the area.

On Wednesday, the 16th, I had sent the publisher of a Liberty newspaper up to the college to see what he could find out. He had copies of the pages of the monument book with him. All the plaques were still in the places where I had photographed them.

After showing the pages around my friend asked the maintenance crew why the *Jewell Hall* plaque was in the bushes and not on the building. No answer. Total silence.

He then asked where the wall plaque with the names of those in the mass grave was. The reply was..."Don't know, never seen it, don't think there ever was one, I'd bet it was never made," were among the replies he received.

After Saturday we can ask some more questions...Where has the 1931 plaque been hiding? Why is the 1994 *Civil War Trenches* plaque now longer in the trench line? What has happened to the 1994 marker now that the 1931 marker is in the 1994 marker's former place? And where is the *Historic Jewell Hall* plaque? Wouldn't it be nice if the *Jewell Hall* plaque somehow ended up back on the building where it came from over two years ago? And the trench markers were put back in the trench line.

I have had to revise the text of 3 of the pages in the monuments book by adding an "Update" paragraph at the bottom of those pages to cover the changes which have taken place at the college.

But those are not the only changes. We are back with our original printer, whom I had lost track of. He is going to enlarge all of the pictures to fill the page and put the printed text on the page facing the color picture. I have seen the proofs and it looks nice, really nice, super dooper nice!

And...he is printing 200 copies for the same price we were only getting 135 copies from the other printer, plus, it will be perfect bound. Morning Side Press in Dayton, Ohio wants to list the book on its January/February sale flyer. Suggested price of \$29.95.

Bob Younger, the owner/editor, says he thinks this book will sell nationwide. Personally, I am not sure I am ready for that, yet. First things first, the saying goes.

The list of member from the 2001-2002 rosters is completed and will need to be verified. The list of high schools, with possible classes on the Civil War/Border War, and libraries is done and is being checked out. Together these lists total 129 books, which is very close to the 135 originally guesstimated.

See you on Nov. 13th at 7 pm. Program on Long Guns of the 19th Century

On the Calendar

November/December 2002

Thursday, Nov. 7th, 7 pm
19th Century Tombstones
Mid-Continent Library,
I-29 & Barry Road (by Lowe's)

Saturday, Nov. 9th, 9:30 am
Tracing your Civil War Kin
Mid-Continent Library,
24 Hwy & Spring, Independence

Monday, Nov. 11th
Armistice Day
Fly your flag

Wednesday, Nov. 13th, 7pm
CWRTWMO Meeting
Law Enforcement Training Academy
at Little Blue Community College
Long Guns of the late 19th Century,
from the Border War to Little Big Horn

Wednesday, Nov. 20th, 7 pm
Board Meeting
Law Enforcement Training Academy
at Little Blue Community College
Board Room

Thursday, Nov. 28th,
Thanksgiving

Saturday, Dec. 7th
Annual Christmas Party
Liberty Christian Church
11:00--Decorate
Noon--Eat
1:00--Door Prizes

Followed by
Pearl Harbor Memorial Service
Doors open 1330 (1:30 pm)
Service starts 1345
Bell Tolls 1355

Dues for 2003 now being accepted.
All new members on roll before December 31, 2002
will receive a Civil War Monuments of KC Book

At the Board Meeting....

The Board of Directors regular monthly meeting was on Wednesday, October 16, 2002, at 7 pm in the Board Room at the Regional Law Enforcement Training Building at Little Blue Community College.

Kelton Smith reported an a contact he made with the KC Parks & Rec staff about Civil War monuments in the KC area.

Sonny passed out an updated call list of members of the Board.

Reports...

The Newsletter....80 printed, 76 mailed.
Cost 51.40. Bill submitted and paid

Treasurer's Report....was given.

Coffee Fund Report...Beg. Bal. \$ 1.38,
Annon. Donation \$ 25.00
Purchases \$ 14.00, In Jar \$ 19.00
New Bal. \$ 31.38

Officer's Reports

Secretary passed out minutes
2nd V. P.....Reported as usual
1st V. P.....Not present.

President.....

Old Business

Update on KC 150 Book.---Going to printer on October 22nd. Printer made several suggestions. Only 6 pages yet to be finished. Books should be in our hands in time to pass out at Christmas Party.

October Tour---Because of the rush to finish the Monuments Book, there has not been time to set up our usual October tour. Sonny requested we put off this year's tour. The request was approved.

New Business

The Christmas Party will be on Saturday, December 7, 2002, at the Liberty Christian Church, 427 East Kansas, Liberty, Mo.

Decorate at 11 am, Covered dish dinner at Noon. Coffee fund will furnish meat and cheese tray, coffee and sodas. Drawing for door prizes at 1:00. All members and guests are Welcome.

At 1:30 the doors of the church will be opened for those attending the Pearl Harbor Memorial Service. The service starts at 1:45 with the Tolling of the Bells at 5 minutes before the hour.

Here and There, Miscellaneous Stuff

The list of books in our collection will need to be revised again in January.

Among the newest books to be donated...

Ghosts of the Confederacy, by Gaines M. Foster
Oxford Press, @1987, 306 pages, indexed
from Beverly Shaw and Jerry Klukow

Leather and Soul, A Civil War Odyssey,
by Waldron Murril McLellon
Butternut Press, @1994, 510 pages
Same donor

Glory Road, by Bruce Catton
Book 3 of the Catton Trilogy
Doubleday & Co., @1952, 395 pages, indexed
--First Edition--
same donor

Medal of Honor, Profiles of America's Heroes
by Allen Mikaelian, from Hyperion of New York
Bill Adler Books, Inc., @2002, 298 pages
Subject index and resource list
(only 2 Civil War recipients mentioned)
Same donor

Civil War Curiosities, by Webb Garrison
Rutledge Hill Press, @1994, 281 pages, indexed
Same donor

**Campaigns of the Civil War, Vol II,
From Fort Henry to Corinth**
by M. F. Force, Castle Books, 204 pages, index
Includes several eastern battlefield maps
@2002, from original printing of 1881
Same donor

**Medal of Honor Recipients of
the Battle of Gettysburg**
by Harold F. Wells for the MOHHS
@ 1996, updated 2002
16 pages, bio's, resource list
from the author

Other booklets available from the Medal of Honor
Historical Society Library include...

MOH Recipients of Missouri
includes awards for actions in Missouri

MOH Recipients of Kansas
" " of Iowa
" " of Nebraska
" " of Vicksburg
" " of Pearl Harbor
" " of Iwo Jima

Soldier's Letter

The Regimental Newsletter of the 2nd Colorado Cavalry

Pvt. Oliver Wallace began printing a monthly newsletter while the 2nd Colorado was stationed in Independence in April of 1863.

The letter was originally a protest against an edict from Captain James Ford which prohibited the sending of letters to the families back in Colorado.

Short messages, using nicknames, were included in the body of the newsletter along with lists of sick and wounded. Thus the folks back home knew some of what was going on back in Missouri.

The front page was a History of the unit's actions and tended to make heroes of all the officers and staff.

After the unit was transferred to Fort Riley, Kansas, Pvt. Wallace continued to publish the *Letter*. In all, 54 editions were put out.

In the February 1865 issue, Vol. 20, Wallace writes about the actions between Lexington and Independence the week before the action at Little Blue.

In this issue he reports the Rebel Army ranks have swollen to over 28,000 men and was marching toward Kansas City. Actual numbers were less than half of that.

In the March issue, Vol. 21, many details of the action at Little Blue appear. The front page of this issue is page 4 of this *Border Star*.

The article states the bridge at the crossing was torched, which in fact it was. Only problem was the bridge did not burn because the kindling which had been placed on the bridge was so wet it would not burn.

The units involved and many of the unit commanders are listed in this issue.

The April 8, 1865 issue, Vol. 22, takes of the troopers mounting their horses and advancing toward Independence. No mention of the word "retreating" or "falling back". He also mentions the heroic death of Major J. Nelson Smith and takes 26 lines to tell how kind and beloved he was by the men.

Vol. 23 is all about Lincoln's death with very little mention of anything other than the assassination.

Vol. 24, dated June 3, 1865, mentions the falling back from Little Blue and the action at Big Blue and Byram's Ford of June 22, 1863.

The story of Frank Gould is related in this issue as is an item which mentions "Persons in Memphis, rejoicing over the death of President Lincoln have been sentenced to one year's hard labor".

Vol. 1, No. 25, the June 10, 1865, issue gives many details of the action leading up to the three day battle which becomes known as the Battle of Westport.

Copies of these articles will appear in upcoming issues of this newsletter starting with this issue.

Soldier's Letter.



THE FLAG WE FIGHT UNDER.

SECOND COLORADO CAVALRY.

A REGIMENTAL PAPER---TO ACCOMPANY THE REGIMENT, NO 21.

FORT RILEY, KANSAS.

1865.

MARCH
22(?)

ERROR
17th Nov 22 11

COMPENDIUM OF HISTORY.

[Continued from No. 20.]

On the 27th, a reconnoitering column consisting of about 1100 Cav., under Gen. Blunt, left Hickman's Mill, and proceeded on the road to Lexington, with the determination of striking the enemy before returning, if to be found in that part of the country. Having reached, and passed through Lexington, on the afternoon of the 19th General Blunt's advance met Price's van-guard about ten miles southwest of that place; and a skirmish ensued, during which the enemy endeavoured to surround Blunt's command, by throwing forward two columns, one on the right, and the other on the left, while his centre engaged our forces, to cover the movements of his flanking columns.—General Blunt was on the alert, and discovered the movement in time to thwart the design of the enemy, and ordered our troops to fall back, which they did—in time to cut their way out, with the assistance of four small howitzers, commanded by Colonel Moonlight—sustaining little, or no loss on our part. The guns were planted in a commanding position, and their fire directed by Col. Moonlight in person, and the grape and canister was poured into the enemy's flanks, on the right and left, having the effect to check their advance until our forces were again formed in line: General Blunt

being satisfied that the enemy were there in strong force, gradually fell back, with two companies of the 11th, and one company of the 15th Kansas cavalry, and the artillery under command of Moonlight, to protect their rear, and cover their retreat; in this manner our troops slowly fell back, sharply contesting the confident advance of the enemy, for the distance of about ten miles west of Lexington, when night setting in, the enemy checked up, but a constant skirmish firing was kept up, during the entire night, and the next day until our forces were within ten miles of the Little Blue, when the rebel army halted, while our forces retreated to the Little Blue, and halting, lay upon its East bank, until evening, when the entire command crossed, and Col. Moonlight, with the 11th Kansas, and the artillery, was posted on the west bank to defend the crossing, with orders, if necessary, to burn the bridge, for which purpose a torch made from the dry plank was prepared, and placed upon the centre of the bridge, ready for the match. General Blunt, with the principal part of his force proceeded to Independence, eight miles west of the crossing. At 8 o'clock on the morning of the 21st, the enemy made their appearance on the east bank of the creek, and immediately commenced an attack on our little force, who gallantly dis-

puted their passage of the bridge, finally applying the torch; it was soon wrapped in flames, which served to check their impetuous advance for a short time. In the mean time, Col. Moonlight dispatched a messenger to Gen. Blunt at Independence, informing him of the attack by the rebels, and that he would be compelled to fall back, and allow the enemy to cross, unless re-enforced without delay.—General Curtis had just completed the organization of the different Brigades, as the messenger rode into Independence with the dispatch. The bugle was immediately sounded, and the 1st Division, Army of the Border, consisting of the second Colorado Cavalry, 15th and 16th Kansas Cavalry, (also including the 11th Kansas cavalry already at the scene of action,) and three companies of the 3d Wisconsin cavalry, and the First Colorado Battery, in all, about 1500 men—under the command of Maj. Gen. Jas. G. Blunt—proceeded to the front: at about eleven o'clock, a. m. The First Brigade, consisting of the Second Colorado Cavalry, (Major J. Nelson Smith,) the First Colorado Battery, (Capt. W. D. McLain,) and four companies of the 16th Kansas cavalry—was commanded by our gallant Colonel, JAMES H. FORD. The column moved forward at a gallop, until within one mile of the Little Blue.