

October 2002

The Border Star

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



Officers for 2002

President Harold F. Wells
"Sonny"

1st Vice Pres. Tim Cox

2nd Vice Pres. Art Kelley

Treasurer Beverly Shaw

Secretary Fran Mason

Historian Paul Tate

Newsletter

Editor
Sonny Wells

Board Members

Dr. Gerald Anderson

Mike Calvert

Tom Carroll

Harriett Lionberger

Lucky Mason

Terry McConnell

Kelton Smith

Charlotte Tindall

Randall Todd

Karen Wells

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...

The last couple of years our Round Table has held its Christmas gathering on the first Saturday of December at the Liberty Christian Church in the Fellowship Hall. A good facility, kitchen close by and lots of room.

Ever wonder about the History of this church. The present building was built in 1905, right over the previous building which had been there since before the "Recent Unpleasantness".

Those huge stained glass windows were actually made for a church in Ohio which for some reason changed its mind. They were brought up river to Liberty and installed in the fall of 1905.

If you hear rumors about a Pearl Harbor Day Memorial Service let me tell you those are not rumors. Details will be announced later but it will happen just minutes after our Christmas gathering is over.

Karen and I set up at the 25th Annual Austin Bean Eating Festival last weekend. It was good to see so many old friends. A couple of the re-enactors set up just over the hill came by to thank us for sending them our newsletter. They had some nice comments to say about the Border Star.

I thanked them for reading it and invited them to drop in on a meeting sometime. No one indicated they would come to a meeting but it was nice to hear from them anyway.

The newly revised and updated "*Civil War Veterans Buried in Cass County Missouri*" book was on display at the Austin event. It drew a lot of attention. Some descendants looked through it and found their great grandfather mentioned. They shared a lot of memories with an aged aunt and then jumped into a car and went into town to see if the old family house was still standing. It was neat just to talk with them. Great memories for them.

During the nearly 20 years I lived in Liberty I tried several times to get a local History class going in the Liberty Public Schools. Seems there was a lot of interest but no ever followed up on it.

Last week a letter came from the LPS. They are starting a class on guess what...Local History. It will be for third graders but that is better than no class at all. I was asked to assist with the classes as an outside presenter, which I will be very happy to do. I suggested Tim be a speaker also.

Did you see the article featuring an interview with Tim in *The Examiner* last week. Answered all the questions like an old pro, at least the ones which appeared in the paper. I understand the cost of an autograph just went up from 10 cents to a quarter. Anybody got change for a dollar?

See you on October 9th at 7 pm. Surprise-Surprise-Surprise!

On the Calendar

October 2002

Monday, Oct. 7th, 7 pm
Tracing your Civil War Kin
Mid-Continent Library, Parkville

Tuesday, Oct. 8th, 2 pm
Coins of the Civil War Era
Mid-Continent Library,
Blue Springs, North

Wednesday, Oct. 9th, 7pm
CWRTWMo Meeting
Law Enforcement Training Academy
at Little Blue Community College
(Program is a surprise)

Wednesday, Oct. 16th, 7 pm
Board Meeting
Law Enforcement Training Academy
at Little Blue Community College
Board Room

Thursday, Nov. 7th, 7 pm
19th Century Tombstones
Mid-Continent Library,
I-29 & Barry Road

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

Wednesday, Nov. 13th, 7 pm
CWRTWMo. Regular Meeting
Law Enforcement Training Center
Little Blue Community College

Wednesday, Nov. 20th, 7 pm
Board Meeting
Board Room,
Law Enforcement Academy

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, September 18, 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 a revised call list of members of the Board.

Reports...

The Newsletter....80 printed, 74 mailed.
Cost 51.02. Bill submitted and paid

Treasurer's Report....was given.

Coffee Fund Report...Beg. Bal. \$ 1.70,
Purchases _____, In Jar \$ _____
New Bal. \$ _____.

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.... Only 6 pages yet to be finished. Should begin final editing by October 4 and be at printers by October 9. 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 Welcome.

Update on Monuments Book

As of this newsletter there are only 5 pages to be completed. But there were some changes which have caused some of these changes to have been made.

The Lawson Moore Home, which Shelby's men used as a hospital and burying ground, has been added. It will share a page with another marker about the Battle of the Little Blue.

Special thanks to Lucky Mason for helping with the wording of the text about this home.

The Bingham-Waggoner House has also been added. A page had been set up to show the plaque on the old Turner Music Building and the First Battle of Independence marker.

After much searching and asking around it was determined the First Battle of Independence marker, which used to be on Maple Street at the first intersection east of the LDS Church, has been gone for several years. No one seems to know where it is or when it was removed.

I have a picture of it, taken some 20+ years ago but it is not good enough to be used in the book.

Instead there will be a picture of the B-W House with some text about the Confederates riding right by the house on the way to engage the Union troops. Camped near what is now the Community of Christ Center parking lot. The theme of this page is the First Battle of Independence.

In addition Kelton Smith made a contact with the lady who handles the archives at the KC Parks & Rec office. She sent to Kelton several items concerning markers which were in KC in the early 1920's. One of them really got some wheels turning.

It seems a plaque telling of the battles at Byram's Ford was put on the west concrete abutment of the new bridge over the Big Blue River in 1922. The plaque is no longer there, stolen by vandals, according to a note attached to the article.

Does anyone have a picture of this plaque? Or any other information about it?

Beverly Shaw went out to Bonner Springs and got us a better picture of the G.A.R. Monument there and Terry McConnell went to Topeka and came back with some information on the G.A.R. Monument at Maple Hill Cemetery in KCK.

There are needing only three pictures.

1. A better picture of the battlefield map at Little Blue and Lexington to Independence Road.
2. A better picture of the Mother Sturgis, Angel of the Battlefields marker in KCK.
3. A picture of the tablet with the names of the men buried in the mass grave at William Jewell. To the printers on or before October 9th.

Odds & Ends

The new local number to reach the Battle of Lone Jack Museum is 816-697-8833. You should not be charged if you use this number. Thanks to Faye Dennison for giving Beverly this information.

A new re-enactment unit has formed in the area based out of Garden City. It also has a women's group. Contact Joe Broski in Garden City if interested.

I had the Monuments Book on display at the Austin Bean Eating Festival. Several looked through it and at least 3 wanted to buy a copy.

The Austin event was pretty well attended again this year. The line waiting to pay their \$4.50 for beans, corn bread, slaw, drink and dessert was pretty long at times but moved quickly.

The atmosphere was warm and friendly. Actually, I felt so friendly that I tooted at several oncoming cars on the way home.

Some of the local riders, including our son Kevin, are in Maryland filming the new History Channel program on the Battle of Antietam. Their camp is west of Sharpsburg, Virginia because the National Park Service would not let them film on the actual site.

During the weekend break they will be participating in the big Perryville, Ky. event.

If you know of a school that has a Civil War class please get the school name, address and contact person to Sonny or Beverly before the November meeting. The list of those to receive the Monuments Book, as set up by the grant from the KC150 Foundation is nearly completed and we want to be sure we have not missed anyone.

In all, 50 of the 135 books are set aside for schools and libraries, 80 are for those who were members in 2000-2002, and 5 are being set back.

If a member or member family wishes to donate their book to a school or library we need to know that also to avoid any duplication.

None of the 135 books will be for sale.

A story on CNN mentioned the three most tragic days in American History, based on loss of life on that day. Number 3 was Pearl Harbor. Number 2 was the World Trade Center. Number 1, far ahead of the others, was Day 2 of the Battle of Antietam.

If you ever go there be sure to walk along the fence line and in the lane. The bodies were "stacked like cordwood" along that fence line. It will surely bring a little moisture to the eyes.

The Battles of Westport

October 21-23, 1864

Friday, October 21st

Battle of the Little Blue and 1st Day of the Second Battle of Independence

1. 8:00 am Action at Little Blue Crossing, Marmaduke & Fagan, CSA, attack Moonlight's position
2. 10:00 Jackman's, CSA Cav., encounter Moonlight's pickets on Little Blue Road
- 11:00 Blunt's units, US, Counter charge East from Salem Church Road, beaten back
3. 1:00 pm Shelby's, CSA Cav., 2nd Charge West toward Union line along Salem Church Road
4. 4:00 Organized Retreat by Federals, Action at Liberty Landing Road
5. 6:00 pm Action in Independence, Federals Retreat to Byram's Ford
- 5a. Just after dusk 5 pm 1st engagement at the Railroad Cut
- 5b. about two hours later 7 pm Engagement at Rock Creek Crossing
- 5c. around 9 pm Engagement at Pitcher School Corner

Saturday, October 22nd

Continuation of 2nd Battle of Independence and 1st Battle at Byram's Ford

Positions... Confederate Infantry camped around the square in Independence
Federals, now under Col. Blunt, are hastily fortifying Byram's Ford
Shelby prepares to attack Blunt at Byram's Ford
Pleasanton has finally caught up with Confederates

- 8:00 am Action in Independence
6. 8:00 am Pleasanton's Kansas Cav. attacks Confederate camp near the Courthouse.
- 6a. 9:00 Cabell comes to the rescue, nearly gets captured.
- 6b. 10:00 2nd engagement at the Railroad Cut, Confederates retreat towards Big Blue
7. 10:00 Shelby attacks Federals entrenched at Byram's Ford
8. 1:00 pm Engagement at Mockbee Farm, Shelby rescues Jackman
9. 4:00 Cabell crosses the Big Blue and moves on Kansas City. Is driven back.
- Evening Federals fortify Brush Creek and Westport
Confederates camp West of Byram's Ford, & near KC Zoo

Sunday, October 23rd

2nd Battle at Byram's Ford, Action at Brush Creek & Loose Park

- Positions... Dietzler's Kansas Militia in place along State Line, over 6,000 strong
Curtis' Federal Infantry dug in along Brush Creek
Pleasanton's Cavalry press attack on Marmaduke's Confederates at Byram's Ford
Price orders Marmaduke to defend Byram's Ford and
moved most of his units to the South bank of Brush Creek.
Price's plan is to overrun Westport and move on to KC and Fort Leavenworth
10. 8:00 Pleasanton overruns Marmaduke at 2nd Battle of Byram's Ford.
 11. 10:00 Charges and counter charges across Brush Creek have failed on both sides
 12. Noon Farmer Thoman's revenge. Blunt attacks the Rock Wall.
 13. Major battle south of Brush Creek. Price's plan falls apart, he orders retreat.
 14. 4:00 pm Shelby's Last Line of Defense slows Federal attack
Price's Army begins withdrawal to Arkansas