



August 2002

The Border Star

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

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"Sonny"

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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,

the coffee pot is always on

for more information

Sonny Wells 628-9910

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from the Pres...

The annual picnic was a rip snortin', belly bustin', good time. Many had not taken the Pitcher Cemetery Tour, with super-human guide Kathleen, and others were taking it for the umtenth time just because it is so interesting.

Best news of all was the Coffee Fund, which furnished the chicken, soda pop, tea and ice, came out of it with a positive balance. A whole \$1.58! Who would have thunk it? Certainly not I.

Of the eight T-Shirts that were given away, mostly 2X and 3X, one or two of them actually fit!

A special thanks goes to all who brought side dish and helped out with the serving. And a certain wife who always seems to be there when needed.

The passing of former member George Weinholt caught me by surprise. Mr. Civil War, as George was known, looked and acted the part even tho he once told me his family did not come to this country until long after the War.

It was George whom we photographed standing in the mass grave site at William Jewell College in June 1993 and it was George, dressed as a Union Officer, who unveiled the plaque with the names of those buried in the mass grave in the chapel which now sets near the grave site. It was "handlebars George" who advanced the Union Colors at the Special Memorial Service we had at the Big Blue Battlefield marker.

He was 84. His obituary, in the Sunday, July 24, 2002, Kansas City Star, ends with the words, "He will be missed." Amen and Amen.

We also bid farewell to Bonnie Sommerville's husband, Rick, this week. He had been ill for some months. I last saw him at the Lincoln reception in Harrisonville this past March.

Little progress to report on the Monuments book. I have been busy with the picnic, a family trip to Colorado, the newsletter and an event in Illinois. My next scheduled trips are September, first weekend in Illinois and last Saturday at Austin Bean Days.

By the time you get this my August 3rd program for the African-American Genealogical Society will be over. If I do not come back all tarred and feathered, I will consider the program well done.

If you have not been to the Mayhew Cabin in Nebraska City lately maybe now is the time to check it out. The cabin has been restored and an historical village has been added. Gun fighters are there on weekends thru Labor Day. The cabin was once part of the underground railroad.

Hope to see you at Union Cemetery on August 14th at 7 pm.

On the Calendar August 2002

Saturday, Aug. 3rd, 12:30
Special Presentation on
Black Soldiers in the Border War
for the
Afro-American Genealogical Society
at the Bruce Watkins Cultural Center

Wednesday, Aug. 14th
CWRTWMO Meeting, 7 pm
Walking Tour of Union Cemetery
(1 block east of 28th & Main)

Wednesday, Aug. 21st, 7 pm
Board Meeting
Law Enforcement Academy at
Little Blue Community College
Board Room

Wednesday, August 28th
Claudetta McCorkendale's Birthday

Tuesday, August 20th
My sweetie pie, honey baby lover's Birthday
But, I promised her I would not tell
Happy Birthday Sweetie

Tuesday, September 3rd
Harold F. Wells's Birthday

Thursday, September 5th
Lucky Mason's Birthday

Wednesday, Sept. 11th
CWRTWMO Meeting 7 pm
Meeting Room,
Law Enforcement Academy
Program on
The Confederate Home at Higginsville

Wednesday, Sept. 18th
Board Meeting 7 pm
Board Room,
Law Enforcement Academy

Welcome to New Members to be....
Helen & Larry Daniels
Lee Jackson
Claudene Herbert

Wednesday, August 14th Meeting **Walking Tour of Union Cemetery**

Land for Union Cemetery was donated in 1847 by James Hunter. Hunter's little daughter was among the first to be buried here.

This is the oldest cemetery still in use in the Kansas City area, although burial plots are very difficult to obtain.

The cemetery was named for the merger of the City of Westport and the Town of Kansas which formed Kansas City, not for the Union troops buried here.

Records show there are over 550 Union Soldiers buried here and over 30 Confederates.

Civil War era names you might recognize include Capt. George Caleb Bingham and wife Mattie, Dr. Harris of Westport, Spencer McCoy, John McCormack and Nathaniel M. Gwynne, 15 year old Medal of Honor recipient,

There is a Memorial marker to a Rev. War soldier and a Rev. War Matriarch buried here.

There are several War of 1812 veterans and a few Mexican War veterans interred here, including General Heinrich Heikbrueter, head of Federal Artillery during the Mexican Campaign and at the beginning of 1861.

There were two mass graves of soldiers killed at the Battle of Westport, mostly from the Loose Park area.

Those buried in the biggest of the two were dug up and re-interred at Fort Leavenworth National Cemetery in 1912. Reports show 272 bodies were moved. A building now stands on that site, just west of the present day entrance.

Most of those buried in the smaller mass grave were dug up in 1915 and transferred to Fort Leavenworth National Cemetery. The Memorial Day listing of 1927 shows 119 still buried at that site after 131 were removed.

That site was filled over in later years and a plumbing company warehouse was built there.

Parking within the cemetery may be a problem. Car pooling is suggested.

The tour starts at the Confederate Prisoners Memorial at 7 pm. Refreshments to follow.

At the Picnic....

On Wednesday, July 17th at 6 pm, over 40 Round Tablers and guests gathered in the Roberts Park on Blue Ridge Blvd, by Pitcher Cemetery, for our 10th annual Picnic.

All kinds of good food and cool liquids were on the serving tables and smiles were seen all about.

The evening turned out to be very comfortable as a nice breeze kept the temperature down and the humidity in check. The tall shade trees nearby also helped.

Kathleen Tuohey led the tour of Pitcher cemetery. The years she spent restoring the grounds and researching those buried there added much to the tour.

The revival of the Egg Toss contest has to be put off another year as the person who was supposed to bring the eggs forgot them. Not to mention any names, initials are SW.

We almost used Bob Benson's "home made" Oreo cookies in place of the eggs but some said they would rather eat the cookies than toss them.

Bud Samuels shared a couple of poems as the last of the cookies were gobbled up.

Richard Abbott brought a few bird houses to give away and the last of the 9-11 T-shirts were given away.

Lee Jackson read this verse....(edited)

Old folks are worth a fortune.

*With silver in their hair, gold in their teeth,
stones in their kidneys, lead in their feet
and gas in their stomachs.*

I'm seeing five men every day.

As soon I wake,

*Will Power helps me out of bed.
followed by a must visit to see John.*

Then Charley Horse comes along.

When he leaves Authur Itis shows up.

*He doesn't like to stay in one place too long
so he takes me from joint to joint.*

After such a busy day

I go to bed with some help from Ben Gay.

(brought by Richard Abbott)

Programs for this Fall

As the year of 2002 comes to an end the CWRTWMO will be finishing its 10th year.

Believe it or not over 20 of our original members are still involved, 22 to be exact. They make up about 35% of our membership.

How many can you name? If you guessed Bob Benson, Dr. Gerald Anderson and Tim Cox you hit 2 out of 3. Nice try.

The fall programs will start on Sept. 11th with a program on the Confederate Home of Missouri. After a brief history about the early days of the home we will focus in on the cemetery and will try to identify the 7 unknowns buried there.

The November 13th program will be on the Veterans Homes of Missouri. Although Confederate veterans were eligible to live at these homes, there were two, they very rarely applied for admittance.

The October 9th program will be on the Battle of Westport, focusing specifically on the engagements at the Big Blue and Byram's Ford. It is possible our annual October tour will be to Big Blue this year. Proposed date will be Saturday, October 26. Time will be from 9 am to Noon. Possible jump off point could be the Bingham-Waggoner Estate.

This would be the first time we have had a public tour to the Big Blue. Suggest this tour would need to be in vans and cars as we would be going to places the busses could not go.

Then comes December--our 10th Annual Christmas Party. This year our party will fall on Saturday, December 7th. Does that date ring a bell with anyone--Pearl Harbor Day.

How about our Annual Christmas covered dish dinner and associated festivities from noon to 1:45 followed by a Special Memorial Program in the stained glass sanctuary at 2:00. Special guests could be WW II Veterans.

This is assuming we would use the Liberty Christian Church for the party.

The board has a couple of decisions to make and name a 2003 nominating committee.

Do we need a By Laws Review Committee?

This coming December we will be completing our 10th year.

We have been operating under Robert's Rules, with very few, if any, changes.

Is it time to have a select committee take a look at our guidelines and see if any changes are in order?

If you feel such a review is needed, please convey your feelings to one of the board members or officers.

Do not be bashful, this could be important to our continued operations.

Recent Book Donations

Secret Missions of the Civil War,

by Philip Van Doren Stern.
@1959, Reprint 1990, 320 pgs

Donated by
Donna Lee Warren of Liberty
Trivia buffs will go nuts with this one

Medal of Honor

by Allen Mikaelian
@2002, 300 pages
Donated by Beverly Shaw
and Harlan Klukow
Only two Civil War Honorees
mentioned but much detail, extensive
bibliography and index.

A reprint of

Old Folks are Worth a Fortune

will be available at our
next two meetings

Thanks to
Kathleen
as usual,
the tour was
Grrrrrrr-ate!

Thanks are also due
Richard Abbott, the
bird house builder.
For the 3rd year in a
row he has built,
mostly from scrap
wood, painted and
donated over
1,000 bird houses.

MIDLANDS

SUNDAY WORLD-HERALD

Fort Kearny's Kearney mystery explored

By JAMES DENNEY
WORLD-HERALD
CORRESPONDENT

KEARNEY, Neb. — During the 20 years that Gene Hunt has been superintendent of Fort Kearny State Historical Park, he's pursued how the extra "e" was added to the city of Kearney and Kearney County, where the fort was located.

The city and county were supposedly named after the fort, a major supply post for wagon trains on the Oregon and California Trails from 1848-1869.

"It is a historical record that the fort was named for Stephen Watts Kearny," Hunt said. "Please note, he did not have an

extra 'e' in his name. Nevertheless, Kearney is Kearney and Fort Kearny is Fort Kearny."

Hunt said the answer to the question of whether to add the extra letter may come down to inconsistent clerks.

With the help of Jerry Ingram, Hunt has gone over microfilm of correspondence during the 1800s between the fort and officials of what was then the War Department in Washington.

Hunt said: "We both noted that in some of these handwritten letters, one clerk would spell Fort Kearny without the 'e,' and the next one would spell it with the extra 'e.'"

Adding to the confusion, Hunt said, is how Stephen Watts

Kearny, a hero of fighting in the Southwest and the Civil War, pronounced his name.

"The general's name was pronounced keer-nee," Hunt said. Nebraskans prefer "car-nee."

As far as spelling goes, Kearny generally is accepted across the nation — with Nebraska being the exception. There is Kearny, Ariz. California has Stephen Watts Kearny High School, Kearny Mesa, Old Camp Kearny, and Kearny Street.

There is a Kearny County in Kansas and a Kearny oil field. New Jersey, where the general was born, has Kearny and Kearny High School. There is also a Kearny in Texas.

Even today, writers display

differences.

Stephen Ambrose, in his historical novel "Nothing Like It in the World," the story of the building of the transcontinental railroad, mentions "Fort Kearney."

In the movie "Around the World in 80 Days," the late comedian Joe E. Brown boards a train from "Fort Kearney."

In 1964, Joe Stone, writing about Kearny in the San Diego Union, mentioned that the "general had been insulted all over the map." Accompanying his story was a photo of a plaque, installed by the Daughters of the American Revolution, in Old Town Plaza in Santa Fe, N.M. It commemorated the end of the "Kearney Trail in 1846."