



July 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.*

Officers for 2002

President Harold F. Wells
"Sonny"

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Newsletter

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Sonny Wells

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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,**

the coffee pot is always on

for more information

Sonny Wells 628-9910
Tim Cox 478-8833
Beverly Shaw 478-7648

from the Pres...

The **annual picnic** will be back at Roberts Park/Pitcher Cemetery, just west of Blue Ridge Blvd. and Blue Ridge Extension, on Wednesday, July 17. Set up starts anytime after 5. Serving starts at 6:00. Over by 9:00.

It has been 3 years since we were last at this site. As we did last year, the coffee fund will furnish the fried chicken, soda pop and ice. Your favorite salad or dessert will help fill up the table. It would not hurt to bring your own plates and utensils, lawn chairs and bug spray.

The work session meeting of June 12th was very productive. Many saw the book for the first time. Some changes were made in the format. Four monuments which lie just outside our five county area were deleted from the book as well as a section on Civil War notables buried in the area. The total number of pages dropped from 74 to 56 because of these changes.

Among the sites deleted was the mass grave at Pleasant Hill Cemetery, the Captain William T. Anderson Memorial at Orrick, The Southern Cross of Honor headstone at Pleasant Valley Cemetery south of Stilwell, Kansas, and the Camp Montgomery site just south of Lansing, Kansas.

Among the "Notables" gravesites which were deleted was Captain George Caleb Bingham, Captain John C. McCoy, Col. Kersey Coates and the 7 Civil War Medal of Honor recipients buried in our area.

I showed some additional pages to the Board at our June 19th meeting. A group photo of our Round Table members standing in the former trenches at William Jewell College in 1993 is among the new pages.

A picture showing two of our members standing in the mass grave at the college, before the site was graded over and filled in, is another addition. And a new page showing the Platte County Court House's new plaque.

A page which will surely draw some attention is the one I have suggested which lists the Civil War sites in the area which should have some kind of marker but have nothing. Among these would be the Liberty Arsenal, the Battle of Liberty sites, Moonlight's artillery position on Blue Mills Road, the spring of Ferguson Spring Road and places like that.

Now for the big news...The Board decided to spend the extra money and print the book with some color pictures.

Many of these decisions are very difficult to make. There was much discussion on some of the pages. It takes input from everyone to make these decisions wisely and justly.

The assistance of those who were at the June meeting was very helpful.

See you at the picnic

On the Calendar

July 2002

Thursday, 4th
Independence Day
Fly the Colors

Monday, 8th
Charles McCordendale's Birthday
(not in June as previously, erroneously reported)

Tuesday, 9th
John Morgan's Birthday
(Same as above)

Wednesday, 17th, 6-9 pm
The Annual Picnic
at Roberts Park, by Pitcher Cemetery
Blue Ridge & Blue Ridge Ext,
(about a mile north of Royals Stadium)
Church's Chicken, sodas & ice
furnished by the coffee fund.
Suggest you bring lawn chairs,
bug juice and your own service
Hoping for music from the Harmonica,
hint, hint, hint!

Wednesday 24th,
Board Meeting???

Thursday, August 1st,
Donna Daniels Birthday
(forget it, she doesn't have them anymore)

Wednesday, August 14th
Our August meeting will be a walking tour of
Union Cemetery.
Details still being worked out.

Reminder...
Karen & Sonny leave on
Friday, July 5th
and will not return until
Sunday July 13th
In an emergency
contact Tim at 478-8833
or Beverly at 478-7648
or Art at 383-4101

Update on Monuments Book

Until we come up with something better the title of the book is *Civil War Monuments and Memorials in the Greater Kansas City area*.

As currently set up there will be 51 pages on the monuments and memorials, a Table of Contents, a page on Understanding the Abbreviations, a page on our Round Table (complete with logo at the top), a page on the KC150 Foundation, full color cover with a picture of the cannon at Forest Hill Cemetery.

Newest additions to the book include...the new plaque on the Platte County Court House at Platte City, a plaque which was put up just so we could include that building in our new book.

Former member Bob Werline, of Platte City, was instrumental in getting the ball rolling on the procurement of this long overdue marker.

And the Building Collapse marker and the Gen. Ewing's Headquarters marker, the two very newest markers in our area, have been added.

As previously reported the pages on Civil War Medal of Honor recipients buried in the area have been deleted as have the four pages on markers just outside the five county area.

Most important...the Board voted to spend the extra money and have the main pictures published in color. In cases where more than one picture of the memorial or monument is used only the main photo will be in color.

This means that over 40 of the monuments will be in full color in the book. This will add about \$800 to the cost of the book. In order to stay within budget other cost cutting measures may need to be taken.

Each monument pictured will have the location of the monument, directions to the site, a brief history of the monument and any information of special note.

Those who were at the June meeting acted as editors for the partially completed pages. Many were seeing the text for the first time. Some had to use magnifying glasses to read the wording on the monuments. Others corrected spelling errors or improved sentence structure.

Working in pairs and trios, they accomplished in two hours what it would have taken Tim and I months to do.

Schazam, What a trip!

The bus tour of June 8-9 turned out to be one swell trip (except for that blasted Nebraska wind).

Starting with the baking powder, raisin and cinnamon breakfast rolls and ending with a serenade of melodious harmonica music.

In between we toured the Stuhr Museum of the Prairie Pioneers at Grand Island, Pioneer Village in Minden, old Fort Kearney and the J. Sterling Morton home, Arbor Lodge, in Nebraska City.

Every place the group went we saw things we did not expect to see. At Stuhr there was a huge old wall clock and a wood wheel bicycle in the main building and the birth home of Henry Fonda in old town.

At Pioneer Village there was a turn of the century single row knot planter and an old Willys boat-car which floated on water and drove on the hiway.

We passed a billboard sign near Fort Kearney which said over 40,000 wagons crossed the trail here in 3 months in 1850.

Another read "Over 100,000 freight wagons crossed here in 1855.

The Visitors Center at Fort Kearney had many maps and original site artifacts. The blacksmith's shop had a genuine grass roof and sod walls.

Many of the trenches were still visible near the walled section of the fort.

We also discovered one should not try to eat at an Arby's or Wendy's on a Sunday just after church lets out in small town Nebraska.

We only had one hour to tour at Arbor Lodge, but by that time we were all a bit on the tired side anyway...a one lane bowling alley in the basement of a 52 room turn of the century mansion. Don't believe it until you see it, but I can tell you where to find it.

And finally, we had a Runza, a German-Polish part of Nebraska's heritage. Nebraskans say you haven't really been there until you've had one. Been there, done that!

Submitted by Sonny Wells

At the Board Meeting....

The Board of Directors met on Wednesday, June 19 2002, at 7 pm in the Board Room at the Regional Law Enforcement Training Building at Little Blue Community College.

Sonny showed a copy of new *Civil War Courier* tabloid. Board members will be sent a comp copy. Sonny reported several have asked about a bus tour to Conception Abbey. Looking at September or October.

Reports...

The Newsletter....90 printed, 72 mailed.
Cost 50.18. Bill submitted and paid

Treasurer's Report....was given

Coffee Fund Report...Beg. Bal. \$58.02,
Purchases \$6.82, In Jar \$18.00.
New Bal. 69.20.

Officer's Reports

Secretary passed out minutes

2nd V. P....Not present

1st V. P....Not present.

President....The annual picnic will be on Wednesday, July 17th, from 6-9 pm at Roberts Park, by Pitcher Cemetery in Independence. Church's chicken, sodas and ice will be furnished. B.Y.O.P.--(Bring your own plates, etc. and chairs). Some salads and desserts will be helpful. A little bug juice might be a good idea.

The July Board meeting has also been moved back one week to July 24th, if one is needed. Right now no meeting is planned.

Several decisions were made regarding the Civil War Monuments book. Having the main pictures in color will add much to the book. Despite the increased cost this will make for a much nicer looking book. The deletions from the book, voted at the last meeting, will cut 16 pages from the book.

Doing the stapling ourselves will save some money, thus keeping the color pages within our budgeted funds. Dismissed 9:15.

Thank You From...

Symphony Designers' Showhouse

Thank you to all the Civil War Round Table members who volunteered to staff this spring.

You will be glad to know the Junior Women's Symphony Alliance was able to donate \$130,000 to fund the Children's Concerts as a result of the Showhouse.

*Sincerely
Beverly Shaw*

Civil War Sites--No markers

As work on the book continues it has been determined there are a number of sites in our area which are deserving of markers but have never been marked.

Among these are....

The spring on Ferguson Spring Road

The Five Generals meeting site

Moonlight's positions on Blue Mills Road

Shelby's Hospital House & Burying Ground

The Liberty Arsenal

The Battle of Liberty sites

The Trail leading into Byram's Ford

The Mass Grave at Pitcher Cemetery

In all, over 20 sites were mentioned by those who were working on the book. A page has been added to the book which will list the more important of these sites.

What's in a Soldier's Name?

(From New York soldiers in the Civil War)

Pvt. George Bush, Co. F, 126th N. Y. Vol.

Surrendered at Harper's Ferry, Sept. 15, 1862

Exchanged, returned to his unit, M/Out June '65

Pvt. Bill Clinton, Co. F, 133rd N. Y. Vol.

Enlisted Feb. '62, M/Out June '65,

Pvt. Johnny Carson, Co. D, 133rd N. Y. Vol.

Enlisted Febr. '62, M/Out June '65

Pvt. Ed McMahon, Co. G, 97th N. Y. Vol.

Enlisted Jan. '62 at Boonville, N.Y. Age 27

Sgt. Ronald McDonald, Co. G, 136th N. Y. Vol.

Enlisted Feb. '62, to Co. G as Corpl on Aug/ '62

Do you Remember?

The date of the first Battle of Independence?

The name of the Confederate General killed at the First Battle of Independence? (said to have been the only Conf. Gen. killed in combat in Missouri)

The date of the Grinter Farm Shootout?

The name and unit of the popular officer killed at the Grinter Farm Shootout?

To what battle were the Clay County men going to when they were ambushed by the old Stone Barn? (August 1862)

What Confederate Cavalry officer stopped for a late breakfast while the attack at the Little Blue was in progress? (October 1864)

Can you name the Federal Cavalry officer whose men rode all night to catch up with the Confederates who had camped near the Square in Independence? (October 1864)

Can you name the dashing young Confederate Partisan who was buried in what is now a well known apple orchard?

Can you name the mill which once stood near present day Knobtown?

Many of Shelby's officers are said to have been buried in the front yard of the Moore House. True or False? (October 1864)

Can you name the Confederate Battery who fired so often and so quickly that it caused the brass barrel of one of their guns to partially melt and become useless? (October 1864)

The main river crossing between Independence and Liberty in 1860 was Blue Mills Landing. True or False?

Among the answers you are looking for might be some of the following.....True, False, Wells, Hughes, Collins, Fristoe, Wagner, Jackman, Pleasanton,