

# The Border Star

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

February 2002

Vol. X No. 1

## THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE OF WESTERN MISSOURI INC.

Year 2002

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### NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Sharon Kelley (816) 373-4101  
e-mail - sharonkelley8@home.com

### MAILING ADDRESS

C.W.R.T. of W. Mo  
4947 South Peck  
Independence, MO 64055

### TELEPHONE

Tim (816) 478-8833  
Sonny (816) 628-9910  
Beverly (816) 478-7648

### ANNUAL DUES

Individual	\$15.00
Family	\$22.50
Student (under 21)	\$ 5.00

### MEETINGS

The Second Wednesday  
Of the month at 7 pm  
July-Annual Picnic  
September-Historic Tour  
December meeting is  
Annual Christmas Party

**Visitors Always  
Welcome!**

## NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, February 13, 2002  
7:00 p.m.

**WOW!**

**Where: Law Enforcement Academy**

Next to Blue River Community College  
20301 East 78 Highway  
Independence, Missouri

**Kevin Wells**

**The making of the movie  
Gods & Generals**

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Refreshments following program

from the Pres.....

It has been just over five years since I prepared a column with this title. Gosh, how things have changed. Two grand-kids, a different address, a 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, my 62<sup>nd</sup> birthday, new friends, and some familiar faces.

But, life is easier now that I am 62. Right? Wrong! Things are busier than ever. Take a look at the calendar.

The Medal of Honor display, assisting the students with the National History Competition, the Lincolns are coming, what a week that usually is. Ten school appearances and four evening performances in less than five days.

Then, throw in the Civil War Monuments book, the Pearl Harbor booklet, the reprinting of my Civil War Veterans of Cass County book, and I begin to wonder how many hours are there in a day. Not enough, that is for sure.

I am already working on the plans for Memorial Day at Elmwood Cemetery, and the July Fourth celebration in Independence. Soon, planning for our annual picnic will be in the picture. A return visit to Pitcher Cemetery seems in order.

The trip to the museums in June seems like a bunch of fun. I hope it all works out, and I hope to see you there ... or in the park ... or on the bus.

Sonny Wells



## CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

### **A Saturday in February Medal of Honor on Display**

Pearson Hall Meeting Room  
Harrisonville, Missouri

**Wednesday, February 13, 7pm**

#### **CWRTWMO Meeting**

The making of the movie

#### ***Gods & Generals***

By Kevin Wells

**Thursday, February 14**

#### **Valentines Day**

Forget it if you dare!

**Wednesday, February 20, 7pm**

#### **Board Meeting**

**Wednesday, March 13, 7pm**

#### **CWRTWMO Meeting**

#### **Blacks in the Civil War**

By the Author

**Sunday, March 17, 2-4 pm**

#### **Reception for Mr. & Mrs. Lincoln**

Hampton Inn in Liberty  
I-35 & Hwy 152

**Wednesday, March 27, 7pm**

#### **Board Meeting**

**Wednesday, April 10, 7 pm**

#### **CWRTWMO Meeting**

#### **Open Round Table**

**Wednesday, April 17, 7pm**

#### **Board Meeting**

♥♥♥♥♥

#### **NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

**The deadline for the next issue of**

*The Border Star* will be

**February 22, 2001**

#### **Articles are always welcome**

Send them to: **Sharon I. Kelley, Editor**

15110 East 38<sup>th</sup> Independence, MO 64055

Fax # 816-578-4080

Email: [sharonkelley8@home.com](mailto:sharonkelley8@home.com)

## **DUES FOR 2002**

Dues for the year 2002. You can pay at a meeting, or mail a check made payable to:

### **CWRTWMO**

Mail to: **Beverly Shaw, Treasurer**

**17313 East 51<sup>st</sup> Terrace Court**

**Independence, Missouri 64055**

#### **Dues are:**

Single \$15.00

Family \$22.50

Student \$ 5.00

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## **Medal of Honor to be on Display**

Two students from the Harrisonville Christian School have entered the National History Contest. They have chosen as their topic "Reaction under Fire." Their display will center around six Medal of Honor recipients from this area. One of the six will be 15-year-old Nat Gwynne, a Civil War recipient and one of the youngest to be awarded the Medal. Gwynne is buried in Union Cemetery in Kansas City.

Another will be Charles Richard Long of Independence, a Korean War veteran, who was awarded the Medal posthumously. Long's sister, Edith, is the lady who read the "21 Speech" at Elmwood Cemetery last Memorial Day.

Edith only recently came into possession of her brother's Medal. Upon hearing of the two student's project, Edith offered to take Charles' Medal to Harrisonville, to show it to the students.

Others, upon hearing of the proposed showing, expressed interest in seeing the Medal, especially the WWII and Korean veterans and the parents of the National Guardsmen, who were recently called up for active duty.

With the approval of Edith Long, the Medal of Honor Historical Society is sponsoring a reception at Pearson Hall, a part of the library, from 2-4 pm on Saturday, February 2, 2002, at which Long's Medal of Honor and some of the papers related to his award will be on display.

The building is located two blocks East and one block South of the Cass County Courthouse.

If you have never seen an actual Medal of Honor, now is your chance. VFW, American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, or other veterans service group caps are acceptable. The public is invited.



## What's in the News

We've received several announcements of programs. **From Tim Rues**, Site Curator, the Kansas State Historical Society, they will be having the following programs, all held at Constitution Hall, Lecompton, Kansas ([www.kshs.org](http://www.kshs.org)):

February 17 **Lincoln and Kansas: Partnership for Freedom** by Carol Dark Ayres, educator and author

March 3 **Florella Adair's Story** by Mary Florella Buster, educator and reenactor

March 10 **"The Free Sons of the North" vs. "The Myrmidons of Border Ruffianism": What makes a man in Bleeding Kansas?** By Kristen Tegtmeier, Ph.D. Millsaps College

March 24 **Clarina Nichols: Frontier Freedom Fighter** by Diane Eickhoff, editor, author and historian

April 7 **Ely Moore's Story of Lecompton** by J. Howard Duncan, playwright and Lecompton Reenactors

**From Tim Cox:** he will be teaching the following classes:

At Blue River Community College ([bluerivercc.com](http://bluerivercc.com))

**The Civil War: Western Missouri and the U.S.** 4 different dates, sign up for all or for one of them.

March 19 **Order Number 11**

March 26 **Battle of the Little Blue**

April 2 **The Lincoln Assassination**

April 9 **Local Landmarks, Cemeteries** (only it is spelled "Cemetaries" - at a college, even!)

For Liberty School District, Tim will be teaching six sessions at Liberty High School and one field trip to eastern Independence.

March 7 **Overview, Causes (U.S., Western Missouri, Kansas)**

March 14 **Historiography of War in Western Missouri - Area Landmarks**

March 21 **Guerrillas - Order No. 11**

March 28 **Liberty - Battles**

April 4 **Lincoln Assassination - Gettysburg**

April 6 **Field Trip - Little Blue Battlefield**

April 11 **Reconstruction, Reunions, Post War Organizations**

From **"The Civil War: Strange & Fascinating Facts"** by Burke Davis (pg 215):

At least 618,000 Americans died in the Civil War, and some experts say the toll reached 700,000. At any rate, these casualties exceed the nation's loss in all its other wars, from the Revolution through Korea.

The Union armies had from 2,500,000 to 2,750,000 men. Their losses, by the best estimates: Battle deaths: 110,070; Disease, etc.: 250,152; Total: 360,222.

The Confederate strength, known less accurately because of missing records, was from 750,000 to 1,250,000. Its estimated losses: Battle deaths: 94,000; Disease, etc.: 164,000; Total: 258,000.

Of every 1,000 Federals in battle, 112 were wounded.

Of every 1,000 Confederates, 150 were hit.

Mortality was greater among Confederates, because of inferior medical service.

## "He Died for Me" Monument

Beverly Shaw would like to ask the help of anyone who knows the whereabouts of a marble grave marker, fifteen feet high, in the Kansas City area, with the inscription:

**SACRED TO THE MEMORY OF  
WILLIE LEE  
HE TOOK MY PLACE IN THE LINE  
HE DIED FOR ME**

Recently, Beverly's husband, Jerry Klukow, was doing some research in the sermons of Billy Sunday, a charismatic preacher of his day. This is the story that comes from **The Gospel According to Sunday.**

"In the war there was a band of guerillas, Quantrell's band, that had been ordered to be shot on sight. . . . One long ditch was dug and they were lined up in front of it and blindfolded and tied. Just as the firing squad was ready to present arms, a young man dashed through the bushes and cried, "Stop!" He told the commander of the firing squad that he was as guilty as any of the others. He had escaped and had come of his own free will, and pointing to one man in the line, he asked to take his place. "I'm single," he said, "while he has a wife and babies." The commander of that firing squad was an usher in one of the cities in which I held meetings, and he told me how the young fellow was blindfolded and bound and the guns rang out and he fell dead.

Time went on, and one day a man came upon another in a graveyard in Missouri, weeping and shaping the grave into form. The first man asked who was buried there, and the other said, "The best friend I ever had." Then he told how he had not gone far away, but had come back and taken the body of his friend after he had been shot. He buried it so he knew he had the right body. And he had brought a withered bouquet all the way from his home, to put on the grave. He was poor then, and could not afford anything costly, but he had placed a slab of wood on the pliable earth with these words on it: "He died for me."

Major Whittle stood by the grave some time later, and saw the marble monument fifteen feet high and on it this inscription: (see inscription above)."

Maybe this was a teaching story only, or perhaps a composite of several stories, but I wondered if anyone had knowledge of a monument like this. Perhaps it was in a cemetery that has since been overtaken by city sprawl. If you have information, please give Beverly a call at (816) 478-7648.

Submitted by Beverly Shaw



### At The Board Meeting

The Board met at 7 pm on Wednesday, January 16, in the Board Room, at the Police Training Academy.

Art Kelley was thanked for being the hero of the day for all of his phone calling about the canceling of last week's meeting.

When Tim called to verify the use of the room, he was told the building would not be open that night because of the semester break. This was about 10:30 am on Wednesday morning. Sonny was sick, Tim had a funeral to attend, and Beverly was out on the golf course. Thank goodness, Art was at home. He plunged in and started calling. The only two he did not reach were those who had been gone all day.

Tim went down to the meeting site to catch anyone who showed up. In the end it all worked out well, except for the fact we did not have a meeting. Good job by Art. Thanks again.

There had not been a board meeting for two months, and there was much to discuss.

Opening reports were given. Sonny and Karen were reimbursed for the Christmas Party expenses.

Tim commented on how well the annual party went this year. The food was outstanding, smiles were abundant, and the program went well. The Lehman's playing in the Fellowship Hall, and during the visit to the Sanctuary, added a nice touch.

Items up for discussion included:

The Memorial Day Sunset program at Elmwood Cemetery . . . the Round Table will be assisting with that program again this year.

Participation in the Independence July Fourth program . . . Dorace Wilson, the person who contacted us last year, has retired. She had asked us to set up again in 2002. We do not know if her replacement will extend that invitation. We will not have the big guns to help out, but the horsemen will be available. No decision made.

The KC 150 book . . . The book is all organized, but we are lacking data on some of the monuments. At the next meeting, single pages will be set out to allow individuals to take a page or two to do research on that monument. More members will thus be involved in the project, and it is hoped, more information will be found.

The copy machine . . . Art and Sharon have a copy machine, which they offered to donate to the Round Table. We are thankful for the donation, but could not find a place to keep it. Sharon reported she has another non-profit group, which can use it.

The upcoming History Fair on the Plaza . . . Tim said he would like us to set up a display at the fair. Others agreed. Dr. Anderson volunteered to pay the \$50 setup fee. Tim is checking into this, and will report back to us at the next meeting.

Next month's program will be on the making of the movie Gods and Generals. Karen and Sonny's son, Kevin, was on the production staff of the movie. He has many pictures taken with the stars, and even one with "General" Ted Turner. He will tell of the origin of the movie and what it is about.

### Possible Trip

Sonny and Tim are looking into a bus trip to two unusual places.

#### Stur Museum

The Stuhr Museum of the Prairie Pioneer, at Grand Island, Nebraska, is having a Civil War event on June 8 & 9, 2002, which will include the Confederates attaching their 1880's restored train, which will be full of Federals. The fight will continue through the streets of the 1880's village. (website [www.stuhrmuseum.org](http://www.stuhrmuseum.org))

Henry Fonda's birthplace is part of the village, as are over 40 other period homes and buildings.

#### Pioneer Village

Just an hour away is Pioneer Village. If you have never been to this village, you have missed something. Talk to someone who has been there. It contains "the largest private collection of Americana anywhere, and comprises 28 buildings on 20 acres housing over 50,000 irreplaceable items of historical value, restored to operating order, arranged in groups, and also in the chronological order of their development. There's 12 historic buildings around the circular "green". There's a Frontier Fort, a real honest-to-goodness Pony Express Station, an Iron Horse, and a home made of sod. There's a general store and a toy store, chock full of all the goods from yesteryear. An original art collection including 25 Currier and Ives prints, 23 Jackson paintings, and the largest single collection of Rogers statues. You can ride a priceless steam carousel, see 17 historic flying machines and marvel at 100 antique tractors," according to the website [www.pioneervillage.org](http://www.pioneervillage.org).

#### Plans

The plan is to leave Kansas City early, stop for coffee and cookies along the way, get a picture of Abe's statue in front of the State Capitol Building in Lincoln, have lunch in Grand Island before watching the 2:00 battle.

Depart for Pioneer Village about 5:00, arrive about 5:45. Grab dinner at the buffet and tour the village for a while. The motel is right next door.

Sunday morning breakfast at the buffet and 3 more hours at the village.

Depart for KC about 1 pm. Stop in Nebraska City for Runzas and cheeseburgers (or at McD's). Arrive back in KC about 7 pm.

Cost will be about \$95 per person, based on double occupancy. This includes admission to both museums, motel room, and transportation costs.

The cost may be less, depending on what discounts I can finagle.

We will need at least 24 to go. Please let Sonny or Tim know if you are interested.

Submitted by Sonny Wells