

The Border Star

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

November/December 2001

Vol. IX No. 8

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE OF WESTERN MISSOURI INC.

Year 2001

OFFICERS

President	Timothy A. Cox
1 st Vice Pres.	H. Sonny Wells
2 nd Vice Pres.	Arthur Kelley
Secretary Vacant
Treasurer	Beverly Shaw
Historian	Paul Tate

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Dr. Gerald W. Anderson
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Joel Semler
Randall Todd
Karen Wells

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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, November 14, 2001
7:00 p.m.

Where: Law Enforcement Academy

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

Lee Ward

"Embalming in the Civil War"

Election of Officers

Refreshments following program

Nominating Committee Report

The Nominating Committee has recommended the following slate of officers for the 2002 leadership of the CWRTWMO:

Officers to be Elected

President	Sonny Wells
First Vice President	Tim Cox
Second Vice President	Art Kelley
Secretary	Fran Mason
Treasurer	Beverly Shaw
Historian	Paul Tate

Directors to be Elected

Michael Calvert	Robert L. Mason
Tom Carroll	Charlotte Tindall
Harriett Lionberger	Karen Wells

These directors will be elected to serve from January 2002 thru December 2003.

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The following directors will **NOT** be voted on, but will complete their two-year term, serving from January 2001 through December 2002.

|                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Gerald Anderson | Terry McConnell |
| Sharon Kelley   | Randall Todd    |

The CWRTWMO is greatly appreciative of the time and talents of retiring board members Charles and Claudetta McCorkendale, Joel and Dori Semler, and Bob Benson.

Submitted by Fran Mason



## CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

**Saturday, November 3, 10am**  
**Northland Genealogical Society**  
 North Kansas City Hospital  
 Pavalion Building Auditorium  
**"Researching your Civil War Ancestors"**  
 Visitors Welcome

**Wednesday, November 14, 7pm**  
**CWRTWMO Meeting**  
 Embalming in the Civil War  
 Election of Officers

**Wednesday, November 28, 7pm**  
**Board Meeting**  
 --Note Date Change--

**Saturday, December 8, 11am to 4pm**  
**10<sup>th</sup> Annual Christmas Party**  
 Liberty Christian Church  
 Decorating 11am, eat at noon

**Birthdays:** December 27, Art Kelley

### **Anniversaries:**

*Want your name included on the Birthday List?  
 Give Sharon or Sonny the date*

### *How Young They Were!*

(The following appears in the book The Civil War: Strange & Fascinating Facts by Burke Davis)

*It might have been called the Boy's War. Authorities differ, and statistics bristle in the controversy, but this is the offering of the "Photographic History of the Civil War."*

More than 2,000,000 Federal soldiers were twenty-one or under (of a total of some 2,700,000).

More than 1,000,000 were eighteen or under.

About 800,000 were seventeen or under.

About 200,000 were sixteen or under.

About 100,000 were fifteen or under.

Three hundred were thirteen or under—most of these fifers or drummers, but regularly enrolled, and sometimes fighters.

Twenty-five were ten or under.

A study of a million Federal enlistments turned up only 16,000 as old as forty-four, and only 46,000 of twenty-five or more.

## **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

### **NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

**The deadline for the next issue of**  
*The Border Star* will be  
**November 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)

## *Christmas Party*

The annual Christmas Party will take place in the Fellowship Hall of the Liberty Christian Church on Saturday, December 8, from 11am to 4pm. Meat and drinks will be furnished. Please bring some food to share and your own table service. Dinner starts at Noon. Door prize drawings start at 1:30pm. Contributions to the door prize pool are still being accepted.

A program on the Pixlees of Clay County will follow the potluck dinner. The 2:30pm program will be open to all.

Peter Pixlee, with his manservant Sandy at his side, joined the Confederate Army of Missouri in September of 1861, and was with several thousand other Missourians at the Siege of Vicksburg in the summer of 1863. Brother Benjamin was also serving in the Confederate Army during this time.

The boys sent letters back home to the family in Clay County via the underground mail service. Many of these letters are in the Pixlee file at the Clay County Archives and Historical Library.

Peter wrote home in May of 1863..."We have finally figured out how to whip these Yankees. I expect I should be home by Christmas." Two weeks later he was killed by a sniper. He is buried in the Confederate section of the Vicksburg National Cemetery.

Sandy brought word of the death and a lock of Peter's hair back to the family, and was then sold at auction for \$800. Benjamin served out the War in a prisoner of war camp. Copies of some of the letters will be on display during the program. The lock of hair was in an envelope in the file until 1995, then disappeared.

Refreshments will follow the program.

Submitted by Sonny Wells



## What's in the News

The following article by Robert Hite, is from The Examiner Life and Times, Saturday, September 15, 2001.

Robert and Frances Mason are fixing up a piece of Civil War history.

About two years ago, they bought the house, used as a headquarters and hospital during an October 1864 Civil War battle known as the Battle of Little Blue. They removed tons of metal, garbage, and weeds from the house and property. It is next door to the house they have lived in for 35 years. "You could not see (the house) from our house," because of the weeds and other debris blocking the view, Mason said.

Now, the grounds are mowed, the outside of the house is painted white and the shutters green, and Robert is working on the inside.

The old home is just east of the intersection of Yocum and Blue Mills roads. That is in unincorporated Jackson County about one mile outside Independence.

It was built in 1856 with slave labor by Lawson and Zerilda Moore who came from Kentucky. The Moore's were forced from the home during the Civil War under Order No. 11. The order issued on August 25, 1863, required everyone who could not prove their loyalty to the Union or were living within a mile of Union posts in the area to leave Jackson, Cass, and Bates counties within 15 days.

There is no heat or air conditioning in the eight-room house. It has three bedrooms, five workable fireplaces and two covered-up fire places. It is one of the few remaining Greek Revival-style houses left in Eastern Jackson County, according to Patrick Steele, city of Independence Historic Preservation Manager.

Steele said the columns and symmetrical style of the house are typical of Greek Revival homes.

"There are very few pre-Civil War buildings in this area because of Executive Order No. 11," he said. "The ones I'm aware of you can count."

The house almost did not make it through the war. Mr. Mason said fire was set to this house four times during the battle, but it never burned down. That could be because the house is brick. The walls are 18-inches thick.

Sue Gentry, former Examiner editor, reporter and columnist, was born in the house in 1905 about two and half years after her parents bought it in 1902. Her family lived there until she was 7. It was a red brick house then. My brother and I used to stick our fingers in the bullet holes," she said. Her family kept the house until 1918.

Tim Cox, President of the Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri, said there is more than just saving the house and putting it on the register. It's about the battlefield itself.

(Continued)

What might threaten the field is the Little Blue Parkway, which is developing from southeast Independence northward toward U.S. 24.

Steve Noble, transportation manager for the Mid-America Regional Council, said an environmental impact study is expected to be completed this summer. That study determines where the road might go with the least amount of disruption to area businesses, historical sites, taking out people's homes or disturbing the environment.

Mr. Mason said his research indicates the battlefield covers four to five square miles. Cox said estimates are the victorious 12,000 to 15,000 Confederate soldiers chased 3,000 to 5,000 Union soldiers into Kansas City. The Confederate soldiers included Missouri farmers. The Union soldiers were from Kansas, Colorado, Wisconsin, Iowa, Missouri, and maybe other states.

The first couple days of battle was fought near the Mason's home. The other days were fought near the Blue River and as the Union soldiers retreated to Kansas City.

The Masons collect information about the history of the house. They would like to see the house included on the National Register of Historic Places. They said they have found pieces of cannon balls, Union and Confederate musket balls and grape shot D a cannon shot that shoots 27 balls at pointblank range at the enemy, used most often when the cannon crew feared they were going to be over run.

The house changed hands four times during the battle, "Robert said. A corner of the house was shot off by cannon fire and repaired to the point that you cannot tell which corner, he said. A second floor bedroom floor has blood stains, he said. A new floor has been put over it. "It's there. It's just been covered up," Mr. Mason said.

Union soldiers burned hay bales on the bridge to delay Confederate soldiers advance. A stone fence north of the house mentioned in Union soldiers diaries is covered up. A cemetery might be on the house's lot, but that is not certain, according to the Masons. Gentry said there is nothing there to indicate there is a cemetery. "It's just a raised part of landscape," she said.

Cox said the round table has informally talked about trying to keep the battlefield as intact as possible. "As of yet, it is not a specific project of the round table," he said.

The round table has given tours of the battlefield, complete with lectures about the conflict.

To reach Robert Hite, send e-mail [rhite@examiner.net](mailto:rhite@examiner.net) or call 350-6324.



## More - What's in the News

This article was also in The Examiner on Wednesday, October 10, 2001. Because we had toured this cemetery, maybe you'll find it interesting. It is written by James Dornbrook.

The Lobb Cemetery in Independence is about to be preserved forever, after winning approval as a local historic landmark by the Independence Planning Commission last night.

The cemetery at 2515 Lobb Cemetery Road encompasses about five acres of land. The Independence Community Development Department nominated the cemetery for consideration as a landmark, after learning of its significant historical value.

The cemetery was founded around 1836, after Aquilla Lobb buried a young child named John Crow who died in a tragic accident. The cemetery was originally named the Little Blue Cemetery, but renamed in 1854 to honor the Lobb family.

The cemetery was located next to an immigrant trail which wandered through the area, and remnants of the trail can still be seen today. It was this location next to the wagon trail which adds to the cemetery's historical value, as it became the final resting place for many early Jackson County pioneers.

Early pioneers buried in the cemetery include: Henry Etzenhouser, the first president of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Center Stake and a large contributor to the construction of The Stone Church in Independence; Adam Fisher, Jr., a veteran of the war of 1812 and son of a Revolutionary War veteran; and members of the Lobb, Crump, Crow, Crenshaw, and Pinkard families, among many others.

Also buried at the Lobb Cemetery are veterans of the Mexican-American War, the Civil War, World War I, World War II, and the Vietnam War.

Another area of historical significance in the cemetery is a stacked stone retaining wall, believed to have been constructed by slaves prior to the Civil War. The fence lines the northeast and west sides of the oldest part of the cemetery.

Planning Commission Member David Roberts asked what advantages there would be for the cemetery, if it was designated a local historic landmark. Representatives of the Community Development Department said the designation would help the cemetery association preserve the site, by qualifying them for grants and other funds. There are also stricter penalties for vandalism of a historic site.

The Planning Commission approved the designation of the Lobb Cemetery as a local historic landmark by an unanimous vote.

## Little Blue Battlefield Tour

### In order of stops

Stop On Map Description

1. #3 Old Lexington to Independence Trail around rocky ledge.
2. #2 Steep banks of slow Confederate cavalry could not get across.
3. #2 Field where Union infantry set up picket line.
4. #1 Battlefield maps (Just off parking lot).  
Bridge, crossing and old trail swails.  
Explain Confederate attack plan and Shelby's maneuver.
5. #3 Site of Shelby's surprise attack on Moonlight's flank.  
Also make note of Moonlight's artillery position on rocky ledge.
6. Confederate artillery position in corner of field.  
Also note lone cedar tree in what is left of Hall Family Cemetery.
7. #4 The spring where Confederates filled their canteens and later dressed wounds.
8. #5 Rocky ledge where Confederates met to lay out their plan of attack.  
Also note very deep trail swails to right of rocky ledge..  
And site of heated discussion between Shelby and Jackman.
9. Shelby's camp one mile south on East side of Ferguson Spring Road
10. #6 Site of Jackman's camp during first attack at the Little Blue Crossing.
11. #7 Moonlight's well placed artillery open fire from the rocky ledge as Jackman column approached.
12. #8 Henry Moore's home, site of Shelby's hospital and some burials.  
Moonlight's men retreated across the back of this property.
13. #9 Shelby and Jackman's units rejoined and charged up the hill toward the Union positions upon learning their old foes (15<sup>th</sup> Kansas & 2<sup>nd</sup> Colorado) were in formation just across the road.
14. #10 Federal battle lines stretched for over a mile along old Salem Church Road.  
Marmaduke, having stopped Blunt's charge, now pressed the attack upon the Federal right flank as Shelby was attacking the Federal center and Jackman was attacking the Federal left flank.
15. Old trail curving to West just past Lil General Store.
16. Old Cemetery behind Fields House.
17. Ambush site on Kentucky Road just West of former dairy.
18. Old St. Mary's Church and site of Confederate camps that evening.