



# The Border Star

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

June 2001

Vol. IX No. 6

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

Year 2001

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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, June 13, 2001  
7:00 p.m. at

*Truman High School - Library*  
*3301 South Noland Road*  
*Independence, Missouri*

**Jefferson Barracks:**  
**The Military's Gateway to the West**  
Presented by  
*Roger Taylor*

\* \* \* \* \*

*Refreshments following program*

## **This is a must event!**

Roger Taylor, an educator, historian, author, songwriter, wildlife artist, naturalist, and canoeist, will present the program at our monthly meeting on "Jefferson Barracks: The Military's Gateway to the West."

Jefferson Barracks (Missouri), built in 1826, was the first permanent military post west of the Mississippi. By 1843, it was the country's largest army post, and served as command headquarters during the Mexican War. Many of the great Civil War generals would serve their apprenticeship at the Barracks in that war.

Roger Taylor will discuss the time period from the post's first beginning to the Battle of Gettysburg, when old comrades met once again on the field of battle.

Submitted by Tim Cox



## CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

**Wednesday, June 13, 9:00 am**

Little Blue Battlefield Tour  
Spring Hill Summer School Class  
(Meet at K-Mart at 8:45 am)

**Wednesday, June 13, 9:00 am**

**CWRTWMO Meeting**  
Program on the Jefferson Barracks  
by Roger Taylor  
at Truman High School Library

**Wednesday, June 20, 7:00 pm**

**Board Meeting**  
New Location to be announced

**Sunday, July 1, 2:00 to 5:00 pm**

**Karen & Sonny's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**  
At their home north of Liberty – Open House  
All Invited, No gifts please

**Wednesday, July 4, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm**

**Independence Day Celebration**  
Independence, Missouri

**Wednesday, July 18, 7:00 pm**

**CWRTWMO Meeting**

**Wednesday, July 25, 7:00 pm**

**Board Meeting**

### Coming Soon

**Hot Dog Party at the Masons**  
**Watch for details and directions**

Sunday, July 8, Charles McCorkendale's Birthday

Monday, July 9, John Morgan's Birthday

Wednesday, August 1, Donna Daniels Birthday

*Want your name included on the Birthday List?*

*Give Sharon or Sonny the date*

### Honors to One of Our Own

On May 14, Kathleen Tuohey received the Distinguished Service Award for Historic Preservation from the City of Independence and the Independence Heritage Commission.

Kathleen was selected for her successful and long-term labors for Pitcher Cemetery and Phil Rogers Park.

"Her crowning achievement throughout this process may be that she has encouraged and empowered a long list of individuals and organizations to join her along the way. She generally and genuinely cared for this treasured space we recognize today as a model historic preservation success story," said Patrick Steele, Sr., the Historic Preservation Manager for the City of Independence.

Submitted by Mike Calvert

### DUES FOR 2001

Dues for the year 2001. You can pay at a meeting, or mail a check made payable to:  
**CWRT-WMO**

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

**June 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: [sharonkelley2@home.com](mailto:sharonkelley2@home.com)

### Memorial Day at Elmwood

There were numerous calls on our answering machine when we walked in the house on Monday evening, June 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Four of them were about the Memorial Day program at Elmwood Cemetery.

"It went great. It was really nice. I was proud to be a part of it," said one.

"A few changes here and there, but it came off like clockwork. Couldn't have been better," said another. "We even made TV."

"You pulled a fast one on me you &%%\$#@&%. I am really glad we went. It was really nice, real nice."

Everyone I have talked with has mentioned how nice it was and how well it came off.

Congratulations to all who worked to make it happen and to those who supported the effort with their attendance.

To Pam (Elmwood Cemetery) and Tim (our Pres.), for their pre-planning and up front efforts;

And Terry McConnell, for setting up and working the PA and the music;

And Charles McCorkendale, Lucky Mason, and Tim (our Pres.) for helping surprise Bob;

And Edith Long and Harold Barchers for helping out on the speeches;

And Howard Thompson, Harold Dellinger and Mr. Fladung for their speeches.

Not to forget the Color Guards from the Sons of the American Revolution and the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War 1861-1865.

It is hard to put into words how proud you guys made me, but truth be known, I wasn't even worried about it. I knew all along youse guys could handle it.

Sonny Wells



## The Only Medal

By Michael P. Musick

Prologue: Quarterly of the  
National Archives and Records Administration  
Fall 1995, vol. 27, no. 3

Ambrose Bierce, a veteran of prolonged combat as a member of the Ninth Indiana Infantry who presumably knew something about the word, slyly defined valor as "a soldierly compound of vanity, duty, and the gambler's hope." Whatever it was, it (and its opposite) was manifestly not in short supply during the Civil War. Yet as the conflict opened, not a single medal could be regularly awarded by the United States to military men to recognize valor, fidelity, wounds, or any other virtue or sacrifice. The need for such an award was underscored by each telegraphic dispatch and casualty list from the battlefield.

Finally, on December 21, 1861, a bill to provide for a Medal of Honor for enlisted men of the navy and marine corps became law. A statute providing the same type of award to Army enlisted men who "shall most distinguish themselves by their gallantry in action, and other soldierlike qualities" was signed July 12, 1862, and amended March 3, 1863, to include officers. This, then, was the only medal officially awarded on a regular basis by the government of the United States during the conflict: the Medal of Honor, still the highest award for courage in the service.

Today the Medal of Honor stands atop a "pyramid of honor" that includes the Distinguished Service Cross, the Silver Star, the Bronze Star, the Navy Cross, the Purple Heart, and others. Its significance in the Civil War cannot be understood outside its place in history.

The first Medals of Honor were presented on March 25, 1863, to six veterans of a raid led by James J. Andrews against a Southern railroad line stretching from Tennessee to Georgia. Although ultimately a failure, this expedition (also called the Mitchel Raid, after Gen. Ormsby MacKnight Mitchel, its sponsor) seemed to epitomize the kind of selflessness being shown by the young volunteers in the War for the Union. The raid and its aftermath were the subject of a dramatic Walt Disney motion picture in 1956, *The Great Locomotive Chase*, with Fess Parker as Andrews.

Acts of heroism were not of a lesser order in the Civil War, but a comparison of the citations given for acts performed then with recent awards could leave that impression. The most common reason assigned for the award of a medal was the capture of an enemy flag, that foremost symbol of regimental honor. Deeds that would later not qualify an individual for a Medal of Honor were recognized with the award because standards for it were unclear, and no other was available.

Thanks in large part to former Union soldiers who had received the medal and organized into the Medal of Honor Legion, that situation changed on April 27, 1916, when an act of Congress established the Medal of Honor Roll. A board determined that the decoration had to be earned in conflict with a foe and that the action for which it was awarded must have been conspicuously gallant or intrepid, at the risk of life, above and beyond the call of duty. The board looked into the origins of the 2,625 medals presented as of that date, many for deeds done years before the award was made, since there had been no time limit. Legislation in 1918 imposed a time restriction and otherwise codified regulations for the medal. (Continued on Page 4)

## A War by Any Other Name

From Prologue: Quarterly of the National  
Archives and Records Administration

Call it what you will, the conflict in North America of 1861-1865 represented intense partisanship, a staking out of claims that even (or perhaps especially) extended to what name it would have.

During the war, the Confederate government carefully avoided styling itself a rebellion and saw itself as perpetuating the original, unsullied constitution of the Founding Fathers. Later, the formulation of sometime Confederate vice president Alexander H. Stephens of a "War Between the States" (WBTS) became popular below the Mason-Dixon line. The United Confederate Veterans, United Daughters of the Confederacy, and other like-minded groups eventually declared that the WBTS was the correct term.

Among Union veterans, the expression "Great Rebellion," or simply "the rebellion," held sway into the twentieth century. Moderates and conciliators favored "the Civil War." Records of the U.S. War Department in the National Archives shed some light on the development of the name controversy.

Entry 51-4, the Administrative Precedent File (or "Frech File," after the clerk who created it) of Record Group 94, Records of the Adjutant General's Office, under "#58-Civil War," brings together various newspaper clippings, opinions, and pronouncements, official and otherwise, on the topic. From these sources it appears that a discussion in the U.S. Senate in January 1907 was a watershed. Introduction of Senator Porter James McCumber's (Republican-N>D>) service-pension bill included in the title the words "the war of the rebellion."

Many senators aired their views until Senator Nathan Bay Scott (Republican-W.V.), a Union veteran, recounted how the son of a Confederate soldier who had been killed in West Virginia was killed in the War with Spain and buried beside his father, and in the words of an anonymous journalist, "it seemed as if the Senate would have a good, old-fashioned cry." Hands were shaken, smiles were bestowed, and the understanding reached that thereafter, in that chamber, it would be "the civil war" evermore.

An investigation in the War Department several months later, in response to an inquiry from the superintendent of schools of Kingsbury County, South Dakota, disclosed that the department "has no knowledge of any official designation or title for the war of 1861-5," but that in practice it preferred "civil war" to "war between the states." An official memorandum of December 5, 1912, distributed to the clerks of the department, stipulated that when any choice was allowed, "Civil War" would be used in preference to "War of the Rebellion." As is the way with such things, that did not forever settle the matter in all quarters, and to this day the nomenclature can and does provoke impassioned dispute.

A Memorandum to "Mr. Tichenor" from "J. Frech" of the War Department, dated January 18, 1902 can be copied from the internet at:

URL: <http://www.nara.gov/publications/prologue/warname.html>



## What's in the News

The Examiner reporter David Tanner had the following article on Friday, May 11, 2001:

### Old cemetery to have new caretakers

Slaughter Cemetery, a nearly invisible group of grave stones near Swan Lake north of Blue Springs, is changing hands.

After many years of maintaining the plot, the cemetery association is giving up the care of the land in exchange for promises of upkeep by a neighbor.

Swan Lake Memorial Gardens, whose owner, George Ligot, founded it in 1986, is now going to look after the 2.5 acre plot.

The Slaughter plot, first donated to the public by Josiah and Elizabeth Slaughter in 1872, boasts some well-known names.

Robert and Molina King, in-laws of William Quantrill, famed guerrilla raider during the Civil War, are buried there.

Another stone bears the name of Quantrill's wife, Kate King Quantrill, although she is not buried there, said local historian Vicki Beck, president of the Slaughter Cemetery Association.

Levi Potts, who fought under Quantrill in several Civil War battles, is buried there, Beck said.

The cemetery has seen battles of its own with vandals, who were active in 1990, before Swan Lake had a gate at the end of the driveway. A 1998 incident left more damage.

Many of the original stones were damaged, stolen or scattered, said Beck, who is researching the paperwork for the transaction.

Approximately 45 stones can be counted now. Twenty-one of them are unmarked, most likely the stones of slaves, Beck said.

Only a handful of burials have taken place at the Slaughter Cemetery since 1922. The most recent was in March 2000.

In the 1960s, area resident Arthur Dealy, who had family buried in the cemetery, started a restoration project by clearing away brush and weeds that covered up the old stones.

Beck said Dealy died mowing the grass at the cemetery.

Since Dealy's death, the cemetery association has, at times, struggled with the upkeep.

"A lot of the family names are still around, but two of the families that looked after it aren't around any more," Beck said.

The promise of maintenance was a big motivator for the transaction, she said.

Ligot receives the responsibility and about \$3,000 from the Slaughter Cemetery Association. His hope is, once the cemetery is restored to good condition, to maintain it along with his own property.

"We'll do a good job," Ligot said. "I'll have it looking like it did when I first came out here."

(Continued from Page 3) The deliberations of the 1916 board produced a decision to strike 911 names from the Medal of Honor Roll. Among those ordered to return their medals was Dr. Mary E. Walker, a physician who had tended the wounded at Fredericksburg and Chickamauga and who bore the distinction of being the only woman recipient (an award restored by the Army Board for the Correction of Military Records in 1977). An astonishing 864 medals were ordered withdrawn from the survivors of the Twenty-seventh Maine Infantry, which had been induced to remain in the defenses of Washington, D.C., during the Gettysburg campaign by the promise of a decoration.

The extent of documentation for awards of the Medal of Honor varies. The bases for awards during the Civil War are generally quite brief, whereas late nineteenth-century recognition of deeds done during that conflict frequently entailed fuller documentation and can be useful as a source for battle narratives. Indexes are by name of recipient, not by battle, though several published lists are by war, and a 1978 congressional document supplies succinct citations giving the circumstances of each award. The original records may be found in several series rather than in one convenient file. Indexes available at the National Archives provide file citations for specific persons.

The Confederacy never managed to produce an equivalent artifact. Aside from the few Davis Guard Medals for the defense of Sabine Pass, September 8, 1863, and the New Market Cross of Honor awarded to the Virginia Military Institute Cadet Battalion of the Battle of New Market, May 15, 1864, only a published "Roll of Honor" was to be had, and that was supported only haphazardly.

Echoes of bygone bravery were evoked in 1900 when the United Daughters of the Confederacy first introduced their semiofficial Southern Cross of Honor for Confederate veterans. In 1907 the War Department authorized the Civil War Campaign Medal for honorable service in the Federal army, and for years remaining badges were also given to descendants of veterans, but when the stock was exhausted, no new ones were fabricated.

*Karen & Sonny  
invite you to join us  
in celebrating our  
40 Years  
of marriage*

*Open House 2-5 pm  
Sunday, July 1, 2001*

*No gifts please, your presence will be our gift*

*Karen & Sonny Wells  
17216 N.E. 134th Terr.  
in River Bend Estates  
2 Miles South of Kearney*