



The Border Star

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

May 2001

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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, May 9, 2001
7:00 p.m. at

*Jackson County Historical Society Archives
Original Jackson County Courthouse
Independence Square
Independence, Missouri*

The Jackson County Archives and Library
And The Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri

Present

KATIE ARMITAGE

as

*"Mattie Lykins Bingham:
No Ordinary Woman"*

Refreshments following program

WHAT A PROGRAM IT WILL BE!

Katie Armitage will present *Mattie Lykins Bingham: No Ordinary Woman* our May 9, 2001, meeting. The program, which is free and open to the public, is hosted by the Jackson County Archives and Library and The Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri, and is funded by the Missouri Humanities Council (MHC), the State of Missouri, and the National Endowment for the Humanities. Martha "Mattie" Livingston was born in 1824 in Kentucky, but was raised in Missouri, where she married Dr. Johnston Lykins, a found of Kansas City. Banished from Kansas City for her pro-Confederate views, she returned after the Civil War to found an institute for "orphans" of Confederate soldiers. Mattie later married George Caleb Bingham, the best known Missouri artist of the 19th century.

The MHC is the only statewide organization dedicated exclusively to promoting lifelong learning in history, literature, and the other branches of the humanities.

Submitted by Tim Cox

CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

Wednesday, May 9, 7:00 pm
CWRTWMO Meeting
Mattie Lykins Bingham
by Katie H. Armitage
 at Jackson County Archives

Thursday, May 10
Designer Showcase Home
Docents
 Bob Benson's Birthday, 39 again!

Sunday, May 13, all day
Mother's Day

Tuesday-Wednesday, May 15-16
Lincoln Tour
 Contact Sonny for more information

Wednesday, May 16, 7:00 pm
Board Meeting
 Room 101, Truman Center
 Karen & Sonny out of town May 26-June 5

Monday, May 28, 7:00 pm
Memorial Day Program
 Elmwood Cemetery
 Truman Road & VanBrunt

Wednesday, June 13, 7:00 pm
CWRTWMO Meeting
 Program on the Jefferson Barracks
 by Roger Taylor
 at Truman High School

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 40th 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
 See story

No Picnic this year
See you at the July 4th

Sunday, July 8, Charles McCorkendale's Birthday
 Monday, July 9, John Morgan's Birthday

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

Current Battlefield Preservation Projects

The Projects in Progress by the Civil War Battlefield Preservation Trust are:

Allatoona Pass, Georgia – 25 acres
 Brown's Mill, Georgia – 100 acres
 Ringgold Gap, Georgia – 70 acres
 Rocky Face Ridge, Georgia – 800+ acres
 Mine Creek, Kansas – 520 acres
 Mississippi Battlefields (including Vicksburg Campaign sites and Brices Cross Roads) – 1,000+ acres

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 51st 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

May 24, 2001

Articles are always welcome

Send them to:

Sharon I. Kelley, Editor
 15110 East 38th

Independence, MO 64055

Fax # 816-578-4080

Email: sharonkelley2@home.com

Answer to Last Month's Trivia Question

Sacramento is....

- A) a brand of olives
- B) a city in California
- C) a Mexican War/Civil War cannon
- D) a kind of ice cream

The answer is B, of course. Did you think it was some kind of cannon, or something?

The Lincolns at the Smithsonian

At the encampment in Keokuk, Iowa, over this past weekend, I had a chance to sit down with Max and Donna Daniels, and talk about the week at the Smithsonian.

"In a word, tiring. After a week in Kansas City, and then another week at the Smithsonian, we were bushed," said Max.

They appeared before 20 to 24 bus loads of students twice a day for five straight days, all before noon. Then spent the afternoon sightseeing around Washington.

"How did it go?" I asked. It took about ten minutes to get a straight answer, but it finally came out.

The Sponsors have asked the Lincolns to commit to doing an annual program for them about the same time of year.

Max and Donna may have been our well kept little secret for the last few years, but they are not a secret anymore.

At the Keokuk Encampment, the Lincolns strolled through the camps, greeting people as per usual.

Awed people kept snapping pictures and asking Abe to pose with their children. One young lady even asked for a hug, which Mr. Lincoln did not refuse.

Crowds of people followed them nearly everywhere they went.

They appeared at the Friday evening band concert, arriving late (as planned) to a thunderous standing ovation.

Mrs. Lincoln appeared at the Ladies Tea on Saturday, and did a program on the stages of mourning on Sunday, just before the battle.

The presidential Couple even danced the first dance at the Military Ball on Saturday evening.

The President spoke and placed a wreath at the Sunday Morning Memorial Service at Keokuk National Cemetery.

This was the ninth straight year the Lincolns have appeared at the Keokuk event.

Contributed by Sonny Wells

Today's events in the Civil War

Sunday, May 3, 1863

HAZEL HOUSE HIT HURTS HOOKER'S HEAD

As the battle of Chancellorsville continued today the Confederate army of Stonewall Jackson (under command of JEB Stuart since Jackson's wounding yesterday) set up an artillery post on a small hill called Hazel Grove. From this they managed to hit the Chancellor house, which General Joseph Hooker was using as his headquarters. A falling brick hit Hooker in the head, incapacitating him and causing further chaos in the Union lines, which were none too organized today to begin with.

(www.civilwarinteractive.com/this_day.htm)

REMINDER

Symphony Designers' Showhouse IS THURSDAY, MAY 10TH

On Thursday evening, May 10, 2001, members of the Civil War Round Table will use their guiding skills to act as docents at the 32nd annual Symphony Designers' Showhouse, located at 1030 West 65th Street, Kansas City, Missouri.

They will stand in different areas of the house and act as guides from 4 pm (or as soon after work as you can get there) until 8 pm. Thursdays are the only "late night" viewing of the house for those who can't get there during the day or on the weekends.

If you would like to participate as a guide, or maybe you would like to tour the house during its public viewing from April 28 through May 20, contact Beverly Shaw at (816) 478-7648.

The cost at the door is \$12, but Beverly Shaw will have tickets in advance for \$10. For those who work with us on May 10, the admission is free.

The house was built in 1936 for a daughter of Tom Pendergast, and was significantly enlarged by the Berl Berry family in the 1950's.

Submitted by Beverly Shaw

More...Today's events in the Civil War

Friday, May 3, 1861

COMMANDER CONDUCTS COMBAT CALL

President Abraham Lincoln today issued a second call for volunteers to augment the miniscule Union standing army. The first call had been for 75,000 volunteer troops; this one asked for 42,000 more volunteers to sign up for three years plus an expansion of the "regular" army from 16,000 to 24,000. There was also a call for 18,000 to join the Navy for at least one year. All of this was done without authorization from Congress, under Lincoln's role as Commander in Chief.

Saturday, May 3, 1862

YORKTOWN YIELDED TO YANKEE YOKE

Gen. Joseph E. Johnston, CSA, had been battling for more than a month to fend off the Army of the Potomac under George McClellan. The Federals had brought in siege guns, and were adding more forces across the Rappahannock, and Johnston finally decided to evacuate Yorktown to further up the Peninsula. McClellan, despite outnumbering the Confederates 2-1, had never launched an actual attack because he feared he was the one outnumbered.

(www.civilwarinteractive.com/this_day.htm)

What's in the News

The Examiner reported on:

Plan to spend July 4 here in Independence (appeared Tuesday, April 17, 2001)

By Frank Haight Jr.

What do you get when you combine The Hughes Brothers of Branson with an outdoor band concert, a spectacular fireworks display, a Civil War encampment and an afternoon of children's games?

How about an old-fashioned Fourth of July celebration – Independence style – with all the above activities and more.

"Celebrate Independence! In Independence!" is the theme of this year's celebration, which also includes a Revolutionary War flag presentation by the Sons of the American Revolution, food booths and live musical performance.

This year's celebration is being presented jointly by the City of Independence, the Community of Christ World Headquarters, the Mormon Visitors Center, the Truman Presidential Museum & Library, Harry S. Truman Institute, Independence Power and Light, and the First Presbyterian Church.

All activities are free. Most will be at the corner of Pleasant and Walnut streets or the Mormon Visitors Center, 937 West Walnut Street. The only exception is The Hughes Brother show, which will be in the Community of Christ Auditorium at Walnut Street and River Boulevard.

A full day of entertainment is planned, beginning with a bang at 9 a.m. at the Civil War encampment at Pleasant and Walnut and ending with a bang at the 9:30 p.m. fireworks spectacular behind the Mormon Visitors Center.

The Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri and the Ferris Battery of the Missouri Civil War Re-enactors Association are presenting a daylong living history camp and Civil War display.

Encampment visitors will be able to witness cannon loading and firing demonstrations at 9:45 a.m., 11:45 a.m., 1:45 p.m. and 4:45 p.m.

Two battery-owned cannons – a full size 6 pound field piece and a 12 pound mountain howitzer – will be used in the demonstrations.

Visitors also will see two members of the Bee Creek Riders, along with their horses, perform a cavalry exhibition. Kevin Wells and Benny Gibson, who have appeared in numerous movies, will demonstrate the use of saddles and sabers by slicing a watermelon while on the run and passing a leather jug from rider to rider.

Performances are scheduled at 1:30 and 3:30 p.m.

**See the complete schedule
enclosed with this newsletter**

Signal Corps and United States Military Telegraph

The Ohio Valley Civil War Association

If you have a computer and are on the Internet, check out the Signal Corps and United States Military Telegraph site at www.civilwarsignal.org/. It is very colorful and full of pictures showing the items used, as well as battlefield scenes of the Signal Corps.

One page shows an equipment bag contents, and has each item that would go into the bag identified. These items were a notebook, pencils, extra wicks, writing kit, sewing kit, scissors, screw, pliers, spare parts container, flame guards/shields, glasses/telescope, code wheels, clean rag, wind guards/shields and turpentine funnel, stakes for foot torch, compass, and a turpentine canteen.

"It's important to note that these items could change slightly depending on the necessary items useful to the signal party. The writing kit, for example, could be any writing kit. For simplicity, the writing kit is packed in the bag. But, the NCO or officer may very well carry the writing kit on his person. The same goes for the glasses. Since glasses were a very critical piece of equipment and was protected against capture, the NCO or officer may have kept it in his possession for easy destruction if they were in danger of being captured."

Some of the other pages at this site are:

- Myer's Signal Manual
- USMT Western Union Blank
- When are Two Flags Needed?
- Was it Signal Corps or Signal Service or both?
- Women as Telegraphers 1875
- One of the base Beardslee patents
- Signal Kit Training
- USMT Message Form
- USMT Stutter Codes Blank
- What is this patch?

There are also many links from this site to other web sites on the Civil War. All of them are great for browsing.