



# The Border Star

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

March 2001

Vol. IX No. 3

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

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### NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Sharon Kelley (816) 373-4101  
e-mail - sharonkelley2@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, March 14, 2001  
7:00 p.m. at

*Truman High School – Library*  
*3301 S. Noland Road*  
*Independence, Missouri*

**The Battle of Vassar Hill, Mo.**

Presented by Larry Daniels

&

**The Battle of Kirksville**

Presented by Harold Dellinger

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*Refreshments following program*

## Restored G.A.R. Memorial to be Rededicated

On Sunday, June 2, 2001, the Veterans Committee of Iola, will dedicate the newly restored G.A.R. Memorial in the Iola Cemetery.

The monument was originally dedicated on Memorial Day in 1909, by the McCook Post #51, Department of Kansas, Grand Army of the Republic.

It is a cast metal/bronze monument which had to have extensive repair.

Contact: Wanda Lytle,  
311 North Street,  
Iola, Kansas, 66749.  
Phone 316 (or 620)-365-3545

Iola is where William Bradford Stacy, Navy M.O.H., Peacetime-1866, is buried. Stacy received his parchment, but never applied for the actual hardware. It laid in a desk at the War Department, later the Pentagon, for years. It was last seen in 1983, but has since disappeared.

*Submitted by Sonny Wells*



## CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

**Monday, March 12 to Friday, March 16,**  
**Abe & the Mrs. in KC**

**Wednesday, March 14, 7 pm**  
**CWRTWMo. Meeting**  
The Battle of Vassar Hill, Mo. &  
The Battle of Kirksville  
Truman High School Library

**Friday, March 16, 4-6 pm**  
**Mr. & Mrs. Lincoln appear at**  
**James Country Mercantile**  
**On North Main in Liberty**

**Friday, March 16, 7-10 pm**  
**Reception for Max & Donna Daniels**  
**Sonny & Karen's place**

**Tuesday, March 20 – Friday, March 23**  
**Seminar on Abraham Lincoln**  
Max Daniels has been invited by the Smithsonian  
Historical Society of the Smithsonian Institution to  
conduct the seminar.  
**Break a leg, Max!**

**Wednesday, March 21, 7 pm**  
**Board Meeting**  
Room 101, Truman Campus

**Wednesday, April 11, 7 pm**  
**CWRTWMo. Meeting**  
Mr. William Farley, Author of  
1<sup>st</sup> Missouri Cavalry, CSA  
Truman High School Library

**Wednesday, April 18, 7 pm**  
**Board Meeting**  
Room 101, Truman Campus

## QUESTION

**The Medal of Honor, by Special Act of the Congress,** has only been awarded to two men since it was authorized in 1921:

**Charles Augustus Lindbergh, Jr.** was presented his Medal of Honor at a Joint Session of the Congress on December 21, 1927. Can you name the other?

## 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  
**March 25, 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)

## Did You Know?

In 1857, commercial production of Borden's condensed milk began at Burrville, Connecticut, where Gail Borden has opened a condensing plant with financial backing from New York grocery wholesaler Jeremiah Milbank, 39, whom he has met by chance on a train. Samples are carried through the streets of New York and they now meet with more success.

By 1861, Gail Borden licenses more factories to produce his condensed milk, which the Union Army is purchasing for use in field rations. Borden's son John Gail fights for the Union, his son Lee fights with the Texas Cavalry for the Confederacy.

It was in 1866, that Gail Borden adopts the trademark Eagle Brand to protect his condensed milk from competitors who have appropriated the name Borden. Borden has made a fortune supplying his product to the Union Army and his plant at Elgin, Illinois, produces at a rate of 300,000 gallons per year.

The People's Chronology, Holt, Rinehart and Winston, New York



### Most Heroic Civil War Soldier

Who was the most heroic soldier of the Civil War? Certainly, Tom Custer should be considered. After all, he was the only one to receive two Medals of Honor during the Civil War.

And include young Nathaniel McLean Gwynne on the list. He was only 15 years and 25 days old, when he rode across the battlefield at Petersburg, to rescue the colors of the 15<sup>th</sup> Ohio from their captors. He was hit by a cannon shot and took two bullets in the right leg for his efforts. He walked with a cane and a limp the rest of his life, not to mention only one arm.

The Bloody Chaplain of Stone River, the Rev. John M. Whitehead, should be on the list also. Walking out in the midst of the battle to pick up wounded boys and carry them back to the nurses until his clothing became soaked with blood and his boots squished with every step.

But there is one soldier who stands out far above these. His Medal of Honor includes four citations, two letters of recommendation and a letter of commendation from President Lincoln. In the records, he is listed as M. William Grebe. His true name is Maximillian Rudolph von Wilhelm Grebe.

He was born in Hildeshiem, Germany, on August 4, 1838. His father was the Commandant and Instructor of Tactics at the Prussian National Military Institute. His son Wilhelm, named for the Kaiser, was his prize student.

In May of 1861, Grebe resigned his commission in the Army of the Province of Hanover to come to the United States and fight in a "real war." He enlisted in Co. F of the 4<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Missouri Cavalry at St. Louis in June of 1861, for three months' service. He re-enlisted in September, and was given the rank of Lt. Later he became the Captain of Co. F.

### Most (continued)

Among his citations is one for carrying dispatches across the battlefield at a critical time in the battle at Jonesboro, Georgia, on August 31, 1864.

Another for similar action and leading a retreating unit back into battle at Decatur, Georgia, on July 22, 1864.

A third for rescuing General McPherson's body from a squad of rebels, killing some, capturing others, and saving the general's personal effects.

The fourth for going to the aid of a trooper whose horse had been killed and fell on him, pinning his leg under the fallen animal, leaving the trooper in an exposed position in the heat of battle at Ezra Church, Georgia, on July 28, 1864.

Grebe was discharged from the Army on November 24, 1865, for making false declarations of his citizenship application. For, you see, during all this action, Grebe was not a citizen of the United States.

*Submitted by Sonny Wells*

### **Post Script**

All of the above mentioned are buried in our area.

**Whitehead** died in 1907. He is buried in the Old City Cemetery in Topeka, Kansas.

**Custer** died at the Little Big Horn in 1876. He is at Fort Leavenworth National Cemetery, Kansas.

**Gwynne** died in 1883. He is in Union Cemetery near Crown Center, Kansas City, Missouri.

**Grebe** died in 1916. He is in St. Mary Cemetery, 23<sup>rd</sup> & Cleveland, Kansas City, Missouri.



### **What's in the News**

On February 27, 2001, the Civil War Preservation Trust reported on the most endangered battlefields of the Civil War.

#### **CWPT takes a revealing look at the ten most endangered battlefields in the nation**

(Washington, D.C.) – At a news conference this morning, the Civil War Preservation Trust (CWPT) unveiled an investigative report on the status of the nation's historic battlegrounds. The report, entitled "America's Most Endangered Battlefields," identifies the ten most threatened Civil War sites in the United States and what can be done to rescue them.

"America's battlefields are disappearing at an alarming pace," remarked CWPT President James Lighthizer. "Without swift and decisive action, many of the sites listed in our report will be little more than a memory within a few years."

The sites targeted in the report range from among the most famous to the nearly forgotten. But all have one critical feature in common – each one or part of one is in danger of being lost forever. The battlefields were chosen based on geographic location, military significance, and the immediacy of current threats. In addition, several noted historians and preservationists participated in the selection process. "With so many Civil War sites under siege from urban sprawl, we easily could have selected a hundred," Lighthizer noted.

The ten battlefields cited by CWPT are as follows:

- Allatoona, Georgia
- Brice's Cross Roads, Mississippi
- Fort Fisher, North Carolina
- Gettysburg, Pennsylvania
- Harpers Ferry, West Virginia
- Loudoun Valley, Virginia
- Mansfield, Louisiana
- Raymond, Mississippi
- Stones River, Tennessee
- The Wilderness, Virginia

The report also identifies fifteen vitally important battlefields that did not make the final ten.

When asked why saving these sites is important, Lighthizer was quick to respond: "These battlefields are the last tangible reminders of sacrifices made by those who wore the blue and gray. When we destroy the land, we destroy the memory of that sacrifice."

For more information, contact Jim Campi at 202-367-1861, The Civil War Preservation Trust, 1331 H Street, N.W., Suite 1001, Washington, D.C. 20005, or 11 Public Square, Suite 200, Hagerstown, Maryland 21740, 301-665-1400

### **DON'T FORGET**

#### **Wilson's Creek National Battlefield**

**Presents**

#### **"1861: Storm Over the Land"**

**A Symposium examining the personalities and events of the first year of the Civil War**

**Clarion Hotel**

**3333 South Glenstone Avenue  
Springfield, Missouri 65804  
(417) 883-6550**

**April 6-8, 2001**

\$75.00 includes all sessions, beginning with a Friday afternoon guided tour of Wilson's Creek National Battlefield and the General Sweeny Museum.

#### **In the Beginning - the Secession**

Kansas is admitted to the Union as a free state on January 29, 1861, but between January and May, the secession of South Carolina late in 1860, is followed by Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Texas, Virginia, Tennessee, Arkansas, and North Carolina.

Delegates from six seceding states meet at Montgomery, Alabama, on February 4, 1861, and form a provisional government, the Confederate States of America. Jefferson Davis of Mississippi, now 52, is named provisional president of the CFA on February 8, 1861, and is confirmed by an election in October, held after seizure of federal funds and property in the South.

The Civil War begins on April 12, 1861, as Fort Sumter, on an island in Charleston harbor is bombarded by Confederate General Pierre Gustave Toutant de Beauregard, 42, who has resigned as superintendent of the United States military academy at West Point to assume command of the Confederate Army.

"This country, with its institutions, belongs to the people who inhabit it," President Lincoln has said in his inaugural address on March 4, 1861. "Whenever they shall grow weary of the existing government they can exercise their constitutional right of amending it, or their revolutionary right to dismember it or overthrow it."

*The People's Chronology, Holt, Rinehart and Winston, New York*