



# The Border Star

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

January 2001

Vol. IX No. 1

## 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

2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of month at 7 PM  
Truman High School Library  
3301 S. Noland Rd., Indep. MO  
July - Annual Picnic  
September - Cemetery Tour  
December - Christmas Party

**VISITORS  
WELCOME!**

## NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, January 10, 2001  
7:00 p.m. at

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

## OPEN MEETING & BOOK FAIR

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*Refreshments following program*

### From the President

The new year is upon us: January of 2001. I just wanted to take this opportunity to bestow best wishes to everyone for the coming year, and to say a few words about our group and the year just completed.

Can you believe it? Our group just completed its 8<sup>th</sup> full year of service. Little did we know that when that hardy group of Civil War enthusiasts met in the winter of 1992 to discuss Civil War history issues, that today we would be functioning as the Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri; conducting tours, giving school presentations, promoting Civil War scholarship, helping local preservation, and above all, making lasting friendships.

Our recent election of Officers for 2001, brings to mind the need to recognize the contributions of those who will no longer serve in that capacity this year. A special thank you to Mike Calvert (for his commanding presence at many of our meetings as the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, in charge of programming, and his work in planning our monthly speakers), Faye Dennison (for her cheerful and friendly service in greeting and recognizing members and guests at the monthly meetings in her capacity as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President), and Toby Giese (for his service as the group's Historian, and his diligent work in recording and organizing our group's archives).

While I am fearful of leaving out many who contribute countless hours as volunteers (some driving a good many miles to help the cause of Civil War study), I do want to specially recognize Fran Mason and Beverly Shaw.

Fran Mason devoted many hours out of her busy "retirement" schedule to serve, on an interim basis (2 1/2 years!), as the News Editor of *The Border Star*. She brought this publication to us each month in first rate fashion. Many of you do not realize the extent of her time commitment in regards to this publication. (She also put up with the honorable President's attempt at meeting deadlines for article submissions.) Thank you Fran. We will really miss you as News Editor. You did a tremendous job! Thanks also to Sharon Kelley who has now volunteered to take Fran's place.

Beverly Shaw, as our Treasurer, also put in countless hours in making sure our Round Table's economic and business affairs were in order. She serves behind the scenes in many other ways as well. Thank you Beverly.

Let's make this year another successful one and let us keep in mind just how much we value each member's interest in remembering the Civil War era past – for the future. We all share the same passion.

Tim



## NEW DIRECTOR PICKED

We welcome Geoffrey Bahr as the new site director of the 1859 Jail, Marshal's Home and Museum on the Independence Square. He is an historian, a re-enactor, and a professional interpreter, according to Frank Haight, Jr. of *The Examiner*. If he looks familiar to you, it is because Bahr previously was an interpretation specialist for the Fort Osage National Historic Landmark in Sibley, while serving as a student intern from the University of Missouri-Columbia in 1996. He has a bachelor's degree in history and anthropology.

### What's in a Civil War Soldier's Name?

*From New York soldiers in the civil War, by Heritage Books, Inc.*

**Sgt. Major Ronald McDonald, Co. G, 136<sup>th</sup> New York Volunteers.** Joined Co. G, promoted to Corpl in August 1862, age 22. Brevet 2Lt but was never sworn in, mustered out June 1865.

**Pvt. Bill Clinton, Co. F, 133<sup>rd</sup> New York Volunteers.** Enlisted at NYC in February 1862, served until June 1865.

**Pvt. George Bush, Co. F, 126<sup>th</sup> NYV.** Surrendered with his regiment at Harper's Ferry, September 15, 1862. Exchanged, returned to unit, discharged June 1865.

**Pvt. Johnny Carson, Co. D, 133<sup>rd</sup> NYV.** Enlisted February 1862 in NYC. Served until discharged in June 1865.

**Pvt. Ed McMahon, Co. G, 97<sup>th</sup> NYV.** Enlisted January 1862 at Boonville, N.Y. Age 27. Wounded at Battle of Groveton, Medical discharge in December 1862.

**Pvt. Johnny Cash, Co. C, 145<sup>th</sup> NYV.** Enlisted August 1862 at NYC, age 30. Also with 107<sup>th</sup> NYV thru 1864.

**Pvt. Burt Reynolds, Co. I, 15<sup>th</sup> New York Cavalry.** Enlisted at Syracuse in September 1863, became Bugler of Co. F. Died at home on furlough May 1864.

**Pvt. James Bond, Co. A, 22<sup>nd</sup> New York Cavalry.** Enlisted at Rochester, N.Y., in November 1863, age 25. Mustered out May 1865.

**Pvt. Henry Ford, Co. L, 9<sup>th</sup> New York Cavalry.** Enlisted at Russell, N.Y. in October 1861, age 43. Captured at Second Bull Run. Died of fever at Camp Parole on December 11, 1862, while awaiting exchange.

**Cpl. George Steinbrenner, Co. B, 6<sup>th</sup> NYV.** Enlisted April 1861 on Staten Island, N.Y., age 23. Started as Sgt in Wilson's Zouaves, was busted to Pvt. Promoted to Cpl. In March 1863. Mustered out in June 1863.

## MEDAL OF HONOR AWARDED

Veterans in our group may be interested to know that an Air Force Medal of Honor was awarded posthumously to William H. Pitsenbarger, Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class, Pararescueman, Vietnam War, in early December.

The award was only the second ever awarded to an enlisted man by the Air Force, since it separated from the Army in 1947.

Pitsenbarger had been awarded the Air Force Cross. That has now been upgraded to a Medal of Honor.

He was involved in over 300 rescue missions before being mortally wounded on April 11, 1966, near Bien Hoa, just outside of Saigon.

So many of the eyewitnesses to the action were wounded, it was hard to verify the extent of Pitsenbarger's bravery, and justify the awarding of a Medal of Honor.

A review of the case by the Secretary of the Air Force, resulted in the upgrading of the award.

The Medal of Honor was presented to his parents in a special ceremony at Wright Patterson Air Force Base on December 8, 2000.

Pitsenbarger is buried in Piqua, Ohio, his home town.

## HOW TO LOCATE A CEMETERY

From the Freeborn County Tracer, Freeborn County Genealogical Society, Albert Lea, Minnesota.

1. Remember that there are five different kinds of cemeteries.
  - 1) The Church cemetery is located in the churchyard, and the records are usually kept at the church.
  - 2) A church may own or use land for a cemetery that is not actually located within the church property.
  - 3) A cemetery may be owned by a civil government: town, county, state, or national.
  - 4) A newer type of cemetery is owned by a non-church, privately-owned company or corporation.
  - 5) A family burial plot can be found on the farm or private property of a family.
2. Look at a map.

Check current county maps for locations of cemeteries. If looking for older, unused cemeteries, try historic maps at a library or courthouse. U.S. Geological Survey (topographic) maps show some cemeteries. Plat maps, old and current, often show cemeteries even ones located on private property.
3. Ask the locals.

When looking for a cemetery, ask at the city hall, the chamber of commerce, the librarian, the police, the funeral director, the register of deeds, the clergy, the historical society, the florist, the town historian, the monument company, even the bartender.
4. Get the cemetery caretaker's name.

Ask who is the caretaker or sexton of the cemetery. They might have the burial records or will know where they can be found. If it is a church cemetery, find out if the records are still in the church. If the church is no longer in existence, ask where the records might be.
5. Consider the religion of the ancestor.

For example, if the ancestor was Lutheran, (then chances are) he would not be buried in a Catholic cemetery.



## HOW TO LOCATE A CEMETERY (CONTINUED)

6. Consider if the ancestor was a city dweller or lived in the country.  
If the ancestor lived in a rural area, check the nearest rural cemetery. If he is not found there, see if the family used a plot on the farm for burials. Look for clumps of trees at the edge of a field, or watch for lilac bushes as indications of rural plots. A city dweller could be in a cemetery of his religion or ethnic background.
7. Check unusual cemetery locations.  
If none of the above suggestions help locate a burial plot, check poor farms, insane asylums, TB sanitariums, reform schools, prisons, military plots, orphanages, old folks' homes, and homes for unwed mothers.

## CEMETERY TERMS

Boxtomb:	Stone set off the ground and faced by solid sides
Cenotaph	Monument placed in memory of a person who is buried elsewhere
Columbarium	Vault with recesses in the walls to put ashes of the dead
Crypt	An underground chamber or vault used as a burial place
Epitaph	Inscription on a tomb in memory of the one who is buried there
Footstone	Small, simple tablets set at the foot of the grave
Headstone	Simple, upright tablets set at the head of the grave
Mausoleum	Structure for the interment of many bodies
Sexton	Caretaker of a cemetery
Slabstone	Stone placed flush against the earth over the coffin
Tablestone	Tablets raised off the ground by legs or pillars
Section	Cemetery area containing several lots
Lot	One lot contains several graves or plots, commonly an even number such as 4, 6, or 8
Plot	One grave

## What's in the News

The following article appeared in *The Kansas City Star* on December 19, 2000, and was written by Russ Pulley.

### Preservation group fights sale of Lone Jack property

Another skirmish is starting in the Battle of Lone Jack, this time over a small piece of the Civil War battle site.

The piece in question is a small, non-descript parcel that's only four-tenths of an acre. It's on the west side of Missouri 150 (also known as Bynum Road) next to the Lone Jack Baptist Church.

## Preservation (Continued)

Most people don't realize it belongs to Jackson County as part of a Civil War site and museum on the other side of the highway.

The Lone Jack Baptist Church wants to buy the property for parking, an idea that has caused a stir among museum supporters.

Friday the county legislature's land-use committee considered whether to declare the property surplus. But because of concerns over who might buy the land, the committee decided not to recommend a sale, said Fred Arbanas, chairman.

If the county auctioned the property, any buyer — even a convenience store operation — could have bid on the ground, Arbanas said, although that's unlikely because of the property's size and shape.

The county decided to let the museum supporters and church try to come up with a plan that meets needs of each group. If they come forward with a compromise, the county could reconsider whether to sell the land, Arbanas said.

Charlotta Reminton, president of The Friends of Historic Lone Jack, said she hates to see more of the battlefield lost to development. She said she's gotten phone calls from history enthusiasts who are worried about how the proposal affects the museum.

Even though it's only about one-sixth of the museum's land, she said, the property used to be part of the town square, which was in the thick of the 1862 Battle of Lone Jack. The Confederates defeated Union forces during the battle, attaching from a creek to the west. And William Quantrill's guerrillas camped at Lone Jack during their horseback ride to the infamous attack on Lawrence, Remington said, and it was there that he told his men of his plan for sacking Lawrence.

Other land around the museum which was part of the battlefield already has been lost to development. Land to the west is expected to be developed for housing.

"I want to see the town grow, but I don't think you should forget where you came from," Remington said. "Just because it wasn't 50,000 men doesn't mean it wasn't an important battle."

If the strip is sold and the area is paved, at least there should be an effort to find and preserve any artifacts, she said.

Arbanas said he was surprised at the ruckus over the proposal. "There were rumors we were going to sell the whole museum, and that we were doing it secretly," he said.

Lone Jack leases the museum from the county for \$1 a year and operates it with volunteers from The Friends of Historic Lone Jack. The museum has no formal role in deciding whether the small parcel can be sold.

Arbanas asked the county parks department for its opinion. The land — about 75 feet wide and 277 feet long — doesn't really fit with the rest of the museum land and parks officials don't see any compelling reason to keep it, said Ron Fuhrken, superintendent of planning for the department....

Chuck Greeson, a church member who is working on the property purchase, said he sees an opportunity to benefit the entire community. If the land sells, there won't be a major change, because church members already park on the land — there's a gravel lane through the piece....he's also working with a nearby landowner to acquire more land for the museum — maybe as much as five acres — which would protect more battlefield.



## CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

### January 2001

10 7 PM – CWRT-WMo Meeting – Truman High School Library. Program: “Show & Tell” and a “Buy, Sell, or Trade Book Fair” for members.

17 7 PM – Board Meeting – Truman Campus – Room 101

### February 2001

14 7 PM – CWRT-WMo Meeting – Truman High School Library

21 7 PM – Board Meeting – Truman Campus – Room 101

### March 2001

14 7 PM – CWRT-WMo Meeting – Truman High School Library

12-16 Abe & the Mrs. in Kansas City

21 7 PM – Board Meeting – Truman Campus – Room 101

20-23 Seminar on Abraham Lincoln. Max Daniels has been invited by the Smithsonian Historical Society of the Smithsonian Institute, to conduct the seminar. Break a leg, Max!

30 Reception for Max & Donna Daniels  
Sonny and Karen's place

### DUES FOR 2001

Dues are now being accepted 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

## JANUARY MEETING

Our January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2001, meeting will be special for many reasons. It will be our first meeting of the new Century, the first meeting of our 9<sup>th</sup> year as a group, and it will be the first time we have ever had a “Buy-Sell-Barter or Trade” book swap.

The first part of the meeting will be a Show & Tell. Members are invited to share with the group any new items they have obtained, or Historical data learned. The only restrictions are that the information must be Civil War related and there is an 8 minute time limit.

The book swap will follow the Show & Tell and coffee break.

The rules for the book swap, as outlined by the Board, are....

1. Members Only
2. Limit of 6 items
3. No duplicates
4. Buyer/Seller beware
5. No Guarantees

Here is your chance to dispose of some “dead wood,” and enhance your own library.

This is the first time we have ever tried this. There is a possibility that this will become an annual event for us. Your input and participation will help.

Call Tim at 816-478-8833, or Sonny at 816-628-9910, for more information.



### **Christmas Party 2000**

Well over 40 participated in the Christmas Party on Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at the Liberty Christian Church Fellowship Hall. Bob Benson and the Kelley's had the place all gussied up by the time the partyers started to arrive.

Karen Wells had lots of help setting up the buffet table and, lest we forget, the refreshment table.

Special guests included two recently retired History teachers from the Kansas City, Missouri, School District. Larry Daniels with wife Helen, and Kelton Smith with wife Marilyn. Larry and Kelton have a combined total of over 60 years of teaching experience. Marilyn Smith is also a teacher.

John and Sandra Martin were also on the guest list. John is Commander of the Westport '64 Chapter of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War 1861-1865, and Sandra has helped out with several Civil War Medal of Honor dedications.

The Martins joined the Round Table. All of our guests won door prizes.

Following dinner, the group took a tour of the church, which included the large tiffany style windows, and then heard a program on “The Civil War in Liberty,” presented by Sonny Wells. One of the about 20 visitors who came to hear the program, brought letters written by her grandfather who was stationed in Liberty in 1863. The program concluded with a trip to William Jewell College to see the mass burial site, and what was left of the Civil War trenches. Photos were shown of the line of trenches taken about five years ago, prior to the recent construction. Artifacts dug up in the trenches in 1995 were also on display. Five members of our group, including Bob Benson and Sonny Wells, were among the diggers.