



The Border Star

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

November/December 2000

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THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE OF WESTERN MISSOURI INC.

Year 2000 OFFICERS

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NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Fran Mason 816-796-8954

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

2nd Wednesday of month at 7 PM
Truman H.S. Library, 3301 S.
Noland Rd., Independence, MO
July - Annual Picnic
September - Cemetery Tour
December - Christmas Party

**VISITORS
WELCOME!**

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, November 8, 2000
7:00 p.m. at



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

Missouri Flags

*Presented by L. T. Shelton, Curator of Collections,
State of Missouri*

Refreshments following program

Election of Officers

The annual election of officers and board members will take place on November 8th at the regular meeting. Following is a list of nominees considered for election:

President Tim Cox
1st V. Pres. Sonny Wells
2nd V. Pres. Art Kelley
Secretary Bonnie Sommerville
Treasurer Beverly Shaw
Historian Paul Tate

Board Members - Term to Expire 12/31/2001

Terry McConnell
Claudetta McCorkendale
Charles McCorkendale
Fran Mason
Robert "Lucky" Mason
Dori Semler
Joel Semler
Randall Todd
Karen Wells

Board Members - Term to Expire 12/31/2002

Dr. Gerald Anderson
Robert Benson
Mike Calvert
Sharon Kelley

(These four Board Members will be voted on at this election)

*Nominations will be accepted from the floor.
Recommendations and comments are welcome.*

CHRISTMAS PARTY



Saturday, December 9th

Place: Loose Park Rose Pavillion

Time: 11:00 a.m. - Decorations Committee
12:00 noon - Pot Luck Dinner
2:00 p.m. - Door Prizes
4:00 p.m. - Departure

Bring choice of vegetable, salad or dessert.
Club will furnish meat, drinks and table service.

This annual event is fun and enjoyable and affords members the opportunity to get to know one another a little better... plan to be there!



Donations of door prizes will be
accepted at the door (\$5 limit, please)

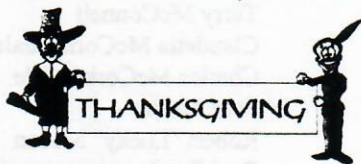
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

November 2000

8 7 PM - CWRT-WMo Meeting - Truman High School Library. **Missouri Flags:** L.T. Shelton, Curator of Collections, State of Missouri. **Election of Officers**

14 7 PM - Board Meeting - Truman Campus - Room 101

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December 2000

2-3 **Reenactment, Battle of Prairie Grove, Arkansas.** Call: 417-781-8874.

9 **Christmas Party - Loose Park Pavillion - 12 Noon**

14 **Frank James, Hero Or Hoodlum?- Blue Ridge Mid-Continent Library - 7:00 p.m.** A visit with Frank James

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MERRY CHRISTMAS

January 2001

11 7 PM - CWRT-WMo Meeting - Open Meeting - Book Exchange - Details in January newsletter

18 7 PM - Board Meeting - Truman Campus - Room 101 (All new officers and Board members attend)

Dues for 2001

Dues are now being accepted for the year 2001. You can pay at a meeting, the Christmas party, or mail check made payable to CWRT-WMo to:

Beverly Shaw, Treasurer
17313 E. 51st Terr. Ct.
Independence, MO 64055.

Dues are as follows:

Single	\$15.00
Family	\$22.50
Student	\$ 5.00



Little Blue Tour Great Success!!!!

The Little Blue Tour on October 21 was a great success! Why, you might ask? Because there were over 56 persons who paid to take the tour, 17 Battle of the Little Blue books were sold, and the majority of the persons aboard were not members of the CWRT-WMo! By the way, if you do not have this book, there are only 33 left and this is the last of them. So now is the time to speak up and buy one...cost is \$5.

There are several people to thank for their participation in this event... Allen Spellerberg arranged for the bus; Beverly Shaw and Fran Mason collected the money (the best part); Tim Cox and Lucky Mason, tour guides; Art Kelley, sign hanger and backup guide; Terry McConnell and Sharon Kelley, car followers... now let me explain that one! There were four cars and one van that followed because the bus was full. Terry and Sharon made sure the people in cars were kept informed at all times, and Lucky acted as tour guide for the cars and van.

Many compliments were heard, not only from the participants on the tour, but several people called Tim and Sonny to let them know how much they appreciated the way the tour was handled from "Get Go"!

Lottie Cianciolo, coordinator at the 1859 Jail, also called Sonny to extend her appreciation for the extra special cleanup at the jail. As we all know "there is a place for everything and everything in its place." Chairs, tables, etc. were put away as found. Members of the CWRT-WMo are invited back anytime for future events!

Special thanks to Jim Giles, the new executive director of the Jackson County Historical Society, for allowing us to use the 1859 Jail as a starting point for the trip.

Also, thanks to Sonny Wells for a well-planned event! If this writer has missed anyone, please accept my humble apology.

More Slang!

Did you know that practically all cowboy lingo, as preserved in the movies today, is Civil War slang. The commonest is "pard" or "pardner". The word "phiz" for face, "blowing his Bazoo," and "an appointment with Captain Hemp" (for hanging), all took to the open range after the war.

Source: Civil War Slang, by Jay Monaghan

Veterans Day Celebration at Lone Jack

The Veterans Day Celebration at Lone Jack has been changed to Friday, November 10, at 11:00 a.m. There will be at least three high school musical groups on stage, and the museum will be open following the ceremony.

Friends of Historic Lone Jack have been very busy this fall. Volunteers worked every Saturday in October cleaning up the Rheems-Pleasant Gardens Cemetery, one of the oldest cemeteries in Lone Jack. This is where Martin Rice is buried. Martin was a very well-known resident of Lone Jack during the Civil War. The cemetery, located near Hendricks and Hutt Roads, is on private property. The cleanup will continue next spring.

The museum also received a KC-150 grant, half of which was used for landscaping and a living wall east of the museum. Trees have been planted along the entire north-south length of the park on the east side. A new handicap ramp is finished except for the railing.

The Friends group continues to share their time and talents to improve this historic site!

Submitted by Faye Dennison, 2nd V. Pres.



Stepping Back in Civil War Times

It was on December 20, 1864 that General William T. Sherman reached Savannah, thus completing his infamous "March to the Sea," which devastated a strip sixty miles wide from Atlanta to the coast and destroyed private as well as public property.

In the campaign from Atlanta to Savannah, Sherman's army of almost 60,000 men encountered little opposition, and there can be no excuse for the wanton destruction of property. Sherman himself boasted that there was no military reason for at least eighty per cent of the \$100 million dollars in destruction.

Source: The Texas News, Author Ralph W. Steen, Editor, A Miscellany of Texas History in Newspaper Style (Submitted by Art Kelley)

Was there ever a declaration of war? (Civil War)

The United States never declared war. This was in keeping with its position that the rebel states did not form a new nation, rather they were states in which a rebellion was taking place. Abraham Lincoln issued a Proclamation that an insurrection existed in the states of SC, GA, FL, AL, MS, LA, and TX on 15 Apr 1861 (Messages & Papers of the Presidents, vol. V, p3214). He also proclaimed a blockade of Southern harbors on 19 Apr 1861, and the date of this proclamation was taken by the Supreme Court in several cases to be the official beginning of the insurrection.

The Confederate States passed "An Act recognizing the existence of war between the United States and the Confederate States" on 6 May 1861. This act exempted MD, NC, TN, KY, AR, MO, DE, and the territories of AZ and NM, and the Indian Territory south of KS

Sources: McPherson, Battle Cry of Freedom; Official Records, Ser. IV, Vol. 1

Organization and Strengths of Various Units in the Armies (some interesting facts)

The following is the ideal full-strength sizes of Civil War units, keeping in mind that most of the time the units in the field were only between 20% to 40% of their full strength. Also, because of casualties among the officers, units often would find themselves commanded by an officer one or two grades below the rank he should have for the job, i.e. a regiment commanded by a lieutenant colonel or major.

I. Infantry.

COMPANY - The basic unit is the company, commanded by a captain
100 men = 2 platoons = 4 sections = 8 squads

A company has the following officers (commissioned and non-com):

Captain (1), 1st Lieut. (1), 2nd Lieut. (1), 1st Sgt. (1),
Sgts. (4) and corporals (8).

When a company was divided into platoons, the captain commanded one and the 1st Lt. the other. There was a sergeant for each section, and a corporal for each squad. The 1st Sgt. "ran" the whole company.

BATTALION AND REGIMENT - Battalions and regiments were formed by organizing companies together. In the volunteers (Union and Confederate), 10 companies would be organized together into a regiment. The regiment was commanded by a colonel. A regiment has the following staff (one of each):

Colonel; Lt. Colonel; Major; Adjutant (1st Lt.); Surgeon (maj.);
Asst. Surgeon (capt.); Quartermaster (lieut); Commissary (lieut);
Sgt-Major; Quartermaster Sgt.

There were also volunteer organizations containing less than 10 companies: if they contained from 4-8 companies, they were called battalions, and usually were commanded by a major or lieutenant colonel.

Units (Cont'd)

BRIGADE - A brigade is formed from 3 to 6 regiments and commanded by a brigadier general. The South tended to use more regiments than the North, thus having bigger brigades. At some time in the war, some artillery would be attached to the infantry brigade. Each brigade would also have a varying number of staff officers.

DIVISION - A division is commanded by a major general and is composed of from 2 to 6 brigades. In the North usually 3 or 4, but in the South normally 4 to 6. Thus, a Southern division tended to be almost twice as large as its Northern counterpart, if the regiments were about the same size.

CORPS - A corps is commanded by a major general (Union) or a lieutenant general (Confederate) and is composed of from 2 to 4 divisions. Again the North tended to have 2 or 3, while the south had 3 or 4. Each corps would also have a varying number of staff officers.

ARMIES - Corps within a geographic department were aggregated into armies. The number of corps in an army could vary considerably: sometimes an army would contain only 1 corps and other times as many as 8. Armies were commanded by major generals in the North, and usually by full generals in the south. Corps and armies usually had some artillery and cavalry attached. Each army would also have a varying number of staff officers.

The Cavalry units are set up basically the same as infantry. If the troop dismounted for battle, 1 man in 4 would stay behind to guard the horses.

The Artillery units were made up of the battery, battalion or brigade, and artillery reserve.

Other units were the legion, marines, heavy artillery, engineers and sharpshooters.

Source: Internet site rtfm.Mit.edu/pub/usenet/news.answers/civil-war-usa

Editor's Note: *It has been a pleasure and a true learning experience being your newsletter editor for the past two and one-half years. I shall miss the task, but am leaving the publication of the Border Star in good hands!*

Thanks for your input and support. It has been greatly appreciated.

Sharon Mason

Happy Holidays