



The Border Star

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

July 2000

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THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE OF WESTERN MISSOURI INC.

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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, July 12, 2000



Picnic



Where: Hill Park, 23rd Street in Independence
(See enclosed map)

Time: 6:00 pm - Eat

Tour: 7:00 pm - Smallwood Noland-White House
(1024 S. Forest)

Bring: Covered dish, table service, lawn chairs. Meat
and drinks provided.

Entertainment: *Chris Edwards, Folk Singer*

Hope to see you there!



Special Note

This picnic affords us the rare opportunity to tour one of the oldest houses in Independence. Thanks to Mike Calvert for arranging this tour with Jason White, owner, who has graciously consented to opening his home to our group.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

July 2000

- 12 Picnic - Hill Park, 23rd St., Indep. - Eat at 6 PM -
Tour Smallwood Noland House at 7 PM - Visit Frank
James Burial Site at Hill Park.

- 19 7 PM - Board Meeting - Truman Campus, Rm. 101

August 2000

- 5-6 Battle of Athens State Historic Site, Athens, MO -
Battle Site -CW Encampment - (Call 660/977-3871)
- 9 7 PM - CWRT-WMo Meeting - Jackson County
Archives - Program: *Bushwhackers of the Border* by
Patrick Brophy, Author
- 12-13 138th Annual Commemoration - Battle of Lone Jack
12 mi. E of Lee's Summit on US 50
- 16 7 PM - Board Meeting - Truman Campus, Rm. 101

September 2000

- 13 7 PM - CWRT-WMo Meeting - Truman HS Library
Program: Kansas Flag Preservation by Blair Tarr,
Curator of Decorative Arts, KS Museum of History
- 20 7 PM - Board Meeting - Truman Campus, Rm. 101

Upcoming Reenactments

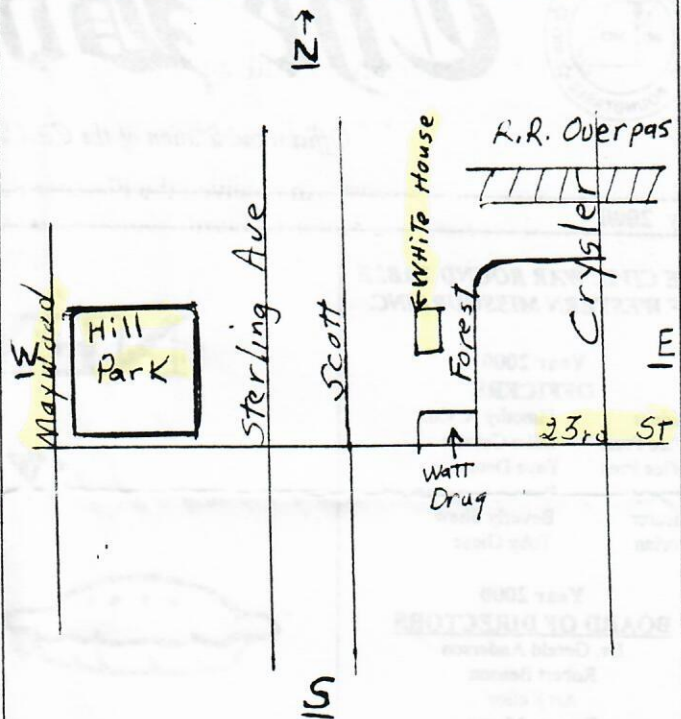
August 12-13	Lone Jack
September 16-17	Lexington
October 14-15	Booneville
December 2-3	Prairie Grove (Arkansas)

The Field Trip to the Confederate Memorial State Historic Site and other sites in that area will be rescheduled sometime in mid-October. The exact date and other details will be worked out and printed in a future issue of *The Border Star*

Plan to attend the upcoming celebration at the Lone Jack Battlefield Museum & Cemetery on August 12th and 13th. You're sure to enjoy the many activities planned: craft booths, carnival, parade, wreath laying ceremony, living history mini-skirmish, bands, street dance and much more. Contact the museum for further information (816-566-2272)

(cont'd from article to the right) Breckinridge delivered a lengthy and touching speech at the Dedication of a monument in Memory of the Confederate Dead, erected in the Battle-Grove Cemetery, Cynthiana, KY on May 27, 1869. (This editor has a copy of the article). **Right or wrong, the flag is down!**

DIRECTIONS TO HILL PARK



AND THE FLAG CAME DOWN!

After much heated debate, the Confederate battle flag finally came down from its place on the South Carolina Capitol. Charley Reese, noted correspondent, brought out several valid points in a recent article as to why the flag should not have been taken down. He stated, "that the Confederate battle flag, was just that, a battle flag, carried by Confederate soldiers. Winston Churchill even stated that the Confederate armies' battle against overwhelming odds was one of the most glorious moments in history. The South did not secede to preserve slavery and the North did not go to war to free the slaves. The real issues were the Constitution and economic rivalry."

In an article that appeared in *The Independence Sentinel* on July 10, 1869, Col. William C.P. Breckinridge of Lexington, KY stated "the lapse of years brought new issues and created new interests. Side by side two civilizations had grown with unequal speed and the time came when submission or separation were the issue. Let us never allow it to be forgotten--that before any ordinance of secession, prior to any act of resistance, the South was deliberately, fiercely, insultingly thrust from share in the government... The South went to war from no vain desire for empire, no paltry yearning for power, no miserable itching for office. It is absurd to attribute such an uprising and such a struggle to so low and contemptible motives. The effort to succeed was in exact proportion to the object to be won by success, Independence, National, State and Personal, was a prize worthy the sacrifice of every True heart, and every true heart did offer its sacrifice." Col. (see column to the left)

Bits N' Pieces

KC 150 Project is still on target!

* * * * *

Richard L. Kiper of Leavenworth received the Fletcher Pratt Literary Award for his book *Major General John Alexander McClernand: Politician in Uniform*. The award is given each May by the Civil War Round Table of New York in Rosedale. The award is presented to the best nonfiction book on the Civil War.

You may recall that Dr. Kiper was guest speaker at the CWRT-WMo regular meeting in April.

(The Kansas City Star, June 18, 2000)

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In a Kansas City Star article on May 10, 2000, local author and illustrator Cheryl Harness visited Bridger Eighth Grade Center to talk to the Elite Team about the "writing process." She took stories from the past and used a modern technique so people could understand the past. Cheryl is well known for the children's books she has written, the newest of which is *"Ghosts of the 20th Century"*.

* * * * *

Author Patrick Brophy's book *Bushwhackers of the Border* was first published in 1980. It has been fully rewritten. A summary and appraisal, not an exhaustive account, it offers no new "facts," merely a fresh, commonsense look at the "facts" already in our possession.

Be sure to attend the August CWRT meeting at the Jackson County Archives to hear a review of this book.

* * * * *

On July 8, Mark Armato, will present a living history presentation as *Alexander Majors*. Majors, was a principle in the largest company trading to the southwest during the Santa Fe Trail days. Mark Armato creates characters to help his audiences understand history.

The Come into the Archives programs are held on the second Saturday of the month at the Jackson County Archives and Bookstore, room 103, Independence Square Courthouse, at 10 am. Programs are sponsored by the Jackson County Historical Society and are free to the public!

Another upcoming program on September 9th is Crystal Yorday presenting a program on Civil War medicine.

Spotlighting a Volunteer

Congratulations to Charlotte Tindall for receiving recognition in the Independence Tourism Department's June 2000 newsletter. Charlotte has volunteered for over 10 years as a volunteer at the Bingham-Waggoner Estate.

Charlotte volunteers each Friday at Bingham-Waggoner as a tour guide and gift shop attendee as well as assisting with fund-raisers and tending to the house plants on site.

After hearing someone speak about how wonderful the old house was, she decided to try volunteering because she enjoys meeting interesting people. In her spare time she loves to travel, visit with family, gardening in the summer, and quilting.

TRACING YOUR CIVIL WAR ANCESTORS

Are you trying to trace your Civil War ancestor? The first thing that is vital is knowing when and where a relative enlisted or volunteered. Sometimes a family history may be handed down, which is more common for Union regiments than it is for Confederates. Contact state historical societies where the unit originated and county historical societies.

Of course you can sit for hours going through the complete set of *War of the rebellion*, *Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*. However, unless your relative was an officer, the chances of him being mentioned by name are scant. Most of the information in these volumes consists of battlefield reports written by the command staff. The *Blue and Gray* magazine sometimes will dedicate an entire issue to one battle. The magazines are available at bookstores and magazine stands, and sometimes back issues are available on request.

Many regiments held reunions after the war and newspapers loved to report these gatherings. And, of course, the National Archives in Washington, D.C. retain military records from that war, but you must have as much detail as possible about the relative, i.e. date of birth, enlistment location, unit assignment if possible; and a lot of patience.

You can request a form from the National Archives and Records Administration, General Reference Branch (NNRG-P), Seventh and Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20408, or call (202) 501-5170. You can request either pension records or military records, not both. Ask for one and then start all over by requesting the other at a later date. Pension records are the most helpful.

Missouri Fact: Germans took the lead as the war opened; six regiments were made up solely of Germans in Missouri

Okay, ladies! Here's another cookie recipe...
this time from Beverly Shaw

Cookie-Jar Gingersnaps

3/4 Cup	shortening	2 c. sifted flour
1 Cup	sugar	2 tsp. Baking soda
1 Each	egg	1/2 tsp. salt
1/4 Cup	sorghum	1 tsp. cinnamon
		1-1/2 T. ginger

Cream shortening and sugar together well, then beat in egg and sorghum until fluffy. Add sifted dry ingredients and blend very well. Shape into small balls and roll in sugar. Place 2-inches apart on a greased baking sheet. Bake at 350 for 12 to 15 min, or until lightly browned.

Variations: Sorghum Sugar Cookies: change spice to 1/2 tsp. cloves and 1/2 tsp. ginger. Ginger Cookies: change spices to 1/2 tsp. each, ginger, allspice and cinnamon.

From: Beverly Shaw



Celebrating Independence Day!

As a family tradition at the Masons, we celebrated the day with a potluck picnic and fireworks afterwards with family and friends ... except this year there were no fireworks! The parents of our grandchildren opted not to indulge the grandchildren with sparklers (to burn themselves) or bottle rockets (to set the barns on fire) or firecrackers (to find their way into someone's shirt)! We did, however, sit out in the side pasture and enjoy the sky lighting up constantly with a myriad of rockets exploding in Blue Springs, Independence, Kansas City, Liberty, and throughout the countryside. It seemed to us the noise from the "rockets red glare," was louder than we've ever heard!

I wonder how many grandparents, parents and grandchildren gave any thought at all to why we celebrate this day! Or is it all just about the "rockets red glare" or "firecrackers" bursting out all over! I'm sure there were many veterans and their families who took time to think about America's ideals of liberty, independence and equality, the ideals that men have fought for from very ancient times.

It was on April 4, 1818, that the specifications, which finally fixed the form and provided for the addition of new stars as new states joined the Union, were officially adopted. Congress passed an act "that from and after the 4th day of July next, the flag of the United States shall be thirteen horizontal stripes, alternate red and white; that the Union shall have twenty stars, white in a blue field, and that on the admission of every state into the Union one star shall be added to the flag, and that such addition shall take effect on the 4th of July succeeding admission". Our flag represents honor, unity, purpose and power! Let's not forget!

During the Civil War an old woman went into a village shop to buy a half pound of candles. Being told the price, she found it more than she had been used to, and asked the reason. The shopman said it was because of the war on which the old woman exclaimed, "Deary me, sir, have they taken to fight by candle-light."

The flag that bore the star of Kansas raised over Independence Hall in Philadelphia.

The first flag that bore the star of Kansas was raised over Independence Hall, Philadelphia, by the hands of Abraham Lincoln himself. It was on the event of Washington's Birthday, 1861, following the admission of Kansas as a state on January 29th. It had been customary when a new star was added to the flag for the President to give the order for the change on the succeeding Fourth of July. President-elect Lincoln, at the time, was in Philadelphia for a public address and the Philadelphians, recognizing that Lincoln had been a strong champion of the admission of Kansas, conceived the idea that it would be a fitting ceremony to raise the new flag for the first time over Independence Hall. A new flag was accordingly made for the occasion, with the star of Kansas added, and bearing for the first time a union of thirty-four stars. At the close of Lincoln's address, the then President-elect seized the halyards and raised the flag from a platform in front of Independence Hall to the top of Independence Hall.

(The Kansas City Star, June 17, 1936)

The Gray and the Blue (One final note about Memorial Day)

The following notice was issued May 14, 1869, by A. R. Calhoun, Post Commander of Headquarters Post 19, Grand Army of the Republic, Department of Pennsylvania. It was published in the Independence Sentinel in May 1869:

"COMRADES OF POST 19:

The day set apart (May 29), for decorating the graves of our fallen comrades will soon be here.

Wishing to bury forever the harsh feeling engendered by the war, Post 19 has decided not to pass by the graves of the Confederates sleeping in our lines, but to divide each year between the blue and the gray, the first floral offerings of a common country. We have no powerless foes. Post 19 thinks of the Southern dead only as brave men."

The South replied with a rather lengthy poem written by E. S. Riley, Jr. (to be published next year!)