



# The Border Star

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

November/December 1999

Vol. VII No. 11/12

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

### 1999 OFFICERS

President Timothy A. Cox  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice Pres. H. Sonny Wells  
2<sup>nd</sup> VP Faye Dennison  
Secretary Bonnie Sommerville  
Treasurer Beverly Shaw  
Historian Toby Giese

### 1999

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Janaan Adams  
Frank W. Adams  
Dr. Gerald W. Anderson  
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Art Kelley  
Fran Mason  
Robert L. Mason  
Charles McCorkendale  
Claudetta McCorkendale  
Joel and Dorie Semler  
Paul Tate  
Karen Wells

### NEWSLETTER EDITOR

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### TELEPHONE

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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 7:00 p.m.  
in Truman H.S. Library  
July - Annual Picnic  
September - Cemetery Tour  
December - Christmas Party

**Visitors Welcome**



## NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, November 10  
at

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

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Program: *George Caleb Bingham, Artist & Soldier*  
Presenter: *Tim Cox, Pres.*

*Refreshments Provided*



## ELECTION OF OFFICERS

*The election of Officers and Board Members will take place on November 10<sup>th</sup>. Following is a list of nominees considered for election:*

President Tim Cox  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice Pres. Mike Calvert  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Pres. Faye Dennison  
Secretary Bonnie Sommerville  
Treasurer Beverly Shaw  
Historian Paul Tate

### Board Members - Term to Expire 12/31/2001

Toby Giese  
Claudetta McCorkendale  
Charles McCorkendale  
Terry McConnell  
Fran Mason  
Robert "Lucky" Mason  
Dori Semler  
Joel Semler  
Karen Wells  
Sonny Wells

### Board Members - Term to Expire 12/31/2000

Dr. Gerald Anderson  
Robert Benson  
Art Kelley

(These three Board Members not voted on at this election)

*Nominations will be accepted from the floor and any  
recommendations and comments are welcome!*



## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

### November

- 6 9 AM - 4 PM - Northland Genealogy Society -  
Discovering Your heritage. (Contact Sonny for details)
- 10 7 PM - CWRT-WMo Meeting - Election of Officers  
Program: George Caleb Bingham, Artist & Soldier  
Presenter: Tim Cox
- 17 7 PM Board Meeting - Truman Campus, Rm. 101
- 25 Thanksgiving Holiday - Count Your Blessings!

### December

- 4 Christmas Party - See Next Column for Details!
- 14 12PM - 1PM - Lunch & Learn - Blue River Community  
College - Program: Jonathan Newman Edwards "Outlaw  
Press Agent" - Joseph Kelley, Director of 1859 Jail. \*\*\*
- \*\*\* Bring own lunch or order a box lunch for \$5 by  
calling 816-472-2000.
- 25 HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

### January 2000

- 1 HAPPY NEW YEAR AND WELCOME 2000!
- 12 7 PM - CWRT-WMo Meeting - Truman High School  
Library, 3301 S. Noland Rd.- Open Meeting "Show & Tell"
- 19 7 PM Board Meeting - Truman Campus, Rm. 101 (All new  
officers and Board Members attend)

### Dues for 2000



Dues are now being accepted for the year 2000. You can pay at the Christmas party or mail a check to CWRT-WMo, c/o Beverly Shaw, 17313 E. 51<sup>st</sup> Terr. Ct., Independence, MO 64055. Dues are as follows:

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

## Christmas Party



- Date:** Saturday, December 4<sup>th</sup>
- Place:** Loose Park Rose Pavilion
- Time:** 11:00 AM (Decorations Committee)  
12:00 PM (Dinner)
- Drawing:** 2:00 PM (for door prizes)

- Club will furnish meat, drinks and table service.
- This is a pot luck dinner (bring your choice of vegetable, salad or dessert).
- Festivities end by 4:00 p.m.
- Union Cemetery Assn. will be holding a monthly meeting between 11a.m. and 12 noon in the basement. They will join our Round Table for lunch.
- Be prepared to introduce yourself after dinner and make a comment about your favorite Christmas carol and why!

*Please come and enjoy this special annual event with fellow members, and meet new people!*

### Bingham Waggoner Special Exhibit

Thanks to all of the members who provided civil war articles/artifacts for the Bingham Waggoner Special Exhibit which took place in October.

If you have not picked up your items from Mike Calvert, please do so as soon as possible. Mike's phone number is 836-1013.

Special appreciation is given to Mike for collecting, setting up, and protecting our memorabilia. Others who also helped were Lucky Mason, Art Kelley, Fran Mason, Dori and Joel Semler, and all other members who participated and not mentioned here! Thanks to everyone's efforts, the display was a big success!



## THE DUNGEONS OF FORT DELAWARE

The island on which Fort Delaware was located has been called "Peapatch Island" since colonial times. Thus named when a load of peas ran aground there and the island sprouted with an unplanted crop!

Fort Delaware, built in 1849, has been manned and changed during every war since then, yet has never fired a warlike shot. During the Civil War, 100 guns thrust themselves from the parapets of the huge quadrangle of stone walls. The arched brickwork walls were very thick.

Although the wooded barracks of the civil war are no longer standing, one can picture the wire fences and sentries watching guard over the barracks filled with wretched, suffering Confederate prisoners.

The prisoners who chose to be well behaved by not trying to escape, slept on bare wooden shelves...contending with the smallpox and dysentery that stalked them.

Other recalcitrant prisoners were put into dungeons where pneumonia and ague were the companions there.

All the Confederate prisoners from the battle of Gettysburg were confined at Fort Delaware. Between 1862 and 1865, nine southern generals were imprisoned there at different times. At the peak more than 12,000 prisoners were at the prison, crammed into space meant for one-third of that number.

About 2500 died there. They were rowed across the river and buried in New Jersey. There is an 85-foot obelisk which marks the burial place in the blank landscape. When ice kept boats on the island, those who died were buried in the marshy soil beyond the moat.

Tall weeds abound today in the fort area where graves once were.

Source: The Sunday Bulletin, Philadelphia, October 14, 1962; James Smart, Section 1, p. 6

(See Letter below from Isaac Adair to his brother William and Dorcas Adair at Post Oak, Missouri, dated September 14<sup>th</sup>, 1864)

## LETTER FROM ISAAC ADAIR

The following letter is one of three letters written by Isaac Adair, brother to Joseph Adair, both sons of early Independence pioneers. Isaac and three of his brothers were on the Confederate side of the Civil War. Isaac's letter is an exact copy of the original on file with the Jackson County Historical Society and Archives in the Independence Square Court House.

Fort Delaware

Sept. 14<sup>th</sup> 1864

Mr. Adair:

Thinking you would like to hear from me I have concluded to write. I have not heard from you for sometime. I suppose our letters have been lost. If you get this be sure to answer immediately for I would be pleased to know that you would get it. As it will go by the underground railroad which is a very daingerous route---Well Bill I will tell you the contrband news. I have been here near seven months and to tell you truth I have not had enough to eat since I have been at Ft. Del. Except when I had money, then I could get plenty. But I will not grumble as I have fared as well as my fellow prisoners. There is many that is in a destitute condition but thinking all will yet be well we will not be discouraged. I do not think we will remain here longer than winter as there is talk of exchange of all prisoners of war. I learn that the sick and wounded will leave here in a few days. I wrote to you the other day and told you to send me five dollars if you should o#get the letter and have not sent it, you will please do so as soon as possible. I would not trouble you if I

*I could do otherwise; but knowing that you are willing to do all you can for me, I will not hesitate to ask a favor of you. If we stay here this winter there will be many of the boys that will suffer; as such a thing as fire will be impossible only two stoves is allowed to three hundred men. Such was the case here last winter so represented by those that was here an experienced the sufferings. Untell of late we have been allowed to receive clothing provision and such articles that we not contraband; which was a great help and those that had friends living North could do very well. I say very well, they could get enough to eat provided it was sent to them. As for myself, I think that I will live through all this war, and do not think I will ever be ashamed to say that I was a Confederate soldier. I never expect to return home untell the war is over, and I fear it will be some time before I can have that good pleasure for I think the war will not end soon. I have had the opportunity to be released on takeing the oath, but I prefer being exchanged---As for clothing I can do very well; I have friends here that has not a shirt or shoes; and I have both so I shall not complain.*

Fort Delaware is on an island in Delaware Bay and the nearest shore is two mile.s I suppose you would like to know how I pass off my time. I read, sleep, play cards but I do not drink any whiskey or have anything to do with the girls as I have not spok to but one in 14 months. As I do not wish to wearry you I will cease. Goodby. My love to all, I remain

Ike



## SECOND LETTER FROM ISAAC ADAIR

This is the second letter of three written by Isaac Adair. This letter was sent to his sister, and is also an exact copy of the original on file with the JCHS. The next letter following this one was written in February, an indication that Isaac spent Christmas within the confines of Fort Delaware.

Fort Delaware

Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> 1864

Dear Sister:

How glad I was to receive your more than welcome letter, the contents was very gratifying; I am proud to know that there is one who will not forget me. I am so tired of the sad life I lead and fear it will continue as I see no chance of exchange. Have been patient seventeen long months, but I will not despair I trust all will yet be well. Do not fear sister but that your brother has the same feelings that he had when last saw you. If others

have changed. I often get letters from friends and relatives. All who are very kind; and have sufficient clothing to do me. I have never written to you for clothing as I supposed they would be troublesome to send as you live so far from the rail-road, but sister I need money worse here, than I ever will. Since I have been here, I have spent seventy \$70 dollars. I wish that I could write you a long letter and explain all but you must be content with this. Please write immediately and if agreeable send more money. I assure you it will be properly used. My love to all. Tell Ella and Billy that I have not forgotten them and may God take care of you all is the wish of your Bro. Be sure and direct your letters plainly and as follows---Isaac Adair- Comp. F 7<sup>th</sup> Mo. Reg. C.S.A. Prisoner of War Fort Delaware, Del. Think I will get it.

(The 3rd letter published in the January issue of The Border Star.)

## CREW OF 1860 SUB TO BE REBURIED

You may recall an article published in the August newsletter about archaeologists recovering the remains of 27 Confederate soldiers, including four thought to be the first crew members on the Hunley, the first submarine to sink an enemy warship.

While in North Carolina this past week, I picked up a copy of the Asheville Citizen-Times, October 28, 1999 issue, in which the following article appeared:

*"The unearthed remains of 22 Confederate sailors and marines will be reburied next month in what is being called the largest Confederate funeral in more than a century.*

*They were among 27 skeletons unearthed this summer from an old Confederate graveyard beneath The Citadel's Johnson Hagood Stadium. Four bodies thought to be crew members from the ill-fated submarine Hunley will be reburied at a later date.*

*Randy Burbage, president of the Confederate Heritage Trust, said the reburial would coincide with the Nov. 12 re-enactment of the Battle of Secessionville, when hundreds of Civil War enthusiasts will be in town for the staged fight at Boone Hall Plantation.*

*"This is something special that hasn't happened in a long time," Burbage said.*

*More than 1,000 Civil War re-enactors are expected to take part in a five-mile funeral procession from the Confederate monument at the Battery, down East Bay Street and Morrison Drive, to Magnolia Cemetery in the Charleston Neck*

(Here's an event for any CWRT-WMo member to experience if traveling to North Carolina within the next several days).



**Congratulations!**



**Bonnie Sommerville** is the proud grandma of twin boys, Drew Michael and Dawson Robert, born on October 1 to parents Derek and Cindy Sommerville!



**NOVEMBER 11**

**DISPLAY YOUR FLAG!**

### More Civil War Slang

The names for whiskey were "bug juice," "Mississippi tanglefoot," "tarantula-juice," and "forty-rod" (the latter was an abbreviation for "so strong it will kill at forty rods and around a corner.")

To ask a man if he would like to "change his breath" was to offer him a drink.

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS  
AND A WONDERFUL NEW YEAR  
FROM YOUR BOARD MEMBERS!**

## RIDE WITH THE DEVIL UPDATE!

About 200 tickets to the Nov. 11 debut of this movie are available to the public. The \$50 tickets include admission to the 7 pm screening at Cinemark's Palace Theatre and a reception following at the Ritz-Carlton hotel. Several cast members will attend this event. Checks should be made out to the Kansas City Film Office and mailed to the office at 10 Petticoat Lane, Suite

250, KCMO 64106. For information call (816) 221-0636.

In addition, cast and crew members are invited to attend a free screening of "Ride With the Devil" at 2 pm, Nov. 11 at the Cinemark Merriam Theatre. To reserve a seat, call (816) 691-2103.

Source: KCSTAR, Sun. Oct. 31, Sect. J, p.10