



The Border Star

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

December 1998

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THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE OF WESTERN MISSOURI INC.

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2 nd VP	Dori Semler
Secretary	Karen Wells
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1998

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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.

July - Annual Picnic
September - Cemetery Tour
December - Christmas Party

Visitors Welcome



CHRISTMAS PARTY

DATE: December 12
PLACE: Loose Park - Rose Pavillion
TIME: 12:00 P.M. (Decorations Committee)
1:00 P.M. (Dinner Served)
DRAWING 3:00 P.M. (for prizes)

- ★ Club will furnish meat, drinks and place settings. Bring a covered dish (with food in it)!!
- ★ Festivities should end by 4:30 p.m.
- ★ Members of the Union Cemetery Historical Society have been invited to participate as special guests of the CWRT-WM.

PLEASE JOIN US!



Welcome 1999 Officers and Board Members

The election of Officers and Board Members took place at the November 11th meeting. The new officers and board members are as follows:

<i>President</i>	<i>Tim Cox</i>
<i>1st Vice President</i>	<i>H. Sonny Wells</i>
<i>2nd Vice President</i>	<i>Faye Dennison</i>
<i>Secretary</i>	<i>Dori Semler</i>
<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>Beverly Shaw</i>
<i>Historian</i>	<i>Toby Giese</i>

Board Members - Term to Expire 12/31/2000

<i>Dr. Gerald Anderson</i>	<i>Art Kelley</i>
<i>Robert Benson</i>	<i>Fran Mason</i>
<i>Paul Tate</i>	

Board Members - Term to Expire 12/31/1999

<i>Charles McCorkendale</i>	<i>Claudetta McCorkendale</i>
<i>Karen Wells</i>	<i>Robert C. Mason</i>
<i>Frank Adams</i>	<i>Janann Adams</i>
<i>Michael Calvert</i>	<i>Joel Semler</i>

~ ~ ~ Happenings Around the Area ~ ~ ~

Authors on the Square Autograph Party - December 12

The Jackson County Historical Society Archives, 1859 Jail, Marshall's Home, and Museum will host local authors who will be signing copies of their books. Members of the JCHS will receive a 15% discount on their purchases. The general public will receive a 10% discount on that day only.

Shoppers will also receive a special coupon for money off on menu items at Clinton's Soda Fountain. In addition, there will be free gift wrapping of your purchases at the Archives.

Ten well-known local authors will participate:

Jane Flynn - *KC Women of Independent Minds*

Jami Parkinson - *Path to Glory: A Pictorial Celebration of the Santa Fe Trail*

Byron Shutz - *Terror at the Door*

Louise Barry - *A Price Beyond Rubies*

Evelyn Bartlow - *Emily and the Santa Fe Trail*

Wilda Sandy - *Here Lies Kansas City*

G.P. Schultz - *Gully Town and The Union Station Massacre*

Andrea Warren - *Pioneer Girl: Growing up on the Prairie & Orphan Train Rider: One Boy's True Story*

Lawrence Larsen - *Pendergast*

Cheryl Harness - *Mark Twain and other history books for children*

Brown Bag Lunch Program The Real Kansas City

Tuesday, Dec. 8 - *The Border Wars in Jackson County*

Joe Kelley, director of the 1859 Jail, Marshall's Home and Museum, will discuss the explosive and controversial post Civil War years when Kansas and Missouri residents were engulfed in an undeclared war for the character of the region.

Admission is free and you may bring your own lunch or order a box lunch for \$5. call 816-220-6547.

Outlaw Christmas with Frank James

On **December 19**, the 1859 Jail, Marshall's Home and Museum will present An Outlaw Christmas with Frank James from 1:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. Once again the Old Jail will house the notorious Frank James. The traitorous Dick Liddil will make an appearance as well as the prosecution and defense lawyers.

The event will recreate the Christmas season of 1882 when Frank James was in the 1859 Jail.

The famous "Three Trails Gang" will also show off their skills with weapons from the old West!

Schedule of Events

December

5-6 **Prairie Grove, Arkansas Re-enactment**

12 **CWRT - Christmas Party - Loose Park (See pg 1)**

Authors on the Square--Book Signing-- (see article)
10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

19 **Outlaw Christmas with Frank James - 1859 Jail**
1 - 5 p.m.

29 **Pleasant Heights Historical Tour - "Bloody Bill Anderson", Bob Ford family plot, Ray County Historical Society. Bus leaves Pleasant Heights at 8 a.m. - Cost \$15. Call Sonny for details, 628-9910**

January

13 **CWRTWMO Meeting - 7 PM**
Library at Truman High School - 3301 S. Noland Rd.
Open Meeting - Show & Tell

16 **Toby Giese - Medieval Knights, Heraldry & Titles**
Mid-Continent Library - Indep., MO (1:00 p.m.)

20 **Board Meeting - 7 PM**
Truman Campus, Rm. 101
(All new officers and Board Members Attend)

Marking Missouri History ✓

The State Historical Society of Missouri has republished its book entitled *Marking Missouri History*, which bears the marker inscriptions and essays elaborating on specific historical markers on Missouri highways. There are 121 such markers in highway turnouts and roadside parks throughout the state.

The book normally sells for \$17.50 plus a \$5.00 shipping cost. However, Bob Benson can order the book for \$11.50 each. Anyone interested, contact Bob at 816-361-4603. He can save considerable shipping fees by ordering bulk.



Looking Ahead!!!

To commemorate the 135th anniversary of the Battle of Independence, the board of directors has selected Mike Calvert to head up a committee to set up a Civil War display at the Bingham-Wagoner home next October (1999). Even though this is a long time off, any interested members are welcome to join Mike in this endeavor. The title of the display will be *War of the Rebellion in Western Missouri*. Contact Mike at 836-1013 for further information.

BITS AND PIECES



The following article appeared October 20, 1998 on the Internet, published by Reuters Ltd. Thought it might be of interest!

A set of antique jewelry that once belonged to Mary Todd Lincoln, wife of President Abraham Lincoln, was sold at an auction Tuesday for \$18,400, more than 10 times what it had been expected to fetch.

The gold and black onyx earrings and brooch were sold at a jewelry auction at Christie's East. They were assessed between \$1,200 and \$1,800, but the historical cachet drove the price up to \$18,400, including the auction house's premium.

The lot included a notarized statement by a Lincoln descendent and a signed bill of sale to a Springfield, Illinois, jewelry dealer. The buyer was not identified.

Christie's East said the pieces lent "insight into Mrs. Abraham Lincoln's poignant mourning period after the president's assassination in 1865," and said she remained in mourning garb until her death in 1882.

According to the auction house, it was traditional for women to adorn themselves with black jewelry to match their mourning garments.

Mary Lincoln gave the brooch and ear pendants to her sister, who passed the jewelry on to her son, Albert Edwards. Edwards' daughter Mary finally inherited the pieces, which she sold to the jewelry dealer.

***** More about Mr. Lincoln

In a book entitled *Bible Stories and Character Building*, published in 1911 by the University Society of New York, the following story appeared regarding Mr. Lincoln:

In the early pioneer days, when Abraham Lincoln was a young attorney and "rode the circuit," he was one day traveling on horseback from one town to another with a party of friends who were lawyers like himself.

The road which they traveled led across prairies and through woods. As they passed through a grove where the birds were singing merrily, they noticed a baby bird which had fallen from the nest and lay fluttering by the roadside. After they had gone a short distance, Lincoln stopped, turned, and said, "Wait for me a moment; I will soon rejoin you." As his friends halted and watched him, they saw Lincoln return to the place where the helpless bird lay on the ground and tenderly take it up and set it on a limb near the nest. When he joined his companions, one of them laughingly asked, "Why did you bother yourself and delay us with such a trifle as that?"

Abraham Lincoln's reply deserves to be remembered. "My friend," said he, "I can only say this - that I feel better for it. I could not have slept tonight if I had left that helpless little creature to perish on the ground."

A good character-building lesson for everyone!

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Dues for 1999

Dues are being accepted for 1999. You can pay at the Christmas party or mail a check to CWRTWM, c/o Beverly Shaw, 17313 E. 51st Terr. Ct., Independence, MO 64055.

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



Last remaining G.A.R. (Grand Army of the Republic) Hall remaining west of the Mississippi. Located in Austin, Missouri.

Photo by: Faye Dennison

On the subject of the G.A.R., the Raymore Historical Society recently unveiled a G.A.R. flag to the public and descendants. The flag is on display at the Raymore Historical Society Museum.

FYI

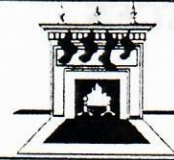
Cass County Historical Society is growing because of increased interest in local and family history. There are several historical societies in the area and each have museum space: Pleasant Hill, Belton, Freeman, and Raymore, to name a few.

The Cass County organization in Harrisonville has a newly published brochure entitled "Cass County Missouri Order No. 11", which is being distributed by the Cass County Coalition of Chambers (Belton, Harrisonville, Pleasant Hill and Raymore.)

The color brochure describes Cass County and Order No. 11. Inside are colored pictures of George Caleb Bingham's Order No. 11. Festivals and local points of interest are listed as well as antique and specialty shops.

Cass County Historical Society also sponsored a genealogical society in its headquarters at the Information Center, Harrisonville, which is rapidly growing with county records being stored in the Archives. Call 816-887-2393 to obtain further information.

Christmas and the Civil War



Christmas was just coming into the popular culture as the nation tensed for civil war. It held a rich reserve for grappling with issues of absence, discord, misunderstanding, forgiveness, and regeneration. It was neither north or south in its origins or biases.

In the George Templeton Strong household, a tree was surrounded by a flag and adorned with a banner on which "Mrs. Ellie" had written with great care and labor. . . 'THE UNION FOREVER!'

Magazine fiction, editorial comments, illustrations, and political cartoons linked peace with the family home and discord with the impending war.

It was during the Civil War that Christmas developed a definitive profile as an American holiday. Northerners and southerners, civilians and soldiers attempted to create in it the peace and well-being that eluded the nation.

For many who had come to associate Christmas with family gatherings, food, peace and good cheer, the war derailed the home rituals of Christmas. Turkeys for holiday dinners sold for \$11 each, and the next year sugar shortages raised the price of candy to \$8 per pound. Sweets were too expensive to hang on the Christmas tree, as was customary at the time.

A confederate clerk noted, "It is a sad Christmas..." The mood was no different in the North where a Union woman wrote to her sisters in Europe that she was neither "making a time over Christmas presents this year nor receiving New Year's callers. People are so depressed about the times." Mary Boykin Chesnut sat down to a Christmas dinner served on "everything...that a hundred years or more of unlimited wealth could accumulate as to silver, china, glass, damask, etc." She knew that in 1861 her old life as a wealthy plantation mistress was gone!

Civilians and soldiers alike attempted a holiday escape from carnage and conflict. Captain Henry A. Chambers wrote, "Christmas?! What a crown of bye-gone associations crowd the mind upon this almost universal holiday!"

A Confederate nurse left an equally philosophical note: "What visions of cheer does the sound of 'Merry Christmas' bring in review...forgetting a few short hours the cares of this weary world!"

One soldier wrote to his mother on Christmas morning, 1861, "A merry Christmas," said I to my-self, "for want of a larger family-circle." "Family ties are never so close as in these days of separation and trial."

Amos Stearn, a prisoner at Andersonville, said, "the thought of home and the loved ones there, sad to think that I was not among them." Another prisoner hung his Christmas stocking "for habit's sake if nothing else."

Some Union soldiers were lucky enough to find unexpected entertainment at Christmas time when about half a dozen "darkeys" came down to our camp with fiddles, tambourines and banjos." Another soldier noted that his "jolly German neighbors" were making such noise behind his tent... when he went to investigate he found a row of trees through their camp, lit with candles and hung with 'hard-tack', slices of salt pork and beef.

One emphatic reminder of the war not being far away was on Christmas, 1862, when a rebel met some Yankees and "gave them a Christmas greeting in the shape of a few shell."

Dinner was different for the soldiers. One dinner was spread with "an 18-pound turkey, chickens, pies, pudding, doughnuts, cake, cheese, butter, coffee, milk, all abundant and of good quality," wrote Rutherford B. Hayes from

his post in Fayetteville.

A prisoner at Belle Island ate "corn bread and butter, oysters, coffee, beef, crackers, cheese, etc." At Andersonville, another had "turkey and plum pudding." One southern soldier's dinner was beef, gravy and corn bread.

However, one southern soldier wrote, "I have no turkey today and do not covet one...it is no time for feasting."

Thomas Nast, a fervent Unionist, depicted Christmas in his illustrations in many ways, and known for his lithographs of Santa Claus. His thirteen color lithograph of "A Visit from Saint Nicholas" in 1862, is well known. In 1863 he illustrated J.M. Gregory's Christmas Poems with drawings of Santa and his reindeer and sleigh. In 1863 he also drew the saint visiting the Union army troops (*Santa Claus in Camp*). This depicted Santa in striped pants, starred jacket, distributing toys and boxes to good (Union) soldiers.

It wasn't until after the Civil War that Christmas truly became an official holiday. By 1865, 31 states and territories recognized Christmas as a legal holiday, 13 more than in 1860. On June 26, 1870, the United States Congress declared Christmas a federal holiday.

Source: Christmas in America
Author, Penne L. Restad

(Recommended Reading for a great history
of Christmas in America)

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***Christmas is not a costly
present merely, says the
greater divine; it is a
sentiment, a spirit, a feeling.
Christmas is not an outward
feast; it is within you..."***

(Harper's New Monthly Magazine, December 1863)