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THE BORDER STAR

A Publication of the Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
OF WESTERN MISSOURI, INC.

1996

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1996

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ANNUAL DUES

Individual 15.00
Family 22.50
Student (Under 21) 5.00

MEETINGS

The second Wednesday
at 7 pm, in the Library,
at Truman High School,
3301 South Noland Rd,
Independence, Missouri,
except July, August
and December.

Visitors Always
Welcome

FROM THE PRES.....

A surprisingly large turnout for **Picnic '96**. I received a check in the mail as a donation from a lady who wrote she had a great time and was appreciative of the kindness shown to her and her friends by our people. It was a good time. It seemed like it was over much too quickly. The folks across the street sure enjoyed the music and danced along on their lawn.

Special thanks to **Joel Semler** and **Bob Werline** for bringing their cannons and talking with the crowd, and to **Kathleen Tuohey** for all she did, which includes but is not limited to...cleaning up the grounds, leading the cemetery tour, obtaining the porta-john, and more. Next year I suggest we have a work day prior to the picnic to help her with the clean up.

Toby Giese was our "gopher", running to the store to get more ice, helping set up the tents and tables, and other things. Our son, **Kevin**, was also there to help with the tent.

Bob McAtee and nephew won the egg toss game. **Connie McQuain's** team won the first Spoon Race and **Sue Valentine's** team won the second, or vice-versa. The dancers, **Bonnie Summerville**, **Eric**, **Bob McAtee**, **Terry McConnell** and others, did a great job.

Certificates of Appreciation were presented to **Kathleen Tuohey**, **Sue Valentine**, **Connie McQuain**, **Toby Giese**, and **Tim Cox** for programs they had presented. A special certificate went to **Dr. Gerald W. Anderson** for his continuing support and contributions. I did not give an award to "Mrs. Sonny", but I should have. She did get an extra hug.

I almost missed presenting **Amy Holmes'** medal because I did not see her in the crowd. Then had to give her a symbolic award because Kevin had taken off and the box with the medals in it was still in his car. I will exchange the symbolic award for an original Battle of Westport Commemorative Medal at the next meeting. Also to **Mary Ann Hazzard**.

A big THANK YOU goes out to all who attended, assisted and participated in Civil War Picnic '96. The video Karen took is neat. Makes me wonder how much better '97 can be.

A comment was made at the board meeting about displaying the Confederate banner at a meeting and not having the U.S. colors. I was unaware such a thing had happened. It has always been my policy not to have one without the other. Apologies for any such error.

I am trying to find a base to hold our 36 Star U.S. Flag, but even the school does not have one we can use. I have not had the time to make any but will try harder to have a matched pair of bases by the September meeting. Anyone with an extra flagstand or a paper on how to make one, please give me a call or mail me a copy. All help appreciated.

Many of you saw the top piece of a Confederate Memorial tombstone at the picnic. Copies of the two articles which ran in The Liberty News, The Leader in Springfield, The Record in Mount Vernon and the paper in Jasper are inserted in this issue. Special thanks to **Richard Abbott** and **Del Warren** for helping with this project.

It is amazing how much history has surfaced because of this little piece of tombstone. Interest in Civil War history has increased considerably in the Mount Vernon area.

Details about the return of the marker to the Lawrence County area are still being worked out with the assistance of Kathy Fairchild at the Lawrence County Record.

The story on the marker, the picnic and the new movie premier all fell in the same week. The *Courage under Fire* movie premiere went well except I said 1870 instead of 1970 twice and had the wrong president on Hagemeister's introduction. The video shows only the introductions of the three Medal of Honor recipients and the receiving line at the close.

At the Board Meeting

The Board of Directors met on Wednesday, July 17th at 7 pm at the Learning Center near Truman Library.

Incoming mail was passed around and Picnic '96 was discussed.

Not enough food to go around was a concern of many. Next year we will go back to supplying the meat for the sandwiches and get more creme soda.

Concern we were outgrowing the site was also brought up.

Newsletter. 120 printed, 89 mailed out, average cost .56.8 cents.

Treasurers Report...Beg. Bal. \$1,281.45, Deposits 27.50, Paid Out \$294.60, New Bal. 1014.35.

Coffee Fund...Beg. Bal. \$28.69, Picnic purchases \$30.95, In Donation Jar -0-, New Balance -1.26.

2nd V.P. Report...Over 100 attended Picnic '96. No exact count was kept.

1st V.P. Report...Next month's meeting will be a walking tour of Woodlawn Cemetery. Followed by a program on the 54th Massachusetts Infantry in September.

Old Business...The Tax Exempt Papers were mailed. Now the wait.

Use of the Education Building for a regular meeting was discussed. Steps, access and parking were concerns.

It was decided to use a Savings Account for our Reserve or Special Use Fund. No charge as long as the balance stays above \$50. Pin and medal sales are already \$176.50. The money was given to Beverly to open the new account.

Toby Giese reported only 12 lapel pins and 11 medals remain.

New Business...Plans for August 14th walking tour of Woodlawn Cemetery were discussed. Iced Tea and cold sodas will be available. The donation jar will be out.

A tour to Cass County Civil War sites will be on Saturday, October 26.

Programs of interest for 1997 were discussed.

13 of the 17 members were in attendance. The meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm.

A BIG, BIG

WELCOME

TO RENEWALS

Del & Jean Warren

of James Country Muzzleloaders
in Liberty, Mo.

And

Dr. John & Ann

Balhuizen

of North Kansas City

Visitors

at the Picnic were to
numerous to count and added
much to the reveling.

**Paid Memberships now total 97.
Who will be #100?**

Happy Birthday to

Although it be unhusbandly of me to say how many and on which day, I know of someone, very special to me, who is having a birthday sometime between the 19th and the 21st.

On the Mend

Many of you have inquired about Ann Balhuizen. I had a telephone conversation with John on July 25th.

After nearly six months in ICU at NKC Hospital, Ann is now at the Vencor Hospital on Troost.

John says she enjoys having visitors and receiving cards. (That's good because I have saved up all the back issues of the Border Star for her.)

The respirator prevents her from talking but she has a pad and pencil by the bed and converses via notes.

Visiting Hours are open. John suggests one call first to make sure she is available to receive guests at the time you intended to visit.

Vencor Hospital's mailing address is 8701 Troost, KC, MO, 64131. Phone number is 995-2000.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

August

Sat. 10th **Researching the War**
Gene. Conf. Atchison, Ks
Wed. 14th **Woodlawn Cemetery**
Walking tour.
Sat. 17th & **Pea Ridge & Prairie Grove**
Sun. 18th **Battlefield Tour**
Wed. 21st **Board Meeting**

September

Wed. 11th **CWRTWMO Meeting**
The 54th Mass.
Wed 18th **Board Meeting**

October

Wed. 9th **CWRTWMO Meeting**
The *Sultana* Trials
Wed 16th **Board Meeting**
Sat.-Sun. 19-20 **Smithville Heritage Days**

Upcoming Re-enactments

September

14-15 St. Charles, Mo.
Antique Shops everywhere!
28-29 Pilot Knob, Mo.
State Sponsored Event

October

5- 6 Nebraska City, Nebr.
At Arbor Lodge State Park
11-12 Shelbina, Mo.
over by Hannibal.

Special Happening

If you have not visited St. Charles, Missouri, since the big flood, now would be the time. The weekend of September 14-15 is suggested.

They now have 3 casinos along the shore and all the antique shops along Main Street are still there, not to mention Frenchtown. The Civil War events will take place in River Front Park (next to the casinos).

Battle re-enactments both Saturday and Sunday are scheduled as well as a parade down Main Street on Saturday morning. A street dance with period music is also on the program.

Expect 300 re-enactors, maybe more.

Although not an actual Civil War battle site, it is an historically rich area.

The carriage ride along the river and down Main Street is really neat.

August Meeting Woodlawn Cemetery Walking Tour

The August 14th meeting will be a tour of Woodlawn Cemetery, 18th & South Noland Road in Independence.

The plan is to assemble near the rock office building at 7 pm.

Best way to get into the cemetery is via the north entrance (by the funeral home).

Do not attempt to enter from Noland Road. The turn is very sharp and can be dangerous.

The press flyer asks if you can name the only Confederate General killed in action in Missouri?

And, who is the most famous Civil War person buried at Woodlawn?

Is it Mr. Vaille, builder of the Vaille Mansion or is it George Todd, the man who tried to keep peace within the ranks of the Confederate partisans.

How about Captain Wagner of the 2nd Colorado Cavalry?

Or possibly Gabe Parr, Beverly Chambers, Andrew Jackson Henley, C.W. Stroud or James Latimer?

Maybe it is none of the above.

The tour will make 10 stops and last about an hour, similar to what we did in Lee's Summit last August.

Iced tea, cold sodas and cookies will be served. The donation jar will be out (current balance \$-1.26).

A handout listing the tour stops and giving a brief history of each person will be available for a small donation.

Of the over 90 Confederate Veterans buried here, almost half are in unmarked or unknown graves.

A list of these names will be on site. Anyone wishing to join in the hunt for the missing men is invited to do so. The lists must be returned at the end of the tour. It is my hope we will be able to find some of those whose names do not show up in the burial records even though their obits indicate they were in fact buried here.

The tour will follow the lanes but is not totally handicapped accessible.

Help is on the Way

With everything else she has to do on meeting nights, worrying about cookies and who will be there to help were problems Karen did not need.

The response for volunteers to help was overwhelming. Assistance is all filled in through February of 1997.

As a rule we go through 12 dozen cookies per meeting. By asking for two or more to sign on for each night we have limited the quantity of what each person needs to bring.

Knowing that people will be there around 6:30 to help get things set up and assist during the break is really helpful and most appreciated.

August 14th, Cindy Golden and Jeanne Carey will be the volunteers.

September 11th, Debbie Richey and the McCorkendales.

October 9th, Charlotte Tindall and Harriett Lionberger.

Karen will continue to bring the coffee and be co-ordinator. I will ice down two dozen or more sodas.

Karen will call the volunteers the week before the meeting to remind them and finalize the set up.

The break and social time has always been a unique feature of our group. This new addition will help us to get to know each other better and spread out the work load.

Prairie Grove-Pea Ridge Tour

Only four seats remain on the bus for the August 17-18 Battlefields tour.

Stops will include the cemetery near Holton where the 7th Wisconsin troopers ambushed by guerrillas at a nearby crossing in July of 1863 are buried, the Carthage Civil War Memorials, the Pea Ridge Battlefield and Visitors Center, the Southern Memorial Association Cemetery in Fayetteville, the Prairie Grove Battlefield and Museum, and more.

Cost estimate is \$55 per person based on double occupancy.

Price includes four meals, Pepsi and popcorn party Saturday evening, site fees, motel and bus costs.

Book Review

Mr. Lincoln's Drummer

by G. Clifton Wisler

Reviewed by Michelle Homan

This book is based on a true story about a young boy, Willie Johnston, who was too young to join the Union forces so he became a drummer boy, and not only that, a hero.

Mr. Lincoln said to me, "By the virtue of the authority granted by the United States Congress, I award Drummer Willie Johnston of the Third Vermont Volunteers the (C) Medal of Honor."

This is a very meaningful story that can really touch your heart and make you realize how real war can be.

Editor's note...Michelle told me about this book two months ago. I asked her to review it for us. Her review arrived about the same time the July issue was being mailed.

Thanks Michelle and I am sorry for the four week delay.

This book caught my interest because it is one of the very few books on the Civil War aimed at the middle school students.

Not only that, the hero comes from the Third Vermont Volunteers which was part of Maj. William Wells' command at Gettysburg. Wells was awarded a Medal of Honor for his actions at that battle.

In the text, Mr. Lincoln used the "C" word when referring to the Medal of Honor, which he probably would not have done in real life, but what the hey, most story book writers don't know the "C" word is wrong anyway.

The excitement in Michelle's eyes as she told me of this book led me to think about the need for more action oriented books of a similar nature for this age group.

THURSDAY JUNE 19, 1902.

From Mr. Carpenter.

EDITOR DEMOCRAT:

Some super-squirtical, ultra-loyal g. a. r. members, who kicked like bay steers because the Daughters of the Confederacy unveiled a monument in memory of ascended Confederate soldiers, on Memorial Day, at Forest Hill Cemetery, Kansas City, might learn a few lessons in common sense if they would only take time to study some facts in history and of the civil war, if their intelligence is commensurate with their bigotry and self-conceit (which, of course, it is not.)

Do these pension-drawing grand army rascals know that Decoration Day originated with the "fire-eating" women of South Carolina, and that the g. a. r. and congress stole its sacredness and changed the name to "Memorial Day." Those noble women fixed the time when their richest flowers were in bloom, a time when flowers are not in full bloom in the colder regions of yankeedom. And what would the day be without the floral tokens of love.

Those same extra-loyal and refined(?) gentlemen(?) who were "disgusted at the sight," might also learn (if they had as much of brain power as a gnat) that there is not a single principle in the Declaration of Independence or the Constitution of the United States (up to the 12th amendment) that did not originate in Southern hearts and was not evolved out of Southern brain.

The only thing that originated in the north was "secession," at the Hartford Convention in 1812, the thing these fine-haired gentlemen(?) fought so hard against and so bitterly anathematize the South for striving to maintain.

They might also learn that the annexation of the great state of Texas was accomplished by the hated South and maintained by Southern patriotism adding territory to make a half-dozen other states. They might learn that the Louisiana Purchase was made by a president who was a Southerner. They might learn that the yankee forces never won a battle or gained a victory with less than five to one; and, at the final surrender at Appomattox, these brave(?) and courageous(?) g. a. r. fellows had not less than ten to one in the field. Grant had 200,000 g. a. r. patriots(?) and General Lee had 37,000 of the boys in tattered gray. The government paupers ought to boast loudly of their bravery, and feel "disgusted" at the chivalry that honors the heroism and sacrifices of a beloved dead who offered up their lives in defense of a white man's government, and the right of self-government. We will not say more, for, in the language of Sancho Panza, we believe that "it is a waste of lather to shave an ass."

DAN CARPENTER.

Who Cares About An Old Civil War Tombstone Anyway?

by Harold "Sonny" Wells, July 1996

J. O., at the Liberty News, cared. He took the time to develop the story and contact several others in southern Missouri which triggered the search for the tombstone's origin.

Kathy Fairchild cared. She is with the Lawrence County Record in Mount Vernon, Missouri. The story her paper ran on the broken tombstone brought in a swarm of responses.

Del Warren cared. He made space in his Civil War centered business to put up a display with a flyer asking for information as to the stone's origin and placement. Much higher than expected numbers came in to view the stone.

Richard Abbott, of Lee's Summit, Mo., cared. He drove all the way to Liberty just to see the marker and then drove over 200 miles to southern Missouri to try to locate the missing parts. With the help of a crudely drawn map, and some local farmers, he was successful in finding the cemetery in which the marker was originally placed, the McCune Cemetery.

Lou, at the grocery store in Liberty, Missouri, cared. He took time out from his busy work schedule to ask if the home of the marker had been found. "Yes, near Red Oak, Missouri."

The lady at the Philatelic Center at the Post Office cared. She hollered across the lobby asking, "anything new on the tombstone?". "Yes, the bottom part is engraved 1862."

The tellers at the bank were curious. They all crowded around when they heard the talk on the latest in the tombstone caper. Several folks at church were curious also.

And **Chris Orr**, of rural Sarcovie, Mo., cared. It seems Chris' family has owned the land on which the McCune Cemetery lies for six generations. Chris has mowed the grounds many times.

A letter with no return address arrived with a roughly drawn map and pictures of the marker taken in 1993 at the cemetery north and east of Avilla, Missouri. The pictures show a badly overgrown area with only one stone still standing. The grounds appeared to be uncared for. Three photos of the Confederate tombstone, which was laying in heavy grass, were included.

More information began to emerge. One person had seen the marker back in the 1950's. Another in the 1960's. A Tombstone Inscriptions book listed it as being there in 1934.

But it was Chris Orr who had the information which has turned this little piece of tombstone into a historical treasure and revived memories of a long forgotten piece of Missouri history.

Chris' family heritage tells of the Spring River Academy, a/k/a White Oaks Academy, near the cemetery. It was open 1844-1856. Confederates troops are said to have drilled at the abandoned facility before going into battle at such places as Wilson's Creek, Pea Ridge and Carthage.

The family history also tells of a great -grandfather who built his home nearby to watch the troops. The chimneys to that home are still there, but nothing else, Chris said.

The trail which passed nearby ran from northwest Arkansas to Clinton, Missouri, and beyond. It intersected with the Fort Scott to Rolla Military Road to the north. Evidently a major trail.

A marker was placed at the site of the old Academy in 1942. A search is now under way to find out if there was an infirmary at the Academy. If so, more pieces of the puzzle fall into place.

At one time the only way to access the cemetery was to go through the Orr's backyard, past the big barn, across the pasture, around Rocky Point, and follow White Oak Creek to the gate.

The family deeded land to the county in 1923 to make an access road to the cemetery on the provision the county maintain the road. The road was made but has not been maintained.

In 1974, Chris' father and a neighbor petitioned the County to close the road. A chain was then put across the road to limit access. The chain disappeared a couple of years ago.

Chris recalled that 8 years ago the cemetery was vandalized. Several stones were taken and thrown off a nearby bridge. At least three of the stones are still in the creek under the bridge.

The cemetery was vandalized again in April of 1996.

Mr. Orr is adamant in declaring he wants the marker back in his cemetery. Others are not so sure an isolated rural cemetery is the best place to put such a unique piece of history.

It appears the stone was placed by the Ex-Confederate Association of Missouri in 1896 or 1906. A light rubbing with very smooth sand paper has brought out an inscription of some kind on the face of the lower portion of the marker. The middle numbers are unreadable.

Efforts to locate more information about the Five Unknown Confederate Soldiers marker and determine exactly when the marker was placed are continuing.

Tombstone found on road a mystery

By JASON OFFUTT
Managing editor

A Lee's Summit man traveling in southern Missouri found part of a broken Confederate soldier's tombstone lying on the roadside.

He wasn't sure what to do with it. The man didn't want to leave a piece of history on the roadside, so he brought it to Liberty historian Sonny Wells.

■ "We have absolutely nothing to go on. But it's not where it's supposed to be."
Sonny Wells
Local historian

The partial tombstone, broken off near the top, right below the words "Five Unknown Confederate Soldiers," was found on a gravel road off Route AA in Lawrence County about 25 miles east of Jasper. An engraving depicting a rifle with bayonet is on the top of the stone.

"The engraving is done very

primitively, but the work on it was done with some effort," Wells said. "The tombstone (also) has fresh scratch marks and looks like it fell out of a moving vehicle. A person could have had it in their trunk for the last six months and just decided to dump it."

Wells said the stone could have been engraved around "the turn of the century or before."

But where did it come from?

Around the area where the stone was found there are a number of Civil War battle sites: The Civil War Park in Carthage, the Wilson's Creek site, the Battle of Gaines Mill in Greenfield and the two battles at Newtonia.

"So it's located right in the middle of considerable activity," Wells said. "But that's just speculation. We have absolutely nothing to go on. But it's not where it's supposed to be."

See TOMBSTONE, page 3

Northland historian Sonny Wells cleans an engraving on a piece of Confederate tombstone found on the roadside.



Photo by Jason Off

Tombstone found on road a mystery

Continued from page 1

Wells concedes that the stone could easily be from another state. But wherever it's from, Wells believes the stone, in some way, should go back.

"My initial thought was to set it back where it belongs, but it's not that heavy. Anybody who wanted to have a souvenir in his basement could just take it," he said.

Wells would like a replacement stone to be put in this stone's place and put the original in a museum.

For now, however, the stone has been placed on display in Liberty.

"I am going to put it on display at James Country so Civil War buffs can see it. Hopefully, somebody will remember seeing this stone someplace and we can get a dialogue going on how to preserve it," he said.

James Country Mercantile is located in Liberty at 111 N. Main St.

If the stone is from the Carthage area, Wells thinks the stone should be placed in Carthage's Civil War Museum.

Although removing tombstones from cemeteries is not uncommon, according to Wells, it is odd finding such a historical stone on the side of the road.

"It's not unusual at all," he said. "In a new housing subdivision (near) Liberty, the guy removed all the stones (from a cemetery on the site). At the Pence Cemetery, (the developer) actually changed the dimensions of the cemetery so they could build houses there."

"I could go on and on. It is not that uncommon. It is more uncommon of a stone like this to pop up," Wells continued. "This is quite a find and I feel a responsibility to find where it came from and to find its history and put a new marker on that grave. I normally get calls from people who find stones missing from cemeteries. I haven't had a call about this."