



SEPTEMBER 1995

VOL. 3 NO. 9

# THE BORDER STAR

A Publication of the Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri

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

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### NEWSLETTER

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### ANNUAL DUES

Individual	15.00
Family	22.50
Student (Under 21)	5.00

### MEETINGS

Meetings held the second Wednesday at 7 pm in the Library, at Truman High School, 3301 So. Noland Rd, except July, August and December.

## FROM THE PRES.....

The summer is nearly over. It is time to look back with a smile and start thinking about what this group needs to accomplish to move ahead in 1996.

Will the great amount of interest shown by the visitors to the picnic, the cemetery tour and at the Lone Jack re-enactment manifest itself in new members and more frequent visitors? Only time will tell.

One thing that did bother me a bit was the number of people who said they did not know this group existed.

As hard as we try to get releases out to the media about our meetings and the number of times our meetings or special activities have been mentioned in the local press, one would think this group is pretty well known. Not so.

This all goes to show that we must continue to get the news releases out, set up our informative little picture board and "Cheat Sheet" at public events and push hard to keep the meetings interesting and informative.

After all, we do have a really great bunch of people in our Round Table.

Beyond The Mason Dixon by Tim Cox

**\*\*Lone Jack-**I attended the Lone Jack Re-enactment on Sunday, August 20th. Charles McCorkendale and I manned the CWRTWMO booth for most of the afternoon, along with an occasional helping hand from Sonny and Karen.

Our group's "Trivia Board" was as big a hit as it seems to have been at past events. While Sonny can give you the exact figures as to the number of inquires, I can tell you this...there is interest in the Civil War and our organization!

Whether folks were interested in re-enactments, geneology, military history or monuments, it was evident that our "Picture Board" helps as a visual aid in making the past come alive. There was a home room teacher I spoke with and a former member of the New Orleans Round Table came by. To all, the sampling of Civil War Sites, as contained on the poster board, sparked a good deal of interest.

Fellow truth seekers, please consider volunteering a little of your time in manning the "Board" the next time it is displayed at an event. It is a good way to meet people who share your interest. (Despite the Grasshoppers, I hear Bob Benson did an outstanding job as foreman of the booth on Saturday. Way to go Bob.)

**\*\*The Jayhawkers - 1959 Paramount Pictures**

Of all the movies made about the Civil War era, this one holds the most nostalgia for me. (Now remember I didn't say it was a great movie, just a memorable one).

It stars Fess Parker, just about my favorite western type actor, Henry Silva and Jeff Chandler, just to name a few.

I was probably still a teen when I last saw this movie, but its memories are clear; burning buildings, shootings in the night, and last but not least, close ups of, you guessed it, Kansas Redleg stockings.

Fess plays the farmer who is wronged by one William Quantrill, played by Jeff Chandler, I beleive. Silva, as always, plays the top henchman (in this case Quantrill's underling) who is merciless and ruthless.

While full of historical inaccuracies, it nonetheless rates a look.



## Lone Jack Civil War Event

Several members of our Round Table helped staff the picture board display on Saturday and Sunday, August 19-20, at Lone Jack.

They survived the heat and some very interested crowds to hand out over 200 "Cheat Sheets", all of the back issues of THE BORDER STAR and *About Our Round Table* flyers.

On Saturday, 26 people signed the guest book to receive a free CWRTWMO newsletter. Bob Benson, Frank Adams, Loretta Krump and Karen Wells assisted.

On Sunday, 23 more signed in. Charles McCorkendale and Tim Cox assisted at the tent.

Mary Ann Hazzard, Don & Becky Carver, the Bowlin's and Harold Dellinger all came by to chat a spell.

Bob & Ginny Werline had their cannon in both day's battles. Bob was even seen riding a horse for a time.

Joel & Dori Semler had their big gun in the battles as well.

Del & Jean Warren had their small sutler's tent set up.

In Saturday's heat it seemed the crowd was all staying back under the shade trees.

Just five minutes before the battle was to start, very few were at the crowd line in a position to view the re-enactment.

Bob and Sonny set up the PA system and put on the narrated version of Dixie by the 5th Alabama Regimental Band.

As if on que, the crowd came out of the trees and started for the viewing area. It was amazing!

The same thing happened on Sunday but not as large a number.

About 150 soldiers and 40 or so civilians participated.

Special thanks to Bob Benson and Loretta Krump for calling people to work at the display on very short notice.

# WELCOME

## TO ALL OUR VISITORS

Actually, we have had so many guests and visitors at the picnic, the cemetery tour and at the booth at the Lone Jack event, there is not room here to list them all. They will all be receiving the August and September newsletters and a warm invitation to join up.

## Alert on Use of Funds from Sale of Civil War Coin Sets

Heritagepac, Jerry Russell's non-profit lobbying group (a Registered PAC) out of Little Rock, Arkansas, included the following notation in its Summer 1995 newsletter.

*Quote, "Please write--TODAY--your U. S. Senators and Sen. Dale Bumpers (U. S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510) and speak out in defense of Civil War Battlefields.*

*Another important request: put a P.S. on the letters: Please don't let the Civil War "Trust" spend coin money, designated for the purchase of threatened Civil War sites, to pay off their back debts (much of it to "Trust" directors and/or their foundations). If you would, Senator, check it out and let me know.*

*The "coin money" was specifically designated for the purchase of land, but now the folks at the "Trust" are sitting on over \$5 million, hoping to use the interest to pay those back bills. This should not be allowed to happen. Do your part to see that it doesn't."*

Russell suggests a separate letter on the coin interest matter would be better than a P.S.

For more information contact:

Heritagepac

Box 7281

Little Rock, Arkansas 72217

(501) 225-3996

Mr. Russell asks for a \$5 donation

The donation is NOT tax deductible

Report on

## Lee's Summit Cemetery Tour

Over 90 people showed up on a hot, muggy August night to take a shortened by the heat walking tour of the Lee's Summit Cemetery.

The Lee's Summit Journal, The Examiner, The Star and several other papers had mentioned the tour in their publications.

Over two dozen calls had come in regarding the tour. Most often asked question was the cost or fee.

Don Hale, President of the Lee's Summit Historical Society, helped out and several members of his group were included in the group.

This tour focused mostly on the just over 30 Confederate Veterans.

Thanks to an very informative follow up article in Lee's Summit paper, over a dozen calls came in with information about Civil War veterans buried in the area.

As a result two more names were added to the list of Union Veterans buried at Lee's Summit bringing the total to 63.

Additional information about others whose names were already on the list was also obtained.

Copies of last month's *Border Star* were quickly gobbled up. An additional twenty copies had to be printed and mailed out to those who had requested them.

The 50 copies of the four page booklet listing the known veterans buried at the cemetery was also very quickly picked up.

For those wishing to update their list, please add the following.....

Green, Orson Bacon

Musn, 100 Ind. Inf

Bn 7-24-1824 Dd 1938

Desc-Ann Bowlin, Grn Vllly

(Still had his Fife!)

Zumwalt, Andrew Jackson Sr.

Pvt Capt. Decker's Co.

9th Mo. St. Mil. Cav.

Lived in Fairmont, Died Indep San.

Desc-Alta Tucker, Lee's S.

Next year, it is the Yankee's turn.



## Coming in September Civil War 103- The War in Western Missouri

The fall program series will kick off with another of the classroom style presentations on The War in Western Missouri.

The meeting will be at 7 pm on Wednesday, September 13, in the Library Room at Truman High School, 3301 South Noland Road.

Starting with the war along the border in 1855, through the dark years of 1863-64, and ending with the raid on Kingsville in May of 1865, the War in Western Missouri will be the topic.

The lead off presentation will be on the Border War in Jackson, Bates, Cass and Clay Counties.

Presenters on the following are needed...

1. ~~The Raid on Osceola~~ TAKEN
2. Jennison's Edict Sept 1861
3. ~~Order #11~~ -TAKEN-

Each talk should run at least 3 minutes but no longer than 8.

Questions may be asked at the end of each presentation.

Here is your chance to jump in and do some research on a subject you have long thought about.

Call Sonny or Tim to select your topic. Call TODAY!

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

### SEPTEMBER

- 3 Happy Birthday to ?????
- 13 CWRTWMO Meeting...  
Civil War 103-War in Western Mo.
- 20 Board Meeting
- 23-24 Re-Enactment-.....Pilot Knob, Mo.

### OCTOBER

- 7-8 Re-Enactments-Centralia, Mo. and  
Nebraska City, Nebraska
- 11 CWRTWMO Meeting  
Mosby and Mosby's Raid
- 14-15 Re-enactment-Winterset, Iowa
- 18 Board Meeting-Nom. Comm. Apptd.
- 28 Ghosts of Fort Leavenworth Tour

### NOVEMBER

- 4 Program-Mid-Cont. Library, Ex Sp  
Medal of Honor Recip. of Mo.
- 8 CWRTWMO Meeting  
The Battles at Big Blue & Elections
- 11 Veterans Day-Display your flag
- 15 Board Meeting
- 23 Thanksgiving

## Coming Saturday, December 9 The Christmas Party

### Civil War Picnic-96

The Board of Directors voted to have Civil War Picnic '96 at the same place (Pitcher Cemetery) on the same day (third Wednesday in July) at the same time (6 pm to 9 pm).

Suggestion was also made to start dieting now, not later. 'Nuff said!

## Book Collection Donated

A handshake, an exchange of smiles and the transfer of three boxes of books. That is all there was to it.

By that simple transaction the books from the private collection of Bob Maienschien became the property of the Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri.

Bob's brother Jim and his wife made the donation on behalf of the family in memory of Bob and his love of the Civil War.

A special tag is being printed to put in the front of each book. The tag will read...From the Robert "Bob" Maienschien Collection. For the Study & Research of the Civil War. Property of The Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri.

The books have been cataloged by title and by author.

There are 65 books, many with autographs, some first editions, and 8 booklets/pamphlets in all.

Here is a partial list.

- Memoirs of William T. Sherman  
by William T. Sherman @1894, 1957 Ptg  
Thirty-Six Hours before Appomattox  
by Chris Calkins @1980
  - The Surrender Proceedings  
by Frank Gauble @1987 3rd Edtn
  - Confederate Cavalry West of the River  
by Stephen B. Oates @1961, 1994 Ptg
  - The Century War Book (800 Illustrations)  
by Century Pub. @1894, 1978 Ptg
  - Bloody Dawn (autographed)  
by Tom Goodrich @1991
  - In Deadly Earnest (autographed)  
by Phil Gottschack @1991
  - Secret Missions of the Civil War  
by Philip Stern @1959, 1987 Ptg
  - Galvanized Yankees  
by Dee Brown @1963, 1986 Edtn
  - Shelby and His Men  
by John Newnam Edwards 1993 Edtn
  - The Sultana Tragedy  
by Jerry O. Potter @1992 1st Edtn
  - Grey Ghosts of the Confederacy  
by Richard S. Brownlee @1958, 1991 Ptg
  - A Stillness at Appomattox @1953 1st Edtn
  - This Hallowed Ground @1955, 1956 Edtn
  - The Coming Fury @1961 1st Edtn
  - Grant & the Am. Mil. Tradition @1954 1st
  - Pictorial History of the Civil War @1960  
All by Bruce Catton
- Wait until you see the complete listing!

## Trivia Corner

### Match the names of the Battles

The Battle of Bull Run

The Battle of Murfreesboro

The Battle of Pea Ridge

The Battle of the Hemp Bales

The Battle of Stone(s) River

The Battle of Liberty (Mo.)

The Battle of Antietam (Bridge)

Elkhorn Tavern

The Battle of Wilson(s) Creek

The Battle of Manassas

The Battle of Blue Mills

The Battle of Sharpsburg

The Battle of Lexington

The Battle of Oak Hills



## The Battle of Liberty

September 17, 1861

Of the three engagements which immediately preceded the Battle of Lexington, in the fall of 1861, the Battle of Liberty was by far the largest.

Missouri State Guard General Sterling Price had three recruiters in Western Missouri hoping to fill the ranks of his dwindling army at the Siege of Lexington.

Col. John Boyd set up his camp near the little community of Agency, just to the Southeast of St. Joe, on the 6th of September.

In just 6 days he had over 2,000 recruits.

On September 14th, Boyd broke camp and headed for Lexington via Liberty.

They camped the first night along a creek bed two miles Northeast of Smithville, near the town of Gosneyville, now called Paradise.

Over 800 men joined the column as it moved South including most of Captain Duncan's Smithville Rangers, a supposedly neutral local militia group.

The column headed East at day break and was joined by other pre-organized militia units such as the Greenton Rangers (from the Watkins Mill area), Crowley's Company (from Gallatin Township) and the Centerville Militia which included one A. F. James.

The recruits, now some 3,500 in number, camped that night along the twin fork of Fishing River just North of present day Hwy 291 and Eastern Road.

When Col. Henry Routt and his Liberty Mounted Rangers rode into camp early on the morning of the 16th they brought with them large quantities of guns, powder, musket caps and other military hardware, including two cannons, most of which had been "liberated" from the Federal Arsenal at Liberty Landing some five months earlier.

The column passed thru Liberty the next day. The Liberty Tribune of Friday, September 20, 1861, read "About 4,000 State Troops passed through the city on Monday last, on way to Lexington. Most were mounted and the baggage train numbered over 60 wagons. They had 3 cannons..."

Boyd's recruits camped the night along Blue Mills Landing Road about three miles South of Liberty.

Kit Child's cavalry recruits, about 300 strong, camped just to the West along the old Arsenal Road.

That same night the Federal troops, who had been ordered by General Pope to get between the Confederates and the river, converged on Liberty.

Lt. Col. Scott, 3rd Iowa Inf., set up camp on the high ridge just to the North of the square. About 600 men in his command had

made the trek from Cameron in a driving rain storm.

Units of the Adair County and Caldwell County State Militia accompanied Scott.

The two camps were only 3 miles apart.

About 2 am on the morning of the 17th, Federal pickets exchanged shots the some Confederate scouts.

The scouts quickly withdrew and alerted Col. Boyd of the size of the Federal force, about 1,000 he was told.

Boyd, who had just come out of a meeting with David Rice Atchison.

Senator Atchison had been sent by General Price to urge Col. Boyd to "hurry"

Price had received word Union troops from St. Louis were headed for Lexington.

Units of the 39th Ohio and the 16th Illinois were to join Scott's unit at Liberty.

These units were delayed by actions at Platte City and did not arrive on time.

By 3:30 am Boyd's column was up and moving. The Confederates were crossing while the Federals slept because Col. Scott had left orders not to be disturbed.

About 8 am the next morning Scott orders Lt. James, son of Captain James, to take a patrol of 40 men of the Caldwell County Militia and search out the enemy.

The patrol heads South along the road leading to the ferry landings. At the Arsenal Road intersection the patrol veers right and heads toward Arsenal Hill.

The patrol rode right into Kit Child's camp just as the men were breaking camp.

The fight lasted less than 10 minutes.

Child's force quickly overran the surprised Federals, killing 4 and wounding 11. Most of the others lost their mounts or were scattered. Only 2 of the original 40 made it back to camp, two hours later.

Scott's men had heard the firing but thought it was just a bunch of rebels showing off, Scott stated in his report.

Just before noon, Scott moved out.

From the bluff overlooking the South Liberty Landing the rebels can be seen crossing at Elloit's Landing, not the much larger Blue Mills Landing as expected.

Actually, the main body of recruits had crossed during the nite using both ferrys.

Only about 800 remained, 600 of whom were hidden along the river bank and the others in the heavy brush across the road.

Scott did not see the men hidden in the brush, but they did see the 20 or so pickets who appeared to be guarding the small bridge which led down the ferry road.

The Federals headed down the road toward the pickets. The pickets fired a few shots and then fled down the ferry road.

The Federals, seeing the enemy in full retreat, charged down the road after them.

They had taken the bait...hook, line and sinker!

The "guards" ducked into the trees and the recruits in the brush opened fire.

After the main force of Federals had passed, the main body of rebels came up out of the river bottom and closed in behind them.

Only the German speaking artillery crew, which had lagged behind, did not get caught in the trap. They quickly loaded up and fired a shot into the trees.

Suddenly, someone notices a squad of rebels moving toward the cannon.

The crew flees, leaving the gun behind but taking all the primers with them.

Scott and James re-establish order in the ranks and return the enemy's fire.

The Federals fight through the recruits rear guard and set up a firing line.

A gun crew is rounded up, the big gun is uprighted and loaded, but cannot be fired, no primers. Black powder is poured into the pito hole and ignited.

The cannon fires for the second (and last) time, of the entire battle.

After about an hour the Federals withdraw, returning to Liberty.

At Liberty, Scott finds Col. R. C. Smith and four companies of the 39th Ohio camped in Lightburn's orchard, something he did not fail to mention in his report.

Boyd's men finished their crossing, moved on to Lexington.

The next morning, September 20, 1861, some of these men, under Captain Minter, made history by rolling water soaked bales of hemp up a hill toward the Federal trenches and broke thru the Union lines thus ending the siege.

Scott's report of the Battle of Liberty states he suffered minimal losses and goes on to name them by unit and company.

Scott estimated the enemy's losses as, *"not less than 160 men, many of which were killed."*

Actual losses: 2 killed and 18 wounded.

Col. Saunders reported his State Guard recruits lost 1 killed and 17 wounded.

He estimated the Federal losses at 150-200, killed and wounded, *"including 42 counted dead on the road."*

Actual Union losses were 17 killed and 84 wounded.

Col. Scott sent a detail, under cover of darkness, to retrieve the casualties.

Scott's report indicated 14 dead were recovered from the battlefield and one died the next day.

The dead were buried the next morning in a mass grave in an open area just West of the cemetery on the campus of William Jewell College in Liberty.

The Confederate dead are believed to have been buried in the Anderson Cemetery on the Lexington to Independence Road at the Jackson County line.