



August, 1994

Vol 2. No. 8

THE BORDER STAR

A Publication of the CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE of
WESTERN MISSOURI 1209 Skyline Dr. Liberty, MO 64068

PROCLAMATION

**HEADQUARTERS WESTERN DEPARTMENT
ST. LOUIS, AUGUST 30, 1861**

Circumstances in my judgement are of sufficient urgency to render it necessary that the commanding general of this department should assume the administrative powers of the State. Its disorganized condition, helplessness of civil authority, and the total insecurity of life and devastation of property by bands of murderers and marauders who infest nearly every county in the State and avail themselves of public misfortunes in the vicinity of a hostile force to gratify private and neighborhood vengeance and who find an enemy wherever they find plunder finally demand the severest measures to repress the daily increasing crimes and outrages which are driving off the inhabitants and ruining the state.

In this condition the public safety and success of our arms require unity of purpose without let or hindrance to the prompt administration of affairs. In order therefore to suppress disorders, maintain the public peace and give security to the persons and property of loyal citizens I do hereby extend and declare established martial law throughout the State of Missouri. The lines of the army occupation in this State are for the present declared to extend from Leavenworth by way of posts of Jefferson City, Rolla and Ironton to Cape Girardeau on the Mississippi River. All persons who shall be taken with arms in their hands within these lines shall be tried by court-martial and if found guilty will be shot. Real and personal property of those who shall take up arms against the United States or who shall be directly proven to have taken an active part with their enemies in the field is declared confiscated to public use and their slaves if any they have are hereby declared free men.

All persons who shall be proven to have destroyed after the publication of this order railroad tracks, bridges, or telegraph lines shall suffer the extreme penalty of the law. All persons engaged in treasonable correspondence, in giving or procuring aid to the enemy, in fermenting turmoil and disturbing public tranquility by creating or circulating false reports or incendiary documents are warned that they are exposing themselves.

All persons who have been led away from allegiance are required to return to their homes forthwith. Any such absence without sufficient cause will be held to be presumptive evidence against them.

The object of this declaration is to place in the hands of military authorities power to give instantaneous effect to the existing laws and supply such deficiencies as the conditions of the war demand, but it is not intended to suspend the ordinary tribunals of the country where law will be administered by civil officers in the usual manner and with their customary authority while the same can be peaceably administered.

The commanding general will labor vigilantly for the public welfare and by his efforts for their safety hopes to obtain not only acquiescence but active support of the people of the country.

J.C. FREMONT

Major-General, Commanding.

(see page 2 for Jeff Thompson's response)

PROCLAMATION

HDQRS. FIRST MILITARY DIST., MISSOURI STATE GUARD,
Camp Hunter, September 2, 1861.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Whereas, Maj. Gen. John C. Fremont, commanding the minions of Abraham Lincoln in the State of Missouri, has seen fit to declare martial law throughout the whole State and has threatened to shoot any citizen soldier found in arms within certain limits, also to confiscate the property and free the negroes belonging to the members of the Missouri State Guard: therefore, know ye that I, M. Jeff. Thompson, brigadier-general of the First Military District of Missouri, having not only the military authority of brigadier-general but certain police powers granted by Acting Governor Thomas C. Reynolds and confirmed afterward by Governor Jackson do most solemnly promise that for every member of the Missouri State Guard or soldier of our allies the armies of the Confederate States who shall be put to death in pursuance of said order of General Fremont, will hang, draw and quarter a minion of said Abraham Lincoln.

While I am anxious that this unfortunate war shall be conducted if possible upon the most liberal principles of civilized warfare and every order I have issued has been with that object yet if this rule is to be adopted (and it must first be done by our enemies) I intend to exceed General Fremont in his excesses and will make all torities that come in my reach rue the day that a different policy was adopted by their leaders. Already mills, barns, warehouses and other private property have been wastefully and wantonly destroyed by the enemy in this district while we have taken nothing except articles strictly contraband or absolutely necessary. Should these things be repeated I will retaliate ten-fold, so help me God.

M. JEFF. THOMPSON,
Brigadier-General, Commanding.

SONNY WELLS RECEIVES AWARD FROM CMOH SOCIETY

by Fred George

Those who missed our last meeting at Little Blue also missed the opportunity to meet two Medal of Honor winners. Charles Hagemeister and Don Ballard were in attendance to award a plaque to Sonny Wells for his work with the Medal of Honor Historical Society. The Congressional Medal of Honor Society is a group composed of the recipients of the Medal of Honor. The Medal of Honor Historical Society is the research arm of CMOHS. Sonny has been a member of MOHMS since 1983 and served on the Board of Directors since 1987. He is responsible for research over an 11 state area. Sonny's efforts to locate the burial sites of Medal of Honor recipients has lead to the discovery of at least 9 men whose grave locations had been unknown and has lead to correcting the location of 2 sites. Sonny also developed guidelines for the dedication ceremony to erect the grave marker and those guidelines have been adopted nationwide. He has been involved in over 50 MOH dedication ceremonies and helped in planning others throughout the country.

Charles Hagemeister is one of only two living Kansas Medal of Honor winners. While serving with the Army in Vietnam, he was awarded the Medal of Honor for retrieving six men wounded during an ambush. He personally shot two snipers and directed perimeter defenses throughout the night until relief columns arrived the next day.

Don Ballard was a Marine medic in Vietnam. He received the Medal of Honor for actions during a fire fight. While treating three men who were huddled in a bomb crater, suddenly three hand grenades fell into the crater. One blew up further wounding two men, one grenade was thrown out and Mr. Ballard threw himself on the last grenade. It didn't go off immediately so he rolled over and tossed it out of the crater. As the grenade cleared the rim it exploded. Mr. Ballard is the only living Medal of Honor recipient in Missouri.

The Plaque given to Sonny states "To Harold "Sonny" Wells from the Congressional Medal of Honor Society for his dedicated support of the Hometown Hero Program." This is only the second award ever given to a person outside of the CMOHS.

ANNOUNCEMENT: The CWRTWM will hold its' August meeting, Wed. August 10 at 7 pm at the site of the Battle of Big Blue. The site is located north of Swope Park off 63rd Street at Manchester Trafficway. See map on page 4 for directions to the site. Please be prompt.

**The Civil War Round
Table of Western
Missouri, 1209 Skyline
Dr., Liberty, MO 64068
(816) 781-7322 (Sonny)
(816) 363-4072 (Fred)
(913) 345-1853 (Ed)**

Board of Directors

President - Sonny Wells
1st Vice Pres. - Fred George
Co-2nd Vice Pres. - Sue
Valentine and Connie McQuain
Secretary - Karen Wells
Interim Treas - Fred George
Historian - Tim Cox
Dr. Gerald Anderson - Ed Harris -
Robert Benson - Troy Chrisman -
Howard Thompson - Phyllis
Thompson.

Newsletter Staff

Editor - Ed Harris
Contributors - Sonny Wells

Membership

Total Membership - 65

Annual Dues

Individual membership -- \$15
Family membership -- \$22.50
Student membership -- \$5

THE PRESIDENTS CORNER

by Sonny Wells

The presentation of the Congressional Medal of Honor plaque was a special moment for me. I am told that this is only the second such award the society has made, the other being Ray Collins in Alexandria, Virginia. The Congressional Medal of Honor Society is that exclusive group of men who have been awarded the Medal of Honor from any of five sources: Army, Navy-Marines-Coast Guard, Air Force, special act of Congress, or by presidential declaration. The Medal of Honor group lost a member last week when Herschel "Pete" Brites, MOH WWII, died at Marshalltown, Iowa. Only 193 Medal of Honor Recipients are still living.

I've had three different tallies on the crowd at last month's meeting. At one point the group swelled to over 200 when about twenty milk cows joined the group on Blue Mills Road. I will make more copies of the handout for those who did not get one and will have a similar handout for those at the Big Blue Battlefields tour on August 10.

The contract with the Independence school district for use of the Truman High School Library for our meetings has been renewed for September through June 1995 has been renewed.

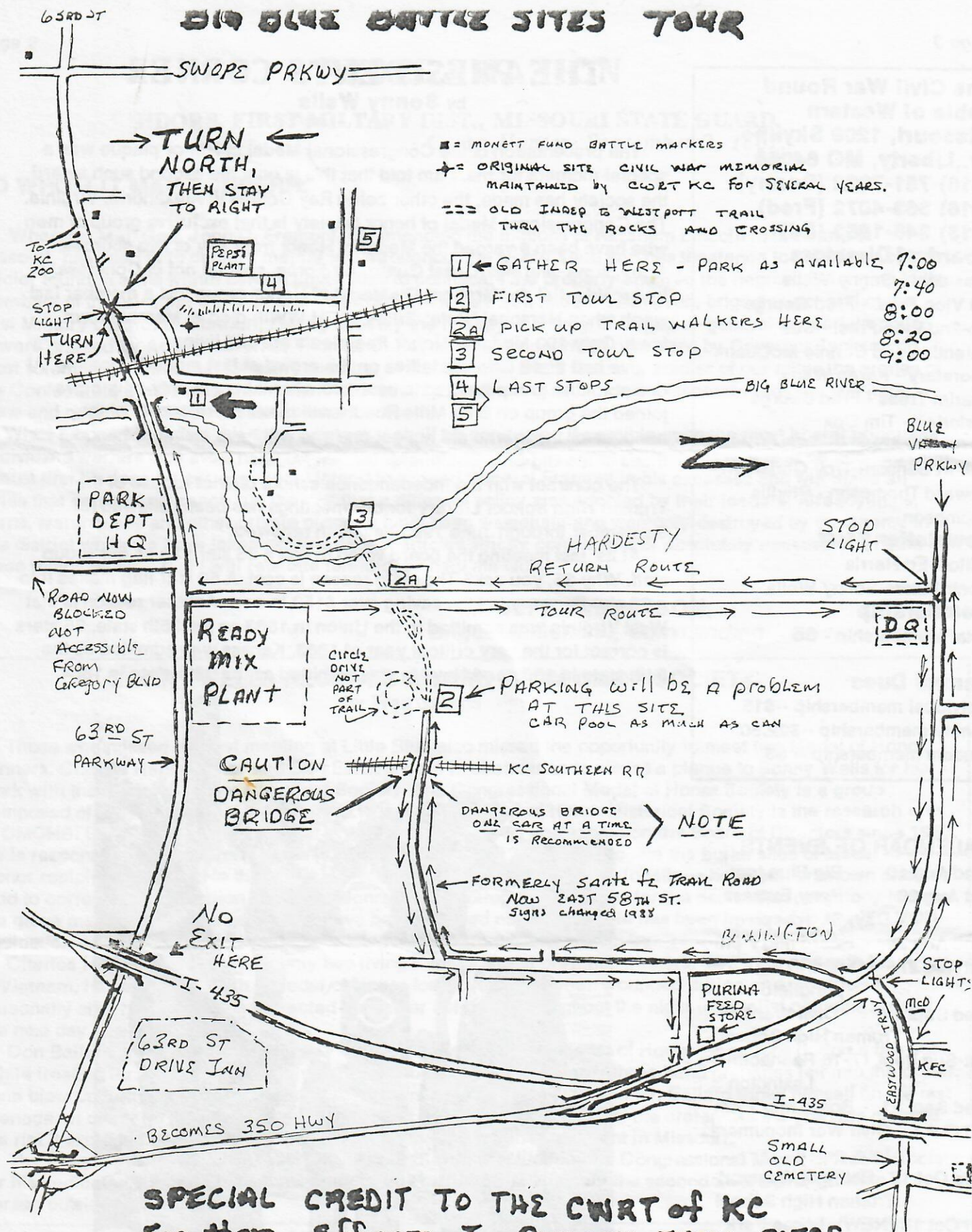
At its' last meeting the board voted to use a 35 star flag as our group staff. Why 35, you ask? The main reason is cost. A 50 star flag makes into a 35 star flag very easily, saving over \$150 in cost. Another reason is that West Virginia was admitted to the Union in 1863 as the 35th state. 35 stars is correct for the very critical year of 1863. Kansas was admitted as the 34th state in 1861 and Nevada was admitted as the 36th state in 1864.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Wed Aug 10 Big Blue tour
Sat Aug 20 Pony Express
Day, St. Joseph
Wed Aug 24 Board mtg 7 pm
Sat Aug 27 Quantrill Reunion-
Springfield
Wed Sept 14 Civil War 101-
Truman High School
Sat-Sun Sept 17-18 Reenactment
Lexington
Wed Sept 21 Board mtg 7 pm
Sat Oct 1 Civil War monuments
tour, part 1
Wed Oct 12 Battle of Westport-
Truman High School
Sat Oct 15 (NEW) Loose Park
Tour
Wed Oct 19 Board mtg 7 pm

BIG BLUE BATTLE SITES TOUR



**SPECIAL CREDIT TO THE CWRT of KC
For their Efforts To Preserve THESE SITES**

ANSWERS TO JUNE TRIVIA

1) Hannibal - St. Joseph RR (2) Brig. Gen. James Shields. Shields was a Senator from Ill., Minn., and Missouri. (3) Valverde (4) Battle of Athens, Missouri. More trivia next month. Two answers were inadvertently left out of last month's answers to the puzzle. 55 down- nit and 56 down- MD