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# THE BORDER STAR

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

## THE BURNING OF LAWRENCE

(FROM THE LIBERTY TRIBUNE, AUG. 28, 1863)

About 6 o'clock last evening, the guerrilla chief, Quantrill, with a force about 800 strong, crossed from Missouri into Kansas, near the town of Gardner, 60 miles below here, and immediately started for Lawrence, arriving before that town at 4 o'clock this morning.

He posted a guard around the city, so the citizens could not escape, and with the remainder of his men commenced pillaging the stores, shooting citizens, and firing houses.

One gentleman managed to escape, and secreted himself in a cornfield near the town. He swam the river at 8 o'clock and on reaching the bluffs on this side, had a plain view of the city which was then in a sheet of flames. From what he saw, he thinks the loss would reach two millions, and by this time perhaps much more, as they seem determined to destroy everything they could burn.

We cannot learn any resistance was made, the citizens being taken completely by surprise, the first alarm being the crackling of flames and the shouts of the rebels. James H. Lane was in the city, and it is feared he has fallen into the hands of the guerrillas, as it was almost impossible to escape through the lines. A large number of troops have been sent in pursuit of the rebels, but with what success is not yet learned.

Mayor Anthony of this city has issued a proclamation stating the people of Leavenworth need not apprehend any trouble, but requests every able-bodied citizen to provide himself with the best arms he can, and hold himself in readiness to aid friends in any part of the State at a moment's notice; censures the General commanding the district, who, he says, with 5,000 troops under his command, has allowed a few hundred guerrillas to get 50 miles into the interior, burn a city, and destroy two millions worth of property; and intimates the citizens must depend upon themselves for the defense of the city and the State.

We publish elsewhere full details of the terrible calamity which has been inflicted upon the unfortunate city of Lawrence, in our neighboring State of Kansas, by Quantrill and his ferocious band of guerrillas. We and the people of our county most sincerely sympathize with the sufferers. If the facilities for taking care of the afflicted families are not complete in Kansas, we hope measures may be taken--and, doubtless, will--to extend to them the charities and hospitality of Missouri. Humanity calls--we should listen. The destruction of the fair city of Lawrence, furnishes another proof of the unmitigated ferocity and malignity of that desperate band of miscreants, who, calling themselves partisan-rangers in the service of the Rebellion, are only minions of the Devil and his angels, and are confederated simply for the commission of murder, theft, arson, robbery, and every other crime known to the laws, human or divine. Every effort should be made by all to exterminate them from the face of the earth.

We see it urged by some of the papers and orators of Kansas, on the first reception of the news of this awful calamity, that the border counties of this State (Missouri) should be desolated in retaliation. The indignation of the citizens of Kansas against Quantrill is not only just but righteous; yet they should remember that our people are not--and ought not to be made--responsible for the misdeeds of those irresponsible villains. Upon serious and sober reflection, we are satisfied that the people of Kansas will dismiss any such intention. The law of retaliation is a fearful one, and should be executed with the greatest circumspection. It can only be defended when the guilty parties themselves--and they alone--are made the sufferers.

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...THE APPEARANCE OF A MAN UPON THE  
STREETS WAS THE SIGNAL FOR HIS  
INSTANT DEATH...

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## LANE'S PART IN THE QUANTRILL AFFAIR

(FROM THE LIBERTY TRIBUNE  
SEPTEMBER 11, 1863)

S.N. Wood, Esq., a prominent citizen and politician of Kansas, and editor of the Council Grove Press, publishes the following facts relative to the part which Lane took in the pursuit after Quantrill's thieves and murderers. We have learned from several of the most reliable citizens of Lawrence that the statements of the Press are, in every particular, correct.

The Press says:

"Gen. Lane ran clear through the cornfield and hid in a ravine near Rev. Brown's, two miles from town; followed by his negro. After the raid was over Robt. Morrow took his family out to Brown's, and Lane had sent his negro out to reconnoitre. He found Morrow and piloted him to the ravine. Lane was completely bewildered, did not know where he was; enquired the distance to Lawrence, and the direction; whether there was any road, and where the California road was, and if he had not better get farther off; Morrow left him there, returned to town, a party collected, went in pursuit, were joined by another party from Wakarusha, and continued the pursuit, all before Lane returned to town. Lane came in between 11 and 12, heard what had been done, sent a messenger to report to the "reliable Leavenworth dailies" that he was in pursuit of Quantrill; and left with two men to overtake the command, when the last we heard of him he was riding along, head down, in the rear of our forces, urging them. The next number of the Leavenworth papers will have glowing accounts of "How Lane drove Quantrill out of Kansas," we suppose.

Had Lane collected ten men he could have defended his house against the whole guerrilla force, and perhaps have saved much of the town. A.K. Allen defended his house alone, saved himself and home--when men were called to the door--murdered, and houses burned all around him.

Lane we suppose is brave enough, but he has an excellent pair of legs, they won't stand and see his body hurt.

## 1994 CIVIL WAR ACTIVITIES IN OUR AREA

April 13 CWRTWM meeting  
May 11 CWRTWM meeting  
May 21 Tour battle of Albany  
June 8 CWRTWM meeting  
June 10-11 Weston CW encampment  
July 9 CWRTWM tour Cass city sites  
July 13 CWRTWM meeting at Loose park  
July 23-24 Windsor MO CW camp  
August 6-7 Grand Island NE CW camp  
August 6-7 Ft. Kearney, Pioneer vil. tour  
August 10 CWRTWM meeting at LittleBlue  
August 20 Pony Express days St. Joseph  
September 14 CWRTWM meeting  
September 17-18 Lexington MO CW camp  
September 17-18 Parkville Days  
October 1 CWRTWM tour KS monuments  
October 29-30 Mine Creek KS CW camp  
November 5 Big Blue battlefield tour  
December 10 CWRTWM 2nd annual Christmas party

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## ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S TRIVIA

- 1) All were born in Missouri.
- 2) The Athens double barrelled cannon. The theory was that when the double barrels were fired, a pair of balls, connected with a length of chain, would "mow down yankees as a scythe cuts wheat." It was reported to have only been fired once, killing three members of the Thunderbolts.
- 3) Poison Springs, Arkansas, April 18, 1864.
- 4) Major General Thomas C. Hindman.

LOOK FOR MORE TRIVIA QUESTIONS IN NEXT MONTH'S NEWSLETTER.



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## **THE PRESIDENTS CORNER**

**by Sonny Wells**

A special thanks to Tom and Maureen Goodrich for making it to Independence and for his outstanding program on Quantrill's raid on Lawrence. I am sure we all learned a thing or two from Tom's presentation. Parts two and three of our "Lawrence Trilogy" will be played out at our April meeting. Now it is Steve Janssen's chance to give another side of the story. Over coffee and cookies, sift through the data, and then let us calmly share our thoughts as we try to determine, "was Quantrill justified in 'sacking' Lawrence"?

There were four designs submitted for the logo contest. After consulting with Fred, it was decided to put together a ballot form with all four designs shown. Copies will be distributed at the registration table. Ballots will be collected during the break. Announcement of the winning design will be made by the 2nd Vice-President during the business report.

Weston... At least two people are in place for three of the four shifts. Sponsors now say thirty cannon are expected. I hereby advise everyone to bring earplugs. Event dates are June 10-11.

The Pharis living history farm will not be available for school group tours this year.

A letter in the most recent Civil War Reenactors Newsletter credits a Platte county woman with finding the flag that the 2nd Colorado Cavalry captured at the battle of Camden Point, in Platte county.

The lady had called me about a year ago to get details on the flag for an article she was researching. For the record... Bob Conley, a descendant of a 2nd Colorado veteran, saw the flag at the Colorado State Historical Society Museum, in July of 1989. This is the same Bob Conley who founded the "Soldier's Newsletter", the 2nd Colorado Cav newsletter, and put them into book form. He called me from his home in California to tell me of "seeing a confederate flag captured in Missouri", as it was identified.

I contacted Charles Sharrock in Denver. He made three trips to the museum and finally found the flag. Charles called me on November 6, 1989.

As I had suspected, it was the Camden Point flag with "Protect Missouri" on it. The flag was in very poor condition and had been removed from its display case. I informed Bob Werline, chairman of the 1989 Camden Point event, of the finding of the flag in early November, 1989.

Charles McCorkindale, of Richmond, another 2nd Colorado descendent, was informed of the possible find in September 1989. It was his great-grandfather who is said to have been with Private West when he captured the flag on July 17, 1864. It was West who gave the flag to the Colorado State Historical Society in 1905.

THE APRIL MEETING WILL BE WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13, AT 7:00 PM AT THE TRUMAN HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY, 3301 S. NOLAND ROAD. Steve Janssen, curator of the Elizabeth Watkins Museum in Lawrence, will present a program about "THE LAWRENCE MASSACRE." After the break, there will be an open forum on the question, "Was Quantrill justified in sacking Lawrence?" Also, we will be voting on the new logo for our group.



# THE LAWRENCE MASSACRE

## PARTICULARS AND INCIDENTS

FROM THE LIBERTY TRIBUNE,  
AUGUST 28, 1863  
(FROM THE KANSAS CITY JOURNAL  
OF COMMERCE)

Upon learning of the destruction of Lawrence by the bushwackers under Quantrill, we immediately proceeded there to learn the facts in the case, and render such aid and sympathy as might be in our power to give. We returned home yesterday and now proceed to write a hurried narration of events and incidents as we received them from the survivors and eyewitnesses of the terrible scenes which have added a new and tragical interest to the annals of that already historic town.

### THE APPROACH

On Thursday, at noon, Quantrill and his band took dinner at their rendezvous on the headwaters of the Grand River, in the northwestern portion of Cass county, Mo, at least 50 or 60 miles from Lawrence. He moved west, crossing the state line five and 1/2 miles below Aubrey, in Johnson county, taking an almost direct line for Lawrence; passing through Spring Hill and Gardner, keeping to the east of Blue Mound and crossing the Wakarusa probably at Blue Jacket's ford. At Gardner they robbed some houses and committed some outrages, and openly avowed their destination to be Lawrence. In Douglas county, they are reported to have killed a couple of men and robbed a house, and to have repeated the story that they were bound for Lawrence, to destroy it. Notwithstanding this public avowal all along their course, no person of sufficient humanity or courage was found to mount a horse, and by cross roads and a circuitous ride, get ahead of them and give the doomed people a moment's warning--a fact of eternal disgrace and infamy to every person on the route of their journey, who knew of their destination, and could have given warning but failed to do so.

They arrived at the suburbs of the town just at clear daylight--an hour, when, of all the others, they would be least anticipated and when they would find the people least prepared to meet them.

...Quantrill's orders were said to be to burn everything that would burn, and to kill every man...The plan of operations was to ride up to a house, call out the inmates, rob them of their money and valuables, shoot the men down in cold blood, and then fire the house...So rapid were the shots from the enemy's revolvers, that a gentleman who passed through the terrible scene told us it

sounded like the rapid and continuous crackling of a branch of ignited firecrackers.

...The FIENDS OF HELL could not of displayed a more demonic spirit than did these devils in human form. Unarmed citizens were shot in the street -husbands murdered before their wife's eyes, and in some instances their arms, and parents slain in the midst of their children. No cries of pity could prevail--no appeals to humanity avail. Their utterly fiendish spirit was displayed in outrages upon the dead bodies of those whom they murdered. They would charge past them on their horses and fire shot after shot into their inanimate bodies. Almost all the killed were pierced with several balls.

...From Mr. Dix, the wagon and plow maker, they took \$1,000 in money, and then shot him in cold blood.

...Mr. Lemuel Fillmore attempted to conceal himself in his house, but was discovered when they went to burn the house. They took him out under the pretense that they would take him as a prisoner, marching him a few rods and shot him down...

...Judge Carpenter, ex probate Judge of the county, was murdered under circumstances of horrible atrocity. The fiends shot him and then pursued him from one room to another of his house, shooting him as he went, and the life blood gushing from him in torrents at every step -- up the stairs and down into the cellar, until he fell in the agonies of death. His screaming wife threw herself upon him to protect his body, when the fiends lifted her clothes up and thrust their revolvers under them, to fire a final charge into the dead body.

...The burning of private houses was very extensive. Indeed, had all the houses that the villains set on fire been consumed, hardly a dwelling would have been left in the city. But a great many of the fires were extinguished by the women...In west Lawrence, Gen. Lane's new residence--just finished--was burned...

We heard one of the guerrilla sub-chiefs spoken of as evincing a little humanity, in that he did not murder every prisoner that fell into his hands. He gave his name as Captain Bennet Wood. The most ferocious and blood-thirsty of the lot were Todd's men.

The only instance of resistance that we heard of was that of a man in west Lawrence, who met two of the scoundrels at the door with his revolver, and drove them back. He is thought to have wounded one of them.

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