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THE BORDER STAR

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THE CAPTURE OF GENERAL MARMADUKE

by Ed Harris

On October 25, 1864, General Sterling Price's defeated rebel army was retreating south to Arkansas, having been soundly defeated by General Pleasanton at Westport. At Mine Creek, Kansas, Price directed Generals Marmaduke and Cabell to delay two pursuing brigades of union cavalry, commanded by Cols. Benteen and Phillips, while the confederate supply train desperately tried to cross the creek.

Major General Marmaduke formed his division on the prairie with Mine Creek to his rear, facing Benteen on his right and Phillips on his left. Brig. Gen. Cabell was deployed to the right of Marmaduke. Benteen charged Cabell, capturing his artillery and exposing Marmaduke's right flank.

Serving in Col. Benteen's brigade was a young soldier named James Dunlavy, private, Co. D., 3 Iowa Cavalry. In a letter published in 1891, Dunlavy wrote,

"Marmaduke's whole right and center were stampeded. I was on the extreme right of my regiment, and was wounded in the arm by a piece of shell, which also hurt my horse. ...Just as quick as I could get my horse to the front, seeing my brigade far in advance to my right, I noticed troops. Thinking that they were Federals, I started for them, but soon found they were Marmaduke's men, in full retreat. I noticed an officer in a Confederate uniform. This officer started in my direction, shouting, 'What do you mean, shooting your own men!' He was evidently trying to rally what he thought were his own men. I shot at him but missed. I checked to a trot and soon he was by my side, and seemed surprised when I demanded his revolver. He handed it over, saying, 'I surrender; I thought I was with my own men.' I started for the rear, and as one of our men asked for the rebel horse, I ordered my prisoner to dismount, which he did in a very cool and military style."

"I then started to the rear with him on double quick. (We) had gone a short distance when he said that he had been up all night and was very tired (Marmaduke's brigade had been fighting almost continuously for over four days and had ridden over

100 miles. ed.) and asked me if I would let him walk, which I did. He wanted a horse but I refused to get him one. He then asked me to take him to Gen. Pleasanton, as he was personally acquainted with him."

"... Just then one of Pleasanton's staff came up, and my prisoner introduced himself as General Marmaduke... He asked me what troops' hands he was in. I told him Iowa. He said he was glad he was in Iowa (hands) and not Kansas... We met Gen. Blair, to whom I delivered my captive. Blair got a horse and mounted Marmaduke, and asked me to accompany them to General Curtis..."

Major General Pleasanton, ranking field commander, reported to Major General Rosecrans, Commander, Department of Missouri, the capture of Marmaduke in a letter from the battlefield the afternoon of October 25.

Lieutenant Colonel and Provost-Marshal-General J.J. Sears was ordered by Major General Curtis, Commander, Department of Kansas, to take charge of the prisoners. However, Gen. Pleasanton refused to release them to the custody of Sears. Sears wrote bitterly to Curtis the evening of October 26,

"I have the pleasure to report that Maj. Gen. Pleasanton will not allow me to carry out your orders with the prisoners. He refused to give them up until Gen. Rosecrans arrives...tonight. He says he will rank you. He also says he relieves me of all responsibility with the prisoners. As you are absent, and he assumes command, I will have to obey his orders. He has brought up two other Colonels...(and) he has sufficient force to carry out his orders, I think..."

Captain and Assistant Provost-Marshal J.C.W. Hall added his frustration in a letter to Curtis on Oct. 26,

"...I have all prisoners of war, including Gens. Marmaduke and Cabell, under my immediate control, and every arrangement to march to Fort Leavenworth, and am now ordered by Maj. Gen. Pleasanton to hold on until I hear from you. I am obliged to obey my last order. Gen. Pleasanton wants control of the two general prisoners..."

(continued on page 2)

General Pleasonton explained his actions in a letter to General Curtis, dated October 27,

"...In reference to the prisoners captured in the late engagements, the misunderstanding doubtless originated from some of your staff officers not comprehending your orders. The Missouri troops felt hurt in not being allowed any participation in guarding the prisoners, and this feeling was increased by a Colonel Ritchie, who in the most violent manner began to seize hold of officers of my staff and declared they were arrested by your orders. In this manner he arrested your Provost-Marshal, and as no remonstrance of mine had any effect on his conduct, I directed General Sanborn to keep him quiet until I could report to you... A number of persons have since informed me that Col. Ritchie's mind is so weak that he is not fit to be trusted with any business of importance. ...Your arrangement for Captain Hall to take charge of the prisoners and escort them to Fort Leavenworth, shall be strictly carried out, and I will see that he is furnished a sufficient guard, of both Kansas and Missouri troops, if he desires it. I have heard of no imputations or reflections upon the Kansas troops, and my desire is that the Missouri troops should serve with them in perfect harmony."

Pleasanton concluded,

"From the effects of a severe fall and exhaustion...I forward... the request that as soon as I can do so I may be permitted to return to St. Louis, where I can obtain proper care and attention..."

Curtis cordially responded to Pleasanton later October 27,

"...I approve of your arrangements for escorting the prisoners, and in view of your indisposition, recommend...that you will proceed yourself in the same direction, taking charge of their proper care. As to the matter of Colonel Ritchie, I hope you will authorize his discharge, and I guarantee no further consideration of the subject will be entertained."

Major General Pleasanton escorted Marmaduke and Cabell to St. Louis, arriving by train on November 2, 1864. The next day, the rebel officers were sent to Johnson's Island for internment.

Private Dunlavy was awarded the Medal of Honor April 4, 1865 for the capture of General Marmaduke.

Sources used for this article:

- Official Records of the War of the Rebellion
- The Bravest 500 of '61, Compiled by Theo. F. Rodenbough. Copyright 1891, G.W. Dillingham, NY
- Official Medal of Honor files, M.O.H. Society.

ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S TRIVIA

- (1) John S. Marmaduke.
- (2) Attorney General Edward Bates, of Missouri. During The 1860 Republican Convention in Chicago, Bates, a St. Louis attorney, received 48 votes in nomination for President.
- (3) James B. Eads, also designer of the Eads bridge, spanning the Mississippi at St. Louis.
- (4) The Davis Guard Medal, given by residents of Sabine County, Texas, to the Davis Guards, a military company.

(trivia questions from "Civil War Trivia and Fact Book" by Webb Garrison. Rutledge Hill Press 1992.

THIS MONTH'S TRIVIA

- (1) What did Union soldiers refer to as "The Tennessee Quickstep?"
- (2) What Union general had the nickname "Old Rosy?"
- (3) What did Civil War soldiers call "The Wooden Mule?"
- (4) When was Missouri readmitted to the Union after the end of the Civil War?

According to the prisoner exchange of July 1862, 60 privates were considered an even exchange for 1 general.

George Washington appears as the rider on the horse in the center of The Great Seal of the Confederacy.

The city of Vicksburg, Mississippi, did not celebrate Independence Day until 1945, 82 years after July 4, 1863, the day Grant captured the city.

THE PRESIDENTS CORNER

by Sonny Wells

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dues at the meeting.

I hope you had a good time over the holidays. The larger than expected turnout at our Christmas party was certainly a good way to kick off the holidays. A truly fun happening, good food, smiling faces, a small gift as a remembrance, some southern slush and a flag. The Dixie Chapter of The United Daughters of the Confederacy gave our group their memorial colors, the one which they had used "for as long as I can remember", said chapter president, Mrs. Beatrice Cornish. The presentation was made during the reception, with Roger Bomar, 3 Mo. Inf., C.S.A. (MCWRA), acting as escort. It is a special gift!

A big thank you to the Dixie Chapter, U.D.C. and a big well done to the party committee!

The student newspaper at William Jewell College has completed its' research into the trenches/monument/mass gravesite affair. They somehow obtained access to a special file which contained letters from the P.R. Department and former President Kingsley about the site and the special meeting that was held to discuss the affair. According to the student reporters, a cover up and intention to deceive stand out plainly. In case you have not heard, a fountain now stands where the redoubt marker was supposed to be placed. I have been invited to resubmit plans for the redoubt and mass grave markers. A verbal guarantee has been given that the markers will be placed at the sites.

How many Civil War Monuments in the K.C. area within an hours' drive of the Liberty Memorial (not counting all the Battle of Westport markers individually)? A dozen? Two dozen? I'll show slides of many of the memorials and pass out a list of those I know of. Please bring your own list. Divide it into four categories: 1) Confederate memorials (U.D.C., ex Conf. etc). 2) Union memorials (GAR, etc.) 3) others (LGAR, WRC, battle sites, etc.) 4) Generals (Shelby, Boman, etc.) The two with the most listings will receive a prize; 2) a key chain and 1) an 1863 penny. General Boman, Pa. State militia, is in the Elmwood Cemetery.

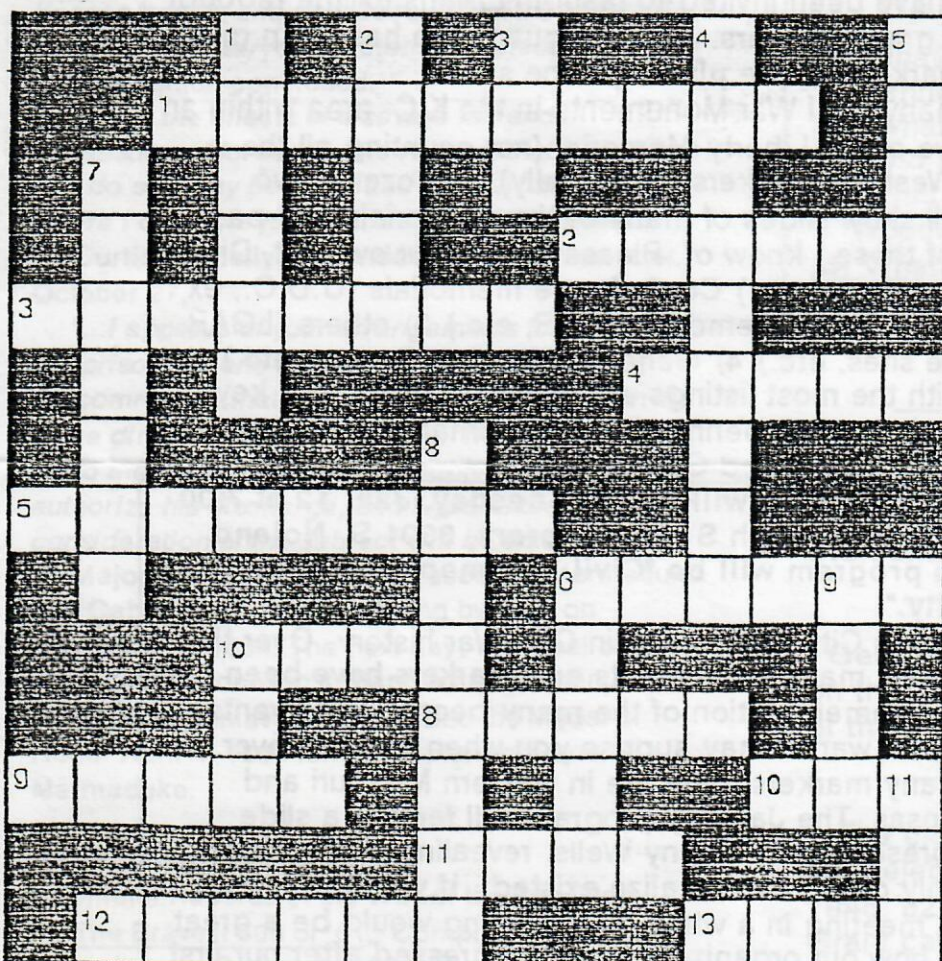
The January meeting will be Wednesday, Jan. 12 at 7:00 pm at the Truman High School Library, 3301 S. Noland Road. The program will be "Civil War monuments in Kansas City."

The Kansas City area is rich in Civil War history. Over the past 129 years many monuments and markers have been erected in commemoration of the many people and events involved in the war. It may surprise you when you discover just how many markers there are in western Missouri and eastern Kansas. The January program will feature a slide program, presented by Sonny Wells, revealing many sites you probably didn't even realize existed. If you haven't attended a meeting in a while, this meeting would be a great way to see how our organization has progressed after our first year. Don't forget that we encourage guests and non-members to attend our meetings! EH

For those of you who couldn't make it to our first annual Christmas party, we missed you! We had a turnout of about 40 people and had an excellent time. The food was great and several attendees have written to say that they thought the Christmas committee did a fine job. I have received several requests for recipes of food from the party. Specifically mentioned were the persimmon pudding, sweet potato biscuits, and Sonny's slush. The only recipe available by press time is for sweet potato biscuits.

Sonny has notified me that anyone who wants his recipe for slush will have to come to the January meeting to get it!

CIVIL WAR CROSSWORD PUZZLE



SWEET POTATO BISCUITS

- 2 cups self-rising flour
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 3 tbsp shortening
- 2 tbsp butter or margarine, softened
- 1 cup cooked, mashed sweet potatoes (about 1 large sweet potato)
- 1/3 cup of milk

Combine flour and sugar in a medium bowl; cut in shortening and butter with a pastry blender until mixture resembles coarse meal. Add mashed sweet potatoes and milk, stirring just until dry ingredients are moistened. Turn dough out onto a lightly floured surface; knead 4 or 5 times.

Roll dough to 1/2 inch thickness. Cut with a 2 inch biscuit cutter. Place on a lightly greased baking sheet. Bake at 400° for 15 minutes or until golden brown.

Yield: approx. 18 (from Savannah, Georgia)

ACROSS

- 1) "Nice" Gen. that beat Price
- 2) General "Jo"
- 3) Bloody Bill
- 4) "Biggest" Conf. General in Mo.
- 5) Jayhawk
- 6) lost his boots at little bighorn
- 7) feline general at Wilson's creek
- 8) "U.S." General
- 9) Jessie & Franks' family
- 10) Missouri jack - - -
- 11) artist at Gettysburg
- 12) Sam the big union man in Mo.
- 13) take it across the Missouri River

DOWN

- 1) hand covers
- 2) "Jeff"
- 3) it weighs a - - -
- 4) "old Rosy"
- 5) blue and - - -
- 6) Lincoln's Sec. of Treasury
- 7) Custer's crony, fought at westport
- 8) Cole's family
- 9) built bridges in St. Louis
- 10) Robert E.
- 11) soldiers always did it after marches