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THE BORDER STAR

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

REPORT OF COL JOHN F. PHILIPS, SEVENTH
MO. STATE MILITIA CAVALRY TO CAPT. JAMES
H. STEGER ASST. ADJ. GEN., DISTRICT OF
CENTRAL MO. FROM CAMP GROVER, NEAR
WARRENSBURG, JULY 14, 1864.

I have the honor to report that, in obedience to orders received through sub-district headquarters, on the night of the 9th instant, I sent Major Houts, of my command, with 150 men, northwest of this place, with instructions to scout the country thoroughly. They went 25 miles, and then turning north struck the Missouri River at Wellington. In this march they discovered abundant signs of the presence of guerillas. This country is a safe covert for these outlaws. It is a complete jungle and a perfect solitude, the adjacent country to the Sni affording forage and rations. Arriving at Wellington about 10:00 am on Sunday morning, Major Houts learned from a reliable contraband that two guerillas had been in this town that morning, and her opinion was they had gone to a church - Warders Church - distant two miles, where a Hardsell was in the habit of preaching to the "Brushers" the unsearchable riches of good whiskey and guerrilla warfare. The major, with accustomed promptness, at once detached about 50 men, under command of the intrepid and cool-headed Capt. Henslee, Company L, and sent him to this church. The force approached this church very stealthily. It is situated on a high eminence, a bluff overlooking the Sni River. The command had to reach this church by a narrow road, having to cross a bridge within 20 paces of the building and ascend a very abrupt bank. The Captain took the precaution to send forward Sgt. Brassfield with six men, with instructions to dash at all hazards over this bridge up the hill, and passing the church to occupy a position beyond, with a view of intercepting fugitives, and at the same time, by attracting the attention of the congregation, to make a diversion in favor of the main column. The guerrillas were then seven or eight in number, besides some outpost pickets on the Lexington Road. The cry of "Feds!" "Feds!" thundered from the audience, and the worthy pastor, who was in the midst of a fervent supplication, found his flock greatly demoralised,

and concluded it wasn't worth while to pray any longer under the circumstances. The guerrillas were on the alert, some at their horses, some in the church, and one, who was to be married - perhaps that very day - to the pastor's daughter, was standing at the window, making love to his inamorata. The guerrillas as quick as thought saw their peril, and with drawn revolvers they began earnest work, with a nerve and determination worthy of a better cause. The Captain's whole force was thrown into the work. The women and children screamed with terror, and, rushing wildly from the church, exhibited a method in their madness by throwing themselves in front of the rebel outlaws. Capt. H., whose presence of mind is equaled only by his gallantry, rode out and commanded the women to "squat." They obeyed the summons, and the work of death went bravely on. Five bushwackers were killed outright, the sixth mortally wounded, and one or two, despite all vigilance, made their escape amid the furor and confusion. Wilhite and Estes were numbered among the slain. These were noted and desperate fellows, and their crimes are as black and infamous as they are numerous...

Justice to merit requires me to mention the names of Privates John T. Anderson and James D. Barnes. Anderson was one of the advance who passed by the church. He received three shots through his clothes, one knocking the skin off his nose and one striking the pistol in his hand. He rode right into the midst of the scoundrels, and with great coolness and precision shot right and left, emptying 12 barrels and loading four more, all the while directing the movements of other soldiers around him... Barnes, discovering one of the bushwackers making his escape, singled him out, charged on him, discharging his rifle flung it aside, and with drawn pistol spurred forward, chasing for half a mile the rebel who was firing back at him; Barnes holding his fire until he drew up on his game, was just in the act of shooting at short range when his horse fell headlong, precipitating the rider over his head with a fearful fall.

CONTINUED ON PG 2.

continued from pg 1.

The horse recovered and ran away after the guerrilla, carrying equipments, etc., all of which was the private property of the soldier, and is lost. Barnes is a mere boy and quite small, but is as bold and dashing a trooper as ever looked the enemy in the face.

From Wellington, Maj. Houts scoured the country to Lexington, from there to Columbus, Johnson County. Here he ran onto six or seven guerrillas who fled at first fire, and being well mounted, and our horses greatly jaded, they outran us and escaped...

(from official records of the rebellion)

BOOK REPORT by Paul Johnstone.

"A True Story of Charles W. Quantrell and His Guerrilla band" by J.P. Burch. A True History of his Guerrilla Warfare on the Missouri and Kansas Border during the Civil War of 1861 to 1865 as told by Captain Harrison Trow, One Who Followed Quantrell Through His Whole Course. Copyright 1923, by J.P. Burch, Vega, Texas.

Apparently Burch interviewed Trow and was able to get enough for several paragraphs, not nearly enough for a book or even an article. He padded the book with "Noted Guerrillas", by Maj. John N. Edwards, which had been out of print for more than 40 years. He starts out with two paragraphs from his interview and then copies Edwards word for word to page 57, another paragraph of his own then Edwards to page 82, and so it goes throughout the book.

Don't be too quick to criticize Burch. At least he preserved these few comments from Trow. Besides, the man had to eat. Judging from the number of this type of book, He ate pretty well.

OTHER RECOMMENDED BOOKS

by Ed Harris

CELIA, A SLAVE, by Melton A. McLaurin. The University of Georgia Press, 1991.

In 1855 in Fulton, Calloway County, Missouri, a young slave named Celia killed her master after years of sexual abuse. The story of the murder and the ensuing trial makes for a compelling portrait of the tensions that strained the fabric of antebellum southern society in Missouri.

THE LAST FULL MEASURE, The Life and Death of the First Minnesota Volunteers, by Richard Moe. Henry Holt & Co., 1993.

This book recounts the First Minnesota Volunteers, the first regiment offered to Lincoln after the fall of Fort Sumter. Based on diaries, letters, and personal reminiscences, it follows the regiment from Bull Run to Gettysburg. The heart of this book is the accounts by soldiers in the regiment who endured the horror and hardships of virtually the entire war.

THIS MONTH'S TRIVIA

- 1) What Union soldier was the only recipient of two Medals of Honor?
- 2) What was the name of the unit created in 1862 in northern Missouri by Governor Gamble to help suppress raids by jayhawkers from Kansas?
- 3) What were the two states given statehood during the Civil War?
- 4) What photographer was credited with taking the famous "Harvest of Death" photograph at Gettysburg? (hint: it wasn't Brady or Gardner!)

The last known soldier who was witness to the stacking of arms at Lee's surrender at Appomattox was a confederate soldier from Alabama named Pleasant R. Crump, who was 104 at the time of his death on Dec. 31, 1951.

Charles Knecht, of St. James Mo, was probably the youngest boy ever to enlist in the American military. He was 7 years 10 months 14 days on Sept. 15, 1861. He had just lost his mother and his father was slated for service. Rather than losing both parents, he was allowed to join up with his father at Benton Barracks, Mo. Charles was a drummer in the Benton Barracks Cadets. His enlistment papers bore the proud legend--"By special order of Gen. Henry W. Halleck." He served three months and 24 days.

from "The South's Last Boys in Gray", by Jay S. Hoar, Bowling Green State University Press, 1986.

**The Civil War Round
Table of Western
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Membership

Total Membership - 86!

Annual Dues

Individual membership --\$15

Family membership --\$22.50

Student membership -- \$5

The newsletter staff
welcomes suggestions and
contributions of material to
the newsletter.

Due to a problem with
the computer printer,
some members have not
been receiving a
newsletter. This problem
has been corrected and
hopefully all members
will now receive the
newsletter. If you have
not received the August,
September, or October
newsletter please
contact Ed Harris to
receive a copy.

THE PRESIDENTS CORNER

by Sonny Wells

How about those students! Kudos to Nancy Lewis and her Truman H.S. students for attending the October meeting. For those of us who belong to the "over 39" club, it is always a thrill to see so many young faces around. It was also good to see the parents participating with their children in after school activities.

The November program will be a chance for you to learn about the Medal of Honor. In telling the stories of what these men did to receive the M.O.H., there will be some unbelievable heroics brought to light. Some of these stories still give me goosebumps, young Nat Gwynne (age 15) being a prime example. I have invited descendants of two of the men to be our special guests at our meeting. I have also invited all three living M.O.H. winners in our area to attend but so far I have received no acknowledgements.

Harold Blackburn was appointed by the Board to be Nominating Chairman at the Board meeting October 17. Offices to be filled include President, Secretary, Treasurer, and three Board positions. Elections will be held at the November meeting.

Overheard at the North College Hill, Ohio encampment this past weekend, "But daddy, you told me the rebels were the bad guys!" "I told you, it's hard to explain. It depends on where you lived at the time. C'mon son, lets go." A group of Confederate reenactors standing nearby may have been a factor in dad's verbal and physical withdrawal.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The November general meeting will be Wednesday, November 10 at 7:00 p.m. at Truman High School Library, 3301 S. Noland Road. The program will be about the Medal of Honor. Linda Wood, granddaughter of a Civil War veteran will tell the story of how He won the Medal at the Battle of Franklin, Tennessee, Dec. 24, 1864.

The November meeting will also be an election of new officers. Harold Blackburn has been appointed Nominating Chairman. A letter will be mailed to each member the week of November 1, giving the list of nominations. Nominations for elected positions will be accepted from the floor at the meeting.

Our Charter Certificates will be ready for pickup at the November meeting. Members are encouraged to pick up their certificates at the November or December meeting. This will save the cost of mailing. If you are unable to attend either meeting, please contact Sonny, Fred, or Ed and we will make arrangements for you to get your certificate.

Gaylen Goldsberry has resigned from the board.
Steven Gage has resigned as historian and board member.

ONLY A SOLDIER'S GRAVE
by S.A. Jones

Only a soldier's grave! Pass by,
For soldiers, like other mortals, die.
Parents he had--they are far away;
No sister weeps o'er the soldier's clay;
No brother comes, with tearful eye;
It's only a soldier's grave--pass by.
True, he was loving, and young, and
brave,
Though no glowing epitaph honors his
grave;
No proud recital of virtues known,
Of griefs endured, or triumphs won;
No tablet of marble, or obelisk high;--
Only a soldier's grave,--pass by.
Yet bravely he wielded his sword in
fight

And he gave his life in the cause of
right!
When his hope was high, and his
youthful dream,
As warm as the sunlight on yonder
stream;
His heart unvexed by sorrow or sigh;--
Yet, 'tis only a soldier's grave:--pass
by.
Yet, should we mark it--the soldier's
grave,
Someone may seek him in hope to save!
Some of the dear ones, far away,
Would bear him home to his native clay:
'Twere sad, indeed, should they wander
nigh,
Find not the hillock, and pass him by.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

THE CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE ANNOUNCES OUR CHRISTMAS PARTY, TO BE HELD THE WEEKEND OF DECEMBER 12-13, AT THE ROSE GARDEN CENTER AT THE HISTORIC WESTPORT BATTLEFIELD IN LOOSE PARK. (Exact date and time will be announced at the November meeting and in the December newsletter.)

MEMBERS ARE ASKED TO BRING A COVERED DISH, DESSERTS, SNACKS, ETC. FOR AN INFORMAL BUFFET STYLE MEAL. OLD FAMILY RECIPES OR CIVIL WAR ERA RECIPES ARE ENCOURAGED. (NO HARD TACK, PLEASE!)

The Christmas committee will provide coffee, soft drinks, napkins, plates, cups, plastic ware, and tablecloths.

Period dress would be nice but is optional. If you have cassettes or CD's of period music, please bring them as a stereo will be available.

If you have any questions, or wish to contribute, call Fred George, 363-4072 or Bob Benson, 361-4603.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS WILL BE THE DECEMBER MEETING!