

VOLUME 46, No. 4

APRIL 2003

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Menu for Apr. 22, 2003

Caesar Salad With garlic
Croutons, Smoked Brisket
of Beef, Tangy Barbeque
Sauce, Roasted New
Potatoes, Sweet Corn
W/Diced Red Peppers, and
Brownie Sundae Topped
W/Hot Fudge.

365th Regular Meeting

Tuesday, April 22, 2003

Social: 6:00pm Dinner: 6:30pm

Homestead Country Club, 65th and Mission Rd.

Prairie Village, KS

Cash bar – dinner \$20.00

Featured April Speaker;

Mr. Ralph Jones

**"Battle of Honey Springs: Indian Territory" &
Honey Springs Battlefield Oklahoma State Park.**

Mr. Ralph Jones is the superintendent of the Honey Springs
Battlefield.

In 1969, he received the BA in History and Education from East
Central State College in Ada, Oklahoma, then attended graduate school at
OU in the early '70s.

Hired by the Oklahoma Historical Society in November 1969, as an
assistant curator for collections, Ralph became director of the State Museum
of History in 1971, and then was named director of the museums division in
1973.

From September 1978, to March 1982, he was director of the
Oklahoma Military Department's 45th Infantry Division Museum, leading an
expansion program that involved a building devoted to "support" branches
and the beginnings of the exterior vehicle/aircraft park. Ralph also oversaw
the construction of a connecting building and acquisition and installation of
the Jordan B. Reeves Gun Collection and the Bill Mauldin "Willie & Joe"
originals.

From April 1982, to June 1991, Ralph was superintendent of the
Henry Overholser House historic site in Oklahoma City (and OHS site). And
returned to OHS headquarters as Special Projects Coordinator from 1991 to
1998. In this job he conducted a statewide survey of Civil War sites (ABPP
cooperative agreement) and wrote the Honey Springs Battlefield Preservation
Plan (ABPP cooperative agreement) and supervised Federal grant programs
and did long-range staffing and budgeting plans for the division of historic
sites.

In October 1998, Ralph was named superintendent of the Honey
Springs Battlefield and moved to the site in December 1999. Here he's
coordinated construction of an access road, six trails with NPS-style wayside
exhibits, and the installation of a temporary Interpretive Center (in a former
temporary classroom building which had to be gutted and rehabilitated).

**Coat and Tie Suggested, "Business" Casual Accepted,
Attendance Requires Dinner Reservation, Thank You.**



Upcoming Speakers for 2003

April 22, 2003: Mr. Ralph Jones; Director, Honey Springs Battlefield Park; "Battle of Honey Springs: Indian Territory" & Honey Springs Battlefield Oklahoma State Park.

May 27, 2003: Mr. Richard Hatcher III; Historian, Fort Sumter, National Monument; "The CSS Hunley: The Rest of the Story".

September 23, 2003: Dr. Doug Scott; Midwest Archeological Center, Lincoln, Nebraska; "Archeology at Sand Creek & Forensic Archeology."

October 28, 2003: Dr. William Shea; Univ. of Arkansas, Fayetteville, Arkansas; "Major General Samuel Ryan Curtis".

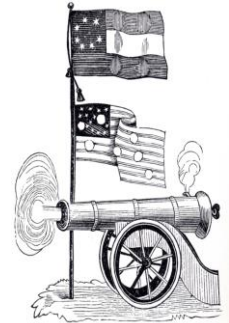
November 25, 2003: Cathy Barton & Dave Para, Booneville, Missouri & Guest readers from KCCWRT; " Musicology & Poetry of The Civil War." (Nov/Dec meeting).

All speakers for 2003 are tentative but most have a verbal agreement so far.

April 11-13, 2003: 6th Annual History Meets the Arts, Gettysburg, PA. (717) 334-8151, www.hmarts.com

May 3-4th 2003; Battle of Carthage, MO.: Maximum. (Benefit). Contact Gordon Billheimer, Gbillheimer@alumni.w/u.edu, 417-359-5422

May 17 & 18, 2003: Border war Reenactment days, Lone Jack, MO. Lone Jack Civil War Battlefield Park,



RESERVATIONS

Reservations must be received by
FRIDAY April 18, 2003

Mail to: Paul Gault
7118 N. Congress Ave.
Kansas City, MO 64152-2948

The price of the dinner is \$20.00. Make checks payable to: *The Civil War Round Table of Kansas City (CWRTKC)*. Please note any special dietary needs with your reservation.

EMERGENCY ONLY

Call: Paul Gault at 816-741-2962 or as an alternative number ONLY, call Steve Harris, 816-444-1747. DO NOT leave duplicate reservations at both numbers. The Round Table is billed for all meals prepared. Members will be charged for reservations not cancelled by the Friday before the meeting.

for information contact Alinda at 816-697-3358 or John at 816-697-4123.

May 16,17,18, 2003; K.C. Military Show. K.C. Expo Center by the airport. Saluting Armed Forces Day. Friday 5-9pm, Sat. 9am-5pm, Sun., 9am-3pm. Admission \$5.00, children under 12 free.

June 22-28, 2003: Civil War Institute at Gettysburg College "After Gettysburg". Many speakers like Edwin C. Bearss, Peter Jennings, Craig Symonds, Bob Zeller, and tours by Ed Bearss, Timothy Smith and many more. Lots to learn and see. Contact Gettysburg College, Civil War Institute, Campus Box 435, 300 North Washington St., Gettysburg College, Gettysburg, PA 17325, (717) 337-6590, Fax: (717) 337-6596, email: civilwar@gettysburg.edu, website: www.gettysburg.edu.

August 16 & 17, 2003: 141st Commemoration of the Battle of Lone Jack. Lone Jack Civil War Battlefield Park, Reenactors contact John at (816) 697-2747, crafters contact Alinda at (816)-697-3358

September 20-21, 2003; Lone Jack, MO.: Sanctioned. Contact Todd Conner, (660)-563-3472

October 25-26, 2004; Mine Creek, KS; Contact John Spencer, (620)-223-2302

October 25 & 26, 2004, Tentative: Battle of Mine Creek, Kansas . Sunday historical battle, Saturday generic battle.

Various Dates; Civil War Education Association has many programs throughout the year, for more info contact them at: 800-298-1861, Fax: 800-550-1347, e-mail: cwea@earthlink.net, www.cwea.net.

David C. Hines Tours: Some of the highlights coming this year. May 16-18, 2003; A Walking Tour of South Mountain, Harper's Ferry and Antietam. June 4-8, 2003: Price's 1864 Missouri Raid, the Longest Raid of The Civil War, a filed tour. October 2-4, 2003: War in the Trans-Mississippi: Wilson's Creek, Pea Ridge, Prairie Grove, Carthage, and Newtonia, a walking tour. Contact CWEA, Box 78, Winchester, VA 22604, 800-298-1861, Fax: 800-550-1347, e-mail cwea@earthlink.net.

Part 4 in a series of 8

Civil War Letters, Diaries, And Stories:

(Addressed to: Miss Emeline D. Marshall, Fallsburgh, Sullivan County, New York)

Camp 56 NYSV
Beaufort, S.C. Aug 27 1863

Miss Marshall

Your very welcome & interesting letter and papers arrived on Folly Island July 14 I might offer a score of excuses for not answering it sooner but will simply state that business and disease rendered in impracticable for me to reply sooner and trust to your good judgement to pardon any delay I left Hilton Head July 3rd arrived at Folly Island and rejoined the Regt was not very well when I left



the He'd but gained very fast was quite well when I got to the Regt went with the Regt on Mom's Island one night They expected an attack; there was heavy cannonading all night in the morning all quiet Saw Moultrie Ville Fort Moultrie Fort Wagner and the most of the earth works was not allowed to go where we could see Sumter The sharp shooters on both sides have Burrows in the ground where they run in like prairie Gofers to dodge the shot and shell I did not like \$o to the rear as it seemed almost on the eve of a victory but presume it was best as the health of our Regt was very poor and on the decline This is a very nice place and seems to be healthy the gent health of the Regt has improved very much though I was taken sick the second day after we arrived here and havent been well since though I feel better this morning I have the remitant Fever it commences in the afternoon and lasts from 15 to 30 hours diti not have it last night think it is broke UD They are still demonstrating against Charleston the progress is slow but sure I think you spoke of Doct Turner it was not Doct Turner that went with me to Hilton it Doct Bradner our 2d Asst Sug'n you had heard that Turner did not drink as much Brandy as he used to perhaps he has traded it for whiskey They say he is trying to resign he is complaining a considerable and walks with a cane I applied the wrong name to the U.S. mail Boat in my last to you I spelled it Oruyo it should Arrayo.

Please excuse all imperfections Direct to Beafort S.C.

Your ever sincere but anxious friend

R R Gillett

GENERAL JO SHELBY: The 1863 Missouri Raid

For Glory & Southern Retribution

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Part 4 of 9

Union General Egbert B. Brown, commander of Missouri's central military district, pieced together his reports, and gathered 1,600 soldiers near Sedalia. He had tangled with Marmaduke and Shelby earlier in the year at the Battle of Springfield. Brown slowly pieced together the telegrams and cautiously advanced in an easterly direction searching for the Iron Brigade. The Federal command began to believe that the capital at Jefferson City was the target of the Rebel horsemen.(34)

While the Federals scrambled to organize, Shelby rode into Boonville on the night of October 10. He discovered the town abandoned with little in the way of supplies for his men. The long period in the saddle began to take its toll on Shelby's command. He was worn down

and his old hand injury caused him a lot of pain. He decided to spend the night camped on the outskirts of the town. During the night Brown's cavalry advanced, and there was skirmishing a few miles from Boonville. Realizing the enemy was nearby Shelby decided to abandon the town and retreated northwest toward Marshall. He believed the town contained enough supplies to allow him to escape to Arkansas. As Shelby settled in for his rest his 1,200 tired troopers were 600 miles from any help and being stalked by over 4,000 Federals.(35)

On the road to Marshall Brown's Federals sniped continuously at Shelby's rear guard. As they crossed the LaMine River at Dug's Ford, the Iron Brigade staged an ambush that severely stung the Federals and sent the survivors running from the field. When the shooting subsided the number of Union casualties proved to be staggering. Brown had suffered 111 casualties in the small area near the ford. Shelby's losses were limited to six men in the melee. Writing his Official Report Shelby noted dourly that the ambush, "modified Gen. Brown's vigorous pursuit." Shelby's men also torched the newly constructed LaMine Bridge valued at \$400,000 effectively crippling rail transport in the area. Shelby's raiders camped that night at George Nave's farmhouse six miles from Marshall. On the morning of October 13 Shelby broke camp and advanced toward Marshall in a cold, driving rain.(36)

Darkness and poor weather brought the skirmishing along the ford to a halt and the wet and hungry Federals slept on their arms. At 2:00 A.M. Brown ordered Lt. Colonel Lazear to mount his command and take the Jonesborough Road that looped south around Shelby's flank and position himself in Marshall before Shelby could arrive. The next morning, as Shelby splashed across Salt Fork Creek and approached within one mile of the town, scouts informed him of enemy troops posted near the small community. Upon hearing the news Shelby mistakenly believed the troops in his front were from General Thomas Ewing's command, numbering 4,000 effectives. Thinking himself trapped between 8,000 soldiers Shelby reacted quickly to protect himself from an attack in two directions. In retrospect Shelby did not face Ewing's 4,000 troops, but only a portion of Brown's men who were already pursuing him. Ewing occupied Sedalia, over 30 miles away, during the fighting at Marshall. Regardless of the real situation Shelby perceived himself outnumbered 8-1 and planned his actions accordingly.(37)

Shelby instantly ordered the bridge across the Salt Fork Creek burned, and placed Colonel David Shank's 200 man command on a small hill overlooking the stream to cover the approach to his rear and keep Brown's men at bay. Due to Shank's small numbers Shelby dispatched his two Parrot guns to support his rearguard. Quickly the leader of the Iron Brigade raced back toward Marshall to establish his line of battle. Riding along a ridgeline Shelby carefully placed his command trying to find the best



location to secure his flanks. When the job was completed Lt. Col. Hooper

and Major Frank Gordon held the left flank, Colonel Ben Elliott's battalion anchored the center, while Colonel John T. Coffee extended his men to cover the right flank. In the usual fashion Shelby ordered all the troopers dismounted and ready to fight.(38)

Shelby's decision to fight is intriguing because it violated the principles that had made him successful. Travel rapidly, hit the enemy when they were unprepared, force the Federals to adjust to his itinerary and above all avoid battle against superior numbers. Up to this point in the campaign Shelby had managed to avoid the efforts of Union commanders to concentrate their forces against his Iron Brigade. Lazear chose a gentle slope just east of town to post his troopers and also dismounted his command. When Lazear had finished positioning his men they boxed in the Iron Brigade in on three sides. Major Mullins occupied the center along with two guns from Thurber's Battery, while Major William Gentry secured the high ground on the Federal left. Major McGhee and Captain William D. Weer established the Federal right flank on a small rise, while Major George W. Kelly's troopers were in reserve. (39)

While Shelby and Lazear prepared to fight there was a series of actions along Salt Fork Creek to Shelby's rear. Shanks desperately fought off repeated attacks by Brown's Federals from his position on the slopes overlooking the creek. Facing superior numbers and four pieces of artillery from Thurber's battery Shanks could do little to prevent Brown's command from extending beyond his flanks. He slowly yielded ground until his back nearly connected with Shelby's main command. Slowly the Iron Brigade felt the noose being tightened around their position.(40)

Both armies maneuvered and attempted to use the hills and gullies to gain an advantage. What occurred next was a series of small vicious fights and ambushes, punctuated by head on assaults where the fighting raged at very close range. So close was the combat that pistols inflicted much of the damage. Shelby opened the attack by attacking the Federal right flank while the remainder of his line tried to check any Union attacks along the other portions of the line. Lazear's Union troopers reacted with counter charges noting, "at one time I advanced to within two hundred and fifty yards of the enemies guns but it was so hot here that our support the E. M. M. fell back without firing a gun."(41)

Until next month.....



HOMAGE TO BLACK UNION HEROES;

Preservation Trust Magazine, March/April 2003.

CHESTERTOWN, MD.—Thelma Wilson remembers the men in blue. They'd dwindled to just a handful by the

1920s, when she was a girl, but they still marched proudly down Queen Street, past their meeting hall, each Memorial Day: old soldiers, born in slavery, who had fought for their freedom at Petersburg, Cold Harbor, and Fort Gilmer.

But besides a few of the most elderly residents of this small town on the Eastern Shore of the Chesapeake Bay, almost everyone here had forgotten Chestertown's black Civil War heroes until recently. The old veterans hall—a local African-American post of the nationwide organization called the Grand Army of the Republic—stands derelict and on the verge of collapse after years of neglect: a sad fate for a building created expressly to preserve the legacy of the Union cause.

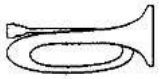
Only when the building's longtime owner, a real estate developer, applied for permission to demolish it did local preservationists take an interest in the c. 1908 clapboard structure. When they contacted Civil War historians, the preservationists soon discovered that they were faced with saving a monument of far more than local importance. Experts believe that Chester town's GAR hall—named the Charles Sumner Post after the famous abolitionist U.S. senator—is the nation's only surviving black Civil War veterans lodge. And as such, it speaks eloquently of the men and women who built it: the 19th century's own "greatest generation."

"When I saw the building, I was stunned," says Barbara Cannon, a Penn State historian who is writing a book on the GAR'S African-American membership. "In some ways, its existence is a miracle."

Despite a recent boom of interest in the 200,000 African-Americans who fought in the Civil War, the veterans' experience has drawn little attention. "These were very ordinary people from an extraordinary generation, who had done extraordinary things," Gannon says. "Maybe they worked as laborers or teamsters after the war, but during those few years, they had freed their race. They built that building so that people would remember them—not just as individuals, but because people wanted to forget that the war was about slavery and that blacks had fought in it. And that battle for Civil War memory hasn't ended."

A century ago, there were more than 200 all-black GAR posts across the country, along with thousands more white and integrated units. The organization was a powerful political force, a fundraiser for widows and orphans of the Union dead, and most of all, a keeper of the flame of memory. Each year on Decoration Day (or Memorial Day, as it is now known), Chestertown's veterans paraded to the cemetery behind wagons draped in ever- green branches and laden with flowers to be placed on soldiers' graves. It was a ritual enacted in many towns and cities.

Black GAR groups were generally poorer than their white counterparts, Cannon says, and very few had



their own meeting halls. As the last veterans died off in the 1920s and '30s, the few existing records and artifacts were lost or scattered. The Sumner Post was purchased by another black fraternal organization and used as a social hall—Ella Fitzgerald and Chick Webb, among others, performed there—before a developer bought it and left it to decay.

It might seem strange that the building met such a fate in Chestertown, a town of 4,000 people whose commitment to historic preservation borders on obsession. Just a block or two from the Sumner Post stand meticulously restored 18th-century mansions; each spring, many of their occupants parade in wigs and knee breeches to commemorate the little-known Chestertown Tea Party of 1774.

The town's 19th-century history, by contrast, seems a tangle of complexities that many would rather leave in the past. Although technically part of the Union, Maryland's Eastern Shore was slaveholding and largely pro-Confederate.

Chestertown's Civil War monuments list both rebels and Yankees, some with the same last names. Newspaper clippings from the late 1800s reveal that except for local African-Americans, no one else in town observed Decoration Day (despite the black veterans' magnanimous practice of decorating Confederate as well as Union graves).

Racial divisions have persisted. "When you talk about preservation to the African-American community, some people think it's all about big houses," says Joan Walker-Hunter, a blackboard member of Preservation, Inc., a long-established local non-profit group. Similarly, Davy McCall, a white member of the board, says that many local whites used to view the former GAR hall merely as "a club that somebody's maid's husband went to."

So when Preservation, Inc. bought the Sumner Post for \$60,000 last September—and announced plans to restore the building as a shrine, museum, and community center—the move was hailed as a break-through for the town. 'A lot of people are going to look at preservation in a different light now,' Walker-Hunter says. She says the Sumner Post will eventually be handed over to a private foundation that will use it for performances and exhibits by local

African-American artists as well as historical displays. (Full restoration is expected to cost at least another \$200,000.)

On a recent Saturday morning, a group of people gathered to begin the cleanup of the old veterans hall. Alongside Walker-Hunter and her husband, a minister, were a local contractor, several professors from Washington College (a Chestertown institution supporting

the restoration effort), a gospel singer, and even a couple of guys from a Confederate reenactors group. Kees de Mooy, a historian at the college who has coordinated the rescue effort, revved up a chainsaw.

Shrouded beneath vines and weed trees, the two-story structure looked less like a Civil War monument than some ancient Mayan ruin. But as de Mooy's chainsaw whirred, the simple lines of the old building gradually reemerged, rising above its sloping lawn with the quiet dignity of a New England village church. Inside, snow had drifted through holes in the roof and come to rest on the remnants of a coat rack and a broken-down piano. The cracked plaster walls still bore the hall's sole adornment: just beneath its ceiling, a proud stripe of Union blue.

"People in those days had so little, but somehow they built this place," Walker-Hunter says. "Maybe that will inspire us to continue what they started."

Editor's note: I had wanted to do something last month for Black History Month and didn't have the space, this month we may be short of this day or week in Civil War history, I thought this story was worth it. Mike.

This Month in Civil War History:

April 1854, The Immigrant Aid Society is formed in Massachusetts to encourage anti-slavery supporters to settle in Kansas and thus 'save' it as a free state. Relatively soon, about 2000 people go under the auspices of this project. **22 April 1861 Washington** The difficulties in Baltimore have continued to threaten the Federal capital because troops heading for Washington must go through Maryland. Lincoln's words to the Baltimore YMCA - 'you . . . would not lay a straw in the way of those who are organizing ... to capture this city' - indicate his concern for the defense of Washington. **The Confederacy** Jefferson Davis is in communication with Virginia's Governor John Letcher and hopes that the latter will be able to 'sustain Baltimore if practicable.' **Western Theater** Cairo, Illinois, is garrisoned by state troops. **Trans-Mississippi** Arkansas Governor H M Rector refuses to send troops to support the Union. The Federal arsenal at Fayetteville, Arkansas, is taken by North Carolina state troops. **22 April 1863 The Confederacy** President Jefferson Davis communicates with General John Pemberton at Vicksburg, Mississippi. The Confederate president advises the general to consider disrupting Federal naval operations by sending fire rafts down the Mississippi River. **Eastern Theater** In Virginia, near the town of Strasburg, Confederate troops are defeated by Majors McGee and White. The results of this minor encounter are that the Southerners lose five men, with nine injured and 25 taken prisoner. There are also out-breaks of fighting near Belle Plain, Virginia, as Union troops set out from there to Port Royal on a reconnaissance lasting three days. **Naval** At Vicksburg, Mississippi, Federals make an attempt to send 18 vessels past

Confederate shore batteries. There is some success in this venture; although the Union loses one transport and six barges. General Grant's troops receive the supplies carried by the 11 remaining vessels. **22 April 1864 Washington** Following an act of Congress, the phrase 'In God We Trust' begins to be stamped on Federal coins. **The Confederacy** Now that black troops are beginning to be used regularly by the Northern army - one example being the soldiers at Fort Pillow - the Confederacy turns its attention to dealing with black prisoners. President Davis writes: 'If the negro [prisoners] are escaped slaves, they should be held safely for recovery by their owners. If otherwise, inform me.' **9 April 1865 Eastern Theater, Appomattox Campaign** In the early morning, the Confederate Army of Virginia launches an attack on Federal troops blocking their path to the south. The Confederates succeed in breaking through the Federal cavalry but are unable to penetrate the infantry units behind it. The Union infantry instead begins to advance against the Southerners while other Northern troops in the rear begins to push in Lee's rearguard. As the morning wears on, Lee realizes that further resistance is futile, so he orders that a white flag (actually, a towel is used) be carried through the Union lines with a request for a cease fire until he can work out terms of surrender with Grant. In the early afternoon, the two generals in chief meet at the home of a Wilbur McLean in Appomattox Court House. Lee agrees to turn over all munitions and supplies (sidearms excepted) to the Federal army and to send his soldiers home where they could not return to fight until 'properly exchanged' (that is, until a Union prisoner is exchanged for each, an eventuality both generals know

will never take place). Grant writes down the terms of surrender in his own hand and, at Lee's request, adds: 'let all men who claim to own a horse or mule take the animals home with them to work their little farms.' After signing the surrender, Lee mounts his faithful old horse Traveler and rides back to his men, whom he then tells: 'Go to your homes and resume your occupations. Obey the laws and become as good citizens as you were soldiers.'

NEW MEMBERS:

Jim Kullberg, 9719 Chadwick Dr., Shawnee Mission KS
66206-2111, (913) 341-9259

Edwin C. Bearss' Birthday!!!

Dear Friends,

An integral part of every Civil War Institute is the appearance of the legendary tour guide and former chief historian of the National Park Service, Edwin C. Bearss. After many years he has become a part of our Civil War family and to honor this exceptional man, we will help Ed celebrate his 80th birthday by presenting him with a card shower at this summer's CWI.

What do we need from you? (1) Send Ed a special birthday card and mail it to us at the CWI-we will collect them and officially present them to Ed on his birthday; (2) please keep this a secret; and (3) mail your cards by June 1st!

Please consider doing your part to help celebrate such an important milestone for this exceptional individual.

Thank you for your help!

(see coming events for address)

Civil War Round Table of Kansas City
P. O. Box 6202
Leawood, Kansas 66206

