

**VOLUME 46, No. 1**

**JANUARY 2003**

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**Menu for Jan. 28, 2003**

**Surprise!**

The menu is supposed to be the same as last year, but we didn't have the menu available at the time and my memory isn't that good, so surprise again this year!

362<sup>nd</sup> Regular Meeting

Tuesday, January 28, 2003

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

Homestead Country Club, 65<sup>th</sup> and Mission Rd.

Prairie Village, KS

Cash bar – dinner \$20.00

**Featured January Speaker;  
Mrs. Carol Dark Ayers  
“Lincoln in Kansas”**

## **December Dinner Meeting with Music and Book Fair a Huge Success!!!!**

If you missed the December meeting, you really missed out. The music of Cathy Barton and Dave Para was very enjoyable and had me swaying to and fro in my seat and misty eyed at times, it was beautiful!

The book fair, which benefited both the Civil War Round Table of Kansas City and the Monnett Battle of Westport Fund, Inc. equally, was a huge success. I believe all books were sold, I only hope that we were generous.

The Civil War Round Table of Kansas City and the Monnett Battle of Westport Fund, Inc. want to thank all the Round Table members for their support throughout the year and hope we can continue with this year as well.

Your support of both of these groups is essential if we want to teach others about this country's bloodiest times, lest we forget. With your support, both organizations can carry on to save and protect our Civil War sites and their history.

**Welcome New Member:** Edward C Otto,  
813 Tanglewood,  
Leavenworth KS 66048

*The Civil War Round Table of Kansas City wants to thank it's members past, present, and future. If it weren't for you, we wouldn't be here! Thank you!*

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



## GENERAL JO SHELBY: The 1863 Missouri Raid

### *For Glory & Southern Retribution*

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It was a blistering hot, windy day along the Mexican border. Men, standing with their boots dipping into the Rio Grande River, were suffering in the oppressive heat. They once were revered heroes, but now carried barely the essential items necessary to their survival.(1)

Slowly their leader dismounted and waded into the muddy stream. In his gloved hand was the group's tattered battle flag, just ripped from its staff. With solemn ceremony General Jo Shelby reached into his hat and removed his famous plume, slowly rolling the flag around the feather. While a single, torturous bugle sounded, Shelby submerged the flag into the river. The banner that had watched over nearly 200 skirmishes and battles gurgled out of site. The former wealthy, dashing cavalry leader rode into Mexico, not on fine horseflesh, but on a stubborn mule.(2)

Just two weeks before their escape into Mexico ahead of Federal troops, Shelby had told the people of Texas that, "Surrender is a word neither myself or my men understand." But now the ovations echoed in the past and a life of hardship as mercenaries awaited them.(3)

With Shelby and the remnants of his famous Iron Brigade in Mexico the curtain closed on America's Civil War. Lee had surrendered to Grant in April 1865, Johnston to Sherman in May of 1865, but Jo Shelby kept the rebellion alive in Texas until late July. Uncharacteristically for Shelby, his gamble failed to work.(4)

The Shelby's were a prominent Kentucky family. Mrs. Anna Gratz, Jo's mother remarked, "My son is a descendant of John Shelby of Kentucky. Only the Lee's of Virginia can match the record of the Shelby's in giving great men to the South from the French & Indian War to the Civil War."(5)

Jo Orville Shelby was raised in Lexington Kentucky. During his youth the town was part genteel southern society and half a western brawly town near the frontier. Due to his prominent grandfather, Benjamin Gratz, Shelby became aquatinted with the great men of the period such as, Henry Clay, Thomas Crittenden and Frank Blair, Sr.(6)

In addition to meeting the most prominent men in the state Shelby grew up with men whom would be future leaders and warriors of the nation. In his neighborhood were Benjamin Gratz Brown, Thomas T. Crittenden, Frank

Blair, Jr., and his closest neighbor was future cavalry raider, John Hunt Morgan.(7)

To appease his father Shelby enrolled in Transylvania University in 1847; but he was a poor student, more noted for his pranks than his studies. After one, unsuccessful year he turned his attention to business. Kentucky was the hemp growing capitol of the country during this period, and Shelby became determined to be a success in this lucrative business.(8)

His first job was overseer of the men inside the ropewalk. The building was two stories tall, 195 feet long and twenty-five feet deep, exceedingly dusty and hot. Slaves manned the jobs inside the factory. Shelby oversaw the rope spinners who walked the hemp from the spinning wheel and back again to stretch the fiber into strands, which would eventually be made into rope. It was here that Shelby began to hone his managerial skills and learned to lead people.(9)

By 1850 Shelby and his business partner and cousin, Benjamin Gratz, decided that Kentucky hemp was in decline, and Missouri would become the next prominent location for the industry. In 1852 the partners moved to Waverly, Missouri and purchased 700 acres of cheap, fertile land along the Missouri River he named Mt. Rucker. The men rapidly became leading citizens of Lafayette County where hemp was king.(10)

Shelby quickly diversified his holdings. He added cattle, hogs, mules and corn to his property. With abundant timber nearby he opened a sawmill in the small community of Dover. Shelby joined the technology revolution with the purchase of a steamboat to obtain better prices for his commodities in St. Louis. Always a dashing figure at local parties, and the most eligible bachelor in the Lafayette County, Shelby used the genteel manners learned from his grandfather to cultivate strong relationships in the area.(11)

In just a few short years Shelby was a prosperous man with over twenty slaves, a large number for a hemp producer. But, slavery also clouded the future of Missouri. The question over the expansion of slavery into neighboring Kansas troubled him. The volatile issue was supposedly settled with the passage of the Kansas Nebraska Act. This left the question of slavery in the hands of the voters in Kansas. Soon, both pro-slave and anti-slave zealots attempted to gain control in the region. The question of voting on servitude started all the difficulty. On election day in Kansas several thousand Missourians crossed the border and participated in voting fraud. Shelby led a group of 150 men to the polls. At gunpoint they discouraged several anti-slavery men from voting while the Missourians cast their illegal ballots. The outcome was a flawed victory for Shelby and the pro-slavery forces.(12)

The rigged election was only the start of the violence in the region. Beginning in 1855 the pro-slavery Border Ruffians and the antislavery Jayhawkers waged a

simmering war against one another. In the thick of the combat was "Captain" Jo Shelby.

The prosperous planter left his business to his partner and devoted full attention to the Border War.(13)

Shelby was involved in many incidents that nearly precipitated an all out war. One of the most prominent events was the sacking of Lawrence, Kansas in 1856 when 1,500 Border Ruffians, including Shelby and his men from Lafayette County, destroyed the town. Due to his support for this type of violence men flocked to his unofficial company and his popularity skyrocketed. He outfitted his men at his own expense, and they carried the best weapons and rode the fleetest horses. The *London Times* later estimated that Shelby and the others made away with \$150,000 in booty from the raid, a staggering sum for the period.(14)

*Part 1 of a 9 part story.....*



## Civil War Collection Available: Online

The Associated Press

ST LOUIS—A vast, virtually unexamined National Archives collection on Missouri's Civil War history is now accessible to Civil War buffs, genealogists and other researchers, thanks to an online resource created by the State Archives.

Staff and volunteers are indexing a voluminous collection of legal documents, narratives and correspondence that tell the story of ordinary Missourians during the most fractious time in U.S. history, state archivist Kenneth Winn said.

The source is the National Archives' collection of papers belonging to the so-called Union provost marshals, whom the Union Army installed in countless Missouri communities to mete out "rough-and-ready justice" as civil justice broke down and marshal law took over.

"Missouri was a wreck," Winn said. "It was so divided. There was more civil violence in Missouri than anywhere else."

The collection, which sat virtual unused in the National Archives in Washington, is packed with anecdotal details of runaway slaves, house burnings, Confederate property destroyed or taken, demands for Union loyalty, and requests for help or justice.

Scholars, genealogists or other researchers need only go to the Missouri secretary of state's Web site.

The Web address of Missouri's Union Provost Marshal Papers is [www.sos.state.mo.us/archives/provost](http://www.sos.state.mo.us/archives/provost).

## Historic Sites Are Cut Back In Kansas

The Associated Press

TOPEKA — The Kansas State Historical Society has closed one historic site and reduced the hours at three others in an effort to cut costs.

More cuts are possible, the agency said. It administers 15 historic sites across the state.

The Marais des Cygnes Massacre State Historic Site near Pleasanton, where 11 men were gunned down in a shallow ravine by border ruffians in 1858, has been closed to the public.

The Mme Creek Battlefield State Historic Site near Pleasanton will-be open only on Saturdays beginning Jan. 18.

Visitors to the Grinter Place State Historic Site in Kansas City, Kan., and the First Territorial Capitol State Historic Site at Fort Riley will have only limited access during the winter, but the new hours of operation have not yet been set

"We had to make a 3.9 percent cut --- which translated to \$230,000," Historical Society spokesman Bobbie Athon said.

*Kansas City Star, Sunday, December 22, 2002, Page B-3*



### BREAKING NEWS:

President Bush Signs Battlefield Preservation Bill

(Washington, D.Q, 12/17/2002) - On Tuesday, December 17, President George W. Bush signed into law the Civil War Battlefield Preservation Act of 2002. The bill authorizes \$50 million for the protection of historic Civil War battlefields outside the National Park Service.

"The enactment of this legislation marks an important turning point in the fight to save Civil War battlefields," remarked Civil War Preservation Trust (CWPT) President James Lighthizer. "This law will help preserve thousands of hallowed battlegrounds that would have otherwise been lost to sprawl."

The Civil War Battlefield Preservation Act officially authorizes a matching grant program funded by Congress in the fiscal years 1999 and 2002. Since its creation, the program has helped protect nearly 8,000 acres of historic battlefield land in 12 states. In the past year alone, the program has helped save historic property at



Prairie Grove, Arkansas;  
Antietam, Maryland;

Chancellorsville, Virginia; and Harpers  
Ferry, West Virginia.

CWPT played a key role in getting the legislation enacted. The organization worked closely with Congressmen Gary Miller (R-Calif.) and George Radanovich (R-Calif); Senators Paul Sarbanes (D-Md.), Jeff Sessions (R-Ala.) and James Jeffords (I-Vt); and 15 other cosponsors of the bill. CWPT wishes to thank these lawmakers for their dedication to protecting America's Civil War heritage.

A copy of the White House news release is listed below.

THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON

Office of Media Affairs

For Immediate Release December 17, 2002

**PRESIDENT BUSH SIGNS LEGISLATION TO  
PRESERVE CIVIL WAR BATTLEFIELDS**

WASHINGTON, DC - President George W. Bush today signed a number of bills including, H.R. 5125, Civil War Battlefield Preservation Act of 2002. This bill preserves and protects nationally significant Civil War battlefields through conservation easements and fee-simple purchases of those battlefields from willing sellers. Also, it creates partnerships among State and local governments, regional entities, and the private sector to preserve, conserve and enhance nationally significant Civil War battlefields.

Jerry L. Russell  
Civil War Round Table Associates (est. 1969)  
HERITAGEPAC (est. 1989) <[www.heritage.org](http://www.heritage.org)>  
We Who Study Must Also Strive To Save!  
GOD BLESS AMERICA!



# Lincoln Statue Raises Ire

RICHMOND, Va.—Abraham Lincoln is returning to the capitol of the Confederacy, much to the chagrin of the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

Days before the Civil War ended in April 1865, the president and his youngest child

Tad, traveled to still smoldering Richmond soon after Southern forces abandoned the city in flames. On April 5, 2003, the 138th anniversary of that visit, a bronze statue of the pair commissioned by die United States Historical Society will be unveiled at die Civil War visitor Center of me National Park Service.

"Here is a national hero, a small boy, and a beautiful city by the James River, all united again," said Robert Kline, chairman of me non-profit group, which works on behalf of museums and other groups on projects of historic and artistic value. "This time Lincoln's in Richmond for all time."

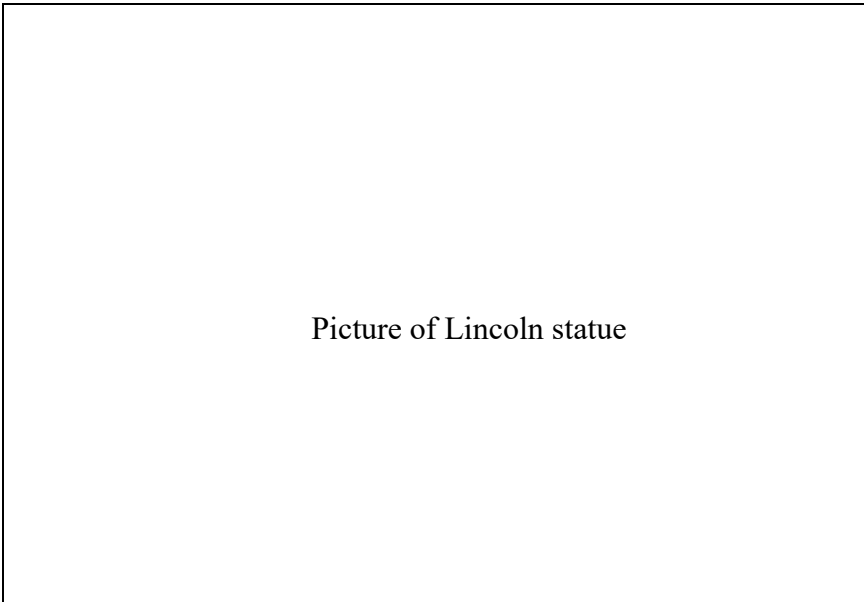
Richmond; home to towering statues of Confederacy figures including Robert E. Lee, Stonewall Jackson, and JEB. Stuart, was abandoned after Union forces led bys Gen. Ulysses S. Grant attacked on April 2, 1865.

The Sons of Confederate Veterans group views the Lincoln statue as "a slap in me face of a lot of brave men and women who went through four years of unbelievable hell fighting an invasion of Virginia led by President Lincoln," Brag Bowling, me organization's Virginia commander, said Thursday. The group had only recently learned of the statue, and had no immediate plans to protest

The life-size statue by sculptor David Frech will show Lincoln and his son on a bench against a granite wall. The words "To Bind Up The Nation's Wounds" will be etched into a capstone.

Elaine Mancini, spokeswoman for the historical society, said the cost of me statue had not been determined. The society is raising money by selling miniatures of the statue, she said.

—The Associated Press



Picture of Lincoln statue