



ROCK•TALK

the newsletter of
The Gibraltar Neighborhood Association, Inc.

▶ ▶ ▶ **OCTOBER 2012** || Volume 4, Issue 5

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Ladies Tea Recap

Visit the GNA website:
www.GibraltarNA.org

Upcoming Dates to Remember

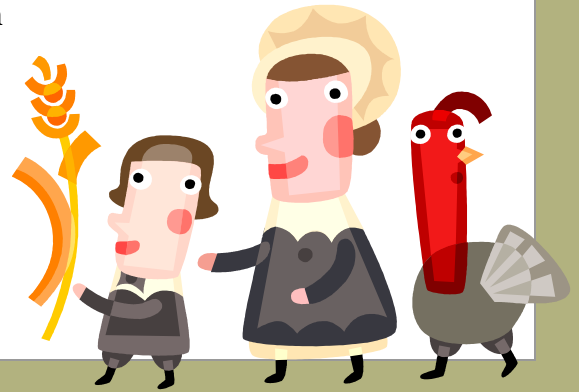
- October 31
Have a SAFE & HAPPY Halloween! Events at both the Squirrel Cage Jail and the RailsWest Museum
- **Thursday, Nov. 15**
GNA General Meeting
216 3rd St.
7:00 p.m.
- November 18
Dickens' 200th Birthday at the Dodge House
- December 9
Veteran's Day at the Dodge House

Celebrate Fall with GNA Neighbors!

Come share in the fun while you get to know your neighbors at the Gibraltar Neighborhood Association's November meeting! We'll be meeting at the home of long-time GNA resident Connie Bartel, 216 3rd Street, and the meeting date is **Thursday, November 15th at 7:00 p.m.**

Please bring a snack to share or your favorite beverage, as we'll enjoy some social time after the meeting! Everyone is certain to be in a festive mood with the holidays fast approaching! Come and learn about all the great stuff happening in our neighborhood. Meetings are always more fun with lots of folks there!

We look forward to seeing you! ■



Gibraltar Neighborhood Assn. Inc. Mission

Seeks to develop, implement and promote an comprehensive plan that: **strengthens** neighborhood relationships and communication, **creates** strategies to make our neighborhood safe, **promotes** activities that assure our neighborhood is one of clean and well-kept properties, **encourages** ideas and community involvement, and **ensures** that we will leave our neighborhood better than when we moved here. ■

Gibraltar Neighborhood Assn. Vision Statement

Gibraltar Neighborhood is a clean, safe neighborhood that offers an interesting mix of well-kept homes within one of the Historic areas of Council Bluffs, and provides its residents with a place to live where neighbors look out for one another and are proud of their neighborhood. ■

Dodge House Events

November 2-4: “The Fiery Trial” Iowa and the Civil War – a traveling trailer exhibit. No admission. It will be on the grounds of the Dodge house.

November 4 : Special Bus Tour -- Dodge’s Bio & Byways. Call for Info, reservations required.

November 11: Veterans, active military and their families will receive free admission to the Dodge House from 1-5:00 p.m. A \$1.00 off discount will be honored for Veterans and active military the entire month of November.

November 18 : Celebrate the Christmas season with Charles Dickens on his 200th Birthday. For information call the Dodge House 712-322-2406.

December 9 from 1 to 4:00 p.m.: a Day with the Dodges. Visitors will interact with several costumed characters.

Holiday Decorations: Gibraltar will be decorating General Dodge’s bedroom and its tree for the holidays. Please stop by and see it!

Christmas Family Nights, Thurs., Dec. 6, 13 & 20 from 6-8:00 p.m. Families will be admitted at a special rate of 2 adults and dependent children for \$10.00

Contact the Dodge House for more information on any of these events. ■

THANK YOU to our GNA newsletter delivery & distribution team:

Harold Compton, Matt Rennie, Chris Gorman and Steve Gorman. Without you, our Newsletter would not be possible!!!!

Halloween Events

RailsWest Railroad Museum, Oct. 31

16th Avenue and South Main Street

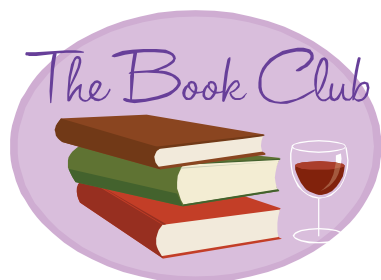
3-5:00 p.m. Trick or Treat through the train cars.
\$2.00 per child (supervising adults are free).

Squirrel Cage Jail, Oct. 31

226 Pearl Street

6-8:00 p.m. Tours through the jail and Nevermore Paranormal will be on hand to share their evidence caught at the jail during overnight investigations and to answer questions. \$5 per person.

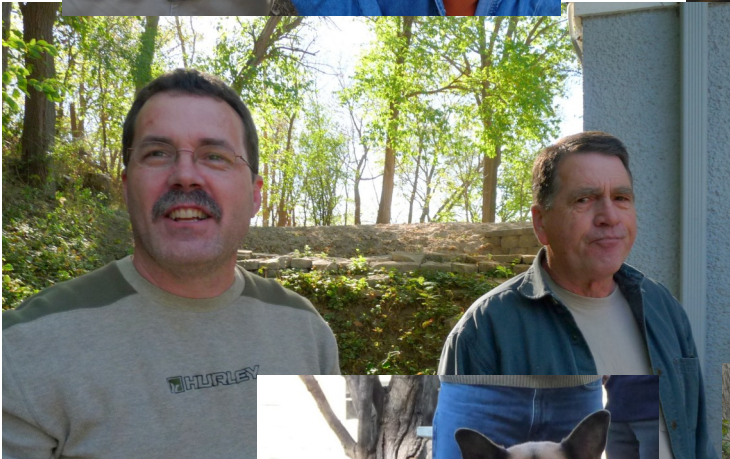
HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY HALLOWEEN!



The GNA Book Club is a fun, social gathering where we get together and share a bit of news, a glass of wine and discuss our latest book assignment. We are currently reading “**War Brides**” by **Helen Bryan**. Come join us on Wednesday, **Wed., Nov. 14 at 7:00 p.m.**, at Amy Adams’ where we’ll discuss the book! If you enjoy reading, contact Patti Hannan at 712-323-8600 for more info. We’d love to see you at our next meeting! ■

GNA August Picnic

If you missed the GNA August picnic, you missed a GREAT time!! It was a beautiful evening and the food (fried chicken provided by the GNA and delicious side dishes, snacks and desserts provided by attendees) was absolutely amazing! Dave and Amy Adam's back yard was a beautiful venue, and everyone enjoyed the fun and fellowship. We even had Amelia Bloomer and Grenville Dodge in attendance!! Please plan to attend a meeting soon and share in these fun events; its great when you get to know your neighbors! Check out the additional photos on the GNA website at www.GibraltarNA.org.



GNA August Picnic (continued)



Yard Signs and Flags

Your GNA board and volunteers are working to put together long-term historic sign options for our neighborhood! Garden flags (available to Association members) are also currently in the works. More details to come, hopefully in our next issue of Rock Talk, as we work out options and prices!

Second Fridays

Take advantage of the fun events on the 2nd Friday of each month! Support our local arts community and see what they have to offer! More info at: secondfridays.wordpress.com. ■

WE NEED YOU!!

Volunteer organizations can't be successful without VOLUNTEERS! Please consider giving a bit of your time by helping on a committee, helping organize an event or opening your home for a meeting! Thank you!

General Samuel Ryan Curtis, Part II

To prepare for GNA's future, we must know our past, by Liz Matis

Last month we started the historical voyage to learn about General Curtis. Now, the second part of the story.

The battle of Pea Ridge, Arkansas resulted in a brilliant victory to the Federal arms, and the restoration of the flag and authority of the Government of the State. Curtis's success made him pensive rather than triumphant. A few days after the battle he wrote, "The scene is silent and sad. The vulture and the wolf now have domination and the dead friends and foes sleep in the same lonely graves." He was promoted to Major General for his success, effective March 21, 1862. Tragically, it was on the same day in late March that he heard of his promotion he also found out that his 20 year old daughter Sadie died of typhoid fever in St. Louis. After Pea Ridge, Curtis' small army moved last and invaded Arkansas, capturing the city of Helena, Arkansas in July.

AUGUST 16-27, 1862: Expedition from Helena, Ark., down the Mississippi and up the Yazoo, the report of Major General Samuel R. Curtis, U. S. Army. CAIRO, ILL., August 31, 1862:

The troops and navy made a landing and attacked a rebel force at Bolivar, Miss., as they came up the river. Rebels were routed after a short conflict. Our loss, 1 killed and 2 wounded. Rebel loss much more. The force arrived at Helena with the prize Fair Play, loaded with arms and equipments. Large quantities of horses and mules were taken, which for want of transportation could not be brought away.

Much alarm was carried into the country, especially into Louisiana, by our taking of Tallulah Station; also in Vicksburg, by our taking the battery on Yazoo River. It was my intention to strike the Yazoo River opposite Bolivar, but the enemy seemed too strong. I ought to have transportation for 10,000 men. That was my requisition on the quartermaster, but I could only procure enough of the right kind to move a brigade. The result shows the success of my plan. The navy and army, moved to any point on the Mississippi River, makes a new and unexpected base, from which the troops can dash into the country and carry destruction into the enemy's line on the railroad or Yazoo or up the small streams of Arkansas, carrying death and desolation into the country.

The navy or the army, or both, must have a number of light-draught boats, made safe against infantry, and capable of carrying light artillery. Such boats are easily improvised, and the rivers of Mississippi and Arkansas can be cleared, and the adjacent country completely overpowered.

SAML. R. CURTIS,
Major-General.

In September, 1862, Curtis was given command of the District of Missouri, but Lincoln was soon forced to reassign him, after Curtis's abolitionist views led to conflict with the Governor of Missouri. He was reassigned to command the Department of Kansas & the Indian Territory.

On the 19th of September, 1862, General Curtis was assigned to the command of the Department of the Missouri, with head-quarters in St. Louis. At that time this department included the States of Missouri, Arkansas, Kansas, the Territories of Nebraska, Colorado, and the Indian Territory. The military forces consisted of the armies of the South West, the Frontier, and Southeast Missouri. While in command of this department, his troops fought the following battles: Cane Hill, Old Town, Wayne, Prairie Grove, Springfield, Hartsville and Cape Girardeau,

besides capturing Fort Smith and Van Buren, Arkansas. But General Curtis was too radical for that early day of the struggle. His anti-Slavery spirit was distasteful to the conservative governor of Missouri, and harassed by that official, and other influential conservative men of the State, the President relieved the general of his command. The President stated that he had no fault to find with the general's administration, but he was willing to yield to the wishes of the conservative party, headed by Governor Gamble. The President, though honest in his intentions, was in error. The history of the Baltimore Convention of 1864 would be conclusive proof, for the Missouri delegation was the only one which cast its vote against Mr. Lincoln in that body.

(It should be noted that in March 1862, General Curtis was promoted to Major General. After an arduous march, the Union Army arrived at Helena on July 12, 1863. While occupying Helena, Curtis became embroiled in controversies. Curtis's men had liberated numerous slaves without orders. As a large number of them had followed the army to Helena, Curtis was accused of supporting illegal cotton sales to purchase food for the ever growing mass of liberated slaves there. While taking leave to organize a railroad convention, he found himself removed from field command, only to be elevated to Commander of the Department of Missouri. Dealing with more politics and planning, Curtis quickly made enemies, including Governor Hamilton Rowan Gamble of Missouri and lost his position on May 22, 1863.)

On January 1, 1864, General Curtis was assigned Kansas, plus the Territories of Nebraska and Colorado, with head-quarters at Fort Leavenworth. During the summer and fall of 1864, the general was engaged in protecting the exposed settlements on the frontier from the hostile Indians, and in guarding lines of travel west. He was at Fort Leavenworth, and his troops scattered in every quarter of his command, when he first learned of the rapid and almost unopposed march of Price into Missouri. General Price was moving toward the borders of Kansas. General Curtis had less than three thousand men, but he

began preparations to meet him. The Kansas Militia were at once organized under General Deitzler, and, with the volunteer forces under General Blunt, General Curtis took the field. The action taken by the general in routing and driving Price from Missouri was successful. The following is a quote from one of his staff officers:

“The sudden rallying of the people of Kansas, under Curtis, checked the movements of Price, who had boasted that he would capture Fort Leavenworth and the city, and lay the State waste. The first resistance actually confronting the advance of Price was the advance of General Blunt, under Curtis, at Lexington, on October 19th.”

Many other battles ensued as Curtis and other supporting generals were engaged in assisting Curtis pursue Price. Finally, on November 8, Price succeeded in crossing the river. General Curtis now returned by easy marches to Fort Leavenworth.

In a campaign of thirty-eight days, a march of nearly one thousand miles had been accomplished; nine battles had been fought, with a Union loss of eighteen hundred men killed and wounded. From Lexington to Cane Hill, the rebels admitted a loss of ten thousand five hundred killed, wounded and missing. General Curtis was welcomed back to his post with a grand reception by the people of Leavenworth; and the Legislature of Kansas tendered him their thanks for his noble defense of the State, and recommended his promotion in the regular army.

It has been discussed in this article some of the traits of Major-General Samuel R. Curtis. His military career that spanned many years and thousands of miles while leading his troops in skirmishes, many battles, a war outside our United States and the largest one between brothers fighting brothers, states against states that would come to be known as “The American Civil War.” A War that even after Lee's surrender at Appomattox in 1865, would continue to leave scars that would take many years before our Country would find some healing. *Continued...*

This walk through our history would not be complete without telling you a little about the man himself. Who he was, how he was perceived by others and then his later life as a civilian, who continued to serve his country.

Of the Iowa major-generals, General Curtis was the largest in person. He had a tall, fine form, and though nearly sixty years of age, was erect and vigorous. His large, hazel eyes gave his countenance an expression of gravity and thoughtfulness which comported well with the dignity of his movements and manners. But, if he was sedate, and if he never laughed boisterously, he was nevertheless easily approached and sociable; he was kind and generous-hearted, and would not knowingly injure the feelings of the most humble or unfortunate.

He had one trait which was not in keeping with his general character. He was nice and precise in dress, and in this respect had been noted for the scrupulousness with which he had complied with the Army Regulations. He never, when on duty, omitted a regulation trapping. In many respects he was not unlike General Grant; but not in this.

Intellectually, General Curtis was not brilliant. He had excellent judgment, and great available ability. To these, and to unremitting labor, he was indebted for what he was. He was a most excellent mathematician, and, as a civil-engineer, had no superior in the West. This remarkable endowment made him the leader in Congress of the great Pacific Railroad enterprise.

As a soldier, General Curtis was able, magnanimous and brave. It is not known why his life and career has been kept from the historical front. Perhaps he too much resembled the great military chieftains of the day. In nearly every instance, commands at the front have been given to those who, as regards sprightliness and dash, are the direct opposites of General Grant.

General Curtis has a proud record, whether before, or during the War of the Rebellion; and when this great conflict shall have closed, and a true love of the Nation's ancient motto re-enshrined in the hearts of all, he will stand, with the honest historian, as one of the most practical and deserving men of his day.

See you next time!

Portions from Civil War Notebook: Major General Samuel R. Curtis

— Liz ■

News Tidbits

Mayor's Good Neighbor Awards

Please consider nominating somebody for the Mayor's Good Neighbor Awards. You can nominate individuals, groups, families, whole neighborhoods, businesses, churches, etc. for anything you consider to be a good neighborhood activity. For a copy of the nomination form and to see some examples of possible activities, please contact Ryan Willer at rwiller@unomaha.edu or 402.290.0545. The nomination form is also now available on the Neighborhood Center's website (www.unomaha.edu/ncenter). *Note: the online .pdf version can only be printed off and filled out, but if you enable editing and enable content when opening the Word .doc, you can type out the information on your computer before printing it off.

The Nutcracker, a Holiday Tradition

By Ballet Nebraska

Friday, November 30, 8-10:00 p.m.

Arts Center at Iowa Western Community College

Call the Box Office at 712-388-7140 for more info.

Street Repair

You may have noticed that some repairs were made to the brick street in front of the Dodge House. Our local historic neighborhood associations are working diligently with the City in an attempt to develop a working plan for preserving, maintaining and hopefully restoring our treasured brick streets. Watch for more news as it becomes available. ■

The 12th Annual General's Ladies Fall Tea

The weekend of Sept. 8-9, Liz Matis and Paulette Brandt, both Gibraltar residents and Dodge House volunteers, participated in this year's Generals Ladies Fall Tea. The annual Tea, held in the Dodge House Ballroom, is a fundraising event for the General's Ladies.

The theme this year was "Tea with the U.P. —Dining in Railroad Style," celebrating the 150th anniversary of the Union Pacific Railroad. Liz & Paulette's train theme for their table was "The 49-er," referring to Union Pacific decision in 1937 to add an extra eight-car all-Pullman extra-fare train to celebrate the 1938-1940 Golden Gate Exposition in San Francisco. It was later retired in 1941 after a glamorous but brief career.

Dining by rail was an elegant affair, with extended silverware settings that included bouillon spoon, butter knife, two teaspoons, etc. Tables were set with flower vases, sugar bowls, salt and pepper coasters and a water pitcher, each set in a specific location on the table and facing in a particular direction.

The beautiful antique dishes used in their table service six were Liz's great-grandmother's. The centerpiece was created by Liz & Paulette. Each table guest also received a scroll containing information about the 49-er pullman, tied with ribbon in the train's signature colors of brown and gold.



Save the Date: New Year's Eve!!

Should old acquaintance be forgot, and never brought to mind...
Year's End is not so far away... Save the date to CELEBRATE!

Enjoy a **prime rib dinner** in the Dodge House Ballroom on New Year's Eve, with the General and Mrs. Dodge. Then be on your way in time to ring in the New Year at your favorite spot!

MORE DETAILS TO COME, but save the date. We hope you'll join us!!

Your Newsletter Staff

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We welcome your input!
Please contact us with suggestions on content you want to see covered. ■

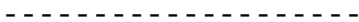
RECIPE: Dried Beef & Olive Spread

from Mary Madison

Ingredients

- 1 large brick cream cheese
- 1 pkg dried beef, chopped
- 1/4 C. chopped green olives
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 2 Tblsp. Mayo
- 1 Tblsp sherry or olive juice

Mix all ingredients together and refrigerate. Serve with good crackers or baguette.



Visit us online:

www.GibraltarNA.org

Your GNA Board:

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712-328-7399

Susie Dew, Vice President

712-366-7606

Liz Matis, Secretary

712-323-6400

Mary Madison, Treasurer

712-328-8073

Steve Gorman

712-256-8890

Kent Madison

712-323-8073

Dave Adams

712-329-9885

Bob Yanders

712-322-2214

Harold Compton

712-325-0324

CLOSING THOUGHTS:

“That some achieve great success, is proof to all that others can achieve it as well.” — Abraham Lincoln

“The great thing in the world is not so much where we stand, as in what direction we are moving.”

— Oliver Wendell Holmes

“Success means having the courage, the determination and the will to become the person you believe you were meant to be.”

— George Sheehan

“There are those that look at things the way they are and ask why? I dream of things that never were, and ask why not.”

— Robert F. Kennedy

Gibraltar Neighborhood Association: Membership Registration Form

Name _____ Email _____

Address _____ Phone _____

Become a Gibraltar Neighborhood Association Member!! Yearly dues are \$25 per household. In order to be eligible to vote for board candidates and other issues, you must be a paid association member. Make checks payable to and mail payment to:

Gibraltar Neighborhood Association ■ P.O. Box 1971 ■ Council Bluffs, IA 51502-1971