



The Border Star

Official Monthly Publication of the Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri
• Founded 1992 • Incorporated 1994

"Studying the Border War and Beyond"

January 2008

The Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri

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The Border Star Editor

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Meetings

2nd Wednesday of each month - 7:00 p.m.
Old Blake Museum - 106 E. Walnut
Independence, Missouri

Visitors Always Welcome!

Annual Dues

Individual ----- 15.00
Family ----- 25.00
Student (under 21) ----- 5.00
Newsletter Only (no meetings) ----- 10.00

For Information

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Website

www.orgsites.com/mo/cwrt



The bombardment of Fort Sumter on April 12, 1861 was the opening engagement of the American Civil War. The countdown to the 150th Anniversary on April 12, 2011 is just 1189 days away, as of the date of our next Round Table meeting on Wednesday, January 9, 2008.

It has happened again, when we weren't looking another year ended and a new one is about to begin. I know we all say it and I know it is true. Time is speeding up. I don't like it but, I can't do a thing about it. So, in order to hold on to the last year for a little longer I want to take a few lines to thank you and remember what we accomplished together.

First, the thank you part. To all, without your time and commitment this organization it would not function. When I was approached to take over the president's position I said I would not and could not do it without strong support. Officers, Board Members and Members - you have been there for every idea and project that our group decided they wanted to do. Anytime anyone tells me what a good job I have done I promise you my immediate response is always "It's not me. It's the commitment of the organization." To all of you I offer you my sincere and heartfelt thank you.

Next, the what we did part. Let me start out by saying I will probably forget something so I ask your indulgence. Over the year we have hosted not one but two very successful tours. Every month we have hosted very interesting speakers. The causes we are interested in have progressed. The Lewis Gregg Cemetery has been cared for and met the expectations of the former caretakers (very important criteria). We have sought and secured a grant to pursue the national registry for the Little Blue Battlefield. Included in the battlefield area is the cooperation with the City of Independence Preservation and Tourism Departments to produce the first driving tour brochure for the Little Blue Battlefield and the First Battle of Independence. I know that we have done much more but, space limits prohibit writing about them all.

Last, the what we are going to do part. I have been asking over the last two months for ideas of what we want to accomplish in the next year. At the risk of letting the cat out of the bag, I will list a few of the ideas: a web site, more tours both short and long, signage for the Little Blue, more cooperation with our fellow historical groups and community outreach.

I cannot be more proud of what our group has accomplished and what we have planned. Thank you all for your support and commitment. One last thought to leave you with for reflecting on our past while looking to our future. Everything and everyone in our past is steadily moving us into the future. See you next year.

Mike Calvert, President
The Civil War Roundtable of Western Missouri

CWRTWMO Calendar

January Monthly Meeting

Wednesday, January 9, 2008 – 7:00 p.m.
Old Blake Museum, 106 E. Walnut, Independence.
Program: Open Round Table (bring your memorabilia, brief summary of what you have been reading, researching, etc.). Lee Ward will be giving a PowerPoint presentation on marking Civil War graves at Chilhowee, MO with Boy Scouts.

January Board Meeting

Wednesday, January 16, 2008 – 7:00 p.m.
17313 E. 51st Terr. Court S., Independence, MO.
Any member is welcome to attend. Call Beverly Shaw for directions: (816) 478-7648.

Other Events

Metal Detecting Club

Tuesday, January 8, 2008 – 7:00 p.m.
William Chrisman High School, 1223 N. Noland Road, Independence, MO
(Visitors always welcome)

Lee-Jackson-Maury Luncheon

Saturday, Jan. 19, 2008 – Noon
First Presbyterian Church, 100 N. Pleasant, Independence, MO. \$15.00. “Jefferson Davis Funeral” by Lee Ward. See article below.

Symphony Designers’ Showhouse

Jan. 26-27, 2008 – 10 a.m.- 5:00 p.m.- Sat.
Noon – 5:00 p.m.- Sun.
\$5.00 for a pre-decorated tour of the House at 5730 Ward Parkway, Kansas City.
Pay at the door or get advance tickets from Beverly Shaw (816) 478-7648.

Bleeding Kansas 2008 Program Series

Jan. 27 - Feb. 24, 2008. – Sundays 2:00 p.m.
Constitution Hall State Historic Site, 319 Elmore St. Lecompton, KS. Free admission.

Mid-Continent Library-Buckner

Thursday, Feb. 21, 2008 – 7:00 p.m.
19 E. Jefferson, Buckner, MO
Program: “Civil War in Jackson County”
By Gregg Higginbotham

War and Medical Services Conference

Feb. 29 - March 1, 2008
Hilton Garden Inn, Independence, MO

George Wunderlich, Executive Director of National Museum of Civil War Medicine.
See article below.

Bleeding Kansas 2008

The 12th annual Bleeding Kansas series of talks and dramatic interpretations of the violent conflict over the slavery issue in Kansas Territory 1854 through 1861 will take place on Sunday afternoons at 2:00 p.m. January 27 through February 24, 2008. This is the 150th anniversary of the Lecompton Debate. For more information E-mail: consthall@kshs.org. The programs are as follows:

January 27th – “Lecompton: A National Obsession 1858” by Professor Craig Miner, Wichita State University Department of History.

February 3rd – “John Calhoun: Surveyor General and Lecompton Constitution President,” a first-person portrayal by Steven Brosemer, GeoTech, Inc. Land Surveyors.

February 10th – “Their Last Evening: Reverend Thomas and Sarah Johnson,” a first-person portrayal by George and Diane Bernheimer, reenactors and living history educators.

February 17th – “Sara Robinson Attends the Lecompton Ball,” a first-person portrayal and period clothing display by Lesa Brose, Molly Ledeboer, and Dianna Welsh, living history educators and period dressmakers.

February 24th – “Danger at My Very Door: Betsy Hoole’s Southern View of Kansas Territory,” a first-personal portrayal by Michelle Martin, Discovering History, LLC.

All events are free and are held at the Constitution Hall State Historic Site at 319 Elmore, Lecompton, Kansas.

War and Medical Services Conference

The Center for the Study of the Korean War will be presenting its 9th Annual Conference on War and the Media on February 29 - March 1, 2008 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Independence, Missouri. This year the conference theme is “War and Medical Services.” There will be a presentation by George Wunderlich, the Executive Director of the National

Museum of Civil War Medicine and Frank Freeman, author of *Gangrene and Glory*, a recent book about Civil War Surgery.

For more information, contact Paul Edwards at Graceland University by E-mail at pedwards@graceland.edu or by telephone at (816) 833-0525, Ext. 4303.

Lee-Jackson-Maury Luncheon

The Western District Chapters of the United Daughters of the Confederacy invite you to the 101st annual Lee-Jackson-Maury luncheon on Saturday, January 19, 2008 at Noon at the First Presbyterian Church, 100 North Pleasant, Independence, MO. The cost is \$15.00 and reservations must be made by January 14th by sending a check made payable to "Stonewall Jackson Chapter UDC" to Margaret Bates, 8828 Rainbow Lane, Kansas City, MO 64114. For information call (816) 363-5222.

Our member Lee Ward is going to be speaking about the "Jefferson Davis Funeral." The public is cordially invited to attend.

Dues Are Payable For 2008

If you have not yet paid dues, please send your check payable to CWRTWMO, c/o Beverly Shaw, Treasurer, 17313 E. 51 Terr. Court S., Indep., MO 64055 by January 31st or bring it to the January 9th meeting. Dues for an individual are \$15 and for a family it's \$25 which includes the monthly newsletter, *The Border Star*. If you cannot attend meetings and want just the newsletter, a subscription is \$10 a year.

Voila! It's Now a Park

The December 13, 2007 issue of *The Independence Examiner* noted that the Jackson County, Missouri Legislators passed a resolution establishing the grounds of the historic Jackson County Courthouse on the Independence Square as part of the county parks system. The county recently renovated and waterproofed the shell of the building and replaced the roof.

There will soon be a fundraising effort to further beautify the Square Courthouse grounds and restore the exterior to its pre-1960's appearance. The low wall on the courthouse grounds will be removed and

landscaping will take place. The courthouse is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

New Life For Old Buildings

The Monnett Battle of Westport Fund, a Civil War group associated with the Civil War Round Table of Kansas City, will move into the Swope Interpretive Center, just inside the entrance to Swope Park at Meyer Boulevard. The building's north tower offers a view of the Byram's Ford battle site.

Officers and Board Members For 2008

You will see from the masthead listing of our board members that we have a couple of new names. We are happy to welcome Carol and Steve Olson from the Clay County Archives as new board members. We thank Chris and Faye Cooper for their service this past year and wish Chris the best as he struggles with diabetes. The officers and directors are always happy to hear from the members with suggestions about speakers, tours and projects for our group. E-mail: littlebluebattlefield@comcast.net or call one of the officers. Our mailing address is; CWRTWMO, P.O. Box 3019, Independence, MO 64055.

Strode Cemetery Near Longview Lake

The December 10, 2007 issue of the *Kansas City Star* carried a story called "Legal Tangles Grow From Hidden Cemetery." It seems that five years ago, developer Mike Bauer bought 96 acres near Longview Lake at the junction of Raytown and Highgrove Roads in order to build an 18,000 square foot house for himself. He did not notice small stones that lay hidden beneath dead leaves and brush under some trees. Later he found out that this 35-by-60-foot plot was the Strode Family Cemetery and had a separate deed.

The burials are mostly ancestors of John J. Strode, a former Grandview postmaster, but there may also be three or four Civil War soldiers who were killed in a nearby skirmish. Mr. Strode went there several years ago with body dowsers – people who look for bodies using special sticks, like dowsers searching for water. The sticks supposedly dipped repeatedly outside of the known grave area. John Strode died in August, 2007, and Mike Bauer is trying to get permission from the remaining family members to exhume the bodies and move them to a graveyard.

As he says, “We’ll get these people moved. It’s one of those deals – who wants a cemetery in your front yard?”

The Civil War’s First Blood

Missouri Life magazine has just published a new book about pre-Civil War Missouri from 1854 to 1861 by James Denny and John Bradbury who maintain that the Civil War actually started in Missouri as a border conflict between Missouri and Kansas. The sheer longevity of the grudge is evidenced by the Border War gridiron contest between Missouri University and Kansas University. In fact the evening of our November 14, 2007 meeting, our president Mike Calvert was interviewed by Channel 4 television about the Civil War partisanship in this area. His comments were carried on the 10:00 p.m. news.

For more information on *The Civil War’s First Blood, Missouri, 1854-1861* you can go to www.missourilife.com/products. The book retails for \$29.95.

Little Blue Parkway Groundbreaking

Independence Mayor Don Reimal gave a key to the City to Senator Kit Bond for his role in securing funds for extending the Little Blue Parkway north from Highway 40 to Highway 24 in eastern Jackson County. It will be a four-lane, divided roadway with sidewalks and a bicycle/pedestrian path. The section from 39th Street to R. D. Mize Road is expected to open by the end of 2008. The remainder going to Highway 24 is slated to be completed by late 2010. Naturally what our Civil War Round Table group is more concerned about is a projected roadway from Highway 24 north to Sugar Creek and the impact it will have on the Little Blue Battlefield. That is why we are anxious to get a National Register of Historic Places nomination completed this year. Our President is completing paperwork to get this process started using funds appropriated by the National Parks Service through our friend Connie Langum at Wilson’s Creek National Battlefield.

What We Have Been Doing

Charlotte Tindall and Lee Jackson have been giving tours at the Bingham-Waggoner Estate during the Christmas season. The November 28, 2007 issue of

the Independence/Raytown Neighborhood News of the *Kansas City Star* had a color picture of Lee showing some visitors the beautiful Christmas trees and other decorations.

Charlotte brought us a copy of the new brochure called “Missouri – Where the Civil War Began, 1854-1865” published by the Missouri Division of Tourism. You should be able to pick up copies at the Missouri Welcome Centers such as the one at 4010 Blue Ridge Cut-Off near the stadium complex or at: www.WhereTheCivilWarBegan.com.

Harlan Klukow and Beverly Shaw were walking their miniature Schnauzer puppies at George Owens Nature Park in Independence in October, 2007 and were photographed by a reporter from *The Examiner*. Their picture appeared in the October 17, 2007 issue with the caption “Thirsty?”

In November, during one of our cold snaps, *The Examiner* queried people on the street about what they were doing to keep healthy during the sick season. Our musician friend John Lehman replied that he used “Lemon Zinger tea and orange juice. I’m not much on medicines.”

Finally we are sad to report that our longtime member Joyce Morgan passed away on October 29, 2007, after a prolonged bout with cancer. Those of you who remember Joyce and John know that it really was a bout because Joyce was always a livewire and had many interests such as the investigation of the paranormal and ghosts as well as her doll collection. John says that he wants to come to our meetings once again when the weather permits. If you would like to drop him a note, the address is John Morgan, P.O. Box 126, Kingston, MO 64650. His phone number is (816) 586-5301.

The William Clarke Quantrill Society

The William Clark Quantrill Society is a non-profit corporation dedicated to the study of the Civil War on the Missouri-Kansas border with emphasis on the lives of Quantrill, his men, his supporters, his adversaries and the resulting historical record. For information visit; www.geocities.com/quantrillsoc or send an E-mail to wqcsociety@aol.com.

Recent Photos



Harlan Klukow and Beverly Shaw with Joey and Janson

Recent Photos



Tour of Union Cemetery
Karen Coin, Mike Calvert, Delbert Coin and Karen Wells



Lee Ward at a book signing for Coffins, Kits, and More!



Liz Murphy giving the history of Clay County during the Civil War