



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"

March 2008

The Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri

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The Border Star Editor

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Independence, MO 64055
(816) 769-6490

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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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 1126 days away, as of the date of our next Round Table meeting on Wednesday, March 12, 2008.

On bivouac in Martinsburg

I am now on temporary duty in Martinsburg, WV.

This month I compose my letter while sitting at the stonewall near Burnside's Bridge, Antietam National Battlefield Park. It is one o'clock, the time the Federal forces finally forced a crossing. An action they had been trying to do since nine o'clock that morning. It is so quiet I hear the rapids just a little downstream from where I sit. An occasional fellow Civil War buff happens by but, mostly I have this place to myself. The area looks much like it did the day of the battle. I look to my left and see the ridge the New York troops formed on before they stormed the bridge and took it a bayonet point. I look to my right and there is the bridge, the stone wall and the heights containing the rifle pits 500 Georgians used to hold back the Union advance. The distance to the heights is maybe 100 yards. In fact, as watch visitors come down the path by the Confederate position I clearly see their faces. That is how close the combatants were on that September day. No matter how many times I walk across the bridge I am always taken aback by how narrow it is. It seems that I can reach out and touch both sides. Just imagine the troops crowding that narrow defile in the face of deadly musketry. Looking at the bridge stone work you wonder how many of them witnessed the battle and what stories they could tell. As you lean over the bridge parapet and look directly down at Antietam Creek you really can't help but wonder why Burnside didn't just storm across. We will never really know. As I sit, I hear the sounds of battle ringing out from the surrounding hills. What a truly beautiful place to sit, to rest and to remember. Today, at this quiet reflective place, I sit and remember the combat of man vs. man and the struggle of ideology vs. ideology that took place here on September 17, 1862.

That's all from Burnside's Bridge, Antietam National Battlefield Park, Sharpsburg, MD. See you when I get back. Until then I encourage you to study the Battle of Sharpsburg (Antietam). The day that 23,000 Americans became casualties of war.

Mike Calvert, President
The Civil War Roundtable of Western Missouri

CWRTWMO Calendar

March Monthly Meeting

Wednesday, March 12, 2008 – 7:00 p.m.
Old Blake Museum (Blue & Grey Book Shoppe),
106 E. Walnut, Independence, MO.
Program: “The American Indians and the Civil War” by Ted Stillwell

March Board Meeting

Wednesday, March 19, 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.

April Monthly Meeting

Wednesday, April 9, 2008 – 7:00 p.m.
A visit to Lee Ward’s Private Museum. See Details in April newsletter. We will **not** be meeting at the Old Blake Museum.

Other Events

Quilt Exhibit at Wyeth-Tootle Mansion

March 8 - April 12, 2008 – 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Friday & Saturday and 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. on Sunday. Located at 11th & Charles in St. Joseph, MO. Admission is \$3 for adults and \$1.50 for students. See article below.

Quilt Exhibit at Arrow Rock, MO

March 1 - 31, 2008
Arrow Rock State Historic Site

Metal Detecting Club (Also known as the 3 Trails Historical Search Team)

Tuesday, March 11, 2008 – 7:00 p.m.
William Chrisman High School, 1223 N. Noland, Independence, MO
Program: “Gold Prospecting” by Doug Foster

Westerners Meeting

Tuesday, March 11, 2008 – 7:00 p.m.
Homestead Country Club, 6510 Mission Road, Prairie Village, KS – Dinner is \$20.
Program: “Custer Battlefield” by Anita Faddis, Assistant Site Administrator of the Shawnee Indian Mission State Historic Site. For Reservations, call David at (913) 217-7768.

Bingham-Waggoner Estate

March 15, 2008 – Noon.
313 W. Pacific, Independence, MO.
“Mad Hatter’s Tea” fashion show by Macy’s.
Teapot decorations will be for sale at the end of the tea. Reservations are \$20. Call (816) 461-3491.

Civil War Round Table of Kansas City

Tuesday, March 25, 2008 – 6:30 p.m.
Homestead Country Club, 6510 Mission Rd., Prairie Village, KS. Cost is \$20.
Program: “Portrayal of Jim Lane and His Relationship with Abraham Lincoln” by Tim Rues.
Call Paul Gault for reservations at (816) 741-2962.

Truman Courthouse Open House and Tour

Saturday, March 29, 2008 – 2:00 -5:00 p.m.
112 W. Lexington Ave., Independence, MO.
See article below.

Burning of Dayton

Civil War Battle Re-enactment.
March 28, 29, & 30, 2008.
Cass County, Missouri. See article or go to www.burningdayton.com

Friends of Arrow Rock Lecture Series

Saturday, April 5, 2008 – 10:00 a.m.
State Historic Site Visitors Center
Program: “In the Spirit of Yellow Eyes, Presenting Lakota Culture” by archaeologist and cultural interpreter Dorothy Eiken, a great-great granddaughter of Yellow Eyes. Free & open to the public.

Mahaffie Station, Olathe, KS.

April 19 - 20, 2008. 12th Annual Event.

Holden Sesquicentennial

May 3 - 4, 2008. Area between Kingsville and Holden.

Stand of Colors

May 16 – 18, 2008. Reenactment of the Missouri-Kansas Campaigns of 1864 (including The Battle of Westport) on 400 acres of the Jerry Smith Park in south Kansas City.

Waverly, MO Civil War Festival

June 28 - 29, 2008.

Stories in the Stitches

In nearly every American household there's at least one quilt on display or stored safely away that's been handed down from one generation to the next. The quilt will have been made by a woman for a certain purpose and that's where the story begins. St. Joseph Museums, Inc. is presenting a temporary exhibit of quilts by members of the Piece Corps Quilters Guild of St. Joseph, Missouri, from March 8 through April 12, 2008.

The history of women is inseparable from the history of quilting. Before the Civil War, quilting was the main form of needlework in the U. S. and was practiced in most households by any female old enough to hold a needle. The quilting bees of the past gave women a chance to gather for social, artistic, and practical purposes. In the beginning quilts were practical items created from whatever was handy from used shirts and old dresses to feed sacks and worn tablecloths. As the art form grew women began to make quilts as records of their lives and the history of their families.

The "Stories in the Stitches" exhibit will feature antique quilts that represent the history of quilting, antique sewing machines and other antiques related to quilting. Each quilt will include the origins of the pattern or the story behind the quilt.

Claudetta McCorkendale belongs to a quilters' guild at her church in Richmond, Missouri. She has volunteered to "piece" the quilt blocks that Beverly Shaw collected in 2007 from the Kansas City *Star Magazine*. These thirteen blocks represent aspects of the Civil War, and each has a story behind it. We will share these as time goes on.

Nomination for Historic Register On Track

Matthew Stith, a doctoral candidate in history, has accepted the challenge of completing the nomination of the Little Blue Battlefield to the National Register of Historic Places. He has met with Connie Langum at Wilson's Creek National Battlefield and has talked with Mike Calvert after receiving "the box" of resource materials from us. His doctoral thesis is on "Guerrilla War in the Western Frontier and Its Effect on Families."

Mike Calvert in West Virginia for Three Months

Our president, Mike Calvert, has an engineering project with Burns & McDonnell which will take him away for about three months. The only good part of that is that he will likely be able to tour some battlefields of the "Eastern Theatre." In his absence our First Vice President and Program Chairman, Patricia Gradwohl, will preside at meetings. If you have questions or suggestions, please direct them to her at gradwp@gmail.com or call (816) 781-7607.

Pat has showed her ingenuity already by organizing an ad hoc tour of antebellum houses in Liberty, Missouri that was held on March 1, 2008. Pat is a real estate agent with Reece and Nichols and knew there were many historic houses on the market. She was even able to get the use of her church's bus and a driver to take the group from the Liberty Square to the houses. Karen Wells lent her portable PA system, and we had 19 members and friends take the tour. We were able to see inside the historic Lightburne House which at one time was said to be the largest house west of the Mississippi. The owners have decided to move back to the house but were gracious enough to let us tour anyway. A special treat on Nashua Road was a lovely Civil War cottage that is now a bed and breakfast. Our hostess prepared coffee and a special cocoanut cake for us to enjoy while she shared her family's history. Thanks, Pat, for a wonderful day. As people left the bus they were asking, "When are we going again?"

Truman Courthouse Open House

From 2:00 – 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 29, 2008, you will have the chance to peek into the nooks and crannies of the historic Harry Truman Courthouse on the Independence Square and see just why the building, which has remnants dating back to 1836, is in need of remodeling. Current plans are to convert the defunct County Courthouse into a Visitors Center for Independence. Another recent suggestion is that a portion of the building be used as a George Caleb Bingham art gallery which would also exhibit other Missouri artists. There is a large fundraising effort being mounted to save this historic structure to an adaptive reuse. The Board of the Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri voted to make a modest contribution of \$25 towards

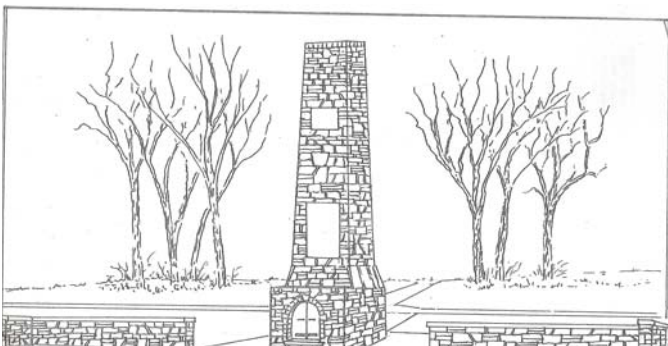
the effort. If you wish to make an individual contribution, you can make them payable to "Friends of the Independence Courthouse" and mail them to Truman Heartland Community Foundation, 300 N. Osage, Independence, MO 64050.

If you take the tour, you may see the room where Lucky Mason's donated abstracts are being catalogued and indexed. Fran Mason is donating one day a week to this huge project of making a database of the names contained in all the abstracts so that they are accessible to researchers. You may also want to look at a "low profile" marker in the courtyard of the Truman Court House. This is the style that we are planning to use for two new markers for the Battle of the Little Blue that the Round Table will be erecting in 2008. Hopefully these will be ready for viewing by the battle anniversary in October.

In Memory of Don Hale

Don Hale, longtime president of the Lee's Summit Historical Society and the Quantrill Society, passed away on February 24, 2008. Don was well-known for his copious writing on the Civil War and local history. During our Civil War tours on May 10, 2007, he did a book signing at the Blue & Grey Book Shoppe, and you will find many of his titles available there.

The Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri has bought a memorial brick in his honor which will be placed in the courtyard of the Burnt District Monument in Harrisonville, Missouri. If you wish to send condolences, you may direct them to Phyllis Hale and Family, 625 NE Applewood, Lee's Summit, MO 64063.



Burnt District Monument

What Our Members Have Been Doing

Pat Dye had knee surgery in February and we wish her a speedy recovery and hope to see her and Bob back at our events soon.

On February 26, 2008 **John Mark Lambertson**, director of the National Frontier Trails Museum, was interviewed by the *Examiner* for their "Quick 5 Questions." In answer to the question, "What is going on these days at the National Frontier Trails Museum?" Mark replied that they are getting prepared for the usual spring rush of school field trips which will bring a few thousand kids through the exhibits. Of interest to us was Question 2 about any big plans for 2008. Mark says that they will be doing a week-long teacher institute on the Missouri-Border War and an expanded version of the illustrated "Tombstone Talks" which was very popular in 2006.

Several of our members were recently honored by the Healthy Independence Coalition for their special contributions to the effort to reduce chronic disease in Independence through increased physical activity, improved nutrition and a reduction in tobacco use.

Tom Garland is in charge of new park development for Independence Parks and Recreation and was honored for research and computer work for the walking trail brochures. These brochures are so current that they even have the new walking trail from Lee's Summit Road east to the Bass Pro Shop near 291 Highway and 40 Highway. Tom is also the husband of **Wendy Shay**, historic preservation director for Independence.

Brent Schondelmeyer was given special recognition for helping compile data that helped secure a Health Care Foundation grant to educate the community on the hazards of second-hand smoke. Brent is also a member of the Heritage Commission of Independence and has made a personal contribution to the fund at Truman Heartland Community Foundation to erect new Civil War markers for the Battle of the Little Blue.

In addition to moving his family from North Independence to South Independence (we hope there is no Civil War relevance there), **Dennis**

Myers, chairman of the Lewis-Gregg Cemetery Commission, has been thinking about spring improvements for the cemetery. We need to erect a wider gate into the cemetery for ease of mowing. This would involve buying a new chain link gate and moving one of the posts. Therefore we will need some manual labor to dig out the old post and make a new hole for installation with concrete. Since our weather is so changeable, we are reluctant to set an exact date yet, but if you are interested in flexing a few spring muscles, please call Dennis at (816) 769-6490 or reach him at jmyers@fdic.gov.

Another member of the Lewis-Gregg Cemetery Commission, **Chuck Townsend**, was spied in a photograph the *Examiner* showed on February 25, 2008, on the occasion of the memorial service for Margaret Truman Daniel at the Truman Library and Museum.

Missouri Life Magazine

The Round Table had a special opportunity to place an ad in the spring issue of *Missouri Life* to let everyone know of our Battle of the Little Blue and Battle of Westport tours on May 10, 2008. We will be giving more details next month, but if you have not yet taken the guided bus tours, please put this on your calendar. Even if you have taken the tours before, we plan to make some new stops this year. The Battle of the Little Blue tour starts from the Old Blake at 9:00 a.m. and returns there at noon for lunch on your own or brown bag. The Battle of Westport tour starts at 1:00 p.m. from the Old Blake and returns at 5:00 p.m. The price for members is \$10 for morning and \$10 for afternoon (\$15 for non-members) and will include explanatory booklets and maps.

The following weekend, May 17-18, 2008 you have the opportunity to see a world class reenactment of the Battle of Westport at the Jerry Smith Park, 139th and Holmes.

Missouri Life has published a new softcover book called *The Civil War's First Blood, Missouri, 1854-1861* by James Denny and John Bradbury. The Round Table has a copy to lend to anyone who would like to read it and write a review for the newsletter. Call Beverly Shaw at (816) 478-7648 so she can get it to you.

For the first time *Missouri Life* is planning a Best of Missouri Life Festival May 2-4, 2008, in Boonville, Missouri. They will have an art show, a Made in Missouri show, a wine tasting with at least a dozen Missouri wines, a Missouri Heritage speaker series, a Mark Twain performance by Richard Garey, and other performances on the historic stage at Thespian Hall, the oldest theater still in use west of the Alleghenies. Visit www.MissouriLife.com for updates.

Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area

On the editorial page of the Kansas City *Star* on February 24, 2008, the following article appeared under the byline "Opening a door to our past."

Guess what portion of the country this statement was used to describe. "This is the caldron in which the Civil War boiled."

Yes, right here: Missouri and the territory that eventually became the state of Kansas.

The comment, made decades ago in an Eastern newspaper, points to the historic significance of this region in the development of the United States before and after the Civil War.

Educating people to more thoroughly understand that history is the goal of a dedicated group of people behind the region's designation as the Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area.

In October, 2006, Congress designated 41 counties in Kansas and Missouri as a national heritage area. The distinction means federal money should eventually be available to help tell the story of eastern Kansas and western Missouri.

The lands will remain in private ownership, but historic sites on them may be developed for educational purposes, tourism and economic growth.

Significant and interlocking pieces of the region's story will be explored: slavery, abolition, forced migrations of Native tribes, settler immigration, the Santa Fe and Oregon Trails and, in later years, the

racial issues raised in the Brown vs. Board of Education case.

Many present-day residents recognize famous names such as John Brown, Carrie Nation, Jesse James and William Clarke Quantrill.

But much can be accomplished by this effort to link those stories – perhaps in maps and interactive exhibits – so more people will realize how local history helped shape the nation.

Go to www.FreedomsFrontier.org for more information.

John Brown, The Opera

The Lyric Opera of Kansas City, Missouri will present the world premiere of a new opera called “John Brown” on May 3, 5, 7, 9, and 11 at the Lyric Opera Theatre at 1029 Central. It traces his career from the conflict in Kansas in 1855 to his hanging at Harpers Ferry. Beverly Shaw has brochures for ordering tickets which start at \$17. Pat Gradwohl has found an inexpensive way to attend the opera and that is to serve as an usher. Ask her for details.

Many of our members have seen the John Brown statue near the Quindaro ruins in Kansas City, Kansas. It is pictured in our “Monuments” book, and we have taken trips there before. The February 24, 2008 issue of the *Star Magazine* had an extensive article about the Jackson Jubilee Singers and the Western University that stands in ruins around the statue.

Quantrill Sites in Kansas

The Trails Head Chapter is presenting a guided bus tour of Quantrill sites in Kansas on Saturday, April 19, 2008 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. The tour cost is \$45 and includes maps and handouts, lunch at the historic Eldridge Hotel in Lawrence, and snacks and drinks. Send checks made payable to Trails Head Chapter, 11712 Glen Arbor Terr., Kansas City, MO 64114. Call Jim Budde at (816) 941-0728 for more information.

The tour stops at towns that Quantrill raided such as Olathe, Aubry, Gardner, and Shawnee. There will be both a walking and riding tour of Lawrence,

recounting the 1863 Raid and following Quantrill’s escape route from Lawrence through Brooklyn.

50th Annual Missouri Conference on History

The conference will be held in Columbia, Missouri April 3-4, 2008. Registration is \$40 until March 28 and then rises to \$50. A special room rate of \$79 is available at the Courtyard by Marriott if you make reservations by March 6th.

Some interesting topics on Thursday morning are “The Cost of Loyalty in Civil War Missouri” with papers “Northern Invaders, Southern Revenge: The Defense of Southern Culture in Southeast Missouri” by Zachary S. Garrison and “Foreigners in Their Own Country: Who Were the Unionists of Little Dixie?” by Matthew E. Johnston.

On Thursday afternoon the topic is “Missouri Towns in the Civil War Era” with papers “Carr W. Pritchett and the Civil War Era in Glasgow and Fayette” by Lawrence O. Christensen and “The Civil War’s Impact on Urbanization in Missouri” by Donald B. Oster. The keynote address at the banquet Thursday night is “Faith and Foreign Policy: An Exploration into the Mind of Harry Truman” by Richard S. Kirkendall.

On Friday afternoon there is an exploration of “African American Architecture in Missouri” with papers “The Shotgun House: An African Legacy in Central Missouri” by Brett S. Rogers and “Ragtime Archaeology: The Scott Joplin House Project in St. Louis, Missouri” by Timothy E. Baumann. Another topic being explored in the afternoon is “War and Violence” with papers “B. F. Jenkins: Pioneer Farmer and Union Soldier” by Cherie L. Weible and “Bloody Bill Anderson’s Threat Carried Out: An Instance of Rape in Civil War Missouri” by Robert Frizzell.

The final session on Friday explores “The Politics of Race and Emancipation in Wartime Missouri” with papers “German Americans and the Politics of Emancipation in St. Louis” by Kristen Anderson, “Race, Radicalism, and the Limits of Reconstruction in Wartime Missouri” by John McKerley, and “A Soldier’s Wife is Free: Enslaved Kin and Their Claims to Military Citizenship in Civil War Missouri” by Shirley Romeo.

Tragedies of Missouri/Kansas Border Dispute The Civil War Relived

During the summer of 1861, the Federal Government authorized the formation of Volunteer Kansas Companies: James Lane, Charles R. "Doc" Jennison and James Montgomery were given command. Missouri was put into a difficult position, resulting in divided allegiance. To counteract attacks on Missouri, the men of Southern sympathy such as Quantrill, Anderson, Thraillkill, the Younger's and James' organized to assist the Missouri Confederates. What began as an effort to protect their families and property, turned into the most horrific event the people of Missouri ever witnessed.

Volumes have been written about the Civil War but little had been written about the important little town of Dayton Missouri, located in extreme Southern Cass County. The Dayton Crossing was one of the few places to cross the Grand River, and was the scene of many skirmishes.

The town of Dayton began in 1857 and by 1860 there were 47 businesses, homes and buildings in the thriving little town. It was a major North/South route for Confederates and Confederate recruiters as well as a major route for Jayhawkers & Union troops into Missouri. The people of the Dayton area saw more than their share of indignities during this period of history.

The worst of these atrocities happened on January 1, 1862 while the Missouri State Guards were recruiting at the mercantile store in Dayton. When word of the recruiting reached the Kansas leader Jennison, he immediately sent his Jayhawkers to check on the matter. With Daniel Anthony in charge, they were to make an expedition from Morristown, Missouri (near present day Freeman, MO in Cass County) to Rose Hill in Johnson County, Missouri, by way of Dayton Crossing. The Jayhawkers burned the town of Dayton and Columbus on their way to Rose Hill and then returned by way of Harrisonville. Anthony, his two hundred men and a twelve-pound howitzer came into the town of Dayton and burned forty-six houses and buildings. There was only one home left standing in the town, that home belonged to a Union man by the name of William Byler. The home is still there!

In December 2006, Cass County resident, Jackie Polsgrove-Roberts, published a book on *the Burning of Dayton, Missouri*. This book includes the history leading up to the Civil War, skirmishes during the war in the area and many first hand accounts of the outrages on the people there. For the first time in nearly 150 years, the

reader becomes aware of the suffering of the people here, even before General Order Number 11 was issued!

Now, you can SEE these historic events relived through a Maximum Effort Event sanctioned by the Missouri Civil War Reenactors Association. The re-enactment will be held March 29 - 30, 2008. Captain Joe Broski and his 10th Missouri Infantry, CSA reenactors, will be the Hosting Unit and the Cass County Civil War Roundtable will be the Sponsoring Organization with member Jim Beckner as representative.

Hundreds of re-enactors will take part in presenting the Civil War events of Dayton, Missouri. There will be continuous activities both days such as skirmishes; sutlers, craftsmen and period demonstrators; ladies tea and fashion show; Civil War period military dance and dance lessons; 1860's church service on Sunday; food, historical books and much more for sale.

The highlight of the event will be the actual burning of a town, (constructed especially for this purpose) and this two day event will be free and open to the public and now the fundraising begins. Even though the reenactors are covering their own expenses, there are many other items needed for an event of this magnitude. The reenactment of the "Burning of Dayton" is the largest Civil War event, ever to be held in Cass County, and you can make it possible with your tax-deductible donation.

For more information about this event please visit <http://burningdayton.com> or contact the MCWRA host unit, Capt. Joe Broski (816) 773-7235 or Cass Co. Civil War Roundtable representative, Jim Beckner (816) 322-3736.

Questions about contributions or to purchase a copy of the book *The Burning of Dayton, Missouri*: contact Jackie Polsgrove-Roberts days (816) 884-6285 or evenings (816) 380-2760 or E-mail jacquelinercopl@yahoo.com.

The Missouri Civil War Re-enactors Association is a non profit Corporation of living historians, Cass County Civil War Roundtable is a 501(c)3 non profit organization operating under the umbrella of Cass County Historical Society.

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.