



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"

June 2008

The Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri

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***The Border Star* Editor**

Dennis Myers
12800 E. 48th Street S.
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

Mike Calvert ----- 836-1013
Beverly Shaw ----- 478-7648
Art Kelley ----- 373-4101

Mailing Address

C.W.R.T. of Western Missouri
P. O. Box 3019
Independence, MO 64055

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 1027 days away, as of the date of our next Round Table meeting on June 19, 2008.

On bivouac in Martinsburg...

This month I have made it back to the holy grail of battlefields, Gettysburg. Now I know that many of you have heard me recount the story of stretching a 3 hour tour into 5 days and right now you are probably thinking what I could possibly have missed. Well, I went back to see something that is brand new, the visitor's center that was unveiled in April. This is the center to end all centers. First of all, it's now located on the backwater of the battlefield. Not so far as to be removed but, far enough to not intrude.

The facility is made to look like the typical Pennsylvania barn if it wasn't for its size and of course the parking lot(s) one might drive past but please don't because if you did you would be missing a very enjoyable and educational experience. For those of you that have been to Gettysburg and to the old visitor's center will appreciate the sheer size of the new building. Let me take you on a brief tour. Before we start, just one word of advice when visiting Gettysburg - go during the week, after Labor Day, before Memorial Day and if possible never near the Fourth of July. Also, start early as the crowds are smaller and the parking easier to find.

I'll just hit the high lights of the facility - the museum, movie and bookstore. The museum displays artifacts that have not seen the light of day in many years. You will see the cot Lee slept on, uniforms and accouterments of participants, items from the town and other items like the table on which Jackson had his arm amputated. All of this and more displayed and interwoven with multi media information about the battle, other battles, slavery, causes of the war and the effect on the civilian population. The museum traces the early beginnings of the conflict with the Missouri-Kansas border wars to Lincoln's assassination. It took me two and one half hours to view the exhibits and I didn't sit and watch each film presentation.

The movie, while costing \$8 for an adult entrance fee, should not be missed. Called "A New Birth of Freedom" and narrated by Morgan Freeman, it sets forth in 12 minutes a clear, concise understanding of why this war was fought. Done with voice-overs by famous actors it captures your attention and emotions. I'll tell you the truth - it made me misty eyed. I will have to talk about it later.

Any of you that had been to the old bookstore are in for a treat. The new room is five times larger and with more to look at. Of course there are the inevitable tourist items like the Lincoln puppet head on a stick but, if you get past the T-shirts, the book inventory is amazing. There are literally too many to mention.

If you get the chance go to the Gettysburg and the new visitor's center. Spend the day or a few hours and I guarantee you will come away with a better understanding of not only the battle that was fought there but also the war that that battle was a part of. Oh, by the way, you might want to get in you car and tour that battlefield. That's all for now. See you soon.

Mike Calvert, President
The Civil War Roundtable of Western Missouri

CWRTWMO Calendar

Lewis-Gregg Cemetery Work Party

Saturday, June 7, 2008 – 9:00 a.m.

See Dennis Myers' article.

June Monthly Meeting

Thursday, June 19, 2008 – 7:00 p.m.

Truman Library, 500 U.S. Highway 24, Independence, MO. See Brochure. Bill Worley - "From Ambivalence to Abolition: Lincoln's Presidential Journey through the Slavery Issue." Free admission with your Round Table membership card. Call Beverly Shaw at (816) 225-7944 for a replacement card if you no longer have yours.

Trip to Wilson's Creek National Battlefield

June 21-22, 2008. 8:00 a.m. Saturday to pick up at the Blue & Grey Book Shoppe, 106 E. Walnut, Independence, MO. Return about 4:00 p.m. on Sunday. See brochure.

June Board Meeting

Wednesday, June 25, 2008 – 7:00 p.m.

Beverly Shaw's home. 17313 E.51 Terr. Ct. S., Independence, MO

July Monthly Meeting

Wednesday, July 9, 2008 – 6:00 p.m.

Potluck picnic at the Lawson Moore House on Blue Mills Rd. and tours of the Lewis-Gregg Cemetery. More information to follow.

Other Events

Mt. Gilead Membership Picnic

Sunday, June 1, 2008 – 11:00 a.m. Service followed by catered lunch at noon. Program – "Action at Camden Point" by Scott Porter. See article.

Breakfast on the Trails

Saturday, June 7, 2008 – 7:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

Bingham-Waggoner Estate, 313 W. Pacific, Independence, MO. Advance Registration required by calling (816) 461-3491. \$7 for breakfast, live music, and actors in period costumes. Covered wagon rides for \$4.

John Wornall House Museum Garden Tour

June 7, 2008 – 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (rain or shine).

Wornall House herb garden and 5 private gardens in the Brookside/Country Club area. \$15 in advance at Hen House locations and the museum at 6115 Wornall Rd., Kansas City, MO. \$20 at the door. The Wornall House is a Greek revival home built in 1858 and was used as a hospital during the Battle of Westport.

Confederate Memorial Day

Saturday, June 7, 2008 – 1:00 p.m.

Confederate Memorial State Historical Site, Higginsville, MO. (Just off Hwy. 13, one mile north of Higginsville, then turn east on FF). Memorial Day service and color guard followed by Wade Ankeshiell, author of "The Heart is the Heritage" at 2:30 p.m. in the Chapel.

3 Trails Historical Search Team

Tuesday, June 10, 2008 – 7:00 p.m.

Mill Creek Park Shelter House NO. 2, 1717 N. River Blvd., Independence, MO

Bushwhacker Days

June 13-15, 2008. Nevada, MO.

A celebration honoring Vernon County's unique Civil War history. Local talent, crafts, living history venues, hot air balloons. See website at www.visitnevadamo.com.

Hulston Mill Civil War Days '08

June 14-15, 2008. 9:00 a.m. each day.

Historical Reenactment. Skirmishes for control of the mill and cabins. Near Hwy. 160 between Everton and Greenfield, MO. Tours of historic grain mill, Civil War period lifestyle and sutlers. \$5 for adults. Kids K-12 are free. See www.hulstonmillcivilwardays.com.

Midwest Genealogy Center Grand Opening

Saturday, June 21, 2008 – 10:00 a.m. - Lee's Summit Road and Kiger, Independence, MO. See article.

Friends of the James Farm Annual Meeting

Saturday, June 21, 2008 – Kearney, MO.

See www.jessejames.org.

Friends of the Youngers

June 27-28, 2008 – Harrisonville, MO.

Call (913) 722-5473 for information.

Waverly Historic Civil War Festival

June 28-29, 2008 – 9:00 a.m.- dark on Saturday, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. on Sunday. See the capture and confiscation of freight on the “Sunshine” by the Confederates at 4:00 p.m. on Saturday at Waverly Landing on the Missouri River. At 7:30 p.m. there will be artillery firing across the river and fireworks at dark. At 6:00 p.m. Harold Dellinger will be talking about General Jo Shelby and Quantrill at City Hall (\$2). On Sunday at Noon there will be an antiques appraisal (\$10 for one item and \$5 for additional items) at the Warren House, 509 Broad Street. At 1:00 p.m. Jackie Roberts speaks on “How to Research Your Civil War Genealogy” at City Hall (\$2). Also at 1:00 p.m. the Union returns to reclaim its freight from the “Sunshine.” Handicapped accessible by wagon ride. Bring your own lawn chairs. For additional information, please call Charlene McFadden (660) 493-2314.

Future Events

Archival Databases and Research Catalog

Saturday, July 12, 2008 – 10:00 a.m.- Noon Harrisonville, MO. Library Computer Lab. Limited seating. Call (816) 884-6285 for reservations. Presented by Kimberlee N. Ried, Archives and Education Specialist with the National Archives Central Plains Region. Free.

Two Day Trip to Lincoln Presidential Library

August 5-6, 2008. Springfield, Illinois. Sponsored by The St. Joseph Museums, Inc. Begins at 7:00 a.m. on Tuesday and returns at 9:00 p.m. on Wednesday. \$218 per person double occupancy. Single occupancy is an additional \$41.66. Trip begins in St. Joseph, MO. Deadline of July 4, 2008. For information or reservations please call (816) 232-8471.

Quantrill Society Annual Reunion

October 11, 2008. Oak Grove, MO. More details to follow.

Battle of Westport Tour

Once again our guided bus tour of the Little Blue the morning of May 10th and the Little Blue (Byram’s Ford) in the afternoon was very well attended as a part of Historic Preservation Month in Independence. We want to thank those who made it

possible - first and foremost our Little Blue guide, Mike Calvert, and our Big Blue guide, Dan Smith. Terry McConnell again acted as Wagonmaster and helped distribute handouts and Dennis Myers made arrangements for the comfort break at the Salem Church in the morning. Art and Sharon Kelley made the name badges, and Beverly Shaw received the payment for tours. Karen Wells duplicated the Self-Guiding Tour booklet, donated copies of the 125th anniversary program book, and lent her portable bullhorn. Her son Kevin Wells donated official medals from the 125th anniversary. Many thanks also to Betty Key and Ted Stillwell for making the Blue and Grey Book Shoppe available for us to meet the bus and enjoy their facilities.

For those who did not go on the tour, you may not have heard of our adventure in the afternoon when we attempted to show the Byram’s Ford area from the east side and ended up on a private road with a small bridge and a short circle drive at the end. One wheel of the bus could not negotiate the tight turn on the pavement and ended up in the mud. Luckily one of the neighbors had a tractor and gave us a pull out. One of the other neighbors was not so understanding and called the police to find out what a tour bus was doing on their quiet street. After we got underway again, Dan Smith explained to the bus driver that this was all planned and that we meant for people to get an idea of the challenges encountered by the huge wagon train that followed General Sterling Price across the Big Blue River. Our passengers were very good sports about the whole thing, but we did lose about a half an hour of time and had to forego our tour around Loose Park.

One new destination this year was the new Civil War Interpretive Center near the front entrance of Swope Park in the large stone building. The displays are just now being mounted so we got a “before” look at the facility being adapted by the Civil War Round Table of Kansas City and the Monnett Battle of Westport Fund. Dan Smith also gave us an extensive “staff ride” through his power point presentation.

Bus Tour to Wilson’s Creek National Battlefield

We do need your reservations quickly so that we can give an occupancy list to the motel in Republic

where we will be staying. Karen Coin has done a wonderful job of keeping our expenses down while providing an enjoyable experience at Wilson's Creek with all meals being provided including a special fried chicken dinner on the way home. We won't have "throwed rolls" like at Lambert's, but Ron Zimmerman, the owner of Sunset Tours who provides our bus, says the food is excellent.

We have also received notice that we will be able to see the new Wilson's Creek video when we arrive to provide a background for events leading up to the battle on August 10, 1861, both in Missouri and on the national scene. Visitors will learn how the surrounding families were affected by the battle and its bloody aftermath.

This new interpretive film was produced by our friends at Wide Awake Films of Kansas City, Missouri, and one of the actors is Kevin Wells, son of our secretary, Karen Wells.

Our Round Table sends best wishes to the folks at the Battle of Newtonia sites which were affected by the recent tornados. There was some roof damage at the Ritchey Mansion as well as trees in the area. There is presently legislation in Congress to authorize the National Park Service to do a study to determine if the Newtonia sites could be made a separate unit or brought under the management of Wilson's Creek.

Lewis-Gregg Cemetery Help Needed

On Saturday, June 7, 2008, 9:00 a.m. we need a little bit of help at the Lewis-Gregg Cemetery to complete two minor projects. First, we need to exchange the current gate with a wider gate. This will involve moving one fence post by digging a new hole, resetting the existing pole and then some minor hardware adjustments. Also, we could use your help if you have a rake to assist in cleaning the grounds of some smaller twigs. If you can give us an hour or two, your Lewis-Gregg Commission would greatly appreciate your help with these two projects. Please call Dennis Myers as soon as possible at (816) 769-6490 if you can be there and if you have some skill or knowledge in this kind of work, please let him know that as well. Directions: North on Salem Drive from 24 Highway and then right on Colony Lane to the dead end.

The Lincoln Era in Sight and Sound

We have a wonderful opportunity to see the special exhibit at the Truman Library called "Lincoln: The Constitution, and the Civil War" on **Thursday, June 19, 2008** (see brochure). The exhibit highlights three constitutional crises Lincoln faced as president: secession, slavery and civil liberties during the Civil War. It includes video detailing Lincoln's 1860 election, audio of his recollections recorded by actor Sam Waterston, and electronic exercises illuminating issues Lincoln faced. The Library will be open until 9:00 p.m. on June 19th so you can come before our speaker at 7:00 p.m. to see the exhibit or stay afterwards. Admission to the Library is free with your Civil War Round Table membership card for this special event.

In preparation for Bill Worley's talk and the exhibit you might want to check out Daniel Farber's 2003 book called *Lincoln's Constitution*. If you don't have time to read the whole thing, you can access an interview with the author done by the University of Chicago Press by going to this website; www.press.uchicago.edu/Misc/Chicago/237931in.

Another new book shows a different argument about secession – that essentially Lincoln did not want to imprison Confederate President Jefferson Davis and in essence wanted him to escape because he feared that putting Davis on trial for treason before the Supreme Court would open up the opportunity for Davis to prove that secession was (and is) constitutional. The book is called *Pursuit: The Chase, Capture, Persecution and Surprising Release of Confederate Jefferson Davis* by Clint Johnson. See www.clintjohnsonbooks.com.

Civil War Markers and Monuments

The board of the Round Table will be deciding whether to donate to a fund to help erect a monument to honor the Union participants in the Siege of Lexington (September 12-20, 1861). It will be placed on the grounds of the Battle of Lexington State Historic Site in Lexington, Missouri near the graves of several unknown Federal soldiers and within the Union siege lines. It is hoped to have the monument in place by September, 2008, the 147th anniversary of the battle. A monument honoring the Southern participants was erected in 2000. To date the Phelps Camp No.

66, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, has raised approximately 30% of the estimated \$4,500 for the monument.

The Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri is hoping to have two out of four low-profile markers to interpret the Battle of the Little Blue in place by October, 2008. One will be placed at Ripley Junction Park near the picnic tables on the banks of the Little Blue, and the other would be placed at the northern terminus of the Jackson County hiking and biking trail off Blue Mills Road. Further fundraising will be undertaken to finance the other two markers.

We have found a home for the Morgan Walker tombstone! The Burr Oak Woods Missouri Conservation Center in Blue Springs, Missouri, would be very willing to give the rescued tombstone a place of honor according to Lisa Lacombe, assistant manager of Burr Oak Woods. She met with Bill and Annette Curtis who rescued the stone and have kept it safe from vandals in their garden and with Beverly Shaw and Bob Boland from the Round Table on May 21, 2008. In addition to displaying the stone on the site of the Morgan Walker Farm which is where Burr Oak Woods is located, Lisa would like to prepare a video history of the site from pre-historic geological times to Native American inhabitants, exploration by mountain men, early immigration from the East, the Civil War era, and up to modern times. She would really appreciate the help of the Round Table in documenting the land transfers that brought the farm into the hands of the Walker family and their relationship with Quantrill and his guerrillas. A wonderful marker exists at the site of the Walker Cemetery near the small grove of trees adjacent to Pink Hill Park and the James Lewis School in Blue Springs. It is attributed to the late Don Hale, but Bill Curtis says that the wording was hammered out bit by bit with input by many historians.

Lady Liberty to Stand Proud at Genealogy Center

On Saturday, June 21, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. the Mid-Continent Public Library's Midwest Genealogy Center will open to public. This \$8 million facility with 52,000 square feet located at Lee's Summit Road and Kiger in Independence (north of I-70 near the Drumm Farm Golf Course) gave a sneak

preview to the National Genealogy Conference in Kansas City in May.

It was recently announced by Beautification Commission Chairperson Gloria Smith that a scaled down version of the Statue of Liberty brought to Independence in 1958 by Boy Scout troops will be restored and placed in front of the Midwest Genealogy Center.

Calling All Civil War Researchers

For a short time (now through May 31, 2008) you have an opportunity to do online research for free using the world's largest collection of historical military records at www.Ancestry.com.

Ancestry.com has recently expanded its partnership with the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) to scan millions more historical records and make them available. After May 31st Ancestry.com will charge its usual fees.

Our Round Table contribution to research is now available to the public at the Clay County Archives in Liberty, Missouri. Steve and Carol Olson (board members of the Round Table) have been busy placing the OR's (Office Records) of the Civil War Army and Navy and 40 years of the *Confederate Veteran* magazine on the shelves. They are placed near the other Civil War books that make up the Maienschein Collection of the Round Table. They are available for research on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday (except holidays) from 9:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m. at 210 E. Franklin St., Liberty, MO. This is an archive rather than a lending library so all materials must be used on the premises.

The Round Table had a chance to personally thank Peggy Ruester for facilitating the recent donation of books from her aunt, Mrs. Bob Younger of Morningside Press in Dayton, Ohio, and herself when she attended our May meeting at the Old Jail Museum.

Some new books put out by the University of Arkansas Press may also be of interest to Missouri researchers. One is called a *Guide to Missouri Confederate Units, 1861-1865* edited by James E. McGhee which describes the 69 artillery, cavalry, and infantry units in Missouri (\$34.95, cloth).

Another is the *Autobiography of Samuel S. Hildebrand: The Renowned Missouri Bushwhacker* edited by Kirby Ross (\$24.95, cloth). It is a testament to the fact that Missouri was the worst possible place to live between 1861 and 1865.

The horrors of guerrilla warfare is also documented in *A History of So. Missouri and No. Arkansas; Being an Account of the Early Settlements, the Civil War, the Ku-Klux, and Times of Peace* by William Monks, edited by John F. Bradbury Jr. and Lou Wehmer (\$17.95, paper). For more information you can call 800 626-0090 and mention promo number 706.

Locally the Cass County Public Library in Harrisonville is hosting a chance to "Meet The Author" of *Sul Ross's 6th Texas Cavalry* by Stephen S. Kirk. He consulted the military records of over 1,200 men who fought with the 6th Texas Cavalry, diaries, county histories, letters and other sources. His interest came from genealogical research on his great-grandfather. Kirk grew up in Oklahoma near the Arkansas line, at one time worked for the Kansas City Public Library, raised Arabian horses in Raymore and now resides in Leawood, KS. The book retails for \$23.95 and the author will be available for signing. For information call the Genealogy Branch at (816) 884-6285.

You Win Some and You Lose Some

On the winning side we would like to congratulate our friend and early secretary of the Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri, Vicki Beck of Buckner, MO, for her vindication of the Smith Cemetery (also called Smith-Davis Cemetery) located between two widely separated lanes of 350 Highway in the Knobtown area near Raytown where south Noland Road intersects with 350 Highway. Instrumental in having this cemetery recognized before the Plans and Zoning Commission of Kansas City on May 6, 2008 were Jim Beckner, David Jackson (archivist of the Jackson County Historical Society), and Brad Wolfe (Landmarks Commission of the City of Kansas City). Hillside Development is planning a \$103,000,000 mix of commercial, single- and multi-family homes in the area and agreed to preserve the cemetery and adhere to local, state and federal laws regarding human burials on the site. Brad Wolfe suggested that the cemetery and surrounding ground

become a "pocket park" with benches and landscaping.

The Smith Cemetery is revered in guerrilla lore as the final resting place of Charity McCorkle Kerr and twin sisters Armenia Riley Selvey and Susan Riley Vandiver, all of whom died in the collapse of the prison in Kansas City on August 14, 1863. One likely story is that General Ewing had the victims taken far out of Kansas City and buried in the out-of-the-way Smith Cemetery. Also buried here are Confederate guerrillas Ferdinand Scott and Al Wyatt, who were killed in a fight with the 9th Kansas Cavalry on June 16, 1863. Tombstones were present as late as the 1980's but have now disappeared. We thank Harold Dellinger for this information from the Quantrill Society newsletter.

By the way, the marker for the collapse of the jail which killed and injured Confederate women is located near 14th and Grand, but it is on the second floor level, not easily seen from a drive-by view. It is however reproduced in our *Civil War Monuments and Memorials* book on page 43 with an explanation on page 42. The Round Table recently published the second revised edition, and it is available at our meetings for \$12. Those of you who have the first edition are eligible to receive a free insert page to correct the information and picture of the Routh House in Liberty on pages 26-27. Please pick one up at a meeting or request one by mail by calling Beverly Shaw at (816) 225-7944.

On an unhappy note we read a letter to the editor of the Kansas City *Star* by Richard Stewart who has spoken to the Round Table about Elmwood Cemetery. He says the office is closed except by appointment and the history on its website has been scaled back. He says that for "four years the public enjoyed visiting for purposes of historic tours, taking pictures of artistic monuments, hearing stories of Abraham Lincoln and Jesse James, or just dropping by to say hi. Now it is void of character and personality that greeted events and tours to educate the public or any genealogy and history classes that came in. Elmwood Cemetery is at the mercy of its age. The residents there have been forgotten for far too long. And now, it is apparent that its future is going backward."

Notes About Members

We want to send our best thoughts and prayers to two of our members who are undergoing cancer treatments and are doing so with positive attitudes.

Jim Beckner did not let his treatment slow him down at the Stand of Colors May 17th and 18th as he helped with the artillery reenactment. **Paul Tate** will be starting treatments in early June but does not think that these will affect his ability to be Historian for the Round Table. If you would like to send a note of encouragement, Jim is at 1018 Redwood Drive, Raymore, MO 64083 and Paul is at 9812 E. 51st Terr., Kansas City, MO 64133.

Our 2nd Vice President and Membership Chairman, **Art Kelley**, was honored by the First Presbyterian Church of Independence for 63 years of church membership on May 18th and received a Presbyterian Medallion. He and his wife **Sharon** represented the Round Table at the May meeting of the Missouri/Kansas Border War Network in Harrisonville and heard about the importance of using the newest computer and internet technology to tell the Border War history of our area. Sometime this summer or fall we would like to borrow the podcast equipment to videotape the Battle of the Little Blue for exporting to the internet.

The Historic Preservation Commission of Lee's Summit, Missouri recently recognized Mrs. Betty Eubank for excellence in historic preservation. We were glad to see that the award was made by Julie Cawby, Commission Chairperson. Julie is the daughter of our members, **Richard and Linda Cawby**.

We noticed with interest that Medal of Honor recipient, **Col. Don Ballard**, has bought the Swan Lake Memorial Park Cemetery near Blue Springs which is the final resting place of some 500 veterans to date. Local historian and cemetery preservationist **Vicki Beck** says that the cemetery started out in 1848 as the Slaughter Cemetery. It is located just north of Pink Hill Road and east of Highway 7 in unincorporated Jackson County.

Some of our members who attended Stand of Colors were **Pat Gradwohl, Delbert and Karen Coin, Beverly Shaw and Bonnie Thompson**, a new member from the Battle of Westport tour the

previous weekend. **Kevin Wells**, son of Karen Wells and the late Sonny Wells, rode with the cavalry units and reported that the ticks were very robust at the Jerry Smith Park. This was a first attempt by the Rotary Club in doing a large reenactment, and I'm sure they learned a lot. **Jim Beckner** was glad that they did not exceed the attendance of the 125th anniversary reenactment of the Battle of Westport in Swope Park that he and **Sonny Wells** produced, but we all wish them well in their efforts.

Bingham-Waggoner in the News

On April 13th the *Star Magazine* highlighted some "blissful" places in the Kansas City area, and one of their picks was the Bingham-Waggoner Estate music room at 313 W. Pacific Ave., Independence, MO. The reason is that a wonderful Swiss cylinder orchestral music box originally owned by the Waggoner milling family was bought and returned to its rightful place and is on display.

Frank Haight of *The Examiner* wrote on May 9th that the "Bingham-Waggoner Gets Much-needed Upgrades." Our member **Janice Pearson** is a 24-year volunteer and past president of the Historical Society pointed out the recent restorations such as the sleeping porch on the south side of the Victorian estate. The Carriage House has recently been improved with central air-conditioning and heating. **Charlotte Tindall and Lee Jackson** are longtime volunteer docents and invite you to come by and see the June exhibit of "Rosie O'Neil's Babies," a Cupie Doll collection.

Hiding in plain sight was the latest treasure at the Bingham-Waggoner Estate. It is an 1893 Zimmer's Base Ball Game that sat undiscovered in a small room on the 3rd floor. Come to find out this antique game is extremely valuable especially because it retains its original box top and game pieces. It is on display every weekend in June. **Hugh Welsh**, a writer for *The Examiner* and guest on our recent Battle of Westport tour, calls it "A Great Save!"

Those of you who would like to know more about the artist George Caleb Bingham and his history in Missouri might want to see the February, 2008 issue of *Missouri Life* magazine when "King of the Road" **John Robinson**, former director of tourism in

Missouri, traces the trail of Missouri's fighting artist.

The *Kansas City Star* on May 18th carried an article about the danger of damage to priceless Bingham paintings that are owned by the State Historical Society of Missouri because of cramped, outdated conditions. There were two color pictures – one of “Watching the Cargo” from 1849 and the other of “Order No. 11” painted in 1869-70.

The goal of this relatively unknown museum in Columbia, Missouri, is to raise enough money for a new building, but until then one idea is to lend the paintings to other museums and archives where they can be properly displayed and preserved. One such location might be the Historic Jackson County Courthouse on the square in Independence which is itself undergoing a renovation. Mortgage banker **James B. Nutter** and Independence lawyer and preservationist **Ken McClain** say that they are of no value to the public if they are not displayed.

Mt. Gilead Membership Picnic

The Clay County Historical Society invites you to their annual Spring Membership Picnic at Mt. Gilead Church and School on Sunday, June 1, 2008. Rev. Ramon Butts will conduct the service at 11:00 a.m. in the historic Mt. Gilead church. Lunch for \$10 will be catered by Updike BBQ and reservations are requested by calling (816) 429-5165 or (816) 792-1849. Children ages 12 and under eat free. Music will be provided by Kychn Synk, a Liberty High ensemble which recently placed 2nd in a national competition.

The program in the afternoon is called “Bashi-Bazouks and Rebels Too: Action at Camden Point, July 13, 1864” by Scott A. Porter from the Center for Army Tactics at the Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. The struggle for northwest Missouri during the Civil War is a unique story due to the Confederate alignment with guerrillas in a bold attempt to seize control of the area prior to General Sterling Price's invasion of Missouri. Camden Point claims the second oldest Confederate monument west of the Mississippi. Frank and Jesse James, Colonel Charles R. Jennison, and General Samuel Curtis were all involved in this significant action. You can

see an article and picture in our Monuments book on pages 22-23.

Prier's Pioneer Museum

If your travels take you to the Branson area this summer, you might want to take a detour to Golden, Missouri, about 6 miles north of the Arkansas border and 45 miles west of Branson. In 1993 Winfred Prier acquired the collection of the Arlis Cogar family who ran the Trail of Tears Museum in Huntsville, Arkansas. This combination brought over 10,000 Osage and other American Indian hunting tools, pottery and implements to share space with one of the Midwest's largest collection of carnival glass, Civil War memorabilia, and pioneer artifacts and tools. The museum is open free of charge from April 1st to October 31st and also has a considerable display of Missouri's mineral wealth including a 1,250 pound quartz crystal. To find the Pioneer Museum take Highway 65 south of Branson to Highway 86 west, then north on Highway J, and right on National Forest Road 2278 to Golden. For more info please visit; www.goldenmissouri.com or call (417) 271-3299.

Lee and Grant Meet Again

If you are headed to St. Louis for business or pleasure between now and September 14th, you will want to see the special exhibit called “Lee and Grant” at the Missouri History Museum in Forest Park. It was organized by the Virginia Historical Society and explores the boyhoods of both and their West Point careers, early assignments, service in the Mexican War and on the nation's frontiers and finally their Civil War campaigns and postwar contributions to national reconciliation. As a supplement to the exhibit, the Missouri History Museum has added artifacts and documents related to their work in the St. Louis area. As a U. S. Army supervising engineer of navigation, Lee worked on the Mississippi River in 1837. Upon graduation from West Point in 1843, Grant was assigned to Jefferson Barracks near St. Louis and met his future wife Julia.

It Was Always Thus!

Veterans coming home from modern warfare are usually disappointed by the level of care their government affords them. It just goes to show that not much has changed since Civil War times.

Beverly Shaw's neighbor, Gilbert Anderson, recently shared with her copies of paperwork regarding his great-grandfather, Levi Anderson of Rulo, Nebraska, who was badly wounded in the Battle of White Oak Creek on November 11, 1861. He received a shotgun wound which carried away about six inches of his left thigh bone and also a wound in his right shoulder.

He was a private in Company A of the 7th Kansas Cavalry. After the war he had to keep going back to the U.S. Congress to ask for an increase in his Pension because of his leg being seven inches shorter than the other and useless. He started out with a Pension of \$8 a month when he was discharged which was increased to \$15 in 1871 and to \$18 in 1872. In 1882 by special act of Congress it was increased to \$30. In 1884 he asked for the princely sum of \$50 per month but was only awarded \$40.

The family has a copy of his letter to President Theodore Roosevelt in 1907 which outlined the extent of his injuries and even included a picture showing the disparity in his leg. It really did take "an act of Congress" to get increases in Pensions.

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 wcqsociety@aol.com.

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Memorial Day

Although over for 2008 (the observed day of Memorial Day), it does us well to remember why we celebrate the holiday we call "Memorial Day."

Memorial Day was originally known as Decoration Day because it was a time set aside to honor the nation's Civil War dead by decorating their graves. It was first widely observed on May 30, 1868, to commemorate the sacrifices of Civil War soldiers, by proclamation of General John A. Logan of the Grand Army of the Republic, an organization of former sailors and soldiers. On May 5, 1868, Logan declared in General Order No. 11 that:

"The 30th of May, 1868, is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers, or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village, and hamlet churchyard in the land. In this observance no form of ceremony is prescribed, but posts and comrades will in their own way arrange such fitting services and testimonials of respect as circumstances may permit."

This 1868 celebration was inspired by local observances of the day in several towns throughout America that had taken place in the three years since the Civil War. In fact, several Northern and Southern cities claim to be the birthplace of Memorial Day, including Columbus, Miss.; Macon, Ga.; Richmond, Va.; Boalsburg, Pa.; and Carbondale, Ill.

By the late 1800s, many communities across the country had begun to celebrate Memorial Day and, after World War I, observances also began to honor those who had died in all of America's wars. In 1971, Congress declared Memorial Day a national holiday to be celebrated the last Monday in May. (Veterans Day, a day set aside to honor all veterans, living and dead, is celebrated each year on November 11.)

Today, several Southern states continue to set aside a special day for honoring the Confederate dead, which is usually called Confederate Memorial Day.

From: History.com and "The History of Memorial Day."

LINCOLN: THE CONSTITUTION AND THE CIVIL WAR

In conjunction with this interactive exhibit at the Truman Library, the Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri is presenting a special program on Thursday, June 19, 2008, at 7:00 p.m. Dr. Bill Worley, adjunct professor of history at the University of Missouri-Kansas City will be presenting a talk called "From Ambivalence to Abolition: Lincoln's Presidential Journey through the Slavery Issue."

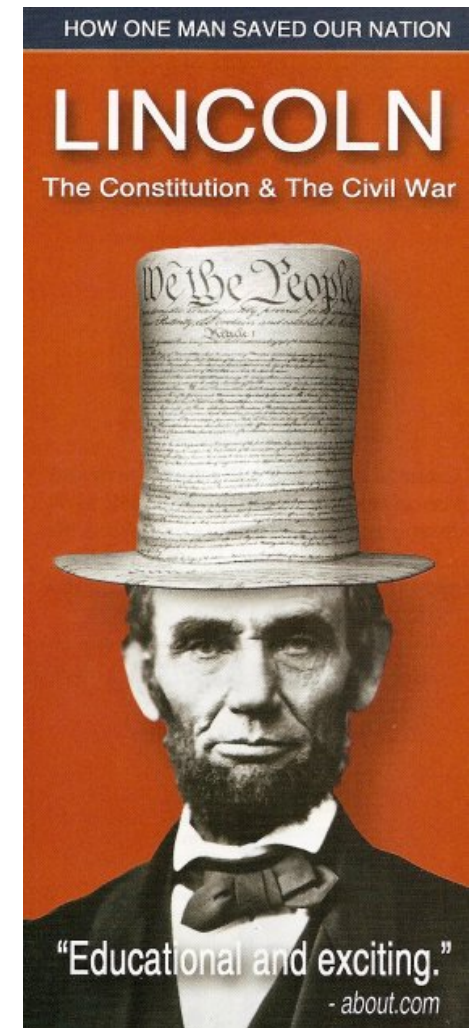
Bill Worley has a second career presenting historical figures in their own voices and is traveling on the Chautauqua circuit when he is not home in Kansas City speaking to history groups. His most popular personage so far is probably Tom Pendergast, political boss in Kansas City, who appeared at the Central Library of Kansas City being interviewed by the director, Crosby Kemper, III. But even Bill admits that he does not have the hubris to impersonate Abraham Lincoln.

Organized by the National Constitution Center in partnership with the Lincoln Museum in Fort Wayne, Ind., and in cooperation with the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission, the exhibit highlights the three constitutional crises which Lincoln faced as president: secession, slavery and civil liberties during the Civil War.

Bill Worley's talk is free and open to the public, but the Truman Library admission fees are \$8 for adults, \$7 for seniors 65 and older, \$3 for youths 6-15, and free for children 5 and under. Civil War Round Table members will be admitted free by showing their member cards.

The program will be held in the Whistle Stop Room from 7-8 p.m. with time to see the exhibit before closing at 9 p.m. The Truman Library is located at 500 U.S. Hwy. 24, Independence, Missouri.

LINCOLN: THE CONSTITUTION AND THE CIVIL WAR



GUIDED BUS TRIP TO WILSON'S CREEK

On Saturday and Sunday, June 21-22, 2008, the Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri invites you to join us on a guided bus trip from Independence, Missouri, to Wilson's Creek National Battlefield at Republic, MO. Wilson's Creek was the first major Civil War battle fought west of the Mississippi River and the second major battle of the Civil War on Aug. 10, 1861. It also marked the death of the first Union general killed in the Civil War—Brigadier General Nathaniel Lyon. The traditional site of General Lyon's death was marked by a pile of stones soon after the battle and quickly became a tourist attraction and historic site.

Established in 1960, Wilson's Creek was redesignated a national battlefield in 1970 and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It started out being administered by the George Washington Carver site at Diamond, Missouri, but now has its own staff. Historian Connie Langum will be our guide on Saturday, June 21st.

The trip will begin at 8 a.m. on Saturday, June 21st when the bus picks up passengers and luggage in front of the Blue & Grey Book Shoppe, 106 E. Walnut, Independence, Missouri, where street parking is available. We will travel by tour bus with one stop at the Osceola Cheese Factory. After arrival at Wilson's Creek we will have a box lunch and a brief orientation film before the guided tour.

In the late afternoon we will check into our motel (AmericInn at Republic) and freshen up for dinner around 6 p.m. at the Diamond Head buffet. The motel has a pool and sauna so you can enjoy a relaxing evening after a full day. We will probably also have an opportunity to visit with some members of the Civil War Round Table of the Ozarks during the day or at dinner.

On Sunday morning, June 22, there is a complimentary breakfast after which we will check out and board the bus for a tour of the

Civil War Museum (formerly called the General Sweeney Museum) which contains an outstanding collection of artifacts relating to the War west of the Mississippi, including the sword belt and sash of Arkansas Confederate General Patrick Cleburne, the telescope of Abolitionist John Brown, and the flag of the Confederate "Cherokee Braves."

About 10:30 a.m. we will begin our trip back to Independence. Our noon meal will be a home cooked fried chicken buffet at the Baer House in Osceola. It was once the home of Mrs. Stevia Baer, a teacher who always brought a pan of her homemade rolls on the first day of school. She did not share her recipe with anyone but family, but upon her death it was given to our hostess by her daughter so she calls her retirement business the Baer House. We will have fried chicken and a selection of 3 salads, 3 side dishes, and 3 desserts plus a choice of bread and drinks. We plan to arrive home about 4:00 p.m.

We have based the tour cost on a minimum of 30 people to make it as economical as possible. The cost is \$104 per person based on double occupancy at the motel. If you wish a private room, the cost is \$140 for single occupancy. If you don't have a roommate, we may be able to put you in touch with someone. The tour cost includes bus transportation, motel, admission to Wilson's Creek and four meals. Reservations must be paid by June 10, 2008. Please send checks payable to "Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri" to Beverly Shaw, 17313 E. 51 Terr. Ct. S., Independence, MO 64055. For further information, call (816) 225-7944 or E-mail littlebluebattlefield@comcast.net. We need the name of each passenger for the motel reservation. The reservation form should be completed and mailed with your check.

We hope to see you at Wilson's Creek!

WILSON'S CREEK RESERVATION FORM

Mail to: CWRTWMO, 17313 E. 51 Terr. Ct. S., Independence, MO 64055. Telephone: (816) 225-7944 or send an E-mail to: littlebluebattlefield@comcast.net

Reservations are on a first come, first served basis for a maximum of 46 people.

Transportation will be a tour bus with restroom.

Dates: June 21-22, 2008

Time: 8:00 a.m. pickup, Sat., June 21st

Location: Blue & Grey Book Shoppe, 106 E. Walnut, Independence, MO (2 blocks south of the Square). Street parking.

Return: 4:00 p.m. Sunday, June 22nd

Cost: \$104 / person double occupancy
\$140 / person single occupancy

Includes bus transportation, motel, 4 meals and admission to Wilson's Creek.

_____ reservations @ \$104 = _____

_____ reservations @ \$140 = _____

Total: _____

Names of Passengers:

Contact Phone Number: _____