



The Border Star

Official Monthly Publication of the Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri

• **Founded 12-9-1992**

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"Studying the Border War and Beyond"

September 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.
Villages of Jackson Creek
3980-A S. Jackson Drive
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 ----- 225-7944
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 944 days away, as of the date of our next Round Table meeting on September 10, 2008.

Archive essay from August 2007...

Two weeks ago I had an opportunity to visit Gettysburg for the second time. The first time I visited it was in September during the middle of the week and I practically had the place to myself. Not so this time. It was a Friday afternoon, 10 days after the battle anniversary, and to top it off the weekend of National Motorcycle Week. Needless to say there were cars and people everywhere and I was not happy. As I stood at the visitor's center and bought two books on the Trans-Mississippi Theater it drew on my befuddled mind that I was standing not only on hallowed ground, but on a gold mine. The amount of money being exchanged before my very eyes was unbelievable. I was witnessing the zenith of what experts have come to call "heritage tourism." Studies have determined that Gettysburg visitors provide annually, nearly \$12 million in state taxes, over \$5 million in local taxes and \$121,080,000 in visitor expenditures*. Now I admit that Gettysburg is the battlefield to visit so what about another one that might compare favorably to, let's say the Little Blue Battlefield.

I pick Wilson's Creek, Missouri*.

1. 69 Jobs supported
2. 1,456 visitors needed to support one job
3. \$217,000 annual State government revenue
4. \$144,000 annual local government revenue
5. \$3,121,000 annual visitor expenditures

I know that's a lot of statistics and I only use them to make this point. The preservation of battlefields gives back to the community. The Little Blue Battlefield has been recognized as one of the top 10 endangered historic sites in Missouri and as one of the top 25 endangered historic battlefields in the United States. We now have a grant from the National Park Service to write the National Registry of Historic Places Nomination. Let's make the emphasis on what we do as a group to be the preservation of the Little Blue Battlefield. When someone says that building houses on the land is a better than saving it, bring up the statistics and ask them how many houses would you need to build in order to put that much money back into the local economy? Here's just a little extra; most of that money is from out of town visitors. I haven't even touched on quality of life enhancement, environmental issues or historic value. Our goal won't be easy to obtain and it won't happen overnight, but, if we don't make the effort...(I can't finish that sentence).

Heritage tourism, it pays!

*Statistics are from "Blue, Gray and Green; How Saving Civil War Battlefields Makes \$\$\$ and Sense" a study commissioned by the Civil War Preservation Trust

Mike Calvert, President
The Civil War Roundtable of Western Missouri

CWRTWMO Calendar

Elizabeth Walker at Burr Oak Woods

Thursday, Sept. 4, 2008 – 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Burr Oak Woods Conservation Center
1401 NW Park Road, Blue Springs, MO
Registration at 816 228-3766. Free. See article.

September, 2008 Monthly Meeting

Wednesday, Sept. 10, 2008 – 7:00 p.m.
New Location: Villages of Jackson Creek,
3980-A S. Jackson Drive, Independence, MO.
Jim Beckner: The Burning of Osceola, MO.
See article.

September Trip to Osceola, MO

Saturday, Sept. 20, 2008 – 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Lunch at the Baer House at 11:00 a.m.
Richard Sunderwirth: “The Writing of
The Burning of Osceola, MO” at Noon
followed by a memorial at the Osceola
Cemetery for the nine men hanged for
being Southern Sympathizers. See article.

Other Events

Battle of Wentzville

Sept. 6, 2008 – 9:00 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Sept. 7, 2008 – 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Reenactors commemorate the skirmish that took
place July 16-17, 1861. Rotary Park. Free.

150th Anniversary of Butterfield Mail Route
Sunday, Sept. 7, 2008. Rutledge-Wilson Farm
Community Park, Springfield, MO. Display
of original Butterfield Stagecoach before it
leaves for Pea Ridge National Park to arrive
Sept. 12, 2008. See article.

3 Trails Historical Search Team

Tuesday, Sept. 9, 2008 – 7:00 p.m.
William Chrisman High School, 1223 N.
Noland Road, Independence, MO. Don Reed:
"Electronic Instruments for Treasure Hunting."

Historical Epitaphs at Union Cemetery

Friday and Saturday, Sept. 12 - 13, 2008.
Tours every 30 minutes starting at 7:00 p.m.
Last tour starts at 9:30 pm. Donation of \$5.
First tour on Saturday is already filled. See article.

50th Anniversary Golden Jubilee Celebration

Thursday, Sept. 18, 2008 – 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.
Mark Twain Tower, 106 W. 11 Street, Kansas City,
MO. Jackson County Historical Society's Jubilee.
Cocktails, Dinner, and Program with Terence
O'Malley, local author and filmmaker. \$75.
Call Steve Noll at (816) 461-1897.

Pig-Pickin' Chicken-Lickin' Feast

Saturday, Sept. 20, 2008 – 4:00 – 7:00 p.m.
Bingham-Waggoner Estate, 313 W. Pacific Ave.,
Independence, MO. Advance reservations required
(\$12). Call (816) 461-3491 or buy tickets from
Charlotte Tindall at the Sept. 10th meeting. German
food, silent auction and door prizes.

Battle Over the Dead

Saturday, Sept. 20, 2008 – 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Battle of Lexington State Historic Site,
1101 Delaware, Lexington, MO. Skirmish at
Machpelah Cemetery. Fee. See article.

Freedom Festival

Saturday, Sept. 20, 2008 – 10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.
John Brown Memorial Park, 10th & Main,
Osawatomie, KS. Re-enactment of the Battle of
Osawatomie. See article.

144th Year of Centralia Massacre and Battle

Saturday, Sept. 27, 2008 – 2:00 p.m. - Gates Open
6:30 p.m. – Historical Play. Adults-\$4. Children
under 12 free. See article.

Cass County Folklife Festival

Friday, Oct. 3, 2008 – 4:00 – 9:00 p.m.
Saturday, Oct. 4, 2008 – 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Camp Reeder at Harrisonville, MO City Park.
Celebrating lifestyles of the Western frontier and
Civil War encampment and skirmishes. See article.

1st Kansas Colored Volunteer Infantry

Thursday, Oct. 9, 2008 – 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Bates County Museum, 802 Elks Drive, Butler,
MO. Jim Denny of the Missouri Department of
Natural Resources: “The Skirmish At Island
Mound.” See article.

Opening of Battle of Westport Museum

Saturday, Oct. 18, 2008 – 10:00 a.m. Swope Park.
Skirmish at Noon. More information to follow.

Celebration of 175th Anniversary of Westport
Saturday, Oct. 25, 2008. Events along Westport
Road, Kansas City, MO. More info to follow.

Elizabeth Walker At Burr Oak Woods

Our friend Lori Walker (no relation to Elizabeth Walker) will be giving a first person look at Elizabeth Walker who lived on the Walker Farm, now the site of Burr Oak Woods, during the Civil War. Discover the secrets of the years William Quantrill fought the Jayhawkers. The program will be outdoors from 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 4th at the pavilion at the bottom of the hill just past the parking lot for the nature center building. You can park near the pavilion and bring your own lawn chair. Please call to register at (816) 228-3766. Free and open to the public.

Burr Oak Woods Conservation Center is located in Blue Springs approximately one mile north of I-70 on Highway 7 and one mile west on Park Road (look for the large brown sign on Highway 7 in the Missouri Conservation style.

New Location For September Meeting

Betty Key and Ted Stillwell have been the “hosts with the most” at the Old Blake Museum (a/k/a the Blue & Grey Book Shoppe) in Independence, Missouri, but our membership has grown to the point that we need a bigger space, which is a good thing.

We will be visiting the meeting room on the lower level of the Villages of Jackson Creek, a new senior housing complex in Independence on September 10, 2008, at 7:00 p.m.

The Villages of Jackson Creek is located at 3980A South Jackson Drive. It is conveniently located near Hwy. 291 at the 39th Street exit just east of the Independence Center and Independence Commons. Jackson Drive is a new street which runs south of 39th Street near where the AMC 20 Movie Theatre is located on the north side of 39th Street. Follow Jackson south and you will see a Sonic Restaurant on the left and the Villages on the right. There is lots of convenient parking for entering the building numbered 3980A.

Once inside you can take the first door to the left for a stairway down one level or continue down the hall on the left to the elevators and go down one level to the meeting and exercise room. There are kitchen facilities for our refreshments.

No Board Meeting In September

The Board has decided to try a bi-monthly board meeting schedule to cut down on the travel expense for board members. The board met after the movie at the August meeting so we will not be meeting in September. The next board meeting will be October 15th.

Trip To Osceola, Missouri

On the way back from Wilson’s Creek National Battlefield the tour group stopped at the Baer House in Osceola for Sunday lunch on the advice of our bus company owner, Ron Zimmerman of Sunset Tours. Ron was certainly correct about the quality of the food and the interesting location. Karen Coin is arranging a return visit to Osceola on Saturday, September 20th, to have lunch at the Baer House at 11:00 a.m., hear Richard Sunderwirth talk about his book, *The Burning of Osceola, Missouri*, at Noon, and follow him to the Osceola Cemetery for a memorial of the nine men hanged for being Southern sympathizers. The cost will be \$13 per person for a fried chicken dinner with three sides, three salads, and three desserts plus your own transportation cost which can be reduced by carpooling. We suggest that you plan to leave about 9:00 a.m. from Independence to follow the route from Highway 291 south to Highway 7 and then Highway 13. After crossing the bridge at Truman Lake, you will follow the city route to downtown Osceola and the Baer House at 515 2nd Street.

We need to have at least 15 reservations for the group meal at the Baer House so we are requesting that you send your check to “Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri”, 17313 E. 51 Terr. Ct. S., Independence, Missouri 64055. We will pay the Baer House with our Round Table check which is free of Missouri Sales Tax. Please make your reservations right away so that we can be sure of our arrangements with the Baer House. We estimate you will be back home by about 4:00 p.m.

150th Anniversary of the Butterfield Mail Route

During the tour of Wilson's Creek National Battlefield, we visited the Ray House which is located on the "wire road" where the telegraph wire was strung and also on the route of the Butterfield Mail Route. One original stagecoach has rumbled into its third century of work. Its life began carrying mail from Springfield, Missouri, to Tombstone, Arizona, in 1858 and today it carries mail between students across the Midwest and Southwest.

For its 150th anniversary the stagecoach will begin its five day journey in Rutledge-Wilson Park at Springfield on Sunday, September 7th. This event is free and open to the public. Rutledge-Wilson Farm is located at 3825 West Farm Road 146. Traveling about 30 miles a day, the coach has proven itself a reliable form of transportation. It is comfortable because the traveling compartment is cradled in leather braces.

Historical Epitaphs Return To Union Cemetery

On September 12th and 13th Union Cemetery at 227 E. 28th Terr., Kansas City, Missouri, will again present "Voices from the Past" beginning at 7:00 p.m. and going every half hour until 9:30 p.m. (The 7:00 p.m. tour on Saturday is already filled.)

Guides will take visitors through the cemetery and stop at certain sites where first person accounts will be given of some of the people buried there. Reservations are requested for each tour by calling (816) 472-4990 or visiting www.uchskc.org.

While waiting for their tours, visitors will be entertained with dulcimer music. A suggested donation of \$5 will be collected at the front gate of the cemetery. Volunteers are needed for his event.

Jackson County Historical Society Celebrates 50 Years

Yes, it's true that people have been meeting off and on as the Jackson County Historical Society since the Independence Day celebration in 1909 on the shaded lawn of the John B. Wornall House, but its present incorporation took place in 1958 when the oldest structure on the Independence Square, the

1859 Jail and Marshal's Home were slated for demolition. Membership grew from 700 in 1958 to 2,351 a decade later during which time the Society acquired the Wornall House on the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Westport in 1964. The Archives and Research Library outgrew temporary quarters and in 1973 relocated to the historic Courthouse on the Independence Square. In 2003 the Society partnered with Jackson County Parks and Recreation to assume operational control of the Harry S. Truman Office and Courtroom.

A growing audience makes use of the products and services as well as sites and programs. Since 2000 the archives have about 3,500 contacts and accept more than 100 collections and donations yearly. Today the Society is moving into the 21st century with exciting technological projects that will make its collections available to a worldwide audience.

The Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri is proud to have partnered with the Jackson County Historical Society to transfer the Lewis-Gregg Cemetery to our ownership and responsibility. We appreciate the special tour that David Jackson, archivist, and Steve Noll, executive director, made available to us to see the Hudspeth Collection and tour the 1859 Jail and Marshal's Home. We enjoy the historical columns that David writes for local newspapers. The above information about the Jackson County Historical Society came from the *Examiner Weekend Edition* on August 16-17, 2008.

Battle Over The Dead

Prior to the Battle of Lexington, Missouri, there was a skirmish in the local cemetery. Re-enactors will re-create that event on September 20th from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Machpelah Cemetery. Visitors will be taken from the Battle of Lexington State Historic Site to the cemetery for the battle scenario and then surgeons in the field will tend to the wounded. Visitors will then be returned to the state historic site at 1101 Delaware, Lexington, Missouri. There is a fee.

Freedom Festival

The Freedom Festival features a re-enactment of the Battle of Osawatomie on the actual battlefield, re-enactments of incidents during the Border War, a Civil War encampment, frontier craft demonstra-

tions, and first person narratives of historical figures from Territorial Kansas and the Civil War. In addition the event at the John Brown Memorial Park at 10th and Main Streets in Osawatomie, Kansas, will have children's activities, live music, a craft fair, and food vendors. Hours are 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. on September 20, 2008.

Centralia Massacre and Battle

This is the second year that Centralia, Missouri, has commemorated the massacre and battle that took place September 27, 1864, when Confederate guerrillas under "Bloody Bill Anderson" rode into town with the intention of robbing a train on the North Missouri Railroad. After terrorizing the town and robbing a stagecoach, the raiders stopped a passenger train, robbed it and shot 22 unarmed Union soldiers and a civilian. Armed Union soldiers arrived shortly thereafter and took off after the guerrilla band, but they rode into a trap. The guerrillas ambushed the small Union force and killed 120 more Federal soldiers. Frank James rode with Anderson that day and may have been joined by Jesse James and Cole Younger. Centralia has built a small park, put up battle markers and has purchased land and erected monuments to the battlefield. The gates open at 2:00 p.m. with the historical play starting at 6:30 pm. There will be period music, Civil War period crafts, clothing, and firearms, guided wagon rides on the battlefield, food vendors, and Missouri Civil War authors. The charge is \$4 for adults and children under 12 are free.

Saturday, September 27, 2008, is also the date of "Walk Back in Time" at Mexico, Missouri which is only 15 miles away so you could visit it in the morning and Centralia in the afternoon.

Farewell To Dr. Anderson

We are sad to report that Dr. Gerald Anderson, Board Member Emeritus and one of the founders of the Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri, died on August 20, 2008, at the Missouri Veterans Home at Cameron, Missouri. The funeral was held August 25th in Independence with burial at Ft. Leavenworth with full military honors.

Dr. Anderson was 85 and had lived a full life as a veteran of World War II and the Korean Conflict.

He practiced in the field of podiatry in Independence and St. Joseph. What was most striking about Dr. Anderson was his grit and stamina to pursue a full life after having been a prisoner of war during which he was forced to bend over and work in the mines, causing a severe curvature of the spine which was treated with a heavy brace. He did not let this physical challenge keep him from pursuing his interests in history and veterans' organizations. He was a frequent spokesman at patriotic events and continued to volunteer his medical services at the Veterans Hospital and Children's Mercy Hospital. One of his favorite stories involved speaking to some children about the Civil War, and one youngster asked, "Dr. Anderson, were you in that war too?"

The Kent's Brother Versus Brother

Van Wiskur brought to the August meeting a copy of the graphic novel (comic book to some of us) called "Brother Versus Brother – Part 2". Published in 1998 this series of Civil War stories is a prequel to the Kent family that produced Clark Kent, aka Superman. In fact the cover shows a battle flag with the iconic "S" as the banner for the 5th Smallville Volunteers. This particular episode features historical figures such as Jim Lane, William Quantrill, Bill Anderson, and gives a scenario of the burning of Lawrence.

Van has been busy this summer helping the Missouri Department of Conservation to trap and relocate prairie chickens from Kansas to the Clinton, Missouri area.

Civil War Journals Of Franklin Archibald Dick

The story of Missouri during the Civil War is still being written from primary sources long buried in family files. Gari Carter has written *Troubled State* based on her great great grandfather Franklin Dick's Civil War Journals which give the inside story of St. Louis' divided and violent history during the Civil War. It is filled with intrigue and raw emotion as well as never-before-heard accounts of such major figures as Abraham Lincoln, Nathaniel Lyon, Frank and Montgomery Blair, and John C. Fremont. Dick was Missouri Assistant Adjunct General and Provost Marshall General and gives new life to the study of politics, power, and divided loyalties in the

state of Missouri. Gari Carter lives in the mountains of western North Carolina and has a website at www.garicarter.com.

Missouri's Military History In Database

John Martin brings to our attention a website that lists more than 580,000 Missourians who served in the military from the territorial era through World War I. The site is located at the following address; www.sos.mo.gov/archives/soldiers.

Burnt District Museum and Archives

Visitors are welcome at the new Burnt District Museum in the Harrisonville Library building at 400 E. Mechanic. The space once occupied by the Chamber of Commerce is now part of the Cass County Historical Society office and museum. Displays of Cass County history, including farm life, Civil War, businesses, and rural schools are being developed to interpret life through the years. Maps and dioramas are planned to help visitors visualize the stories of Cass County. Donations of photos, artifacts, diaries, books, etc. are accepted.

One of the most recent donations is a signed, framed print of artist Tom Lea's drawing for the mural painted in the Pleasant Hill Post Office entitled "Back Home, April 1865."

Dannie Moore of Raymore donated the print which depicts the devastation of Cass County as a result of Order No. 11 which forced most residents out of their homes with only the items they could carry or load on wagons. Homes, barns, field, and fences were then burned, leading to the area being known as "The Burnt District."

Two life-size artistic stand-alone figures of Cole Younger and William Quantrill help focus the story of families living in Cass County during the Civil War. These unique figures were commissioned to be done by Lee's Summit artist and re-enactor Don Hadley.

Information from the August issue of Cass County Historical Society News.

New Blog By Richard L. Stewart

Richard Stewart is the former historian at Elmwood Cemetery in Kansas City, who spoke to the Round

Table about the interesting people buried there. He has now created a blog that he hopes will breathe new life into Kansas City history which he is still discovering. He also includes a puzzle which will tax your knowledge. Please visit the website at; www.v2version2.blogspot.com.

"The Devil's Backbone" On The Web

Our member Kathleen Tuohey who is an historian and preservationist of the Pitcher Cemetery is now sharing her local history book "*The Devil's Backbone*" on the web by going to the following site, www.kc-it.com/backbone. Her son Michael has posted the book in PDF format so that you can print whatever sections you wish using Adobe Acrobat Reader.

Original Or Photocopy?

It just goes to show that you have to be careful about labeling documents "just a photocopy." On August 2nd the Associated Press ran a story about a small Civil War museum in Philadelphia which had long treated as a photo reproduction the terms of General Robert E. Lee's surrender but upon closer inspection it appears to contain actual signatures and date to 1865. Museum officials of the Civil War and Underground Railroad Museum of Philadelphia recently noticed that the indentation of pens into the paper was visible and that the ink was darker and lighter in places which is consistent with dipping the pen to get more ink.

Gateway To The Independence Square

The City Council of Independence has approved two 7-foot pillars, each topped with an iron cupola, to be placed at the corner of Truman Road and Main Street. These will be part of the new Independence Square streetscape which hopefully will include the restoration of the lawn around the old Jackson County Courthouse on the Square.

Further south on Noland Road the Independence Planning Commission gave Cargo Largo preliminary approval to construct a new facility between 31st Street and 33rd Street to consolidate its present retail location on 35th Street and other warehouse facilities. The only trouble is that the site may be on land which was part of the original Santa Fe Trail. Other locations are at Santa Fe Park and near the historic Bingham-Waggoner home

where swales can still be seen. Eric Fowler, a member of the Oregon, California Trails Association, said there should be a sign explaining the site's historical significance and perhaps an archaeological dig because many historians claim the site was a campground for Native Americans, Santa Fe traders, and immigrants.

Cemeteries In and Around Blue Springs

The Blue Springs Historical Society will have an exhibit *Cemeteries In And Around Blue Springs* running September 7th - November 16th (SUNDAYS ONLY), 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Dillingham-Lewis House Museum, 101 S. 15th Street, Blue Springs, MO. Some cemeteries are large and some are small but all tell stories about the history of eastern Jackson County. Learn where they are and the stories about some of their more notable residents.

For a donation, see the exhibit and tour the historic Dillingham-Lewis House Museum. For more information call Jacquelin Page at (816) 224-4910.

Lewis-Gregg Cemetery

Once again we thank Harry Rinacke who placed much needed gravel at the entrance to the Lewis-Gregg cemetery. Heavy rains had washed a large rut in the path and now, that has been taken care of thanks to Harry.

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.

Annual Quantrill Reunion

Harold Dellinger has announced that the annual Quantrill Reunion will be held October 11, 2008, with a bus tour to the Sni-Hills area near Oak Grove, Missouri. More details will be available at the September 10th meeting.

Lexington, Missouri Battle of the Hemp Bales September 13 - 20, 1861

This year marks the 147th anniversary of the 1861 battle in Lexington, Missouri, commonly known as The Battle of the Hemp Bales.

Following the victory at Wilson's Creek, the Confederate Missouri State Guard marched, under the command of Major General Sterling Price, on Lexington. Colonel James A. Mulligan commanded the entrenched Union garrison of about 3,500 men.

Price's men first encountered Union skirmishers on September 13th south of town and pushed them back into the fortifications. Price, having bottled the Union troops up in Lexington, decided to await his ammunition wagons, other supplies, and reinforcements before assaulting the fortifications. By the 18th, Price was ready and ordered an assault.

The Missouri State Guard moved forward amidst heavy Union artillery fire and pushed the enemy back into their inner works.

On the 19th, the Rebels consolidated their positions, kept the Yankees under heavy artillery fire and prepared for the final attack.

Early on the morning of the 20th, Price's men advanced behind mobile breastworks, made of hemp, close enough to take the Union works at the Anderson House in a final rush.

Mulligan requested surrender terms and by 2:00 p.m. his men had vacated their works and stacked their arms.

This Unionist stronghold had fallen, further bolstering southern sentiment and consolidating Confederate control in the Missouri Valley west of Arrow Rock.

Forces Engaged: Garrison (approx. 3,500) [US]; Missouri State Guard (12,000) [CS]

Estimated Casualties: 1,874 total (US 1,774; CS 100)

Source: americancivilwar.com