



The Border Star

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

• **Founded 12-9-1992**

• **Incorporated 5-12-1993**

"Studying the Border War and Beyond"

October 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

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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 916 days away, as of the date of our next Round Table meeting on September 10, 2008.

From My Bookshelf.

This month I thought I would share with you what I have been reading lately. This may seem a little pretentious but, I always find it very interesting to find out what people are reading and you never know you might discover a new book you didn't know a thing about.

As you know while I was in West Virginia I had the opportunity to visit several battlefields. The one I found very interesting, and in reality knew I had some information about it, but not a whole lot, was the Battle of Monocacy, MD. There has been very little written about this battle that occurred July 9, 1865. One author, Benjamin F. Cooling has written two books; *Jubal Early's Raid on Washington* and *The Battle of Monocacy*. The latter dealt exclusively with the battle and the former with the complete raid. Cooling presents a well researched account using many primary sources as well as the standard secondary ones. He gives the reader a well laid out and easy to follow account of the many facets of the raid. Cooling's description of the troop movements and battle results does a very good job of placing the reader in the battle and if you have been lucky enough to have walked the battlefields the account becomes all the more vivid. These are books that the civil war reader should pick up to better understand the War situation in the eastern theater during the closing months of the war.

Having said all that, what really struck me as I read these accounts was the tremendous parallel between this action and Price's Raid. Both were undertaken to relieve pressure on troops in another theater. Both held as part of their objective to collect badly need war materiel. Both ended in the ultimate defeat of the Confederate forces and marginal success. There are several more parallels that space does not permit. However, what really struck me was the similarity of the Battle of Monocacy and the Battle of the Little Blue. Both were fought at a river with a bridge being the focal point of attack. Both were fought with the Confederate side superior in numbers. Both Confederate commanders had to deal with a large wagon train. Both Union commanders saw their role as a delaying tactic. Again, there are many more parallels.

Maybe a further study of the Little Blue will shed light onto Monocacy or vice versa. Who knows? Until then all I can say is read the book and see what you think.

Mike Calvert, President
The Civil War Roundtable of Western Missouri

CWRTWMO Calendar

October, 2008 Monthly Meeting

Wednesday, October 8, 2008 – 7:00 p.m.

New Location: Villages of Jackson Creek, 3980-A S. Jackson Drive, Independence, MO. Judith Tharp: The Miller Family Cemetery in Platte County, Missouri. See article.

October 2008 Board Meeting

Wednesday, October 15, 2008 – 7:00 p.m.

Home of Beverly Shaw, 17313 E. 51 Terr. Ct., Independence, MO 64055.

Other Events

Jackson County Genealogical Society

Thursday, Oct. 2, 2008 – 7:00 p.m.

Truman/Amtrak Depot Building, 1111 W. Pacific Ave., Independence, MO. Harriet Frazier, author of “Slavery and Crime In Missouri 1773-1865.”

Tombstone Talks

Thursday, Oct. 2, 2008 – 7:00 p.m.

National Frontier Trails Museum, 318 W. Pacific, Independence, MO. Five part series on Thursdays in October by John Mark Lambertson. Advance Reservations required by calling (816) 325-7575. \$5 per lecture or \$20 for the series. “Marble Roses: Tombstone Art, Decoration and Symbolism.”

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.

Historical Tour of Grandview, Missouri

Sunday, Oct. 5, 2008 – 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Guided bus tour by Jim Beckner. Starts and ends at the Grandview Depot behind City Hall, 1001 Main Street. Cost is \$9 per person. Call Jim for reservations at (816) 322-3736.

Missouri Archaeological Society

Tuesday, Oct. 7, 2008 – 7:30 p.m.

Arthur Mag Conference Center, 425 Volker Blvd., Kansas City, MO. (Behind Midwest Research Institute). Lyle Sparkman: “Archaeology at

Pea Ridge Battlefield.” (1862 Civil War Battlefield in northwest Arkansas). Contact Mary Conrad at (913) 627-7224 or (913) 287-4405.

Underground Railroad—Eastern Branch

Wednesday, Oct. 8, 2008 – 10:00 a.m.

Thomas Garrett, Stationmaster on the Eastern Branch of the Underground Railroad. Mid-Continent Library at Grandview, 12930 Booth Lane. Age 9 and up. See article.

Friday Night Ghost Tours

Oct. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 at 7, 8, 9 & 10:00 p.m.

1859 Jail, 217 N. Main, Independence, MO

Tour of original cellblock followed by covered wagon ride with ghost stories. \$18 for adults, \$12 for children 12 and under. Prepaid reservations at 816 461-0065.

Tombstone Talks

Thursday, Oct. 9, 2008 – 7:00 p.m.

Trails Museum, 318 W. Pacific, Independence, MO. John Mark Lambertson: “Glorious Monuments: America’s Golden Age of Tombstone Art.” Cost is \$5, reservations at (816) 325-7575.

Civil War in Jackson County

Thursday, Oct. 9, 2008 – 7:00 p.m.

Midwest Genealogy Library, 3440 S. Lee’s Summit, Road, Independence, MO. Greg Higginbotham: “The War That Turned Neighbor Against Neighbor; Father Against Son.”

The Skirmish at Island Mound

Thursday, Oct. 9, 2008 – 7:00 p.m.

Bates County Museum, 802 Elks Drive, Butler, MO. Jim Denny of the Dept. of Natural Resources, will talk about Island Mound and the book he co-authored called “Civil War’s First Blood, the Border War.”

Bates County History & Skirmish at Island Mound

Sat. & Sun., Oct. 11 and 12, 2008. See article.

William Clarke Quantrill Annual Reunion

Saturday, Oct. 11, 2008 – 9:00 a.m.- 1:00 p.m. bus

tour. “Looking for Fletch Taylor’s Arm in the Sni-Hills area of eastern Jackson County.” Meet at American Legion Hall, 1209 S. Broadway, Oak Grove, MO. \$13. For reservations, call (816) 833-7715 or e-mail h.dellinger@yahoo.com. See article.

Trails West Guided Bus Tour

Saturday, Oct. 11, 2008 – 8:30 a.m.- 5:00 p.m.
Starts from 7th and Pennsylvania, Kansas City, MO
and features sites on 4 National Historic Trails.
Cost is \$45/person including lunch at Ryan's
Steakhouse. See article.

Fairview Cemetery Crawl

Saturday, Oct. 11, 2008 – 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.
Liberty, MO at Dougherty Gate to Fairview
Cemetery on Shrader Street. Tour beginning every
30 minutes. Donations accepted by Historic Liberty,
Inc. for preservation advocacy. See article.

Tombstone Dedication & Memorial Service

Sunday, Oct. 12, 2008 – 2:00 p.m.
Forest Hill Cemetery, 6901 Troost, Kansas City,
MO. Markers for Dick Yeager and Wm. McGuire.
Color guard by SCV #1920.

Frank James: Hero or Hoodlum?

Monday, Oct. 13, 2008 – 7:00 p.m.
Mid-Continent Library at Lee's Summit, 150 NW
Oldham Parkway. Spend an hour with Frank James
with details about the Civil War and his outlaw
days. Ages 8 & up.

3 Trails Historical Search Team

Tuesday, Oct. 14, 2008 – 7:00 p.m.
William Chrisman High School, 1223 N. Noland
Rd., Independence, MO. Program to be announced.

Underground Railroad

Thursday, Oct. 16, 2008 – 10:00 a.m.
Mid-Continent Library at Lone Jack, 211 N. Bynum
Road. Thomas Garrett, Stationmaster on the Eastern
Branch of the Underground Railroad. See article.

Fashionable Finales

Thursday, Oct. 16, 2008 – 7:00 p.m.
Conference Room of St. Joseph Museum, 3406
Frederick Ave., St. Joseph, MO. Suzanne Lehr:
"Fashionable Finales: Stories of St. Joseph
Mausoleums and Those Who Built Them." Free.

Tombstone Talks

Thursday, Oct. 16, 2008 – 7:00 p.m.
Trails Museum, 318 W. Pacific, Independence, MO.
John Mark Lambertson: "Chiseled History:
Curious, Informative, and Humorous Tombstone

Inscriptions." Cost is \$5. For reservations call (816)
325-7575.

Battle of Westport Visitors' Center & Museum

Saturday, Oct. 18, 2008 – 10:00 a.m. – Opening.
11:00 a.m. – Official Ceremony. Noon – Skirmish.
6601 Swope Parkway, Kansas City, MO (just inside
Swope Park).

Riverboats, Railroads, and the West

Monday, Oct. 20, 2008 – 7:00 p.m.
Mid-Continent Library at Platte City, 2702 Prairie
View Road. Dr. Christopher R. Gabel who
discusses transportation demands posed by the
American West. See article.

Mausoleums as Elegant Homes

Thursday, Oct. 23, 2008 – 7:00 p.m.
Conference Room of St. Joseph Museum, 3406
Frederick Ave. St. Joseph, MO. Dr. Brad Belk:
"Mausoleums as Elegant Homes for the Departed:
Joplin's Mt. Hope Cemetery." Free.

Tombstone Talks

Thursday, Oct. 23, 2008 – 7:00 p.m.
Trails Museum, 318 W. Pacific, Independence, MO.
John Mark Lambertson: "Gone But Not Forgotten:
Tombstones of the Famous & Infamous." Cost is
\$5. Reservations at (816) 325-7575.

Wayne City Landing Re-Dedication

Friday, October 24, 2008 – 2:00 p.m.
Expanded park at north end of River Blvd.,
Independence, MO (overlooking the Missouri
River). Crossing of 4 National Trails interpreted by
exhibits, plantings, fencing, benches, sidewalks, and
a dedication plaque.

175th Anniversary of Westport, MO

Saturday, Oct. 25, 2008 – 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Harris-Kearney House, 4000 Baltimore, Kansas
City, MO. 11:00 a.m. - Dedication of Official stop
on the Santa Fe Trail. Noon - Missouri Town
Dancers. 1:00 p.m. - Michelle Martin & Pioneer
Cooking. 2:00 p.m. - "Steptoe" Film at Westport
Library. 2:00 p.m. - Order No.11-Kelly's Westport
Inn. 3:00 p.m. - Missouri Town Dancers and Band
at Harris-Kearney House. Booths and entertainment
at Pioneer Park, Westport Road and Broadway. See
article.

Halloween Spooktacular

Saturday, Oct. 25, 2008 – 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Bingham-Waggoner Estate, 313 W. Pacific,
Independence, MO. Adult Halloween Party. Cost is
\$15 per person. Tickets at the Carriage House or
by calling (816) 461-0473. See article.

Civil War Round Table of Kansas City

Tuesday, Oct. 28, 2008 – Dinner - 6:30 p.m.
Homestead Country Club, 6510 Mission Road,
Prairie Village, KS. Cost is \$22 per person. For
reservations, call Paul Gault at (816) 741-2962.
Michael Burlingame: “Can Anything New Be Said
of Lincoln?”

Voices From Our Past

Tues., Oct. 28, 2008 and Wed., Oct. 29, 2008 – 6:00
p.m. and 7:00 p.m., St. Joseph Museum, 3406
Frederick Ave., St. Joseph, MO. Interpretive bus
tours of Mt. Mora Cemetery with refreshments and
tour of the museum. Cost is \$15 per person.
Tickets available at the St. Joseph Museum or by
calling (816) 232-8471. See article.

Tombstone Talks

Thursday, Oct. 30, 2008 – 7:00 p.m.
Trails Museum, 318 W. Pacific, Independence, MO.
John Mark Lambertson: “Pyramids, Crosses, and
Shrines: Tombstoning Around the World.” Cost is
\$5 per person. Reservations by calling (816) 325-
7575.

Midnight Cemetery Crawl

October 31, 2008 – 11:30 p.m.
Gate of Mount Mora Cemetery, 824 Mt. Mora Rd.,
St. Joseph, MO. Guided tour. \$35. Reservations
required by calling (816) 232-8471.

Judith Tharp’s Ties to Platte County

Judith Tharp has been a member of the Civil War
Round Table of Western Missouri for several years
but does not get to attend too often because of her
work schedule and the distance from her home at
Farley in Platte County, Missouri. She is a semi-
retired physician who does contract work with
various agencies and enjoys traveling in her spare
time. Judith is a descendant of the Miller Family in
Platte County whose cemetery is now located on the
property of KCI airport. She will be talking about
the Millers and the status of the cemetery. You may

also recall Judith’s by-line on the story we
published about the cannon called “Old Kickapoo.”

Congratulations to Platte County

On October 22nd at the Missouri Governor’s
Mansion, the Platte County Historical and
Genealogical Society will be honored with a
Governor’s Humanities Award for the publication
of *The History of Platte County, Missouri – A
Proud Legacy*.

The Villages of Jackson Creek

The Round Table is very appreciative of the
meeting space in the lower level of the Villages of
Jackson Creek located in the building numbered
3980A Jackson Drive. There is plenty of parking
available, and you can either take the first door to
the left after entering the building to take the stairs
down or go further down the hall to the elevator.

Jackson Drive is a fairly new street off the east end
of 39th Street in Independence. You can access 39th
Street from Highway 291 and go east past the
Independence Mall and Independence Commons
until you come to Jackson Drive. It will curve
down a hill, and the entrance to the Villages is
across from the Sonic Restaurant.

Election of Officers and Board Members

We will elect officers and board members for 2009
at our November 12th meeting. We are happy to
report that our present board is willing to serve for
another year, but we welcome some additional
board members. Nominations can be made from
the floor in November.

The present board is composed of Mike Calvert,
president; Pat Gradwohl, 1st vice president; Art
Kelley, 2nd vice president; Karen Wells, secretary;
Beverly Shaw, treasurer; and Paul Tate, historian.
Board members are Delbert and Karen Coin, Terry
McConnell, Don and Kathy Moorehead, and Steve
and Carol Olson.

Members we would like to present for board
positions are Sharon Kelley and Barbara Hughes.
Sharon helped revise our by-laws and serves as a
delegate to the Missouri/Kansas Border War
Network with her husband, Art. Barbara prepares

first person historical programs for community groups.

If you have a special interest in Civil War history that you would like to bring to our attention, the best way to do that is to work with the board or on a particular committee. Give Beverly Shaw a call to find out details about serving on the board. The board recently decided to meet bi-monthly instead of monthly, and the date is usually the Wednesday night following our regular meeting night. The next board meeting is October 15th, and anyone is welcome to attend. Beverly can give you directions to her house. Give her a call; (816) 225-7944 (cell).

Speaker's Bureau

One of the goals the Board has talked about is creating a Speaker's Bureau so that we can send representatives of the Round Table to talk to other community groups and schools. Knowing of particular interests and research activities of our own members would also help our program chairman, Pat Gradwohl, about in-house talent. In 2008 Mike Calvert has spoken to a number of groups, and with the help of other members, also created a morning's program for 4th graders. Mike has been very generous in donating his speaking fees to the Round Table.

Recently the Jackson County Genealogy Society asked if we had speakers available since they are in the process of planning programs for 2009. I know that many of you delve into the genealogy of your Civil War ancestors. If you have a special expertise in this area, please let us know if you would be willing to speak on the subject. The Jackson County Genealogy Society meets at the Truman/Amtrak station in Independence. In February and March it meets on the 1st Saturday and in April and May it meets on the 1st Thursday.

Please give Beverly Shaw a call so that she can start making a list of speakers and topics. Don't be shy about speaking to these groups; Mike will tell you that they are very appreciative and grateful for your time and interest. Call Beverly at (816) 225-7944 (cell).

Trip to Osceola

We are happy to report that 22 members and friends journeyed to Osceola, MO, by car on September

20th to enjoy a delicious meal at the Baer House and then hear Richard Sunderwirth speak about his book *The Burning of Osceola*. The dedication of the monument at the cemetery had to be postponed until October, but Richard took the group to many sites of interest, and I think everyone agreed that he has enough material for another book. The Round Table bought a copy of his book which will be available to members to read before it is archived at the Clay County Archives.

Congratulations to Karen Coin for setting up this enjoyable trip. The board will soon be thinking about where we want to go in 2009 so give Karen some hints about your interests. You can call her at (816) 246-8690.

Museum Conference in Independence

The Museum Educators' Roundtable will be holding a two-day conference in Independence on October 3rd and 4th at such venues as the National Frontier Trails Museum, the Bingham-Waggoner Estate, and the Chicago-Alton Depot. Their topic will be "Techniques of Attracting Repeat Visits by Adults, Families, and Schools." Alisha Cole of the Shawnee Indian Mission is the lead consultant and has recruited outstanding talent for the workshops. People from the Conner Prairie Living History Museum and the Virginia Association of Museums will be joined by curriculum specialists from Missouri and Kansas. Congratulations to our local museums for hosting the conference. You can see from our calendar of events that one way to get repeat business is by sponsoring interesting programs and events.

Cass County Folklife Festival

The historically-themed festival at Camp Reeder in the Harrisonville City Park will be October 3rd and 4th. Featured will be 19th century lifeways including music, dance, games, crafts, food, and a Civil War encampment and skirmish.

Special highlights will be the Friday night dance from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. with music by the Southfork String Band, and Diana Larson will teach newcomers how to do 19th century dances.

Visitors may enter the festival by catching a ferry across Lake Luna which will leave from the boat

dock near the tennis courts or they may take a shuttle to Camp Reeder.

There will be a children's petting zoo, pony rides, old-fashioned games and crafts for kids. Contests will include cow milking by political hopefuls, pie eating, cow chip tosses, and races.

Heritage crafters will demonstrate apple butter making, soap and candle making, spinning, weaving, and other folk arts. Visitors can walk through a Civil War encampment and watch as Jayhawkers and Bushwhackers skirmish in the park.

Thomas Garrett, Stationmaster

Thomas Garrett, one of Harriet Tubman's closest friends and allies, was the stationmaster on the eastern branch of the Underground Railroad. He aided more than 2,700 slaves to freedom. This bold, defiant, generous Quaker gentleman lived according to his conscience. His funeral was attended by over 1,500 black individuals, many wearing shoes he had given them. Hear his story at one of the Mid-Continent Library locations.

William Clarke Quantrill Annual Reunion October 11th

The morning bus tour from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. is sure to be a sellout at \$13 so advance reservations are strongly recommended by calling (816) 833-7715. The bus will leave from the American Legion Hall in Oak Grove, MO at 1209 S. Broadway.

Afternoon workshops and presentations will be from 2:00 – 5:00 p.m. at the Legion Hall. Topics are the "Yeager-McGuire Forum" by Jan Toms, Nancy Hitt, and Richard Youse; "Bud, Donnie and Me" by Dan Pence; "Between Two Fires: Chaos and Order #11" by Tom Rafiner; and "Alias Charley Hart: William Clarke Quantrill in Lawrence in 1860" by Charles Harris. A Quantrill Society Annual Meeting will follow at 5:00 p.m. The Awards Banquet will be held at 7:00 p.m. at the Broadway Grill next to the Legion Hall. Advance reservations for \$15 are strongly encouraged by calling (816) 833-7715. Mark Fulks, Mayor of Oak Grove will speak about "Reminiscences of Ride with the Devil." The first annual Don Hale Award will be given to Jim Beckner.

Trails West Guided Bus Tour

Ross Marshall will be guiding a bus tour for the Native Sons and Daughters of Kansas City on October 11th from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Stops will include Lewis and Clark Point, Lewis and Clark Park at Kaw Point, Town of Kansas at the foot of Main Street at the Missouri River, Westport walking tour, Alexander Majors house tour, Pioneer Crossing Park in Shawnee, Lone Elm Campground Park south of Olathe, and the Gardner Junction Park where the trails came together.

Topics will be the history of the westward movement; the routes and history of the Lewis and Clark, Santa Fe, Oregon, and California Trails; early Kansas City history and its connection to the overland trails; Russell, Majors & Waddell, freighting on the trail, Pony Express; Bleeding Kansas and the Border War; the Civil War and the Battle of Westport; and what's happening on the historic and hiking/biking trails in the Kansas City area.

The cost is \$45 per person which includes lunch at Ryan's Steakhouse, maps and handouts. Make your check payable to "Native Sons and Daughters," P. O. Box 10046, Kansas City, MO 64171. Questions can be directed to Susie Hughes at (816) 926-9397 or E-mail to phughes9@kc.rr.com. More information is at www.nsdkc.org.

Fairview Cemetery Crawl

On October 11th Historic Liberty, Inc. will be hosting a cemetery crawl with actors portraying some of Liberty's most colorful historic characters such as statesman and military hero Alexander Doniphan, Colonel Henry Routt, and Amelia Jones, who ran the A.B. Jones Distillery and was a military strategist for Union soldiers during the Civil War. The first tour will start at 5:00 p.m. with a tour beginning every 30 minutes, and the last tour will end at 7:00 p.m. There is no charge for the tours, but donations will be accepted. Find out more about Historic Liberty at www.HistoricLiberty.org.

Battleground To Be Historic Site

The Department of Natural Resources of the state of Missouri is creating a new historical site on 40 acres of land where black soldiers are believed to have engaged in their first Civil War battle. The Battle of

Island Mound is located about 8 miles southwest of Butler in Bates County, Missouri. Two battalions of the First Kansas Colored Infantry had been sent into Bates County where they were ambushed on October 29, 1862. The Department hopes to have the site open by 2011.

A two-day event at Butler, Missouri, on October 11th and 12th will conclude with a dedication and statue unveiling at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday. Speakers include Congressman Ike Skelton, Emanuel Cleaver, and sculptor Joel Randell.

Events will be held on the Butler town square, the Bates County Historical Society museum at 802 Elks Drive, and the Fairgrounds. On Saturday morning there will be a biscuits and gravy breakfast at the museum at 7:00 a.m. for a free-will offering followed by a group tour to Ft. Toothman and Island Mound by car caravan from 8:30 to 10:15 a.m. starting from the museum. Guides will be Chris Tabor and Arnold Schofield. From 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. they will present a program at the museum about Island Mound and the First Kansas Colored Volunteer Infantry. Chris will also sign his book, *The Skirmish At Island Mound*.

At 1:00 p.m. there will be a parade and family entertainment around the Square. Dr. Jimmy Johnson and comrades will present historical military scenarios of the black troops. There will be courthouse tours, Civil War re-enactors, living history demonstrations and Lindsay Stagecoach Depot tours. You can take a walking tour of the Square and learn about Butler's murals. About 6:00 p.m. there will be cannon fire and Civil War infantry drills at the museum with special guests.

On Sunday at 9:30 a.m. there will be an African-American gospel church service at the Fairgrounds followed by a free-will offering dinner at 11:00 a.m. Then at 1:30 p.m. the historical military scenarios with Dr. Jimmy Johnson will be held on the square with a color guard procession at 2:30 p.m. and the statue unveiling at 3:00 p.m.

Riverboats, Railroads and the West

On October 20th at 7:00 p.m. at the Platte City branch of Mid-Continent Library, Dr. Christopher R. Gabel will speak about the advent of steam-powered water transport which opened the plains to military and civilian development and profoundly

altered the economic patterns of the entire country. This is part of the Fort Leavenworth Speaker Series at the Platte City library. Dr. Gabel has served on the faculty of the Command and General Staff College since 1983. His publications include railroad logistics in the Civil War and a staff ride handbook for the Vicksburg campaign.

175th Anniversary of Westport, MO

On September 25th from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. you can enjoy a full day of covered wagon rides, crafters such as broom and lace makers, weavers and knitters, street re-enactments, guided walking tours, reading of "The Westport Diaries," a play called "Legends of Westport," children's craft-making activities, Missouri Town dancers and musicians, Union troop encampment, and a bluegrass concert by The Missourians at 4:00 p.m. Activities take place at the Harris-Kearney House, 4000 Baltimore, and Pioneer Park at Westport Road and Broadway in Kansas City, Missouri.

Voices From Our Past

Established in 1851, Mount Mora is one of St. Joseph's oldest continually operating cemeteries. On October 28th and 29th the gates of Mount Mora will open wide so that visitors can walk with "Mrs. Kemper" among the shadowed mausoleum. The true stories and longstanding myths of Mount Mora promises a memorable evening as guests enjoy unique architecture and hear intriguing tales of St. Joseph's former residents.

The activities begin at the St. Joseph Museums, Inc., 3406 Frederick Avenue with tours at 6:00 and 7:00 p.m. Each tour allows time to visit the museum and enjoy refreshments before boarding the bus to Mount Mora. Space is limited and pre-paid reservations are a must. Admission is \$15 and can be made by calling (816) 232-8471. Ages 14 & up.

Cemeteries In and Around Blue Springs

Through November 16th the Blue Springs Historical Society will have an exhibit about local cemeteries on Sunday afternoons only from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the Dillingham-Lewis House Museum at 101 S. 15th, Blue Springs, Missouri. 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 tales about some of their more notable residents.

Last Gunfight on the Independence Square

Congratulations to Harold Dellinger for having his article printed in the September, 2008 issue of the WindingRiver.com publication which is the first of many to review the history of the Kansas City-St. Joseph corridor and surrounding communities. Visit www.WindingRiver.com/ThisMonth.

Nomination of Lone Jack Battlefield

In an effort to help the Lone Jack Battlefield preserve what is left of its heritage, the Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri has nominated this historic place in eastern Jackson County to the 2009 Most Endangered Battlefields compiled by the Civil War Preservation Trust. You will remember that through the efforts of Tim Cox, our former president, the Little Blue Battlefield was listed on this national register of 10 most endangered Civil War battlefields.

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.

The Battle of Island Mound

The major significance of the battle was that it occurred in 1862, prior to the time President Lincoln or his Secretary of the War, Edwin Stanton, gave any authority to organize black troops into fighting units. Jim Lane mustered the First Kansas Colored after being specifically requested not to do so. The battle was featured in Harper's magazine and the New York Times and became a national symbol of the willingness of black troops to fight for the Union cause. This site in Bates County, Missouri, is therefore nationally significant and is important to Missouri and Kansas history.

Even before the Emancipation Proclamation, Captain (soon to be Colonel) James M. Williams had been forming a regiment in Kansas of former

slaves from Missouri and Arkansas. In August of 1862 these men were mustered into Kansas service as the First Kansas Colored Volunteers. The United States was unready to accept Negro troops at the time so they were not mustered into U.S. service until January 13, 1863. Despite the uncertainty of their future as a military force, they were armed with a mix of Austrian and Prussian muskets with bayonets. Their objective was to break up a guerrilla force near the Toothman homestead approximately 9 miles on the other side of the Kansas-Missouri border. John Toothman had been identified as a guerrilla and was imprisoned at Fort Lincoln, Kansas. The guerrillas and recruits had been using nearby "Hog Island" (also known as Osage Island) as a base of operations.

Finding the enemy in greater force than anticipated, the Kansas fortified the Toothman homestead using the fence rails to create breastworks. The soldiers dubbed the works "Fort Africa." While under siege the Kansans were reformed with rations, and while they were eating the guerrillas set a prairie fire south of the camp. The Kansans sent out a scouting party consisting of a Cherokee named John Six-Killer and his slaves who enlisted with him. The mounted guerrillas then appeared in force and a general melee ensued in which most of the Kansas losses occurred. However the Southern cavalry soon found themselves hemmed in by volleys from two sides and the guerrillas were forced to withdraw. Union casualties were 8 killed including John Six-Killer and 11 men wounded. Guerrilla losses are unknown although claims of up to 30 killed were made by some Kansans. The First Kansas Colored Volunteers would eventually be re-designated the 79th United State Colored Troops.

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