



The Border Star

Official Monthly Publication of the Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri
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January 2007

The Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri

2006 Officers

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The Border Star Editor

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Independence, MO 64050-2006
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Meetings

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

Visitors Always Welcome!

Annual Dues

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

For Information

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P. O. Box 3019
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Website in Progress

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 1553 days as of the date of our Round Table meeting, Wednesday, January 10, 2007.

In Memory of
Tim Cox
9-15-1956
1-14-2006

I sit here in the Christmas season, looking around and see all the signs that define the holiday in this century. All around us are trees, lighting displays, wreaths, shopping excursions, the seemingly endless bounty of food and of course Santa Claus. All of this made me pause to think about, if we had a way of traveling back to the 19th century, what would we see that was familiar and what we might see that was totally foreign to us? How was Christmas celebrated in the Civil War? So, I did a little research and came up with the following information. Space limits the ability to write about all the traditions so let's center on what has become, at least in the secular world, one of the most recognized symbols of the season - SANTA CLAUS.

This icon of Christmas was not new to the United States. Immigrants from Europe had long ago brought this idea with them to the new world. It's just that he didn't have the appearance or the universal presence we are so familiar with. We can thank the Harper's Weekly illustrator Thomas Nast for bringing to us the form we know today. It seems the editor of the magazine wanted Nast, a native of Germany, to create a "special Christmas picture" for the holiday edition. After reminiscing with his sister, a teacher, who happened to mentioned how her class enjoyed reading the poem "A Visit From Saint Nicholas" (We know it as "Twas the Night Before Christmas") Nast creates for the paper a scene of the jolly elf dressed in a Stars and Stripes outfit, looking much like we see him today, distributing gifts to soldiers in camp. Among the many vignettes soldiers are receiving filled stockings, opening packages from home and a fort in the background, firing a salute. This Santa became the standard for the image we see today. Soldier's letters home are filled with references to Santa. A soldier on picket duty writes about having the best chance to spy Santa Claus but goes on to explain that he didn't. Most probably because he was wearing his stockings and unable to pin them on the tent and how it was against regulations for guards to be out of any part of their uniform while on duty. Or a soldier while convalescing from his wounds writes to his daughter, remembering his childhood and the many pleasures of Santa Claus' yearly visit and admonishing her to enjoy those times because "they come but once." By the way Santa also visited soldiers and civilians in the South. However, as the war drug on, the ability to obtain or afford if they were available, the goods for Christmas became more and more acute. Southern mothers, in their need to explain why Santa was unable to bring presents, told their children that not even Santa Claus could run the Union blockade. Ella Thomas of Augusta, Georgia tells her children about Santa and the blockade and sends them off to bed. Later she goes to their room to find that "the trusting faith of childhood they had hung their little socks and stockings in case Santa Claus did come." One mother describes in detail Santa's route to avoid the blockade and bring presents to the children and soldiers of the South.

From my family to each of you, have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Mike Calvert, President
The Civil War Roundtable of Western Missouri

CWRTWMO Calendar

January Monthly Meeting

Wednesday, January 10th – 7:00 p.m.

Old Blake Museum – 106 E. Walnut Street, Indep., MO

Refreshments: Pat Gradwohl and Karen Wells

Program: John Martin: The Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) and Open Round Table (feel free to bring an artifact or a short Civil War tidbit).

Check with Mike Calvert before the meeting so he can allocate time. Paul Tate, Historian, will also bring some of our scrapbooks for your enjoyment.

January Board Meeting

Wednesday, January 17th – 7:00 p.m.

17313 E. 51 Terr. Court, Independence, MO

Any member is welcome to attend. Call Beverly at (816) 478-7648 for directions.

Other Events

Civil War Round Table of John Knox Village

Thursday, January 11th – 7:00 p.m.

Sun Valley Clubhouse - Craigmont and Killarney, Lee's Summit, MO. Film from the Gary Gallagher Series: Stonewall Jackson

Civil War Round Table of Kansas City

Tuesday, January 23rd – Dinner at 6:30 p.m. (\$20)

Speaker: Scott Porter on the "Battle of Camden Point." Homestead Country Club, 6510 Mission Road, Prairie Village, Kansas. Please call (816) 741-2962 for reservations.

Symphony Designers' Showhouse

Public Open House

January 27 – 28, 2007

Sat. 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. / Sun. Noon – 5:00 p.m.
829 W. 55th Street (near Loose Park), Kansas City, MO. Cost is \$5 per person. This is the pre-decorated house for which some of our members will be Docents in the spring.

Dues for 2007

The Board has voted to increase the Family dues for 2007 because of the rising costs for our basic services. If you have already paid dues, just consider it an "early bird special." Otherwise we are requesting that the Family membership increase its dues from \$22.50 to \$25. Individual dues remain at \$15 and the Subscription Only rate is \$10. One of our important services (and one of the most costly) is the printing and mailing of *The Border*

Star. We would like to try an experiment to see if you would like to receive the newsletter by E-mail. Of course this would require that you have an E-mail address and Microsoft Word or compatible word processing program. If you want to print the newsletter you would need an attached printer and ink cartridge installed. Some people would like to reduce the amount of mail that comes into their house and maybe they only want to read certain parts of the newsletter but not keep the whole thing. If you are willing to try an E-mail copy, please give Beverly Shaw your up-to-date E-mail address by addressing her at bevjoshaw@hotmail.com. We will continue to send a paper copy to your home unless you tell us by E-mail that the digital copy is enough. If you have a friend whom you would like to introduce to the Civil War Round Table and they are on the web, we could also send them a sample copy at no cost.

Please bring dues to the January 10th meeting or mail to "CWRT-WMo., P. O. Box 3019, Independence, MO 64055. We will have copies of the newly revised Bylaws to give to all dues paying members which are the same as distributed in December 2006.

Volunteer Opportunities in 2007

Program and Tour Committee: As 1st Vice President, Pat Gradwohl is working hard to engage all our programs for the entire year. The interesting programming that John Martin provided in 2006 was instrumental in keeping up our attendance and increasing our membership. Another outreach tool is our field trips – both local and out of town. We have discussed a trip to Carthage, suggested by Terry McConnell, and now is the time to set a date and make necessary contacts. Let Mike know if you would like to work on field trips by calling him at (816) 898-2603 or E-mailing him at mcaltvert@burnsmcd.com.

Auditing Committee: The Auditing Committee shall be appointed by the President and bring back a report within 45 days. It shall be composed of two members from the general membership, two members from the Lewis-Gregg Cemetery Commission and one member from the Sonny Wells Little Blue Battlefield Commission. Terry McConnell and Bob McAtee (a CPA) have volunteered from the membership. If you belong to

either “Commission” and would like to volunteer, please call or E-mail Mike Calvert.

Finance Committee: After the Auditing Committee presents its report, it will be easier for our first Finance Committee to prepare a budget to be approved by the membership. The committee needs to be appointed by the President and approved by the Board and general membership. Again, please contact Mike to volunteer for this vital part of our planning process.

Special Committees: We need a volunteer or committee to complete the National Register of Historic Places application in order to place the Little Blue Battlefield on this list. Connie Langum of Wilson’s Creek Battlefield is willing to proofread and give us pointers and we have tons of reference materials to use. Call Mike to get this process jumpstarted; we will give you the correct form and reference materials to use.

Interpretive Signs for Driving & Walking Tours: Do we want metal signs with text or kiosk signs made of Plexiglas with pictures and text? There are examples of both around the Square in Independence and there are differences in cost – none of which are cheap. Express your opinion to Mike Calvert or someone from the newly appointed Sonny Wells Commission.

Mike Calvert is working with a committee from the City of Independence which is developing a driving tour brochure for Civil War sites. They need to know how much money our group can commit so that they can try to fundraise to match that amount. The Board believes this type of commitment should come from funds earmarked in the Sonny Wells Little Blue Battlefield fund, which were collected as memorials to Sonny Wells and Tim Cox, our late Presidents. The new Sonny Wells Little Blue Battlefield Commission will be appointed in 2007. Karen Wells and her sons, Kurt and Kevin Wells, who are new members of the Round Table, are willing to serve, but they don’t want this to be a “Wells” only committee. If you are interested in projects related to signage and the driving brochure, please call or E-mail Mike Calvert.

Webmaster: Are you HTML fluent? Do you know how to speak XML? Do you dream in DreamWeaver or know that FrontPage is not page one of the newspaper? If so, we need a volunteer Webmaster who can commit to assist in creating and maintaining our website. Until now we have used a free site with limited ability. So, we are looking for a web host and a Webmaster. If you can help in this area please contact Mike Calvert.

Refreshments: We still have openings for volunteers to help Karen Wells with refreshments at upcoming meetings. Please contact Karen if you can help and please thank those who assist with this important contribution each month!

Fundraiser for Sonny Wells Little Blue Battlefield

We presently have \$5,757.42 in memorial gifts when we lost our past Presidents, Sonny Wells and Tim Cox. We invested \$4,000 in an 8 month CD which will mature in July 2007. The remaining \$1,757.42 is in a money market account with a modest rate of return but we must maintain a \$1,000 balance. The Board decided to use the remaining money market to fundraise. We have purchased 45 copies of the new paperback book put out by the State Historical Society of Missouri in Columbia called The Civil War in Missouri: Essays from the Missouri Historical Review, 1906-2006. If you are a member of the State Historical Society, you should have received a notice saying that you could purchase the book at a reduced rate. They are also allowing groups such as ours to purchase the book for resale. We are selling the book to the public for \$25.00 plus \$2.15 for shipping. However, as a benefit of membership, you can purchase the book through us for \$20.00 plus \$2.15 if you need it mailed. We will also have copies available at the regular meetings. One copy per membership unit, please. We can send a copy out immediately if you call Beverly Shaw at (816) 478-7648. Depending on how many copies we sell to members and how many to non-members, we could make between \$350 and \$400. If there are any potential new members of the Round Table, if you pay dues for 2007, you will receive the \$20.00 price.

Anniversary of Union Cemetery

Mark your calendars for June 9, 2007 at 11:00 a.m. to be present for the sesquicentennial (150th) anniversary of the founding of Union Cemetery at 227 E. 28th Terrace near Crown Center in Kansas City, MO. "Union" refers to the union of the Town of Kansas (Kansas City) and the Town of Westport.

The Anniversary Committee, of which John Martin has been serving, is looking for old photos of Union Cemetery and would like to invite descendants of those interred there to attend. Call the Sexton's Cottage at (816) 472-4990 to lend pictures or to make a reservation.

At the Christmas Party we shared with the Union Cemetery Historical Society, their president, Kevin Fewell, announced a new guided tour of military graves in honor of Sonny Wells, our late President and Founder. If you would like to join the UCHS, the dues are \$30 for a family, \$20 for an individual, and \$15 for Seniors. Mail to UCHS, 227 E. 28th Terrace, Kansas City, MO 64108-3277.

Membership in Missouri's Civil War Heritage Foundation

The Board voted to join this not-for-profit organization which acts as a clearinghouse for Civil War events in Missouri during the sesquicentennial of the Civil War. We wanted the Little Blue Battlefield to be included in literature and driving tours of Missouri.

Individuals may also join at a cost of \$25 a year which is tax-deductible. You may mail your check to MCWHF Membership Dept., 300 S. Providence Road, Columbia, MO 65203 or register on-line by visiting www.mocivilwar.org and click "Join Us." An added benefit of membership is a beautiful brass commemorative coin. Ten different coins will be minted from 2006 - 2015. The first coin in the series is "The Danville Raid."

Generous Donation to The Mainschein Book Collection

Jo Anna Dale has donated 77 Civil War books and pamphlets to the Round Table in honor of her late husband, Richard Dale. This represents their joint interest in this period of history and their various travels. We estimate the replacement value of this

collection is about \$1,300 – if you could still find all of the books in print. There are several First Editions, the oldest of which is Lloyd Lewis' Sherman: Fighting Prophet from 1932.

Art Kelley recently received a book which has been added to the Mainschein Collection called And Then There Was Me by T. Brian Hudspeth, a former English teacher, now living in Columbia, MO. It contains humorous and nostalgic stories of his family, many of which are set in Mountain View, Missouri. Thanks to Brian for the donation and to Art for the delivery.

Karen Wells has donated a beautifully bound volume called Cass County Missouri Families published in 1976 by the Cass County Historical Society. It has family histories from such areas as Harrisonville, Pleasant Hill, Raymore, Peculiar and Austin, Missouri.

News About Our Members

We want to welcome some new members and welcome back some previous members. Bill and Annette Curtis, well-known historians and researchers from Independence, have joined and said that they have been safe-keeping the tombstone of Mr. Morgan Walker of the Walker Farm in Blue Springs, MO where the James A. Lewis Elementary School is located today and are willing to transfer it to us. Visiting at the November meeting was Joanne Eakins, Independence researcher and author who was able to answer many questions about the program topic "The First Battle of Independence."

A welcome also to new members Clyde Smith from Kansas City and Kurt and Kevin Wells, sons of Karen and the late Sonny Wells. Kurt is a Civil War reenactor and a taxidermist by profession. Kevin is a reenactor and often wrangles for movie companies who need Civil War extras and horses. Kevin missed our Christmas party because he had to go look after said horse.

Welcome back to Van Wiskur who has finished his road building project in Oklahoma and was able to attend our Christmas Party. Christie Kennard has also re-joined; she's the artist who illustrates her own children's books based on historical themes which are enjoyed by adults as well as children.

We would like to extend early congratulations to Kathleen Tuohey and Janann Adams who are being honored by the Jackson County Historical Society on January 26, 2007, as Volunteers of the Year. Knowing them, it should probably be "Volunteers of the Decade."

Just so you can keep track of our peripatetic member, Jim Beckner, he has given us permission to publish his new cell phone number which is (816) 322-3736. Of course you will never know until he answers whether you caught him here in town or on some battlefield in Arkansas.

Thanks to Cindy Calvert for coordinating the refreshments at the McCoy House tour in October and donating the cider and doughnuts. Her neighbor, Brian Snyder, who owns the McCoy House wrote a letter to the Kansas City Star on December 19, 2006, decrying the loss of a Victorian home due to a fire on Pleasant Street (near where Mike and Cindy live) because it was located in the Truman Historic District which should have afforded it more protection.

Harold Dellinger now has a mail order book service called Harold's Book Store which features books on the James-Younger gang, Quantrill, and the Missouri-Kansas Civil War plus other local history topics. You can access it on the Internet by visiting www.haroldsbookstore.com or by phone at (816) 241-2482. On Saturday, December 23rd he will have books available for purchase at the Reader's Heaven Bookstore, 105 W. Lexington (south side of the Independence Square) from Noon until 4:00 p.m. Also, sign up for his free newsletter.

Don't forget to shop at the Blue and Grey Book Shoppe in the Old Blake Museum, 106 E. Walnut, Independence, MO. Betty Key and Ted Stillwell have a wonderful assortment of books and art for sale as well as educational and children's items.

Our member and past speaker, Don Hale, is also the President of the Lee's Summit Historical Society. Our Round Table has written a letter in support of their efforts to use the former City Hall in Lee's Summit as a more commodious location for their museum and adequate storage.

Subscriber, Joan Russell, has a question for you Civil War buffs. Why did the North leave only two weeks worth of food, supplies, and ammunition for the 70 men at Ft. Sumter? Could this have been bait for the South to become the aggressor and be blamed for the outbreak of the War? We will print your answers in the next newsletter. If you have such burning questions in mind, why not try to stump our experts by passing along your query to Beverly Shaw at (816) 478-7648 or via E-mail to bevjoshaw@hotmail.com.

Congratulations to Wendy Shay, Historic Preservation Manager for the City of Independence, on her marriage to Tom Garland who, by the way, is the person Tim Cox was talking with regarding the building of a covered bridge across the Little Blue River near the battle site although those funds were not approved. There is documentary evidence such a bridge existed at the time of the battle.

Member and former speaker Lee Ward has been selected to give the address at the Lee-Jackson-Maury luncheon on Saturday, January 13, 2007, at the Drum Farm Golf Club. He will be speaking on "The Funeral of Jefferson Davis." Former member Janice Toms is announcing this event for the Western District of the United Daughters of the Confederacy and other interested parties (including men and Yankees but not necessarily in that order). The price is \$17 for a beef brisket luncheon and may be reserved by sending a check to "Missouri Division UDC Western District Convention Fund," c/o Kay Woody, 405 McKendree, Odessa, MO 64076. They would like reservations no later than January 6, 2007. For reservations after this date, please call (816) 230-7656.

Metal Detecting Club

A local metal detecting club meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at William Chrisman High School, 1223 N. Noland Road, (northeast corner of Noland Road and 24 Highway) in Independence, MO. Please call Elie Solomon at (816) 523-2100 if you would like to attend and he can tell you the program topic. Metal detecting is a tool we would like to be able to use at the site of the Little Blue Battlefield.

**2006 CWRTWMO
December Christmas Luncheon**



Charles Coulter, author of
Take up the Black Man's Burden

**2006 CWRTWMO
December Christmas Luncheon**



President Mike Calvert enjoying Karen Wells' slush
while visiting with Charles McCorkendale



Harriett Lionberger and Van Wiskur
selecting a door prize



Doing what we do best – eating and talking

Save the Little BLUE Buttons

Just \$1.00 each

