



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"

April 2007

The Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri

2007 Officers

President ----- Mike Calvert
1st V.P. ----- Pat Gradwohl
2nd V.P. ----- Art Kelley
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The Border Star Editor

Dennis Myers
410 N. Cogan Lane
Independence, MO 64050-2006
(816) 769-6490

Meetings

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

Visitors Always Welcome!

Annual Dues

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

For Information

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Beverly Shaw ----- 478-7648
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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 1462 days away, as of the date of our next Round Table meeting on Wednesday, April 11, 2007.

How often have we heard people start out a joke by saying "Well, I have good news and bad news"?

Why should I stop now? Well, I have good news and bad news. I received a phone call from a friend of the Round Table last week. Connie Langum from the National Park Service at Wilson's Creek Battlefield called me and asked if I had heard the good news. I was in the dark. But I am announcing today that the Little Blue Battlefield had been named by the Civil War Preservation Trust as an "at risk" battlefield. The good news is that a national organization has recognized what we have known all along. The bad news is that the battlefield needs to be on the list.

This is a big deal. Historians always say that there were 10,000 battles during the Civil War and now The Little Blue is recognized in the top 25. Think of this the Little Blue is now being mentioned in the same circles as Cedar Creek VA, Fort Morgan AL, Gettysburg PA, Harpers Ferry WV, Iuka MS, Marietta GA, New Orleans LA, Petersburg VA and Spring Hill TN. We're in some pretty tall cotton here. This allows us to point out that our group isn't the only group that knows that we are getting ever closer to losing history that cannot be restored. We can use this listing. We need this listing. We need this listing to be able to put it in front of any organization or person that does not realize, understand or care that this battlefield is endangered and now is the time to do something.

Tim Cox tried so hard for so long to get anyone to realize the precarious position the Little Blue Battlefield is in. Now we have that recognition on a national level. We have now been given the opportunity and the tools to do great things. Let's make sure we do and let's begin at our next Round Table meeting.

If you want to know more about the listing go to the Civil War Preservation Trust web site and look for "History Under Siege".

Mike Calvert, President
The Civil War Roundtable of Western Missouri

CWRTWMO Calendar

April Monthly Meeting

Wednesday, April 11th – 7:00 p.m.

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

Refreshments: Karen Coin and Kathy Mooreland

Program: Ted Stillwell: “History of Mormons in Jackson and Clay County”

April Board Meeting

Wednesday, April 18th – 7:00 p.m.

17313 E. 51 Terr. Court, Independence, MO

Any member is welcome to attend. Call

Beverly Shaw for directions: (816) 478-7648.

Symphony Designers’ Showhouse

829 W. 55th Street, Kansas City, MO

Thursday, May 3rd from 4 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Volunteer docents in various rooms.

Call Beverly for details: (816) 478-7648

May Board Meeting

Wednesday, May 9th – 7:00 p.m.

17313 E. 51 Terr. Court, Independence, MO

**** Change in usual schedule ****

Battlefield Tours – Historic Preservation Month

Saturday, May 12th – 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

Start at the Old Blake Museum – 106 E. Walnut, Independence, MO

See article in newsletter for member prices.

See brochure for non-member prices.

Lunch & Learn, Truman Memorial Building

416 W. Maple, Independence, MO

Thursday, May 17th – Noon to 1:00 p.m.

Brown Bag / refreshments & dessert provided

Mike Calvert: “The Last Gunfight on the Independence Square.” FREE!

May Monthly Meeting

THURSDAY, May 17th – 7:00 p.m.

Truman Library

Speaker: John Dillingham – “Alexander Doniphan”

May Monthly Meeting

THURSDAY, May 17th – 7:00 p.m.

Truman Library, 500 W. U.S. 24 Hwy. Independence, Missouri. Program: John Dillingham: “Alexander Doniphan, Citizen Soldier.” Free admittance with CWRT Membership Card. No business meeting, but there will be music by John and Dianne Lehman (Pick and Hammer) in the lobby following the program.

Other Events

Bingham-Waggoner Estate

313 W. Pacific Ave., Independence, MO

April 2007 Exhibit: “Elegant Glassware of the Depression Era”

Cass County Public Library, Harrisonville

Tuesday, April 3rd – 6:30 p.m.

Donald Gilmore - “Civil War on the Missouri-Kansas Border”

Lee’s Summit Historical Society

Friday, April 6th – 6:30 p.m. Contributive Dinner.

Jim Beckner - “Civil War on the Western Border.”

Cass Browning Community Center, 111 Grand, Lee’s Summit, MO

Lone Jack Battlefield-Park Cleanup Day

Saturday, April 7th – 9:00 a.m. Lunch and T-shirts.

Sponsored by the new Lone Jack Historical Society.

125th Anniversary of Jesse James’ Death

Saturday, April 7th, at the James Farm & Museum,

21216 Jesse James Road, Kearney, MO

9:00 a.m.- Black Powder Shoot, 1:00 p.m. - Memorial

Tree Planting, 2:00 p.m. - “The Life and Times of Jesse

James” by Professor Farquar, 3:15 p.m.” - Social

Outlaws and Notorious Persons of the Missouri-

Kansas Border Area, 1860-1880.” Speakers are

free but there will be a fee to tour the James Farm.

The Westerners

Tuesday, April 10th at the Homestead Country Club

6:00 p.m. - Social. 7:00 p.m. – Dinner (\$20). Brother

John Anderson - “Life and Times of African-Americans

in the Old West.” Call (913) 268-7095

Metal Detecting Club

Tuesday, April 10th – 7:00 p.m. “Researching Places

To Metal Detect” by Les Taylor. William Chrisman

High School, 1223 N. Noland Road, Indep., MO

“Wild Bill Hickok” - Guided Bus Tour

Saturday, April 14th from 8:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.

Sponsored by the Trails Head Chapter of the Oregon-

California Trails Assn. Cost is \$45. Starts from I-35 and

Shawnee Mission Parkway. Call Jim Budde at (816)

941-0728 for details.

Elmwood Cemetery Civil War Reenactment

Sunday, April 15th. 2:00 p.m. - Tours of the grounds.

3:30 p.m. - LeCompton Players Border War

Presentation. \$10 - Adults. \$5 - Children under 12.

4900 Truman Road, Kansas City, MO

“The Quest for the Blue and Gray: Finding Johnny Reb.” Jackson County Genealogical Society, Truman/Amtrak Depot at 1111 W. Pacific, Indep., MO. Saturday, April 21st. 9:15 a.m. - “How to Find Your Confederate Ancestor” by Janice Toms. 10:30 - “Border Wars... Plus” by John Cianciolo. Marilyn at 796-3199.

“11th Annual Civil War on the Border” at the Mahaffie Stagecoach Stop & Farm. April 21 - 22. 1100 N. Kansas City Road, Olathe, KS. Kansas City Road will be closed so please park at Olathe North High School, 600 E. Prairie, and ride the Free Shuttle. Saturday – 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Sunday – 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Olathe’s 150th anniversary: (913) 971-5111.

“Spring on the Farm” - Watkins Woolen Mill, 26600 Park Road North, Lawson, MO. Saturday, April 21st. 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. 1870’s style sheep shearing, heritage cooking: (816) 580-3387.

George Caleb Bingham, His Life and Artwork From Arrow Rock to Independence.” Ted Stillwell. Sunday, April 22nd, at 3:00 p.m. Trails West Library, 11401 E. 23rd, Independence, MO

John Sellers, Civil War and Lincoln Specialist at The Library of Congress. April 23rd - Civil War Round Table of Kansas City. Dinner (\$20) - 6:30 p.m. Homestead Country Club. (816) 741-2962.

Five Day Guided Trip Along the Santa Fe Trail April 23 - 28. Friends of the National Frontier Trails Museum. Starts from Truman and Main, Independence, MO. \$795 - Double Occupancy or \$945 - Single. Call (816) 325-7575 or visit www.frontiertrailsmuseum.org.

2007 Border War Forum Thursday, April 26th, 6:30 p.m. Dinner - \$23. Jean Warren - “Women of the Border War.” For info call Alisha Cole at (913) 262-0867.

Civil War Reenactment & Living History, Clinton, MO April 28 - 29. Saturday – 10:00 a.m. - Jim Lane and Judge Dorman at Courthouse. Downtown (200 block of W. Franklin St.). 1:00 p.m. - Skirmish on Saturday and Sunday. “Between Fences,” a Smithsonian exhibit at Henry County Museum.

“Missouri Families and Order No. 11” Sunday, April 29th. 2:00 p.m. Old Courthouse of Johnson County, Missouri at Warrensburg. Tom Rafiner.

“The Military Roads in Kansas” Thursday, May 3rd. 4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Johnson County, KS Central Resources Library, 9875 W. 85th, Overland Park. Arnold Schofield speaking at Annual Meeting of the Kansas City Area Historic Trails Association.

Santa Fe Trails Association Trip to Arrow Rock, MO Saturday, May 5th. Call Craig Crease at (913) 268-5844.

Battle of Lone Jack (MO) Reenactment May 5 - 6. Military trial. Reading of Order No. 11.

It’s April...Do You Know Where Your Membership Card Is?

We have a special opportunity to present a program to the community at the Truman Library on **Thursday, May 17th**. This will replace our usual monthly meeting at the Old Blake. The program is free, but there is an admittance fee for the Truman Presidential Museum and Library. Our members will be admitted free by showing their CWRT membership card which should have been received when dues were paid for 2007. If you can’t find yours, please ask Beverly Shaw, Treasurer for a replacement card. If you have not paid dues, please do so now, or this will be your last newsletter. Dues are \$15 for individuals / \$25 for families. Mail to CWRTWMO, P. O. Box 3019, Independence, MO 64055.

The enclosed brochure is your opportunity to invite a non-member to come to the program at the Truman Library or to take a battlefield tour on May 12th. **There is a lower charge for members to take these tours. Either the morning or the afternoon tour costs \$12 for members. If you take both, the charge is only \$20.** Lunch is on your own or brown bag.

Support For Beautiful, Historic Elmwood Cemetery

Richard Stewart’s passionate advocacy for the Elmwood Cemetery at our March meeting reminded us that there are two ways we can help preserve this part of our history. One is to attend the Border Wars reenactment on April 15th and the other is to contribute to the *Set In Stone (SIS) Project* for historical and educational headstones / markers in the cemetery. Contributions may be mailed to the Elmwood Cemetery, 4900 Truman Road, Kansas City, MO 64127. Elmwood Cemetery is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization.

Lucky Mason Loved Old Cemeteries

It was because Lucky Mason so much enjoyed a program on Elmwood Cemetery given by Richard Stewart that he suggested to 1st Vice President Pat Gradwohl that we invite him to speak to the Round Table.

We lost our good friend and co-laborer Lucky Mason on March 8, 2007. Fran and her children and grandchildren write to us: "There are not enough words to express our appreciation for the outpouring of love and support during this difficult time. Your heartfelt prayers and love lifted us up, and the food, visits and cards are very much appreciated. It is these acts of kindness that show how much Lucky was loved. God bless you all as you continue your good work for the Civil War Round Table through the generous contributions made on Lucky's behalf."

Lucky had set up a cleanup day for the Lewis-Gregg Cemetery which was scheduled for March 31st but had to be postponed due to rain. Dennis Myers has agreed to lead the Lewis-Gregg Cemetery Commission, and we intend to maintain the cemetery and continue research on the burials there.

Visit To The "Dogtrot Cabin"

On Saturday, March 24th, about 16 members and friends visited the old log structure sheltered by a barn on property owned by Mr. Alan Hill on East Blue Mills Road. Mr. Curtis Walker unlocked the gate and let us climb the hill to the barn and view one of the most picturesque vistas in all of eastern Jackson County. The log structure is composed of two rooms unequal in size with a breezeway between them (thus the name "dogtrot"). Because there are no fireplaces or windows, we suspect that this was always used for agricultural purposes rather than habitation; nevertheless it is very interesting, and Annette Curtis is doing historical research to uncover more of its story. We want to thank Mr. Hill and Mr. Walker for letting us see this early structure.

Volunteer Opportunities While Having A Good Time

The Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri has two significant events in May as a part of Historic Preservation Month – our battlefield tours on May 12th and our meeting at the Truman Library on May 17th. For both of these to be a success we need participation by not only our members but by other history minded people. That is why we have included the tri-fold brochure with your newsletter so that you can invite people to these events. If need be, you can tape the

brochure, write a name and address, and put on a stamp to mail it. We have sent press releases to many newspapers and other historical groups, but our best source of publicity is YOU! If you want to call Beverly at (816) 478-7648, she will be glad to mail some brochures to your friends.

A second way we are publicizing our events is to have a table at the Mahaffie House reenactment on Saturday, April 21st, and the Lone Jack reenactment on Saturday, May 5th. We need a few volunteers to staff the table in two shifts – from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. We will be sharing space with the Civil War Shoppe operated by Karen and Kevin Wells. To volunteer for a shift, please call Beverly Shaw at (816) 478-7648.

Historical Gifts For Easter

This year for Easter treats to give to your children or grandchildren, why not take a look at all the memorabilia and games for children at the Blue and Grey Book Shoppe, 106 E. Walnut, Independence, MO. We guarantee they won't get a stomachache from consuming too much history.

Notes About Our Members

We are so glad to hear that Paul Tate is home after having surgery and is getting stronger all the time; he just can't drive for a while. Margaret Bardgett had surgery on her shoulder after a hard fall on the ice but managed to get away to Hot Springs, Ark. with her fiancé Geoffrey Sharp beforehand. We were glad to see Kathy Moorehead at our March meeting while she tries to get in shape for surgery. Joyce Morgan is now at home and is receiving hospice care and oxygen, but that does not keep her from enjoying phone calls and cards of encouragement. She's at P. O. Box 126, Kingston, MO 64650. Telephone 1-816-586-5301.

Welcome to new members Delbert and Goldie Lewis, Lee and Kathy Pickering, and Stan Wonola. John and Margaret Hunt of John Knox Village have dissolved the Civil War group there, but they hope to come to some of our meetings during the spring and summer. They thank us for our help and encouragement.

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.

CWRTWMO Photos



**Richard Stewart Speaking March 14, 2007
on the Elmwood Cemetery**

CWRTWMO Photos



Dogtrott - Smaller Room



Dogtrott - Larger Room



Dogtrott – Entryway to Room

This structure was likely in place during the Battle of the Little Blue and no matter what it was used for, possibly miniballs flew past during that battle. And, over the years, how many lives have walked through this doorway? How many men and women worked the soil all around it? How many children climbed the massive wooden beams to play? If you look closely and listen quietly, I think you can still see them working and playing and, perhaps, even hear their laughter.