



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"

May/June 2007

The Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri

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The Border Star Editor

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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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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 1399 days away, as of the date of our next regular Round Table meeting on Wednesday, June 13, 2007.

Last month, I was invited by the Jackson County Genealogy Society to speak about what the Round Table was doing and in particular the Little Blue Battlefield. I spoke for a while and during the question period I was asked the one question that is usually asked, "How much of the battlefield do you want to save?" My honest, but tongue in cheek, answer was "all of it!" I know that can't be done. It just isn't practical but just think how fantastic that would be.

Recently my job took me back to West Virginia. From the project site I was 30 minutes from Antietam, 30 minutes from Harpers Ferry, 30 minutes from Winchester and close to numerous other battle sites. Late one afternoon I took time to visit Antietam. This wasn't my first visit. I've probably been there ten times now. I always enjoy the time spent there – time to sit and look at the Dunker Church, to look across Miller's cornfield, to walk down Bloody Lane and stop to look at Antietam Creek from Burnside's Bridge are all experiences I hope each of you have the opportunity to enjoy. To actually stand in these places is one thing, but to view them relatively untouched from the day of the battle is spellbinding. To see these battlefield icons in almost the same way as the men who fought there is what I'm focusing on. I stood in Bloody Lane and in my imagination heard the foot tramp of the Federal advance. I could do this because someone was farsighted enough to set aside the land and diligent enough to make sure it remained untouched. I want to contrast this almost ideal place to study the Civil War to a battlefield a little over 100 miles away and just 30 miles from our nation's capital, Manassas. This wasn't my first visit either.

On that Friday afternoon I stood at the Stone House on the Manassas battlefield and tried to imagine the charge of the Federal troops up Henry House Hill and into the waiting arms of Thomas Jackson's troops. I say tried because my thoughts were constantly interrupted by the passing traffic. There is a stoplight at this historic intersection. Both highways carry an extraordinary amount of traffic. I drove through Chinn Ridge and peered into a grove of pine trees only to see a shopping center. Manassas battlefield sits right in the absolute middle of classic urban sprawl. The modern world is so intrusive it is hard to concentrate and study what took place there. A round of applause should be giving to the National Park Service for their diligence in preserving and interpreting what remains of the battle field.

I relate these experiences to point out the crossroads we stand at with the Little Blue Battlefield. The opportunity exists now to influence and direct what the preservation of this piece of history will be. I urge you to make your thoughts and wishes for the future of this battlefield known to your local, state and national elected officials. Can we save it all? Reality says probably not. Can we save enough as to not lose the integrity of the history? I hope so for us and for all future Civil War enthusiasts. See you on the Battlefield.

Mike Calvert, President
The Civil War Roundtable of Western Missouri

CWRTWMO Calendar

June Monthly Meeting

Wednesday, June 13th – 7:00 p.m.

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

Refreshments: Popcorn and soft drinks

Program: Movie on the History of Liberty, dedicated to Sonny Wells, to be shown outside in the courtyard (weather permitting).

June Board Meeting

Wednesday, June 20th – 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.

Other Events

Harris-Kearney Open House and Ice Cream Social

Saturday, May 19th - 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Harris-Kearney House, 4000 Baltimore, Kansas City, MO. Tour the “mansion house” with costumed guides, listen to period music, and view exhibits. Plenty of cookies and ice cream. No admission charge.

Wind the Clock Walking Tour

Saturday, May 19th – 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Free walking tour of the history of the Independence Square by Bill Curtis and Eric Fowler. Meet on south side of the Courthouse Square with comfortable walking shoes.

National Frontier Trails Program

Saturday, May 19th – 2:00 p.m.

National Frontier Trails Center, 318 W. Pacific, Indep. MO. The program is, “Who is Hiram Young, 19th Century Independence Resident” by Milton Gray, noted actor, playwright, singer and storyteller.

Admission to the museum and program is \$7.00 for adults; \$5.00 for children 6-17 years; and free for children under 6 years of age.

Trails West Library Civil War Talk

Sunday, May 20th – 3:00 p.m.

Trails West Library, 11401 E. 23rd Street, Independence, MO. “The Outlaws of The Old West” by Ted Stillwell.

50th Wedding Anniversary of Charles and Claudetta

McCorkendale - Sunday, May 20th – 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Richmond First Baptist Church, Fellowship Hall (north entrance), 306 West Main Street, Richmond, MO

See article below.

Truman Memorial Building - Lunch and Learn

Tuesday, May 22nd – Noon to 1:00 p.m.

“Historic Preservation in Independence”

Truman Memorial Building, 416 W. Maple, Independence, MO. PowerPoint presentation by Wendy Shay, Independence Historic Preservation Manager and David Jackson, Director of Jackson County Historical Society Archives. Bring a brown bag lunch. Beverages and dessert provided. Parking at the corner of Truman Road and Pleasant.

Civil War Round Table of Kansas City

Tuesday, May 22nd – Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

6510 Mission Road, Prairie Village, KS, “John Geary in Kansas” by Anthony Waskie. For reservations call Paul Gault at (816) 741-2962. Waskie founded the George Meade Society in Philadelphia. Cost is \$20.

2007 Border War Forum

Thursday, May 24th – 6:30 p.m. Dinner

6510 Mission Road, Prairie Village, KS, “Ebony Warriors March to Glory, Role of African-American Troops in the Civil War with special emphasis on Missouri and Kansas by Arnold Schofield. Call Betty Ergovich at (913) 441-6462 for reservations. Cost is \$23.

Pitcher Cemetery Walking Tour

Saturday, May 26th – 10:00 to 11:00 a.m.

Join local historian Kathleen Tuohey on a free walking tour of this famous local cemetery. Tour includes the burial site of a Revolutionary War soldier and Civil War soldiers. Blue Ridge Cut-off, just north of 40 Highway.

Trail Breakfast at Bingham-Waggoner

Saturday, June 2nd – 7:00 to 9:00 a.m.

Bingham-Waggoner Estate, 313 W. Pacific, Independence, MO

Confederate Memorial Day

Saturday, June 2nd

Location: Confederate Memorial State Park, Higginsville, MO. Ceremony at 1:00 p.m. If you have ancestors buried here and want to participate, please come by 12:15.

Wilderness Road Festival

June 1, 2, 3 – 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Noon – 6:00 p.m. on Sunday. Wild Eye Ranch near Branson, MO. Black powder shoots, Civil War Reenactors, Ozark Mountain Music and storytelling. Cost is just \$2 for adults. Additional information is available from Beverly at (816) 478-7648.

Union Cemetery's 150th Year

June 8th – 8:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Guided tours by lantern light.

June 9th – 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Civil War encampment. See article below.

Civil War Genealogy Workshop

Friday, June 8th – 8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Convention Center - Rogers, AR

“Billy Yank & Johnny Reb” and “After the Battle

Mother: Advanced Civil War Era Research” - Russell

Baker. “How Do You Join a Lineage Society?”- Glenn

and Susan Railsback. Cost is \$25. Call Beverly at (816)

478-7648 for information.

Hulston Mill Civil War Days '07

Saturday & Sunday, June 9th & 10th – Starts at 9:00 a.m.

Skirmishes for the control of the mill and cabins. Tours

of the Historic Grain Mill, Civil War lifestyle and period

sutlers. Near Highway 160 between Everton and

Greenfield. Cost is \$5 for adults and kids K-12 are free.

Truman Library - David McCullough

Wednesday, June 13th – 4:30 p.m.

Pulitzer Prize winning biographer of Harry Truman

honors the 50th Anniversary of the Truman Library.

500 W. U.S. 24 Hwy. Independence, MO.

Civil War Round Table of Kansas City

Tuesday, June 26th – 6:30 p.m. Dinner

6510 Mission Rd., Prairie Village, KS, “Redlegs” - Matt

Mathews. Call Paul Gault for reservation at (816)

741-2962. Cost is \$20.

2007 Border War Forum

Thursday, June 28th – 6:30 p.m. Dinner

6510 Mission Rd., Prairie Village, KS, Alisha Cole,

“American Indians in the Civil War.” Call Betty

Ergovich at (913) 441-6462 for reservation. Cost is \$23.

Previews of Coming Events

Battle of Carthage State Historic Site

July 7th and 8th – Civil War Encampment by the Holmes

Brigade portraying General Franz Sigel's, 3rd MO

Volunteer Infantry on July 5, 1861. The Civil War

Round Table is planning a trip to Carthage on September 15, 2007.

Bingham-Waggoner Antique and Craft Fair

July 14th – 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

313 West Pacific, Independence, MO

Waverly, Missouri's Heritage Event

July 21st and 22nd. See article below.

Battle of Athens State Historic Site

August 4th and 5th – Military drills and demonstrations of the Civil War era.

Battle of Pilot Knob Reenactment

September 22nd – 23rd – In Arcadia Valley near Ironton,

MO. Fort Davidson State Historic Site.

Civil War in the Trans-Mississippi

Nov. 16th – 17th – Clarion Hotel, Springfield, MO.

Public conference hosted by the Civil War Round Table of the Ozarks. See article below.

Civil War Battlefield Tours a Success

Thanks to the leadership of Karen Wells and the Sonny Wells Little Blue Battlefield Commission, the morning and afternoon tours on May 12, 2007 were a success. We had 42 paid admissions mainly from new people who are now members of the Round Table for the rest of 2007. Some of them may not be able to attend meetings because it would be a bit of a commute from Kentucky and Oregon, but we hope they will enjoy *The Border Star* newsletter. Thanks to Harold Dellinger's Quantrill Society newsletter, Nancy Hitt from Louisville, Kentucky was able to be with us for the tours and to do some genealogical work at the Lobb Cemetery in Blue Springs.

We would like to welcome the new members as follows: Carol Bohl (director of the Cass County Museum), Marilyn Bruner, Bob Burney, Robert and Donna Carver, Terry Chronister, Antia Crowley, Walt and Jean Goede, David Goodman, Nancy Hitt, Raymond and Phyllis Holloway, Jim Howk, John T. and Ellen Hughes, Richard and Barbara Hughes, James and Mona Jones, John Mark Lambertson (director of the National Frontier Trails Museum), Brian and Missy Lawson, Liz Murphy, Joan and Bill McDowd, Charles Owen, Jay and Jackie Roberts, Bob Steiert, Hershel and Jacque Stroud, Dave Stydyvin, and John and Princess Terryberry.

The success of the tours was because of many volunteers. Mike Calvert guided the morning tour to the Battle of the Little Blue, Jim Beckner guided the afternoon tour to the Battle of Westport, and Terry McConnell guided our able bus driver, Vince, to some streets I'm sure he had never seen before. Art and Sharon Kelley printed name badges so we could become better acquainted. Betty Key and Ted Stillwell provided a convenient place for the

tours to begin and end. New Salem Baptist Church provided a morning restroom and water break. In addition, Betty invited Don Hale to the Blue and Grey Book Shoppe for a book signing. Beverly Shaw and Pat Gradwohl worked on publicity by mailing the brochure that was prepared by Dennis Myers. Karen Wells and Kevin Wells graciously provided space at their sutler's tent for us to set up a display at the Mahaffie House and Lone Jack reenactments. Treasurer Beverly Shaw received the reservations and checked in participants. The job was made easier by the fact that everyone chose to take both the morning and afternoon tours. Thanks to everyone!

Union Cemetery 150th Anniversary And

Sonny Wells Memorial Military Trail

Join the Union Cemetery Historical Society and Kansas City Parks and Recreation with the help of numerous civic and historical organizations like the Westport Historical Society for a free family event on June 8 and 9, 2007.

On Friday evening from 8:00 – 10:00 p.m., there will be guided tours of the Union Cemetery by lantern light to gravesites of early citizens who contributed to Kansas City. Epitaphs will be read by actors portraying the individual buried at the site. Also Civil War reenactors will be setting up camp at the cemetery.

Saturday at 9:00 a.m., the Civil War encampment opens to the public. From 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. government officials and historical societies gather to give tribute to the significance of Union Cemetery. As you may know, "Union" in the name refers to the union of Kansas City and Westport for a municipal cemetery rather than "Union" in the Civil War. A time-line from Revolutionary to Vietnam wars will be represented by period dressed soldiers and others in civilian dress. You will probably meet some of our junior docents in period clothing strolling the grounds.

From 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. there will be an opportunity for grave rubbings and the unveiling of the *Sonny Wells Memorial Military Trail* with self-guided tours. The cemetery will be open from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Saturday. Union Cemetery is

located at 227 E. 28th Terr., Kansas City, MO just east of Main Street at 28th and Grand. For further information go to www.kcmo.org/parks and look under museum and attractions.

Lewis-Gregg Cemetery News

On Saturday, May 12th, the Lewis-Gregg Cemetery was host for a ceremony presented by the Sons of the Revolution and the Sons of the American Revolution. More than 20 people were present for the presentation of the colors; remarks by Mr. Kevin Lewis, President of the Kansas City Chapter of the Sons of the Revolution; Pastor Michael Smith reading the biography of Nathaniel Lewis (Revolutionary War soldier interred at the Lewis-Gregg Cemetery) and giving the benediction; laying of the wreath and flags by the Children of the Revolution; the Color Guard Salute; and the firing of muskets. Our own Bob Grover was one of those in full uniform (far left in photo below).



May 12, 2007 at the Lewis-Gregg Cemetery

Waverly, Missouri's Heritage Event

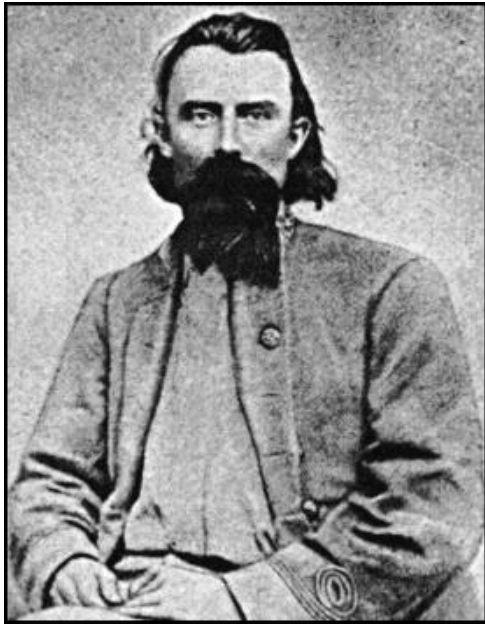
The Waverly Arts Council will celebrate Heritage Days on July 21 and 22, 2007. On Saturday there will be entertainment of the period, reenactors (military and civilian) plus events for the entire family such as performers, folk artisans, children's games, and a farmer's market. The peach growers of the area will be marketing a Peach Fest.

On Sunday there will be a reenactment of the wedding of Confederate General Joseph O. Shelby to Elizabeth Nancy Shelby (his cousin) at 2:00 p.m.

at the historic Warren House in Waverly with a reception and ball to follow.

The town of Waverly on the Missouri River will tell the story of its Civil War past. General “Jo” Shelby raised his famous Iron Brigade on the steps of the Christian Church using his own funds to outfit them and went on to demonstrate what a brilliant cavalry leader he was.

Waverly was also the site of a day-long archaeological survey on March 27th by Tim Baumann of Missouri Valley College (Marshall, MO) to search for evidence of the antebellum home built by General Shelby on Waverly’s Mount Rucker and the considerable pre-Civil War industrial facilities that made Waverly a major river port. Shelby’s home was destroyed during the War, and its exact location has been lost for many years.



Joseph O. Shelby

Joseph Orville Shelby was born in Lexington, KY in 1830 and moved to Waverly in 1852 where he established a hemp rope manufacturing business. When the Civil War began in 1861, he was reputedly the richest man in Missouri. Joining the cause of the secessionist Missouri State Guard, Shelby fought at Carthage and Wilson’s Creek in 1861, and in August 1862, he raised a cavalry regiment in Waverly for the Confederate Army. Shelby’s regiment formed the nucleus of the South’s famous Missouri Iron Brigade, which Shelby led and financed through most of the Civil

War. His exploits during and after the War are legendary. It was said that he was the best cavalry general in the South. Measured by miles traveled in the saddle, Shelby is probably the most prolific cavalry commander in American military history, and his tactics are still being studied today.

After the Civil War General Shelby became the United States Marshall for the Western District of Missouri. When he died in 1897, he was laid to rest in Forest Hill Cemetery in Kansas City, following the largest funeral procession Kansas City has ever witnessed. His stone and others surround the Confederate memorial in Forest Hill at 6901 Troost Avenue and are pictured in our *Monuments* book.

Civil War in the Trans-Mississippi

The Civil War Round Table of the Ozarks in Springfield, Missouri is hosting a public conference on the Civil War in the Trans-Mississippi, Nov. 16 and 17, 2007 at the Clarion Hotel in Springfield.

Speakers include M. Jane Johansson, author of *Peculiar Honor, The 28th Texas Cavalry*, who will be the dinner speaker on Friday evening. Others are William L. Shea, author of *Pea Ridge, Civil War Battle in the West* and William Garrett Piston, author of *Wilson’s Creek: The Second Battle of the Civil War*.

If you register by October 31st the cost is \$20 for Friday evening’s dinner and \$30 for Saturday which includes lunch or \$50 for both. After October 31st the cost is \$20 for Friday only and \$40 for Saturday only for a total of \$60 for both days. Many vendors are expected so you can browse when you are not in a session.

For information and to register, contact Steve Buffat at (417) 862-1771 or E-mail sjbuffat@sbcglobal.net.

Terror On The Border

Local historians Joanne Chiles Eakin and Annette Curtis have compiled this small book (139 pages), *Terror on the Border*, from documents originally found in the National Archives. Major John M. Laing was charged with nine counts including Cowardice, Neglect of Duty, and Conduct Unbecoming an Officer for operations before, during and after the Battle of Westport.

Laing's 15th Kansas Volunteer Cavalry apparently plundered their way north in the days preceding the Battle of Westport, seemingly avoided major participation in the Battle and retreated to Olathe to avoid confrontation at Shawnee Town.

Many of the details touched upon in the Court Martial testimony have not been previously known to modern readers. The authors have added some illustrations including a picture of the Mockbee Homestead near 78th and Holmes in Kansas City. An index has been added to the text and is very helpful.

Laing was found guilty on six charges and dismissed from the service and "forever incapacitated" from holding any military position for the United States.

The book is available from the authors and from www.haroldsbooksstore.com. We thank our member, Harold Dellinger, for providing the above review. Harold also has some other new titles: *Reunion in Death, Vol. III* includes new information on the gravesites of Quantrill's men, the James Gang and other notable Confederates. *Other Noted Guerrillas* by Larry Wood has stories of many of the guerrilla chiefs. If you contact Harold in advance, I'm sure he would be glad to bring the books to our meeting to save the cost of postage. Harold's number is (816) 241-2482 or contact him via E-mail at; info@haroldsbookstore.com.

Annette Curtis is a new member of the Civil War Round Table and we are sure would be glad to autograph a copy of *Terror on the Border* for you. Annette and Bill Curtis visited the dogtrot barn with us in eastern Jackson County and she volunteered to research the property where it stands. We now have wonderful documentation of the history of that property and it is available by contacting Beverly Shaw at (816) 478-7648. Although the Round Table is very interested in this log barn, we feel that the expense is too great for dismantling and storing it for future use. If a private donor should come along, we would be glad to put them in touch with the owner of the property, Mr. Alan Hill. Eventually the dogtrot barn and the surrounding barn will be torn down to make way for development.

50th Wedding Anniversary

Charles and Claudetta McCorkendale request the pleasure of your company on Sunday, the 20th of May, 2007, from 2:00 until 4:00 p.m. at the Richmond First Baptist Church, Fellowship Hall (north entrance), 306 West Main Street, Richmond, Missouri. Your love is a treasured gift; we request no other.

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; wcsociety@aol.com.

Do You Know These Five Civil War Personalities?

1. This officer's nickname was the "Gray Ghost"
CSA Major J. Lattimore
CSA Colonel John S. Mosby
CSA General Nathaniel B. Forrest
CSA General Robert E. Lee
2. This Union commander was "Old Brains"
USA General George McClellan
USA General William Rosecrans
USA General George Meade
USA General Henry W. Halleck
3. This master cavalryman was called the "Wizard of the Saddle"
USA General Philip Sheridan
CSA General Joseph Wheeler
CSA General Nathan Bedford Forrest
CSA General Joseph Shelby
4. This nickname was given to the Northern nurse,
Annie Etheridge
"Gentle Annie"
"Annie the Nurse"
"Gorgeous Annie"
"Angel Annie"
5. This Union commander was nicknamed "Pap,"
"Sledge of Nashville," and "Old Slow Trot"?
USA General Don Carlos Buell
USA General U. S. Grant
USA General George Thomas
USA General Sterling Price

1. Mosby, 2. Halleck, 3. Forrest, 4. Gentle Annie, 5. Thomas