



The Border Star

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

• **Founded 1992**

• **Incorporated 1994**



February 2006

The Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri

2006 Officers

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The Border Star Editor

Dennis Myers
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Independence, MO 64050-2006
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Meetings

2nd Wednesday of the month - 7:00 pm
Old Blake Museum - 106 E. Walnut
Independence, Missouri

Visitors Always Welcome!

Annual Dues

Individual ----- 15.00
Family ----- 22.50
Student (under 21) ----- 5.00
Newsletter Only (no meetings)-- 10.00

For information:

Beverly Shaw ----- 478-7648
Art Kelley ----- 373-4101

Mailing Address:

C.W.R.T. of Western Missouri
17313 E. 51st Terr. Court
Independence, MO 64055



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 1889 days as of the date of our Round Table meeting, Wednesday, February 8, 2006.

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

Substitute Elephant Tales

It is estimated that over 400 people paid last respects to Timothy A. Cox, CWRTWMO President and friend, at his visitation on January 17, 2006, at Speaks Suburban Chapel. Tim died of pancreatic cancer on Saturday, January 14, 2006 at the Independence Regional Medical Center, surrounded by family and friends. Although weak and nauseous Tim gathered strength to come to the Open Round Table meeting on January 11th and express his hopes and dreams for the Little Blue Battlefield and other projects of the Round Table.

Frank Haight, Jr. wrote a touching tribute to Tim in *The Examiner*, January 17, 2006 called "Fight For Battlefield Preservation Will Go On Despite Advocate's Death." One of Tim's last projects was the nomination of the Little Blue Battlefield to the National Register of Historic Places. Through Connie Langum of the American Battlefield Protection Program and Partners in Parks we are able to employ an intern to complete the application which should be submitted by the end of March. Beverly Shaw, treasurer, will continue the application for tax exempt status so that we will be eligible to accept grants for signage and preservation of the battlefield.

Kay Cox and children (Sara, Andrew and Tyler) would like to express their thanks for your many cards, phone calls, food, and donations in Tim's memory. A fund has been set up for education expenses of the children. Checks may be made payable to; "Furry and Smith, P.C." with the notation; "Trust Account for the benefit of Cox Education Fund."

These may be mailed to Kay Cox, 4947 S. Peck, Independence, MO 64055.

The best expression of love for Tim is your support of his goals and aspirations for the Round Table. He had engaged our speaker for February, Paul Petersen, a year ago and then Mr. Petersen was deployed to Iraq. Now back from that tour of duty, please help us welcome Mr. Petersen to the Round Table on February 8, 2006.

~Beverly Shaw, Treasurer

Calendar

February Regular Meeting

Wednesday, February 8th, 7:00 p.m.

Program: Paul Petersen, "*Quantrill of Missouri: The Making of a Guerrilla Warrior*"

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

February Board Meeting

Wednesday, February 15th, 7:00 p.m.

17313 E. 51st Terr. Court
Independence, MO

March Regular Meeting

Wednesday, March 8th, 7:00 p.m.

Program: Lee Ward, "*The Civil War and the Embalmer*"

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

New Book on Quantrill, Subject of February 8th Meeting

Paul R. Petersen of Raytown, MO, has written "*Quantrill of Missouri - The Making of a Guerrilla Warrior*." He is working on a new book called "*Quantrill in Texas - The Forgotten Campaign*." He was educated at Ottawa University and Longview Community College. His activities include the Boy Scouts of America, William Clarke Quantrill Society, James Younger Society, Sons of the American Revolution and the Marine Corps Association.

It is perhaps Mr. Petersen's military experience in the Marine Corps during Vietnam, Desert Storm, Kuwait, and Iraq that gives him a special point of view regarding Quantrill. One may draw a parallel between the guerrilla warriors of the Border Wars and the para-military warriors in Iraq today.

Refreshments for the February Meeting

Volunteers helping Karen Wells with refreshments at the February meeting are; Beverly Shaw and Pat Gradwohl. Please thank these workers for the important contribution they make at our meetings!

March Meeting

Lee Ward will speak at the March meeting and his subject will be "*The Civil War and the Embalmer*." Lee is a retired funeral director and embalmer who has spent over 45 years collecting post Civil War funeral and embalming memorabilia. He has just completed and published his first book on the Civil War, "*But God Has So Ordered It*" and is writing his second book on the Civil War and the Embalmer. Currently he is the Director of Pastoral Care with St. Mark's Catholic Church in Independence, Missouri. Please mark your calendar to attend this informative and interesting meeting!

Dues are Due!



(Graphic courtesy of the Mid-Missouri Civil War Round Table)

It's time to cash in your Defense Bonds and send dues to the CWRTWMO or this will be your last newsletter!

We collect dues on a calendar year basis so if you have not sent your check, please mail it to the treasurer, Beverly Shaw, 17313 E. 51st Terr. Court, Independence, MO 64055, or pay at the meeting. Individual - \$15, couples - \$22.50, students - \$5.

If you cannot attend meetings but would like to receive our monthly newsletter, the subscription rate is \$10 per year.

Make checks payable to Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri (CWRTWMO).

E-Mail Address?

One last reminder...To help distribute important CWRTWMO information, we would like to compile an E-mail directory of our members. This information will not be given out nor will it be sold or used for any other purpose! If you have an E-mail address, please legibly write it on a piece of paper and give to Beverly Shaw at the February meeting or send to Beverly as soon as possible.

Jesse James Documentary

February 6, 2006

On Monday, February 6, 2006, KCPT (Channel 19) will air an episode of the "American Experience" on the life of Jesse James at 8:00 p.m.

Ted Stillwell to Speak at Trails West Library

Ted Stillwell, Independence historian, artist, writer and one of our hosts at the Old Blake Museum, is giving a series of provocative monthly discussions at the Trails West Library, 11401 E. 23rd Street.

Sunday, February 19th at 3:00 p. m.

"Names and Places around Jackson County"

The history of many local streets and communities and how they got their names.

Sunday, March 19th at 3:00 p. m.

"The Persecution of Early Mormons - 1831"

What happened? Why were the Mormons run out of town and eventually expelled from Missouri?

Sunday, April 23rd at 3:00 p. m.

"The Civil War in Jackson County"

The fighting in Jackson County began with the Missouri-Kansas Border War, 6 years before the Civil War. Bushwhackers and outlaws kept it going for another 15 years following the end of the war.

Other Historical Events of Interest

The Civil War Round Table is a member of the Heritage League of Greater Kansas City. You may be interested in looking at their calendar of events to see what other groups are doing. You can go on-line at www.heritageleaguekc.org to view the calendar and supporting details. The Heritage League published the map of historic sites that we mailed to members in December.

Personal Notes

Several of our members have been under the weather and would appreciate your good thoughts.

Claudetta McCorkendale fell and broke her arm. She says it's a good thing her husband is tall because she can borrow his suits to slip on over her cast. In fact she looks *tres chic* in her tailored suit. Charles may never get it back.

Janann Adams is also not feeling well and we hope to get both of these ladies back to our meetings soon.

Ken Cavanah attended the January Open Round Table and looks good after his bout with cancer.

Mike Calvert has a new job with Burns & McDonnell Engineering and we wish him the best. Mike had some interesting old documents to show at the January meeting which came from his neighbor. We should all have such interesting neighbors.

Bea Cornish, a senior member of the DAR and UDC and a friend of many in the Round Table, has moved to John Knox Village. We need to make a correction to her new address. Bea's address should be; 1702 N.W. O'Brien Road, #313, Lee's Summit, Missouri 64081. Thanks to Jim Beckner who took time to visit her recently.

Newspaper Articles of Note From *The Kansas City Star*

The November 23, 2005 issue had an article called "*Land Seizure Planned to Finish Statue Repairs.*" Normally we are not in favor of the government seizing land, but in this case it may be warranted. You may remember from our "*Monuments*" book that the statue of Abolitionist John Brown is in need of repair. Many of us have visited the site with Sonny Wells where it stands isolated above the Quindaro Ruins in Kansas City, Kansas. Although the Wyandotte County's Unified Government owns the statue, it does not own the land on which it stands. Through condemnation the city government hopes to acquire the land from a nonprofit religious group. The City, Kansas City Kansas Community College and the Western University Association of the African Methodist Episcopal Church hope to preserve the statue as soon as possible.

That same issue had an article by Brian Burnes (office of the *Kansas City Star* in Independence, Missouri) called; "*Another KC Claim to Fame: Most Graves of Abe's Flames.*" It seems that Abe Lincoln had two girlfriends before Mary Todd who are buried in our area - Sarah Rickard Barrett in Elmwood Cemetery and Mary Owens Vineyard in Pleasant Ridge Cemetery outside Weston, Missouri.

Unfortunately both ladies rebuffed his offer of marriage and lost the opportunity to be First Lady. In 1907 Sarah entertained second thoughts: "If I'd known that he would have been president, I would have paid more attention to him," she said.

News from other Round Tables and History Groups

The Civil War Round Table of Kansas City will hear David C. Hinze, owner of Civil War Tours and author of *"The Battle of Carthage: Border War in Southwest Missouri,"* who will speak at their dinner meeting on February 28th at the Homestead County Club (price - \$20.00). His presentation on *"Artillery Hell"* will explain why artillery played such a significant role in the battle of Sharpsburg, Maryland (Battle of Antietam) and how it saved the Southerners from a stunning defeat. For information please call Paul Gault at; (816) 741-2962.

On Saturday, April 29, 2006, the Kansas City Round Table and the Monnett Fund will dedicate a cannon at Byram's Ford in Kansas City just off 63rd Street, and our Round Table has been invited to attend. More details will follow.

The Lee's Summit Historical Society had member Rick Gardner speak in October 2005 about mourning and burial customs during the 1860's. He said that black was the color of choice for mourning because it was considered inconspicuous. Women were expected to mourn in a "deep state" for one year during which time they wore a veil and limited jewelry. Very poor widows dyed their clothing black and bleached it back out following the period of mourning.

There were many superstitions associated with death and burial during the Civil War in part because the wake had to be held in the home because there were no funeral homes. The family of the deceased covered mirrors, doors and windows until after the burial. All of the clocks in the room for the wake were stopped at the hour of death.

In October 2005, the Mid-Missouri Civil War Round Table had Loren Humphrey, author of *"Johnny Come Home"* as their speaker. In this historical novel the author vividly depicts skirmishes, battles and the Palmyra Massacre.

Dr. Humphrey also describes medical care in the field and in St. Louis hospitals during the Civil War.

Dr. Humphrey's thesis is that if the Union had not won the war in Northeast Missouri, it would not have controlled the railroad west of the Mississippi and might have lost the War. How did the Union wrestle control of Northeast Missouri by the end of 1862? The confrontations pitted father against son and neighbor against neighbor. It also split the churches with a tragic impact.

The Mid-Missouri Round Table also passes along word that significant Civil War sites were damaged by hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Beauvoir House and the Jefferson Davis Presidential Library suffered heavy damage. Artifact search and recovery has begun and restoration will begin soon. For before and after pictures see www.beauvoir.org. For information on damage to Memorial Hall Confederate Museum in New Orleans, Fort Pickens in Pensacola Bay, Fort Massachusetts in Biloxi, and Fort Jefferson in Dry Tortugas, please visit; www.civilwarnews.com.

"To the courageous souldier"

Tim Cox

September 15, 1956 ~ January 14, 2006



President Tim Cox's last meeting with us on January 11, 2006 where he outlined his dreams for the future, prior to his death on January 14, 2006.