



The Border Star

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

• *Founded 1992*

• *Incorporated 1994*



March 2006

The Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri

2006 Officers

President ----- Mike Calvert
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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:

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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 1861 days as of the date of our Round Table meeting, Wednesday, March 8, 2006.

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

“...it can almost be said that the heavens are hung in black” ~A. Lincoln

I must say that the past month has felt exactly that way to me. With the passing of Tim Cox the community has lost an advocate for the preservation of our local history, the Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri has lost a leader with a vision of the direction for our group and I have lost a friend whose company I enjoyed - especially the long discussions we would have after our monthly meetings. We all have our memories of Tim and what he meant to each one of us.

As much as we will miss Tim, his passing will not be the end of what we do or believe in. To borrow again from Mr. Lincoln, the life that has been sacrificed should not have been in vain but should and will be an example and a greater good must come of it.

With that said, the following are the projects that were laid out by Tim during his last meeting with us. They are also the projects that I believe that this group must make decisions concerning their disposition. We must decide whether to continue to work on them until their completion, to find and support another advocate or just decide that they are no longer a project the group wishes to support.

The projects are:

- A. 501(c)(3) tax status
- B. National Historic Landmark designation for the Little Blue Battlefield
- C. Choose a design, identify resources and construct a monument at the Little Blue Battlefield
- D. Acquire the Lewis Gregg Cemetery
- E. Increase cooperation with the other area history groups
- F. Increase membership
- G. Continue support of the Guardians of the Little Blue Battlefield
- H. Continue to provide quality programming through speakers, field trips and member involvement
- I. Have Fun!

As you can see on the list there are some items that the decision will be very easy. But, there are items that will require many discussions and a lot of input from all members.

On a personal note I want to thank the membership for their belief in my ability to lead our group. I have two tremendously large set of shoes I must fill; Sonny Wells and Tim Cox. I cannot do this alone! I will be seeking champions for projects the group decides to continue to support. Some champions have already stepped forward. Beverly Shaw, Lucky Mason and Jim Beckner - thank you!

I look forward to this year and the many things our group will do and the many memories we will make together.

Calendar

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

March Board Meeting

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

17313 E. 51 Terr. Court

Independence, MO

April Regular Meeting

Wednesday, April 12th, 7:00 p.m.

Program: Donald L. Gilmore – author, lecturer

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

April Board Meeting

Wednesday, April 19th, 7:00 p.m.

17313 E. 51 Terr. Court

Independence, MO

February 8th Meeting

Paul R. Petersen of Raytown, MO, author of "*Quantrill of Missouri - The Making of a Guerrilla Warrior*" spoke at our February 8th meeting to a wonderful attendance of 52 people. Paul is currently working on a new book called "*Quantrill in Texas - The Forgotten Campaign*." Mr. Petersen's military experience in the Marine Corps during Vietnam, Desert Storm, Kuwait, and Iraq has given him a special point of view regarding Quantrill and the art of the ambush. One may draw a parallel between the guerrilla warriors of the Border Wars and para-military warriors in Iraq today. See photo section in this issue.

Visitors at the February meeting included officials from the Cave Spring Association in Raytown and Pamela Reichart of KCPT in Kansas City. Ms. Reichart is a Writer/Producer at the station and currently doing research for a documentary about the Missouri-Kansas "Bad Blood." As always, we welcome and gratefully thank all of our visitors and invite them to return again.

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!

Refreshments for the March Meeting

Volunteers helping Karen Wells with refreshments at the March meeting are Art and Sharon Kelly and Sandy Martin. Please thank these workers for the important contribution they make at our meetings!

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 March meeting or send to Beverly as soon as possible.

Donald Gilmore - April Meeting Speaker

Donald L. Gilmore is the former senior editor of Combat Studies Institute and the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College Press at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. He is the author of *Civil War on the Missouri-Kansas Border*, Pelican Publishing Company, 2005; *The U.S. Army Atlas of the European Theater in World War II*, ed. (New York: Barnes & Noble Publishing, 2004); *Eyewitness Vietnam: Firsthand Accounts from Operation ROLLING THUNDER to the Fall of Saigon*, Barnes and Noble, forthcoming, May 2006; "Revenge in Kansas, 1863," *History Today* (March 1993); "Total War on the Missouri Border," *Journal of the West* (July 1996), awarded that journal's "Best 'about the West Article' in 1996"; "Showdown at Northfield" and "When the James Gang Ruled the Rails," *Wild West* (August 1996, August 2000); and ten biographical essays in Jerold E. Brown, ed., *Historical Dictionary of the U.S. Army* (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 2001).

In 1998, Mr. Gilmore was a consultant for the Universal Studios motion picture *Ride With the Devil*, the subject of which was the Border War. He has been a regular contributor of book reviews in *Journal of the West*, Kansas State University. He has MA and BA degrees from the University of Missouri-Kansas City, where he was a lecturer (1981). He also has taught at Longview Community College, Lee's Summit, Missouri (1980-1984), and Avila University (2004). He received the Department of the Army Meritorious Civilian Service Medal, 2001, and Commander's Award for Civilian Service for exceptional performance, 1997. He has given speeches on the Border War to a number of organizations in Kansas and Missouri and was featured on Kansas City, Missouri, radio stations KPHN and KNHN on that subject. He is a veteran of the U.S. Army Signal Corps.

Newsletter Deadline

In order for Dennis Myers to edit and Beverly Shaw to mail the newsletter in a timely fashion, they would like to request a deadline of the Monday following the Wednesday board meeting for submission of information or articles. This would put the date around the 20th of each month. Articles of a newsy nature about members or about history topics are always welcome.

Addition To Our Archives

Mike Calvert was kind enough to make a copy of the 1936 Highway Department map of Jackson County, Missouri that he shared with us at the Open Round Table in January for us to have in our archives. We have already used this as a resource to find out which plats cover the area of the Little Blue Battlefield.

The Round Table purchased two new books for our collection which can be shared among the membership before passing them along to the Clay County Archives for safekeeping. One is the Gilmore book on the Border War between Kansas and Missouri which was reviewed briefly by Jim Beckner at the Open Round Table, and the other is the book on Quantrill written by Paul Petersen, our February speaker. If you would like to read either of these, please let Beverly Shaw know so she can put you on the list.

In Memoriam

Mrs. Berniece Martin McConnell, Terry McConnell's mother, passed away on February 4, 2006, after a long and fruitful life as a nurse and gardener extraordinaire. She often accompanied Terry to our Christmas parties and picnics. Beverly Shaw, Art Kelley, and Harlan Klukow acted as pallbearers for her funeral on February 9, 2006.

Longtime member, Carla Stoebeck, died on February 6, 2006 at the age of 66. She also was a nurse and many are alive today because of her devoted care as a neonatal nurse. Her good friend Margaret Bardgett got to know her through the Round Table and recalls her love of children. Carla donated some beautiful books on Civil War history to our collection and remained interested in our activities even though illness prevented her from attending.

Relations Jailed

The day after Paul Petersen spoke to us about William Clarke Quantrill a letter to the editor appeared in the *Kansas City Star*, written by Mark Lagergren of Kansas City, MO. His letter was a response to a previous letter about the detention of Iraqi wives, and “Would we allow this to be done here?” His premise is that it did happen in Kansas City in 1863 when Union authorities rounded up the wives and female relatives of Quantrill’s Raiders. He echoes Mr. Petersen’s opinion that the collapse of the building which killed and wounded many of the women is suspect because it was not an old building.

Mr. Petersen also made mention of an incident concerning John C. Wallace who was imprisoned in the Independence jail by Union troops and was sentenced to be hanged. According to news accounts related by Wallace’s daughter Lizzie, Quantrill’s raiders stormed the jail and “saved him from the noose.” The Wallace family escaped to Clay County during Order No. 11 and when they returned at the end of the war, they found their home had been burned to the ground. In 1887 they built a nine-room mansion at 8607 Wilson Road. In gratitude to Quantrill’s Raiders Lizzie held reunions for Confederate veterans, including Cole Younger and Frank James and their descendants, each summer from 1912 to 1929.

In an undated clipping from Tim Cox’s papers, there was an article titled “Battle Site May Be Leveled for Parking Lot.” It says that Wallace Grove was the site of a Civil War battle where Quantrill’s men ambushed federal troops traveling between Kansas City and Independence. It says that these tall oak and elm trees once shaded Quantrill’s band of Confederate guerrillas. It is one block north of 24 Highway and was to be developed into a school bus parking lot owned by B. and J. School Bus Co. Apparently the property was on the border of Independence and Kansas City and required approval by both zoning boards.

Ted Stillwell’s Programs At The Trails West Library

On Sunday, March 19th at 3:00 p.m. Ted Stillwell will be talking about “The Persecution of Early Mormons – 1831.” What happened? Why were the

Mormons run out of town and eventually expelled from Missouri? The Trails West Library is located at 11401 E. 23rd Street in Independence, Missouri.

On January 4, 2006, Brian Burnes of the *Kansas City Star* wrote an article called “1833 Lawsuit Gets Mormons’ Notice.” It involves charges brought against some city fathers of Independence for a tarring and feathering of two Mormon leaders in 1833. The *Who’s Who of Independence Leaders* included Benjamin Majors, the father of Alexander Majors of the Overland Freighting Company; Samuel Owens, the first Clerk of the Jackson County Circuit Court in 1827; Richard McCarty, one of the trustees who proposed a formal incorporation of Independence in 1832; and Richard Fristoe, who was elected to the state legislature in 1833. The lawsuit was resolved three years later in Ray County and each defendant was fined one cent.

The original lawsuit document was recovered in 2001 as part of a joint local records preservation project between Jackson County and the Missouri State Archives. This and other documents have gained the attention of the Mormon Church scholars who plan to publish the Joseph Smith Papers over a 13 year period. Gordon Madsen, an editor of the Papers considers it remarkable that the documents have survived about 170 years because of the violence of Missouri’s Civil War era when courthouses were sometimes seized and occupied by opposing troops. The first two volumes of the Joseph Smith Papers will appear in 2007.

New Books And Websites Of Interest

For those interested in the naval aspect of the Civil War, you might want to check out *Sea of Gray: The Around-the-World Odyssey of the Confederate Raider Shenandoah*, written by Tom Chaffin of Atlanta and published by Farrar, Straus and Giroux. It should be available in bookstores and is the alternate selection of the Book of the Month Club, the History Book Club, and the Military Book Club.

For those not afraid to venture over the state line, there is a concise history of the battles of the Civil War fought in Kansas from 1861-1865. It’s called *Civil War in Kansas* by Roy Bird and presents a picture of “Bleeding Kansas” which says that every two out of three adult males in Kansas served and most became casualties.

A favorite website passed along by the Sentry Civil War Round Table in Omaha, NE is The American Civil War Homepage at <http://sunsite.utk.edu/civil-war/warweb.html> . It's a compilation of web addresses for sites dealing with the Civil War developed by Dr. George Hoemann of the University of Tennessee in 1995. He continually updates the site so you can always return to find something new. Probably on that site is the address for the Civil War Preservation Trust in Washington, DC. Its address is www.civilwar.org.

If buying history books is your thing, you might be interested in the sale put on by the Friends of the Columbia, MO Public Library on March 7th and 8th from Noon to 7:00 p.m. The sale will include a silent auction for very special books. Gordon Sabel of the Mid-Missouri Civil War Round Table is cleaning out his home library. For further information you can call him at (573) 874-0432.

Treasures Of History Need New Home

The Feb. 17th issue of the *Kansas City Star* revealed the desire of the Central Plains National Archives to move from Bannister Road to a more prominent location near Union Station. This would require \$13 million in funds to rehab the old Adams Dairy building on the west edge of the Union Station property and building a new 20,000 square-foot addition. The National Archives would like to show off the 50,000 cubic feet and 170 years of what they consider their most valuable paperwork. Scholars have used the resources to write books and documentary filmmaker Ken Burns made use of the archives as did the searchers who located the Steamboat Arabia.

Order No. 11 Commemoration

The Three Trails group composed of the Cave Spring Association, the Rice-Tremonti House, and the Raytown Historical Society are planning a living history event centering on the infamous Order No. 11 in Jackson County, Missouri. The date has not been finalized but they are looking at August 19, 2006. They would like our help in creating some new displays in the glass cases inside the Cave Spring Museum, similar to what we did at the Bingham-Waggoner House. If you would like

to work on this project, please let Mike Calvert know via E-mail at mcalvert@burnsmcd.com

Memorial Gifts To The Sonny Wells Little Blue Battlefield Fund

Recent gifts were received as a memorial to Tim Cox from Charles and Claudetta McCorkendale, Vesta Frizzell, Vicki Nave, Karen and Delbert Coin, and co-workers of Tim at Assurant Employee Benefits. We thank everyone for their kind expressions of appreciation for Tim's life.

We have also received written condolences from the Civil War Round Table of St. Louis and the Civil War Round Table of the Ozarks.

Recent News About Our Members

We have a new member whose name is Judith Tharp from Farley in Platte County. Judith may not be able to come to meetings very often, but her spirit is with us. She is a doctor at the Veterans Hospital in Leavenworth, KS and has numerous history organizations to her credit. She is serving on the board of the Westport Historical Society.

Longtime members Howard and Phyllis Thompson report that Howard is receiving excellent care at the Veterans Home in Warrensburg, MO. He's only been there about a month but already they have regulated his medicine for Parkinson's disease and they see a marked improvement. Also he has had cataract surgery on both eyes and can now see to read. For those who would like to drop him a card, his address is; Howard Thompson, Veteran's Home, 1300 Veterans Road, Highland Park Wing, #208, Warrensburg, MO 64093.

Paul Tate's grandson, James Nicholson, who is the only student member of our Round Table, had surgery on the base of his skull to remove a non-cancerous growth and is now recuperating at home in Harrisonville. He had to drop out of college for a semester but plans to go back for his senior year at Rolla.

Claudetta McCorkendale had a setback when the cast was taken off her broken arm and had to spend a few days in the hospital, but she is now at home and felt well enough to come to our February meeting.

Janann Adams is also getting back to her regular routine after some illness.

Art Kelley has been suffering from an infected tooth, but we hope that has now been alleviated.

We extend our condolences to Lee Jackson who lost her sister-in-law recently.

Our thoughts are with Bob Grover, a member of our Round Table and the Sons of the American Revolution, who has had to go to Tennessee to help his daughter and son-in-law, Darrell Swank, a pathologist who was recently involved in an airplane crash in which he was critically injured. He is being treated for burns at Vanderbilt University Hospital.

Our thoughts are also with our Bates County friends who recently lost their sheriff, Sidney W. Shippy from complications of a heart and kidney transplant. He was known for being an avid outdoorsman and a Civil War re-enactor.

March Kansas City Round Table Speakers

On March 28 Mr. John Coski, Director of the Library and Historian at the Museum of the Confederacy in Richmond, VA will speak on his book *The Confederate Battle Flag: America's Most Embattled Emblem*.

This is a dinner meeting at 6:30 p. m. at the Homestead County Club, 6510 Mission Road, Prairie Village, KS.

Your check for \$20 is your reservation and may be mailed to Paul Gault, 7118 N. Congress Ave., Kansas City, MO 64152. For information call Mr. Gault at 816 741-2962.

Schedule Of Civil War Events

The reenactment of the Battle of Sand Ridge at Sikeston, MO is March 10th – 12th. Contact Rick Justice at (573) 471-2566 or E-mail Rick at his E-mail address justice_r@sbcglobal.net.

Other 2006 dates from the Missouri Civil War Reenactors (MCWRA) as a tentative schedule are as follows:

March 31-Apr. 1-2 ----- Grundy Co./Trenton, MO
April 22-23 ----- Mahaffie Station, Olathe, KS
May 19-21 ----- Jefferson City, MO
June 24-25 ----- Cole Camp, MO
Oct. 6-8 ----- Cass County Living History Festival
Harrisonville, MO
Oct. 15-16 ----- Palmyra, MO
Date to be determined ----- Kimmswick, MO

For further information contact Missouri Civil War Reenactors Assoc., P. O. Box 1229, Independence, MO 64050.

Rededication Of Nathaniel Lewis Grave

Mark Wealand has informed us that the rededication of the Revolutionary War grave of Nathaniel Lewis in the Lewis-Gregg Cemetery is planned for September 17th, weather permitting. This is the family cemetery that several of our board members visited recently to gauge our interest in taking over the preservation of this site from the Jackson County Historical Society. It is located in an open field on land owned by St. Joseph, the Worker Catholic Church off Blue Mills Road.

The Lewis descendants who have cared for the cemetery so lovingly for many years were recently honored by the Harry S. Truman Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution. Goldie Lewis received the Martha Washington Award and pin, and Delbert Lewis received the Bronze Good Citizen Award and pin.

Change Of Address And Stationery

The Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri now has an address of its own. It is P. O. Box 3019, Independence, MO 64055. Beverly Shaw and Terry McConnell will be picking up our mail at the Truman Station in Independence. We also have stationery with this address and our logo and have it available for official correspondence. At the February board meeting it was decided to incorporate into our by-laws a system whereby all correspondence is approved by the President.

Fieldtrips For Round Table Members And Friends

The board would like your input on possible local fieldtrips and daytrips out of town. We might want to conduct a trip to Cole Camp for the reenactment in June since we visited the battle sites in 2005. Terry McConnell has loaned us a copy of his book on the Battle of Carthage which includes a detailed driving tour. This might also be done in one day. The original battle was fought July 5, 1861.

A movie that Tim was interested in ("C. S. A.") has finally been booked at a local theater starting February 24th.

The locally made "mockumentary" about what our lives would be like if the South had won the Civil War will be showing at the Screenland Theater at 1656 Washington, Kansas City, MO for several weeks depending on the response. The admission is \$6 for seniors and students and \$8 for others. "Confederate States of America" was written and directed by Kevin Willmot from KU. It will probably be showing just on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, but we will have to find out the times. Maybe we could see it in the daytime and go eat afterwards and talk about it.

Corinthian Hall (the original Kansas City Museum on Gladstone Boulevard) has a show called "Bold Improvisation: 120 Years of African-American Quilts" which is on until April 2, 2006. In March they will offer a series of Gallery Talks on Sundays at 2:00 p. m. as follows: March 5th - Quilt historian Barbara Brackman talks about the Underground Railroad and quilts; March 19th - Textile artist Sonie Ruffin presents "The Journey" on blending African print with American print; March 26th - Collector Scott Heffley discusses the significance of these quilts and the process of collecting. The suggested donation is \$2 for senior adults and children and \$2.50 for others. Maybe a group of us could carpool from Highway 291 and 24 Highway to go to the Northeast area of Kansas City for this exhibit.

News from other Round Tables and History Groups

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.

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. A secondary purpose is to collect and disseminate genealogical information about Quantrill, his men and their descendants. For more information, please visit the WCQ Society website at www.geocities.com/quantrillsoc or E-mail; wcqsociety@aol.com.

Meeting Site

The Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri meets at the Old Blake Museum, 106 E. Walnut Street, Independence, Missouri (northeast corner of Walnut and Main). Parking for the meeting is any street parking nearby and a few spaces across the street at the Plasterers' Union building, 301 S. Main. Please do not use any other private parking.

Battle of Westport

Orvis Fitts will be speaking on the Battle of Westport on Wednesday, March 8, 2006, 1:00 p.m. at the Truman Memorial Building in Independence, Missouri.

Save the Little BLUE Buttons

Just \$1.00 each



> **Highlights From The February Meeting**

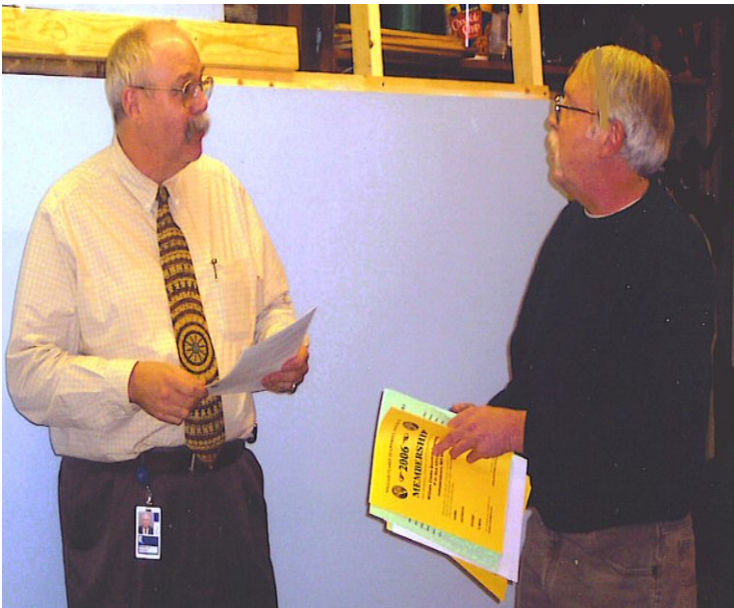
Highlights From The February Meeting <



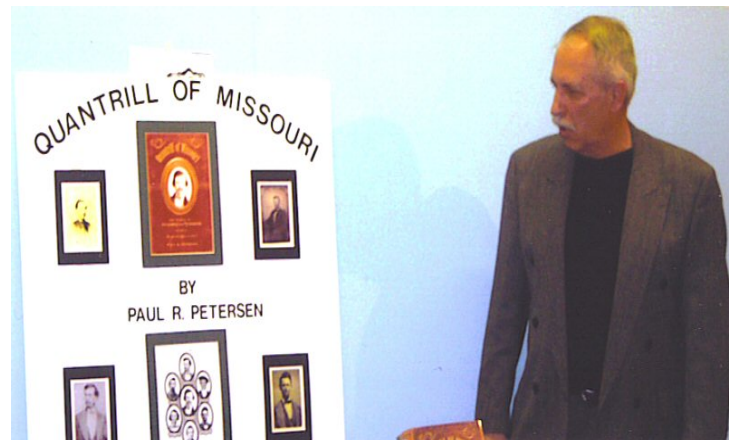
Pamela Reichart of KCPT discussed a new documentary from KCPT, “Bad Blood”



Mike Calvert presenting Ted Stillwell and Betty Key Honorary Membership Certificates



Mike Calvert and Harold Dillinger Speaking about the Quantrill Society



Guest Speaker, Paul Petersen, author of “Quantrill of Missouri”