



The Border Star

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

• **Founded 1992**

• **Incorporated 1994**



April 2006

The Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri

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The Border Star Editor

Dennis Myers
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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

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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 1826 days as of the date of our Round Table meeting, Wednesday, April 12, 2006.

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

During the last month I have been doing some traveling which has allowed me to spend some time with my new colleagues. While we traveled down the highways of Virginia we passed many (and I do mean *many*) signs announcing the Civil War sites available for us to stop and explore. And, as we spent time in the car, Civil War talk became our interest. It didn't take long until, given the setting of Virginia, one co-worker mentioned that he lived on a battlefield in Raytown. Of course that opened the door for me to start talking about Missouri and the War. We carried on quite a conversation about all aspects of the War. Things like the cause, battle tactics, battles fought in Missouri, ancestors who fought and, of course, Order Number 11. Back at the office a few days later, I was having a conversation with another co-worker and again our discussion turned to the War. Repeating much of the same information, we talked about the magnitude of the War and its effects on the country around us and how one could go and stand on the actual site of the event.

Both of these conversations brought out what many of us already know. People in our area are unaware of the vast richness of the Civil War history that surrounds them. Most will know something about the Civil War. But more than likely what they know will center on the battles fought in the East and the famous names that are forever connected to them. I was surprise that the one colleague actually knew the name of the battle where he resides. What does this mean to the Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri?

First, it should tell us that we have a vast first time audience for our stories of the battles and the people who fought them. We have a large amount of resource material that needs to be shared. It tells us how poorly the Civil War sites are marked for the general public. Missouri ranks third to Tennessee and Virginia for the number of battle sites. We do such an inadequate job of marking where those sites are that travelers in our state have no way of knowing how important Missouri was during the War. On the other hand, maybe we, as the guardians of the stories, don't take every opportunity available to spread the word. History isn't always a subject that comes up in everyday conversation and we do run the risk of getting those looks that say "There he goes, off on another of those stories about dead people and open fields."

Always share and tell what you know about the history of the Civil War. The result might just surprise you

FYI: The second colleague I spoke with visited the Lone Jack battle site the next weekend. Did I create a new Civil War buff or a Round Table member? I don't know but just maybe...

Mike Calvert, President
 Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri

CWRTWMO Calendar

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

Tour of Lone Jack Museum and Noel Ranch

Saturday, April 22nd

Meet at the museum at 10:00 a.m. and carpool to the ranch at 11:00 a. m. Rain date is May 13th.

May Regular Meeting

Wednesday, May 10th, 7:00 p.m.

Program: Ted Stillwell, "The Neighborhood We Live In"
Old Blake Museum – 106 E. Walnut Street
Independence, MO

May Board Meeting

Wednesday, May 17th, 7:00 p.m.

17313 E. 51 Terr. Court
Independence, MO

Calendar of Other Events

April 1st - Bus tour sponsored by Trails Head Chapter. Cost \$45. Call Jim Budde at (816) 941-0728. Kansas Territory and Border War. Minneola and Ottawa Mission.

April – Month-long Special Exhibit at the Bingham-Waggoner Estate. Pottery and Glass from the 40s, 50s, and 60s.

April 7th - Lee's Summit Historical Society, 6:30 p. m. Potluck Dinner at Cass Browning Center, 111 Grand. Tim Hagerbaumer of Liberty, MO to speak on "The Youngers of Jackson County - More Than Just Bank Robbers."

April 11th - Cass County Civil War Roundtable, 7:00 p.m. at Pearson Hall, 400 E. Mechanic, Harrisonville. Kendall Gott discusses his research into the Battle of Fort Henry and Fort Donnelson.

April 12th - Sermon History Series at Truman Memorial Building, 416 W. Maple, Independence, 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. "Josephine Clay: Pioneer Horsewoman of the Bluegrass" by Henry Clay Simpson, Jr.

April 25th - Civil War Round Table of Kansas City, 6:30 p. m. Dinner is \$20 each to Paul Gault, 7118 N. Congress Ave., Kansas City, MO. 64152. Dr. Loren Humphrey to speak on "The Civil War in Northeast Missouri." Meeting held at Homestead Country Club.

April 29th - Dedication of Napoleon Cannon at Byram's Ford, 10:00 a.m. Guided tours at 11:30 a.m. Dedication at the Big Blue Battlefield, 4800 E. 63rd St., Kansas City.

Information from the March/April AAA Midwest Traveler Magazine

- Civil War Encampment (April 8-9), Fort Scott National Historic Site. Call (620) 223-0310 or visit the website www.nps.gov/fosc
- Civil War on the Border (April 22-23), 10th Annual Civil War re-enactment at the Mahaffie Stagecoach Stop, Olathe, KS. Call (913) 971-5111 or visit the website at www.olatheks.org/visitors/mahaffie
- Pottawatomie Massacre Day (May 20), Lane Fairgrounds near Ottawa. Call (785) 242-1411 or visit www.visitottawakansas.com
- Marais des Cygnes Massacre Commemoration (May 20) at the Mine Creek Battlefield State Historic Site. Call (913) 352-8890
- Territory Days (June 24-25). Celebrate Lecompton's past. Call (785) 887-6148
- Battles and Trails (August 6). Civil War memorabilia on display, Old Jefferson Town Oskaloosa. Call (785) 246-3236 or (800) 896-3198 or www.visitjeffcounty.com
- Civil War on the Western Frontier (August 13-21). Lawrence Territorial Days - Civil War tours, lectures and re-enactments. Call (888) 529-5267 or www.visitlawrence.com

Refreshments for the April Meeting

Volunteers helping Karen Wells with refreshments at the April meeting are Claudine Herbert and Lee Jackson Please thank all of these workers for the important contribution they make at our meetings!

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; *The U.S. Army Atlas of the European Theater in World War II*, ed. (New York: Barnes & Noble Publishing); *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* (Greenwood Press).

In 1998, Mr. Gilmore was a consultant for the Universal Studios motion picture *Ride With the Devil*. 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. He also has taught at Longview Community College, Lee's Summit, Missouri and Avila University. He received the Department of the Army Meritorious Civilian Service Medal and Commander's Award for Civilian Service for exceptional performance. He has given speeches on the Border War to a number of organizations in Kansas and Missouri and was featured on Kansas City radio stations KPHN and KNHN.

Mr. Gilmore's talk for the April 12th meeting will be titled, "The Border War: Lawlessness and Treason in Territorial Kansas."

We've all heard the histories pillory the so-called "Border Ruffians." Mr. Gilmore will give us a respite, recounting the missteps of Kansas abolitionists during the period 1854-1865, when John Brown committed his atrocities along Pottawatomie Creek. Kansas "guerrillas"- we seldom hear about them - destroyed a number of proslavery defensive settlements around Lawrence, Kansas, Franklin, Fort Saunders, Georgia Fort, and Fort Titus. Abolitionists formed their own army, the "Lawrence Legion" and a number of abolitionist

leaders were indicted for treason. This is followed by a detailed account of the astonishing, treasonous attempt by over twenty Kansans to break John Brown out of jail after Harper's Ferry, ignored by historians but detailed at length in one of the Kansas Historical Society's volumes on Kansas history.

May Meeting

Our speaker for the May meeting will be Ted Stillwell. His subject will be "The Neighborhood We Live In."

I guess you could say writer – Ted W. Stillwell – is just an old burnt-out hippy, rock and roll disc jockey. After many years of spinning records on the radio, the music and the teenyboppers finally got to him, so he switched gears and began reading, writing, and gathering news on the radio instead of music. Apparently, it was meant to be. In 1974, while working in the news media, his assignment was the well-known artist - Thomas Hart Benton.

Benton was in the process of painting a mural for the Joplin, Missouri Centennial. His mural told the story of the mining town at the turn of the Twentieth Century. Being an artist himself, this assignment impacted Stillwell's life tremendously. Since then, he has spent much of his life as a storyteller, both in his writing and his artwork. The obvious Benton influence in Stillwell's work has opened many doors for him as an artist.

Born and raised in Eastern Jackson County, Missouri – with studio's on the Independence Square – Columnist and artist Ted W. Stillwell has spent many years exploring the fascinating history of the Civil War locally, the Overland Trail Days, and the Opening of the West (from this little nineteenth century frontier outpost of Independence).

His love of history and his passion for storytelling, combined with his artwork, and writing abilities – all come together every Wednesday in The Examiner. Stillwell writes and illustrates – "Portraits of the Past" – a newspaper column about the history and folklore of Eastern Jackson county and the State of Missouri.

About Our Members

We wish a speedy recovery to board member Lee Jackson who had heart surgery in March and is now recuperating at home.

We send our condolences to Robert Grover and his family for the death of his son-in-law in Tennessee after a plane crash. Bob is very active with the Sons of the American Revolution and is interested in the Lewis-Gregg Cemetery.

Field Trip to Lone Jack, Missouri

On Saturday, April 22, 2006, we have an invitation to explore the Jackson County Ranch associated with Russell, Majors, and Waddell which is presently owned by James Noel.

Mr. Noel has recently moved to John Knox Village, but through our board member, Karen Coin, he invited our group to come look at this interesting old property which has wagon swales and sites where troops rested before the Battle of Lone Jack.

It is located near Buckner-Tarsney Road, but we would like to meet first at the Lone Jack Museum at 10:00 a.m. to carpool to the ranch at 11:00 a.m. If it's rainy weather or Mr. Noel is not up to it on April 22nd, we will postpone to May 13th. You may call Beverly Shaw at (816) 478-7648 to confirm the trip. If you have not visited the Lone Jack Museum in a while, you will probably want to look at their newly designed exhibits. This is the only museum dedicated solely to the Civil War in the Kansas City area.

Just a little background to the Battle of Lone Jack: the first act of war against the United States in western Missouri occurred April 20, 1861, when some 200 men crossed the Missouri River, stormed the federal arsenal at Liberty and distributed the captured arms among Confederate troops. This led to the occupation of Jackson County by Union forces. Skirmishes were common between them and Confederate units roaming the state.

The first major Confederate attack was on August 11, 1862, when Col. Upton Hays and his men captured Independence and its Union garrison. Some days later, Union troops were sent to Lone Jack to hamper rebel recruiting efforts. The

Confederates attacked the morning of Aug. 16, 1862. Lone Jack is considered among the bloodiest of Missouri battles. The Battle of Lone Jack was only one of some 400 engagements across the state, and that's just the ones recorded. The State of Missouri maintains three Civil War sites: Battle of Lexington State Park, Battle of Athens, and Fort Davidson State Historic Site in Pilot Knob, Missouri. Wilson's Creek near Springfield is a National Battlefield Park.

The Noel family also has a tie to Independence, Missouri. The Noel House, located at 409 North Pleasant, is a large frame Queen Anne Home built by Col. William F. Hearne about 1890. The Noel family retained control of this property until 1998 when it was donated to Preservation Renaissance Inc., of Independence for resale with preservation covenants. The property was totally rehabilitated in 1999-2001 by the present owners.

Dedication of Cannon at Byram's Ford

The Board and Members of the Monnett Battle of Westport Fund and the Kansas City Parks and Recreation Department invite you to the dedication of the Napoleon Cannon on the Big Blue Battlefield, 4800 E. 63rd Street, on Saturday, April 29, 2006. There will be guided tours of the battlefield at 10:00 a.m. and the dedication ceremony will take place at 11:30 a.m. Those who would like to attend the luncheon following the dedication are requested to contact the Monnett Fund by April 15th to make reservations. The cost is \$12 per person and will be served by the Fund at the battlefield site. Call (816) 561-1821 at the Westport Historical Society office or send an E-mail to battleofwestport1864.com.

Bus Tour to First Capital of Kansas

The Trails Head Chapter of the Oregon-California Trails Association is sponsoring a bus tour on April 1, 2006, to highlight 150 years of Kansas history. History buffs will explore the state's abolitionist past and friction between pro- and anti-slavery forces. They will visit the first capital of Kansas at Minneola, the Old Depot Museum and the Ottawa Mission. Reservations are \$45 per person and include transportation, lunch, snacks, and handouts. Call Jim Budde at (816) 941-0728.

Restoration on Pharis Farm

The Clay County Museum and Historical Society updates us that work is continuing on the Pharis Farm, according to Pat Thomas, director of Clay County Parks, Recreation and Historic Sites. The back room of the house, which was not part of the original structure, was removed. Exterior doors were removed to strip and repaint and then re-hung.

The new Friends of the Pharis Farm group is looking for people interested in the preservation and restoration of this wonderful antebellum home. For information call Linda Schwegel at (816) 792-1116.

Civil War Round Table at John Knox Village

A new chapter has been formed by the Hunts at John Knox Village. They are meeting at the Sun Valley Clubhouse in Lee's Summit. See the *John Knox Village Voice* for details or call (816) 524-6457 for additional information.

City of Independence Honored

Brian Burnes of the *Kansas City Star* reported that Independence was one of 18 cities designated by first lady Laura Bush as "Preserve America" communities and was the only Missouri city to receive this award. Preserve America is a White House initiative that encourages community efforts to preserve the country's cultural heritage. U. S. Rep. Emanuel Cleaver said in a statement, "The point of historic preservation is not just to keep monuments of the past around, it is to enjoy and pass on our shared story to our children."

As a part of historic preservation month coming in May, 2006, the Independence Heritage Commission sought nominations for the Hickman Preservation Awards. The Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri nominated The Old Blake Museum as an outstanding example of preservation, restoration, and rehabilitation of an historic building. We also nominated Tim Cox, our late President, for a posthumous award for individual achievement in historical preservation for his work with the Round Table, the Guardians of the Little Blue, and adult education at the Blue River Community College and the Liberty School District. Vicki Nave is president of the Heritage Commission and reminds us that nominations are on-line at the City website,

www.independencemo.org/comdev/historicPreservation.stm.

Battlefield Sites in Danger

On February 28, 2006, the Civil War Preservation Trust unveiled its most endangered battlefields report. High on the list is Gettysburg, PA, the site of the largest and most costly battle ever fought in the Americas. Although the park is the most visited battlefield in the country and is the cornerstone of the local economy, it is threatened by a proposal to build a massive, 3,000-slot gaming facility. If approved, the casino would be located just one mile from East Cavalry Field. For a complete list of the sites, please visit www.civilwar.org.

Closer to home, the Associated Press published an article February 19, 2006, that said a group of battlefield enthusiasts plans to purchase some of the land on which Union soldiers clashed with Missouri's pro-Confederate governor and militia on July 5, 1861 about 10 miles north of Carthage, Missouri. They need to raise \$800,000 to buy 260 acres of battlefield land which could then be used for re-enactments which would make it unique since many other battlefields don't allow re-enactments. They will be seeking federal and foundation grants plus local support. Our Round Table board is planning a field trip to Carthage this fall.

The Wilson's Creek National Battlefield appears to be winning the fight for its survival and is no longer on the 10 most endangered list because of the recent acquisition of adjacent 157 acres from a developer. However more development could still come to the area near Republic, MO, so it remains on the top 25 endangered battlefields. When the national park was first formed in the 1960s, it did not include the entire battleground. In 2004 Congress recognized the need and gave the National Park Service the authority to purchase 615 acres surrounding the battlefield plus General Sweeny's Museum of Civil War History.

In an effort to contribute to the decision concerning the Little Blue Expressway route north of 24 Highway, our Round Table and the Guardians of the Little Blue will be meeting soon with the Engineering Department of Jackson County, Missouri. We also want to proceed with a significant marker for the Battle of the Little Blue.

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will see some drawings of possible markers. Maybe you have some ideas yourself that you would like to pass along to Mike Calvert or a board member.

History Researcher for Mt. Washington Forever Cemetery

T. J. Cochran is a History Researcher for Mt. Washington Forever Cemetery. An E-mail from T. J. states "There are many first pioneer families, who went west in the 1800's resting here. If you are the heirs of anyone resting in Mt. Washington, please contact me for information. We have over 50,000 Forever Life Stories that are preserved forever and would like to include your family's life stories. You and your loved ones can view an individual's life story at one of the cemetery parks or on the Internet at www.forevernetwork.com. Or you may call me at (816) 252-4141 or write to me at tcochran@forevernetwork.com."

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.

Meeting Highlights



Lee Ward Speaking on "The Civil War and the Embalmer"



Embalming Tools



Orvis Fitts (Civil War Round Table of Kansas City), David Jackson (Jackson County Archives) and Steve Noll (Jackson County Historical Society) – Program on "The Battle of Westport"