



The Border Star

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

• **Founded 1992**

• **Incorporated 1994**



May 2006

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

For Information

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Website in Progress

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 1798 days as of the date of our Round Table meeting, Wednesday, May 10, 2006.

*In Memory of
Tim Cox
9-15-1956
1-14-2006*

“If we would build houses or factories on battlefields we would start to forget about battles and forget about all the people who fought them.” (Quote from a fourth grader)

During the past month preservation issues have seemed to come at me from all directions.

First, I had the pleasure and privilege of experiencing the hard work and loving labor that Fran and Lucky have put into the Lawson Moore house. They have preserved for generations to come not only a direct link to a battle but a touchable example of a way of life prior to the Civil War.

Second, Tim Cox's receiving the Hickman Award for lifetime achievement for championing local preservation issues. I don't believe there could be a better way to remember Tim. This assures that the entire City of Independence will be aware of the projects Tim worked tirelessly for. Maybe, just maybe, this will awaken a group of citizens who will come to realize just how important history is and just how important it is to fight for the preservation of that history.

Third, on a more national interest I have been reading magazine articles dealing with the restoration of Gettysburg and the listing by The Civil War Preservation Trust of the 20 most endangered battlefields. At Gettysburg the National Park Service initiated a project restoring the battlefield back to its appearance in 1863. According to the article visitors will now be able to see more of what the soldiers saw at the time of the battle. On the new endangered list are the names of ten “most threatened” and ten at “risk” battlefields. Of the twenty named only one is west of the Mississippi and that is Belmont and even half of that is in Kentucky. Again, the east dominates the reporting of the Civil War.

Last, I have received the nomination papers for the Little Blue Battlefield for the National Historic Register. I was very disappointed in the effort put forth by the intern. Just ask any board member. This will be a continuing concern and the board is not done yet. I will continue to remain in contact with Connie Languam of Wilson's Creek in order to resolve the many questions and concerns that this report generated. Last word, in its current state there is no way the Little Blue Battlefield would be considered for nomination.

So what do we do? What is the challenge that to us as a group of people who are interested in preserving the past?

We need to make people see, feel and experience the event. To do this we must save the location that the historic event took place. Our host and speaker at the Battle of Lone Jack Museum last Saturday said it the best “Save it so we aren't just describing the location. Save it so we can stand on the location where the event took place.” My wife could never understand why I went to battlefields until we went to Gettysburg. There she began to understand that you aren't just standing in a field but you are standing in a field where men struggled and sacrificed their lives, for, in most cases, nothing more than an idea. It took actually standing on the spot where Chamberlain stood on Little Round Top for her to connect with an event that took place so long ago. If Gettysburg did not physically exist my wife would still be questioning my sanity. Well she still might do that but not because I want to go to another battlefield.

The simplest and most important reason for preserving an historic site might just be as simple as “If we don't do it, who will?”

~Mike Calvert, President, CWRTWMO

CWRTWMO Calendar

Hickman Awards – City Council Meeting

Posthumous Award to Tim Cox

Monday, May 1st, 6:00 p.m.

111 E. Maple, Independence, MO

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

Sermon Center Lunch and Learn

Thursday, May 18th, 12:00 to 1:00 p.m.

Sermon Center – Truman and Noland Roads

Mike Calvert will speak on the "First Battle of Independence" – Free / refreshment provided

Pitcher Cemetery Walking Tour

Saturday, May 27th, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Pitcher Cemetery – Pitcher Road & Blue Ridge Cut-Off

Kathleen Tuohey will host this very informative event!

June Regular Meeting

Wednesday, June 14th, 7:00 p.m.

Program: Richard (Rick) Gardner, "*Black Widows; Ladies in Mourning*"

Old Blake Museum – 106 E. Walnut Street

Independence, MO

June Board Meeting

Wednesday, June 21st, 7:00 p.m.

17313 E. 51 Terr. Court

Independence, MO

Calendar of Other Events

• May 6, 2006 – 4th Annual Historic Walking Tour of Lee's Summit Cemetery from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (see details below).

• May 9, 2006 - Ralph Monaco portrays Officer Comingo at 7:00 p.m. for the Cass County Civil War Round Table at Pearson Hall, 400 E. Mechanic, Harrisonville, Missouri (details below).

• May 11, 2006 - Civil War Round Table of John Knox Village -7:00 p. m. Sun Valley Club House.

• May 13, 2006 – The Holmes Brigade at the Battle of Lexington State Historic Site.

• May 20, 2006 – Workday at the Woodland Cemetery, 701 S. Noland Road, starting at 8:00 a.m. and walking tour of Civil War burials with remarks by Mike Calvert (see details below).

• May 20, 2006 - Free Showing of "Ride With The Devil" movie at the Harris-Kearney House, 4000 Baltimore, KC, MO. Tour of the house at 8:00 p.m. and movie at 9:00 p.m.

• May 20, 2006 - Storyteller Molly Postlewait at Pearson Hall, 400 E. Mechanic, in Harrisonville, Missouri, talk about Order Number 11 for the Cass County Historical Society's potluck dinner at 6:00 p. m. and program at 7:00 p.m. (details below).

• May 20, 2006 - Pottawatomie Massacre Day, Lane Fairgrounds near Ottawa. Call (785) 242-1411 or visit www.visitottawakansas.com.

• May 20, 2006 - Marais des Cygnes Massacre Commemoration at the Mine Creek Battlefield State Historic Site. Call (913) 352-8890.

• May 19-21, 2006 - Maximum Civil War Reenactment in Jefferson City, MO.

• May 23, 2006 – Jim Beckner speaking on "Missouri Guerrillas in Virginia" at the Civil War Round Table of Kansas City monthly meeting (period clothes night), Homestead Country Club, 65th Terrace and Mission Road in Prairie Village, Kansas. Social hour from 6:00 to 6:30 p.m. and dinner at 6:30 p.m. (cost is \$20). There will also be over 100 Civil War books in a silent auction. For reservations please call Paul Gault at (816) 741-2962 by May 20th.

• May 27-28, 2006 - Reenactment at Wentzville, MO.

• June 3, 2006 - Bingham-Waggoner Breakfast on the Santa Fe Trail (see details below).

• June 3, 2006 – Missouri Confederate Memorial Day celebration in Higginsville, Missouri starting at 11:00 a.m., ceremony at 1:00 p.m. Older reenactors are needed as veterans and younger ones as honor guards, etc. Contact Jim Beckner at (816) 322-3736 for additional information.

Tim Cox Honored with Hickman Award

As a part of historic preservation month, May 2006, the Independence Heritage Commission will award Tim Cox a posthumous Hickman Preservation Award. The Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri nominated Tim, our late President, for an 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. The award will be accepted by his wife, Kay, at the City Council Meeting, Monday, May 1, 2006, 6:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 111 E. Maple. Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend. Hopefully this information will arrive prior to the May 1st meeting!

Refreshments for the May Meeting

Volunteers helping Karen Wells with refreshments at the May meeting are Fran Mason and Kathy Moorehead. Please thank all of these workers for the important contribution they make at our meetings!

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.

June Meeting

Our speaker for the June meeting will be Richard (Rick) Gardner. His topic will be: "*The Black Widows; Ladies in Mourning.*"

Rick is a 7th generation American of Irish and German descent. He is married, and has three children. He is a member of the Missouri Civil War Re-enactors Association, a member of Friends of Missouri Town and a member of the Lee's Summit Historical Society. He has spoken to local school, church, and civic groups on many subjects concerning Missouri history.

Visit to Lone Jack and the Noel Ranch

We had 17 people meet at the Lone Jack Civil War Museum on Saturday, April 22nd, to have an overview of the Battle of Lone Jack given by John Drago. We then spent a little time looking at the interesting displays and dioramas at the museum before saddling up for the excursion to the Noel Ranch. Mr. Jim Noel and a friend of his met us at the museum and guided us to the Buckner-Tarsney Road off 50 Highway between Lone Jack and Lee's Summit. He pointed out definite wagon swales and said that these were likely from the time period that the Russell and Majors freighting company used the open prairie grass and the abundant springs to feed and water the livestock before outfitting pioneers going west. We also saw an abandoned well that likely was a result of one of the springs and a deep depression that is said to be the basement of one of the warehouses of the freighting company that is right off 50 Highway and Noel Road.

Mr. Noel had some interesting stories about an old pie safe that had gunshots through it dating from the Civil War and stories of Quantrill and his band camping in this area. We very much appreciated Mr. Noel's time and the opportunity to see these vestiges of history near Lone Jack. After the tour several members took Mr. Noel and his friend to lunch and probably heard even more stories. Thanks to Karen Coin for making the contact with Mr. Noel and to the Lone Jack Museum for their hospitality.

New Members and Guests

We welcome new members Lee Ward (our speaker in March), Chris Cooper and Vicki Nave. Visitors at the April meeting were Ken White of Parkville, Melissa Gilmore of Raytown, Robert Harris of Warrensburg, Paul Petersen (our speaker in February), Shane Seley of Wide Awake Films and Howard Mann of Blue Springs. Visitors in March were Charles and Brent Edmunds of Independence and John Mark Lambertson of the National Frontier Trails Museum.

News About Members

Lee Jackson is doing well after heart surgery and contributed to our refreshments in April with Claudine Herbert. She had a granddaughter graduating from Park College in April with a special honor.

Bill and Lucille Jewett have been on the sick list recently but are doing much better and hope to be docents at the Symphony Designers' Showhouse on May 4th. Bill had carotid artery surgery in January with subsequent problems but is getting much stronger and is resuming many of his activities. Lucille had a cold which went into bronchitis but is doing well now.

Civil War Round Table of John Knox Village

Jim Beckner will speak at this newly formed group on May 11, 2006 at the Sun Valley Club House, Craigmont and Killarney, in Lee's Summit, at John Knox Village. He will be talking about the arms and accoutrements of the Civil War soldier. Margaret Hunt invites visitors to their meeting at 7:00 p. m.

Independence Historic Sites in the News

On March 27, 2006, John Mark Lambertson, director of the National Frontier Trails Museum at 318 W. Pacific in Independence, gave the City Council an overview of plans to update the exhibits and provide more dramatic interpretations of the movement West. Many of the exhibits have not been changed since the museum opened 16 years ago and have too many static photos and too much text.

One new exhibit might be a "Town Square Experience" with a 19th century streetscape and the sounds of wagon wheels and the voices of the diverse travelers going West. Another might be a "Campfire Theater" in which visitors would sit on crates, trunks and barrels and watch a video projected on an overhead screen.

There are two more heritage sites within walking distance of the Trails Museum on West Pacific Avenue. The Bingham-Waggoner House is directly across the street and provides tours of the house where George Caleb Bingham lived as well as monthly exhibits. In May 2006, there will be a display of Pennsbury Pottery which was established in 1950 by Henry and Lee Below at Morrisville, PA. The molded pieces were sponged with brown stain or paint, fired and then other colors added before a second firing and a final glaze.

A special event on Saturday, June 3, 2006, is Breakfast on the Santa Fe Trail from 7:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. for \$6.50 a person. Advance reservations required by May 31st by sending a check to the Bingham-Waggoner Historical Society, P. O. Box 1163, Independence, MO 64051.

The Chicago & Alton Depot sits on the grounds of the Trails Museum. About 10 years ago this two-story, wooden, 1879 depot was moved almost a mile by flatbed trailer from its home on South Avenue to its current location. The Friends of the Chicago & Alton completed repairs and remodeling for a restoration that opened in 2001. The first floor has waiting, stationmaster and baggage rooms. The second floor is the stationmaster residence with period pieces and hundreds of railroad collectibles. It is the only completely restored two-story wooden railroad depot in Missouri.

Truman Home Has New Superintendent

Lawrence Villalva is the new director of the Harry S. Truman National Historic Site. Since 2000 he has served as chief of interpretation at the Oklahoma City National Memorial devoted to those killed in the 1995 explosion of the Murrah Federal Building. He succeeds James Sanders who transferred to the Lincoln Home National Historic Site last year.

Website Back Up and Running After Katrina

Len Eagleburger of the Springfield Civil War Round Table reports that the following site is a great research tool and is back after Katrina:
www.civilwarhome.com/indexcivilwarinfo.htm.

Native Sons Competitive Scholarship

The Native Sons of Greater Kansas City is sponsoring a \$500 scholarship based on the best paper submitted by a budding historian by June 30, 2006. The subject of the paper must pertain to the historical past of Kansas City and may involve architectural, archaeological, historical, cultural, social or political history. Additional credit will be given for primary research.

Entries should be submitted to the Native Sons at P.O. Box 10046, Kansas City, MO 64111. For additional information, please contact Eileen Sullivan at (913) 319-0327.

Rally Round the Flag Exhibit

From May 2 - July 29, 2006, there will be an exhibit called "Rally Round the Flag: Civil War Battle Flags in the Missouri State Museum Collection." The collection includes more than 120 battle flags and veterans flags. Those flags that have been conserved and framed will be on display in the Elizabeth Rozier Gallery at the Union Hotel on Jefferson Street, across from the Jefferson Landing Historic Site in Jefferson City, Missouri. The hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Several years ago our Round Table had a program on the flag conservation effort.

Other Missouri Battlefield Events

Len Eagleburger of the Springfield Round Table points out some spring events on May 6-7, 2006 at the Battle of Athens Spring Open House at Revere

(telephone number (660) 877-3871). Civil War reenactors and hosts in 19th century costumes will welcome visitors for free tours, period music, wildflower hikes and refreshments during the weekend.

On May 13, 2006 the Holmes Brigade will re-create a picture of early turmoil as Kansas statehood is debated at the Battle of Lexington State Historic Site. Civilians and soldiers will discuss how their lives were changed by "Politics 1856: The Missouri-Kansas Issue." The event is free but regular fees apply to tours of the Anderson House.

On June 3, 2006, there will be a program on "Border Disorder - Civil War on the Western Border" at Prairie State Park located west of Lamar, Missouri at Liberal. Reenactors will help you understand the struggles of the times. Participants should dress for the weather and be able to hike approximately one mile through the prairie. Not recommended for young children. The hike and program will be presented once at 5:00 p.m. and again at 7:30 p.m. Reservations are required by calling (417) 843-6711.

Civil War Documentary Drama

"No Retreat From Destiny" has just been released on DVD. It's a Civil War motion picture based on the last great Confederate invasion of the north in the summer of 1864 at the Battle of Monocacy and the attack on Washington, D. C. at Fort Stevens. The battle scenes are said to be some of the most intense ever filmed of Civil War-era combat and were produced by reenactors, not by Hollywood, so they worked very hard to get it right.

Check details at www.monocacymovie.com or preview video, music clips and photos at www.lionheart-filmworks.com.

Condolences from Other Historical Groups

A recent "Epitaph" newsletter from the Union Cemetery Historical Society sent their sympathy at the passing of Tim Cox. Also, a letter from the Bingham-Waggoner Historical Society expressed appreciation for his portrayal of George Caleb Bingham.

Cleanup Day at Woodlawn Cemetery

Wendy Shay, historic preservation officer of the City of Independence, is announcing a workday at the Woodlawn Cemetery, 701 S. Noland Road on May 20, 2006, starting at 8:00 a.m. to help pick up trash and spruce up this historic cemetery. Those willing to work will be treated to a free lunch by calling Wendy the week before at (816) 325-7419 or E-mailing her at wshay@indepmo.org. There will also be a walking tour of significant Civil War burials and remarks by our president, Mike Calvert.

Research on John or William Mc Coy and Samuel Owens

Independence residents Brian and Sharon Snyder are restoring the McCoy House at 410 W. Farmer and would appreciate receiving any historical references you have or might come across related to John (not to be confused with John Calvin McCoy of Westport) or William McCoy (first mayor of Independence) or Samuel Owens (merchant and Santa Fe trader on whose land the McCoy house is located). You can send a copy of any material you have or a reference note to Brian Snyder, 410 W. Farmer, Independence, MO 64050.

Lee's Summit Cemetery Tour

On May 6, 2006, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. the Lee's Summit Historical Society will present its 4th Annual Historic Walking Tour of the Lee's Summit Cemetery, 3rd Street and 291 Highway. Tours start every 30 minutes and are \$2 for school kids and \$5 for adults.

Events in Cass County

On May 9, 2006, at 7:00 p. m. Ralph Monaco will portray Officer Comingo as he deals with implementing Order Number 11. This is the Cass County Civil War Round Table program at Pearson Hall, 400 E. Mechanic, in Harrisonville, Missouri.

On Saturday, May 20, 2006, the Cass County Historical Society will hear storyteller Molly Postlewait as she talks about Order Number 11. This is a potluck dinner at 6:00 p. m. with the program following at 7:00 p.m. at Pearson Hall.

Civil War Book and Art Fair

Civil War Book and Art Fair 2006, Saturday, July 14th and 15th at the Cass County Public Library, 400 E. Mechanic, Harrisonville, Missouri. Deadline for exhibitor applications is June 15, 2006. If you are interested in applying for exhibitor space, please contact Jackie Polsgrove-Roberts, Cass County Public Library, Genealogy Branch, 400 E. Mechanic, Harrisonville, Missouri 64701. You may also contact Jackie via telephone at (816) 884-6285 or via E-mail to: roberts@casscolibrary.org.

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.

Save the Little BLUE Buttons

Just \$1.00 each



April Meeting



Part of the Large Crowd at the April 6th Meeting

April Meeting



Shane Seley of Wide Awake Films and
Mike Calvert

April Meeting



Donald Gilmore, Author and Lecturer

Tour to Lone Jack, April 23, 2006



Delbert and Karen Coin, Jim Noel and his Friend in
front of the Long Jack Civil War Museum