



The Border Star

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

• **Founded 1992**

• **Incorporated 1994**



June 2006

"Studying the Border War and Beyond"

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



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 1763 days as of the date of our Round Table meeting, Wednesday, June 14, 2006.

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

mentor (n); A wise and trusted counselor or teacher

How great it is to have a mentor in ones life. I have been lucky enough to have several. They have ranged from family members to long time friends. Sometimes they have only touched my life for a brief moment. With others, I have shared many thoughts, conversations and discussions.

I want to take a few lines today to share with you one of my mentors. His name is Ed. Ed is now 90 years old and I have had the privilege to know him for the last 28 years. He has been and still is a voice I listen to when I have a question about early Independence and Jackson County.

Ed's family has lived in Jackson and Lafayette counties since the 1820's. He is my direct link to the Civil War. Wait a minute, sorry Ed, "The War of Northern Aggression or Southern Independence". The War is never referred to as Civil in front of Ed. We have spent many hours discussing all aspects of the war. Ed's grandmother was a young girl during the war and he talks about her recounting the story, during the Battle of Lexington, of the minie ball severing the clothes line his great-grandmother was hanging clothes on. The family home was across a ravine from the battlefield. Ed and I keep promising each other we're going to take a trip to Lexington so he can show me the home site. Time is starting to run out. He also retells his grandmother's story of standing on the Independence Courthouse square and seeing the sky turned orange by the fires of burning houses. Houses that were burning due to Order No. 11.

Ed has also expanded my library by giving, yes giving, me books on the War that were part of his father's library. He always prefaces his gift by saying the books need a good home and someone who will put them to use. I am eternally grateful and when Ed is long gone and it comes my turn to find those books a new home I will use Ed's words again as I pass them on.

If I ever want to know where something stood I go to Ed. The man still remembers to the smallest detail the location of long gone places. He demonstrated his ability a couple of weeks ago when he explained where every railroad right of way was in Independence. I have sat in his living room and listened for hours while he and a boyhood friend quizzed each other on where some business was or person lived. Not only did the quiz each other by asking the name but also by address. They never stumped each other.

We all should be as lucky as I have been and as I am. I hope that this article has reminded you of someone who has been a mentor in your life. If you can, thank them. If you are not able to be with them anymore just remember their stories, their guidance and the impact they have made on your life. One last word, you may be one of the luckiest persons in the world and be someone's mentor. It's a lot to leave up to and a lot of responsibility but you can do it. ~Mike Calvert, President, CWRTWMO

CWRTWMO Calendar

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

July Annual Meeting / Picnic

Wednesday, July 12th, 6:00 p.m.

Location: Lawson-Moore Home (Lucky and Fran Mason). Additional information will be announced.

July Board Meeting

Wednesday, July 19st, 7:00 p.m.

17313 E. 51 Terr. Court
Independence, MO

Calendar of Other Events

- May 27th - Walking Tour of Pitcher Cemetery (see article)
- June 3rd - Bingham-Waggoner Breakfast on the Santa Fe Trail (see details below).
- June 3rd – 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.
- June 6th - 10th - Heritage Days. Battle of Lexington Historic Site. Living history activities.
- June 10th - Music jamboree at the Ray House-Wilson's Creek. (see article)
- June 23rd – 25th - Cole Camp Civil War Reenactment
- June 24th – 25th - "Territorial Days" at Lecompton, KS (see article)
- June 24th - Jesse James Annual Reunion, Black Powder Shoot and Writers' Conference (see article)

Refreshments for the June Meeting

The volunteer helping Karen Wells with refreshments at the June meeting is Karen Coin. Please thank both of these workers for the important contribution they make at our meetings!

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.

Board Notes

At the May 10, 2006 meeting the membership voted to accept ownership of the Lewis-Gregg Cemetery as soon as we receive our 501(c) (3) tax exempt status from the IRS. This historic, family cemetery is located in unincorporated Jackson County off Blue Mills Road near the St. Joseph the Worker Church. It is presently owned by the Jackson County Historical Society and comes with a \$19,000 endowment to help pay for maintenance. At present there are still descendants of the family, Delbert and Goldie Lewis, who have kept the cemetery in wonderful condition, and we want to work with them to map the graves and keep the history intact. Mark Wealand is also a descendant and informs us that the Lewis Family plans to have a reunion September 17th at the George Owens Park in Independence. He is also working with the Sons of the American Revolution to have a rededication ceremony at the grave of Nathaniel Lewis, the Revolutionary War soldier buried in the cemetery. The Board is working on a structure for a committee of the Civil War Round Table to oversee the cemetery. We think this project is a tangible way for our group to influence the preservation of an historic cemetery near the Little Blue Battlefield.

On April 28th we received acknowledgement from the IRS that they received our 501(c)(3) application. On May 20th we received word that our tax exempt status has been approved, and we have an official document to use in future fundraising and other activities.

Tour of Pitcher Cemetery

As a part of Historic Preservation Month in Independence Kathleen Tuohey will be giving a walking tour of Pitcher Cemetery on Saturday, May 27, 2006 from 10:00 a.m. until noon. This historic cemetery which Kathleen restored is adjacent to the Phil Roberts Park on Blue Ridge Cut-off about one block north of 40 Highway.

Also as a part of the emphasis on history, Mike Calvert gave a talk at noon on May 18th at the Sermon Center on the "First Battle of Independence." He followed that with a talk at Woodlawn Cemetery on Saturday, May 20th, about Civil War burials there.

If Walls Could Talk

The historic McCoy House at 410 W. Farmer in Independence will be the subject of an HGTV Program on Sunday, May 28th at 10:00 p.m. and again early Monday morning, May 29th at 2:00 a.m. For the gentlemen in the group who may not be familiar with HGTV, this is a Homes and Gardens channel on cable television. Brian and Sharon Snyder are doing a wonderful restoration of this home where William McCoy, first mayor of Independence, lived.

Civil War Round Table of John Knox Village

Margaret and John Hunt invite you to the June 8th meeting at 7:00 p.m. at the Sun Valley Club House, Craigmont and Killarney Streets in Lee's Summit. The program is a film about Spotsylvania.

James Farm Annual Reunion, Black Powder Shoot & Writers' Conference

Jim Beckner has a complete schedule of events for June 24th at the James Farm at Kearney, Missouri or you can go to www.jessejames.org. One of the speakers will be Donald Gilmore who spoke to our group about violence on the Missouri border. In the evening is a presentation of the "Ballad of Jesse James" written, directed, and acted by Joe Hanrahan with David Wassilak as Jesse and Larry Dell in multiple roles.

Round Table Night at the Showhouse

Beverly Shaw would like to thank the following volunteers who staffed the Symphony Designers'

Showhouse on May 4th: Harlan Klukow, Pat Gradwohl, Sue Valentine, Connie McQuain, and Lucille Jewett. Beverly is the "House Historian" for the Showhouse and writes an article for the program book about the people who have lived there.

Bingham-Waggoner House

The monthly exhibit in June is "Beatrix Potter," Beswick figures featuring the Peter Rabbit series. The museum is also gearing up for its July 8th Antique and Craft Fair from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. As a part of that, they will have a table for donated items from your Spring housecleaning. You can set aside those things you don't need, don't like, or haven't used for so long you forgot you had them and fill a box or two. Any number of items (please not Tupperware) can be dropped off at the estate during regular hours. Janice Pearson says that this has become an important fundraiser and all donations are very much appreciated.

Explore Missouri's Civil War History

The Mid-Missouri Civil War Round Table in Columbia, Missouri points out a guide to reenactments which appeared in the April 2006 issue of "Missouri Life." You can go to www.missourilife.com for a list and contact information on the 96 sites listed. You can also get information on Athens, Lexington, Carthage, and Fort Davidson at www.mostateparks.com.

Our own favorite is the Battle of Cole Camp on June 24 – 25, 2006, to be reenacted on the original battle site. For information please go to the website www.colecampmissouri.com.

Union Cemetery Rededication

John Martin, 1st vice president and program chairman, is our representative to meet with the Union Cemetery Historical Society in Kansas City to help plan a rededication in 2007. You probably remember that "Union" refers to a union of Kansas City and Westport rather than a designation of Union versus Confederate. However there are many Civil War burials there, and we have had tours in the past. Our two groups have also met together for Christmas parties on several occasions.

During their planning, John says they came up with a story that in 1943 Union Cemetery was declared a national shrine. However they would like to verify this through documentation. If you have any books or clippings on this subject, please call John at (816) 966-9496.

The Next Generation

We would like to extend congratulations to Truman High School graduates, Andrew and Tyler Cox, sons of Tim and Kay Cox. It seems like it was just yesterday that “Tim’s boys” visited our meetings at the Truman High School Library, and now they are young men heading off to MU and UMKC. Their sister, Sara, accepted the Hickman Award on behalf of the family, when Tim was honored by the City of Independence for lifetime achievement in historic preservation. Sara is a pharmacy student at UMKC.

At the May 10th meeting Mike Calvert recognized Dylan Herrington, grandson of Don and Kathy Moorehead, for his winning graphic design for the Project Safe Neighborhoods billboard on I-70 in Grain Valley, Missouri. You will probably see Dylan with his sketchpad when he visits our meetings.

Another young face at our May 10th meeting was Daniel Carey, son of former member Jeanne Carey. Daniel is looking for an Eagle Scout project and is considering the Little Blue Battlefield Monument on the east bank of the Little Blue River visible from 24 Highway.

We welcome all these young people to come visit anytime.

Calling All Researchers

We have had two requests for research assistance in the last month. If you have information about either topic, please feel free to contact the interested parties.

One topic is the Sixth Missouri Infantry, CSA. Clay Simpson of Summit, New Jersey, is researching his great grandfather, Col. Eugene Erwin, who was commanding officer until his death at Vicksburg in May, 1863. He is working with Civil War writer Kent Masterson Brown of

Lexington, Kentucky who is preparing a seminar at the Filson Club of Louisville for April, 2007. He will follow the footsteps of the Sixth Missouri to Port Gibson, Champion Hill, and Vicksburg. If you know of information and previous articles about the Sixth Missouri, you can contact Clay Simpson at hcsimpson@comcast.net or by mail at 35 Hillcrest Ave., Summit, New Jersey 07901.

You may have seen the name Clay Simpson recently in regard to the Brown Bag talks given in Independence which are sponsored by the Jackson County Historical Society. Mr. Simpson was talking about his great grandmother, Josephine Erwin Clay, the first woman to own and manage a thoroughbred horse farm in the United States. She was a Fulton, Missouri native and married Col. Eugene Erwin, a grandson of Kentucky senator Henry Clay. She witnessed the settling of California and the turmoil of the Civil War as a nurse at the siege of Vicksburg. After Col. Erwin’s death at Vicksburg, she moved her family from Independence, Missouri to Kentucky and later married John Clay, the youngest son of Henry Clay. Together they managed the famous thoroughbred horse establishment, Ashland. She became an advocate for giving women opportunities in the professions, and her popular novels featured women who overcame personal problems to achieve success in difficult careers. Clay Simpson’s book is called Josephine Clay, Pioneer Horesewoman of the Bluegrass.

The second research request is from our long distance member, Fred McBurney, from Slater, Missouri. He is wondering if anyone has researched or knows of articles written about James P. Parker, Custer’s roommate at West Point. He was from the district of Berlin, Lafayette County, when he entered West Point. He was said to be a “stout, red-headed fellow.” From the start it was a race to see which roommate would accumulate the most demerits. Parker won and was dismissed in 1861 and later joined the Confederate army. This left George Armstrong Custer to graduate as the “goat” of his class with the lowest ranking.

Parker joined the First Mississippi Artillery Regiment and saw action at the siege of Port Hudson, Louisiana where he commanded four artillery batteries. On July 9, 1863, Port Hudson

surrendered to Union forces and Parker was captured. He languished in northern prison camps until the war ended. However he managed to beat his old roommate in longevity. Custer was killed by Indians in 1876. James P. Parker survived until 1918.

This information was from a Google search that brought up an article from the May/June 2004 issue of Military Images. If you have other sources of information, you can contact Fred at 927 Hurt Street, Slater, Missouri 65349 or call (660) 529-3222.

Battle of Prairie Grove, Arkansas

The Civil War Round Table of the Ozarks is taking a tour to Prairie Grove on June 10. Len Eagleburger, their E-calendar guru, points out that the North and South magazine featured the Battle of Prairie Grove on their cover page in May, 2006 (Volume 9, Number 3).

Len also says that there is a new Civil War volume from a senior writer and editor at the Library of Congress called The American Civil War: 365 Days. It is written by Margaret E. Wagner and has nearly 500 photographs, lithographs, paintings, drawings, and cartoons from the vast collection at the Library of Congress, many of which are rarely seen and some may never have been published. She draws on many of the chronicles of 19-year-old Union Sgt. Warren H. Freeman. In spite of his tender years he saw action from the second Battle of Bull Run in Virginia in 1862 to the struggle for Richmond near the end of the war. During the Battle of Gettysburg he came across a big, badly wounded Confederate officer who asked to be dragged to shelter from the fire of his own side. "I declined for want of time and strength to lift him," Freeman wrote a few days later in a letter home.

Music Jamboree at Wilson's Creek June 10, 2006

A music jamboree at the Ray House near Republic, Missouri, will feature local groups and individuals playing traditional Ozark music. Refreshments typical of the 1860's (popcorn and lemonade) will be served to visitors. Each group will play for approximately 1 hour. The cost is \$3 per person or \$5 per carload. Call Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Park, Republic, MO (417) 732-2662).

Territorial Days at Lecompton, Kansas June 24-25, 2006

Celebrate Lecompton's storied past with tours, crafts, a carnival, pioneer skills, demonstrations, and historic museum exhibits. The Battle of Ft. Titus will be reenacted each day. For more information, please call (785) 887-6148.

Native Sons Competitive Scholarship

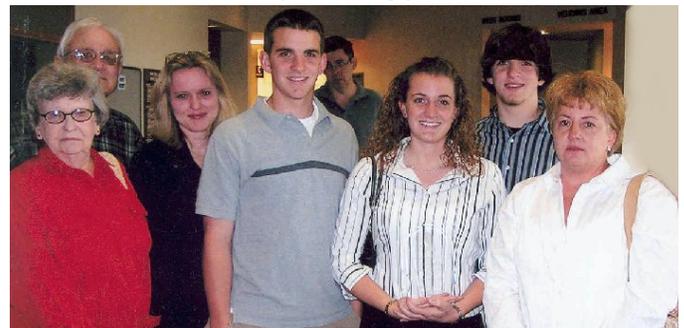
The Native Sons of Greater Kansas City is sponsoring a \$500 scholarship based on the best paper submitted by a budding historian by June 30, 2006. The subject of the paper must pertain to the historical past of Kansas City and may involve architectural, archaeological, historical, cultural, social or 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, Missouri 64111. For additional information, please contact Eileen Sullivan at (913) 319-0327.

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.

Hickman Award Presentation – May 1, 2006 For Tim Cox



Virginia and Bud Cox (Tim's parents), Wendy Shay, Andrew, Sara, Tyler and Kay Cox