



The Border Star

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

• **Founded 1992**

• **Incorporated 1994**



September 2006

The Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri

2006 Officers

President ----- Mike Calvert
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2nd V.P. ----- Art Kelley
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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

Mike Calvert ----- 836-1013
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Mailing Address

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Independence, MO 64055

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 1672 days as of the date of our Round Table meeting, Wednesday, September 13, 2006.

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

I have been wrestling with the question "Why doesn't everyone want to preserve part of our history?" One man's object for a preservation crusade is another man's obstacle standing in the way of progress. My wife handed me an article from Sunday August 20th Parade Magazine that illustrates what I am talking about. In New York City, at the World Trade Center ground zero, there is a stairway that escaped destruction the day the buildings collapsed. This remaining piece of architecture represents to one group of people a monument of survival. While to a second group it is nothing more than a concrete barrier standing in the way of progress. One group says the stairs represent "a permanent witness to the devastation of the day" and the other group says "We just want to get on with our lives." Who is right? That's a question that can't be answered here. But, it does point at the root of all preservation issues. To preserve or not to preserve is a decision that is made on emotional issues.

We like to think that our emotions don't interfere. I'm here to tell you they are at the root of all preservation decisions. Let me list a set of Civil War sites:

1. The Bloody Lane at Antietam
2. The Copse of Trees at Gettysburg
3. The stone wall at Marye's Heights Fredericksburg
4. Oak Hill at Wilson's Creek

Can you imagine the emotions that ran through the veterans who returned to these sites for reunions and afterwards launched the preservation efforts that saved them for us to view today? If you've ever been to one of these places, did you experience some emotion? I bet you did. I've been there, I know. It is this emotional attachment to our past that continues to preserve these sites. The question is why can't we elicit the same emotional feelings for preservation for the Civil War sites in our area. I'm not talking about friends within our circle who already understand, but about the greater circle of people we must convince that the value of an open field does not lay in how many houses can be built on it. The value lays in the remembrance of a time and place when Americans killed Americans and despite this, unlike other civilizations, we actually bound up our wounds and became stronger. The value lays in teaching our children what sacrifice for your beliefs can mean. The value lays in preservation not destruction.

You might notice that three of the four sites above are east of the Mississippi river. Its not that we don't have the sites here it's just that nobody knows about them. If we expect to preserve, we must teach the world what happened and why it's important. People must understand why a site is important and when you understand, you take ownership and when you have ownership, you want to preserve.

I have been feeling a lot of different emotions this last week as I prepared for the Little Blue tour in September. I have been remembering why I am even in the position to give this tour. I know who I owe for my increased knowledge about what happen that day in October 1864. I know who I owe for my increased desire to preserve this piece of our history. It's been a good week. I also know there is one emotional feeling I'm not ready to experience. It's that feeling you get when a one of a kind historical battlefield feature is lost to a bulldozer. I'm not ready for that one.

~Mike Calvert, President, CWRTWMO

CWRTWMO Calendar

September Monthly Meeting

Wednesday, September 13th, 7:00 p.m.

Program: John Martin, *Grand Army of the Republic*
Old Blake Museum – 106 E. Walnut Street
Independence, MO

September Board Meeting

Wednesday, September 20th, 7:00 p.m.

17313 E. 51 Terr. Court
Independence, MO

October Monthly Meeting

Wednesday, October 11th, 7:00 p.m.

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

October Board Meeting

Wednesday, October 18th, 7:00 p.m.

17313 E. 51 Terr. Court
Independence, MO

September Meeting

John Martin would not describe himself as a “public speaker,” but he would describe himself as a “history nut,” especially military history. His interest in history came about because of two things; 1) He spent 30 years in the U. S. military (four in the infantry and 26 in the Air Force) and 2) He never knew his grandparents.

On a winter morning several months after his October 1, 1993, military retirement, John was drinking coffee and looking out a kitchen window. He began to think about the grandparents he had never known and wondered what kind of people they were. Since that date in 1993, John has learned much about his family history and in this family history he discovered one of his great grandparents, John Wesley Baker, had served in the Union Army, 1861-1865, during the War of Secession. Finding information about his great grandfather led him to other aspects of the war, into Civil War reenactment and eventually into the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW).

The SUVCW operates under a federal charter, issued in 1954 and is legally recognized as the heir to, and representative of, the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR).

In early June 2006, John concluded a term as Commander, SUVCW, Department of Missouri, and is now serving as Chief of Staff to the current commander. He has been the commander of Westport Camp #64, SUVCW, for eight of the camp's 10 years. He has been president of the Austin Township Historical Society for the last 6 years and is currently serving on the planning committee for the sesquicentennial celebration of the Union Cemetery. He also served three years on the board of directors for the Rice-Tremonti Home, 66th and Blue Ridge in Raytown, Missouri.

Please join us as we hear John speak about the Grand Army of the Republic at our September 13th meeting!

Refreshments for the September Meeting

Volunteers helping Karen Wells with refreshments at the August meeting are Harriott Lionberger and Charlotte Tindall. Please remember to thank our volunteers for the very important contribution they make at all of our meetings!

We have no volunteers signed up to help with the November meeting. If you can help in November, please let Karen know.

Tombstone Lectures - Thursdays at NFTM

John Mark Lamberston, director and archivist for the National Frontier Trails Museum in Independence, is giving a series of lectures on Thursday evenings at 7:00 p. m. in September. Admission is \$5 with a discounted price of \$16 for all four lectures. Reservations are required by calling (816) 325-7575. The museum is located at 318 W. Pacific across from the Bingham-Waggoner Estate.

Lambertson's “Tombstone Talks” focus on the history of cemeteries, funerary art, and interesting personalities. On September 7th the series begins with “Marble Roses: Tombstone Art, Decoration and Symbolism.” The September 14th lecture is called “Chiseled History: Curious, Informative, and Humorous Tombstone Inscriptions.” On September 21st Lambertson presents “Gone But Not Forgotten: Tombstones of the Famous and Infamous.” The final talk on September 28th is “Pyramids, Crosses and Shrines: Tombstoning Around the World.”

September Display at the Bingham-Waggoner Estate

The “Annual Quilt Show” is presented by the talented Nimble Thimbles of Lee’s Summit. The Carriage House Gift Shop is open seven days a week from 10:00 a. m. to 4:00 p. m. Monday-Saturday and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Sunday. It is located at 313 W. Pacific in Independence.

The 25th anniversary of the “Pig Pickin’ – Chicken Lickin’ Feast” is September 16th from 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. with a huge silent auction, Greater Kansas City Banjo Band and a wonderful dinner for \$12. Tickets may be bought in advance at the gift shop. This event is usually a sellout.

New Address for Karen Wells

Karen has sold her home in Kearney and moved to 9753 N. Smalley Ave., Kansas City, MO 64157. Even though it’s a Kansas City address, it’s on the west side of I-35 near Liberty.

Condolences to Families

We are sorry to lose our longtime member Don Flanegin to cancer on August 22, 2006. Don was always the first one to pay his dues for the year and attended faithfully until his illness. Notes may be sent to his wife Betty at 1304 Deer Run Trail, Blue Springs, MO 64015.

The father of our member Connie McQuain passed away on August 23, 2006. Marvin Max McQuain was lovingly remembered by his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. Notes may be sent to Connie at 15801 T. C. Lea Road, Independence, MO 64050.

Lincoln Artifacts to Head to St. Louis

Brian Burnes of the Kansas City *Star* reports that for the first time many Abraham Lincoln artifacts will be on loan from the University of St. Mary in Leavenworth, KS to the St. Louis University Museum of Art through December 17, 2006. Probably the signature artifact is a ceremonial copy of the 13th Amendment to the U. S. Constitution which banned slavery. It is signed by Lincoln and 36 members of the U. S. Senate. This display is in time for the annual conference of the Western History Association in St. Louis in October. Other groups may also inquire about the collection

because the bicentennial of Lincoln’s birth is in 2009. Some of our members saw the collection when Sonny Wells took Max and Donna Daniels (Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln interpreters) on a tour to Leavenworth.

Civil War Round Table at John Knox Village

At the September 14th meeting of the Civil War Round Table at John Knox Village, a film on Appomattox will be shown. The Hunts select films from the Mid-Continent Library, convert them to DVD, and project them on a screen. They have offered to share some of those with our group.

On November 9th the group has a special program to be given by a Libby Custer interpreter, Deborah Buckner. She has previously given this glimpse of George Armstrong Custer through his wife’s eyes at the National Archives. The group meets at the Sun Valley Club House, Craigmont and Killarney in Lee’s Summit, MO.

Civil War Sources Available Online

The State Historical Society of Missouri now has over 30 titles of Missouri-related Civil War sources available at www.umsystem.edu/shs/. The majority of the volumes are primary source materials including memoirs by soldiers and civilians and indexes of Civil War publications and resources. Full-text searching is available and the titles can be downloaded for later viewing.

If you would like a workshop, you can go to Columbia, MO on November 11, 2006, at 10:00 a.m. Amy Waters and Seth Smith will discuss the use of Civil War Records as well as other military collections at the State Historical Society of Missouri, 1020 Lowry Street, Columbia, MO. The workshop is only \$10 or if you are a member, it’s free. In the afternoon another workshop begins at 1:15 p.m. on the use of WWI Draft Registration Cards for academic and genealogical research. Both workshops for \$15. Beverly Shaw has registration forms at (816) 478-7648.

Bibliography of Cemeteries in Jackson County Missouri

The Jackson County Historical Society is compiling a master bibliography of printed matter (magazines, newspapers, periodicals, etc.) and building research data files for each and every cemetery in Jackson County with particular emphasis on small, pioneer, or family burial grounds that are becoming endangered. If you come across something to add to this history, you can call David Jackson at (816) 252-7454 or E-mail him at djackson@jchs.org.

Visit to the McCoy House in October

We have a special opportunity to see an Independence landmark on October 11th, our regular meeting night. The McCoy House at 410 W. Farmer is the home of the first mayor of Independence, William McCoy and is being lovingly restored by Brian and Sharon Snyder. We will have more details on the logistics of our visit in the October newsletter.

Reenactments, Living History and Reunions

September 6-7 - St. Charles, MO. Event at the riverfront. Contact www.home.earthlink.net/~turnerbrigade2/stchas.html

September 16-27 - 15th Annual Olde Greenville Days. Two day open field battle on the site of this historic town. Open to all infantry, artillery, cavalry and civilian reenactors. Pre-register by August 31st to secure rations and amenities. Music, crafters and living history. For additional information, contact Capt. Jolley at (636) 274-1438.

September 17 - Reunion of Lewis-Gregg families at George Owens Park and Rededication of Nathaniel Lewis marker. (Revolutionary war soldier buried at the Lewis-Gregg Cemetery).

September 22-24 - 145th Anniversary of the 1861 Battle of Boonville. Contact www.mo-river.net

September 22-24 - Mexico, MO on Highway US 54, 20 miles north of I-70. "Walk Back in Time" will feature camps and skirmishes from the French and Indian War through Gulf War. Contact www.audrain.org/history_town.html

September 30 - Pilot Knob, MO in Arcadia Valley near Ironton, MO. Living History at or near Ft. Davidson State Historic Site.

October 6-7 - Cass County Living History Festival at Harrisonville, MO. Civil War Battles and Order No. 11, Log Cabin Raids, Military Ball, Period Music and Dance, Heritage Crafts, Native Americans, Wedding Reenactment, Bluegrass-Country-Gospel Music, Stagecoach and Wagon Rides, Petting Zoo. For the entire family. Contact www.casscountylivinghistory.org or call (816) 380-4396.

October 13-15: 5th Annual Porter's Raid on Palmyra, MO in the Summer of 1862. North of Hannibal on Highway US 61. All reenactors invited to participate in the event centering around the old federal prison built in 1858 and still standing. Events to include a living history day, two battles, a raid on the old prison, period games, sutlers, vendors, first person contest, vintage ballgame, military ball, ladies tea, divine service. Usual amenities. For more information, contact David Garner at rebelmann522000@yahoo.com.

October 14 - Quantrill Society Reunion in Jackson County, MO. Tour of the Little Blue Battlefield. Seminars and a banquet. Contact Harold Dellinger at (816) 241-2482.

December 2-3 - Prairie Grove, AR west of Fayetteville on Highway US 62. 1862 Battle.

TENTATIVE FOR 2007

April 21-22 - Clinton, MO at the junction of MO-7 and MO-13. Reenactment Dates Courtesy of Len Eagleburger at leaglebu@ipa.net.

Memorial to Tim Cox and Jane Flynn in JCHS Journal

The Spring 2006 issue of the Jackson County Historical Society *Journal* had a wonderful farewell to Jane Flynn, their former president, and Tim Cox (1956 - 2006). We quote the Memorial to Tim in its entirety:

It's heartwarming to meet someone like Tim Cox, and those who knew Tim were privileged, for he was a kind, gentle, and generous teacher. Fortunate for the local history community, Tim inspired others to learn more about the past, and to protect it as a precious resource.

Tim worked hard at his "day job," but beyond his career came a passion for history with a special emphasis on local Border War and Civil War history. He diligently researched the life of local artist and politician George Caleb Bingham, and when invited, Tim could "become" Mr. Bingham. This portrayal was just part of his "second career" as a local history educator...volunteer...and respected President of the Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri.

One of Tim's last, and perhaps most lasting projects, is the nomination of the Little Blue Battlefield to the National Register of Historic Places, in collaboration with the American Battlefield Protection Program and Partners in Parks.

His most ambitious vision was to try to secure for future Jackson Countians (and tourists from afar) an area of land in present-day eastern Independence that once served as the stage for the Civil War Battle of the Little Blue – a precursor of the famed Battle of Westport. The beautiful area and its preservation is a potential reality if more people join the front line and hold their bayonets firm. It is a rare opportunity we have to keep an area pristine and free from encroaching development.

Only those with forward vision will secure this historic area for Jackson Countians of the future. Tim Cox is assuredly standing at attention, cocked, and loaded.

Order No. 11 Event a Big Success

Grady Manus and Mark Wealand of the Cave Spring Historical Site and their partners with the Rice-Tremonti House, and the Raytown Historical Society are to be congratulated on a well-planned and executed event on August 19th and 20th. They even got the weather to cooperate for the very lifelike ouster of the Rice family from their home after the reading of Order No. 11. Our own Jim Beckner played the old man who gave the Federals

plenty of lip before being gunned down and spending the rest of the reenactment on the ground. The civilians at the Rice Plantation even included a boy toddler wearing a dress who cried on cue.

Our Round Table contributed a Civil War display in two cabinets at the visitors' center at Cave Spring which is in Klein Park on the corner of Gregory and Blue Ridge Blvd. It will be left for the rest of August and September.

Nominating Committee

This is the time of year that we ask members to serve as officers and board members for the coming year. Pat Gradwohl and Karen Coin have volunteered to serve on the nominating committee and will present a slate for election at the November meeting. If you have an interest in serving, please give one of them a call. Pat at (816) 781-8607 or Karen at (816) 246-8690.

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.

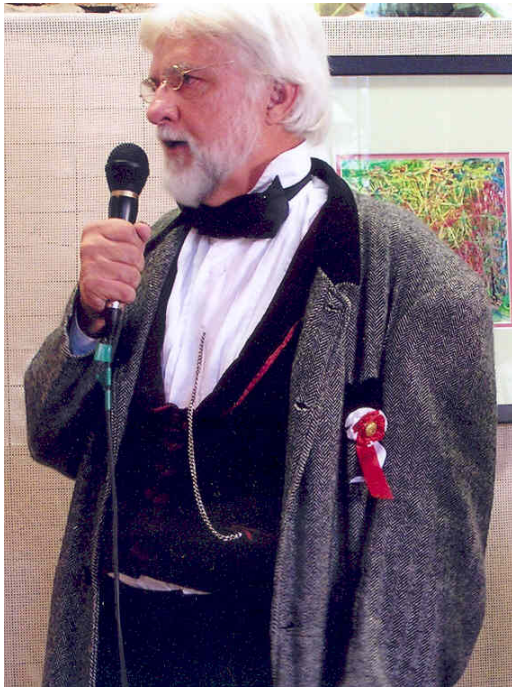
Monthly Meeting Site

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





**August 2006 Meeting
Jim Beckner – Missourians Who Fought With
Robert E. Lee**



**Jim Beckner as Uncooperative Civilian Hearing
Order No. 11. Greg Higgenbotham as Col. Ewing
With His Adjutant**



**The Rice Family Hears Order No. 11 and Prepares to
Leave Their Home**



**Keeping Order at the Rice Plantation During the
Enforcement of Order No. 11**



A Little Fun With Mrs. Rice's Hat and Parasol



You Are Free Now