



★ *The Border Star*

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

• **Founded 1992**

• **Incorporated 1994**

"Studying the Border War and Beyond"

May - June 2005

The Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri

2005 Officers

President ----- Tim Cox
1st V.P. ----- John Martin
2nd V.P. ----- Art Kelley
Secretary ----- Karen Wells
Treasurer ----- Beverly Shaw
Historian ----- Paul Tate

Board Members

Dr. Gerald Anderson, Emeritus
 Mike Calvert Harriett Lionberger
 Terry McConnell Charlotte Tindall
 Pat Gradwohl Lee Jackson
 Don Moorehead Pat Dye

The Border Star Editor

Dennis Myers
 410 N. Cogan Lane
 Independence, MO 64050-2006
 (816) 769-6490

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)-- 9.00

For information:

Tim Cox ----- 478-8833
 Beverly Shaw ----- 478-7648
 Art Kelley ----- 373-4101

Mailing Address:

C.W.R.T. of Western Missouri
 4947 S. Peck Avenue
 Independence, MO 64055



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 2162 days as of the date of our Round Table meeting on Wednesday, May 11, 2005.

I'VE SEEN THE ELEPHANT, AND... (Thoughts from Tim Cox, President)

We saw the elephant! On Saturday, April 30th, we were far away from home, along the trail in the caravan, and we saw the elephant in Concordia, Cole Camp, and Marshall. The Mid-MO German Civil War History Tour is now part of history. It was a long day, but a very enjoyable one. With the addition of friends David Kessinger and Bud Green, who met us at Der Essen Platz, and our community tour guides, Donald Dittmer and Bob Owens, we had 31 participants.

We can't begin to summarize the day's activities in one article, of one newsletter, so we'll just begin here and let the story unfold in the next couple of editions. Hopefully, tour participants will contribute pictures and stories themselves as we travel along memory lane.

Before advancing any further along the I-70 to 65 Highway sojourn, we need to thank a few people. I know, you say we already thanked them during the tour and the planning stages - yes, but we believe they deserve to be thanked again:

* Thank you to Donald Dittmer, of Concordia, for his time and effort in leading us to the Concordia and Emma sites. Donald's recitations of his family and friend's stories of the guerrilla massacres will always be memorable (voice inflection is his middle name). It's people like Donald who help keep alive for us just how meaningful the Civil War was to his ancestors' community, the German Lutherans of Concordia. Thank you also Donald for being a very kind person. ("I've Seen the Elephant" continued on next page)



Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri members and friends at the Concordia Massacre Site Plaque

I'VE SEEN THE ELEPHANT. . .(continued)

* Thank you to Lou Harms, a native of Cole Camp, and longtime Independence resident. It was through Lou that we made connection with Bob Owens, our Cole Camp Civil War tour guide. Thanks Lou for your colorful insight into the Civil War residents of Cole Camp and for your Pretty Boy Floyd story. Ask Lou for a retelling if you haven't heard it. Thank you also Lou for being my Dad's friend.

* Thank you to Bob Owens, Retired Army Officer and Cole Camp resident, for your time and effort in planning and conducting our Cole Camp tour. Bob, you took it upon yourself to show us the gracious hospitality of your community. Thank you so much.

We appreciate:

- * You arranging the reservation of the banquet room at Der Essen Platz
- * The address by the Mayor and Chief of Police
- * The Museum Tour
- * Retracing of the Confederate approach into Cole Camp via the Butterfield Trail (Ezekial Williams stomping grounds)
- * Showing us the gravesite and home of Jim Tyree
- * Showing us the Fowler farm and slave house site
- * The tour of the Parks home
- * And last but not least, access to The Battle of Cole Camp private property and tour of the site

Your enthusiasm for history shows just how much you care about your community.

So, please enjoy the tour photographs found in this newsletter and prepare for the retelling of some of Concordia's, Cole Camp's, and Marshall's Civil War History in *Border Star* editions yet to come.

And remember, don't ever:

- * Leave your jacket at Der Essen Platz, like I did
- * Sit next to Bob Benson during a meal (unless you like camera lights)
- * Lose the memory of the pristine countryside at the Battle of Cole Camp
- * Try and visit both the Cheese Factory and Winery on the same trip
- * Forget the bug spray when scaling Tyree's Hill
- * Fail to visit the Dennis Brothers Monument in Marshall's Ridge Park Cemetery (it is impressive)

Elephant trails to you, until we meet again!

Calendar

CWRTWMO – May Regular Meeting

Wednesday, May 11, 7:00 p.m.

Program: "Guerrillas in Elmwood Cemetery" by Richard Stewart

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

Lunch and Learn, City of Independence

Historic Preservation Month Event

Tuesday, May 17, 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Program: "Civil War Independence"

by Tim Cox and Round Table – Location: Sermon Center, Truman and Noland Roads, Independence, MO, North Meeting Room

Little BLUE Battlefield Tour

Historic Preservation Month Event

Saturday, May 21, 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Meet at the Old Blake Museum – 106 E. Walnut Street, Indep., MO

CWRTWMO – May Board Meeting CANCELLED

CWRTWMO – June Regular Meeting

Wednesday, June 8, 7:00 p.m.

Program: "Mine Creek Battlefield State Historic Site: The Untold Story" by Orvis Fitts, Kansas City Round Table.

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

CWRTWMO – June Board Meeting

Wednesday, June 15, 7:00 p.m.

17313 E. 51st Terr. Court, Independence, MO

Guardians of the Little BLUE Battlefield

Tuesday, June 28, 7:00 p.m.

Blue Hills Elementary School

1911 N. Blue Mills Road

(Just north of Blue Mills Road and 24 Highway)

CWRTWMO – July Regular Meeting/Picnic

Wednesday, July 13, 7:00 p.m.

PICNIC - Ripley Junction Park – Little BLUE Independence, MO

CWRTWMO – August Regular Meeting

Wednesday, August 10, 7:00 p.m.

CEMETERY TOUR – Fairview Cemetery, Liberty, MO

CWRTWMO – October Regular Meeting

Wednesday, October 12, 7:00 p.m.

Program: Quantrill of Missouri: The Making of a Guerrilla Warrior by Paul Petersen

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

Welcome to New Members

by Beverly Shaw

We have had a number of new members in the last six months who we would like to introduce for you:

Vicki Beck, manager of the Blue and Grey Bookstore, is no stranger to the Civil War Round Table. In fact, she recently donated many early records of the organization which we hope to use to write a history of our group.

Karen Coin had a friend who first got her interested in Civil War history and loaned her a Time-Life series of books. From there she started to collect her own books such as the Shelby Foote series. She has visited five battlefields and three cemeteries and sometimes is able to convince her husband, Delbert, to go to a Civil War movie with her. In her spare time she is an Avon distributor.

Pat Gradwohl attended Tim Cox's Civil War history class in Liberty where she lives. Pat is the volunteer in charge of docents for the Clay County Museum and has traveled to many battlefields. She was recently elected as a CWRTWMO board member and is planning a cemetery tour for us in Liberty.

Clarence and Gladys Lawson are also from Liberty and attended Tim's class with their son David. Clarence has a great-uncle named Maxwell Lawson who camped at the Little BLUE and is buried at the Higginsville Confederate Cemetery.

Larry and Mary Limpus live in Bates County and Mary was recently elected to the board of the Bates County Historical Society. They have a particular interest in the John Brown Cabin in Bates County and have invited us to come for a tour.

Don and Kathy Moorehead live in Buckner and are active members of Tri-City Baptist Church where they met Beverly Shaw and Harlan Klukow. They are very interested in American history and have visited many battlefields. It was at the 125th anniversary of Antietam that Don decided he would like to try reenacting. He served for about 10 years as a Union artilleryman and was a part of the largest battery in the Trans-Mississippi. He is certified by the Loyal Train of Artillery to fire guns on national land and fired the big gun at Vicksburg. While he is no longer active in reenacting, Don still has his uniform and serves with our official color guard. He and Kathy have traveled to Ireland to research family roots. Don is a new CWRTWMO board member too.

April Program Highlights

Connie Langum

On April 13, 2005, Connie Langum, National Park Service, out of Wilson's Creek, was our featured speaker. As we all know, due to a series of unforeseen circumstances, Ms. Langum had been rescheduled twice. Boy was her visit worth the wait!

In addition to her evening presentation on the preservation of The Wilson's Creek Battlefield, Connie informed us about her role as the Midwest Coordinator of The American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP), and passed out much appreciated books and brochures. Ms. Langum also toured The Little BLUE Battlefield in the afternoon, giving us much needed insight into preservation ideas for the site.

From Connie's Wilson's Creek presentation we learned:

- * The details surrounding General Lyon's death at Wilson's Creek
- * The impromptu memorial marker pile of painted rocks at the battlefield
- * The continuing struggle of encroaching development on the site
- * The addition of General Sweeney's Museum and artifacts by the NPS
- * The history of the National Park Service involvement at Wilson's Creek

Thanks Connie, for your time and effort in coming.

Note: If you haven't picked up one of her brochures on Southern Missouri / Arkansas Battle Sites, we've got plenty left.



**Lawson-Moore Home – Built 1856
Little BLUE Battlefield**

Historic Preservation Month

The City of Independence's Heritage Commission, The Jackson County Historical Society, Preservation Renaissance of Independence (PRI), and the City's Historic Preservation Manager, Wendy Shay are all working to coordinate events to celebrate May as Historic Preservation Month in Independence. Please help with your participation in the two events our group will be assisting this month: The lunch and learn on Tuesday, May 17th at Noon and the Little BLUE Battlefield tour on Saturday, May 21st at 8:00 a.m. See details in the calendar section.

Missouri's Ten Most Endangered Historic Places

Word is that the announcement of this year's "Missouri's Ten Most Endangered Historic Places" by the Missouri Alliance for Historic Preservation is almost at hand. A reliable source indicated that the list should be announced by May 20, 2005. So, keep your fingers crossed that The Battle of The Little BLUE appears on that list. Our application is in and it will mean so much to our preservation effort if the site is chosen.

Orvis Fitts to Visit Round Table in June

On June 8, 2005, Orvis Fitts will visit our Round Table and tell us about the project of the Kansas City Round Table since 1970 to acquire and preserve the Mine Creek Battlefield near Pleasanton, Kansas. Orvis has written a history of their successful effort to create the Mine Creek State Historical Site and then in 1998, a visitor center and museum. In addition to his activities with the Kansas City Round Table, Orvis is also a past president of the Westport Historical Society and has led numerous bus tours of the Battle of Westport.

Free Screening of *Ride with the Devil*

The Westport Historical Society is offering free outdoor movies during the month of June on the grounds of the Harris-Kearney House, 4000 Baltimore, Kansas City, Missouri (the site of our Christmas Party). The movie on Saturday, June 4th, will start about 8:30 p.m. but you are invited to come early and enjoy your picnic supper on the grounds. Please bring your own chair or blanket and enjoy *Ride with the Devil* on June 4th.

Symphony Designer's Showhouse

Beverly Shaw would like to thank all who volunteered to be docents on April 28, 2005 at the Symphony Designer's Showhouse: Harlan Klukow, Art Kelly, Bob Benson and his friend Shirley, Pat Gradwohl, Karen Wells and Bill and Lucille Jewett. As always, we enjoyed showcasing a distinctive Kansas City home as a benefit for the Kansas City Symphony.

Don Trioni Print for Sale

A transplanted Civil War Round Table member from Florida, Mr. Ed Dauch, has a professionally framed print of *Fighting for the Colors* by Don Trioni for sale. It is approximately 48" x 36" and if you are interested, please call Ed at (816) 746-6567.

No Board Meeting in May

Because of various conflicts in schedules, we have decided to cancel the May 2005 Board Meeting. Also, please note that this newsletter will be a combined May - June 2005 issue.

Shoal Creek Civil War Reenactment

After the tour of the Little BLUE Battlefield on Saturday, May 21, 2005, you might be interested in a reenactment at Shoal Creek. There will be over 300 participants, music, period interpretations, food, hay rides and exhibits. This event is scheduled for two days, Saturday, May 21st and Sunday, May 22nd. The hours are 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday and 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Sunday. Cost is \$5 per adult, \$3 per child (age 6-18) and age 5 and under is free. Location is at the Shoal Creek Living History Museum Hodge Park, 7000 NE Barry Road, Kansas City, Missouri (1/4 mile west of Shoal Creek Parkway and Missouri Highway 12). For additional information, please call the Shoal Creek Association at: (816) 792-2655.

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 near by 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



Photos from Cole Camp



Bob Owens Narrating the Battle of Cole Camp



Jim Tyree Home, 1st Battle of Cole Camp Casualty

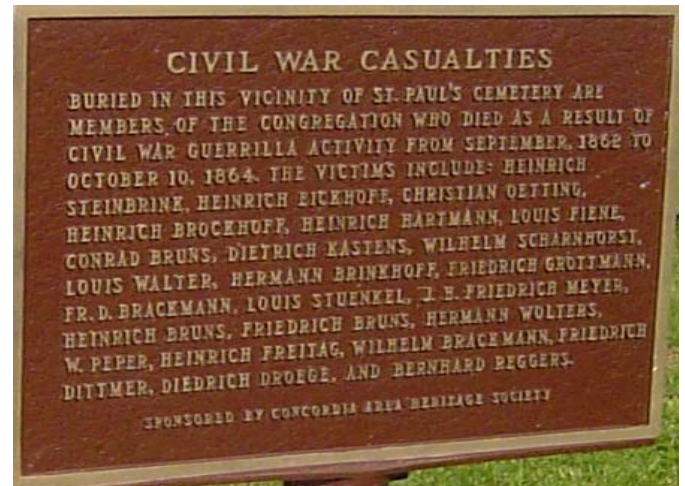


Battle of Cole Camp - Confederate Approach

Photos from Concordia



Donald Dittmer



Close up of Plaque next to Donald Dittmer



Concordia's St. Paul's Lutheran Cemetery