



# The Border Star

Official publication of the Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri, Inc.

September 1998

Vol. VI No. 9

## THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE OF WESTERN MISSOURI INC.

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1998

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### ANNUAL DUES

Individual 15.00  
Family 22.50  
Student (Under 21) 5.00

### MEETINGS

The second Wednesday of  
the month at 7:00 p.m.

July - Annual Picnic  
September - Cemetery Tour  
December - Christmas Party

**Visitors Welcome**

### Tim's Corner:

#### George Caleb Bingham 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Center

What a day! The Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri was in the news on Sunday, August 30, 1998. As you know, that was the date of the opening of the new George Caleb Bingham 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Center in Independence. As your President, I presented to the school, on the group's behalf, 4 framed prints and a plaque to help commemorate the day and our group's interest in George Caleb Bingham and his role in immortalizing the painting "Martial Law" and "Order No. 11." Pictures and a full story will follow in next month's issue, but I just wanted to let everyone know that the crowd was big, the thank yous from the school voluminous, and the thank you from me to the group, for sponsoring this project, even bigger yet!

#### Howard Thompson

Congratulations to Howard Thompson! Howard continues to make news regarding his experiences as a World War II veteran. As many of you know Howard was featured a few weeks back on the front page of the Kansas City Star regarding his D-Day experiences as a WW II veteran. Most recently, on Tuesday, 9/1/98, Howard also appeared as the solitary host of an episode of Kansas City Crossroads. Kansas City Crossroads is a historical segment on Channel 41 that features various local history subjects. Howard discussed his experiences as a glider pilot during WW II. Howard did a great job and the film footage was excellent. I'm sure I speak for everyone in the Round Table when I say, "Howard, we are proud to know you and extremely grateful for your service to our country." Howard and Phyllis Thompson are long-time members of our group and I believe Charter Members as well.

#### Lexington

As has been discussed for a good part of the spring and summer, the round Table is planning a field trip to Lexington on Saturday, October 24. The itinerary will be announced soon. Please let sonny or I know if you are interested in procuring bus transportation. If we receive only limited interest in busing, then a car caravan will be the mode of transportation for the event.

#### Nominating committee

Anyone interested in Chairing or serving on this year's Nominating committee? If so, please let me know. It is that time of year again; elections in November.

\*\*\*\*\*

Our next meeting is

**Wednesday, September 9<sup>th</sup>**

at

**The Union Cemetery, 220 E 28<sup>th</sup> Street**

**Kansas City, Missouri**

**Doors will open at 6:30pm**

**Guided Walking Tour starts at 6:45pm**

*Refreshments to follow*

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**The program is free and is open to the public...no reservations needed.**

**For more information call 628-9910**

**Hope to see you there!**

**\*The Cemetery is situated one block east of Warwick and bordered between 27<sup>th</sup> Street on the north and 30<sup>th</sup> Street on the south.**



## *Schedule of Events*

### **September**

- 4-7 Santa-Cali-Gon Days**  
Independence Square
- 9 CWRTWMO Meeting - 7 PM**  
Union Cemetery Tour - Just East of 28<sup>th</sup> & Main
- 11-13 Civil War Re-enactment - Cassville, Missouri**  
For further information, contact Ted Roller, Purdy, MO;  
or (417) 442-3443; or twroller@mo-net.com
- 11-13 Civil War Re-enactment - St. Charles, MO**
- 12 Leavenworth Riverfest**  
Riverfront Community Center
- 16 Board Meeting - 7 PM**  
Truman Campus, Rm 101
- 18-20 Jesse James Days**  
Kearney, Missouri
- 19-20 Day After Battle of Lexington - Lexington**  
Tour of four antebellum homes with living re-enactors  
portraying lifestyles in the 1860's. Cost of tour/\$10.00  
For more information, call 660-259-711
- 26-27 Civil War Re-enactment - Pilot Knob, Missouri**  
For further information contact David Roggensens,  
Site Administrator, Fort Davidson State Historic Site,  
P.O. Box 509, Pilot Knob, MO 63663; (573) 546-3454

(For detailed agendas regarding the Cassville and Pilot Knob re-enactments, contact Sonny Wells: 816- 628-9910; or Fran Mason: 816-796-8954

### **October**

- 2-4 Re-enactment**  
Nebraska City, Nebraska
- 9-11 Living History**  
Lathrop, Missouri
- 10-11 Buffalo Soldiers - Booneville, MO**  
Kemper Military Academy, Booneville
- 14 CWRTWMO Meeting - 7 PM**  
Library at Truman High School - 3301 S. Noland Rd.
- 16-18 Wyandot Re-enactment**  
Wyandotte County Park - 126<sup>th</sup> & State Avenue
- 21 Board Meeting - 7 PM**  
Truman Campus, Rm. 101
- 24 Lexington Tour - CWRTWMO**  
Details will be outlined in the October newsletter

## **Upcoming Programs**

### **Wednesday, September 9<sup>th</sup>, 7 PM**

#### **A walking tour of Civil War Notables buried at Union Cemetery just South of Crown Center.**

Over 550 Union Veterans are buried here as well as 30 some Confederates including one who was in Pickett's Brigade at Gettysburg.

**Who was Addison Maderia and what is his secret?**  
**Find out on the tour!**

### **Salisbury National Cemetery and Confederate Prison Site**

*This National Cemetery was established in 1865 as a memorial to the Union soldiers who died in the prison. It is estimated that 11,700 unknown Union soldiers were buried in 18 trenches, dug in an abandoned corn field outside the Confederate Prison stockades.*

*Salisbury was a railroad link and the largest town in western North Carolina during the Civil War. The Confederate government purchased a cotton mill complex on approximately 16 acres parallel to the railroad and the first prisoners arrived in December 1861.*

*By November 1864, 10,000 prisoners were crammed into space adequate for 1,000. Food and medicine were scarce as were shelter and clothing; thus the death count mounted quickly and the trench burials began.*

*This National Cemetery contains the largest number of unknown dead of any Civil War prison. The National Monument in the cemetery is inscribed with the number 11,700 dead, but because the monument was erected eight years after the war, the death records were not available. Scholars now believe that a more correct number is somewhere around 5,000 dead.\**

*\*Read Louis A. Brown's book, The Salisbury prison Camp, for more solid and definitive reading about the prison camp at Salisbury.*

*This writer and husband visited the site in early August and were somewhat disappointed, expecting to see more of the prison site. We didn't realize the prison had been burned and the city of Salisbury built over the site. There is only one house remaining today from the time of the prison.*





## Correction to Abe & the Babe's '99 Schedule

The dates given in the August publication were incorrectly stated as Monday, October 18<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, October 19<sup>th</sup>. The programs at the Shawnee-Missions Schools will be held on **Monday, October 19<sup>th</sup>** and the program at Valley Park School will be on Tuesday, **October 20<sup>th</sup>**.

### Recommended Reading

#### *The Curse of Cain*

Author, Nottingham

This book about John Wilkes Booth was published in February 1998 and can be ordered through Barnes & Noble. Cost: \$12.95.



## Bingham School Dedication

As a project of our Round Table Outreach Committee, headed by Tim Cox, the Board approved and adopted as a project the placement of one of George Caleb Bingham's artworks at the new George Caleb Bingham Sixth Grade School, Independence.

An Open House was held on Sunday, August 30 from 2:00pm to 5:00pm, at which time Tim presented a portrait of George Caleb Bingham to Superintendent Robert Watkin during the dedication. Bingham, an artist and state politician, was a member of the Independence School Board.

Several members of the CWRTMo were in attendance at the Open House.

## ~ ~ ~ Happenings Around the Area ~ ~ ~

### Leavenworth County Historical Society

**Introduces.....**Victoria Erbe as their new administrator. Ms. Erbe earned here BA in History from Washburn University, and her Masters in Historical Administration and Museum Studies from the University of Kansas. She began working in museums in 1990 and has worked on several historical projects since that time.

When in Leavenworth, stop in at the Historical Museum, 1128 Fifth Avenue, to meet her... she will be more than happy to assist you in any way she can.

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### Mine Creek Battlefield Park Visitors Center

This Park commemorates the October 25, 1864 Battle at Mine Creek. The Center is located near Pleasanton, Kansas, and is to be completed in October 1998.

### Guerrilla War Series

A Guerrilla War series will be featured at the Johnson County Library - Antioch Branch, 8700 W. Shawnee Mission Parkway, Shawnee Mission, Kansas. All programs will be held at 2:00 p.m. and are scheduled as follows:

- |              |                                                           |
|--------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| September 13 | - <i>The Lawrence Raid</i>                                |
| 27           | - <i>Black Flag</i>                                       |
| October 11   | - <i>Jackson County - Guerrillas Home Front</i>           |
| 18           | - <i>Uncovering Slavery's Unburied Past</i>               |
| November 8   | - <i>The Centralia Massacre - The Guerrilla High Tide</i> |

**For further information contact the Library  
at 913-661-0222**

### Missing Civil War Hero's Grave Found in Kansas

John Eckes (Eckess) was 19 years old and a Corporal in the 47<sup>th</sup> Ohio Infantry at the time of the Siege of Vicksburg.

He was one of the men who volunteered to storm the walls of the Confederate defenses May 22, 1863.

He was wounded in the leg during the attack. He carried that bullet in his leg for the rest of his life.

On July 24, 1894, Eckes was awarded a Medal of Honor for his participation in that attack.

Medal of Honor researchers have been tracing Eckes all across middle America since 1977.

He farmed in western Illinois for a time; then moved to Wilson County, Kansas, where the 1881 Plat book shows he owned two plots, totaling 200 acres, northeast of Freedonia.

In 1893 Eckes and Marion Thompson moved their families to Indian Territory. By this time he had been ordained by the Methodist Church and had a church at Pleasantview, I.T., near Baker. He later served churches at Avery and Perkins.

home of his daughter, Maud, in Cushing, Oklahoma.

Eckes died on April 20, 1912, at the mansion home of his daughter, Maud, in Cushing, Oklahoma.

Maud had married Milton Thompson, oldest son of Marion, on May 2, 1898, in Avery, I.T., near Stillwater.

Maud and Milton moved to Cushing in 1906. They operated a general store, then added a livery stable, a hotel, a cattle ranch, started a bank and ended up with 15 oil wells.

Milton and Maud retired in 1919 and moved to Lee's Summit, Missouri.

They owned the Highland Farm.

Milton died on March 16, 1931. Maud died on November 14, 1967. They are buried in the Lee's Summit Cemetery.

The Lee's Summit connection does not stop there. A current resident of Lee's Summit, Mrs. Louise Rehn, age 93, was a maid in the Thompson home for over 60 years, starting when she was 19 years old.

It was Mrs. Rehn who knew where John Eckes was buried and confirmed the site for researchers Charley Chambers, of Houston, Texas, and Sonny Wells, of Kansas City.

(Mrs. Rehn lives on Milton Thompson Road.)

Eckes grave in Union-Graham Cemetery in Winfield, Kansas, will soon have a new marker, a Medal of Honor Memorial Marker.

*Submitted by Sonny Wells*



## WHO AM I ???

I was born April 17, 1833 in Lowell, Vermont.

During the War, I saw action at Fredricksburg, Gettysburg, Chancellorsville with Maine troops.

I served on the Honor Guard of the Lincoln funeral train. I was appointed Brigadier General of volunteers during the 1862 Peninsula Campaign.

Following the War I was a lawyer, U.S. Counsel to Chili, Minister to Uruguay, and U.S. Counsel to Costa Rica.

I died August 31, 1912 at Colas, Maine. I am buried at St. Stephen Cemetery, New Brunswick Island, Canada.

*(No connection to Joshua Chamberlain)*

**Answer Given at September Meeting!**

## Recap of August Meeting:

Approximately 35 members attended the August 12<sup>th</sup> meeting held at the old fire house at Truman Road and North Main. The program was presented by Ken Apschnikat, Superintendent of Harry S. Truman Historic Site. Ken shared his personal experiences about the preservation of the Manassas Battlefield (which is 30 miles outside of Washington, DC). Through the use of visual aids and personal knowledge, he told about the many problems he encountered while at Manassas such as fighting a proposed Disney Theme Park and discouraging home subdivision development within the Park boundaries.

Anyone interested in learning more about the Battles of Manassas may find further information Online by dialing into [www.nps.gov/mana/battle-1.htm](http://www.nps.gov/mana/battle-1.htm) or writing to Manassas National Battlefield Park, 12521 Lee Highway, Manassas Virginia 20109-2005, or call the Visitor Center at 1-703-361-1339.

## Lone Jack 13<sup>th</sup> Commemoration Huge Success!

Several members of the CWRTWMO attended/participated in the Battle of Lone Jack 13<sup>th</sup> Commemoration on August 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. The event was "kicked off" by a Parade led by Maria Antonio of Channel 9.

There was continuous music and dances throughout the two-day celebration as well as a re-enactment held behind the High School. Speeches were given by Ike Skelton and Bill Kenney. A memorial service to the troops who died during the battle was held and a wreath placed beside both monuments.

Special thanks to Sonny and Karen Wells who donated the profit from the sale of CWRTWMO's line of merchandise to the Lone Jack Museum. Sonny and Karen worked hard setting up and attending the tables for the merchandise during the festivities. The \$103.00 donation was greatly appreciated by the museum.

## Battle of Lexington

Missouri was critical to the Federal government after the fall of Fort Sumter in April 1861 and the Union defeat at the Battle of Bull Run in July 1861. As one of the border states its sympathies with the South were strong.

The state was a gateway not only to the western territories, but the Mississippi River on the east was vital to the needs of the Union's men and material.

The state was the most divided over the questions of secession, state's rights, and slavery. Families separated, partnerships dissolved, businesses collapsed, churches split, and politicians became vocal in their support of one side or the other. Neighbor attacked neighbor or anyone else who did not support his views.

In August of 1861 the situation was even more grave, when Union forces suffered a major defeat at Wilson's Creek. The pro-Southern Missouri State guard, commanded by ex-governor of Missouri, Major General Sterling Price, was in control of all of the state south and west of Rolla.

After the success at Wilson's Creek, Price moved north and by September 12, he had 12,000 men within sight of the fortified Union outpost at Lexington.

Price approached Lexington from the south, and the Union's pickets opened fire, but were quickly pushed back. Many volunteers joined Price's ranks each day as Price waited for ammunition wagons to arrive from the south over rain-soaked roads. On September 18, his ammunition train arrived and Price launched an attack on the fortifications.

Under heavy artillery fire Price galloped to the front to lead his troops forward. Within hours, he had completely encircled the Union earthworks. The Union quickly was forced back and abandoned the outpost that protected their water supply.

The Missouri State Guard pressed forward and fierce fighting took place the Anderson House (still standing). The house was used as a hospital for the Federals. Price captured the house and found a doctor, clergyman, and many wounded inside.

Colonel James A. Mulligan, Union commander, was enraged at the assault on the building. His forces took the house for a short time before they were driven out by the Missourians.

On the second day, Price's troops kept up a steady barrage of fire on the Union fortifications. Marks can still be seen today on some of the town's buildings. On Sept. 19, the Missourians placed huge hemp bales as a mobile breastworks. By morning a line of 400 bales faced the Union fortifications.

Shortly after dawn of Sept. 20, Price's soldiers began rolling the bales forward. Two or three men would butt a heavy bale forward with their heads, while other riflemen would fire on the Union lines. The Union troops fired frantically to keep the hemp coil from closing in. After several hours, the Confederates took the Union in a final rush.

Food and water gone, ammunition nearly gone, Mulligan set out a flag of truce and asked for terms of surrender. By 2 p.m. the siege of Lexington was over.