



NEWSLETTER

Vol. 1 No. 5

May 1998



**THE CIVIL -WAR ROUND  
TABLE OF WESTERN  
MISSOURI  
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**ANNUAL DUES**

Individual	\$15.00
Family	22.50
Student (Under 21)	5.00

**MEETINGS**

The 2nd Wednesday of the month.

**Visitors Always Welcome!**

# 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 MEETING - K.C. COSTUME SOCIETY AT THE MANSION HOUSE

The Mansion House was the location for the May meeting of the Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri. Owners Dave and Paula Swayne hosted the Round Table along with the featured program presenters, the Kansas City Costume Society. The meeting took place at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 13, 1998.

The evening commenced with a "fashion revue" conducted by the Kansas City Costume Society. Dori Semler introduced the "reenactors", each arrayed in period dress dating from the 1840s to the 1870s period. Detailed descriptions were given of the various men's and women's clothing from hoop skirts to bonnets, from Scottish kilts to Confederate Officer attire. The program sparked discussion from the audience regarding the difference between work clothing and formal wear, the color of clothing, the functionality of the clothing, and the customs of the "old folks."

A special thank you to the Society for the work and time involved in presenting the program. Oh yes, further congratulations as well to Cheryl Harness of the Society for a "revealing" look at clothing layering and "casualwear." Thank You K.C. Costume Society!

Paula Swayne also spoke to the Round Table about her home, The Mansion House, and followed up the oration with tours of the plantation home with an assist from husband David Swayne. Paula explained that the Mansion House is one of the oldest pre-Civil War residences in Independence and currently functions as a "bed and breakfast" facility as well as a site for special events: weddings, anniversary celebrations, etc.

Local Civil War historians recognize the 17 room mansion as the place where Frank James met his wife, Annie Ralston. Annie's father, Samuel Ralston, was one of the early owners of the estate and made Frank's acquaintance during the Civil War period. Frank, you will recall, is buried nearby approximately 2 miles west of The Mansion in the Hill Family Cemetery.

The house is a survivor, never having been damaged during the enforcement of Order No. 11; this despite the fact the Ralstons were Southern supporters. (It is *speculated* this was due to a friendship between Mr. Ralston and the Northern sympathizing George Caleb Bingham)

Thank you Paula and David Swayne for sharing your home for the evening and for the many stories that you passed on to us regarding the history of the home and days gone by. Dating to 1827!, the home is a rare jewel indeed. We were fortunate to visit.



## AT THE BOARD MEETING

The Board of Directors met on Wednesday April 15, 1998 at 7:00 p.m. at the Truman Campus with 12 members present. Mail was distributed and the following reports were given:

**Newsletter Editor:** Total expenses of \$40.34 - Copies \$6.37, Stamps \$32, and Paper \$1.97

100 copies printed; 83 mailed

**Coffee Fund:** Total expenses of \$17.81  
Donations of \$28.63 - Balance of \$25.49

**Treasurer:** Expenses - T-Shirt, \$337; April Newsletter, \$40.34; Membership Cards \$24.99 - 4/30/98 balance of \$784.44 (Reserve, \$202.29, Checking \$582.15)

**2nd V.P.:** Attendance of 47 at the April 1858 Old Jail meeting.

**1st V.P.:**

May (5/13/98) Clothing Revue

June (6/10/98) Jackson Co. Archives

July (7/8/98) Picnic-Pitcher Cemetery

**Old Business:** \*Meeting Place - Further discussion of possible permanent meeting site. Board voted to have Tim Cox meet with Chris Wilt, Exec. Dir. of Jackson Co. Historical Society about possible meeting sites, conducting joint meetings, and/or joining us for the Cass Co. Tour. \*By-Laws - Review of the By-Laws will commence at the next Board Meeting when Sections 1.01 and 1.02 will be discussed. \*Membership Cards - Preliminary cards were printed (1,000 for \$25). The Board approved changes to the card, among those to add color - gray card with navy blue ink. Toby Giese was reimbursed the \$25 and the Board authorized Toby to have the cards reprinted with the changes, not to exceed \$55 in cost.

**New Business:** \*Round Table Sportswear - The Board directed a payment of \$337 for the purchase of T-Shirts, Sweatshirts, and Baseball Caps bearing the group's logo. This was paid out of the general account. Bevely Shaw volunteered to take charge of bringing the sportswear to each meeting for sale to members and guests. Meeting Adjourned 9:20 p.m.

## FIELD TRIPS

<b>CASS COUNTY</b>	<b>5/30/98</b>
<b>LEXINGTON</b>	<b>10/24/98</b>

## CONFEDERATE

### --- TRIVIA ---

\*What Confederate leader was so frustrated in his attempts to get military training that he bestowed the title "general" on himself?

\*Who was the leader of the Confederate raiding "Swamp Rats"?

\*What did Quantrill do just before he died from the wounds of Union soldiers?

\*What general did Jefferson Davis call, "the vainest man I have ever met?"

(Answers Next Week)

### MEMBERS ON THE MOVE

Congratulations to the following Round Tablers in their *historic* pursuits:

**Phil Stewart:** As site historian of the James Farm, appeared in the "Gunfighters of the West", a cable TV program on the Learning Channel. Phil appeared on May 13 at the same time as our last regular meeting. I know, use the video recorder, I will see it ya, Phil!

**Art & Sharon Kelley:** Art & Sharon were the front page featured story of the May 18 issue of the Examiner. The story told of their genealogical interests and their participation in the Woodlawn Cemetery tour during observance of the city's Historic Preservation Week.

**Mike Calvert:** Mike Calvert was busy the week of May 11-16 during Historic Preservation Week in Independence. Mike, a member of the city's Heritage Commission, helped with the organization and conducting of tours through the Memorial Building, the Courthouse, and Main street homes. Mike loves 19th century architecture.

**Toby Giese:** Toby participated in a presentation of "British War Regiments and Their Badges" at the officers' Hunting Lodge at Ft. Leavenworth. Toby helped entertain visiting British Officers at the fort with a display and presentation of the history of British Regimental badges. The presentation was on May 17, the Queen's birthday.

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

<b>JUNE</b>	<b>6/10/98</b>	Jackson County Archives - Cora Wilson
<b>JULY</b>	<b>7/8/98</b>	Picnic-Pitcher Cemetery
<b>AUG</b>	<b>8/12/98</b>	Kenneth Apschnikat - Battlefield Preservation

## FIELD TRIP

### Sonny & Karen Wells to Cass County!

Sonny and Karen will be leading the Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri on a field trip to sites of interest in Cass County on May 30, 1998.

The field trip is one of two the group has on its agenda this year, the other being a tour to Lexington slated for October 24.

Highlights of the tour will be the Pleasant Hill Cemetery, the Battle of the Ravines, and the old G.A.R. hall in Austin. Members please see the enclosed brochure for further details.

**Please contact Sonny & Karen at 628-9910 or Tim Cox at 836-9051 should you be interested in bus service!**

The tour will depart at 9:00 am from the parking lot of Denny's at Hwy 291 & Hwy 50 in Lee's Summit.

### OTHER EVENTS

**Frank James: Trial of the 19th Century** - The Jackson County Historical Society is sponsoring a "retrial" of Frank James in the Old Courthouse on the square in Independence on July 24 & 25.

**German Country Sausage Fest & Folk Music Jamboree** - On June 3 (Wed) from 6:00 to 9:00, Joe Kelley at the 1859 Jail, Marshal's Home & Museum is sponsoring a fund-raising event to benefit the Old Jail.