



May 2011

★ *The Border Star* ★

Official Publication of the Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri
"Studying the Border War and Beyond"

THIS WEEK IN THE WAR: It's likely the first official Civil War prisoner exchange took place in Missouri. On May 10, 1861, about 700 Missouri militiamen were captured by Union forces at Camp Jackson in St. Louis. They were paroled with the agreement they would not return to the war until they were officially "exchanged" for Union prisoners.

The Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri

2011 Officers

President ----- Mike Calvert
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The Border Star Editor

Dennis Myers
12800 E. 48th Street S.
Independence, MO 64055
(816) 769-6490

Meetings

2nd Wednesday of each month
7:00 p.m.

Villages of Jackson Creek
3980-A S. Jackson Drive
(lower level)

Independence, Missouri

Visitors Always Welcome!

Annual Dues

Individual ----- 15.00
Family ----- 25.00
Student (under 21) ----- 5.00
Newsletter Only (no meetings) 10.00

For Information

Mike Calvert ----- 836-1013
Beverly Shaw ----- 225-7944
Art Kelley ----- 373-4101

Mailing Address

CWRTWM
P.O. Box 3019
Independence, MO 64055

**** **NEW Website** ****

www.CWRTWM.org

President's Letter

My wife bought a book this weekend. A fairly benign act in itself, or I thought so until I read the title and synopsis. Its title is "Abraham Lincoln, Vampire Killer" by Seth Grahame-Smith. The synopsis goes like this: "While Abraham Lincoln is widely lauded for saving the Union and freeing millions of slaves, his valiant fight against the forces of the undead has remained in the shadows for almost two hundred years - until Seth Grahame-Smith stumbled upon *The Secret Journal of Abraham Lincoln*." It goes on to talk about the hidden secret behind the Civil War and the role of vampires in the near death of a nation. One reviewer from Vanity Fair says, "Weirdly well researched account of the Civil War."

Now I haven't read this book yet and may not ever. I don't like to read books of alternate histories. Actual history is often strange enough without thinking up a new ending. However, I started to think about the people who do read these alternate histories. So I asked my wife why she picked it up. Her answer; "It looked interesting and I have you to ask if the history is right." Good enough answer. What if another person picks up this book without having someone to ask questions? Would they truly believe that Lincoln was a vampire killer? We have enough trouble amongst ourselves discussing the cause of the Civil War without throwing in the undead for more confusion.

Here's where I stand on reading alternate histories. Do it. What's the harm? Maybe by reading an "entertaining" account, however far fetched it might be; maybe when that book is finished there will be enough interest to pick up an actual historic volume. My only fear will be that when the alternate history is read the reader will believe that Lincoln was a vampire killer. But then again that may explain all that rail splitting. He was just creating jumbo sized wooden stakes.

~Mike Calvert, President, Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri

Use of Code for Entrance and Exit at the Villages of Jackson Creek

Our meeting place is very generously provided by the Villages of Jackson Creek, an Independence assisted living and nursing care facility. We meet in the eastern wing of the building which is occupied by the assisted living clients. In the evening the front doors are secured and can only be accessed by the keypad with the code **1207***. When you leave after the meeting, please be sure to utilize the keypad rather than forcing the doors open. Once you have entered **1207***, you will need to stand directly in front of the doors to activate them. If you have a problem, you can call Beverly on her cell phone number (816) 225-7944 to ask for assistance.

CWRTWM Calendar

May 2011 Membership Meeting

Wednesday, May 11, 2011 – 7:00 p.m.

Villages of Jackson Creek (lower level),
3980-A S. Jackson Drive, Independence, MO
Tom Rafiner: *Caught Between Three Fires:
Cass County, MO., Chaos & Order No. 11.*

No Board Meeting in May

Clay County Guided Bus Tour

Saturday, May 14, 2011 – 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Starts from the Blue & Grey Book Shoppe, 106 E.
Walnut, Independence, MO, which will be open
about 8:30 a.m. for shopping. Stops at the Jabez
Smith Slave Cemetery, the site of the Blue Mills
Landing, the Raid on the Liberty Arsenal, Clay
County Historical Society for a box lunch, William
Jewell College, Fairview Cemetery, and Watkins
Woolen Mill State Historic Site. \$40 made payable
to “CWRTWM,” P. O. Box 3019, Independence,
MO 64055. For those who want to join the tour in
Liberty, the fee is \$20 if there is still room on the
bus. For more information call (816) 225-7944.

Other Civil War Events

Historic Liberty Walking Tour

Saturday, May 7, 2011 – 10:00 a.m.

Three downtown churches. Meet at the
Presbyterian Church at the corner of North Main
and Mississippi, Liberty, MO. Free. Wear
comfortable walking shoes.

Black Jack Battlefield with John Brown

Saturday, May 7, 2011 – 1:00 p.m.

Black Jack Battlefield in rural Douglas County, KS.
3 miles east of Baldwin City, ¼ mile south of Hwy.
56 at 163 E. 2000 Road. Some argue that this was
the first battle of the Civil War. Free.

Civil War Missouri: A House Dividing

May 10, 2011 through June 2016, Missouri State
Museum in the Capitol Building, Jefferson City,
Missouri. The Civil War exhibit is set into the
façade of a jagged house which appears to be
coming apart. An unusual piece is a Civil War
mortar made of a sweet gum tree trunk which was
not expected to last out the war.

Cass County Civil War Round Table

Tuesday, May 10, 2011 – 7:00 p.m.

Pearson Hall, Cass County Library, 400 E.
Mechanic, Harrisonville, MO. Open Round Table
with Diane Magness presenting research on
hideouts of Jesse James and Cole Younger and the
two collapsed bridges near Lee's Summit.

Tombstone Series at Frontier Trails Museum

Thursday, May 12, 2011 – 7:00 p.m.

National Frontier Trails Museum, 318 W. Pacific,
Independence, MO. John Mark Lambertson
presents the final in a series. “Pyramids, Crosses,
and Shrines: Tombstoning around the World.” \$6.

Civil War Medicine

Friday, May 13, 2011 – 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

St. Joseph Museum, 3406 Frederick Ave., St.
Joseph, MO. “Amputations and What We Learned”
by Dr. Gondring who will provide information
about weaponry of the War, why amputations were
so frequently performed, and the many advances in
medicine that came as a result. Free.

The St. Joseph Museum is also hosting an exhibit
called “Civil War Medicine from now until October
2015. It shows artifacts from both the North and
the South and what a field hospital looked like. As
you tour the 1,100 square foot exhibit, you will
follow the journey of one doctor and two soldiers
from local families through letters and diaries.
Hours are 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Monday-Saturday
and 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Sunday. \$5 for
adults, \$4 for seniors, and \$3 for students ages 7-18.

Battle of Carthage 150th Anniversary

Saturday and Sunday, May 14-15, 2011. Thanks to
special permission from the city of Carthage, the re-
enactment will follow the battle's true path through
the town. For more information please go to
www.carthagepresss.com/battleofcarthage.

Civil War Fashion Show

Sunday, May 15, 2011 – 2:00 p.m.

Plaza Branch of Kansas City Library, 4801 Main
Street, Kansas City, MO. Re-enactors and
historians will wear clothing of the free and
enslaved, civilian and military, North and South
with comments by Kandice Walker, director of the
John Wornall House, and other experts. RSVP to
(816) 701-3481. Free.

Robert E. Lee: From General to Academician

Tuesday, May 17, 2011 – 6:30 p.m.

National Archives, 400 W. Pershing Road, Kansas City, MO. A 6:00 p.m. reception precedes the talk by Dr. Timothy Westcott from Park College. Free. RSVP to (816) 268-8010 or send an E-mail to kansascity.educate@nara.gov.

The Battle of Mine Creek Lecture

Thursday, May 19, 2011 – 7:00 p.m.

Frontier Army Museum, 100 Reynolds Ave., Fort Leavenworth, KS. Arnold Schofield, park historian, talks about the battle. For those who don't work on post, plan to arrive 15 minutes early and have picture ID such as a driver's license.

Guerrillas, Partisans and Bushwhackers

Thursday, May 19, 2011 – 7:00 p.m.

Truman Building, Rooms 490/492, 301 W. High Street, Jefferson City, MO. Daniel Sutherland will demonstrate the pervasiveness of guerrilla warfare in Missouri and the toll it took on the Confederate war effort by diminishing the trust that citizens had that their officials would protect them. He will discuss the driving forces behind guerrilla warfare and the forms it took. Free.

My Best Friend, Abe Lincoln

Friday, May 20, 2011 – 6:30 p.m.

John Wornall House Museum, 6115 Wornall Road, Kansas City, MO. Robert Bloch, author of *My Best Friend, Abe Lincoln: A Tale of Two Boys from Indiana*, talks about his new book with amazing artwork by a former animation artist with the Disney Studios. Tea and cookies. All ages.

Battle of Mine Creek Battlefield Tour

Saturday, May 21, 2011 – 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Meet at the Frontier Army Museum at Ft. Leavenworth to drive to Mine Creek or meet the group at the battlefield near Pleasonton, KS to have a tour guided by Arnold Schofield, Park Historian. \$3 for adults, \$1 for students. Must have picture ID such as a driver's license to enter the post. For Information call Terry Beckenbaugh at (913) 684-3905 or E-mail to terry.beckenbaugh@us.army.mil.

Kansas Historic Homes Tour

Saturday, May 21, 2011 – 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Tour starts in front of the Overland Park Presbyterian Church, 8029 Overland Park Drive in

downtown Overland Park, KS. Trolleys leave every 20 minutes to take you to 5 homes from 1854 to 1923. \$15 cash or check only. One home includes two two-story log cabins and a dog trot in the interior. For information call (913) 381-8867.

Paul Kirkman at Barnes & Noble

Saturday, May 21, 2011 – 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Barnes & Noble, 19120 E. 39th Street, Independence, MO. Paul will sign copies of his new book on the Battle of Westport.

Forget Not These Days

Saturday, May 21, 2011 – 7:00 p.m.

Lee's Summit North Performing Arts Center, 901 NE Douglas, Lee's Summit, MO. Live theater performance by Lee's Summit High School students using resources provided by the Lone Jack and Lee's Summit Historical Societies. Stories of both communities will be told through firsthand accounts of the people who endured the pain and suffering of the Civil War. \$10 for adults 18 and over, \$5 for children 6-17. Proceeds will be split between the two groups. This is a good opportunity to show support for young people and history.

Civil War Round Table of Kansas City Meeting

Tuesday, May 24, 2011 – 6:30 p.m. – Dinner Homestead Country Club, 6510 Mission Road, Prairie Village, KS. "Medicine and the Founding of the Sanitation Commission" by Joseph K. Houts, Jr., Vice-President, Community Development Center, Commerce Bank, St. Joseph, MO. \$25 for dinner. Make reservations with Paul Gault at (816) 741-2962.

Paul Kirkman at the National Archives

Thursday, May 26, 2011 – 6:30 p.m.

National Archives, 400 W. Pershing, Kansas City, MO. Paul Kirkman will talk about his new book on the Battle of Westport. Reception at 6:00 p.m. sponsored by the Westport Historical Society. RSVP to (816) 268-8010 or by E-mail to kansascity.educate@nara.gov.

Memorial Day at Union Cemetery

Monday, May 30, 2011 – 11:30 a.m.

Union Cemetery, 227 E. 28th Terr., Kansas City, MO. Patriotic program honoring veterans of the Revolutionary War through Vietnam. Re-enactors and representatives of the wars will read the roll of

honor and provide a military salute. Civic leaders will give brief comments and lay a memorial wreath. Abraham Lincoln will present the Gettysburg Address, and Harry S Truman will deliver the keynote address.

Coming Events

Historic Liberty Walking Tour

Saturday, June 4, 2011 – 10:00 a.m.

Jewell & Lightburne Historic Districts, Liberty, MO. Walking tour starts at the parking lot at the corner of Franklin and Lightburne Streets. Free.

Confederate Memorial Day

Saturday, June 4, 2011 – 1:00 p.m.

Confederate Veterans Home Park north of Higginsville, MO. Memorial service for 800 Americans buried in the cemetery. Morning activities include program in the Chapel at 11:00 a.m. to see and hear about the 1911 Confederate Reunion in Lexington, MO. At 11:30 a.m. walk through the cemetery and hear first person accounts of people buried there. Barbecue lunch available at 12:15 p.m. or bring your own.

Breakfast on the Trails

Saturday, June 11, 2011 – 7:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Bingham-Waggoner Estate, 313 W. Pacific Ave., Independence, MO. \$8 for adults and \$5 for youth 10 and under. Advance Reservations are required at (816) 461-3491. After breakfast linger on the grounds to listen to entertainment by the Gum Springs Serenaders and enjoy period costumes.

Battle of Blue Mills Landing

Saturday, June 11, 2011 – 11:00 a.m.

Truman Library, 500 W. US Hwy 24, Independence, MO. Part of the “Talkin’ Truman” series. The CWRTWM is sponsoring Jay Jackson who will speak on the Battle of Blue Mills Landing south of Liberty, MO which was September 17, 1861. It lasted only an hour, saw 126 casualties, and solidified Confederate influence in northwest Missouri. Jay will also display Civil War uniforms, guns, and other clothing of the period. We would like to have a good crowd to welcome Jay south of the river. Admission is \$8 for adults, \$7 for seniors 65 and older, \$3 for children 6-15, and free for children 5 and under. You will also have a chance to view one of the original George Caleb Bingham

paintings of “Order No. 11” on loan to the Truman Library.

Barbara Hughes Portrays Mary Lobb

Saturday, June 11, 2011 – 2:00 p.m.

Blue Springs Museum, 101 SW 15th Street, Blue Springs, MO. Barbara Hughes presents “Civil War Connections: Mary Lobb, Lobb Cemetery, and Order No. 11” through first person vignette, PowerPoint and music.

Tom Rafiner, Independent Historian

Tom Rafiner, our guest speaker at the May 11th meeting, is an independent researcher and historian who lives in Parkville, MO but was raised in Raytown, MO. Tom's ancestral roots in Jackson County, MO go back to 1831. While conducting family research, Rafiner found relatives who lived in Cass County, MO during the Civil War. Tom's ancestors, the Samuel Parsons family, were driven from the county in 1863. Natural curiosity about Order No. 11 and questions about the fate of Cass County families soon became an all-consuming passion.

Tom's research into the lives of the 1700 families who lived in the county in 1860 has carried him all over the Midwest and to the National Archives in Washington D.C. For the past three years he has been an active speaker for the State Historical Society's Speakers Bureau.

Tom's first history, *Caught Between Three Fires: Cass County, MO., Chaos, & Order No. 11*, came out in November 2010. Three additional historical works are in progress and all focus on the Missouri-Kansas border. Tom will be publishing a transcription of Philip P. Fowler's *The Jay-Hawker*.

Historians Commemorate the Raid on the Liberty Arsenal

On April 20, 1861, a group of secessionists led by Colonel Henry Routt of Liberty raided the Missouri Depot, better known as the Liberty Arsenal, taking a substantial amount of cannons, rifles, other guns, and ammunition. The Arsenal, protected by a handful of men commanded by Nathaniel Grant, had no option but to surrender. The raid on the Arsenal is considered by many as the second military action of the Civil War after Ft. Sumter.

On April 20, 2011, 150 years to the day after the raid, Jay Jackson, local historian and Civil War re-enactor, gave a presentation at Liberty City Hall explaining the events that led up to the raid, the men involved, and what was taken from the brick structure that once stood on the Missouri River bluffs. Over 100 people attended, with others being turned away due to lack of seating.

Part two of the commemoration occurred on April 23, south of Liberty, near the site of the arsenal. Jim Beckner, Civil War re-enactor, portrayed Colonel Routt, railing against the Union and defending the right to raid the Arsenal. A crowd of over 100, some in Civil War era garb, watched the presentation, including descendants of Henry Routt.



Jim Beckner Portraying Colonel Routt

***Lee and Grant* Exhibition**

The National Archives at Kansas City opens *Lee and Grant*, a traveling exhibition from the National Endowment for the Humanities. By the end of the Civil War, most Americans considered either Robert E. Lee or Ulysses S. Grant to be a hero. The reputations of the two generals, molded in part by a sectional bias that would enhance the achievements of one often to the detriment of the other, would wax and wane over the next 140 years. The exhibit *Lee and Grant* provides a major reassessment of the lives, careers, and historical impact of Civil War generals Robert E. Lee and Ulysses S. Grant. It also encourages audiences to move beyond the traditional mythology of both men and rediscover them within the context of their own time – based on their own words and those of their contemporaries. *Lee and Grant* presents photographs, paintings, prints,

coins, reproduction clothing, accoutrements owned by the two men, documents written in their own hands, and biographical and historical records to reveal each man in his historical and cultural context, allowing audiences to compare the ways each has been remembered. "Visitors will enjoy discovering similarities and differences between the two that are rarely pointed out," said Dr. William M. S. Rasmussen, exhibition co-curator and the Lora M. Robins, Curator of Art at the Virginia Historical Society. "These generals have been explored by historians for decades, but *Lee and Grant* is the first exhibition to present the men together so that visitors can make decisions about them, side by side, based on facts."

Lee and Grant will be available for viewing at the National Archives in Kansas City, April 19, 2011 – October 22, 2011. The Round Table is thinking of arranging a group tour on a Saturday and maybe grabbing a bite to eat together. We could car pool from Independence and if you are interested please call Beverly at (816) 225-7944 or E-mail to bevjoshaw@hotmail.com

Union Cemetery Historical Society Memorial Day Program

The Union Cemetery Historical Society will present a patriotic program on Memorial Day, Monday, May 30, 2011, to honor the Veterans and notable Patriots buried in this historic cemetery. At rest in Union Cemetery are veterans from all the wars of our country from the Revolution through Vietnam. Re-enactors and representatives from the wars will read the roll of honor and provide a gun salute. There will also be presentations from the Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts, and historic groups. Civic leaders will have brief comments and will lay a memorial wreath. Featured at the program will be Abraham Lincoln presenting his famous Gettysburg address. Also on hand will be Harry S. Truman who will deliver the keynote address. Union Cemetery is located at 227 E. 28th Terr., Kansas City, Missouri. The event is at 11:30 a.m. on Memorial Day, following the program at the Liberty Memorial. For additional information, please contact Phil Lainhart at (816) 453-4128 or the Union Cemetery Historical Society at (816) 472-4990.

The Joplin Globe, Joplin, MO

April 23, 2011

Battle of Carthage to be played out on May 14

By Susan Redden

Globe Staff Writer

CARTHAGE, Mo. — Visitors will be able to watch Civil War re-enactors skirmish through downtown Carthage on Saturday, May 14, commemorating the battle that took place there July 5, 1861.

Thus far, 496 re-enactors have registered for the event.

There also will be 69 soldiers on horseback and 60 pieces of artillery, according to numbers reviewed at a planning meeting last week, said Wendi Douglas, director of the Carthage Convention and Visitors Bureau and chairperson of the Battle of Carthage Committee.

Re-enactors will camp in Municipal Park on Friday, and, starting at 1 p.m. on Saturday, march down Oak Street to Central Park. The battle will start at 2 p.m. at Central Park, then will move through town to the courthouse square.

Among the re-enactors, 308 will represent the Missouri State Guard and 188 will represent the union troops led by Col. Franz Sigel.

About 100 people have registered to serve as civilians in period costume, supporting either side in the battle. Observers also are encouraged to come in period clothing, Douglas said.

The re-enactment is unique in that it will take place in the city rather than in open fields.

That will make the battle more authentic, because the 1861 battle “took place on about nine miles of open ground and then was fought right through the center of the city,” according to Gordon Billheimer, of Carthage and a longtime re-enactor. He is helping to organize the event as head of Battle of Carthage, Inc.

On Saturday morning, camps will be open in Municipal Park so visitors can talk to re-enactors and see how soldiers lived during the time.

“They can walk around and see the different military units and they can buy from the vendors that will be there,” Douglas said. Vendors will be selling Civil War-era clothing and other items.

Also Saturday morning, cavalry riders will participate in an obstacle course and competition at Rodeo Arena in Municipal Park.

There also will be a weapons safety and uniform inspection shortly before troops begin their march to Central Park.

In addition, there will be a cricket match at Rock Stadium in Municipal Park.

Civil War dance

Civil War re-enactors will hold a dance starting at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, May 14, that will be open to the public.