



# **The Border Star**

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

• **Founded 12-9-1992**

• **Incorporated 5-12-1993**

*"Studying the Border War and Beyond"*

**January 2010**

## **The Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri**

### **2010 Officers**

*President* ----- Mike Calvert  
*1<sup>st</sup> V.P.* ----- Pat Gradwohl  
*2<sup>nd</sup> V.P.* ----- Art Kelley  
*Secretary* ----- Karen Wells  
*Treasurer* ----- Beverly Shaw  
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### **Board Members**

Delbert Coin      Karen Coin  
Terry Chronister      Barbara Hughes  
Don Moorehead      Kathy Moorehead  
Steve Olson      Carol Olson  
Terry McConnell

### **The Border Star Editor**

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

### **Meetings**

2<sup>nd</sup> 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**

C.W.R.T. of Western Missouri  
P. O. Box 3019  
Independence, MO 64055

### **Website**

[www.orgsites.com/mo/cwrt](http://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 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on April 12, 2011 is just 454 days away, as of the date of our next Round Table meeting on January 13<sup>th</sup>.

Mike Calvert sends his regrets for not being able to send a personal greeting for the New Year. He has a project at work that must get out this week.

## **BATTLEFIELD PRESERVATION**

The Round Table received a press release from Wide Awake Films this week that we thought would be of interest to you. Some of you may remember that Shane Seley and his company presented a program for us several years ago, and we have watched with admiration as Wide Awake Films has created excellent historical movies.

Recently Wide Awake Films announced the donation of \$850 to support battlefield preservation in Pennsylvania's Adams County where the legendary Battle of Gettysburg was fought. In June 2008 Wide Awake Films was honored to be selected to film the 145<sup>th</sup> reenactment which produced a 35 minute DVD documentary.

"We're pretty passionate about the Civil War, even on a personal level," says Shane. To combine our passion with our business—while at the same time helping to preserve historic lands—that's a dream come true."

### **Inclement Weather Hotline**

If it looks like the weather or roads make it unsafe for people to be out, Beverly Shaw will record a message on her home number for you to call. The number will ring about four times before the answering machine picks up so please be patient. We will probably make our decision on Tuesday, January 12, 2010.

**The phone number is (816) 478-7648**

## CWRTWMO Calendar

### January 2010 Meeting

Wednesday, January 13, 2010 – 7:00 p.m.  
Villages of Jackson Creek (lower level),  
3980-A S. Jackson Drive, Independence, MO  
Open Round Table – Members and friends are encouraged to share artifacts, research, travel, book review with the group. Please check in with Mike Calvert, president, so that he will know how much time to allow per presentation.

### January 2010 Board Meeting

Wednesday, January 20, 2010 – 7:00 p.m.  
Home of Beverly Shaw, 17313 E. 51 Terr Ct.,  
Independence, MO.

## Other Events

### Clay County Historical Society Annual Banquet

Thursday, January 14, 2010 – 6:30 p.m.  
Elms Resort & Spa, Excelsior Springs, MO

### Jackson County Historical Society Annual Dinner

Thursday, January 21, 2010 – 6:00 p.m.  
Arts Incubator of Kansas City, 115 W. 18<sup>th</sup> St.  
Kansas City, MO. See article below.

### Lecompton Bleeding Kansas Program Series

January 31 - February 28, 2010 – 2:00 p.m.  
Sunday afternoons at Constitution Hall State  
Historic Site, 319 Elmore, Lecompton, KS  
**Jan. 31** - The Wyandotte Constitution-Virgil Dean.  
**Feb. 7** - Asa Reynard: An Original Jayhawk-  
Timothy Graham.  
**Feb. 14** - Slavery in Kansas Territory-Kristen Epps.  
**Feb. 21** - Jayhawkers: CW Brigade of James H.  
Lane-Bryce Benedict.  
**Feb. 28** - Cass County, MO & Order No. 11-Carol  
Bohl and Tom Rafiner. Free of charge.

### Explore Liberty's Heritage

Saturday, February 6, 2010 – 10:00 a.m.  
Civil War Seminar given by Jay Jackson. Corbin  
Theatre, 15 N. Water St., Liberty, MO. Free  
seminar on the Civil War battles fought in and  
around Liberty.

## Dues Now Payable

Dues for 2010 are now being accepted by mail to  
CWRTWMO, 17313 E. 51st Terr. Court,  
Independence, MO 64055. You may also pay at

any meeting. Family - \$25. Individual - \$15. For  
those who cannot attend meetings, a Newsletter  
Subscription Only can be had for \$10.

## News from Other Historical Groups

The **Civil War Round Table of the Ozarks** will be  
Celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary on April 17, 2010 in  
Springfield, MO. The keynote speaker will be Dr.  
Steven Woodworth of Texas Christian University  
on the topic "The Mississippi's Most Decisive  
Campaign: Grant's Movement on the West Bank of  
the Mississippi, April 1863."

The **Blue Springs Historical Society** has  
nominated its president, Mary Potter, as Blue  
Springs Citizen of the Year. The winner will be  
announced January 29, 2010. Congratulations to  
the Society for a successful Christmas Homes Tour.

The **Cass County Historical Society** announces  
that the historic courtroom on the second floor of  
the Cass County Courthouse in Harrisonville has  
been newly renovated back to its original look with  
balcony and third floor windows. Plans for future  
use include a series of plays, reenactments and  
historical programs by the Society.

Congratulations to **Karen Wells and Carolyn  
Hatcher**, co-chairs, for the successful 24<sup>th</sup> Annual  
**Clay County Historical Homes Tour** which  
moved to a fall date in 2009.

**Freedom's Frontier** is announcing its first  
workshop series on the Power of Interpretation:  
Bridging the Gap between Visitors and Storytellers.  
The dates are January 14<sup>th</sup> and February 11<sup>th</sup>.

The **Independence, MO Tourism Department** is  
announcing a newly redesigned website which will  
guide visitors to historic sites in Independence. Visit  
[www.visitindependence.com](http://www.visitindependence.com).

**Leavenworth, Kansas** now has a 9-foot-tall bronze  
statue of Abraham Lincoln in front of City Hall, 100  
N. 5<sup>th</sup> Street. A band and dignitaries greeted  
Lincoln when he arrived in Leavenworth on  
December 3, 1859. It was his first and only trip to  
Kansas – the farthest he ventured west. The statue  
depicts a younger, more casual looking Lincoln who  
has no beard.

A study about whether **Newtonia's Civil War battlefields** will join the National Park Service and a documentary highlighting Native American involvement in the first Newtonia battle are on tap for 2010. Our friend **Connie Langum**, a historian at Wilson's Creek National Battlefield, will help write the study's "statement of significance."

We are sorry to report that due to a fiscal shortfall, the **State Historical Society of Missouri** in Columbia is decreasing its hours of operation to the public to Mondays through Thursdays, 8:00 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. It will no longer be open for research on Fridays and Saturdays. The popular Missouri History Speakers' Bureau which furnished speakers to local groups is also being discontinued.

Anyone who has an interest in Missouri history can support the organization with an annual membership dues for \$20. You can send your check to the State Historical Society of Missouri, 1020 Lowry Street, Columbia, MO 65201, call (800) 747-6366 or E-mail: shsofmo@umsystem.ed.

### **Missouri Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission**

In September 2008, Gov. Matt Blunt named 18 Missourians to serve on the Missouri Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission, which he created to commemorate Missouri's role in the Civil War. "Missouri played a unique and critical role in the war between the states. In Missouri, the Civil War truly pitted family against family, neighbor against neighbor and brother against brother," Gov. Blunt said. "This commission will help Missourians recognize the 150th anniversary of the Civil War and ensure that future generations do not forget the heroic service of Missourians in this conflict." In March, Gov. Blunt signed an executive order creating the Missouri Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission and secured \$200,000 to support its laudable goals of honoring and remembering the bravery and sacrifices Missourians made in the Civil War. Funding is through the Department of Natural Resources to help the commission carry out its mission. During the Civil War there were 1,162 engagements fought on state soil - the third highest number among all the states. Approximately 160,000 Missourians total fought in the war, for both the Union and

Confederate sides, with an average of 122 men killed for every county in the state. Gov. Blunt created the commission to commemorate the bravery and sacrifices Missourians made during the Civil War. The commission will serve as the official liaison between other states and other public and private sesquicentennial committees to coordinate and plan activities that foster recognition of the Civil War in Missouri. The commission will be responsible for submitting a report to the Governor each December on their recommendations to promote public awareness and observances of the sesquicentennial of the Civil War, 2011 through 2015. The following Missourians have been appointed to the Missouri Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission (one member is from the greater Kansas City area and four are members of the Civil War Round Table of the Ozarks):

Terry Ramsey, Nevada, is a staff member at the Bushwhacker Museum in Nevada. She is an energetic supporter of Civil War and other heritage tourism activities in southwest Missouri. She is active in the Missouri Civil War Heritage Foundation and the Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area planning committees.

Robert Archibald, St. Louis, has served as president and CEO of the Missouri Historical Society since 1988. He holds a doctorate in history with a concentration in Latin American History and the History of the American West.

Dr. David Dalton, Hollister, holds the Elizabeth Hoyt Clark Chair of Humanities and is a professor of History at College of the Ozarks. Dr. Dalton holds a bachelor's degree from Western Kentucky University and doctorate from the University of Kentucky, specializing in the Civil War. Dalton is published in numerous journals, including *The Journal of Southern History*, *The Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*, and *The Encyclopedia of the American Civil War*. He has forthcoming publications in new works entitled, *Kentuckians in Gray*, and *Confederate Generals in the Western Theater*.

Dr. Debra Foster Green, Jefferson City, serves as an Associate Professor of History at Lincoln University. Dr. Foster received her doctorate in American History from the University of Missouri.

She is a member of several associations including the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, the Association of Black Women Historians, the Southern Association for Women Historians, and the Missouri State Historical Society.

Thomas Higdon, Stark City, is treasurer of the Newtonia Battlefield Protection Association. Mr. Higdon was instrumental in securing grants to provide for professional battlefield surveys and analysis.

Ted Hilmer, Nixa, has been with the National Park Service for 31 years. Mr. Hilmer has worked in Washington, D.C., three regional offices, the Denver Service Center, and at three park units. His educational background is in civil engineering and environmental science. Mr. Hilmer has worked at Wilson's Creek National Battlefield since August 2003.

Joseph K. Houts, St. Joseph, is the author of *Quantrill's Thieves* and *A Darkness Ablaze*. Mr. Houts holds a history degree from Westminster College and juris doctorate from Lewis University College of Law. He is currently a Vice President for Community Development at Commerce Bank and serves as Chairman of the St. Joseph Civil War Sesquicentennial Commemoration Committee.

Beverly Jarrett, Columbia, has worked in scholarly publishing for over 30 years. Ms. Jarrett holds a master's in English from Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge in 1964. Since her tenure as director of the University of Missouri Press began in 1989, the publishing program has grown substantially, doubling its book sales revenue, and more than quadrupling the number of reviews each book receives.

R. Crosby Kemper III, Kansas City, served as the chairman and CEO of UMB Financial Corporation and UMB Bank, from 2001- 2004. He was appointed by Gov. Bob Holden to chair the blue-ribbon Citizens Commission on the Future of Higher Education in Missouri. He also founded successful, free, outdoor Shakespeare festivals in Kansas City and Saint Louis. He is Vice Chairman of the Truman Presidential Library and Institute

Board of Directors. Mr. Kemper holds a bachelor's degree in history from Yale University.

Gary Kremer, Jefferson City, is the Executive Director of the State Historical Society of Missouri. Previously Mr. Kremer taught history at Lincoln University and William Woods University. He has written, co-written and co-edited ten books, including the recently released *Women in Missouri History: In Search of Power and Influence*; *A Dictionary of Missouri Biography*; *A History of Missouri, 1875-1919* and *Missouri's Black Heritage*.

Dr. Diane Mutti-Burke, Kansas City, is an Assistant Professor at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. She is currently completing a scholarly monograph entitled *On Slavery's Borders: Small Slaveholding in Antebellum Missouri*. Dr. Burke has used cases to investigate marriage and kinship ties between slaves, along with the nature of inter-farm slave communities. She is utilizing the records of the Missouri State Archives to more deeply explore the disintegration of slavery during the Civil War.

Fred Palmer, St. Louis, is the Senior Vice President for Government Relations at Peabody Energy. Mr. Palmer received his undergraduate and law degree from the University of Arizona and was the 2004 recipient of the Erskine Ramsay Medal Award from the Society for Mining, Metallurgy and Exploration.

Richard Peerson, Columbia, is a native Missourian, being the fourth generation to farm in Lafayette County. After thirty years of farming, he became the Executive Director of the Missouri Junior Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Peerson serves as Chairman of the Battle for Jefferson City Civil War.

Dr. William Piston, Springfield, is a History Professor and Civil War scholar at Missouri State University. In 2004 he published a book, co-authored with William Hatcher, on the Battle of Wilson's Creek and is active in the Civil War Roundtable of the Ozarks.

Art Schuermann, Saint Louis, retired as a Major from the Missouri Air National Guard. During his years of service he worked as a full time employee for the Missouri Air Guard in the Base Engineering Office, supervising operations and maintenance at

Jefferson Barracks. His position was also responsible for Historic Preservation and Environmental Compliance for the Air Guard. He holds a master's degree from St. Louis University.

Thomas P. Sweeney, M.D., Springfield, retired from St. Johns Regional Health Center, in Springfield, MO, as an Interventional Radiologist. Dr. Sweeney served as a Board Member of the National Museum of Civil War Medicine in Frederick, Maryland from its inception to 2002. He has been a member of the Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Foundation since 1971. Dr. Sweeney is also the owner of General Sweeney's Museum of the Civil War in the Trans-Mississippi located next to the battlefield. Tour groups to the museum included the Smithsonian Museum Tours, Blue and Gray Educational Society, numerous Civil War Round Tables around the country and local schools. The National Park Service purchased the museum contents and property and it remains intact at Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Park to continue to tell the story of the Civil War in the Trans-Mississippi.

Stuart Symington, St. Louis, is the former Vice-President and General Solicitor for Union Pacific Railroad Company. Mr. Symington has represented clients before a wide variety of local, state and federal agencies and departments in Washington, D.C., throughout the United States and overseas. His practice has included representation of individuals, charitable, educational and religious organizations, and private and major publicly-held corporations, including complex employment related immigration matters. Mr. Symington is a former civilian aide to the Secretary of the Army, chairman of the Missouri Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, and a former trustee of the Association of the United States Army.

Mike Ussery, Springfield, is the Director of Constituent Services for Gov. Matt Blunt. Mr. Ussery received his bachelor's degree in history from the College of the Ozarks and is currently working towards his master's in history from Missouri State University, with an emphasis on American History.

Information in this article courtesy of *The Buck and Ball*, the Civil War Round Table of the Ozarks

### Looking for information Ulysses S Grant "USG" Our Old Commander



The carving is on thin wood, approximately 12x14" with large initials "USG" and text "Our Old Commander" along with an old photo incased in an old frame 24x19, set on black cloth material. If you have any information or interest about this piece, please contact Mark A. Wealand, Harry S. Truman Chapter, Missouri Society Sons of the American Revolution, telephone (816) 525-5535.

### Notes About Our Members and Friends

Congratulations are extended to history buffs being honored by **Jackson County Historical Society** at their annual banquet on January 21<sup>st</sup>. The Jane Fifiield Flynn Lifetime Achievement Award is given in memory of **Greg Hawley** of the Steamboat Arabia Museum. The Outstanding Achievement in Historic Preservation goes to County Executive **Mike Sanders and the Jackson County Legislature** for the restoration of the Historic Jackson County Truman Courthouse. The Outstanding Achievement in Historic Preservation and Education goes to **Jane Mallinson and**

**LaFarge North America** for the Wayne City Landing Interpretive Outlook. The Historic Artifact Award goes to **Robert D. Owen** for the “Mattie Lykins Bingham Reminiscences.” The Historic Book of the Year is *Deaths on Pleasant Street: The Ghastly Enigma of Colonel Swope and Doctor Hyde* by **Giles Fowler**. The Volunteers of the Year are **J. D. and Barbara Warnex** at the 1859 Jail and Marshal’s Home Museum and **Les Simmons** at the Jackson County Historical Society Archives.

We are happy to report that **Margaret Bardgett** is back at home after undergoing serious back surgery and physical therapy. She is relieved of the debilitating pain but has some new hardware to show for it. Her lower back was fused and now has a titanium cage and rods to stabilize it. Needless to say she will need a note from her doctor before going through any metal detectors. Upcoming is surgery in February or March to replace her right knee which has a tendency to buckle without notice.

Congratulations to **Vicki Beck** for receiving the Donald R. Hale Award on October 3, 2009 at the Annual Quantrill Society meeting. The late Donald Hale founded the Quantrill Society and was President of the Lee’s Summit Historical Society in addition to his copious writings about Civil War and local history.

**Jim Beckner** had surgery in early December and continues to receive treatments but is feeling much better and looks forward to being back with us and his other organizations.

Our friend **Betty Key** at the **Blue & Grey Book Shoppe**, 106 E. Walnut, Independence, MO, has some back issues of the *Blue and Gray* magazine that range from \$1.25 to \$1.75. The bookstore is open on Fridays and Saturdays from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

We had some long distance greetings at the holiday season from **Scott Cauger** in New York State who came west to go on our Battle of Westport tour in May 2009.

Our friend **John Dillingham** who spoke to us at the Truman Library about Alexander Doniphan was awarded the 2009 Outstanding Kansas Citian Award by the Native Sons. He also spoke to the

Jackson County Genealogical Society (JCGS) on December 5<sup>th</sup> about Freedom’s Frontier, a National Heritage Area consisting of 41 area counties in Kansas and Missouri. The JCGS houses their research library at the Truman Depot, 111 W. Pacific Ave., Independence, MO and is open 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. For more information call (816) 252-8128 or E-mail [jcgsprograms@yahoo.com](mailto:jcgsprograms@yahoo.com).

We received a newsy letter from **Bud Green’s** daughter, Cindy, in November to let us know he has had to postpone his visit to Washington, D.C. to the spring (maybe cherry blossom time). This is one of the Honor Flights sponsored for World War II veterans. Bud had a medical emergency in mid-October and had to spend a little time in the hospital and later in a nursing home for physical therapy. Cindy was sure he would be able to come home for the holidays and watch the birds feed outside his bay window.

**Paul Kirkman** was interviewed for the “5 Quick Questions” in the *Independence Examiner* on December 29, 2009. You may remember that he co-authored the recent book *Lockdown: Outlaws, Lawmen & Frontier Justice in Jackson County, Missouri* with David Jackson, archivist of the Jackson County Historical Society Archives. He was previously a member of the speakers bureau of the State Historical Society of Missouri and hopes that funding may again be found in the near future. One historical nugget which came to light during research for *Lockdown* was that Frank James’ jailer was fired for letting him out of jail to go to a show. Paul would like to write about some aspects of Sterling Price’s 1864 raid in the future and likes the idea of writing about some of the big slave-holding families in Jackson County and their fortunes before and after the Civil War.

**Robert Maienschein** was a dedicated volunteer at the Jackson County Archives who died July 10, 1995. He donated his personal Civil War library to the Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri, and it forms the core of the Maienschein Collection at the Clay County Archives. Since then we have had significant donations from JoAnna Dale in memory of her husband Richard and from Peggy Ruester and Mary Younger who gave us the complete set of *The Official Records of the Civil*

War (ORs). If you have Civil War books that you would like to have lovingly archived, we would be glad to receive them. Since we are a 501(c)(3) organization we can give you a tax letter. You can call Beverly Shaw, Treasurer, at (816) 225-7944 for more information.

We want to extend our condolences to **Fran Mason** whose mother Esther Ward, passed away at the age of 97 on December 7, 2009.

Thank you to **Dr. William Piston** who came from Springfield, MO to speak at our November meeting and to **Jim Beckner** for setting this up. **Don Moorehead** used to reenact at many of the battlefields Dr. Piston spoke about in Missouri and Arkansas but said he never understood how they were related to the overall picture of the Civil War and the military roads and railroads west of the Mississippi until Dr. Piston's talk. Now that's a good teacher who can bring the strands together to make sense. You will note that Dr. Piston is on the Governor's committee for the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We thought you would like to know who the Civil War experts are in Missouri.

**Harry Rinacke** is making his mark as the "go to" guy for installing historic markers. The Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri certainly thanks him for the expertise in installing our two new markers for the Battle of the Little Blue in October 2009. We also noted a picture in the newsletter of the Kansas City Area Historic Trails Association which shows his handiwork after the installation of posts and mounted plates near Avila University to mark the crossing of the historic trails at Pennsylvania and Santa Fe Trail Street.

**Brian Snyder** was interviewed by the Independence *Examiner* with its "5 Quick Questions" on November 24, 2009, regarding his role as a Trustee of the State Historical Society of Missouri. He said that its primary mission is to collect, preserve, and make accessible to the public the great history of Missouri through books, newspapers, documents, maps and photographs. His favorite little-known story of Missouri history is about Samuel C. Owens, local Santa Fe Trail merchant and first Jackson County clerk. His sister was Mary Owens who broke the heart of a young gentleman suitor from New Salem, IL in 1837. The gentleman's name was Abraham Lincoln.

**Wendy Shay**, the historic preservation manager for the City of Independence, was complimented on the opinion page of the *Examiner*, Nov. 7-9, 2009, for organizing the Statewide Historic Preservation Conference which took place that week in Independence. **Sharon Snyder** gave the group a tour of the McCoy House as a special treat.

**Bonnie Sommerville**, our longtime member from Higginsville, MO, sent holiday greetings and complimented us on the new markers at the Battle of the Little Blue. She ran into Mike Calvert and Steve and Carolyn Hatcher at the Linwood Lawn Preservation Day event at Lexington.

We have had a new correspondence with **Michael Stangel** from Salina, KS who is interested in the Battle of Albany and the gravesite of Bloody Bill Anderson at Richmond, MO. Luckily we were able to dig up notes from Sonny Wells' tour to the Battle of Albany and a subsequent newspaper article and picture.

**Ted Stillwell**, our former host at the Blue & Grey Book Shoppe and speaker at our July picnic, devoted his December 16, 2009 column in the *Examiner* to the history of his involvement in painting historic murals in the area and the research that preceded them. Someone told him he ought to write a book about local history and so he did. His various volumes are available at the Blue & Grey Book Shoppe.

Thanks to **Jerry Tjelle** and the **Simple Strings** for the lovely dulcimer music at our Christmas Luncheon. The members of the group are **Jerry Tjelle, Dana Taylor, Shirley Parsons, and Jim Davidson**. They are in demand by many groups and if you want more information about them or their performance schedule, E-mail Jerry at [dulc2man@yahoo.com](mailto:dulc2man@yahoo.com).

### **The William Clarke Quantrill Society**

This non-profit corporation is 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. For more information, please visit: [www.geocities.com/quantrillsoc](http://www.geocities.com/quantrillsoc) or send an E-mail to [wcqsociety@aol.com](mailto:wcqsociety@aol.com).