



# *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"*

June 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  
Historian ----- Paul Tate

### 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 307 days away, as of the date of our next Round Table meeting on June 9, 2010.

### President's Letter

"There never will be anything more interesting in America than that Civil War"  
~Gertrude Stein

Twice during the last couple of weeks at separate events I have had adults come up to me and say "I didn't know the Civil War happened west of the Mississippi." or "Imagine all that happened right here." This is not right. In both cases the individuals have lived in the area for many years and are still not be aware of the history at their feet. I don't know if they were a product of our local schools or not. If they are then in my opinion our educational system failed.

Now all the teachers or retired teachers who are reading this don't get upset. Having a daughter, a daughter-in-law and even myself as teachers, I know the demands that are imposed on the profession along with the lack of time and the scarce resources.

That being said, I still believe we need to teach more about our local history. Awareness of local history can instill a pride of place. Being able to go, see and touch the actual site makes a long lasting memory.

So putting my money (so to speak) where my mouth is I am making myself available to come to your meeting, classroom, group or individually to discuss or make a presentation on our local Civil War history. Just give me some advanced notice and I'll be there!

I hope to see you soon,

*~Mike Calvert, President, The Civil War Roundtable of Western Missouri*

### Door Person Needed for the Villages of Jackson Creek

When we leave our meeting, the sliding front door is locked for the security of the residents. There is information to the left of the door about using a code to activate the door but sometimes we have exited by knocking the door off its grid which causes a problem. From now on we will ask for a volunteer to help people exit safely. If you have a problem with the door, please ask for help.

## **CWRTWMO Calendar**

### June 2010 Meeting

Wednesday, June 9, 2010 – 7:00 p.m.

Villages of Jackson Creek (lover level),  
3980-A S. Jackson Drive, Independence, MO  
Jean Warren of James Country Mercantile:  
“The Undercover Story” (of ladies’ apparel).

### No Board Meeting in June

### Battle of Rock Creek, Independence, MO

Wednesday, May 26, 2010 – Noon

Truman Memorial Building, 416 N. Pleasant,  
Independence, MO. Mike Calvert will speak  
about this battle of June 13, 1861. Bring a brown  
bag lunch. Drinks and dessert will be provided.

### Weekend Trip to Jefferson Barracks-St. Louis, MO

Saturday & Sunday, Sept. 18-19, 2010 – 7:00 a.m.

Guided bus tour to Jefferson Barracks, the U.S.

Grant Home and State Historical Society of  
Missouri. More information to follow.

## **Other Events**

### Memorial Day Weekend at Union Cemetery

May 29-31, 2010 - Sexton’s Cottage, 227 E. 28<sup>th</sup>  
Terr., Kansas City, MO. Open May 29<sup>th</sup> from 9:00  
a.m. – 1:00 p.m.; May 30<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00  
p.m.; May 31<sup>st</sup> from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. On  
Monday, May 31<sup>st</sup> at 11:30 a.m., a tribute will be  
held at the flagpole to remember those who have  
given “the last full measure of devotion.”

### Memorial Illumination at Lone Jack Cemetery

Sunday, May 30, 2010 – Dusk to 10:30 **p.m.**

Civil War Battlefield Cemetery, 301 S. Bynum  
Road, Lone Jack, MO. Walk among the luminaries  
to remember Union and Confederate casualties.  
See article.

### Dedication of Historic Marker at “Town of Kansas”

Thursday, June 3, 2010 – 11:00 a.m. 2<sup>nd</sup> and Main  
Street, Kansas City, MO. Dedication of Native  
Sons and Daughters historic marker in cooperation  
with the Kansas City Port Authority. Ongoing Port  
Authority construction will be interrupted for the  
ceremony because June 3, 1853 was the date the  
Jackson County Court issued a charter to the town  
naming it the “City of Kansas.”

### Confederate Memorial Day Service

Saturday, June 5, 2010 – Service at 1:00 p.m.

Confederate Memorial State Site, Higginsville, MO.  
Opens at 10:00 a.m. with barbecue and drinks for  
sale or bring your own food. Respects will be paid  
to the 800 Confederates and their families buried  
there.

### Liberty, MO Historic Walking Tour

Saturday, June 5, 2010 – 10:00 a.m. New Hope/  
Fairview Cemetery. Tour meets at the stone arch  
entry to the cemetery on Shrader Street. Free.

### Liberty, MO Ghost Tour

Saturday, June 5, 2010 – 8:00 **p.m.**

Corner Bar, 200 E. Kansas, Liberty, MO. Stops  
include the courthouse, downtown business district,  
William Jewell College, and the cemetery. Cost is  
\$19.50. E-mail: info@ghosttourmissouri.com or  
call (785) 383-2925. See article.

### Free at Last: A History of Abolition of Slavery

June 5-25, 2010 – Wed.-Sat., 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
Harris-Kearney House, 4000 Baltimore, Kansas  
City, MO. A panel exhibit produced by the Gilder  
Lehrman Institute of American History. Cost is \$5.  
See article.

### Color in Freedom: Journey Along the Underground Railroad - June 5-Aug. 1, 2010 – Library Hours.

Central Library, 14 W. 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Kansas City,  
MO. Exhibit of 49 works by Joseph Holston. His  
interpretation of the journey hundreds of slaves took  
to gain their freedom in the North.

### John Brown’s Battle of Black Jack-154<sup>th</sup>

Anniversary - Saturday, June 5, 2010 – 9:00 a.m. –  
8:00 p.m. Black Jack Battlefield (3 miles east of  
Baldwin City, KS, ¼ mile south of Highway 56 on  
E. 2000<sup>th</sup> Road). \$5 donation. Children 12 and  
under are free. Reenactment times are 11:00 a.m.,  
1:30 & 3:30 pm. Historic artifacts & guest speakers.

### Bushwhacker Days in Nevada, MO

June 9-12, 2010. Courthouse on the square.

Vendors start Friday evening. Wednesday and  
Thursday features local entertainment. On Friday  
evening the new interpretive panel on the burning  
of Nevada in May 1863, will be dedicated. On  
Saturday the Border Creek Raiders will do 20

minute skits three times a day on the north side of the courthouse.

#### Trailside Center Civil War Series

Thursday, June 10, 2010 – 7:00 p.m. Trailside Center, 9901 Holmes Road, Kansas City, MO. Jim Howk presents the second in his 7 part Series; “The Lower South Secedes – Fort Sumter.”

#### Friends of James Farm Annual Reunion

Saturday, June 12, 2010 – Opens at 8:00 a.m. Jesse James Farm & Museum, 21216 Jesse James Farm Road, Kearney, MO. Black powder shoot, bus tour, speakers, authors and evening entertainment and dinner.

#### Holden, MO - Maximum Effort Reenactment

Saturday & Sunday, June 12-13, 2010 – Opens at 9:00 a.m. Holden City Lake (From MO-131 go west on 58 Highway and follow it for 3.2 miles. Turn right on gravel road SW 1521<sup>st</sup> Road. Cross railroad tracks and go 1.2 miles to the lake). Battle at 1:00 p.m. both days. Saturday night dance at 8:00 p.m. with night artillery demonstration following.

#### Hulston Mill Civil War Days ‘10

Saturday & Sunday, June 12-13, 2010 – Opens at 9:00 a.m. Near Hwy. 160 between Everton and Greenfield, MO. Saturday at 1:00 p.m. - Battle of Hulston Mill; 3:30 p.m. - Raid on Hulston Mill. Sunday at 1:00 p.m. - Raid on Hulston Mill; 2:30 p.m. - Battle of Hulston Mill. \$5 for adults; children (K-12) are free. For more information, please visit: [www.hulstonmillcivilwardays.com](http://www.hulstonmillcivilwardays.com)

#### Up from Thunder

Sunday, June 20, 2010 – 2:00 p.m. Plaza Branch Library, 4801 Main Street, Kansas City, MO. Author Susan K. Salzer discusses her debut novel, *Up from Thunder*, set in Missouri during the Civil War based on actual events. Hattie Rood is a teenage girl whose weary family is given an extra burden when Confederate rebels leave a wounded 17 year old Jesse James in her care. RSVP to (816) 701-3481. Book available for sale.

#### Civil War Round Table of Kansas City

Tuesday, June 22, 2010 – 7:00 p.m. (no dinner) Plaza Library, 4801 Main Street, Kansas City, MO. Arnold Schofield will give a brief History of the “Kansas Colored Light

Artillery Battery” with a mention of the “Kansas Black Militia Companies” that responded to Price’s Raid.

#### U.S. Grant, American Hero, American Myth

Wednesday, June 30, 2010 – 6:30 p.m. Central Library, 14 W. 10<sup>th</sup> St., Kansas City, MO. Author Joan Waugh discusses her book about Grant. Many Americans may be unaware of how revered he was in his lifetime, but now his monument are rarely visited, his military reputation is overshadowed by that of Robert E. Lee, and his presidency is mired at the bottom of historical rankings. RSVP to (816) 701-3400. Book will be available for sale.

### **Lincoln Funeral Car at Smallin Cave**

Doug Magditch

KY3, Inc., KSPR 33, Springfield, MO

At Smallin Cave it's 'all aboard' for a tour the public has not been invited on for nearly a half a century. "A gentleman that had this property back in the late 50's, early 60's, he called this the civil war cave," says Smallin Cave owner Kevin Bright. In the early 1960's, Joseph Bulger bought the property, and shared his love of history. "He was obviously a civil war fan," says Bright.

He included a museum and a train car. Bulger said the train car is the same car that carried President Abraham Lincoln's body in a funeral procession across the country.

"It is an actual 1860's train car. The ends have been verified by train collectors. The top is part of the 1860's train car," says Bright. The problem is, the actual car burned in a brush fire, in 1911. Newspaper reports say "it was a mass of charred wood and iron." "It was pretty well destroyed," says Illinois train enthusiast David Kloke. But, the papers also say members of the public took the charred remains as memento's.

"One day [Bulger] heard the Lincoln burial car was for sale. He went up to Illinois, searched this, and found a pile of pieces," says Bright. In that pile, Bulger found two ends, and a roof. The rest, he reconstructed. "It's definitely the right period, the right kind of car, everything's correct," says Bright.

"As far as trying to guarantee to anyone this is actually the Lincoln funeral car, I can't. There's probably a 98% probability that it's not the Lincoln car, but there are some remains of an original car," says John Suscheck, a train broker and owner of Ozark Mountain Railcar.

Now, the car's listed for sale. Kloke, who plans to buy it, is building his own reproduction of the Lincoln car. "It'll live on anyway," laughs Suscheck. "They're period car ends, and that's why I want them," says Kloke.

Kloke has some bad news for lovers of local lore. "They would have been built in the same time-frame, but they're not the Lincoln car. I'm positive about that. It's not, I'm sure it's not. It's just a myth," says Kloke. He says the windows don't match up. "The trim is not right," says Kloke. "It started out as a legend, or a gimmick to get people to Smallin cave," says Suscheck. Gimmick or not, it is a story that lives on.

"What's true, we don't know, but it's a neat story and it is an 1860's train car," says Bright.

[Smallin Cave is located in the middle of Christian County at Ozark, Missouri and was closed for 40 years but is now open for tours]

## **Civil War Anniversary Prompts Push to Get Records On-Line**

Leah Thorsen

St. Louis Post-Dispatch ~ May 6, 2010

The Civil War Sesquicentennial, which begins next year, is expected to heighten interest about what happened on and off the battlefields 150 years ago. That means archivists are scrambling to post information on-line to feed that curiosity.

Missouri State Archivist John Dougan detailed the effort to those at the St. Louis Genealogical Society's 40th Annual Family History Conference, the largest such gathering in the Midwest, on Saturday.

Organizers said about 300 people were at the Conference at the Maryland Heights Centre, and some wanted to learn what role their families had played in the Civil War.

The war has always been a popular subject among historians. The role of Missouri, which trails only Virginia and Tennessee in the number of battles on its soil, is of special interest, Dougan said. "During the Civil War in Missouri, every member of every household was affected," he said. And that means that mountains of documents remain – a treasure trove for those looking to track down records of ancestors. Such records include pension papers, court claims of damage to property, loyalty oaths and military prison data.

Dougan hopes to make it easier to access such documents by getting as many of them posted to the website [www.missouridigitalheritage.com](http://www.missouridigitalheritage.com). The site was launched about two years ago and has received more than 100 million hits since then, Dougan said. For the last five years, one full-time employee of Dougan's office has been devoted to posting documents from the Office of the Adjutant General, a constitutional office created in 1820 to oversee the state militia, to the website. But much work remains, and Dougan said not all the information would be posted even by the time the sesquicentennial ends in 2015. That means that thorough research will involve paper records, he said.

Ann Fleming, treasurer of the St. Louis Genealogical Society and a ninth-generation St. Louisan, said less than 5 percent of the records available to genealogists can be accessed on-line. Members of her group have made it their mission to gather St. Louis and St. Louis County records, walking through graveyards to document burial sites and wading through mountains of public documents and microfilm.

Pat Gatz, 70, of Des Peres, knows about chasing a paper trail related to the Civil War. She obtained the pension records of James Jenkins, her great-great-grandfather who died in 1862, just months after being discharged from the Union Army because of chronic dysentery. Gatz said her family saved his letters, in which he described Cairo, Ill., as a "swampy mudhole" and told of his fury when someone stole almost all his possessions.

Pete Piotrowski, 76 and a self-described "full-time RVer," said his interest in the Civil War stemmed from learning about his great-great-uncle John Wimer, who served two terms as Mayor of St.

Louis before being killed in 1863 in a battle in Hartville, MO. He said everything he learned about the Civil War made him want to learn more, both about his family and what led to the war itself. "You can be a good historian without being a genealogist," Piotrowski said. "But you can't be a good genealogist without being a historian."

If you enjoy reading about interesting news, you might like the *3 O'Clock Stir* from the website [www.STLtoday.com](http://www.STLtoday.com). Sign up and you'll receive an E-mail with unique stories of the day, every Monday - Friday, at no charge.

[The *Border Star* is archived at the Missouri State Archives monthly as well as the Missouri Valley Special Collections of the Kansas City Central Library, and the Midwest Genealogy Center in Independence, Missouri]

## **Memorial Illumination Honors Civil War Soldiers**

By Alinda Miller, President, Lone Jack Historical Society

On Sunday, May 30, 2010, Lone Jack Historical Society volunteers will place 270 flickering points of light to fill the Civil War Battlefield Cemetery grounds, 301 S. Bynum Road, Lone Jack, MO. From Dusk to 10:30 p.m. visitors may walk among the luminaries, one candle for each casualty – Union and Confederate – in the battle that took place on August 16, 1862. At 9:00 p.m. there will be a reading of the names of the known casualties from the battle, followed by the playing of taps on the bugle. Silent sentries provided by Civil War living history groups will guard the entrances to the park and patrol the grounds during the evening vigil. The Memorial Illumination honors the memory of those soldiers who fell that day in this battle on the bloody border in America's history. A contemplative area with seating will be set up in the middle of the grounds for those visitors who wish to stop a moment and reflect on this time in our country's history.

This event falls on the 142<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the first widely observed Decoration Day for Civil War soldiers. U. S. Gen. John Logan declared in General Order No. 11\* that: "The 30th of May, 1868 is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers,

or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village, and hamlet churchyard in the land. In this observance no form of ceremony is prescribed, but posts and comrades will in their own way arrange such fitting services and testimonials of respect as circumstances may permit."

\*[Not to be confused with a General Order No. 11 (1862) issued by Major-General Ulysses S. Grant on December 17, 1862 which called for the expulsion of Jews in his district or General Order No. 11 (1863) which was the Union Army decree issued August 25, 1863, forcing the evacuation of rural areas in four counties in western Missouri.]

Although far from the major eastern battlefields such as Antietam, Chickamauga, and Gettysburg, the border conflict and the battle at Lone Jack have been gaining greater respect among historians for their significance to the overall history of the war. Newspaper reports of the Battle of Lone Jack in 1862 reached as far east as New York City. No wonder, as a participant recalled it as, "The bloodiest battle fought west of the Mississippi." A tenth the size of the battle at Antietam, the Lone Jack battle consequences and preservation plight have taken almost a century and a half to become fully realized.

In the Civil War Preservation Trust's 2009 Heritage Under Siege listing of the 10 most endangered and 15 most at risk Civil War battlefields in the nation, Lone Jack is one of the 15 most at risk sites. Abraham Lincoln called these sites "hallowed ground" for what they represented to this nation.

Everyone is welcome to participate and respectfully honor the souls of those fallen soldiers in the Memorial Illumination tribute to soldiers who fell on both sides in the battle. The candles twinkling across the battlefield will offer a poignant and visually stunning reminder of the men who fell on that day – every one an American.

This event is free and open to the public, but donations are welcome. The Lone Jack Museum will stay open late to accommodate visitors during

this event. Admission is required to tour the museum.

In the event of inclement weather, the Illumination will be rescheduled the following day, Monday, May 31, 2010.

Link to Google Map of event site:

<http://maps.google.com/maps?f=q&hl=en&q=301+S.+Brynum+Road%2C+Lone+Jack%2C+MO+64070>

For additional information, visit the Lone Jack Museum's web site which is located at:  
<http://www.historiclonejack.org/>

You may also visit their Facebook page at:  
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Lone-Jack-MO/Lone-Jack-Historical-Society/75571035431>

### **Liberty, Missouri Ghost Tour**

Liberty resident Brenda Berger has found that researching ghost stories in Liberty is not so different from digging into the genealogy of her family that settled in the area in the 1820s. She explains, "I am fascinated by history. There is so much to be learned by those who have gone before us. Being a part of the ghost tours is a great way to share these stories, since we believe that without the history, there are no haunts."

Brenda and her fellow Ghost Tours of Missouri guide Mitzi Miller believe that the Liberty tour is unique because of the Civil War and outlaw history. Mitzi says, "We are thinking about naming this the 'James, Jail and Jewell' tour, since so many of our stories include the college, the James family and the courthouse."

The guides don't try to talk anyone into believing in the paranormal; they simply relay the ghost stories and history associated with each location and let their tour guests decide for themselves. Their first tour is June 5, 2010 at 8:00 p.m. (See Other Events Calendar).

### **FREE AT LAST: A History of the Abolition of Slavery in America Exhibit**

A national touring panel exhibition *FREE AT LAST* investigates the question of how slavery in America developed into an institution and how it came to be

condemned as it divided the nation during the Civil War. Visitors can explore an early fragment of Abraham Lincoln's "House Divided" speech, letters by abolitionists and slaves, and personal letters from soldiers who fought in the Civil War. Views of these rare documents are accompanied by photographs, broadsides and other images.

*FREE AT LAST* focuses on the Founding Era, Slave Resistance, Slavery and the Law, Abolition, Abraham Lincoln and Emancipation, and African Americans in the Civil War. The exhibit will be at the Harris-Kearney House, 4000 Baltimore, Kansas City, MO from June 5-25, 2010 on Wednesday-Saturday, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. \$5 donation requested.

### **Trip to Mine Creek on May 15, 2010**

The Civil War Round Table thanks the brave 38 people who went to Mine Creek in the rain on May 15, 2010. Luckily we were not expecting to have a lot of dismounts from the bus as Mike Calvert said, "It's a windshield tour." However we did get a taste of what kind of problems the huge wagon train of General Sterling Price might have encountered on their trip from Kansas City to Mine Creek in October 1864. We made a stop at Minor Park just off Holmes to point out some wagon swales of the trails west when our bus driver announced that the bus was experiencing difficulty with its air brakes and the safety feature would not allow him to proceed further. Luckily he had a cell phone rather than a scout and was able to get a replacement bus in about a half hour.

We made some new friends on the trip: George and Barb Spear (guests of the Loren Bolines), Norma Gleason (guest of Terry Chronister), Millie Gamble (guest of Joanne Dalton), Forrest Smith (guest of Harry Rinacke), Gwen Mondulica (guest of Mel Craft), Devon Mixer (a reader of Ted Stillwell's column in the *Examiner*), Bill and Daniel Stilley, and Martin and Daniel Parker (the latter four are re-enactors who read about our tour on the "Civil War Traveller" national website).

Thanks for the success of the tour go to Mike Calvert, our tour guide, who scouted the route with Brian Snyder and prepared handouts; Terry McConnell, bus wrangler and head counter; Art and Sharon Kelley who prepared name tags; Arnold Schofield, our guide at Mine Creek and host at the

museum; Beverly Shaw who accepted reservations; and most of all to our bus driver and Sunset Tours who got us to our destination and back home safely. Sunset gave us leeway to exceed our eight hours at no extra charge, and we made \$281 to add to the Sonny Wells Little Blue Battlefield account.

## **Newtonia Battlefield to be Subject of PBS Documentary**

Greg Grisolano of the Joplin *Globe* reports that Paul Wannenmacher is producing a film about the Civil War battle that took place at Newtonia in 1862. He hopes to explore one of the most unique aspects of the war – Native American combat. He observes that Newtonia “is the only Civil War battle in which regimented Native Americans fought for the North and South against each other, so it has a unique flavor. During the time of the Civil War, everybody pretty much had to pick sides – whether it was Southern families, Union and rebel sympathizers, or Native Americans.”

The Newtonia Battlefield is the subject of a federal feasibility study to determine whether it should be added to the National Park Service either as a separate unit or brought under the management of Wilson’s Creek National Battlefield. Connie Langum, Historian at Wilson’s Creek, says a public comment session will be held in June or July, and the study is likely to take 18 to 24 months to complete. The goal is to have the documentary ready for broadcast on PBS stations by January 2011 in anticipation of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the start of the Civil War. Until then the Ritchey Mansion at Newtonia will have a new mural called “First Battle of Newtonia - September 30, 1862” by local artist Doug Hall. It shows a moment in time during the battle when a Texas Confederate outfit battled against the Ninth Wisconsin and then the entire fight was interrupted by a contingent of Native American cavalymen. In the background of the painting is the Ritchey Mansion, which is clouded with smoke from cannon fire and the dust of the hard charging Indian riders.

## **Civil War Monument Dedicated at Texas County (MO) Justice Center**

The Houston (MO) *Herald* reports that a 5-foot tall monument of General James McBride has been installed on the grounds of the Texas County Justice

Center. The James H. McBride Camp #632 of the Sons of Confederate Veterans says it will join more than 50 other sites in Missouri with similar monuments.

In 1859 McBride moved to Texas County from Springfield and was elected county circuit court judge until May 1861 when he received word he had been promoted to brigadier general by Missouri Governor Jackson. It is said he adjourned court immediately to accept the command of the 7<sup>th</sup> Division of the Missouri State Guard. He led his division in battle near Springfield during the Battle of Wilson’s Creek.

That same Battle of Wilson’s Creek is still being studied by modern soldiers. The Pulaski County *Daily* reports that an elite group of five officer candidates from the Missouri State Guard at Fort Leonard Wood in April visited the battlefield and were expected to analyze the leadership of commanding officers from both Union and Confederate forces and reflected on whether they would make different decisions in today’s Army based on the actual outcome of the battle. The Battle of Wilson’s Creek was a significant battle for the State of Missouri because even though the badly out-numbered Union forces lost the battle, it convinced Abraham Lincoln’s administration that more forces were needed in Missouri and ultimately Union forces prevented Confederate soldiers from taking Missouri.

The Battle of Wilson’s Creek also continues to be the source of literary output about the southwest part of the Missouri Ozarks during the Civil War. The Springfield *News-Leader* featured a story on May 2<sup>nd</sup> regarding a new novel called *Morkan’s Quarry* by Steve Yates who, as a young man, was taken by his father to the Shepard Room, an archive of historic documents at Springfield’s main library. Wearing white archival gloves and reading a bound volume of original letters and diary entries of the mid-1800s changed the youngster’s view of war. Yates says, “What was in that book was fear. The people in these books were terrified. They were figuring out war in a really immediate way.”

Connie Langum, Historian at Wilson’s Creek, said Yates’ comments were accurate and reflect the unrest, fear, and paranoia of the time. Langum

continues, "Missouri was not a pretty place to live during the Civil War. You had best know your neighbors and where their loyalties lie."

### **Everyday Items Tell of War's Effect**

Rick Montgomery of the Kansas City *Star* interviewed Ann Raab, a University of Kansas Ph.D. candidate, about her archaeological dig in Bates County last summer. She found burnt wood embedded in rock, melted glass, scorched ceramics, and discolored soil where a flaming wall fell. Raab grew up in Clay County and heard about the war on the border. Supposedly an ancestor rode with Quantrill who led the bloody looting and burning of Lawrence, Kansas, but she never heard about the Union retaliation of Order No. 11 which reduced to ash the homes and livelihoods of thousands across our Missouri counties.

Peggy Buhr, who works in the sprawling Bates County Museum in Butler, says that what happened was deeply, deeply personal to the point that it has taken nearly 150 years for the County to revisit its Civil War experience without acrimony.

Raab's findings are preliminary, but it appears that Missourians who returned after the war lived poorer than before Union troops kicked them out as evidenced by plainer dishes and other artifacts. Other economic centers such as Kansas City, Independence and Westport were spared and thrive still. Not true for the town of West Point, Missouri, population 700 when its hotels and banks were set aflame by Kansas ruffians before Order No. 11 finished off what was left of the area. It is one of the two sites excavated by Raab and her field-school students. "It was the bustling economic heart of Bates County," Raab said, "and it never came back." On the tour to Mine Creek Mike Calvert pointed out the location of West Point but said it was virtually inaccessible now.

For those interested in archaeology in the elementary classroom, Jackson County Parks and Recreation is hosting a workshop on July 20-21 at Fort Osage National Historic Landmark for only \$30. Learn how archaeologists investigate past cultures and peoples and how archaeological methods are used to interpret the past and the present. Call Beverly Shaw at (816) 225-7944 for a workshop enrollment form.

### **Independence Boy Makes It Big**

Ted Stillwell continued his "Portraits of the Past" in the May 19, 2010 *Examiner* by telling the story of Robert D. Mize whose name is immortalized in eastern Jackson County by having R. D. Mize Road named for him. This road runs from Independence eastward through Blue Springs and Grain Valley. It reflects his lengthy history with Jackson County as a member of the County Court long before Harry Truman assumed this administrative position.

Robert D. Mize was born in 1864 during the Civil War at Liberty, Missouri, where his parents took refuge from war hostilities in Jackson County. He was the son of a wealthy Blue Mills pioneer family. His father, Roderick D. Mize, owned and operated the Little Blue Ferry, one of the finest boats on the Missouri River that ran from the Blue Mills landing to St. Louis and back. His father also owned a general store and several large river front warehouses at Blue Mills Landing that were all burned during the war by Federal troops. Following the end of the war the family returned to Eastern Jackson County flat broke and young Robert began fending for himself pretty early in life. While working as a messenger boy for Dr. J. T. Brown in Independence, the young red-headed Robert became interested in becoming a pharmacist, which he did before turning 21, and was successful at it. He also dabbled in the hardware and grocery business. In 1890 he married Miss Mary Wilson and they made their home at 604 W. Maple. He became president of the Independence Board of Education for 18 years and was active in other civic projects. He sold his interest in the drug store when elected a member of the Jackson County Court from 1912 until his death in 1915.

### **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).