



# ★ *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"*

July 2010

## The Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri

### 2010 Officers

President ----- Mike Calvert  
1<sup>st</sup> V.P. ----- Pat Gradwohl  
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### *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

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### 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 272 days away, as of the date of our next Round Table meeting on July 14, 2010.

### *President's Letter*

Earlier this month I went to the Confederate Memorial Day held on the site of the former (or what's left of it) Confederate Soldiers Home in Higginsville, MO. First, thank you to all who planned or participated. However, the reason for my thoughts this month was not the ceremony that day but, the reason we were there to gather in the first place, the men and women interred there. I purchased "Eight-Hundred Voices: Each With A Story to Tell", Wade Ankesheilm's newest addition to our understanding of those persons the home was intended to serve.

Each voice does have a story to tell. There is always a story of service to a cause and all too often a story of tragedy, loneliness, neglect and destitution. The stories that contain the tragedy etc. don't come from the time in the home but from the time before when the veteran went about his daily business all the while trying to make sense of what had taken place during four years of his youth or early manhood. In time he grew old, often alone and needing the help of a grateful people who didn't have the means to help. Then finally finding out about a home where he could go and live out his final days in a place of comfort and caring people. The Confederate Home was institutional living. It was living within a set of rules (someone else's rules). It was living in a community of fellow warriors that had a common story. It was living with dignity.

It must have been a place ran by decent, caring people who didn't see a former adversary but saw a broken and scarred man of beliefs. So many of the veterans lived long lives under the care given at the home.

I know the stories are true. My great-grandfather resides amongst the eight hundred.

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



## CWRTWMO Calendar

### July 2010 Meeting

Wednesday, July 14, 2010 – **6:00 p.m.**

Waterfall Park Pavilion at Bass Pro Shop, Independence, MO. (See article for Directions). Annual picnic with CWRT providing fried chicken and drinks. Members to bring a dish to share and their own plates and service. Picnic tables for eating but you might want your own outdoor chair for listening to the program. Barbara Hughes will talk about the Lobb Cemetery.

### MO-KS Border War Network Meeting

Wednesday, July 21, 2010 – 10:00 a.m.

Independence Courthouse on the Square, south Entrance. The Round Table is the host for this Month and invites you to visit their meeting to see what plans are being made for the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Civil War in 2011. David Jackson will be giving a short tour of the Jackson County Archives, and lunch will be available at the Courthouse Exchange (also restrooms because there is no water in the Old Courthouse yet). After lunch there will be a tour of the historic McCoy House owned by Brian and Sharon Snyder .

### July Board Meeting

Wednesday, July 21, 2010 – 7:00 p.m. Home of Beverly Shaw, 17313 E. 51<sup>st</sup> Terr. Court S., Independence, MO.

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

Saturday & Sunday, Sept. 18-19, 2010 – 7:00 a.m. Guided bus tour to Jefferson Barracks, Powder Magazine Museum, a hard hat tour of the Missouri Civil War Museum, the U. S. Grant National Historic Site including the main house, White Haven, and the Missouri History Museum in Forest Park. \$145 per person for double occupancy at the Quality Inn Southwest. \$175 per person single occupancy. Includes transportation, hotel, all meals and admission fees except Saturday lunch which will be fast food. Reservation checks should be sent to CWRTWMO, 17313 E. 51<sup>st</sup> Terr. Court S., Independence, MO 64055 with a deadline of **August 25<sup>th</sup>** to hold the bus and hotel rooms.

## Other Events

Color in Freedom: Journey Along the Underground Railroad. Art exhibit through August 1, 2010 – Library Hours, Central Library, 14 W. 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Kansas City, MO. Forty-nine works by Joseph Holston which interpret the journey of hundreds of slaves to the North. Four sections describe the Underground Railroad: *The Unknown World, Living in Bondage, The Journey to Escape, and Color in Freedom*.

### Antique and Craft Fair at Bingham-Waggoner

Saturday, July 10, 2010 – 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. 313 W. Pacific, Independence, MO. Over 150 Midwest vendors of antiques and crafts. At Noon the Spirit of Independence Concert Band plays. Concessions for sale. Fair is free but tours of the home are \$5 for adults and \$2 for children 6-16.

### The Topeka Constitution and Kansas Statehood

Sunday, July 18, 2010 – 2:00 p.m. Central Library, 14 W. 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Kansas City, MO. Don Lambert: “Against All Odds: The Topeka Constitution and the Rush for Kansas Statehood.” Anti-slavery “free staters” wrote the so-called Topeka Constitution and submitted it to Congress. This was a milestone on the road Kansas would take to enter the Union as a free state. Reservations at (816) 701-3407.

### Narcissa Whitman: Pioneer Missionary

Tuesday, July 20, 2010 – 10:00 a.m. Midwest Genealogy Center, 3440 S. Lee’s Summit Road, Independence, MO. Dressed in costume, Barbara Hughes becomes Narcissa Whitman who made her home among the Indians in Oregon Territory. To register call (816) 252-7228.

### Civil War Round Table of Kansas City

Tuesday, July 27, 2010 – 7:00 p.m. (no dinner) Plaza Library, 4801 Main Street, Kansas City, MO. Jennifer L. Weber, History Professor at KU will talk about her book *Copperheads: The Rise and Fall of Lincoln’s Opponents in the North*.

### Film: “Negroes to Hire”

Tuesday, July 27, 2010 – 7:00 p.m. Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library (Marvin Auditorium 101BC), 1515 SW 10<sup>th</sup> Ave., Topeka, KS. A documentary film exploring the history and legacy of the Missouri-Kansas border slave trade. Film directors Jimmy Johnson and Gary Jenkins

will discuss the film in the context of their slave/slaveholder frontier settler families. Q&A's will follow the film. Free to the public.

### Lies My Teacher Told Me

Thursday, July 29, 2010 – 6:30 p.m. Central Library, 14 W. 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Kansas City, MO. James Loewen: “Lies My Teacher Told Me About Slavery and the Underground Railroad.” He will discuss misconceptions about slavery and the Underground Railroad. Reception at 6:00 p.m. RSVP to (816) 701-3407.

### **Picnic at Waterfall Park**

We had talked about having our July 14<sup>th</sup> picnic at Lobb Cemetery but had second thoughts after seeing how narrow the Lobb Cemetery Road is and the fact that there are no restrooms available. Therefore we have made arrangements to use the pavilion at the new Independence Waterfall Park adjacent to Bass Pro Shop. The park is easy to access near Highway 291 and 40 Highway. You will take 40 Highway west off of Highway 291 and then take the first street to the north called Bass Pro Drive. While driving north you will come to a roundabout which allows you to go left (west) on Bluff Drive (just before the bridge that crosses the lake dam). You will follow Bluff Drive on a scenic drive which takes you by the waterfalls and then turns north again to the entrance to the park. The pavilion is located in the grove of trees adjacent to the parking lot. We have picnic tables available for seating while you eat, but you will probably want to bring your own lawn chair for the program. Don't worry if you miss the turn to Bluff Drive; just continue on Bass Pro Drive and circle around Bass Pro Shop. When the road circles to the south, you will also come to Waterfall Park. If you have not had a chance to see the wildlife and aquatic exhibits at Bass Pro Shop, you might want to come early to take a tour. Since we have a pavilion, we hope not to find it necessary to cancel for inclement weather.

Barbara Hughes will be giving our program about the Lobb Cemetery using a first person presentation and power point to tell us about this pioneer cemetery near where she lives. Perhaps later in the fall we can arrange a car caravan to actually visit the cemetery, or you can visit it on your own. The cemetery is located near north Highway 7 in Blue Springs. You take Highway 7 to Strode Road and

turn west and then take the first road to the north which is Lobb Cemetery Road. It will be a narrow road which goes for several miles to reach the cemetery.

### **Trip to Jefferson Barracks**

The St. Louis Parks website says this about our destination on September 18, 2010: Jefferson Barracks, established in 1826 as the country's first “Infantry School of Practice,” served as a major military installation until 1946. Named in honor of former President Thomas Jefferson, the post played an important role in westward expansion. Jefferson Barracks served as a gathering point for troops and supplies bound for service in the Mexican War, Civil War, various Indian conflicts, Spanish-American War, Philippine War, World War I and World War II. Stephan W. Kearny, Zackary Taylor, Jefferson Davis, Robert E. Lee, U. S. Grant, William T. Sherman, and Philip Sheridan were a few of the famous Americans to serve at Jefferson Barracks.

We will have a step-on guide to point out the buildings that date from the 1850s such as the Laborer's House and the Stable built in 1851. We will tour the Powder Magazine Museum built in 1857 which is a massive stone building used for storage of the rifles, cannon, gun powder and prepared ammunition for the troops stationed at the Barracks, in the Mississippi valley and in the western frontier. It has a beautiful patio overlooking the Mississippi River.

Near Jefferson Barracks lies the Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery which surrounds the Old Post Cemetery predating the Civil War. Jefferson Barracks acted as a major medical facility during the Civil War which accounts for the large number of Union burials.

We will also visit the Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site. General Grant and his wife, Julia Dent Grant, made this area their first home after their marriage. The Grants owned the 650-acre property for four decades but sold it months before General Grant's death.

## Notes about Members and Friends

The Round Table extends its condolences to **Dick and Barbara Hughes** at the death of Dick's sister in Texas.

The history community was saddened by the death of **Jane Mallinson** on May 22<sup>nd</sup>. "Primary sources only," she often preached in her efforts to preserve history in Eastern Jackson County and particularly Independence and Sugar Creek. She served as the chairwoman of the Wayne City Landing Site Committee in 1983. This was the site where early pioneers received supplies and now has a plaque in Sugar Creek. She was also very active in the Independence Pioneers chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution and served as regent from 1984-86. **Fran Mason** remembers Jane as a mentor when she served as regent from 2002-04. "She just had this uncanny way to help people go above and beyond to accomplish the tasks at hand, and she taught me to be the best I could be." Twenty-five years ago Jane started the trails essay contest for 4<sup>th</sup> graders in the Independence School District, and Fran now serves as Chairwoman. Jane also served as first president of the Friends of the National Frontier Trails Museum in Independence and helped create the museum in the late 1980s with city officials and community members.

In the April 14<sup>th</sup> issue of the *Independence Examiner* **Ted Stillwell** wrote about losing a friend, **Roy Ambrose**, known to the folks on the press room floor as "The Old Bushwhacker." He was a Civil War re-enactor attached to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry and Elliott's Scouts Dismounted Cavalry. Ted recalled the first time he encountered Civil War re-enacting in Pensacola, Florida. An elaborate old-fashioned movie theater was celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the release of "Gone with the Wind." Because of a last minute cancellation he was able to attend and found everyone was dressed in Civil War attire, both Confederate gray and Union Blue and the ladies in ball gowns. In the lobby there was a band playing period music on historic instruments. Even though the "Yankee tourists" were not in period clothing, they were welcomed to dance the "Virginia Reel." Ted became hooked and participated with his friend Roy in Civil War re-enactments many times since.

Some Civil War re-enactors are discovering an interest early in life. We were delighted to see a picture in the May 30<sup>th</sup> issue of the *Kansas City Star* showing young **Daniel Stilley** and **Martin Parker** in Civil War attire at the Olathe Cemetery's Grand Army of the Republic monument. (Daniel and his father and Martin and his son Daniel were travelers with us on our tour to Mine Creek). Memorial Day originally was established to honor the Union soldiers of the Civil War. The event was organized by **Lane Smith**, camp commander of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. Lane is also serving as the current president of the Kansas City Round Table.

As 13-year old **Coltin Clifton** of Marshfield, MO explains it, his passion for the past began when he discovered his dad's Civil War books. "I like history," he told the *News-Leader* reporter and photographer Amber Arnold in May, "but I don't just like reading books. When you are out there doing it with your uniform on, that is more fun."

On Wednesday, May 26<sup>th</sup>, Mary Pepitone, food writer for the *Kansas City Star*, interviewed Civil War re-enactor **Ray Orth** who portrays a Union soldier in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Colorado Cavalry. He sees the re-enactment as a way to teach history to younger generations. He says that life on the battlefield for a Union soldier was feast or famine. Hardtack was a staple in a soldier's pack. Made from flour, water, and sometimes salt, hardtack was like a biscuit or cracker that was inexpensive to make and lasted a long time. For good reason it was also called tooth-dullers or molar-breakers.

On March 23<sup>rd</sup> **Peggy Buhr** of the Bates County Historical Society gave a talk to MU alumni in Adrian, MO about the history of the MU Tiger Yell. It's a story with roots in the Civil War and is given from a Confederate perspective. **Jim Beckner** portrayed a Missouri Rebel and led the group in an original Tiger Yell!

**Mike and Cindi Calvert** have written the Round Table a note to thank us for helping to send them to Springfield for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Civil War Round Table of the Ozarks.

**Arlene Long of the Confederate Memorial in Higginsville** has written to thank the Round Table for its \$15 contribution to buy flowers for Confederate Memorial Day on June 5<sup>th</sup>. They collect enough to place a flower on every Veteran's grave. **Jim Beckner** organized the event and acted as moderator. **Beverly Shaw and Harlan Klukow** were glad to see **Mike and Cindi Calvert** and **Bonnie Sommerville** as the "Lady in Black." They also visited with **Don Ross** who has recently retired from the Independence School District and is now fulfilling a lifelong desire to serve at historic sites such as the Confederate Home and Cemetery and Watkins Woolen Mill.

**Geoffrey Giglierano** has been appointed the new Executive Director of the Missouri Humanities Council. He comes to Missouri with over 30 years experience as a consultant and administrator, educator, and historian.

We received a letter from **Bud Green**, longtime member and Lincoln presenter from Versailles, MO, to let us know that he is in a nursing home but maintains his interest in our activities. If you want to drop him a line, his address is 1101 W. Clay Road, Room 201, Versailles, MO 65084.

**Henry Grubb**, a history teacher at Fort Osage High School, was named Teacher of the Year for the District. He has taught at the school for 30 years.

**The Jackson County Historical Society** and its archivist **David Jackson** have been in the news recently. David received the W. Z. Hickman individual award for promoting history and preservation. **Tim Cox and Mike Calvert** from our Round Table have been previous recipients. Jackson County Historical Society and its Director, **Steve Noll**, and Jackson County under the leadership of **Mike Sanders** were instrumental in the restoration and preservation of the Truman Court House on the Independence Square which received the Hickman award for preservation. David has also been busy giving a lunch and learn about preserving family heirlooms and wrote a column in the *Independence Examiner* for the weekend edition of May 15-17, 2010. He has also been collecting historical photos of Jackson County history and answered the Five Quick Questions about this project in the May 18, 2010 issue of the

*Examiner*. The administrative office of the historical society is now in the Courthouse on the Square, but they receive mail at P.O. Box 4241, Independence, MO 64051 or go to [www.jchs.org](http://www.jchs.org). Telephone number is (816) 461-1897.

**Pat Gradwohl and Beverly Shaw** enjoyed a day trip with the Gladstone Parks and Recreation to Lecompton, Kansas in May and were happy to find that the Lecompton re-enactors will be coming to Missouri Town this fall and urge you to see them.

**Steve Penn**, columnist for the *Kansas City Star*, wrote about a recent experience in April when he visited Louisville, Kentucky and saw the development of the riverfront along the Ohio River to include jogging trails and pedestrian bridge. A popular component is a series of sculptures honoring Kentucky-born **Abraham Lincoln**.

The "Veteran Salute" in the *Examiner* on June 16<sup>th</sup> was to **Clifford "Pete" McComas**, U.S. Army, 87<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, World War II. Pete took our Little Blue Battlefield tour in 2009. He recalls that when he heard the news of President Roosevelt's death and that Harry Truman was now in command, he became somewhat of celebrity because he too was from Independence. He told his buddies that President Truman was an old farm boy and would take care of them and the country.

**Don Moorehead**, Board Member and former Civil War re-enactor, has donated to the Round Table his Union artilleryman clothing (blue coat with red piping), haversack (complete with a "sweets" bag), and canteen. These were used when the Round Table visited the 4<sup>th</sup> grade classes at Cler-Mont School to give a picture of Civil War life. We thank him for making these items available to us for show and tell.

**The National Frontier Trails Museum** was featured in the *Star Magazine* of May 16, 2010. John Mark Lambertson said it was the fur trade that was responsible for the in-depth exploration of North America. This and countless other stories of the overland migration of the 1800s are beautifully told through interpretive exhibits and displays at 318 W. Pacific, Independence, Missouri.

Jeff Fox in his *Examiner* column of May 18, 2010, told of the effort to preserve the house at 100 West Moore Street in Independence, Missouri (near William Chrisman High School) which was the home where Ginger Rogers was born in 1911. Two local history buffs, **Audrey Elder and Liana Twente**, have written a book called *The History of 100 West Moore Street*. They give credit to **David Jackson**, Archivist, and **Wendy Shay**, Preservation Officer for Independence, for help in their research. The authors say, "We're just excited to find out the genealogy of a home." **Beverly Shaw** can relate to the enjoyment that comes from finding out something new when she researches the history of the Symphony Designers' Showhouse each year.

*The Ghosts of Lone Jack* by Missouri native **Lance Lee Noel** has won the 2010 Arizona Book Award for Young Adult Fiction. Come to find out he is a distant relative of our friend **Jim Noel** who gave us a tour of the grounds where the Russell, Majors, and Waddell freighting company had a staging area near Lone Jack.

**Mary Potter**, President of the Blue Springs Historical Society and a recent guest of **Barbara Hughes** at our Round Table meeting, was the subject of the Quick 5 Questions in the *Examiner* on May 6, 2010. She said her proudest achievement was the cooperation between the historical society, the Blue Springs School District, the City of Blue Springs, the Chamber of Commerce, and other non-profit organizations and downtown businesses. Mary bought a copy of our "Monuments" book and wrote an article for the April-June issue of the "Historical Record" (newsletter of the Blue Springs Historical Society) in which she outlined significant Civil War monuments in our area. In "Calling All Civil War Buffs" she gave a wonderful tour of the Lone Jack Battlefield Museum and Cemetery and the Morgan Walker Cemetery and marker in Blue Springs.

We are happy to report that **Harry Rinacke** has volunteered to head the Lewis-Gregg Cemetery Commission and is keeping an eye on the grounds as we get into lawn mowing season.

**Susan K. Salzer** was interviewed in the June Friends of the James Farm newsletter about her prize winning book *Up from Thunder* about a

teenage girl named Hattie who falls in love with young Jesse James. She says the title came from an old Missouri song which goes "Jesse's up from thunder, Which is near to County Clay, Jesse and the Younger boys, are galloping this way."

**Beverly Shaw** would like to thank the following members who volunteered to staff the Symphony Designers' Showhouse during our Round Table evening in April: **Steve and Carol Olson, Pat Gradwohl, Karen Wells, and Barbara Adams, Frank Adams' daughter-in-law.**

### **Fried Chicken, Jayhawkers and the Civil War**

In the "Missouri Passages" newsletter of Missouri Humanities in November, 2008, Anne Mallinson wrote an essay about Sunday fried chicken dinners, of her childhood, and stories of the border and the Civil War. Grandfather loaded us in the pick-up and showed us the Wayne City ruins where his Uncle James served in the Wayne City Citizens' Guard.

We learned that during the Civil War, if a group of men wearing Union uniforms approached and asked your loyalty, you did not answer. They could be guerrillas with stolen uniforms. They could be Confederate soldiers with uniforms taken in battle, or they could really be Union soldiers. They could be Union soldiers in Confederate or guerilla clothing trying to find guerrillas. You did not answer.

My father and grandfather pointed to **areas where guerillas hid, most specifically where now sits the new Bass Pro complex in south Independence** and in the Courtney Bend area. We learned that the road dividing Missouri from Kansas was called "Three Nail Road" because guerillas could not afford the four nails on each side of their horseshoes.

During my childhood, my family did not go to Kansas. Ever. Kansas was the home of the terrible Jayhawkers. I cannot speak for my siblings but I did not cross the border into Kansas until I was an adult – and that was on my way to Colorado.

### **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 their NEW website at [www.wcq society.com](http://www.wcq society.com) or E-mail [wcqsociety@aol.com](mailto:wcqsociety@aol.com) for more information.