



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"

August 2010

The Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri

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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

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The bombardment of Fort Sumter on April 12, 1861 was the opening engagement of the American Civil War. The countdown to the 150th Anniversary on April 12, 2011 is just 244 days away, as of the date of our next Round Table meeting on August 11, 2010.

President's Letter

Integrity, tenacity, loyal, butcher, inept, corrupt, great strategist, failure...

Interesting string of words isn't it? These words have been used to describe a man that anyone even the slightest bit interested in the Civil War would know just from his picture alone. These have been used to describe Ulysses S. Grant, the 18th President of the United States (1869–1877), as well as a military commander during the Civil War and post-war Reconstruction periods. He was so self-effacing that when enrolled at West Point (50 miles north of New York City) he didn't correct his name as written on the roles. Grant's birth name was Hiram Ulysses known to his friends as Sam.

He was a failure in business, and some would say as President, but successful at war and marriage. He was also hailed as a hero for saving the Union and in the "Lost Cause" writings, condemned as a butcher of men.

A failure at most endeavors but he became an accomplished author. If you have never read Grant's Memoirs, completed shortly before his death in 1885 please do so. You will find a well thought out, concise account of the Civil War and not like so many post war writings that did nothing but point fingers and make excuses. He wrote with brutal honesty.

He was a hero at the time of his death and thought so highly of that he and his wife Julia are buried in the largest mausoleum in North America. Besides the mausoleum Grant is honored by the Ulysses S. Grant Memorial at the base of Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., the second largest equestrian statue in the world. How does a man so highly thought of at the time of his death become the subject of the joke "Who is buried in Grant's tomb?" The answer to that question is a mystery to be solved.

One good way to start to solve this mystery is to go where U. S. Grant spent part of his life. To begin your search I urge you to join the Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri on our trip to St. Louis and walk in the footsteps of Sam Grant. I hope to see you on the bus!

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

CWRTWMO Calendar

August 2010 Meeting

Wednesday, August 11, 2010 – 7:00 p.m.

Villages of Jackson Creek (lower level),
3980-A S. Jackson Drive, Independence, MO
Showing of the film “America’s Confederate
Palaces.” Popcorn and soft drinks provided.

No Board Meeting in August

Deadline for Jefferson Barracks Trip:

Wednesday, August 25, 2010. See article below
about this trip to St. Louis, MO, Sept. 18-19, 2010.

Other Event

Civil War on the Western Frontier

August 5-21, 2010 at Lawrence, KS. Events are in
chronological order as listed at the website
www.visitlawrence.com. Many events will be at
the Watkins Museum (1047 Massachusetts Street,
telephone (785) 841-4109) and the Lawrence Public
Library (707 Vermont Street, telephone (785) 843-
3833). Since these events are planned far in
advance, you might be advised to check by phone to
be sure of the schedule.

Blanton’s Crossing on the Wakarusa

Thursday, August 5, 2010 – 7:00 p.m. Watkins
Museum. Fred Six talks about where the Free-state
militia gathered to track down William Quantrill
after he raided Lawrence. Blanton’s Crossing was
named for Napoleon Bonaparte Blanton, a Union
military commander who built a bridge over the
Wakarusa River and charged a toll. Free.

Historic Walking Tours in Liberty, MO

Saturday, August 7, 2010 – 10:00 a.m. Three
Downtown Churches. Meet at the Presbyterian
Church at the corner of North Main and Mississippi.
Free & open to the public. Wear comfortable shoes.

Living History at the Harris-Kearney House

Saturday, August 7, 2010 – 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Harris-Kearney House, 4000 Baltimore, Kansas
City, MO. Celebrate a county fair on the lawn of the
1855 house with Kelly’s Irish Brigade and the
Westport Blue and Gray Social Society. Political
speeches, period games, basket weaving, gun and
medical demonstrations, music and dance.

Bring a box lunch for auction and then share with a
re-enactor. Sponsored by the Westport Historical
Society.

Tracing Civil War Ancestors

Saturday and Sunday, August 7 & 8, 2010 – 2:00
p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Wilson’s Creek National
Battlefield, 10 miles SW of Springfield, MO.

Battlefield library’s multipurpose room. Free and
registration is not required. Intended for beginning
genealogists. For more information, please visit the
website www.Jeffrey_Patrick@nps.gov (underline
between Jeffrey and Patrick).

149th Anniversary of the Battle of Wilson’s Creek

Tuesday, August 10, 2010 – 10:00 a.m. Ceremony
at the Visitor Center on the front lawn. Speaker:
Dr. William Piston. Refreshments following.

John Brown: Martyr or Madman

Tuesday, August 10, 2010 – 7:30 p.m. Watkins
Museum, Lawrence, KS. Reader Theater will
examine the legacy of John Brown and the violence
and complexities of the time period. Free.

Kansas City Chronicles: An Up-To-Date History

Thursday, August 12, 2010 – 6:30 p.m. National
Archives, 400 W. Pershing Road, Kansas City, MO.
David Jackson, archivist of the Jackson County
Historical Society, discusses his new book based on
his best historical newspaper columns. Reception at
6:00 p.m. For reservation call (816) 268-8010 or
send an E-mail to kansascity.educate@nara.gov.

Underground Railroad in Bleeding Kansas

Thursday, August 12, 2010 – 7:00 p.m. Lawrence
Public Library. Anne Hawkins gives a first person
presentation of Topeka abolitionist Mary Jane
Ritchie. Free.

Lincoln in Kansas

Thursday, August 12, 2010 – 7:00 p.m. Watkins
Museum, Lawrence, KS. William S. Worley
explores the importance of Kansas to Lincoln and
the nation and his belief in the containment of
slavery. Free.

Border States-Opposite Sides

Thursday, August 12, 2010 – 7:00 p.m. Trailside
Center, 9901 Holmes Road, Kansas City, MO. Jim
Howk’s presentation will cover the Upper South

and Border States as to why some states seceded and others did not and the effect on each side. Free.

Burnt District Festival

Friday and Saturday, August 13-14, 2010 – 9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. Historic Square at Harrisonville, MO. Historic plays and reenactments in 1896 Courthouse and 1835 log cabin.

Fee-Free Weekend at Wilson's Creek National Battlefield - Saturday and Sunday, August 14-15, 2010. Normal fees such as entrance and transportation fees are waived for this weekend. Wilson's Creek commemorates the first major battle of the Civil War in the West. Located at Republic, Missouri, about 10 miles south of Springfield.

148th Anniversary of the Battle of Lone Jack, Missouri - Saturday, August 14, 2010 – 10:00 a.m. Parade. "Rooster" Cogburn, the fictional character portrayed by John Wayne in "True Grit," claimed he lost his eye as a Confederate participant at the Battle of Lone Jack. For a complete picture of the battle, go to www.historiclonejack.org and click "Battle of Lone Jack" and the link to the article called "Shot All to Pieces – The Battle of Lone Jack, Missouri, August 16, 1862" by Matt Matthews and Kip Lindberg from the *North & South* magazine, January 2004.

Order No. 11

Saturday, August 14, 2010 – 2:00 p.m. Westport Library, 118 Westport Road, Kansas City, MO. Timothy Westcott of Park College will talk about the infamous Order No. 11 which decimated the civilian population during the Civil War in Western Missouri.

Tour of the Black Jack Battlefield

Sunday, August 15, 2010 – 3:00 p.m. Guided tour of the Black Jack Battlefield, 163 E. 2000 Road, Wellsville, KS. John Brown and Henry Clay Pate fought what some consider the first battle of the Civil War on June 2, 1856. Free.

Judge Louis Carpenter: Victim of the Raid

Monday, August 16, 2010 – 7:00 p.m. Lawrence Public Library. Presentation of the life and accomplishments of Judge Louis Carpenter who was killed during Quantrill's 1863 raid on Lawrence, KS. Free.

Negroes to Hire

Thursday, August 19, 2010 – 6:30 p.m. Plaza Branch of the K.C. Library, 4801 Main Street, Kansas City, MO. Showing of Gary Jenkins' documentary on slavery in Missouri followed by a discussion by Jenkins, Jimmy Johnson, and Kevin Wilmott, Associate Professor at KU. Reception at 6:00 p.m. RSVP to (816) 701-3481.

Liberty and Freedom in Bleeding Kansas

Thursday, August 19, 2010 – 7:00 p.m. Watkins Museum, Lawrence, KS. Rita Napier discusses the competing ideas about rights in Kansas and how they defined the free state movement. Free.

An Evening with John Brown

Thursday, August 19, 2010 – 7:00 p.m. Lawrence Public Library. Kerry Altenbernd recounts the life and war on slavery in John Brown's voice. Free.

Quantrill's Raid Graveyard Walk

Friday, August 20, 2010 – 8:00 p.m. Lawrence, KS Parks and Recreation South Park, 1130 Massachusetts, Lawrence, KS. Visit the graves of the Raid victims and hear their stories. Registration fee of \$12 is required. Call (785) 832-7930 or go to www.lprd.org.

Walking Tour of Quantrill's Raid

Saturday, August 21, 2010 – 9:00 a.m. Watkins Museum, Lawrence, KS. Walk Massachusetts Street where on August 21, 1863 Quantrill's Raiders destroyed much of the town and killed hundreds of men and boys. Hear firsthand accounts of the raid and its aftermath. Donations welcome to benefit the Watkins Museum.

Roll Call of the Victims of Quantrill's Raid

Saturday, August 21, 2010 – 12:00 Noon. Steps of the First United Methodist Church, 10th and Vermont Street, Lawrence, KS. Roll call of the names of the victims of Quantrill's Raid and tolling of church bell. Free.

Outlaws on the Missouri-Kansas Border Area

Saturday, August 21, 2010 – 12:00 Noon luncheon. McCoy's Public House, corner of Westport Road and Pennsylvania, Kansas City, MO. Paul Kirkman: Social Outlaws And Notorious Persons of the Missouri-Kansas Border Area, 1860-1880. Luncheon is \$20 payable in advance to Westport

Historical Society, 4000 Baltimore, Kansas City, MO 64111.

Grandview Historical Society Bus Trip

Saturday, August 21, 2010. Bus trip to Burnt District Monument and Bates County Museum. Call Judi Beckner for information at (816) 322-3736.

Civil War Round Table of Kansas City Meeting

Tuesday, August 24, 2010 – 7:00 p.m. (no dinner) Plaza Library, 4801 Main Street, Kansas City, MO Dr. Antonio Holland, Professor Emeritus at Lincoln University. Subject to be announced.

Lawrence Survivors of Quantrill's Raid

Sunday, August 29, 2010 – 2:00 p.m. Central Library, 14 W. 10th St., Kansas City, MO. Katie Armitage explains in her new book how survivors rebuilt their lives, their town and memorialized their experiences. RSVP to (816) 701-3400.

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.

In order to hold our tour bus and hotel rooms, we must have reservations by August 25th. Please send your check to CWRTWMO, 17313 E. 51st Terr. Ct., Independence, MO 64055. The amount is \$145 for a double room and \$175 for a single. This includes the tour bus, hotel, entrance fees, and Saturday night dinner, Sunday breakfast and lunch. Saturday lunch will be fast food on your own. For additional information, please call Beverly Shaw at (816) 225-7944 (cell).

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.

Nominating Committee

It's that time of year again when we consider the officers and board members to lead the Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri. The year of 2011 is especially important because it's the official start of the 150th anniversary of the Civil War even though people living on the border of Kansas and Missouri know that the conflict actually began much earlier than that.

Terry McConnell has agreed to chair the nominating committee and would be glad to hear from you if you wish to offer yourself or another member as an officer or board member. Attached to this newsletter is a list of those currently serving.

The board does not meet again until September 15th, and he would like to present a slate at that time so that it can be published in the *Border Star* prior to our November 10th election meeting. Terry can be reached at (816) 461-0640 or by E-mail at the following address: t.mcconnell9261@att.net

Notes About Members and Friends

Our condolences go to **Jim Beckner** whose father passed away June 30, 2010 in Fremont, Nebraska. If you wish to send a card, Jim's address is 1018 Redwood Drive, Raymore, MO 64083.

We have received a thank you note from **Sharon Kelley** for our assistance in hosting the July meeting of the Missouri/Kansas Border War Network at the historic courthouse on the Independence Square. **Pat Gradwohl** assisted with

cool water for the visitors, **Mike Calvert** brought greetings from the Round Table, and **Sharon Snyder** hosted a tour of the historic McCoy House.

Karen Wells and Pat Gradwohl visited the historic Majors Home in Kansas City during an evening open house in July and were happy to see **Kathy Pickering** and **Roger Slusher** working as guides.

This is the season for travel for some of our members. **Pat Gradwohl** is traveling to Italy to join her son and his family for a cruise to Italian and Greek ports. **Carol and Steve Olson** took a trip to Canada and brought back newspaper articles about the Civil War.

The *Missouri Historical Review* of July 2010 has a very informative article by David Boutros of the Western Historical Manuscript Collection at UMKC about a recent acquisition called "Detail from Birds Eye View of Kansas City, Missouri, ca. 1878." It is attributed to Augustus Koch, city viewmaker, and is tri-colored and printed on heavy paper. The drawings show cultural and social landmarks of Kansas City. This piece was donated to the collection in September 2009 by **Lee and Kathy Pickering and Family** and has been beautifully restored.

Our friend **Richard Stewart** has decided to move to Arkansas to devote himself to the Quantrill collection that he is establishing at the Gentry Public Library. He will be moving the weekend of August 7-8 so if you had anything that you wanted to donate to the collection, he would try to collect it now rather than having the shipping expense. You can reach him at (816) 695-2731.

Book Reviews

Of interest to scholars of Missouri Civil War history are two books which come to us from members of the Civil War Round Table of the Ozarks – Len Eagleburger in 2004 and a new book edited by Prof. William Piston and Dr. Thomas P. Sweeney.

You may have read Len Eagleburger's name when the *Border Star* thanked him for forwarding pertinent Civil War information via the internet. Len has published *The Fighting 10th*, *The History of the 10th Missouri Cavalry US* (\$32.81 hardcover

including UPS shipping from the author). It is a never before published history of the 10th from Wilson's Creek to Pea Ridge to Vicksburg; the Meridian Campaign, Brice's Crossroads to Westport; on to Mine Creek and Newtonia; and finally through Alabama to Georgia and Macon. In addition to a complete history of the 10th, the book has a brief history of events in Missouri throughout the Civil War.

Piston and Sweeney have added to the University of Arkansas Press Portraits of Conflict series by compiling the Missouri volume called *Portraits of Conflict: A Photographic History of Missouri in the Civil War* (cloth, \$75).

This book tells the story of a deeply divided border state and covers the origins of Missouri's participation in events leading up to the war, its conventional and guerrilla phases, the war on the rivers, African American soldiers, medicine, the experiences of the soldiers who served out of state, and the process of reunion in the post-war years.

Internet Sites to Visit

Have you checked out these Civil War sites on-line lately?

The war in Missouri
<http://www.missouricivilwar.net/>

The Preservation Trust
<http://www.civilwar.org/>

The 150th Anniversary
<http://www.civilwar.org/150th-anniversary/>

History.com
<http://www.history.com/topics/american-civil-war>

The National Archives Civil War Photos
<http://www.archives.gov/research/civil-war/photos/>

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.wcqsociety.com or E-mail wcqsociety@aol.com for more information.

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