



The Border Star

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

• **Founded 12-9-1992**

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"Studying the Border War and Beyond"

January 2009

The Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri

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The Border Star Editor

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

Meetings

2nd Wednesday of each month - 7:00 p.m.
Villages of Jackson Creek
3980-A S. Jackson Drive
(lower level)
Independence, Missouri

Visitors Always Welcome!

Annual Dues

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

For Information

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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 150th Anniversary on April 12, 2011 is just 818 days away, as of the date of our next Round Table meeting on January 14th.

Carved into the stone facade of the National Archive Building in Washington, D.C. are the words "Past is Prologue." When I first read those words I thought what a profound statement. On the façade of the building that holds our nation's physical evidence of our past are the words that tell us that what has happened is just the preface or introduction of what is yet to be. The words were familiar enough to me to know that they were taken from a larger piece of work. So, I used the six letters that will answer all your questions "GOOGLE."

I was correct in my thinking they are from a larger body of work. It was William Shakespeare that first penned those words in *The Tempest*, Act 2, Scene 1.

"Whereof what's past is prologue; what to come,
In yours and my discharge."

The Bard is correct; all that has taken place is merely the introduction to the future. I'd like to take a few moments to reflect on what is now in our organizations past. Space prevents listing all the things we've accomplished so here is just a sample. In the past year we have had successful trips to expand our knowledge of the Civil War in our area. We hosted a successful Little Blue Tour and once again worked with the Kansas City Roundtable. We have joined and are a vital part of the Border War network. This last year our monthly meetings have been well attended. This attendance is because of the varied, high quality programs that are offered each month and I know it's hard to believe, not the business portion. One last thing, this past year has proven that our group has strong committed officers, board of directors and members. I was gone for six months and everything ran as smoothly as I knew it would.

I cannot thank everyone enough for their help, their hard work and their commitment.

Now to address the rest of the Bard's message. We can't rest on what has been a successful year. We have to look ahead at what is to come. What is to happen will only happen because of our efforts. If our past is our prologue just imagine what a success next year will be.

Thanks again to all of you and I look forward to our many adventures in the New Year.

Mike Calvert, President
The Civil War Roundtable of Western Missouri

CWRTWMO Calendar

January, 2009 Meeting

Wednesday, January 14, 2009 – 7:00 p.m.
Villages of Jackson Creek (lower level),
3980-A S. Jackson Drive, Independence, MO
Open Round Table. See article.

January, 2009 Board Meeting

Wednesday, January 21, 2009 – 7:00 p.m.
Home of Beverly Shaw, 17313 E. 51st Terr. Ct. S.
Independence, MO. Call (816) 225-7944 for
directions.

Other Events

First Saturday History Seminars

Saturday, January 3, 2009 – 10:00 a.m.
Welcome to the Clay County Archives: An
introduction to the vast resources pertaining to local
history and genealogy located at 210 East Franklin
Street, Liberty, MO.

Alexander II and Abraham Lincoln

Exhibit at Union Station. Tickets are \$9.50 each or
\$6.00 for groups of 15 or more. Through April 19th.
Call (816) 460-2020 or go to www.unionstation.org.
See article.

Bleeding Kansas 2009

Sunday, January 25, 2009 – 2:00 p.m.
Constitution Hall State Historic Site, 319 Elmore
St., Lecompton, KS. Speaker: Virgil Dean, Editor
of the *Kansas History Journal*, speaking on
“Legendary Kansans in the State Capitol.” Free
Admission.

Civil War Round Table of Kansas City

Tuesday, January 27, 2009 – Dinner - 6:30 p.m.
Homestead Country Club, 6510 Mission Road,
Prairie Village, KS. Cost is \$22.00 per person. For
Reservations, call Paul Gault at (816) 741-2962.
“Wilson’s Creek” by Connie Langhum.

Bleeding Kansas 2009

Sunday, February 1, 2009 – 2:00 p.m.
Constitution Hall State Historic Site, 319 Elmore
St., Lecompton, KS. “Lecompton: A National
Obsession, 1858” by Craig Miner of the Department
of History, Wichita State University. There will be
a book signing and this event is free.

Abe Lincoln and the Civil War

Monday, February 2, 2009 – 7:00 p.m.

North Independence Branch of Mid-Continent
Library, 317 W. US 24 Highway, Independence,
MO. Mountain Glory uses autoharps, hammered
dulcimer, and guitars to bring America’s colorful
past to life through music and songs.

Open Round Table

As is our custom we start the new year with a
program presented by our own members to share
what they have been reading, researching, creating,
and collecting. Please check in with Mike Calvert
at the meeting so that he can allocate time for
everyone who wants to speak. Think in terms of
five minutes each until we see how many want to
share.

The Tsar and the President, Alexander II and Abraham Lincoln

In 1861 Tsar Alexander II freed Russia’s 22 million
peasants from serfdom; then two years later,
Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation
Proclamation, ending slavery in America. Visitors
are invited to Union Station to take a closer look at
the opulence of Imperial Russia, with artifacts from
the Tsar’s palace, and look back in American
history at Lincoln’s upbringing.

The WindingRiver.com newsletter also tells us that
the University of Saint Mary in Leavenworth, KS
has loaned two items from its 10,000-piece De Paul
Library Lincoln Collection. One is a life mask of
Abraham Lincoln, and the other is a rare copy of the
13th Amendment to the U. S. Constitution – one of
14 known copies signed by Lincoln.

Abraham Lincoln: Self-Made in America

The Midwest Genealogy Center in Independence,
Missouri, will be hosting a special traveling exhibit
from the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in
Springfield, IL from March 29 - April 24, 2009.
The Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri
has been invited to help present programming to
enhance the exhibit, and we have made
arrangements to hold our regular April 8, 2009
meeting at the Center located at 3440 S. Lee’s
Summit Road, Independence, MO. (Corner of Kiger
and Lee’s Summit Road north of I-70). We have

not yet chosen a speaker for the evening, but we wanted to let you put this on your calendar.

Condolences to Paul Tate

We were so sorry to hear of the death of Nelma Tate, wife of our historian, Paul Tate, on December 5, 2008. She had resided in the Kansas City area since 1970 and retired from the Raytown High School where she worked in the cafeteria. She enjoyed crafts, reading, and crocheting as well as traveling to visit family members especially in Arkansas where she was buried at Mount Pleasant Cemetery near Gravette, AR. Our thoughts and prayers are with Paul, three daughters, and eight grandchildren.

News About Our Members and Friends

First of all we want to congratulate **Mike Calvert** on the birth of his grandson, Noa Michael, born December 3, 2008, with a weight of 7 lb., 8 oz. and a length of 20.5." He resides with his parents at the historic Lawson Moore home on Blue Mills Road.

Bill and Annette Curtis were honored by more than 90 members of the McCoy Neighborhood on October 23, 2008 at St. Luke's United Church of Christ. As you probably know, the Curtis' are the pre-eminent historians of Independence as was evidenced by a display of the multitude of books and pamphlets which the two have authored about local history. Many local archival materials would not be searchable if not for the many hours of work done by Annette to create indices which you will notice at the Jackson County Historical Society Archives and the new Midwest Genealogy Center. Bill was one of the most honored teachers in Kansas City where he built a reputation for reaching out to students with troubled lives and guiding them into positive directions. Bill and Annette have always contributed to Round Table research of topics such as the log cabin barn on Blue Mills Road which we visited and the Border War history of Burr Oaks Nature Center.

Bob Grover is not only a member of our Round Table but is also an active member of the Sons of the American Revolution which is often called upon to provide color guards in colonial uniforms. In the November 8, 2008 issue of the Kansas City *Star* there is a picture of Bob saluting the flag at the

swearing in of 54 immigrants to be naturalized as U. S. Citizens at the World War I Museum.

Barbara Hughes, a new board member of the Round Table, was featured in the Life & Times weekend section of the *Examiner* on December 6-7, 2008, as she portrayed a 1620s pilgrim for a second grade class at Chapel Lakes Elementary School. The article is called "Reliving American History: Teacher finds new lessons through re-enacting." She has agreed to bring one of her first-person Civil War personas to our August meeting.

You may want to pick up a copy of the December, 2008 *Missouri Life* magazine on the newsstand if you don't already take it by subscription. The Civil War Series on page 72 is called "The Prelude, Battle of the Little Blue sets the stage for Westport" and was written by **Hugh Welsh** of the *Examiner*. Mr. Welsh took our tour of the battlefield in May and later asked Mike Calvert to give him an extended tour as he researched the story. We also want to congratulate *Missouri Life* for being voted 2008 Best Magazine of the Year by the International Regional Magazine Association which includes such magazines as Arizona Highways. One of the criteria is a poll of its readers to see how long they retain old copies of the magazine, and as new subscribers, Beverly Shaw and Art and Sharon Kelley can attest that they are definitely collectible. Right now you can order a new subscription for one year (6 issues) for \$21.99. Call 1-800-492-2593, ext.102, or visit www.MissouriLife.com.

Twenty-five years is a long time. Some marriages don't even last that long, but the Independence, Missouri Historic Sites volunteers are celebrating their Silver Anniversary and were honored at a banquet by Mayor Don Reimal and Tourism Director Stephanie Roush. In the November 22-23, 2008 issue of the *Examiner* our members **Charlotte Tindall** and **Janice Pearson** were pictured as being 25-year volunteers at the Bingham-Waggoner Estate. The labor of all the volunteers translates into 387,530 hours and represents a savings of \$4,763,943.20 to the City of Independence.

As director of pastoral care at St. Mark's Catholic Church, **Lee Ward** fulfills his role in various ways. In the November 15-16, 2008 Life & Times issue of the *Examiner* the lead story was about "Good Soul:

Spirit Talkers believe music soothes more than just a savage breast.” It turns out that Lee was co-founder of a group of people who get together to play Native American flutes. Traditional stories claim that the flute was used as a courting instrument. Today it is used as an instrument to calm the spirits of people near the end of life in hospice settings. They are amazingly easy to play with little needed in the way of musical knowledge.

On December 2, 2008, the *Examiner* reported that the weekly Independence City Council meeting was opened by an invocation in Spanish and is thought to be the first time they have prayed in any of the other languages that are represented in the city. For example there are 27 primary languages of families who have children in Independence schools. Hilda Beck, director of missions at St. Mark’s Catholic Church, gave the prayer, and **Lee Ward**, director of pastoral care, translated it to English. Lee said that the invocation was a prayer, a lesson, and an opportunity to be servants to those represented in the community.

Opportunities to Help Keep History Alive

As you probably remember, there is a new museum of Civil War history in Kansas City called the **Westport Museum** which is located just inside the front entrance of Swope Park. As with all museums it can only be open if there are volunteers to act as docents. The Civil War Round Table of Kansas City is asking for interested volunteers to give one day a month on a Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, or Saturday from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The museum is closed during the winter so the months would probably be March or April through October or November. If you are interested, you can E-mail Lane Smith at lane@smithinsurancegroupinc.com.

Pepper Cory from Beaufort, NC has E-mailed us that she is researching a book on a 20th century businesswoman named Ruby Short McKim whose father was Morris Tremble Short. He was born in Indiana in 1844 and died in Independence, Missouri in 1902. During his Civil War service he enlisted in the Union Army in 1862 and mustered into D Company of the Kansas 11th Cavalry in Leavenworth, KS and served until 1865. Pepper is asking for help in reconstructing a record of his military career since the official records were destroyed in a tornado. What battles or military

actions did he likely participate in? Why did he move his family to Independence after the war? Was it because he had been stationed there during the war? Was he present when Quantrill’s raiders came to Independence? Did Company D of the Kansas 11th Cavalry take part in enforcing Order No. 11? After the war he became an RLDS preacher and a few of his sermons have survived. If you have some insights for Pepper, you can E-mail her at pepcory@gmail.com or write her at 203 First Street, Beaufort, NC 28516. Her phone number is (252) 716-4117.

As you may know, there is a flurry of activity in keeping the records of small cemeteries available for researchers and genealogists. Our member **Bob Boland** is interested in the history of the Flanery Cemetery (also known as the Flanery-Frost Cemetery) at 93rd and Westridge. He found out from David Jackson of the Jackson County Archives that it is indeed a pioneer family cemetery and as such was listed in the 1934 DAR book of cemeteries which is in the final stages of re-indexing and re-printing for the 75th anniversary of the Jackson County Historical Society. If you have further information about this cemetery, please contact Bob via E-mail at rlboland@kc.rr.com or by calling (816) 525-6827.

Don Moorehead has been busy visiting small cemeteries in Jackson County and is writing more detailed directions to find them. He recently located the Palestine Cemetery on Santa Fe Trail Road between 92nd and 93rd Streets in south Kansas City and was even able to find out who is taking care of it so that this information will be available at the Jackson County Archives. He found that some cemeteries such as the Hudspeth Cemetery in northeastern Jackson County have extensive internet information at www.epodunk.com. Because the Hudspeth family was well known, there are also references at the following websites; www.ba044ancestry.com/HUDSPETH and www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mojackson/hudspethcemetery.

The champion of gravestone hunting in Johnson County, Kansas is **Linda K. Lewis** who was featured in an article in the Kansas City *Star* on November 15, 2008. The article is called “Headstone Hunter: She walks through

graveyards.” But not only does she walk through them, she also works with other volunteers to document 40 of the 44 known cemeteries in Johnson County, Kansas. For the last five years she has posted the results of this research on a website at <http://cemetery.cottonhills.com>. Luckily the Johnson County Public Library has procured funding to transfer the research into the library’s history website at www.jocohistory.org.

Another tangible result of extensive research in Cass County, Missouri, is a new book called *The Lands & Life of Henry Washington Younger in Cass County, Missouri* by Diane Magness, Research Assistant. It covers Cass County land acquisitions of H. W. Younger, father of Cole, Jim, Bob, John and eight daughters from 1858 to 1863 when they were forced out by Order No.11. It is \$10.00 in spiral/soft cover.

The William Clarke Quantrill Society

The William Clark Quantrill Society is a non-profit corporation 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 information visit; www.geocities.com/quantrillsoc or send an E-mail to wcqsociety@aol.com.

Seeing the Year Out



This illustration by Winslow Homer is from the January 5, 1861 edition of *Harper's Weekly* and is titled, "Seeing the Year Out."

On the left is a group of people toasting and celebrating as the clock strikes Midnight. To the right is an image of a group of people in prayer at church where the women seem to be weeping. Also shown is a preacher in his pulpit with what appears to be heavenly rays of light illuminating him. This portion of the image is titled, "Watch Night" also known as New Year's Eve.

In the upper left is a group of heavenly beings where some have the wings of angels while in the upper right there appear to be tortured souls wondering, lost in hopelessness.

Perhaps Homer's purpose in this picture was similar to Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's Christmas carol, "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day" (originally "Christmas Bells") composed three years later on December 25th 1864. When Longfellow penned the words, America was still months away from Lee's surrender to Grant at the Appomattox Court House on April 9th 1865.

The reelection of Abraham Lincoln or the possible end of the terrible war may have been the occasion for the poem. Three verses of "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day" (or "Christmas Bells") include;

I heard the bells on Christmas Day
Their old familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet
The words repeat
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

And in despair I bowed my head;
"There is no peace on earth," I said;
"For hate is strong,
And mocks the song
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!"

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:
"God is not dead; nor doth he sleep!
The Wrong shall fail,
The Right prevail,
With peace on earth, good-will to men!"

144 years later, we still long for peace on earth, good-will to men. For 2009, let us do our part to fulfill the passion that wrong shall fail, that right shall prevail and know that God is not dead nor does He sleep. Merry Christmas to all and a Happy New Year! ~Editor

CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE OF WESTERN MISSOURI

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