



# **The Border Star**

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

• **Founded 12-9-1992**

• **Incorporated 5-12-1993**

***"Studying the Border War and Beyond"***

**February 2009**

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

### **2009 Officers**

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

Delbert Coin      Karen Coin  
Sharon Kelley    Barbara Hughes  
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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**

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Beverly Shaw ----- 225-7944  
Art Kelley ----- 373-4101

### **Mailing Address**

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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 790 days away, as of the date of our next Round Table meeting on February 11<sup>th</sup>.

I've been travelling again and, again my being out of town coincided with our monthly meeting. For those of us unable to make the January meeting I understand we missed a good one. The annual open Round Table is my favorite. However, as I have been fortunate to do in the past I was able to mix business with pleasure when I must travel.

This time my travels took me to Perry, GA. If you take time to look it up you will find that Perry is about an hour and a half south of Atlanta located in the middle of peanut, cotton and pulp wood country. But more importantly, because if I were to relate stories about peanuts, cotton and pulp wood we would all be taking a nap right now, Perry is located just 30 minutes northeast of Andersonville, GA. Anyone, even those who may just be beginning their study of the Civil War knows about Andersonville. Now, before I get too far I know that Andersonville was not the only prison where the treatment of prisoners was inhumane. There are certainly Union prisons that were every bit as inhumane.

I don't want to talk about the prison so if you want to know more about that, you may want to look it up. There are several books and of course the National Park Service web site that will give you the history. I want to talk about the museum/visitor's center that was built to honor all POW's from all wars and to educate the public about their story. The story told through the use of first hand accounts, pictures and artifacts is informational, compelling, heart racing and heart stopping. The very human story of the prisoners is one of courage, determination and the unstoppable will of the human spirit to survive. As I walked through the exhibits I looked at the pictures and read the stories but, what made me really stop were the many artifacts that have been donated. From the rings carved from soup bones to the wooden clogs or hemp sandals made by the prisoners. Items made to cure boredom in the case of the rings or to make life a bit more livable as in the shoes. It's not really the items that made me stop but, the fact that each prisoner saved that item after they were released. These things were so precious that the prisoner kept and preserved them. I have no way of knowing exactly why. I can only guess that each item helped that prisoner maintain his humanity under conditions designed to be anything but human. The items were the only thing that that prisoner could call his own; everything else was given or taken away by his captors.

If you get the chance go to Andersonville, GA see the museum, look at the exhibits and study the artifacts. Each has a very human story to tell. Remember as you walk through it, the museum is not only telling the story of the conditions prisoners endured but, the story of the unconquerable human spirit.

See you at February's meeting.

Mike Calvert, President  
The Civil War Roundtable of Western Missouri

## CWRTWMO Calendar

### February 2009 Meeting

Wednesday, February 11, 2009 – 7:00 p.m.

Villages of Jackson Creek (lower level),  
3980-A S. Jackson Drive, Independence, MO  
Charles Childs: “Diaries and History” (A study of history verifies the stories in the diary of Elijah L. Halsted, Charles’ great-grandfather who served in the Illinois Light Artillery).

### No Board Meeting in February

### Tour to Boonville, Missouri

Saturday, April 25, 2009. Put this on your calendar for a car trip to Boonville to see Civil War sites, old houses and Thespian Hall. More information will follow.

## Other Events

### Through April 19, 2009

Alexander II and Abraham Lincoln Exhibit at Union Station. Tickets are \$9.50 each or \$6.00 for groups of 15 or more. Call (816) 460-2020 or go to [www.unionstation.org](http://www.unionstation.org).

### January 29, 2009 – July 26, 2009.

Special Exhibit – Lincoln in Kansas  
Kansas Museum of History, Topeka, KS.  
Artifacts and images tell of the Lincoln-Douglas debates through his assassination.  
See [ksks.org/exhibits/current/upcoming.htm](http://ksks.org/exhibits/current/upcoming.htm).

### Friday, Feb. 6, 2009 – 6:30 p.m.

Lee’s Summit Historical Society  
First Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall,  
1925 O’Brien Road, Lee’s Summit, MO  
Mary E. Ahlbrandt: *Abstract of Title as a Research Tool*. Snacks after the program.

### Sunday, Feb. 8, 2009 – 2:00 p.m.

Bleeding Kansas 2009 - Constitution Hall State Historic Site, 319 Elmore St., Lecompton, KS.  
*Great Emancipator or Great Racist? Lincoln’s Reconciliation of Racial Inequality and Natural Rights* by James Leiker. Free admission.

### Tuesday, February 10, 2009 – 7:00 p.m.

Underground Railroad and Harriet Tubman Liberty Branch of the Mid-Continent Library, 1000 Kent Street, Liberty, MO. Registration required at (816) 781-0240. Repeated at 3:00 p.m. on February 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>.

### February 10, 2009 – 7:00 p.m.

Cass County Civil War Round Table  
Community Building of Cass County Fairgrounds, Pleasant Hill, MO. Gary Stiles: *Religion, Victorian Morality, and the Civil War*.

### Sunday, February 15, 2009 – 2:00 p.m.

Bleeding Kansas 2009 - Constitution Hall Historic Site, Lecompton, KS. *Abraham Lincoln Remembered* by first-person presenter Tom Leahy.

### Saturday, February 21, 2009 – 2:00 p.m.– 5:00 p.m.

Black History Day-Hermann, MO  
Deutsheim State Historic Site, Hermann.  
Lecture on how German resistance to slavery helped include former slaves in the community.  
Free admission.

### Sunday, February 22, 2009 – 2:00 p.m.

Bleeding Kansas 2009 - Constitution Hall Historic Site, Lecompton, KS. *The Civil War’s First Blood* by James Denny, MO, Department of Natural Resources. Book signing.

### Tuesday, February 24, 2009 – Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

Civil War Round Table of Kansas City Homestead Country Club, 6510 Mission Road, Prairie Village, KS. Cost is \$22 per person. For reservations call Paul Gault at (816) 741-2962. *General Godfrey Weitzel* by Bill Quatman.

### February 28, 2009 - March 1, 2009 – 11:00 a.m.

Battle of Sand Ridge, Sikeston, MO  
Scott Matthews’ farm and downtown Sikeston, MO. Civil War battle reenactment and encampment and a variety of period events. Free admittance. For information call (573) 471-2566.

### Sunday, March 1, 2009 – 2:00 p.m.

Bleeding Kansas 2009 - Constitution Hall Historic Site, Lecompton, KS. *Governor Andrew Reeder: At the Request of My President* by Rex Patty, first-person presenter.

### **Bob Benson Dies at Age 77**

Longtime member of the Round Table, Bob Benson died on January 26, 2009, after complications from Diabetes. Bob leaves a son, Rob Benson, his good friend Shirley Fraser, and his great cat Jackson. Bob was a veteran of the U. S. Coast Guard, worked in sales, and was a real estate broker. He was well known for casting the only dissenting vote at business meetings of the Round Table. He was also a great volunteer at the Symphony Designers' Showhouse when a group of us worked together. His last trip with the Round Table was to Cole Camp which he enjoyed very much.

A memorial service was held January 31, 2009 at Mt. Moriah. Condolence cards may be directed to the Family of Robert Benson, 6703 Linden, Kansas City, MO 64113.

### **Sara Cox to Wed on February 7, 2009**

Mrs. Kay Cox and the Reverend Jon and Mrs. Kathryn Nicolaus announce the wedding of Sara Elizabeth Cox and Philip Daniel Nicolaus on Saturday, February 7, 2009 at 4:30 pm at Messiah Lutheran Church, 613 S. Main St., Independence, Missouri.

Sara is finishing her pharmacy degree at UMKC and Philip has a degree in history. He served as a guide with the National Park Service at the Truman Home this past summer. Sara's father, the late Tim Cox, would be so proud to have a Historian in the family. Tim served as the president of the Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri.

Cards may be sent to the bride's home at 4947 S. Peck Avenue, Independence, MO 64055.

### **Robert E. Tindall Scholarship Art Show**

Our friend Betty Key of the Blue and Grey Book Shoppe lets us know of an exhibit of the Independence Art Association called the *Robert E. Tindall Scholarship Fund Show*. Robert (1913-1983) was a cousin of our member Charlotte Tindall's late husband. Robert was an Independence artist who studied with Thomas Hart Benton who often said that Tindall "took up where he left off."

The show is from February 4 - 27, 2009 at the George Owens Nature Park Gallery, 1601 S. Speck

Road, Independence, Missouri. The hours are Tuesday - Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and on Sunday from 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. It will feature one of Tindall's oil paintings called *Renascence* alongside other works by local artists. A limited edition of *Renascence* commemorative prints will be offered for sale at \$15 each. The opening reception will be on Sunday, February 8, 2009 from 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The Tindall Scholarship is open to a graduating Independence high school senior interested in majoring in art. Applications will be available at the art show.

### **Volunteer Opportunities**

At the January board meeting the date of May 7, 2009 was selected for the staffing of the Symphony Designers' Showhouse from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The Showhouse is the former home of Senator James A. Reed and Nell Donnelly Reed (Nelly Don clothing) at 5236 Cherry, Kansas City, Missouri. This home is a part of Kansas City history that has never been on tour. If you are interested in volunteering to be a docent, please call Beverly Shaw at (816) 225-7944 (cell). A pre-decorated tour of the home will be held on February 7<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and February 8<sup>th</sup> from Noon to 5:00 p.m. for \$5 per person.

The Monnett Battle of Westport Fund will soon be gearing up to staff the new Battle of Westport Visitor's Center in Swope Park and are requesting the help of volunteers for one day a month. Museum hours will be Wednesday through Saturday from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. If you are interested, you can E-mail Lane Smith at [lane@smithinsurancegroupinc.com](mailto:lane@smithinsurancegroupinc.com).

### **News About Our Members**

We send our congratulations to **Frank and Janann Adams** on their 60th wedding anniversary which was celebrated on December 27, 2008. They live in Atherton where Frank operates the family farm and Janann is a homemaker and volunteer with the Jackson County Historical Society.

We had a full house for the Open Round Table in January even though it was a very cold night. **John Deis** from Caldwell County presented information

about a new reenactment called *A Country, A County Divided* which will be held June 5 - 7, 2009 at Kingston, MO. Maybe we can even get Pat Gradwohl's "big yellow bus" to take a group there. Other guests at the Open Round Table were **David Gaddy-Cox and his mother** who are descendants of the Morgan Walker family of Blue Springs and **David Garstang** who became a new member. **Paul Allen's wife Betty** also joined with a family membership, and the Allens brought refreshments for the evening.

**Harold Dellinger** spoke to the Border War Society in St. Joseph on January 28<sup>th</sup> about his books on the outlaws, Jesse James and Billy, the Kid. He has also edited *Guerrillas and Other Curiosities* and operates an on-line bookstore called [www.haroldsbookstore.com](http://www.haroldsbookstore.com). He is also President of the Quantrill Society and is on the Board of the Friends of the James Farm.

On January 23, 2009 the **Jackson County Historical Society** presented its 2008 Local History Awards to **Brian Snyder** as the JCHS Volunteer of the Year for being an archives advocate and service as a Board Director and to **The Monnett Battle of Westport Fund, Inc.** for opening the Battle of Westport Visitor's Center in Swope Park.

**Sharon Kelley**, new Board member of the Round Table, has also been elected to the Board of the MO/KS Border War Network, a consortium of organizations and individuals who share information and techniques for sponsoring programming and events related to the Civil War in our area. Our Round Table will be hosting the April 15<sup>th</sup> meeting of the group at the Midwest Genealogy Center while the special Lincoln exhibit is there. She has asked that if you run across any interesting, historical websites in your research that you pass those along to her at her E-mail address of [sharon-kelley@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sharon-kelley@sbcglobal.net).

Our friend **David Kesinger** of Warrensburg reports that Lincoln interpreter **Bud Green** was featured on the front of the local paper when he helped open the Republican Headquarters office last summer. Bud spoke in character at our Truman Library program in 2008.

We extend our condolences to the Civil War Round Table of Kansas City on the death of **Dr. John Spencer** of Fort Scott, Kansas on January 3, 2009. He was well-known among re-enactors and Civil War historians for his work in creating the Mine Creek Battlefield Foundation in Kansas. A memorial scholarship fund has been set up in his name at the First Presbyterian Church in Fort Scott, Kansas.

### Lincoln Bicentennial

In remembrance of Abraham Lincoln's birth 200 years ago, the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum in Springfield, Illinois, has a full schedule of authors and events during the month of February. Our friend **Cheryl Harness**, acclaimed children's book writer and illustrator, will be doing a book signing of *Abe Lincoln Goes To Washington: Young Abe Lincoln 1809-1837*. To see a full schedule of events please visit [www.alplm.org](http://www.alplm.org).

The Midwest Genealogy Center in Independence, Missouri, will be hosting a traveling exhibit from the Lincoln Presidential Library from March 29, 2009 to April 24, 2009. *Abraham Lincoln: Self-Made in America* documents the journey taken by Lincoln from frontier obscurity to the nation's presidency through a combination of images, objects and the written word. The Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri has been invited to hold our April 8<sup>th</sup> membership meeting at the Midwest Genealogy Library at 7:00 p.m. with a Lincoln program followed by a viewing of the exhibit.

Karen Coin, our tour chairman, is also working on a weekend trip to Springfield, Illinois for the Round Table and guests. A possible date is August 22-23, 2009 and we will probably start out by bus the evening of Friday, August 21<sup>st</sup>, in order to have time to see all the sites at the Presidential Library and Museum as well as the Lincoln home and tomb.

The Smithsonian's National Museum of American History in Washington DC is also presenting an exhibit of ten key Lincoln documents through March 22, 2009, in the Albert H. Small Documents Gallery.

## SHPO Is 40 Years Old

The Missouri State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) is celebrating its 40th anniversary. It was created by the State Park Board (now the Department of Natural Resources' Division of State Parks) on July 1, 1968. Its underlying mission is to identify, document and seek to preserve Missouri's rich cultural heritage and historic places. It is SHPO which first vets our application for the Little Blue Battlefield to be added to the National Register of Historic Places. **Mike Calvert** reports that our application is almost complete and just needs an inventory of dwellings in the target area with a photograph, address and brief description. It's a two person project – one to drive and one to document and take photos. If you can volunteer some time for this, please call Mike at (816) 898-2603.

The current issue of *Missouri Resources* also announces that property has been acquired for the new Island Mound Civil War site near Butler, Missouri. The skirmish or *Battle of Island Mound* occurred on October 29, 1862, when approximately 30 black troops were ambushed by rebel horsemen near a low hill known as Island Mound. An archeological assessment will begin this winter, followed by the conceptual development plan process, then design and development. The dedication target is October 29, 2012, the 150th anniversary of the battle. This is thought to be the first time black soldiers engaged in combat during the Civil War.

## Civil War Resources

Our friend Ted Stillwell wrote a story about the "Shake Rag" church (now the Lobb Cumberland Presbyterian Church in Blue Springs, Missouri) in the January 21, 2009 issue of the *Independence Examiner*. The church and Lobb Cemetery are well-known as pioneer landmarks in eastern Jackson County. Our member, Chuck Townsend, works with the Lobb Cemetery Association to preserve this landmark. Ted says that one explanation for the nickname of the church came from the fact that the proud ladies of the day were great seamstresses and wore their finest homemade dresses to church each Sunday – thus "Shake Rag."

An interesting book review of *Frontier Medicine: From the Atlantic to the Pacific, 1492-1941* by

David Dary appeared in the January 18, 2009 issue of the *Kansas City Star*. Dary writes that the Civil War was a turning point for American medicine because it gave surgeons a lifetime's worth of on-the-job training. Dentistry was still ignored by the Army at the time, but Dary notes that "recruits were turned away if they did not have six opposing upper and lower front teeth with which to bite off the end of the powder cartridges used with muzzle-loaded weapons."

The Mid-Missouri Civil War Round Table had an insert with their newsletter to offer audio or video lectures on the American Civil War by Professor Gary W. Gallagher of the University of Virginia at a reduced price. There are 48 lectures of 30 minutes each on DVD at \$109.95 and Audio CD at \$69.95. More information at [www.thegreatcourses.com](http://www.thegreatcourses.com).

*The Reel Civil War: The Civil War in the Cinema* will be presented at the 13th annual Civil War Seminar at Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia, on March 27 - 28, 2009. For more information go to [www.liberty.edu/index](http://www.liberty.edu/index).

The latest issue of the *Rural Missouri* magazine has an interesting article about the well-known Civil War battlefield painter, Andy Thomas from Carthage, MO. With no photos to use for reference, Andy instead scoured diaries and books searching for realistic elements to put in his paintings. Visit [www.ruralmissouri.coop/09pages/09FebAndyThomas](http://www.ruralmissouri.coop/09pages/09FebAndyThomas).

A national organization that deals specifically with the "wild west" and includes some of the outlaws that came out of the Civil War era is called the Wild West History Association and can be accessed at [www.wildwesthistory.org](http://www.wildwesthistory.org).

## 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](http://www.geocities.com/quantrillsoc) or send an E-mail to [wcqsociety@aol.com](mailto:wcqsociety@aol.com).