



# **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"***

**March 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  
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### **Board Members**

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Sharon Kelley    Barbara Hughes  
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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**

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

Mike Calvert is on assignment in Topeka, Kansas, with his work at the Frito-Lay Plant whose renovation is being supervised by Burns and McDonnell. He is working 12 hour days in order to get the plant up and running again by March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Therefore his monthly essay will be replaced by a shameless advertisement for our April 25<sup>th</sup> trip to Boonville, Missouri.

Karen Coin, tour chairman, has been burning up the telephone wires (oops, I don't think we have many of those anymore) in order to set up a very full tour on Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, with our guide, Maryellen McVicker. Boonville is located a little over 100 miles east of Kansas City, and its strategic location on the Missouri River made it a target for opposing forces during the Civil War. In fact there were four battles at Boonville. The first one took place on June 17, 1861, and was the first fight west of the Mississippi River. Confederate leaning, Missouri Governor Claiborne Fox Jackson and his major general, Sterling Price, selected Boonville as the site of their new state capitol because Jackson was fearful of the German (translated "Federal") influence in Jefferson City. They called for volunteers and soon men poured into Cooper County but many did not even have guns. In the meantime Union commander Nathaniel Lyon loaded up three steamboats with 2,000 professionally trained soldiers and steamed upriver. The Union troops overran the volunteer Confederates and marched into Boonville. The green and untested Confederates retreated to the south and ended up in the Battle of Wilson's Creek. Ironically General Lyon was killed at that same battle. The First Battle of Boonville was important because it gave the Union control of the Missouri River which meant that the men and food the Confederacy hoped would come from northern Missouri were unable to travel south.

Our car tour to Boonville will begin at 9:30 a.m. at Thespian Hall, a beautifully restored early opera house at 522 Main Street in Boonville. Since people will be taking their own cars, they should probably plan to start out about 8:00 a.m. to meet in Boonville at 9:30 a.m. If you have extra space in your vehicle or would like to ride with someone else, please call Beverly Shaw at (816) 225-7944 to arrange transportation.

Other sites we plan to visit include Sunset Hills Cemetery with Civil War mass graves, the historic Cooper County Jail, the sites of the First Battle of Boonville leading to the 1816 McVicker House for lunch and a tour followed by a trip to Ravenswood Mansion for a tour. We estimate leaving Ravenswood about 3:00 p.m. for the trip home.

The cost per person will be \$25 which includes a Boonville ham luncheon and all admission fees. Transportation costs should be worked out with the drivers. Please make reservations by sending a check payable to "CWRTWM", 17313 E. 51<sup>st</sup> Terr. Court S., Independence, MO 64055. We need a firm count by April 20<sup>th</sup> for the luncheon. Call Beverly at (816) 225-7944 for last minute reservations or cancellations. This is open to all members and friends and is for our own enjoyment – not a fundraiser.

Karen Coin is also starting to prepare the itinerary for a weekend trip to Springfield, Illinois to visit the Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum and other Lincoln sites. This will be a bus tour which needs to leave at 4:00 p.m. on Friday, September 18, 2009, in order to have sufficient time to enjoy the Lincoln history at Springfield on September 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

~Beverly Shaw

## CWRTWMO Calendar

### March Meeting

Wednesday, March 11, 2009 – 7:00 p.m.  
Villages of Jackson Creek (lower level),  
3980-A S. Jackson Drive, Independence, MO  
Roger Slusher: “History of Lexington and Lafayette  
County, Missouri”

### March Board Meeting

Wednesday, March 18, 2009 – 7:00 p.m.  
Home of Beverly Shaw, 17313 E. 51 Terr. Court S.  
Independence, MO.

### April Meeting

Wednesday, April 8, 2009 – 7:00 p.m.  
Midwest Genealogy Center, 3440 S. Lee’s Summit  
Road, Independence, MO. Cheryl Harness: “Abe  
Lincoln Goes to Washington.” Viewing of special  
Lincoln exhibit, “Self-Made in America.”

### Tour to Boonville, Missouri

Saturday, April 25, 2009 – 9:30 a.m.  
Meet at Thespian Hall in Boonville to start tour.  
See article on front page.

## 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).

### First Saturday Lecture at Arrow Rock

Saturday, March 7, 2009 – 10:00 a.m.  
Arrow Rock State Historic Site Visitor Center.  
Mike Dickey and Rich Lawson: “Arrow Rock and  
Santa Fe Trail Trade, a 19<sup>th</sup> Century Economic  
Stimulus.” Trade in the early 1800s followed one  
of our nation’s first recessions. The Village of  
Arrow Rock, a National Historic Landmark, is  
located 14 miles north of I-70 at exit 98 on U.S. 41.

### Bus Tour of Historic Liberty

Saturday, March 7, 2009 – 10:00 a.m.  
City parking lot at East Kansas and Missouri  
Streets, Liberty, MO. Space is limited and  
reservations are required at (816) 439-4537.  
Sponsored by the City of Liberty, Preservation  
Office.

### Civil War Round Table of Cass County

Tuesday, March 10, 2009 – 7:00 p.m.  
Pearson Hall, 400 E. Mechanic, Harrisonville, MO.  
Dr. Bill Worley (adjunct professor of history at  
UMKC and Blue River Community College):  
“From Ambivalence to Abolition – Lincoln’s  
Journey through the Slavery Issue.”

### Irish History Month in Westport

Saturday, March 14, 2009 – 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
Harris-Kearney House, 4000 Baltimore, Kansas  
City, MO. Free to the public. Old time chuck  
wagon, mule rides for kids, Irish exhibits, re-  
enactors from 1859, Irish Entertainment with Eddie  
Delahunt and Bill Hargrave, crafters, food and  
drinks, soldier encampment, tours of the 1855  
Harris-Kearney House.

### St. Louis: Blue & Gray Radio-Style Reading

Sunday, March 15, 2009 – 12:30 p.m. and 3:00 p.m.  
Chatillon-DeMenil Mansion, 3352 DeMenil Place,  
St. Louis, MO. The DeMenil Players tell the story  
of day-to-day life in St. Louis during the Civil War.  
Free and open to the public.

### Caring for Historic Clothing

Sunday, March 15, 2009 – 2:00 p.m.  
The StoryTarium at Kansas City Museum, 3218  
Gladstone Blvd., Kansas City, MO, \$10 admission.  
Advance registration required at (816) 483-8300.

### Irish History Month in Westport

Tuesday, March 17, 2009 – 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
Saturday, March 21, 2009 – 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
Harris-Kearney House, 4000 Baltimore, Kansas  
City. Jim Bridger’s birthday party (March 17<sup>th</sup>),  
Irish exhibits, re-enactors, Irish entertainment with  
Jazz Bo and special guests, period dancers, crafters,  
food & drink. Tours of 1855 Harris-Kearney House.

### Ladies Spring Brunch – Bates County

Saturday, March 21, 2009 – 10:00 a.m.–12:00 Noon  
Bates County Museum, Butler, MO. “Bates County  
Women: Past, Present & Future.” An exhibit of  
vintage clothing will also be on display. Cost is  
\$10. For reservations please call Peggy Buhr at  
(660) 679-0134.

Civil War Encampment at Ash Grove, MO  
Saturday, March 21, 2009 – 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
Nathan Boone Homestead State Historic Site, Ash Grove, MO. Reenactors from the 4<sup>th</sup> Missouri, Company E will hold a spring muster at the site.

Military Collectors Fair  
Saturday, March 21, 2009 – 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
J. C. Nichols Auditorium lobby at the WWI Museum at the Liberty Memorial. Displays of military artifacts from the Civil War to today. No buying, selling, or trading is permitted. Free admission to this event but regular admission price for the museum itself.

Civil War Round Table of Kansas City  
Tuesday, March 24, 2009 – Dinner at 6:30 p.m.  
Homestead Country Club, 6510 Mission Road, Prairie Village, KS. Cost is \$22 per person. For reservations, call Paul Gault at (816) 741-2962.  
Program: Ron Hawkins: “General Longstreet”

Cole Younger & Frank James’ Wild West Show  
Thursday, March 26, 2009 – 7:00 p.m.  
Buckner Branch of the Mid-Continent Public Library, 19 E. Jefferson, Buckner, MO. Dave Bears and Gregg Higginbotham play Cole Younger and Frank James, reunited in 1905 to talk about exploits in earlier times. Register at (816) 650-3212.

Abraham Lincoln: Self-Made in America  
Sunday, March 29, 2009 – 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
Midwest Genealogy Center, 3440 S. Lee’s Summit Road, Independence, MO. Activities include:  
1:30 p.m. - Introduction of Participants; 1:45 p.m. - Abraham and Mary Lincoln presenters Larry Greer and Jo Ho; 2:30 p.m. - Keynote Speaker; 3:30 p.m. - exhibit opens. The Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum presents this mobile museum composed of seven learning stations with an engaging mixture of interactive elements, graphics, facsimile documents and artifacts to commemorate the Lincoln Bicentennial.

Park Day Cleanup at Lone Jack, Missouri  
Saturday, April 4, 2009 – 9:00 a.m.  
Lone Jack Civil War Battlefield, 301 S. Bynum Road, Lone Jack, Missouri. Bring your gloves, rakes, and come prepared to rake leaves, pick up sticks, clean flower beds, or work inside in the

museum. For more information call Alinda Miller at (816) 805-1815.

Quantrill Tour to Lawrence  
Saturday, April 4, 2009 – 8:30 a.m.  
The OCTA (Oregon California Trails Association), Gateway Chapter is sponsoring a tour to Lawrence starting from the Sears parking lot on Shawnee Mission Parkway. For information call Ross Marshall at (913) 262-6445.

### **Programs for 2009**

Our First Vice President, Pat Gradwohl, has been busy arranging our programs for the rest of the year:

**March:** Roger Slusher: “History of Lexington and Lafayette County”

**April:** Cheryl Harness: “Abraham Lincoln’s Early Years”

**May:** Jim Beckner: “Care of Confederate Veterans”

**June:** Kathy Smith: “Civil War Families of Lee’s Summit”

**July:** Ted Stillwell: “First Surveys—Plats and Maps of Missouri”

**August:** Barbara Hughes: “Ann Everett of the Civil War”

**September:** Richard Stewart: “The Second Page of Jackson County History”

**October:** Jerry Mackey: “The Steamboat Arabia”

**November:** Steve and Carol Olson: “Antebellum Homes and Slaves in Clay County”

**December:** Jerry Tjelle “Civil War Music.”

### **News of Members and Friends**

**Jim Beckner** has a new brochure which describes the various programs he is prepared to give to groups. Our Round Table is lucky enough to have heard “The Real Santa Claus” (and to have seen Jim in a Civil War Santa suit made by his wife Judy) and the story of St. Louis Confederate Irish priest Father Bannon. Others of Civil War interest are “The Battle of Westport,” Dr. McPheeters, Physician for General Sterling Price,” Missouri Governor Claiborne Fox Jackson,” “Religion in the

Civil War,” and the “CSA Hunley.” As Jim says, if you want somebody cheap and windy, give him a call at (816) 916-5693 or E-mail him at [jandjrnc@hotmai.com](mailto:jandjrnc@hotmai.com).

**Barbara Hughes**, our board member and presenter of historic women for schools and other groups, has a wonderful new website you can visit at this address; [www.americanhistorywomen.com](http://www.americanhistorywomen.com). She will be our August speaker as she presents “Ann Everett of the Civil War.”

**John and Ellen Hughes** recently donated a leather-bound conductor’s logbook for the Hannibal-St. Joseph Railroad in the summer of 1861 to the Patee House in St. Joseph. They bought the book over the internet and decided to donate it to be featured in a new Civil War exhibit by Doug Chilcote that includes a diorama of the train crashing into the Platte River just east of St. Joseph on September 3, 1861, killing at least 17 passengers and injuring over 100 men, women, and children. The railroad bridge had been partially burned by rebel guerillas to weaken the structure. Many of the survivors were taken to the Patee House Hotel since St. Joseph had no hospital at that time.

Our sympathy goes to the family of **Paul Tate**, our historian, on the death of his sister.

**Kathleen Tuohey**, member of the Round Table and caretaker of the Pitcher Cemetery, shared with the *Examiner* on February 10, 2009, experiences of her family during the Great Depression. She recalls as a child that her parents did not have money to buy toys so she made her own such as cutting out paper dolls from the newspaper like “Tillie the Toiler.” Then she would draw clothes for the dolls.

**The Civil War Round Table of Kansas City** will soon be opening the Battle of Westport Museum in Swope Park for the season and could use some help one day a month to be a volunteer docent. This could be on a Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. If you are interested, E-mail Lane Smith at [lane@smithinsurancegroupinc.com](mailto:lane@smithinsurancegroupinc.com).

The **Blue Springs Historical Society** had a very successful 2008 with a Christmas Homes Tour and having the Dillingham-Lewis Museum at 101 S. 15<sup>th</sup> Street open on Sunday afternoons for

interesting exhibits and programs. For 2009 they look forward to replacing the wiring in the museum and renovating the Chicago-Alton Hotel just a few buildings away on Main Street.

The **Midwest Genealogy Center** was honored in February by the Independence Council for Economic Development with a “Salute to Industry” award. Twenty-three awards were given to companies who grew in spite of the difficult economy in 2008. Also receiving an award was **Corporate Copy Print Inc.** which printed the second edition of our *Monuments* book.

The Independence **Pioneers Chapter** of the Daughters of the American Revolution honored **Cara Satterfield** of Truman High School as its “Outstanding Teacher of American History” at its Bess Truman birthday commemoration program and tea on February 13, 2009, at the Truman Library. She has been endorsed for the state DAR competition. Our member **Fran Mason** is a member of the Pioneers Chapter.

### **Books, Books, and More Books**

Books written by members of the Round Table have recently been reviewed favorably. **Nancy Hitt**, subscriber and friend from Louisville, KY, reviews *Guerrillas and Other Curiosities, Bud, Donnie & Me* by Samuel Anderson Pence which is edited by **Harold Dellinger**. Gary L. Scheel of the St. Louis Round Table reviews *Coffins, Kits and More!* by Lee Ward in the February, 2009, issue of the *Bushwhacker*.

Also in the February issue of the *Bushwhacker* Myra Sherrod writes about **Robert E. Lee** by Roy Blount Jr., humorist on National Public Radio, published in 2003 by Penguin Books. She says, “One doesn’t have to be a student of Southern culture to appreciate Blount’s lively portrait of Robert E. Lee, transformed by a tragic war from a regional aristocrat into a true American legend.”

The November 2, 2008 issue of the Kansas City *Star* carried Brian Burnes’ review of *A President, a Church, and Trails West* by Jon Taylor. In case you haven’t guessed, it’s a book about the history stories in Independence, Missouri, and the ongoing dialogue about preserving historic sites. One extreme example is the 1993 decision by city

officials to demolish a vacant gas station which Harry Truman sometimes frequented after returning from Washington in the early 1950's. After hearing the testimony of citizens who felt it was part of the "built environment" he once knew, the Council reversed its decision, and the gas station still stands and in fact was used in the 1996 film "Kansas City" to represent a period structure of the 1930s.

Brian Burnes continues his book reviews on February 22, 2009, with the headline "A General and a Scoundrel," the story of *Thomas Ewing Jr: Frontier Lawyer and Civil War General* by Ronald D. Smith and published by the University of Missouri. Ewing issued the infamous General Order No. 11 which depopulated several western Missouri counties in the interest of removing support of families sympathetic to Confederate-leaning "bushwhackers." Ewing was perhaps the most reviled man in 19<sup>th</sup> century Missouri for "the most aggressive nonracial civilian relocation order in American history." Artist George Caleb Bingham painted "Order No. 11" or "Martial Law" in 1869-70, about six years after the Union Army threw Confederate sympathizers out of the Kansas City countryside. The painting hangs at the State Historical Society in Columbia, Missouri.

The February 15, 2009, issue of the *Kansas City Star* contains reviews of two new biographies of the Lincolns. The famed abolitionist Frederick Douglass once declared: "It is impossible for ...anybody... to say anything new about Abraham Lincoln." And that was in 1893! The author of *A. Lincoln* is Ronald C. White Jr. who declares that Lincoln continues to fascinate us "because he eludes simple definitions and final judgments." Catherine Clinton has written *Mrs. Lincoln: A Life* which paints the portrait of a woman who was one part eccentric and one part mad.

Several years ago the Round Table had **Vesta Frizzell's son Dwight** come to our Christmas party to talk about the Irish Wilderness and share stories and music from some of the wildest and most remote land in Missouri between the Current and Eleven Point Rivers. It is the land of tall pines, caves, and steep hollows which was once the home of pioneer priest John Hogan's colony of immigrant Irish that mysteriously vanished during the Civil War. A new book of research and beautiful

illustrations has been recently published by Leland and Crystal Payton. It's called *Mystery of the Irish Wilderness* and some of the color photos can be seen at [www.beautifulozarks.com](http://www.beautifulozarks.com).

John Schmutz has written the Round Table to introduce his new book called *The Battle of the Crater: A Complete History*. It is set amongst the brutal and unendurable trench warfare at Petersburg, Virginia. It traces the rival armies from the early months of 1864 and ends with the siege of Petersburg. The movie "Cold Mountain" opens with an eleven minute, spell-binding segment on the battle. John's E-mail; [johnschmutz@sbcglobal.net](mailto:johnschmutz@sbcglobal.net).

### **It Still Makes a Difference What You Call It!**

In February, 2009, there was a dustup concerning an unexpected turn of phrase by Republican Representative Bryan Stevenson from Webb City during a debate over abortion in the Missouri House. "What we are dealing with today is the greatest power grab by the federal government since the War of Northern Aggression," Stevenson said.

The statement drew an audible gasp from the chamber. Rep. Don Calloway, a St. Louis Democrat who is African-American, demanded an apology. Stevenson immediately retracted his statement, assuring he meant no ill will toward anyone and raising his own Cherokee Indian heritage as proof of his sensitivity to slavery.

The Springfield newspaper had the following quote from Connie Langum, historian at Wilson's Creek National Battlefield: "For Missouri, the Civil War was particularly brutal and divisive. Though it never officially seceded from the Union, Missouri ranks third in states with the most battles fought – behind Tennessee and Virginia. It was much more of a personal war. It was truly brother against brother, neighbor against neighbor. Many people had moved to Missouri from southern states and shared values similar to the people of the Confederacy. When President Abraham Lincoln called for troops to "suppress the rebellion," it was a pivotal moment for Missourians. They had to get off the fence after that. It pushed people to one side or the other. Though there was animosity after the war, it began to fade in the late 1900s. Missourians

are stubborn by nature, and I can say that because I'm a native."

Further letters to the editor of the Springfield *News-Leader* brought forward more comments. Travis Archie of Springfield points out that it was Federal General Nathaniel Lyon who refused a disarmed neutrality in Missouri and said "Rather than concede to the state of Missouri for one single instant the right to dictate to my government in any matter however important, I would see...every man, woman, and child in the state, dead and buried... This means war!"

Steve Maxwell of Kissee Mills takes exception to the assertion by reporter Chad Livengood that "the North declared war on the South to end slavery." Mr. Maxwell asks why President Lincoln didn't first free the slaves in Missouri, Kentucky, and Maryland, rather than slaughtering 600,000 men to free those in the seceded states. He recommends a book called *The Real Lincoln, His Agenda, and an Unnecessary War* by economist Thomas DiLorenzo.

And finally Ester Bultas of Springfield refutes the assertion that Missouri "never officially seceded from the Union." Although historically controversial, at Neosho the legislature passed a bill known as the Neosho Secession Ordinance on October 30, 1861, and Governor Claiborne Fox Jackson signed it into law October 31, 1861. The Confederate Congress accepted Missouri as the 12<sup>th</sup> state in the Confederacy on November 28, 1861. A stone structure near the Confederate Cemetery in the Gettysburg Military Park lists Missouri as a member of the CSA. For the rest of the story Bultas suggests you read "Missouri Secession" on Wikipedia.

### **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).

### **A Poignant Story of Missouri Retribution**

Thanks to Howard Mann, president of the Civil War Round Table of Kansas City, for the following story told by Henry E. Palmer from *True Tales of the 10<sup>th</sup> Kansas Infantry*.

*"After Osceola we camped at West Point, Mo., on the Kansas line. I was on duty as sergeant of the guard on picket nearly a mile from the main camp. It had been raining all night – a cold, drizzly October rain. At ten A.M. we saw a woman approaching from down the dreary, uninhabited roadway. She was on foot and was carrying a baby hugged to her breast, with four little children also walking – two boys and two girls, the oldest a girl of seven years. All were in their nightclothes and all wet to the skin; children crying and suffering with cold and hunger. We soldiers quickly shed our coats to shelter them from the storm and gave them our dog-tent by the rail camp fire. The babe was dead. I sent for a wagon and soon we had them in camp. The mother died from this exposure within 36 hours. The four children were sent to four different homes by friendly officers and soldiers."*

The story told by the woman before her death revealed the fact that her husband had, as a member of the Missouri legislature of '60 and '61, bitterly fought the secession scheme. He was a rich man—owned 500 acres of improved land, fine house, barn and other outbuildings, and owned several slaves, yet he loved the flag and was for the Union. In January, 1861, he freed his slaves, and then his neighbors damned him as a "black abolitionist." They finally, in July, 1861, drove him from his home. The Union army was the only safe resort; so he joined Montgomery's Kansas regiment, and was, on this October day, 110 miles south of West Point. Bushwhackers had at divers times robbed his home until every head of stock had been driven away save a yoke of old worn-out oxen. His wife with one old, black aunty had remained at the persecuted home, and during her confinement, in August, no friends came to see her, only the old slave woman, who would not accept her freedom, being left to help her. On this cold, dreary October night the bushwhackers came for their last damnable raid, burst in the doors suddenly, drove her and her children out into the storm, and set fire to the house, barn and other outbuildings. The next morning they yoked the oxen to a wagon and were within 4 miles of the Union camp when the "bushwhacking fiends" shot the oxen and left a helpless mother and five children to walk in the rain and mud.