



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"

September 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 580 days away, as of the date of our next Round Table meeting on September 9th.

Lately, I've been finding myself reading a lot of first person battle stories and after-action reports. I highly recommend that you do this if you have the chance. You will find a treasure trove of information. Besides giving troop movements, losses, etc., the report maker often gives insight into why a command decision was made. All of this is invaluable information to further understanding of the Civil War. When I say understanding it is not without its challenges.

First, remember that what you are reading was written in the 19th century and therefore the word and sentence structure can be a challenge. Take the word "practicable." I once had a lengthy discussion with a PhD student about this word. He contended it was not a word. He was wrong. Anyone who has read an account of the Battle of Gettysburg knows this word and just how important its meaning is.

I find another difficulty is multiple words for the same action. Take this list: *prolonge, bricole, drag rope, men's harness, parbuckle* and *train tackle*. Each one describes the device used for or the action of using human power and a rope to move artillery. I usually say look the word up. In modern dictionaries the word *bricole* is defined as billiard shot. Not quite the Civil War usage.

I have found so far, twenty-one words that describe the movement of troops. One of my favorites is "to *amuse*." I have some trouble thinking of troop movements in a battle as amusing. We most often see the movement described as "to *develop*" to engage the enemy without bringing on a major battle, to engage the enemy to find out its disposition of troops. Time and space don't allow me to discuss to "boom," "haul off" or "annoy." You get the picture.

Despite the challenges I've described, by the way this is just the tip of the iceberg, if we are to be serious students of the Civil War we must read these first hand accounts. The OR is the place to start. There are 130 books full of words that will serve at first to confuse but with repeated discovery you will begin to understand when the report says the general was late in amusing the enemy because he was preparing to prolonge his artillery and he was suffering from Alvin's Flux. I threw the last one in just tease you.

By the way, the CWRWMO owns a complete set of the OR. It is housed with the rest of our book collection at the Clay County Archives. Go and see Steve and Carol Olson and learn a new word.

Mike Calvert, President
The Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri

CWRTWMO Calendar

September, 2009 Meeting

Wednesday, September 9, 2009 – 7:00 p.m.
Villages of Jackson Creek (lower level),
3980-A S. Jackson Drive, Independence, MO
Richard Stewart: “Elmwood Cemetery and
the Second Page of Jackson County History.”

Board Meeting

Wednesday, September 16, 2009 – 7:00 p.m.
Home of Beverly Shaw, 17313 E. 51 Terr. Ct.,
Independence, MO.

Trip to Springfield, IL

Sept. 18-29-20, 2009

October, 2009 Meeting

Wednesday, October 14, 2009 – 7:00 p.m.
Jerry Mackey: “The Steamboat *Arabia*”

Dedication of Little Blue Battlefield Markers

Sunday, October 18, 2009 – 2:00 p.m.
Ripley Junction Park, Old Lexington Road
South of 24 Hwy. Be careful of the railroad
tracks coming into the parking lot – many freight
trains. Bring your own chair. More info to follow.

Other Events

Riding Vengeance with the James Gang-Book

Signing - Saturday, September 5, 2009 – 1:00 to
3:00 p.m. Barnes & Noble, 19120 E. 39th Street,
Independence, MO. Donald Gilmore will sign his
new book.

Historic Liberty Walking Tours

Saturday, September 5, 2009 – 10:00 a.m.
Meet at Clay County Historical Museum,
14 N. Main St., Liberty, MO. Walking
Tour of Dougherty Historic District. Free.
Lasts about one hour.

Cass County Civil War Roundtable

Tuesday, September 8, 2009 – 7:00 p.m.
Pierson Hall, 400 E. Mechanic in the Library,
Harrisonville, MO. Grady Atwater, curator of
The John Brown Museum State Historic Site
in Osawatomie, KS will discuss the legacy of
John Brown.

Friends of the Museum Breakfast Benefit

Saturday, September 12, 2009 – 8:30 a.m.
National Frontier Trails Museum, 318 W. Pacific,
Independence, MO. Program at 9:00 a.m. by Jim
Howk about local Border War history. This will be
a kick-off event for a series of six Civil War
lectures by Howk at 7:00 p.m. on the following six
consecutive Tuesdays at the Museum. For
reservations call Lynda Black at (816) 325-7575.
\$5 per lecture.

Historic Lexington Homes Tours

Saturday and Sunday, September 12 and 13, 2009
10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. on Saturday. Noon to 4:00
p.m. Sunday. \$13 in advance and \$15 on days of
the tour. Five private homes plus the Anderson
House and the Lafayette County Courthouse. For
more info go to www.visitlexingtonmo.com.

Slavery, Border Wars, and Civil War

Wednesday, September 16, 2009 – 7:00 p.m.
Mid-Continent Library, Lee’s Summit Branch,
150 N. W. Oldham Parkway. Barbara Hughes
impersonates Ann Everett who experienced tragedy
in the civil War. Reservations: (816) 524-0567.

Battle of Lone Jack-Lone Jack Library

Thursday, September 17, 2009 – 7:00 p.m.
Mid-Continent Library, Lone Jack Branch,
211 N. Bynum Rd. Barbara Hughes impersonates
Elizabeth Pilcher who experienced the battle.
Reservations: (816) 697-2528.

The Great Jesse James Frontier Revolver Shoot Out

Saturday, September 19, 2009 – 9:00 a.m. until
High Noon, James Farm, 21216 James Farm Road,
Kearney, MO. Call (816) 736-8500 for more info.

Mountain Dulcimer Instructions

Saturday, September 19, 2009 – 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
The Village at Missouri Town at Lake Jacomo.
Dave Studyvin will teach some tunes. Cost is \$10.
Instruments available to borrow or bring your own.
Call Cindy at (816) 503-4864 to make a reservation.
Limited to 8 people.

Freedom Festival-Osawatomie, KS

Saturday and Sunday, September 19-20, 2009 –
10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. John Brown Memorial Park,
10th & Main Street, Osawatomie, KS. Saturday
10:00 a.m. - Civil War Weapons and Drill

Demonstration, 11:00 am - Alexander Gardner, Civil War Battlefield Photographer, Noon-Florella Adair portrayed by Mary Buster, 2 pm-Abraham Lincoln portrayed by Tom Leahy, 3 pm-John Brown portrayed by Kerry Altenbernd, 4 pm-Battle of Osawatimie. Sunday: Noon-Lecompton Players do "Bleeding Kansas," 1 pm-reenactment of Confederate Partisans and Union Troops, 2 pm-Mary Jane Ritchie, abolitionist and underground railroad conductor portrayed by Anne Hawkins. For info call (913) 755-4384 or visit www.adaircabin@kshs.org.

Tour of Jesse James Historic Sites

Sunday, September 20, 2009 – 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. Bus tour will include Jesse James Farm and Museum, Mt. Olivet Cemetery, Jesse James Grave in Kearney, Jesse James Bank Museum in Liberty, and Muddy Fork Cemetery, burial place of James gang member, Clell Miller. Tickets will be available at the Jesse James Farm and the Jesse James Festival Rodeo in Kearney on September 19th from Noon to 5:00 p.m. On display at the Friends of James Farm booth will be vintage firearms including an 1860 Army Colt revolver and a Clay County rifle issued during the Civil War.

Lewis-Gregg Family Reunion

Sunday, September 20, 2009 – 1:00 p.m. George Owens Park, Independence, MO Bring a covered dish to share with descendants of the families buried in the Lewis-Gregg Cemetery cared for by the Civil War Round of Western Missouri.

Civil War Round Table of Kansas City

Tuesday, September 22, 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. Howard Mann: "Tragedy on the St. Joseph & Hannibal Railroad."

Blue or Gray? Civil War Military Records

Tuesday, September 22, 2009 – 7:00 p.m. Mid-Continent Library at 1000 NE Colbern Road, Lee's Summit, MO. Call (816) 525-9924 for Reservations. Tour of primary resource materials for researching Civil War records.

Evening Wagon Ride and Swales Walk

Thursday, September 24, 2009 – 6:30 p.m. National Frontier Trails Museum, 318 W. Pacific, Independence, MO. \$12 for adults, \$9 children Ages 6-12. Reservations required by calling (816) 325-7575 or visit www.frontiertrailsmuseum.org.

Narcissa Whitman: Pioneer Missionary on the Oregon Trail - Thursday, September 24, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. Mid-Continent Library at Grandview Branch, 12930 Booth Lane. Barbara Hughes impersonates Narcissa Whitman. Reservations by calling (816) 763-0550. Program to be repeated at Liberty Branch, 1000 Kent St. on October 8th at 7:00 p.m. and October 28th at the North Independence Branch, 317 W. 24 Highway at 11:00 a.m. Liberty reservations: (816) 781-9240 and North Independence reservations: (816) 252-0950.

Boonslick and Beyond-Arrow Rock, MO

Thursday - Sunday, September 24-27, 2009. 2009 Symposium with speakers, tours of Boonslick Country, and meals. Our tour guide for the trip to Boonville, Dr. Maryellen McVicker will be giving a talk Saturday morning at 9:00 a.m. called "Don't Forget the Boonslick in the Rush to Santa Fe." If interested in the schedule and prices, call Beverly Shaw at (816) 225-7944.

Centralia Battlefield - Union Marker Dedication

Sunday, September 27, 2009 – 2:00 p.m. Western edge of Battle of Centralia in Boone County. Granite marker erected by Ann Hawkins Gentry Tent #21 – Missouri of the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War 1861-1865. The marker lists the Union soldiers who died nearly 150 years ago. For info call Milamari Cunningham at (573) 442-8417 or E-mail milamari@centurytel.net.

Pig Pickin' Chicken Licken' Feast

Saturday, September 26, 2009 – 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm. Bingham-Waggoner Estate, 313 W. Pacific, Independence, MO. Roast pork and fried chicken dinner with all the trimmings. Live music and silent auction tables. \$10 for adults, \$6 for children 10 and younger. Advance Reservations required. Call (816) 461-3491 or visit www.bwestate.org.

Tom Rafiner at Harrisonville Genealogy Branch

Saturday, September 26, 2009 – 10:00 a.m.
Harrisonville Genealogy Branch Library, 400 E. Mechanic, Harrisonville, MO. Tom Rafiner will update progress on his book dealing with the effects of Order No. 11 in Cass County.

Was It Murder? Deaths on Pleasant Street

Sunday, September 27, 2009 – 2:00 p.m.
Swope Park Shelter House No. 1 (now the Battle of Westport Museum) just inside the main entrance to Swope Park off Meyer Boulevard. Jackson County Historical Society is presenting Giles Fowler to talk about his new book, *Deaths on Pleasant Street: The Ghastly Enigma of Colonel Swope and Dr. Hyde*. Reservations recommended at (816) 252-7454 or by E-mail to info@jchs.org. Also a chance to see the museum.

Indians in the Civil War - National Archives

Friday, September 25, 2009 – 10:00 a.m.
Genealogist Shirley Donaldson will conduct a Workshop on “Indians in the Civil War.” National Archives, 400 W. Pershing Road, Kansas City, MO. Info and reservations at (816) 268-8093 or E-mail to kansascity.educate@nara.gov.

Dedication of Union Monument - Lexington, MO

Saturday, September 26, 2009 – 2:00 p.m.
Battle of Lexington State Historic Site, 1101 Delaware, Lexington, MO. Dedication of monument with speakers (Rep. Ike Skelton and David Luff, descendant of George Palmer, Medal of Honor recipient at the Battle of Lexington) and uniformed soldiers.

Ozarks Genealogical Society Conference

Friday and Saturday, September 25-26, 2009.
University Plaza Hotel, Springfield, MO. Featured speaker is Thomas W. Jones, noted researcher and author. For details visit <http://ozarksgs.org/>

2009 Walk Back in Time – Mexico, MO

September 26-27, 2009. Audrain County Historical Society, 501 S. Muldrow, Mexico. Eight time periods represented from Colonial through the Korean War. Simulated Civil War battles. 1860s-style vintage baseball. Free.

Future Events

Cass County Folklife Festival - Harrisonville, MO

Saturday, October 3, 2009. North Park, Harrisonville. Civil War camps and skirmishes, Period Dance, heritage crafters and vendors. Highlight will be the 148th Anniversary of the Battle of Morristown featuring a skit and wagon train of wagons, buggies, and horses. For information visit www.casscountyhistoricalsociety.org. Quantrill Society activities will also be held. More information will follow.

Historic Homes Tour - Liberty, MO

Saturday and Sunday, October 3 and 4, 2009
Sat. – 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Sun. – 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Advance tickets are \$9. At the door is \$10. Locations are: 225 N. Leonard, 2135 Manor Way, 233 W. Franklin, 253 W. Kansas, 14 N. Main. Karen Wells is co-chair.

Ray County Living History Festival

Saturday and Sunday, October 3 and 4, 2009.
Featuring Landis Light Artillery re-enactors, Missouri 6th Cavalry re-enactors, wool spinning demonstrator, sheep herding with dog, blacksmith/iron forger. For information please visit www.raycountyhistoricalsociety.com.

Documenting Death in the Civil War - National Archives

- Tuesday, October 6, 2009 – 2:00 p.m.
Via interactive distance learning, John Deeben, genealogy archives specialist, will discuss “Documenting Death in the Civil War” using Federal records. National Archives, 400 W. Pershing Rd., Kansas City, MO. Reservations at (816) 268-8093 by sending an E-mail to kansascity.educate@nara.gov.

Beyond Campaigns and Commanders - Springfield, MO

- Friday and Saturday, October 9 and 10, 2009.
Clarion Hotel, Springfield, MO. Early registration by September 23rd. For a full schedule and prices, call Beverly Shaw at (816) 225-7944.

Civil War Heritage Day, Bates County

Saturday, October 10, 2009 – 10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Bates County Museum, 802 Elks Drive, Butler, MO. Reenactors of the Border War on the grounds and vignettes throughout the day. Archaeological artifacts on display. Vendors and period artisans and craftsmen.

Cass County Civil War Roundtable

Tuesday, October 13, 2009 – 7:00 p.m.

Pearson Hall, 400 E. Mechanic in the library, Harrisonville, MO. Tom Rafiner will talk about the Forage Teams which operated in Cass County during the Civil War.

Breakfast at Black Jack - Wellsville, KS

Sunday, October 18, 2009 – 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
Black Jack Battlefield and Nature Park, 163 E 2000 Road, Wellsville, KS. Hearty breakfast at the Pearson Farmstead. Adults-\$5, Children-\$3. Biscuits & Gravy, Sausage, Breads, Fruit, and Drinks. Guided tours available.

Civil War Medicine - National Archives

Tuesday, October 27, 2009 – 2:00 p.m.

Via interactive distance learning, Rebecca Sharp and Katherine Vollen, genealogy archives specialists, will discuss “Civil War Medicine.” National Archives, 400 W. Pershing Road, Kansas City, MO. Reservations at (816) 268-8093 or by E-mail to kansascity.educate@nara.gov.

7th Annual Walk with Civil War Spirits

Saturday, October 31, 2009 – 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Lone Jack Civil War Museum, 301 S. Bynum, Lone Jack, MO. Free but donations accepted.

National Frontier Trails Museum Civil War Lecture Series

Date: Tuesdays – Sept. 29 – Nov. 10, 2009
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Location: National Frontier Trails Museum,
318 West Pacific, Independence, MO
Contact: NFTM at (816) 325-7575
Cost: \$5.00 per lecture, \$30.00 for entire
series. Proceeds to benefit Friends of
the National Frontier Trails Museum.
Advance reservations requested.

The Friends of the National Frontier Trails Museum will present a seven-week series of lectures on the American Civil War. We will trace the entirety of the confrontation between the North and South from the events leading to the war, all campaigns, and the aftermath. Particular attention will be given to those living in the border region of Missouri and Kansas, before, during and after the war. You will examine the culture, politics and people of both sides in an attempt to understand events

and outcomes of the conflict. The lectures are presented by historian Jim Howk (a member of our Round Table), who has spent a lifetime researching the various aspects of this important chapter of our history. The series is well-illustrated, incorporating numerous images including photos, cartoons, eyewitness drawings from newspapers and magazines of the Civil War era. All lectures will take place in the theater of the museum.

Dates and Topics:

Tuesday, September 29, 2009 - 7:00 p.m.
The Long and Winding Road to War

Tuesday, October 6, 2009 - 7:00 p.m.
The Lower South Secedes – Fort Sumter

Tuesday, October 13, 2009 - 7:00 p.m.
Opposite Sides – Border States

Tuesday, October 20, 2009 - 7:00 p.m.
1st Manassas-Shiloh-Peninsula Campaign

Tuesday, October 27, 2009 - 7:00 p.m.
Antietam-Emancipation Proclamation-
Chancellorsville-Gettysburg

Tuesday, November 3, 2009 - 7:00 p.m.
War on the Border I (Bleeding Kansas)

Tuesday, November 10, 2009 - 7:00 pm.
War on the Border II (Missouri 1861-1883)
Yes, 1883!

Being Good Guests at The Villages of Jackson Creek

We are so appreciative of the large, attractive meeting space in the Wellness Center of the Villages of Jackson Creek. Because this is a senior retirement home, the front door is locked later in the evening for security. In order for us to exit after our meeting, we need to use the keypad to the left of the door (the code is actually printed there) and then go stand in front of the doors so that they slide open. Please do not attempt to force the doors open manually. If you have a problem, please come ask one of us to help you. Maybe we will have someone be our “door man” until we all get the hang of it.

Similarly, because the hallways open to the residents’ rooms, we ask that you exit the building through the front entrance rather than going down the halls. Thanks for being a “good guest” at The Villages of Jackson Creek.

Business Matters for the Round Table

At the September 9th meeting we will be voting on the by-law changes to add the Editor of the *Border Star* as an officer of the Board of Directors. These changes were printed in the August newsletter.

At a special board meeting in August the board discussed the upcoming election of officers and directors at the November meeting. If anyone who is presently serving wishes to step down from his position, he should advise Mike Calvert, President, or Steve Olson, Chairman of the Nominating Committee. Mike's phone is (816) 898-2603 and Steve's is (816) 452-3540. Similarly, if anyone would like to join the board and have his name put in nomination as an officer or board member, please call Mike or Steve. We have space for additional board members if you would like to become more active.

At the special board meeting in August the board members divided into three groups to audit the financial records of the Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri, the Lewis-Gregg Cemetery Commission, and the Sonny Wells Little Blue Battlefield Memorial Commission. The bank statements were compared to the check registers and the monthly reports and expenditures were spot checked for appropriate invoices. The treasurer's records were found to be in order.

Our application for the Little Blue Battlefield to be added to the National Register of Historic Places has been duly filed with the Missouri State Historic Preservation Office for its bi-annual meeting in November. We hope that they will see fit to recommend its adoption by the Department of the Interior.

We will soon be changing the E-mail address for the Civil War Round Table. Kay Cox has very generously allowed us to use the Comcast account that our late president, Tim Cox, had set up for littlebluebattlefield@comcast.net as an additional address on their home service. She has decided to drop her Comcast service on September 21, 2009, so for the time being, please use Beverly Shaw's personal E-mail which is bevjoshaw@hotmail.com. When we get a new e-mail address for the Round Table, we will publish it in *The Border Star*.

News About Members and Friends

Nine members will be making the trip to Springfield, Illinois on September 18-20, 2009. For the smaller group we are renting an Econoline van, and Del Coin has graciously consented to be our driver. We have a busy weekend planned to visit various Lincoln sites including the Lincoln Presidential Museum. We are even taking our own Lincoln interpreter with us; Bud Green from Versailles will be meeting us in Columbia. He is also planning a trip to Washington, D.C. in October to participate in the Central Missouri Honor Flight to see the World War II Memorial and other points of interest.

Even Hollywood seems to be in love with Lincoln this year. Robert Redford plans to direct a movie called "The Conspirator" which is about a woman executed as an accessory in the assassination of Lincoln. Mary Surratt, a boardinghouse owner, was hanged for aiding John Wilkes Booth. Steven Spielberg also has a film biography called "Lincoln" in development.

The Examiner published a Veteran Salute on August 5, 2009 to honor our member, Earl (Kenny) Cavanah who was with the Army Airborne in the glider service during World War II. Mike Calvert's uncle, Robert (Bob) Calvert was featured August 12, 2009. He served in the Navy in World War II and was on the same ship as Mike's dad. These military histories can be viewed in the Parks and Recreation Veterans' Hall in the Truman Memorial Building, 416 W. Maple, Independence, Missouri.

Former member Orval Henderson (now in St. Louis) was pictured in the Friends of Arrow Rock Summer newsletter when he attended the June 14th Anniversary Dinner. Orval's grandmother, Martha L. (White) Watts was born in Arrow Rock in 1867.

We are glad to report that Charlotte Tindall is doing very well after a hip replacement on June 3rd. In fact she has already reported back for duty as a docent at the Bingham-Waggoner Estate. Her sister, Harriett Lionberger, contributed to her speedy recovery.

Our member Jerry Tjelle was featured in *The Examiner* on August 14, 2009, as the president of the Prairie Dulcimer Club, the third-oldest in the

United States. He says that everyone is welcome to attend meetings the third Saturday of the month in Westminster Hall of the First Presbyterian Church on the southeast corner of Lexington and Pleasant. Jerry will be playing for our Christmas luncheon with the Union Cemetery Historical Society on December 5, 2009, at the Loose Park Garden Center.

Paul Thomson is retiring from the leadership of the Truman Heartland Community Foundation but will work through September 2009. The Foundation very generously assisted the Round Table with a gift for the Little Blue Battlefield markers.

Congratulations to the Lone Jack Historical Society for the 147th anniversary of the Battle of Lone Jack on August 15, 2009. Don Hadley visited our August meeting and thanked our members for helping with the cleanup on National Parks Day in April. David Jackson dedicated his "Historical Perspective" column in the August 15-17, 2009 *Examiner* to "Lone Jack Picnic A Tradition." The 100 year ago column made note that the 1909 issue had a story about Cole Younger making his debut as an orator at the Lone Jack picnic. He talked for about thirty minutes and advised young men who listened to him to lead upright lives and be law abiding citizens. The burden of his talk was, "It don't pay to be a bad man."

We enjoyed having members of the George family attend the August meeting and share a beautiful quilt made from the Civil War squares that were printed in the *Star Magazine*. They also displayed a notebook which gave the story of each square. Our Round Table also has one of each square which were pieced together by our member Claudetta McCorkendale. Eventually we would like to have them framed and available for display.

The George family has a cemetery near Oak Grove where many Quantrill's raiders were buried and they would like to add a small garden near it. Don Moorehead and Art and Sharon Kelley have visited the cemetery and say that it is very well maintained.

Top 10 Things to See at National Frontier Trails Museum, 318 W. Pacific, Independence, Missouri

Thanks to Leanna Lippert's interview with John Mark Lambertson in the July 11-13, 2009 issue of *The Examiner*, we have the following countdown:

10. Rocking Chair. The chair was found discarded along the trail about 1850 and then carried back to Illinois by a broke "-49er."

9. Snowshoes for ox and horse. Found along the Oregon-California Trail by a researcher in the 1930s, these items are quite unique.

8. Martin Jones surveying equipment. The equipment was used to do the 1852 survey of Independence. He was later hired by the U.S. Government in 1876 to survey the Santa Fe Trail. The Jones family still owns the surveying company in Independence.

7. Anvil, blacksmith tools and door. These items came from two 1840s blacksmith shops in Independence – the McCurdy and the Weston blacksmith shops.

6. Authentic fur trappers belt and tools, circa 1840. Fur trapping was the next wave of exploration after Lewis & Clark. It's a rare and unique piece from 170 years ago.

5. Authentic letter from Sutter's Fort, California. Written by Willard Rees to his wife Amanda. He was a California "-49er" who went to seek gold in 1848 – way ahead of anyone else.

4. Pack Your Wagon. It's a scaled-down pioneer wagon which kids can pack for a five-month trip on the trail. They get to choose what to take such as tools and food items.

3. Small leather family trunk. Said to have belonged to the Hudspeth family in eastern Jackson County. It reportedly came back to Independence from California full of gold nuggets won by the six Hudspeth brothers who took race horses to Calif. There is a cut-off on the trail named Hudspeth.

2. Three covered wagons. Two are from the 19th century like the ones used on the trails while the other is a small, donated replica.

1. Original oil portraits by George Caleb Bingham. John and William Campbell were brothers involved in the Santa Fe Trail trade. Their portraits are on loan from Ken McClain. The renowned American artist lived across the street in the Bingham-Waggoner Estate.