



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"

November~December 2009

The Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri

2009 Officers

President ----- Mike Calvert
1st V.P. ----- Pat Gradwohl
2nd V.P. ----- Art Kelley
Secretary ----- Karen Wells
Treasurer ----- Beverly Shaw
Historian ----- Paul Tate

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Delbert Coin Karen Coin
Sharon Kelley Barbara Hughes
Don Moorehead Kathy Moorehead
Steve Olson Carol Olson
Terry McConnell

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 517 days away, as of the date of our next Round Table meeting on November 11th.

To borrow a phrase.

Over 60 family and friends, 3 politicians, 2 reenactors and 1 beautiful day...Priceless.

That describes the ceremony the Roundtable held to dedicate the historical markers describing the Battle of the Little Blue. Many thanks to all who came out to share the day. From our new friends at the state and county government, we received proclamations and I will bring them to the meeting next week. Don Moorehead was kind enough to videotape the proceedings and I have that available also. It was a great day of fulfillment and surprises.

We, the Civil War Roundtable of Western Missouri fulfilled a dream. Now the battlefield, whereas it did have signage before, the new markers will bring more of the human story to the forefront. As we all know this makes the event come alive. Sonny and Tim I hope we did you proud.

The **SURPRISE** of the day came from Dana Johnston whose family were the original owners of the battlefield property. Mr. Johnston announced that he was making arrangements to fulfill his father's request that as much of the battlefield as possible be preserved. To this end Mr. Johnston is pursuing the legal means to do this. We will know more in the months to come. The area to be preserved surrounds the heart of the battlefield.

2010 will prove to be a momentous year for our group. As always as the year closes I ask you to reflect on the past year and remember our accomplishments. As always I also ask you to think about the future, what needs to be accomplished next year and what your part will be.

Thanks for all your help and support throughout 2009. I truly need and am truly grateful for all you do.

See you in the year to come.

Just an added note; at our meeting next week will have a very special guest. Take a look in the newsletter to find out who it is. Please plan to attend so we can show this special guest how active we are. Also, this is our annual meeting in which we elect your leadership for the next year.

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

CWRTWMO Calendar

November 2009 Meeting

Wednesday, November 11, 2009 – 7:00 p.m.
Villages of Jackson Creek (lower level),
3980-A S. Jackson Drive, Independence, MO
Dr. William Piston: “The Struggle for the
Trans-Mississippi Corridor between St. Louis,
MO and Ft. Smith, AR. See article.

November 2009 Board Meeting

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

December 2009 Holiday Luncheon

Saturday, December 5, 2009 – Noon.
Loose Park Garden Center, 51st and
Wornall Road, Kansas City, MO.
See article.

Other Events

Blue or Gray? Civil War Military Records

Wednesday, November 4, 2009 – 2:00 p.m.
Red Bridge Library, 11140 Locust, Kansas
City, MO. Tour of primary resource material.
Reservation required at (816) 942-1780.

Historic Preservation Day at Linwood Lawn

Saturday, November 14, 2009 – 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
Linwood Lawn antebellum mansion, 13845
Higginsville Road, Lexington, MO. See article.

Battle of Westport and “Martial Law”

Tuesday, November 17, 2009 – 6:00 p.m.
Union Station’s Town Hall, 30 W. Pershing Road,
Kansas City, MO. Dr. Timothy Westcott will
explore the Battle of Westport and General Order
No. 11 through the engraving “Martial Law.”
See article.

Civil War Round Table of Kansas City

Tuesday, November 17, 2009 – Dinner at 6:30 p.m.
Homestead Country Club, 6510 Mission Road,
Prairie Village, KS. Cost is \$22. Reservations:
Paul Gault at (816) 741-2962. Special guest is Jim
Lighthizer, President of the Civil War Preservation
Trust and 2009 Recipient of the Harry S. Truman
Award.

Meet the Past on KCPT – Jesse James

Thursday, November 19, 2009 – 8:30 p.m.
Kansas City Public Television (Channel 19)
broadcasts the Meet the Past series with Crosby
Kemper III which were held at the Central Library.

Civil War Santa

Thursday, December 3, 2009 – 10:00 a.m.
Grandview Library, 12930 Booth Lane, Grandview,
MO. Jim Two Crows Wallen dresses like the Nast
Santa of the Civil War and reads actual letters and
diaries during this most difficult time. Registration
at (816) 763-0550. See article.

Abraham Lincoln Statue Unveiling

Thursday, December 3, 2009 – 5:00 p.m.
Leavenworth City Hall, 5th & Shawnee,
Leavenworth, KS. See article.

Lincoln in Leavenworth and Kansas

Thursday, December 10, 2009 – 7:00 p.m.
Frontier Army Museum, 100 Reynolds Ave.,
Fort Leavenworth, KS. Carol Ayres: Lincoln and
Kansas: A Partnership for Freedom. See article.

Christmas Concert at Confederate Memorial Chapel

Sunday, December 13, 2009 – 2:00 p.m.
Confederate Memorial State Historic Site, 211 W.
First, Higginsville, MO. Lafayette C-1 Concert
Choir.

Special Program by Dr. William Piston

Jim Beckner has made arrangements for us to hear a
Civil War scholar and teacher who will be in our
area in November. Dr. William Piston has taught in
the History Department of Missouri State
University (Springfield) since 1988. He specializes
in military history and the Civil War and
Reconstruction. In addition to his teaching and
research, he is also the webmaster for the Civil War
Round Table of the Ozarks.

Holiday Luncheon Meeting

In December we don’t have a night meeting of the
Round Table but instead join the Union Cemetery
Historical Society for a Holiday Luncheon at the
Loose Park Garden Center at 51st and Wornall Road
in Kansas City. To reach the Garden Center, you
can park in the semi-circle in front of the open-air

pavilion and walk through it to the building on the left side of the sidewalk.

We start gathering about 11:30 a.m. and eat lunch at Noon. The Round Table and the Union Cemetery Historical Society provide deli trays with sliced beef, ham, and turkey, various cheese slices, and rolls. We also provide coffee and soft drinks. The members are asked to bring a side dish, salad, or dessert to share and their own plates and service.

Our program after lunch will be music by Jerry Tjelle playing the dulcimer. Jerry is a member of the Round Table and is also president of the local dulcimer society. If you would like to participate in a gift exchange, you can bring a gift (wrapped or not) and submit your name for a drawing to receive a gift. We look forward to seeing you at our Holiday Luncheon.

Historic Preservation Day at Linwood Lawn

For those interested in the preservation of buildings, there will be a unique opportunity on Saturday, November 14, 2009, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. to visit Linwood Lawn at Lexington, Missouri, and participate in a program sponsored by the Lexington Historic Preservation Commission. Linwood Lawn is a 26 room mansion built in 1850 in the Italianate style and is rarely open to the public. Speakers include Susan Richards Johnson and Angie Gaebler, this region's foremost preservation architects; Kate Kocyba, art historian, archaeologist and author; Cydney Millstein, preservation consultant, architectural historian and author; and Abigail Tempel, civic leader and regional history enthusiast. The cost is \$20 which includes lunch. Reservations are requested by calling (660) 259-3034 or by sending an E-mail to block42@embarqmail.com.

Battle of Westport and "Martial Law" at Union Station

On November 17, 2009, at 6:00 p.m., Dr. Timothy Westcott, associate professor of history at Park University in Parkville, Missouri, will be exploring Kansas City's Civil War history by examining George Caleb Bingham's famous engraving "Martial Law" based on the infamous General Order No. 11. Dr. Westcott is a graduate of Avila College, UMKC, and Union Institute (Cincinnati,

Ohio) with a doctorate in history in 2002. He has presented papers on topics related to Kansas and Missouri history at numerous local, regional and national conferences. His presentation will be in Union Station's Town Hall.

Civil War Santa

It was Christmas 1862 when Thomas Nast was asked by his editor to illustrate the poem "A Visit with St. Nicholas." America was embroiled in the armed conflict of the Civil War, the darkest hour the nation had ever known. On January 3, 1863, Nast illustrated Santa visiting the Union troops on the cover of *Harper's Weekly*. Jim Two Crows Wallen, dressed as the Nast Santa, will use actual letters and diaries from soldiers, wives, parents, and children to describe the Christmases during this most difficult time. His presentation will be at the Grandview Library on December 3, 2009, at 10:00 a.m.

Abraham Lincoln Statue Unveiling

On December 3, 1859, Abraham Lincoln spoke at Stockton Hall in Leavenworth, Kansas, in a move that signified the importance of Kansas in the continuing struggle against slavery. The importance of Kansas as a Free State evolved into the foundation upon which he conducted his presidential campaign. As a tribute to Lincoln's visit to Leavenworth and the important role the city and the state of Kansas played in our country's history, an 8' Lincoln statue will be unveiled on December 3, 2009, 150 years later. It will be held at 5:00 p.m. at the Leavenworth City Hall, 5th and Shawnee, Leavenworth, Kansas.

Lincoln in Leavenworth and Kansas

On December 10, 2009, at 7:00 p.m., historian Carol Ayres will be speaking at the Frontier Army Museum at Fort Leavenworth about Lincoln's time in Leavenworth and Kansas. She is the author of *Lincoln and Kansas: A Partnership for Freedom* (Sunflower University Press, 2001). Admission is free, but you will need to arrive 15 minutes early and bring picture identification (driver's license or passport) to get on post. The Museum is located at 100 Reynolds Avenue, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

Congress Allocates \$9 Million to Preserve Battlefields

In a press release dated October 28, 2009, Jim Lighthizer of the Civil War Preservation Trust said that it was welcome news that the \$9 million funding request for endangered Civil War battle-field preservation was accepted in the Interior Appropriations bill. Mr. Lighthizer will be addressing the Civil War Round Table of Kansas City on November 17th.

One of the sponsors, Senator Webb, said that “As America prepares for the 150th anniversary commemoration of the Civil War, it is more important than ever that we preserve these landmarks for future generations to learn about the history of our nation.”

Senator Alexander concurred, saying, “The Civil War was a heartbreaking time in our history that we should never forget. Protecting our Civil War battlefields and historic sites is important both to honor the thousands who fought and to allow future generations to learn their heritage by visiting sites like Shiloh, Lookout Mountain, Fort Donelson and Parker’s Crossroads. I’m glad to see that this funding was included to support this important program.”

Lighthizer also stressed that the upcoming 150th anniversary of the Civil War presents an ideal time to redouble efforts to protect this hallowed ground. “I can think of no more fitting – and lasting – tribute during this sesquicentennial commemoration than to preserve the places where these brave soldiers fought and bled.”

Annual Meeting on November 11, 2009

At our Annual Meeting we will be electing officers and board members to lead our activities for the upcoming year. The following slate is offered by the nominating committee and nominations will be accepted from the floor:

President	Mike Calvert
1 st Vice President	Pat Gradwohl
2 nd Vice President	Art Kelley
Secretary	Karen Wells
Treasurer	Beverly Shaw
Historian	Paul Tate
Newsletter Editor	Dennis Myers

Board Members:

Del Coin	Karen Coin
Terry Chronister	Barbara Hughes
Don Moorehead	Kathy Moorehead
Steve Olson	Carol Olson
Terry McConnell	

We will also have reports of our finances, the Sonny Wells Little Blue Battlefield Commission and the Lewis-Gregg Cemetery Commission.

News About Members and Friends

We extend our condolences to **Harry Rinacke** and his family on the death of his mother, Lessie Rinacke on October 25, 2009. Harry was instrumental in erecting the framework for our two Civil War markers as well as work at the Lewis-Gregg Cemetery and we appreciate all of his expertise and materials.

Jim Beckner was not able to be with us at the dedication of the markers on October 18th because his father was ill and he drove to Nebraska to be with him. Jim says his dad is “hanging in there.” We extend best wishes to the Beckner family.

It can finally be revealed that **Del and Karen Coin** are now the proud owners of the Washboard Laundry and Dry Cleaners at 811 E. 23rd Street in Independence, Missouri. Del will continue his corporate job with Montgomery Ward but Karen will soon be transferring her skills to the new business. We wish them much success.

Mike Hendricks of the Kansas City *Star* wrote in his column on October 26, 2009, that he had attended the 39th annual Fall Psychic Fair and guess who he ran into there – our friend and member, **Bonnie Sommerville** from Higginsville, Missouri. She was having an “intuitive painting” of herself and a psychic reading. She revealed, “I have a passion for past lives.”

The William Clarke Quantrill Society

This non-profit corporation is dedicated to the study of the Civil War on the Missouri-Kansas border with emphasis on the lives of Quantrill, his men, his supporters, his adversaries and the resulting historical record. For more information, please visit; www.geocities.com/quantrillsoc or send an E-mail to wcqsociety@aol.com.