



The Border Star

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

• **Founded 1992**

• **Incorporated 1994**

“Studying the Border War and Beyond”

February 2007

The Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri

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The Border Star Editor

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Meetings

2nd Wednesday of each month - 7:00 p.m.
 Old Blake Museum - 106 E. Walnut
 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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Website

www.ogsites.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 1518 days away, as of the date of our next Round Table meeting on Wednesday, February 14, 2007.

Those in the know say that there has been equivalent to one book per day written about the Civil War since the war ended in 1865. Conservatively speaking that would be at least 52,000 books. My mind tells me that there can't be that many more subjects to write about. Of course I'm wrong. In the past month I have discovered three new volumes written about the contribution that German immigrants made to the war effort. The books are: "Long Road to Liberty" by Donald Allendorf, "Gallant Dutchmen" by Joseph R. Reinhart and "Germans in the Civil War" by Walter D. Kamphoefner and Wolfgang Helbich. Now I haven't had time to obtain and read all of these books yet. But, they have gotten me to thinking about my ancestry and their contribution to the war.

You may not know it about me but I come from a decidedly German family. Well, at least on my mother's side. In 1848, fleeing from the Prussian War aftermath, Ferdinand Rubin came to this country with his mother and father and settled in Hope, Kansas. Thirteen years later he joins the Union Army, a proud new private in Company C 2nd Kansas Cavalry. I know he's proud because I have a picture of him holding his saber and trying to look fierce for the camera. I won't relate where his unit fought but they spent the war in northern Arkansas and Springfield, Missouri area. I speak of his unit because Ferdinand spent most of his hitch in the hospital. Not from wounds but illness. The fact that he survived says something about his constitution. As we all know disease killed more soldiers during the Civil War than enemy bullets. He musters out in 1865 and becomes a German Methodist minister in Hope. My second German ancestor is Henry Volland. Henry was a private in the 3rd Missouri Infantry. His unit fought from Vicksburg to Atlanta. I don't know much about Henry yet. I do know he helped to establish Volland, Kansas and he was a member of the Grand Army of the Republic. The GAR emblem on his grave in Volland says he was.

Why am I relating this information about my ancestors? Mostly in the hope that each of you will spend time finding out about your ancestors. Knowing if your ancestor was in the war will put a human face on the conflict. You might be able to go to the battles they participated in and stand on the same spot they stood. Knowing that your ancestor was a veteran will allow you to join veteran descendent groups such as the Sons of Union Veterans and the Son of Confederate Veterans. Have fun, do the research, learn about your ancestors and maybe find out something new on the war. Who knows, the research may lead to another book on the Civil War. Oh yeah, by the way, I also have a great-grandfather who fought for the Confederacy serving under Joseph Shelby. Good luck and see you at the library!

Mike Calvert, President
 The Civil War Roundtable of Western Missouri

CWRTWMO Calendar

February Monthly Meeting

Wednesday, February 14th – 7:00 p.m.
Old Blake Museum – 106 E. Walnut Street, Indep., MO
Refreshments: Beverly Shaw and Vesta Frizzell
Program: Kevin Fewell, President of Union
Cemetery Historical Society: 150th Anniversary
of Union Cemetery

February Board Meeting

Wednesday, February 21st – 7:00 p.m.
17313 E. 51 Terr. Court, Independence, MO
Any member is welcome to attend. Call Beverly at
(816) 478-7648 for directions.

March Monthly Meeting

Wednesday, March 14th – 7:00 p.m.
Old Blake Museum – 106 E. Walnut Street, Indep., MO
Refreshments: Fran Mason, Chris and Faye Cooper
Program: Richard Steward: Elmwood Cemetery

May Monthly Meeting

THURSDAY, May 17th
Special Speaker at the Truman Library - John
Dillingham: Alexander Doniphan

Other Events

Metal Detecting Club

Tuesday, February 13th – 7:00 p.m.
William Chrisman High School
1223 N. Noland Road, Indep., MO
Main Entrance - First Room Past Lobby
Program: “Finding Marbles”

Civil War Round Table of Kansas City

Tuesday, February 27th – 6:30 p.m.
Homestead County Club, 6510 Mission Road,
Prairie Village, KS. Cost: \$20 for Dinner
Speaker: Robert Lee Hodge, filmmaker and
partner in Wideawake Films. Their stunning
documentary on Bleeding Kansas called “Bad
Blood” will air on KCPT in March. Call Paul
Gault for reservations – (816) 741-2962.

Elmwood Cemetery

Sunday, April 15, 2007
Border War Event (More details to follow)

2007 Dues

If you have not paid your dues for this year, please send a check to CWRTMO, P. O. Box 3019, Independence, MO 64055 or bring it to the February 14th meeting. Dues are; Individual - \$15 or Family - \$25. This entitles you to a yearly subscription to *The Border Star* and other benefits of membership. Please keep your membership card this year because it will gain your admittance free to the Truman Library on May 17th when we present a speaker in the auditorium. Your membership also allows you to buy from us the new book *The Civil War in Missouri: Essays from the Missouri Historical Review, 1906-2006* for \$20 versus the retail price of \$25. These may be purchased at a meeting or by mail for an additional \$2.15. Send a check to our Post Office box or call Beverly Shaw at (816) 478-7648. This is a fundraiser for the Sonny Wells Little Blue Battlefield fund. If you only wish to receive *The Border Star* by subscription, the fee is \$10 a year.

Military Trail at Union Cemetery

At the joint Christmas party with the Union Cemetery Historical Society, Kevin Fewell announced that a tour of 15 veterans gravesites will officially be named the Sonny Wells Memorial Military Trail on June 9, 2007. Sonny was a Missouri Civil War expert and was instrumental in acquiring markers for many veterans buried at Union Cemetery. If you would like to join this hardworking group, the dues are only \$20 for an individual or \$15 for seniors. Make checks payable to “Union Cemetery Historical Society” and mail to 227 E. 28th Terr., Kansas City, MO 64108. We will also have membership applications at the Feb. 14th meeting.

Letter to Editor of *Lee's Summit Journal*

Mike Calvert's letter to lend support to the effort of the Lee's Summit Historical Society to gain usage of the former city hall for its museum and storage was published on January 10, 2007. Mike commended Don Hale, president of the Society and member of our Round Table, for his scholarship and authoring of Civil War history resources and pointed out that communities rich in Border War history such as Lee's Summit and Independence can use this resource for “history tourism.”

Calling All Young Historians

The Native Sons and Daughters of Kansas City have announced their annual scholarship competition for a \$500 award to a college student who presents the best paper on an historical, social, political, or economic aspect in Kansas City. Check their website www.native-sons.org for details.

The Examiner newspapers are announcing a statewide authentic writing contest for young readers on the theme “The Buck Stops Here,” President Harry Truman’s famous phrase. The deadline is March 15th and the categories are by age: Students in Grades 3-5, 6-8 and 9-12.

The prizes are a family and teacher VIP tour of the Truman Presidential Museum and Library and “The Buck Stops Here” T-shirts.

Entries should be no longer than 500 words and must include full name, grade, home address, telephone number, name of school and teachers name. Official contest rules can be found at www.trumanlibrary.org/contest. Using one of four newspaper writing styles – news, feature, editorial, personal column – write an article no longer than 500 words on “The Buck Stops Here” and how it is important in history, for a president, or in your own life. You may also submit an editorial cartoon following the same theme. The mailing address is *The Examiner*, P.O. Box 459, Independence, Missouri 64051.

Website Update

Have you noticed the number of times in *The Border Star* and other publications that you are invited to see www or [http](http://)? That’s the quick and easy way to read about a topic in the comfort of your own home. In other words, it’s research in your jammies. Dennis Myers and Beverly Shaw met with a website consultant who donates his time to historical groups to help them see possibilities (and pitfalls) of having a website. Dennis has set up a limited website at www.orgsites.com/mo/cwrt which you may want to visit. However, since this is a free web host, it is limited in scope and is not “searchable.” If someone were surfing the web and wanted to locate “The Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri” or “The Little Blue Battlefield,” they would not be able to find us unless they knew our exact web name. If we owned our own domain

names (web names) we would be found by those using search engines such as Google. As in all things, there is some cost associated with having a web presence and the board will be considering the ideas at our board meeting. If you have suggestions or questions, contact Dennis at (816) 769-6490.

Recently Beverly Shaw was surfing some websites and came across some interesting information. There is a Civil War tourism site in Missouri called www.visitmo.com/CivilWarBegan. While it’s cold outside, you can be planning spring and summer trips.

Beverly also ran into a description of The Stars & Stripes Museum/Library at Bloomfield, Missouri (halfway between Poplar Bluff and St. Louis) at www.starsandstripesmuseumlibrary.org.

“On November 9, 1861, soldiers of the Illinois 11th, 18th, and 29th Regiments, after forcing The Confederates south, set up camp in Bloomfield, Missouri. Upon finding the newspaper office empty, they decided to print a newspaper for their expedition, relating the troop’s activities. They called it *The Stars and Stripes*. This was the start of the “Soldier’s Newspaper” over 145 years ago.”

Our Round Table recently joined *Missouri’s Civil War*, which is a clearinghouse for Civil War related events and tours as we approach the year 2011 for the 150th anniversary of the official start of the Civil War. Of course, we who live on the border of Missouri and Kansas know that the conflict actually began well before 1861. Their award winning website is www.mocivilwar.org.

After hearing John Martin’s interesting program about the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) at our January meeting, I surfed the web and came upon an organization which goes by the acronym “MOLLUS” which stands for the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States. Their website is <http://suvcw.org/mollus/mo.htm>. This organization actually began in April of 1865 following the death of President Abraham Lincoln and was an effort by veterans to thwart future threats to the national government and to plan for participation in the funeral arrangements. At its zenith the organization included practically every prominent Union officer among its ranks.

Today many descendants are also members of the Sons of Union Veterans. The MOLLUS headquarters is in Philadelphia, PA where they conserve a full range of artifacts, documentary material, books and memorabilia at the Civil War Library and Museum, but there is also a Missouri Commandery which was chartered in 1885 and is now headquartered in Union, MO. To read more about the GAR in Missouri, you can go to <http://home.usmo.com/~momollus/MOGAR.htm>.

The Role of Lineage Organizations

As you can see from other articles, there are many types of “lineage organizations” such as those for descendants of Union or Confederate soldiers and those who were born in Kansas City. One of our members, Bob Grover, is president of the Kansas City Chapter of the Sons of the Revolution and would like to invite you to a special event.

On Thursday, February 22nd at 12:00 Noon, Mayor Kay Barnes will assist the chapter in placing a floral bouquet at the statue of George Washington located in the lobby of City Hall of Kansas City, 414 East 12th Street. There will be a short ceremony of about 20 minutes. This will not only honor one of our country’s leading patriots but will increase public awareness of the organization.

When you have an opportunity, thank the men and women who help keep history alive by their participation in lineage organizations. Bob would also like to explore the idea of a joint meeting with other lineage organizations to discuss their common goals and challenges in a society of young people who don’t seem to be joining such groups even when they are eligible. If you are interested in discussing this matter, please call Bob Grover at (816) 340-4813 or write to him via E-mail at GroverSAR@aol.com.

Slave History in Missouri and Kansas

An exhibit at the Missouri State Capitol museum in Jefferson City features accounts of the lives of former slaves offered in their own words. “Slavery’s Echoes” collects narratives given by former slaves during the 1930’s. Some are audio and some are written. The exhibit is sponsored by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources and goes through year end.

In a *Kansas City Star* article on January 31st, Greg Clark writes about the efforts of the Lions clubs in Jackson, Clay, Platte, and Cass counties to create a Health and Heritage Center at the old Hiram Young School at 501 N. Dodgion Street in Independence, Missouri. Ted Stillwell has written an essay about Hiram Young, a former slave who never mastered the written language but wanted a school to teach black children to read and write. He bought his freedom in 1847 and moved to Independence in 1850 where he became a leading maker of wagons and oxbows sold to pioneers traveling along the Santa Fe, California, and Oregon trails.

The new facility would possibly serve 3,000 women and children a month and could be a leader in telemedicine which would use technology to diagnose and recommend treatment for patients far from the physical site. The other aspect of the plan is to preserve the heritage of Independence and especially African-American residents who used the Hiram Young School as the focal point of social life and as an inspiration to spur education. For more information or to help with this project, call the board president, Tom Rayfield at (816) 331-7531 or visit their website at <http://hiramyoungcsc.org>.

The *Kansas City Star* reports on February 6th that the artifacts found at the Quindaro Ruins in Kansas City, Kansas are being transferred to the Kansas State Historical Society where they can be studied and displayed. Many of our members visited Quindaro with Sonny Wells when we researched our “Monuments” book. It was an African-American town established by slaves who gained their freedom by crossing the river from Missouri to Kansas.

Newtonia Being Considered For National Park Status

Our friend, Len Eagleburger from the Civil War Round Table of the Ozarks informs us that Rep. Roy Blunt of Missouri is seeking Congressional approval of a plan to study whether two Civil War battlefields in Newton County (1862 and 1864) should become part of the National Park Service either as an independent unit or as a satellite of Wilson’s Creek National Battlefield near Republic, Missouri. The First Battle of Newtonia is believed to be the only Civil War battle in which full

American Indian units fought on both sides of the conflict. The Newtonia Battlefields Protection Association owns 26 acres, including the Ritchey Mansion, which served as a hospital during the Civil War.

A Rocky Winter for Some

The board was pleased to see our historian Paul Tate at the January board meeting. I think he was getting cabin fever after his hospital stay. He is still waiting for word on surgery and we send him our best wishes.

Kathy Moorehead is now at home after a couple of weeks at St. Mary's Hospital in Blue Springs related to a heart condition and diabetes. She is waiting for test results from a biopsy of a growth on her thyroid. We wish her and our board member Don Moorehead wisdom in coming decisions.

Margaret Bardgett fell on the ice and cracked several vertebrae in her neck in addition to hurting her right arm and shoulder. On the bright side Margaret received a diamond for Christmas and has a wonderful fiancé to help her with errands during her recovery.

Last Chapter

Emma Faust Tillman, who was born to former slaves and lived to see 21 American presidencies, died at a nursing home in Hartford, Connecticut just four days after becoming the world's oldest known living person. She was 114 years old.

Closer to home, Albert "Jud" Wagner was the world's oldest former Marine and Kansas' oldest World War I veteran. He died at age 107 in January in Smith County, Kansas. Each November he rode in a maroon 1966 Mustang at the head of the Kensington Veterans Day parade. He wore his red Marine coat and cap and threw candy to the kids. The activities director of the long-term care facility where he lived said that "He enjoyed the parades. We would make a day of it. He would just shine."

Possible Annexation of Battlefield Land

Brian Burnes of the *Kansas City Star* reports that a packed house opposed possible annexation of land north of 24 Highway at an Independence City Council meeting on January 22nd. I think we can be

pretty sure that Fran and Lucky Mason were there as well as Bob and Pat Dye who live in the affected area. Several speakers asked the Council to rescind a resolution a year ago expressing the city's interest in annexing a 30 square mile area between Courtney-Atherton Road and Chiles Road. Mark Price, co-chairman of the Citizens Against Annexation (CAN), presented petitions of 800 residents opposing annexation. Rep. Curt Dougherty says that the reaction he has received has been overwhelmingly negative. Not only would such an annexation affect the peace and quiet and green space of a country way of life that the residents invested in but it would intrude on the area of the Battle of the Little Blue in which we are interested. Mayor Don Reimal said city staff members would take the objections seriously as they continued to study the question.

Help Requested For Refreshments

As most of you know, one of the most enjoyable and important portions of our monthly meetings takes place between the program and the business meeting – in other words, refreshments and socializing time. That's when a lot of ideas are exchanged and friendships are forged. We would like to invite you to help by bringing treats to one meeting during the year. Karen Wells is gracious enough to bring the beverages and make the coffee, but she would like help in the following months for the goodies: June - 2 people, August - 2 people, September - 1 person, October - 2 people and November - 1 person. When it's your month, would you also bring napkins, plates and forks if your contribution requires them. Please sign up at the meeting or call Karen at (816) 429-5165 or E-mail her at kkw@blake-uhlig.com.

Special Meeting at the Truman Library

Please put on your calendar the date of Thursday, May 17th for our May meeting. This is special because (1) It's on a Thursday instead of Wednesday and (2) It's going to be held in the auditorium at the Truman Library. Most importantly this will be an opportunity to showcase what we do by presenting a speaker and topic of wide interest. When Pat Gradwohl, 1st Vice President, started considering program topics for the year, she included Alexander Doniphan, a very prominent Clay Countian who is not so well known

south of the river. We are going to try to rectify that by inviting John Dillingham to speak about “Citizen Soldier” Alexander Doniphan. John has his plate full right now because he’s the president of the Liberty Memorial Association which has just opened America’s National World War I Museum, but he enthusiastically agreed to speak at the Truman Library on May 17th. One reason is that John is a great admirer of Doniphan and lead the effort to name Missouri Highway 152 in Clay/Platte County in his honor and secondly John did his own thesis research at the Truman Library. The reason we chose a Thursday night is that the Library has “late hours” on Thursdays beginning in May. The program itself will be free but there is an admittance fee for the library itself. Therefore you should retain your CWRTWMO membership card to show at the door so that you will not be charged. We are going to do extensive publicity to other historical groups, but we also depend on you, our members, to get the word out that this will be a special event.

The Truman Library recently announced that it has received a \$125,000 federal grant to help preserve the working office of former President Harry Truman. For decades visitors have been able to view the office through a window in the museum courtyard, but it did not have environmental controls and some of the artifacts have suffered. The restoration plan will stabilize the office’s environment and create an exhibit pavilion with interactive displays. Groundbreaking is scheduled for later this year as a part of the Museum’s 50th anniversary.

In the Opinion column of the *Kansas City Star* on January 26th, Barbara Shelly comments that President George W. Bush would do well to study the Truman Library as a model for what presidential libraries can be. She says “it’s fitting that the straight-talking president from Missouri should have a library that presents his life in an objective, comprehensive way.”

Students analyze historical events in the “Decision Center,” a re-created version of the White House’s West Wing. You can learn more about the museum and library at www.trumanlibrary.org. You will be able to tour the library before the program on May 17th or afterwards until 9:00 p.m.

Special Commissions of The Round Table

Because we have several specialized projects for the Round Table, we have commissions to work on them and bring recommendations to the board of directors. The Lewis-Gregg Cemetery Commission is composed of Lucky Mason, chairman, Dennis Myers, Kathleen Tuohey, Chuck Townsend, and Frank Adams. Ex-officio members are President Mike Calvert and Treasurer Beverly Shaw. Delbert and Goldie Lewis act in an advisory capacity.

The Sonny Wells Little Blue Battlefield Memorial Commission is composed of Karen Wells, acting chair, Kurt Wells, Kevin Wells, Chris Cooper, John Martin, and Kay Cox. Mike and Beverly also act in an ex-officio capacity.

Mike has also appointed additional committees for the year. The Auditing Committee is composed of Bob McAtee and Terry McConnell from the member-ship, Lucky Mason and Chuck Townsend from Lewis-Gregg, and Chris Cooper from Sonny Wells Little Blue Battlefield. The Tour Committee is composed of Chris Cooper, Harold Dellinger, Karen and Delbert Coin, and Pat Gradwohl.

If you have suggestions for any of these functions, please contact a committee member.

National Register Nomination

We want to welcome Kay Cox and her family, Sara, Tyler, and Andrew to membership. Kay and Sara have volunteered to prepare the National Register nomination for the Little Blue Battlefield with the advice of Connie Langum at the Wilson’s Creek National Battlefield as needed. Kay is a computer support employee at the Liberty School District and Sara is a pharmacy student at UMKC. If they call on you for background information or advice, please be generous with your time because they are certainly being generous with theirs.

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; wqqsociety@aol.com.



John Martin Presents a Program on the GAR



GAR Artifacts Lent by Vesta Frizzell



Tom Garland, City of Independence, Still Interested in a Covered Bridge Across the Little Blue River



Vesta Frizzell and Beverly Shaw Conferring on Refreshments for February