



# The Border Star

Official publication of the Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri, Inc.

March 1999

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THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE  
OF WESTERN MISSOURI INC.

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1999

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## ANNUAL DUES

Individual 15.00  
Family 22.50  
Student (Under 21) 5.00

## MEETINGS

The second Wednesday of  
the month at 7:00 p.m.  
in Truman H.S. Library  
July - Annual Picnic  
September - Cemetery Tour  
December - Christmas Party

**Visitors Welcome**

## Next Meeting - March 10<sup>th</sup>, 1999

Truman High School - Library  
3301 S. Noland Road  
Independence, Missouri



Time: 7:00 p.m.

Program: Civil War Notables that Passed  
Through Ft. Riley

Presenter: Bill McKale, Curator, US Cavalry Museum - Ft. Riley

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**Refreshments provided**

## Looking Ahead!

April 14, 1999

Fred Pfister, Free Lance Writer, former Professor of English, portrays the poet Walt Whitman. In his program titled Memories of President Lincoln, Walt Whitman will be quoting from his poems. Whitman will tell about the influence of the Civil War (he was a wound dresser and nurse) and the assassination of Lincoln on his work. He will also talk about westward expansion, including his trip through Missouri to the Rockies.

May 8, 1999

In conjunction with "The Buck Stops Here" celebration and Preservation Week 1999, the Independence Heritage Commission and the Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri will sponsor a tour of sites associated with the Civil War battle at the Little Blue, a part of General Sterling Price's 1864 raid in Missouri. Tours begin outside the 1859 Jail Museum (217 N. Main Street) at 10:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 8, 1999.

The cost will be \$1.00. Transportation will be provided; however, seating is limited, so feel free to call ahead and reserve a seat. The tour is approximately two hours in length and will include visits at the following sites:

- Little Blue Park and battle scenario at battlefield plaque
- Five Generals Meeting site. En route see old spring and old trail markings
- Moonlight's position on Sibley Road
- Jackman's Charge on Moonlight site
- Shelby's Hospital Site
- Shelby's Second Charge Site
- Oregon Trail/Battle Line marker
- St. Mary's Massacre Site including story of the massacre

For more information or to make a reservation, contact Christina Leakey at 325-7424





## The President and Mrs. Lincoln

Max and Donna Daniels of Wheaton, Illinois, appearing as Abraham and Mary Todd Lincoln, will be in the Kansas City Area from March 14-19, 1999.

The Daniels' make over 250 appearances each year and take great pride in "bringing History to life" for groups of all ages. They research and write their own scripts and are recognized as being among the most knowledgeable of Lincoln Historians.

The best opportunity for the CWRT members to attend a presentation is on Sunday, March 14 at 6:30pm at the Liberty Christian Church, 427 E. Kansas Ave., Liberty, MO.

### Tour Schedule

- |                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| Sunday, March 14 -    | 6:30 p.m. - Liberty Christian Church<br>427 E. Kansas Ave., Liberty                              |
| Monday, March 15 -    | 7:00 p.m. - Mahaffie Stage Stop<br>Kansas City Rd in Olathe                                      |
| Tuesday, March 17 -   | 7:00 p.m. - Marshall Auditorium,<br>CGSC, Ft. Leavenworth, KS                                    |
| Wednesday, March 18 - | 4:00 p.m. - Tour US Calvary Museum<br>Ft. Riley, KS  |
|                       | 7:00 p.m. - Presentation at Old<br>Territorial Capitol Building                                  |
| Thursday, March 19 -  | 7:00 p.m. - Wyandotte County<br>Historical Society Museum<br>126 <sup>th</sup> & State Ave., KCK |
|                       | (Be at WyCO/KCK at 6:05 for surprise. Hush-Hush!)  |
| Friday, March 20 -    | 2:00 p.m. - Franklin Elementary<br>200 W. Mill, Liberty, MO                                      |
|                       | 4:00 p.m. - James Country Mercantile<br>Civil War Party  |

In all, the Lincolns will do 12 school programs and 5 evening presentations during their visit to the Kansas City Area.

For more information, contact Sonny Wells, 628-9910  
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*The Sunday night program at the Liberty Christian Church is aimed at 1-4 grades, rarely seen by adult audiences. Followed by dramatic reading of Lincoln's two most famous speeches, the last night scene and reception.*

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### Special Thanks...

to Dean Parrot for the two clocks which he donated to the CWRTWMO. The clocks will be raffled off at the next meeting. We appreciate the time, talent and fine workmanship that went into making these items.

## Schedule of Events

### March

- 10 CWRTWMO Meeting - 7 PM  
Library at Truman High School - 3301 S. Noland Rd.  
Bill McKale, Curator of US Cavalry Museum, Ft. Riley
- 13 Annual Used Book Fair - Independence Center  
Call 461-8555 or 373-3185 for information.
- 20 Board Meeting - 7 PM  
Truman Campus, Rm. 101
- Landis Battery - Spring Muster & Live Firing  
Dorie & Joel Semler's Home. South on 71<sup>st</sup> Hwy.,  
through construction zone. Then left on County Rd.  
'O'. Then right on 2<sup>nd</sup> gravel road, 1<sup>st</sup> house on right.  
Call Semler's at 660-885-9382 for details.
- Wilson's Creek Seminar - Sponsored by Nat'l Park  
Service. Hammond's Heart Institute Conf. Rm.,  
next to St. John's Hospital in Springfield, MO.  
★For more information, call 417-732-2662 or Sonny

### April

- 10 The Art of the Victorian Hair Wreath - Leila Cahoon  
Owner of the Hair Museum - JC Archives, Rm. 103  
Independence Square Courthouse
- 14 CWRTWMO Meeting - 7 PM  
Library at Truman High School - 3301 S. Noland Rd.
- 17-18 Reenactment - Butler  
Reenactment - Keokuk, Iowa
- 21 Board Meeting - 7 PM  
Truman Campus, Rm. 101
- 27-28 Big Homes Tour - Sponsored by Jolly 60s Tour  
Group - Cost \$89/person. Will visit Wildwood  
House, Arbor Lodge, Dodge House, John Brown's  
Cave, and more. Call Sonny for more details.

### May

- 1 Bates County Tour - Details to Follow - Will visit  
the Brown House, Harrisonville, Miami Crossing,  
Big Rock Crossing - All sites talked about in February  
program by Sonny Wells. Will carpool.

★Seminar is from 8:45 to 4:00 p.m. The CWRT has reserved  
10 seats for this seminar—eight have been spoken for. Call  
Sonny or Tim to get on the list.





## Designer's Showhouse

The Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri has been a participating group at the Designers' Showhouse for the last four years. Designers' Showhouse is a fund-raiser for the Kansas City Symphony and youth concerts. It's an annual tour of a large house which has been decorated by area designers.

In addition, there is a boutique, tea room, and special events. Our job as docents is to act as hosts in various design areas for a three hour period from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM on Thursday, May 13, 1999. It's okay if you can't get there right on the dot of 5:00 PM as long as some of us can go early to relieve the docents who have worked during the afternoon.

Participation gives us the chance to see a beautifully decorated home (a \$10 value), as well as meet some nice people who tour the house and help the Kansas City

Symphony at the same time. Our group is acknowledged in the official program book.

The 30<sup>th</sup> annual Designers' Showhouse is located at 1055 W. 55<sup>th</sup> Street, Kansas City, Missouri (Ward Parkway and 55<sup>th</sup> on the southeast corner). It was built in 1919 by George Foster, treasurer of the Foster Lumber Company. It has 8,000 square feet of living area and a carriage house. This same house was the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Designers' Showhouse 28 years ago. At that time it was painted white, but the present owner has exposed the blond brick and added a wall of matching brick with alcoves sheltering classic women's statuary.

If you would like to volunteer to help with this project, please call Beverly Shaw at 478-7648. If you need transportation, she will be glad to meet at a convenient location, i.e. the Blue Ridge Mall at 4:00 PM to carpool.

## ~ ~ ~ THIS N' THAT ~ ~ ~

### **Historic Preservation Week** **May 8**

Mike Calvert, who is also a member of the Independence Historic Heritage Commission, told us of plans for Historic Preservation Week (May 8), which will include a guided walking tour of the Independence Square.

Mike will conduct "Architectural History of the Square Tours". The tours will take place every half hour, 10am - 4pm.

Sonny Wells will conduct tours of the Little Blue Battlefield. (See article on front page of this newsletter for details).

### **Heritage Salute** **June 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>**

Although Independence was founded in 1827, it was not incorporated as a city until

1849. A citywide celebration will take place called **Heritage Salute**. Many activities are planned in conjunction with this event: pops concert, conversations and pictures with Harry and Bess Truman, Frank James court trial, jail break, swing band contest, dance at the Memorial Building, walking tours, antique cars, Civil War and pioneer encampments, Quantrill society display, historical interpreters, legacy of Hiram Young, and other events including the Vaile Strawberry festival.

The CWRT is planning to be involved in some way in this event.

### **Wilson's Creek** **National Battlefield**

✶ Wilson's Creek National Battlefield will sponsor a major seminar on the history of the Missouri State Guard. (See calendar). This seminar has been organized to examine

the critical role of the Missouri State Guard in the Civil War west of the Mississippi River. Organized in the spring of 1861 to oppose Federal forces, the State Guard participated in a number of major battles, such as Boonville, Carthage, Athens, Wilson's Creek and Lexington in Missouri and Pea Ridge in Arkansas. Although the majority of the Guardsmen wore civilian clothing and were armed with civilian weapons, they fought bravely in defense of their state.

The seminar will bring together some of the most respected scholars in this field. A unique opportunity to learn more about one of the most important but forgotten military organizations in existence during the Civil War.

*Fred L. Lee died Dec. 29, 1998 at the age of 63, after suffering a heart attack. Fred was a long-time historian and author. His journalism and professionalism will be missed by all of those who knew him best.*

## **DOING LOCAL HISTORY: Sharing Our Turf**

A conference sponsored by the Western Historical Manuscript Collection-KC, Shoal Creek Living History Museum, KC150 History Committee, Heritage League of Greater KC, and the Greater KC Community Foundation is sponsoring a two-day conference in Kansas City. The conference begins 4/22-23.

The featured speaker is Carol Kammen, author of *On Doing Local History: reflections on what local historians do, why, and what it means* and *The Pursuit of Local History: readings on theory and practice*.

For information, call: 816-235-1543



## CENSUS OF SLAVES, THEIR OWNERS AND "FREE COLORED": 1850 AND 1860

a Book Review by Faye Dennison

This book is the second volume in the series: *Jackson County in Black and White* compiled by Annette W. Curtis.

This volume concerns Jabez Smith, his slaves, his plantations, his estate, guardianships of two of his heirs and some genealogical information about both the white and black families. This volume includes transcriptions of the guardianship records of two minor heirs, Jabez Smith Jr. And John T. Smith, in addition to records of the estate of Jabez Smith. Slaves given to each heir are named.

In addition, the death of Jabez Smith Jr. Produced more records, including the division of his share of the slaves with more lists of names in family groups. Births and deaths are noted. Everything purchased for the use of the slaves of John T. Smith over a period

of several years is listed. The principal time span is 1855 to 1895. Much material is here for both scholarly and family researchers to analyze.

This second volume is titled: *Jackson County, Missouri in Black and White: Volume 2 - Jabez Smith: His Slaves, Plantations, Estate and Heirs*. This volume is 552 pages in length; illustrated in black and white. Name and subject indexing. Available at Bruce R. Watkins Cultural Heritage Center. (Price \$34.95 plus \$3.75 per book for postage & handling.)

Price for Volume I only through the Heritage Center is \$14.95 plus postage. It is believed that the Mid-Continent Library carries the book in Lee's Summit.

Submitted by Faye Dennison

## Vandals Strike Austin Cemetery

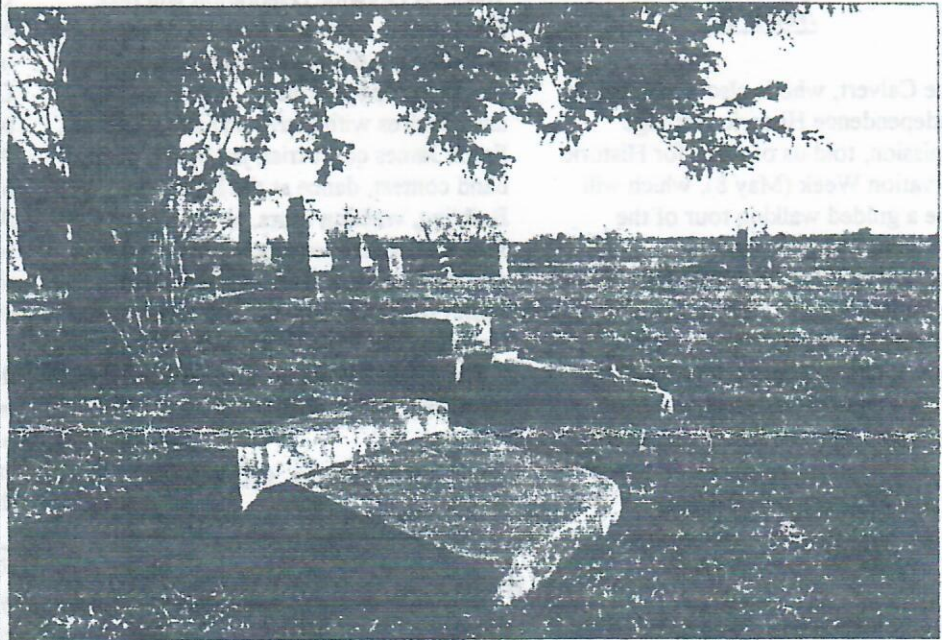
The following article recently appeared in the *Democrat-Missourian* in early January, 1999.

*"Vandals struck Austin Cemetery Jan. 8 overturning nearly 20 gravestones and flower vases. The sheriff's department report indicated there are no suspects yet. The Austin Cemetery Association is offering a \$100 reward for information leading to an arrest in the case and said the stones will likely have to remain on the ground until spring due to wet conditions. ..."*

More recently vandals struck the Woodlawn Cemetery in Independence on Noland Road. And once again damage was done to numerous stones in the cemetery.

Is nothing sacred?

Articles on Austin Cemetery  
submitted by Faye Dennison



Democrat-Missourian photo by Jeff Goetz



### Encyclopedia of Civil War Collectibles by Chuck Lawliss

This book is a comprehensive guide to Union and Confederate Arms, Equipment, Uniforms, and other memorabilia. The book is available for purchase through Bob Benson for \$12, which includes shipping.

Bob is able to save considerable shipping fees by ordering bulk. The book *Marking Missouri History* can still be obtained for \$11.50, which includes shipping. Call Bob Benson at 816-361-4603 to place an order.