



# **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"*

**October 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  
*Secretary* ----- Karen Wells  
*Treasurer* ----- Beverly Shaw  
*Historian* ----- Paul Tate

### **Board Members**

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. 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 545 days away, as of the date of our next Round Table meeting on October 14<sup>th</sup>.

I only have one thing on my mind this month - The Battle of Little Blue marker dedication is being held at 2:00 p.m., Sunday, October 18, 2009 at Ripley Junction, rain or shine. To be accurate I should say two markers. The second is in the park at the northwest corner of Blue Mills Road and 24 Highway. The ceremony will only be held at Ripley Junction.

This event has been a long, long time in the making. The idea really began with Sonny Wells commenting in our monuments book about the lack of or inadequate interpretive signage on the Little Blue Battlefield and continued with Tim Cox's work to get better recognition for, plus save the battlefield. I sincerely hope that what has been accomplished has met the dreams and goals of Sonny and Tim.

There are a million thank-yous to be handed out. I will address these on the 18<sup>th</sup>. I'll apologize in advance if I miss someone. Let me assure you, any oversight on my part is completely unintentional.

The ceremony is shaping up nicely. There will be representatives from state, county and city governments. Resolutions will be presented along with some very kind supportive letters.

I guess in the end this is a shameless advertisement and thinly veiled pleading to request that you, if at all possible, come to the dedication ceremony. I want you to help celebrate an event that is nothing less than the fulfillment of a dream. Thank you and I hope to see you the 18<sup>th</sup>.

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

## CWRTWMO Calendar

### October, 2009 Meeting

Wednesday, October 14, 2009 – 7:00 p.m.  
Villages of Jackson Creek (lower level),  
3980-A S. Jackson Drive, Independence, MO  
Jerry Mackey: “The Steamboat *Arabia*”

### No Board Meeting in October

### Dedication of Little Blue Battlefield Markers

Sunday, October 18, 2009 – 2:00 p.m.  
Ripley Junction Park. See invitation letter.

### November, 2009 Meeting

Wednesday, November 11, 2009 – 7:00 p.m.  
Villages of Jackson Creek (lover level),  
3980-A S. Jackson Drive, Independence, MO  
Dr. William Piston: “Stonewall Jackson”

## **Other Events**

### Haunted Ghost Tours-Fridays in October

Independence Square and Old Jail. October 9, 16,  
23 & 30, 2009. Begins at 7:00 p.m. \$18 for adults;  
\$12 for youths 7-11. Call (816) 461-0065.

### 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.

### Shawnee Indian Mission State Historic Site

23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Fall Festival – October 10-11, 2009  
10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Free Admission. 3403 W.  
53<sup>rd</sup>, Fairway, KS. Saturday – 1:00 p.m.: “Bogus  
Legislature at the Mission” by Charles Clark. 2:00  
p.m.: “Life In the 1850’s” by Leslie Terrill. 3:00  
p.m.: “General Order No. 11” by Tom Rafiner.

### 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 and gravy, sausage, breads, fruit and  
drinks. Guided Tours available.

### National Archives at Kansas City

Tuesday, October 20, 2009 – 6:30 p.m.  
National Archives, 400 W. Pershing Road, Kansas  
City, MO. Author Virgil Dean to discuss *John  
Brown to Bob Dole: Movers and Shakers in Kansas  
History*. Call (816) 268-8010 or register by E-mail  
to [kansascity.educate@nara.gov](mailto:kansascity.educate@nara.gov).

### Civil War Wednesdays

Wednesday, October 21, 2009 – 6:30 p.m.  
Kansas City Central Library, 14 W. 10<sup>th</sup> Street,  
Kansas City, MO. Preview of series beginning in  
2010 on 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays from January to June. Ron  
Smith: *Thomas Ewing Jr.: Frontier Lawyer and  
Civil War General*.

### 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Heritage Dinner

Thursday, October 22, 2009 – 6:45 p.m.  
Fundraiser for the Bates County Museum. \$20 per  
person for barbecue dinner at Butler High School  
Auditorium, Nursery and Fulton Streets, Butler,  
MO. Erik Ashel, Sports Producer for Metro Sports,  
will discuss his documentary “KU-MU Border  
War.” For tickets call the Museum at (660) 679-  
0134 or E-mail to [bcmuseum@earthlink.net](mailto:bcmuseum@earthlink.net).

### Cemetery Tour at Lexington, MO

Saturday, October 24, 2009 – 4:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.  
Battle of Lexington State Historic Site. Friends of  
the Anderson House portray people buried in the  
Machpelah Cemetery. Free.

### Civil War Encampment at Houston, MO

Saturday and Sunday, October 24-25, 2009 – 9:00  
a.m. at the Texas County Fairgrounds, Houston,  
MO. Prelude to a MCWRA sanctioned Civil War  
Reenactment planned for October 2010. For  
information call the Chamber of Commerce at (417)  
967-2220.

Headstone Dedication for William Sidney Shepherd  
Sunday, October 25, 2009 – 2:00 p.m. Jim Beckner invites you to help mark the grave of the last Union soldier from the Battle of Westport living in Kansas City, MO. Memorial Park Cemetery, 8251 Hillcrest Road (Gate 4), Kansas City, Missouri.

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](mailto:kansascity.educate@nara.gov).

Civil War Round Table of Kansas City

Tuesday, October 27, 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: Dave Metheneys: “John Brown”

7<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **Nominating Committee Report**

The Nominating Committee headed by Steve Olson reports the following nominees for election at the annual meeting on November 11, 2009:

President	Mike Calvert
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	Pat Gradwohl
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Art Kelley
Secretary	Karen Wells
Treasurer	Beverly Shaw
Historian	Paul Tate
Newsletter Editor	Dennis Myers
Board Members	Del Coin
	Karen Coin
	Terry McConnell
	Don Moorehead
	Kathy Moorehead
	Steve Olson
	Carol Olson
	Barbara Hughes
	Terry Chronister

Nominations will also be accepted from the floor. Sharon Kelley has declined a second term because of new job responsibilities. We have very much appreciated her work in helping us bring our by-laws up to date. At the September meeting we voted to include the position of Newsletter Editor as a member of the board.

The committee has asked Terry Chronister to join the board. He has been a member since 2007 when he took our battlefield tour and recently went on the trip to Springfield, IL.

### **News About Members and Friends**

We are happy to report that our historian, **Paul Tate**, is out of the hospital and was able to attend a family wedding in Arkansas.

We want to wish **Margaret Bardgett** a successful spine repair operation on October 15<sup>th</sup> at Kansas University Medical Center. She will have several months of rehab after that but hopes to get back to her usual activities by the first of 2010.

The group that went to Springfield, Illinois in September had a very enjoyable time and wishes to thank **Karen Coin** for the wonderful planning and **Del Coin** for his excellent driving. We avoided going through St. Louis by crossing the Mississippi at Bowling Green, enjoying some “blue highways” which seemed to make the trip much shorter.

**Van Wiskur** reports that he could not take the Springfield trip because of his 33<sup>rd</sup> wedding anniversary. He asked his wife **Missie** if she would like to go out to dinner or on a cruise. Then he added, “Just let me know if you want the cruise so I can reserve the canoe.”

The Round Table has received a copy of *Legends Born Where Men Die – A Novel of Jesse James* by **Michelle Pollard** courtesy of **Liz Murphy** who hosted Michelle during her recent pilgrimage to the James Farm and her visit to the September Round Table meeting.

*The Examiner* has featured some historical topics of late. On September 22<sup>nd</sup> there was a very complimentary article about the **Bingham-Waggoner Estate’s** annual pig-pickin’ feast and the fact that the house and grounds are an Independence

gem. We are glad to report that one of the first things **Charlotte Tindall** did after recovering from hip surgery was to return to her docenting duties there.

*The Examiner* reported that the Independence Pioneers Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution had a special flag program on September 18<sup>th</sup> to present a new flag which has flown over the U.S. Capitol to Jackson County, to fly at the Old Courthouse in Independence to mark its historical preservation and renovation. **Bob Grover** and a color guard from the Missouri Society of the Sons of the American Revolution raised the colors. **Fran Mason** is a member of the Pioneers Chapter and her friend **Linda Stewart** who has volunteered with us at the Symphony Designers' Showhouse is the Americanism Chairman and had "Our Flag" booklets for those attending.

On October 6, 2009, **Lynn Youngblood**, Director of Burr Oaks Nature Center, used her regular "Green Space" column in *The Examiner* to talk about the **Lone Jack Civil War Battlefield Museum and Soldiers Cemetery**. She lamented the encroachment of "development" all around the site and said that it was 40 years ago that former president Harry Truman persuaded Jackson County to buy the portion of the battlefield for the museum. The recent Ken Burns' series on the National Park System reminded her that it is through the foresight of Teddy Roosevelt and John Muir that natural sites and later historical sites were set aside for all of us to enjoy.

*The Examiner* also followed the controversy over the wording of a new monument to federal troops at the Lexington State Historic Site which was erected by the Missouri Sons of Union Veterans. The Col. John T. Coffee Camp 1934 of the Sons of the Confederate Veterans (Marble Hill, MO) took exception to what they called historical inaccuracies about the federal troops of Colonel Mulligan's Irish Brigade at the Battle of Lexington and especially the sale of a book which referred to Missourians as "Puke-ites."

Archivist and education director of the Jackson County Historical Society, **David Jackson**, writes an historical column for *The Examiner* and

dedicated his essay in the weekend paper of September 19-21, 2009 to "Events that led to Order No. 11." The Society has reproduced for sale an engraving of George Caleb Bingham's famous painting "Martial Law" and also deals with the subject in its most recent book, *LOCK DOWN: Outlaws, Lawmen and Frontier Justice in Jackson County, Missouri*. Because of the ongoing renovations at the Old Courthouse where the archives are located, Jackson County Historical Society asks that you use their new post office box address: P.O. Box 4241, Independence, MO 64051-4241. You can also call David at (816) 252-7454.

### National Frontier Trails Museum Civil War Lecture Series

Date: Tuesdays through 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 continue their series of lectures on the American Civil War. Particular attention will be given to those living in the border region of Missouri and Kansas, before, during and after the war. You can 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. All lectures will take place in the theater of the museum.

#### Dates and Topics:

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

Tuesday, October 20, 2009 - 7:00 p.m.  
1<sup>st</sup> 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)



# The Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri

Independence, Missouri

October 10, 2009

Dear Friends:

The Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri hopes that you will join them in dedicating two low-profile historic markers for the Battle of the Little Blue on Sunday afternoon, October 18, 2009, 2:00 p.m. at the Ripley Junction Park. Ripley Junction is located on E. Old Lexington Road, just south of 24 Highway in eastern Jackson County.

It is located on the hiking and biking trail along the west bank of the Little Blue River. The parking lot is beyond the train tracks, and caution should be used in crossing the tracks. The second marker at Blue Mills Road and 24 Highway will also be available for viewing. These markers are in memory of past presidents, Sonny Wells and Tim Cox.

The Battle of the Little Blue was Day One of the Battle of Westport which was part of Confederate General Sterling Price's Great Missouri Raid on October 21, 1864. The new markers are an attempt to tell the story in an accurate and enlightening fashion with graphics, maps, pictures, and text. This is our way of helping to observe the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Civil War which will start in 2011.

The Battle of the Little Blue is among the National Park Service's top 384 battle sites in the U.S., in the top 15 at risk sites in the U.S., and is in the top 10 endangered battle sites in Missouri.

These markers were funded by private donations, and no government money was used to erect them. We are grateful to Jackson County Parks and Recreation for allowing us to place the markers on park land.

We have confirmation that several elected officials from the City of Independence, Jackson County, and the State of Missouri plan to attend and will bring official resolutions to mark this occasion.

Sincerely,  
Michael W. Calvert, President

P. S. If you are able to attend, please bring your own chair.