

# BOONE'S LICK HERITAGE



William "Bloody Bill" Anderson

## *Civil War: Battle of Fayette*

VOL. 11 No. 1 — JUNE 2012

BOONSLICK HISTORICAL SOCIETY PERIODICAL

## *Tending the Literary Garden*

With publication of this issue of *Boone's Lick Heritage*, we bring an end to a long, unfortunate editorial dry spell rendering the magazine dormant after the passing of its well-known former editor, Robert L. (Bob) Dyer, more than five years ago. Dyer was the first and only editor of *Heritage* from its beginning in March 1993 through December 2002. Some 40 issues were published during this extended period, and they constitute a treasure trove of Boonslick Region history covering more than two centuries.

Intriguing titles in the historical index of articles include "Boonslick and the Fur Trade: Fact and Fiction," "Missouri River Heritage Corridor," "Meredith Miles Marmaduke: Santa Fe Trader and Governor," "A Planter Class Woman in Cooper County," "William Clark Quantrill in Howard County," "African-American Schools in Rural Cooper County," "Guinea Sam and the Miracle of the Ball of Fire," "Battle of Marshall: the Greatest Little Battle that was Never Fought," and the "Dr. Leon Hill Affair."

Although Dyer authored many of the articles, an impressive list of contributors includes historians James M. Denny, who helped to produce a special double issue of *Heritage* titled "Lewis and Clark in the Boonslick," Michael Dickey and Brett Rogers, as well as numerous other noted writers and historians, including Bob Priddy, Charles van Ravenswaay, William Lay, Wayne Lammers and Kenneth Westhues.

Bob Dyer's tenure as editor of *Heritage* set a high bar for performance as a writer, editor, and historian. He was also an educator (college English teacher) and talented musician and song writer who became a fixture in the world of folk music so ably showcased by Boonville's Cathy Barton and Dave Para. Dyer was a multi-talented and unique individual. We cannot match the breadth of his talents and knowledge, but with the introduction of this first resurrected issue of *Boone's Lick Heritage* we will do our best to live up to the level of excellence he represented as a writer, editor, and historian.

In noting our current commemoration of the sesquicentennial of the Civil War (1861-1865), this issue of

*Heritage* (Volume 11, Number 1) features a topic first visited in the magazine in September 1995, "The Fayette Fight," or better known as The Battle of Fayette. Writer Cathy Thogmorton of Fayette brings her unique perspective to this period of history as it involved Central College (Central Methodist University), her *alma mater* and ground where the major skirmish occurred between a gathering of pro-Southern guerrillas led by "Bloody

Bill" Anderson and 50 or so Union soldiers in the Fayette garrison.

Cathy also serves as editor of *Talon*, CMU's alumni magazine, where this article was first published in the spring of 2011. CMU Professor *Emeritus* of Biology Dan Elliott, also an avid archeologist and historian, chronicled the September 1864 conflict between the guerrillas and Union forces during a special presentation to

BHS members at the Society's spring meeting in March in Boonville.

Some of Dr. Elliott's comments on "Bloody Bill" and the Fayette Fight are included with Cathy's fine article on the Battle of Fayette. Other offerings in this issue include a preview of Crestmead, the antebellum home of Robert and Ann Betteridge in Cooper County, location of the forthcoming BHS Summer meeting; news about multiple efforts to highlight the starting location of the historic Santa Fe Trail at Franklin in Howard County and to recognize area efforts to preserve other Boonslick Region landmarks; recent presentations on Boonslick-area history by BHS members; and book notes on recent works published by BHS members.

In all, we offer a modest smorgasbord of Boonslick Region events, places, and people of historical significance. We've sprinkled the long dormant issues of *Boone's Lick Heritage* with the life-giving waters of fresh literary offerings and insights. And we wish our readers a literary *bon appetit*.

— Don Cullimore



Robert L. (Bob) Dyer

### ***Boone's Lick Heritage***

is published four times a year by the Boonslick Historical Association, P.O. Box 426, Boonville, MO 65233.

We encourage our members and others interested in history to contribute articles or other information of historical interest pertaining to the region. Please address all contributions and correspondence related to the periodical to the editor, Don B. Cullimore, 1 Lawrence Dr., Fayette, MO 65248, or email to: *don.cullimore40@gmail.com*, phone: 660-248-1732. Publication deadline are February 1 for the March issue; May 1 for the June issue; August 1 for the September issue; and November 1 for the December issue.

**The Boonslick Historical Society** was founded in 1937 and meets several times a year to enjoy programs about historical topics pertinent to the Boonslick area. Members of the Society have worked together over the years to publish historical books and brochures and to mark historic sites. They supported the founding of Boone's Lick State Historic Site, marked the sites of Cooper's Fort and Hanna Cole's Fort and have restored a George Caleb Bingham painting on loan to The Ashby-Hodge Gallery of American Art at Central Methodist University, Fayette, Mo.

Membership dues are \$10 (individual or family) and the dues year is January through December. Receive our quarterly publication, *Boone's Lick Heritage*, and attend annual Society events highlighting the region's history. To become a member, send a check made out to the Boonslick Historical Society, P.O. Box 426, Boonville, MO 65233.

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# **BOONE'S LICK HERITAGE**

**Boonslick Historical Society Vol. 11, No. 1 \* June 2012**

## **Contents**

### **The Battle of Fayette and the Fayette Fight**

*by Cathy Thogmorton and Dan Elliott*

Page 4

### **Crestmead House: Antebellum Treasure**

Risen from the Ashes

Page 11



### **News in Brief:**

Page 12

- Santa Fe Trail Site Dedicated
- Santa Fe Trail Monument Fund Raising Efforts
- Missouri Preservation Recognizes Landmarks
- Civil War Documents Workshop



### **Calendar Items**

Page 14

### **Book Notes**

Page 15

- *The Boys of Company K*
- *The People of the River's Mouth*
- *The Civil War's First Blood*

*Cover photo of William "Bloody Bill" Anderson  
Courtesy of Missouri State Archives and  
Central Methodist University (CMU)*



## The Battle Of Fayette: A Small Skirmish With Large Implications

by Cathy Thogmorton

In September of 1864, “Bloody Bill” Anderson led a ragtag gathering of 300 pro-South guerrillas against 50 Union soldiers in a Fayette garrison. When the battle ended, the rebels had suffered nine casualties, five left behind in Fayette. No one in the blockhouse garrison died. Throughout Missouri, in skirmishes and battles, the state accrued the dubious ranking of third most Civil War battles in any state. As the United States of America commemorates the sesquicentennial of the Civil War, *Talon* magazine looks back at the Battle of Fayette and its impact on the town and on what is now Central Methodist University.

Missouri held a unique place in the politics of the Civil War. Neither North nor South, it sat on the border of the battle over slavery. It had entered the Union as a slave state in 1821 (only two years before Fayette was incorporated as a town), a compromise in which Maine was admitted at the same time as a free state—all part of the Missouri Compromise. But the state was also both North and South, with the Mason-Dixon line severing Missouri through the southern counties of the state. Missouri lay in the middle of the conflict, and Fayette lay in the middle of the state.

Hence, in this area, which wore its moniker of “Little Dixie” proudly for more than a century after the Civil War, it was common for family members to fall on separate sides regarding the question of slavery, arguably the primary cause of the war. Here brothers fought brothers and fathers fought sons. It was a bloody, painful time for all; and it took generations for those wounds to heal.

Central College had been chartered, prior to the war, in 1854 in a deal with Howard High School, brokered by Judge Abiel Leonard, which transferred all property to Central in exchange for the college building a wing onto the Howard High School next door (which has morphed into

the current Howard-Payne residence hall). Classes had begun in 1857, even as the storm clouds of discontent were amassing, and the college had already graduated six students when the Civil War began with the attack by Confederate forces on Fort Sumter off the coast of Charleston, South Carolina, on April 12, 1861. Central

College felt the stirrings of conflict begin, and the curators closed its campus—which at the time consisted only of Brannock Hall—in June 1861. Only two teachers, Professors Anderson and Pritchett, brazenly continued to hold classes well into the conflict. Even they had to stop in 1863 when fighting in the area increased and Federal (Union) troops appropriated Brannock Hall for their own use.

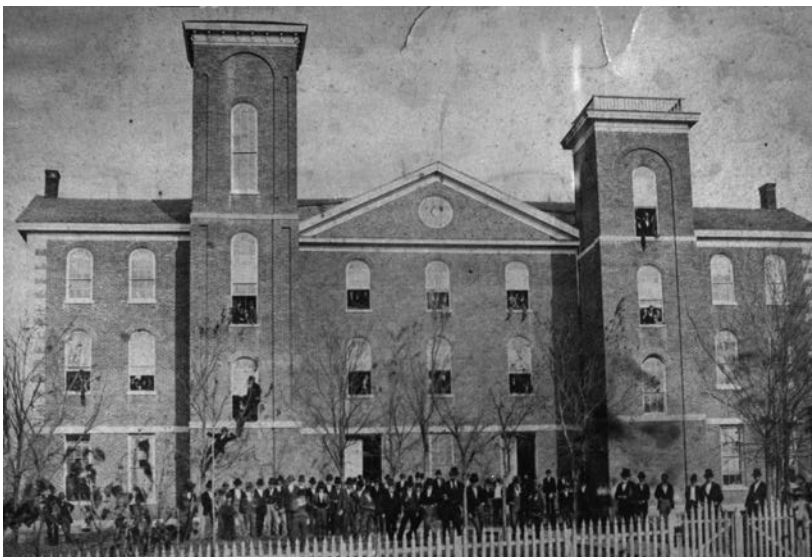
During the war Brannock Hall served as a garrison for Union forces. Stories remain that the soldiers housed their horses on the main floor and quartered themselves on the second and third floors.

Fayette was often visited by Southern sympathizers—guerrilla fighters or “bushwhackers,” as they were known. An article from the *Central Collegian* newspaper, dated November 16, 1931,

**Early photo of Brannock Hall shows different heights of the two towers. Built between 1854-56, the building has been modified several times since then. During the Civil War it housed Union troops on the upper floors and their horses on the lowest level. Now it's CMU's main administration building.**



William “Bloody Bill” Anderson



## *Battle of Fayette*

details a memory from Henry S. Pritchett, the son of the Rev. Carr Waller Pritchett, one of the intrepid teachers in Brannock who refused to bow to the war. Henry Pritchett writes of moving into town with his mother and siblings in 1864 or 65 for safety during increasing “bush-whacking” excursions against Fayette. These guerrillas operated between the lines of the armies and, according to Pritchett, robbed indiscriminately.

“Whenever General [Sterling] Price got the better of the Union troops,” Pritchett relates, “the bands, under the leadership of [William] Quantrill and Bill Anderson, were very much to the fore even in Fayette. I remember with great distinctness watching one of these gentlemen try to ride his horse up the college steps, and when he did not succeed, he drew his revolver and fired several shots into the open door.” [Note: Quantrill is also spelled Quantrell, depending on the source.]

The Battle of Fayette itself was apparently conceived by Quantrell’s partner in arms, “Bloody” Bill Anderson. Quantrill supposedly disagreed with Anderson’s plan to attack the Union garrison in Fayette, but Anderson would not be deterred. It is believed that Quantrell actually attended the raid but stayed near Howard High School instead of participating.

Dr. Robert Wieggers, CMU professor of history, sets the stage for the attack that followed:

“The Battle of Fayette began as a raid but turned into a battle. The main purpose was to draw Union forces away from campaigns in the east by seizing Fayette when the local Union garrison was patrolling to the north. By 1864, Fayette was a town of several thousand but was much reduced in population due to years of partisan fighting in the Boonslick.

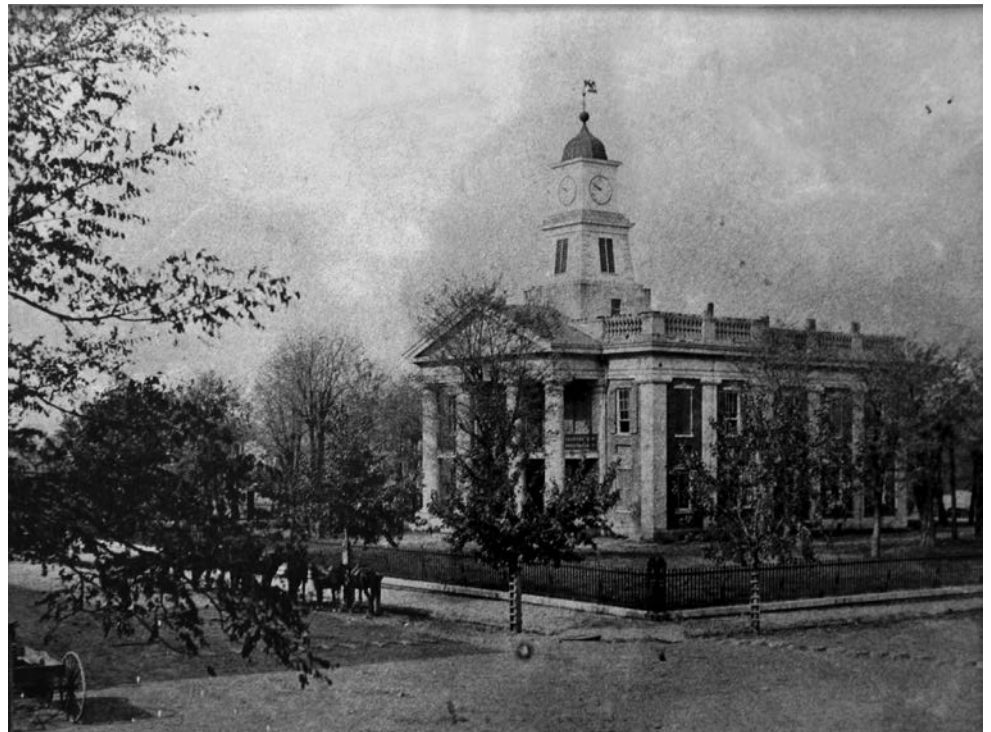
“On this September [day], the temperature was likely in the high 90s, humid and rainless. Confederate guerrillas disguised in Union blue slowly clattered up the dirt surface . . . Clouds of dust may have obscured the true purpose of the counterfeit Union column as it neared the Courthouse until a shot rang out and mayhem followed.”

According to a first-hand account of the battle by a Fayette man, a Southern sympathizer named Hamp Watts

who took part in the attack, the men came into to Fayette from the south, via the Rocheport Road. The troops rode past the city cemetery and up First Main Street (now Main Street) as far as the south edge of the courthouse square.

Watts’ record indicates that apparently the bush-whackers were more into fighting than discipline, since one guerrilla had shot at a Black man at the corner of First Main and Walnut because he was wearing “Yankee Blue.” The early shot, against direct orders, warned people in Fayette of the impending attack and allowed those around the square to take shelter in the courthouse, where they could take potshots at Anderson and his men.

The rebels split forces at the square. One segment

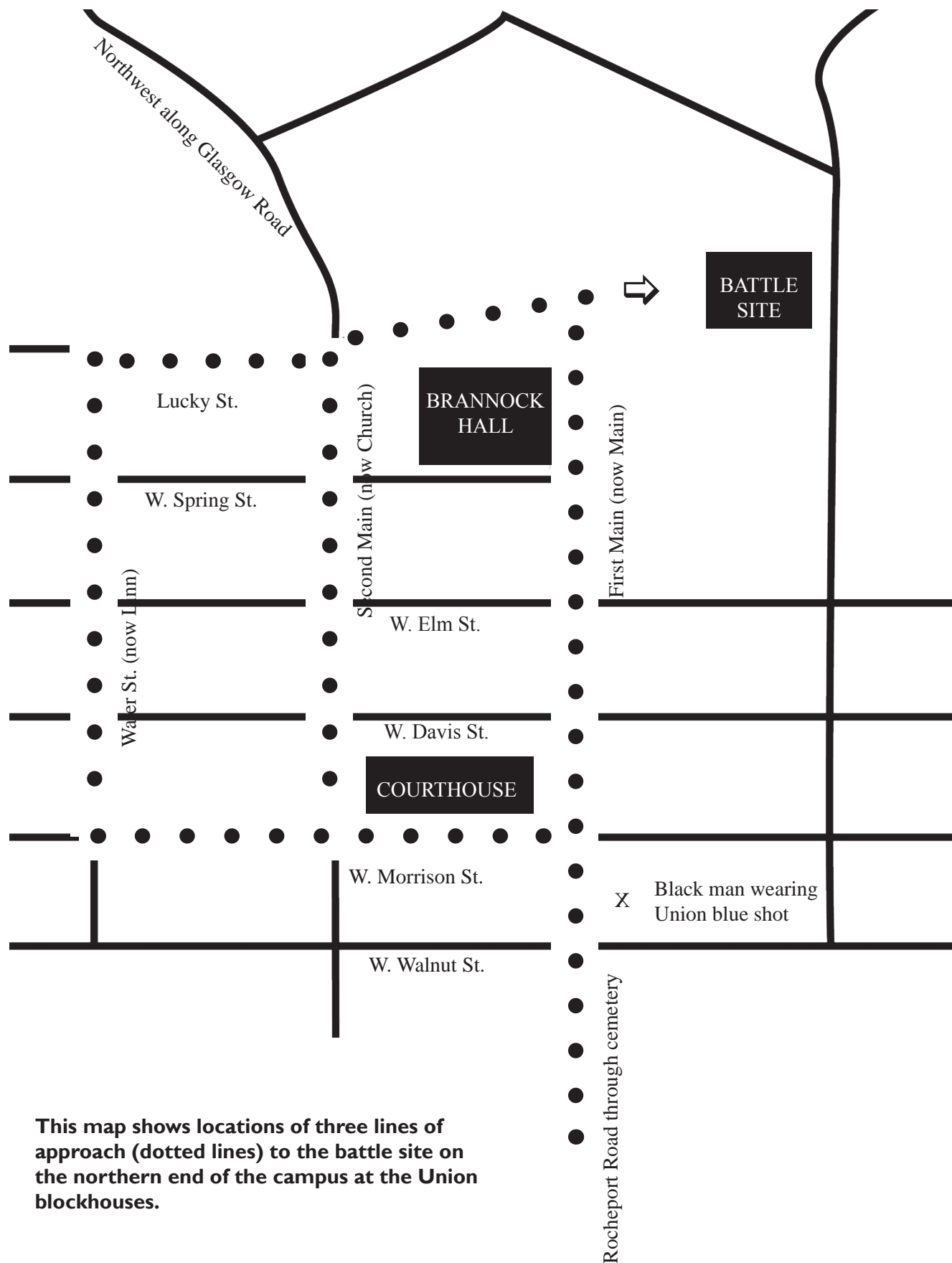


**Howard County Courthouse in existence at the time of the Battle of Fayette. This building was destroyed by fire in 1886. It was replaced by the current courthouse. The stone wall surrounding the earlier structure still stands.**

proceeded up First Main, past the college to the north edge of town, the town itself ending just north of Brannock Hall. A second section of troops moved up Second Main Street (now Church Street/Highway. 5), while yet a third group followed Water Street (now Linn Street) north to the area of the current Lucky Street.

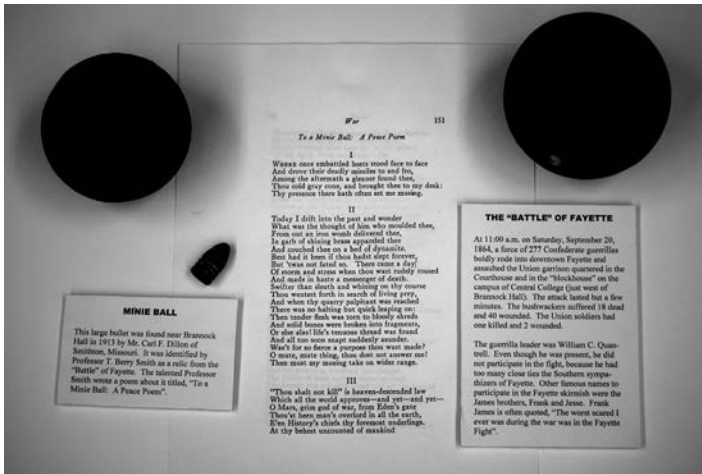
It would seem they were making a show of the entrance, as little fighting ensued until the three segments reunited at a heavily wooded ravine believed by many to be in the area behind the current McMurry Hall.

Thus far, their progress had not been challenged,



This map shows locations of three lines of approach (dotted lines) to the battle site on the northern end of the campus at the Union blockhouses.





CMU's Stephens Museum has ammunition and weaponry from the Civil War, as well as two Confederate caps and other military artifacts. Noted Central Professor T. Berry Smith, for whom the building is named, wrote a poem about the Battle of Fayette titled "War—To a Minie Ball: A Peace Poem" (top).

although Watts relates that Union Private John Patton shot and killed a horse out from under one guerrilla near the courthouse and that another Union soldier shot and killed rebel Thad Jackman at the site of the Swinney Tobacco

Factory, which occupied the space where Swinney Conservatory of Music now stands.

Enraged by that act, the rebel forces raced to attack one or more blockhouses that sat approximately where the Mabee Recreation Center now sits. Anderson ordered a frontal attack by 75 of his men over roughly 100 yards of open field. Although some of them made it to the cabins, which they attempted to set on fire, the attack failed. Three times they attacked, each time with less success. Anderson finally called for a retreat.

Frustrated and angry, the bushwhackers stormed the town, stealing what they could from the locals and then raging out of the town toward Glasgow. They had suffered

## "The major result of the Battle of Fayette was the following Centralia Massacre, a crime perpetrated in part out of the need to avenge the Fayette fiasco"

multiple casualties and hauled the dead and wounded they could recover in the backs of stolen wagons. An undocumented source said the guerrillas left behind a final bit of arrogance, a young Union soldier, Pvt. Tom Benton, whom they had shot in the back, scalped, and tied to a fence under a sign that read "This is how we do business."<sup>1</sup>

A week later Quantrill and Anderson led their guerrillas north and assuaged their frustration of defeat by burning the town of Centralia to the ground.

Dr. Wieggers explains the power of the loss. "The major result of the Battle of Fayette," he says, "was the following Centralia Massacre, a crime perpetrated in part out of the need to avenge the Fayette fiasco as much as for the opportunity to strike back at the Union. But the town and college might have suffered in like fashion had the guerrillas won that September morn.

"Historians love the 'what ifs' of history," Wieggers notes. "What if the guerrillas had succeeded in taking the Union garrison and won control of Fayette? What might the fate of the county seat, the college, the future of Fayette be like today?

"We know successful guerrilla raids typically meant the banks were robbed and prominent citizens intimidated, or worse if they were Union men. Economically, the town of Fayette would have suffered a great loss in stolen cash, have had citizens robbed or killed and business establish-

1. In his memoir, Hamp Watts says that after the furtive assault against the Union blockhouses, the guerrillas "retired along the Glasgow Road a short distance from the battle site and one of Anderson's men was mortally wounded by a Union sharpshooter. Watts also wrote that a short time later, "one Federal was killed, a man by the name of [Pvt. Tom] Benton, and he was shot in an open field."



Endnotes:

As sometimes occurs in the heat of battle, facts get muddled and passed on as truth. There are inconsistencies in the information available on The Battle of Fayette, not the least of which is the date. According to the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, the battle occurred on Saturday, September 24, 1864. However, according to the first-hand account by Hamp Watts, the date was September 20, a Tuesday. The United Daughters of the Confederacy, which established monuments in both Fayette and Higginsville honoring the Confederate soldiers who died in The Battle of Fayette, also date the battle on the 20th. The *Talon* simply shares the information available and makes no judgment on the accuracy of the various sources. The ambiguity seems to fit very well with the muddled position of Missouri during the time of the Civil War.

The *Talon* expresses appreciation to Travis Young '01, Fayette historian William Lay, and Dr. Bob Wieggers for their research and compilation of information which made this article possible.

*Cathy Thogmorton is editor of Talon, the Central Methodist University alumni magazine, where this article first appeared in the Spring 2011 issue. It is reprinted here with permission from CMU.*

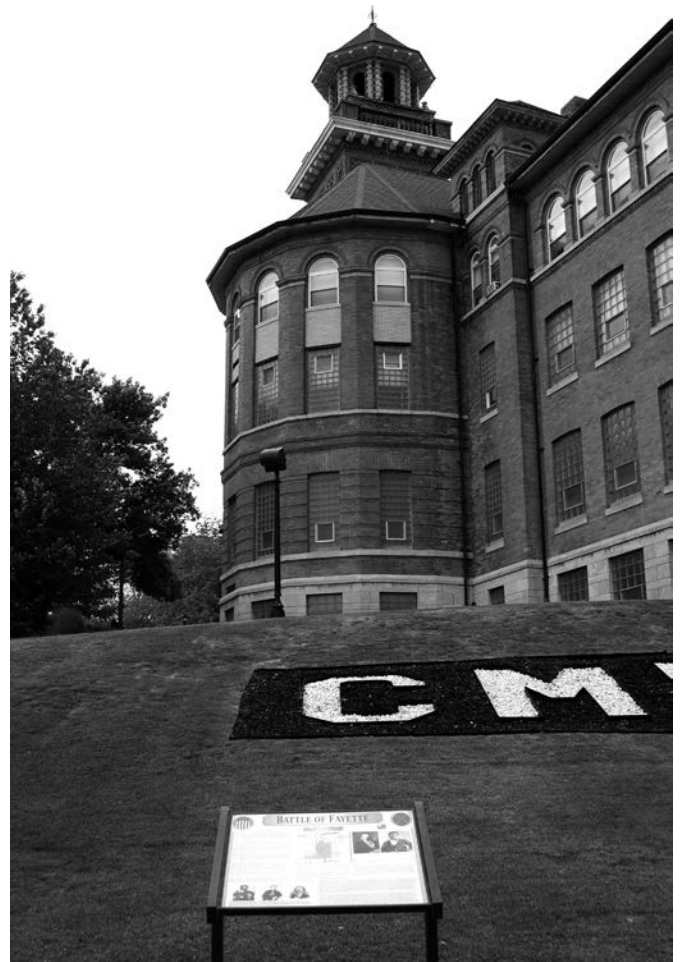
**The Fayette City Cemetery maintains a marker for the Confederate Guerrillas who fell in the Battle of Fayette. Two graves are also there, and markers for three other soldiers. The Department of Natural Resources placed a marker (below) detailing the Battle of Fayette, which sits on Inman Plaza between the Student and Community Center and T. Berry Smith Hall on the north end of the CMU campus.**

ments sacked and potentially burnt to the ground.

"The college may have suffered as severely, or even worse than the town," Wieggers continues. "Take as a guideline the Union treatment of Central's Brannock Hall—which they used merely as a barracks, yet they trashed. The guerrillas, had they battled into the building, might have burned it in spite, just because of the Union occupation. A destroyed Brannock might well have meant an end to Central College in 1864. At the least, it may have delayed a resumption of college activities in the near future.

"The Fayette Courthouse was defended by Union men who put up a successful defense. But if it had been seized, the destruction or demolition might have been catastrophic for Fayette. In a postwar Mid-Missouri, the county seat might have been moved to Glasgow with its river access, which would have reduced Fayette to a market town, devoid of county government."

"Considering the 'what ifs' of history," Weiggers concludes, "Central College and Fayette dodged the greatest threat to their collective history by surviving the Battle of Fayette in 1864."





## Dan Elliott Keynote Speaker at BHS Spring Meeting in March

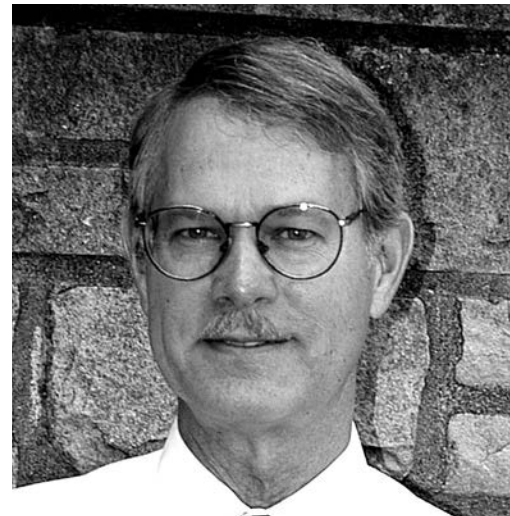
Dr. Dan Elliott, Central Methodist University science professor and museum curator, was keynote speaker at the March 23rd Boonslick Historical Society Spring meeting. Elliott, who retired in May, is currently professor *emeritus* of biology at CMU.

The title of Elliott's presentation was "The Fayette Fight," a recounting of the September 1864 Civil War skirmish known as The Battle of Fayette. The infamous "Bloody Bill" Anderson and a sizable group of guerrilla fighters aligned with the Confederacy rode into the Howard County town of Fayette and engaged in a skirmish with 50 or more federal troops housed on the grounds of then Central College (now Central Methodist University). The encounter resulted in one civilian death when the guerrillas shot a black man dressed in blue near the county courthouse, no Union dead (see footnote 1, previous page) but a handful of guerrilla force casualties. William Quantrill reportedly was with the group but did not engage in the fight, Elliott noted.

Elliott, who served as curator of the Stephens Museum at CMU, had on display during his presentation a Civil War rifled musket, ammunition and a five-shot Navy Colt Revolver that are part of the Museum's collection. Elliott had been a member of the CMU science faculty since 1974. In addition to a long career as a biology and geology teacher, he is also a passionate natural science and historical researcher. He served as vice president and then president of the Missouri Archaeological Society for 13 years (1985-1997). He received the Carl and Eleanor Chapman Award for the Outstanding Non-professional Archaeologist in the state by the Missouri Association of Professional Archaeologists Inc. in 2005. He received the Distinguished Service Award in 2011. He is also a member of the Geological Society of America and the Missouri Academy of Science.

Below are some of the interesting observations about the Fayette Fight that Elliott made at the BHS spring meeting. Elliott based his presentation on research that included a memoir by Hamp B. Watts of Fayette, who was 16 when he first rode with "Bloody Bill" Anderson and was present at the Fayette Fight. The memoir, "Babe of the Company," was published by the Fayette *Democrat-Leader Press* in 1913 when Watts was 65 years old.

- The typical uniform of Anderson's guerrillas consisted of: (1) A wide brim black felt hat with the brim "cocked" and fastened by a gold or silver crescent holding a small cross. Often the hat held a large black ostrich feather which hung over the



**Dr. Dan Elliott**

back rim of the hat. (2) A black velvet "over shirt" was unbuttoned to form a distinct "V" at the neck, with a white undershirt showing. (3) Pants were dark blue or black and the bottom of the legs were often tucked inside the top of the dark military style boots. (4) Typical arms were four Navy Colt revolvers; either five- or six-shot. Two were holstered at the saddle horn on each side and two were tucked in the wide, dark leather belt worn around the waist. (5) They rode the finest horses they could afford or steal.

- The Navy Colt revolvers were capable of firing 36- or 44-caliber metal cartridges. The Union troops were well armed with rifled muskets firing various gages of minie balls. Probably most common was the 68 caliber. The "minie ball" was not a ball, but a bullet. The cartridge was wrapped in paper with a premeasured amount of gunpowder along with the bullet. The firing mechanism was a powder-filled cap.

- In his recounting of the Fayette Fight, Watts had no kind words for Captain Anderson's decision to charge such well-fortified blockhouses armed only with revolvers—and on horseback!

After the skirmish, wounded men were put on healthy horses along with the guerrillas who did not participate in the assaults. The dead were left in Fayette, where it was reported in the local paper that their bodies were trampled by Union troops on horses for several minutes to the point of the

men broke into a run and dashed through town toward the Federal garrison at the north edge of Central College campus, one-half mile north of Court House. Coming to the court house square, the column turned west to Church street. About fifty men turned up Church street, the main body continuing west on Morrison street to Water street, turning up Water street at the corner where now stands Memmell's shop. The divided column united at the ravine just north of the present Gymnasium. A Federal picket stationed at the south corner of Swinney's Factory (where now stands Centenary Chapel), fired at the guerrillas as the rush was made up Church street, instantly killing Thad Jackman. Only one shot by the enemy had been fired previous to Jackman's killing. While passing the Court House on Morrison street, one of the guerrillas had his horse killed from a shot fired from the building by John Patton, a private of Company "A."

The row of "Block" houses, as they are called, were located on the slight ridge two hundred and fifty yards east of Science Hall. The houses had been erected by the Federal soldiers for winter quarters—not as a garrison. But in the battle about to be described they served as a sure and safe defense. Now began the wild, wanton, stupid assault on the log house, defended by fifty of the enemy. Not more than seventy-five guerrillas, out of a force of two hundred and fifty, engaged in any one of the three charges made on the stronghold. The first assault made was from the ravine across the open field. Not one of the enemy could be seen, but the muzzles of muskets protruded from every port-hole, belching fire and lead at the charging guerrillas. Horses went down as grain before the reaper—only one guerrilla, Garrett M. Groomer, of George Todd's company, was killed; Bill Akin, of Tom Todd's company, mortally wounded, Tom Maupin and Silas King, of Anderson's company, slightly wounded.

In the second assault Younger Grubbs, of Bill Anderson's company, was killed, Oliver Johnson, of Todd's company, mortally wounded, Plunk Murray, Lee McMurtry and Newman Wade, all of Anderson's company, seriously wounded. Seeing the utter futility of further attempt to dislodge the enemy, a mere feint was made

Page reprinted from battle participant Hamp B. Watts' memoir "The Babe of the Company: An Unfolded Leaf from the Forest of Never to-be-Forgotten Years." It was published in 1913 by the Fayette Democrat-Leader Press. Watts was 65 years old when he wrote it. He was 16 when he participated in the Battle of Fayette, while riding with the guerrillas.

inability of recognizing which body was which. The remaining guerrillas of Anderson and Todd joined Quantrill and his company just north of Fayette and they headed slowly toward Centralia. Those who were wounded were tended to and left behind with southern sympathizers if their wounds were too severe to ride.

- On September 27th, Anderson, Todd, and Quantrill and their companies reached Centralia. Their main objective was revenge for getting their

tails kicked in Fayette. Upon reaching Centralia, several unarmed Union soldiers were pulled from a train and shot on sight and their bodies were then mutilated. The numbers of Union soldiers killed vary from as few as five to as many as 50. Twenty-two dead is the most commonly reported number. Much of Centralia was burned to the ground and numerous other Union soldiers were killed in battle. Losses for the guerrillas were light. Evidently, there were no fortified areas in Centralia as there were in Fayette.

- One additional note about the skirmish in Fayette was recalled by Frank James; he is often quoted as saying, "The worst scared I was in the war was the Fayette Fight!" Frank and Jesse James were both in Anderson's company and participated in the three assaults.

- After the war ended, the James brothers, as well as the Younger brothers, and several others turned to the "dark side" and became public enemies by robbing banks, trains, and stage coaches. It was reported that they did this to help feed the needy and poor, but there is little evidence for the "Robin Hood" side of their gang. About 90 percent of all they did was to help themselves to all the cash they could get by killing Union sympathizers and taking their money. They each had several murders to their credit.

- In 1882, Jesse was shot in the back by his friend and fellow gang member Bob Ford for the reward money for Jesse James—"Dead or Alive!" Soon afterward, in 1882, older brother Frank James gave himself up to Governor of Missouri, Thomas Crittenden, in Jefferson City. Frank served less than two years in jail and he was pardoned by the governor to return to his home town of Kearney, with the promise that he become a law abiding citizen. Frank James kept his word, and he retired to the family farm and became a somewhat successful farmer with time. He was seen widely in the Kansas City area.

- Elliott said, "My grandmother Elliott was born in 1891 in Oak Grove, Missouri, and she recalled many years later that she met Frank James at a farm sale in Oak Grove when she was a young girl of five or six years old!" Frank died at his home in 1915 at the age of 72.

- One interesting side note is that Jesse and Frank were the sons of a Baptist minister.



# Crestmead Plantation House: Antebellum Treasure

## *Site of BHS Summer Meeting*

Crestmead, the lovingly restored antebellum home of Robert (Bob) and Ann Betteridge in Cooper County, will be the location for the summer meeting of the Boonslick Historical Society on July 15.

Located five miles south of Pilot Grove on Highway A, the structure was built between 1857 and 1859 and is a classic example of period Italianate architecture on the outside and Greek Revival inside. It features a central hall staircase that spans three stories leading to the third floor observatory; the property also contains the original living quarters built in 1837, a slave house, ice house and buggy building.

Originally known as Prairie View, located at Pleasant Green, Missouri, Crestmead is a plantation house built by John Taylor. The site of Crestmead was originally owned by James Mahan. He sold the land to John Taylor in 1857.

Members of the Betteridge family have owned Prairie View/Crestmead since 1903 when Robert Betteridge's grandfather, William Betteridge, bought the house and

legally changed the name from Prairie View to Crestmead. Crestmead – two words taken from Crest (high) and Mead (meadow). It sits on the highest location in Cooper County. Prairie View was entered into the National Register of Historic Places in 1982 because of the unique Italianate/Greek architecture and contribution to local commerce and agriculture of the region.

A devastating fire occurred at Crestmead on March 3, 2008, caused by electrical short. Much of the front part of the house was destroyed. The Betteridges lived in a trailer for more than two years while it was being restored.

The two-story house was rebuilt, along with an observatory on the third level. The house has between 6,000 and 7,000 square feet, with 14 rooms, including five bedrooms (four upstairs and one down), a downstairs parlor, dining room and kitchen, library, and a long side room to the kitchen.

The Betteridge family still raises Shorthorn (Scottish) cattle from the herd established in 1888.

**Originally known as Prairie View, located at Pleasant Green, Mo., in Cooper County, Crestmead plantation house was built by John Taylor between 1857 and 1859. The Betteridge family purchased the property in 1903 and still owns it.**



**The front view of the house (above) shows the third-floor observatory and the wide front porch with stone steps.**

**The lower photo is a side view of the house and shows the original living quarters built in 1837.**



*Photos by Don Cullimore*



## News in Brief

### Santa Fe Trail Site Dedicated in Howard County

The Missouri River Outfitters Chapter of the Santa Fe Trail Association dedicated the site of the origination of the historic Santa Fe Trail during ceremonies held April 14 on Highway 87 north of Boonville. Two new historical markers were placed at the site. Later that morning, BHS member and historian Michael (Mike) Dickey spoke at the South Howard County Museum in New Franklin where he commented on the Santa Fe Trail and the Boone's Lick Region.

Dickey noted that groups began coming from St. Charles, Missouri, in the early 1800s, traveling along what came to be known as the Boone's Lick Trail. Wagons were introduced soon thereafter to the area and heralded a change in transportation modes and the development of more roads. In 1821, William Becknell, considered the father of the Santa Fe Trail, arranged the first trip to New Mexico and began commercial trade between the United States and New Mexico, which was still under the control of the Spanish. The Trail ran from Old Franklin to Santa Fe.



**Larry Short, president of the Missouri River Outfitters Chapter of Santa Fe Trail, makes comments during the April 14 dedication of new historical plaques marking the starting point of the Trail in Howard County.**



**Attendees view new historical plaques commemorating the starting point of the Santa Fe Trail during dedication ceremonies April 14 in Howard County near Boonville and Franklin.**  
*Photos courtesy of Mike Dickey.*

### Santa Fe Trail Monument Fund-Raising Efforts Continue

Fund-raising efforts to erect a large-scale monument to commemorate the role of Old Franklin as the starting point for the Santa Fe Trail continue to gain momentum. The overall project will cost more than \$160,000, according to the latest estimates.

New Franklin is working with the South Howard County Historical Society/Outdoor Arts Group to raise the money. More than \$30,000 in private funds has been raised thus far. BHS member Marty Ferry is engaged in the fund-raising effort.

The monument is to be situated at the old Highway 5 viaduct site in New Franklin where the Katy Trail crosses the highway. The proposed monument will depict famous historical figures, including Josiah Gregg, Ezekial Williams, Kit Carson, William Becknell, George Caleb Bingham and Millie Cooper.

Donations may be directed to the South Howard County Historical Society Santa Fe Trail Monument Fund and sent c/o Joe Chitwood, P.O. Box 81, Boonville, MO 65233.



**Temporary sign marks the future site of the proposed monument commemorating the historic Santa Fe Trail. The monument will be located along the Katy Trail, which can be seen on the right side of the picture, where it crosses Highway 5 south of New Franklin. The project is being sponsored by South Howard County Historical Society/Outdoor Arts Group.**

## Missouri Preservation Recognizes Efforts to Preserve Landmarks

Efforts to preserve two Cooper County landmarks were recognized in March by the non-profit organization Missouri Preservation. In a ceremony held at the state Capitol, persons connected to the preservation efforts to restore Crestmead Plantation House and the MKT (Katy) Railroad Bridge at Boonville were honored.

Robert and Ann Betteridge were presented with the Missouri Preservation Missouri Award for the restoration of their Ante-Bellum Italianate home, Crestmead, which was ravaged by fire in March 2008. The house, located five miles south of Pilot Grove, was built between 1857 and 1859.

The Save the Katy Bridge Coalition was presented with the Missouri Preservation McReynolds Award for outstanding



**The Missouri River Bridge of the Missouri-Kansas-Texas Railroad (MKT) at Boonville was built in 1931-32. The last train crossed the bridge in 1986. It has been designated as one of the state's ten most endangered historic places. Preservationists hope to incorporate it into the Katy Trail.**



contributions to historic preservation. The coalition was honored for its six-year battle to prevent demolition of the 1932 Katy Railroad Bridge. Among those present for this ceremony was BHS member and treasurer Paula Shannon of Boonville.

Presenting the awards were State Senator Bill Stouffer and Representative Caleb Jones.

Missouri Preservation is a non-profit organization dedicated to preservation efforts throughout the state. It brings together individuals, organizations, and preservation efforts as part of a network designed to promote historic preservation efforts statewide.

**The iconic MKT Railroad caboose, painted bright green with bright yellow letters, has long been a trademark of the historic railroad. This relic of bygone years of railroading sits at the site of the old Boonville Depot.**

*Photos by Don Cullimore*

## Civil War Documents Workshop Scheduled for June 16 in Columbia

On June 16, between 9 a.m. and 11:30 a.m., the State Historical Society of Missouri (SHSMO) in Columbia is hosting a unique workshop titled "Finding the Individual and the Iconic in Civil War Documents."

*Columbia Daily Tribune* writer Rudi Keller will share information on the research and outline methods he uses to develop his popular "150 Years Ago" column appearing daily in the *Tribune*. Keller often has to compose thumbnail sketches of individuals from the Civil War period on tight deadlines. Learn about the resources he turns to time and again for accurate information in a hurry: *Goodspeed's* county histories, the SHSMO surname index, *Ancestry.com*, and other well-developed lineage directories.

Also part of the workshop, SHSMO Curator Joan Stack will share with participants how to draw important conclusions from these historical records. Stack has studied

the visual culture of the period, from patriotic envelopes to printed currency and illustrated newspapers such as *Harper's Weekly* and *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper*. Reference Specialist Amy L. Waters will show participants how to use government records, including census, military service, land, and pension, to determine the part someone's ancestors played in this national conflict. Reserve a spot by June 12 at (573) 882-7083.

\$25 nonmembers • \$15 members

The extraordinary number of salt springs found in the Boon's Lick country & the quantities of pure salt water they discharge, forms a marvel to the curious, and must at some future day, prove a source of great profit. In Saline county, in particular, they are very numerous, and form large streams of salt water. —*Boonville Western Emigrant*, July 18, 1839

## Calendar Items

**Black History Exhibit** opening - June 2, 2012. The Friends of Arrow Rock celebrates the opening of its Black History Museum. The exhibition, "Reflections of African-American Arrow Rock: 1865-1960," is housed in the Brown Lodge No. 22 Ancient Free and Accepted Masons building, Morgan and 6th Streets. It was restored by the Friends of Arrow Rock in 2001 based on oral histories, photographs, documentary research and archaeology. The exhibition will be open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. 660-837-3231.

The all-day program, free and open to the public, begins at 10 a.m. at the Arrow Rock State Historic Site Visitor Center. Speakers include Dr. Timothy E. Baumann, director of the Glenn A. Black Laboratory of Archaeology at Indiana University, who will present *Arrow Rock's African-American Community: An Archaeological Perspective of the Jim Crow Era*; Dr. Gary R. Kremer, director of the State Historical Society of Missouri, who will present *'The Black People Did the Work': African-American Life in Arrow Rock, Missouri, 1850-1950*; and Teresa Van Buren Habernal, who will present *Memories of Growing Up in Arrow Rock*. A reception will follow the presentations.

**Images of Arrow Rock: A Story Told Through Photographs** - June 03, 2012, 2 p.m. Author and Arrow Rock resident Sandy Selby shares images (and the stories behind them) from her newly released book, *Images of America: Arrow Rock*. This event is free and open to the public. Arrow Rock State Historic Site Visitors' Center, 660-837-3330.

**Boonslick Historical Society Summer Meeting**, July 15, 4 p.m., at Crestmead, the antebellum home of Robert and Ann Betteridge in Cooper County. Ann Betteridge will be presenting the history of the pre-Civil

War structure, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The home is located at 7400 Highway A (first house on the right), about one-half-mile off of highway 135, five miles south of Pilot Grove. For more information, contact BHS President Cindy Bowen at 660-273-2374.

**One-day Exhibition and Gallery Talk**, July 21, 1:30 p.m., State Historical Society of Missouri in Columbia. Join Essex Garner for an exhibition of his work illustrating the plight of Colored Infantry soldiers in the Civil War. Garner brings focus to the importance of colored soldiers' ability to read in order to support effective communication within the command structure. A retired Army and National Guard professional with more than 25 years' active service, Garner served much of that time as a military illustrator, artist, and draftsman. He will share his working methods, research into imag-

ery, how he proceeds with a picture, and what he hopes his art conveys. A reception with the artist will follow the program. 573-882-7083.

**Boone History Day**, July 21, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Ash Grove. Located on Highway 160 about 15 miles northwest of Springfield, Ash Grove is the site of the Nathan Boone Homestead State Historic Site. The event includes interpretive talks by guest speakers about Nathan Boone's life, his family, and his Ozarks home. The event is free.

(Calendar items may be submitted by email to [don.cullimore40@gmail.com](mailto:don.cullimore40@gmail.com) or mailed to Don Cullimore, 1 Lawrence Dr., Fayette, MO 65248. Please include the following information: description/name of the event, date, time and place and contact phone or email for more information.)

### Join the Boonslick Historical Society

Read about historical places, people and events of the Boonslick Region and become part of the organization that works to preserve the Region's heritage

The Boonslick Historical Society was founded in 1937 and meets several times a year to enjoy programs about historical topics pertinent to the Boonslick area. Members of the Society have worked together over the years to publish historical books and brochures and to mark historic sites. They supported the founding of Boone's Lick State Historic Site, marked the sites of Cooper's Fort and Hanna Cole's Fort and have restored a George Caleb Bingham painting on loan to The Ashby-Hodge Gallery of American Art at Central Methodist University, Fayette, Mo.

Membership dues are \$10 (individual or family) and the dues year is January through December. Receive our quarterly publication, Boone's Lick Heritage, and attend annual Society events highlighting the region's history. To become a member, send a check made out to the Boonslick Historical Society, P.O. Box 426, Boonville, MO 65233.



## Book Notes

Three BHS members have recently published works of history they authored or co-authored. All of the books are available through multiple sources, including *Amazon.com*.

*The Boys of Company K: Ohio Cavalry Soldiers in the West During the Civil War* by Lee M. Cullimore (Glendo, WY: High Plains Press, 2012). 336 pp. Illustrations. Maps. Notes. Bibliography. Index. \$18.95, paper.

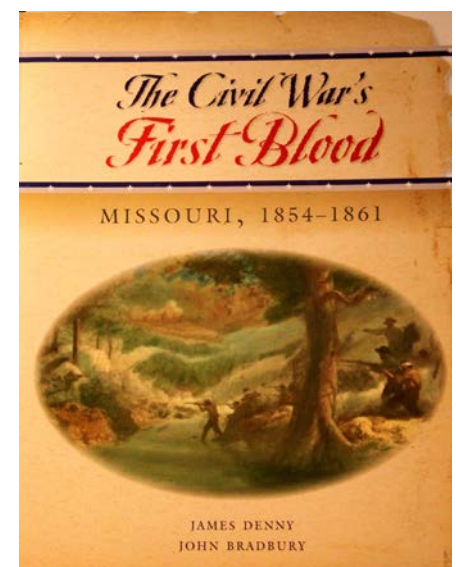
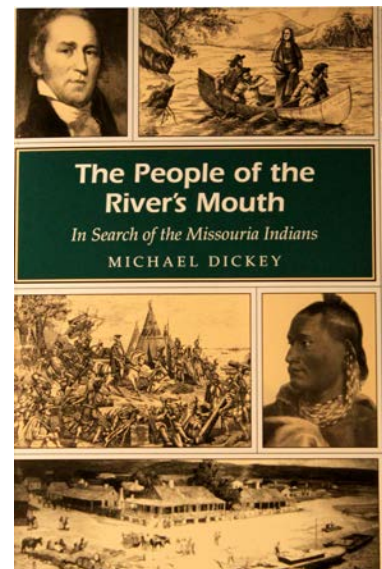
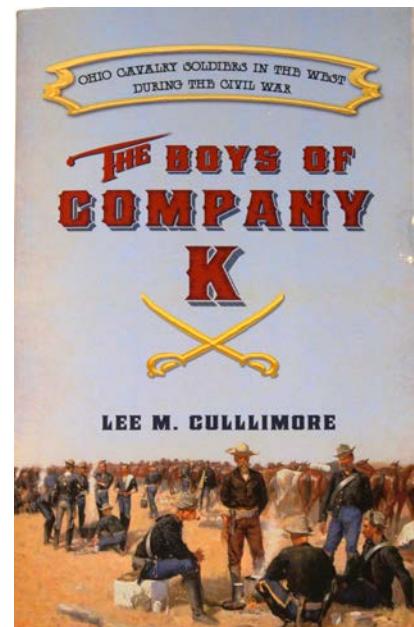
In *The Boys of Company K*, Cullimore tells the story of the many Ohio men who volunteered to enlist in the Union forces during the Civil War and were sent out to Fort Laramie, Wyoming, to replace regular troops who had been sent back east to fight. This is the story of the “boys”—privates, corporals, and sergeants—who built and manned remote outposts and guarded the trails and telegraph lines on the isolated Western Frontier. The tales are often related in the ordinary soldiers’ own words, through letters and diaries. The book provides an accurate account of the Eleventh Ohio Volunteer Cavalry, Company K, that takes the reader with the “boys” as they experience boredom, violence, extremes in weather, lack of training and supplies, and loneliness. The book has some surprises in store for the reader—events, stories, and consequences—that are both unexpected and timeless.

*The People of the River’s Mouth: In Search of the Missouri Indians* by Michael E. Dickey (Columbia, MO: University of Missouri Press, 2011). 157 pp. Illustrations. Maps. Notes. Bibliography. Index. \$19.95, paper.

The Missouri People were the first American Indians encountered by European explorers venturing up the Pekitanoui River—The waterway known as the Missouri. From rare printed sources, scattered documents, and oral tradition, Dickey has gathered information about the Missouri and their interactions with French, Spanish, and early American settlers. *The People of the River’s Mouth* recalls their many contributions to history, such as assisting in the construction of Fort Orleans in the 1720s and the trading post of St. Louis in 1764. Many European explorers and travelers documented their interactions with the Missouri, and these accounts offer insight into the everyday lives of the Indian people. Dickey examines the Missouri’s unique cultural traditions through archaeological remnants and archival resources, investigating the forces that diminished the Missouri and led to their eventual removal to Oklahoma.

*The Civil War’s First Blood: Missouri, 1854 – 1861* by James M. Denny and John F. Bradbury (Boonville, MO: Missouri Life, Inc., 2007). 138 pp. Illustrations. Maps. Notes. Bibliography. \$29.95, paper.

James Denny recently retired as an historian with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources. John Bradbury is assistant director of the State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center in Rolla, Missouri. These two experts undertook a collaborative effort to write *The Civil War’s First Blood*. As a border state, Missouri saw increasing conflict over the issues of states’ rights and slavery during the 1850s that would result in divided loyalties between the North and the South among families, friends and neighbors, resulting in confrontation and violence that would eventually erupt into open civil war. This is the story of a slave state surrounded by adjoining free states, of Governor Claiborne Fox Jackson’s advocacy of secessionism that failed to find support among a majority of Missouri’s citizenry and led to his being chased by U.S. forces directed by general Nathaniel Lyon and U.S. Representative Frank Blair—men determined to secure Missouri for the Union. This is also the story of Kansas Jayhawkers raiding Missouri towns along the length of the Kansas-Missouri border, and of Confederate forces coming up from Arkansas but failing to establish a permanent influence in favor of the Southern cause.



**Boonslick Historical Society**

P. O. Box 426

Boonville, MO 65233

