



The Western Campaigner
The Journal of the Missouri Civil War Re-enactor's Association
April – July 2026

Message from the President:

Greetings fellow reenactors,
I hope your spring went well and you are staying cool this summer. I was unable to attend the Carthage event, but I have heard that even with the weather cancellation was an excellent event.

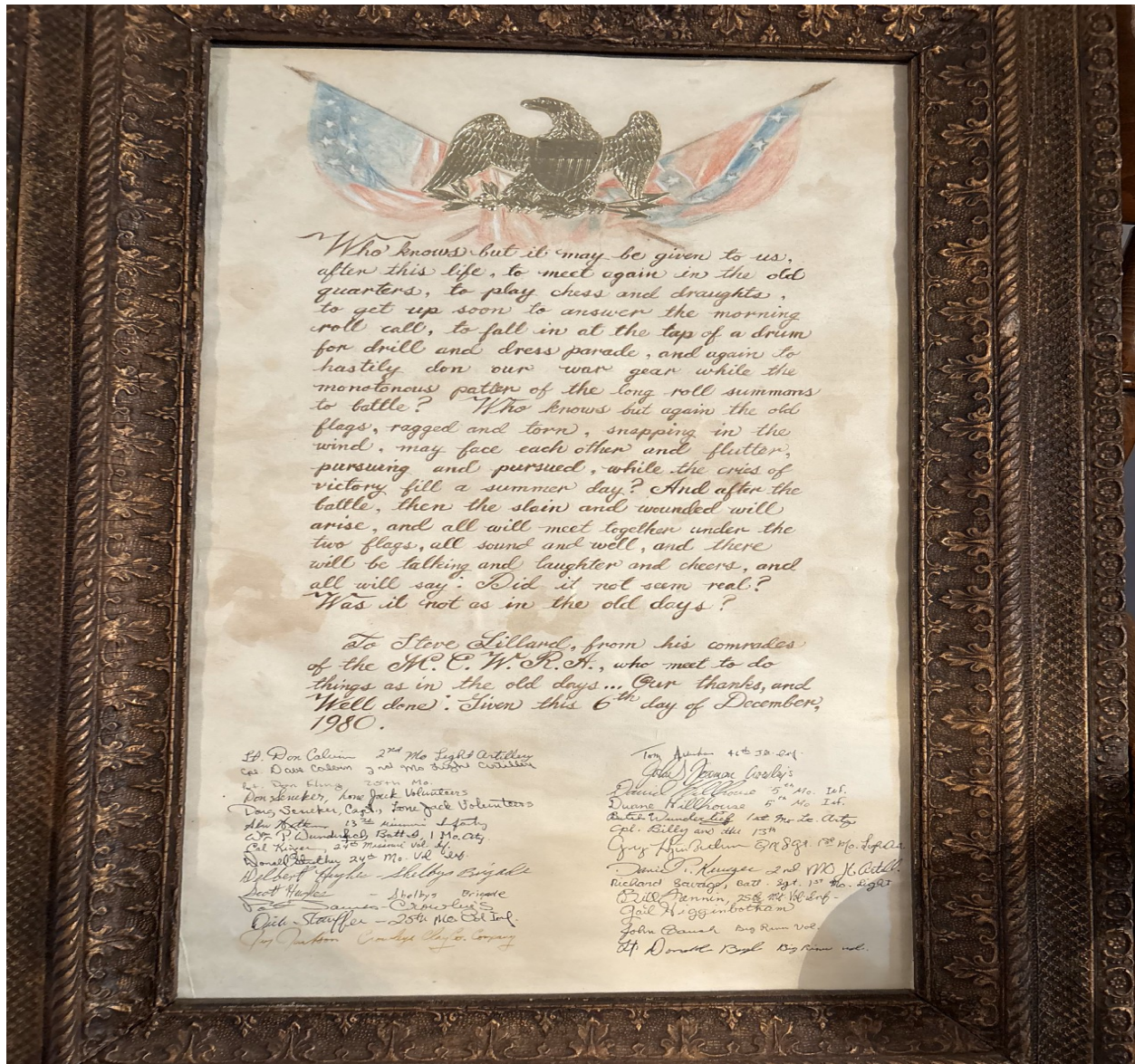
Linn Creek was a small event, but it was also a good event as well

We are looking for a place to have an MCWRA tactical event, please contact me if you have any ideas, 1-417-773-1457.

We were graciously given an heirloom from the first MCWRA President, Steve Lillard. I had an awesome 2 hour talk with Steve and we reminisced about the old days. Look close at the signatures of the members to see if you recognize any. My Cavalry Battalion Commander, Scott Hughes signature is there. This was given to the MCWRA and will be held by each President from this point on. Thank you very much, President Steve Lillard! Hope you all enjoy this piece of history.

Hope to see you on the battlefield soon,

David Plummer, President



It reads: Who knows but it may be given to us, after this life, to meet again in the old quarters, to play chess and draughts, to get up soon to answer the morning roll call, to fall in at the taps of a drum for drill and dress parade, and again to hastily don our war gear while the monotonous patter of the long roll summons to battle? Who knows but again the old flags, ragged and torn, snapping in the wind, may face each other and flutter, pursuing and pursued, while the cries of victory fill a summer day? And after the battle, then the slain and wounded will arise, and all will meet together under the two flags, all sound and well, and there will be talking and laughter and cheers, and all will say: Did it not seem real? Was it not as in the old days?

To Steve Lillard, from his comrades of the MCWRA, who meet to do things as in the old days... Our thanks, and Well done: Given this 6th day of December, 1980.

(I was going to list the names, but I am unable to read some of them, JH)



Another passing of a wonderful historian:

Our sympathy and prayers go to the family of James Dean Beckner...

James Dean Beckner: who passed away at the age of 82, passed away on May 16, 2026 at St. Luke's East Hospital. He was married to Judith Beckner, on May 30th, of 1964. They would have been married 62 years this year.

Jim loved Civil War History. He participated in many Civil War events and movies, including "Blue and Gray," "North and South Part 1 & 2," "Geronimo," and "Ride with the Devil". Jim was a founding member of the Missouri Civil War Reenactors Association and co-founder of the Missouri/Kansas Border Network. He was a member of many service organizations and Civil War Round Tables. He received many awards and recognition for educating the public about the Civil War. In 2010 Jim was presented the Missouri Humanities Award for Exemplary Community Achievement. Jim gave his time and talent to many local groups such as the Grandview Historical Society. He never turned down an opportunity to give a speech so others could learn from his love of American History.

Jim is survived by his loving wife, Judi, and their children Dott Salyer and Eric Beckner (Kendra), grandchildren Canyon Salyer, and Kamryn Anaya (Brian), two great grandchildren, sister Linda Rennison, and brother Terry Beckner (Candy).

NOMINATIONS NEEDED

- We need nominations for the following positions: President and 3 board members. We have Board Members Richard Burton and Roger Harmon, both of their terms end this year, along with the President position, held by Dave Plummer. If you know of anyone contact Jamie Horan or any board member before August 14, 2026.

Upcoming events:

Next Board Meeting: Aug.14, 2026, via phone or zoom, contact Dave Plummer if you would like to join the meeting.

September 11-13, 2026 Boonville, MO - Living History event

- Living history/Timeline at annual steam engine festival
- Details TBA
- Boonville is between Columbia & Kansas City on I-70
- We can drill, just no firing of weapons
- Jamie Horan will be the contact person: 573-508-2378

September 2026, Pittsburg, KS - Crawford County CW Days

- Living History with skirmishes at local festival
- Pittsburg is in SE Kansas on US-69

September 26, 2026 Pleasanton, KS - Battle of Mine Creek

- Living History and possible skirmish at actual 1864 battlefield - note that there is a fee for spectators
- Pleasanton is on US-69/KS-52. Event is about 3 mi. south of town on KS-52 west

October 18-19, 2026 - Brownville, NE

* Living history & skirmishes during local festival

- Brownville is a Missouri River town on US-136 west of I-29

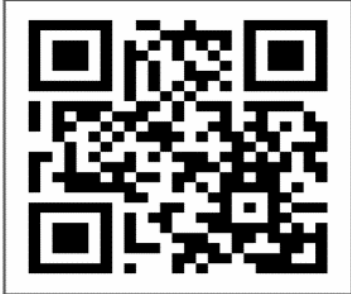
December 4-6, 2026 - Prairie Grove, AR

- Biennial reenactment of 1862 Battle of Prairie Grove on original battlefield
- Prairie Grove is west of Fayetteville on US-62

For more events: go to MCWRA.org

Click or Scan the codes below to visit our website and Facebook Page to
stay up to date on Information throughout the year!

MCWRA.Org
Website



Missouri Civil War Reenactors'
Association - MCWRA (Facebook)



You can use the first QR code to go to MCWRA.org and find the application to pay your dues.

If you would like to add something to the newsletter or any concerns, send it to
cwhistory1861@gmail.com.