

Tragedies of Missouri/Kansas Border Dispute The Civil War Relived

During the summer of 1861, the Federal Government authorized the formation of Volunteer Kansas Companies: James Lane, Charles R. "Doc" Jennison and James Montgomery were given command. Missouri was put into a difficult position, resulting in divided allegiance. To counteract attacks on Missouri, the men of Southern sympathy such as Quantrill, Anderson, Thrailkill, the Younger's and James' organized to assist the Missouri Confederates. What began as an effort to protect their families and property, turned into the most horrific event the people of Missouri ever witnessed.

Volumes have been written about the Civil War but little had been written about the important little town of Dayton Missouri, located in extreme Southern Cass County. Dayton sits on the Cass/ Bates County line, bordered by the Grand River. During the Civil War, the Dayton Crossing was one of the few places to cross the Grand River, and was the scene of many skirmishes.

The town of Dayton began in 1857 and by 1860 there were 47 businesses, homes and buildings in the thriving little town. It was a major North/South route for Confederates and Confederate recruiters as well as a major route for Jayhawkers & Union troops into Missouri. The people of the Dayton area saw more than their share of indignities during this period of history, although until recently their story went untold.

The worst of these atrocities happened on January 1, 1862 while the Missouri State Guards were recruiting at the mercantile store in Dayton. When word of the recruiting reached the Kansas leader Jennison, he immediately sent his Jayhawkers to check on the matter. With Daniel Anthony in charge, they were to make an expedition from Morristown, Missouri (near present day Freeman, MO in Cass County) to Rose Hill in Johnson County, Missouri, by way of Dayton Crossing. The Jayhawkers burned the town of Dayton and Columbus on their way to Rose Hill and then returned by way of Harrisonville. Anthony, his two hundred men and a twelve-pound howitzer came into the town of Dayton and burned forty-six houses and buildings. There was only one home left standing in the town, that home belonged to a Union man by the name of William Byler. The home is still there!

In December 2006, Cass County resident, Jackie Polsgrove-Roberts, published a book on *the Burning of Dayton, Missouri*. This book includes the history leading up to the Civil War, skirmishes during the war in the area and many first hand accounts of the outrages on the people there. For the first time in nearly 150 years, the reader becomes aware of the suffering of the people here, even before General Order Number 11 was issued !

Now, you can SEE these historic events relived through a Maximum Effort Event sanctioned by the Missouri Civil War Re-enactors Association. The re-enactment will be held March 29 - 30, 2008. Captain Joe Broski and his 10th Missouri Infantry, CSA re-enactors, will be the Hosting Unit and the Cass County Civil War Roundtable will be the Sponsoring Organization with member Jim Beckner as representative. A Committee of other interested parties and contributors will oversee the event.

Hundreds of re-enactors will take part in presenting the Civil War events of Dayton, Missouri. There will be continuous activities both days.

Skirmishes

Sutlers, craftsmen and period demonstrators

Ladies tea and fashion show

Civil War period military dance and dance lessons

1860's church service on Sunday

Food, Historical books and much more for sale

The highlight of the event will be the actual burning of a town, (constructed especially for this purpose).

Spectators are encouraged to visit the campsites of both Union and Confederate, to learn about camp life during the Civil War.

This two day event will be free and open to the public, hundreds if not thousands of spectators will see the history of the town relived. Cass County has had the honor of this reenactment bestowed upon us, now the fundraising begins. Even though the re-enactors are covering their own expenses, there are many other items needed for an event of this magnitude. This is something that will live in the memory of people for years to come. Imagine a child seeing history repeated before their very eyes. This is the history of people living on the same soil as they live on, right here at home. The reenactment of the "Burning of Dayton" is the largest Civil War event, ever to be held in Cass County, and you can make it possible with your tax-deductible donation.

The Missouri Civil War Re-enactors Association is a non profit Corporation of living historians, Cass County Civil War Roundtable is a 501(c)3 non profit organization operating under the umbrella of Cass County Historical Society. Join us today to help educate the public and preserve this bit of Missouri History. Your immediate response will be appreciated.

Contribution Form

The Burning of Dayton, Missouri Reenactment March 29 & 30, 2008

This is a Maximum Effort Event Sanctioned by The Missouri Civil War Re-enactors Association, a non-profit corporation of living historians. The event will take place in Dayton, Cass County, Missouri, ten miles south of Garden City on Hwy F.

Mail this form with payment to:

Cass County Civil War Roundtable (CCCWRT, Dayton Reenactment)

c/o Jackie Roberts

1201 East Pearl

Harrisonville, MO 64701

(Cass County Civil War Roundtable is a 501(c)3 organization operating under the umbrella of Cass Co. Historical Society)

Please Print Clearly or Type

Date _____

Contact Name _____

Company Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

Telephone (_____) _____ **Email** _____

We have several contribution levels available. Corporate Sponsors donating over \$500, please send jpeg of your company logo. Logo will appear on Event Program. Individuals and businesses donating at Bronze level or over will have their names listed in the Event Program.

Contribution Commitment

Yes, I want to support the Burning of Dayton Reenactment as a sponsor with my Tax Deductible Donation to a 501(c)3 organization at the following level:

CHECK ONE

- Platinum - Cash Donation Over \$2,000
- Gold -Cash Donation \$1,000 - \$2,000
- Silver - Cash Donation \$500 - \$1000
- .Bronze - Cash Donation \$100 - \$500 and helping out at event
- .Friend - Cash Donation under \$100 and helping out at event
- In-Kind/ Volunteer - No Cash Donation but will help out as needed

FREE Family Friendly Event, Educational and Emotional!

We are now accepting applications for a limited number of craftspeople, period demonstrations, food vendors, sutlers, historical book vendors and volunteers. (Contact us about any fee, which may apply)

For more information about this event contact the MCWRA host unit, Capt. Joe Broski 816-773-7235 or Cass Co. Civil War Roundtable representative, Jim Beckner 816-322-3736.

Questions about contributions or to purchase a copy of the book *The Burning of Dayton, Missouri*: contact Jackie Polsgrove-Roberts days 816-884-6285 or evenings 816-380-2760 Email [HYPERLINK "mailto:jacquelinercpl@yahoo.com" jacquelinercpl@yahoo.com](mailto:jacquelinercpl@yahoo.com)

Thank You for Your Support

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