



[TOP](#)

# History Alive: Siege of New Madrid Marked

MARCH 17TH 2012 BY UNKNOWN

History Alive: Siege of New Madrid Marked

*By Annabeth Miller,  
ShowMe Times Editor*

**NEW MADRID** - In the early part of 1862, the Union General John Pope was one the move.

The West Point graduate and career Army officer had been summoned on Feb. 14 and given orders to capture a small town and river island in Southeast Missouri. So Pope and his troops headed south from St. Louis, reaching Commerce by Feb, 21. But their ultimate destination wasn't Commerce – but New Madrid and Island No. 10.

On March 10, Pope began a siege on the Bootheel community that would last until the Confederates surrendered on April 8. Pope and his officers occupied for his headquarters what was certainly one of the most elegant homes in New Madrid and the Bootheel – the home of Amanda Hunter and her seven children.

The city was once again “invaded” by Union troops, to mark the 150th anniversary of the siege. Re-enactors portrayed Company C of the 47th Illinois Infantry, who served as Pope's escort company. The re-enactment event was held March 10-11.

After a hearty breakfast on Saturday morning, most of the troops were on a march around New Madrid – looking for Confederates. And almost-empty camp was left behind – with morning fires left banked to take the edge off the morning chill.

Left behind was one private – who said he was the “oldest, fattest private in the Union Army.” But he was chatty, and helped explain the encampment – and the equipment carried everyday by enlisted men.

“It got cold out here last night – I didn’t sleep real good. But one of the men did say he heard me snore,” he explained.

#### **Taste Of History**

Steve and Becky LaBarre were busy throughout the morning. Having prepared a hearty breakfast for the 35 or so soldiers that morning, they turned right around and began preparation for the noon meal. Actually, LaBarre said there would be two noon meals to prepare.

“We prepare one meal for the enlisted men, and something else for the officers,” he explained while turning beefsteak in cast iron skillets over the wood fire. That day he was preparing a beef stew for the enlisted men, and steak with root vegetables for the officers.

“The root vegetables would have come out of cellars here,” he explained. The troops would have procured what was needed – vegetables, seasonings, a cow that would have been butchered – from the local residents. Steel pots hung over the low burning fire with the stew and the vegetables for the officer’s meal. Coffee pot sat to the side of the fire.

Becky showed her kitchen and explained the recipes they used throughout the weekend were from the 1860s. She had a big wooden bowl, filled with thick slices of fresh baked bread. Pickles were in blue canning jars, spices in pots and containers.

For instance, the beefsteak Steve was preparing had been rubbed in a dry mustard and fried in the cast iron skillets; a gravy was made using the drippings and coffee, and a garnish was made from English walnuts marinated in sweet pickle juice. All of this was served surrounded by potatoes, parsnips, onions and carrots.

Enlisted men ate from the mess kits; officers had the fine bone china that would have been taken from the Hunter-Dawson home.

Throughout the day the re-enactors drilled and had inspections, and even arrested a few local Confederate sympathizers.

#### **Hunter-Dawson Home**

Next door, tours were given of the Hunter-Dawson home. The home was built by William and Amanda Hunter, a Virginian who moved to the area in 1830, became a successful businessman and acquired a large section of land north of the town.

The Hunter-Dawson house is a two-story, 15-room frame structure of an eclectic style with Georgian, Greek Revival and Italianate influences. The lumber used in the house is yellow cypress, which s came from a nearby sawmill owned by Hunter. The labor during construction was furnished by Hunter's own slaves and by area craftsmen.

The home has a basement, and family tradition says that some local Confederate soldiers, injured in skirmishes before Pope occupied the home, hid in the basement. Local ladies slipped the men food and medical supplies by hiding them under their skirts. The ladies would stroll the grounds, stand at the basement windows, and the men would reach under the full skirts for the needed supplies!

William never lived in the home; he died from yellow fever in 1859. Portraits of William and Amanda hang in the parlor.

Amanda and William's descendants gave the home and the furnishings for a state historic site in 1966. The home is grand – with 15 rooms, nine fireplaces, and furnishings.

*In observance of the 150th anniversary of the War Between The States, this report is part of periodic series on Civil War sites in our region.*

#### **Sites Of Interest**

- [Hunter-Dawson State Historic Site](#)
- [City of New Madrid](#)

---

#### **ShowMe Times Photo Gallery**

*ShowMe Times Photos by Annabeth Miller*

LAST UPDATED ON MARCH 17TH 2012 BY UNKNOWN

<https://showmetimes.com/Blogpost/um98/History-Alive-Siege-of-New-Madrid-Marked>

[Go to post](#)



More from ShowMe Times:

[TOP](#)

## St. Patrick's Meal TODAY In Dexter

MARCH 15TH 2012 BY UNKNOWN

St. Patrick's Meal TODAY In Dexter

*It's time to celebrate St. Patrick's Day, and for 15 years in Dexter that has meant the St. Patrick's Day Corned Beef & Cabbage Feed. The community "feed" is today, Thursday, March 15 and will begin at 11 a.m. at the Sacred Heart Parish Center. Getting ready this morning were volunteers (from left) Virginia Young, Pat Miller, Jace Flanagan and Loretta Reid. Jace is the grandson of Loretta and Larry Reid and the son of former Dexter resident Amy Reid Flanagan and Steve Flanagan. He is in Dexter visiting his grandparents and decided to volunteer today at the community meal. The meal includes wonderful Irish corned beef and cabbage, parsleyed potatoes, cornbread, homemade dessert and drink. The meal will be served from 11 a.m. until 7 p.m. and is \$7 per person ('wee ones' younger than age 6 are free); carry outs are available. 'Good St. Patrick' would be proud that the meal is sponsored by 11 county churches - Broadwater Church of the Brethren, Dexter Evangelical Free Church, Faith Luthern, First Christian Church DOC, Bernie Christian Church, First United Methodist Church, Sacred Heart Catholic, Sadler's Chapel United Methodist, St. Joe General Baptist, Risen Church and The Lighthouse Christian Center. All the proceeds will be donated to Stoddard County Gospel Mission, Stoddard County Children's Home, Meals on Wheels and Stoddard County ARC. (ShowMe Times photo by Annabeth Miller)*

LAST UPDATED ON MARCH 15TH 2012 BY UNKNOWN

[Go to post](#)



## More from ShowMe Times:

[TOP](#)

# DMS Volleyball: Good Athletes & Good Citizens

MARCH 14TH 2012 BY UNKNOWN

[DMS Volleyball: Good Athletes & Good Citizens](#)

*By Annabeth Miller,  
ShowMe Times Editor*

They played some terrific volleyball on the court, and off the court the young ladies of the volleyball teams at T.S. Hill Middle School were pretty terrific, too!

The seventh and eighth grade teams at the school held a scrimmage Tuesday evening. But not only did the young athletes have services, spikes and set-ups on their minds, but also about helping others.

As part of the evening, fans were encouraged to bring at least one non-perishable food item to be donated to the Stoddard County Rescue Mission. As fans entered the school, Principal Scott Kruse's pickup truck was parked near the front door for fans to place their donations.

And the teams' fans showed their support – not only in attending the scrimmage but in helping collected food for the mission. All-in-all, the effort was a success.

As they climb up on top of the canned goods in Kruse's truck Tuesday evening, the young ladies were enthused by the result of the evening's food drive. They proudly showed off the cans collected.

The teams are led by Head Coach Melissa Hahn and assistant Kara Lummukka.

“We had three cart LOADS delivered today to the Mission! Great time,” Kruse said Wednesday morning.

A great accomplishment – helping meet a real need right now in the community! Thanks, Middle School Lady Bearcats!

---

*The Lady Bearcats are set to open their season Thursday (March 15) night against the Sikeston Lady Bulldogs; the eighth grade squad posted a lopsided victory over Sikeston during their seventh grade year. The season opener is scheduled for seventh grade action at 6 p.m., with the eighth grade squad immediately following.*

### More Information

- [DMS Volleyball Has Preseason Scrimmage](#)

LAST UPDATED ON MARCH 14TH 2012 BY UNKNOWN

<https://showmetimes.com/Blogpost/um8f/DMS-Volleyball-Good-Athletes--Good-Citizens>

[Go to post](#)



More from ShowMe Times:

[TOP](#)

# Chamber Helps Girl Scouts Celebrate

---

MARCH 14TH 2012 BY UNKNOWN

## Chamber Helps Girl Scouts Celebrate

*Dexter Chamber members gathered on the local Girl Scouts of Missouri Heartland office Tuesday evening to help the organization celebrate Girl Scout Week - and to sample those famous Girl Scout cookies as well as treats created with confections. Among those on hand at the Chamber After Hours were Amy Ellinghouse of Missouri Southern Healthcare, Keller Public Library Director Pam Trammell, and Chamber Director Mendy Christian. The staff at GSMH prepared a number of special treats made with cookies, including Thin Mint cookie balls, which were a real hit! (SMT photo by Annabeth Miller)*

LAST UPDATED ON MARCH 14TH 2012 BY UNKNOWN

<https://showmetimes.com/Blogpost/um87/Chamber-Helps-Girl-Scouts-Celebrate>

[Go to post](#)



More from ShowMe Times:

[TOP](#)

## 'Unforgettable Memories' Featured At Fashion Show

---

## 'Unforgettable Memories' Featured At Fashion Show

By Annabeth Miller,  
ShowMe Times

It was an unforgettable evening journey down Memory Lane Monday, as the 12th Annual Friends of the Library Fashion Show was held in Dexter.

The theme this year was “Unforgettable Memories” – with the spotlight shining on Girl Scouting in the region in the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the national Girl Scout program.

A full house made its way into the Elks Lodge on Two Mile Road for the evening, sponsored by Keller Public Library’s Friends of the Library organization. The Elks Lodge kitchen crew prepared the evening’s meal –including smoked pork loin, vegetables and dessert.

Mistress of ceremonies for the evening was Library Director Pam Trammell, and the first models of the evening were cousin’s Mattie Glaus and Marie Fees, modeling vintage Brownie Girl Scout uniforms. Marie’s uniform was from 1963, and included the pocket on the left front of the dress (“There’s something in my pocket, it belongs across my face ...”) and Mattie’s dress was from the 1980s and actually belonged to her mom, Kara Morrow Glaus.

Following a trip down Memory Lane with the Girl Scouts, fashions for the evening ranged from swim wear and casual wear for youngsters to formal wear for the high school student preparing for the spring prom. Fashions featured in the evening were from The Bunny Patch, Wal-Mart, and Designs on You.

The other special trip from the past for the evening was a grouping of vintage wedding gowns. Gowns modeled included those belonging to Yvonne Hall, Kim Teets Williams, Diane Lay Robinson, Sheila Hubbard LeGrand, and Marilyn Morgan Agey.

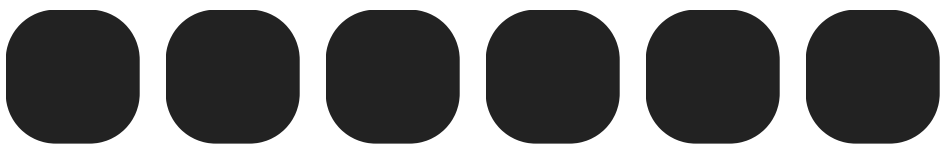
***Photo Above: Girl Scout Michaela Gard of Dexter models a Cadette Girl Scout uniform from the 1970s, complete with sash and official pins. Michaela and other Girl Scouts modeled uniforms from the past during the Friends of the Library Fashion Show on Monday. (ShowMe Times photo by Annabeth Miller)***



LAST UPDATED ON MARCH 13TH 2012 BY UNKNOWN

<https://showmetimes.com/Blogpost/um7v/Unforgettable-Memories-Featured-At-Fashion-Show>

[Go to post](#)



More from ShowMe Times:



SUBSCRIBE TO "COMMUNITY"

**ShowMe Gold Sponsors**