



April 2017

## The Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri

### 2017 Officers

President ----- Mike Calvert  
1<sup>st</sup> V.P. ----- Pat Gradwohl  
2<sup>nd</sup> V.P. ----- Terry Chronister  
Secretary ----- Karen Wells  
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### Board Members

Paul Bond Charles Childs  
Michael Clay Perry Johnson  
Melanie Johnson John Moloski  
Barb Wormington Denis Wormington

### The Border Star Editor

Dennis Myers ~ (816) 769-6490

### Meetings

2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month  
7:00 p.m. ~ Fellowship Hall  
Village Heights Community of Christ  
Church  
1009 Farview Drive  
Independence, Missouri

### Visitors Always Welcome!

#### Annual Dues

Individual ----- 25.00  
Family ----- 35.00  
Student (under 21) ----- 5.00  
Newsletter Only (no meetings) 12.00

#### For Information

Mike Calvert ----- (816) 898-2603  
Beverly Shaw ----- (816) 225-7944  
Pat Gradwohl ----- (816) 781-8871  
Karen Wells ----- (816) 429-5165

#### Mailing Address

CWRTWM, P.O. Box 3019  
Independence, MO 64055

#### Website

[www.CWRTWM.org](http://www.CWRTWM.org)

# ★ The Border Star ★

Official Publication of the Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri  
"Studying the Border War and Beyond"

### President's Letter

Sometime ago, in this venue, I wrote about the sights and sounds of the Civil War that I would like to hear or see. Building on this theme I have a new sound I would find intriguing to hear. I think. I was watching a television program when two of the characters began talking about their experiences in the trenches during World War I. One character made a statement to the effect: "It was the flies. It was the sound of millions of flies that I will always remember." That got me to thinking, what does a million flies sound like?

Sitting in the trenches of Vicksburg in June of 1863 when the heat was unbearable, you are in that great time of boredom wrapping around seconds of terror, and you hear a sound rising up from the no man's land between you and the enemy. It's not the cry of the wounded or the report of a sharpshooter's musket. It's not the sound of the sappers creating another trench nor is it the muffled sound of the miners digging towards the Confederate line.

It's the sound of millions of flies after they have taken flight. It's the sound you hear day or night. The only time you might not hear the sound is when it rains and it hasn't rained in weeks. You don't have to look over the top of your trench to see; the sound is all you need to remember what lies to your front. Your only wish is to not become another reason for the buzzing sound of millions of flies.

History is minutiae. The small things that events and memories turn on. A spoken word, a small gesture, a seemingly insignificant event or a sound. They all form the history we study and the history we create.

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

## CWRTWM Calendar

### April 2017 Membership Meeting

Wednesday, April 12, 2017 – 7:00 p.m.

Fellowship Hall, Village Heights Community of Christ Church, 1009 Farview Drive, Independence, MO. Robert Walz: “Railroad Generalship: Foundations of Civil War Strategy.” Open to the public. Program of interest to Civil War and train enthusiasts.

Robert Walz is not only a train enthusiast (especially the Santa Fe) but also a teacher of strategy at the Army’s Command and General Staff College at Leavenworth, KS.

### April 2017 Board Meeting

Wednesday, April 12, 2017 – 8:15 p.m.  
immediately following the speaker and refreshments.

### Fieldtrip to the Arabia Steamboat

Sunday, April 23, 2017—Meet at Union Station, 30 W. Pershing Road, Kansas City, MO at 1:30 p.m. if you want to ride the free streetcar to the City Market. You can park at the West Yards Parking Garage on the west side of Union Station which is also available via Broadway. Parking up to four hours is \$5 (cash, coins, Visa, MasterCard, and Discover). We will ride north to 3<sup>rd</sup> and Grand. If you would rather meet us at the *Arabia* museum about 2:00 p.m., it is located at 400 Grand Blvd. in the River Market area north of Downtown Kansas City, MO. Last tour at 3:30 p.m.

In addition to the usual *Arabia* artifacts that were recovered from the sunken steamboat near Parkville, there is a traveling exhibit called “Journey of Imagination and Exploration of America’s Waterways in RiverWorks Discovery.” The exhibit is included with the usual admission price which is \$14.50 (\$13.50 for Senior Citizen). Everyone can pay his own admission price when he arrives.

## Other History Events

### Park Day at Lone Jack and Battle of Lexington

Saturday, April 1, 2017—Lone Jack: 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (lunch provided). Battle of Lexington State Historic Site: 9:00 a.m. - Noon. Bring your

own tools and supplies for cleaning and landscaping. Lone Jack: 301 S. Bynum, Lone Jack, MO, Lexington: 1101 Delaware Street, Lexington, MO.

### First Saturday Lecture at Arrow Rock

Saturday, April 1, 2017—10:00 a.m. Arrow Rock State Historic Site, 39521 Visitor Center Drive, Arrow Rock, MO. Dana Ripper and Ethan Duke of the Missouri River Bird Observatory: “Aldo Leopold—Whither Missouri and Revisiting His Famously Penned Land Ethic.” Aldo Leopold was a conservationist, forester, educator and writer whose “land ethic” called for an ethical, caring relationship between people and nature. He is the father of “wildlife ecology.” Free lecture.

### Westport Historical Society Speaker Series

Saturday, April 1, 2017—2:00 p.m. Westport Library, 118 Westport Road, Kansas City, MO. John Forbes: “The History of the Shawnee Indian Mission.”

### Cemetery Art

Tuesday, April 4, 2017—7:00 p.m. Midwest Genealogy Center, 3440 W. Lee’s Summit Road, Independence, MO. The background of cemetery icons and their meanings including an overview of craftsmanship, materials used, and geographic resources. RSVP to (816) 252-7228.

### **Directions to Meeting Place; Village Heights Community of Christ Church**

The address is 1009 Farview Drive in northeast Independence, Missouri. Take Highway 291 north to Highway 24. Turn east about .8 of a mile to Farview which is across the street from the Hardee’s in Susquehanna Shopping Center. Turn north and you will find the church at the intersection of Farview and Swope Drive. The parking lot is on the east side of the church, and we enter from the east side to the fellowship room. If you are unsure if weather and road conditions will prevent a meeting, you can call Beverly Shaw on her cell phone: (816) 225-7944.

#### Afternoon Tea at the Anderson House

Saturday, April 8, 2017—2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Battle of Lexington State Historic Site, 1101 Delaware Street, Lexington, MO. An elegant tea served by ladies in period dress while enjoying music by Pat Berry and Dave Bohling. Formal dress is encouraged. Free and open to the public. Call (660) 259-4654 for reservations.

#### Underground Railroad: The who, what, and where

Monday, April 10, 2017—6:30 p.m. Woodneath Library Center, 8900 NE Flintlock Road, Kansas City, MO. Brother John Anderson will share secret codes, symbols, agents, and songs of the Underground Railroad. RSVP to (816) 883-4900.

#### Cass County Civil War Round Table

Tuesday, April 11, 2017—7:00 p.m. Pearson Hall, Cass County Library, 400 E. Mechanic, Harrisonville, MO. Jackie Roberts: "Union Forces and Union Supporters in Cass County during the Civil War."

#### Kansas City Posse of the Westerners

Tuesday, April 11, 2017—6:00 p.m. Buffet Menu (about \$12) Golden Corral, 8800 N. W. Skyview Ave., Kansas City, MO (near Home Depot). J. D. Bittel: Cowboy Action Shooting."

#### How Jackson County's History Relates to American History.

Wednesday, April 12, 2017—7:00 p.m. South Independence Library, 13700 E. 35<sup>th</sup> Street, Independence, MO. David Jackson: Jackson County History during 200 years from the Trails to Harry Truman. RSVP to (816) 461-2050.

#### Mid-Missouri Civil War Round Table

Monday, April 17, 2017—7:00 p.m. Boone County Historical Society Museum, 3801 Ponderosa Drive, Columbia, MO. Andy Papan: CSA General Patrick Cleburne and the Freeing of Slaves for Army Service.

#### Women Soldiers of the Civil War

Wednesday, April 19, 2017—1:00 p.m. Gardner, KS Library, 137 E. Shawnee Street, Gardner, KS. Diane Eickhoff: Hundreds of women cut their hair and donned men's clothing to report for duty to Union and Confederate Army recruiters.

Others served as scouts and spies or rode with their husbands and brothers in service.

#### Independence Civil War Study Group

Wednesday, April 19, 2017—7:00 p.m. Perkins Restaurant, 3939 S. Bolger Drive, Independence, MO (across from Walmart). Keith Nelson: The Crowley family of Clay County – "Always on the Frontier."

#### Third Thursday at the Clay County Museum

Thursday, April 20, 2017—7:00 p.m. Clay County Museum, 14 North Main Street, Liberty, MO. Riley Sutherland: "Alexander Doniphan." As her Girl Scout project, Riley researched Alexander Doniphan and created a multi-media presentation which she will exhibit and explain to the group.

#### Friends of the Missouri State Archives

Thursday, April 20, 2017—7:00 p.m. James C. Kirkpatrick State Information Center, 600 W. Main Street, Jefferson City, MO. Marc Kollbaum: The Boat-burners and the Secret War for Missouri.

#### Civil War Days in Doniphan, MO

Friday and Saturday, April 21-22, 2017. Doniphan, MO in SE Missouri at US-160 and MO-21. Living History and skirmish. For more information, visit;

[www.doniphanmissouri.org/civil\\_war\\_days](http://www.doniphanmissouri.org/civil_war_days)

#### Civil War Encampment at Fort Scott, KS

Saturday and Sunday, April 22-23, 2017. 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Fort Scott National Historic Site, 1 Old Fort Scott Blvd., Fort Scott, KS. Because of its strategic location, Fort Scott became a major base of Union operations during the Civil War. Karen Wells' sons will be participating in this encampment.

#### Civil War Round Table of Kansas City

Tuesday, April 25, 2017—6:30 p.m. – Dinner. (\$25). Holiday Inn and Suites, 8787 Reeder Road, Overland Park, KS. Sunset Ballroom, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor. Lane Smith: First person presentation of Gen. Robert E. Lee. Dinner reservations must be made by Thursday noon, April 20, by calling Susan Keipp at (816) 333-0025.

### Postcards of Kansas City, 1835-1935

Wednesday, April 26, 2017—7:00 p.m. Shawnee Town Hall, 11600 Johnson Drive, Shawnee, KS. Annette Thomas with the Historic Kansas City Foundation will give a visual tour of Kansas City using postcards from 1835 to 1935. Free and open to the public.

### George Caleb Bingham, the Missouri Artist

Saturday, April 29, 2017—2:00 p.m. on. A special day of Bingham events in Independence, MO as a benefit for the Jackson County Historical Society. Starts at 2:00 p.m. at the Pharaoh Theatre, 114 W. Maple Ave., Independence, MO, with a screening of “The American Artist: The Life and Times of George Caleb Bingham.” There will be an opportunity to meet the filmmakers from Wide Awake Films and ask them questions. (\$20).

If you wish to see the movie and then visit the Jackson County Art Gallery in the Historic Truman Courthouse at 3:45 p.m. to see some original Bingham paintings as a guided tour with Joan Stack of the State Historical Society of Missouri, the Ticket is \$30.

To further expand your Bingham day, you can go to the movie, tour the Art Gallery, and then move on to a reception at the Bingham-Waggoner Estate at 4:30 p.m. to see where Bingham lived and painted. Enjoy local beer, snacks, and wine. There will also be a performance by the Mangel Brothers Duo whose music is included in the movie. It is original music inspired by viewing Bingham paintings. Ticket is \$50.

To round out your day you can have dinner at 6:00 p.m. at either Ophelia’s Restaurant or Café Verona for a total of \$75 for the movie, art gallery tour, reception at the Bingham-Waggoner and dinner.

To order tickets go to;

[www.eventbrite.com/e/bingham-the-missouri-artist-art-music-film-tickets-317770532518](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/bingham-the-missouri-artist-art-music-film-tickets-317770532518)

### Bingo/Trivia Fundraiser for Clay County Museum

Saturday, April 29, 2017—6:30 p.m. (Doors open at 6:00 p.m.) Glenaire Clubhouse, 309 Smiley, Glenaire, MO (Liberty). Alternate bingo games with

trivia questions to try your luck and test your knowledge to win prizes. There will be door prizes, refreshments, and other games with cash prizes, a silent auction and raffle for a signed photograph of Harry Truman.

Tickets are \$10 in advance at the Clay County Museum or \$12 at the door. Limited seating so please make a reservation by calling (816) 792-2854 or visiting the museum, 14 N. Main Street, Liberty, MO. Mon-Fri 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. or Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

### Hunting Freedom: Many Paths to Emancipation

Exhibit April-June, 2017 at the Alexander Majors Home, 8201 State Line Road, Kansas City, MO. Open during normal tour hours and is included with the house admission. A self-guided tour of the exhibit only is \$5.

The Kansas-Missouri border provides a unique view into the process of emancipation. The presence of the Union army, the proximity of free states, the division of white society, and the mobility and knowledge of enslaved people living in small-scale slavery allowed enslaved Missourians to gain freedom earlier and in greater numbers than many other states.

## **News About Members and Friends**

We were very sad to read of the death of several Civil War friends in the last two months. Our condolences go to the Mid-Missouri Civil War Round Table in Columbia, MO for the death of **Meg Poche** on January 17<sup>th</sup>. She was the wife of Dave Poche who shares his knowledge of researching Civil War sites through archaeology.

Our good friend and guide for our trip to Osceola, MO., **Richard Sunderwirth**, passed away on March 2<sup>nd</sup>. He and his wife formerly owned the Osceola Cheese Company and Richard’s Funtime Tours. He was the researcher and author of *The Burning of Osceola*.

There was a wonderful tribute to **Joe Mattox** in the Kansas City *Star* for his unselfish dedication to telling the story of African-American soldiers (both Union and Confederate) during the Civil War. Joe

died unexpectedly last weekend at his home. He volunteered at the Battle of Westport Museum and made everyone feel welcome at his programs.

You will be glad to know that **Amazon Smile** has remitted \$7.53 to the Round Table as a result of orders placed by members using this philanthropic arm of Amazon.

The **American Battlefield Protection Program** at the Department of the Interior will have a new address starting April 8, 2017. It's American Battlefield Protection Program, Dept. of the Interior-Main Interior Building, 1849 C Street NW (2287) Room 7225E, Washington, DC 20240. The National Park Service Centennial Act (H.R. 4680) was passed on December 10, 2016 and signed into law December 16, 2016. It extends authorization of the Historic Preservation Fund to 2023 and creates the National Park Centennial Challenge Fund to address some of the \$12 billion of deferred maintenance at National Park properties including some of the nation's battlefields.

The enormous panoramic painting depicting the **Civil War Battle of Atlanta** was recently relocated to a modern exhibit hall (The Atlanta History Center). This 6 ton Cyclorama was created in the 1880's and this 15,000-square foot painting is one of only two panoramas on display in the nation. The other is in Gettysburg, PA.

**Jim and Judi Beckner** are going to be scaling back their extensive volunteer activities soon, but first Jim is going to coordinate the annual Confederate Memorial Day activities at Higginsville, MO on Saturday, June 3, 2017 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the State Memorial Park. Jim has already met with the new director, Chris Fritsche, to tell him about this 20-year-old event.

You can now find the **Blue & Grey Book Shoppe** on the Independence Square in The Emporium building on Main Street and Maple Ave. Our friend, **Ted Stillwell**, is also showing his artwork there and says that traffic has picked up quite a bit.

In one of those odd confluences of events, *Ripley's Believe It or Not!* says that **Abraham Lincoln's son Robert** was once saved from a railroad accident by **John Wilkes Booth's brother, Edwin**.

The Round Table recently received an invitation to attend a **CWRT Congress** on September 16, 2017, being hosted by the Bull Run CWRT in Centreville, VA. This is the result of the loss of some 64 Civil War Round Tables in the last two years. These closures were the result of insufficient membership, a lack of sustaining organizational structure, no succession planning, and insufficient funding. The Round Tables in the Kansas City area might consider sponsoring such a congress sometime in the future.

The folks at **Civil War Seminars** have kindly created a website which hosts a Round Table Directory on which we are listed. If you are interested in finding out where other Round Tables are located, you can go to website at; [www.civilwarseminars.org/?page\\_id=346](http://www.civilwarseminars.org/?page_id=346).

While preparing for the "John Brown" program in March, we contacted some former members we have not seen for a while. We are glad to report that **Richard and Linda Cawby** have now completed work on their historic house in Lee's Summit and hope to come to a future meeting. Also Del and Karen Coin are still in Lee's Summit and wish us all the best and remember fondly the trips they took with us.

Our former members, **Chris and Faye Cooper**, are enjoying Arizona but would be glad to see old friends who might want to stop by. They have a big back yard where someone could park an RV for a visit to the Kingman area. Chris says there are some Civil War military camps, forts and town sites in Arizona and New Mexico. Chris' E-mail is [cooperhill1856@att.net](mailto:cooperhill1856@att.net). His cell is (816) 672-9826.

The **Independence Pioneers Chapter of the DAR** recently honored the **children of the Missouri Irish Brigade** for portraying the roles of young people of the Civil War era, interacting with the viewing public, demonstrating daily skills, and teaching games of the period. Our friend Anne Mallinson who chairs the education committee presented the certificates of appreciation.

**Beverly Shaw** would like to invite any interested Round Table members (men or women) to join her and the "usual suspects" who have volunteered together at the **Symphony Designers' Showhouse**



for many, many years. Sonny Wells was one of our most enthusiastic guides and became an instant expert on the history of the house. The house in 2017 is located at 816 Gleed Terrace in the Hyde Park Neighborhood in Kansas City, MO. It goes for just a block and is north of 39<sup>th</sup> Street and east of Gillham Road where you find the Eagle Scout Fountain. The date is Thursday, May 4 from 4:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. You are asked to wear black trousers or skirt and a white top to make us easier to spot. You can arrive before 4:00 p.m. for a free tour of the entire house which was built in 1908 of limestone likely quarried nearby.

Beverly researches the “House History” and would be glad to send you a copy. The interior will be beautifully decorated by area designers. Call Beverly at (816) 225-7944 if you need a ride.

Former history writer for the *Kansas City Star* and speaker at our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, **Darryl Levings**, recently wrote an article about Kansas City’s first park which is located at West 16<sup>th</sup> Street and Bellevue Avenue near downtown. It’s dedicated to fur trader **Andrew Drips and his wife Mary of the Otoe tribe**. He was a contemporary of Jim Bridger but is not as well known. His daughter **Catherine** later hooked up with **William Mulkey**, a canny Indian trader/saloon owner/gambler/speculator/and race horse breeder, and they donated the little patch of land in 1882, but it was not named for Andrew Drips until 1951.

One result of the spring tornado in Oak Grove, MO was tree damage and debris in the 179-year-old **George Family Cemetery** which holds many Civil War burials. **John George** of Lee’s Summit wrote a letter to the editor of the *Kansas City Star* on March 14, 2017 to thank the volunteers who cut the wood into logs, straightened the fence, and placed the metal debris in the corner of the cemetery. He ends by saying “our family goes back many years in Oak Grove, and we know that this city cares about its community.” We remember the time the George family visited our Round Table meeting and brought remembrances of their family history including a beautiful quilt.

**Donald Gilmore**, Civil War author and contributor to information that we publish about the Civil War, has told us that he is selling a Battle of New Market

Cross of Honor at a consignment auction in June in the Arms and Armor section of Heritage Auctions. He and his wife purchased the medal at an estate sale in Overland Park, KS several years ago.

Dave Helling of the *Kansas City Star* wrote an opinion piece on March 16, 2017 called “Local Museums Must Work Together to Succeed.” It was in response to the announcement that the Kansas City Museum on Gladstone Boulevard is attempting to raise funds to work on the interior of the R. A. Long mansion. He once proposed a regional museum authority with a volunteer board of directors which could coordinate fundraising and marketing. It sounds to me a lot like what Freedom’s Frontier already does; maybe it just needs to be taken to the next level. It could be such a small thing as helping organizations find meeting places.

It’s spring and that means the beginning of Tourism Season in Independence, MO. As usual the Tourism Department needs the help of volunteers. “We are looking for a few good men and women,” said Gary Sheridan of the Tourism Department. He needs people for cashiers and guides at historic sites such as the Vaile Mansion, the Bingham-Waggoner Estate, and the Chicago and Alton Depot. Contact Gary at (816) 325-7890 or send him an E-mail at [rsheridan@indepmo.org](mailto:rsheridan@indepmo.org).

Another Independence historical site, the **1859 Jail and Marshal’s Home** on Main Street and Truman Road, draws about 8,000 visitors a year, including class after class of first graders getting a feel for frontier life in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Now the **Jackson County Historical Society** is planning renovations to give it a higher profile and reduce the cost of utilities by working on windows and doors, masonry and holes in the roof. Our member **Charles Bianco** volunteers at the Old Jail and learned of our group through reading some of their books.

A recent radio program on KCUR-FM (89.3 FM) in Kansas City interviewed a man who enjoys military uniforms of the Civil War era because this was about the end of the “fashion type uniforms” which were meant to be easily recognizable so that leaders could spot their men and deploy them as groups.

Nowadays the aim is to camouflage soldiers so that they cannot be easily seen.

During **John Moloski's** talk about Frank James back in February, 2017 he used the terms "**Missouri State Guard**" and "**Missouri State Militia**" which are easily confused. An article in the Mid-Missouri CWRT newsletter gave a quick description: **The Missouri State Guard** represented the "Southern Cause" and would fight the Union troops in the battle of Boonville, Wilson's Creek, and Lexington in 1861 and at Pea Ridge and Prairie Grove, Arkansas in 1862. Governor Jackson appointed Sterling Price to command.

The **Missouri State Militia** was organized on November 27, 1861 by General John Schofield as the commander which was the brainchild of the Union Governor of Missouri, Hamilton Gamble, who proposed to President Lincoln that Missouri would raise a full-time military force within the state sufficient to defend it from enemies both without and within. The Federal Government would supply and maintain it, and this would free three years' volunteer regiments to fight elsewhere.

This brings up a question that is often asked: Was Missouri a Federal or Confederate state? The answer is "both" although it never officially seceded from the Union. A 1903 time capsule opened in Kansas City in January 2017 answered this question for a native of Texas who opened the capsule for the **Kansas City Scottish Rite Temple** which was located at 1024 Truman Road. A fire at a subsequent church at that location caused the time capsule to be revealed. It held \$500 worth of Confederate defense bonds. The Texan said he would now confirm on the basis of finding the Confederate currency "that you all are OK."

Congratulations to the **Raytown Historical Society** and their volunteer **Howard Bell Jr.** on the publication of *Music and Musicians in the Schools, Churches and Community of Raytown: An Illustrious History*. It is available on DVD and print with 1,600 pages. Howard started his research at the Mid-Continent Library in Raytown. The Independence *Examiner* reported that he recently presented a printed copy to the Midwest Genealogy Center.

Our member, **Armin Schannuth**, is known as a train expert so he was interviewed by Frank Haight about the old time commuter rail system operated by the Chicago & Alton Railroad starting in 1900. Starting in Kansas City, it had stops in Independence, Blue Springs, Grain Valley, Oak Grove, Bates City, Odessa, Mayview, Higginsville, Corder, Alma, Blackburn, Mount Leonard, Shackleford, Marshall, Norton, and Slater. It was known as the Accommodation, but its popular name was "The Plug." Armin says that this term may have been a generic title by many railroads at the time. Due to the sagging economy and reduced ridership, "The Plug" was pulled in 1928. Ironically it was the newspaper industry that was most affected by the demise of the "plugs." They kept the small communities in touch with the world. Many a news tip was communicated by the conductors and brakemen of those commuter trains.

**Steve Shaft** of Prairie Village had an interesting letter to the editor of the Kansas City *Star* on March 25<sup>th</sup>. He had just watched a program on PBS about Shia Muslims killing and displacing Sunnis during Iraq's battle to eliminate ISIS. He was sickened by the sectarian barbarism, torture, and murder. He saw that it was in retribution for years past when Sunnis were in power and had their way with Shias. He realized how fortunate he was to live in a place where that doesn't happen. Then he remembered that the same thing happened between 1860 and 1865 when Americans fought and killed each other over politically contrived differences.

We have a note from former member Kelton Smith and a copy of the Linn County Historical Society Newsletter from 2015. It shows some wonderful pictures Kelton provided from the "Lincoln Re-Enactment" May 1-3, 2015 at Springfield, Illinois. This was a special event for Kelton because his great grandfather, Kelton Wilson Harkness who settled in Linn County, KS in 1857 and endured the Kansas/Missouri Border War, returned to Illinois in 1861 to enlist in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ill. Cavalry. After the assassination of President Lincoln in April 1865, he was in Springfield when the train carrying Lincoln's body arrived. He and other Union soldiers were chosen to be pallbearers so it was especially significant to Kelton Smith that his great grandfather served in the actual funeral and burial of Abraham Lincoln. Kelton has been working as a

volunteer since 2002 at the World War I museum at the Liberty Memorial.

There is a new book called *City of Sedition: The History of New York City during the Civil War* by **John Strausbaugh**. It highlights why New York City was not the hotbed of abolition that the State of New York was. The City feared emancipation would trigger an influx of freed slaves who would threaten the jobs of the new Irish immigrants and even the more established German immigrants. Even though the State cast its 35 electoral votes for Lincoln in 1860 and 1864, he lost New York City which then consisted of just Manhattan and Brooklyn. Also the New York harbor was the center of the cotton trade between southern plantations, New England textile mills, and Europe. The war cost New York merchants millions in lost trade yet contradictions abounded. New York bankers put up 80% of the Union cost of the war in 1861 in the hopes of recouping a portion of their losses. Jobless immigrants signed up to battle the Confederates in exchange for a suit of clothes and two squares a day. An estimated one-third of the casualties at Bull Run were New Yorkers.

The **Union Cemetery Historical Society** is in the process of digitizing its cemetery records using a computer program called “Crypt Keeper.” This project is in cooperation with the Kansas City Chapter of the DAR whose members have been volunteering for a year and whose grant helped buy the records management program. There are over 35,000 records that need to be transferred, and they need help inputting the records. If you enjoy working with computers or local history or know of someone who needs volunteer hours for school or scouts, consider volunteering. It will help if the volunteers have a laptop or tablet with its own keyboard. Call (816) 471-4990 to volunteer.

Congratulations to the **City of Independence** for the designation of the **Vaile Mansion** as a Level 1 Accreditation by the ArbNet Arboretum Program. **Charlotte Olejko**, parks horticulturalist for the Independence Parks/Recreation/Tourism Department, says that the city is truly honored to receive this accreditation. Its tree collection includes the Missouri State Champion Smoketree, Liberty Elm, and a walkway lined with 30 sugar maples, as well as many native trees and an expanding lilac collection. The Vaile Mansion was built in 1881 and is patterned after a French chateau the Vailes saw on a trip to Europe.

## Weekend Trip to Wilson’s Creek and Newtonia

When Mike Calvert was in Springfield, MO to speak to the Civil War Round Table of the Ozarks on March 8, he also visited with Connie Langum at Wilson’s Creek. The Round Table would like to take a weekend trip to the Wilson’s Creek National Battlefield and the Newtonia Battlefields. We are proposing Saturday and Sunday, October 7-8, 2017.

Connie is able to get a good rate at the Sleep Inn, and we would carpool rather than trying to fill a bus. We will make the cost as low as possible.

If you are interested in taking this weekend trip, please call Beverly Shaw at (816) 225-7944 so we can start putting together the costs. We would like to arrive at Wilson’s Creek by noon on Saturday and return by 7:00 p.m. on Sunday. It’s about a three hour drive from Independence.

## Quindaro to be Nominated as a National Landmark

Freedom’s Frontier and the Unified Government of Wyandotte County are partnering to nominate Historic Quindaro in Kansas City, KS as a National Historic Landmark with the National Park Service.

It was established in 1856 by settlers who sought to create a safe harbor for escaped slaves crossing the Missouri River into Kansas. Abolitionists in Quindaro made it an important piece of the Underground Railroad.

Pat Gradwohl and Pat Davis recently visited Quindaro after reading an article in the Kansas City Star. Our first “Monuments” book shows the statue of John Brown at Historic Quindaro.

## The Bald Knobs of Missouri

The Spring issue of Missouri Resources magazine has a good article that points out the topographic as well as historic importance of the “bald knobs” of Missouri. Balds are Ozark mountains or hills topped by an open glade surrounded by forest. “Bald knobbers” were vigilantes who wore masks to fight crime in their communities after the Civil War.

