



★ *The Border Star* ★

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

August 2017

The Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri

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Border Star Editor

Dennis Myers ~ (816) 769-6490

Meetings

2nd 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

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Mailing Address

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Independence, MO 64055

Website

www.CWRTWM.org

President's Letter

August 11, 1862 daybreak on the Independence Square. A day that promised to be hot and humid like any other August day in Missouri. That was until approximately 1000 men decided to carry the Civil War to the commercial streets of the city. On that day, motivated by the extreme need for supplies, the Confederate forces under command of Colonel John T. Hughes attacked the unprepared forces of Lt. Colonel James T. Buell. The battle lasts a little more than 4 hours. What happened afterwards? The Confederates gathered the less wounded, multiple wagons of commissary stores, the much needed ammunition and left town assured that a large Federal force from Kansas City was on the way. The Federals were paroled.

This was the first time that this many casualties came to the Square. Without counting the captured, the wounded and killed numbers were: Union: 21 killed—38 wounded; Confederate: 11 killed—12 wounded. These numbers are not highly researched, but it will give you some idea of magnitude. So what happened? There was a young 8 year old girl who lived on Rock Street (today's Maple) named Fliskie McClellan who claimed to witness the first killings at the Federal camp. She goes to the Square with the other women of the household and spends the day helping tend the wounded. I wonder if her attitude about what she witnessed changed. Physicians, Drs. Farrar and Bryant, came from their homes to save as many young men as possible. The ministers of the city gathered and prayed for those who had passed and for those that might survive. A young man named Heard tells about watching his brother load bodies on a wagon to be taken to the city cemetery for burial. Days later the dead animals were taken away. Eventually the physical town return to "normal." No record is left of the effect on the civilian populace. The actions of that day did remain in the minds of the participants, if judged by the detailed recall given to reporters doing anniversary articles. No matter how large or small, battles leave scars. There is an Indian say that goes: "When two elephants battle even the grass gets hurt." And so it goes.

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

CWRTWM Calendar

August 2017 Membership Meeting

Wednesday, August 9, 2017 – 7:00 p.m. Village Heights Community of Christ Church, 1009 Farview Drive, Independence, MO. Ted Stillwell: The History of Independence, MO.

Trip to Wilson's Creek National Battlefield, week-end of October 7-8, 2017. More information later.

Other History Events

German Immigration to Western Missouri

Thursday, August 3, 2017 – 7:00 p.m. 1859 Jail Museum, 217 N. Main Street., Independence, MO. Connie Shrout Roman: The Great German Immigration to Missouri before the Civil War. Connie will also have copies of her book about her own family's journey: The Long Way Home-A Better Life. The current exhibit on German immigration will also be on display through September 5, 2017. The evening event is free but an RSVP is requested by visiting the website; Eventbrite.com/e/book-presentation-or-by-calling (816) 252-7454.

Shoal Creek First Saturday

Saturday, August 5, 2017 – 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Shoal Creek Living History Village, 6800 NE Barry Road, Kansas City, MO. Free family event with living history reenactors, food, and craft vendors. Family activities and demonstrations. Some activities do charge for their services (cash only). Inside Robert Hodge Park and Golf Course. From I-435 take 152 east ½ mile and turn north onto Barry Road. Go west on Barry to Hodge Park. Follow the road past the driving range and up the hill to the iron gate entrance.

Liberty, Missouri Walking Tour

Saturday, August 5, 2017 – 10:00 a.m. Fairview Cemetery. Meet at the rock arch on W. Schrader Street., Liberty, MO.

The Story of the Buffalo Soldiers

Saturday, August 5, 2017 – 2:00 p.m. Midwest Genealogy Center, 3440 S. Lee's Summit Road, Independence, MO. John Bruce: Experience the history of the African-American Buffalo Soldiers

and discover how they distinguished themselves from the American frontier to World War II.

Kansas City Posse of the Westerners

Tuesday, August 8, 2017 – 6:00 p.m. Buffet Menu (about \$12), Golden Corral, 8800 N.W. Skyview Ave., Kansas City, MO (near Home Depot). Terry Elliott: "The Rebel Yell and Its Western Connections."

Rebecca Hawkins and Mary Lobb at the Crossroads

Tuesday, August 15, 2017 – 7:00 p.m. Midwest Genealogy Center, 3440 S. Lee's Summit Road, Independence, MO. Barbara Hughes will portray Rebecca Hawkins and tell the story of how these two women's lives intertwined as early Jackson County pioneers.

Brown Bag Lunch at the Shawnee Indian Mission

Wednesday, August 16, 2017 – Noon. Bring your own lunch and enjoy a speaker about 12:30 p.m., 3403 W. 53rd Street, Fairway, KS. North building; come up stairs from the street. Keith Nelson: The Chouteau Family.

Independence Civil War Study Group

Wednesday, August 16, 2017 – 7:00 p.m. Perkins Restaurant, 3939 S. Bolger Drive, Independence, MO (across from Walmart). Toby Giese: John Filmore Blake, The Last Missouri Rogue.

Clay County Museum's Third Thursday

Thursday, August 17, 2017 – 7:00 p.m. Clay County Museum, 14 N. Main Street, Liberty, MO. Amy Neal: The History of the Tribune newspaper in 1846.

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 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.

Missouri State Archives

Thursday, August 17, 2017 – 7:00 p.m. James C. Kirkpatrick State Information Center, 600 W. Main Street, Jefferson City, MO. Robert Schultz: Fremont's Hundred Days in Missouri.

George Caleb Bingham and the Election of 1844

Sunday, August 20, 2017 – 2:00 p.m. Central Library, 14 W. 10th Street, Kansas City, MO. Joan Stack, curator of art collections at the State Historical Society of Missouri, will explore two 1845 paintings of George Caleb Bingham: "The Concealed Enemy" and "Fur Traders Descending The Missouri" to examine American expansionism, the central issue of the 1844 election between James K. Polk and Henry Clay. RSVP to (816) 701-3400.

Black Jack Battlefield Tour with John Brown

Sunday, August 20, 2017 – 4:00 p.m. Black Jack Battlefield, 163 E. 2000 Road, Wellsville, KS. A special tour of the battlefield with Kerry Altenbernd as John Brown assisted by members of the 13th Kansas Infantry reenactor group serving as his civilian Free State militia.

Total Eclipse at Arrow Rock, Missouri

Monday, August 21, 2017 – 10:00 a.m. Arrow Rock State Historic Site, 39521 Visitor Center Drive, Arrow Rock, MO. Astronomy Lecture with Trisha Muro. Free but limited to 90 people. To reserve a spot, call (660) 837-3330. Main Street in front of boardwalk shops will be pedestrian traffic only. Partial eclipse begins at 11:44 a.m. with total eclipse at 1:10 p.m. Use eye protection that is rated "solar safe."

Total Eclipse at Lexington, Missouri

Monday, August 21, 2017 – 11:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Battle of Lexington State Historic Site, 1101 Delaware Street, Lexington, MO. Bring your own picnic and enjoy the view of the solar event from the battlefield. Bring blankets or chairs for seating. Eclipse begins at 11:42 a.m. Total eclipse at 1:09. Visitor center has a limited supply of protective eye gear.

Civil War Round Table of Kansas City

Tuesday, August 22, 2017 – 6:30 p.m. – Dinner (\$27). Holiday Inn and Suites, 8787 Reeder Road, Overland Park, KS. Sunset Ballroom, 8th Floor. Rich Gillespie: Confederate cavalry officer John S.

Mosby, the Grey Ghost whose 43rd Battalion, 1st Virginia Cavalry was known as "Mosby's Rangers" or "Mosby's Raiders." Dinner reservations must be made by Thursday noon, August 17th by calling Susan Keipp at (816) 333-0025.

Clay County Historical Society's Rummage Sale
Saturday, August 26, 2017 – 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
891 Reece Street, Liberty, MO.

Coming Events

Photographs Along the Underground Railroad

Friday, September 1, 2017 through Tuesday, October 10, 2017. Wyandotte County Historical Museum, 631 N. 126th, Bonner Springs, KS. Hours are Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Saturday 9 a.m. – Noon. Closed Sundays and Holidays. Free admission. A pictorial exhibit, "Through Darkness to Light: Photographs Along the Underground Railroad." In conjunction with this traveling exhibit from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Wyandotte County Museum will also display Civil War and Quindaro Township artifacts.

Highlights in History at Fort Scott, KS

September 2 – 4, 2017 – 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Fort Scott National Historic Site, 1 Old Fort Blvd., Fort Scott, KS. Talks, tours, demonstrations, and living history programs.

COMMEMORATION OF THE BATTLE OF LONE JACK

Don't miss the 2017 Commemoration of the Battle of Lone Jack, August 19, 2017, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. There will also be entertainment, sponsored by area community members, offered in the evening, including a fiddle contest and bar music.

News About Members and Friends

The Round Table would like to **welcome Sarah and Alec Poff** of Blue Springs as new members. Mike Calvert works with Sarah on the board of the National Frontier Trails Museum in Independence, Missouri.

We want to wish **Pat Gradwohl** a happy birthday on August 8, 2017. If you want to send a card, her

address is 207 Adkins, Liberty, MO 64068. Pat is our First Vice President and Program Chairman.

The Round Table extended its condolences to the family of **Charles Lee Scrivner** who passed away June 25, 2017. Charles wrote a book published by the Blue and Grey Book Shoppe Press (Ted Stillwell and Betty Key) in 2005 called *Suppressing Rebellion, The Seventh Missouri State Militia Cavalry Regiment in the Civil War*. It is available at the Mid-Continent Public Library.

Mary Conrad brought to our attention an article in the Summer 2017 issue of *American Archaeology* called "A Tour of Civil War Battlefields" by Paula Neely. The summary of each of 10 sites tells of one or more elements that were not known until archaeology occurred. Our *Border Star* Editor, **Dennis Myers**, is participating in local archaeology classes at Fort Osage and the Battle of Lone Jack.

The **Antietam National Battlefield** in Maryland is the recipient of President Trump's donation of his first quarter's salary. Several other donations will bring the amount up to \$264,213 to restore the exterior of the Newcomer House and replace a fence in the battlefield. The Battlefield honors the 1862 Battle of Antietam, the bloodiest day in American military history with more than 22,700 dead, wounded or missing. The battle was regarded as a draw but gave President Lincoln a strategic win that led days later to the Emancipation Proclamation. The U.S. Department of the Interior will also provide \$7.2 million in matching grants to preserve 1,200 acres of Civil War, Revolutionary War, and War of 1812 battlefields. Included are Prairie Grove, Ark. and Fort Donelson, Tenn.

August has traditionally been the month for black Missourians to celebrate "**Emancipation Day**" in small communities such as Clinton, Boonville, Neosho, Joplin and others. Reverend Larry Coleman who helped erect the statue of the First Kansas Colored soldier at Butler, Missouri, thinks that the impetus was John C. Fremont's August 31, 1861 declaration of emancipation to all slaves in Missouri. He was the Union Commander of the Department of the West based in St. Louis. Until his widely popular directive was rescinded by President Lincoln on September 11, 1861, an untold number of former slaves had been issued deeds of

manumission signed by Fremont. The Missouri State Archives speaker on August 17th will be discussing "Fremont's Hundred Days in Missouri."

The U.S. House voted in July to authorize the **Fort Scott National Historic Site** in Kansas to accept the donation of a Civil War-era blockhouse known as Lunette Blair. It was one of four built during the Civil War to strengthen the fort's defenses and were later sold to private interests. Fort Scott was originally built in 1842 during the Mexican War as part of a series of forts stretching from Minnesota to Louisiana that defended a line separating the United States from what was then called the "permanent Indian frontier." Lunette Blair is currently owned by a local chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution and has been maintained by volunteers. Fort Scott was designated a National Historic Site in 1978 and is open for tours and activities Labor Day weekend.

The Round Table wants to thank **Perry and Melanie Johnson** for the donation of Civil War books when Perry's mother moved to assisted living. Her late husband, Dean Johnson, was a collector of reference works on Tennesseans and Kentuckians in the Civil War which we will be adding to our book collection housed at the Clay County Archives. Some of the other titles will be available for purchase by members at our silent auction on August 9th. Dean was a member of Erwin's 6th Missouri Infantry and had a Great Grand Uncle named James Henry Johnson from Grain Valley who was a private in Price's Division.

In case you have driven by the **Silver Heart Inn** owned by Perry and Melanie, you may have noticed some work being done in front. They are restoring the columns to the original shape and shoring up the second floor balcony which was pulling away from the house. Their contractor is an expert in moving and restoring vintage houses, and he thinks that his father may have been involved in moving the original antebellum house from Main Street to Noland Road.

Good news from **Freedom's Frontier** that Secretary of the Interior Zinke agreed to release all previously approved funding for FY 2017 for National Heritage Areas. Julie McPike and several other staff members have made visits to

Washington, D. C. to lobby for funding to be allocated.

Steve Olson, our friend at the Clay County Archives, would like to pass along a recommendation about a new book he is reading called *Lincoln's Generals' Wives* by Candice Shy Hooper. Just when you thought there could not be any more Civil War topics to be explored.

The deadline for submitting history papers for the **2018 Missouri Conference on History** is coming up November 1, 2017. The conference will be held March 15-16, 2018 at the Capitol Plaza Hotel in Jefferson City, Missouri. The State Historical Society of Missouri in Columbia is especially interested in proposals for complete sessions, including panelists, chair, and commentator.

The Confederate monument recently dismantled in Forest Park in St. Louis, Missouri was found to have a time capsule inside. Mark Trout, director of the **Missouri Civil War Museum** at Jefferson Barracks, says that it was "like Indiana Jones." The capsule will be opened privately with the contents to be revealed at a fundraiser.

A wonderful article in the Spirit section of the *Kansas City Star* on Sunday, July 16, 2017 took you on a tour of the personal collection of Kansas City history owned by **Steve and Marianne Noll** which has been on a "creep" from their house to another house next door. Steve is retiring from his job as Executive Director of the Jackson County Historical Society at the end of this year. Their newest acquisition is the Chris Wilborn collection of negatives which they are generously donating to the Jackson County Historical Society which will start sorting and posting the photos on line. When you see historical pictures of Kansas City, they will often have the attribution of "Wilborn" for Chris' father beginning about WWII and for Chris himself. This is a great legacy from Steve and Marianne, but it will take many hours of labor to make it available. You can volunteer to help by calling the Jackson County Archives at (816) 252-7454.

In early July Missouri Governor Greitens signed a bill allowing the State of Missouri to give the **National Frontier Trails Museum** to the City of Independence. This opens the possibility of renovation and perhaps expansion of the museum at 318 W. Pacific Avenue.

September 27-30, 2017 is the date of "**The Santa Fe Trail: America's First Highway of International Commerce**" symposium to be held in Olathe, Kansas. The headquarters is the Olathe Community Center with special activities at the Mahaffie Stagecoach Station. There are interesting speakers and optional Field Trips to points East, points West, and a special tour to Lexington, Missouri as well as an evening at the Steamboat Arabia. See all the details at www.santafetrail.org.

Congratulations to the **Union Cemetery Historical Society** for being honored with the "Crosby Award" for 2017. It is bestowed by the Westport Historical Society and R. Crosby Kemper, III and will take place on Saturday, August 19, 2017 at 2:00 p.m. at the cemetery, 227 E. 28th Terrace, Kansas City, MO.

You are probably saturated with information about **the solar eclipse on Monday, August 21st**, for which we in the central part of Missouri will have a front row seat. However, it can be emphasized that you should not look directly into the sun during this event without protective eclipse glasses which are available for purchase at many state parks. Dark glasses are not enough and you can't use cameras, telescopes, binoculars or other optical devices, whether filtered or unfiltered. They will simply concentrate the solar rays which will enter your eyes and cause serious injury. The weekly medical column in the Examiner explains that the injury is called solar retinopathy which happens when sunlight floods the retina located at the back of the eyeball. This causes the rods and cones, the light-sensing cells that make vision possible, to release a flood of communication chemicals which can damage the retina. It's often painless so you don't even realize damage is being done. Even at 99% of totality, the sun's rays can cause retinal damage.

That being said about using eclipse glasses, there are many Missouri State Parks holding special activities. The Bollinger Mill State Historic Site at Burfordville is adopting the theme Hidden Figures: African Americans, Eclipses and Astronomy. Starting at Noon you will hear about how runaway slaves used the Big Dipper and constellations to find their way north. Nat Turner's slave rebellion in 1831 was kicked off by a solar eclipse. He had a vision that the sun would be blocked out. Back in the 1700's a free African-American astronomer by the name of Benjamin Banneker accurately predicted a solar eclipse. After the program visitors will walk across the Burfordville Covered Bridge to view the eclipse from an open field along the Whitewater River.