



★ *The Border Star* ★

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

January 2016

The Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri

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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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Website

www.CWRTWM.org

President's Letter

Mike Calvert regrets that he was not able to finish his "President's Letter" due to the illness of his sister Pat (Mrs. Chuck Townsend). We wish him and his family a speedy resolution to her breathing problems.

We were reminded that the Battle of Island Mound State Historic Site near Butler, Missouri was accepted into the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom in 2013. It was the newest historic site in Missouri State Parks and features a kiosk with three large interpretive panels. The bravery and determination of the first African-American troops engaged in Civil War combat is reflected in the words "*Here their bravery and determination helped our nation better understand the founding fathers' words 'all men created equal.'*"

Battle of Island Mound

- From October 27th to October 29, 1862, the 1st Kansas endured several skirmishes with Confederate guerrillas. These skirmishes became known as the Battle of Island Mound and signified the first time an African American unit engaged an enemy in combat.
- The 1st Kansas was sent to Missouri from Bourbon County, Kansas, on Sunday, October 26th, to combat guerrillas operating from "Hog Island." Capt. H.C. Seaman led the regiment, which numbered approximately 250 men.
- On Monday, October 27th, the 1st Kansas crossed into Missouri at Dickey's Crossing and occupied a farm owned by Enoch Toothman, a suspected Southern sympathizer and guerrilla. The farm was dubbed "Fort Africa."
- Almost immediately, the regiment engaged the enemy in long-range skirmishes. By Tuesday, October 28th, the 1st Kansas sent for reinforcements.
- The fighting intensified the next day with hand-to-hand fighting, when guerrillas attacked Fort Africa. Although outnumbered, they drove the enemy back. Reinforcements arrived the next day.
- On Thursday, October 30th, they found that the guerillas' camp had been abandoned. The enemy had fled to avoid a collision with the reinforced regiment.
- The victory of the 1st Kansas encouraged their muster into Federal service months later on **January 13, 1863**. After December 13, 1864, they were designated the 79th United States Colored Troops and served the remainder of the war.

(See end of Page 3)

CWRTWM Calendar

January 2016 Membership Meeting

Wednesday, January 13, 2016 – 7:00 p.m. Village Heights Community of Christ church, 1009 Farview Drive, Independence, MO. Open Round Table. We invite you to bring a tangible item, picture, or book that you are enjoying and share it with the group. You can call Mike Calvert at (816) 898-2603 to get on the schedule. We are also going to have a giant silent auction of books donated by Paul Bond and Beverly Shaw so bring some extra dollars.

January 2016 Board of Directors Meeting

We are going to experiment with having our board meeting following refreshment time at the membership meeting on January 13, 2016.

Other Civil War Events

Westward HO

Thursday, January 7, 2016 – 7:00 p.m. Midwest Genealogy Center, 3440 S. Lee's Summit Road, Independence, MO. Historical reenactor **Barbara Hughes** brings Fanny Kelly to life as she travels the Oregon Trail in 1864 and is captured by the Sioux Indians.

Gallery Walk – African Americans in the West

Saturday, January 9, 2016 – 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. National Frontier Trails Museum, 318 W. Pacific, Independence, MO. Free with regular museum admission. Saturdays, January-March, 2016.

Civil War Round Table of Cass County

Tuesday, January 12, 2016 – 7:00 p.m. Pierson Hall, Cass County Library, 400 E. Mechanic, Harrisonville, MO. Program to be announced.

Kansas City Posse of the Westerners

Tuesday, January 12, 2016 – 6:00 p.m. Buffet menu (about \$12), Golden Corral, 8800 NW Skyview Ave., Kansas City, MO (near Home Depot). Erin Blackshere-Pouppirt will be speaking on Female Espionage. Directions: North of the Missouri River. Take Highway 169 north from the Broadway Bridge to Highway 152. Go west to the North Ambassador Drive exit.

Freedom's Frontier Partners Meeting

Thursday, January 14, 2016 – 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. The Alexander Majors Barn, 8201 State Line Road, Kansas City, MO. Continuation of workshop on Strategic Communications for history groups.

Civil War Drama on Public Television

Sunday, January 17, 2016. Consult local listing for "Mercy Street," the chaotic world of Union-occupied Alexandria, Virginia and the Mansion House Hospital in the early years of the Civil War.

Independence Civil War Study Group

Wednesday, January 20, 2016 – 7:00 p.m. Perkins Restaurant, 3939 S. Bolger Drive, Independence, MO (across from Walmart). Lane Smith – Battle of Vicksburg.

Westward HO

Thursday, January 21, 2016 – 7:00 p.m. Liberty Library, 1000 Kent Street, Liberty, MO. Historical reenactor **Barbara Hughes** portrays Fanny Kelly, who traveled on the Oregon Trail in 1864 and was captured by the Sioux Indians.

National Archives in Kansas City

Thursday, January 21, 2016 – 6:30 p.m. National Archives, 400 W. Pershing Road, Kansas City, MO. William Quatman will discuss his book *A Young General and the Fall of Richmond: The Life and Career of Godfrey Weitzel*. In April 1865, Union Army commander Weitzel led his troops into Richmond, the Confederate capital, capturing the city and serving as host when President Lincoln insisted on paying a personal visit.

Civil War Round Table of Kansas City

Tuesday, January 26, 2016 – 6:30 p.m. – Dinner. \$27. Holiday Inn and Suites, 8787 Reeder Road, Overland Park, KS. (Kansas Ballroom – 1st Floor). Darryl Levings – "Newspapers in this area during the Civil War." Deadline for dinner reservations is Noon, Friday, January 22nd. Please E-Mail Susan Keipp at skeipp@kc.rr.com or call (816) 333-0025.

Directions to Meeting Place at;

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.

Firebrand by Aaron Barnhart

Thursday, January 28, 2016 – 6:30 p.m. Central Library, 14 W. 10th Street, Kansas City, MO. Barnhart's new historical novel *Firebrand* traces the formative teenage years of August Bondi, a Jewish immigrant from Austria who fought alongside anti-slavery crusader John Brown. New insights into the issues of race, violence and conscience.

Black History Month: Book-to-Film Series Reception

Friday, January 29, 2016 – 6:00 p.m. – Reception; 6:30 p.m. Program. Black Archives of Mid-America, 1722 E. 17th Terr., Kansas City, MO. Please RSVP to: www.blackarchives.org/events. Kickoff for annual February screenings of memorable films adapted from books by African-American authors.

20th Annual Bleeding Kansas 2016

Sunday, January 31, 2016 – 2:00 p.m. Constitution Hall State Historic Site, 319 Elmore Street, LeCompton, Kansas. Deb Goodrich-“Founding the Soldier State: How Bleeding Kansas and the Civil War Shaped Kansas.” Book signing to follow. Suggested donation of \$3 for adults.

Dues for 2016

We are planning activities for 2016 for the Round Table and would like to make up a budget based on our dues. Please pay 2016 dues at our January 13th meeting or send them to CWRTWM, P.O. Box 3019, Independence, MO 64055. Dues for a single membership is \$25 and for a family it's \$35. If you are not able to attend meetings but want to receive the newsletter, the subscription rate is \$12.

Civil War Book Collection

The Round Table has a Civil War book collection archived at the Clay County Archives which is not a lending library but a research facility. We have a complete set of the ORs (Official Records) which were donated to our group and are available for research. The rest of our collection may not be shelved because of lack of space but can be retrieved as needed from storage. We add to the collection by purchasing books from our speakers and need to take these to the Clay County Archives for safekeeping. Some of the books were lent to members to read, and we need to collect those at the January meeting or contact Beverly Shaw to arrange a pickup. Her number is (816) 225-7944.

A Just and Generous Nation

Just in time for Lincoln's birth month, we have a new book with the premise that the Civil War was not fought over slavery or to preserve the union per se but about the economy. The authors, Harold Holzer and Norton Garfinkle, one a historian and one an economist, see the struggle as being between two diametrically opposed economic and social systems and that if the South had won it would prove fatal to the American dream of an upwardly mobile, progressive, and middle class nation.

The authors state their case in the introduction: “What Lincoln feared most was the spread of the Southern economic system. The fear was that the Southern slave-labor system would drive out free labor, first in the West, then later in the country as a whole.”

One reviewer of this book says it might well have been titled “America's First Modern Progressive President.”

In his Second Annual Message to Congress, he wrote: “In giving freedom to the slave, we assure freedom to the free – honorable alike in what we give, and what we preserve. We shall nobly save, or meanly lose, the last best, hope of earth.”

The William Clarke Quantrill Society

The William Clark Quantrill Society is a non-profit corporation dedicated to the study of the Civil War on the Missouri-Kansas border with emphasis on the lives of Quantrill, his men, his supporters, his adversaries and the resulting historical record. For information visit; www.wcq society.com or send an E-mail to wcqsociety@aol.com.



Visit: <https://mostateparks.com/park/battle-island-mound-state-historic-site>

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