



★ *The Border Star* ★

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

February 2016

The Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri

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The Border Star Editor

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Independence, MO 64055
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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

Have you ever thought about the courage it would take to charge a line of well entrenched soldiers? We all remember the charge made by Pickett's men on the third day of Gettysburg, July 3, 1863. There were 12,000 to 13,000 men (sources vary) marching $\frac{3}{4}$ to 1 mile across the valley following a 150 gun bombardment.

Knowing what was ahead of them they stepped off at 1:07 p.m. (again sources vary) and with parade ground precision advanced on the Federal position. The men of the Confederacy made this charge one time, held on for approximately thirty minutes and then retreated leaving 2,655 casualties (498 killed, 643 wounded, 833 wounded and captured, and 681 captured, unwounded).

On November 30, 1864 at approximately 1:30 p.m., over 20,000 Confederates, supported by just one battery, advanced over two miles of open ground and struck a Union line made up of three tiers of sturdy breastworks and abatis that in most places stood about eight feet high. The Army of Tennessee pierced the center of this line and held their position for over three hours, resulting in over 2,000 combined fatalities. The fighting continued until after dark leaving 1,750 dead and 5,500 wounded or captured on the field. Six generals were killed, including Patrick Cleburne. Another five were wounded, one more captured. Sixty of Hood's 100 regimental commanders were killed or wounded.

Pickett's charge pales in comparison to Franklin. Again, today we stand in wonderment of the courage it took to march into the very heart of the enemy's line. Many authors have tried to set into words the motivating factors behind this courage. However, I have another question. What about the courage it took to send these men to their deaths? I don't know if anyone has ever explored the mental and physical toll these kinds of decisions made on the commander. I don't know how they stood the strain. Why didn't they lose their minds? Having made the decision once they made it, over and over again? Maybe part of the secret is in the quote below. Robert E. Lee control himself outwardly. I can't help but believe that the inner man was torn to pieces.

"I cannot trust a man to control others who cannot control himself."

-Robert E. Lee

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

CWRTWM Calendar

February 2016 Membership Meeting

Wednesday, February 10, 2016 – 7:00 p.m. Village Heights Community of Christ Church, 1009 Farview Drive, Independence, MO. Ted Stillwell: “Murder – Mayhem, and Kidnapping.”

No Board Meeting in February

Other Civil War Events

This Is Not Dixie

Wednesday, February 3, 2016 – 6:30 p.m.
Central Library, 14 W. 10th Street, Kansas City, MO.
Brent M. S. Campney: *This Is Not Dixie: Racist Violence in Kansas, 1861-1927.*

Cpl. Rufus Vann, A Man to Remember

Wednesday, February 3, 2016 – 7:00 p.m.
First Floor, State Capitol, 201 W. Capitol, Jefferson City, MO. Willadene Johnson, a descendant of Cpl. Rufus Vann of the 1st Kansas Colored Volunteer Infantry Regiment, will tell of his role in the October, 1862 Battle of Island Mound in Bates County, MO. This is also “Museum After Hours” when the Missouri State Museum galleries will be open until 9:00 p.m.

Born A Slave

Thursday, Feb. 4, 2016 – 7:00 p.m.
Midwest Genealogy Center, 3440 S. Lee’s Summit Road, Independence, MO. David Jackson: Although his family had been identified as Caucasian for five generations, after 30 years of genealogical research David discovered that his great-great-grandfather was born a slave. Program to be repeated on February 9th at the North Oak Library and March 3rd at the Claycomo Library at 7:00 p.m.

Arrow Rock First Saturday Lecture Series

Saturday, February 6, 2016 – 10:00 a.m.
Arrow Rock State Historic Site Visitor Center, Arrow Rock, MO. Joan Stack: “George Caleb Bingham’s General Order No. 11: A Focus on Women in the Painting.” If inclement weather necessitates a lecture postponement or cancellation, that information will be announced online at www.FriendsofArrowRock.org.

DVD on the Battle of Island Mound

Saturday, February 6, 2016 – 10:30 a.m.
Trails West Library, Classroom A, 11401 E. 23rd Street, Independence, MO. The Jackson County Genealogical Society will be showing “The Battle of Island Mound”, the first time that black troops fought in the Civil War.

The JCGS Research Library has moved to the State Bank Building, 625 N. Sterling, Suite 400, Sugar Creek, MO. They are open from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday and Wednesday or by appointment. Their phone number is (816) 252-8128.

African Americans in the West

Saturday, February 6, 2016 – 1:00 p.m.
National Frontier Trails Museum, 318 W. Pacific, Independence, MO. Using a special brochure, learn about African Americans in the American West. Free with regular museum admission. Repeated on Saturdays in February and March.

20th Annual Bleeding Kansas 2016 Program Series

Sunday, February 7, 2016 – 2:00 p.m.
Constitution Hall State Historic Site, 319 Elmore, Lecompton, KS. Aaron Barnhart: “Firebrand, The Amazing Story of Bleeding Kansas Fighter August Bondi.” Suggested donation for adults is \$3.

Kansas City Posse of the Westerners

Tuesday, February 9, 2016 – 6:00 p.m. Buffet menu (about \$12), Golden Corral, 8800 NW Skyview Ave., Kansas City, MO (near Home Depot). Chery Holtman: “The Man Who Started the Civil War in Missouri.”

Civil War Round Table of Cass County

Tuesday, February 9, 2016 – 7:00 p.m. Pierson Hall, Cass County Library, 400 E. Mechanic, Harrisonville, MO. Phil Dixon: “The Connection between the Civil War and Baseball.” Phil has compiled a photographic history of the Negro Leagues and is attempting to speak in every town where the Kansas City Monarchs played.

Lincoln and Shakespeare

Thursday, February 11, 2016 – 6:30 p.m.
Central Library, 14 W. 10th Street, Kansas City, MO. In a discussion of his new book, Michael Anderegg examines the connection that one of America’s greatest presidents felt with perhaps history’s greatest writer.

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.

Exhibit On Merging Cultures: Jeffrey Deroine

Thursday, February 11, 2016 – 6:00 p.m.

Black Archives Museum of the St. Joseph Museum, 3406 Frederick Avenue, St. Joseph, MO. Greg Olson will give a presentation on early St. Joseph history and his new book *Jeffrey Deroine: Ioway Translator and Frontier Diplomat*. The event features the opening of newly renovated Black Archives Museum exhibits on the history of African Americans in Buchanan County and an exhibit on the Folklore of Mary Alicia Owen. Free admission.

Soldiers in the Army of Freedom

Friday, February 12, 2016 – 12:00 Noon

Fort Scott National Historic Site, Old Fort Boulevard, Fort Scott, KS. Ian Michail Spurgeon will discuss his recent publication about the First Kansas Colored Infantry which was the first African American regiment to see combat during the Civil War.

General Robert E. Lee Speaks to VFW Post 846

Saturday, February 13, 2016 – 6:30 p.m. – Dinner.

VFW Post 846, 8804 Grant, Overland Park, KS. (near I-35 and 87th Street). Lane Smith: General Lee is now the president of Washington University in Lexington, VA and discusses the ifs, whys, and whats of his life that impacted the decisions he made. This program is open to the public with advance paid reservations of \$15 for prime rib, baked potato, salad, beverage, and dessert. If you are interested, call Lane at (913) 207-7591.

20th Annual Bleeding Kansas 2016 Program Series

Sunday, February 14, 2016 – 2:00 p.m.

Constitution Hall State Historic Site, 319 Elmore, Lecompton, KS. Historian and author Ian Spurgeon will discuss and sign his book, *Soldiers in the Army of Freedom: The First Kansas Colored and the Civil War's First African American Combat Unit*. \$3 donation suggested for adults.

The First Visual Presidency

Monday, February 15, 2016 – 7:00 p.m.

Xavier Theatre, University of St. Mary, 4100 S. 4th Street, Leavenworth, KS. Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery Senior Historian David C. Ward will speak about "The First Visual Presidency: How Abraham Lincoln Used Photography for Politics." For more information call (913) 758-6329.

If you would like to see a photographic tribute to Lincoln to the strains of "Ashokan Farewell" visit: www.youtube.com/watch?v=59SHEzAqFk8 (a YouTube video).

Independence Civil War Study Group

Wednesday, February 17, 2016 – 7:00 p.m.

Perkins Restaurant, 3939 S. Bolger Drive, Independence, MO (across from Walmart). Jennifer Kerr will speak about the history of the Masonic College in Lexington, MO and the part it played in the Battle of Lexington.

20th Annual Bleeding Kansas 2016 Program Series

Sunday, February 21, 2016 – 2:00 p.m.

Constitution Hall State Historic Site, 319 Elmore, Lecompton, KS. Monica David, research volunteer at the Watkins Museum of History, will discuss "Free State Families of Kanwaka: Profile of the 1855 Ohio Immigrant Party." Jan Elder will portray Matilda Barber. \$3 suggested donation for adults.

Civil War Round Table of Kansas City

Tuesday, February 23, 2016 – 6:30 p.m. – Dinner

(\$27). Holiday Inn and Suites, 8787 Reeder Road, Overland Park, KS. Sunset Ballroom, 8th Floor. Ian Spurgeon: *Soldiers in the Army of Freedom*. Deadline for dinner reservations is Noon, Friday, February 19th. E-mail Susan Keipp at skeipp@kc.rr.com or call (816) 333-0025.

Researching African American Ancestry

Saturday, February 27, 2016 – 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Midwest Genealogy Center, 3440 S. Lee's Summit Road, Independence, MO. In cooperation with the Midwest Afro-American Genealogical Interest Coalition (M.A.G.I.C.), internationally known Genealogist Kathleen Brandt will present "Claim It" based on Civil War Treasures and Southern Claims Commission Records and Slave Claims Commission Records. M.A.G.I.C. genealogists will be available to assist participants with research in the library. To register call (816) 252-7228.

20th Annual Bleeding Kansas 2016 Program Series

Sunday, February 28, 2016 – 2:00 p.m.

Constitution Hall State Historic Site, 319 Elmore, Lecompton, KS. Historian Dr. Carl Graves will speak about "Border War Ballads: Territorial and Civil War Songs of Kansas and Missouri. \$3 suggested donation for adults.

Border War History Road Trips

Tuesday, March 1, 2016 – 7:00 p.m.

Midwest Genealogy Center, 3440 S. Lee's Summit Road, Independence, MO. Aaron Barnhart, co-author of *The Big Divide: A Travel Guide*, will give tips on making history interesting for all ages. Program to be repeated on March 3 at 6:30 p.m. at Smithville.

Information from the Board

The Board of Directors met after the membership meeting on January 13, 2016, at the Village Heights Community of Christ church. Pat Gradwohl reported that she has scheduled programs through June 2016. In February Ted Stillwell will be speaking on "Murder, Mayhem and Kidnapping." Charles Childs will speak in March on "Railroads during the Civil War." In April Barbara Hughes will talk about "Mourning Abraham Lincoln." In May, Mike Calvert will speak on the "History of Homes on Tour." In June we will have our annual picnic at the Lone Jack Historical Museum with costumes and music.

The Round Table would like to organize an Independence Homes Tour on April 30th and May 1st 2016. Perry and Melanie Johnson are already planning a series of events at the Stone-Gamble House (Silver Heart Inn), 1114 S. Noland Road, Independence, MO for the 160th anniversary of this antebellum home. If you would be interested in helping with the Homes Tour, please contact Pat Gradwohl at (816) 781-8871.

The Board is also thinking about doing a "cemetery crawl" during good weather and are planning a day trip for our own enjoyment, possibly to the Battle of Lexington State Historic Site. Sometimes we forget about the interesting Civil War sites that are close to us, but we can use our "Monuments" book to remind us of places we would like to visit. Another place we have not visited in a while is Ray County.

Mike and Molly Clay are working with the board of the Lone Jack Historical Society which is looking for new idea of how to commemorate the Battle of Lone Jack on August 13, 2016. Because of the likelihood of high heat in August, they don't do a reenactment but they would still like to mark the event. Last year the event featured the Cave Hotel which is now part of the historic properties at Lone Jack. What else would you like to know about Lone Jack? You can contact Mike Clay at (816) 690-2072.

John Moloski brought a list of reenactments in the area for 2016 and pointed out a reenactment at Warrensburg on April 2, 2016. He has invited the Round Table of share his booth on that date to sell our "Monuments" book. If you would like to volunteer to help us that day, please call Beverly Shaw at (816) 225-7944.

Mike Calvert reminded us that Bruce Mathews, our speaker at the Christmas party, is working on a new book about how artifacts remind us of our history. If you have an artifact or a collection of artifacts that help

tell the story of our area, you can bring them to the February meeting and have them photographed by Bruce. Please call Mike to pre-register so that we will know if Bruce should come that evening. Mike's number is (816) 898-2603. Even if you can't come on February 10th, he can put you in touch with Bruce.

Messages from the Treasurer

Thank you for sending dues and subscriptions for 2016. You can also pay at the February 10th membership meeting or by sending a check to CWRTWM, P.O. Box 3019, Independence, MO 64055. Dues are \$25 for a single or \$35 for a couple. A subscription to the *Border Star* only is \$12. We will not be sending the March issue if we have not heard from you.

We hope you enjoy the calendar of Civil War events in the *Border Star*. In order to give a little more time to collect the information, we are planning to publish the *Border Star* about the 3rd of the month.

If you see a notice or article in the *Border Star* which is of interest, you can request expanded information from me by E-Mail at bevjoshaw@hotmail.com or by phone: (816) 225-7944.

News about Members and Friends

In October 2015, the **Bates County Historical Society** donated 30 historical documents dating from 1821-1847 to the State Archives of Missouri. It is believed old State papers were distributed throughout Missouri in the early 1920's coinciding with the State's Centennial.

A new documentary about the Missouri artist **George Caleb Bingham** is being filmed by Wide Awake Films for the Friends of Arrow Rock for a summer of 2016 release. It's being funded through a grant from the Pillsbury Foundation.

We want to thank **Paul Bond** and **Beverly Shaw** for their generous donation of books for our silent auction in January which netted \$41. And especially we want to thank the purchasers who went home with a new book.

Congratulations to **Scott Cauger** who will be serving a second full term as Director of the Jackson County Historical Society which held its annual meeting on January 28, 2016.

You may have assumed that Abraham Lincoln was the most photographed man of his era, especially after reading about the new book *The First Visual Presidency*, but actually it was Frederick Douglass who most

understood the power of photos. The famous former slave, abolitionist orator, writer, and post-war statesman sat for his portrait whenever he could and became the most photographed American in the 19th century. His portraits evolved from revolutionary freedom fighter to elder statesman. There is a new book out by John Stauffer called *Picturing Frederick Douglass: An Illustrated Biography of the 19th Century's Most Photographed American*.

Steve Hatcher is requesting some help with the Round Table's digital presence. He's willing to train a volunteer to maintain our website calendar. The task takes a couple of hours a month, and you would be the first to be in the know about Civil War events in our area. Beverly Shaw collects the information and sends it as an E-Mail attachment which then must be added to our website around the first of the month. You may contact Steve by E-Mail at seh.mail@sbcglobal.net or by phone at (816) 415-0066.

Our friends at the Bowling Green (Kentucky) Civil War Round Table met on January 19th and had a program by **Matthew Hulbert** on "William Clark Quantrill in Kentucky and His Civil War Guerrillas." He is co-editor of *The Civil War Guerrilla: Unfolding the Black Flag in History, Memory, and Myth*. He will have a new book coming out in the fall of 2016 called *The Ghosts of Guerrilla Memory: How Civil War Bushwhackers became Gunslingers in the American West*.

A student research paper in **Jasper County** may change the 153-year-old narrative from Sherwood, Missouri of the May 18, 1863 encounter of African American soldiers from the 1st Kansas Colored Infantry who came over from Baxter Springs, KS with white Union soldiers to forage for corn at the Rader Farm. They were attacked by Jasper County guerrillas led by Thomas Livingston and the written record indicates the Union troops were massacred. However an archaeological dig shows that there was firing back by Union troops as they retreated. Also the 1st Kansas Colored flag has the name "Sherwood" which would probably mean that it was an actual battle rather than a massacre.

Congratulations to **Melanie Johnson**, proprietor of the Silver Heart Inn, for being appointed to the Tourism Advisory Board of Independence, Missouri.

Thank you to **Sharon Kelley** for giving us a link to a video produced by KCPT in Kansas City. It tells the story of how Platte City, Missouri was burned twice during the Civil War. The video can be found at www.flatlandKC.org/people-places/bloody-mo-silas-gordon.

Marc Kollbaum, former Director of the Jefferson Barracks Historic Site in St. Louis, has written a new book called *The Boat-Burners and the Secret War for Missouri*. It concerns a secret service sabotage organization which wreaked havoc on steamships transporting soldiers, civilians, and supplies on the Mississippi River during the Civil War. Was the Sultana disaster which killed as many as 1,800 soldiers, women, and children, a terrible accident or sabotage?

The leading Lincoln author writing today, **Harold Holzer**, has produced a new book with Norton Garfinkle called *A Just and Generous Nation: Abraham Lincoln and the Fight for American Opportunity*. Its thesis is that the Civil War was not fought over slavery or to preserve the Union per se. Lincoln saw the struggle as being between two diametrically opposed economic and social systems – that if the South had won, it would prove fatal to the American dream of an upwardly mobile, progressive and middle class nation.

Congratulations to **The St. Joseph Museums** for being selected by the Board of the Missouri Humanities Council to receive the 2016 annual "Exemplary Community Achievement Award."

Richard Stewart has moved back to Missouri from Arkansas but continues to endow the Quantrill Special Collections at the Benton County (Ark.) Historical Society in Bentonville, Arkansas. He recently picked up from Beverly Shaw, some Civil War books and clippings for the collection. If you have books or cash donations for the collection, you may reach him at 3479 Highway O, Humansville, MO 65674. His phone number is (816) 695-2731.

The Independence *Examiner* pointed out that 100 years ago **Benjamin H. Morrow**, Captain, or Head Officer of the Quantrell Association, died at his home north of Lake City. The association was made up of survivors of Quantrell's band of guerrillas, and Morrow was captain for several years. He took part in the raid on Lawrence, Baxter Springs and Centralia.

Welcome to **Jim Ogle** in his new position of Executive Director of the Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area. Jim is attempting to visit all of the "Partners" of Freedom's Frontier.

Congratulations to **Dan Smith** for being honored with the Steve Treaster Preservation Award by the Civil War Round Table of Kansas City for his outstanding work related to the preservation of the Byram's Ford Big Blue Battlefield site.

The release date for the new Civil War film “**Union Bound**” has been pushed back to April 22, 2016 following positive buzz generated by early screenings. It’s the story of a real life Union soldier, Joseph Hoover, who received the help of freed slaves on his journey back to the Union.

Can the Civil War Still Inspire Today’s Poets? That’s the question being asked by **David C. Ward** from the Smithsonian who is the speaker on February 15th at the University of St. Mary in Leavenworth, KS about the visual presidency. On January 31st David Ward and Steve Scafi di will read poems in the galleries of the exhibition “Dark Fields of the Republic: Alexander Gardner Photographs” at the National Portrait Gallery in Washington, D.C.

Can the Civil War Still Inspire Today's Poets?

As epic verse about the American past falls victim to modernism, a poet who is also a historian calls for a revival

**By David C. Ward
www.smithsonian.com
January 27, 2016**

Very few contemporary American poets write history poems. Poetry that addresses the past by using the examples of specific people or events was a major part of American literature throughout the 19th century.

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow made a staple of subjects like “*Paul Revere’s Ride*.” Herman Melville, who wanted to be known as a poet and not as a novelist, wrote several very fine poems about the Civil War, including one on “weird” John Brown.

In the 20th century, full-fledged history poems seem to have ended with Robert Lowell, who engaged the past of his Puritan forbears in his verse and whose “*For the Union Dead*” is perhaps the finest poem written about the Civil War.

Southern poets have always used their region’s history as a subject, seeking to make sense of the

legacy of defeat in the Civil War, as well as the legacy of race (and racism) and slavery. But even this vein seems to have died out.

History poems likely disappeared with modernism, and now post-modernism: both of which stress the interiority of the writer and avoid specific, historically situated subjects.

So poets write about cultural conditions, even the condition of American democracy and society, but do so obliquely, without trying to describe or inhabit the predicament of an historical figure, or place themselves in the midst of events in past-time.

When curator Frank Goodyear and I asked 12 contemporary poets to write about the Civil War for our 2013 book, *Lines in Long Array*, the majority of the poets initially hesitated, concerned about how to approach the subject. They all turned out to be pleased with the result although they may not have made a habit out of it.

Steve Scafi di came recommended to us by poet Dave Smith for his poems on Lincoln, now collected in his 2014 *To the Bramble and the Briar*. His “Portrait of Abraham Lincoln with Clouds for a Ceiling” imagines the President just about to speak at Gettysburg: “He could feel his pinky toe/push through the hole in his sock, and a rash form/on his neck” and ends with “a testimony for this/new church//founded in Gettysburg, in hope. . .”

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.

