



# ★ *The Border Star* ★

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

May 2016

## The Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri

### 2016 Officers

President ----- Mike Calvert  
1<sup>st</sup> V.P. ----- Pat Gradwohl  
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### *The Border Star* Editor

Dennis Myers  
12800 E. 48<sup>th</sup> Street S.  
Independence, MO 64055  
(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)

## *President's Letter*

This month I want to continue the discussion on how we should and how we must share history.

I have a deal with my family that started some years ago and continues to this day despite the fact that my children are grown and have children of their own. As we travelled around the metropolitan area I would relate some historic fact or tell the historic story about the place we were travelling by. Stories that, of course, included the local battles. Grinter's Farm was especially one that was told quite often. Of course, the story always began with a series of groans from the audience. However, being the dad, I knew it was my duty to relate the history of my family's hometown. I would just talk louder and they would try to be louder still. Age and the fact that I was driving always won out. I know the stories were remembered. You see, we had a deal. If anyone in the car could relate what happened, then I wouldn't tell the story anymore. Eventually I wasn't giving history lessons. I don't despair. I have four grandchildren and soon they will be old enough to groan when Papa begins with "Who knows what happened here?"

Lesson: Pass on the history of your town even with a chorus of groans to help emphasize the action.

My Dad passed away several years ago and as happens when we returned from the funeral my siblings and I rummaged through a box of my dad's mementos. At the time I was taken back by what little my dad kept to remember events in his life. I really thought that it was one of the saddest things I had ever seen. An 18 inch by 18 inch by 18 inch cardboard container that held what I thought should have been important icons that marked the highlights of his life. Items that marked the history of a man who had given so much. A few years later I finally woke up to realize my dad's life was not about what was in that box. It was the five children and the many, many friends he had. My dad came from a time when a man didn't share much about their life and heaven forbid, their feelings. I learned a few things, but never very much. Sometimes history is contained in a great deed of heroism. Sometimes it's contained in the way you led your life as an example of a hard worker who loved to have his family around him and when a friend needed your help; you helped. I hope that history was passed on to me. I hope that beyond telling some stories that my history will live on in my children and my children's children. I hope it will, but I have to remember to share.

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

## CWRTWM Calendar

### May 2016 Membership Meeting

Wednesday, May 11, 2016 – 7:00 p.m. Village Heights Community of Christ Church, 1009 Farview Drive, Independence, MO. Mike Calvert: “Witness Homes of the Civil War in Independence, Missouri.”

Board Meeting – Wednesday, May 11, 2016 – 8:15 p.m. Following the membership meeting.

### June 2016 Annual Membership Picnic

Wednesday, June 8, 2016 – 6:00 p.m. Lone Jack Battlefield and Museum, 301 S. Bynum Road, Lone Jack, MO. Potluck picnic. The Round Table provides fried chicken, drinks, plates and forks. Members are asked to bring a dish to share and a folding chair. Program-The Battle of Lone Jack.

## Other History Events

### 2016 W.Z. Hickman Preservation Awards

Monday, May 2, 2016 – 6:00 p.m. Independence City Council Meeting, City Hall, 111 E. Maple Ave., Independence, MO. Bill and Annette Curtis will be honored with a lifetime achievement award. After the awards, visitors may be excused from the rest of the meeting.

### A New Building in an Old Museum

Tuesday, May 3, 2016 – 7:00 p.m. National Frontier Trails Museum, 318 W. Pacific Ave., Independence, MO. Wear your jeans and investigate the 26 year-long history of the museum. Explore every nook and cranny and look into future plans. Tickets are \$5 per person. Advance reservations are required by calling (816) 325-7575.

### Lunch ‘n Learn: Our National Parks

Wednesday, May 4, 2016 – 12:00 Noon. Bring a sack lunch and join Jeff Wade, Acting Chief of Interpretation at the Harry S Truman National Historic Site, for his talk on the history and influence of this country’s national park system and the celebration of its August 2016 centennial. (Any Lunch ‘n Learn event means that you can bring a sack lunch and enjoy a free beverage and dessert.)

### Slavery in Jackson County, Missouri

Thursday, May 5, 2016 – 2:00 p.m. Battle of Westport Museum, 6601 Swope Parkway, Kansas City, MO (just inside Swope Park). Joe Mattox: Why Africans became Colored People. Joe Mattox is the William D. Mathews Scholar at the Battle of Westport Museum.

### The Statesman and the Storyteller

Thursday, May 5, 2016 – 6:30 p.m. Plaza Library, 4801 Main Street, Kansas City, MO. John Hay and Samuel Clemens grew up some 50 miles apart along the Mississippi River and became acquainted early in their respective careers - Hay as private secretary and assistant to Abraham Lincoln, Clemens as a writer who would gain fame as Mark Twain. Mark Zwonitzer, documentary film producer and author will discuss his new book, *The Statesman and the Storyteller: John Hay, Mark Twain, and the Rise of American Imperialism*.

### First Saturday at Shoal Creek Living History Village

Saturday, May 7, 2016 – 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Shoal Creek inside Robert Hodge Park (From I-435 take Highway 152 east. Go ½ mile and turn north (left) on to Shoal Creek Parkway; then make an immediate left on to Barry Road. Go west on Barry Road to the entrance of Robert Hodge Park. Turn right and follow the road past the driving range and up the hill to the iron gate entrance.) Free family fun event with reenactors, food, craft vendors, family activities and demonstrations. Some activities do charge for their services – cash only. Repeated on June 4, July 2, August 6 & Sept. 3, 2016.

### Liberty, MO 2016 Walking Tours

Saturday, May 7, 2016 – 10:00 a.m. A walking tour to three downtown churches. Meet at the Presbyterian Church on the corner of N. Main and Mississippi Streets, Liberty, Missouri. Free.

### Tour of the Historic Truman Courthouse

Tuesday, May 10, 2016 – 2:00 p.m. 112 W. Lexington, Ave., Independence, MO. Take a behind-the-scenes tour with Caitlin Eckard, archivist for the Jackson County Historical Society. Learn about the most recent renovation in 2013 as well as the 1933 renovation when Harry Truman was the Presiding Judge.

### **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.

### Mexican Views of the Santa Fe Trail

Tuesday, May 10, 2016 – 6:30 p.m. Central Library, 14 W. 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Kansas City, MO. David Aamodt and Richard Edwards from the National Frontier Trails Museum in Independence examine the trail from the Mexican perspective. Immigrants making their way up the corridor eventually outnumbered Americans going the other way.

### Kansas City Posse of the Westerners

Tuesday, May 10, 2016 – 6:00 p.m. Buffet menu (about \$12), Golden Corral, 8800 NW Skyview Ave., Kansas City, MO (near Home Depot). Phil Young : “100 Miles North of Dodge City, the high plains of western Kansas.”

### Civil War Round Table of Cass County

Tuesday, May 10, 2016 – 7:00 p.m. Pierson Hall, Cass County Library, 400 E. Mechanic, Harrisonville, MO. Amanda Coonce: “Watkins Mill during the Civil War.”

### Lunch ‘n Learn – The History of Lake City Arsenal

Wednesday, May 11, 2016 – Noon. Truman Memorial Building, 416 W. Maple Avenue, Independence, MO. Take a quick trip through the history of the Lake City Arsenal with Mike Calvert and learn about its role in the prosperity of Independence throughout the years and what it offers today.

### With an Iron Fist: The Cass County (MO) Home Guard

Thursday, May 12, 2016 – 7:00 p.m. Midwest Genealogy Center, 3440 S. Lee’s Summit Road, Independence, MO. Tom Rafiner will talk about the nearly nine months in the midst of the Civil War that the Union Cass County Home Guard held its ground while battling Confederate forces and maintaining order in a volatile county until its disbandment in March, 1862.

### “Born a Slave” at the Trailside Center

Thursday, May 12, 2016 – 7:00 p.m. Trailside Center, 99<sup>th</sup> and Holmes, Kansas City, MO. David W. Jackson, local historian, will talk about his new book Born a Slave, Rediscovering the African-American Heritage of Arthur Jackson. David found out that his great-great-grandfather was a slave. At a recent presentation in Claycomo, a man stood up and told David he was descended from the family who had once owned Arthur Jackson. If you want to buy David’s book before May 12<sup>th</sup> please visit [www.orderlypackrat.com/s/books.pdf](http://www.orderlypackrat.com/s/books.pdf).

### Westport Library Speaker Series

Saturday, May 14, 2016 – 2:00 p.m. Westport Library, 118 Westport Road, Kansas City, MO. George Hicks:

Alexander Majors and the Course of the Nation. Reception to follow at the Harris-Kearney House, 4000 Baltimore, Kansas City, MO.

### Lunch ‘n Learn-Witness Homes of the Civil War

Wednesday, May 18, 2016 – Noon. Truman Presidential Library, Whistlestop Room, 500 W. U.S. 24 Highway, Independence, MO. Mike Calvert presents a virtual tour of houses in Independence that “witnessed” the Civil War.

### Independence Civil War Study Group

Wednesday, May 18, 2016 – 7:00 p.m. Perkins Restaurant, 3939 S. Bolger Drive, Independence, MO. (across from Walmart). Ted Stillwell will talk about Buffalo Bill Cody and his local connection to Civil War history.

### Bates County 175<sup>th</sup> - In the Beginning

Thursday, May 19, 2016 – 6:00 p.m. Battle of Island Mound Historic Site, 4837 NW County Road 1002, Butler, MO. Learn what life was like in Bates County in the 1840’s.

### Clay County Third Thursday Program

Thursday, May 19, 2016 – 7:00 p.m. Clay County Museum, 14 N. Main Street, Liberty, MO. Chery Holtman, president of the Clay County Historical Society, will be speaking about her great-great grandfather, Col. Henry Routt who looted the Liberty Arsenal.

### Kansas City Chronicles: An Up-to-Date History

Thursday, May 26, 2016 – 7:00 p.m. North Independence Library, 317 W. 24 Highway, Independence, MO. David Jackson will share short vignettes dating back to the 1820’s from his book. To be repeated on May 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at the Midwest Genealogy Center, 3440 S. Lee’s Summit Road, Independence, MO and Monday, June 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at the South Independence Library, 13700 E. 35<sup>th</sup> Street, Independence, MO.

### Silver Heart Inn 160<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

Friday-Sunday, May 20-22, 2016. 1114 S. Noland Road, Independence, MO. The Stone-Gamble House (aka the Silver Heart Inn) will be the site of a Civil War and living history weekend. Events:

• Friday, May 20<sup>th</sup>: 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Free to the public. Meet and greet soldiers of the Civil War. Fireside storytelling by characters in period costumes. Parking available at the Immanuel Baptist Church, 112 W. 23<sup>rd</sup> Street (just west of Noland Road) for all events.

• Saturday, May 21<sup>st</sup>: Noon – 4:00 p.m. House/history Tours: \$5 for adults and \$2 for children. Tickets sold at the door. Covered wagon ride included with ticket price. See the soldiers' camp, Independence settlers life demonstrations, children's games, and handicraft vendors.

• Saturday, May 21<sup>st</sup>: 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Civil War Ball in the Garden. \$22 per individual or \$30 per couple in costumes. Period music, dancing, and refreshments.

• Sunday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>: 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Victorian Tea and Vintage Fashion Show. \$20 per person; advance reservations required. Call (816) 838-9508.

• Saturday, June 4<sup>th</sup>: 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. American Girl's Tea & "How to be a young lady in 1856". Advance reservations required by calling (816) 838-9508.

All proceeds from ticket sales go to restoration work on the 1856 mansion.

5k Health & Heritage Walk – Independence, MO  
Saturday, May 21, 2016 – 8:00 a.m. – 10 a.m. Start at the Bingham-Waggoner Estate, 313 W. Pacific Ave., Independence, MO. Walk through the Truman Heritage District, past the 1827 Log Courthouse, the Independence Square, and Independence Farmers Market. You can stop along the way to get your "passport" stamped and have an opportunity to learn more about each historic site. Complete your passport for prizes and free passes to historic sites. Rain or shine.

Civil War Encampment at Atkins-Johnson Farm  
Saturday, May 21, 2016 – 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Atkins-Johnson Farm and Museum, 6607 N. Antioch Road, Gladstone, MO. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Missouri Infantry will pay tribute to Civil War veterans buried in the Big Shoal Cemetery by hosting a Civil War encampment at the Atkins-Johnson Farm. Free and open to the public.

Armed Forces and Memorial Day Celebration  
Saturday, May 21, 2016 – 9:00 a.m. Big Shoal Cemetery, 6707 NE Antioch Rd., Gladstone, MO. Gun salute, speaker, and period military demonstrations.

Union Cemetery Spring Clean Up  
Saturday, May 21, 2016 – 9:30 – Noon. Union Cemetery, 227 E. 28 Terr., Kansas City, MO. Bring gloves and gardening tools. Refreshments will be served at Noon.

Heritage Tree Driving Tour-Independence, MO  
Sunday, May 22, 2016 – 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Meet at the corner of Liberty and Lexington on the Independence Square to get an introduction to recognizing outstanding

specimen trees and a map to the other locations where history guides and horticulturalists will offer details. Rain or shine.

Civil War Round Table of Kansas City  
Tuesday, May 24, 2016 – 6:30 p.m. – Dinner (\$27). Holiday Inn and Suites, 8787 Reeder Road, Overland Park, KS. Sunset Ballroom, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor. Dr. Ethan Rafuse from the U.S. Army Command General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, KS will speak about "Fighting Joe Hooker." Deadline for dinner reservations is Noon Friday, May 20, 2016. E-mail Susan Keipp at [skeipp@kc.rr.com](mailto:skeipp@kc.rr.com) or call her at (816) 333-0025.  
Lunch 'n Learn-Native Peoples of Jackson County  
Wednesday, May 25, 2016 – Noon. Truman Memorial Building, 416 W. Maple Ave., Independence, MO. John Peterson, archaeologist and Jackson County Parks and Recreation Historic Sites Curator, will talk about which tribes lived around here and display some artifacts.

Memorial Service at Union Cemetery  
Saturday, May 28, 2016 – 11:30 a.m. Union Cemetery, 227 E. 28<sup>th</sup> Terrace, Kansas City, MO.

Little Dixie Plantation Tours  
Saturday, May 28, 2016 – 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Tour of three Little Dixie region plantations and slave dwellings in Pilot Grove, MO: Crestmead (7400 Highway A), Burwood (6879 Highway 135), and Pleasant Green (7045 Highway 135). Not handicapped accessible. Tickets can be bought on-line, at the Boonville Tourism Office (302 1<sup>st</sup> Street) or at the plantations (cash or check only at the plantations). Adult (18+) \$22.09; Youth (11-27) \$14.71. Visit [www.eventbrite.com/e/spring-2016-little-dixie-plantation-tours-tickets-24054588923](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/spring-2016-little-dixie-plantation-tours-tickets-24054588923).

The Life and Times of George Caleb Bingham  
Saturday, June 4, 2016 – 10:00 a.m. Arrow Rock State Historic Site auditorium, Arrow Rock, MO. Documentary Team from Wide Awake Films will talk about "The Making of the American Artist: The Life & Times of George Caleb Bingham." The film will be premiered on October 15, 2016 at the Arrow Rock Lyceum Theatre.

Confederate Memorial Day-Higginsville, MO  
Saturday, June 4, 2016 – 1:00 p.m. Confederate Memorial State Historic Site, north of Higginsville at Missouri 213. (About 50 minutes from Independence, MO).

## News About Members and Friends

The Round Table recently had an E-mail from **Chris Edwards** to let us know that he has a new historical/musical production “Blood on the Border: An Interview with Frank James.” It’s the “true” story about Quantrill’s partisan rangers as told by one of its members, Frank James. Every claim in the dialogue will be backed up with historical documentation. You can follow the production at the following website, [www.facebook.com/bloodyontheborder](http://www.facebook.com/bloodyontheborder). Chris gave the Round Table a program on Bloody Bill Anderson several years ago.

**Bob Grover** was pictured in the April 23 issue of the *Examiner* as a member of the Harry S Truman Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution. President Roy Hutchinson gave Bob the Good Citizenship Medal and Certificate so he could present them to his son **David S. Grover**. David was in a restaurant when a fellow customer fell to the floor. He and two other men performed CPR until emergency services arrived and took him to the hospital.

In addition to all her presentations about the Titanic last month, **Barbara Hughes** joined her husband **Dick** at the Stone Church in Independence to speak on the theme “Do You Love Me?” Dick has served as the pastor of Stone Church. He is also well-known as Barbara’s “roadie” who makes sure that all her audio-video equipment arrives at her gigs.

**Jackson County, Missouri** was honored in April for preserving the 178-year-old Historic Truman Courthouse on the Square in Independence. The award was delivered at a ceremony in the Capitol Rotunda in Jefferson City by Missouri Preservation, a group based in Boonville. As a part of Heritage Month in Independence you may tour the Courthouse on May 10<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m.

If anyone has information about the guerrilla named **Captain Joseph (Joe) Hart**, a researcher in Los Angeles would like to hear from you. He is working on a show called “The Dead Files” for the Travel Channel. He especially would like to locate a photo or drawing of Joe Hart. You can reach David Lizama at Painless Productions. The phone is (310) 839-9900 and his E-mail address is [david.lizama@painless.tv](mailto:david.lizama@painless.tv).

The Friends of Arrow Rock have welcomed a new Executive Director. Her name is **Sandy Selby** and she and her husband Marty have lived in Arrow Rock since 2005 and have done restoration work on two historic Arrow Rock homes. She has extensive business and

journalism experience and worked most recently for *Inside Columbia*, a family of magazines. She is very familiar with the history of Arrow Rock and has authored two books: *Images of America: Arrow Rock* in 2012 and the Friends’ prize-winning history of the organization, *Friends of Arrow Rock: The First 55 Years* in 2014.

**Melanie and Perry Johnson** are hosting a 160<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their antebellum home, the **Stone-Gamble House** (aka Silver Heart Inn) at 1114 S. Noland Road. The house is especially well-known at Christmas for the tree on the second floor balcony. You will see in the calendar that they begin the weekend of May 20-22 with a Civil War encampment and 1856 living history experience. They would welcome your help to take tickets or help with tours of the house on Saturday afternoon, May 21<sup>st</sup>, or dress in costume and interact with visitors. They could also use some help with the Victorian Tea on May 22<sup>nd</sup> and the American Girl’s Tea on June 4<sup>th</sup>. Give Melanie a call at (816) 838-9508. In addition to serving on our board, the Johnsons also hosted our meetings for a couple of months while we located a new place. Their house was on our Antebellum Homes Tour several years ago.

You have probably seen the news that **Harriet Tubman** will be replacing Andrew Jackson on the \$20 bill. This is a deeply symbolic move to recognize her work with the Underground Railroad. It is also a meaningful change for Native Americans who revile Jackson for forcing Cherokees and many other Indian nations on deadly marches out of their southern homelands. To this day some of the Cherokee elders will not even touch a \$20 bill. Amrita Myers, a historian at Indiana University, says, “Every time you pick up that \$20 bill (with Harriet Tubman), it’s a reminder that we can’t ignore or pretend like we didn’t have 400 years of slavery.”

The Civil War movie called “**Union Bound**” is now playing in the Kansas City area. It’s based on a true story about the diaries of Union soldiers Sergeant Joseph E. Hoover and Tom Ryan. They escaped from a prisoner of war camp in Florence, South Carolina and with the help of a black slave, they were able to make it back to Union lines. The theatres are the B&B Shawnee at 16301 Midland Drive, Shawnee, KS (phone 913-954-4671); the B&B Overland Park 16, 8601 W. 135<sup>th</sup>, Overland Park, KS (phone 913-814-7469); and the Regal Kansas City Stadium 18 at Ameristar Casino, 3200 Ameristar Drive, Kansas City, MO (phone 844-462-7342, Ext. 252). It’s best to call for show times and ticket prices because it may not be held over too long.

**Phil Young** is our contact with the Posse of the Westerners and is giving their program on May 10<sup>th</sup>. “100 Miles North of Dodge City” is a personal account of growing up at Reager, Kansas near the Norton County Courthouse where his grandfather, Frank Young, was called to serve on the jury of the Dewey-Berry feud. As a young boy in Kansas, Young heard about the Dewey Ranch cowhands riding into Norton wearing gun belts. In 1904 the jury returned a verdict of “not guilty” for the Dewey ranch hands. The Berry supporters were so outraged that they hung the jury in effigy on the grounds of the Courthouse. Young notes that this trial and other legal actions were significant in the history of Kansas.

### **Captain Francis Xavier Aubrey (Mike Calvert)**



It was good being able to spend a bit of time with the Wagonmaster, Captain Aubrey at our recent layover in Independence. He seems like an honest fellow, a fair man who keeps everyone on task. We haven't traveled far yet and still have a heap of miles to go, nearly 800 of 'em. That was probably the last good meal we'll have in many a days. A high flautin' photographer from New York was there and took this picture of the good Captain. Very distinguished, on the trail or all fancied up.

**Event: National Frontier Trails Museum (NFTM)  
“A Night in Old Santa Fe” – April 23, 2016**

### **Bill and Annette Curtis W.Z. Hickman Award, 2016**

Bill and Annette Curtis live and breathe history. One of their greatest missions in life has been to preserve and share the history which means so much to them. Bill became fascinated with history at an exceptionally early age, listening to the “old timers” talk, interviewing some of them and recording the information he learned. His knowledge is invaluable. During their married life, Annette has joined Bill in this passion for the past.

At their own expense they have set markers of numerous historic sites as well as the graves of many historic people. They have used their own resources to buy collection items to make sure they stayed local. The couple saved from demolition one of the oldest houses in Independence. It is a pioneer brick house which was built in 1826 by African-American slave labor for Jones Flournoy. They carefully rebuilt it with the original material and then, knowing that historically it had special meaning to the Latter Day Saints, they donated the building to the Community of Christ which then placed it in its “Heritage Plaza” on Lexington Avenue.

This committed couple also saved various documents and items of historical interest from destruction through the years. They have donated original documents and photographs to archives around the country. The Jackson County Historical Society (JCHS) in the Historic Truman Jackson County Courthouse on the Independence Square is where the majority of their historical collections are assembled into the **William J. “Bill” and Annette (Wegner) Curtis Collection**; and they continue to add to this collection regularly...quite a legacy!

One notable organization which has benefited by Bill and Annette's undying passion is the Midwest Afro-American Genealogical Interest Coalition (MAGIC). Through MAGIC, they have donated countless hours of time and toil to help document and preserve local black history in Independence and the Kansas City metro area. Many of the books MAGIC has compiled and published have been influenced and aided by Annette's guidance and indexing skills.

From the nomination submitted by Barbara Wiley and David W. Jackson

