



★ *The Border Star* ★

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

June 2016

The Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri

2016 Officers

President ----- Mike Calvert
1st V.P. ----- Pat Gradwohl
2nd V.P. ----- Terry Chronister
Secretary ----- Karen Wells
Treasurer ----- Beverly Shaw
Historian ----- Barbara Hughes

Board Members

Charles Childs Vonda Clark
Michael Clay Perry Johnson
Melanie Johnson John Moloski
Don Moorehead Barb Wormington
Denis Wormington

The Border Star Editor

Dennis Myers
12800 E. 48th Street S.
Independence, MO 64055
(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

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

President's Letter

As I listened to President Obama speak at Arlington Cemetery on Memorial Day, he spoke of many of the soldiers buried there. Telling the audience a little bit about the person and at the same time talking about the loved ones they left behind. Very moving. I must admit that when I have been at Arlington I have always had that lump in your throat and misty eye experience. Those reactions can now be evoked just by looking at pictures from there, so strong are my feelings. While listening to the speech and the person being presented I began to think about the unknown soldiers buried there and in cemeteries across America and the World. Who are their families? Who mourns their death? Who remembers them on Memorial Day? This led me to ask the question how many American soldiers are buried as unknown. A little internet research gave the following results.

Revolutionary War	25,324 total deaths
War of 1812	19,465 total deaths
Mexican War	13,283 total deaths
Civil War	622,000 total deaths – 150,000 unknown – 25%
Spanish American War	2,446 total deaths – 300 unknown – 12%
World War I	116,516 total deaths – 1,644 unknown – 1.4%
World War II	403,339 total deaths – 10,000 unknown – 2.5%
Korean War	58,246 total deaths – 925 unknown – 1.6%
Viet Nam	58,200 total deaths – 0 unknown
Persian Gulf War	383 total deaths – 0 unknown
Afghanistan War	1,076 total deaths – 0 unknown
Iraq War	4,401 total deaths – 0 unknown

Poor record keeping, quick burials and the passage of time make finding the number of unknown virtually impossible in the first three wars. The keeping of records improved and we have a more accurate understanding of the unidentified soldier in the last 6 wars. In fact, starting with the Spanish American War, the military has sent teams to the area of conflict to determine who was buried in some far off place and as a result have brought thousands home for reburial.

It's an unfortunate fact that the future will still bring conflict to the world that will cause more sons and daughters of families to be killed in action. It may be a small solace to families to at least know that their loved one will not go unidentified. Arlington now holds 300,000 American heroes and from now on we will know their names and remember their sacrifice. What about the unknown soldiers? Do me a favor and as you visit a cemetery next Memorial Day remember them with a single flower on their grave. Their families don't know where they are so they can't and their sacrifice is no less than the others. The only difference is they have no one to remember them.

Mike Calvert, President
Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri

CWRTWM Calendar

June 2016 Membership Meeting

Wednesday, June 8, 2016 – **6:00 p.m. – Picnic.**

Lone Jack Battlefield Museum, 301 S. Bynum Road, Lone Jack, MO. (Just off 50 Hwy. east of Lee's Summit). The Round Table will supply fried chicken, drinks, plates, and forks. Please bring a dish to share and your own chair. Program will be a tour of the Lone Jack Cemetery and Museum. The Lone Jack Battlefield will commemorate its 154th anniversary on Saturday, August 13, 2016 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

No Board Meeting in June.

July 2016 Membership Meeting

Wednesday, July 13, 2016 – 7:00 p.m.

Village Heights Community of Christ Church, 1009 Farview Drive, Independence, MO. Chery Holtman, president of the Clay County Historical Society: "The Life and Times of Col. Henry L. Routt," Chery's direct ancestor. Board Meeting to follow membership meeting.

Other History Events

Juneteenth and the Meaning of "Freedom Day"

Thursday, June 2, 2016 at the Battle of Westport Museum, 6601 Swope Parkway, Kansas City, MO (just inside Swope Park). Joe Mattox: "Juneteenth and the Meaning of Freedom Day." Joe Mattox is the William D. Mathews Scholar at the Museum.

The Life and Times of George Caleb Bingham

Saturday, June 4, 2016 – 10:00 a.m. Arrow Rock State Historic Site Auditorium. The team from Wide Awake Films will talk about the new documentary called "The Making of the American Artist: The Life & Times of George Caleb Bingham" (World Premiere on Oct. 15).

First Saturday at Shoal Creek Living History Village

Saturday, June 4, 2016 – 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Shoal Creek Village inside Robert Hodge Park, 6800 NE Barry Road, Kansas City, MO. Free family fun with reenactors, food, craft vendors and demonstrations. Some activities do charge for their services – cash only.

Liberty, MO 2016 Walking Tours

Saturday, June 4, 2016 – 10:00 a.m. Mt. Memorial Cemetery. Meet at the entrance to the cemetery on the campus of William Jewell College. Enter from Miller St. and continue up the hill. Free.

Confederate Memorial Day – Higginsville, MO

Saturday, June 4, 2016 – 10:00 a.m. – Speakers and music. 11:30 a.m. – Quantrill Society Meeting. 12:15 p.m. – Bring your own lunch or buy sandwiches

from Friends Society. **1:00 p.m.** – Confederate Memorial Day Service. Confederate Memorial State Historic Site, north of Higginsville at Missouri 213. (About 50 minutes from Independence, MO.)

National Trails Day – Raytown, MO

Saturday, June 4, 2016 – 11:00 a.m. Historic Cave Spring near the Daughters of the American Revolution granite marker at 72nd and Blue Ridge. Dedication of a new bench for a place of rest for bus riders, hikers, and bicyclists. Hosted by Congressman Emmanuel Cleaver and other dignitaries.

American Girl's Tea at Silver Heart Inn

Saturday, June 4, 2016 – 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Silver Heart Inn, 1114 S. Noland Road, Independence, MO. Tea and "How to be a young lady in 1856." Advance reservations required at 816-838-9508. \$18. Parking at the Immanuel Baptist Church on 23rd Street, just west of Noland Road.

Clay County Historical Society Picnic

Sunday, June 5, 2016. Noon to 4:00 p.m. \$15 per person for Smokehouse BBQ picnic. Mt. Gilead School/ Church, Cemetery, 15918 Plattsburg Road, Kearney, MO. "Live" Cemetery Walk. For reservations call Vivie Tison at 816-628-5032. The church was organized in 1830 as a Primitive Baptist congregation, and this is the 3rd structure on the site. It changed to the Christian denomination in 1844. The school is one of the oldest in Clay County and the only one to remain open during the Civil War.

Osher Civil War Studies – Columbia, MO

June 6, 13, 20, 27, 2016. Moss Building at the Waters-Moss Memorial Wildlife Area, 1905 Hillcrest Drive, Columbia, MO. The Mid-Missouri Civil War Round Table is sponsoring a series of programs on Monday mornings in June from 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. The cost is \$60 and if you are interested, please call Beverly Shaw at 816-225-7944 for further information. June 6 – The New Madrid and Island No. 10 Campaign of 1862. June 13 – Secret Yankees: The Union Circle in Confederate Atlanta. June 20 – Missouri Army Units of the CSA and USA. June 27 – The 1861 Battle of Lexington.

Celebrating the Oregon National Historic Trail

Tuesday, June 7, 2016. 3:00 p.m. Northwest corner of the Historic Truman Courthouse, Independence, MO. Dedication of the 1924 Avard Fairbanks Oregon Trail bronze medallion. Hosted by Jackson County Executive Frank White and other dignitaries.

Adeline, the Story of a Savannah, MO Slave

Thursday, June 9, 2016. 6:00 p.m. Black Archives Museum, 3406 Frederick Ave., St. Joseph, MO. Dr. Gladys Caines-Cogswell, award winning author and

storyteller, will tell the tale of Adeline in first person, tracing her journey from slavery to freedom. Free.

Black Powder Shoot-James Farm, Kearney, MO

Saturday, June 11, 2016 – 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Jesse James Farm, 21216 Jesse James Farm Road, Kearney, MO. \$25 entry fee. Cap & Ball Revolver or Cartridge Revolver; replicas O.K. 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners receive prizes. Historically accurate costume is encouraged but not required.

Family Fun Day at the National Frontier Trails Museum

Saturday, June 11, 2016 – 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Frontier Trails Museum, 318 W. Pacific, Independence, MO. Free outside activities such as music, crafts, games, panning for gold and watching a marionette performance. Visit the encampments of mountain men, pioneers, and Civil War soldiers. Catch a free wagon ride to or from the Square.

Victorian Tea at Battle of Lexington, MO

Saturday, June 11, 2016 – 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Battle of Lexington State Historic Site, 1101 Delaware, Lexington, MO. Come to the Anderson House where the dining room table will be laden with desserts, and iced and hot tea will be served. Piano music will be played by Dave Bohling and Pat Berry.

The U. S. Soldier at Wilson's Creek

Saturday and Sunday, June 11-12, 2016 – 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Wilson's Creek National Battlefield, 6424 W. Farm Road 182, Republic, MO. This living history event will highlight the role of Col. Franz Sigel's German brigade with weapons firing. Fee is \$7 per adult for a maximum of \$15 per vehicle.

Summer History Camp – Farming 1860's Style

Monday-Friday, June 13-17, 2016 – 9:00 a.m. – Noon. Mahaffie Stagecoach Stop and Farm, 1200 Kansas City Road, Olathe, KS. Cost is \$70. Reservations by June 6 by calling 913 971-5111. Ages 7-12. Activities such as caring for animals, doing laundry, working in the garden, and making shingles in the wood shop.

Kansas City Posse of the Westerners

Tuesday, June 14, 2016 – 6:00 p.m. Buffet menu (about \$12), Golden Corral, 8800 NW Skyview Ave., Kansas City, MO (near Home Depot). Robert Jones, president of the Kennesaw (GA) Historical Society, will present a program on Wild Bill Hickok.

The Nation Has Mended

Tuesday, June 14, 2016 – 7:00 p.m. Kearney Library, 100 S. Platte Clay Way, Kearney, MO. Gregg Higginbotham: Two reenactors will portray a Confederate veteran who fought with Gen. John Bell Hood and the

other a veteran who fought with the Army of the Potomac's Iron Brigade. Register at 816-628-5055.

Independence Civil War Study Group

Wednesday, June 15, 2016 – 7:00 p.m. Perkins Restaurant, 3939 S. Bolger Drive, Independence, MO (across from Walmart). Don Peters of the Cass County Historical Society will talk about a log cabin recently saved from destruction which is thought to have played an important role in the Border War. Includes PowerPoint.

Archaeology at the Atkins-Johnson Farm

Thursday, June 16, 2016 – 6:30 p.m. Atkins-Johnson Farm, 6607 NE Antioch Road, Gladstone, MO. Doug Shaver of Burns and McDonnell will share his findings from the geophysical survey done in March, 2016 which may help locate the sites of some of the lost farm buildings. \$3 donation.

Rascals and Rouges

Thursday, June 16, 2016 – 7:00 p.m. Midwest Genealogy Center, 3440 S. Lee's Summit Road, Independence, MO. Arnold Schofield: Learn about the careers of five rogues – James Henry Lane, Charles "Doc" Jennison, James Montgomery, William C. Quantrill, "Bloody" Bill Anderson, and Archie Clement. To be repeated on July 5th at 6:30 p.m. at the North Oak Library, July 12th at 7:00 p.m. at the Blue Springs South Library, July 20th at 6:30 p.m. at the Antioch Library, and July 23rd at 2:00 p.m. at the Claycomo Library.

Clay County Museum Third Thursday

Thursday, June 16, 2016 – 7:00 p.m. Clay County Museum, 14 N. Main Street, Liberty, MO. Michelle Cook: Preservation of Historic Sites.

Historic Lecompton's 2016 Territorial Days

Friday and Saturday, June 17-18, 2016 – 6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. Lecompton, KS. 160th anniversary re-enactment of the Battle of Fort Titus, music, food trucks, old time games and vendors.

Juneteenth Celebration – Diamond, MO

Sunday, June 19, 2016 – 1:00 p.m. George Washington Carver National Monument, 5646 Carver Road, Diamond, MO. A park ranger will present a program on one of the oldest known celebrations of the ending of slavery.

Make Music Day, Liberty, MO

Tuesday, June 21, 2016 – 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. The Clay County Museum is sponsoring a program of Bluegrass Music on the Liberty Square. Musicians are Larry Willis, Ron Willis, Steve Bode, Gail Dakon, Mary Bliefnick, Patti Nance, Mark Purcel, Darrel Phillips, Melissa Petropolous, Robbie Roberson, Howard Leuthen, Dale Gilbreath, and Bill Baldrige.

Project Archaeology, Gladstone, MO

Thursday and Friday, June 23-24, 2016 – 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Atkins-Johnson Farm, 6607 NE Antioch Road, Gladstone, MO. This annual workshop is designed to help K-12 educators teach archaeology using the Atkins-Johnson Farm to look for features and artifacts to discover new information on the farm's rich history. Visitors are welcome. Free. Call Erica White at 816-423-4107.

Wildflower Hike-Butler, MO

Thursday, June 23, 2016 – 7:00 p.m. Battle of Island Mound, 4937 NW County Road 1002, Butler, MO. Learn about the wildflowers that make up the landscape that would have existed in the 1800's. Plan to hike the .6 mile Courage Trail.

Artillery at Wilson's Creek Battlefield

Saturday, June 25, 2016 – 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Wilson's Creek National Battlefield, 6424 W. Farm Road 182, Republic, MO. Hourly demonstrations highlighting the role of field artillery in the battle. Battlefield admittance is \$7 per adult with a maximum of \$15 per car.

Civil War Round Table of Kansas City

Tuesday, June 28, 2016 – 6:30 p.m. – Dinner (\$27). Holiday Inn and Suites, 8787 Reeder Road, Overland Park, KS. Sunset Ballroom, 8th Floor. David G. Moore: William S. Rosecrans and the Union Victory (2014). Deadline for dinner reservations is noon Friday, June 24th. E-mail Susan Keipp at skeipp@kc.rr.com or call her at 816-333-0025.

Coming Events

Crossroads to Freedom – Topeka, KS

Saturday, July 2, 2016 – Noon. Kansas Avenue and other Topeka locations. Topeka celebrates many events and activities such as the reenactment of the July 4, 1856 Dispersal of the Free State Legislature and open houses at local historic sites. This is the 160th anniversary of the Topeka Legislature's first meeting and its very dramatic visit by Col. E.V. Sumner and the U.S. Cavalry. Visit with the 3rd Kansas, Light Artillery Battery B and the Lecompton Reenactors.

Summer History Camp – Civil War Boot Camp

Monday-Friday, July 11-15, 2016 – 9:00 a.m. – Noon. Mahaffie Stagecoach Stop and Farm, 1200 Kansas City Road, Olathe, KS. Recruits to President Lincoln's Army will learn to march and maneuver, fire a cannon, cook a soldier's fare, and make their own haversack, play games, and enjoy music. Camp is for ages 7-12. Registration and payment of \$70 is due by July 5th. Call 913-971-5111.

News About Members and Friends

Congratulations to **Barbara and Dick Hughes** for the celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary on May 28, 2016. They enjoyed having their children and grandchildren come for the event.

Don Bates from the Civil War Round Table of Kansas City is selling some of his wonderful Civil War book collection and has an updated list of what is still available. Call Beverly Shaw at 816-225-7944 if you would like to see it. Some of the books are signed by the author and all have been meticulously conserved by using archival book jackets.

The **Civil War Museum of Philadelphia** has finally found a home for its wonderful collection of artifacts by transferring ownership of roughly 3,000 objects to the **Gettysburg Foundation**, a private, nonprofit partner of the National Park Service. In addition the **National Constitution Center** on Independence Mall has agreed to mount a permanent exhibit exploring the constitutional impact of the Civil War after it has been able to raise funds to mount what is believed to be the first exhibit of the War's constitutional legacy. The Civil War Museum remains owner of an archive of more than 10,000 documents – journals, diaries, papers, photographs, and books which are housed at the Union League and are available for research.

The 36-inch bronze medallion created by early 20th century American sculptor **Avard Fairbanks** will be dedicated on Tuesday, June 7, 2016 at 3:00 p.m. on the Independence Square. It depicts the grit and determination of the settlers traveling west from Independence on the Oregon Trail. The Oregon California Trails Association has donated it to Jackson County, which has placed it on the street-facing side of an existing marker dating to 1948. It is on the west side of the grounds of the Truman Courthouse near the Andrew Jackson statue.

“**The Free State of Jones**” movie is to start screening on Friday, June 24, 2016. It is about a county in Mississippi which became a safe haven for Confederates who became disillusioned with the South's cause. It will star Matthew McConaughey as Newton Knight whom some call a hero while others saw him as a murderous outlaw. It will be shown at the B&B Theatres, 4900 NE 80th Street, Kansas City, MO. Call 816-468-1100 for times and possibly other locations.

Lewis Diuguid, columnist for the *Kansas City Star*, finds it ironic that the state of **Kansas** welcomed slaves but now rejects refugees, or at least Gov. Brownback is making it difficult for refugees to settle there. One of the

better-known sites on the Underground Railroad was the town of Quindaro in Wyandotte County which helped black people fleeing bondage in Missouri, a slave state even during the Civil War.

The Lone Jack Historical Society invites you to attend the 154th anniversary of the Battle of Lone Jack with an old-fashioned soldier's family reunion and picnic from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. There will be a commemoration ceremony and Show and Tell tables set up on Saturday, August 13, 2016. Meet descendants of battle participants and original community citizens. If you have artifacts, family photos, or momentos you would like to share, please feel free to bring them. You can call 816-690-2072 to let the historical society know what you have. Remember, Rooster Cogburn in the movie "True Grit" says that he lost his eye in a little battle called Lone Jack.

The Steamboat *Arabia* team has found a boat called the *Malta*, the namesake of the rural city of Malta Bend, Missouri. David Hawley has been searching for steamboat wrecks up and down the Missouri River for more than 30 years. The *Malta* sunk in 1841 on its way to Council Bluffs, Iowa. Hawley says that samples show black and red wood and window glass in the wreckage. "If we find beads or pipes, we're off to the races," he said. If its artifacts are recovered and combined with those of the *Arabia*, they could become the museum of the great American steamboat.

The **Missouri Humanities Council** has moved to downtown St. Louis at the end of May 2016 which will make it more convenient for visitors and partners. The new location is Grand Central Building at Union Station, 415 South 18th Street, Suite 100, St. Louis, MO 63103. The phone number is 1-800-357-0909.

Congratulations to **Perry and Melanie Johnson** for their very well-planned and executed 160th anniversary of the Stone-Gamble Mansion at 1114 S. Noland Road, Independence, MO (a/k/a the Silver Heart Inn). We also want to thank members of the Round Table who assisted in various ways. **Ted Stillwell** and **Barbara Hughes** told stories in costume on Friday evening, May 20th. **Pat Gradwohl** and **Karen Wells** sold tickets for the house tour on Saturday, and **Beverly Shaw** had *Monuments* books for sale. On Sunday **Barbara Hughes** and **Beverly Shaw** dressed in costume for the fashion show preceding the lady's tea.

One of the markers in our first *Monuments* book is the **Union Prison Collapse** which now sits on the north end of the Grand Ave. bridge over I-670 in downtown Kansas City, MO. Soon the bridge will be removed because of structural decay. The marker was commissioned by the Native Sons and Daughters of Greater Kansas City, and

we hope that a suitable location will be found for it. It has already been moved once because of the construction of the Sprint Center.

The Missouri Monument at Vicksburg National Military Park is to be repaired with \$380,000 federal funding. The Mississippi military park where it's located commemorates the 47-day Siege of Vicksburg in 1863, a decisive victory for Union Major General Ulysses S. Grant. The monument was dedicated in 1917 and was the park's first structure honoring Union and Confederate soldiers from the same state. Hopefully a rededication ceremony can be held around the 100th anniversary of its unveiling.

The Art of Democracy: Remnant Trust Exhibit

Presented by the Harry S. Truman Library and Museum Included with Museum admission

On August 13, 1788, Alexander Hamilton penned the last of 85 essays written in the late 1780s to urge ratification of the U.S. Constitution. The essays, written under the pseudonym "Publius" and collected as *The Federalist*, were written by Hamilton, James Madison and John Jay.

Now, for a limited time, a first-edition copy of *The Federalist*—and more than a dozen other rare, early manuscripts—is on display at the Harry S. Truman Library and Museum as part of its temporary exhibition *A More Perfect Union*.

The Truman Library's exhibit of Remnant Trust documents includes:

Supplement to the *Gentleman's Magazine*, George Washington, 1796

In 1796, George Washington published what is now known as his "Farewell Address." His political testament to the nation was intended to inspire and guide future generations. He believed that the Republic was threatened by political factionalism and urged Americans to subordinate sectional jealousies to common national interests.

Democracy in America, Alexis de Tocqueville, 1836 Called "one of the most important texts in political literature," *Democracy in America* is the first serious study of the effects of democracy. De Tocqueville's work originated in a trip commissioned by the French

government to study the American penal system in 1831 -1832.

Emancipation Proclamation, Abraham Lincoln, 1864
See a rare 1864 Chicago Broadside printing of the proclamation issued by President Abraham Lincoln on January 1, 1863, declaring that all slaves in areas still in rebellion against the U.S. was henceforth to be free. Slavery was not completely abolished until the adoption of the thirteenth amendment to the Constitution in 1865.

Other early manuscripts on exhibit include “The Political Responsibilities of the People of the Free States, in Relation to American Slavery” (Anonymous, 1846); first printings of the 11th and 12th Amendments (1803); and a first-edition copy of Harriet Beecher Stowe’s Uncle Tom’s Cabin (1852).

The Remnant Trust documents are on display at the Harry S. Truman Library and Museum through Sunday, August 14, 2016. The display was made possible by the Truman Library Institute and through the sponsorship of Independence Pioneers Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution.

MARCH 4 - DECEMBER 31, 2016

A MORE PERFECT UNION: HOW CRITICAL PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS RESHAPED THE CONSTITUTION

Presented by the Harry S. Truman Library and Museum
Included with Museum admission

In November 2016, Americans will go to the polls to elect a new President. The election process bears almost no resemblance to the way George Washington was elected as the nation’s first President in 1789. Yet the Constitution, which laid out the structure of the Federal government and the procedures under which Presidents would be elected, has changed very little in the intervening years. Since the original ten amendments comprising the Bill of Rights were ratified 225 years ago in 1791, there have been only 17 additional Constitutional amendments. America has changed dramatically, but the Constitution has proven to be remarkably durable.

To mark the 225th anniversary of the Bill of Rights, this exhibition examines the interplay between Presidential elections and Constitutional amendments. The election of a few Presidents ushered in movements

that fundamentally altered the Constitution through amendments. The Civil War President Abraham Lincoln inspired the 13th, 14th, and 15th amendments.

Progressive era Presidents Theodore Roosevelt and Woodrow Wilson inspired the ratification of the 16th, 17th, 18th, and 19th amendments. Experiences of other Presidents also provoked Constitutional changes. The disputed 1800 election of Thomas Jefferson led to the 12th amendment; the fourth term of Franklin D. Roosevelt led to the 22nd amendment; the assassination of John F. Kennedy resulted in the 25th amendment.

Will the election of 2016 result in a movement to further alter the Constitution with amendments related to gun control, campaign financing, political gerrymandering and redistricting, capital punishment or other hot-button issues? Some watershed Presidential elections of the past have done just that.

This exhibition is made possible by funding from the Truman Library Institute, runs March 4 – December 31, 2016, and is included in the museum admission price.

The Truman Library is located at 500 West US Hwy. 24, Independence, Missouri. The admission prices are for adults (\$8), seniors 65 and over (\$7), children ages 6-15 (\$3), and free for children 5 and under.

Identities of Civil War Dead

A high school science teacher and his students at Pontiac Township High School near Chicago have returned identities to Civil War dead in the Odell Township Cemetery. As Mike Calvert pointed out in his letter, sometimes the dead were not able to be identified. However there is also an epidemic of deteriorating markers around the country because of the effects of acid rain and other factors. The students tried etching old tombstones, then smearing them with shaving cream because tiny ridges can appear when it dissolves. Nothing worked. Then they tried photography and reversed the black and white images and could start seeing some letters. Then came the task of comparing the letters to the registry of Civil War veterans for the county. Finally all five of the markers were identified. A federal agency was so impressed with their work that it sent new grave markers to the community 90 miles southwest of Chicago. An 18-year old student said, “They left their families, some forever, to fight for their country. The least we could do was give them their names so people can know who they are.”