



# ★ *The Border Star* ★

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

August 2016

## The Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri

### 2016 Officers

President ----- Mike Calvert  
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### *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](http://www.CWRTWM.org)

## *President's Letter*

It has happened before history was recorded. It is still happening. It will happen tomorrow. It will happen next year. It will happen a hundred years from now. It will happen when history is no longer recorded. It is the act of soldiers leaving home for some far off war and because of their call to duty saying goodbye to their loved ones. The only parallel I can draw from my life is the many times I have had to pack my bags and leave my loved ones behind. I know it wasn't exactly the same. I know that I could reasonably be assured that I would return home. The feeling of separation was as real for me as it is for the soldier. I watch the news reports that show a unit being deployed and I watch husbands embrace wife and children with the hope that signal to leave won't come. I see the tears that start to well in red eyes, the lasting longing looks and then the utterly absolute willpower that it takes to break the unseen bond that holds them together. I sit in awe of one of the bravest acts these individuals will ever do--turn their back and leave.

Then I watch the news reports when the soldiers return. I see the unbounded joy of the first sight of the returning loved one. The rush to make that first embrace that often finds the children being crushed between mom and dad. I see the red eyes and the tears. This time for joy.

What we don't often see is the family that waits for the flag-draped coffin along with the red eyes and tears that are found there. The loss of a loved one is often impossible to comprehend. Pride can be taken in the sacrifice to the country, but it really doesn't truly make the loss easier. I wonder sometimes not only about the immediate loss to the family but also about the long term loss. The inventions not invented. The children not born. The list could go on and on. I did a small calculation. If you assume 1 million casualties in the Civil War and calculated the number of persons who do not exist today the number could be 5 million. How many ideas, inventions, cures, mothers, fathers, sisters, and brothers have we not known? Too many and it still goes on.

~Mike Calvert

*President, Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri*

## **CWRTWM Calendar**

### August 2016 Membership Meeting

Wednesday, August 10, 2016 – 7:00 p.m. Fellowship Hall, Village Heights Community of Christ Church, 1009 Farview Drive, Independence, MO. Jim Beckner: The Rest of the Story about Charles Lee Younger.

### NO BOARD MEETING IN AUGUST 2016.

### Daytrip to Lexington, Missouri - October 15, 2016

Put this on your calendar for a wonderful time with the Round Table. We will use private cars instead of a bus, but we will be glad to pair you up with a driver.

## **Other History Events**

### Raytown Historical Society Ambassadors Meeting

Monday, August 1, 2016 – 10:00 a.m. Museum at 9705 East 63<sup>rd</sup> Street, Raytown, MO. “Early Sites Along Old 40 Highway.”

### African-American History at the Battle of Westport

Museum - Thursday, August 4, 2016 – 1:00 p.m. Battle of Westport Museum, 6601 Swope Parkway (just inside Swope Park), Kansas City, MO. Joe Mattox: African-Americans, the Bible and Slavery.

### Retrace Pioneer Steps in Independence, MO

Saturdays: August 6, 13, 20 & 27, 2016. 9:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. Encounters with People of the Past from 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. at the Farmer’s Market south of the Square (corner of Walnut and Liberty). “Chin Music” at 11:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. at the 1827 Log Courthouse, 107 W. Kansas, and the National Frontier Trails Museum, 318 W. Pacific. “Parting is Such Sweet Sorrow” at Noon on the Square when you wave goodbye to a wagon train bound for the gold in California! Town Topics at 2:00 p.m. at the 1827 Log Courthouse, 107 W. Kansas. At 4:00 p.m. welcome a caravan back from the Santa Fe Trail! Melodies of the Pioneers will be played from 3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. around the Square.

Catch a free covered wagon ride between 10:00 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. and again between 1:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. Rides will depart from the Historic Truman Courthouse on the Square on the hour to go to the National Frontier Trails Museum and will return back to the Square on the half hour.

### First Saturday at Shoal Creek Living History Village

Saturday, August 6, 2016 – 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Inside Robert Hodge Park, 6800 NE Barry Road, Kansas City, MO. Free family fun with reenactors, food, craft vendors, and demonstrations. Some activities charge for their services – cash only.

### Liberty, MO 2016 Walking Tours

Saturday, August 6, 2016 – 10:00 a.m. 1860’s Tour of Liberty. Meet at the fountain in front of City Hall, 101 E. Kansas Street.

### Gardens of Stone

Saturday, August 6, 2016 – 2:00 p.m. North Independence, MO Library, 317 W. 24 Highway, Independence, MO. Arnold Schofield will speak about the cemeteries created for fallen Civil War soldiers to create a “sense of place” which evolved into the National Cemetery System. Please register at (816) 252-0950.

### Kansas City Posse of the Westerners

Tuesday, August 9, 2016 – 6:00 p.m. Buffet menu (about \$12), Golden Corral, 8800 NW Skyview Ave., Kansas City, MO (near Home Depot). Abe Reddekopp will speak about Canada’s cowboy singers.

### Commemoration of the Battle of Lone Jack

Saturday, August 13, 2016 – 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Battle of Lone Jack Cemetery and Museum, 301 S. Bynum Road, Lone Jack, MO (south of 50 Highway). Come for the 154<sup>th</sup> anniversary with an Old Fashioned Soldiers’ Family Reunion and Picnic. At 10:00 a.m. there will be a commemoration service with the placing of wreaths in the cemetery. Then descendants of soldiers and original community citizens will be introduced. At 11:00 a.m. the Blue Grass Missourians will play followed by a picnic at Noon. The Lone Jack Historical Society is providing hot dogs, pulled pork, and brisket and a variety of beverages. Local churches will be providing side dishes, and you are invited to bring a dish to share. From 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. the Lone Jack PTA will host “old time games” and maybe a pie eating contest.

If you have family photos or momentos you would like to share, please feel free to bring them for a Show and Tell table. Call (816) 690-2072 for more information.

### **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.

#### Silver Heart Inn Murder Mystery Dinner

Saturday, August 13, 2016. Silver Heart Inn, 1114 S. Noland Road, Independence, MO (parking at the Immanuel Baptist Church parking lot, 112 W. 23<sup>rd</sup> Street). 1880's Historic Mansion Mystery Dinner. Advance tickets of \$29 required per guest. Includes dinner, dessert and entertainment. Call (816) 838-9508.

#### Shawnee Indian Mission Library Luncheon

Wednesday, August 17, 2016 – Noon. North building at 3403 W. 53<sup>rd</sup> Street, Fairway, KS. Bring your own lunch and beverage and learn about local history.

#### Independence Civil War Study Group

Wednesday, August 17, 2016 – 7:00 p.m. Perkins Restaurant, 3939 S. Bolger Drive, Independence, MO (across from Walmart). Lane Smith will give a talk about the Battle of Vicksburg and a Powerpoint.

#### Showing a Missouri You May Not Know

Thursday, August 18, 2016 – 2:00 p.m. Battle of Lexington State Historic Site, 1101 Delaware, Lexington, MO. Missouri Humanities speaker Josh Young will draw from his book Myths and Mysteries of Missouri to explore stories such as Tom Bass, a former slave who became a renowned horseman, and Jesse James.

#### Clay County Museum Third Thursday Program

Thursday, August 18, 2016 – 7:00 p.m. Museum at 14 N. Main Street, Liberty, MO. Chris Harris will speak about the Bell-Pharis House which is the mansion house of the Pharis Farm built in 1858-59.

#### Reunion and Reconciliation

Monday, August 22, 2016 – 6:30 p.m. Oak Grove Library, 2320 S. Broadway, Oak Grove, MO. Arnold Schofield will speak about the long, slow, and eventually incomplete process that created the nation's first veterans' organizations. Discover the role these organizations played in preserving history and perpetuating the Civil War's legacy. To register call (816) 690-3213.

#### Civil War Round Table of Kansas City

Tuesday, August 23, 2016 – 6:30 p.m. – Dinner (\$27). Holiday Inn and Suites, 8787 Reeder Road, Overland Park, KS. Sunset Ballroom, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor. Bill Quatman will discuss his book *A Young General and the Fall of Richmond: The Life and Career of Godfrey Weitzel*. Dinner reservations must be received by Friday Noon, August 19, 2016. Call Susan Keipp at (816) 333-0025.

#### Bates County Annual Heritage Dinner

Wednesday, August 24, 2016 – 6:30 p.m. Bates County

Museum, 802 Elks Drive, Butler, MO. Jeremy Neely will speak about Freeman Barrows, a founder of Bates County. Dinner will be catered by Butt Head BBQ and is by donation.

#### Barn Nomination Workshop

Thursday, August 25, 2016 – 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. The Barn at Kill Creek Farm, 9200 Kill Creek Road, Desoto, KS. This is a hands-on workshop to prepare for nominating a barn to the National Register of Historic Places or the Kansas Register. Cost is \$25. Make check payable to "KBA" and mail to Teresa Huffman, 230 E. Main, Marion, KS 66861. Includes lunch and snacks.

#### BarnFest '16

Friday, August 26, 2016 – Saturday, August 27, 2016. The Barn at Kill Creek Farm, 9200 Kill Creek Road, Desoto, KS. Registration includes 4 meals and snacks, 5 presentations and a motorcoach tour of barns in Gardner, Tonganoxie, Linwood and Lawrence. For those **not** members of the Kansas Barn Alliance, the cost is \$110 and must be paid by August 12, 2016. Make check payable to "KBA" and mail to Teresa Huffman, 230 E. Main, Marion, KS 66861.

#### Buffalo Bill Days Festival – Leavenworth, KS

Friday-Sunday, August 26-28, 2016. Hours on Friday: Noon to 9:00 p.m. Hours on Saturday: 9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. Hours on Sunday: 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Ray Miller Park, Leavenworth, KS. Live music, reenactors and history presentations, food, and vendors. Ted Stillwell will be portraying Buffalo Bill Cody.

## **Coming Events**

#### Centennial Grand Ball – Fort Scott, Kansas

Saturday, September 3, 2016 – 7:00 p.m. – 10:30 p.m. Memorial Hall, 1 E. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Fort Scott, KS. This is a celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the National Park Service. 1800's period dress is encouraged. Light refreshments of the period will be served. Cost is \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door per person. Couples are \$25 in advance and \$35 at the door. Children 12 and under and Dance Observers – \$5. Call Dee Young at (913) 557-1632.

#### Labor Day Weekend at Fort Larned

Saturday-Monday, September 3-5, 2016 – 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Fort Larned National Historical Site, 1767 KS Highway 156, Larned, KS. Remarkable Stories of the Indian Wars where Custer and Buffalo Bill Cody served. Original buildings, a visitor center, park rangers, and volunteers bring this turbulent time to life.

## News About Members and Friends

Congratulations to the **Independence Pioneers Chapter** for the election of one of its own to be Regent of the Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution. **Susan Fain Bowman** was installed June 19, 2016 at the 125<sup>th</sup> Continental Congress in Washington, D.C. Her state motto is “Three CHEERS for Missouri DAR in Historic Preservation, Education, and Patriotism.”

**Vernon and Winifred Case** celebrated their 65<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in July 2016. Winnie is a longtime member of the Round Table and is very active with the Jackson County Genealogical Society.

The Kansas City, MO City Council recently approved \$1.2 million for enhancements to the Grand Boulevard bridge over Interstate 670 in downtown Kansas City. These will include wider sidewalks, fencing, and lighting. The bridge has to be replaced because of structural problems and is on a fast track to open by December 1, 2016. We are interested in the improvements because the **historical marker placed by the Native Sons and Daughters** to commemorate the collapse of the jail where southern women died and others were injured was moved to the north end of the bridge when the Sprint Center was built. This event was one of the provocations for the guerrilla raid on Lawrence, Kansas.

**Pat Gradwohl** recently visited her daughter and son-in-law in Panama City, Florida where they have a lovely condo on the Gulf. At the other border of the U. S. **Barbara and Dick Hughes** celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary with a cruise to Alaska.

**John Sotos**, a cardiologist and medical consultant who helped dream up the mystery diseases on the TV show “House,” recently published an article which suggests that **Mary Todd Lincoln’s** odd behavior might have been the result of a vitamin B-12 deficiency which can cause pernicious anemia. The symptoms can include some mental problems such as irritability, delusions, and hallucinations.

The **Missouri History Museum** in St. Louis, MO was recently awarded two Awards of Merit from the American Association of State and Local History – one for its History Clubhouse for children and one for “A Walk in 1875 St. Louis,” which enlarged the cartographic masterpiece, *Pictorial St. Louis*, to a scale never before seen to enable visitors to walk through Gilded Age St. Louis.

Another recent honor was received by the **Monnett Battle of Westport Fund** which is responsible for the preservation of the battlefield at Byram’s Ford on 63<sup>rd</sup> Street in Kansas City which was the second day of the Battle of Westport. The **Westport Historical Society** awarded the 2016 R. Crosby Kemper III Historic

Preservation Award based on the preservation of Civil War history and the opening of the Battle of Westport Museum to educate visitors about the largest Civil War battle west of the Mississippi.

The **Pioneer Woman** statue will soon retake her place at the **National Frontier Trails Museum** in Independence, MO by the time of Santa-Cali-Gon Days over Labor Day weekend on the Square. The statue shows a woman with a baby in her arms and symbolizes the grit and sheer endurance of the women who made the trip west from Independence and the local women who have been pioneers in many spheres of the community. The original was stolen three summers ago and cut into pieces for salvage.

It is with regret that **Richard Stewart** is “retiring” from the history field where he has worked for 13 years, first as historian at Elmwood Cemetery and later as a researcher on Quantrill and the Missouri-Kansas Border Wars. He created the “Quantrill Special Collections” at the Benton County Historical Society in Bentonville, Arkansas. He would like to thank those who supported his research with contributions of money and materials.

The **University of St. Mary** in Leavenworth, KS is adding some 3,000 pieces of Civil War history to its collection with a gift from the **Bobby D. Lawrence family**. The collection has primary sources and artifacts from the Civil War era including more than 2,000 books that will go into the library’s circulation to be checked out by students and members of the public. The collection will have a blessing and opening ceremony in September.

**Lee Ward’s** collection of antique funeral artifacts is headed to the National Museum of Funeral History in Houston. Many of his oldest artifacts came from the former Reppert-Brown Funeral Home in Buckner, MO (now Speaks-Buckner Chapel) which is reportedly the oldest continuously operated funeral home west of the Mississippi River since 1868. Lee and Emily were kind enough to host the Round Table for a tour of the collection many years ago, and we appreciate the knowledge he imparted with his *book Coffins, Kits, and More*.

There is now a monument to **Cathay Williams**, a female Buffalo Soldier, who disguised herself as a man to enlist and is the only known black woman to serve in the U. S. army during the 19<sup>th</sup> century. She was born in Independence, MO as a slave and was forced to serve in the Union Army as a cook, then served two years as a man. Her gender was eventually discovered and she was dismissed from the service. She is known as a trail-blazer who set the path for all black female soldiers. The bust of Williams is located at the Richard Allen Cultural Center and Museum in Leavenworth, KS.

