



★ *The Border Star* ★

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

March-April 2018

The Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri

2018 Officers

President ----- Mike Calvert
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Border Star Editor

Dennis Myers ~ (816) 769-6490

Meetings

2nd Wednesday of each month
7:00 p.m. ~ Fellowship Hall
Village Heights Community of Christ
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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Mailing Address

CWRTWM, P.O. Box 3019
Independence, MO 64055

Website

www.CWRTWM.org

President's Letter

Due to an Email between Beverly and member Bob Steiert, discussions at the board planning meeting and various articles in Civil War magazines, the Little Blue Battlefield has been in my thoughts. As many of you are aware I have been very fortunate to visit battlefields across the United States, as many of you also have. When I look across a field, in my mind, I see the action taking place. Some would say that I am a few rounds short of filling a Spencer carbine magazine (look it up). I do see what isn't there.

What about those who don't see what I see? Don't worry, you're the sane ones. I tell you all this to discuss this; The Little Blue Battlefield lacks definition. Not for individuals who have read the books, but the general public who, maybe, have never been to a battlefield. It lacks definition in the form of discernable features such as, the trenches of Vicksburg or the ridges of Gettysburg. It lacks a *go to feature*. That fact presents a problem. Maybe I should say a hurdle to overcome.

As we pursue the completion of the National Registry Nomination let's begin to address the *go to feature* conundrum. What do we do? Are more interpretive signs needed? A short documentary? Statues and memorials? A self-guided tour using a cell phone? A living history encampment to tell the story? Lots of questions, but somewhere there is an answer! Let's think about it, create a plan, seek the funding and let the people know what we know. That a battle did occur at the Lexington-Independence road crossing of the Little Blue River on October 21, 1864. Maybe not a Gettysburg or a Wilson's Creek but a very important action in what is arguably the longest cavalry raid of the Civil War. Eat your heart out John Hunt Morgan – take that!

~Mike Calvert

President, Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri

CWRTWM Calendar

March 2018 Membership Meeting

Wednesday, March 14, 2018 – 7:00 p.m. Village Heights Community of Christ Church, Fellowship Hall, 1009 Farview Drive, Independence, MO. Terry Elliott: “How the Civil War Guerrillas Led to the Oklahoma Outlaws.”

April 2018 Membership Meeting

Wednesday, April 11, 2018 – 7:00 p.m. Village Heights Community of Christ Church, Fellowship Hall, 1009 Farview Drive, Independence, MO. Harold Dellinger and Jimmy Hunsucker: “Why Did the Quantrill Reunions Take Place at Wallace Grove in Independence?”

Other History Events

Antique Appraisal Fair – Vaile Mansion

Saturday, March 3, 2018 – 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Vaile Mansion, 1500 N. Liberty Street, Independence, MO. \$10 for 2 items to be appraised.

First Saturday Lecture at Arrow Rock

Saturday, March 3, 2018 – 10:00 a.m. Arrow Rock State Historic Site, 39521 Visitor Center Drive, Arrow Rock, MO (14 miles north of I-70 at exit 89). Dr. Michael Kateman: “The Fenwicks of Arrow Rock, 1835-present, My Ancestry, Racial Identity, and Patriotism.” Following the lecture, the Experience Arrow Rock tourism committee will host a chili and soup luncheon at Arrow Rock’s Old Schoolhouse at the corner of Eighth and Main Street. Served from 11:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Lunch is \$7.50 and just \$2.50 additional for a homemade dessert.

Bleeding Kansas Program Series – Lecompton, KS

Sunday, March 4, 2018 – 2:00 p.m. Constitution Hall State Historic Site, 319 Elmore, Lecompton, KS. Deborah Barker: “Black Civil War Veterans Build a Church in 1867.” Suggested donation of \$3 for adults.

Scouts, Spies and Detectives

Monday, March 5, 2018 – 6:30 p.m. Oak Grove Library, 2320 S. Broadway, Oak Grove, MO. Registration to 816 690-3213. Repeated March 15, 2018 at Midwest Genealogy Center.

Mourning during the Civil War

Friday, March 9, 2018 – 2:00 p.m. Blue Springs South Library, 2220 S. 7 Highway, Blue Springs, MO. Barbara Hughes portrays Amanda Pine Stout who is mourning for her brother who died in the war. Her PowerPoint presentation will share the 19th century view of mourning.

Night at the Museum: Pioneering Women

Saturday, March 10, 2018 – 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. National Frontier Trails Museum, 318 W. Pacific Ave., Independence, MO. Women from History will come to life to share stories of triumph, innovation, and perseverance. Opening remarks at 6:15 pm by Barbara Potts, first female mayor of Independence. You will hear stories from pioneers in the fields of business, science, literature, law, aviation, and more. Refreshments provided. Cost is \$15. Call (816) 325-7575 for tickets.

Kansas City Posse of the Westerners

Tuesday, March 13, 2018 – 6:00 pm. Buffet Menu (about \$12), Golden Corral, 8800 N.W. Skyview Ave., Kansas City, MO (near Home Depot). Gary Hicks, Alexander Majors Reenactor and President of the Kansas City Area Historic Trails Association.

Cass County Civil War Round Table

Tuesday, March 13, 2018 – 7:00 p.m. Pearson Hall, Cass County Library, 400 E. Mechanic, Harrisonville, MO. Cynthia Ammerman, Executive Director of the Cass County Historical Society: “Local Historical Sites.”

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 Drive which is across the street from 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 may call Beverly Shaw on her cell phone: (816) 225-7944.

Scouts, Spies and Detectives

Thursday, March 15, 2018 – 6:30 p.m. Midwest Genealogy Center, 3440 S. Lee's Summit Road, Independence, MO. Reservations to (816) 252-7228.

Eleventh-Hour Soldiers – Lawrence, Kansas

Thursday, March 15, 2018 – 6:30 p.m. Watkins Museum of History, 1047 Massachusetts Street, Lawrence, KS. Dr. Will Hickox: Eleventh-Hour Soldiers, The Late-War Volunteers Who Secured Union Victory."

Clay County Third Thursday

Thursday, March 15, 2018 – 7:00 p.m. Clay County Museum, 14 N. Main Street, Liberty, MO. "60 Year History of Dr. Goodson, the Second Doctor in the Building Which Houses the Museum."

Mid-Missouri Civil War Round Table

Monday, March 19, 2018 – 7:00 p.m. Boone County Historical Society Museum, 3801 Ponderosa Drive, Columbia, MO. Jim Skain: "The Irish in the Civil War."

Brown Bag Lunch at the Shawnee Indian Mission

Wednesday, March 21, 2018 – Noon. Bring your own lunch and enjoy a speaker about 12:30 p.m. 3403 W. 53rd St., Fairway, KS. North Building, Come upstairs from the street. Matthew Reeves: "Anatomy on the Frontier – A. T. Still at the Wakarusa Shawnee Indian Mission."

Independence Civil War Study Group

Wednesday, March 21, 2018 – 7:00 p.m. Perkins Restaurant, 3939 S. Bolger Drive, Independence, MO (across from Walmart). Sam Gill: "Jo Shelby's Missouri Raid of 1863."

Mapping Your Family History

Saturday, March 24, 2018 – 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Stoney Creek Hotel and Conference Center, 18011 Bass Pro Drive, Independence, MO. Ruth Ann Hager will lecture on "Finding the First Land-owner" and "Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies and Navies in the Civil War." Patti Hobbs will give two lectures on DNA testing. Cost is \$65 and includes a buffet lunch. Register through Eventbrite. For more information, please visit www.midwestgenealogycenter.org.

Botany Ecology Design Event

Saturday, March 24, 2018 – 1:00 p.m. National Frontier Trails Museum, 318 W. Pacific Ave., Independence, MO. Dr. Susan Flanders; "Aldo Leopold – The Most Important Conservationist of the 20th Century and His Work in Missouri." Book signing by Dr. Flanders of *Missouri State Parks and Historic Sites: Exploring our Legacy*. At 2:00 p.m. there will be a special screening of *Green Fire: Aldo Leopold, A Land Ethic for Our Time*.

Civil War Round Table of Kansas City

Tuesday, March 27, 2018 – 6:30 p.m. – Dinner (\$28). Holiday Inn and Suites, 8787 Reeder Road, Overland Park, KS. Sunset Ballroom, 8th Floor. Aaron Barnhart and Diane Eickhoff: "Women Soldiers in the Civil War." Dinner reservations must be made by Noon, Thursday, March 22nd by calling Susan Keipp at (816) 333-0025.

Park Day 2018 – Lone Jack, Missouri

Saturday, April 7, 2018 – 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Battle of Lone Jack Civil War Site, 301 S. Bynum Road, Lone Jack, MO. Volunteers are invited to help with cleanup, leaves to rake, flower beds to clean out, limbs to be gathered and stacked. A hot, homemade lunch, history talk and a limited number of 2018 Park Day T-shirts. Please bring rakes and gloves. In order to have plenty of food, please register at President@historiclonejack.org. In case of inclement weather, the reschedule date is Saturday, April 14th.

Park Day 2018 – Lexington, Missouri

Saturday, April 7, 2018 – 9:00 a.m. Visitor Center, Battle of Lexington State Historic Site, 1101 Delaware Street, Lexington, MO. Projects include trash cleanup, painting, and landscaping.

Kansas City Posse of the Westerners

Tuesday, April 10, 2018 – 6:00 p.m. Buffet Menu (about \$12), Golden Corral, 8800 N. W. Skyview Ave., Kansas City, MO (near Home Depot). Mark Kelly: *Annie's Story: The Extraordinary Life of Annie Dougherty Ruff*.

Cass County Civil War Round Table

Tuesday, April 10, 2018 – 7:00 p.m. Pearson Hall, Cass County Library, 400 E. Mechanic, Harrisonville, MO. Angela Schear will discuss a

diary written during the Civil War in the State of New York by a relative of hers.

Atkins-Johnson Museum – Art Opening

Wednesday, April 11, 2018 – 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
4109 NE Pleasant Valley Road, Gladstone, MO.
“Still Beauty: Scenes from an American Farm” by photographer Matt Hankel. Free refreshments and the opportunity to meet the artist. Works of art available for sale with a portion going to the preservation of the Atkins-Johnson Farm and Museum.

Mid-Missouri Civil War Round Table

Monday, April 16, 2018 – 7:00 p.m. Boone County Historical Society Museum, 3801 Ponderosa Drive, Columbia, MO. Jim Cummings: “Dr. Samuel Mudd.”

Independence Civil War Study Group

Wednesday, April 18, 2018 – 7:00 p.m. Perkins Restaurant, 3939 S. Bolger Drive, (across from Walmart). Erin Pouppirt: “Female Spies.”

Clay County Museum’s Third Thursday

Thursday, April 19, 2018 – 7:00 p.m. 14 N. Main Street, Liberty, MO. Rachel Adger, winner of the History Award from the Liberty, Missouri high schools.

Quindaro – The Coming of Freedom

Thursday, April 19, 2018 – 6:30 p.m. Central Library, 14 W. 10th St., Kansas City, MO. Quintard Taylor: “The Coming of Freedom in the Decade of Civil War.” Quindaro was founded in 1856 in collaboration with the Wyandot Tribe and is located in Kansas City, KS. It was a safe harbor for escaped slaves crossing the Missouri River into Kansas Territory and was a vital stop for those traveling the Underground Railroad. This is the keynote address for the Quindaro Symposium which follows on April 20-21. RSVP for the Central Library program to (816) 701-3400.

Quindaro Symposium

Friday and Saturday, April 20-21, 2018 – 9:00 a.m. Memorial Hall, 600 North 7th Street Trafficway, Kansas City, KS. Topics on Friday: “Bleeding Kansas and a Nation Divided,” “Founding the Free Port of Quindaro,” “Creating a Territorial Culture and Making an Impact,” “The Promise of

Freedom,” and the film “The Battle of Island Mound.”

Topics on Saturday: “Archaeological Significance of Quindaro,” Preserving our History: A Community Vision,” and a performance by Nancy Dawson of “Stories From da Dirt.” Reservations are required by April 8, 2018 for lunches and seminars. Please visit the Freedom Frontier site: www.freedomsfrontier.org/pages/QuindaroSymposium.

Afternoon Tea at the Anderson House

Saturday, April 21, 2018 – 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Battle of Lexington, 1101 Delaware Street, Lexington, MO. Elegant tea served by ladies in period dress. Guests will enjoy an etiquette presentation, piano music, and games. Formal or period dress is encouraged. For information, please call Lindsay Burks at (660) 259-4654.

Civil War Encampment, Fort Scott, Kansas

Saturday and Sunday, April 21-22, 2018 – 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Fort Scott National Historic Site, 1 Old Fort Blvd., Fort Scott, KS. Because of its strategic location, Fort Scott became a major base of Union operations during the Civil War. Enjoy a weekend of Civil War history and living history demonstrations.

Civil War Round Table of Kansas City

Tuesday, April 24, 2018 – 6:30 p.m. – Dinner (\$28). Holiday Inn and Suites, 8787 Reeder Road, Overland Park, KS. Sunset Ballroom, 8th Floor. Eric Wittenberg: “The Battle of Brandy Station.” Dinner reservations must be made by Noon, Thursday, April 19, 2018 by calling Susan Keipp at (816) 333-0025.

Annual Meeting of KC Area Historic Trails Association

Monday, April 30, 2018 – 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Trailside Center, 9901 Holmes, Kansas City, MO. Diane Euston, Editor of the Santa Fe Trailer, a monthly blog: PowerPoint about local trails, history, pioneers, buildings, and settlements.

Upcoming Events

Battle of Helena, Arkansas Reenactment

April 13-15, 2018 – 155 Anniversary of the Battle of Helena. Battle scenarios take place on several

Delta Cultural Center sites, including Battery C and Fort Curtis. For additional information, please visit www.deltaculturalcenter.com/special-events/battle-of-helena-reenactment.

Doniphan, Missouri Civil War Days

April 20-21, 2018. Living history and skirmish in SE Missouri at US-160 and MO-21. For information, please visit the Doniphan, Missouri website at www.doniphanmissouri.org/civil_war_days.

Baton Rouge Civil War Symposium

April 27-28, 2018. 1800 S. Acadian Thruway, Baton Rouge, LA. Early bird discount until March 24: \$115 for Friday reception and Saturday Symposium. "Civil War Life: Sex, Lies, and Tintypes." Register at www.brcwrt.com

Bus Trip to Glasgow, Missouri

Saturday, May 12, 2018. The Civil War Round Table of Kansas City is planning a bus trip to Glasgow, MO. The tour guide will be J.Y. Miller of Glasgow who gave a program on the Battle of Glasgow in 2016. More details will follow.

Summer Camp at the Wornall and Majors Homes

Week 1: June 11-15, 2018. Week 2: July 9-13, 2018. For children who have completed Kindergarten through age 12. Various historical topics at day camp. Early bird special of \$200 for a full week if registered by March 31st. For information please visit the Wornall and Majors website at www.wornallmajors.org/learn/summer-camp/.

Bi-Monthly Border Star

We are starting to publish the *Border Star* newsletter on a bi-monthly basis even though we will continue our monthly meetings. The calendar will extend for a two-month period so please save your copy for future reference. This change is an effort to save some money on postage costs. If you have not yet paid dues for 2018, you can bring them to the March 14th meeting or mail them to "CWRTWM, P. O. Box 3019, Independence, MO 64055. A family membership is \$35 and a single membership is \$25.

News about Members and Friends

We were glad to see **Mike and Molly Clay** at the February meeting and to learn that they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in January 2018.

Our friend **Richard Stewart** is no longer living at Humansville but is now living in Aldrich, about 20 miles south. He is continuing his research on Quantrill history and will soon be posting new stories. Richard's new address is 125 East 510th Road, Aldrich, MO 65601.

As a part of the upcoming bicentennial celebration of the State of Missouri in 2021, some landmark portraits of the first governor, **Alexander McNair**, and first lady, **Margaret McNair**, were donated to the Missouri Governor's Mansion in Jefferson City. Instrumental in making this happen was **Jim Gamble** of Independence, Missouri. You may recognize the Gamble name for being the previous owners of the historical house at 1114 Noland Road, Independence, MO which is now operated by Perry and Melanie Johnson as the Silver Heart Inn.

Some of the **bicentennial events** are a license plate which becomes available in 2019, a traveling exhibit called "Struggle for Statehood, 1818-1821" which opens in December at the State Capitol and will then travel throughout the state, an on-line Missouri Encyclopedia, and multi-volume books on the state's history.

Wilson's Creek National Battlefield has expanded by 60 acres of historical land on the southeast boundary and was the first position of Col. Franz Sigel's troops during the battle.

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.wcqsociety.com or send an E-Mail to wcqsociety@aol.com.

Reconstruction and Grant

by Aaron Barnhart

What's happening, I think, is that the most significant event of Grant's presidency is finally getting the attention it has long deserved.

Reconstruction.

In our endless fascination with the Civil War, many of us willfully overlooked an uncomfortable fact – that the hard-fought gains of America's greatest conflict were almost completely undone afterward.

Reconstruction, that great social experiment of assimilating four million newly liberated slaves into the American way of life, was conducted under two presidents, Johnson and Grant, and ended under a third, Hayes.

That traditional assessment, however, misses the real story.

In a country where peacetime power resided almost entirely with the states and localities, the angry white men of the South took back their Confederacy. And the federal government pretty much let them do it.

Andrew Johnson, a Tennessean more aligned with the views of Jackson than Lincoln, stood by as the Ku Klux Klan rose in unholy terror against blacks in the South.

Grant tried to get Reconstruction back on track.

In the first place, the Southern pushback was much stronger than the North had anticipated. Conflicts between white power and blacks seeking political equality broke out all over the South.

Secondly, Grant was a man of his time. He simply couldn't conceive of using federal power the way JFK or Eisenhower would do in the

civil rights era. Grant sent troops to South Carolina to enforce rights for African-Americans, but in many other cases he didn't.

Perhaps the biggest impediment to Reconstruction, however, was the public mood. "A majority of Americans – Northerners and Southerners – rejected civil and political rights for blacks," wrote Joan Waugh (UCLA). As time wore on, the people "lost interest in Reconstruction."

Then bad history took over.

Several generations of white historians argued that Reconstruction had gone too far, despite ample evidence that it hadn't gone far enough. Pioneering black historians Carter G. Woodson and W.E.B. DuBois were ignored for decades.

So, as we re-evaluate this dark chapter in our past, we must re-evaluate the man under whose watch most of it happened. Historians now consider Grant one of our stronger presidents in his commitment to "equal justice for all."

Translation: Like other presidents, U.S. Grant was dealt a bad hand by his predecessor, faced enormous domestic pressures – and did the best he could.

This excerpt is from Aaron Barnhart's blog at: www.historyispower.blog. Mr. Barnhart talks about "History is Power" on KCPT and that "*There was so much history left out.*"

