



★ *The Border Star* ★

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

May-June 2018

The Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri

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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

Mike Calvert ----- (816) 898-2603
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Mailing Address

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Independence, MO 64055

Website

www.CWRTWM.org

President's Letter

"History cultivates every faculty of the mind, enlarges sympathies, liberalizes thought and feeling, furnishes and approves the highest standards of character."

~Margaret Phelps*

Often times in this forum I have talked about how history is so important to us. How history repeats itself. How we need to learn from history in order not to make the same mistake over and over. It must be said here that I have missed the point. I have misunderstood the real reason to study history. I have been wrong.

I have been wrong. I thought with the study of history we always learned what mistakes not to make. I never fathomed the full depth and reach of what the study of our past does for us. This study I enjoy so much will make you a better human being. It helps you to understand the other person. It allows you to be free to think in different ways. It makes you understand what it means to have integrity and act with it.

I have missed those points all these years. The study of history helps you to be a better you.

Go forth, study history and be better.

*Margaret Phelps was Harry Truman's history teacher when he attended Independence High School. She knew what she was talking about.

~Mike Calvert

President, Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri

CWRTWM Calendar

May 2018 Membership Meeting

Wednesday, May 9, 2018 – 7:00 p.m. Village Heights Community of Christ Church, Fellowship Hall, 1009 Farview Drive, Independence, MO. Gregg Higginbotham and Dave Bears present the “Frank James and Cole Younger Wild West Show.”

June 2018 Membership Meeting

Wednesday, June 13, 2018 – 7:00 p.m. Village Heights Community of Christ Church, Fellowship Hall, 1009 Farview Drive, Independence, MO.

June 2018 Picnic and Membership Meeting

Wednesday, June 13, 2018 – 6:00 p.m. – Indoor Picnic. 7:00 p.m.- Meeting. Village Heights Community of Christ, Fellowship Hall, 1009 Farview Drive, Independence, MO. Potluck Picnic with the Round Table providing fried chicken and drinks. Everyone else can bring a dish to share. Program: Show and Tell – Members can share Civil War family history, memorabilia, or what they have been reading.

Other History Events

Civil War Field Day – John Wornall House

Saturday, May 5, 2018 – 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. John Wornall House, 6115 Wornall Road, Kansas City, MO. Meet and interact with Civil War soldiers, surgeons and civilians on the site of an authentic Civil War field hospital. Admission free, with a suggested donation of \$5.00.

Guided Walking Tour of Liberty, Missouri

Saturday, May 5, 2018 – 10:00 a.m. Historic churches. Tour meets at 138 N. Main Street, Liberty, MO at the Presbyterian Church inner courtyard. Free.

New Volunteer Re-enactor Meeting

Sunday, May 6, 2018 – 2:00 p.m. Shoal Creek Living History Museum, 7000 NE Barry Road, Kansas City, MO. Informational Meeting about becoming a volunteer on first Saturdays beginning June 2nd. The living history Museum is inside Hodge Park. Call (816) 792-2655 for driving directions.

Kansas City Posse of the Westerners

Tuesday, May 8, 2018 – 6:00 pm. Buffet menu (about \$12), Golden Corral, 8800 N. W. Skyview Ave., Kansas City, MO (near Home Depot). Sam Gill: The Rip-Roarin’ Fur Trade.

Cass County Civil War Round Table

Tuesday, May 8, 2018 – 7:00 p.m. Pearson Hall, Cass County Library, 400 E. Mechanic, Harrisonville, MO. John Moloski: The Battle of Franklin, TN.

Atkins-Johnson Museum-Spring Tea

Saturday, May 12, 2018 – Noon. 4109 NE Pleasant Valley Road, Gladstone, MO. Wear your spring hat and enjoy tea and delicious refreshments from Laughing Place Bakery. Advance tickets required – \$15. Tickets may be purchased at the front desk of the Gladstone Community Center or by calling (816) 423-4200.

Glasgow, MO 2018 Tour

Saturday, May 12, 2018 – 9:00 am. (Pickup in Independence, MO.) Return about 4:30 p.m. Sponsored by the Civil War Roundtable of Kansas City. Cost: \$45 including bus and lunch. Call Beverly Shaw for info: 816 225-7944 (cell).

Brown Bag Lunch at Shawnee Indian Mission

Wednesday, May 16, 2018 – Noon. Bring your own lunch and enjoy a speaker about 12:30 pm. 3403 W. 53rd Street, Fairway, KS. North Building. Come upstairs from the street. Kristen Zane: “The Wyandot.”

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.

Independence, MO Civil War Study Group
Wednesday, May 16, 2018 – 7:00 pm. Perkins Restaurant, 3939 S. Bolger Drive, Independence, MO (across from Walmart). Dr. Michael Monaco: Civil War Medicine.

3rd Thursday at Clay County Museum
Thursday, May 17, 2018 – 7:00 p.m.
Clay County Museum, 14 N. Main Street, Liberty, MO. Clay and Barbara Lozier: History of Winery Hill in Liberty, MO.

Armed Forces Day at Big Shoal Cemetery
Saturday, May 19, 2018 – 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
Big Shoal Cemetery, 4125 NE 64th Street, Gladstone, MO. Tribute to nine veterans with a gun salute, wreath laying, and guest speakers Tony Meyers and Keith Nelson who will talk about the importance of historic cemeteries. Free and open to the public.

Party Like It's 1843 – Independence, MO
May 18-20, 2018. Celebration of the 175th Anniversary of the Great Migration on the Oregon Trail which left from the Independence Square on May 20, 1843.

Friday, May 18, 2018 – 6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
National Frontier Trails Museum lawn, 318 W. Pacific, Independence, MO. Westward Ho! Down. Pioneer dancing and music. Beer, wine and appetizers. Tickets are \$20. You can get tickets by going to www.partylikeits1843.org. You will see at the top – Buy your tickets here! Click the word “here.” On the new screen, scroll down to whichever event you want and click the poster. This will take you to Eventbrite to order tickets. There is a combo ticket for \$40 to cover three events.

Saturday, May 19, 2018 – 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Live Action Oregon Trail Game at Hiram Young Park, 405 N. Dodgion Ave., Independence, MO. Teams of 4 will try their luck on the Oregon Trail with trivia, puzzles, and physical challenges. Team registration is \$20.

Saturday, May 19, 2018 – 10:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Oregon Trail Lecture Series. Brady Courtroom, 2nd floor of the Historic Truman Courthouse, 112 W. Lexington, Independence, MO. At 10:30 a.m. –

Jon Boursaw: Potawatomi Trail of Tears. At 11:45 a.m. – Theresa Hupp: Historical Fiction. At 1:00 p.m. – David Jackson: Independence in 1843. At 2:15 p.m. – Ross Marshall: KC's Historic Trails in 1843. At 3:30 p.m. – Travis Boley: KC's Historic Trails in the 21st Century. Free but you must RSVP at Eventbrite.com.

Saturday, May 19, 2018 – 5:30 p.m. – Pioneer Fashion Show, Truman Memorial Building Auditorium, 416 W. Maple Ave., Independence, MO. \$15 at Eventbrite.com.

Sunday, May 20, 2018 – 2:00 p.m. – Sounds from the Oregon Trail. National Frontier Trails Museum Auditorium, 318 W. Pacific, Independence, MO. A Soundtrack Inspired by Diaries and Letters from the Trails. Light Refreshments. Tickets are \$10 through Eventbrite.com.

The \$40 combo ticket can be used for Westward Ho! Down, the Pioneer Fashion Show, and Sounds from the Oregon Trail.

Mid-Missouri Civil War Round Table
Monday, May 21, 2018 – 7:00 p.m. Boone County Historical Society Museum, 3801 Ponderosa Drive, Columbia, MO. George Davis: Burge's Western Sharpshooters.

Civil War Roundtable of Kansas City
Tuesday, May 22, 2018 – 6:30 p.m. – Dinner (\$28). Holiday Inn and Suites, 8787 Reeder Road Overland Park, KS. Sunset Ballroom, 8th Floor. Dr. Phillip R. Kemmerly: “Shiloh Controversies.” Three controversies based on the effects of the flooding on the Tennessee River. Dinner reservations must be made by Thursday, May 17th by calling Susan Keipp at (816) 333-0025.

Highlights in History at Fort Scott, KS
Sat., Sun., Mon. – May 26-27-28, 2018 – 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Fort Scott National Historic Site, 1 Old Fort Scott Blvd., Fort Scott, KS. Talks, tours, demonstrations and living history programs.

2018 Wornall / Majors Garden Tour
Saturday, June 2, 2018 – 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Eight gardens open including the Wornall House herb and native plants at 6115 Wornall Road,

Kansas City, MO. \$25 in advance or \$30 at the door. www.wornallmajors.org/gardentour2018.

First Saturday at Shoal Creek Living History

Saturday, June 2, 2018 – 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Shoal Creek in Hodge Park, 7000 NE Barry Road, Kansas City, MO. Gunfighters, outlaws, Civil War soldiers, and mountain men. Historical Demonstrations of life in Missouri during the 19th Century. From Liberty go west 2 miles on Highway 152, turn north (right) on to Shoal Creek Parkway and then an immediate left on to Barry Road. Go west to Hodge Park entrance. Follow the road past the driving range and up the hill to the iron gate entrance.

National Trails Day Rendezvous

Saturday, June 2, 2018 – 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Lone Elm Park, 21151 W. 167th St., Olathe, KS. Celebrate the 50th anniversary of the National Trails System and the 175th anniversary of the Oregon Trail. Lunch is \$12 for adults and \$5 for children. Send your check payable to KCAHTA and mail to K. C. Area Historic Trails Association, 5400 Johnson Dr., #275, Mission, KS 66205-2911 by May 23rd. Give names and addresses of those attending along with E-Mail and phone number.

First Saturday Lecture at Arrow Rock, MO

Saturday, June 2, 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). Aaron Barnhart: Jesse James, Jo Shelby and the War after the War.

Confederate Memorial Day-Higginsville, MO

Saturday, June 2, 2018 – 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Confederate Memorial State Historic Site. Take I-70 east to Exit 49. Go north on MO Highway 13 through Higginsville to where it intersects with MO Highway 213. Procession to the Confederate Cemetery about 1:00 p.m.

Clay County Picnic at Mount Gilead

Sunday, June 3, 2018 – Gathering at 11:00 a.m.
Potluck picnic at Noon. Mount Gilead Church and School, 15918 Plattsburg Road, Kearney, MO. Clay County Museum will provide the meat dish and drinks. Everyone else can bring a dish to share. Come in costume or not.

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute – Columbia, MO

Summer Semester-First Mondays in June, 2018 – 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 p.m. The Mid-Missouri Civil War Round Table presents Civil War topics: On June 4th – Joan Stack: “Ride with the Devil.” On June 18th – Harold Miederhoff: POW Camps. And on June 25th – Gene McArtor: The Great Locomotive Chase. Fee. To register, please call (573) 882-8189.

Kansas City Posse of the Westerners

Tuesday, June 12, 2018 – 6:00 p.m. Buffet menu (about \$12), Golden Corral, 8800 N.W. Skyview Ave., Kansas City, MO (near Home Depot). Alisha Cole: Laura Ingalls Wilder.

Independence Civil War Study Group

Wednesday, June 20, 2018 – 7:00 p.m. Perkins Restaurant, 3939 S. Bolger Drive, Independence, MO (across from Walmart). Dennis Garstang: The Most Famous Outlaw You Never Heard About.

Clay County Third Thursday – Liberty, MO

Thursday, June 21, 2018 – 7:00 p.m. 14 N. Main Street, Liberty, MO. Rick McDowell: Waltus Watkins’ Brother. Waltus Watkins and his brother came from Kentucky to Missouri to try to grow cotton which was not successful. Waltus ended up building Watkins Woolen Mill. What became of his brother?

City of Peculiar, MO Sesquicentennial

Saturday, June 23, 2018 – 7:00 a.m. – Lions Club Pancake Breakfast, 9:00 a.m. – Parade, 11:00 a.m. – Real Life Church Ice Cream Social, 2:00 p.m. – Beard & Mustache Contest, 2:00 p.m. – Lions Club Melon Snack. For events go to the webpage at www.facebook.com/pg/PeculiarSesquicentennial/events/. The name of the town came about because the Postmaster had trouble finding a name not already in use. The Postmaster General gave the town’s predicament grave consideration and replied, “My conclusion is that in all the land it would be difficult to imagine a more distinctive, a more peculiar name than Peculiar.”

Civil War Roundtable of Kansas City

Tuesday, June 26, 2018 – 6:30 p.m. – Dinner (\$28). Holiday Inn and Suites, 8787 Reeder Road, Overland Park, KS. Sunset Ballroom, 8th Floor. Dr. Clay Mountcastle: “Punitive War.” This is

title of Dr. Mountcastle's book published in 2009. He will focus on the interplay of the Confederate insurgency and guerilla operations in the several theaters of the war and the Federal response to the insurgency. Dinner reservations must be made by Noon, Thursday, June 21, 2018 by calling Susan Keipp at (816) 333-0025.

Fort Scott National Historic Site

Saturday, June 30, 2018 – Special night firing of the artillery. 1 Old Fort Blvd., Fort Scott, KS.

Summer Camp

Camp Wornall / Majors Week 1

Monday – Friday, June 11 – 15, 2018. 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Children who have completed kindergarten through age 12. Register by May 31st at www.wornallmajors.org/learn/summer-camp/
Monday, June 11th, Majors House, 8201 State Line Road, Kansas City, MO. "Life on the Frontier." Tuesday, June 12th, Majors House. "Toys and Games. Wednesday, June 13th – Majors House. "Traveling across the Wild West." Thursday, June 14th – Majors House. "Arts and Crafts." Friday, June 15th, Wornall House, 6115 Wornall Road, Kansas City, MO. "The Civil War and the Battle of Westport."

Reenactments

May 18-20, 2018 – Lamoni, IA-CANCELLED

May 28, 2018 – Cape Girardeau, MO. Memorial Day – 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Local reenactors will honor the memory of veterans past and present at Fort D Historic Site in SE MO bootheel. Please visit www.Fortdhistoricsite.com/fortd/Events.

June 2-3, 2018 – Pittsfield, IL. Lincoln Days. Pittsfield is on US Highway 54, 18 miles west of Louisiana, MO. www.pikelincoln.com

June 8-10, 2018 – Greenfield, MO. Generic reenactment at living history park at Hulston Mill in SW MO off US Highway 160 between Ash Grove and Greenfield. www.facebook.com/pages/Hulston-Mill-Civil-War-Days

June 9-10, 2018 – Camden County (Linn Creek), MO. Battle of Munday's Hollow. Trapshooters Association. Grounds south of Linn Creek on Route A. www.camdencountymuseum.org or call Valerie Thomas at the museum: (573) 346-7191.

News about Members and Friends

The Round Table extends its best wishes to **Caitlin Eckard and Max Ladet** for their wedding on April 28, 2018. The Executive Director of the Jackson County Historical Society will then be known as Caitlin Eckard-Ladet.

We wish to extend our condolences to the family of **John E. Dietrich, DDS**, who died on February 22, 2018. His wife **Barbara and Marilyn George** attended one of our meetings and brought a family quilt to display when we were still meeting at the Villages of Jackson Creek. John's son, Doug, had as his Eagle Scout project, the historical markers in Loose Park next to the cannon. The George Historic Cemetery Heritage Park is located at 37201 E. Hillside School Road, Oak Grove, MO. It has a wildflower garden and ten signs that tell of the strife in Civil War Missouri. The Round Table has a standing invitation to come visit the cemetery.

We also extend our condolences to the family of **Linda Emley** who was the director of the Ray County Museum. She died on March 8, 2018 and will be missed by the Ray County Historical Society and her numerous history friends to whom she brought programs.

The Round Table congratulates **Sheila Davis** as she retires as the Executive Editor of the Independence *Examiner* and to Jeff Fox who assumes that position. The *Examiner* is very faithful to publish notices of the Round Table meetings and other historical articles.

A former slave by the name of **Archer Alexander** may soon have a creek named for

him which runs through parts of O'Fallon and Cottleville (near St. Louis), MO. Alexander served as an informant to the Union during the Civil War and later went on the run. He made his way to the suburbs of St. Louis and signed on as groundskeeper for the grandfather of poet and playwright T.S. Eliot. Grandfather Eliot was a Unitarian minister, a co-founder of Washington University, and an anti-slavery activist. It is the face of Archer Alexander which was used for the monument that memorializes Abraham Lincoln and the emancipation of the slaves. It shows Lincoln standing above a kneeling freed man holding broken chains. It is in Washington's Lincoln Park and is significant because it is one of the first monuments to Lincoln funded entirely by formerly enslaved people. It was dedicated in 1876.

In March, 2018 the **statue of John Brown** was vandalized near the Quindaro ruins in Kansas City, KS. There is a picture of the statue in the Round Table's first "Monuments" book which is being revised. Thanks to the efforts of master patrolman Dennis Vallejo, the graffiti was removed and perhaps this incident brought renewed interest to the effort to designate the **Quindaro ruins** as a national historic site. The recent Quindaro symposium was very well attended by 500 people for its kickoff event at the Kansas City Central Library. Quindaro was a place of sanctuary for slaves coming across the Missouri River from Missouri to Kansas.

In March, 2018 columnist **David Von Drehle** paid tribute to **Linda Brown Thompson** who died in Topeka, KS. Her father's lawsuit which was heard by the Supreme Court under the name Brown v. Board of Education struck down the doctrine of "separate but equal" for education. Von Drehle points out that Kansas was founded by abolitionists who used the name "jayhawker" for their militia. He assumes that Sumner School in Topeka was named in honor of Charles Sumner whose defense of Kansas

abolitionists led to his near-fatal beating on the floor of the Senate in 1856.

Missouri artist **Thomas Hart Benton** is known for his murals depicting Missouri history. In 1936 he painted "A Social History of the State of Missouri" for the walls of the House lounge in Missouri's state Capitol. In it there is an image of a black man whose identity was not known until recently due to the research of James Bogan, a retired professor of English. He now thinks that the image is based on St. Louis black politico **Jordan W. Chambers**. Our members **Bill and Chris Rinck** recall seeing the mural on a visit to the Capitol in Jefferson City. They recall that the mural circles clear around the room.

Congratulations to **Diane Eickhoff** for winning the **Virginia Glandon Award** for contributions to Wyandotte County history. Twenty years ago Diane learned about a local woman by the name of Clarina Nichols who'd been huge on the national stage at the beginning of the women's rights movement. Diane and her husband **Aaron Barnhart** are recovering from 1,500 miles driven to share her book during Women's History Month. Aaron shares the news on his new blog: History is Power.

Another new blog to check out is www.edwardsproductionsllc.com. It has current events relating to Missouri and Kansas history, numerous photos, and music from local historian, musician, and writer Chris Edwards. Many of the songs have music videos accompanying them.

Congratulations to **Nancy Eppert** who has been honored with the American Association of Community Theatre's Shining Star Award. She has coordinated multiple AACT conferences and is on the board of directors. She currently serves as artistic director at the **National Frontier Trails Museum** and volunteers with the City Theatre of Independence and the

Enchanted Forest family event at George Owens Nature Park in Independence.

Charles Frazier, the author of the novel *Cold Mountain*, later made into an Academy Award-winning film, has a new novel called *Varina*, written about **Varina Howell Davis**, the wife of the only President of the Confederate States of America, Jefferson Davis, a melancholic widower, 19 years her senior. An example of Frazier's evocative prose is the statement that the Mississippi air is "so wet catfish could survive in it."

Jack Hockley of Oak Grove, MO wonders if anyone has heard the rumor that during the Civil War the treasurer of Jackson County, Missouri buried county funds on the "north bank of Horseshoe" in order to keep them out of the hands of the Federals. He thinks this may refer to Horseshoe Creek in Oak Grove. You can reach Jack at jackremembers@aol.com.

Paul Kirkman of Independence, MO has a new book called *Missouri Outlaws: Bandits, Rebels & Rouges*. Kirkman formerly co-wrote with David Jackson the book *Lock Down: Outlaws, Lawmen & Frontier Justice in Jackson County*. "With the slow expansion westward, the transportation stopping posts at Independence and points nearby, the rough-and-tumble nature of many lines of work, hostilities before and during the Civil War, Missouri was a fertile breeding ground for outlaws," Kirkman says.

Rick Manfredi of Peculiar, MO also has a new book out called *The Story: Retribution of Arrow Rock*. He grew up listening to this grandmother telling him a story of how her grandfather was shot by a Union firing squad and of her father carrying out retribution on the Union officer. It's the story of the Piper family moving from Virginia to Missouri in 1842 and then getting caught up in the Civil War. Rick is a new member of the Round Table and hopes to attend our May meeting.

Larry E. Periman of Dix, IL has published a book based on Civil War letters written by his ancestors in Marion County, IL. It concerns people with the surnames Bingaman, Hays, Hendricks, Straight, Vanhook, and Wilson. It's called *The Bingaman Civil War Letters*, available at www.mirapublishing.com.

The **Symington Family of Missouri** has recently donated papers to the State Historical Society of Missouri to increase the collection of this well-known

family which produced Stuart Symington, a Democratic US senator from 1957 to 1976. Of Civil War interest is John D. Symington Sr. (1797-1864) who graduated from the US Military Academy and was assigned to various ordnance arsenals. He was in command of the Allegheny Arsenal near Pittsburgh, PA when it blew up in 1862. It was the largest civilian disaster of the Civil War with 78 people killed. Controversy swirled around the explosion and his loyalty was questioned. It did not help that his son, William, had joined the Confederate army; his daughter, Mary, was married to Confederate officer William R. Boggs; and his nephew, George E. Pickett, was a Confederate general. Ultimately the cause of the explosion could not be determined and he was found innocent.

Our friend **Richard Stewart** is continuing his research of Quantrill partisans to add to the Quantrill Collection at Bentonville, AR. He would really like to have a copy of *A History of the 15th Missouri Cavalry Regiment CSA* by Jerry Ponder to help in his research. You can see Richard's latest posts on-line at this site, www.rishhm.wixsite.com/qscrjosephines. If you have a copy of the book you would be willing to donate, call Beverly at (816) 225-7944 to get information on how to send it to him.

You may have read about the effort to have a statue of **Harry S Truman** added to the US Capitol's esteemed Statuary Hall. The problem is that there are two Civil War era Missourians who presently have statues there; **Thomas Hart Benton**, the 30-year Senator and great uncle of the famous Kansas City artist and **Francis Preston Blair, Jr.**, credited with keeping Missouri out of the Confederacy during the Civil War. Each state is allowed to have two statues, and there are instances of states taking out a statue to allow for someone more qualified. There is a controversy over which statue should be removed. US Representative Emanuel Cleaver II has suggested a compromise in which neither one would be removed but the statue of Truman be added to make three from Missouri. If this does not work out, we would be back to which statue should be removed. Some of this is about who is seen as being on the right side of history. A former slave-holder himself, Benton worked for state-hood and was Missouri's first US Senator, serving for 30 years until his opposition to slavery cost him that position just ahead of the Civil War. Before the war, Blair opposed the expansion of slavery, but also favored the gradual emancipation of slaves and expelling them from the country. Blair was both a slavery opponent and

virulent racist. His opposition to slavery was based on his fears of the effect of unpaid black labor on the economy and wages for white workers. He called African-Americans “a semi-barbarous race of blacks who are worshippers of fetishes and poligamists.”

The Wilson’s Creek Foundation and the administrative staff have moved their offices to a house north of the Visitor Center. The historic Sweeney/Harwood House provides offices with a wonderful view of the battlefield and the character and charm of a historic home. It also frees up more room in the Visitor Center and houses all employees in the two structures. The house was once owned by Dr. Thomas Sweeney and his wife Karen whose trans-Mississippi collection now belongs to the **Wilson’s Creek National Battlefield**.

Silent Auction of Civil War Print

At the May 9, 2018 meeting we will have a framed print of “Champion Hill, Bowen’s Counterattack, May 16, 1863” by Don Prechtel available for bidding with a minimum bid of \$20. On September 29, 2018, the Champion Heritage Foundation will be gathering to dedicate a new marker called “Cockrell’s Counterattack.”

Confederate Memorial Day: Do Our Veterans Matter?

Do our American Veterans matter? That’s the question we should be asking ourselves on Confederate Memorial Day as some within our country are raging over the honoring of men, women and children of all races (including African American, Native American and Hispanics) who fought and served their community in the South. Meanwhile, City Commissioners in Madison, Wisconsin recently voted unanimously to remove a Confederate POW memorial marker in the city cemetery – with no plans to replace the marker or note the names of those veterans who served, suffered and died for our country. And then there’s the Lakeland Confederate Veterans Monument in Tampa, Florida, which is dedicated to “All Confederate Dead” and is currently under siege. And we’d be remiss if we didn’t mention the efforts of the Dallas, Texas City Council in potentially censoring and removing an American Veterans piece of artwork dedicated to Confederate Veterans in Pioneer Cemetery.

Fact: The Majority of the Confederate Monuments are monuments to U.S. Veterans and their Families that were erected by grieving family members who lost husbands, brothers and sons in this tragic war. They wanted to remember the blood sacrifice they paid in defense of their community. These are no different than Union Veterans monuments, World War 1 monuments, World War 2 monuments, Korean War monuments, Vietnam Veterans monuments or Gulf War Veterans monuments.

So...do our U.S. veterans really matter? Or should we behave like third-world tyrants and vigorously join in the toppling of monuments, the renaming of streets and the eradication of symbols dedicated to those who resisted in the face of martial law imposed by their government (such as here in Missouri) – or watched as the free press was smashed, voter rights stripped, people’s homes were burned, pastors were persecuted for preaching anything other than submission, political leaders were forced out of office for not signing oaths of loyalty and husbands and sons hung in the front yards of homes. Don’t believe me? Start reading some of the numerous first-hand accounts of people throughout Missouri (like W.M. Paxton’s *Annals of Platte County*), or other civilian communities that were invaded, bombed and starved into submission. Perhaps instead of just accepting the dogmatic assertions of a biased college professor or a skewed public school textbook, we can understand BOTH sides of this horrific conflict. And maybe, we can learn why so many in our nation today believe it’s wrong to dishonor our Veterans by trashing their holidays and monuments designed to remember their suffering and bloodshed.

Article by Chris Edwards, also available at
www.edwardsproductionsllc.com



Edwards Productions, LLC

Bringing the True Story of the Kansas/Missouri Border War to Life!

