



★ *The Border Star* ★

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

March – April 2019

The Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri

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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) 10.00

For Information

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Mailing Address

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

Website

www.CWRTWM.org

President's Letter

Known as railway spine, stress syndrome, nostalgia, soldier's heart, shell shock, battle fatigue, combat stress reaction, or traumatic war neurosis, we know it today as post-traumatic stress syndrome (PTSS). Mis-diagnosed for years and therefore improperly treated, our veterans are now getting the help they need to cope and thrive in their lives. We know so much more today that will help the combat veteran. Now, I want you to think back to the Civil War. There are many first person accounts of the horrors of the battlefield. The description given by the soldier reads far worse than the latest slasher movie. It is no wonder that these soldiers suffered psychologically. Current study is delving into the PTSS of the front line Civil War soldier and there will be more in the future. My question is this, what about the men who sent all those soldiers into combat?

Lee and Grant are the first to come to mind. I know there are many, many more; it's just that these two men are the most universally known. I have no way of imagining the psychological weight that must have been on their shoulders. I think back to the two of the more famous assaults ordered by them: Lee's ordering of Pickett's charge at Gettysburg and Grant's assault at Cold Harbor. We only have their reactions to let us into any possible effect these orders had on them. Lee, when the survivors were returning to Seminary Ridge, stood out in front and said, "It is all my fault," and Grant in his memoirs wrote that the only assault he regretted ordering was the one at Cold Harbor. They carried to their graves any PTSS symptoms that might have developed. The only indication of psychological trauma, if it is, was that both men turned from war and worked for peace for the rest of their lives. Their therapy was making sure no one need suffer the trauma of war. Give thanks that today we have so many other ways to help soldiers.

I can only imagine carrying the responsibility for so many deaths. I leave you with these quotes:

"It is well that war is so terrible; otherwise we should grow too fond of it." ~Robert E. Lee

"Let us have peace." ~Ulysses S. Grant

Mike Calvert, President
Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri

CWRTWM Calendar

March 2019 Membership Meeting

Wednesday, March 13, 2019 – 7:00 p.m. Village Heights Community of Christ fellowship hall, 1009 Farview Drive, Independence, MO. Doug Richardson: “Fort Donelson.”

Trip to Pea Ridge-CANCELLED. Because we could not be sure about a government shutdown of national battlefields, we decided to postpone to sometime in March of 2020.

April 2019 Membership Meeting

Wednesday, April 10, 2019 – 7:00 p.m. Village Heights Community of Christ fellowship hall, 1009 Farview Drive, Independence, MO. Keith Nelson: “History of Missouri and the Chouteau Family.”

May 2019 Membership Meeting

Wednesday, May 8, 2019 – 7:00 p.m. Village Heights Community of Christ fellowship hall, 1009 Farview Drive, Independence, MO. Jim Ogle of Freedom’s Frontier: “History of the State of Kansas.”

June 2019 Membership Picnic

Wednesday, June 12, 2019 – 6:00 p.m. Village Heights Community of Christ fellowship hall, 1009 Farview Drive, Independence, MO. Jim Beckner: “The Story of the Confederate Veterans Home at Higginsville, MO.”

Other History Events

Antique Appraisal Fair at Vaile Mansion

Saturday, March 2, 2019 – 9:00 am – Noon.
1500 N. Liberty, Independence, MO. Admission is \$10 and includes two item appraisals. Pay at the door. Mansion tours will also be available.

Saturday Lecture Series at Arrow Rock, MO

Saturday, March 2, 2019 – 10:00 a.m. Arrow Rock State Historic Site. Dr. Joan Stack: “United We Stand: Bingham’s Election Series as an Argument for the Great American Experiment in Democracy.” To check on cancellations due to weather and road conditions, please go to www.FriendsofArrowRock.org.

Bleeding Kansas 2019 – Lecompton, KS

Sunday, March 3, 2019 – 2:00 p.m. Constitution Hall, Lecompton, KS. Kerry Altenbernd and Judy

Sweets: “They Put Up More than Hay: Joel and Emily Grover, their Barn, and the Underground Railroad.” Suggested donation of \$3. They were interviewed on KCUR-FM on February 1, 2019 on “Up To Date” with Steve Kraske. Archived edition should be on line.

Missouri Conference on History

Wednesday-Friday, March 6-8, 2019. Holiday Inn Country Club Plaza, Kansas City, MO. For late registration of \$65, go to www.shsmo.org/mch.

Secrets from the State of Kansas

Monday, March 11, 2019 – 7:00 p.m.
North Independence Library, 317 W. 24 Highway, Independence, MO. Adrian Zink: Stories of Kansas’ hidden past and the role Missouri played in this little known history. RSVP to (816) 252-0950.

Kansas City Posse of the Westerners

Tuesday, March 12, 2019 – 6:00 p.m. Buffet Menu (about \$12), Golden Corral, 8800 N. W. Skyview Ave., Kansas City, MO (near Home Depot). Sandy Slusher “Santa Fe Trail through Lexington, MO.”

Cass County Civil War Round Table

Tuesday, March 12, 2019 – 7:00 p.m. Pearson Hall, Cass County Library, 400 E. Mechanic, Harrisonville, MO. Diane Rogers: Historical Fiction of the Civil War.

Truman & The Trails Symposium-Independence, MO

Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, March 14-16, 2019. National Frontier Trails Museum, 318 W. Pacific, Independence, MO. Presented by the Oregon-California Trails Association and the Trails Head Chapter (OCTA) Speakers, entertainment, and tours. www.octa-trails.org.

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.

Freedom's Frontier Partners Meeting

Thursday, March 14, 2019 – 10:00 a.m.
Woodneath Library, 8900 NE Flintlock Road,
Kansas City, MO. Bicentennial Opportunities
with Michael Sweeney. Commemoration of
the 200th anniversary of the Santa Fe Trail
with Larry Short. History Relevance with
Jim Ogle. Telling Our Story with Julie McPike.

Trails thru Time-National Frontier Trails Museum

Saturday, March 16, 2019 – 6-8 p.m. 318 W.
Pacific, Independence, MO. Characters from the
past come to life as they share stories of migration
from the Great Wagon Road to the railroad era.
Refreshments. \$15. Call (816) 325-7575 for
reservations.

Mid-Missouri Civil War Round Table-Columbia, MO

Monday, March 18, 2019 – 7:00 p.m. Boone
County Historical Society Museum, 3801
Ponderosa Drive, Columbia, MO. Harold
Miederhoff “Civil War Prisons.”

Brown Bag Lunch at Shawnee Indian Mission

Wednesday, March 20, 2019 – Noon. Bring your
own lunch and enjoy a program about 12:30 p.m.
3403 W. 53rd Street, Fairway, KS. North building.
Come upstairs from the street. Stephen Jones:
Johnston Lykins and the Baptist Missions to the
Shawnee.

Independence MO Civil War Study Group

Wednesday, March 20, 2019. 7:00 p.m.
Perkins Restaurant, 3939 S. Bolger Drive,
Independence, MO (across from Walmart).
Toby Giese: “Apache History.”

Civil War Round Table of Kansas City

Tuesday, March 26, 2019. 6:30 p.m. Dinner (\$29).
Holiday Inn and Suites, 8787 Reeder Road,
Overland Park, KS. Sunset ballroom, 8th Floor.
Larry Wood: “Bushwhacker Belles: The Sisters,
Wives, and Girlfriends of the Missouri Guerillas.”

Victorian Hair Art-Alexander Majors Barn

Thursday, March 28, 2019 – 6:00-6:30 p.m.- Union
Horse signature cocktail. 6:30-7:30-program.
Alexander Majors Barn, 8201 State Line Road,
Kansas City, MO. Courtney Lane, Victorian hair
artist and historian, will show jewelry and other
craft work that was meant to memorialize the

deceased in the sentimental Victorian era. \$15
and \$2.50 fee for making a reservation through
www.eventbrite.com.

Historical Society of Lee's Summit

Friday, March 29, 2019. 6:00 p.m. Bridge Space,
3rd and Market, Lee's Summit, MO. For more info
go to www.leessummithistory.net/events.

National Park Day-Lone Jack Battlefield

Saturday, April 6, 2019 – 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. with
lunch. Lone Jack Battlefield, 301 S. Bynum Road,
Lone Jack, MO. Register in advance for lunch by
Email to president@historicalonejack.org. In case
of inclement weather, reschedule to April 13. Bring
gloves and tools for outdoor cleanup. Additional
questions, call Alinda at (816) 805-1815.

National Park Day – Battle of Lexington

Saturday, April 6, 2019 – 9:00 a.m. Meet at the
Visitors Center, 1101 Delaware, Lexington, MO.
Outdoor cleanup. For information call (660) 259-
4654. Jesse James Old West Revolver Shoot
Saturday, April 6, 2019 – 8:00 a.m.- Registration.
9:00 a.m. - Shoot Starts. James Farm, 21216 Jesse
James Farm Road, Kearney, MO. Frontier Cartridge
Revolver, Replicas OK. Fixed sights and dueling
stance only. \$25 entry fee. Prizes awarded.

First Saturday at Arrow Rock, MO

Saturday, April 6, 2019 – 10:00 a.m.
Arrow Rock State Historic Site Visitors Center,
Arrow Rock, MO. Reuben Ironhorse-Kent “Native
American Art.” In case of inclement weather, go to
www.friendsofarrowrock.org.

Kansas City Posse of the Westerners

Tuesday, April 9, 2019 – 6:00 p.m. Buffet Menu.
(about \$12), Golden Corral, 8800 N. W. Skyview
Ave., Kansas City, MO (near Home Depot). Becky
Ray: “Ghosts on Jesse James' Farm in Kearney,
MO.

Cass County Civil War Round Table

Tuesday, April 9, 2019 – 7:00 p.m. Pearson Hall,
Cass County Library, 400 E. Mechanic,
Harrisonville, MO. Rick Manfredi: Retribution of
Arrow Rock.

Big Shoal: Church, Cemetery, Community

Wednesday, April 10, 2019 – 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Atkins-Johnson Farm, 4109 NE Pleasant Valley Road, Gladstone, MO. Exhibit opens and goes through Aug. 24, 2019. It's the story of Big Shoal Baptist Church and cemetery dating back to 1820 with new research and rare artifacts. Open Wed.-Sat., 11:00 am – 4:00 pm. For information visit ww.ajfm@gladstone.mo.us.

Third Missouri Spring Muster

Saturday, April 13, 2019 – 10:00 a.m. Atkins-Johnson Farm, 4109 NE Pleasant Valley Road, Gladstone, MO. For more information, please visit www.ajfm@gladstone.mo.us.

Mid-Missouri Civil War Round Table

Monday, April 15, 2019 – 7:00 p.m. Boone County Historical Society Museum, 3801 Ponderosa Drive, Columbia, MO. Dave Poche: "Early Battles and Armaments of the Missouri State Guard."

Brown Bag Lunch at Shawnee Indian Mission

Wednesday, April 17, 2019 – Noon. Bring your own lunch and enjoy a program about 12:30 p.m. 3403 W. 53rd Street, Fairway, KS. North Building. Come upstairs from the street. Kevin Fewell: "The Union Cemetery."

Independence, MO Civil War Study Group

Wednesday, April 17, 2019 – 7:00 p.m. Perkins Restaurant, 3939 S. Bolger Drive, Independence, MO (across from Walmart). Mike Calvert: "Battle of Rock Creek."

Underneath It All: Victorian Undergarments

Thursday, April 18, 2019 – 6:00-6:30 Signature Cocktail. 6:30-7:30 Program. Alexander Majors Barn, 8201 State Line Rd., Kansas City, MO. Jason Wade: "Victorian Undergarments." \$17.50. Reservations through www.eventbrite.com.

Secrets of Kansas

Monday, April 22, 2019 – 7:00 p.m. Red Bridge Library, 11140 Locust Street, Kansas City, MO. Adrian Zink: Stories of Kansas' hidden past and the role Missouri played in this little-known history. RSVP to (816) 942-1780.

Civil War Round Table of Kansas City

Tuesday, April 23, 2019 – 6:30 p.m. Dinner (\$29). Holiday Inn and Suites, 8787 Reeder Road, Overland Park, KS. Sunset Ballroom, 8th Floor. Bill Piston: "General Robert E. Lee and the Lost Cause." Dinner reservations must be made by noon Wednesday, April 17, 2019 by calling Susan Keipp at (816) 333-0025.

Missouri Life Market Fair

Saturday, April 27, and Sunday, April 28, 2019. 10 a.m.- 4 p.m. Powell Gardens, 1609 N.W. U.S. 50 Highway, Kingsville, MO. Join the best craftsmen, distillers, artisans, and winemakers Missouri has to offer. Peruse nearly 100 booths featuring clothing, décor, paintings, photography, sculpture, and more. Enjoy live entertainment while enjoying the spring show of daffodils and other early-bloomers. \$12 for adults and \$5 for youth 5-12; 4 and under are free. The Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri has been asked to provide living history volunteers in costume to talk about the Civil War on Saturday, April 27th.

Future Events

American Civil War Museum-Richmond, VA

Saturday, May 5, 2019 – Opening of the 29,000-square-foot museum which brings together the American Civil War Center at Historic Tredegar ironworks and the Museum of the Confederacy. Its mission is to provide a fuller, more diverse narrative of the Civil War that includes stories of the Union and Confederacy and also how the war affected African-Americans, Native Americans, and immigrant communities.

A Personal Journey of Discovery

May 8-11, 2019. St. Charles, MO. National Genealogical Society 2019 Family History Conference. For more information, please visit www.conference.mgsgenealogy.org.

Walking Tour of Woodlawn Cemetery

Thursday, May 16, 2019 – 6:00 p.m. As a part of Historic Preservation Month in Independence, MO, Mike Calvert will be conducting a cemetery tour. More information to follow.

News about Members and Friends

We are happy to announce that our president, **Mike Calvert**, is now retired since January 11, 2019.

Needless to say he was glad not to have to deal with bad road conditions this winter. Mike has always had a lot going on, in addition to work, so maybe now he can relax a bit, have some fun and continue keeping our local history, Civil War or otherwise, alive as only he can!

Bill and Annette Curtis are now living in an assisted living apartment at the Villages of Jackson Creek where they can continue to enjoy their two cats. Bill is using a wheelchair and a walker and continues to read a lot. Annette has a reduction in her vision and no longer feels comfortable driving, but she reports that Audiobooks are wonderful.

Congratulations to **Joyce Gillespie** for being recognized as a volunteer at the 1859 Jail & Museum at the Jackson County Historical Society Annual Dinner in January 2019.

We extend our condolences to the family and friends of **Harland “Bob” Hawley** who passed away January 7, 2019. He is known for his work in the recovery of the sunken 1856 steamboat Arabia and the establishment of the Arabia museum in the River Market area.

We will also miss longtime member **Kathryn (Kathy) Hahn Pickering** who passed away January 5, 2019. She was a nurse and the widow of Dr. Lee Pickering.

In the State of Kansas there may be a portion of US-75 from I-70 to N. W. 46th Street in Topeka to be named the **John Armstrong Memorial Highway**. This started as a Civil War project for students at Seaman High School to discover the importance of this Civil War veteran’s role in the Underground Railroad in Kansas.

The **Third Annual Baton Rouge Civil War Symposium** will be held April 5-7, 2019. We hear that this symposium is getting bigger and better every year. It will explore such topics as “who outsmarted Grant at Vicksburg,” “why were Texians so vital to Louisiana,” “why were Southern newspapers so critical?” Early bird registration ends on March 8, 2019. Go to www.brcwrt.com/2019-symposium.

Senator Roy Blunt of Missouri is among those who reintroduced the “**Preserving America’s Battlefields Act**” which provides matching grants for the preservation of national battlefields. There are 282 Civil War sites across the country that are priorities of the National Park Service.

Sharon Snyder has shared information about the Pioneer Log Cabin at the corner of Noland and Truman Road in Independence, MO which many would like to see preserved at a different location. She explained why it is sometimes called the **Brady Log Cabin**. The name “Brady” comes from the part of Independence where it originally stood which was called Bradytown, a predominantly working-class Irish immigrant community near East Walnut Street and the railway cut.

In case you were not able to view the **C-Span videos about the historical City of Independence** which aired in January, you can view them on line at www.c-span.org/series/?citiesTour.

The **Cass County Historical Society** is moving forward with new leadership in 2019. Jennifer Reed is the Executive Director and Drew McElroy is the Program Director.

Congratulations to the **1855 Harris-Kearney House** for being designated as an official site on the California and Oregon Trails. It has been a site on the Santa Fe Trail since 2008. There will be a dedication of the classification in the spring.

The **Kansas African American History Trail** launched recently in Wichita. It includes the John Brown Museum in Osawatomie, the Richard Allen Cultural Center and Museum in Leavenworth, Freedom’s Frontier National Heritage Area in Lawrence, The John and Mary Ritchie House and Brown vs. The Topeka Board of Education National Historic Site in Topeka, the Nicodemus National Historic Site in Nicodemus, the Gordon Parks Museum in Fort Scott and the Kansas African American Museum in Wichita.

The **Bingham-Waggoner Estate** in Independence, MO now has a new staff person who will work on publicity on a national basis through magazines, books, and architectural publications. He would like to see lectures presented about the artist George Caleb Bingham who once lived there. **Ron**

McCarty just retired after 38 years with the Ringling Museum.

The Mid-Missouri Civil War Round Table in Columbia lost a valuable member in November 2018. He was **Jim McGhee** of Jefferson City, MO who was a retired lawyer with a number of books focusing on the Civil War in Missouri. He wrote or edited *Service with the Missouri State Guard*, *Campaigning with General Marmaduke*, *Narratives and Roster of the 8th Missouri Cavalry*, and *Missouri Confederates: A Guide to Sources for Confederate Soldiers and Units, 1861-1865*.

There will soon be a new “**passport**” program for **Civil War sites in Missouri** thanks to the efforts of Mel Gilbert and other volunteers. The kick-off meeting at the Missouri capitol will be held on March 15. We will sponsor a site for the Battle of the Little Blue which people can visit and have their passport stamped in Independence, MO.

The **Quindaro Townsite** in Kansas City, KS is one step closer to National Commemorative Site designation through a bill which has passed the U. S. Senate. Quindaro was founded by abolitionists in 1857 and became a Free State port of entry and stop on the Underground Railroad. **Jim Rehard** was recently named Freedom Frontier’s Most Valuable Partner for his work on the Quindaro Symposium and the Island Mound Project in Bates County, MO.

Watch local listings for a “reconstruction” docuseries about post-Civil War wounds on the Public Broadcasting System April 9 and 16. It will be called “**Reconstruction: America after a Civil War.**”

The Missouri Archives in Jefferson City had a program in recognition of Black History Month on the book **In the Shadow of Dred Scott: St. Louis Freedom Suits and the Legal Culture of Slavery in Antebellum America** by Kelly M. Kennington. It follows the casefiles of more than 300 enslaved individuals like Dred Scott and his family who challenged the legal system that held them in forced servitude and how they influenced the broader national debate on slavery.

Meanwhile on the Kansas side, Lana Wirt Myers edited **The Diaries of Reuben Smith, Kansas Settler and Civil War Soldier**. For fifty years,

Reuben Smith wrote fascinating narratives about all he experienced during territorial days, the Border War, Civil War, and early Kansas politics.

We just learned that **Terry Elliott**, coordinator of the Independence Civil War Study Group and a member of our Round Table, died suddenly on February 26th. Please check the newspaper for Terry’s obituary and funeral arrangements.

Best of Missouri Life Market Fair

The Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri has been invited by Missouri Life magazine to participate in the Saturday, April 27, 2019 event at Powell Gardens. They want to highlight Civil War history by having an oral presentation several times during the day and others dressed in costume mingling with visitors and answering questions.

Mike Calvert has agreed to do the oral presentation and will probably portray a GAR member (Grand Army of the Republic) who is remembering the First Battle of Independence.

We would like to invite other members to dress in costume and interact with the crowd. Perhaps we could spark questions by having a sign that says “Ask me about the Battle of Lone Jack” or other event such as Order No. 11. We can have civilians as well as military—women as well as men.

Beverly Shaw has an artilleryman’s costume and props such as canteen, haversack, sweets sack, etc. These are being shared by Don Moorehead who was a reenactor. If you don’t have a costume but have an interest in a particular aspect of the Border War, we can probably find you suitable clothing. This is a chance to share your interest in local Civil War history.

We will also have an opportunity to sell our “Monuments” book at the event which goes from 10 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Please get in touch with Beverly Shaw if you are interested in helping with this event. You can call her at (816) 225-7944 or Email her at bevjoshaw@hotmail.com.

