



★ *The Border Star* ★

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

November – December 2019

The Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri

2019 Officers

President ----- Mike Calvert
1st V.P. ----- Pat Gradwohl
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Historian ----- Charles Bianco

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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

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

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

Website

www.CWRTWM.org

President's Letter

If you have read enough soldier's stories from the Civil War you have surely come across a soldier on the eve of battle tell his comrades that he will not survive the battle.

Dreams of death premonition happened quite often. It has been said that even Abraham Lincoln dreamed of his own death. Apology for the Halloween influence.

We all have dreams. Setting aside the opening subject we all have had dreams of a new job, a new house, a long-planned trip or anything else we might have longed for. I have a dream. It's not all my own. I share it with numerous others.

I dream of a time when our Round Table and other organizations like our Round Table will have a place that we can call our own. A place where groups can have meetings without the concern of being asked to leave. A place where our Round Table can establish a study center for the further understand of the Civil War in Missouri and the Trans-Mississippi. A place when heritage tourists come to our area with questions there will be a knowledgeable person available to answer their needs. We have libraries, museums and archives and they do fantastic jobs. What we don't have is that one place dedicated to the study of the Civil War in our area.

My dream will come true when this place exists and it is shared with other groups to further the study of the event that shaped our country's history. I dream of that day.

Since this is our last newsletter for 2019, I want to wish you all Happy Holidays. Stay safe. Maybe our dreams will come true in 2020.

Mike Calvert, President
Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri

CWRTWM Calendar

November 2019 Membership Meeting

Wednesday, November 13, 2019 – 7:00 p.m. Clay County Museum, 14 N. Main Street, Liberty, MO. (This is a change of venue for this one month.)

Jay Jackson: Screening of the documentary “Battle of Liberty/Blue Mills Landing” and special exhibit at the Clay County Museum. The Museum will open at 6:00 p.m. for those who want to visit the exhibit before the program.

Directions: If you plan to take Highway 291 to Liberty, please be advised that one of the northbound lanes on the Missouri River Bridge will be closed until April so you might want to allow extra travel time. Continue north on 291 until it curves to the left (west). At that point you will want to continue northbound on Leonard Street (formerly designated as Highway 33). Go north to E. Franklin and make a left turn (west) to N. Main Street. Turn left and park on the Liberty Square.

If you would like to carpool to this meeting, call Beverly at (816) 225-7944.

December 2019 Membership Meeting

Wednesday, December 11, 2019 – 7:00 p.m. Village Heights Community of Christ fellowship hall, 1109 Farview Drive, Independence, MO. Because our meeting place is not available on either the first or second Saturday in December, we will not have our usual Christmas luncheon; instead we invite you to bring a favorite Christmas goodie to share. The program will be given by Jim Beckner on “Civil War Santa.”

Other History Events November and /December 2019

Clay County Archives Annual Meeting

Saturday, November 2, 2019 – 10:00 a.m. St. Stephen Lutheran Church, 205 N. Forest, Liberty, MO. (Enter off parking lot in back.) Shaneann Fross and Emily Hemphill, students at William Jewell College and volunteers at the Archives, will give the program. The Clay County Archives generously houses our Round Table book collection including a full set of the Official Records (ORs) of the Civil War.

Bingo Fundraiser for the Clay County Museum

Saturday, November 2, 2019 – 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Glenaire Clubhouse, 309 Smiley Road, Liberty, MO. For \$10 you will have food, fun, and prizes!

Autumn Architecture Tour – Independence, MO

Saturday, November 9, 2019 – 10:00 a.m.

Hour long walking tour of bungalows. Meet on the north side of the Historic Truman Courthouse at 112 W. Lexington, Independence, MO. Free, rain or shine.

Westport Historical Society Annual Meeting

Saturday, November 9, 2019 – Noon Luncheon. 1855 Harris-Kearney House, 4000 Baltimore, Kansas City, MO. Dan Smith: “Women of the Battle of Westport.” (Vignettes of women who were participants and witnesses). Cost of the luncheon is \$14. Reservations must be received by November 3rd to (816) 561-1821 or by Email to westporthistorical@gmail.com.

Kansas City Posse of the Westerners

Tuesday, November 12, 2019 – 6:00 pm. 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, November 12, 2019 – 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Pearson Hall, Cass County Library, 400 E. Mechanic, Harrisonville, MO. Peggy Buhr: “Jo Shelby’s Time In Bates County, Missouri.”

Elizabeth Van Lew, Civil War Spy

Wednesday, November 13, 2019 – 2:00 p.m. Midwest Genealogy Center Programming Room, 3440 S. Lee’s Summit Road, Independence, MO. Meet Elizabeth Van Lew and discover how she accidentally became a spy for the Union Army during the American Civil War. RSVP to (816) 252-7228.

Freedom’s Frontier Partners Meeting

Thursday, November 14, 2019 – 10:00 a.m. The Flint Hills Discovery Center, Manhattan, KS.

Mid-Missouri Civil War Round Table

Monday, November 18, 2019 – 7:00 p.m. Boone County History Center, 3801 Ponderosa Drive, Columbia, MO. Dave Poche: “Salt in the Civil War.”

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.

Brown Bag Lunch at Shawnee Indian Mission

Wednesday, November 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. David Boutros: “The Chouteau Family.”

Independence Civil War Study Group

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

Civil War Round Table of Kansas City

Tuesday, November 26, 2019 – 6:30 p.m. Dinner (\$29). Holiday Inn and Suites, 8787 Reeder Road, Overland Park, KS. Sunset Ballroom, 8th Floor). Connie Langum: “The Two Battles of Newtonia.” Dinner Reservations must be made by noon Wednesday, November 20, 2019 by calling Susan Keipp at (816) 333-0025.

Kansas City Posse of the Westerners

Tuesday, December 10, 2019 – Buffet menu (about \$12), Golden Corral, 8800 N. W. Skyview Ave., Kansas City, MO (near Home Depot). Lane Smith: “The Dalton Boys.”

Civil War Round Table of Kansas City

Tuesday, December 17, 2019 – 6:30 p.m. Dinner (\$29). Holiday Inn and Suites, 8787 Reeder Road, Overland Park, KS. Sunset Ballroom, 8th Floor. Dr. Ethan Rafuse: “Confederate General Thomas J. ‘Stonewall’ Jackson.” Dinner reservations must be made by Noon Wednesday, December 11, 2019 by calling Susan Keipp at (816) 333-0025.

A HISTORY OF THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE OF WESTERN MISSOURI

MISSION STATEMENT: The Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri is dedicated to educational purposes including the promotion and understanding of all aspects and phases of the U. S. Civil War period, especially in western Missouri and the “Border War” conflicts and to stimulate interest in and further discussion and study of the War Between the States.

Being a newcomer to the study of the Civil War in Missouri, I have been particularly fascinated and entertained by the individuals who research and recreate various historical events. They are actors who perform for informational purposes. It is a labor of love for these people because in many cases they

are attempting to connect with their ancestors. Most of them had relatives who lived through the Civil War in Missouri. As time passed, I realized I was also associating with genealogists, historians, preservationists, teachers, and authors.

The CWRTWM has been particularly active in the study and preservation of Civil War cemeteries and battlefields in the area. This shows they have a deep respect for their fellow man. If you would refer to the CWRTWM.org website, you would see a description of the “Lewis-Gregg Cemetery Commission” and the “Sonny Wells Little Blue Battlefield Memorial Commission.” In my opinion this is the most important thing they accomplish. Secondly, the individuals within the Round Table who recreate events, write books, or teach classes exhibit a desire to educate adults and young people about the lessons Americans learned from this conflict. These lessons were not given free of charge; they cost the lives and fortunes of very hardworking Americans, and we should strive to understand them and pass them on to others.

For over twenty years the CWRTWM had been working to achieve the goals I have described above. I have researched the more than twenty years of their existence and would like to give a listing of their major field trips or outstanding meetings.

Sonny Wells and Jon Linn presided over the first organizational meeting of the CWRTWM in December 1992, and Sonny became its first President. The Round Table will celebrate its thirty-year anniversary in 2022. The following is a list of field trips and meetings that were particularly outstanding from 1993 to the present:

1993 – Tour of the Battle of Albany with emphasis on Bloody Bill Anderson

1994 – Battle of Liberty/Blue Mills, Civil War monuments tour, Battle of Westport

1995 – Pitcher Cemetery

1996 – Sultana riverboat tragedy

1997 – The President and Mrs. Lincoln, Battle of Lexington, Elmwood Cemetery Tour, Battle of Westport Bus Tour, Confederate Memorial Park at Higginsville, MO.

1998 – Cass County Civil War History Tour, Lexington, MO., Battle of Lone Jack, Walking tour of Union Cemetery, First Battle of Manassas

1999 – Memories of President Lincoln, Designers' Showhouse 30th Anniversary, George Caleb Bingham and the Civil War

2000 – Stone's River National Battlefield, The Battle of the Little Blue

2001 – Battle of Mine Creek, Battle of Kirksville

2002 – Soldiers Walking Tour of Elmwood Cemetery, Thomson House on 40 Highway in Independence, MO, Union Cemetery Tour

2003-2004 – Battle of Pea Ridge, The Grinter Farm, Battle of Cole Camp and New Market

2005-2006 – Little Blue Battlefield Tour, Civil War Embalming by Lee Ward, Quantrill Reunion at Courthouse Exchange Restaurant

2007-2010 – Battle of Carthage, Battle of Westport, Trip to Boonville, Trip to Springfield, Illinois - Lincoln Tomb and Memorial, Steamboat Arabia, Price's Great Missouri Raid, Trip to Mine Creek, Barbara Hughes as Caroline Quantrill

2011-2013 – Union Cemetery Historical Society - George Caleb Bingham, 150th Anniversary of the Civil War, Clay County Bus Tour, Battle of Morristown, Tour of Woodlawn Cemetery

2014-2015 – Trip to St. Louis - U. S. Grant National Historic Site, Missouri Civil War Museum, the Death and Embalming of Lincoln, Monument to Chouteau, Meeting at Silver Heart Inn

2016-2018 – Civil War Navy by Denis Wormington, "Hardtack and Coffee" by Gregg Higginbotham, John Brown of Kansas by Kerry Altenbernd, Union Railroad Operations, Confederate Railroad Operations, Mount Washington Cemetery Tour, Frank James and Cole Younger Wild West Show, Day Trip to Glasgow and Keytesville, MO.

2019 – CWRTWM Show and Tell. Doug J. Richardson, Chief Ranger at the Harry S. Truman Historic Site, gave a brilliant account of the Battles at Fort Henry and Fort Donelson in Tennessee.

The Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri has been led by three presidents who have shared their knowledge of the Civil War: Sonny Wells (1992 - March 16, 2004), Timothy Cox (2004 - January 14,

2006), and Mike Calvert (2006 to the present). Meetings are held in Independence, Missouri. The newsletter is called "The Border Star."

*By Charles Bianco, Historian
Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri*

Civil War Round Table Annual Meeting

We were wrong! The annual meeting is not in October but in November. Following the program and refreshments on November 13th at the Clay County Museum, we will have annual reports and election of officers and board members. If you are interested in serving on the board, please contact Mike Calvert at (816) 898-2603 or Email him at mwcsl53@aol.com. We will also be taking nominations from the floor, but please check with the person before placing his/her name in nomination.

News about Members and Friends

The Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri extends its condolences to the family of **Lucille Jewett** who passed away on August 18, 2019. She and her late husband, Bill, used to attend our Christmas luncheons at Loose Park.

We were also sorry to read of the death of **Lou Austin Schumacher** on August 29, 2019. He was tirelessly dedicated to the 3-Trails National Historic Trail System.

Fort D at Cape Girardeau, Missouri, has been named to the National Register of Historic Places. It is Missouri's only surviving V-shaped, Civil War-era earthworks.

Congratulations to **Dennis Garstang** for being elected as the Sheriff of the Kansas City Posse of the Westerners.

The American Association of State and Local History has recognized the **Jackson County Historical Society** for the Bronze category of "Interpretation" in September 2019. The self-study standards program called StEPs is short for "Standards and Excellence Program for History."

Anne Mallinson, regent of the Independence Pioneers Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, received a first place award in this year's National American Heritage in Literature and Drama

competition. It was presented to her in Washington, D.C. at the 128th Continental Congress of the DAR. Her winning entry was “A China Basket, a Masonic Ring, and Rain.”

Richard Stewart has announced that he will not be adding items to the Quantrill Collection in Bentonville, Arkansas at the Benton County Historical Society, but he will continue to publish his “Josephine” website with the last of the remaining individuals he has researched. We want to thank him for adding to the historical knowledge about William Clarke Quantrill and his followers. He wishes to thank those who have supported his efforts in the past.

The Quantrill Society presented the 2019 John Newman Edwards award to **Steve Taylor** on October 12, 2019. Steve has also been busy cleaning up the site of “Engagement at the Little Blue” Civil War marker on the north side of Highway 24 at the east end of the Little Blue River bridge. He removed trees that were obscuring the marker and now it is visible from both the east and west lanes of Highway 24.

The Watkins Museum of History in Lawrence, Kansas has received a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services to complete the museum’s third floor core exhibit which tells a wide array of stories about Douglas County’s rich past. It is located at 1047 Massachusetts Street, Lawrence, Kansas.

We are happy to hear that the **Battle of Gettysburg** reenactment may return in 2020 after all. Dustin Heisey of Manheim, Pennsylvania says he has been taking part in reenactments since he was 14 and wants to keep the tradition of honoring the soldiers alive. The Gettysburg Anniversary Committee had said that after a quarter century of organizing the annual July observance, it did not anticipate hosting a 157th reenactment.

Civil War Trivia: The Union was obsessed with **Coffee**. The word “coffee” shows up in Union letters and diaries more often than any other word including “mother.” Every soldier was given a ration of 16 kilograms (36 lbs.) of coffee per year. The Confederates, on the other hand, hardly had any coffee due to the Union blockade. Caffeine actually made a strategic difference in the war. One Union general would time his attacks based on when his men were buzzed on caffeine.

New Monuments to the Confederacy rise as others fall according to a story in the Los Angeles Times on October 22, 2019. For instance, at Orange, Texas, the “Confederate Memorial of the Wind” was built on private land and is visible from the interstate. It is composed of 13 concrete columns – one for each Confederate state and will be surrounded by as many as 40 poles topped with Civil War Battle flags. The people funding the monuments – often the great-great-grandchildren of Confederate soldiers – say they simply want to remember their loved ones. More controversially, many also promote a revisionist history in which slavery was not a major cause of the war. Six years ago, a Pew Research Center survey found that 48% of Americans said states’ rights were the reason for the war, while 38% cited slavery.

We were pleased to read that our friend **Lila Aamodt** is the President of the Johnson County Kansas Heritage Foundation (JCKHF), a not-for-profit, registered with the State of Kansas. It is an advocate for the preservation of the history and heritage of Johnson County, Kansas. One project could include new wayside exhibit panels, the refurbishing of old panels, and other historic trails projects in the event that National Park Service funding is not available.

Noted photographer and historian **Bruce Mathews** is working on a new project to produce a book about Mount Washington Cemetery and raise funds for the restoration of the William Rockhill Nelson Memorial Chapel (mausoleum) under the auspices of the Mount Washington Cemetery Historical Society.

Tangible reminders of the Civil War are still being discovered in our region. In August a Fox 4 news report said that Chad Gustin and his two elementary-school-aged children discovered two large headstones on land they own overlooking the Kansas River in Lecompton located in Douglas County, Kansas. One of the gravestones pays tribute to **James O’Neill** who died in the Lawrence Massacre. The other pays tribute to a Lane University student in Lecompton who drowned in 1877. There are efforts to relocate the stones to Maple Grove Cemetery in Lecompton.

Another tangible artifact is a **Civil War cannonball** retrieved from a tree behind the Overfelt-Johnston House at the corner of Walnut Avenue and Pleasant Street in Independence, Missouri. At first it was reported that this might have been an artifact from the First Battle of Independence in 1862 until Mike Calvert reminded everyone that the First Battle was a

cavalry engagement and it was more likely that it was from the Second Battle of Independence (part of the Battle of the Little Blue and Battle of Westport) in 1864.

The Owens-Rogers Museum in Independence, Missouri will not be closing after all but will instead open as a short-term vacation rental and group tours by appointment Tuesdays-Thursdays. It is the birthplace of Ginger Rogers located at 100 W. Moore Street in Independence.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation has announced a grant to help preserve the home of Negro League Baseball star **Satchel Paige** in Kansas City, Missouri to help recognize black history and culture.

In August, 2019, a delegation of students from Higashimurayama, Japan, Sister City of Independence, Missouri, visited the area. At the Frontier Trails Museum, volunteer **Sarah Poff** provided art materials for creating drawings and paintings of local sites.

Recent KCQ questions in the Kansas City Star have involved Civil War topics. On July 7, 2019 Tony Rome asked about **William Clarke Quantrill** because his mother who attended the old Benjamin Harrison School near I-435 and East Wilson Road had mentioned a “**Quantrill Park**” just east of the school. The experts at the Kansas City Library’s Missouri Valley Special Collections revealed that there was not an official park by that name, but it probably referred to the old Wallace property. A search of the archives brought up articles about the Quantrill Reunions that were held at the Wallace home.

Another KCQ article on August 18, 2019, talks about the saga of a mansion near Longview Lake with ties to the Civil War. The owner, Mike Bauer, found that his property did not include the deed to a family cemetery with soldiers from the Civil War and slaves. Civil War historian **Jim Beckner** says that the cemetery contained remains of the Strode family going back generations. Buried nearby are as many as 15 slaves and several Civil War “bushwhackers,” Missouri’s guerrilla soldiers.

Do you have a question about Kansas City area history? As a part of the *Kansas City Star*’s series called “What’s Your KCQ?” in partnership with the Kansas City Library, you can visit kansascity.com/kcq to submit your question.

Scott & Patti House Re-enact the Civil War

When Scott House was 6 years old, he went to Gettysburg, PA. The experience changed his life. He met his wife Patti in Washington, D. C., and the two retired elementary school teachers moved back to his hometown, Cape Girardeau, MO.

They discovered that Fort D in downtown Cape Girardeau had fallen into disrepair. They created signage for visitors to learn about the fort and planned a re-enactment in 2005. Now they participate in an average of eight re-enactments a year which last anywhere from three to seven days and are a completely immersive experience. No modern amenities like cell phones are allowed, and even political talk must be kept to the Civil War time period.

They are members of the Turner Brigade, a re-enactment group focused on keeping the German Unionist tradition alive. One question they are often asked is if the layers of clothes they wear are hot. The answer is “Yes.” After a while you just get used to it and put it out of your mind. Accept that it’s OK to feel sweaty and smell bad.

The Civil War is so important, Scott says, because it made the United States a world power. “The Revolutionary War created the United States, and the Civil War confirmed it – that it would be one nation.”

Journal entries from the Civil War have confirmed the way citizens understood the United States after the war. “Before the Civil War, people referred to the United States as plural, saying ‘The United States are,’” Scott says. “After the Civil War, people started referring to it singularly, saying, ‘The United States is.’”

The couple enjoys the camaraderie of camping primitively among re-enactors and coming together with people from different backgrounds over a common interest. They also enjoy teaching others about the Civil War era in our nation’s history.

“It’s keeping it alive,” Patti says.

From a newspaper article called “Keeping History Alive” by Mia Pohlman on July 12, 2018.

