



The Border Star



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

March 2015

The Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri

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The Border Star Editor

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12800 E. 48th Street S.
Independence, MO 64055
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Meetings

2nd Wednesday of each month
7:00 p.m.
Villages of Jackson Creek
3980-A S. Jackson Drive
(lower level)
Independence, Missouri

Visitors Always Welcome!

Annual Dues

Individual ----- 20.00
Family ----- 30.00
Student (under 21) ----- 5.00
Newsletter Only (no meetings) 10.00

For Information

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THIS MONTH IN THE WAR:

March 4, 1865: President Lincoln is inaugurated for his second term in office. Before taking the oath, he delivers his Second Inaugural Address which ends with an eye to the future: With malice toward none; with charity toward all; with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in; to bind up the nation's wounds...to do all which may achieve a just, and a lasting peace, among ourselves, and with all nations.

President's Letter

People often ask me if I read a lot about the Civil War. I'm not much of a fiction reader. Oh, I do read fiction. Even then it tends to be historical fiction. So the answer to the Civil War question would be "yes." I will generally have 2 to 3 books started at the same time. I get bored sometimes so I pick up another to read, or I'm downstairs at home and my current book is upstairs. Both of these are good reasons to have multiple books going at the same time. I currently have four started. One about the Fort Henry and Donnellson campaign, one about Price's raid, one about financial fraud and Missouri's guerrilla warfare, and the last about historical archaeology of Civil War battlefields. Wait, make that five; I have a historical fiction started also.

Let me start by saying what follows is in no way a critical review. I am enjoying the archaeology book. The use of modern technology has opened up many new ways to "read" a battlefield. The editors of this book have chosen several battlefields to publish the findings on. Most interestingly they have included Boonville and Centralia, Missouri. Through the use of metal detectors, scholars have been able to confirm or refute what the historic record has left behind. They are able to determine where defensive lines stood and what type and quantity of ammunition was used. A campsite becomes a treasure trove of information about the everyday life of the Civil War soldier. Metal detecting is a new/old way to find out about history. This book won't be on everyone's to read list, but it at least deserves some attention.

PS. If you are a metal detecting enthusiast, please be respectful of private property. Not everyone wants a stranger digging in their yard no matter which Civil War unit camped there. See you on the battlefield.

PSS. Don't do your metal detecting in a national park; the rangers take a very dim view of this activity, and you might find yourself behind bars as a guest of the U.S. Government.

~Mike Calvert, President, CWRTWM

Use of Keypad at Villages of Jackson Creek

Our meeting room is in the Fitness Center on the lower level of the far east wing with the number "3980A" above the entrance. If the inside sliding door is secured, use the keypad on the right to enter 1207* and stand in front of the door to activate. If there is a problem, call Beverly at (816) 225-7944 (cell). To exit the building, use the keypad to the left of the sliding door and enter 1207*. Stand directly in front of the door to activate. Please do not try to force the door but instead call Beverly at (816) 225-7944 for assistance.

CWRTWM Calendar

March 2015 Membership Meeting

Wednesday, March 11, 2015 – 7:00 p.m. Villages of Jackson Creek, 3980-A S. Jackson Drive (lower level), Independence, MO. Program: Wilburn “Bud” Meador of the U. S. Army Command and General Staff College in Leavenworth, KS discusses “The Marines’ Role throughout the Civil War.”

No Board Meeting in March 2015

Talkin’ Truman – The Road to Appomattox

Saturday, March 14, 2015 – 11:00 a.m. The Truman Library’s Whistle Stop Room, 500 W. U. S. Highway 24, Independence, MO. A three-scene play based on the events at Appomattox when General Robert E. Lee (portrayed by Lane Smith) surrenders to General Ulysses S. Grant (portrayed by Randal Durbin). Library admission is \$8 for Adults and \$7 for Seniors. The Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri is sponsoring this event and would appreciate the presence of members and friends to welcome them.

Other Civil War Events and Exhibits

Bleeding Kansas 2015

Sunday, March 1, 2015 – 2:00 p.m. Constitution Hall State Historic Site, 319 Elmore, Lecompton, KS. “John Brown’s Money Man: George Luther Stearns, Abolitionist” by Dr. Charles E. Heller, author and historian. He will sign copies of his book. \$3 donation.

Raytown Historical Society Ambassador’s Meeting

Monday, March 2, 2015 – 10:00 a.m. 9705 E. 63rd Street, Raytown, MO. Examination of items from the museum’s collection.

Friends of Arrow Rock Lecture Series

Saturday, March 7, 2015 – 10:00 a. m. Arrow Rock State Historic Site Visitor Center. Dr. Maude Wahlman: “Signs and Symbols, African-American Quilts.” Free.

Military Collectors Show-Leavenworth, KS

Saturday, March 7, 2015 – 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Leavenworth Riverfront Community Center, 123 N.

Esplanade Street, Leavenworth, KS. Come witness history first hand through incredible collections of military artifacts. Sponsored by the Kansas City Military Collectors Club. Free.

Kansas City Symphony Designers’ Showhouse

Saturday and Sunday, March 7-8, 2015. 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Saturday and Noon to 5:00 p.m. Sunday. This is the pre-decorated tour of #96 Janssen Place, a private street south of 36th Street and east of Locust Street in the Hyde Park neighborhood of Kansas City, MO. A 1911 home built for a lumber baron. Some members of the Round Table have traditionally volunteered as a group for the decorated house in May. \$5 donation.

150 Years of African – American Funeral History

Saturday, March 7, 2015 – 1:30 p.m. Alexander Majors Barn, 8201 State Line Road, Kansas City, MO. Lee Ward, owner of the Museum of Funeral History in Independence, MO will discuss how pre-Civil war attitudes and history of enslaved blacks has influenced the black funeral. \$5.

Discover Your Past

Monday, March 9, 2015 – 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. Vesper Hall, 400 N.W. Vesper Street, Blue Springs, MO. The Blue Springs Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution are sponsoring a series of genealogy workshops. Historian Sarah Poff will introduce Flisky McClellan Hughes, a ghost from the Civil War, and explain how her story was revealed through a genealogy study. Experienced DAR genealogists will be on hand to help you begin a study of your family history. The first session is free & \$2 for subsequent workshops. Call Registrar Phyllis Wilkins at (816) 229-0742 to register.

Lincoln’s Last Months and Victory

Tuesday, March 10, 2015 – 6:30 p.m. Central Library, 14 W. 10th Street, Kansas City, MO. Terry Beckenbaugh from the U. S. Army Command General Staff College discusses the tumultuous final months of Lincoln’s life and examines the start of the Reconstruction of the South. RSVP to (816) 701-3400.

Posse of the Westerners

Tuesday, March 10, 2015 – 6:00 p.m. Buffet Dinner at the Golden Corral at the Tiffany Springs Market

Center, 8800 Northwest Skyview Ave., Kansas City, MO. Arnold Schofield: "Early Kansas City Cattle Trails, 1840-1860." Upon arrival pay the cashier for a buffet meal (around \$11 for seniors) and proceed to the private meeting room. After a prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance everyone will help himself to the buffet. The program will begin about 7:00 p.m. No reservations necessary.

Civil War Round Table of Cass County

Tuesday, March 10, 2015 – 7:00 p.m. Pearson Hall in the Harrisonville Library, 400 E. Mechanic, Harrisonville, MO. Carol Bohl: "Iowa Troops in Western Missouri."

Freedom's Frontier Partners Meeting

Thursday, March 12, 2015 – 10:00 a.m. Lee's Summit History Museum, 220 SW Main Street, Lee's Summit, MO.

3rd Missouri Spring Muster

Saturday and Sunday, March 14-15, 2015 – 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Atkins-Johnson Farm and Museum, 6607 NE Antioch Road, Gladstone, MO. Annual two-day muster to practice drills and formations. Short classes or speakers on specialty topics related to reenacting. Interacting with visiting public. Free.

Jim Bridger's 211th Birthday-Double Historic Marker Dedication – Saturday, March 14, 2015, 10:00 a.m. Marker dedication at 901 Carondelet Drive, Kansas City, MO. Master of ceremonies is historical reenactor Jim Beckner. Second dedication at 11:20 a.m.

Meet at the Trailside Center, 9901 Holmes Road, Kansas City, MO. Short walk to Indian Creek location of 2nd marker followed by birthday cake, coffee and punch at the Trailside Center at Noon.

Saturdays by the Grinter Stove

Saturday, March 14, 2015 – 11:00 a.m. Grinter Place, 1420 South 78th Street, Kansas City, KS. Learn about Kansas City area history and stay for lunch prepared on the wood stove. Cost is \$5 for adults and \$3 for children.

Mid-Missouri Civil War Round Table – Columbia, MO – Monday, March 16, 2015 – 7:00 p.m.

Boone County Historical Society Museum, 3801 Ponderosa Drive, Columbia, MO. Barry Cardwell: Baseball in the Civil War.

Death and Mourning in the 1800's

Tuesday, March 17, 2015 – 7:00 p.m. National Frontier Trails Museum, 318 W. Pacific, Independence, MO. Barbara Hughes: Multi-faceted program and one-woman show about the history of mourning customs from the 1830's through the 1860's. Free.

Independence Civil War Study Group

Wednesday, March 18, 2015 – 7:00 p.m. 1859 Jail Museum, Independence, MO. Dennis Garstang: The Mormon War as a precursor to the Border War and the Civil War.

Shared Stories of the Civil War – Fort Scott, Kansas

Saturday, March 21, 2015 – 2:00 p.m. Fort Scott National Historic Site, 1 Old Fort Blvd., Fort Scott, KS. "The Cherokee Nation in the Civil War." Free.

Mt. Gilead Monday: The Underground Railroad

Monday, March 23, 2015 – 10:00 a.m. Historic Mt. Gilead School, 15918 Plattsburg Road, Kearney, MO. Learn about the slaves' escape to freedom through the underground railroad. Age range from 1st through 8th grade. Each student will receive a copy of *Sweet Clara and the Freedom Quilt* by Deborah Hopkinson. Bring a sack lunch. Maximum of 25 people including adults. \$10. Reservations to (816) 736-8500.

Civil War Round Table of Kansas City

Tuesday, March 24, 2015 – 6:30 p.m. – Dinner. \$27. Holiday Inn and Suites, 8787 Reeder Road, Overland Park, KS (Sunset Ballroom – 8th Floor). Park on the south side of the hotel and use the elevators in the lobby. Lane Smith and Randal Durbin: "Road to Appomattox." Dinner reservations to Paul Gault at (816) 741-2962.

Park Day

Saturday, March 28, 2015. Two Civil War sites in our area are participating in the annual cleanup of their grounds: Lone Jack Museum at 9:00 a.m. with lunch provided and John Wornall House at 6115 Wornall Road, Kansas City, MO starting at 1:00 p.m. Lone Jack requests that you bring your own rakes, gloves, etc. Rain or Shine.

Old Stories of Westport

Saturday, March 28, 2015 – 2:00 p.m., Westport Library, 118 Westport Road, Kansas City, MO. Dave Baumgartner will present three stories: Wild Bill and the Baseball Game; The Westport Windwagon; and The Robbery of the Jackson County Fair. A speaker's reception follows at the Harris-Kearney House, 4000 Baltimore, Kansas City, MO.

1850's Territorial Kansas Town Hall Political

Meeting – Sunday, April 5, 2015 – 2:00 p.m. Constitution Hall State Historic Site, 319 Elmore, Lecompton, KS. Members of the Lecompton Reenactors will present the play "Bleeding Kansas Characters" by J. Howard Duncan. \$3 for adults and \$1 for children.

Results from Board Meeting

After several tries the Board was finally able to meet on February 18, 2015. The Board has appointed Terry Chronister to serve out the term of our late 2nd Vice President, Art Kelley. The 2nd Vice President is our Membership Vice President who will greet visitors and help them get a name tag. Pat Racki has ably taken the responsibility for distributing the name badges at the monthly membership meeting and Barb Wormington prints new badges as needed.

The Board is considering ways to market our new "Monuments" book to other historical groups and commercial bookshops. As a member you have the opportunity to buy a full-color copy for \$20 at a meeting, or you can have it mailed for an additional \$2.75. Checks can be made payable to "CWRTWM, P. O. Box 3019, Independence, MO 64055." The book shows Civil War markers and monuments approximately a daytrip away from Kansas City. The Board is thinking of visiting the Osceola area as a trip of our own in the spring.

We are planning a picnic for June 10, 2015 at the Phil Roberts Park which is adjacent to the Pitcher Cemetery located on Blue Ridge Boulevard and 33rd Street in Independence, MO. This historic cemetery has the Revolutionary War grave of Ledstone Noland and Civil War burials. It was preserved through the efforts of our late member, Kathleen Tuohey and our Editor Dennis Myers and his wife

Dorothy have taken the job of making sure explanatory pamphlets are available at the cemetery.

Internet Battlefield Tours

Dick Titterington, the Editor of the *Border Bugle* newsletter of the Kansas City Round Table, also has a Civil War blog which you can access on-line at www.transmississippimusings.com. He has some self-published books of subject matter he finds interesting.

Presently Dick is collaborating with Dan Smith, former President of the Kansas City Round Table and head of the Monnett Battle of Westport, on creating a virtual tour of the Battle of the Big Blue (Byram's Ford) using an internet enabled smart phone or tablet. Each tour stop will have an audio description and a video animation of troop movements at various times during the battle. They would even like to have some live action reenactment video.

News About Members and Friends

We have wonderful news that the KU Medical Center believes that **Jim Beckner** is cancer free. He and **Judi** thank you for all your prayers and words of encouragement. Jim was also recently honored with a National Award from the Missouri Commander of the Sons of Confederate Veterans. This award is given to individuals who display superior leadership skills in a position of responsibility in the SCV for an extended period or demonstrated exceptional leadership on a specific assignment such as the Confederate Memorial Day at Higginsville, Missouri. This award is well deserved!

The Jack Kennedy Estate in Columbia, Missouri has engaged **Black and Gold Auctions** to sell his collection of Civil War books. This is an on-line auction that can be accessed by going to www.blackandgoldauctions.com/showme.php?id=380. You can preview the items on line or go to Kemper Arena in Columbia, MO between 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. on Monday, March 2, 2015. Items may be picked up on March 4th between 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. or have them shipped.

Mr. **Aaron Chandler** inherited a 24-pdr solid shot, Howitzer cannonball from his grandfather, Joseph Chandler who was an archaeologist who lived in the Kansas City area (said to be an artifact from a Civil War battle fought in the metro area). He would like to sell the piece and his phone is (816) 878-4276.

The *Missouri Life Magazine* had a book review for a new historical fiction by **Jennifer Chiaverini** called *Mrs. Grant and Madame Jule*. It examines the relationship of Julia Dent, the future wife of Ulysses S. Grant, and her black slave and best friend also named Julia. As the two women grow older, they rely on each other's guidance despite the growing tension of antebellum America. To be released March 3, 2015.

A painting by Independence artist **Cheryl Harness** was shown in the monthly newsletter of the City of Independence, MO to accompany the notice of a program about Hiram Young in February. She shows the Hiram Young & Co. wagon-building business in her 2011 painting. Born into slavery, Hiram Young dreamed of becoming a free man and earning his way in the world by hard work, determination and ethical behavior. His rise to becoming one of the prosperous citizens of Independence is a true "rags to riches" story.

Harold Holzer, author of *Lincoln and the Power of the Press: The War for Public Opinion*, has an article in the March 2015 issue of the *Smithsonian Magazine* called "What the Newspapers Said When Lincoln Was Killed." In a "Dewey Defeats Truman" moment, there is a reproduction of the *Herald* of Demopolis, Alabama for April 19, 1865, which reads: "GLORIOUS NEWS. Lincoln and Seward Assassinated! LEE DEFEATS GRANT. Andy Johnson Inaugurated President."

Another review in the *Missouri Life Magazine* is for *Necessary Evil: Settling Missouri with a Rope and a Gun* by **Joe Johnston**. A Missouri native, Mr. Johnston is a writer, artist, and songwriter whose premise is that the state could never have been settled without a healthy dose of rebel justice. It is packed with stories of popular gunslingers such as Wyatt Earp, Wild Bill Hickok, and Jesse James. Situated as the Gateway to the West, Missouri experienced an influx of new cultures, races and political factions. It marked the boundary of eastern

civilization and was a stronghold of fierce independence, bordered by Bloody Kansas and Native American territories.

Brian Burnes of the *Kansas City Star* recently reviewed the new book by **Gary Kremer** called *Race & Meaning: The African American Experience in Missouri*. Come to find out, Kremer, a Caucasian, was not always a history buff, but when he enrolled at Lincoln University in Jefferson City, MO in 1966, he took a course from Lorenzo J. Greene called "Negro History." In the almost 50 years since, Kremer has become one of the leading experts in Missouri black history. He has devoted to African-American history the same focus and fidelity that Greene had exhibited since he arrived at Lincoln University in 1933.

Our long distance members in Los Angeles, Orven Schanzer and Lisa Gillman, keep us informed of Civil War articles appearing in the *Los Angeles Times*. An article from January 11, 2015 is called "Civil War coat almost fully revived." It comes from Newport News, VA and is the story of a 150-year old pilot's jacket that went down with the Union *Monitor* off Cape Hatteras about 10 months after the clash between the *Monitor* and the Confederate ironclad warship *Merrimack* in the March 9, 1861 Battle of Hampton Roads. The wreck was not found until 1973 and the turret not recovered until 2002. The fabric of the coat has been carefully separated from thick marine concretion and is almost ready to be reassembled and put on display at the *USS Monitor Center* in southeast Virginia.

The Independence, Missouri City Council has selected a new "Pioneer Woman" statue to replace the one stolen from the **National Frontier Trails Museum**. The artist is Charles Goslin, and the statue will be bronze cast at a foundry and should be received in May 2015. Whereas the woman in the previous statue held a baby and a bucket, the new one will show a baby held in both arms and the heads of mother and child will be slightly tilted up. The \$40,000 cost will be paid through private funds.

The senior minister of Eastgate Christian Church, Independence, MO, **Rev. Joshua Patty**, is a Lincoln scholar who has been studying his life for 25 years and is author of the Lincoln-related blog

“Lincolniana” which can be accessed at www.lincolniana.blogspot.com.

Friends of the National Park Service were saddened to hear that **Harry Willcox Pfanz** died on January 27, 2015, at the age of 93. He earned a Ph.D. from Ohio University and in 1956 accepted a position at Gettysburg National Military Park. Over the next 10 years he rose to become the park’s chief historian and earned a reputation as the battle’s foremost authority. His three books about Gettysburg, written after his retirement in 1981, are still considered by many to be the most definitive on the subject. In 1966 he became the Superintendent of the Gateway Arch in St. Louis. In 1974 he became the National Park Service Chief Historian and received many special achievement awards.

Mr. Billy Noland Pitcher died in Independence on February 2, 2015. He was the son of Bernice and Frank Pitcher. Those historically significant names led the Noland family genealogist, **Gloria Miller**, to attend the funeral and become acquainted with another branch of the family tree. She is writing a book on the Noland family genealogy and will add this new information. Gloria is **Ted Stillwell’s** sister and attended our February meeting when Ted gave an impromptu program on Abraham Lincoln when we found out that the DVD player was no longer available to view the last of the Ken Burns Civil War series.

Congratulations to Linda Emley at the **Ray County Museum** for providing information for the Freedom’s Frontier Travel blog for the month of February 2015. In addition to a history of the museum which had been the county poor farm, there were pictures from the Battle of Albany marker dedication.

Our member from Platte County Missouri **Judy Sharp**, added to our knowledge of the Little Stranger Church which is on the Kansas National Register. It gets its name from its proximity to the Little Stranger Creek, not to be confused with the Big Stranger Creek. She plans to put this on her bucket list for her spring cemetery crawl. She figures it must be somewhere between Leavenworth and McLouth, KS. She expects to see lots of German names on the gravestones. Judy lives at Farley, MO and says that it was a little abolitionist

enclave settled by German immigrant farmers. Her grandfather, a German immigrant pharmacist in Leavenworth who served in the Union Army, used to keep leeches to satisfy the demand from customers in Farley. The pharmacy had the words “Deutsche Apoteke” over the doorway to serve as a signal that German was spoken there. During World War I there was so much anti-German sentiment that he and a friend got up on ladders on a moonless night and painted out the “Deutsche Apoteke.”

The **Wilson’s Creek National Battlefield** newsletter for Winter 2015, had some interesting statistics about African-American Union troops: “By the close of the Civil War 166 regiments of African-American troops had been raised for the Union: 145 regiments of infantry, 7 of cavalry, 12 of heavy artillery, and one of engineers. They served with honor on countless battlefields and sacrificed 2,751 lives to set their brothers free.”

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.

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