



The Border Star

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

April 2015

The Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri

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The Border Star Editor

Dennis Myers
12800 E. 48th Street S.
Independence, MO 64055
(816) 769-6490

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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Mailing Address

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Website

www.CWRTWM.org

THIS MONTH IN THE WAR:

- April 3, 1865: Jefferson Davis and his Confederate cabinet flee Richmond, Virginia
- April 4, 1865: Joyous crowds of Union soldiers and Richmond blacks cheer President Lincoln as he visits the former home of Jefferson Davis
- April 9, 1865: General Lee surrenders to General Grant at the Wilbur McLean house in Appomattox Court House, Virginia.
- April 14, 1865: John Wilkes Booth shoots President Lincoln at Ford's Theater in Washington, DC
- April 15, 1865: President Lincoln dies and Andrew Johnson assumes the Office of President

President's Letter

"The Civil War defined us as what we are and it opened us to being what we became, good and bad things...It was the crossroads of our being, and it was a hell of a crossroads."

— **Shelby Foote, The Civil War: A Narrative**

- Disease In The Public Mind, A New Understanding of Why We Fought The Civil War
- From Battlefields Rising, How the Civil War Transformed American Literature
- The War That Forged A Nation: Why The Civil War Still Matters
- Marching Home: Union Veterans and Their Unending Civil War

For the past few months, if you have watched any of the History Channel, the attention of the Civil War history world has turned towards the ending of the great American Conflict. Programs on Petersburg, Richmond and Appomattox have dominated the airwaves. We are drawn to understand these ending events. We should study them to understand what was to become the healing of our nation 150 years ago.

I have noticed this new trend in research: the look into the effects of the Civil War. I have listed four titles of this genre above. Historians agree that the Civil War made us what we are today. We have been trying to find out what that "us" is ever since the end of the war. 150 years of historians concentrating on battles and leaders may be enough. Now, just maybe, we should find out what the sacrifice of 800 thousand lives made us. I am reminded of two scenes in the movie *Saving Private Ryan*. One is when the captain played by Tom Hanks tells Ryan to "Earn this"; and the other of Ryan, as an old man, telling his wife at the grave of the captain, "Tell me I'm a good man." That's what we are seeking by this continued study. That in the end no matter what we have done as a country in the last 150 years, good and bad, we want to find out we have done the best we could do, and we have honored the sacrifice.

~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

April 2015 Membership Meeting

Wednesday, April 8, 2015 – 7:00 p.m. Villages of Jackson Creek, 3980-A S. Jackson Drive (lower level), Independence, MO. Program: Donald Gilmore: Kansas Redlegs, the elite soldiers of the Union Army who had more skills, greater strength, and more staying power, but they were also the dark underbelly of the troops.

April 2015 Board Meeting

Wednesday, April 15, 2015 – 7:00 p.m. Home of Beverly Shaw, 17313 E. 51 Terr. Court S., Independence, Missouri.

Coming Events

May 13, 2015 – 7:00 p.m. Villages of Jackson Creek. Vicki Beck: The Life and Legend of Kate Quantrill.

June 6, 2015 – Confederate Memorial Day. Confederate Cemetery, Higginsville, MO.

June 10, 2015 – 6:00 p.m. Annual Round Table Picnic. Phil Roberts Park next to Pitcher Cemetery, 3250 S. Blue Ridge Blvd., Independence, MO. Ted Stillwell and Gloria Miller will tell us about the burials at Pitcher Cemetery.

Other Civil War Events and Exhibits

Robert E. Lee and the Fall of the Confederacy

Wednesday, April 1, 2015 – 6:30 p.m. Central Library, 14 W. 10th Street, Kansas City, MO. Ethan S. Rafuse of the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth: Factors and events leading to Lee's surrender in April, 1865, including an examination of his legendary generalship. RSVP: (816) 701-3400.

Friends of Arrow Rock 2015 Lecture Series

Saturday, April 4, 2015 – 10:00 a.m. Arrow Rock State Historic Site Visitor Center, Arrow Rock, MO. Diane Eickhoff: Female Soldiers and "Lady Bushwhackers."

1850's Territorial Kansas Town Hall Meeting

Sunday, April 5, 2015 – 2:00 p.m. Constitution Hall State Historic Site, 319 Elmore, Lecompton, KS. Members of the Lecompton Reenactors acting troupe will present Bleeding Kansas characters. Cost is \$3.

Raytown Historical Society

Monday, April 6, 2015 – 10:00 a.m. Raytown Historical Society, 9705 E. 63rd Street, Raytown, MO. Ambassador's Meeting.

Lawlessness after the Civil War

Tuesday, April 7, 2015 – 7:00 p.m. Midwest Genealogy Center, 3440 S. Lee's Summit Road, Independence, MO. Gregg Higginbotham: The Civil War ended in 1865, but in Missouri lawlessness was continued by ex-Confederate soldiers Frank and Jesse James. RSVP: (816) 252-7228. Program will be repeated on Tuesday, April 21, 2015 – 7:00 p.m.

Last Civil War Engagement in Ray County, MO

Thursday, April 9, 2015 – 6:00 p.m. Eagleton Center, 1015 W. Royale Street, Richmond, MO (next to the Ray County Museum). Carry in dinner. Ray County Historical Society supplies the meat, drinks and table service. Everyone else is to bring a side dish, salad, or dessert. Robbie Maupin will recap the Battle of Albany. Discussion of the last engagement in Ray County on May 23, 1865. Forces engaged were a portion of Captain Clayton Tiffin's command and a force of guerrillas under the command of Arch Clemens. It was a sharp engagement for a short time and resulted in a rout of the guerrillas.

Black Powder Shoot

Saturday, April 11, 2015 – 8:00 a.m. James Farm, 21216 James Farm Rd., Kearney, MO. Cap & Ball Revolver or Cartridge Revolver. Replicas OK. Fixed sights and dueling stance only. Jesse James Medallion prizes awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place. \$25.

Spring Muster at the Majors House

Saturday, April 11, 2015 – 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sunday, April 12, 2015 – 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Alexander Majors House Museum, 8201 State Line Road, Kansas City, MO. Missouri Irish Brigade will be participating in drills, games, skirmishes and more. Muster events-free. Reduced-price house tours.

Civil War Lecture Series

Saturday, April 11, 2015 – 10:00 a.m. Battle of Westport Visitor Center and Museum, 6601 Swope Parkway, Kansas City, MO. "A Day Late and a Dollar Short: The Fate of A. J. Smith's Command during Price's 1864 Missouri Raid." Learn about the personalities of the Federal commanders in 1864 Missouri. Free but donations appreciated. Series will be the 2nd and 4th Saturdays. Led by Dick Titterington.

Mt. Gilead Ladies' Tea

Saturday, April 11, 2015 – 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. \$10. Mt. Gilead School, 15918 Plattsburg Road, Kearney, MO. For reservations go to www.claycountymo.gov/Historic_Sites/News/LadiesSpringTea2015.

Olathe Youth Symphony Concert

Sunday, April 12, 2015 – 3:00 p.m. Olathe South Auditorium, 151st and Ridgeview, Olathe, KS. Part of the concert will be Jay Ungar's "Ashokan Farewell" from the Ken Burns Civil War series. Lane Smith, General Robert E. Lee presenter and a Union presenter will be reading text. Free.

Kansas City Posse of the Westerners

Tuesday, April 14, 2015 – 6:00 p.m. Buffet menu (about \$12). Golden Corral restaurant, 8800 NW Skyview Ave., Kansas City, MO (near Home Depot). Larry Nokes: "The Singing Cowboys" with a focus on Roy Rogers and Dale Evans. Visitors welcome.

Founder's Son: A Life of Abraham Lincoln

Wednesday, April 15, 2015 – 6:30 p.m. Central Library, 14 W. 10th Street, Kansas City, MO. Richard Brookhiser, senior editor of *National Review* and author of 11 books, is a recipient of the National Medal of the Humanities. He will discuss his latest book which reveals Lincoln as a man in search of an intellectual and emotional replacement for his own taciturn father and who turned to George Washington, Thomas Paine and Thomas Jefferson for knowledge, guidance, inspiration and purpose. RSVP to (816) 701-3400.

Independence Civil War Study Group

Wednesday, April 15, 2015 – 7:00 p.m. Courthouse Exchange Restaurant, 113 W. Lexington, Independence, MO. Dennis Garstang: The Mormon War as a precursor of the Border War.

Lincoln Weekend – Gladstone, MO

Friday, April 17 and Saturday, April 18, 2015 – 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Atkins-Johnson Farm and Museum, 6607 N.E. Antioch Road, Gladstone, MO. Family-friendly, free admission weekend to kick off a 4-week exhibit on the life and times of Abraham Lincoln. Games, crafts, and interaction with Lincoln at the museum. Free.

Civil War Encampment – Fort Scott, KS

Saturday, April 18th and Sunday, April 19, 2015 – 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Fort Scott National Historic Site, 1 Old Fort Blvd., Fort Scott, KS. Union Army occupies the fort with living history demonstrations and portrayals highlighting the events of 1865. Saturday evening program. Free.

Showing of *Dark Command* – Lawrence, KS

Saturday, April 18, 2015 – 10:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. Watkins Museum of History, 1047 Massachusetts Street, Lawrence, KS. Three showings of

Dark Command, a film story from 1940 based on Quantrill's Raid of Lawrence, KS. Stars John Wayne, Claire Trevor and Walter Pidgeon. Free but donations are welcome.

Mid-Missouri Civil War Round Table

Monday, April 20, 2015 – 7:00 p.m. Boone County Historical Museum, 3801 Ponderosa Drive, Columbia, MO. Roger Baker: Topic to be announced.

Lawlessness after the Civil War

Tuesday, April 21, 2015 – 7:00 p.m. Midwest Genealogy Center, 3440 S. Lee's Summit Road, Independence, MO. Gregg Higginbotham: The Civil War ended in 1865, but in Missouri lawlessness was continued by ex-Confederate soldiers Frank and Jesse James. RSVP: (816) 252-7228.

The Things They Carried Home Preservation Workshop

Saturday, April 25, 2015 – 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Watkins Museum of History, 1047 Massachusetts Street, Lawrence, KS. Learn how to preserve and document military artifacts such as uniforms, medals, letters and photographs. Free but please register in advance at (785) 841-4109.

Civil War Lecture Series

Saturday, April 25, 2015 – 10:00 a.m. Battle of Westport Visitor Center and Museum, 6601 Swope Parkway, Kansas City, MO. "Dateline 1861: The Struggle for the St. Louis Arsenal." Secessionists led by Gov. Claiborne Fox Jackson and Unionists led by Congressman Frank Blair turn their attention to the Federal Arsenal in St. Louis for the thousands of arms it contains. Led by Dick Titterington. Free.

"A State Divided" Family Fun Day

Saturday, April 25, 2015 – 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. James Farm and Museum, 21216 James Farm Rd., Kearney, MO. Crafts, music, storytelling, and activities to enhance children's experience of "A State Divided: The Civil War in Missouri" exhibit. The first 100 children will receive a free book provided by the Missouri Humanities Council. Activities are free, but regular museum admission applies for the traveling exhibit.

Dedication of Westport Historical Marker and Covered Wagon

Saturday, April 25, 2015 – 2:00 p.m. Westport Shopping Center, corner of Westport Road and Southwest Trafficway. The "Men of Westport Historical Marker" honors the men and women of Westport and early Kansas City. The Prairie Schooner Covered Wagon is a symbol of the westward migration on the Oregon, California and Santa Fe Trails. Speakers will

be Crosby Kemper, III, Director of the Kansas City, MO Public Library; Cooper Weeks, owner of the shopping center; and Alana Smith, president of the Westport Historical Society and 1855 Harris-Kearney Museum. Refreshments.

“A State Divided” Speaker Series

Sunday, April 26, 2015 – 2:00 p.m. James Farm and Museum, 21216 James Farm Road, Kearney, MO. Abby Anderson with the Money Museum at the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City will speak about Confederate Currency, where it came from, how it was made, who used it, and what people did with it when the Civil War ended. Presentation is free, but regular admission price applies to the museum, traveling exhibit and guided tours of the historic James Family home.

KCAHTA Annual Meeting-Antioch Library

Tuesday, April 28, 2015 – 4:30 p.m., Antioch Library, 8700 Shawnee Mission Parkway, Merriam, KS. Annual meeting of the Kansas City Area Historic Trails Association. Brief announcements and reports, awards presentations and program: Showing of two videos of Olathe History – “I’ve Paid the Bill,” the story of William Quantrill’s Raid on Olathe in 1862 and “The Bricklayer,” the story of Indian Jim who laid over 40,000 road bricks in one day in 1925.

Civil War Round Table of Kanas City

Tuesday, April 28, 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. Troy Strahan and his son, Liam: First person presentation of Lincoln and his son, Tad, as they look at a book together and discuss famous people and events at the end of the Civil War. Dinner reservations to Paul Gault at (816) 741-2962.

Missouri Commemoration of the End of the Civil War

Friday, May 1, 2015 and Saturday, May 2, 2015. Jefferson City, Missouri. Friday’s Living History will be held at the North Jefferson City Recreation Area, Bill Quigg Commons. Family-oriented educational activities and entertainment including cannon demonstrations, reenactors, period music and more. Saturday’s Reunion and Reconciliation Lecture Series will be held at Lincoln University, Mitchell Auditorium In the Richardson Building. More information to follow at www.mocivilwar150.com.

Exhibits

The American Soldier – Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art
Now through June 21, 2015. Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, 45th Street and Oak Street, Kansas City, MO. 50 photographs of American soldiers from the Civil War to the present. Photographs over time have shaped our perceptions of military personnel and the cultural values they seem to embody. They resonate as valuable reminders that certain aspects of the human experience of war are ongoing. Regular museum hours. Free.

A Shared Legacy: Folk Art in America

Now through July 5, 2015. Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, 45th Street and Oak Street, Kansas City, MO. Includes folk art from the Midwest as well as rural New England and the south from 1800 and 1925 by self-taught or relatively untrained artists. Contains vivid portraits, still lifes and landscapes as well as decorative arts. Regular museum hours. Free.

A State Divided: The Civil War in Missouri

April 18 – June 14, 2015. James Farm Museum, 21216 James Farm Road, Kearney, MO. A traveling exhibit which covers all aspects of the Civil War in Missouri from the politics and battles of the Border War, slavery, and the lives of soldiers to emancipation and the reformation period. Admission price includes the James Farm 20 minute film, three galleries of James family artifacts, and a guided tour of the James home. Discounted rates apply to groups of 15 or more. Call (816) 736-8500 for details or visit the website at www.claycountymo.gov/Historic_Sites/News/astatedivided.

News About Members and Friends

The Round Table thanks **Lane Smith and Randal Durbin** for a wonderful presentation of “The Road to Appomattox” for Talkin’ Truman on March 14th and for all of the members and friends who came to support the program. We had a good crowd in the Whistle Stop Room, and we presented them both with a copy of our new “Monuments” book as a thank you. Randal is actually going to travel to Appomattox for the official commemoration.

If you would like to follow along on your computer for real time events (Eastern Daylight Time) at Appomattox, you can go to;

www.appomattoxcountyva.gov/visitors/civil-war-150th/appomattox-150-calendar-of-events

On Thursday, April 9, 2015, there will be “**Bells across the Land: A Nation Remembers Appomattox**” from 2:15 p.m. to 2:19 p.m., Central Daylight Time. The four minutes are in memory of the four years of the Civil War. The bells will ring first at Appomattox at 3:00 p.m. on April 9th to coincide with the moment the historic meeting between Grant and Lee in the McLean House at Appomattox Court House ended. It happened that April 9, 1865 fell on Palm Sunday. As word was received in nearby states, there was a spontaneous ringing of church bells on Monday, April 10, 1865, in such towns as;

Oak Hill, N.Y.

www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nygreen2/the_bell_rang

Canandaigua, N.Y.

www.eyewitnesstohistory.com/pfcivilwarends

A place that does not get as much press as Appomattox Court House is **Appomattox Station**. It is easy to miss the historical significance of the 46-acre spot less than half a mile from the Museum of the Confederacy off Virginia Highway 24 toward Appomattox. A group called Appomattox 1865 Foundation assumed ownership of this battlefield in September 2014 from the Civil War Trust. The Appomattox Station battle took place on April 8, 1865, and was unplanned so the Confederate artillery went against Union cavalry on its own. “You can’t find that anywhere else except Appomattox Station,” said Patrick Schroeder, the historian at Appomattox Court House National Historical Park. Maj. Gen. George Custer’s 4,000 Union cavalry had just captured three Confederate trains with supplies and food rations for Appomattox Station. Brig. Gen. Rueben Lindsay Walker’s Confederate artillery – made up of 100 cannons – had been ordered ahead of Lee’s forces. Custer’s men advanced from the woods, and Walker’s men fired, repulsing three attacks. “Walker put up a good fight but in the end he can’t hold out against Custer’s cavalry,” Schroeder said. “The primary result of Appomattox Station is Lee is cut off and his line of retreat is blocked.”

Our fellow traveler from the Kansas City Round Table, **Lila Aamodt** (aka Sarah Martin of 1849) is training to be one of the “People of the Past” to interact with visitors on Saturdays this summer in Independence, MO. For background material she is learning about Methodists, the Mormon “wars,” medicine (cholera, smallpox, etc.) and history of the trails. She is visiting local living history encampments and will soon be acquiring her costume.

Carol Bohl, former President of the Missouri/Kansas Border War Network and resident of Harrisonville, has moved to Urbandale, Iowa to be near family but recently visited friends here. She has passed along this Iowa/Missouri Civil War connection: It was August 5, 1861, at Athens, MO. It was the first, last, and only time the Civil War actually spilled into the state of Iowa. Athens was right on the Missouri side of the Des Moines River. The confederates set their artillery too high, and their cannonballs went right over the heads of the Union troops, smashing apart several headstones in the town of Croton, Iowa. Carol says that as far as we know, this was the only time that lead and hot balls poured into her newly adopted state. Also, it was the only time when one force fired upon and missed the entire state the enemy was in. Iowa does, however, have some Civil War artifacts located at the Iowa Veterans Home at Marshalltown. They have a Napoleon cannon in the hallway and other displays such as old uniforms, medals, and photographs. One item that catches a lot of interest is an honorable discharge certificate signed by President Abraham Lincoln on December 15, 1864. Also, one of the rest stops on I-35 heading towards Des Moines is dedicated to Civil War history.

Congratulations to **Kathy Borgman**, recently retired Executive Director of the Friends of Arrow Rock, for being awarded an Exemplary Community Achievement Award from the Missouri Humanities Council in May 2014.

Our President **Mike Calvert** is starting his spring lecture tour on April 25th when he will be speaking to the Andrew County Historical Society at Savannah, MO on the topic “Civil War Battles of Little Blue and Second Independence.” The Nodaway County Historical Society has also invited him to speak. As usual Mike will be presenting programs in May 2015 as part of Historic Preservation Month. Something different this year is that he will be “tweeting” answers to historical questions presented to him.

Barbara Hughes and Beverly Shaw will be representing the Round Table at a meeting on April 9th to start planning the Bicentennial of the State of Missouri in 2021. If you have ideas for events and people you would like to see highlighted, please pass those along to Barb or Bev.

The **Cass County Courthouse clock in Harrisonville** has been removed for refurbishing near Buffalo, N.Y. The odd thing about this clock is that it has only three faces. The legend is that when the clock was added to the bell tower in the early 1900’s, the citizens, harboring strong feelings and bad memories about the North’s

harsh treatment of Cass County citizens during the Civil War (particularly during Order No. 11) did not want to acknowledge the North by putting a dial on the north side of the tower.

A community that has embraced its Civil War history for tourism is the **Chambersburg Civil War Seminars and Tours**, a part of the Greater Chambersburg, PA Chamber of Commerce. As a service they also provide a Civil War Round Table Directory at www.civilwarseminars.org/?page_id=346. Our Round Table and others in Missouri and Kansas have recently been added to the directory. As a result of its location near significant battlefields, the Chambersburg Civil War Seminars is offering a session from April 10-12, 2015 called "Ed Bearss Symposium: Leadership and Combat in the Civil War" with a bus tour of Gettysburg. On May 15-17 there will be a weekend with Lance Herdegen and the Iron Brigade including a bus tour of South Mountain, Antietam and Gettysburg. On July 22-26 there will be a session based in Richmond, VA on "The End of the War: Richmond, Petersburg, and Appomattox." Then back in Chambersburg the topic will be "Lincoln" from September 24-27 with bus tours of Gettysburg, the John Wilkes Booth Escape tour and sessions by leading Lincoln historians.

Speaking of bus tours, the **Kansas City Round Table** is planning a bus tour to Mine Creek Battlefield on October 24, 2015. Tour stops will be Trading Post, Mine Creek Battlefield, and the Fort Scott National Historic Site, all in Kansas. We will have more details during the summer.

The Civil War Round Table of Eastern Kansas is hosting "The Road to Appomattox" on Thursday, April 30, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. at the Hale Ritchie House, 1118 SE Madison, Topeka, KS. This Round Table meets the last Thursday night of the month. Its Tri-Presidents are Tim Rues, Jeff Dunaway and Deb Goodrich Bisel. Visitors are always welcome.

Our friend, **Rev. Dr. Larry Coleman**, is a wide-ranging reader and recently passed along some information about **Ralph Waldo Emerson** from the book *Emerson: The Mind on Fire* by Robert D. Richardson, Jr. Apparently Emerson was a passive abolitionist until after the fugitive slave Thomas Sims' recapture and reenslavement in April 1851. He and his wife Lidian were agents on the Concord, Massachusetts Underground Railroad. He entertained John Brown at his home, raised money for him and spoke on his behalf. He did not believe in the Union above all. He was cool toward Lincoln until the Emancipation Proclamation,

after which he said: "[Lincoln] had been permitted to do more than any other American man."

There is a case before the Supreme Court to see how far license plates might go if they rule the **Sons of Confederate Veterans** can get Texas plates imprinted with the Confederate flag. Missouri joined 10 other states in a brief urging the court to side with Texas.

Several of our Round Table members (**Karen Wells**, **Pat Gradwohl** and **Barbara Hughes**) represented us at the bi-monthly meeting of the Partners of **Freedom's Frontier** in March at the new Lee's Summit Museum. Some recent achievements have been the roll out of the Heritage Traveler program to bring information about sites in the heritage area with discounts or premiums. **Beverly Shaw** has subscribed to this service and will be sharing information with members. Freedom's Frontier is continuing its comprehensive signage program in cooperation with state departments of transportation and local governments. We found this past winter that petitioners quashed an effort by the Missouri Department of Transportation to restrict wayfinder signs to large sites only. Freedom's Frontier continues its educational programming with a workshop on "Interpreting Slavery" in May which **Beverly Shaw** plans to attend and hopes to bring ideas back to our group.

Congratulations to **Bob Grover** who was recently elected President of the Sons of the American Revolution, Harry S. Truman Chapter. You often see Bob and fellow members bearing the colors at community events. In their colonial uniforms, they form a Color Guard that gives a 15 colonial flag and musket presentation at parades, meetings and programs. Bob and fellow member, Mr. Scott, have given the colonial flag program to our Round Table.

The **International African American Museum** may soon be a reality at Gadsden's Wharf in Charleston, S.C. Construction may begin in 2016 with a museum opening in 2018. Gadsden's Wharf which once stood on Charleston's waterfront was where tens of thousands of African slaves were brought against their will and first stepped foot in the United States.

Mark Kelly, author and former program presenter to the Round Table, recently brought to our attention that a remarkable book (currently out of print) called *The New Stars: Life and Labor in Old Missouri* is now being offered on Amazon.com. It's the story of the Missouri family of Manie Kendley Morgan of DeKalb, Missouri. It portrays her life as a child on a Missouri plantation, the experiences of her family and their Negro slaves

during the border warfare and Jayhawker struggles, the War Between the States, and the building of a new way of life after Emancipation.” There appear to be a couple of copies available.

Lincoln assassination artifacts have been reunited at **Ford’s Theatre** for an exhibit from now to May 25th. They have been scattered for decades in family collections and by the government and museums from Washington to Chicago.

There will be many commemorative events in Springfield, Illinois for the 150th anniversary of the death of **Abraham Lincoln**. For information you can go to www.lincolnfuneraltrain.org/2015_event.php. Unfortunately the replica of the Lincoln funeral train built in Elgin, Illinois will not be able to retrace the route of the original because of a funding shortfall. It is hoped that the replica made of steel and wood (48 feet long and 13 feet tall) can be transported by semitrailer trucks because of the difficulty of getting rail permits. You can go to www.The2015LincolnFuneralTrain.com for more information.

One of Lincoln’s more famous speeches was given on March 17, 1865. There were two copies of his message, one from the New York *Herald*, and another, written shortly thereafter, signed personally by him. The first was spoken to the 140th Indiana Regiment, which captured a Confederate flag at Fort Anderson. But it was before Lincoln heard that the Confederate bill to allow slaves to fight in the Southern armies had passed. The second copy took this into account and has the words, “Whenever I hear of anyone arguing for slavery, I feel a strong impulse to see it tried on him personally.”

There is an effort in Greene County, Missouri to restore the **Mullings family cemetery** off Highway O. It was a local cemetery for Civil War veterans which is now a site of vandalism and disrepair. This is not just a problem in southern Missouri. There are many Jackson County family cemeteries which are in dire need of assistance. Perhaps we can discuss some efforts to address these problems when we meet at the Pitcher Cemetery for our June picnic. This is an example of what just one person, the late Kathleen Tuohey, was able to accomplish. We also know that the George family has worked long and hard to keep their family cemetery in good repair in Oak Grove and to explore its history.

It is never too late to inter the remains of a Civil War veteran with his family. A Union soldier by the name of **Raphael G. Rombauer** will be buried with his family in southwest Missouri near Carthage this month. His remains went unclaimed for more than a century at a

funeral chapel in St. Louis. He was on Gen. Ulysses S. Grant’s staff for a while and was cremated after his death in 1912 in Kirksville. Due to the efforts of the Missing in America project and a great granddaughter, he will be buried with his wife and children at Park Cemetery.

We are happy to announce that the “Railroad Cut” marker from the Battle of Independence, October 21 and 22 of 1864 is now reinstalled. It had been hit by a car and needed a new base. We appreciate the efforts of Dan Smith and the Monnett Battle of Westport Fund to have the repairs made and for the City of Independence to install it on March 23, 2015. Thanks also to Wendy Shay for following the progress of this project and letting us know the result.

Beverly Shaw has selected Thursday, May 21, 2015, as the evening that volunteers from the Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri will staff the **Symphony Designers’ Showhouse** at 96 Janssen Place, Kansas City, MO. If you would like to help from about 4:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m., please call Beverly at (816) 225-7944.

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.wcqssociety.com or send an E-mail to wcqsociety@aol.com.

Save the Little BLUE Buttons

Just \$1.00 each



10 Odd Facts About Abraham Lincoln's Assassination

April 14, 2014 by Scott Bomboy

It was 150 years ago that President Abraham Lincoln was shot while watching a play at Ford's Theater. Lincoln died the next morning, and in the aftermath, some odd facts seemed to pop up.

Why wasn't General Ulysses S. Grant in the theater box with Lincoln, as scheduled? Where was the President's bodyguard? How many people were targeted in the plot? And how did all the assassins escape, at least temporarily?

Many of the questions were eventually answered, but some still linger today. And some people have doubts about one of the alleged plotters and her involvement in Lincoln's murder.

1. Where was General Grant?

Grant was advertised to be at the event, according to the *New York Times*, but he declined the invitation so he could travel with his wife to New Jersey to visit relatives.

2. Lincoln almost didn't go to Ford's Theater

In that first report of the assassination from the *Times*, the newspaper said Lincoln was reluctant to go to the play. However, since General Grant cancelled, he felt obliged to attend, even though his wife didn't feel well. Lincoln tried to get House Speaker Schuyler Colfax to go with him, but Colfax declined.

"He went with apparent reluctance and urged Mr. Colfax to go with him; but that gentleman had made other engagements," the *Times* reported.

3. If Colfax had been in the booth with Lincoln, two persons in line to succeed Lincoln would have been in danger.

Vice President Andrew Johnson was also an assassination target, but his assailant lost his nerve and didn't attack. Colfax was third in line to succeed Lincoln, after Johnson, Senate Pro Tempore Lafayette Sabine Foster and Colfax. Secretary of State William Seward wasn't in the line of succession in 1865.

4. Why wasn't Vice President Johnson attacked?

John Wilkes Booth had convinced George Atzerodt, an acquaintance, to kill Johnson by setting a trap at the Kirkwood House hotel where the vice president lived. However, Atzerodt lost his nerve and didn't attempt to kill the vice president, even though he had a rented room above Johnson's and a loaded gun was found in the room.

5. How did Secretary of State Seward survive despite having his throat stabbed twice or three times?

Assassin Lewis Powell gained entry to Seward's home, where the secretary was bed ridden after a carriage accident. Frederick W. Seward, his son, was seriously injured defending his father during Powell's assassination attempt. The secretary was wounded, but the metal surgical collar he was wearing saved his life.

6. Where was Lincoln's bodyguard?

The Smithsonian Magazine did a story on this a few years ago about this. John Parker, the bodyguard, initially left his position to watch the play, and then he went to the saloon next door for intermission. It was the same saloon where Booth was drinking. No one knows where Parker was during the assassination, but he wasn't at his position at the door to the booth.

7. Where was the Secret Service?

It didn't exist yet, but Lincoln signed the bill creating it that night before he left for Ford's Theater.

8. How did Booth stay in hiding for so long?

Booth was able to escape Ford's Theater alive and he was on the run for 12 days, accompanied by another conspirator, David Herold. The pair went to the Surratt Tavern in Maryland, gathered supplies, went to see Dr. Mudd to have Booth's broken leg set, and then headed through forest lands and swamps to Virginia. They were also aided by a former Confederate spy operative and by other Confederate sympathizers. Union forces were hot on their trail and found a person who directed them to a Virginia farm. At the Garrett Farm, Booth was fatally wounded and Herold surrendered.

9. The original plan was to kidnap Lincoln and not kill him

Booth met with his conspirators in March 1865 and came up with a plan to kidnap Lincoln as he returned from a play at the Campbell Hospital on March 17. But Lincoln changed his plans at the last minute and went to a military ceremony. Booth then thought about kidnapping Lincoln after he left an event at Ford's Theater. But the actor changed his mind after the South's surrender.

10. Was Mary Surratt part of the conspiracy?

That's a topic still being debated today. Surratt was a Southern sympathizer who had owned land with her late husband in Maryland. She also owned a home in Washington that was also used as a boarding house and she was friends with Booth. She also rented a tavern she owned in Maryland to an innkeeper.

Surratt was with Booth on the day of the assassination, and she allegedly had told the innkeeper to get a pair of guns ready that night for visitors. The innkeeper's testimony doomed Surratt to the gallows. What was controversial was the decision to hang Surratt – which was personally approved by Andrew Johnson.