



★ *The Border Star* ★

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

March – April 2021

The Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri

2021 Officers

President ----- Mike Calvert
1st V.P. ----- Pat Gradwohl
2nd V.P. ----- Terry Chronister
Secretary ----- Karen Wells
Treasurer ----- Beverly Shaw
Historian ----- Joyce Gillespie

Board Members

Michael Clay Joyce Gillespie
Denise Irminger Bill Irminger
John Moloski Barb Wormington
Denis Wormington

Border Star Editor

Dennis Myers

Meetings

2nd Wednesday of each month, 7:00 pm
Via Zoom until further notice
See instructions in this newsletter

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
Beverly Shaw ----- (816) 225-7944
Pat Gradwohl ----- (816) 781-8871

Mailing Address

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

E-Mail Address

mail@CWRTWM.org

Website

www.CWRTWM.org

Facebook

www.facebook.com/CWRTWM

President's Letter

History Bias

Bias: noun - an inclination of temperament or outlook especially: a personal and sometimes unreasoned judgment; synonyms: favor, non-objectivity, one-sidedness.

Verb - to give a settled and often prejudiced outlook to.

Do we view history with bias? Are we guilty of history prejudice? Are we so focused on our own interpretation of historical events we exclude the viewpoint of others? Have we used a tainted historiography searching only for the conclusion that supports our view?

Have you ever read an eyewitness of a civil war soldier? If you have you might have asked yourself; what battle was that guy in? I have just finished rereading John McCorkle, William Gregg, Harrison Trow and Tom Jewett's accounts of the first Battle of Independence. Let's just say each recounted something different. It's not that they weren't there. It's just that each one only saw what was in front of them and if you add a few years between the event and the telling, the story gets even more muddled. As a reader, we don't dispute that they lived the history. (Just a note some individuals do sometimes recount events which they didn't participate in). Each account is very personal and retells only what was in their line of sight. The point is that we as students of history should not be biased in our understanding. We each can, and will, interpret differently, just like the soldiers.

History is personal. That statement is true whether it's the history of your family or an event many miles away and years in the past. I only ask that before we express our viewpoint on a historical subject that we take time to consider the other person's viewpoint and, most importantly, do your homework. I'm not saying either side is totally correct. I'm only saying without a full and complete understanding that considers both sides of the event, we may be guilty of history bias. There's no requirement that we agree. The only requirement is that we consider both sides of the story.

Mike Calvert, President
Civil War Roundtable of Western Missouri

CWRTWM Calendar

March 2021 Virtual Membership Meeting

Wednesday, March 10, 2021 – 7:00 p.m. Zoom meeting.
Mike Calvert: “Witness Houses.” Stories of Independence, MO houses present during the Civil War.

Our Zoom meeting is now by pre-registration which we will send by Email the first week of March. If you do not normally receive your *Border Star* by Email, please give Beverly Shaw a call at (816) 225-7944 so she can send you a link to pre-register.

After you receive the Link, please click it to go to a second page to identify yourself and device. You will then receive an email from Zoom which will contain your code for entering the meeting. This code is for yourself only and should not be shared with anyone. Please do not delete this Email until after the meeting.

April, 2021 Virtual Membership Meeting

Wednesday, April 14, 2021 – 7:00 p.m. Zoom meeting. John Moloski: “The Burnt District.”
The link for pre-registering will usually be sent the week before the Zoom meeting.

Other History Events

Women of Missouri-Shaping the Show-Me State

Tuesday, March 2, 2021 – 7:00 p.m. CST. Virtual Branch of the Mid-Continent Public Library. From Native Americans to First Ladies, women have played an important role in the history of Missouri. National award-winning storyteller and oral historian, Jim “Two Crows” Wallen, will talk about authors, artists, trailblazers & outlaws. Registration is required. You can go to www.mymcpl/events/all-events. Scroll down to March 2nd and the name of the event. You can sign in with your library card or as a guest.

On the scheduled day and time go to;
www.facebook.com/Mcpl360.

Show & Tell Gathering in Bates County, MO

Saturday, March 6, 2021 – 10:30 a.m. Robertson Hall at Bates County Museum, 802 Elks Drive, Butler, MO. Bring interesting items and share their stories. Beloved heirlooms, vintage toys, tools, gadgets, archaeological treasures, and mystery items. Coffee and water served. Social distancing; masks suggested. For information, please text Museum Director, Peggy Buhr at (816) 392-4756.

Mid-Missouri Civil War Round Table, Columbia, MO. Virtual meeting on Monday, March 15, 2021 – 7:00 p.m. Tom Rafiner: “R.L.Y. ‘Lud’ Peyton, Missouri’s CSA Senator.” A Zoom invitation will be sent the week before. If you do not normally receive the *Border Star* by Email, please call Beverly Shaw at (816) 225-7944 to give her your Email address.

Brown Bag Lunch and Speaker

Wednesday, March 17, 2021 – Noon. Bring your own lunch. Speaker about 12:30 p.m. Shawnee Indian Mission, 3403 W. 53rd Street, Fairway, KS. North building. Come upstairs from the street. Sheri McNeill: “Project Comfort.” This was a project of the Shawnee Indian Mission to provide quilts for the children of first responders of 9/11. RSVP to John Forbes so they will know how many tables to set up for social distancing. Call him at (913) 631-4481 or Email him at JWForbes@outlook.com. Masks are required.

Independence Civil War Study Group

Wednesday, March 17, 2021 – 7:00 p.m. Perkins Restaurant, 3939 S. Bolger Drive, Independence, MO (across from Walmart). Chris Holman: “Whitworth Sharpshooter” and Toby Giese: “The Apache Kid.” Masks are required.

Rededication Ceremony at Oak Hill Cemetery,

Butler, MO. Sunday, March 21, 2021 – 2:00 p.m. Oak Hill Cemetery, 715 E. Mill Street, Butler, MO. Sons of Union Veterans of The Civil War, Westport Camp #64: Rededication for Congressional Medal of Honor recipient Freeman Davis (Captain, 80th Ohio Infantry).

Clay County Museum Virtual Program

Thursday, March 25, 2021 – 7:00 p.m. Chery Carr Holtman: “The Life and Times of Col. Henry L. Routt.” Col. Routt settled in Liberty in 1842. He was a lawyer who actually did “rebel rouse” in his time. Chery is his great-great granddaughter. A Zoom invitation will be sent about a week before the event. If you do not normally receive the *Border Star* by Email, please call Beverly Shaw at (816) 225-7944 to give her your Email address.

Missouri Bicentennial – Ten Historical Artworks

Thursday, April 8, 2021 – 7:00 p.m. Virtual tour of ten artworks that reflect Missouri’s history from

1820 until the 1960's. Tour conducted by Dr. Joan Stack of The State Historical Society of Missouri. To register go www.mymcpl.org/events/all-events and scroll to the event. Registration will close 30 minutes prior to the start of the program. Participants will be Emailed a Zoom access code 15 minutes prior to the start. Sign into the room prior to the start. Admittance will be closed 5 minutes after the start. Space is limited.

Posse of the Westerners

Tuesday, April 13, 2021 – 6:00 p.m. – Dinner at Pizza Ranch, 4801 N. Oak Trafficway, Kansas City, MO (junction of North Oak Trafficway and I-29.) Cost is \$10.59. Speaker at 7:00 p.m. Dennis Garstang: "Hickok-Tutt Shootout in Springfield, MO in 1865 on the town square." Masks required.

Mid-Missouri Civil War Round Table, Columbia, MO. Virtual Meeting on Monday, April 19, 2021 – 7:00 p.m. Dave Poche: "From Civil War Coins to I. D. Cards." Invitations will be sent by Email the week before. If you don't normally receive the *Border Star* by Email, call Beverly Shaw at (816) 225-7944 to request an Email invitation.

Explorers, Mountain Men and Pioneers

Virtual Branch of the Mid-Continent Public Library. Tuesday, April 20, 2021 – 7:00 p.m. Travel back in time with national award-winning storyteller and oral historian Jim "Two Crows" Wallen as he brings to life tales of the fascinating characters who helped a portion of the Louisiana Territory become the State of Missouri. Registration required at www.mymcpl.org/events/all-events. On the date and time of the program, please go to www.facebook.com/mcpl360.

Independence Civil War Study Group

Wednesday, April 21, 2021 – 7:00 p.m. Perkins Restaurant, 3939 S. Bolger Drive, Independence, MO (across from Walmart). Erin Pouppirt: "Pioneer Families and the Homestead Act." Masks required.

Ongoing History Events

Atkins-Johnson Farm, Gladstone, MO

Will reopen on Wednesday, April 7, 2021, located at 4109 NE Pleasant Valley Road, Gladstone, MO. Wednesday – Saturday, 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Bates County Museum-Missouri's Bicentennial Quilt on Display. Tuesday – Thursday, April 27-29, 2021 – 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday. 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday. Robertson Hall at the Bates County Museum, 802 Elks Drive, Butler, MO.

Clay County Museum – Liberty, MO

14 N. Main Street, Liberty, MO. Hours are 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Monday-Friday. 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. on Saturday. Closed Sunday. Masks are required.

Lone Jack Battlefield Museum

301 S. Bynum Road, Lone Jack, MO (12 miles east of Lee's Summit, MO on US 50 Highway.) Hours are Saturday, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. and Sunday 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Adults: \$5.00; Children ages 6-12: \$2.00; Children Under 6: Free.

Missouri Town 1855

8010 E. Park Road, Lee's Summit, MO (near Lake Jacomo). Drive-Thru Tuesdays. Self-guided tours. Drive your personal vehicle down the main road into Missouri Town to explore the village and visit with living history interpreters. All tours begin at the Visitor Center where admission is purchased. Adults: \$7. Seniors 62 and over and children 5-13: \$4. Children below 5: Free. Dates in March are 2, 9, 16, 23, 30. Dates in April are 6, 13, 20, 27.

News About Members and Friends

Chuck Townsend, Mike Calvert's brother-in-law, passed away January 21, 2021 from COVID. He was a longtime employee of Speaks Chapels in Independence, Missouri. Chuck was very supportive of the Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri when we lost our late President, Tim Cox.

The Civil War community in Missouri lost **John H. "Jack" Chance** February 12, 2021. Jack made a commemorative park at the site of the Centralia Battlefield.

The American Battlefield Trust recently wrote about a "Road to Freedom" map that is available through the **Civil War Trails** organization. It focuses on the African American experience in Civil

War-era Virginia. It unleashes the power of place and draws upon the perspectives of historical figures whose stories we should know, highlighting concepts of self-emancipation and empowerment that had been lacking in historical interpretation. The map is at www.civilwartrails.org/docs/Road-to-Freedom_-brochure.pdf. You can also receive a mailed copy of the map by Emailing Drew Gruber at; executivedirector@civilwartrails.org and giving him your mailing address.

We have recently learned from Tom Rafiner that the “**Cass County Exodus Mural**” has been accepted into the permanent art collection of The State Historical Society of Missouri. It was a collaboration between Tom and artist Brian Hawkins of Harrisonville, MO. The Round Table Board voted to donate \$100 towards the cost of framing the mural so that it can be hung in a gallery in Columbia, MO.

David Trowbridge from Marshall University at Huntington, West Virginia, was the Lincoln speaker for the University of St. Mary in Leavenworth, KS, February 15, 2021. His topic was “Monumental History, The Civil War Era in History Memory.” One of the slides he showed was of the “Burnt District Monument” at Harrisonville, Missouri. As an aside to his topic, Trowbridge gave information about The Clio, a website that he started as a place to research Appalachian history but which has expanded to a general history with many walking tours. It is interactive so that other history groups can add their own tours. To sample some of the tours, you can go to www.TheClio.com.

The Black Jack Battlefield and Nature Park near Baldwin City, Kansas has an ambitious plan to improve its historic site. The Battle of Black Jack took place June 2, 1856, when antislavery forces led by John Brown attacked the encampment of Henry C. Pate. Some maintain that this was the first battle of the Civil War and was certainly an early episode of “Bleeding Kansas.” Our friend and John Brown reenactor, Kerry Altenbernd, is on their Board.

The Woodneath Press at the Mid-Continent Public Library has produced a new book about Alexander Doniphan called *The Will of Missouri: The Life, Times and Influence of Alexander William Doniphan*. It is now available on Amazon for \$25 in paperback. If you want to buy it there, you might want to choose Amazon Smile and sign up to have a percentage donated to the Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri. We are listed as a designated not-for-profit,

and you can place your order as usual. In the future you can place other orders on Amazon Smile.

Winter Reading Challenge

The Winter Reading Challenge from the Mid-Continent Public Library asks you to read five books – yours, the library’s, whatever – between Jan. 15th and March 15th and log that at the library’s website (www.mymcpl.org/Winter-Reading). You get a coffee mug and will be entered into a drawing for other prizes. “But the real reward is reading something new,” says library director Steve Potter. This year’s Winter Reading Challenge theme is Missouriana since 2021 is the State’s bicentennial (though those in the program can read any books they choose. Here are some suggestions:

- *The Devil Knows How to Ride: The True Story of William Clarke Quantrill and His Confederate Raiders* by Edward E. Leslie.
- *George Caleb Bingham: Missouri’s Famed Painter and Forgotten Politician* by Paul Nagel, an Independence native.
- *Year of Decisions* by Harry S. Truman.
- *Ruling over Monarchs, Giants & Stars: Umpiring in the Negro Leagues & Beyond* by Bob Motley.
- *A Hole in the World* by Richard Rhodes, an Independence native and student at the Drumm Farm.

Pajama Activities

Since people have gotten so used to working from home in their pajamas, there is a whole new set of virtual activities. One might be to view some of the programs presented by the Friends of the Missouri State Archives. A recent program was on “Finding the Trail of Tears in Missouri.” You can go to www.sos.mo.gov/archives/about/presentations. Another is from the Westport Historical Society, a source for local, state, and national history. Its first program is “Remember the Ladies” by Alisha Cole about the 19th Amendment and the women’s suffrage movement. Go to the Society’s website located at www.westporthistorical.com/series, scroll down to “Remember the Ladies” and left click. A message should come at the lower left of the screen to ask “What do you want to do with “Remember the Ladies?” Choose “open.”

