



★ *The Border Star* ★

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

January – February 2022

The Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri

2022 Officers

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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

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President's Letter

I was talking with my oldest grandson the other day and we were discussing the large WW2 world map I have on the wall in my office. A great map with a story for another day. I showed him the town of Murmansk, Russia and related the story of my dad not being sent there during the war. Another story for another day, but let it suffice to say that if Dad had been sent there, I nor my grandson would exist.

Life and its outcome turn on minutiae. Before I continue let me tell you I usually do not partake in the history "what if" game. You know, it this did or did not happen what would be the expected outcome. So, let's get started. The following are three moments of minutiae from the Civil War. Let's see how a small instance can affect the outcome of the whole.

First, June 11, 1861 at the Planter's House in St. Louis and the meeting of Governor Claiborne Fox Jackson, General Sterling Price, Nathaniel Lyon and Frank Blair to negotiate a settlement to Missouri's secession stance. As it ends up, Lyon declares war and the Civil War begins in Missouri. Now what if, this doesn't happen and a settlement is found? Does the rest of Missouri's Civil War history change?

Second, August 10, 1861, Wilson's Creek, Sigel's pincer movement and attack on the Confederate forces. At first successful, Sigel began to pursue the Confederate forces but stopped at Skegg's Creek to take a break. Failing to deploy skirmishers, Sigel received an attack from the 3rd Louisiana and to make matters worse, the Louisiana troops were mistaken for the 1st Iowa. Sigel is routed and doesn't stop running until he is back in Springfield. Lyon is left to hold out alone and is subsequently killed. Now, what if Sigel maintains the pressure and Lyon is not killed?

Third, February 22, 1862, William Quantrill and 15 of his men enter Independence expecting no surprises. However, Quantrill was not aware of an Ohio cavalry unit in the area. He stops on the south side of the Square and starts to dismount when the Ohio troops attacked. Quantrill fired a quick volley and started to the northeast and the Spring Branch Road. Quantrill was wounded in the leg and had his horse shot out from under him. He evades the Ohio troops and recovers to fight another day. Now, what if Quantrill was killed that morning?

Three moments of minutiae each of which, if the outcome is different, could change the course of the war. Here are my thoughts. On the first, I believe that nothing really changes. Missouri will remain divided. On the second, I believe that as a result of Lyon's victory, he goes on to become army commander instead of McClellan, and maybe Grant remains in the west and never attains the leadership of the Union Army. On the third, I believe that because it is so early in the war, the guerilla band disburses and the Union Army maintains complete control of the border. Just three quick "what ifs." We could have many good discussions and come to many different "what ifs." Just food for thought and something to get the talk started. Take some time to think of your "what ifs" and let's get together and talk.

Looking forward to the New Year and to the study of many new "what ifs." Thanks to all.

I hope you can join our January Zoom meeting. My friend John Hart will be presenting the story of his ancestor who fought as a member of the 11th Kansas Cavalry during Price's Raid at the Little Blue through Westport. It's a great story.

~ Mike Calvert, President, Civil War Roundtable of Western Missouri

CWRTWM Calendar

January 2022 Zoom Meeting

Wednesday, January 12, 2022 – 7:00 p.m. John Hart: “Under Moonlight in Missouri – John Benton Hart’s Memoir of the Battle of Westport.” Zoom invitation will be sent via E-mail.

February 2022 Zoom Meeting

Wednesday, February 9, 2022 – 7:00 p.m. Vicki Berger Erwin and James W. Erwin: “Steamboat Disasters of the Lower Missouri.” Zoom invitation will be sent via E-mail.

Other History Events

January 2022 Posse of the Westerners

Tuesday, January 11, 2022 – 6:00 p.m. Golden Corral, 8800 N. Skyview Ave. Kansas City, MO. Kent Johnson: “Tales of Old Trail Town.”

January, 2022 Mid-Missouri CWRT Zoom Meeting

Monday, January 17, 2022 – 7:00 p.m. Andy Papen: “The Western Flotilla in the Henry – Donelson Campaign.” Zoom invitation will be sent via E-mail.

January, 2022 Brown Bag Program

Wednesday, January 19, 2022 – Noon. Bring your own lunch. Speaker at 12:30 p.m. East Building at the Shawnee Indian Mission, 3403 W. 53rd Street, Fairway, KS. Stefan Gliniecki: “The Life and Legacy of Rev. Nathan Scarritt.” Please RSVP to Ken Cook at KenCook66103@gmail.com.

January Independence Civil War Study Group

Wednesday, January 19, 2022 – 7:00 p.m. Perkins Restaurant, 3939 S. Bolger Drive, Independence, MO (across from Walmart). Wayne Schnetzer: “The Two Holidays of January 1862.”

January Civil War Round Table of Kansas City

Wednesday, January 19, 2022 – 6:30 p.m. Cost is \$32. Milburn Golf and Country Club, 7501 W. 69th Street, Overland Park, KS. Dr. Harry S. Laver: “Relationship between Union General Ulysses S. Grant and Confederate General Robert E. Lee.” Reservations required by Wednesday, January 12, 2022. E-mail to Susan Keipp at skeipp@kc.rr.com.

January Friends of the Missouri State Archives

Thursday, January 20, 2022 – 7:00 p.m. In person at the James C. Kirkpatrick State Information Center, 600 W. Main Street, Jefferson City, MO or streaming live at www.facebook.com/missouristatearchives/live. Dr. Gary R. Kremer: “A History of Missouri Since Its Founding.”

January Missouri Valley Sunday

Sunday, January 23, 2022 – 2:00 p.m. In person at the Kansas City, MO Central Library Helzberg Auditorium, 14 W. 10th Street, Kansas City, MO or virtually at www.YouTube.com/kclibrary/live. Bruce Mathews: “Mount Washington Cemetery – In Search of Lost Time.” For attendance in person, you must RSVP to (816) 701-3400 for seating.

January Bleeding Kansas 2022

Sunday, January 30, 2022 – 2:00 p.m. Constitution Hall, 319 Elmore, Lecompton, KS. Bill McFarland and Tim Nedeau: “Faces of the Free State House – The First General Assembly of the Territory of Kansas, Legally Elected by the People.”

February Bleeding Kansas, 2022

Sunday, February 6, 2022 – 2:00 p.m. Constitution Hall, 319 Elmore, Lecompton, KS. T. Kevin Griffin: “President John Calhoun: Chief Architect of the ‘Lecompton Swindle.’”

February Posse of the Westerners

Tuesday, February 8, 2022 – 7:00 p.m. Golden Corral, 8800 N. Skyview Ave., Kansas City, MO. Deb Buckner: The Romance and Courtship of Gen. George Armstrong Custer and Libby Bacon.”

February Bleeding Kansas, 2022

Sunday, February 13, 2022 – 2:00 p.m. Constitution Hall, 319 Elmore, Lecompton, KS. Donald Wade Davis: Smoky Hill Thompson – A Life Wild and Perilous.”

February 2022 Brown Bag Program

Wednesday, February 16, 2022 – Noon. Bring your own lunch. Speaker at 12:30 p.m. East building at the Shawnee Indian Mission, 3403 W. 53rd Street, Fairway, KS. John Byram: “Rev. Isaac McCoy, Baptist minister, who worked as a surveyor, missionary, and Indian agent.” For seating, please RSVP to Ken Cook at KenCook66103@gmail.com.

February Independence Civil War Study Group

Wednesday, February 16, 2022 – 7:00 p.m. Perkins Restaurant, 3939 S. Bolger Drive, Independence, MO. (Across from Walmart). Jim Beckner: “The Confederate Home at Higginsville, MO.”

February CWRT of Kansas City

Wednesday, February 16, 2022 – 6:30 p.m. Cost is \$32. Milburn Golf and Country Club, 7501 W. 69th Street, Overland Park, KS. Arnold Schofield: “First Kansas Colored Troops.” RSVP by Wednesday, February 9, 2022 to Susan Keipp at skeipp@kc.rr.com.

February Bleeding Kansas 2022

Sunday, February 20, 2022 – 2:00 p.m. Constitution Hall, 319 Elmore, Lecompton, KS. Peggy Buhr: “Desperate Days and Hard Travel – Recollections of Women.” 2022 Lincoln Event, Leavenworth, KS

Monday, February 21, 2022 – 7:00 p.m.

Keleher Learning Commons (formerly DePaul Library), 4100 S. 4th St., Leavenworth, KS. To make a reservation, go to www.stmary.edu/SIDHelp/form/95.

February Mid-Missouri CWRT

Monday, February 21, 2022 – 7:00 p.m. Virtual program to be announced. The Zoom invitation will be sent by E-mail.

February Bleeding Kansas 2022

Sunday, February 27, 2022 – 2:00 p.m. Constitution Hall, 319 Elmore, Lecompton, KS. Bryce Benedict: “The Life and Times of Ross Burns—Accidental Linn County Pioneer and Civil War Hero.”

March Bleeding Kansas 2022

Sunday, March 6, 2022 – 2:00 p.m. Constitution Hall, 319 Elmore, Lecompton, KS. Lane Smith: “The Trial of Jefferson Davis and the Issue of Secession.”

News About Members And Friends

We are sad to report that **Dick Hughes**, husband of **Barbara Hughes**, passed away on December 5, 2021. Dick was Barbara’s audio-visual guru when she presented her American History Women programs and was her most loyal groupie. We will all miss him. A Celebration of Life will be held April 2, 2022 at 1:00 p.m.

Congratulations to **Pat Gradwohl** for receiving an “Outstanding Volunteer Award” from Freedom’s Frontier and the Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri. We would like to wait until we can meet in person to present Pat’s certificate, but you may see an article about her honor in the Freedom’s Frontier Monday Minute before that time. Way to go, Pat!

Best wishes to **Chris Stout** as the new Executive Director of The Jackson County Historical Society. In recent years Chris has emerged as a dynamic young leader in the Kansas City area nonprofit community. He was the founder of the Veterans Community Project which made national news with its “Tiny Houses” initiative at 89th Street and Troost Avenue in Kansas City.

We appreciate the efforts of **Michelle Cook** and others in Liberty and Clay County to commemorate three previously unknown and unmarked United States Colored Troop soldiers in the Historical Fairview/New Hope Cemeteries in Liberty. For the first time wreaths were laid at these newly installed headstones in December 2021 along with over 500 other veterans. There will be a full military dedication slated for the Spring of 2022.

The Missouri River Outfitters Chapter of the Santa Fe Trail Association headed by Anne Mallinson has invited the public to a special program to welcome William Becknell back to Missouri after his trade trip to Santa Fe. Members of the Arrow Rock Stock and Trading Company will portray Becknell and his men on their return. Enjoy a meal of your choice from the Hotel Frederick menu at 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, July 29, 2022, in Boonville, MO followed by the program.

Racial Reckoning Turns Focus To Roadside Historical Markers

MARK SCOLFORO, Associated Press Dec. 26, 2021
Updated: Dec. 28, 2021, 11:48 a.m.

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) – Pennsylvania had been installing historical markers for more than a century when the racist violence in Charlottesville, Virginia, in August 2017 brought a fresh round of questions from the public about just whose stories were being told on the state's roadsides – and the language used to tell them.

The increased scrutiny helped prompt a review of all 2,500 markers by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, a process that has focused on factual errors, inadequate historical context, and racist or otherwise inappropriate references.

So far, the state has removed two markers, revised two and ordered new text for two others.

Across the country, historical markers have in some places become another front in the national reckoning over slavery, segregation and racial violence that has also brought down Civil War statues and changed or reconsidered the names of institutions, roads and geographical features.

The idea that “who is honored, what is remembered, what is memorialized tells a story about a society that can’t be reflected in other ways” is behind an effort by the Montgomery, Alabama-based Equal Justice Initiative that has installed dozens of markers, mostly in the South, to remember racial terror lynchings.

Historical markers educate the public and therefore can help fight systemic racism, said Diane Turner, curator of the Charles L. Blockson Afro-American Collection at Temple University in Philadelphia, one of the country's largest repositories of Black history literature and related material.

"By being able to tell everybody's story, it's good for the society as a whole. It's not to take away from anybody else," Turner said. "Let's have these stories, because the more truth we have, the better it is."

At the request of Bryn Mawr College's president, Kimberly Wright Cassidy, the Pennsylvania history agency removed a marker from the edge of campus that noted President Woodrow Wilson had briefly taught there. Cassidy's letter to the commission cited Wilson's dismissive comments about the intellectual capabilities of women and his racist policy of federal workforce segregation.

The commission has ordered changes to a marker at the suburban Philadelphia birthplace of Continental Army Maj. Gen. "Mad" Anthony Wayne because it referred to him as an "Indian fighter." It also is developing a replacement to a marker that has been removed from the grounds of the National Aviary in Pittsburgh, on the site of a 19th-century prison, that noted Confederate cavalry were held there after their capture in Ohio during the Civil War.

State government took down a marker in Pittsburgh's Point State Park that noted the location where British Gen. John Forbes had a 1758 military victory that the marker claimed "established Anglo-Saxon supremacy in the United States."

The commission also revised markers in central Pennsylvania's Fulton County related to the movement of Confederate Army troops after the Battle of Gettysburg in 1863 and related to an 1864 Confederate cavalry raid on Chambersburg that left much of the town a smoldering ruin.

One marker had previously described the last Confederates to camp on Pennsylvania soil – the state has since added language about their defeat by Union troops. The other marker, about two Confederates killed in a skirmish, was revised with detail about their raid and how Union soldiers from New York killed them and took 32 prisoners.

The changes have generated some political pushback, including from a Republican state representative, an appointee on the Historical and Museum Commission, who wrote in October about his objections to the initiative.

"My fear is that the commission is becoming less of a true historical arbiter and more of a miniaturized version of George Orwell's Ministry of Truth that has government officers alter history to fit the convenient narrative of those in charge," state Rep. Parke Wentling wrote.

In a report to the commission, a contractor recounted that an elected Fulton County commissioner harassed his team when they removed the old markers last year.

And this month, a senior state House Republican press aide, Steve Miskin, responded to a news account about the Fulton County markers with a tweet asking, "Is Pennsylvania planning to remove 'The Confederacy' from textbooks? Censor TV shows & movies mentioning 'The Confederacy?'"

Disputes about how historical markers should be worded – or whether they should exist at all – have divided communities in other states in recent years, including in Memphis, Tennessee; Sherman, Texas; and Colfax, Louisiana.

In Pennsylvania, the commission examined all of the 2,500 markers it controls with a focus on how African American and Native American lives and stories are portrayed and adopted a new policy on how markers are established. About a year ago it identified 131 existing markers that may require changes, including a subgroup of 18 that required immediate attention.

"The language could be sexist, it could be racist, it could be all those different things," said Jacqueline Wiggins, a retired educator from Philadelphia on the state historical commission's Marker Review Panel. "There's work to be done."

New markers getting approved are increasingly telling the stories of previously underrepresented people and groups.

The commission is offering financial support for the markers if their subjects concern women, Hispanics, Latinos and Asian Americans, or if they are about Black and LGBTQ history outside Philadelphia. Financial support is also being provided to underrepresented regions. Last year, the agency subsidized markers on petroglyphs in Clarion County, a camp where Muhammed Ali trained in Schuylkill County and the site of a boycott that stopped school segregation efforts in Chester CO.

New markers approved in March include the first substantial workforce of Chinese immigrants in the state at a cutlery factory, the cofounder of one of the country's first Black fraternities, and three Ephrata women who are among the nation's first documented female composers.

Native American-related markers generally frame the Indigenous people in terms of the Europeans who displaced them, such as a Juniata County marker about "a stockade built about 1755 to protect settlers from Indian marauder."

"There is a lot of tap-dancing over who initiated which battle or skirmish," said historian Ira Beckerman, who recently produced a study focused on Pennsylvania markers that relate to Black and Native American history. "If the settlers started it, it was a battle & therefore worthy. If the Native Americans responded in kind, it was a massacre, savagery, etc."

Beckerman concluded that as a whole, the state's 348 Native American historical markers "tell a pretty accurate and compelling story of racism and white nationalism."

