



The Border Star



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

January 2014

The Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri

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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

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***THIS MONTH IN THE WAR:** January 1864. Winter Quarters. Temperatures plunge below zero from the North well into the South and make for miserable conditions among the soldiers and sailors. In the Confederacy, President Jefferson Davis authorizes General Lee to commandeer food supplies in Virginia. The troops and animals are seriously underfed, but the civilian population of the South has also suffered considerable deprivation. Meanwhile in the North desertion continues to be a serious problem. Nevertheless, President Lincoln commutes the death sentence of an army deserter, commenting, "I am trying to evade the butchering business lately."*

President's Letter

That time has rolled around again. You know, when you make resolutions for the New Year. Resolutions, at least in my case, often go forgotten before the end of January. Well this year I'm not going to call them resolutions. I'm going to call them ideas and I have a couple of ideas for the Civil War Round Table of Western MO.

1864 was a pivotal year for the American Civil War. By year's end Sherman will have captured Savannah, Grant would have Lee bottled up in Petersburg and Sheridan began his destruction of the Shenandoah Valley. Locally the Battle of the Grinter Farm would be fought and Price would begin and end the last Confederate movement in Missouri. And, 150 years ago the citizens of Jackson County found themselves once again on the front lines of the war.

Now back to my ideas. It's time for the Round Table to begin planning for the 150th anniversary of Grinter Farm and Price's Raid. I want each of you think about what I'm about to write and bring your ideas to the January meeting. First, in Woodlawn Cemetery in Independence there stands a monument to the men who died at Grinter Farm. It's unmarked and mostly forgotten. I would like to plan, sponsor and present a rededication/remembrance ceremony for the monument and the men buried around it. Second, I want to plan, sponsor and present an event to remember the Battle of the Little Blue and the Second Battle of Independence.

I have some ideas, but I want to hear yours. The slate is clean, waiting to be filled with your ideas. Working together between ourselves and the community, we can present events that will remember history and mark it for futures generations.

Happy New Year to all! Here's looking forward to a year of learning and discovery that will lead to a better understanding of our history and with a better understanding of our history, may we not repeat our mistakes.

~Mike Calvert, President

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

February 2014 Membership Meeting

Wednesday, February 12, 2014 – 7:00 p.m. Villages of Jackson Creek, 3980-A S. Jackson Drive (lower level), Independence, MO. Open Round Table. Please bring an artifact, portrait, book, etc. that you would like to share with the group.

January, 2014 Board Meeting

Wednesday, January 15, 2014 – 7:00 p.m. Home of Beverly Shaw, 17313 E. 51 Terr. Court, Independence, MO.

Other Civil War Events and Exhibits

“The Road to Valhalla”

Saturday, January 4, 2014 – 8:00 p.m. Liberty Hall, 644 Massachusetts Street, Lawrence, Kansas. Documentary film “The Road to Valhalla: Civil War On the Border, 1863-1865.” It tells the story of the tumult caused by bushwhackers and jayhawkers, the forced removal of civilians and the military clashes.

1850’s Town Hall Political Meeting

Sunday, January 5, 2014 – 2:00 p.m. Constitution Hall State Historic Site, 319 Elmore, LeCompton, KS. The LeCompton Reenactors portray some of the famous people of “Bleeding Kansas” who passionately express their feelings on the issue of slavery.

Centuries of Service – Military Records for Genealogy

Wednesday, January 8, 2014 – 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. The National Archives at Kansas City, 400 W. Pershing Road, Kansas City, MO. First of 4 workshops exploring military records. This first one explores the records from the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812. For reservations call (816) 268-8000 or E-mail kansascity.archives@nara.gov.

Freedom’s Frontier Partners Meeting

Thursday, January 9, 2014 – 10:00 a.m. Central Library, 14 W. 10th Street, Kansas City, MO. Workshops on volunteer best practices will continue with a panel discussion of successful volunteer programs. To RSVP call Sonia Smith at (785) 856-5304. Lunch available for \$10.

Sons of Confederate Veterans – Hughes Camp

Thursday, January 9, 2014 – 7:00 p.m. Kross Lounge and Ernie’s Restaurant, 605 N. Sterling Ave., Sugar Creek, MO. The Sons of Confederate Veterans is the oldest hereditary organization for male descendants of Confederate soldiers.

Posse of the Westerners

Tuesday, January 14, 2014 – 6:00 p.m. – Dinner. \$25. Golden Ox, 1600 Genessee Street, Kansas City, MO. Sam Gill: “The Fall of the Alamo, 1836.” For dinner Reservations call Ann Schultis at (816) 456-0669.

Centuries of Service – Military Records for Genealogy

Wednesday, January 15, 2014 – 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. National Archives of Kansas City, 400 West Pershing Road, Kansas City, MO. “Growing Pains: Exploring Resources for Mid-19th Century American Conflicts such as the Civil War. Records from service and pension files. For a reservation call (816) 268-8000 or E-mail kansascity.archives@nara.gov.

Independence Civil War Study Group

Wednesday, January 15, 2014 – 7:00 p.m. Southview Manor Apartments, 2600A Hub Drive, Independence, MO. Paul Kirkman, a local historian and writer, will speak about the “bad guys” of the border and how their myths and legends followed them to Hollywood.

“Documentary Panel: Slavery by Another Name”

Saturday, January 18, 2014 – 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Woodneath Library, 8900 NE Flintrock Road, Kansas City, MO. This documentary screening is part of Created Equal: America’s Civil Rights Struggle. The post-film discussion will be led by project scholar Mary Ann Wynkoop. To RSVP call (816) 883-4900.

Clay County Historical Society Annual Banquet

Saturday, January 15, 2014 – 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Shoal Creek Club House, Shoal Creek Golf and Country Club, 8905 Shoal Creek Parkway, Kansas City, MO. 5:00 p.m. – Social with cash bar. 6:00 p.m. – Dinner. 7:00 p.m. – Program by Barbara Hughes who will portray Caroline Quantrill, the mother of William Clarke Quantrill. Dinner is \$28.50. For reservations call Vivie Tison by January 11th at (816) 628-5032 or E-mail at VTISON@aol.com.

Centuries of Service – Military Records for Genealogy

Wednesday, January 22, 2014 – 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. National Archives at Kansas City, 400 W. Pershing Road, Kansas City, MO. Turn of the Century Conflicts: Spanish-American War, Philippine Insurrection, and World War I. For reservation call (816) 268-8000 or E-mail kansascity.archives@nara.gov.

45th Annual Symphony Designers’ Showhouse

Saturday, January 25, 2014 – 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. and Sunday, January 26 from Noon to 5:00 p.m., 1246 W. 59th Street, Kansas City, Missouri (between Ward Parkway and State Line on 59th Street). Pre-decorated house. \$5.

Bleeding Kansas 2014

Sunday, January 26, 2014 – 2:00 p.m. Constitution Hall State Historic Site, 319 Elmore, Lecompton, KS. “Rise of the New Confederacy,” a Kansas Day program by Anthony Hensley, educator and Democratic leader, Kansas Senate. Suggested donation of \$3 for adults.

Civil War Round Table of Kansas City

Tuesday, January 28, 2014 – 6:30 p.m. – Dinner. (\$27). Homestead Country Club, 6510 Mission Road, Prairie Village, KS. Arnold Schofield: “Red River Campaign.” Dinner Reservations to Paul Gault at (816) 741-2962.

Centuries of Service – Military Records for Genealogy

Wednesday, January 29, 2014 – 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. National Archives at Kansas City, 400 W. Pershing Road, Kansas City, MO. A World Torn Apart: World War II, Korean War, and Vietnam War. For reservations please call (816) 268-8000 or send an E-mail to kansascity.archives@nara.gov.

Settling the Kansas Territory

Wednesday, January 29, 2014 – 7:00 p.m. Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library, 1515 SW 10th Ave., Topeka, KS. This Kansas Day event takes a reader’s theater script using historical letters and diaries followed by discussion of what it took to move west to the frontier.

John Steuart Curry and Kansas

Thursday, January 30, 2014 – 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Beach Museum of Art, 701 Beach Road on the K-State Campus, Manhattan, KS. Aaron Barnhart and Diane Eichoff, authors of *The Big Divide*, will compare Kansas’ most famous artist and his mural of John Brown inside the State Capitol, with George Caleb Bingham’s “Order No. 11.” This talk is part of a new exhibition “John Steuart Curry: Prairie Journeys,” at the Beach Museum of Art.

Bleeding Kansas 2014

Sunday, February 2, 2014 – 2:00 p.m. Constitution Hall State Historic Site, 319 Elmore, Lecompton, KS. Ralph A. Monaco: *Scattered to the Four Winds: General Order No. 11 and Martial Law in Jackson County, Missouri, 1863*. Suggested Donation of \$3.

News About Members and Friends

We appreciate the Christmas greeting from **Frank Adams** through his son Bruce. Frank had a stroke about a year ago but through lots of rehab and therapy he has been able to return home with daily assistance. He is

very grateful for many who have come to visit, called on the phone, and sent him cards and letters.

The Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial

Commission has added 12 new podcasts to its website. The presenters and titles are as follows: Dr. Carl Carlson-Drexler of the Arkansas Archeological Survey on the archeological story of Dooley’s Ferry; Dr. Blake Wintory of Arkansas State University’s Heritage Sites program on Lakeport Plantation in the Civil War; James Johnson, expert on the Civil War in the Ozarks, on Confederate nitre mining, guerrilla warfare and immigration in the region; Josh Williams of Historic Washington State Park on Washington, Arkansas in 1863; Rebecca Howard of the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville with two stories of women in Civil War Arkansas; Ben Boulden, a biographer of Frederick Steele, on that general’s Civil War experience; David Sesser of Henderson State University on disease in Helena during the Civil War; and Mark K. Christ of the Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission on the battle of Jenkins’ Ferry. The podcasts can be accessed at www.arkansascivilwar150.com/research-education/podcasts/.

News comes from the **Poplar Heights Farm in Bates County** that the historic Atkeson Cabin will be restored by the Marais des Cygnes Society. It will be used as a focal point for teaching about the history of Bates County in honor of William Oscar Atkeson who wrote *History of Bates and Cass Counties*. Anyone with information on the family of W.O. Atkeson, the cabin, or his literary works, is urged to contact Brian Phillips of the Marais des Cygnes Society at (660) 679-0764 or E-mail; info@poplarheightsfarm.org.

The living history farm will celebrate Twelfth Night on Sunday, January 5, 2014 from 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. Bring a sprig from your Christmas tree or wreath for the traditional burning of the greens. Kids can make a bird feeder. It is located 7 miles northeast of Butler. From Butler go east on H Hwy/Mill Street to UU Hwy. Turn north on to UU and go 2 miles. Turn east at the sign on to a gravel road and go 1 mile.

Those who have attended the **Austin Bean Eatin’ Days** in Cass County will be glad to know of a new book about Austin called *Austin, Missouri: Where I Call Home* by Debbie Stevens Morgan in honor of her parents, Harris and Jackie Stevens and their lifetime work. You can reserve a copy from Debbie by calling (816) 214-1098 or order from the Burnt District Press, 1201 East Pearl, Harrisonville, MO 64701 or E-mail them at BDpress@ymail.com.

Aaron Barnhart and Diane Eichhoff, the authors of *The Big Divide* and our speakers at the Christmas luncheon, have a busy speaking schedule in 2014: January 22nd – St. Louis Civil War Roundtable; January 30th – Beach Museum, Manhattan, KS. – “John Steuart Curry and Kansas: The Muse is Not Amused;” March 1st – Arrow Rock, Missouri State Historic Site; March 14th – Chicago Civil War Round Table, and April 19th – National Archives in Kansas City.

The **Battle of Westport** is to be commemorated in October 2014 for its 150th anniversary. The Chairman of the planning committee, George Vesel, wrote a letter to the Editor of the Kansas City *Star* on December 16, 2013, inviting interested persons to meet with the committee. They meet the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the Battle of Westport Museum in Swope Park.

For a video about the Civil War photographer, **Mathew Brady**, go to www.tinyurl.com/kxsugk2.

The **Cass County Historical Society** at Harrisonville, Missouri has a number of accomplishments for 2013. They have added to their archival collection dating back to the early 1840's by using acid-free folders and boxes in a climate-controlled facility at the Harrisonville Library. In addition they have designed and ordered a permanent interactive map to be placed at the Burnt District Monument, completed the probate preservation project of nearly 400 boxes of files, received over \$4,000 in grant money to preserve a pre-1860 plat map, and offered programs, book-signings, open houses, cabin tours and other events.

We were happy to see the tribute to our late friend and member **Ken Cavanah** in the Veteran's Day Honor Roll in the *Examiner* on November 9, 2013. Ken served in the U.S. Army in WWII. It is because of Ken's support of our group that we are able to meet at the Villages of Jackson Creek where he lived.

In its book picks for 2013 the Kansas City *Star* listed several Civil War titles: *Bleeding Kansas, Bleeding Missouri: The Long Civil War on the Border*, edited by **Diane Mutti Burke and Jonathan Earle** (University Press of Kansas); *Don't Hurry Me Down to Hades, The Civil War in the Words of Those Who Lived It*, by **Susannah Ural** (Osprey Publishing); and *The Lost Cause: The Trials of Frank and Jesse James*, by **James P. Muehlberger** (Westholme Publishing).

Speaking of books, the **Clay County Archives** in Liberty, Missouri was singled out by Brian Burnes in his Readorama column in the Kansas City *Star* on

December 29, 2013 for its publication of *Divided Loyalties—Civil War Soldiers Buried in Clay County, Missouri*. All proceeds will benefit the all-volunteer archives where our own Round Table book collection is housed. For information you can go to www.claycountyarchives.org, or get in touch with Steve Olson, a member of our Round Table. He and Carol volunteer there and he would be glad to deliver a copy to you. Their E-mail is solson816@sbcglobal.net or call (816) 452-3540. The volunteer researchers found out that it was common for 19th century parents to honor other family members by naming children after them. That meant that more than once they followed trails leading them to the wrong Moses, Gabriel, or Isaac. Then again, archival materials detailing one soldier would often contain clues regarding others. In one week, they added 120 names to their list.

The Round Table would like to congratulate Susan and Tom Waters, owners of **Corporate Copy Print**, for being honored by the Independence Chamber of Commerce for the Business-person of the year award. They were sponsors of the Round Table's 2012 Antebellum Homes Tour.

We are happy to announce that **Carol Bohl** and Eileen Roberts were recipients of the Billings MVP Award for 2013 by **Freedom's Frontier**. Carol is the former Cass County Historical Society's executive director and one of the founders of the Missouri/Kansas Border War Network. She is now president of the Harrisonville Historic Preservation Commission.

In 2013 **Freedom's Frontier** partnered with other groups to reprise the week-long Civil War to Civil Rights summer day camps, signed an agreement to study comprehensive signage for the heritage area, and collaborated with partners to promote the 150th anniversary of Civil War events throughout the heritage area.

The **Heritage League of Greater Kansas City** also had another successful year in which it produced the 5th edition of its glossy history map (on which the Little Blue Battlefield is listed) and continued to promote historical events via its e-blast service and online calendar.

Nancy Hitt, our long distance member in Kentucky, has been busy recognizing and marking the grave of CSA Capt. William A. Ferring at the Maple Grove Cemetery near Blytheville, Arkansas (just south of the Missouri bootheel on the Mississippi River). The research and marker were assisted by Glenda Thompson of Osceola, Arkansas.

The **Jackson County Historical Society** will soon be publishing a new history of the Courthouse and Independence Square. **David Jackson** gave a preview in his December 21, 2013 column in the *Examiner*. One question he answered is why the Square is not located closer to the Missouri River. Pioneers needed fresh water and wood, and you couldn't get either close to the Wayne City Landing so they came about three miles south on the highest prominent hill.

The **Jackson County Historical Society** had a very busy year in 2013. Through the leadership of Vice-president Ralph Monaco, the group produced three separate events remembering Order No. 11 and collaborated with Ralph in the publication of his latest book, *Scattered to the Four Winds: General Order No. 11 and Martial Law in Jackson County, Missouri 1863*. The archives were moved back to the Historic Truman Courthouse with the help of numerous volunteers who brought back 1,500 boxes and 617 boxes of Strauss Peyton photographic glass and acetate negatives. The organization has resumed publication of the *Journal*, edited by Brent Schondelmeyer who also dramatically updated the website at www.jchs.org. The Society will celebrate its accomplishments at the annual dinner and awards program on January 16, 2014 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Unity Inn at Unity Village. A new project for 2014 is to equip the Brady Courtroom on the second floor of the Courthouse with a portable podium with sound system and multi-media equipment in order to offer regular programming both for members and in cooperation with other history organizations.

We congratulate **Jay Jackson** and the Missouri City school district for being the smallest AAA school in Missouri. In addition to being the superintendent Jay is also a historian and reenactor. In an article in the December 3, 2013 issue of the *Kansas City Star*, he joked that if a visitor wants to see the entire Missouri City School, he just needs to walk into the middle of the front hallway and turn around once.

Jim Beckner is passing along information about the formation of a new heritage organization for **women descendants of Union soldiers**. If interested, please call Jim at (816) 916-5693.

Fifty Years ago an old tavern which once stood at a stage coach stop at Barry, a crossroads village in Clay County was reassembled on a wooded site at Lake Jacomo, piece by piece by Sidney Moore, authority on antique structures. The tavern was built about 1820 and forms a part of **Missouri Town** operated by Jackson County Parks and Recreation.

Border Star editor **Dennis Myers** wrote a piece in the November 2013 issue of the *Metro Voice* which outlined the historical observance of Thanksgiving in the United States from its origins with George Washington to its permanent national observance during the Civil War by Abraham Lincoln.

Another new book with local interest is called ***Postmarked: Bleeding Kansas*** based on the letters of Edward and Sarah Fitch who were on the frontlines of the anti-slavery movement in America and were in Lawrence, Kansas at the time of the raid by Quantrill. It gives insight into the bitter, personal battles that fueled the flames of war. The book is edited by Chad Lawhorn and is available at the Watkins Museum in Lawrence and on Amazon.com.

Steve Olson passed along a great video about the proper pronunciation of some names and places in the Civil War including the oft maligned "minee ball" which our friend Don Gilmore says should be pronounced "minay" without any accents even though it is spelled with an accent over the first "e" (from the French). Go to www.civilwar.org/education/in4/pronunciation.

The **Wilson's Creek National Battlefield at Springfield, Missouri** is looking forward to the opening of the Visitor Center exhibits in April 2014 to show the former Sweeney Collection of artifacts from the Trans-Mississippi Theatre. The battlefield increased volunteer hours over 11% to assist with programs for visitors and school groups and partnered with the Springfield-Greene County Library on a lecture series on the sesquicentennial of the Civil War which attracted over 1,000 visitors.

Another 2014 event is the move of the National Storytelling Network to the 33-acre Woodneath Campus of the Mid-Continent Library which will add to Kansas City's "creative economy."

2014 CWRTWM Dues

As we begin a new fiscal year of 2014 we invite you to pay dues. The annual dues for an individual is \$20 and for a couple it is \$30. If you can't attend meetings but just want to receive the *Border Star* newsletter, a subscription is \$10. You can mail your check to CWRTWM, P. O. Box 3019, Independence, MO 64055 or pay at a meeting.



CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE OF WESTERN MISSOURI

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