



The Border Star



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

THIS MONTH IN THE WAR: March 1, 1864. President Lincoln nominates Ulysses S. Grant for Lieutenant General, the rank recently revived for Grant by Congress.

March 2014

The Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri

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President ----- Mike Calvert
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The Border Star Editor

Dennis Myers
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(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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www.CWRTWM.org

President's Letter

I just picked up the newest copy of Blue & Gray magazine. This is a special Gettysburg issue dealing exclusively with the town fight, one of the few urban battles of the Civil War. (Quiz: Name two more urban battles of the Civil War)

As I was leafing through the magazine, I found a truly remarkable presentation.

Confession – I haven't read the article yet. I'm referencing maps that accompany the article. These maps are the most impressive battlefield maps I have ever seen and they don't show, not even one, troop movement. Those come later. I'm talking about the maps that show every street, every house or structure and the owner of that real estate, and I mean right down to the out buildings. If you wanted to know who lived on W. Middle Street and owned a grocery (George Little) and who lived two doors down (Elizabeth Minnigh), you could find out from these maps. Do I sound impressed? I am!

Now taking what is presented on these maps, I wonder if it would be possible to reproduce the same kind of minutiae for Independence, MO on October 22, 1864. Do enough records exist? Is there enough time? Would it be valuable to historians? I think so on all accounts. Heck, it might even be fun.

People sometimes ask me what I will do when I retire. I believe I may have just added another project to my list. Now if someone wants to tackle this now, please do. Just let me know when it's done. I won't be upset – just delighted.

~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

March 2014 Membership Meeting

Wednesday, March 12, 2014 – 7:00 p.m. Villages of Jackson Creek, 3980-A S. Jackson Drive (lower level), Independence, MO. Richard Stewart: “The Story Behind the Quantrill Special Collection.” Richard will be moving to Branson this spring so this will be our last opportunity to wish him well for the Quantrill Collection at the Benton County (Ark.) Historical Society. If you want to donate materials to the collection or make a monetary donation to defray the cost of copying and archiving materials, you can do so at the meeting.

We are continuing our silent auction at the Membership Meeting. Bring some money to bid on the items if you wish. If you would like to donate books or other items, please bring them to the lounge area before the meeting.

March Board Meeting

Wednesday, March 19, 2014 – 7:00 p.m. Change in Location: The Orchards Apartments, 4810 S. Breckenridge, #914, Kansas City, MO. Just off Lee’s Summit Road, south of 40 Highway. Handicapped Accessible.

April 2014 Membership Meeting

Wednesday, April 9, 2014 – 7:00 p.m. Villages of Jackson Creek, 3980-A S. Jackson Drive (lower level), Independence, MO. Jim Beckner: “The 3 Musketeers Attempt to Kidnap Jefferson Davis in 1862.”

No Board Meeting in April, 2014.

Other Civil War Events and Exhibits

Island Mound Film and Exhibit

Opening February 22, 2014 during business hours of the Bruce R. Watkins Cultural Center, 3700 Blue Parkway, Kansas City, MO.

The Kansas City Canvas

February 22 – June 8, 2014. East Gallery of Corinthian Hall, 3218 Gladstone Blvd., Kansas City. By tour only, on the hour, starting at 10 a. m. Last tour starts at 3 p.m. The Kansas City Museum will explore works from George Caleb Bingham and other Kansas City artists. The Bingham works on display are a lithograph of “Order No. 11” and an oil painting of “Mrs. Samuel J. Platt.” The main part of the exhibit is the celebration of the 125th Anniversary of the birth of Thomas Hart Benton.

Arrow Rock 2014 Lecture Series

Saturday, March 1, 2014 – 10:00 a.m. State Historic Site Auditorium, Arrow Rock, MO. Diane Eickhoff and Aaron Barnhart: *The Big Divide, The Civil War in Missouri and Kansas.*

Guided Discussion of “The Abolitionists”

Saturday, March 1, 2014 – 1:00 p.m. Fort Scott National Historic Site, Old Fort Boulevard, Fort Scott, KS. Professor Kristen Oertel, Mary Frances Barnard Associate Professor in 19th Century American History at the University of Tulsa, will lead a guided discussion of the three-episode film series called “The Abolitionists.” Free.

1850’s Town Hall Political Meeting

Sunday, March 2, 2014 – 2:00 p.m. Constitution Hall State Historic Site, Lecompton, KS. Members of the Lecompton Reenactors portray some of the famous Kansans from “Bleeding Kansas” such as James Lane, John Brown, Clarina Nichols and David Atchison. \$3.

David Rice Atchison, President for a Day

Tuesday, March 4, 2014 – 6:30 p.m. Plaza Library, 4801 Main Street, Kansas City, MO. Chris Taylor: “David Rice Atchison.” Due to a quirk in the calendar in the Year 1849, one school of thought contends that Missourian David Rice Atchison deserves to be considered the 12th president of the U. S. His “term of office” lasted just 24 hours – most of which he slept through – and took place 165 years ago.

Order No. 11

Tuesday, March 4, 2014 – 7:00 p.m. National Frontier Trails Center, 318 W. Pacific, Independence, MO. Jim Howk: “Order No. 11.” Free.

Laura Flanery, The Woman Who Walked to Texas

Thursday, March 6, 2014 – 7:00 p.m. Truman Depot, 1111 W. Pacific, Independence, MO. Barbara Hughes: “Laura Flanery.” Meeting of the Jackson County Genealogical Society.

Triumph of the Spirit: A Story about Harriet Tubman

Thursday, March 6, 2014 – 7:00 p.m. Raytown Library, 6131 Raytown Road, Raytown, MO. Shirley Johnson: “Triumph of the Spirit,” a two-act play based on the life of Harriet Tubman who guided slaves to freedom. To RSVP call (816) 353-2052.

“Cinders and Silence”

Saturday, March 8, 2014 – 2:00 p.m. Westport Library, 118 Westport Road, Kansas City, MO. Tom Rafiner: “Cinders and Silence.” This is Tom’s latest book about the devastation in Missouri during the Civil War.

Reception following at the Harris-Kearney House, 4000 Baltimore, Kansas City, MO. To RSVP call (816) 701-3488.

Posse of the Westerners

Tuesday, March 11, 2014 – 6:00 p.m. – Dinner. \$25. Golden Ox, 1600 Genessee Street, Kansas City, Missouri. Christie Kennard: “The James Family.” For dinner reservations call Ann Schultis at (816) 456-0669.

Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri

Wednesday, March 12, 2014 – 7:00 p.m.

Third Thursday at Clay County Museum

Thursday, March 13, 2014 – 7:00 p.m. Clay County Museum, 14 N. Main Street, Liberty, MO. Chris Harris: “Colonel Routt: The Most Misunderstood Man.” Free.

Grant Takes Command, 1864

Thursday, March 13, 2014 – 6:30 p.m. Central Library, 14 W. 10th Street, Kansas City, MO. Ethan S. Rafuse: “My Earnest Endeavor.” The U. S. Army Command and General Staff College’s Ethan Rafuse analyzes Grant’s personality, his military strategies, and the operations he personally directed in 1863-64 against Robert E. Lee. To RSVP call (816) 701-3400.

Defying Slavery

Thursday, March 13, 2014 – 7:00 p.m. Woodneath Library, 8900 NE Flintlock Road, Kansas City, MO. Diane Mutti Burke: “Defying Slavery: The Enduring Struggle for Freedom and Civil Rights.” To RSVP call (816) 883-4900.

“Slavery by Another Name”

Saturday, March 15, 2014 – 2:00 p.m. Plaza Library. 4801 Main Street, Kansas City, MO. Documentary film about the virtual slavery of African Americans through the use of prison labor and sharecropping. Nominated for the Grand Jury Prize at the Sundance Film Festival. Randal M. Jelks, Associate Professor at the University of Kansas, provides opening and closing remarks. To RSVP call (816) 701-3481.

Mid-Missouri Civil War Round Table-Columbia, MO

Tuesday, March 18, 2014 – 7:00 p. m. Boone County Historical Society Museum, 3801 Ponderosa Drive, Columbia, MO. Rudi Keller: “Fifty Year Military Career of William B. Royall.” Rudi is a writer for the Columbia *Tribune* and collects the 150 year ago articles about the Civil War which are being published and collected in bound volumes which can be ordered from the newspaper.

Independence Civil War Study Group

Wednesday, March 19, 2014 – 7:00 p.m. Southview Manor Apartments, 2600A Hub Drive, Independence, MO. Gregg Higginbotham: “The 1970’s and 1990’s Exhumations of Jesse James.

“Laura Flanery, the Woman Who Walked to Texas”

Thursday, March 20, 2014 – 7:00 p.m. Buckner Library, 19 E. Jefferson Street, Buckner, MO. Barbara Hughes: “Laura Flanery” in first person and PowerPoint. To RSVP call (816) 650-3212.

Order No. 11 In Bates County

Saturday, March 22, 2014 – 10:00 a.m. Bates County Museum, 802 Elks Drive, Butler, MO. In Robertson Hall there will be a musical program in the morning consisting of Hank Roberts, a local songwriter and performer, who has a CD of original Civil War music called “Missouri Sounds.” There will also be two talks – Tom Rafiner giving an update on his Bates County research and Aaron Barnhart and Diane Eickhoff talking about *The Big Divide*. Lunch on your own at a restaurant in Butler or brown bag it.

At 2:00 p.m. there will be a dedication ceremony at the Bates County Courthouse for the historical bronze plaque. A program will follow in the 2nd floor courtroom.

Civil War Round Table of Kansas City

Tuesday, March 25, 2014 – 6:30 p.m. – Dinner (\$27). Homestead County Club, 6510 Mission Road, Prairie Village, KS. Bjorn Skaptason: “United States Colored Troops and the Campaign of Brice’s Crossroads.” Dinner reservations to Paul Gault at (816) 741-2962.

News About Members and Friends

Our condolences go to the family of **Robert James Eickhoff** of Lexington, Missouri for his passing on February 21, 2014. While not a member of the Round Table, Bob was well-known in the Civil War community for his reenacting with the Third Missouri Confederate Infantry and for co-founding the Friends of the Anderson House (Lexington, Missouri) in 1998. Services were held on February 26, 2014.

Professor **James Solomon (Jimmy) Johnson** passed away on February 10, 2014. Jimmy was a Civil War reenactor who brought to life the role of the African American soldier. He was also very generous with his time to teach students and adults alike. Jimmy was a descendant of George Washington, a slave on the Miller plantation in Platte County, who escaped to Quindaro. Services were held February 15, 2014.

For you perpetual students (you know who you are) there will be an archaeological survey training at **Arrow Rock, Missouri** the week of July 14-18 and August 4-8, 2014 conducted by Drs. Mark and Ann Raab of UMKC. The objective of the session is to train approximately 15-20 highly motivated people on topics such as proper survey methods, use of survey equipment, artifact identification and the importance of site recordation. It includes one classroom day, three days of field surveys, artifact cleaning and analysis, and one day preparing site recordation forms. There is no cost for participants but there is a \$30 registration fee required but is refunded upon arrival. For information and to register contact Lisa M. Haney, Missouri Archaeological Society at (417) 836-3773 or E-Mail lhaney@missouristate.edu.

Arrow Rock is going to be a hotbed of inquiry this summer. On July 15, 2014 it will collaborate with the National Frontier Trails Museum (Independence, Missouri) for their annual Summer Teacher's Institute. The three-day institute will include one day each in Independence, Arrow Rock, and the Boonville area. For information contact the Friends of Arrow Rock at (660) 837-3231 or E-Mail office@FriendsOfArrowRock.org. Last year **Barbara Hughes** and her daughter who is a teacher, participated in the Institute which was held at the Lincoln Presidential Museum and Library in Springfield, Illinois.

The Bates County Museum will again host an Archaeological Field School (UMKC) for university students in June. A Visitor's Day will be set later. Drs. Ann and Mark Raab will conduct the training.

Things are heating up in Ray County Missouri as plans are finalized for the **Battle of Albany** 150th Anniversary on October 25-26, 2014. They will also be dedicating two new historic panels – one in Orrick near the battle site at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, October 25th and the other at the Courthouse in Richmond, Missouri at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 26th. Saturday's events include activities at the Fairgrounds in Richmond such as a generic battle at 1:00 p.m., the Battle of Albany reenactment at 3:00 p.m., a night firing of cannons at 7:00 p.m., and a Civil War Ball at the Fairgrounds at 8:00 p.m. On Sunday there will be a generic battle at 11:30 a.m., the Battle of Albany reenactment at 1:30 p.m., and events on the Square at Richmond at 2:30 p.m.

Be prepared for Civil War reenactment overload on October 25-26 because this is also the weekend of the 150th anniversary of the **Battle of Westport** to be held at Byram's Ford (site of the Battle of the Big Blue) and the Battle of Westport Civil War Museum in Swope Park, Kansas City, Missouri. More details will follow. The

Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri plans to prepare the stage for the anniversary by presenting a tour of the Battle of the Little Blue the morning of October 18th with a multi-media presentation of the Second Battle of Independence in the afternoon.

Archaeologists are racing to excavate a Civil War-era prison in downtown Columbia, South Carolina, before the site is cleared for development. Researchers have four months to excavate a small portion of the 165-acre grounds of the former South Carolina State Hospital to find the remains of what was once known at **Camp Asylum**. Conditions at the camp, which held 1,500 Union Army officers during the winter of 1864-65, were so dire that soldiers dug and lived in holes in the ground to provide shelter against the cold. This is from an Associated Press article by Susanne Schafer in the February 23, 2014 issue of the Kansas City *Star*.

Cass County Historical Society bade farewell to **Jane Wallace** as Executive Director at the end of February as she retired, and **Don Peters** of rural Peculiar, Missouri will take the reins. He has a strong background and interest in charitable and historical endeavors.

David Jackson's column in the February 15, 2014 issue of the *Examiner* (Independence, Missouri) was called "How many stories from our rich past have been lost?" He featured many stories of African American pioneers dating back to the 1800's with York, the earliest known black man to migrate this far west, as he accompanied his owner William Clark as a full member of the Lewis and Clark expedition.

David recognized the research done by **Annette Curtis** in her valuable study and index called *Jackson County in Black and White*. Hiram Young, former slave of George Young, saved and bought his own freedom. He then outfitted with quality ox bows, thousands embarking on the trails leading west out of Independence. A school and city park are named in his honor. Black churches in Independence proudly boast 100-year old congregations. Still, significant segments of the past are lost to time, including a once segregated neighborhood, "The Neck," that was obliterated during urban renewal in the 1960's. This area is now occupied by McCoy Park and has historic panels to tell the story due to the persistence of **Brian and Sharon Snyder**.

You may have read in the Kansas City *Star* about the New Theatre's problem with replacing the lead actor in "Harvey," on short notice. They were able to bring in Charles Shaughnessy of television fame who said "It's a lovely show and the cast is so good." Until Shaughnessy could be brought up to speed, Kansas City actor Craig

Benton played the role of Elwood P. Dowd, an amiable Midwesterner who keeps company with an enormous imaginary rabbit. The role was understudied by **Kevin Fewell**, the President of the Union Cemetery Historical Society, who also plays the cab driver in the show. "Harvey" runs through April 6th at the New Theatre, 9229 Foster, Overland Park, KS. Call for tickets at (913) 649-7469.

Congratulations to the **Independence Pioneers Daughters of the American Revolution** on their 100th anniversary February 26, 2014. Members include **Goldie Lewis, Fran Mason, and Jo Anna Dale**. On February 13, 2014 the Pioneers chapter celebrated the birthday of Bess Truman with a program and tea at the Truman Library. Beverly Shaw and Pat Gradwohl attended to celebrate Beverly's birthday on the same day. They ran into **Bob Grover** and **James Scott** who participated in the honor guard to present the colors. They were also happy to congratulate **Jo Anna Dale** for her public service award. A photograph of the wreath laying at Bess's grave in the courtyard shows Pat and Beverly in the background.

The February 16th issue of the *Kansas City Star* had a wonderful photographic tour of the "**Capitol Jewel**" which is the Kansas Capitol in Topeka after being restored to its former glory after a renovation that took thirteen years. One of the photographs is of "Tragic Prelude," one of John Steuart Curry's most famous murals. It depicts abolitionist John Brown amid prairie fires and a tornado.

Richard Stewart is excited to announce that the Quantrill Collection in Bentonville, Arkansas, has a new museum piece thanks to **Chuck Townsend**, president of the **Lobb Cemetery Association**. It's a rock measuring eighteen inches across from the original rock wall that partially surrounds Lobb Cemetery near Blue Springs. Lobb is one of the oldest cemeteries in Jackson County and is the resting place of Quantrill guerrillas Jim and John Little, Gabe Parr, Si Gibson, John Crump and Samuel Montgomery. The original rock wall was constructed by slaves in 1844.

We are sorry to report that the Civil War **sites at Newtonia**, Missouri will not become national parks because the two battles in 1862 and 1864 were not nationally significant to the outcome of the Civil War and their historical themes are already covered in other sites currently under state and federal control. This comes from an article from the *Joplin Globe* and picked up in the *Examiner* on February 13, 2014.

General Grant Is Lincoln's Man

On March 1, 1864, President Lincoln nominates Ulysses S. Grant for lieutenant general, the rank recently revived for Grant by Congress. On March 2, 1864 the Senate confirms the nomination. Along with being the highest ranking officer, Grant will assume the title of general in chief of the United States Army.

On March 8, 1864 at a White House reception, President Lincoln steps uncertainly up to a short, disheveled-looking military man and inquires, "This is General Grant, is it?" "Yes," Grant replies. The soon-to-be lieutenant general has met his commander in chief for the first time. After a few pleasantries with Lincoln, Grant joins Secretary Seward in the East Room where the general is obliged to stand on a sofa to shake hands with the cheering crowd. Following the reception, Lincoln, Grant and Secretary of War Stanton confer in the Blue Room and the president makes some suggestions about Grant's remarks to be made on the morrow when he will officially receive his commission as lieutenant general. Lincoln's main points were that Grant should say something to prevent jealousy from the other generals in the service and also something to put him on as good terms as possible with the Army of the Potomac.

On March 9, 1864 Grant stumbles through a hastily-written speech which makes neither of the points Lincoln had asked him to make. However it is obvious that Lincoln believes he has at last found a commander in whom he can have complete faith. Immediately Grant leaves Washington for Brandy Station, Virginia, headquarters of the Army of the Potomac.

On March 17, 1864 Grant and Sherman confer in Nashville, Tennessee. Formally receiving command of the Union armies on this date, Grant announces, "Headquarters will be in the field, and, until further orders, will be with the Army of the Potomac." In short, Grant is turning his primary attention to Lee and his Army of Northern Virginia. (Information taken from The Civil War Day By Day on loan from Don Moorehead).

The William Clarke Quantrill Society

The William Clark Quantrill Society is a non-profit corporation dedicated to the study of the Civil War on the Missouri-Kansas border with emphasis on the lives of Quantrill, his men, his supporters, his adversaries and the resulting historical record. For information visit; www.wcqsociety.com or send an E-mail to wcqsociety@aol.com.