



The Border Star



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

May 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

For Information

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**** Website ****

www.CWRTWM.org

THIS MONTH IN THE WAR: The early part of May 1864 saw the action called the Battle of the Wilderness, so named because of the area in northern Virginia filled with dense forest and underbrush that makes it virtually uninhabitable. The fighting was bitter and confused, made even worse by the fires that broke out in the underbrush. Grant's attempt to deliver a knock-out against Lee failed, with both sides losing heavily.

The Wilderness battle was followed by the Spotsylvania Campaign in Virginia which involved some of the worst action of the Civil War, particularly around a line of breastworks known as the Bloody Angle. In the fighting for this small piece of territory, the Union suffered 6,800 casualties to the South's 5,000. At the end of the day on May 12, 1864, a Yankee soldier said simply, "This has been the most terrible day I have ever had."

Press Release from Missouri's Civil War Heritage Foundation

ST. LOUIS, MO. April 28, 2014 - St. Louis Mayor Francis G. Slay has declared May 3, 2014 to be "ULYSSES S. GRANT DAY" in the City of St. Louis. The Proclamation is an acknowledgment that St. Louis played a key role in Grant's life and the development of his character, as St. Louis was home to Grant and his family during many of the General's formative years, and during the time he occupied the White House. The Ulysses S. Grant Association, based at Mississippi State University, is holding its national annual meeting in St. Louis the weekend of May 3-4, 2014.

As the Mayor's Proclamation notes, this weekend also marks the 150th anniversary of the beginning of Grant's Overland Campaign in Virginia. In March, 1864, Abraham Lincoln appointed Grant Lieutenant General of the Armies of the United States. On May 4, 1864, Grant at the head of the Army of the Potomac crossed the Rapidan River to commence his first campaign against Robert E. Lee. The Campaign, pitting these legendary Union and Confederate commanders against each other, proved to be the last Union offensive against Lee's Army of Northern Virginia.

Ulysses Grant rose to national prominence after his Civil War career began inauspiciously in St. Louis on May 10, 1861. Then, when Union troops marched off to confront Missouri Militia troops at Camp Jackson in Midtown St. Louis, Grant was an obscure Illinois recruiting officer who watched the troops depart from the U. S. Arsenal. Grant and his family lived within blocks of the Arsenal, in the Soulard neighborhood, in 1859-1860, a particularly unsuccessful and bitter time for him.

Grant resided in St. Louis County from 1854 to 1859 at the estate of his wife's family, now the Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site in Affton. He purchased the home during the Civil War, and occupied it during and after his Presidency.

"There is no comparable case in the history of U. S. politics and military affairs," said Greg Wolk, Executive Director of Missouri's Civil War Heritage Foundation. "The three years that began with Camp Jackson in St. Louis and ended at the Battle of the Wilderness in 1864 saw the most meteoric and improbable rise of fortune of any American President," Wolk noted.

Sunday, April 27, 2014, was the famous General's Birthday, his 192nd. Eleven members of the Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri enjoyed the Grant Symposium the first weekend of April, 2014.

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

CWRTWM Calendar

Planning Meeting for 2nd Battle of Independence

Wednesday, May 7, 2014—7 pm. For those who would like to help plan and perform a multi-media event on Saturday, Oct. 18, 2014, to mark the 150th anniversary of the 2nd Battle of Independence which was a continuation of the Battle of the Little Blue in October 1864.

May 2014 Membership Meeting

Wednesday, May 14, 2014 – 7:00 p.m. Villages of Jackson Creek, 3980-A S. Jackson Drive (lower level), Independence, MO. Ted Stillwell: “The Noland Family.”

We will continue our silent auction of donated items so you might want to bring a little cash. You can donate books and other objects which don't have to be Civil War related.

Let's remember that the hallways at the Villages are next to residents' bedrooms so we need to be quiet when we exit.

Cleanup at the Lewis-Gregg Cemetery

Saturday, May 17, 2014 – 9:00 a.m. – Noon. This pioneer Cemetery which the Round Table acquired from the Jackson County Historical Society is located in an open field accessible from a housing development. It has a Revolutionary War soldier buried there (Nathaniel Lewis) and many descendants of the Lewis and Gregg families. We have cleaned the stones and maintain the grounds along with Chris Henderson who faithfully mows the grass. Once a year we pick up limbs and do some raking. The cemetery is located north of 24 Highway. Take Salem Drive north to York and continue north to the cul-de-sac where there are two big trees to mark the spot where you can bring vehicles into the field. If it's raining or the ground is too wet to safely cross the field to the cemetery, we will have to postpone. If you have questions call Beverly Shaw at (816) 225-7944. Please bring gloves and your own tools.

May, 2014 Board Meeting

Wednesday, May 21, 2014 – 7:00 p.m. Home of Beverly Shaw, 17313 E. 51 Terr. Court, Independence, MO.

Other Civil War Events and Exhibits

Outstanding Women of Missouri

Now through May 31, 2014. Fort Osage Education Center at 107 Osage Street, Sibley, MO. Exhibit is free but tours of the Fort are \$7 for Adults, \$4 for ages 5-13,

\$3 for ages 62 and older, and free for children 4 and under. The Exhibit features such women as Susan Blow, an educator who recognized the importance of early childhood education and opened the first successful public kindergarten in America here in Missouri. Learn of the tenacity of Marie Watkins Oliver, the Missouri woman who designed the Missouri State flag, twice. From authors to astronauts, first lady, or lady Buffalo Soldier, Missouri has been home to some amazing women. Hours are 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tues.-Sun.

Heritage Quilts

Now through June 27, 2014. Ferrell Museum, 220 Ferrel Street, Platte City, MO. Quilts from circa 1890-Mid 19th Century. Hours are Thursday-Friday, from 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Admission is \$5. Group tours by Appointment. Call (816) 431-5121 or (816) 805-1112.

Kansas City Artists in the Kansas City Museum

Collection. Now through June 8, 2014. 3218 Gladstone Blvd., Kansas City, MO. Guided Tours only beginning at 10:00 a.m. and on the hour with the last tour starting at 3:00 p.m. Display on the occasion of Thomas Hart Benton's 125th anniversary, but it includes works by George Caleb Bingham. East gallery of Corinthian Hall. For more information please call (816) 483-8300.

The Coming Storm: The Civil War in American Art

Thursday, May 1, 2014 – 6:00 p.m. Atkins Auditorium at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, 4525 Oak Street, Kansas City, MO. Eleanor Jones Harvey of the Smithsonian talks about the impact of the Civil War on American art, especially photography and genre paintings. Program is free but please RSVP to (816) 751-1278. Parking in art gallery lot is \$8, but there is also street parking. There is also an exhibit of daguerrotypes in the Photo Gallery of the Bloch Building open until 9:00 p.m. There is one of John Brown and Frederick Douglass.

The Story of Military Headstones

Thursday, May 1, 2014 – 7:00 p.m. Jackson County Genealogy Society, Truman Depot, 1111 W. Pacific Ave., Independence, MO (just south of the Community of Christ Auditorium. Mike Calvert will tell how to decipher the information on a government issued military headstone. Guests are welcome.

Wyeth-Tootle Mansion Opens for the Season

Friday, May 2, 2014 – 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. 1100 Charles Street, St. Joseph, MO. Open Fridays and Saturdays to illustrate the cultural, architectural, and economic history of St. Joseph, MO. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$3 for students 7-18. Under 6-Free.

For information please call (816) 232-8471 or visit www.stjosephmuseum.org.

Battlefield Archaeology Findings of Moore's Mill

Friday, May 2, 2014 – 4:00 p.m. Westminster College at Fulton, MO. Dr. Douglas Scott and Dr. Steve Dasovich will unveil the findings from last year's archaeological survey at Moore's Mill, the largest Civil War battle in Callaway County which took place July 28, 1862 about 7 miles east of Fulton, MO.

Historic Walking Tours in Liberty, MO

Saturday, May 3, 2014 – 10:00 a.m. "Historical Murals." Tour meets at the Lewis & Clark Mural at the corner of Mill and S. Water Streets. Free and open to the public.

Battle of Black Jack Opens for the Season

Saturday, May 3, 2014 – 1:00 p.m. 163 E. 2000 Road, Wellsville, KS. Site of the battle which took place June 2, 1856 between Kansas Free Staters led by John Brown and Missouri Pro-Slavery men led by Captain Henry Clay Pate.

Wakarusa River Valley Heritage Museum

Saturday, May 3, 2014 – 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Opens for the season. Located in Bloomington Park East at Clinton Lake, just outside Lawrence, KS. In 1854 the Wakarusa Valley was settled by people who thought slavery was wrong. It was the home of the Bloomington Guards, the Underground Railroad where Quaker abolitionists provided a safe haven. It also has ties to the 1st Kansas Colored Volunteer Infantry story. At 2:00 p.m. Dianne Miller of the National Park's Service Underground Railroad Network to Freedom, Northwest Region, will be a guest speaker.

Strawberry Lawn Fete, Lee's Summit, MO

Sunday, May 4, 2014 – 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. 305 N.E. Green Street in downtown Lee's Summit. Part of Historic Preservation Month in Lee's Summit. The Graves/Hale award will be given to the family of Carl R. Sechler. He was a builder whose family helped create the downtown depot, Longview Farm, and homes in the Howard District.

Uptown Historic Homes Tour, St. Joseph, MO

Sunday, May 4, 2014 – Begins at First Presbyterian Church, 301 N. 7th Street, St. Joseph, MO. Ten properties and "Hunt for History." For more information please call (816) 232-1829.

Hickman Award at Independence, MO City Hall

Monday, May 5, 2014 – 6:00 p.m. City Hall, 111 E. Maple Street, Independence, MO (1/2 block south of Truman Road and one block west of Noland Road –

across from the Police Station.) The Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri will be receiving the W. Z. Hickman Award for Historic Preservation by an organization. After the preservation awards the audience will be excused. Some of us plan to eat together at the Courthouse Exchange about 7:00 p.m. It's located at 113 W. Lexington on the south side of the Square.

Preserving Historic Monuments

Tuesday, May 6, 2014 – 6:30 p.m. National Archives, 400 W. Pershing Road, Kansas City, MO. Jocelyn Ball-Edson of the Kansas City Parks Dept. will talk about the challenge of preserving monument and sculptures from vandalism, weather, and environment. Free. RSVP to (816) 268-8010.

Practical Preservation – Protecting Family Heirlooms

Wednesday, May 7, 2014 – Noon – 1:00 p.m. Bring your lunch and learn from David Jackson, Archives Director of the Jackson County Historical Society Archives, how to preserve family papers and photographs. Truman Memorial Building, 416 W. Maple Ave., Independence, MO.

Partners Meeting of Freedom's Frontier

Thursday, May 8, 2014 – 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Gladstone City Hall, 7010 N. Holmes, Kansas City, MO. Speakers will be Richard King, Communications Manager for the City of Gladstone who will share his work on integrating history into the *Gladstone Magazine*. Chris Cantwell, Asst. Professor of History at UMKC, will discuss the department's new internship program and how it can benefit local history groups. To RSVP call Kathleen Quigley at (785) 856-5300 by 4:30 p.m., May 5th.

General Price at the Battle of Westport

Thursday, May 8, 2014 – 6:30 p.m. Grandview Library, 12930 Booth Lane, Grandview, MO. Come learn about the Battle of Westport, the final action of the Civil War in Missouri. RSVP to (816) 763-0550.

John Hughes Camp, Sons of Confederate Veterans

Thursday, May 8, 2014 – 7:00 p.m. Kross Lounge and Ernie's Restaurant, 605 N. Sterling, Sugar Creek, MO. New members will tell about their Confederate ancestors. The SCV is the oldest organization for male descendants of Confederate soldiers. There is also an associate membership for those who just have an interest in the history. Visitors are welcome.

Winding the Clock at Talkin' Truman

Saturday, May 10, 2014 – 11:00 a.m. Truman Library, 500 W. U.S. 24 Hwy., Independence, MO. David

Jackson, author of *Winding the Clock On Independence Square: Jackson County's Historic Truman Courthouse, 1933-2013*. Whistlestop Room. Program is free with Museum ticket. \$8 for Adults; \$7 for seniors 65 and over, \$3 children 6-15 years, and free for children 5 and under.

Union Cemetery Cleanup Day

Saturday, May 10, 2014 – 10:00 a.m. 227 E. 28th Terr., Kansas City, MO. Rake leaves, pick up limbs, plant flowers, spread mulch, clean windows and floors, dust furniture, and do some painting. Please bring yard and gardening tools as well as painting and cleaning supplies. Refreshments will be served. If you would like to help with any of these projects, please call (816) 472-4990 or E-mail president@uchskc.org.

“Abuse and Murder on the Frontier”

Saturday, May 10, 2014 – 2:00 p.m. Westport Library, 118 Westport Road, Kansas City, MO. Bill Bundschu will present his book about the *Trials and Travels of Rebecca Hawkins: 1800-1860*. A reception will follow at the 1855 Harris-Kearney House, 4000 Baltimore, Kansas City, MO.

“The Battle of Island Mound”

Monday, May 12, 2014 – 6:30 p.m. Bates County Museum, 802 Elks Drive, Butler, MO. Viewing of the 20-minute educational documentary of the first time African-American troops were engaged in Civil War combat. Free.

“Kid Curry” – Posse of the Westerners

Tuesday, May 13, 2014 – 6:00 p.m. – Dinner. \$25. Golden Ox, 1600 Genessee Street, Kansas City, MO. Dennis Garstang: Kid Curry, a member of the Wild Bunch which included Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid. For dinner reservations call Ann Schultis at (816) 456-0669.

Civil War Round Table of Cass County

Tuesday, May 13, 2014 – 7:00 p.m. Pearson Hall, 400 E. Mechanic, Harrisonville, MO. Hank Roberts, Balladeer of Bates County, uses music to hauntingly remember personal stories of the Civil War.

Lunch ‘n Learn – The 2nd Battle of Independence

Wednesday, May 14, 2014 – Noon. Truman Memorial Building, 416 W. Maple Ave., Independence, MO. Mike Calvert will tell the story of Union and Confederate soldiers fighting on the streets of Independence as they met on October 22, 1864 between the Battle of the Little Blue and the Battle of Westport. Bring your brown bag lunch and enjoy a drink and dessert at no charge.

Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri

Monthly meeting, Wednesday, May 14, 2014 – 7:00 p.m. See CWRTWM Calendar.

Third Thursday Program in Clay County

Thursday, May 14, 2014 – 7:00 p.m. Garrison School, 502 N. Water Street, Liberty, MO. Shelton Ponder: “No Dust Hides Their Glow in the Road.”

The Cavalry of the American Civil War

Thursday, May 15, 2014 – 6:30 p.m. Central Library, 14 W. 10th Street, Kansas City, MO. Louis DiMarco of the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth examines the role of mounted combat. RSVP to (816) 701-3407.

New Museum in an Old Building

Friday, May 16, 2014 – Noon. Bring your sack lunch to The National Frontier Trails Museum, 318 West Pacific, Independence, MO to hear about how the Gates Flour Mill was adapted to house a modern museum of trail history and learn about plans for the redevelopment of the museum and its campus.

Family Fun Day at the National Frontier Trails Museum

Saturday, May 17, 2014 – 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. 318 West Pacific, Independence, MO. Join the fun to take a free covered wagon ride, visit with mountain men as they demonstrate their skills, and help a pioneer woman pack her full-size wagon heading for Oregon. Make a craft project while you enjoy period music and refreshments. Free.

Children’s Walk and Draw

Saturday, May 17, 2014 – 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. National Park Service Visitor’s Center, 223 North Main Street, Independence, MO. Ranger James McGill will talk about Historic Preservation Month and lead the children on a walk around the historic Truman landmark District. They will stop at three historic homes and discuss their architectural styles. Finally the children will discuss and sketch the Truman Home.

“Thomas Hart Benton: His Life and His Murals”

Saturday, May 17, 2014 – 11:00 a.m. Truman Library, 500 W. U.S. 24 Hwy., Independence, MO. Whistlestop Room. Steve Sitton will talk about the life of the painter and the creation of his 13 murals. There will be a tour and review of the Benton mural in the lobby of the Truman Library. Program is free but admission to the Library is by ticket. \$8-Adults. \$7-Seniors 65 and over. \$3-Children ages 6-15. Free for children 5 and under.

Art and Artifacts Fair – Lee’s Summit, MO

Saturday, May 17, 2014 – 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Lee’s Summit City Hall Lobby, 220 SE Green Street, Lee’s Summit, MO. Display of Historic Photos to tell family stories. Sponsored by the Historic Preservation Commission.

Confederate Spring Muster

Saturday, May 17, 2014 – 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Shoal Creek Living History Museum in Hodge Park north of the River. From I-435 take Hwy. 152 east. Go ½ mile and turn north (left) on to Shoal Creek Parkway. Then an immediate left on to Barry Road. Go west on Barry to the entrance of Robert H. Hodge Park. Follow the road past the golf course driving range and up the hill to the iron gate entrance. Visit an American Civil War encampment with eight infantries with about 100 soldiers. See how Missouri soldiers lived, watch them run drills, and hear the roar of the musketry. Free.

Mid-Missouri Civil War Round Table, Columbia, MO

Tuesday, May 20, 2014 – 7:00 p.m. Boone County Historical Society Museum, 3801 Ponderosa Drive, Columbia, MO. Barry Cardwell will speak about John Brown.

Lunch ‘n Learn – Battle of Grinter’s Farm

Wednesday, May 21, 2014 – Noon. Truman Memorial Building, 416 W. Maple Avenue, Independence, MO. Mike Calvert will talk about a short, deadly affair that took place near present day Truman Medical Center-Lakewood. On July 6, 1864 about 25 men of the 2nd Colorado Cavalry met up with guerrilla George Todd and 100 of his men. There is a monument to the 2nd Colorado in Woodlawn Cemetery which we plan to rededicate this summer.

Independence Civil War Study Group

Wednesday, May 21, 2014 – 7:00 p.m. Southview Manor Apartments, 2600 A Hub Drive, Independence, MO. Grady Atwater: John Brown, Osawatomie, and the Civil War.

Memorial Day at Union Cemetery

Saturday, May 24, 2014 – 11:00 a.m. Ceremony at the flag pole in the middle of the cemetery, 227 E. 28th Terrace, Kansas City, MO. Participants will be Cub and Boy Scouts, Civil War reenactors, and others. Refreshments will be served at the Sexton’s Cottage. The grounds will be open from 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. on May 24, from 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. on May 25, and from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on May 26. Scouts will place flags at the graves of veterans on May 24 and have a short ceremony honoring Nathaniel Gwynne, a Medal of Honor recipient before the ceremony at 11:00 a.m.

Highlights in History at Fort Scott, Kansas

Saturday, Sunday, and Monday, May 24-26, 2014 – 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Fort Scott National Historic Site, 1 Old Fort Boulevard, Fort Scott, KS. Talks, tours, and living history about Fort Scott’s role in the Dragoons and Infantry who policed the Indian frontier and operated during “Bleeding Kansas” and the Civil War that followed. Free.

Prince of Jockeys: The Life of Isaac Burns Murphy

Tuesday, May 27, 2014 – 6:30 p.m. Central Library, 14 W. 10th Street, Kansas City, MO. Pellom McDaniels III will discuss the first jockey to win the Kentucky Derby three times. In the late 1880’s he was the highest-paid athlete in the U. S. His life spanned the Civil War, Reconstruction, and Jim Crow legislation. He became an important figure in the social, political, and cultural consciousness of African-Americans. RSVP to (816) 701-3407.

Civil War Round Table of Kansas City

Tuesday, May 27, 2014 – 6:30 p.m. Dinner – \$27. Meadowbrook Country Club, 9101 Nall Ave., Prairie Village, KS. Mark Christ: The 1864 Camden Expedition and the Battle of Poison Spring, Arkansas. Dinner reservations to Paul Gault at (816) 741-2962.

Lunch ‘n Learn – African-American Historic Sites of Independence.

Wednesday, May 28, 2014 – Noon. Truman Memorial Building, 416 W. Maple Ave., Independence, MO. A new brochure has been produced and will be available. The Independence Tourism Dept. will tell how sites were chosen and a little of the history of the people who made up this fascinating story.

Deaths on Pleasant Street – Brady Courtroom Series

Saturday, May 31, 2014 – 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. Brady Courtroom-2nd Floor, Historic Truman Courthouse on the Square, Independence, MO. Author Giles Fowler recounts the tale of the Swope Mansion murders. There will also be a Building and Bingham Art Gallery Tour at 2:30 p.m.

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.