



The Border Star

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

November-December 2014

The Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri

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The Border Star Editor

Dennis Myers
12800 E. 48th Street S.
Independence, MO 64055
(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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Independence, MO 64055

Website

www.CWRTWM.org

THIS MONTH IN THE WAR:

- November/December 1864. Western Theater: Franklin and Nashville, TN Campaign.
- Sherman's "March to the Sea" in Georgia.
- Trans-Mississippi: Even with Price driven from Missouri, Confederate bands and guerilla units continue to harass Federal troops. On November 18, 1864 there is fighting at Fayette, MO between the two sides.
- On Nov. 29, 1864, Colorado militia descend upon the Cheyenne village at Sand Creek, Colorado Territory, and kill 1/3 of the residents. The massacre will later officially be condemned by the Federal Government.

**NOT FOR FAME OR REWARD
NOT FOR PLACE OR FOR RANK
NOT LURED BY AMBITION
OR GOADED BY NECESSITY
BUT IN SIMPLE
OBEDIANCE TO DUTY
AS THEY UNDERSTOOD IT
THESE MEN SUFFERED ALL
SACRIFICED ALL
DARED ALL — AND DIED**

-Randolph Harrison McKim (1842-1920)

How we honor our fallen soldiers is very important. Anyone who has made the sacrifice of their life for their country must be remembered. The act of erecting a plaque, statue or as in Independence, an entire building, it's important for the living to not forget what the dead have given us. We as a nation or as individuals can create all the memorials to the fallen we want, but it's how we aid the living veteran that makes a country great. If ever something good came from something bad it was the GI Bill. It provided and still provides low-cost mortgages, low-interest loans to start a business, cash payments of tuition and living expenses to attend university, high school or vocational education, as well as one year of unemployment compensation. Altered since its passage in 1944 the GI Bill still provides benefits to today's veterans. I know that the Veteran's Administration has been justly criticized in recent times, but where else can a veteran receive medical care at little or no cost. There are also a number of not-for-profit organizations in our country that help our veterans. Wounded Warrior and the USO are just two.

In the end there is just one point I want us to remember. We should remember our dead heroes for all they sacrificed for us, but the living veteran deserves and can justly demand our help. This Veteran's Day remember the fallen, but give a helping hand to the living hero as well.

Thank you to all for your support over the last year. May the holiday season find you surrounded by your family and blanketed by their love. Happy Holidays!

~Mike Calvert, President CWRTWM

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

November 2014 Membership Meeting

Wednesday, November 12, 2014 – 7:00 p.m.
Villages of Jackson Creek, 3980-A S. Jackson Drive (lower level), Independence, MO. Tony Meyers: “The Civil War in Clay County, Missouri.” Annual Meeting and Election.

December 2014 Membership Luncheon

Saturday, December 6, 2014 – Noon. The Loose Park Garden Center, 52nd Street and Wornall Road, Kansas City, MO. Parking available in front of the outdoor pavilion and walk through it to the Garden Center, or drive to the next street south (Pennsylvania) to enter from the rear of the Garden Center. This is our annual holiday luncheon in cooperation with the Union Cemetery Historical Society. The organization provides deli trays for sandwiches, drinks, and plates, forks, and cups for serving. Members of both groups bring a dish to share. The program begins about 1:00 p.m. Barbara Hughes will be talking about “Men and Women in the 1860s.”

There is no night meeting of the Round Table in December.

We do not plan to have board meetings in November and December.

Other Civil War Events - November, 2014

Past to Present Open House

Thursday, November 6, 2014 – 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. at 215 S. Lynn Street, Independence, MO. Our friend Audrey Elder invites us to the opening of the new office of Past to Present LLC which researches the history of houses. Audrey was very gracious to share her research on the Stone-Gamble House for our Historic Homes Tour several years ago. For more information on research services, please call (816) 419-2710 or send an E-mail to her at Past2PresentResearch@gmail.com.

Brady Lecture – Christmastime in Kansas City

Saturday, November 8, 2014 – 1:00 p.m. Historic Truman Courthouse, 112 W. Lexington Ave., Independence, MO. Monroe Dodd will speak about

“Christmastime in Kansas City.” A tour of the courthouse follows.

Kansas City’s Historic Union Cemetery

Tuesday, November 11, 2014 – 6:30 p.m. Plaza Library, 4801 Main Street, Kansas City, MO. The launch of a new book about Union Cemetery. Judy King and Bruce Mathews along with contributors Anita Gorman, Crosby Kemper III, Kevin Fewell, and Rachael Blackburn-Cozad will present poignant recollections of those interred there. This Veterans Day event underscores the value of preserving this cemetery which dates to 1857.

Posse of the Westerners

Tuesday, November 11, 2014 – 6:30 p.m. – Dinner. Golden Ox Restaurant, 1600 Genessee, Kansas City, MO. Douglas Cubbison: “The Earp Brothers.” If you arrive before 6:30 p.m. you can order your dinner without a previous reservation. Prices range around \$25 depending on your entree.

Civil War Round Table of Cass County

Tuesday, November 11, 2014 – 7:00 p.m. Harrisonville Public Library, 400 E. Mechanic, Harrisonville, MO. Lee Ward: “But God has so ordered it – The Civil War Diaries of Sgt. Harrison Whittemore, 1st Massachusetts Infantry, Company K.”

The Adair/Brown Cabin (John Brown Cabin, Osawatimie, KS) - Thursday, November 13, 2014 – 7:00 p.m. The Trailside Center, 9901 Holmes Road, Kansas City, MO. James Roberts, a member of the New Santa Fe Historical Society, will speak about the artifacts recovered from the June 2014 Kansas Archaeological Training Program at the Adair/Brown Cabin. Refreshments.

Frontier Wildlife at the Wornall and Majors Homes

Friday, November 14, 2014 – 6:00 p.m. Plaza Library, 4801 Main Street, Kansas City, MO. Explore what life would have been like in the 1850s and 1860s at the Wornall House and the Alexander Majors Home. Operation Wildlife of Linwood, KS will introduce some of the local wildlife that the families would have encountered.

Mid-Missouri Civil War Round Table

Monday, November 17, 2014 – 7:00 p.m. Boone County Historical Society Museum, 3801

Ponderosa Drive, Columbia, MO. Wayne Anderson: Civil War Carbines and Black Powder Shooting. No meeting in December.

If you find yourself in the Columbia area on a Monday night, feel free to visit their meeting. On Jan. 19, 2015 Dave Poche will be speaking on JEB Stuart. We want to thank Howard Miederhoff for organizing a group of eight to go on our Battle of the Little Blue Tour on October 18th.

Civil War Round Table of Kansas City

Tuesday, November 18, 2014 – 6:30 p.m. – Dinner – \$27. Oakwood Country Club, 9800 Grandview Road, Kansas City, MO (south of Bannister Road, north of I-435, east of Holmes and west of Highway 71. Access is off Bannister Road). Arnold Schofield: “Aftermath of Westport (Price’s retreat to Texas.)” For dinner reservations call Paul Gault at (816) 741-2962.

Mary Edwards Walker

Tuesday, November 18, 2014 – 7:00 p.m. North Independence Library, 317 W. 24 Highway, Independence, MO. Alisha Cole will speak about Mary Edwards Walker who served as a doctor in the Union Army and is the only woman to receive the Medal of Honor.

Independence Civil War Study Group

Wednesday, November 19, 2014 – 7:00 p.m. Courthouse Exchange, 113 W. Lexington, Independence, MO. Don Gilmore: “Kansas Redlegs.”

Missouri - Kansas Border Warfare

Thursday, November 20, 2014 – 6:30 p.m. Grandview Library, 12930 Booth Lane, Grandview, MO. Tom Rafiner discusses the atmosphere surrounding the Missouri-Kansas Border before the Civil War.

“The Battle of Island Mound”

Thursday, November 20, 2014 – 7:00 p.m. Anita B. Gorman Discovery Center, 4750 Troost Ave., Kansas City, MO. Showing of the documentary film which tells the story of the first time African-American troops were engaged in Civil War combat as Union soldiers. It’s the first-person account by former slave George Washington telling about the 1st Kansas Colored Volunteer Infantry who fought

at Island Mound near Butler, MO. The second volume of our “Monuments” book takes as its cover art the statue of a colored soldier on the Bates County courthouse square.

Clay County Historical Society

Thursday, November 20, 2014 – 7:00 p.m. Clay County Museum, 14 N. Main Street, Liberty, MO. Chris Harris: “The Family of Abraham Lincoln in Clay County.” Free.

Development of Character Interpretation

Saturday, November 22, 2014 – 2:00 p.m. National Frontier Trails Museum, 318 W. Pacific, Independence, MO. Informational Meeting for those interested in the development of a first person interpretive program based on historical figures. Advance reservations requested by calling Richard Edwards at (816) 325-7576.

Holiday Candlelight Tour - Harris-Kearney House

Friday and Saturday, November 28-29, 2014 – 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. 1855 Harris-Kearney House, 4000 Baltimore, Kansas City, MO. Candlelight Tour of an 1850s Christmas celebration. Small admission.

Other Civil War Events - December, 2014

American Indians as Soldiers in the Civil War

Tuesday, December 2, 2014 – 2:00 p.m. Midwest Genealogy Center, 3440 S. Lee’s Summit Road, Independence, MO. Arnold Schofield will speak about the role of American Indians in the Civil War with special emphasis on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd regiments of Indian Home Guards from Kansas.

Military Discipline in Kansas and Missouri in the Civil War

Thursday, December 4, 2014 – 6:30 p.m. Grandview Library, 12930 Booth Lane, Grandview, MO. Arnold Schofield will explore the gruesome history of military discipline, court-martials, and executions in Kansas and Missouri in the Civil War.

A Visit from St. Nicholas-Shoal Creek Living History Museum

- Saturday, December 6, 2014 – 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Shoal Creek Living History Museum, 7000 Northeast Barry Road, Kansas City, MO. Experience a 19th century Christmas. Walking tour of holiday decorated homes and log cabins of

the 1800s while reenactors bring the village to life. Brief horse drawn sleigh ride through the countryside from Noon to 4:00 p.m. \$5 admission.

Posse of the Westerners

Tuesday, December 9, 2014 – 6:30 p.m. Golden Ox Restaurant, 1600 Genessee, Kansas City, MO. Deborah Buckner will portray Libby Custer and present “A Christmas on the Plains.” If you arrive by 6:30 p.m. you can order your dinner without a previous reservation. Prices range around \$25 depending on your entrée.

On Monday, December 8, 2014, Deborah will be a featured guest on KKFI-FM radio (90.1) between 12:30 and 1:00 p.m. to discuss being a Libby Custer reenactor and her friendship with Olivia de Havilland who portrayed Mrs. Custer in the film “They Died with Their Boots On.”

Civil War Round Table of Cass County

Tuesday, December 9, 2014 – 7:00 p.m. Harrisonville Public Library, 400 E. Mechanic, Harrisonville, MO. Show and Tell about Civil War ancestors. Bring a Christmas dessert to share.

Wornall House Holiday Candlelight Tours

Friday, December 12, 2014 – 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. (last tour starts at 7:30 p.m.), Wornall House, 6115 Wornall Road, Kansas City, MO. Tours of the house begin every half hour. Buy tickets online for \$7 by going to the Wornall House website. Dr. Bruce Prince-Joseph will play Christmas favorites on the Wornall family piano bought in the 1800s. Sing-alongs and storytelling as you take the hour long tour of this 1858 house and have a taste of Christmas in the kitchen.

Civil War Round Table of Kansas City

Tuesday, December 16, 2014 – 6:30 p.m. Dinner - \$27. Holiday Inn & Suites, 8787 Reeder Road, Overland Park, KS. The hotel is located south of 87th St. and east of I-35 and Hwy. 69. Access is off 87th on Reeder Rd. Sunset Ballroom on the 8th Floor. Park on the south side of the hotel and use the elevators in the lobby. Venue is yet to be decided for 2015. Dr. Ethan Rafuse: “Sherman’s March to the Sea.” For dinner reservations call Paul Gault at (816) 741-2962.

Missouri-Kansas Border War Network

Wednesday, December 17, 2014. Annual holiday gathering. More information to follow.

Independence Civil War Study Group

Wednesday, December 17, 2014 – 6:30 p.m. - Buffet Dinner. Courthouse Exchange, 113 W. Lexington, Independence, MO. Musical entertainment by Dave and Cathy Para. Buffet is \$20. Reservations to Terry Elliott by calling (816) 353-7617 or by E-mail to twelliott@comcast.net.

Annual Meeting and Election of Board Members

At the November 12, 2014 meeting the CWRTWM will elect officers and board members to serve in 2015. Those standing for re-election are Mike Calvert, President; Patricia Gradwohl, 1st Vice President; Art Kelley, 2nd Vice President; Karen Wells, Secretary; Beverly Shaw, Treasurer; Barbara Hughes, Historian; Dennis Myers, Editor of the Border Star; and Board members: Terry Chronister, Perry and Melanie Johnson, Terry McConnell, Don Moorehead, Vonda Clark, and Dennis and Barbara Wormington.

A new candidate for the board is Mike Clay who is a fairly new member of the Round Table with his wife, Molly. They live in Oak Grove and have been active in the Farmstead to Field Hospital activities at the Wornall House. We are sorry to lose Liz Murphy from the board because of grandmother duties on Wednesday nights, but we want to thank her for her service and the good idea of having silent auctions at our meetings. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor, but please obtain the permission of the nominee beforehand. We do not plan to have board meetings in November and December, 2014.

The end of the calendar year also signals the payment of dues for the following year unless you paid mid-year and received an extension for 2015 or paid for multiple years. The dues are \$20 for an individual, \$30 for a family, and \$10 for a subscription only for the Border Star newsletter. You can bring your payment to a meeting or mail it to “CWRTWM, P.O. Box 3019, Indep. MO 64055.”

The Round Table has almost completed the second volume of our “Monuments” book and are in the process of selecting a printer. We are not sure if we will have copies available at the Christmas luncheon on December 6, 2014, but we will try. Members will be allowed to buy up to two copies at \$15 each.

News About Members and Friends

The Round Table wishes to extend its condolences to **Art Kelley** and his family for the loss of his brother, William C. Kelley, at Eldon, Missouri on September 28, 2014.

Our condolences also go to **Dana Johnston** on the death of his mother, Evalyn D. Johnston, who was a charter member of the Round Table. Evalyn passed away on October 24, 2014. The Johnston tree farm is located adjacent to the Ripley Junction Park south of 24 Highway on the banks of Little Blue River where the Battle of the Little Blue occurred on October 21, 1864.

Linda Emley of the Ray County Museum lost her father just before the Battle of Albany reenactment which occurred on October 25-26, 2014. We extend our condolences to her and the family.

Doug Gifford, a member of the St. Louis Round Table, has written a new book called *Where Valor and Devotion Met: The Battle of Pilot Knob*. You can find reviews and a synopsis at this website www.battlefieldtourguides.com. He is now working on a tour guide of the Mine Creek Battlefield.

In the 50-year- ago column of the *Examiner* on October 11, 2014, there was an announcement of a marker at the site of the **Little Blue Battle** being erected by William Landahl, county park Director. It is listed as being on the north side of U.S. Highway 24 just east of the Little Blue River and was a project of the Jackson County Historical Society and the Jackson County Court.

There were two school buses taking members and friends of the **Round Table and the Quantrill Society** to the sites of the Battle of the Little Blue on October 18, 2014. We are amazed that Mike Calvert had any voice left after conducting the tour

in the morning and the “dead cat” tour of the Independence Square in the afternoon. Thanks to Mike and Harold Dellinger of the Quantrill Society for a great day.

The **Lone Jack Civil War Battlefield, Museum, and Soldier’s Cemetery** was the Freedom’s Frontier “Focus on Partners” in October 2014. They pointed out that it is one of the few places where the soldiers who perished are still buried on a battlefield which has not been designated a National Cemetery.

We are very appreciative of the wonderful articles from the **Kansas City Star and the Independence Examiner** for the Battle of Westport 150 and related events which were commemorated on the 150th anniversary of this important part of our Civil War history. Despite the fact that the Battle of Westport and Battle of Albany reenactments were held on the same weekend, Civil War buffs managed to attend both and supported the efforts of history museums and reenactors to keep history alive and lively.

Thanks to the eagle eye of a National Park Service volunteer browsing on eBay, a priceless Civil War photo of slave **Selina Gray** has been recovered to be displayed at the spot where it was taken on the Arlington House estate. She was the head housekeeper at the Virginia home of Confederate General Robert E. Lee. Her bravery in defending the house after Gen. Lee’s family left helped to save cherished heirlooms that had once belonged to President George Washington.

Congratulations to our friend and former host at the Old Blake Museum, **Ted Stillwell**, for being awarded the first annual Stillwell Award for keeping “our diverse heritage remembered.” He received the award at the Independence Heritage Festival held earlier this month at Hill Park. Ted’s skill as a muralist, columnist for the *Examiner*, and public speaker have fostered local history in Independence.

VA Headstones or Markers

The National Cemetery Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs is reviewing who may request headstones or markers on behalf of

decedents. There has been a concern that the existing applicant definition is too restrictive. Those wishing to review and comment on the proposed changes can go to www.regulations.gov and search for “National Cemetery Administration” or “2900-A095.” Comments must be received on or before December 1, 2014.

Freedom’s Frontier Awards for 2015

The Billings Most Valuable Partner Award went to **Deborah Barker**, director of the Franklin County Historical Society at Ottawa, KS. She has reached across the Missouri-Kansas border to establish partnerships that strengthen the heritage area. She has served as a member of the Steering Committee, Advisory Committee, and Board of Trustees. She epitomizes the grassroots supporter who is a positive ambassador to the many groups of which she is a member.

The Tacha Freedom Award went to the Royal Valley School District muralists who created the “First Kansas Colored Volunteer Infantry” mural. Headquartered in Mayetta, Kansas, they researched, planned, and painted the mural and have spoken to many Partner sites about the mural. They donated the \$250 prize to the John Rundle Scholarship Fund.

Iconic Civil War Image Donated to Library of Congress

Made in 1861 the picture is of two men going off to war, but one is white and the other is his slave. This striking 150-year old tintype is one of the most enigmatic images from the Civil War and has just been donated to the Library of Congress by a collector who bought it to give to the library. It shows Sgt. Andrew Martin Chandler of the 44th Mississippi Regiment and his “servant,” Silas Chandler, one of 36 slaves owned by the soldier’s mother. Civil War photo historian Ronald S. Coddington, who researched the picture for his 2012 book *African American Faces of the Civil War*, said that there is not another image like it in terms of having an identified soldier and identified servant. The photograph was donated by McLean collector Tom Liljenquist, who has turned over

1,200 exquisite Civil War era photographs to the library in the last four years.

McCullough Comments on *Arabia* Exhibit at Heinz History Center

While in Kansas City in October, 2014, historian David McCullough was interviewed by *Star* writer Brian Burnes. Brian asked why he contributed toward the cost of transporting the *Arabia* artifacts to Pittsburgh where they will be displayed through January 4, 2015. McCullough, a Pittsburgh native, said that so much of what was on board the *Arabia* was made there as well as the boat itself. “From the first time I saw it, I’ve considered the *Arabia* exhibit one of the most fascinating, colorful and unusual exhibits that I have ever seen concerning American history. The idea that people were living then without the amenities of civilization doesn’t hold up any longer. Because of that exhibit, many historians who have written about that period have had to go back and rethink that.”

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.

Save the Little BLUE Buttons

Just \$1.00 each

