

March 2012

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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NEW Website

www.CWRTWM.org



The Border Star



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

THIS WEEK IN THE WAR: March 14, 1862, Trans-Mississippi: The capture of New Madrid, Missouri, by General John Pope's Federals places the Northern forces in a position which will enable them to make an assault on Island Number Ten in the Mississippi River. This later Confederate post defends east Tennessee.

President's Letter

"We may soon be in that condition of anarchy, in which a man when he goes to bed with his family at night does not know whether he shall ever rise again, or whether his house shall remain intact until morning. This is the kind of danger, not merely a war between different divisions of the State, but a war between neighbors, so that [when] a man meets those with whom he has associated from childhood, he begins to feel that they are his enemies. . .It is terrible."

> First Inaugural Address Governor Hamilton R. Gamble August 1, 1861

I know that a lot times when I listen to today's politicians and I must be honest, I hear nothing. No true substance. I hear a lot being said that is calculated to garner votes. Politicians work very hard to be elected and then they spend their term working very hard to get re-elected. Let me be perfectly clear here, this is not something being put forth by just one political party. All share in being guilty. The political statement written above is probably one of the most truthful ever written.

Because it is now 150 years later we read and we know that everything within Gamble's statement came true not only in Missouri, but throughout the United and Confederate states. I don't know as of this writing just how the people of Missouri responded to this speech. I wonder if they listened and responded as I do today with skepticism. Maybe I should pay closer attention to the political environment. Maybe I should be better informed. My mother-in-law thinks so, but who pays attention to their mother-in-law? When and if, a politician today speaks with true honesty, maybe admitting they don't have all the answers or maybe admitting that that don't have a snowball's chance of creating every job needed. Maybe when that happens I will hear a clear honest voice of the people and will say to anyone listening there's someone who deserves my attention. Until that time I'll keep listening and waiting while all the time remembering Governor Gamble and his one clear true statement.

~Mike Calvert, President, Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri

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 2012 Membership Meeting

Wednesday, March 14, 2012 – 7:00 p.m. Villages of Jackson Creek (lower level), 3980-A S. Jackson Drive, Independence, MO. Jim Beckner: "The History of Missouri Odd Fellows Home at Liberty, MO" (now Belvoir Winery). IOOF stands for International Order of Odd Fellows.

Committee Meeting for "Monuments" Book

Wednesday, March 7, 2012 – 7:00 p.m. Home of Beverly Shaw, 17313 E. 51 Terr. Court, Independence, MO. Please RSVP to Beverly if you plan to attend: (816) 225-7944 cell or by sending an E-mail to bevjoshaw@hotmail.com.

March 2012 Board Meeting

Wednesday, March 21, 2012 – 7:00 p.m. Home of Beverly Shaw, 17313 E. 51 Terr. Court, Independence, MO.

Other Civil War Events

"More Than Petticoats: Remarkable Kansas Women" Thursday, March 1, 2012 – 6:30 p.m.

National Archives, 400 W. Pershing Road, Kansas City, MO. Gina Kaufmann discusses her new book about women through short biographies, archival photos and paintings. They include stories of frontier dentistry and doctors in the Wild West. RSVP for this free event: (816) 268-8010 or E-mail kansascity.educate@nara.gov.

<u>Civil War Lecture Series – Shepherd's Center</u>

Friday, March 2, 2012 – 11:00 a.m.

South Broadland Presbyterian Church, 7850 Holmes, Kansas City, MO. Christopher Gabel: "Railroads in the War."

Arrow Rock Lecture Series

Saturday, March 3, 2012 – 10:00 a.m.

Arrow Rock State Historic Site (14 miles north of I-70 at Exit 98 on Highway 41). Cathy Barton and Dave Para, professional folk musicians: "Civil War Songs from the Western Border." The Huston Inn is closed for winter but you might try the Arrow Rock Station at 818 Main Street for lunch. Reservations: (660) 837-3310

Making Sense of the American Civil War

Sunday, March 4, 2012 – 2:00 p.m.

Midwest Genealogy Center, 3440 S. Lee's Summit, Road, Independence, MO. "Imagining War" moderated by Dr. Randall Fuller, author of *From Battlefields Rising – How the Civil War Transformed American Literature* (copy owned by the Round Table and available to be loaned to members. Call Beverly at (816) 225-7944).

Throughout this reading and discussion, 5-part series (March 4, 18, 25 and April 15 and 29) you will be referencing three books which are available to check out at the Midwest Genealogy Center: *March* by Geraldine Brooks, *Crossroads of Freedom: Antietam* by James McPherson, and *America's War: Talking about the Civil War and Emancipation on their 150th Anniversaries* edited by Edward L. Ayers plus a scholarly essay by Ayers. The other topics to be covered are "Choosing Sides," "Making Sense of Shiloh," "The Shape of War," and "War and Freedom." To register call (816) 252-7228 and pick up the books to read.

Border War Reflections – 1855 – 1863

Tuesday, March 6, 2012 – 4:00 p.m.

Cedar Roe Neighborhood Library, 5120 Cedar, Roeland Park, Kansas. Stephanie Goodman, playwright and actress, portrays the trials and tribulations of Julia Lovejoy, an abolitionist from Kansas, during the Border Wars. On April 6th Stephanie will present an expanded version of her play at the Majors Home. It will include a first person account of Margaret Watts Hays from Missouri. More information in the April Border Star.

"The Oregon Trail"

Tuesday, March 6, 2012 – 7:00 p.m.

National Frontier Trails Museum, 318 W. Pacific, Independence, MO. Our member Jim Howk, historian and lecturer, will give a well-illustrated lecture about the Oregon Trail as it started from the Independence Square in the 1840's.

Sons of Union Veterans-March Meeting

Thursday, March 8, 2012 – 7:00 p.m. (come earlier for dinner) Courthouse Exchange Restaurant, 113 W. Lexington, (south side of the Square, Independence, MO. Lee Ward: "Post-mortem Photographs, 1850 – 1880." Public welcome.

Civil War Lecture Series-Shepherd's Center

Friday, March 9, 2012 – 11:00 a.m.

South Broadland Presbyterian Church, 7850 Holmes, Kansas City, MO. Jim Beckner: Summary of the 10 Week Civil War Series and personal stories of the Civil War.

Pea Ridge Civil War Battle – 150th Anniversary

March 10 - 11, 2012 – 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. (3,000 lanterns) Bentonville, Arkansas. Living history and reenactments during daylight hours.

Candlelight Hospital Tour

March 10, 2012 - 4:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Battle of Lexington State Historic Site. Start at Visitors Center for a candlelight tour re-creation of the Anderson House as a Civil War hospital. Missouri Medical Brigade: "Bone Saws and Whiskey." Tours begin every half hour with last one beginning at 8:30 p.m. Tickets are \$5 for 13 and up and \$2 for 12 and under.

Lincoln's Fifth Wheel

Saturday, March 10, 2012 – 6:00 p.m. (wine & cheese) 6:30 p.m. (The People's Love for the People's Army). John Wornall House, 6115 Wornall Road, Kansas City, MO. Historical interpreters George and Dianne Bernheimer: The Story of the U. S Sanitary Commission as told by George Templeton Strong, attorney and treasurer of the Commission, and Mrs. Catharine Dix, a founding member of the Women's Central Association of Relief. Cost is \$7 per person. Only 25 seats so make a reservation at (816) 444-1858.

Grandview Historical Society

Sunday, March 11, 2012 – 1:00 p.m. Grandview Depot Museum, 1205 Jones, Grandview, MO. Potluck luncheon. Bring two dishes to share. Drinks and table service provided. Come share some Grandview history.

Her - Stories

Sunday, March 11, 2012 – 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. Alexander Majors House, 8201 State Line Road, Kansas City, MO. Costumed reenactors will feature some of history's most amazing women. Cost: \$5.

Making Sense of the American Civil War

Monday, March 12, 2012 – 6:30 p.m. Plaza Library, 4801 Main Street, Kansas City, MO. 5 part series sponsored by the Kansas City, MO Public Library and led by scholar Diane Mutti Burke, author of On Slavery's Border: Missouri's Small-Slaveholding Households, 1815 - 1865 (in the Round Table's collection and available for borrowing by calling Beverly Shaw at (816) 225-7944). Same reading list as the series sponsored at the Midwest Genealogy Center (see March 4th). "Imagining War" featuring discussions of March by Geraldine Brooks and Part One of America's War edited by Edward L. Ayers. Other dates are Monday nights: April 2, April 23, May 7, and May 21. The Kansas City Library has reserved copies of all reading materials which can be picked up at any branch with advance registration. The program is free but seating is limited. Participants are not required to attend all five sessions. You may go to the website; www.kclibrary.org/civilwar to register or call Beverly for a registration form at (816) 225-7944 (cell). The Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri is listed as a partner with the Kansas City Library. Funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the American Library Association.

War Between the States Tour

Tuesday, March 13, 2012 – 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Palmer Center parking lot on SE corner of Maple and Pleasant, Independence, Missouri. Deb Goodrich Bisel, Guided bus tour through Independence, Liberty and Lexington. Lunch included for \$59. Deadline: ASAP by check to City of Independence, Attn: Palmer Center, P.O. Box 1019, Independence, MO 64051 or by Visa, Mastercard or Discover by calling (816) 325-6200.

Finding Confederate Records

Tuesday, March 13, 2012 –10:00 a.m. Midwest Genealogy Center, 3440 S. Lee's Summit Road, Independence, MO. Soldiers on the Confederate side of the War of the Rebellion received pensions, left service records, and joined fraternal organizations, but they were not federal records. Find out where the records are located and how to access them. To register

Cass County Civil War Round Table

Tuesday, March 13, 2012 – 7:00 p.m. Cass County Library, 400 E. Mechanic, Harrisonville, MO. Steve Constable from Warsaw: "My Ancestors Rode with Quantrill and Helped Start Harrisonville."

Buffalo Bill Cody

call (816) 252-7228.

Tuesday, March 13, 2012 – 6:00 p.m. (Dinner) \$25 The Golden Ox, 1600 Genessee Street, Kansas City, MO. Kansas City Posse of the Westerners presents John Thiele: "Buffalo Bill Cody." Cody had documented service as a soldier during the Civil War as Chief of Scouts for the Third Cavalry during the Plains Wars. For a dinner reservation, call Ann Schultis at (816) 456-0669 or E-mail her at aschultis@hotmail.com.

Border Violence and Vigilante Justice

Tuesday, March 13, 2012 – 6:30 p.m. National Archives, 400 W. Pershing Road, Kansas City, MO. Dr. Randy Mullis from the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College at Ft. Leavenworth, KS. This program is a part of the "Divided Loyalties" exhibit at the National Archives which is open through April 28th. Open Tuesday – Saturday from 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

The James Boys from Kearney, Missouri

Thursday, March 15, 2012 – 7:00 p.m. Clay County Museum, 14 N. Main Street, Liberty, MO. "Think you know everything about those James Boys from Kearney? Think again." Liz Murphy, volunteer at the James Farm and National Certified Tourism Ambassador for 2011, will tell about their crimes with unusual twists, Civil War episodes that were precursors of coming events, Frank's trial in Gallatin, and amazing new research on the Ford Brothers. \$3.00 donation.

Mary Lobb and the Lobb Cemetery

Thursday, March 15, 2012 – 7:00 p.m.

Blue Springs North Library, 850 NW Hunter Drive, Blue Springs, MO. Barbara Hughes portrays Mary Lobb who lived in constant fear of divided loyalties during the perilous Border War.

Making Sense of the American Civil War

Sunday, March 18, 2012 –2:00 p.m. Midwest Genealogy Center, 3440 S. Lee's Summit Road, Independence, MO. 2nd Session: "Choosing Sides."

Pre-register for Belvoir Winery Tour

March 19, 2012 is the deadline for pre-registration for the April 19th tour to Belvoir (former Odd Fellows Home) & Ghosts of Liberty. Guided bus tour from 8:30 a.m. – 2:15 p.m.. Bus leaves from parking lot on the SE corner of Maple and Pleasant near the Palmer Center, Independence, MO. \$52 fee includes late lunch. You can register by mail by sending a check to City of Independence, Attn: Palmer Center, P.O. Box 1019, Independence, MO 64051 or by Visa, Mastercard or Discover to (816) 325-6200.

The Military History of Clay County

Tuesday, March 20, 2012 – 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. Oak Park High School, Room N155, 825 NE 79th Terr., Kansas City, MO. In the first hour historian Jay Jackson will discuss the social and political issues that caused the dilemma of choosing sides and the history of the Liberty Arsenal. In hour two he will talk about the Battle of Liberty/Blue Mills Landing, how the terrain of Clay County affected tactics, and will display weapons, uniforms and clothing of the period. Cost is \$19 which can be paid by Visa, Mastercard or Discover by calling (816) 413-5460 or by mail to Community Education Services, Suite 2400, 3100 NE 83rd Street, Kansas City, MO 64119.

Independence Study Group

Wednesday, March 21, 2012 – 7:00 p.m. Courthouse Exchange Restaurant, 113 W. Lexington (south side of the Square), Independence, MO. Lee Ward: "Post-Mortem Photographs, 1850-1880." Come early for dinner.

U.S. Capitol and the Coming of the Civil War

Thursday, March 22, 2012 – 6:30 p.m.
Central Library, 14 W. 10th Street, Kansas City, MO.
Guy Gugliotta: *Freedom's Cap: The United States*Capitol and the Coming of the Civil War. Even as the majestic structure rose, the Union it represented was drifting toward Civil War. Jefferson Davis was a big supporter of the project – until he left Washington to

become president of the Confederacy. To register call (816) 701-3400.

Dred and Harriet Scott

Thursday, March 22, 2012 – 7:00 p.m. Missouri State Archives, 600 W. Main Street, Jefferson City, MO. Ruth Ann Hager: *Dred & Harriet Scott: Their Family Story*. Like many Missouri slaves, the Scotts each sued for freedom in 1846 based on the time they had lived as slaves in free territory. This case finally made it to the U.S. Supreme Court where on March 6, 1857 they were denied their freedom. This book explores what happened to them and how they eventually secured their freedom.

Making Sense of the American Civil War

Sunday, March 25, 2012 – 2:00 p.m. Midwest Genealogy Center, 3440 S. Lee's Summit Road, Independence, MO. "Shiloh."

Your Ancestors in the Civil War

Saturday, March 24, 2012 – 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. National Archives, 400 W. Pershing Road, Kansas City, MO. 10:00 a.m. – Draftees and Deserters: Your Ancestor in the Civil War. 11:00 a.m. – Military Records Online, Noon – Ordering Compiled Service Records and Pension Records (feel free to bring a brown bag lunch). 1:00 p.m. – Confederate Records Available through the National Archives. Free. To register call (816) 268-8000 or go to kansascity.archives@nara.gov.

Missouri Barn Alliance

Saturday, March 24, 2012 – 11:00 a.m. - spring meeting. 9364 Mitchell Trail, Lexington, MO. Buffet Lunch at noon for \$10 (beef brisket, chicken, veggie pasta, dessert and beverage; wine selection extra.) Barn tour after lunch. To reach Fahrmeier Vineyard, take I-70 to North 131. Go 8 miles to U.S. 24 Highway and head east about 2 miles to Howe Road. Go right about 1 mile to County Road 81 and follow the signs to Fahrmeier Vineyards. RSVP to missouribarn@yahoo.com by March 19th.

Trails from the Square Walking Tour

Saturday, March 24, 2012 – 1:00 p.m. (\$5 per person) Meet at the Andrew Jackson statue on the west side of the Historic Independence Square. Sponsored by National Frontier Trails Museum. Advance reservations required by calling (816) 325-7575. Weather permitting.

Civil War Soldiers Board Train

Tuesday, March 27, 2012 – Approximately 8:00 a.m. Union Station, 30 W. Pershing Road, Kansas City, MO.

Opportunity to photograph Civil War reenactors in costume as they board a vintage troop train pulled by Union Pacific's 844 steam locomotive as they head off to Shiloh, Tennessee for a battle reenactment. Rumor has it that Jim Beckner will be boarding the train.

Battles of Boonville and Wilson's Creek

Tuesday, March 27, 2012 – 6:30 p.m. National Archives, 400 W. Pershing Road, Kansas City, MO. Dr. Terry Beckenbaugh from the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College: "Missouri at War: The Battles of Boonville and Wilson's Creek. RSVP to (816) 268-8010 or E-mail kansascity.educate@nara.gov.

Kansas City Round Table Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, March 27, 2012 – Dinner at 6:30 p.m. Homestead Country Club, 6510 Mission Road, Prairie Village, KS. Dr. William Piston: "Battle of Pea Ridge." \$25 for dinner. For reservations call Paul Gault at (816) 741-2962.

Jesse and Frank James: The Outlaw Years

Thursday, March 29, 2012 – 6:30 p.m. Excelsior Springs Library, 1460 Kearney Road, Excelsior Springs, MO. In the aftermath of the American Civil War, a number of former guerrilla fighters found a new occupation as outlaws and robbers. A James Farm interpreter will continue their story as outlaws. To RSVP call (816) 630-6721.

Civil War in Jackson County, Missouri

Thursday, March 29, 2012 – 7:00 p.m. Midwest Genealogy Center, 3440 S. Lee's Summit Road, Independence, MO. Gregg Higginbotham discusses the war that turned neighbor against neighbor and sometimes family member against each other. To RSVP call (816) 252-7228.

Park Day at Lone Jack Battlefield

Saturday, March 31, 2012 – 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Lone Jack Battlefield, 301 S. Bynum, Lone Jack, MO. Lunch will be provided about 1:00 p.m.. Bring gloves and rakes to clean up the cemetery and grounds. If it's raining, the cleanup will be rescheduled. RSVP by Email to Alinda Miller at president@historiclonejack.org or call her at (816) 805-1815 so she can plan for food. This is also an opportunity to tour the Cave Hotel which has been recently acquired.

Park Day at Lewis-Gregg Cemetery

Saturday, March 31, 2012 – 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Our cemetery is located in a open field off 24 Hwy. Take the Salem Drive turnoff to head north (convenience store on the corner). Follow Salem Drive to York and turn right. Follow it around until it becomes a cul-de-sac.

Park on Plymouth but please don't block a driveway or mailbox. You can walk into the open field and head northeast. If the ground is not too soft, you can drive your vehicle between the two trees and come into the field. However the field has been plowed so if you have a low clearance for your vehicle, it's better to walk in our catch a ride with someone else. If it's raining or the ground is too wet, we will reschedule so that we don't get stuck in the mud. If you are uncertain about conditions, call Beverly at (816) 225-7944 (cell).

In addition to doing some ground cleanup in the cemetery (please bring your own rakes and gloves), we have an opportunity to learn how to safely clean some of the moss and stains off the stones. Carol and Steve Olson have learned how to use a cleaning preparation. If you would like to clean some tombstones, please bring your own plastic gloves, clean spray bottles, scrapers made of plastic (not metal) such as kitchen spatulas, scrub brushes, and elbow grease. We will supply the D2 and water. Carol says the process is somewhat like cleaning the toilet except you are outside and can get some fresh air. You gardeners (or prayer warriors) might want to bring a kneeling pad. Carol and Steve took a little trip to the Lewis-Gregg recently and said that they have seen modern cemeteries that are still in active use that didn't look as good as ours. Our thanks go to Harry Rinacke, our chairman, and Chris Henderson, our groundsman. Chris is also painting the fence black and has taken out several snaggle tooth trees which should allow more sunlight to reach the stones and cut down on the moss growth. Harry has leveled some of the stones so we won't attempt to do any of that for Park Day. There are no restroom facilities at the cemetery; the nearest would be the convenience store on 24 Highway.

Workers will get their choice of a T-shirt and Round Table patch to sew on or a baseball cap with a patch.

News about Members and Friends

Mike Calvert, President of the Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri, is leading a "Civil War in Kansas City" tour on Thursday, March 22, 2012, for participants of the National Council for History Education which is having its convention in Kansas City, March 22-24, 2012.

They should be at the Independence Square around noon that day. Mike has been working on an updated map of the battlefields using Google maps and superimposing computer text.

Congratulations to **Leta Maxine Christian** who recently celebrated her 104th birthday. Frank Haight of the *Examiner* interviewed her for a story appearing on

February 17, 2012. It goes to show that we as citizens of the 21st century are not that far removed from those who lived through the Civil War. Leta was the youngest of six siblings on a Benton County, Missouri farm where her slave-owning grandfather lived before and after the Civil War. Leta's father also lived there as a child and played with the slave children before they were freed.

Congratulations to **Orvis Fitts** and **Jack Brooks** who were recently honored by the Kansas City Round Table for their preservation efforts in obtaining property in the Byram's Ford area near Swope Park and the purchase of land near Mine Creek which was donated to the State of Kansas for a beautiful museum and marked trails. We also wish to extend our condolences to **Orvis** whose wife Lee passed away in February 2012.

Barbara Hughes has been extremely busy this winter as she visits Independence schools to present her first person histories of significant women. She has even drawn a bunch of groupies who follow her programs at the Mid-Continent Library locations. She was recently a presenter for the Central (USA) Mission Center (Community of Christ) History Series which drew hundreds of people. On March 10th she'll be speaking to the Blue Springs DAR on "Quantrill – Through His Mother's Eyes."

While the Truman Courthouse on the Independence Square is being renovated, the Jackson County Historical Society office and archives has temporarily moved to the Commerce Bank building on Osage Street. Society Executive Director **Steve Noll** and Archivist **David Jackson** have been working feverishly to vacate the space at the Courthouse by March 1, 2012. Steve was quoted for a February 3, 2012 article in the *Examiner* as saying that then County Judge Harry Truman oversaw the renovation of the courthouse in the early 1930's. The rededication of the building was on September 7, 1933. The county's timeframe for completing the current renovation is two summers from now which would be right at 80 years. "Gosh, if there's ever a goal to shoot for."

Congratulations to **middle school students across Kansas** who are trying to locate the graves of Civil War Veterans. In the February 5, 2012 issue of the Kansas City *Star* an Associated Press article says the project is called "Sleeping Heroes: The Impact of Civil War Veterans on Kansas Communities." Kansas was known as the Soldier State after the Civil War.

Art Kelley, 2nd Vice President of the Round Table, reports that he continues to receive weekly treatments for leukemia at St. Luke's, both at the Plaza location and

the Lee's Summit East location. His wife Sharon is working at H&R Block and could use some help from time to time to arrange transportation during the day-time. You can give **Art and Sharon a call at (816) 373-4101** if you can be a resource to pick him up at 15110 E. 38th Street, Independence, Missouri (64055) and take him for treatments occasionally. Let the phone ring at least six times because Art sometimes can't reach it immediately. He would also be encouraged by notes to him at home.

The iconic **Stephenson's Old Apple Farm** restaurant neon sign with the big apple and the kettle has been donated to the Jackson County Historical Society for eventual restoration and exhibit. The old barn restaurant will be demolished to make way for a QuikTrip at the southeast corner of Lee's Summit Road and 40 Highway. **Steve Noll**, executive director of the Society recalls that he worked there in the summer of 1969. "All the cool kids were at Woodstock," he jokes. "I went to Stephenson's." The up side of it is that the Stephenson twins handpicked clean cut young men to employ at the restaurant to assist them with their education.

An Embarrassment of Riches

Both the Kansas City, Missouri and Mid-Continent library were awarded grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the American Library Association to provide a five-part series "Making Sense of the Civil War." The Plaza Library in Kansas City will have its series on Monday evenings with visiting scholar Dr. Diane Mutti Burke, and the Midwest Genealogy Center will have its series on Sunday afternoons with visiting scholar Dr. Randall Fuller. The same reference works will be used for both series. This is not just a lecture series; it's a chance to check out the books and do your own study so that you can actually participate in the dialogue. Think of it as a mini college course in Civil War history. Our Round Table wrote recommendation letters for both libraries and we pledged to help spread the word about this wonderful opportunity. You don't have to attend all five sessions. You have plenty of latitude as to what topics and what day and time you prefer. However, as a courtesy to the libraries, you need to register in advance so that you can pick up copies of the books. We also said we would help the Midwest Genealogy Center with refreshments on Sunday afternoon. The first session is coming up Sunday, March 4th, so if you can help with some cookies or would like to help serve, please call Beverly Shaw at (816) 225-7944 (cell).





