



★ *The Border Star* ★

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

May 2017

The Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri

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***The Border Star* Editor**

Dennis Myers ~ (816) 769-6490

Meetings

2nd Wednesday of each month
7:00 p.m. ~ Fellowship Hall
Village Heights Community of Christ
Church
1009 Farview Drive
Independence, Missouri

Visitors Always Welcome!

Annual Dues

Individual ----- 25.00
Family ----- 35.00
Student (under 21) ----- 5.00
Newsletter Only (no meetings) 12.00

For Information

Mike Calvert ----- (816) 898-2603
Beverly Shaw ----- (816) 225-7944
Pat Gradwohl ----- (816) 781-8871
Karen Wells ----- (816) 429-5165

Mailing Address

CWRTWM, P.O. Box 3019
Independence, MO 64055

Website

www.CWRTWM.org

President's Letter

The War Between the States was in its last months of existence. Sometime before the fall of Richmond, President Lincoln traveled to Grant's headquarters to discuss what he would like to happen in the days or weeks to come. Besides the many other topics, they discussed they talked about what should become of Jefferson Davis. Lincoln expressed his view that he wouldn't be upset if Davis just happened to slip away. Well, this didn't happen and Davis was captured near Irwinville, Georgia on May 10, 1865. Now came the decision on what to do. I'm sure some wish to see Davis be tried, convicted and executed as a traitor. Instead, on May 19th he was sent to Fortress Monroe. There he was kept in irons. With no visitors allowed and nothing to read except the Bible he became ill and remained in this condition until late fall. Often times near death. When he was given better quarters, his health returned. Varina and the children joined him and they lived in the officers' quarters.

Jump ahead two years and in fact 150 years ago this month when bail in the amount of \$100,000 was posted and Davis left the jail. Who posted that bail that in today's dollars would equal \$1 million? Well, twenty people did in total. However, three were the most unlikely bail bondsmen. First, was Gerrit Smith, a member of the "Secret Six" that financed John Brown's attack on Harper's Ferry. Second, Cornelius Vanderbilt who donated his largest steamship to the Union Navy. Third, Horace Greely, the publisher of the New York Tribune who was responsible for the headline "Forward to Richmond." This unlikely trio made it possible for Davis to get out of jail. When asked why, they answered that he was denied a timely trial and the nation needed to heal. Jefferson Davis was to be prosecuted for his crimes and remained under indictment until Christmas of 1868 when President Johnson issued a Presidential pardon. In February of 1869 the case against Davis was dismissed. One reason to dismiss the case was that Davis was going to defend himself on the idea that he did not commit treason against the United States because the minute that Mississippi seceded he was no longer a US citizen. If he had been able to defend himself on this idea then he may have proven the legality of secession.

Again, history turns on small acts. Play the what-if game. What if Davis was tried, lost and hung? Or what if he was successful and proved that secession was legal? With the first the nation may have faced another call to arms and with the second a million souls would have given their lives in vain.

Thanks to the *Smithsonian Magazine* for the idea and information and thanks to Beverly for giving me the subscription.

~Mike Calvert

President, Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri

CWRTWM Calendar

May 2017 Membership Meeting

Wednesday, May 10, 2017 – 7:00 p.m.

Fellowship Hall, Village Heights Community of Christ Church, 1009 Farview Drive, Independence, MO. Diane Eichoff: “If it walks like a man.” She will be telling the story of women who disguised themselves as men in order to fight in the Civil War. Diane is the co-author of *The Big Divide* with her husband Aaron Barnhart and spoke to us at our Christmas luncheon several years ago.

Fieldtrip to the Steamboat Arabia Museum

Sunday, May 7, 2017, which was postponed from April 23rd because of an event at Union Station which would have made it difficult to park and take the streetcar. We would like to meet at the museum at 2:00 p.m. and everyone can pay individually. You can park in the City Market area near the museum at 400 Grand Blvd., Kansas City, MO or park at Union Station and take the free streetcar to the City Market.

To ride the streetcar you will need to park near Union Station. The West Yards Parking Garage is on the west side of Union Station and is available via Broadway. Parking up to four hours is \$5 (cash, coins, Visa, Mastercard, and Discover).

In addition to the usual Arabia artifacts recovered from the sunken steamboat near Parkville, there is a traveling exhibit called “Journey of Imagination and Exploration of America’s Waterways in River Works Discovery.” The exhibit is included with the admission price of \$14.50 (\$13.50 for Senior Citizens).

Other History Events

Shoal Creek First Saturday

Saturday, May 6, 2017—9:00 am-4:00 pm.

Shoal Creek Living History Village, 6800 NE Barry Road, Kansas City, MO. Free family fun event with living history reenactors, food and craft vendors, and family activities and demonstrations. Some activities do charge for their services (cash only). Inside Robert Hodge Park and Golf Course. From I-435 take Highway 152 east 1/2 mile and turn north onto Barry Road. Go west on Barry to Hodge

Park. Follow the road past the driving range and up the hill to the iron gate entrance.

Buck Day at the Harry S Truman Library and Museum - Saturday, May 6, 2017—9:00 am-5:00 p.m. 500 W. US Highway 24, Independence, MO. The buck stops here. In honor of Harry’s Birthday (May 8, 1884), museum admission is just \$1.00.

Explore Liberty’s Walking Tour

Saturday, May 6, 2017—10:00 a.m. William Jewell College. Meet at the Quad in front of Pryor Learning Center.

Martial Law and Bushwhackers – Arrow Rock, MO
Saturday, May 6th and Sunday, May 7, 2017—Sat. 9 am – 5 pm. Sun. 9 am – 2 pm. 39521 Visitor Center Drive, Arrow Rock, MO. Historical reenactors will portray small encampments of Union soldiers, Confederate bushwhackers, and the civilians caught between the opposing sides. Military drills, arrests and tribunals demonstrating the hardships of the time will periodically be held throughout both days.

Truman Heritage Parade – Grandview, Missouri
Saturday, May 6, 2017—9:00 am. Parade lines up at the 2nd Missionary Baptist Church, 5111 Harry Truman Drive). After the parade, there will be Living History at the Truman Farm on Blue Ridge Extension at approximately 11:00 a.m.

Directions to Meeting Place; Village Heights Community of Christ Church

The address is 1009 Farview Drive in northeast Independence, Missouri. Take Highway 291 north to Highway 24. Turn east about .8 of a mile to Farview which is across the street from Hardee’s in Susquehanna Shopping Center. Turn north and you will find the church at the intersection of Farview and Swope Drive. The parking lot is on the east side of the church, and we enter from the east side to the fellowship room. If you are unsure if weather and road conditions will prevent a meeting, you can call Beverly Shaw on her cell phone: (816) 225-7944.

First Saturday Lecture – Arrow Rock, MO

Saturday, May 6, 2017—10:00 am. Arrow Rock State Historic Site, 39521 Visitor Center, Arrow Rock, MO. Marty Selby, Properties Manager and Sandy Selby, Executive Director, will share some tricks of the preservation trade that you can use in your own home—new or old. A tour will follow to the Sites' House and gun shop and the I.O.O.F. Lodge and Print Shop. Free and open to the public.

Cass County Civil War Round Table

Tuesday, May 9, 2017—7:00 p.m. Pearson Hall, Cass County Library, 400 E. Mechanic, Harrisonville, MO. Carol Bohl: "Iowa Underground Railroad Interviews." One person interviewed was the 94-year-old son of a former slave who used the Underground Railroad in Iowa. Carol is known by many in Cass County for her Civil War work and by others who participated in the Missouri/Kansas Border War Network.

Kansas City Posse of the Westerners

Tuesday, May 9, 2017—6:00 p.m. Buffet Menu (about \$12), Golden Corral, 8800 N. W. Skyview Ave., Kansas City, MO (near Home Depot). Phil Young will speak about the history of Plentywood, Montana. Visitors always welcome.

Freedom's Frontier Partners Meeting

Thursday, May 11, 2017—10:00 a.m. Tonganoxie Historical Society, Tonganoxie, KS.

Mother-Daughter Tea, Atkins-Johnson Farm

Saturday, May 13, 2017—Noon. Atkins-Johnson Farm, 6607 North Antioch Road, Gladstone, MO. Each ticket includes an assortment of charming refreshments from Laughing Place Bakery and all-you-can-drink tea from Anna Marie's Teas in Liberty.

There will also be a short lesson on "Cupcake Decorating 101" and each guest will take home a specially-made cupcake flower pot. Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased by calling (816) 423-4107. In case of extreme storms, this outdoor event will be rescheduled or refunded.

Mid-Missouri Civil War Round Table

Monday, May 15, 2017—7:00 p.m. Boone County Historical Society Museum, 3801 Ponderosa Drive, Columbia, MO. Dave Poche: "Battlefield Forensics

at Trevilian Station." This is the last program before summer break.

Heritage League Membership Meeting & Mixer

Wednesday, May 17, 2017—4:30 p.m.

Guided walking tour of the Plaza Fountains. Meet at the J. C. Nichols Fountain, 47th and Nichols Parkway. At the conclusion, gather for refreshments on the outdoor patio (weather permitting) at Seasons 52, 340 Ward Parkway, Kansas City, MO.

Independence Civil War Study Group

Wednesday, May 17, 2017—Perkins Restaurant, 3939 S. Bolger Drive, Independence, MO (across from Walmart). Ted Stillwell will do his impression of Buffalo Bill Cody.

Third Wednesday Lunch at Shawnee Indian Mission

- Wednesday, May 17, 2017--Noon. Bring your own lunch. Shawnee Indian Mission, 53rd and Mission Road (north building; come up stairs from the street), Shawnee Mission, KS. Gary Hicks will be speaking about the Pony Express.

Friends of the Missouri State Archives

Thursday, May 18, 2017—7:00 p.m. James C. Kirkpatrick State Information Center, 600 W. Main Street, Jefferson City, MO. Ken Winn: Missouri Law and the American Conscience from Indian Murder Trials to the Right to Die and Other Tales from Missouri's Legal Past. He will focus on well-known legal cases including the Dred Scott decision.

Civil War Muster at the Atkins-Johnson Farm

Saturday, May 20, 2017—9:00 a.m. Tribute to veterans of all wars at the Big Shoal Cemetery, 4125 NE 64th St., Gladstone, MO.

10:00 a.m. The adjoining property of the Atkins-Johnson Farm, 6607 North Antioch Road, Gladstone, MO, will be the site of the 3rd Missouri Infantry's spring muster. Soldiers will enlist, drill, and cook over open fires. In the Museum, elegant 1860's era ladies will be drinking tea and making lace by hand. All the participants will interact with the visiting public throughout the day until 4:00 pm and again on Sunday morning from 9:00 am to Noon.

2:00 p.m. A reader's theater of "Shared Stories Of the Civil War: Quantrill's Raid and Order No. 11 using letters, diaries, witness accounts, and newspapers.

All events are FREE and open to the public. In the event of extreme storms, the events will be rescheduled.

Civil War Days at Lamoni, Iowa

Saturday and Sunday, May 20-21, 2017. Period Town Square and Home Pond, Lamoni, Iowa. On Saturday, the large battle is at 2:00 p.m. with Dramatic Night Artillery Fire at 9:00 p.m. On Sunday the large battle starts at 11:00 a.m. Numerous food vendors, sutlers, blacksmiths, military encampments, laundresses, and medical tent. There will be a very special presentation on fashions of the Civil War era at the James County Sutlery tent.

Historical Epitaphs at Union Cemetery

Saturday, May 20, 2017—5:30 p.m. "Historical Epitaphs, Voices from the Past" is a theatrically enhanced guided tour of Kansas City's oldest public burial ground. Come for drinks at 5:30 p.m. and the tour at 6:00 p.m. The evening ends with dessert at the Sexton's Cottage. Bring your own flashlight and dress for the weather. Rain day is Sunday, May 21st. If both days are rained out, you will have priority to use your ticket for the fall tour.

The cost is \$20. You can go to Eventbrite to buy tickets: www.eventbrite.com/e/historical-epitaphs

Civil War Round Table of Kansas City

Tuesday, May 23, 2017—6:30 p.m. – Dinner (\$25). Holiday Inn and Suites, 8787 Reeder Road, Overland Park, KS. Sunset Ballroom, 8th Floor. Dr. Justin S. Solonick: Engineering Victory, The Union Siege of Vicksburg. He will deal with the implements and tactics that Grant's soldiers used to achieve victory. Dinner reservations must be made by Thursday Noon, May 18th, by calling Susan Keipp at (816) 333-0025.

Highlights in History – Fort Scott, Kansas

Saturday, May 27, 2017—8:00 am to 5:00 pm. Fort Scott National Historic Site, 1 Old Fort Blvd., Fort Scott, KS. Talks, tours, demonstrations,

and living history programs about Fort Scott's role in pivotal events of American history. Repeated July 2, July 4, Sept. 2, Sept. 3, and Sept. 4, 2017.

First Saturday Lecture, Arrow Rock, MO

Saturday, June 3, 2017—10:00 a.m.

39521 Visitor Center Drive, Arrow Rock, MO.

Paul Kirkman: Crime and Punishment from Missouri's past. Includes such sites as Arrow Rock's one-room calaboose to Jefferson City's eerie penitentiary. He will also discuss the unsung and underpaid lawmen who often lived with their families within the same walls as their charges.

Night at the Museum, Arrow Rock, MO

Saturday, June 3, 2017—6 pm – 8 pm. Arrow Rock State Historic Site, 39521 Visitor Center Drive, Arrow Rock, MO. Interpreters will portray some of Arrow Rock's most famous residents—Lewis and Clark, an 1812 soldier, and perhaps Jane Sappington. Refreshments.

National Trails Day Rendezvous

Saturday, June 30, 2017—10:30 am to 2:00 pm. Lone Elm Park, Lone Elm Rendezvous Shelter, 21151 W. 167th Street, Olathe, KS. Lunch catered by Smokin Joe's BBQ. \$12/adults; \$5/children under 12. Make reservations and payment to KCAHTA, 5400 Johnson Drive, Suite 275, Mission, KS 66205-2911 or go to www.kcahta.org. Deadline is May 26, 2017.

Hunting Freedom: Many Paths to Emancipation

Exhibit – April – June, 2017 at the Alexander Majors Home, 8201 State Line Road, Kansas City, MO. Open during normal tour hours and is included with the house admission or a self-guided tour of the exhibit only is \$5.

The Kansas-Missouri border provides a unique view into the process of emancipation. The presence of the Union army, the proximity of free states, the division of white society, and the mobility and knowledge of enslaved people living in small-scale slavery allowed enslaved Missourians to gain freedom earlier and in greater numbers than many other states.

News About Members and Friends

The **Atkins-Johnson Farm** of Gladstone, MO is putting together a Civil War Encampment and Readers' Theater on May 20, 2017. Their Director, **Erica White**, is looking for a few more "readers" to participate. The sources are letters, diaries, newspaper accounts, etc. She would like to hear from you quickly if you would like to participate. You can reach her at ericaw@gladstone.mo.us or by phone at (816) 423-4107.

The **Atlanta Cyclorama** is being restored by the Atlanta History Center. At 150,000-square-feet, it is one of the world's largest artworks. It was painted by German and Austrian immigrants hired in the 1880's to depict key moments in America's Civil War. There will also be an interpretation of the stories of the painters from diaries just now being translated. It will chronicle the struggles of the immigrant painters who endured sea sickness on the steamship that brought them to New York, floods of their Milwaukee studio, and personal struggles. The man who supervised the painters was **Friedrich Wilhelm Heine** who made sketches for the painting during visits to Atlanta. He and the other painters also met with Civil War soldiers in retirement homes before painting the "Battle of Atlanta." Creating authentic scenes of soldiers was paramount because after the Civil War, "all these veterans would go to these cycloramas and point out where they were on the battlefield to their families," said John Kindt, a descendant of one of the painters.

Lauren Cook Burgess wrote a book review of *Patriots in Disguise: Women Warriors of the Civil War* by Richard Hall in the June 1994 issue of the *Blue & Gray Magazine*. This is just one of the vintage Civil War magazines that were recently found at a local Independence thrift store and are being made available at our monthly silent auction. Not only was the topic interesting because of our speaker in May, but there was a footnote that Ms. Burgess won her case in Federal court last year (1993) for women to participate in Civil War reenactments.

Andrew Carroll, Director of the Center for American War Letters, recently visited the Truman Historic Site headquarters in Independence to discuss his new book and to promote the idea of

saving wartime letters—pen on paper, audio tape, DVD, Email, whatever. He got a real boost when "Dear Abby" wrote a column about his efforts, and he started to receive hundreds of letters. His center is located at www.warletters.us. It has letters going as far back as the Revolutionary War. "We are meticulous about the letters we receive, and how we treat them," Carroll said. "Anything that the troops (or) their families write," he said, "we're interested in." Submissions can be sent to Andrew Carroll, Center for American War Letters (CAWL), Chapman University, One University Drive, Orange, CA 92866. Originals are preferred but scans are also appreciated.

A letter penned by a Rhode Island soldier during the Civil War was referenced at the inauguration ceremony of President Donald Trump in January 2017. New York Senator Chuck Schumer passionately cited an emotional excerpt from Major Sullivan Ballou's famous letter known as "Dear Sarah" written to his wife more than 150 years ago. Schumer said that as the North and South were lining up for their first battle, Major Ballou wrote one of the greatest letters in American history which showed the strength and courage of the average American.

A local Civil War group of Siena at Longview in Lee's Summit, MO is to be congratulated for their work with historian Dr. David W. Carter to publish a book based on an old, weathered manuscript that was found on a closet shelf of a house in Lawrence, KS. It was the attempt of Civil War soldier Charles Adam Wetherbee, an infantryman with the 34th Illinois Volunteer Regiment, to tell his story and offers a unique perspective on the war that split America. It's called *UnHoly Rebellion: The Civil War Diary of Charles Adam Wetherbee* and is available for purchase on-line at www.unholyrebellion.com.

Beverly Shaw noticed a letter to the editor of the *Examiner* in March 2017 from a youngster in Charlotte, North Carolina who had chosen the State of Missouri for a spring report and requested information about our state. Beverly sent the student information about the Civil War in Missouri using our "Civil War Sites in Independence" pamphlet and a map from the Heritage League. She received back a very nice letter written in cursive and actually legible. The student will be preparing

a tri-fold poster for the school's "State Fair" in May. It's good to know that teachers and students are actually studying history of the United States.

For those of you who receive the Border Star by "snail mail," you will notice the postage stamp shows a lady named **Dorothy Height**, a tireless activist who dedicated her life to fighting for racial and gender equality. She was born in Virginia in 1912 and died in 2010 in Washington, D. C. She was the recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom (1994) and the Congressional Gold Medal (2004).

If you use **Hewlett Packard** ink cartridges for your printer, Beverly Shaw would be glad to receive your empty cartridges to recycle at Office Depot and receive points which translate into cash for the printing cost of the *Border Star* newsletter. You can bring them to a monthly meeting or give Beverly at call at (816) 225-7944.

Since his retirement from the *Kansas City Star*, our friend **Darryl Levings** contributes history articles now and then. You may have read that the governor of Kansas recently made a suggestion to replace Kansas City International Airport with one in Johnson County, Kansas. Darryl reminded us on April 9, 2017 that **William B. Strang**, known for the Strang Line Streetcar, actually created an airfield in Overland Park a century ago. It was the first west of the Mississippi and was top-flight with an aviation pavilion, hangars, a grandstand, and pilot school. His statue stands on 80th Street and Santa Fe in downtown Overland Park, KS.

In the continuing debate over taking down Confederate monuments, the **City of New Orleans** recently took down a monument to a deadly white-supremacist uprising in 1874. It was removed under cover of darkness by workers in masks and bulletproof vests. The Liberty Place monument was a 35-foot granite obelisk that paid tribute to whites who tried to topple a biracial Reconstruction government in New Orleans. The city also plans to remove statues of Confederate Generals. Robert E. Lee and P. G. T. Beauregard and Confederate President Jefferson Davis.

The Round Table would like to thank **Wayne Williams** of Independence for donating his Civil War books which we were happy to place in our monthly silent auction. Some titles are still available in May 2017.

Kay Cox has donated a couple of vintage volumes that were owned by her late husband and our second President, Tim Cox. Both have been well loved and are in fragile condition. Tim had them valued many years ago and found that they would need repair in order to bring up their value. One is *The Centennial Exposition*

(Philadelphia, PA) published in 1876, and the other is *Report of The Exploring Expedition to The Rocky Mountains in the Year 1842 and to Oregon and North California in the Years 1843- '44* by Brevet Captain J. D. Fremont. Printed by order of the Senate of the United States in 1845. We will have both volumes available at the May 10, 2017 monthly membership meeting or you may call Beverly at (816) 225-7944 to place a bid.

The recent attention paid to World War I at the Liberty Memorial in Kansas City, MO was covered extensively by the *Kansas City Star* and the *Examiner*. Matt Campbell of the *Star* noted that "in America, the war had a profound effect on a people that had remained deeply divided since the Civil War. The soldiers of World War I were grandsons of soldiers of the Union or the Confederacy and had been raised hearing those stories. Now they saw themselves as brothers."

The Civil War According to Dylan

Recently Beverly Shaw read an autobiography of that great American philosopher, Bob Dylan. She was interested in his account of going to the New York Public Library as a young man learning his craft as a singer/songwriter:

"In one of the upstairs reading rooms, I started reading articles in newspapers on microfilm from 1855 to about 1865 to see what daily life was like. It wasn't like it was another world, but the same one only with more urgency, and the issue of slavery wasn't the only concern. There were news items about reform movements, antigambling leagues, rising crime, child labor, temperance, slave-wage factories, loyalty oaths, and religious revivals. You wonder how people so united by geography and religious ideals could become such bitter enemies. All that rhetoric about chivalry and honor—that must have been added later. Even the Southern womanhood thing. It's a shame what happened to the women. Most of them were abandoned to starve on farms with their children, unprotected and left to fend for themselves as victims of the elements. There was also a difference in the concept of time, too. In the South, people lived their lives with sun-up, high noon, sunset, spring, summer. In the North, people lived by the clock. The factory stroke, whistles and bells. Northerners had to "be on time." In some ways the Civil War would be a battle between two kinds of time. Abolition of slavery didn't even seem to be an issue when the first shots were fired at Fort Sumter."

