



# ★ *The Border Star* ★

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

April 2016

## The Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri

### 2016 Officers

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

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### 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

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Independence, MO 64055

### Website

[www.CWRTWM.org](http://www.CWRTWM.org)

## *President's Letter*

Let me start this installment of my president's letter very simply. We each must make the historic information we have gathered available to the next researcher.

It's not our information. We have only been able to find it. No matter how long or how far reaching the search has been we owe it to the next researcher. What I have just written may strike as blasphemy to some, but I believe it to be the Holy Grail. We cannot keep our "treasure" to ourselves.

I have known historians who have gathered their research and kept it locked in a small box in their basement. Unfortunately, and I mean this with the deepest regret, they passed on keeping their secrets still locked away to be forever kept in darkness. What we may have learned is only a dream never to be known.

We owe the historians who follow us. Just to prove that I practice what I preach, a few weeks ago I was contacted by a student writing his master's thesis about the Battle of the Little Blue. During our first conversation he asked many questions about the correctness of certain published articles. I gave him my honest opinion of the validity of each. I shared from my research and my maps. I hope it helped. In the end, I did ask if I could read his thesis. I haven't heard back, yet. I hope the answer will be yes. I shared with him. He, I hope, passes it back. If he does, we both learn and the history we shared doesn't end up in a basement. It gets passed to another generation and another and another. Long after I have gone, someone, not knowing from whom the information came, will read this written work of a student and gain a new understanding of a long ago battle of the American Civil War. Somehow a part of me will carry on. Share your knowledge and be a part of the future by remembering the past.

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

## **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 the 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.

## **CWRTWM Calendar**

### April 2016 Membership Meeting

Wednesday, April 13, 2016 – 7:00 p.m. Village Heights Community of Christ Church, 1009 Farview Drive, Independence, MO. Barbara Hughes: “Mourning and the Impact of the Civil War.”

No Board Meeting in April.

Cancellation of Park Day Cleanup at Lewis-Gregg Cemetery on April 2<sup>nd</sup> because of wet conditions.

Postponement of 19th Century House Tour in Independence, Missouri,

### May 2016 Membership Meeting

Wednesday, May 11, 2016 – 7:00 p.m. Village Heights Community of Christ Church, 1009 Farview Drive, Independence, MO. Mike Calvert: “Witness Homes of the Civil War-Independence, MO.” Mike will also be giving this program at the Truman Library on May 18<sup>th</sup> from Noon until 1:00 p.m. as part of the Lunch ‘n Learn for National Historic Preservation Month.

## **Other History Events**

### Elmwood Cemetery: Stories of Kansas City

Tuesday, April 5, 2016 – 7:00 p.m. North Oak Library, 8700 N. Oak Trafficway, Kansas City, MO. Bruce Mathews, photographer and author, will talk about life stories of people buried in historic Elmwood founded in 1872 and on the National Register of Historic Places.

### Remembrances of the RMS Titanic

Tuesday, April 5, 2016 – 7:00 p.m. Woodneath Library, 8900 NE Flintlock Road, Kansas City, MO. Barbara Hughes brings to life Mrs. Mahala Douglas and her husband, Walter, who were passengers on the Titanic. Using elegant costuming, music, a slideshow, first-person accounts and stories of those aboard the ill-fated luxury steamship, she recalls the events of April 14-15, 1912.

### Atkins-Johnson Farm and Museum Re-open

Wednesday, April 6, 2016 – 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Atkins-Johnson Farm, 6607 N. E. Antioch Road, Gladstone, MO. New exhibit: “Archaeology-What’s Under the Farm?” Exhibit goes from April 6<sup>th</sup> – July 9<sup>th</sup>. Tickets are \$5 for adults, \$3 for students and seniors, children under 12 free.

### 2016 History Matters-Battle of Westport Museum

Thursday, April 7, 2016 – 2:00 p.m. Battle of Westport Museum, 6601 Swope Parkway, Kansas City, MO (just

inside Swope Park in historic Shelter House 1). Joe Mattox: “The Years the Jayhawkers and Prince Hall Masons fought slavery in Missouri” or “When slavery was legal in Johnson County, KS.” Joe Mattox is the William D. Mathews Scholar at the Battle of Westport Museum. Programs will be on the first Thursday of the month, April – October, 2016.

### Underground Railroad Sites in Kansas

Friday, April 8, 2016 – 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Osher Lifelong Learning Institute tour of Underground Railroad sites in Riley and Wabaunsee Counties, Kansas. Tour is \$75 which includes coach transportation, admissions, and lunch. Conducted by Richard Pitts, Executive Director of the Wonder Workshop. Coach departs Town Center parking lot west of Dillard’s in Manhattan, KS at 9:15 a.m. Will explore the famous Beecher Bible and Rifle Church and the Strong Farm and meet Captain Mitchell, Rev. Blood, and enslaved Africans, slave owners, and abolitionists. Go to [www.tryufm.org](http://www.tryufm.org) or call (877) 404-5823.

### Civil War Round Table of Cass County

Tuesday, April 12, 2016 – 7:00 p.m. Pierson Hall, Cass County Library, 400 E. Mechanic, Harrisonville, MO. Larry Wood: Bushwhacker Belles: The Sisters, Wives and Girlfriends of the Missouri Guerrillas. In spite of danger they persevered in feeding, clothing, and sheltering the guerrillas. They acted as essential go-betweens, scouts, spies, guides, and mail handlers. Though often arrested or banished from their home state of Missouri, many gave false oaths in order to return to their tasks. Larry’s new book is based on their own diaries and other primary sources.

### Big Blue River History Day

Friday, April 8, 2016 – 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Battle of Westport Museum, 6601 Swope Parkway, Kansas City, MO (just inside west entrance to Swope Park near the intersection of Swope Parkway and Meyer Blvd.) Representatives from the US Army Corps of Engineers and the Kansas City Water Service Department will display a series of posters and answer questions about the recently completed Blue River Flood Control Project.

At 1:00 p.m. Gary L. Hicks, president of the Kansas City Area Historic Trails Association, will present a unique SantaFe/Blue River story involving Alexander Majors.

At 2:00 p.m. there will be three presentations about the Battle of Westport along the Big Blue River: Shelby’s attack at Byram’s Ford on October 22, 1864, Winslow’s attack on October 23<sup>rd</sup>, and Price’s Wagon

Train and McNeil's attack near Russell's Ford on October 23<sup>rd</sup>.

There will be walking tours of the Big Blue Battlefield at 10:30 a.m., 1:00 p.m., and 2:30 p.m. Meet at the Battlefield parking lot at 5951 Manchester Trafficway off 63<sup>rd</sup> Street. Maps to this location will be available at the Museum.

#### Black Powder Shoot

Saturday, April 9, 2016 – 8:00 a.m. – Noon. The Jesse James Farm and Museum, 21216 Jesse James Farm Road, Kearney, MO. Test your skills; win a prize. Cap and Ball Revolver or Cartridge Revolver; replicas OK. Fixed sights and dueling stance only. \$25 entry fee. Historically accurate costumes are encouraged but not required. Call (816) 736-8500 for more information.

Incidentally the Jesse James Farm & Museum has a new exhibit featuring Frank and Annie James in their later years when they lived at the farm following the death of his mother Zerelda James Samuel. Quilts, clothing, and items found during an archaeological dig are on display, as well as Annie James' diploma. She graduated in 1872 from the Independence Female College. Annie was from the Ralston family whose home is still standing at 2121 S. Sterling (Mansion House) in Independence. This display can be seen with regular museum admission which is \$8 for adults, \$7 for seniors, and \$4.50 for children. For more info go to [www.jessejamesmuseum.org](http://www.jessejamesmuseum.org).

#### Friends of the Historic Pharis Farm Annual Meeting

Saturday, April 9, 2016 – 10:00 a.m. – Noon. Historic Pharis Farm, 20611 EE Highway, Liberty, MO. From 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., the members will meet and elect a new Board. Come see the 2,000 daffodils in bloom and recent artifact acquisitions. At 11:00 a.m. Emily Reiersgaard, 4H Youth Specialist for Clay County, will speak.

#### History Road Trips for the Whole Family

Monday, April 11, 2016 – 7:00 p.m. South Independence Library, 13700 E. 35th Street, Independence, MO. Aaron Barnhart speaks about how to make history interesting for all ages using his book *The Big Divide* to give tips about getting the most out of history field trips.

#### Kansas City Posse of the Westerners

Tuesday, April 12, 2016 – 6:00 p.m. Buffet menu (about \$12), Golden Corral, 8800 NW Skyview Ave., Kansas City, MO (near Home Depot). Mark Kelly: "The Tale of Jedediah Smith's Death—Fact or Fiction?" He is the

author of *Lost Voices on the Missouri: John Dougherty and the Indian Frontier*.

#### Remembrance of the RMS Titanic

Thursday, April 14, 2016 – 6:30 p.m. Grandview Library, 12930 Booth Lane, Grandview, MO. Barbara Hughes: Events of April 14-15, 1912.

#### Civil War Days, Doniphan, MO

Friday and Saturday, April 15-16, 2016 – Friday – 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Saturday – 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Admission free. Sponsored by the Current River Heritage Museum. For more information about the Civil War in Ripley County and the Burning of Doniphan, go to [www.doniphanmissouri.org](http://www.doniphanmissouri.org). Vendors and Crafters can contact Lynn Maples at (573) 996-5298.

#### Remembrance of the RMS Titanic

Saturday, April 16, 2016 – 2:00 p.m. North Independence Library, 317 W. 24 Highway, Independence, MO. Barbara Hughes: Events of April 14-15, 1912.

#### Civil War Encampment-Fort Scott, KS

Saturday and Sunday, April 16-17, 2016 – 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Fort Scott National Historic Site, Old Fort Boulevard, Fort Scott, KS. Because of its strategic location, Fort Scott became a major base for Union operations during the Civil War. Enjoy a weekend of Civil War history and living history demonstrations.

#### Spring Muster of the Irish Brigade

Saturday and Sunday, April 16-17, 2016 – 10:00 a.m. on Saturday and 2:00 p.m. on Sunday. Alexander Majors House, 8201 State Line Road, Kansas City, MO. Drills, games, and skirmishes – Free. Reduced price house tours. On Saturday at 10:00 a.m. there will be a story time about Civil War soldiers for ages 3-8 years. At 1:00 p.m. Dr. Michael Monaco will talk about Civil War medicine. On Sunday at 2:00 p.m. there will be a skirmish.

#### Remembrance of the RMS Titanic

Monday, April 18, 2016 – 7:00 p.m. Midwest Genealogy Center, 3440 S. Lee's Summit Road, Independence, MO. Barbara Hughes recalls the events of April 14-15, 1912.

#### Mid-Missouri Civil War Round Table

Monday, April 18, 2016 – 7:00 p.m. Boone County Historical Society Museum, 3801 Ponderosa Drive, Columbia, MO. Jim Cummings: "Three Interesting Civil War Deaths."

### Independence Civil War Study Group

Wednesday, April 20, 2016 – 7:00 p.m. Perkins Restaurant, 3939 S. Bolger Drive, Independence, MO. (across from Wal-Mart). James (Spike) Speicher will present “What It Was Like to Be a Civil War Soldier” in period clothing.

### Third Thursday Study Group-Clay County

Thursday, April 21, 2016 – 7:00 p.m. Clay County Museum, 14 N. Main Street, Liberty, MO. “Blacksmithing.”

### Octave Chanute, Bridge Builder

Sunday, April 24, 2016 – 2:00 p.m. Central Library, 14 W. 10th Street, Kansas City, MO. Bill Nicks will portray Octave Chanute, the Paris-born engineer who built the Hannibal Bridge which opened in 1869 and kick-started the small river town of Kansas City into a Midwest railroad metropolis. He also laid out the stockyards in the West Bottoms and the new Johnson County town of Lenexa. When he became passionate in later years about human flight, his research drew the attention of the Wright brothers.

### Civil War Round Table of Kansas City

Tuesday, April 26, 2016 – 6:30 p.m. – Dinner (\$27). Holiday Inn and Suites, 8787 Reeder Road, Overland Park, KS. Sunset Ballroom, 8th Floor. Arnold Schofield: “Gardens of Stone.” He will discuss the burial of our Blue and Gray Patriots with a special focus on the National Cemetery System. Deadline for dinner reservations is noon, Friday, April 22, 2016. E-mail Susan Keipp at skeipp@kc.rr.com or call her at (816) 333-0025.

### 1865 Kansas City Negro History

Thursday, April 28, 2016 – 6:30 p.m. National Archives at Kansas City, 400 W. Pershing Road, Kansas City, MO. Sonny Gibson, local historian and author will be interviewed by Dr. Debra Sheffer of Park University about his new book on the African American experience in Kansas City.

### Clarina Nichols: Frontier Crusader for Women’s Rights

Thursday, April 28, 2016 – 6:30 p.m. Central Library, 14 W. 10th Street, Kansas City, MO. Diane Eickhoff, Kansas City based writer, will talk about her young adult adaptation of an earlier book about Clarina Nichols, a transplanted New England journalist, who was instrumental in the events leading up to the right of women to vote in Kansas, the 8th state to adopt suffrage in 1912. She broke the taboo of speaking up at male-dominated gatherings, signing petitions, and flexing political muscle.

### Remembrance of the RMS Titanic

Thursday, April 28, 2016 – 7:00 p.m. Blue Springs North Library, 850 NW Hunter Drive, Blue Springs, MO. Barbara Hughes recalls the events of April 14-15, 1912.

### Civil War Spring Muster

Saturday, April 30, 2016 – 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Atkins-Johnson Farm, 6607 NE Antioch Road, Gladstone, MO. Free and open to the public. The 3rd Missouri Infantry will dust off their gear and camp supplies and practice military drills and formations.

### Spring at the Watkins Woolen Mill State Historic Site

Saturday, April 30, 2016 – Noon – 5:00 p.m. Watkins Mill, 26600 Park Road North, Lawson, MO. Witness 1870’s style sheep shearing, woodstove cooking, cross-cut sawing, rag doll making, toy making, rope making, laundry, blacksmithing, weaving and more. Free. There will be an open house at the Watkins Family Home and a limited number of mill tours offered at a reduced rate.

### National Historic Preservation Month-May, 2016

Monday, May 2, 2016 – 6:00 p.m. Council Chambers, Independence City Hall, 111 E. Maple Avenue, Independence, MO. Announcement of the W.Z. Hickman awards for 2016.

### A New Building in an Old Museum

Tuesday, May 3, 2016 – 7:00 p.m. National Frontier Trails Museum, 318 W. Pacific Ave., Independence, MO. Wear your jeans and investigate every nook and cranny. Look into the future plans for possible redevelopment. Tickets are \$5 per person and advance registration is required by calling (816) 325-7575.

### Lunch ‘n Learn: Our National Parks

Wednesday, May 4, 2016 – Noon. Truman Memorial Building, 416 W. Maple Ave., Independence, MO. Jeff Wade, acting chief of Interpretation at the Harry S. Truman National Historic Site, will talk about the history and influence of the U.S. Park System which will be 100 years old in August 2016.

More events will appear in the May, 2016 Border Star.

## **News About Members and Friends**

The **Battle of Westport Museum** is looking for a few good men and women to staff its hours on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays from 1:00 – 5:00 p.m. It opens on Friday, April 1<sup>st</sup>, and goes through October. If you could commit to one afternoon a month, this would be preferable but any help would be greatly appreciated. You do not need to have any special expertise, and you

get to meet many interesting people who share your interest in history. Call Dick Titterington at (816) 377-9453. The museum is located just inside the west entrance of Swope Park at 6601 Swope Parkway just off Meyer Blvd.

*The Black Calhouns* by **Gail Lumet Buckley** is a new book about the family of jazz singer Lena Horne. It is written in the style of a sweeping historical novel. The “Calhoun” name comes from a wealthy doctor who was a nephew of John C. Calhoun, the ardently secessionist seventh vice president.

We want to thank **Nancy Ehrlich** for volunteering to act as a judge for National History Day in Missouri on April 30<sup>th</sup> at the University of Missouri in Columbia. The students compete in categories such as documentary, exhibit, paper, performance, and website.

There will be a new Civil War movie coming out about June 24<sup>th</sup> called “**Free State of Jones**,” a county in Mississippi which became a safe haven for Confederates who become disillusioned with the South’s cause. It will star Matthew McConaughey as Newton Knight whom some call a hero while others saw him as a murderous outlaw. The March 2016 *Smithsonian* magazine has an article called “The Raging Rebellion of Jones County.”

A current movie called “The Revenant” starring Leonardo DiCaprio has a Blue Springs, Missouri connection. The story concerns **Hugh Glass**, a mountain man who endured an attack by a bear in South Dakota. Other mountain men, including a young Jim Bridger, kill the bear but consider Glass a goner and abandon him. Glass survives and pursues the men who left him to die. Meanwhile a young doctor named Dr. **Rowland Willard** crossed most of the continent and is the subject of a new book edited by **Joy Poole**, Deputy State Librarian of New Mexico. It’s called *Over the Santa Fe Trail to Mexico: The Travel Diaries and Autobiography of Dr. Rowland Willard*. In 1825 Dr. Willard visited a mountain man rendezvous site in today’s Blue Springs and met Glass whom he examined and documented his injuries in his diary. Joy Poole recently stopped in Independence to do some research on her way to Columbia. She will be back on September 17, 2016 to address local trails associations and history groups at the National Frontier Trails Museum from 10:00 a.m. to Noon.

The Union Cemetery Historical Society is seeking descendants of the **Philander Gregg** family which has a vault that is collapsing at the cemetery. This Gregg family does not seem to be closely related to the Greggs of Independence who are descended from Harmon

Gregg who moved from Tennessee to Illinois and then to Missouri. The Philander Greggs came from Sandusky, Ohio and first moved to Salina, KS where they were stock raisers. If you know of any descendants of the Philander Greggs, please contact Kevin Fewell at (816) 472-4990.

One of the “power couples” of the Civil War era was famed physician **Samuel Gridley Howe** and his wife **Julia Ward Howe**, the author of the “Battle Hymn of the Republic.” Nowadays she is probably better known than her husband, but an article in the January-February 2016 issue of the *Smithsonian* magazine called “Autism in Early America” shows some of his research into this phenomenon we think of as a 20<sup>th</sup> century condition.

In the back of the *Smithsonian* is a page of “stump the chumps” where their experts respond to questions. One of the March questions was “What is the origin of the term ‘**Jim Crow**’ or ‘**Jim Crow laws**?’” The answer is that Jim Crow was a fictional character developed in the late 1820’s by the white entertainer Thomas D. “Daddy” Rice, who said he was inspired by an elderly black man singing a song titled “Jump Jim Crow.” After Rice became internationally known for performing the dimwitted, enslaved black character, “Jim Crow” became a derogatory term for African-Americans. In the 1870’s and ‘80’s, it was applied to anti-black laws and practices in the South. The phrase “Jim Crow law” appeared in print as early as 1892, in the *New York Times*.

*The Immortal Irishman* is the story of **Thomas Francis Meagher** (pronounced like Marr) who came to the U.S. in 1852, about the time of the Irish potato famine. The author, Tim Egan, says that Meagher organized other immigrant Irish who faced a lot of discrimination at the time into a Union brigade during the Civil War called the 69<sup>th</sup> Militia. His idea was that if they made a blood sacrifice during the war, this would make the Irish fully American. Don Gilmore also points out that this had an opposite effect late in the war when there were draft riots in New York because many of the Irish thought they were being overused and over drafted.

The Kansas City *Star* is cooperating with **One Day University** to bring scholars to our area on Saturday, May 21<sup>st</sup> from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. One of the speakers is Louis Masur of Rutgers University who will present “The Civil War and Abraham Lincoln: What’s Fact and What’s Fiction?” Other topics include “What We Know about the Universe (and What We Don’t Know)”, “The Five Most Powerful People in the World,” and “Can Creativity be Taught? The Science behind Imagination.” The usual fee is \$179 for the day,

but the first 100 students pay only \$99 (use code KC). It will be held at the Overland Park Marriott, 10800 Metcalf Ave., Overland Park, KS. Go to [www.OneDayU.com](http://www.OneDayU.com) or call (800) 300-3438.

The “Days Gone By” column of the *Examiner* chose an interesting article from March 19-25, 1916 that reveals the end of an era with the death of **Cole Younger**.

“Cole Younger, the ex-bandit, is in a very dangerous condition at his home in Lee’s Summit, where he has lived most of the time since his release from the Minnesota State Prison. During the past year he has been very much afflicted with dropsy and heart disease. He has tried hard to live down the desperadoism which marked his earlier life. Most of the people of Lee’s Summit have forgiven his misdeeds, some made the excuse that he was forced into a wild bandit life by the lawlessness of the other side during the Civil War.” He died on March 21, 1916 at the age of 72.

**Barbara Hughes** has been suffering from some gastrointestinal symptoms and recently found out that she has diverticulosis or small pouches in the colon wall. Luckily this can be managed with diet changes and she does not need to have surgery. As you can see from her schedule for the month of April, this has not slowed her down, and we will look forward to her program for the Round Table on April 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Don Moorehead** has had a second surgery to clean out arteries in his neck and has much more energy now that he is getting more blood to various parts of his body. He and his daughter, **Vonda Clark**, were able to attend a reunion of the church they used to attend when he and his late wife, Kathy, had a young family.

Congratulations to the **St. Joseph Museums, Inc.** for receiving a Freedom’s Frontier Interpretive Grant which will be used to bring 15 printed Black Dignity images of the Mary Ellen Everhardt collection at the Amon Carter Museum and have them professionally framed and exhibited at the Black Archives Museum later this spring.

A recent E-mail containing Civil War era photographs revealed several interesting bits of trivia. One is that American Civil War soldiers were required to have at least four opposing teeth in front so they could open a gunpowder pouch. Some draftees had their front teeth removed to avoid service.

The other is for the ladies. Hoops had to be removed before taking your seat in a carriage and they were hooked on the back of the conveyance. The picture of a hoop out there for everybody to see was a little disconcerting.

## Missouri State Parks Celebrate 100 Years

The Spring 2016 issue of the *Missouri Resources* magazine has an article about the centennial of our Missouri state parks. The **Arrow Rock Tavern**, founded as a rest stop for settlers heading West, was the first state park property in 1923. Also called the **J. Huston Tavern** at Arrow Rock, it was built in 1834 and is the oldest continuously operating restaurant west of the Mississippi River.

Many of the historic sites are related to the Civil War. In 1952 the **Confederate Memorial State Historic Site** at Higginsville was added to the park system and will be the location for the Confederate Memorial Day commemoration on June 4, 2016.

In 1958 the **Battle of Lexington State Historic Site** with the beautiful Anderson House was added. We are thinking of having a day trip to Lexington sometime this summer. This is the location for the Battle of the Hemp Bales reenactment.

In 1964 the **Watkins Mill State Park and Watkins Woolen Mill State Historic Site** at Lawson, Missouri became a part of the parks system. On April 30<sup>th</sup> the park will host spring farm activities and reduced fee tours of the woolen mill which was used to manufacture Confederate blankets during the Civil War.

Another Civil War battle at **Pilot Knob** was made a park in 1968 followed by the **Sappington Cemetery State Historic Site** in 1970. The Sappington Cemetery is located near Arrow Rock and is the final resting place of the Sappington family whose patriarch discovered the use of quinine to combat yellow fever.

Other Civil War sites are the **Battle of Athens State Historic Site** in 1975, the **Battle of Carthage State Historic Site** in 1990 and the **Battle of Island Mound State Historic Site** at Butler in 2008.

With yearly attendance at more than 18 million, Parks Director Bill Bryan says that the system’s most compelling challenge is to remain relevant for future generations. In 2016 we will be asked to renew the one-tenth-cent sales tax which is split evenly between state parks and soil and water conservation efforts.

