



# ★ *The Border Star* ★

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

January -February 2018

## **The Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri**

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*1<sup>st</sup> V.P.* ----- Pat Gradwohl  
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### **Border Star Editor**

Dennis Myers ~ (816) 769-6490

### **Meetings**

2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month  
7:00 p.m. ~ Fellowship Hall  
Village Heights Community of Christ  
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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#### **Website**

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

### *President's Letter*

It's happened again. A year has ended and we wait for a new one to begin. The last year has been punctuated by many things. As always, as we reflect, we find those things that please us, those things that frustrate us and those things that we wish we could live through again. I'm remembering the events in my life; I hope you are reliving what made a difference in yours. Forgetting what has gone before, I enthusiastically look ahead to 2018. The year that we look forward to will bring about many changes. Personally, I look forward to ending my career as an engineer/project manager. I have been in that business since the first working day of 1976 and if, you want to count the time I spent working for my Dad, starting in 1965...well you do the math. It's time. It is also time to look forward to a new year for the Round Table. I think 2018 will be a special year for us. The Board hasn't met yet to plan the New Year. Based on past performance I am sure 2018 will hold many surprises. 2018 will also be a year that may prove to be pivotal in the future of the Round Table. We have and enjoy a very solid core of faithful members. Thank you, thank you, and thank you. Without your attendance and support...well, I don't want to think about the consequences. Thank you to the officers and board members. Your support, willingness to participate and leadership make our group more than just a meeting once a month. For this I am forever grateful.

We are experiencing what every historic centered group is experiencing; declining membership. The plans for next year must include the means to reverse this. The plans for next year must include learning. Continuing to learn about the pivotal event in our nation's history is the core definition of our existence. The plans for next year must include fun. If we are not having fun and enjoying our time together we should just stay home. Putting it bluntly.

All that said, I look forward to 2018. I especially look forward to spending time with you. Let's make 2018 a banner year for The Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri. Let's each remember the reason we came to our first meeting. Better yet, let's remember why we came back.

*~Mike Calvert*

*President, Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri*

## **CWRTWM Calendar**

### January 10, 2018 Membership Meeting

**CANCELLED.** We will not be having a program on January 10<sup>th</sup> so that the Board can have a planning meeting on January 27<sup>th</sup>.

### Board Planning Meeting

Saturday, January 27, 2018 – 9:30 a.m.  
Home of Mike Calvert, 420 N. Pleasant,  
Independence, MO.

### February 14, 2018 Membership Meeting

Wednesday, February 14, 2018 – 7:00 p.m.  
Village Heights Community of Christ fellowship  
Hall, 1009 Farview Drive, Independence, MO.  
John Moloski: “Missouri Boys at the Battle of  
Franklin.”

## **Other History Events**

### Kansas City Posse of the Westerners

Tuesday, January 9, 2018 – 6:00 p.m.  
Buffet Menu (about \$12), Golden Corral, 8800 N.  
W. Skyview Ave., Kansas City, MO (near Home  
Depot). Mary Conrad: “Archaeological  
Investigations at the Last Chance Store.”

### Cass County Civil War Round Table

Tuesday, January 9, 2018 – 7:00 p.m.  
Pearson Hall, Cass County Library, 400 E.  
Mechanic, Harrisonville, MO. Garry Stice: “Elected  
Missouri Governors during the Civil War.”

### Freedom’s Frontier Partners Meeting

Thursday, January 11, 2018 – 10:00 a.m.  
Kansas City Central Library, 14 W. 10<sup>th</sup> Street,  
Kansas City, MO.

### Mid-Missouri Civil War Round Table

Monday, January 15, 2018 – 7:00 p.m.  
Boone County Historical Society Museum, 3801  
Ponderosa Drive, Columbia, MO. Robert Maxey:  
“Interesting Lives of Notable People after The  
War.”

### Shawnee Indian Mission Brown Bag Lecture

Wednesday, January 17, 2018 – Noon. 3403 W. 53<sup>rd</sup>  
Street, Fairway, KS (North building). Terry Love:  
“Monticello Historical Society.”

### Independence Civil War Study Group

Wednesday, January 17, 2018 – 7:00 p.m.  
Perkins Restaurant, 3939 S. Bolger Drive,  
Independence, MO (across from Walmart). Mike  
Calvert: “The History of Lake City.”

### Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri

Tuesday, January 23, 2018 – 6:30 p.m. – Dinner  
(\$27). Holiday Inn and Suites, 8787 Reeder Road,  
Overland Park, KS. Sunset Ballroom, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor. Dr.  
Ethan Rafuse of the U.S. Army Command and  
General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, KS:  
“Lincoln’s Secretary of War, Edwin Stanton.”  
Dinner reservations must be made by Noon,  
Thursday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, by calling Susan Keipp at  
(816) 333-0025.

### Bleeding Kansas Program Series

Sunday, January 28, 2018 – 2:00 p.m.  
Constitution Hall State Historic Site, 319 Elmore,  
Lecompton, KS. “Saving Constitution Hall” by  
preservation architect Dan Rockhill, U.S.  
Representative Lynn Jenkins and former Kansas  
State Senator Winton A. Winter, Jr. Suggested  
donation of \$3 for adults.

### Bleeding Kansas Program Series

Sunday, February 4, 2018 – 2:00 p.m.  
Constitutional Hall State Historic Site, 319 Elmore,  
Lecompton, KS. “Weapons of Kansas and Missouri:  
Cavalry Carbines of the Civil War” by Gary  
Nevius, AIA, gun collector and historian. Suggested  
donation of \$3 for adults.

### **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 Drive 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 may call Beverly Shaw on her cell phone: (816) 225-7944.

### Bleeding Kansas Program Series

Sunday, February 11, 2018 – 2:00 p.m.  
Constitution Hall, Lecompton, KS. “Marching Home: Union Veterans and Their Unending Civil War” by Brian Matthew Jordan, Professor at Sam Houston State University Dept. of History. Book signing. Suggested donation of \$3 for adults.

### Kansas City Posse of the Westerners

Tuesday, February 13, 2018 – 6:00 p.m.  
Buffet Menu (about \$12), Golden Corral, 8800 N. W. Skyview Ave., Kansas City, MO (near Home Depot). Kristen Zane: “The Wyandot Nation.”

### Cass County Civil War Round Table

Tuesday, February 13, 2018 – 7:00 p.m.  
Pearson Hall, Cass County Library, 400 E. Mechanic, Harrisonville, MO. Dr. Linda Kyser: “Rural Schools and Superintendents In 1855.”

### Clay County Museum’s 3rd Thursday

Thursday, February 15, 2018. Clay County Museum, 14 N. Main Street, Liberty, MO. Frank Justus: “First 150 Years of Smithville.”

### Battle of Lexington State Historic Site

Saturday, February 17, 2018 – 2:00 p.m.  
1101 Delaware Street, Lexington, MO. Gary Kremer: “Missouri’s Complicated Racial Past: Causes and Consequences.”

### Bleeding Kansas Program Series

Sunday, February 18, 2018 – 2:00 p.m.  
Constitution Hall, Lecompton, KS. “The Bandit Rides Again, Jesse James, Whiskeyhead Ryan, & the Glendale Train Robbery” by Ralph A. Monaco, II, Esq. Book signing. Suggested donation of \$3 for adults.

### Mid-Missouri Civil War Round Table

Monday, February 19, 2018 – 7:00 p.m.  
Boone County Historical Society Museum, 3801 Ponderosa Drive, Columbia, MO. Barry Cardwell: “Lecompton, Lawrence, and Topeka.”

### Shawnee Indian Mission Brown Bag Lecture

Wednesday, February 21, 2018 – Noon.  
3403 W. 53<sup>rd</sup> Street, Fairway, KS. North building. Ray Elder: “Early Streets of Kansas City when It Was Called The Town of Kansas.”

### Independence Civil War Study Group

Wednesday, February 21, 2018 – 7:00 p.m.  
Perkins Restaurant, 3939 S. Bolger Drive, Independence, MO (across from Walmart). Toby Giese: “Apache History.”

### Missouri State Archives

Thursday, February 22, 2018 – 7:00 p.m.  
Kirkpatrick State Information Center, 600 W. Main Street, Jefferson City, MO. Keona K. Ervin: Gateway to Equality: Black Women And The Struggle for Economic Justice in St. Louis.

### Bleeding Kansas Program Series

Sunday, February 25, 2018 – 2:00 p.m.  
Constitution Hall, Lecompton, KS. “The Wyandots, Quindaro and Other Immigrant Tribes of Bleeding and Civil War Kansas” by Holly Zane, JD and Kristen Zane, PE, siblings and enrolled members of The Wyandot Nation of Kansas, Bear Clan.

### Civil War Round Table of Kansas City

Tuesday, February 27, 2018 – 6:30 p.m. – Dinner (\$27). Holiday Inn and Suites, 8787 Reeder Road, Overland Park, KS. Sunset Ballroom, 8th Floor. Arnold Schofield: “The Kansas Independent Colored Light Artillery.” Dinner reservations must be made by Noon, Thursday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> by calling Susan Keipp at (816) 333-0025.

### Bleeding Kansas Program Series

Sunday, March 4, 2018 – 2:00 p.m.  
Constitution Hall, Lecompton, KS. “Black Civil War Veterans Build a Church In 1867” by Deborah Barker, Franklin County, Kansas Historical Society, executive director emeritus. Book signing. Suggested donation of \$3 for adults.

## **Dues and Subscriptions**

We normally collect dues and subscriptions at the beginning of the calendar year. Some of you have already paid for 2018 and we thank you.

If you have yet to pay for 2018 you can bring it to the February 14<sup>th</sup> meeting or mail it to “CWRTWM,

P.O. Box 3019, Independence, MO 64055.” For a family the rate is \$35 and for an individual it is \$25.

If you can't come to meetings but just want to receive the Border Star, it's \$12 for a subscription.

We always appreciate your bringing guests to our meeting. You will note that we will not be having a membership meeting in January so that the board can have a separate planning meeting. When it is merited, we will combine issues of the Border Star in order to reduce our newsletter cost. Therefore please retain your January-February issue to take you through February, 2018.

We are looking forward to another productive and enjoyable year of Civil War study, speakers, tours, social events, and fund raisers. One means of raising funds is our Silent Auction at meetings. If you have books or magazines of a historical nature that you no longer wish to retain, please consider donating them to us for the Silent Auction. If you know of other people who need to find a good home for such materials, please be assured that these will be thoughtfully used. We look to see if a title would complement the Round Table's existing collection at the Clay County Archives or if it is of use for our own members' research. The remainder are made available to our members in the Silent Auction.

### Notes about Members and Friends

We wish everyone a Happy New Year as we begin 2018. Congratulations to **Pat Gradwohl** on the birth of her great-granddaughter in Hawaii in November 2017. She will be joining other family to celebrate the happy event.

There are estimates that the number of books published about the American Civil War range from 50,000 to more than 100,000, but authors **Joseph Whit McCoskrie** and **Brian Warren** say theirs is different because they mark on their maps over 300 battles and engagements in the State of Missouri. The book is called *The Civil War Missouri Compendium: Almost Unabridged* published by Arcadia Publishing and The History Press. It is available in Fulton, MO at Well Read Books, the Kingdom of Callaway Historical Museum, and Smockingbird's for \$21.99.

Recently an article about the street names at Fort Leavenworth, KS was distributed by E-Mail. This brought to mind a story from **Judy Tharp** who lives in Platte County. She remembers her mother

telling the story of how her German great grandfather fought for the Union side and eventually relocated to Leavenworth and opened a pharmacy. He bought one of the first automobiles in Leavenworth and used to take the family for rides through Fort Leavenworth. His wife read the name plaques on all the officers' houses and after some thought and reflection said that it was quite interesting that so many of them had the same first initials such as L.T. Jones, L.T. Smith, etc. Of course she mistook the letters "LT" for initials when it was actually their rank. Later in 1917 when the U.S. entered World War I, the German immigrant women in Leavenworth who had been knitting caps and scarves for the German army, switched allegiance "in the middle of a muffler." At Christmas her great-grandfather dramatically broke their Victrola recording of "O Tannenbaum!" in German over his knee and announced that they would never sing in German again.

Historian **Nancy Ehrlich** of Independence, MO has advanced a reason that so many Union combatants had common ground for religious experience because many of the non-commissioned officers studied in a Union Study School where many passages of the King James Bible were memorized. For Protestants the King James Bible was the most widely used English translation at the time. German speaking people may have used Martin Luther's translation and Roman Catholics may have read the Douay-Rheims translation. Hymns, some with as many as ten verses, were sung in four part harmony without accompaniment, in homes, schools, and adult social circles outside of church. Hymn books were published and sold by travelling salesmen who conducted "singing schools." Where no synagogue existed, some Jews sent their children to Sunday Schools.

The **Mid-Continent Public Library** has announced some changes for the new year which they hope will fill the needs of their customers. The Midwest Genealogy Center, popular with out-of-town visitors coming in for a weekend of family history research, will gain five hours on the weekend. New hours will be 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday and 1:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Sunday. This branch is also planning a 400-seat auditorium to be open by mid-2019. It will be connected to the current building but will have a

separate entrance so community events are not tied to library hours.

Soon the three **Burnt District Murals** located on the Harrisonville, MO Square will be revived. Artist Larry Waggoner will clean and restore the murals.

**Steve Noll** is known as a “memory keeper” for his 13-year career with Jackson County Historical Society. He is retiring at the end of 2017 and operations manager and archivist Caitlin Eckard takes over in January 2018. Retiring, however, does not mean that Steve and his wife Marianne, will be idle. They have the goal of digitizing the large Chris Wilborn collection of images of Kansas City which they bought and donated to the Jackson County Historical Society. This collection and the Strauss-Peyton collection of famous and infamous Kansas City portraits on glass negatives will be available to researchers. And to think that this all came from one file cabinet in the basement of the Truman Library. The Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri is indebted to Steve for thinking of us as the caretaker of the Lewis-Gregg Cemetery which has a Revolutionary War soldier buried there.

**Kathy Pickering** greets all her friends in the Round Table. She is now residing at The Groves in Independence, MO. If you would like to give her a call or go by to visit, please call Beverly Shaw for the contact information (816) 225-7944 (cell).

The **Union Cemetery** is planning to add a columbarium for cremains so that people who would like to have this service in such a historic cemetery would have this option available. They are just now getting cost estimates which will determine the price for each niche. It is estimated that cremation makes up over 50% of deaths in Kansas City.

### **Preserve Civil War Monuments to the Common Soldier**

Mr. Charles Payne of Lee’s Summit, MO wrote the following letter to the Editor of the *Examiner* on December 26, 2017:

Until the Charlottesville event I thought of the monuments in the same way I think of garden gnomes unless I was in a particularly introspective mode. Seeing a group of zealots tearing down a

statue of a Civil War soldier did get me to thinking about those that go to war. The ones whose names are seldom included in history books, like the 58,000 or so inscribed on the Vietnam memorial. Also, not included except in a PBS special, were the soldiers on both sides of the Civil War.

Except for a few officers, none owned slaves. They went to war based on which side they lived on. They fought bravely, often standing in the open, firing at the other side. A wound of any kind could be fatal. The red badge of courage. States’ right and slavery were of less importance than the withering musket fire you were under orders to face.

To say that the Southern troops were traitors and criminals is a simple minded judgment of history. Like the troops sent to Vietnam, the blame did not lie with them and we learned that lesson well.

A statue dedicated to a brave soldier says something more universal and important than any bronze monstrosity of a general. The statue of a Civil War soldier should have been moved to a military cemetery and not vilified just as the statue of Saddam Hussein was.

### **Take Advantage of History Events**

Even though the Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri is not having a January membership meeting, you have the opportunity to read the calendar of events and maybe visit some other program of interest. Please be advised that the Kansas City Civil War Round Table does require a paid dinner reservation for attendance

### **Civil War Curiosities**

In January 1864, Lt. A.L. Cady of the 24<sup>th</sup> New York Battery was praised in newspapers throughout the north. In Tyrrel County, North Carolina, he led a raid that resulted in the capture of five guerrillas and two Confederate officers. More important, in the opinion of the newspaper editors, “He returned to camp with one thousand sheep.”

-Civil War Curiosities, 1994, Webb Garrison, p.81



# CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE OF WESTERN MISSOURI

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