



★ *The Border Star* ★

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

January-February 2019

The Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri

2019 Officers

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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
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
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Pat Gradwohl ----- (816) 781-8871
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Mailing Address

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

Website

www.CWRTWM.org

President's Letter

"This is a strange Christmas Eve. Almost the whole world is locked in a deadly struggle and with the most terrible weapons which science can devise, the nations advance upon each other. Ill would it be for us this Christmastide if we were not sure that no greed for the land or wealth of any other people, no vulgar ambition, no morbid lust for material gain at the expense of others, had led us to the field. Here, in the midst of war, raging and roaring over all the lands and seas, creeping nearer to our hearts and homes, here, amid all the tumult, we have tonight the peace of the spirit in each cottage home and in every generous heart. Therefore, we may cast aside for this night at least the cares and dangers which beset us and make for the children an evening of happiness in a world of storm. Here, then, for one night only, each home throughout the English-speaking world should be a brightly lighted island of happiness and peace."

Winston Churchill

Radio message to the American People from the White House
December 24, 1941

1941, just seventeen days after Pearl Harbor, in a world full of uncertainty, in a world of fear a leader of a nation that had already been at war for two years comes to our nation's capital and speaks of "peace of the spirit" and how we should for the children's sake have at least one night of normalcy before the fears of the unknown creep back into their being. Brave words that were needed at a fearful time. I hope that each of you were able, during the Christmas time, to gather your family and friends together to laugh, to talk, maybe to cry tears of joy. I hope that we remember these times and keep them in our hearts.

I hope for one night that your home was a "brightly lighted island of happiness and peace."

Looking forward to the New Year together when we will take the time to study our past, to learn about our future.

Mike Calvert, President
Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri

CWRTWM Calendar

January 2019 Membership Meeting

CANCELLED so that the Board can meet separately for a planning meeting.

February 2019 Membership Meeting

Wednesday, February 13, 2018—7 p.m. Village Heights Community of Christ fellowship hall, 1009 Farview Drive, Independence, MO. Annual Show & Tell when members can tell us a little about their Civil War ancestor, share a book or topic they have been researching, or bring a physical artifact to share. Check in with Mike Calvert before the meeting starts so that he can schedule the presentations.

If you have not paid dues for 2019, you can bring them to the February meeting or mail them to “CWRTWM, P.O. Box 3019, Independence, MO 64055.” Single dues are \$25 and family dues are \$35. If you want to receive the *Border Star* only, the cost is \$10.

Other History Events

Kansas City Posse of the Westerners

Tuesday, January 8, 2019—6:00 p.m. Buffet Menu (about \$12), Golden Corral, 8800 N. W. Skyview Ave., Kansas City, MO (near Home Depot). Steve Sitton: “The Thomas Hart Benton Historic Site.”

Cass County Civil War Round Table

Tuesday, January 8, 2019—7:00 p.m. Pearson Hall, Cass County Library, 400 E. Mechanic, Harrisonville, MO. Jim Beckner: “The Rest of the Story, or Fun with History.”

Mid-Missouri Civil War Round Table

Monday, January 14, 2019—7:00 p.m. Boone County Historical Society Museum, 3801 Ponderosa Drive, Columbia, MO. George Davis: “Missouri Geology and the Civil War.”

Brown Bag Lunch at Shawnee Indian Mission

Wednesday, January 16, 2019—Noon. Bring your own lunch and enjoy a program about 12:30 p.m. 3403 W. 53rd St., Fairway, KS. North building. Come upstairs from the street. Laurie Walters and Kris Roberts: “The History of Tonganoxie, KS.”

Independence MO Civil War Study Group

Wednesday, January 16, 2019. 7:00 p.m. Perkins Restaurant, 3939 S. Bolger Drive,

Independence, MO (across from Walmart). Erin Poupirt: “Pioneer Families and the Homestead Act.”

Civil War Round Table of Kansas City

Tuesday, January 22, 2019. 6:30 p.m. Dinner (\$29). Holiday Inn and Suites, 8787 Reeder Road, Overland Park, KS. Sunset Ballroom, 8th Floor. Arnold Schofield: “Legacies of the Civil War.” Dinner reservations must be made by noon Wednesday, Jan. 16, 2019 by calling Susan Keipp at (816) 333-0025.

Bleeding Kansas 2019 Programs at Lecompton, KS

Sunday, January 27, 2019. 2:00 p.m. Constitution Hall State Historic Site, 319 Elmore, Lecompton, KS. “Kansas Day” by U. S. Rep. Steve Watkins and Jim Ogle, Executive Director of Freedom’s Frontier National Heritage Area. Suggested donation of \$3.

Bleeding Kansas 2019-Lecompton, KS.

Sunday, February 3, 2019. 2:00 p.m. Constitution Hall, Lecompton, KS. “Stop the Presses! Late-breaking News from Bleeding Kansas” by Liz Leech, former journalist and adjunct instructor at Northwestern University and The University of Kansas and Bill Noll, professional land surveyor and director, Jefferson County, Kansas Public Works Department. Suggested donation of \$3.

Bleeding Kansas 2019-Lecompton, KS.

Sunday, February 10, 2019—2:00 p.m. Constitution Hall, Lecompton, KS. “War on the Border 1854-1865: Kansas and Missouri” by Ralph A. Monaco, II, Esq., author and historian. Book signing follows. Suggested donation of \$3.

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.

Mid-Missouri Civil War Round Table

Monday, February 11, 2019—7:00 p.m.

Boone County Historical Society Museum, 3801 Ponderosa Drive, Columbia, MO. Dave Poche: “A Tale of a 100 Pdr. Parrott Fragment.”

Kansas City Posse of the Westerners

Tuesday, February 12, 2019—6:00 p.m. Buffet

Menu (about \$12), Golden Corral, 8800 N. W. Skyview Ave., Kansas City, MO (near Home Depot). Matthew Reeves: “Dr. A T. Hill, Western Medicine.”

Bleeding Kansas Program Series 2019

Sunday, February 17, 2019—2:00 p.m.

Constitution Hall, 319 Elmore, Lecompton, KS. “Do Not Hurt: The Early Animal-Rights Movement and 1856 Kansas Free State Vegetarian Settlement” by Diane Eickhoff and Aaron Barnhart. Book signing follows. Suggested donation of \$3.

Independence, MO Civil War Study Group

Wednesday, February 20, 2019—7:00 p.m.

Perkins Restaurant, 3939 S. Bolger Drive, Independence, MO (across from Walmart). Sam Gill: “Black Regiments in the Civil War.”

Bleeding Kansas Program Series, 2019

Sunday, February 24, 2019—2:00 p.m.

Constitution Hall, 319 Elmore, Lecompton, KS. “The Battle of Mine Creek: Border War Brutality” by Dr. Carl Graves, historian and educator. The Suggested donation is \$3.

Civil War Round Table of Kansas City

Tuesday, February 26, 2019—6:30 p.m. Dinner (\$29). Holiday Inn and Suites, 8787 Reeder Road, Overland Park, KS. Sunset Ballroom, 8th Floor. Jim Ogle: “The Town of Quindaro, KS.” Jim is executive director of Freedom’s Frontier National Heritage Area. Dinner reservations must be made by noon Wednesday, February 20, 2019 by calling Susan Keipp at (816) 333-0025.

Bleeding Kansas Program Series 2019

Sunday, March 3, 2019—2:00 p.m. Constitution Hall, 319 Elmore, Lecompton, KS. “They Put Up More than Hay: Joel and Emily Grover, their Barn, and the Underground Railroad” by Judy Sweets and Kerry Altenbernd. Suggested donation of \$3.

News about Members and Friends

We are glad to welcome two new members to the CWRTWM – both of whom are volunteers at the Old Jail Museum and were introduced to us by **Charles Bianco**. **Bob Tignor** joined after going on our daytrip in the fall and helped bring fuel for the fireplace at our Christmas luncheon. **Alvin H. Hale** has also joined and attended a recent meeting. His great grandfather was in the Confederate cavalry under Col. Porter in northeast Missouri during the Civil War, and his name was William Henry Hale.

We are sorry to report that one of our longtime members, **Frederic McBurney** of Slater, MO, died on October 5, 2018.

Thank you to everyone who shared our Christmas luncheon on December 1, 2018. We appreciate the tip and donation from **Danone Zupko** who suggested that dryer lint stuffed into cardboard rollers from paper towels makes a good starter for the fire. **Mike Calvert** provided the wood for the fireplace, and **Bob Tignor** brought some fuel as well. We appreciate the hospitality of the **Village Heights Community of Christ Church** for our Saturday luncheon and the use of their round tables. We used the fellowship hall after Breakfast with Santa, and after we dismissed in the mid-afternoon, another group set up for an evening event. **Pat Gradwohl** brought table covers for the round tables, and she and Karen Wells brought decorations for a festive look. Of course the event was not complete without **Karen Wells’** “slush.”

The **Cass County Historical Society** is happy to announce that they are now the proud owners of the Democrat-Missourian Building in Harrisonville which will become the future home of exhibits and heritage education as well as office space. This is one of the accomplishments of their executive director, **Cynthia Ammerman**, who is now transitioning into a cultural programming professional after leaving the historical society on November 16, 2018.

Mount Mora Cemetery in St. Joseph, MO was the recipient of a Missouri Humanities Council Grant in September 2018, in order to provide an enhanced sound system for their “Voices of the Past” programming.

After its annual Christmas open house, the **1859 Jail and Museum** in Independence, MO will close in January for structural repairs. The Jackson County Historical Society received a \$750,000 grant to contribute to the improvements. It will reopen on Monday, April 1, 2019 to celebrate its 160th anniversary.

During weekends in February the **Ginger House Museum** at 100 W. Moore Street in Independence, MO will be open for the “Month of Love – Ginger Rogers’ Dates, Boyfriends, and Husbands.” More details at www.thegingerhouse.org.

Arrow Rock, MO - J. Huston Tavern is reputed to be the oldest continuously operating restaurant west of the Mississippi and will begin a new chapter in its history when the Friends of Arrow Rock takes over the operation in January 2019 with plans to open the restaurant for the 2019 season in March 2019. The Friends of Arrow Rock was established in 1959 with the dual mission of preservation and history education. The J. Huston Tavern was established in 1834 to provide food and lodging for travelers along the Santa Fe Trail.

The Missouri Conservationist magazine has a monthly column called “Places to Go,” and two recent articles have references to the Civil War. **Rebel’s Cove Conservation Area** is in Putnam and Schuyler counties in the area adjoining Iowa. “It’s the longest stretch of the Chariton River that’s not channelized. We try to protect and enhance the natural communities that go with that, which are mainly wetlands and forests,” says its manager Ryan Jones. It was once the home of Civil War minister, orator, and politician Henry Clay Dean. A vocal critic of President Abraham Lincoln, Dean was labeled a Copperhead, a term used for northern Democrats opposed to the war. About 200 acres was his original homestead and in one of his speeches or publications, he made reference to Rebel’s Cove.

Closer to our area is the **Settle’s Ford Conservation Area** in Bates and Cass County. The bluffs were once used by Union troops to spot approaching Confederates. “Dayton, which is a mile north of our headquarters, was the hub for the Missouri Guard at the time, which is why they

burned it down. This whole area was kind of a hotbed during the Civil War,” says its manager, Brian Bokern.

The oldest settlement in Missouri established by Europeans will soon be known as **Ste. Genevieve National Historical Park**. It has been a National Historic Landmark since 1960. More visitors will be able to experience firsthand day-to-day life in French colonial America which has existed since the early 1700’s when French Canadian colonists settled here.

We want to thank our friend **Vicki Nave** for letting us know that the antebellum **Saunders House** at 17601 E. R.D. Mize Road, Independence, MO, is on the market. It was previously owned by Louis and Jeannie White who were members of our Round Table. As you can imagine, properties of this type do not come on the market too often. You can contact the listing agent Clint Klesath at (816) 519-4489 for more information.

What’s Your KCQ? The *Kansas City Star* is soliciting your questions about Kansas City history for their reporters and the Kansas City Public Library to research. You can enter your question at www.kansascity.com/kcq to get started.

