



The Border Star



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

February 2015

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

Mike Calvert ----- (816) 898-2603
Beverly Shaw ----- (816) 225-7944
Pat Gradwohl ----- (816) 781-8871
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Mailing Address

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

Website

www.CWRTWM.org

THIS MONTH IN THE WAR:

February, 1865: Various states ratify the 13th amendment to the Constitution abolishing slavery in the U. S.

On Feb. 3, 1865, President Lincoln and Secretary of State Seward meet with Confederate negotiators on board the River Queen off Hampton Roads. The talks do not produce any positive results because the Confederate agents want an armistice first while Lincoln insists on recognition of Federal authority as an essential first step toward peace.

Meanwhile in the Western Theater the Carolinas Campaign ends in the burning of Columbia, the capital of South Carolina.

A Man with a Mission

You are indeed lucky if you have known a person dedicated to the pursuit of history. **Richard Stewart** is such a man. He has spoken to the Round Table several times—once when he was with Elmwood Cemetery and more recently to tell us about his Quantrill research and archives in Arkansas.

I thought you might like to know how his interest in William Clarke Quantrill and his partisans came about. Even if you don't like the politics or tactics of the guerrillas during the Border War, you can't help but be amazed at the number of references to Quantrill and his men as you read through our latest "Monuments" book.

I would like Richard to tell his own story:

"My parents divorced in 1981 and I went with my mother to a little place called Highfill, Arkansas to live on my grandparents' property. Later on, my mother and I would move into Gentry, Arkansas, and it would be my home for a few years until I came back to Kansas City as a teenager. Fast forward to 2003. I began to do my own research of people with famous or well-known backgrounds at Elmwood Cemetery such as Clay Crenshaw who rode with Quantrill and was at the raid on Lawrence. I became intrigued by Quantrill's men and the Kanas-Missouri border wars, and the rest is, well...history.

One of my first sources was Quantrill historian and author, Donald Hale. He was very generous in donating Branded as Rebels and The William Clarke Quantrill Men's Reunions, 1898-1929. As I was perusing the "Reunions" book, something made me do a fast double take when I came across the 1908 reunion. The name "J. J. Carl, Gentry Arkansas" caught my eye. A few years ago as I continued doing Quantrill research, I came across Carl again. I had found he was around the Kansas City area during the border war and also fought at Wilson's Creek. Then I came across a Missouri soldier also buried in Gentry, Arkansas named Joseph Coyl, and the regiment listed on his pension application was ... "Quanturell's."

~See "Continued from Page 1" below...

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

February 2015 Board Meeting

Wednesday, February 4, 2015 – 7:00 p.m.
Home of Beverly Shaw, 17313 E. 51st Terr. Court,
Independence, MO.

February 2015 Membership Meeting

Wednesday, February 11, 2015 – 7:00 p.m. Villages
of Jackson Creek, 3980-A S. Jackson Drive (lower
level), Independence, MO. Program: The last of
the Ken Burns Civil War Programs: “The Better
Angels of our Nature.”

Dues are payable for 2015: \$20 for an individual
and \$30 for a couple. For those who want just
the *Border Star* newsletter, a subscription is \$10.
Dues or a subscription must be received by
February 25th to receive the March issue.
Pay at the meeting or send a check to “CWRTWM,”
P. O. Box 3019, Independence, MO 64055.

Copies of our second “Monuments” book are
available at the meeting for \$20 for members.
If you want to buy a copy of *Civil War Monuments
and Memorials in Western Missouri* by mail, please
send a check for \$20 plus \$2.75 for shipping.

Other Civil War Events and Exhibits

Bleeding Kansas 2015 – Lecompton, KS

Sunday, February 1, 2015 – 2:00 p.m.
Constitution Hall State Historic Site, 319 Elmore,
Lecompton, KS. *Railroad Empire across the
Heartland: Rephotographing Alexander Gardner’s
1867 Westward Journey through Kansas* by John
Charlton, photographer, Kansas Geological Survey.
Remarks by Nancy Sherbert, curator of photo-
graphs, Kansas Historical Society. Charlton will
sign copies of his book after the presentation. \$3
admission.

Raytown Historical Society Ambassador’s Meeting

Monday, February 2, 2015 – 10:00 a.m.
9705 E. 63rd Street, Raytown, MO. Examination of
items from the museum collection.

The Nicodemus Connection to a Vice President

Monday, February 2, 2015 – 6:30 p.m.

Parsons Public Library, 311 S. 17th Street, Parsons,
KS. Angela O. Bates: Before homesteading as free
men in the African-American settlement of
Nicodemus in far western Kansas, Tom Johnson
and John Samuels were enslaved by U. S. Vice
President Richard M. Johnson (1837-1841) and his
daughter Imogene Pence. Johnson became a
controversial figure when he married Julia Chinn, a
biracial woman and mother of his two daughters.
This presentation follows Tom and John’s journey
from enslavement in Kentucky to freedom
experienced in an all-Black town. Learn about their
lives on the Johnson plantation, the tragic split of
their families, and their migration and settlement in
historic Nicodemus.

Preserving Your Digital Heritage – National

Archives – Thursday, February 5, 2015 – 10:00 a.m.
National Archives, 400 W. Pershing Road, Kansas
City, MO. Technology has made it easier to capture
memories in pictures but has complicated the
process of storing them. Keeping track of and
preserving your digital files on multiple devices can
be overwhelming. This session will show you how
to organize, centralize, and protect your collections
for yourself and those to come. For reservations for
this free workshop, call (816) 268-8000 or E-mail
kansascity.archives@nara.gov.

Secret Songs of the Underground Railroad

Friday, February 6, 2015 – 6:30 p.m.
Plaza Library, 4801 Main Street, Kansas City, MO.
Brother John: Through storytelling and song, he
will help explore the hidden, coded meanings and
messages of classic spirituals and folk tunes used by
the Underground Railroad conductors in spiriting
fugitive slaves to freedom. To RSVP please call
(816) 701-3407.

Friends of Arrow Rock 2015 Lecture Series

Saturday, February 7, 2015 – 10:00 a.m.
State Historic Site Auditorium, Arrow Rock, MO.
Doug Hundley: *America Unfinished: Abraham
Lincoln in 1865.*

Bleeding Kansas 2015—Lecompton, Kansas

Sunday, February 8, 2015 – 2:00 p.m.
Constitution Hall State Historic Site, 319
Elmore, Lecompton, KS. Kerry Altenbernd
as abolitionist John Brown and Jeff Quigley as
proslavery advocate W. B. “Fort Scott” Brockett

review the history of Bleeding Kansas and the Battle of Black Jack. \$3.00 admission.

Posse of the Westerners

Tuesday, February 10, 2015 – 6:00 p.m. – Dinner. Golden Corral at Tiffany Springs Market Center, 8800 Northwest Skyview Ave., Kansas City, MO. Jim Tucker: “The Trials and Tribulations of Western Lawmen.”

Civil War Round Table of Cass County

Tuesday, February 10, 2015 – 7:00 p.m. Pearson Hall in the Harrisonville Library, 400 E. Mechanic, Harrisonville, MO. Angela Schear: “The New York Draft Riots and My Family’s Involvement in It.”

Sons of Confederate Veterans – Hughes Camp

Thursday, February 12, 2015 – 7:00 p.m. Kross Lounge and Ernie’s Restaurant, 605 N. Sterling, Sugar Creek, MO. Don Gilmore: “The Kansas Redlegs – The Dark Underbelly of the Union Army.” Visitors welcome.

“Quindaro” Documentary

Friday, February 13, 2015 – 5:00 p.m. Kansas City, KS Community College, 7250 State Ave., Kansas City, KS. (Performing Arts Center). Founded in 1857 on the Missouri River, the Town of Quindaro thrived for six years. The “Quindaro” documentary short film examines the history of the northeast Kansas community and looks at future plans for the area’s revitalization.

Bleeding Kansas 2015 – Lecompton, Kansas

Sunday, February 15, 2015 – 2:00 p.m. Constitution Hall State Historic Site, 319 Elmore, Lecompton, KS. Max Nehrbass, Labette Community College history instructor: “James Montgomery: The Original Jayhawker.” George Davis: “Civil War in the Far West in such unexpected places as Utah, Arizona and Washington.” Historian Rich Ankerholz will portray James Montgomery. \$3 admission.

Mid-Missouri Civil War Round Table – Columbia,

MO – Monday, February 16, 2015 – 7:00 p.m. Boone County Historical Society Museum, 3801 Ponderosa Drive, Columbia, MO. Program by George Davis.

Independence Civil War Study Group

Wednesday, February 18, 2015 – 7:00 p.m. 1859 Jail Museum, Independence, MO. Darryl Levings: “Newspapers in this area during the Civil War.” Darryl is an editor and columnist with the Kansas City *Star* and author of *Saddle the Pale Horse*.

Brown Bag Lunch Lecture – Hiram Young,

American Original – Friday, February 20, 2015 – Noon. National Frontier Trails Museum, 318 W. Pacific, Independence, MO. Born into slavery, Hiram Young dreamed of one day becoming a free man and earning his way in the world by hard work, determination, and ethical behavior. His rise to becoming one of the most prosperous citizens of Independence is a true “rags to riches” story. Free.

150 Years of African American Funeral History in

K. C. – Saturday, February 21, 2015 – 1:30 p.m. Alexander Majors Barn, 8201 State Line Road, Kansas City, MO. Lee Ward will discuss how pre-Civil War attitudes and history of enslaved blacks has influenced the black funeral. Lee is the author of five books including the only book written about the Civil War embalmer, *Coffins, Kits and More*. \$5.00 admission.

Bleeding Kansas 2015 – Lecompton, Kansas

Sunday, February 22, 2015 – 2:00 p.m. Constitution Hall State Historic Site, 319 Elmore Lecompton, KS. Diane Eickhoff and Aaron Barnhart, authors and historians: “If It Looks Like a Man: Female Soldiers and Lady Bushwhackers in the Civil War in Kansas and Missouri.” \$3.00 admission.

Civil War Round Table of Kansas City

Tuesday, February 24, 2015 – 6:30 p.m. – Dinner. \$27. Holiday Inn & Suites, 8787 Reeder Road, Overland Park, KS. (Sunset Ballroom – 8th Floor). Park on the south side of the hotel and use the elevators in the lobby. Harold Holzer: *Lincoln and the Power of the Press: The War for Public Opinion*. Dinner reservations to Paul Gault at (816) 741-2962.

Missouri State Archives – Jefferson City, Missouri

Thursday, February 26, 2015 – 7:00 p.m.

600 W. Main Street, Jefferson City, MO. Gary Kremer: *Race and Meaning: The African American Experience in Missouri*. Free.

Old Stone Church Gospel Concert

Saturday, February 28, 2015 – 7:00 p.m.

Old Stone Church, 315 Sixth Street, Osawatomie, KS. The Old Stone Church was built by Rev. Samuel Adair, John Brown's brother-in-law, and Osawatomie pioneers in 1861. A free will offering will benefit the John Brown Museum Educational Garden Fund.

Bleeding Kansas 2015 – Lecompton, KS

Sunday, March 1, 2015 – 2:00 p.m.

Constitution Hall State Historic Site, 319 Elmore, Lecompton, KS. Dr. Charles E. Heller, author and historian: *John Brown's Money Man: George Luther Stearns, Abolitionist*. Dr. Heller will sign copies of his book after the presentation. \$3 admission.

Ongoing Events

50 Photographs of Soldiers at the Nelson Gallery

Ongoing to June 21, 2015. Museum hours. Exhibit at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, 45th and Oak, Kansas City, MO. The pictures of the servicemen and women date from the Civil War to recent wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Free admission. For museum information call (816) 751-1278 or visit www.nelson-atkins.org.

Starring Abe Lincoln

Now through February 14, 2015. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at 10:00 a.m. Friday at 10:00 a.m. and Noon. Saturday at 2:00 p.m. H&R Block City Stage in Union Station, Level B, 30 W. Pershing Road, Kansas City, MO. Theatre for Young America's presentation of "Starring Abe Lincoln" with Kevin Fewell in the title role. Kevin is also President of the Union Cemetery Historical Society. Single tickets are \$10 and can be reserved by calling (816) 460-2083.

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I had a dream of an educational library as a way to let northwest Arkansas know that they too were a part of the Kansas-Missouri border wars. I wanted

to bring Kansas City, Independence, Lawrence, Baxter Springs and the like to them. And that, my friends, is how it all started."

Now back to 2015. Richard has created a collection called the "Quantrill Special Collections Research" at the Benton County Historical Society in Bentonville, Arkansas. This has all been done through his own time, money, and the generous donations of fellow historians like yourselves. Richard recently learned that his main benefactor, a distant relative named Loye Philpott Roach, recently passed away. She was the family genealogist, and it was through her that he found that Quantrill guerrilla, John P. Webb, married into his family. Other distant relatives were Raine Philpott and Addison Philpott. Loye gave without asking and sometimes a box of books or binders would suddenly appear on his doorstep.

Richard has a recent request for a copy of *Failed Ambition: The Civil War Journals and Letters of Cavalryman Homer Harris Jewett* for current research and later to donate to the collection. He also continues to copy reference materials such as the articles from the *Kansas City Daily Journal*. If you can help with books, binders, or photocopying, you can send a donation to his banker/wife Donnia Stewart at 11316 Highridge Drive, Independence, Missouri 64052. You can contact Richard at qscrnwa@gmail.com or see the result of his research at www.josieqscr.blogspot.com. As Richard always ends his communications: "The cause is just." ~Beverly Shaw, Treasurer

News About Members and Friends

We are sorry to report that **Richard Ham**, a longtime member since 2009, has passed away in Lee's Summit. Services are Friday, January 30, 2015 at the Newcomer's Noland Road Chapel with burial at Woodlawn Cemetery. Condolences may be sent to his brother, George Ham, 4304 S. Mills Road, Independence, MO 64055. Richard lived a very full life of travel, piano playing, clogging, and continuing education.

We also wish to extend condolences to the family of **Mike Calvert** for the death of his sister, **Kim Glynn**. Visitation is Sunday, February 1, 2015 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. at the Speaks Suburban Chapel,

18020 E. 39th Street, Independence, MO and services at 10 a.m. on Monday, February 2, at the same location. Cards may be sent to Mike and Cindi Calvert at 420 N. Pleasant, Independence, MO 64050.

The Civil War Round Table of Kansas City recently honored three members who have contributed to their ongoing success. **Paul and Sylvia Gault** have been treasurer and reservation takers for the monthly meetings and are looking for replacements. Longtime editor of the *Border Bugle* and photographer extraordinaire, **Mike Epstein**, is taking some R & R, and is handing the reins over to **Dick Titterington**. The new president of the group is **Dave Pattison** who has received the baton from **Dennis Garstang**.

The **Clay County Museum** in Liberty, Missouri, has bought new chairs for their programs and are selling their vintage wooden folding chairs which may be suitable for reenactors and living history groups because they are reminiscent of camp chairs used during the Civil War. The chairs are \$25 each and may be picked up at James Country Mercantile or the Museum when it reopens for the season on February 1, 2015.

A new book about the Underground Railroad was previewed in the *Kansas City Star* on January 18, 2015. It's called *Gateway to Freedom* by **Eric Foner**. It's a thrilling story of many people who helped slaves to reach freedom. He puts names and faces to activists less famous than Harriet Tubman. It is interesting to know that she rescued some 70 slaves whereas Jermain W. Loguen of Syracuse was credited with assisting 1,500 fugitives. Thomas Garrett, a Quaker, helped more than 2,200 people cross the Delaware border to freedom. Perhaps most indispensable of all was Louis Napoleon who reportedly aided 3,000 escaping from bondage even though he himself was illiterate.

A new educational panel was erected on January 20, 2015 at **Cape Girardeau** to feature **General U. S. Grant's** service in southeast Missouri. Cape Girardeau claims the distinction of being the starting point of Grant's campaigns that resulted ultimately in the fall of Vicksburg, Mississippi in 1863. If your travels take you to that part of Missouri, you should also visit "Port Cape Girardeau" barbecue restaurant which is located in an historical building.

Wendy Shay, Historic Preservation Director for the City of Independence, Missouri, has invited us to

participate in the new smartphone app that will allow a user to pull up a one-minute video made by people telling about their favorite places in Independence. Topics might include where you went to school; a special place you remember growing up; your last vacation in Independence; trips to the Square, Englewood, or Fairmount; a building or site you find interesting; your love of Independence history such as Truman, Mormon, Civil War, Trails; the place your grandparents were married; why you love your home or neighborhood; a special holiday celebration; any day in Independence that sparks a warm memory. The videos may be recorded on location or in the studio at the Independence City Hall (Conference Room D, Ground Floor) on February 11, March 11, April 8, and May 13 from 1-3 p.m. You can bring pictures if you don't want to be on camera for the full minute. To schedule a video shoot, call the Preservation Division at (816) 325-7419 or E-mail Wendy at wshay@indepmo.org.

Another new book called *Lincoln and the Power of the Press* may be of interest to those who are dismayed by the coarseness of our public debate and fearful that 2015 can only see a sharpening of partisanship. A quote from the book is "that vacillating imbecile won over the public." In 1862 the *Chicago Times* deemed President Abraham Lincoln an "irresolute, vacillating imbecile." The author, Harold Holzer, will be speaking to the Kansas City Round Table on February 24 (see calendar).

Some 50 years ago according to the *Independence Examiner* the **Jackson County Historical Society** acquired a packet of letters preserved by an orderly and secretary of **William Clarke Quantrill**, Civil War guerrilla. Mrs. Charles T. Wesner, society historian, reported the purchase of the papers from descendants of **Warren Welch**, the orderly.

The **Lee's Summit Historical Society** is renovating the former U. S. Post Office on West Main Street to be its new home. In an article in the January 14, 2015 issue of the *Kansas City Star* there were a couple of photographs showing Peggy Van Witt conserving sections of a mural showing rural life.

We appreciate the time that people took to respond to the **Missouri Department of Transportation** about its proposal to decrease the number of "wayfinder" signs directing people to historic sites in smaller communities. There was such an uproar from all over the state that they withdrew the proposal.

A very expensive penny was recently sold at auction for \$2.35 million. It is known as the “**chain cent**” and dated to 1793. The design on the back was 13 linking rings symbolizing the unity of the original 13 colonies. The design was changed soon after production started because critics at the time thought the chain evoked an image of slavery. A wreath replaced the chain in later pennies.

The Native Sons and Daughters of Kansas City recently honored special people at their holiday brunch. Unfortunately **Kathy Pickering** was not able to attend but received the Award of Appreciation for her work in starting the awards program a few years ago in honor of her late husband. The **Lee I. Pickering** Award of Excellence was presented to Jim Flanagan for his long service as treasurer.

Jackie Roberts will be retiring from the Cass County Public Library Genealogy Branch on Wednesday, February 18, 2015. You can drop in from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. to say hello and wish her well. The library is located at 400 E. Mechanic, Harrisonville, Missouri.

Stuart W. Sanders has let us know that his new long-form essay called “Lincoln’s Confederate Little Sister, Emilie Todd Helm” is now available on Amazon.com for the Kindle and related platforms. As the wife of a Confederate general and the half-sister of Mary Todd Lincoln, Emilie was torn between two worlds. After her husband was killed at the Battle of Chickamauga, she traveled to the White House and mourned with Mary Lincoln. Although politicians condemned the Union commander-in-chief for hosting this rebel widow, to President Lincoln she was simply “Little Sister,” a grieving family member who brought comfort to his wife. Sadly, a year later, Emilie ended contact with Mary after she blamed Lincoln for her family woes. Their relationship—fractured like their family—was another casualty of the war.

A regional book of interest is *The March to the River—From Pea Ridge to Helena, Spring, 1862* by **Robert G. Schultz** (Camp Pope Press and Amazon). It covers the events in the aftermath of the Battle of Pea Ridge from both Union and Confederate perspectives. This “march” set a number of precedents in the Civil War: the first winter campaign; the first time a march was essentially cut off from its logistical supply; a march far longer (736 miles) than Sherman’s March to the Sea and under

much poorer conditions; and some of the earliest guerrilla warfare against an established military force.

Congress has voted to establish two national historic parks for **Harriet Tubman**, a conductor on the Underground Railroad. The Harriet Tubman National Historical Park will be placed in her former home in Cayuga County, N. Y. on the outskirts of Auburn and the Eastern Shore of Maryland, where she grew up. The Maryland Visitor Center is scheduled to open in 2016. The national parks are the first to honor an African-American woman.

The **John Wornall House Museum** has announced that if you take their public tours on Wednesday or Thursday, you will receive \$5 off the purchase of a book valued \$10 and up, excluding the Bruce Mathews photography books. Tours are at 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 1 p.m., 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. The gift shop has a variety of books on Kansas City history and the Civil War and is located at 6115 Wornall Road, Kansas City, Missouri.

The **Wornall House** will present Black History Tours on Saturdays in February that will focus on the black experience during the 1850s and 1860s. Visitors will learn about the Wornall family, the Civil War, and the realities African-Americans faced during this time period. Tours are given at 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 1 p.m. (except on February 28), 2 p.m., and 3 p.m.

The Wornall/Majors homes will be presenting two Black History programs which can be reserved for a fee of \$8 for both (regularly \$5 each). Go to www.wornallmajors.org/experience/events/. The first program is on February 21 at 1:30 p.m. at the Alexander Majors Barn, 8201 State Line Road, Kansas City, Missouri. **Lee Ward** will be discussing “150 Years of African-American Funeral History of Kansas City.”

The second program is “Blacks in Blue” by **Joe Louis Mattox** at the John Wornall House on February 28 at 1:00 p.m. One of the often forgotten heroes of the Civil War is the African-American soldier.

