



★ *The Border Star* ★

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

October-November-December 2020

The Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri

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Meetings

2nd Wednesday of each month, 7:00 pm
Via Zoom until further notice
See instructions in this newsletter

Visitors Always Welcome!

Annual Dues

Individual ----- 25.00
Family ----- 35.00
Student (under 21) ----- 5.00
Newsletter Only (no meetings) 10.00

For Information

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President's Letter

I've been thinking lately about how much our lives have changed in the last six months. What will our future be? Will the way we live our day-to-day life ever be the same as it was a year ago? Or seemingly so insignificant, will all the traditions from our past holidays be celebrated as they have always been? The smart money is on "probably not." Then I started to think about the changes the Civil War had on the celebration of holidays.

We know Christmas was not always celebrated as it is today. Christmas was celebrated, but the traditions and rituals differed from region to region. Before the Civil War, Christmas was not an official holiday in the United States. Nor was it celebrated uniformly across the country. In early New England, Christmas was looked down upon by the fun-loving Puritans and Calvinists, who felt the day should be reserved for strict fasts and other rituals, if it was to be observed at all. In the antebellum south, slave owners would allow slave marriages and maybe give out small gifts along with food and alcohol. Needless to say, Christmas was celebrated differently across the United States.

No matter how many different ways Christmas was observed, the Civil War disrupted traditions. For the first time, masses of men were far away from loved ones and maybe they would never return. Because materials were being directed to the war effort, the tradition of gift giving was not the same. A smaller Christmas was considered patriotic. "A crotchety slave told the Howell-Cobb children not to expect a visit from St. Nick because the Yankees had shot him," writes historian James Alan Marten, "while other parents offered more sensitive explanations. As a Yankee, Santa would be held up by Confederate pickets, or perhaps Union blockading vessels had interrupted his journey."

Whether it was the exchanging of gifts or family gatherings, the way families shared Christmas traditions was disrupted. However, this upheaval of tradition reminded these Civil War families that no matter how trivial the tradition, it served to remind them of the importance of family and home. In 1870 by act of Congress, Christmas became an official holiday. Today we still celebrate Christmas as a time to be spent with family and friends. Since the Civil War we have had many challenges to this celebration and we have another today. We may not be able to celebrate Christmas in 2020 as we always have. Our time of disruption will pass and the separation of families it has caused will, in the end, teach us to hold and cherish each moment we share together.

Since this is the last *Border Star* for the year, I want to thank everyone for your support during the past year. Happy Holidays to all.

Mike Calvert, President
Civil War Roundtable of Western Missouri

CWRTWM Calendar

October 2020 Virtual Membership Meeting

Wednesday, October 14, 2020 – 7:00 p.m. Zoom meeting. Dan Smith: “Spies and Secret Societies during the Civil War.” Please save your invitation on your Email account until after the meeting.

The “invitation” to the Zoom meeting will be sent by Email about Monday, October 12th. It will contain a link highlighted in blue which you can click on about 6:40 p.m. on October 14th. You will need a computer or smartphone with an Email address to enter the meeting. You will be kept in a “waiting room” until the host is ready to admit the members and the speaker. If this is your first Zoom meeting, you may be directed to download the Zoom application to participate, but after this, you should not need to download it again.

If you normally receive the *Border Star* by Email, Beverly Shaw will send you the invitation automatically, but if you receive the *Border Star* by U.S. mail, please call her to give the Email address you want to use for Zoom. This will not affect how you receive the *Border Star*. Her number is (816) 225-7944.

November 2020 Virtual Membership Meeting

Wednesday, November 11, 2020 – 7:00 p.m. Zoom meeting. Tony Meyers: “Clay County during the Civil War.” The invitation will be sent about November 9, 2020. Please save the invitation on your Email account until after the meeting.

December 2020 Virtual Membership Meeting

Wednesday, December 9, 2020 – 7:00 p.m. Zoom meeting. Joyce Gillespie: “A Woman’s Life during the Civil War.” The invitation will be sent about November 9, 2020. Please save it on your Email account until after the meeting.

Other History Events

Clay County Historical Society Webinar

Tuesday, September 29, 2020 – 6:00 p.m. Mark Kelly: Andrew Henry, Friend of Col. John Dougherty. Henry’s efforts led to the formation of the Missouri Fur Company and the first American fur post beyond the Continental Divide.” An invitation to the webinar will be issued as an email from Beverly Shaw to your account. If you do not receive your *Border Star* by Email, you will need to call Beverly at (816) 225-7944 to give her your Email address. This is a reciprocal arrangement with the Clay County Historical Society so that their members may visit our virtual programs, and our members may visit theirs.

Information about Andrew Henry from Mark:

“Andrew Henry was a unique individual – a man possessed not only of the ability to walk among the societal elite of early-day, French-dominated Ste. Genevieve, Missouri, but capable, as well, of surviving the horrific attacks of the Blackfoot Confederacy at the Three Forks of the Missouri. Henry was an entrepreneur and merchant, possessed of vast acreages of lead-producing income, a shipping company, multiple mercantile establishments, and a blacksmith shop. He would facilitate the founding of no fewer than three towns. His company would reap such profits that multiple merchants of St. Louis sought him out to form a partnership entitled the St. Louis Missouri Fur Company. Formed in 1809, the partners jointly contributed the sum of \$40,000 to outfit no fewer than 150 men on multiple keelboats to send upriver on the Missouri to both trade with the resident tribes of Native Americans and to trap beaver (although trapping was not a permitted activity at that time). The exploits of Henry are yet remembered, if only because of the well-named “Henry’s Fork of the Snake River” and “Henry’s Lake” of today’s Idaho and the ruins/relics of multiple forts/camps bearing his name in the Far West. Although Henry did not keep a journal and wrote but few letters, the record indicates he was possessed of a phenomenal library and a well-used violin. He is revered by the members of today’s American Mountain Men organization. The site of his grave is yet unknown (despite the Find-A-Grave declaration), but it is documented that he died in proximity to the town of Webster, Harmony Township, Washington County, Missouri – a ghost town within today’s Mark Twain National Forest.”

Clay County prefers that you pre-register for the webinars so that they don’t exceed 100 participants (oh, to have such a problem). Beverly sent an email on September 27th to *Border Star* members who receive their copy digitally to give them the link for the September 29th program.

Missouri Humanities Virtual Gala

Saturday, October 17, 2020 – 7:30 p.m. Since 1971, Missouri Humanities has worked to connect Missourians to the people, places, and ideas that shape our society. It is a grant-making agency, a convener, leader and partner to help share Missouri’s cultural heritage. It sponsors the annual Grant Symposium in St. Louis which some of our members have attended. You can sign up for one free ticket to hear the Keynote Speaker, Jane Smiley at www.mohumanites.org/gala. A native of St. Louis, Jane Smiley wrote an article for the New York Times called “What St. Louis Tells Us About America.” You can read the article by going to

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/10/14/travel/14StLouis-Jane-Smiley-tourism.html>

Mid-Missouri Civil War Round Table Virtual Meeting
Monday, October 19, 2020 – 7:00 p.m. Zoom meeting.
Gene McArtor: “New Madrid and Island Number 10.”
We have a reciprocal arrangement with the Round Table in Columbia, MO to share our virtual meetings so you may see some unfamiliar names at our meetings, and they will see some unfamiliar names at their meeting. This cross-pollination worked out very well for their first Zoom meeting on September 21st because Sarah Poff from our Round Table contributed to their program on “The Battle of Belmont” because she grew up in that part of Southeast Missouri just across the Mississippi River from Kentucky and has subsequently shared pictures and other information.

Beverly Shaw will send the Zoom invitation about October 16th so please save it in your Email account until after the meeting. This invitation will go out to everyone who normally receives the *Border Star* by Email. If you receive the *Border Star* by U.S. mail, please call Beverly to give her your preferred Email address for the invitation. Her number is (816) 225-7944.

October Brown Bag Program – Shawnee Indian Mission
Tuesday, October 20, 2020 – Noon. Bring your own Brown Bag lunch and enjoy a program about 12:30 p.m. The address is, 3403 W. 53rd Street, Fairway, KS. North building. Come upstairs from the street. This is a Tuesday date instead of Wednesday because this is the 90th anniversary of the Shawnee Indian Mission Historical Society. Masks are required. Please RSVP to John Forbes so that they know how many tables to set up for social distancing. You can Email him at JWForbes@outlook.com or call him at (913) 631-4481.

Independence Civil War Study Group
Wednesday, October 21, 2020 – 7:00 p.m. Perkins Restaurant, 3939 S. Bolger Drive, Independence, MO (across from Walmart on 39th Street). Gregg Higginbotham: “Civil War Revolvers.” Mask required.

Clay County Historical Society Virtual Program
Thursday, October 29, 2020 – 6:00 p.m. Jana Jessee Becker: Zoom Webinar about the POW Camp (Prisoner of War Camp) which was built on the Desert Gold Turkey Farm near Liberty, MO during WWII to house captured Italian and German POWs. She will tell about the family who owned the farm and how they were convinced by the U.S. government to allow the camp to be built there. The Italian prisoners built the camp, and the 600 German prisoners were from Rommel’s elite

Afrika Corps. There were also other POW camps in Missouri.

If you receive your *Border Star* by email, the “invitation” to this program will be sent to you by Beverly Shaw. If you receive your *Border Star* by U. S. mail, you will need to call Beverly to give her an email address to use: (816) 225-7944 (cell).

Clay County prefers that you pre-register for their webinars so that they don’t exceed 100 participants so as soon as you receive their notice with the link, you should sign up.

Friends of the Missouri State Archives
Thursday, November 12, 2020 – 7:00 p.m. Shoes Older than the Pyramids Facebook Live on Facebook at www.facebook.com/missouristatearchives/live



The Arnold Research Cave, overlooking the Missouri River in southeast Callaway County, has been dry for thousands of years, making it the perfect potential location for evidence of prehistoric habitation. With these conditions, archaeological excavators in the 1950s, and later the 1980s, found remaining artifacts made of perishable materials, such as netting, twined bags and clothing, including – perhaps of the greatest popular interest – the world’s oldest open-toed sandal. In Shoes Older than the Pyramids, Dr. Candace Sall, Associate Curator of the University of Missouri’s Museum of Anthropology, will provide details on many of the artifacts found in the cave, including 35 individual shoes made of rattlesnake master, a plant native to the Show-Me State. The items unearthed at the site range in age from 800 to 9,000 years, with the earliest shoes dating back eight millennia, making them some of the oldest articles of clothing ever found in North America. Join us on Facebook Live as Dr. Sall discusses these artifacts, providing a fascinating glimpse into the lives of Missouri’s prehistoric peoples.

Let Beverly know your email address if you don't normally get the Border Star by Email. Call her at (816) 225-7944

Mid-Missouri CWRT Virtual Meeting

Monday, November 16, 2020 – 7:00 p.m. George Davis: "The Birth of Military Intelligence." Zoom "invitation" to be sent about November 13, 2020.

Brown Bag Lunch and Speaker

Wednesday, November 18, 2020 – Noon. Bring your own lunch. Speaker about 12:30 p.m. Shawnee Indian Mission, 3403 W. 53rd Street, Fairway, KS. North building. Come upstairs from the street. Father Porter: "St. Agnes School, Our Neighbors to the east." RSVP to John Forbes so they will know how many tables to set up to social distance. Call him at (913) 631-4481 or Email at JWForbes@outlook.com. Mask required.

Independence Civil War Study Group

Wednesday, November 18, 2020 – 7:00 p.m. Perkins Restaurant, 3939 S. Bolger Drive, Independence, MO (across from Walmart on 39th Street). Paul Kirkman: "Missouri Outlaws." Mask required.

Ongoing Events

1859 Jail and Marshal's Home, 217 N. Main Street, Independence, MO. Open for tours by reservation only. Call (816) 252-1892. \$6 for adults and \$5 for seniors. Mask required.

Ghost Tours of Independence, MO

Every Friday and Saturday night in October the Jackson Co. Historical Society, Dusk 2 Dawn Paranormal, and Pioneer Trails Adventures are hosting Ghost Tours at the 1859 Jail. Tours begin at 7:00 p.m., 8:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. Spend an exciting 45 minutes touring the 1859 Jail, Marshal's Home and Museum, then take a spooky covered wagon ride around the Independence Square. \$25 for adults, \$20 for kids 7-16. No kids under age 7. Tickets go on sale September 1st on Eventbrite and www.jchs.org. Advance purchase only, tickets will not be sold at the door. A portion of the proceeds benefit the Jackson County Historical Society.

Only 10 people allowed per tour. Masks must be worn inside the museum during your tour. No refunds. No transfers.

This event has sold out the past 4 years, so tickets go fast! This is not a jump out and scare you kind of tour, instead you will be learning about the grisly history of the 1859 Jail and Independence Square as well as some of the ghosts who haunt the place.

Clay County Museum, 14 N. Main Street, Liberty, MO. Monday – Friday 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Saturday 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. through October 2020 (while Farmer's Market is open). Closed Sunday. Closed for the entire month of January 2021. Free admission at the present time but donations are welcome. For information, please call (816) 792-1849. Mask required.

Missouri Town 1855, 8010 E. Park Road, Lee's Summit, MO. (Near Lake Jacomo). Tuesdays through Sundays, 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. through November 15, 2020. Adults – \$7, Seniors 62 and over and children 5 – 13 are \$4. Beginning November 16, 2020 Missouri Town will be open on weekends only from 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri Annual Meeting

Normally we hold our annual meeting in November and have the election of officers and board members. Since we can't meet in person this year, we consulted our Bylaws and found that the present board can continue to serve until such time as their successors can be elected.

We have polled the board and found that all except Steve Hatcher will continue in their present positions. Steve has some large projects to complete but hopes to be able to act as our "host" for Zoom meetings. We really appreciate his time and effort in bringing our round table into the modern era with our website and our virtual meetings. Please consult the masthead of the Border Star for a list of continuing officers and board members.

The board is also meeting via Zoom as needed and will continue planning Civil War programming. Some projects we will pursue are to revise our Bylaws to reflect the use of virtual meetings, craft a new "Purpose Statement," observe the Missouri State Bicentennial in 2021, plan a 30th anniversary of the group in 2023, and continue providing virtual programs and conferences. Any suggestions you have for the group may be passed along to a board member or sent to our email address at mail@CWRTWM.org.

As we look forward to 2021, we hope you will continue your membership at a single rate of \$25 or a family rate of \$35 which includes the *Border Star* newsletter. If you wish to receive the newsletter only, the cost is \$10 per year. You can mail your dues payment to "Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri, P.O. Box 3019, Independence, MO 64055." Dues are on a calendar year basis so you can send your check in December if you wish. Please retain this issue of the *Border Star* for the rest of 2020.

News About Members and Friends

We are sorry to report that there have been some deaths in the history community.

The Bingham-Waggoner Estate in Independence, Missouri lost a pioneer of the organization, **Dr. James Austin** who passed away September 13, 2020. He helped develop the estate for public view, served on the Board of Directors for many years, and served as President for one year.

Len Eagleburger, Editor of the *Ozarks Civil War Weekly*, devoted the 500th and final issue of the newsletter to the death of **Ed Bearss**, past Chief Historian of the National Park Service from 1981 to 1994, who died on Tuesday, September 15, 2020 at the age of 97. He was a military historian and author known for his work on the American Civil War and World War II. He was a tour guide of historic battlefields for The Smithsonian Associates. (We also wish to thank Len for his work in compiling and sharing Civil War articles from current newspapers and magazines. He has been an inspiration for Beverly to share articles on line with our members during this time when we can't meet in person.)

Winston Groom, author of the book *Forrest Gump* on which the movie was based, died on September 16, 2020, and was also the author of some Civil War books. Probably best known is *Shrouds of Glory* from 1995. He focuses on Confederate General John Bell Hood's decisive action during the final moments of the Civil War. It takes a journey through the ravaged South to the once-vibrant city of Nashville, where General Hood makes a last futile attempt to preserve the Confederacy.

Just a reminder that if you plan to order some merchandise through Amazon, you can set up **Amazon Smile** to credit a portion of your purchase to our not-for-profit organization. We are listed among the organizations that you can choose.

The American Battlefield Trust has announced that their next President will be David Duncan effective October 1, 2020. We will miss seeing Jim Lighthizer's name at the bottom of the emails which showcase the battlefields that have been preserved due to the efforts of this organization. There are also good links in the Emails to learn more about the battles.

The Battle of Liberty DAR marker was recently installed at Ruth Ewing Road and Missouri 291 in Liberty, Missouri with a speech by Jay Jackson.

The 2021 Bicentennial Missouri Time Capsule is seeking submissions by groups such as the Round Table.

The time capsule will preserve the memories and moments 200 years later when the westward expansion of our nation ushered in the 24th state of Missouri into the union. Items should be no larger than a legal size paper (8.5 x 14 inches) and no more than ¼ inch thick. What are your suggestions? Send them to Charles Bianco, our Historian, at NancyBianco5422@comcast.net.

The Story of Blue Springs is now available as part of the resources of the 4th grade students in the Blue Springs public schools. The Blue Springs chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution with the help of many other history groups organized the effort. Individuals who also contributed were David Jackson, Barbara Hughes, Steve Noll, Connie Roman, and Lianna Trumble. If you want to buy a copy, you can contact Sarah Poff at spoff@yahoo.com.

The Daughters of the American Revolution held their 129th annual Continental Congress this year. **Anne Mallinson**, Honorary Chapter Regent of Centerview, MO was awarded second place nationally for her original short story about the suffrage movement.

Missouri Life magazine has recognized some new reads from the state of Missouri: *Commonwealth of Compromise: Civil War Commemoration in Missouri* by Amy Laurel Fluker which examines the collaborative efforts made by the Civil War generation to reach reconciliation of their collective memories and *The War for Missouri: 1861-1862* by Joseph W. McCoskrie which takes an in-depth look at how divided Missouri was during the Civil War.

Speaking of books, the Round Table would like to thank **Mike Calvert** for donating books from his personal library to benefit us. We had receipts of \$17.39 for individual books and \$135 from **Paul Bond** who bought the remainder. Paul and Mike have been very generous with us in providing books for our silent auction when we could meet in person. **Beverly Shaw** has a couple of books she would like to send to a good home free of cost. One is an iPad for Seniors manual and tutorial written specifically for the mature user which is helpful for all iPad Devices (Apple). Another book is the 2014 edition of the *Preparation for the GED Test* by McGraw-Hill. Give Beverly a call at 816 225-7944 or email to bevjoshaw@hotmail.com.

In our first Zoom program given by Charles Bianco about "Happy Times at the 1859 Jail," he gave us an interesting story about "**Father Donnelly's Treasure.**" During Price's raid in the Civil War, he tried to bury assets of the church behind the building but not trusting

the custodian, he moved them, but when he went back to retrieve the treasure, it was gone.

Keith Nelson, a former speaker for the Round Table and Co-Chair of the **Francois Chouteau and Native American Heritage Fountain**, has let us know that three heroic size bronze sculptures by Kwan Wu have been installed, and they hope for a completion of the water feature by 2021 in time for the bicentennial of the State of Missouri. Missouri was admitted to the union in 1821, the same year Chouteau established his fur trading post on the banks of the Missouri River in Clay County which was a new western frontier.

The KCQ (Kansas City Quotient) for September 2, 2020 in the Kansas City *Star* was about **Lincoln College** in Greenwood, Missouri, which is now an antique area near Lee's Summit. It boasted five instructors and 75 students during the 1875-76 school year for English, Mathematical, Scientific, and Classical Studies for \$30 yearly tuition. Its most famous graduate was Rose A. McCullough who became an international hero who served as a missionary in the Punjab province of what was then British-ruled India (now independent Pakistan) for more than 55 years. King George V of Great Britain awarded her a medal for outstanding public service.

Beverly Shaw would like to put together a little group to visit the Harris-Kearney House in Westport at 4000 Baltimore to view the National Archives exhibit called "Rightfully Hers," commemorating the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment (Women's Suffrage). If the weather holds, we might even be able to order box lunches and eat out on the veranda. Let Beverly know if you are interested by calling (816) 225-7944 or Email bevjoshaw@hotmail.com.

Congratulations to **Lee Williams** and **Brent Schondelmeyer** of Independence, MO for being honored as the Heartland Humanitarians of the Year for their decades of community advocacy through charities, civic engagement at the polls, and work related to their jobs. Together they have served on the Independence Heritage Commission. Brent is Deputy Director of the non-profit Local Investment Commission (LINC) which focuses on revitalization in older and lower-income neighborhoods and a Vice-President of the State Historical Society of Missouri.

Well, **Sturgis** has come and gone for the year in spite of COVID-19. That's the big motorcycle rally in Sturgis, South Dakota. One of the rally's most iconic locations, Bear Butte, is also among the most sacred to the Lakota, Native American Tribe. This not a coincidence. As

Boston College's Heather Cox Richardson argued in *How the South Won the Civil War*, during Reconstruction, the West became a new location for structures and representations of white nationalism. Catherine McNicol Stock with the *Hartford Courant* says this explains the Confederate-themed items at the rally: flags, posters, bikinis, tattoos, and Southern rock bands. Some riders argue that Sturgis is not "real life" but a week-long bacchanal. As social historians have long noted, however, the liberating atmosphere of events like this can reveal something profoundly real: what revelers wish they could say and do wherever they are.

The Jackson County (MO) Historical Society will be without an Executive Director, at least for the near future. Caitlin Eckard resigned this month to pursue other opportunities. They hope to keep Savannah Lore, the Archives and Education Manager, as a full-time employee. Gloria Smith, the president of JCHS, will take on some of the administrative duties. Smith said of Eckard, "She brought us a lot of newer, younger ideas, and I appreciated that...She brought really good skills, and we wish her the best." Smith said the Historical Society plans to soon unveil a website which digitizes much of the group's long-held archives. See the "Ghost Tours at the 1859 Jail" in the ongoing events section of the calendar.

Chris Rinck wrote a letter to the Editor of the Independence *Examiner* on August 25, 2020 to explain the difference between socialism and communism and said that mistaken use of political labels is not helpful.

You may want to view a new video by **Prairie Hollow Productions** which features Westport Landing, the Town of Kansas, the Town of Westport, Shawnee Indian Mission, New Santa Fe, and the Santa Fe Trail. Some of the narrators are familiar to us. Larry Short talks about the Upper Independence section of the Santa Fe Trail and Bill Worley talks about Westport and New Santa Fe. You can find it at www.prairiehollow.net/projects.

The Union Cemetery Historical Society is partnering with The Coterie Theatre to present "Electric Poe" now through October 31, 2020 to present two Edgar Allen Poe's short stories, along with guitar accompaniment, in front of the Holding Vault. For more information and reservations, please go to the Coterie's website at www.thecoterie.org/performance/electric-poe.

