

A HISTORY OF THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE OF WESTERN MISSOURI

MISSION STATEMENT: The Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri is dedicated to educational purposes including the promotion and understanding of all aspects and phases of the U. S. Civil War period, especially in western Missouri and the "Border War" conflicts and to stimulate interest in and further discussion and study of the War Between the States.

Being a newcomer to the study of the Civil War in Missouri, I have been particularly fascinated and entertained by the individuals who research and recreate various historical events. They are actors who perform for informational purposes. It is a labor of love for these people because in many cases they are attempting to connect with their ancestors. Most of them had relatives who lived through the Civil War in Missouri. As time passed I realized I was also associating with genealogists, historians, preservationists, teachers, and authors.

The CWRTWM has been particularly active in the study and preservation of Civil War cemeteries and battlefields in the area. This shows they have a deep respect for their fellow man. If you would refer to the CWRTWM.org website, you would see a description of the "Lewis-Gregg Cemetery Commission" and the "Sonny Wells Little Blue Battlefield Memorial Commission." In my opinion this is the most important thing they accomplish. Secondly, the individuals within the Round Table who recreate events, write books, or teach classes exhibit a desire to educate adults and young people about the lessons Americans learned from this conflict. These lessons were not given free of charge; they cost the lives and fortunes of very hardworking Americans, and we should strive to understand them and pass them on to others.

For over twenty years the CWRTWM had been working to achieve the goals I have described above. I have researched the more than twenty years of their existence and would like to give a listing of their major field trips or outstanding meetings.

Sonny Wells and Jon Linn presided over the first organizational meeting of the CWRTWM in December, 1992, and Sonny became its first president. The Round Table will celebrate its thirty years anniversary in 2022. The following is a list of field trips and meetings that were particularly outstanding from 1993 to the present:

- 1993-Tour of the Battle of Albany with emphasis on Bloody Bill Anderson
- 1994-Battle of Liberty/Blue Mills, Civil War monuments tour, Battle of Westport
- 1995-Pitcher Cemetery
- 1996-*Sultana* riverboat tragedy
- 1997-The President and Mrs. Lincoln, Battle of Lexington, Elmwood Cemetery Tour, Battle of Westport Bus Tour, Confederate Memorial Park at Higginsville, MO.
- 1998-Cass County Civil War History Tour, Lexington, MO., Battle of Lone Jack, Walking tour of Union Cemetery, First Battle of Manassas
- 1999-Memories of President Lincoln, Designers' Showhouse-30th Anniversary, George Caleb Bingham and the Civil War
- 2000-Stone's River National Battlefield, The Battle of the Little Blue
- 2001-Battle of Mine Creek, Battle of Kirksville
- 2002-Soldiers Walking Tour of Elmwood Cemetery, Thomson House on 40 Highway in Independence, MO, Union Cemetery Tour
- 2003-2004-Battle of Pea Ridge, The Grinter Farm, Battle of Cole Camp and New Market

2005-2006-Little Blue Battlefield Tour, Civil War Embalming by Lee Ward, Quantrill Reunion at Courthouse Exchange Restaurant

2007-2010-Battle of Carthage, Battle of Westport, Trip to Boonville, Trip to Springfield, Illinois—Lincoln Tomb and Memorial, Steamboat *Arabia*, Price's Great Missouri Raid, Trip to Mine Creek, Barbara Hughes as Caroline Quantrill

2011-2013-Union Cemetery Historical Society—George Caleb Bingham, 150th Anniversary of the Civil War, Clay County Bus Tour, Battle of Morristown, Tour of Woodlawn Cemetery

2014-2015-Trip to St. Louis—U. S. Grant National Historic Site, Missouri Civil War Museum, the Death and Embalming of Lincoln, Monument to Chouteau, Meeting at Silver Heart Inn

2016-2018-Civil War Navy by Denis Wormington, "Hardtack and Coffee" by Gregg Higginbotham, John Brown of Kansas by Kerry Altenbernd, Union Railroad Operations, Confederate Railroad Operations, Mount Washington Cemetery Tour, Frank James and Cole Younger Wild West Show, Day Trip to Glasgow and Keytesville, MO.

2019-CWRTWM Show and Tell. Doug J. Richardson, Chief Ranger at the Harry S. Truman Historic Site, gave a brilliant account of the Battles at Fort Henry and Fort Donelson in Tennessee.

The Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri has been led by three presidents who have shared their knowledge of the Civil War: Sonny Wells (1992-March 16, 2004), Timothy Cox (2004-January 14, 2006), and Mike Calvert (2006 to the present). Meetings are held in Independence, Missouri. The newsletter is called "The Border Star."

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Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri