



BORDER



BUGLE

Newsletter of the Civil War Round Table of Kansas City



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436 West 88th Terrace
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An IRC 501(c)(3)

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Due to the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic, the CWRT meeting that was scheduled for March 23, 2021 has been cancelled.

We plan to have a meeting on April 27th at our new venue, the Milburn Golf and Country Club, located at 7501 W 69th Street, Overland Park KS. The meeting will not include a meal. Chairs will be set up lecture style, with social distancing and masks required. There will not be any charge for the meeting on April 27th.

Hopefully, we will resume having dinner meetings in May. In the meantime, we encourage all of our members to get vaccinated as soon as possible.

March Program



Dr. Jeff Gentsch, Professor of Military History at the University of West Alabama, was scheduled to speak about the use of artillery during the Battle of Shiloh and how artillery evolved from the Civil War through the Franco-Prussian War. The title of his presentation was: "The Battle of Shiloh and the Evolution of Artillery, 1861-1871." Unfortunately, this program was cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic. We are hoping to reschedule Dr. Gentsch for next year.

Letter from our Round Table's President

The following letter by **Dan Dooley** was e-mailed to our members on March 10, 2021:

Dear Civil War Round Table Members:

Now that the pandemic effects are beginning to ease and more of our members have been vaccinated, we are committed to holding a meeting in April. This meeting will feature Tom Rafiner, a well-known speaker and prolific author and native of Jackson County currently living in Columbia MO. Mr. Rafiner will speak on his latest book, a biography of R.L.Y. Peyton, frontier lawyer who practiced in Harrisonville, instigator of Missouri's "secession" and member of the Confederate Senate.

The meeting will follow COVID protocols in place at the time, and there will be no dinner, bar service, or social hour. Masks will be required while in the building. The meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. and seating will be lecture or theater style, properly spaced, and no tables. Our new venue, Milburn Country Club, has installed an upgraded air filtration system, and access to the first floor meeting room does not require an elevator.

There will be no charge for this first meeting. Since we do have to pay for the meeting room, there will be a donation jar at the door for voluntary contributions to defray this cost. While we won't have our normal silent book auction, we will have a limited live book auction at the meeting.

We hope to commence dinner meetings in May, subject to the situation at that time. As we have previously announced, your first dinner this year (in May, June or July) will be on us. Owing to recordkeeping issues, extending the free dinner beyond one of the first three is not practical. Reservations will be required and the free dinner is only available to current members with a paid membership.

As a reminder, the Round Table invites well-known and vetted speakers who sometimes offer opinions and insights that challenge our understanding of the tumultuous period of the Civil War and reconstruction. While we do not expect all members to agree with these comments, we do expect members to respect the speakers' right to offer them and we will provide a warm and gracious environment for civil discourse. As an organization dedicated to education and dissemination of information regarding the Civil War period, we are committed to an open and free exchange of ideas without rancor or hostility. Without such an environment, we cannot attract the level of speakers you are accustomed to having.

We are excited to "gear up" and re-start our monthly programming in a premier location with superior meal service and excellent accommodations. We hope you will join us in April. The April newsletter will provide more information along with our normal request for reservations. See you in April!

Regards,

Dan Dooley

President,
Civil War Round Table of Kansas City

March Program Cancelled



Dr. Jeff Gentsch conducting battlefield tour at Shiloh

Dr. Jeff Gentsch has been Professor of Military History at the University of West Alabama since 2000.

Jeff received a BA degree in history from Memphis State University. His senior thesis was titled: "Defending Hitler's Strategic and Operational Decisions on the Eastern Front, 1943." Jeff also received an MS degree in geography from the University of Memphis. His master's thesis was titled: "A Geographic Analysis of the Battle of Shiloh." Jeff earned a PhD in war studies from King's College, University of London. His dissertation was titled: "Italy, Geography and the First World War."

Jeff grew up in Liberal KS, located in the southwest corner of the state. He has presented at the following venues:

- Institute of Historical Research, London 1999.
- Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst 2014.
- Volunteer, Shiloh National Military Park. Led battlefield hikes on the anniversary of the battle.
- Organized and presented for the University of West Alabama's WWI symposium, fall 2018.

Jeff collects military memorabilia from the German Wars of Unification, WWI and WWII, as well as firearms.

Program: "The Battle of Shiloh and the Evolution of Artillery, 1861-1871"



Artillery demonstration at Shiloh National Military Park, April 2019. This cannon is a smoothbore, bronze, 6-pounder field gun, Model 1841.

The following is a summary of the program that Dr. Gentsch planned to present at our March 2021 meeting:

The employment of artillery at the Battle of Shiloh illuminated the fundamental problems in American military history – lack of resources and preparedness – by providing a case study of what not to do with cannon during a major engagement. Concentrating tubes at decisive points was a major European concept hard to replicate in the United States due to a lack of industry and money. Masses of artillery were hallmarks of European battles throughout the Napoleonic era, and as many commanders on both sides during the War Between the States were disciples of the great Corsican, it stands to reason that they pursued, with varying degrees of success, to deploy their cannon *en masse* for great effect.

Dr. Gentsch has led numerous battlefield hikes at Shiloh National Military Park, focused on the artillery used during the Civil War and specifically at the Battle of Shiloh. He has also discussed how the use of artillery evolved from the Civil War through the Franco-Prussian War of 187-1871. The following are some of the key points he made in 2019:

Civil War Artillery

- In the 1860's U.S. artillery couldn't compete with European artillery. Civil War artillery was terribly obsolete. However, the U.S. didn't want to spend money to stay current with the latest technology.
- U.S. artillery was heavy and arduous to move. They could fire only one round every three minutes. Artillery also needed to be moved quicker.
- During the Civil War, the Federal artillery was better than the Confederate artillery, but it was underutilized. Artillery never lived up to its potential during the war.
- The 6-pounder field gun, Model 1841 was used during the U.S. War with Mexico in 1848 and was also used at Shiloh in 1862.
- Napoleon howitzers were developed in 1853. The U.S. adopted this cannon after modifications in 1857. Forty percent of Civil War cannon were American-made Napoleon howitzers - 600 Confederate and 1,100 Federal. These were 12-pounder field guns.
- The Union had a total of 360 pieces of artillery at Gettysburg. However, during the Franco-Prussian War 1,300 pieces of artillery were used in one battle.
- Cannons were fired using black powder, which is not efficient. Only 53% burns off on ignition and 47% is waste.
- The concentration of artillery at Shiloh was a problem. The Confederates assigned one battery per brigade, which would not allow them to concentrate their artillery. The Union divided their artillery into divisions - 18 pieces per division. This allowed the Union to concentrate their artillery quickly.
- During the morning of April 6, 1862, the Union artillery on Shiloh Church ridge was able to hold off assaults by four Confederate brigades. This position was not carried by frontal assault. A hole opened up between two Union divisions and Wood's brigade was able to flank the Union position and drive them off of the Shiloh Church ridge.
- The largest concentration of artillery by the Confederates at Shiloh was Ruggles' battery opposite the Hornet's Nest. However, this gun

line was not effective and the Confederates took a long time to put the cannons together. There is a 20' deep ravine behind the Union line, which helped protect the men during Ruggles' artillery bombardment. Also, only 11% of the Confederate artillery was rifled (54% of Union cannon were rifled). Smoothbore cannon are not effective at this range. Ruggles' battery was only a morale builder for the Confederates. It did not affect firepower or maneuver.

- The largest concentration of Union artillery at Shiloh was Grant's last line near Pittsburg Landing on the evening of April 6, 1862.

Franco-Prussian War Artillery

- After the Austro-Prussian War of 1866, the Prussians completely revamped their artillery. They needed improved accuracy, rapid-firing, and longer-range artillery. The Prussians concentrated on two types: Krupp C64 light artillery, firing four pound projectiles, and Krupp C67 heavy artillery, firing 6 pound projectiles. These were breech-loaded field guns made out of steel.
- The Krupp C64 was superior to the French counterparts in every way: accuracy, rate of fire, range, and reliability of the fuse. Four pounder guns were not "light" if they were firing on massed infantry.
- The Prussians assigned their cavalry with a lot of artillery. The new Prussian strategy was to mass their artillery and cavalry. The Krupp C64 field pieces were very accurate. The Prussians did not put their artillery on gun lines, which could be easily dispersed.
- The Prussian artillery would bracket or box-in their enemy by firing all around a position. The enemy could not retreat, because that is when they were the most vulnerable. The Prussians developed this strategy so well, that at Sedan a large French force was locked into 45-degree fire from two directions plus bracketing fire.
- Northeast France consists mostly of open fields. Using artillery made out of steel cuts out 1/3 of the weight. The Krupp C64 cannon were easy to move and were very mobile. Timed fuses could be used effectively.
- The mainstay of the French artillery were muzzle-loading, four pound cannon with 12 pounder cannon for heavy service. However, these cannon were outclassed by 1870.
- The French liked use a strategy that Napoleon had been famous for: strewing the field with his guns (the French called them "bouquets") and

pushing them into line of battle to open breaches and help the infantry and cavalry get through.

- At the battle of Gravelotte, 70 percent of the French casualties were caused by Prussian artillery fire. Seventy percent of the Prussian casualties were inflicted by the French Chassepot rifle. Sixty percent of French troops with artillery wounds had been struck in the back or neck while lying on the ground, leading their doctors to conclude that it is always safer to attack the guns than to lie flat within their range.
- For more information, Dr. Gentsch recommended the book: *The Franco-Prussian War, The German Conquest of France in 1870-1871* by Geoffrey Wawro.



Prussian breech-loaded field artillery used during the Franco-Prussian War of 1870-1871.

Upcoming Speaker Schedule for 2021

- **April 27, 2021:** Round Table member **Tom Rafiner** of Columbia MO will be our speaker. Tom has written a book on R.L.Y. Peyton, an Ohio native, UVA degreed lawyer who practiced in Harrisonville for 10 years before the "Bleeding Kansas" era. Peyton was pro-south and served in the CS legislature until his untimely death from malaria in 1863. The book came out in June, but Tom has had scant opportunity to publicize it.
- **May 25, 2021:** **Jeffry D. Wert** from Centerville PA is scheduled to speak about his new book titled: *Civil War Barons*.
- **June 22, 2021:** **Teresa Roane**, archivist for the United Daughters of the Confederacy in Richmond VA, will be out speaker. She will address the role of minorities in the logistical operations of the Confederate Army.

- **July 27, 2021: Ron Coddington**, publisher of *Military Images*, a full color magazine published quarterly, will be our speaker. He will present photographic images of the Civil War.
- **August 24, 2021:** Speaker to be determined.
- **September 28, 2021: Dr. Joseph M. Beilein Jr.**, assistant professor of history at Penn State University, Erie PA will be our speaker. He will be speaking about bushwhackers in Missouri. Dr. Beilein is the author of the book titled: *Bushwhackers: Guerrilla Warfare, Manhood, and the Household in Civil War Missouri.*
- **October 26, 2021: Dr. Paul Kahan** will give a program about his book titled: *The Presidency of Ulysses S. Grant.*
- **November 16, 2021:** Speaker to be determined.
- **December 14, 2021: Arnold Schofield** will be giving a program titled: "Blue and Gray Yuletide - Home and Away."

Please Renew Your Membership for 2021

If you have not already done so, please renew your membership in the Civil War Round Table for 2021. The membership dues are the same as last year: \$35 per individual or \$55 per couple. Membership dues help pay for the travel costs for our speakers who live out of town and pay for our administrative expenses. We still have a great list of speakers lined up for 2021. Please mail your membership dues to **Susan Keipp**, 436 West 88th Terrace, Kansas City MO 64114.

In 2020, we had 109 members in our Round Table. As of March 10th, we currently have 101 members in the Round Table. Thank you for supporting our Round Table!

Member News

We are very sorry to report that **Ray Borden's** wife, Nan, passed away on March 9th. Visitation is 1-2 p.m. on Saturday, March 13th, followed by a 2:00 p.m. Celebration of Life Service at the Johnson County Funeral Chapel in Overland Park. Please keep Ray and his family in you thoughts and prayers.

Don Bates is a good friend of Ray Borden's and sent the following e-mail:

"...I met Ray in 1970. He was CFO for the Sutherland Lumber Companies. I did their printing for the next 10 years. But, in 1970 Ray and I started having breakfast together on Wednesdays for the next 50 years until COVID. I have picked him up for Round Table meetings since we moved to the Holiday Inn. Nan and Ray were married for close to 65 years, have 4

daughters, and are an extremely close family. They are an example of a family and life well lived.

"The good news going forward is that I feel that Ray will again come back to the Round Table meetings. They were close friends with my wife Lindy and me up until my wife became ill in 1994.

"Thank all of you for your friendship! It means more than you can understand. I joined our Round Table in 1979 and in 1994 when Lindy's illness came on it was our CWRTKC that gave me a night to look forward to each month.

"I hope you count your blessings daily,

"God bless,

Don Bates"

Susan Keipp said she had surgery to remove bone chips in her feet and toes on February 24th and is doing well. Susan injured her feet while working for the Red Cross in New Orleans, following Hurricane Katrina in August of 2005. Susan said she has now had a total of 31 surgeries!! She has also been involved in two automobile accidents caused by people texting while driving.

We would like to thank **Dick Titterington** for his help developing the new masthead for our newsletter. Dick also does a great job keeping our website up to date.

CWRT Executive Committee Meeting

The Executive Committee of the Civil War Round Table met on Saturday, March 6th. The main topics of discussion were:

- Plans to have a CWRT meeting in April and then resume having dinner meetings in May of this year.
- Speakers for the remainder of this year and recommendations for speakers and topics for next year.

Battle of Shiloh Anniversary Hikes

National Park Service rangers at the Shiloh National Military Park are leading battlefield hikes on the 159th Anniversary of the Battle of Shiloh. The hikes will take place on April 6, 7, and 8, 2021. For more information, please visit the National Park's website. The programs are free, but pre-registration is required for all programs. Call 731-689-5696.

If you have never participated in these battlefield hikes, this is an excellent opportunity to really understand the battle and the battlefield terrain.

History of the Milburn Golf and Country Club

Round Table member **Suzee Oberg** published the following article in the December 2010 edition of *Best Times*. It was revised for the CWRT in January 2021. Suzee has been a resident of Milburn Estates since 1964.

Milburn, the Name and the Legacy

When Milburn Golf and Country Club burned in November of 2009, it was news not only because of the extent of the fire but because of the historic nature of the club. Most stories centered on the famous players who had used the golf course and on the history of the clubhouse. Mention was made of the fact that in 1917, it was laid out beside the Strang Line Interurban Railway, so that users could ride out from the city to the club, which is the what the two traveling salesmen, Charles Babb and Max Pehl, who leased 160 acres of a bluegrass farm to develop the course, had in mind. This land, that had once belonged to a Shawnee Chief by the name of Graham Rogers, also included a buffalo wallow and woods. It was to be a “popular priced” affordable golf club. It was \$50 for initiation and another \$50 per year for members. Through a fortunate happenstance, the club was able to obtain noted golf architect, William Boyce Langford, for the initial design of their course and was able to hire Harry Robb, Sr., a Scotsman and noted golf teacher, as their golf professional. The two together designed such an excellent course that it was responsible for there soon being a waiting list to join. Members were so devoted to their club that initially they took care of the course, being responsible individually for the care of the greens, and, during the depression, some members, including their pro, Harry, dug into their own savings to save the club financially. Why it was named Milburn and for whom it was named is also a nice piece of Johnson County history.

George Milburn was born in England in 1820 and came to the United States in 1838 after a short time spent in Canada. He is listed in the 1850 Indiana U.S. census as a farmer and he soon went from farming to owning many successful business enterprises. He established a wagon making company in Mishawaka, Indiana named The Milburn Wagon Company that became the largest in the nation in the 1870s when it moved to Toledo, Ohio. George served as president of the Wagon Makers Association of America, the Great Bend Iron Works, and was an investor in several banks. In April of 1880, after resigning as president of his wagon company, George came to Kansas and bought over 5,000 acres of land in Bourbon and Crawford Counties for cattle raising and he bought 642 acres from Henry Coppock, in what was then Shawnee Township in Johnson County, for his home and to be a “gentleman

farmer” where, in the 1880 census, he is indeed listed once more as “farmer“. Those acres, plus 160 more that he later purchased, encompassed the land from what is now Shawnee-Mission Parkway on the north to 71st street on the south and on the east from Metcalf to a bit west of Antioch.

Although George died in 1883, his widow, Barbara, remained in Johnson County for several years along with one of his sons and other of his relatives. A daughter, Mary Milburn Foster, lived on the farm next to her father’s with her husband, Judge John Foster, for whom the Johnson County street, Foster, is named. Their home, which was a “magnificent residence” according to the 1883 Cutler’s History of Kansas, was built next to that of her father. The beautiful Milburn-Foster home still stands at the southern edge of Antioch Park, at 67th street and Antioch. During the 1960s and into the 1970s the barn on that property was used as a business under the name of Lanne Barn Antiques.



The Milburn-Foster House, built in the 1880's, is located at 67th and Antioch in Overland Park.

When the golf club land was leased and eventually purchased from Milburn's daughter and her husband, her maiden name was chosen for its name. Other parcels of Milburn’s farmland were purchased by William B. Strang, Jr., founder of Overland Park, and several other real estate developers. Some of these developments were named Milburn Fields and Milburn Estates, and there was, for many years, Milburn Junior High School, then named Antioch Middle School, and since torn down to be replaced by the school district office, and of course, the Milburn Golf and Country Club. Both the cities of Merriam and Overland Park contain some of what was once the Milburn farm.

Unfortunately, George didn’t live to see those developments or his Milburn Wagon Works become the Milburn Electric Company, a purveyor of electric automobiles that were considered to be quite a status symbol and that were driven by President Woodrow Wilson around the White house grounds in 1918. The

company was purchased by General Motors in 1923 for several million dollars and became home to the Buick Automobile for a while. The Dodge brothers also were associated with the company at one time and automobile historians will also recognize the name, Clem Studebaker, to whom Milburn's eldest daughter, Ann, was married. A church which his son-in-law, Clem, had built in his honor in South Bend, Indiana, at one time bore the name of Milburn Memorial Chapel, but when it was expanded the name was changed to St. Paul's United Methodist Church, so that George Milburn is only remembered in their history. There is a street in Mishawaka, Indiana named Milburn. There is nowhere else, however, where the name of Milburn is more prevalent and remembered than in Johnson County, Kansas.

Sergeant Major's Roar

Battlefield Dispatches #638

A Running Fight

Throughout the Civil War, the commanding officer at Fort Scott was constantly sending detachments of Union troops into Missouri in search of the Confederate guerrillas or partisan rangers who were also named "Bushwhackers". Often, when the enemy was located it turned into a pursuit of same and became "A Running Fight" on horseback. The following after action report describes such an engagement and is located on in Vol. 13, Series I of the Official Records of the War of the Rebellion on pages 352 -354.

"Headquarters, Fort Scott Kansas,
November 11, 1862.

General James G. Blunt, Army of the Frontier.

General:

I have the honor to report that on the morning of the 6th instant I received a dispatch from Captain Breeden, dated Lamar, [Mo.], at 9 p.m. the night before, stating that he had been attacked about an hour before by 400 men under "Quantrill" and that they were still fighting and asking for assistance. I immediately sent Captain Conkey with 80 men and Captain Coleman with 30 men, they leaving here at 4 o'clock a. m. Thursday morning. At 9 o'clock I learned that Captain Morton's [supply] train was at Carthage the same night and being fearful that he would run into the enemy I dispatched a messenger to Captain Conkey stating the facts and directing him to follow on and if necessary, to fight his way through to the train. Captain Conkey did follow on

and got after the enemy and killed 1 of them and learned that the train *had* passed west in safety. *On* the night following the *train* arrived here [at Fort Scott] having made a forced march.

The next morning about 3 a. m. a messenger reached me stating that Livingston [Confederate guerrilla leader] with 100 men was on the Dry Wood [Creek] about 2 miles above Redfield, murdering and Robbing and that he was working upstream. I immediately ordered Captain Mefford to take 75 men and make for the crossing at Morris' Mill, but owing to his men being very tired and his scouts worn down he did not get started until about 6 o'clock and in the mean time messengers continued to arrive with information on Livingston's movements, passing up the stream above Morris' Mill and the military crossing at Endicott's, so that by the time Captain Mefford was ready he made direct for Cato and there struck his [Livingston's] trail about one hour behind him and pursued him about 25 miles to Cow Creek and overtook him, making "A RUNNING FIGHT" and wounding 1 of Livingston's men and recovering some prisoners. As his stock [horses] was badly used up and the enemy was well mounted and scattered Captain Mefford returned to this Post and I am glad to say that he did as well as he could considering the condition of his horses.

In the mean time I had dispatched a messenger to Captains Conkey and Coleman who had encamped at Morris', on the direct road to Carthage to make for Sherwood and to intercept them there. The messenger reached them in good time and they started for Sherwood, but as it grew dark before they reached that place and having no one with them familiar with the country, they were obliged to encamp until the next morning. The command then separated, Captain Coleman on the south side of the Spring river and Captain Conkey on the north side and worked down toward Sherwood and Captain Coleman being in the advance came upon the enemy and charged them, killing 4 or 5 and taking 4 prisoners, including the notorious Captain Baker, who was taken by Captain Coleman himself.

Take it all in all, I think that the pursuit was a decided success and that the enemy will be more cautious hereafter. If I had any respectable number of well mounted men I would punish their impudence. On the night of the 10 instant I sent Lieutenant Cavert, of the third Wisconsin [Cavalry] with 16 men to Lamar, with dispatches for Captain Breeden and they reached there at 6 a.m. yesterday, the 11th instant and found that Quantrill had just left after burning most of the town that had been spared by him before. I am satisfied that Quantrill is waiting for a train and that I shall be compelled to send all of my cavalry with it, which will weaken this Post so much that he may feel like making an attack upon us.

There is, as I learn from the proper officers about \$2,000,000 worth of government property at this Post and vicinity and it does seem to me as if our force was [and is] hardly sufficient. I learn also that the [supply] trains passing from Springfield have a very strong guard, most of the time a full Regiment [normally approximately 1,000 mounted troopers] and it certainly is not as dangerous as our route [down the Old Military Road].

If you are inclined to send a large cavalry force it would please me to have Captains Earl and Coleman of the ninth Kansas [Cavalry] with their companies, if it should suit your pleasure. The whole transportation belonging to this Post is engaged in carrying Commissary Stores [food, rations & etc.] to the command, but we are expecting 100 more teams [of mules] from Leavenworth with the coming week. After this train shall start the enemy can approach very near and laugh at us, as I shall have no cavalry to send after them and I assure you General, that there are many more of them than at any time since I have been here and the only way that I have been able to keep them from doing more mischief is by having small scouting parties on the move in their country [Mo.] all the while and that has told on our horses.

In these expeditions my men have been very successful, losing none and having only a few wounded and having killed quite a number of the enemy and frightened them awfully. I have just learned that the citizens on Dry Wood are leaving with their families after asking for a force which I could not give them and Squire Redfield has also asked for a force in his vicinity [near Deerfield, Mo.] as the inhabitants are very much frightened.

I am General, very respectfully, your obedient servant.

B. S. HENNING,
Major, third Wisconsin Cavalry, Commanding Post."

Now then, even though this "Running Fight" was a moderate Yankee success, the Confederate guerrillas of Missouri continued to be a constant threat to Fort Scott, the Union supply lines in Missouri and eastern Kansas and the Union outposts in western Vernon County as the war went on!

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