



# BORDER



# BUGLE

Newsletter of the Civil War Round Table of Kansas City

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Civil War Round Table of  
Kansas City  
P.O. Box 6202  
Shawnee Mission, KS  
66206

An IRC 501(c)(3)  
Charitable Organization

Website- <http://cwrtkc.org/>

## 438<sup>th</sup> REGULAR MEETING

**TUESDAY, April 24, 2012**

**Homestead Country Club**

6510 Mission Road, Prairie Village, Kansas

Social Hour-Cash Bar-6:00p.m.

Dinner-6:30p.m.

## APRIL SPEAKER

**KENDALL D. GOTT**

## *"SHILOH: THE SOUTH'S LAST CHANCE IN THE WEST"*

By mid-February 1862, United States forces had won decisive victories in the West at Mill Springs, Kentucky, and Forts Henry and Donelson in Tennessee. These successes opened the way for invasion up the Tennessee River to sever Confederate rail communications along the important Memphis & Charleston and Mobile & Ohio railroads. Forced to abandon Kentucky and Middle Tennessee, Gen. Albert Sidney Johnston, supreme Confederate commander in the West, moved to protect his rail communications by concentrating his scattered forces around the small town of Corinth in northeast Mississippi—strategic crossroads of the Memphis & Charleston and the Mobile & Ohio.

In March, Maj. Gen. Henry W. Halleck, commanding U.S. forces in the West, advanced armies under Maj. Gens. Ulysses S. Grant and Don Carlos Buell southward to sever the Southern railroads. Grant ascended the Tennessee River by steamboat, disembarking his Army of the Tennessee

Continued on Page 2

### **Attendance requires a paid dinner reservation.**

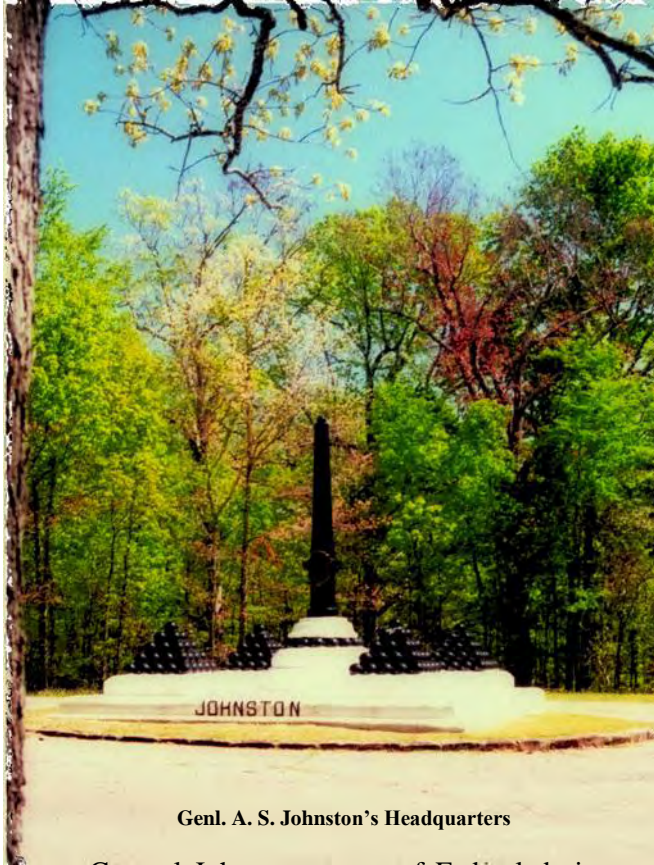
*Please be sure our Treasurer receives all reservations by Friday, April 20,  
along with payment of \$25.00 per person. Mail to:*

***Paul Gault, 7118 N. Congress Ave., Kansas City, MO 64152***

*Homestead's deadline for reservation changes is the following Monday afternoon, so  
promptly report any necessary adjustments to Paul at 816-741-2962 or 816-522-8021.*

*If unable to reach him, call Assistant Treasurer Mary Vorsten at 816-333-0494.*

at Pittsburg Landing, 22 miles northeast of Corinth. There he established a base of operations on a plateau west of the river, with his forward camps posted two miles inland around a log church called Shiloh Meeting House. Halleck had specifically instructed Grant not to engage the Confederates until he had been reinforced by Buell's Army of the Ohio, then marching overland from Nashville. Once combined, the two armies would advance on Corinth and permanently break western Confederate railroad communications.



Genl. A. S. Johnston's Headquarters

General Johnston, aware of Federal designs on Corinth, planned to smash Grant's army at Pittsburg Landing before Buell arrived. He placed his troops in motion on April 3, but heavy rain and difficulties encountered by marching large columns of men, artillery, and heavy wagons over muddy roads, delayed the attack. By nightfall, April 5, his Army of the Mississippi, nearly 44,000 men present for duty, was finally deployed for battle four miles southwest of Pittsburg Landing.

At daybreak, Sunday, April 6, the Confederates stormed out of the woods and assailed the forward Federal camps around Shiloh Church. Grant and his nearly 40,000 men present for duty were equally surprised by the onslaught. The Federals soon rallied, however, and bitter fighting consumed "Shiloh Hill." Throughout the morning, Confederate brigades slowly gained ground, forcing Grant's troops to give way, grudgingly, to fight a succession of defensive stands at Shiloh Church, the Peach Orchard, Water Oaks Pond,

and within an impenetrable oak thicket battle survivors named the Hornets' Nest.

Despite having achieved surprise, Johnston's troops soon became as disorganized as the Federals. The Southern attack lost coordination as corps, divisions, and brigades became entangled. Then, at mid-afternoon, as he supervised an assault on the Union left, Johnston was struck in the right leg by a stray bullet and bled to death, leaving Gen. P.G.T. Beauregard in command of the Confederate army. Grant's battered divisions retired to a strong position extending west from Pittsburg Landing where massed artillery and rugged ravines protected their front and flanks. Fighting ended at nightfall.

Overnight, reinforcements from Buell's army reached Pittsburg Landing. Beauregard, unaware Buell had arrived, planned to finish the destruction of Grant the next day. At dawn, April 7, however, it was Grant who attacked. Throughout the day, the combined Union armies, numbering over 54,500 men, hammered Beauregard's depleted ranks, now mustering barely 34,000 troops. Despite mounting desperate counterattacks, the exhausted Confederates could not stem the increasingly stronger Federal tide. Forced back to Shiloh Church, Beauregard skillfully withdrew his outnumbered command and returned to Corinth. The battered Federals did not press the pursuit. The battle of Shiloh, or Pittsburg Landing, was over. It had cost both sides a combined total of 23,746 men killed, wounded, or missing—more casualties than America had suffered in all previous wars—and ultimate control of Corinth's railroad junction remained in doubt.

Halleck, recognizing Corinth's military value, considered its capture more important than the destruction of Confederate armies. Reinforced by another army under Gen. John Pope, he cautiously advanced southward from Tennessee and, by late May, entrenched his three armies within cannon range of Confederate fortifications defending the strategic crossroads. Despite being reinforced by Maj. Gen. Earl Van Dorn's Trans-Mississippi Army, Beauregard withdrew south to Tupelo, abandoning the most viable line of east-west rail communications in the western Confederacy.

Federal efforts to recover the Mississippi Valley stalled in the late summer of 1862, and Confederate leaders launched counteroffensives in every theater. Armies led by Gens. Braxton Bragg and Edmund Kirby Smith invaded Kentucky, while troops under Van Dorn boldly attacked the heavily fortified Union garrison at Corinth, "linchpin" of Federal control in northern Mississippi. In one of the more bitterly contested battles of the war, Van Dorn was decisively repulsed, following two days of carnage (October 3-4) that claimed nearly 7,000 more Confederate and Union casualties.

Although overshadowed by the failure of Robert E. Lee's Confederate invasion in Maryland, Van Dorn's

defeat, coupled with Bragg's retreat from Kentucky after the battle of Perryville (October 8), caused discouragement in Richmond and relief in Washington. More significantly, Van Dorn's defeat at Corinth—the last Confederate offensive in Mississippi—seriously weakened the only mobile Southern army defending the Mississippi Valley. This permitted Ulysses S. Grant to launch a relentless nine-month campaign to capture “the fortress city” of Vicksburg and recover the Mississippi River.

#### ABOUT OUR SPEAKER KENDALL D. GOTT

Mr. Kendall D. Gott retired from 20 years with the US Army in 2000 having served as an Armor and Military Intelligence officer. His combat experience consists of the Persian Gulf War and Operation Desert Fox. A native of Peoria, Illinois, Mr. Gott, received his BA in history from Western Illinois University, and a Masters of Military Art and Science from the US Army Command and General Staff College. Prior to returning to Leavenworth, Kansas in 2002, he was an adjunct professor of history at Augusta State University and the Georgia Military College. He is also a published author and speaker of Civil War and general military topics. He has appeared on the Battle of Mine Creek episode of Investigating History on the History Channel and is featured on the Fort Donelson film for the National Park Service. Mr. Gott joined the staff of the US Army Combat Studies Institute, at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas in October 2002, where he is now the Senior Historian.

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#### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

On March 27, Dr. William Garrett Piston gave an outstanding presentation on the Battle of Pea Ridge with a unique approach, “What if” theory as to the decisions that the leaders made.

It was my distinct pleasure to present the Valiant Service Award to Betty Ergovich. When something needs to be done to benefit the R. T., you can always count on Betty. She always has good ideas and is present at every meeting with ideas on how to improve things and as is evident we are on the move bringing in new members.

Also, special thanks goes out to our Border Bugle Editor Mike Epstein. Seeing newsletters from other R.T.'s it is obvious how much time and effort that Mike puts into each issue. He also honors us with his photography that he has taken at Civil war sites. For those of you who not belong to The Civil War Trust, Mike enters his photos in their yearly contest with success as I believe last year, one of his photos was chosen number one in a category.

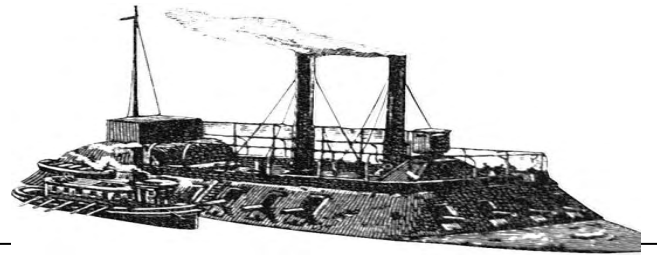
Our good member and Past President (Sgt/Major) Arnold Schofield drives up to the meetings from his home in Fort Scott, Kansas and is chairperson of our Civil War book sales, both monthly and the “big”

sales in May and December. More importantly, Arnold is our Preservation Director a labor of love for him that he takes very seriously. Arnold asked me to remind the members who are kind enough to donate books for this sales to limit the books given to Civil War titles.

Our Treasurer quietly goes about handling our monthly and yearly business affairs. Reminding us to make reservations by the cut-off date for Homestead C. C. and then receiving the checks for each meeting and making the monthly deposit is no small task. When you come into the next meeting, please thank Paul and Sylvia for their good efforts. and while I am on the subject of money, thanks to all of you who purchase books from our sale tables at the R.T. as these funds are used to offset our speaker expenses.

Lastly, the Programming Committee is asked to arrive at Homestead no later than 5:00 for the April meeting so we can discuss future program efforts ahead of our dinner meeting.

DVB, Sr.



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#### SPEAKERS 2012

**May 22:** Matt Spruill “7 Days Battles”

**Summer Meetings** at the Plaza Library, 4801 Main, K.C., Mo. 7:00 p.m. (6:30 – 8:45p.m.)

**June 26:** Don Bates “(Un)Civil War, Guerilla Massacres in Northeast Missouri 1862,”

**July 24:** Dan Smith; “Jackson County in The Civil War, Part 1”

**Aug 28:** Dan Smith; “Jackson County in The Civil War, Part 2”

**Sept 25:** Ethan Refuse; “2<sup>nd</sup> Bull Run”

**Oct 23:** Arnold Schofield; “Island Mound”

**Nov 27:** Dr. William Feis; “Espionage Covert Action and Military Intelligence”

**Dec 18:** Lt. Col. Rick Barbuto: “The Battle of Stone’s River”

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#### MENU FOR APRIL 2012

Mediterranean Salad, Grilled Mahi Mahi with Tropical Fruit Salsa, Grilled Vegetables, Grilled Polenta, and Strawberry Short Cake.

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#### NEW MEMBER....

Loren L. Taylor, 827 Armstrong Ave. Kansas City, KS 66101, 913-400-7332

# *“The Sargeant Major’s Roar”*

*Battlefield Dispatches #313*

## *“Mud, Mud and More Mud”*

Spring time in Kansas can be elusive, however, one thing is certain and that is sometime from the middle of March to the end of May there will be torrential flooding rains that produces “Mud, Mud & More Mud! So it is today & so it was during the Civil War. This of course is not unusual because this is a time when history has repeated itself. Just ask about mud of a veteran who fought in the springtime in the mountain & valleys of Italy, throughout Europe in the spring of 1945 or in the monsoons of the south Pacific, the mountains of Korea or the valleys & rice paddies of Vietnam. They all marched in & fought in mud. This column describes what it was like to conduct a “Union” expedition from Fort Scott into & back from Carthage in “The Land of Misery” (one of the Yankee nicknames for Missouri) during the torrential rains in April of 1862. The author was a soldier in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ohio Volunteer Cavalry whose “Pen Name” was “Vic” and his account of the expedition was published in the April 26, 1862 edition of the Fort Scott Volunteer.

### *“A Trip to Carthage”*

The 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ohio Cavalry, under the command of Major George Minor, left this place [Fort Scott] Carthage on Thursday, the 10<sup>th</sup> inst. The command consisted of Companies C, I, F & L. A train of nine wagons, loaded with company & commissary stores [supplies], ammunition & etc. accompanied us. Nothing of note happened on our first day of March and we camped on the bank of Drywood Creek, having made about 12 miles.

Early on Friday morning we resumed our march, intending to reach Lamar that night, but owing to the heavy rain which set in forenoon & to some little accidents which delayed our train, we were obliged to encamp on the bank of Cox’s Creek, having marched about 10 miles. The men were drenched with the rain & after spending a cold uncomfortable night we resumed our march. The day was cold & a drizzling rain set in which continued until night. The road was not bad, however, & everything went smoothly until within a few miles of Lamar. Then we were met by a couple of men, who came to inform us that owing to the rise in the river, we would be unable to cross at the ford & must go some distance above to the bridge. Leaving the main road we struck off onto a byroad which led to the bridge. Hardly had we gone a hundred yards before we found that our new road was anything but a pleasant one. Wagon after wagon stuck fast in the thick “PRAIRIE MUD”, which

for three or four miles was nearly up to the axles and the strength of six mules was totally inadequate to the task of pulling them out.

There was no other way. IT MUST BE DONE BY HAND. PICKET ROPES WERE TIED TO THE TONGUES AND THE MEN, ARRANGING THEMSELVES ON EACH SIDE GUIDING THEIR HORSES WITH ONE HAND AND BRACING WELL IN THEIR STIRRUPS, WOULD PULL WITH ONE THE OTHER HAND, ADDING THE LABOR OF 50 MEN TO THAT OF SIX MULES AND THUS THE WAGONS WERE DRAWN OUT OF AND THROUGH THE THICK MUD the entire distance. For a while the companies relieved each other at this labor, but soon all got to work together and then the fun commenced in earnest, the different companies, vying with each other to see which got their wagon out first. THE MEN AND OFFICERS SHOUTING AT THE TOP OF THEIR VOICES, TEAMSTERS SCREAMING & PLYING THE WHIP TO TIRED AND STUBBORN MULES AND SHOUTS OF EXULTATION AS ONE COMPANY WOULD PASS ANOTHER, MADE UP A SCENE AT ONCE ANIMATED AND LUDICROUS. We finally got through the mud, crossed the bridge and encamped within two miles of Lamar.”

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Now then, it was a good thing that the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ohio had a bridge to cross just before they entered Lamar because they would not have been so lucky if they had arrived across the Marmaton River from Fort Scott because of the following brief statement that was in the same newspaper.

“The TREMENDOUS FLOOD of last week swept away the Military Bridge over the Marmaton. The water rose fifteen feet above the bridge!”

Shortly after this, the “Union” engineers constructed a replacement bridge at the same location which was approximately 50 or so yards east of the confluence of the Marmaton River and Mill Creek where the existing 69 Highway Bridge is today and of Course the War Went On!

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## CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS

We are looking for people who are interested in learning a little local history and being a museum guide at the Alexander Majors House & Museum for a few hours on a weekend afternoon. You do not have to be a history major or expert speaker. Information about the house, the barn and the collection will be provided to you.

Please RSVP or for more information. Email at [Elizabeth@wornallhouse.com](mailto:Elizabeth@wornallhouse.com)



See you at the Barn at Alexander Majors House Museum, 8201 State Line Road, Kansas City, MO 64114.

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## 2012 RICHARD S. BROWNLEE FUND GRANTS

The Richard S. Brownlee Fund honors the Society executive director, 1960-1985. Historically, Brownlee Awards have been made to individuals and organizations proposing to write publications about, or otherwise document, the history of Missouri and its citizens. In 2012, the Society will further its initiative to commemorate the sesquicentennial of the American Civil War (1861-65), begun in 2011, by inviting applications that support observance of this important period in our past.

Grants are available to local Missouri historical societies and museums, both public and private, to assist with projects and activities that commemorate the sesquicentennial of the Civil War in Missouri. The maximum amount awarded per grant is \$500.

A variety of proposals will be considered, including events, exhibitions, publications, markers, and speakers. All activities must be open to the public, although an admission fee may be collected. Organizations receiving a Brownlee Fund grant to assist with a publication must provide one copy of the publication to the State Historical Society.

Applications must be in writing and should include the following information:

1. The name of the organization, mailing address, and principal point of contact information, including telephone number and e-mail address
2. A description of the purpose for which a grant is being sought
3. A budget showing how the grant money will be spent
4. A timeline for the project
5. Signature of president or chief executive officer of the organization

Ten copies of the application must be submitted and postmarked no later than July 2, 2012. Applications should be sent to Dr. Gary R. Kremer, The State Historical Society of Missouri, 1020 Lowry Street, Columbia, MO 65201-7298.

Grant winners will receive their funds at the Society's annual meeting in Columbia on November 3, 2012.

Organizations receiving grants must submit a written report outlining the use of the funds by June 30, 2013.

To find out more information about the 2012 Richard S. Brownlee Fund Grants and see a list of past recipients:

<http://shs.umsystem.edu/awards/brownlee/brownleeaward.shtml>

If you have questions regarding the 2012 Richard S. Brownlee Fund Grants, please contact:

Laura Wilson, Assistant Editor, State Historical Society of Missouri, 1020 Lowry Street, Columbia, MO 65201  
[wilsonlo@missouri.edu](mailto:wilsonlo@missouri.edu), (573) 884-7904

## COMING EVENTS.....

### The Battle of Shiloh

Tuesday, April 17, 2012—6:30 pm., Central Library, 14 W. 10<sup>th</sup> St., Kansas City, MO., Gregory S. Hospodor, associate professor of military history at U. S. Army Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, KS. He will discuss the bloodiest battle of the war up to that time and how it brought home to both sides the grim reality of the conflict.

### Civil War Tour of Osceola and St. Clair County

Saturday, April 21, 2012—9 am. Osceola, MO. \$10 includes lunch. Sponsored by the Col. John T. Coffee Camp, Sons of Confederate Veterans. Reservations go to Richard Sunderwirth, P. O. Box 543, Osceola, MO 64776 or call 417 646-5538.

### Historic Sibley Cemetery Tour

Saturday, April 21, 2012—9 am to 4:30 pm Fort Osage National Historic Landmark, 107 Osage St., Sibley, MO. Curator will give a brief history of the oldest cemetery in Jackson County. Adults-\$7, Children-\$4, Seniors-\$3.

### Civil War Railroads

Sunday, April 22, 2012—2 pm. National Frontier Trails Center, 318 W. Pacific, Independence, MO. Armin Schannuth tells about the importance of the railroads during the Civil War. He includes the massacre at Centralia and the building of Jackson County railroads during guerrilla fighting. \$6-Adults, \$5-Seniors, \$3-ages 6-17.

### Making Sense of the Civil War-Kansas City Series

Monday, April 23, 2012—6:30 pm. Plaza Library, 4801 Main St., Kansas City, MO. Diane Mutti Burke leads a discussion of "Making Sense of Shiloh" from Part 3 of America's War anthology.

### Civil War in Jackson County

Wednesday, April 25, 2012—7 pm. Raytown Library, 6131 Raytown Rd., Raytown, MO. Gregg Higginbotham discusses how the Civil War affected people in Jackson County. To RSVP call 816 353-2052.

### Blue Bellies and Bushwhackers

Thursday, April 26, 2012—6:30 pm Grandview Library, 12930 Booth Ln., Grandview, MO. Arnold Schofield discusses the barbaric guerrilla warfare that occurred in Kansas and Missouri during the Civil War. RSVP by calling 816 763-0550. Arnold is the retired site manager at Mine Creek Battlefield.

### Mary Lobb and the Lobb Cemetery

Friday, April 27, 2012—9:30 am. Midwest Genealogy Center, 3440 S. Lee's Summit Rd., Independence, MO. Barbara Hughes portrays Mary Lobb, a resident of Eastern Jackson County during the trying times of the Border Wars. RSVP to 816 252-7228.

"Caught Between Three Fires"

Saturday, April 28, 2012—10 am. Bates County Museum, 802 Elks Drive, Butler, MO. Tom Rafiner will be talking about what the Border War did to Cass County. He is working on a new book about the effect of the Civil War on Bates County. After the program there will be a salad and sandwich lunch for a free will donation. Tom will sign copies of his book.

Making Sense of the Civil War-Independence Series

Sunday, April 29, 2012—2 pm Midwest Genealogy Center, 3440 S. Lee's Summit Rd., Independence, MO.

Randall Fuller finishes the series with "War and Freedom" by using Ayres' America's War anthology-Part 5 and his own book From Battlefields Rising. Women in Missouri during the Civil War

Monday, April 30, 2012—7 pm South Independence Library, 13700 E. 35<sup>th</sup> St., Independence, MO. Barbara Hughes portrays Laura Flanery, a Jackson County woman who was forced out of her home and walked to Texas. RSVP to 816 461-2050.

600,000 Silent Voices: Stories from the Civil War

Camden Point Library, 401 Hardesty St., Camden Point, MO. Jim Two Crows Wallen had 16 ancestors who served in the conflict, and he tells stories about the people involved in first person as Chaplain William Maple of the 49<sup>th</sup> Indiana Infantry USA, his great grandfather. RSVP to 816 280-3384.



Bloody Pond, Shiloh Battlefield, by Mike Epstein

Civil War Round Table of Kansas City  
P.O. Box 6202  
Shawnee Mission, KS 66206-0202



Enjoy the next 2 pages of photos  
by Mike Epstein of the Shiloh  
Battlefield taken in 1998.





Tree where General Albert S. Johnston died



Wisconsin Memorial, Shiloh Battlefield



Battery on the field at Shiloh



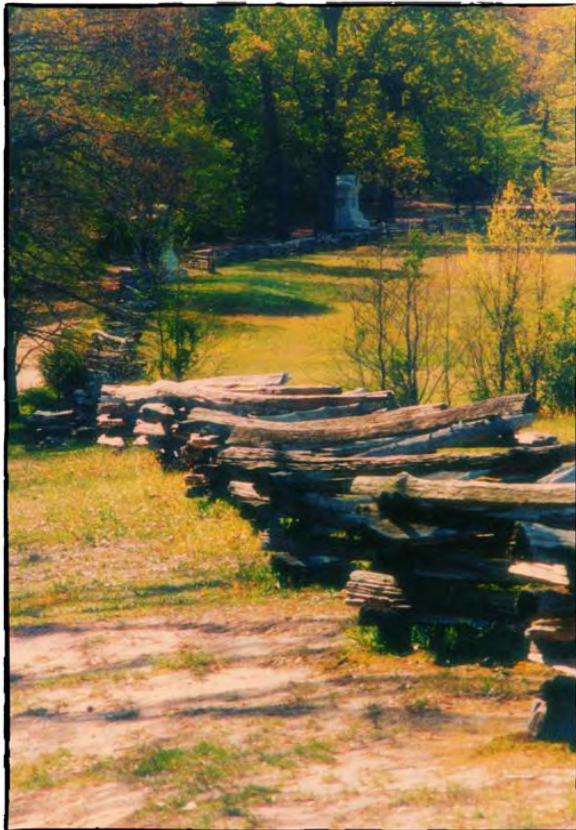
24 Pounder Boat Howitzer, Shiloh Battlefield





Manse Cabin, Shiloh Battlefield

Peach Orchard  
Shiloh Battlefield



Looking into the Hornet's Nest, Shiloh Battlefield



Antebellum Home