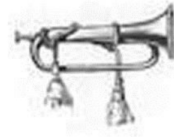




BORDER BUGLE



Newsletter of the Civil War Round Table of Kansas City



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**Civil War Round Table of
Kansas City**
436 West 88th Terrace
Kansas City MO 64114

An IRC 501(c)(3)
Charitable Organization
Website- <http://cwrtkc.org/>
Join us on Facebook!

526th Regular Meeting

Tuesday, April 27, 2021

Milburn Golf and Country Club

7501 West 69th Street, Overland Park, KS 66204

Meeting begins at 7:00 p.m.

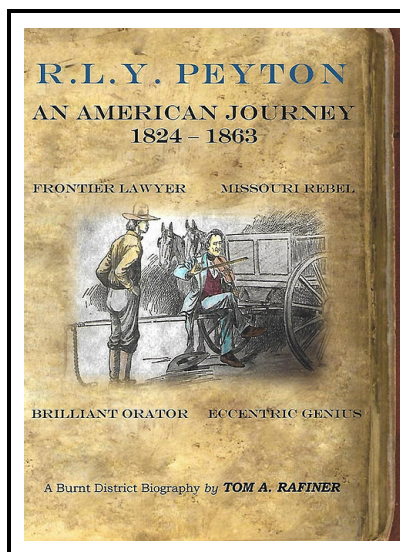
This meeting will not involve a meal. Chairs will be set up lecture style, with social distancing, and masks required. Attendance will be limited to 50 people. There is no charge for the meeting, but reservations are required. A donation jar will be located at the check-in table, to help offset the cost for the room rental.

Reservation Deadline: 8:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 21st.

To make a reservation, please contact Marlene Natoli:

<mailto:marnatoli@att.net>

Phone: 913-764-1336



April Program

Round Table member **Tom A. Rafiner** of Columbia MO will be speaking about his latest book titled: *R.L.Y. Peyton, An American Journey, 1824-1863*. R. L.Y. Peyton was born in Virginia, but ended up in Missouri, where he practiced law for 10 years. During the bleeding Kansas era he was a significant player in the politics of the day as a Missouri state senator. He advocated Missouri's withdrawal from the Union and served in the Confederate Congress.

Letter from our Round Table's President

The following letter by **Dan Dooley** was e-mailed to our members on April 4, 2021:

Dear Civil War Round Table Members:

At long last we are confident we can safely have an in-person meeting of our members this month. It has been a long road, and I know we are all looking forward to returning to the gatherings we have missed these many months.

We begin our new era in a new venue and with a different look, at least initially. For this first meeting on Tuesday night, April 27th, we will not be serving a meal, nor will we have a social hour preceding the program. We will be seated lecture or theater style rather than tables to allow for social distancing. We will limit the number of attendees to 50 to ensure proper spacing. ***It is critical that you make a reservation so that we have an accurate count before the meeting.*** Once we meet our maximum attendance, we will stop taking reservations. ***Masks will be required for the entire meeting.*** As previously announced, there will be no charge for this meeting, but a donations jar will be located on the check-in table just outside of the meeting room.

We will meet at 7:00 p.m., have an abbreviated book auction, and the presentation. There will be no books offered for sale other than the auction.

Our new facility, Milburn Golf & Country Club, 7501 W. 69th Street in Overland Park, has installed an upgraded air filtration system for the entire building. They have also installed temporary portable, hospital-grade air purifiers in the room we will be using. Everything that can be done to protect our members is being done.

Assuming a continuation of vaccinations across the metro and no untoward virus-related events, we plan to have a meeting in May complete with social hour, meal and our normal meeting agenda.

We have a great slate of speakers for the remainder of this year, and we are hopeful that we can put the past year behind us. We look forward to seeing all of you who feel comfortable in doing so returning to the study of the Civil War, its causes, conduct and consequences. See you this month!

Regards,

Dan Dooley

President, Civil War Round Table of Kansas City

April Speaker



Round Table Member Tom Rafiner and his wife Nancy. Photograph taken on December 15, 2015.

Round Table member **Tom Rafiner** has spent nearly 20 years researching and writing about northwestern Missouri and especially the Burnt District. He has authored three books:

- *Caught Between Three Fires, Cass County MO, Chaos, & Order No. 11, 1860-1865*
- *Cinders and Silence, A Chronicle of Missouri's Burnt District 1854-1870*
- *R. L. Y. Peyton, An American Journey, 1824-1863*

Tom holds a B.A degree from the University of Missouri-Columbia and an M.A. from the University of Missouri-Kansas City. He has spoken at several of our Round Table meetings in the past, most recently on December 15, 2015. Tom and his wife Nancy live in Columbia MO.

Book: *R.L.Y. Peyton, An American Journey, 1824-1863*

The following text is from Tom Rafiner's website:
<https://www.tomrafiner.com>

R.L.Y. Peyton's journey from obscurity to the national stage and then to oblivion, is as unlikely as it is incredible. Born into the cavalier Virginia gentry, Lud's family migrated to Oxford, Ohio. He attended Miami University before getting a law degree at the University of Virginia. For 10 years he practiced frontier law in Harrisonville MO. Suddenly in 1854, inflamed by the Kansas-Nebraska Act, Lud exploded onto the political stage. He represented western Missouri in the state senate, helped trigger secession and then served in the C.S.A. Senate. He died from malaria in Alabama in 1863. Peyton's journey is uniquely American, his life

narrating Missouri's, and the country's, ante-bellum history.

This hardback biography contains 419 narrative pages. Twenty-five (25) original maps, eighty-five (85) photographs, twenty (20) newspaper clippings, and three original illustrations illuminate his life.

Tom plans to sell copies of his book at the Round Table meeting on April 27th.

Live Book Auction

Round Table member **Arnold Schofield** will be auctioning off the following books at the Round Table meeting on April 27th:

- *The Battle of Wills: U.S. Grant & R.E. Lee* by David Alan Johnson, 2016, Prometheus Books. In excellent condition, with dust jacket.
- *A Palmetto Boy: Diaries & Letters of James Adam Tillman: 24th South Carolina Infantry*, edited by Bobbie Smith; University of South Carolina Press. In excellent condition, with dust jacket.
- *The Half Not Told: The Civil War in a Frontier Town, St. Joseph MO*, by Preston Filber, Stackpole Books, 2001. In excellent condition, with dust jacket.
- *Shooting Lincoln: The Race to Photograph the Story of the Century by Alexander Gardner & Mathew Brady* by Nicholas J.C. Pistor, Decapo Books, 2017. In excellent condition, with dust jacket.

Upcoming Speaker Schedule for 2021

- **May 25, 2021: Dr. Ethan S. Rafuse**, professor of military history at the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth KS, will be our speaker. The topic is to be determined.
- **June 22, 2021: Teresa Roane**, archivist for the United Daughters of the Confederacy in Richmond VA, will be our 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: Connie Langum**, Park Ranger and Historian at Wilson's Creek National Battlefield will be our speaker.
- **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: Wayne Motts**, CEO of the National Civil War Museum in Harrisburg PA will be our speaker. Wayne's father is Warren Motts, who is the founder and director of the Motts Military Museum in Groveport OH.
- **December 14, 2021: Arnold Schofield** will be giving a program about Robert E. May's book titled: *Yuletide in Dixie: Slavery, Christmas, and Southern Memory*.

Thank You for Renewing Your Memberships for 2021

We would like to thank all of our members for supporting the Civil War Round Table of Kansas City in 2021. There are currently 101 members. We look forward to finally being able to meet again and hear some excellent speakers discuss various aspects of the Civil War.

The updated 2021 Membership Roster and the 2021 Member Directory were e-mailed to our members on March 17th.

The Story of John Benton Hart



Round Table member **John Hart** lives in San Rafael, California. Since John is not able to attend our monthly dinner meetings, I e-mailed John and asked him to tell us about himself and why he decided to join our Round Table. John was gracious enough to e-mail me the following story regarding his great-grandfather, John Benton Hart:

A century-old manuscript led this California boy to Kansas City and to membership in the two regional Civil War Round Tables.

On an autumn day in 1946, my father, Lawrence Hart, received a huge box of papers containing, with much else, the Civil War memoirs of my great-grandfather, John Benton Hart. A child of divorce and family estrangement, my dad knew little of his paternal family history. Through the manuscripts, sent him upon my grandfather's death, he learned a great deal.

The Hart family had arrived in Kansas from the East in the 1850s, part of the influx of Northerners determined to make Kansas Territory a free state. In 1862, young John Benton Hart, of Grasshopper Falls, enrolled in the unit that would become the Eleventh Kansas Cavalry.



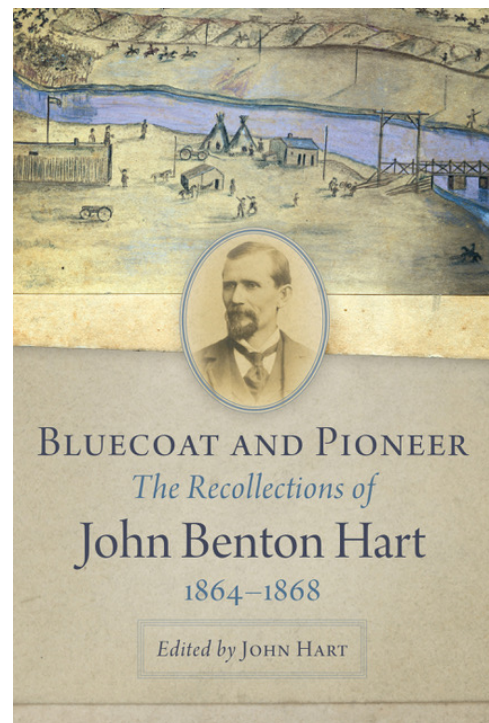
John Benton Hart was wounded in the Battle of Prairie Grove later that year. In the fall of 1864, as the invading army under General Sterling Price approached the border, his regiment hurried east to meet the vastly superior Confederate force, fighting in the engagements known as the Second Battle of Lexington, the Battle of the Little Blue, and the Battle of the Big Blue. After the culminating Battle of Westport, Hart's company took part in the pursuit of Price toward Arkansas (but missed the Battle of Mine Creek).

Many cavalymen shared these experiences; John Benton Hart was one of the few to record them. Around 1920, approaching the end of his life in western Colorado, he dictated his memories of the Civil War, and his later adventures in the Rockies, to his son Harry, my grandfather. On Harry's death, unsure what else to do with it, the family sent the trove on to California.

Enthralled with what he found there, my father made numerous attempts to bring these significant and charming memoirs to publication, but never quite connected. In 2013, as the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Westport loomed, it was my turn to take up the long-dormant project.

The obvious first step was to visit the scenes of the action and seek out the people who knew this history best. Soon I was in touch with **Daniel Smith** of the Kansas City round table, **Mike Calvert** of the Western Missouri round table, and Darryl Levings of the *Kansas City Star*. On a first visit I tramped the battlegrounds with these gentlemen and also sought the advice of Eli Paul at the Kansas City Public Library, Virgil Dean of the Kansas Historical Society, and others. In 2014, excerpts of the memoir appeared in the *Star* and in the journal *Kansas History*. I was on hand for the Battle of Westport celebration, of course, and had some trouble deciding which team to root for in that fall's World Series [between the San Francisco Giants and the Kansas City Royals].

Finally, in 2019, the University of Oklahoma Press brought out *Bluecoat and Pioneer: The Recollections of John Benton Hart, 1864-1868*.



John Monnett, son of Battle of Westport historian Howard Monnett, was kind enough to call it “perhaps *the* most important original memoir of an enlisted soldier and Plains frontiersman.”

I love the way that a box of almost-forgotten papers led me to reconnect with roots in the Midwest.

Here is John Benton Hart's report on a night-time skirmish west of Lexington MO:

"It was almost as bright as day, when three companies emptied their rifles into that lane full of horses and men. Then the order came to empty revolvers, "Shoot low in there, every man," which we did. The Johnnies stopped crowding, they were down, horses and men. Everything in a bunch and the lane was blocked. It looked pretty hard from what we could see by the short glimpse of flash light from our guns, but it had to be done. Everybody had a chance after that to draw a long breath. Never again did they crowd us so fast and furious as that, especially after night."

Thank you John, for sharing your great-grandfather's story!

Sergeant Major's Roar

Battlefield Dispatches #656 Unserviceable Horses and Other Concerns

During the Civil War "horses" were a precious and expensive commodity. Often they were overworked and under fed per the contingencies of warfare and even as late in the war as 1864 they were often ill used by both the Union and Confederate troops. The following is part of a report by the Inspector General of the U. S. Army that tried to correct some of the non-combat ill uses of Cavalry horses and the unnecessary use of large or extra large mounted escorts that were used to escort the safe passage of mail "stages" in southwest Missouri. This report is located on Pages 775 -777 in Volume 34. Part I of the Official Records of the War of the Rebellion.

"Saint Louis, Mo., March 29,1864.

Maj. O. D. Greene,

A.A.G., Dept, of the Missouri, Saint Louis, Mo.:

Major: At the request of the General commanding the Department, I have the honor to state for his information that during my tour of inspection in his Department several matters have come under my observation, which I deem important should be brought to his notice at an earlier date than I shall be able to complete my report to the War Department.

An irregularity, which I have observed in all new cavalry regiments that I have met with, prevails to a great extent in this Department. It is the practice of officers allowing their men, while serving on escorts,

scouts, and other duty and in going to and returning from water, to ride their horses in a gallop, instead of a walk or trot. This violent exercise soon breaks them down and renders them "UNSERVICEABLE" and I believe that more horses are lost to the government in this way than in any other. I have often spoken to the officers upon this subject, but they did not seem to appreciate the importance of it and I see no effectual way of stopping it but by an order from the Department Headquarters, forbidding the practice and holding the officers responsible for its right enforcement.

It has been the custom in many parts of the Department for officers and soldiers when operating against GUERRILLAS to immediately PUT TO DEATH all who fall into their hands, even after they have thrown down their arms and asked for mercy and colonels, Lieutenant colonels, and other officers of junior grades have told me that they habitually give orders to their scouting parties "TO BRING IN NO PRISONERS." This course has, without doubt, induced many to continue their guerrilla warfare and to make them fight to desperation, as they dare not return to their homes or give themselves up to the military authorities, for FEAR OF INSTANTLY BEING PUT TO DEATH!

These BUSHWHACKERS undoubtedly deserve the most severe chastisement for the atrocities they have committed, but when they surrender, it seems to me that they should be speedily taken before a competent tribunal and given the opportunity to prove their innocence before being EXECUTED. The existing practice enables the evil disposed soldiers to rob and murder loyal and inoffensive citizens under the plea that they were acting as bushwhackers and it unquestionably tends greatly to demoralize troops.

After having a good opportunity of witnessing the practical working of the policy, I am decidedly of the opinion that great detriment to the service results from stationing troops in the vicinity of their homes, as has often been the case in this Department. Officers and soldiers serving in the neighborhood of their relatives and friends are anxious to visit and be visited by them frequently and their attentions thus drawn away from their appropriate military duties.

In Missouri, many of the soldiers and their families have suffered from the depredations committed upon them by Rebels and they have their enemies, whom they desire to punish, and they are very prone to use the power which positions give them to accomplish unwise purposes. The evils of this are seen on every hand along the beautiful country bordering Kansas, where nearly all of the houses, barns, and fences have been burned to the ground and where it is now unsafe for a man, either Union or Rebel, to live away from the immediate vicinity of the military installations.

The Second Colorado Cavalry is now stationed in that unfortunate section and I am happy to say that their presence seems to give very general satisfaction to the inhabitants and I further believe if troops from other States were made use of exclusively in Missouri, and the troops of the State were sent elsewhere, that it would give much more satisfaction to the orderly and law-abiding population of the country and it would tend to promote peace and quiet where murder, highway robbery, pillage, and other kindred crimes are now of almost daily occurrence.

Another subject, to which I beg leave to call the attention of the Commanding General, is in regard to the line of MAIL-STAGES which run daily each way between ROLLA and SPRINGFIELD, Mo. It now requires some 600 cavalry troops to escort these stages and the rapid driving which they make, renders the service exceedingly hard upon the cavalry horses; so much so, indeed, that in my judgment the benefits derived from the transit of the mails and passengers are not at all commensurate with the expense to the government in furnishing escorts! In addition to this, there is also, I am informed, a daily line of stages between Sedalia and Springfield, thereby furnishing two daily mails from Saint Louis to Springfield. The class of persons who travel in these stages are, as a general rule, people who confer no service to the government by their transit. I should therefore suppose that a mail carried over the Rolla Road, once or twice a week, would be amply sufficient for all the requirements of the Service and this would make a very material reduction in the number of troops necessary for escorts. There is, as the Commanding General is aware, a TELEGRAPH LINE between ROLLA AND SPRINGFIELD, over which important military communications can be transmitted and if it became necessary to send written dispatches on days that the mail did not run, they could easily be forwarded by Special Expresses [couriers].

I am, Very Respectfully, Your Obedient Servant,
R. B. MARCY
Inspector General, U. S. Army."

(First Endorsement)

"Headquarters Department of the Missouri
Saint Louis, Mo., March 31, 1864.

Respectfully referred to Col. John V. DuBois, who will prepare drafts of General Orders on the subject of abusing existing in the cavalry arm of the service."

By Order of Major General Rosecrans;
FRANK ENO,
Assistant Adjutant General"

(Second Endorsement)

"Unanimous reports of Inspectors satisfy the General Commanding that one of the chief causes of the rapid breaking down of our cavalry horses is the practice of riding at a gallop or trot when the duty can be as well performed at a trot or walk. It must be discontinued. District, Regimental and Post Commanders will see to the execution of this order and will bring to trial before a Field Officer's Court Martial every soldier violating it.

DU BOIS."

Now then, it appears that Inspector General Marcy's report did generate an order, as indicated in the "Second Endorsement", in an attempt to stop the abuse of riding the cavalry horses faster than was necessary. It will never be known how effective this order was complied with, but at least it was issued as the War Went On!

Battle of Shiloh - 159th Anniversary

Dave Pattison participated in the Shiloh battlefield hikes on April 6-7, 2021. The hikes followed either Union or Confederate troop movements during the battle and were led by Shiloh National Military Park rangers. See page 8 of this newsletter for some of the key points made by park rangers during the hikes. The following are a few photographs taken during the 159th Anniversary hikes:



Mississippi Monument. The 6th Mississippi suffered 70% casualties (300 out of 425 in their unit) on the morning of April 6, 1862.



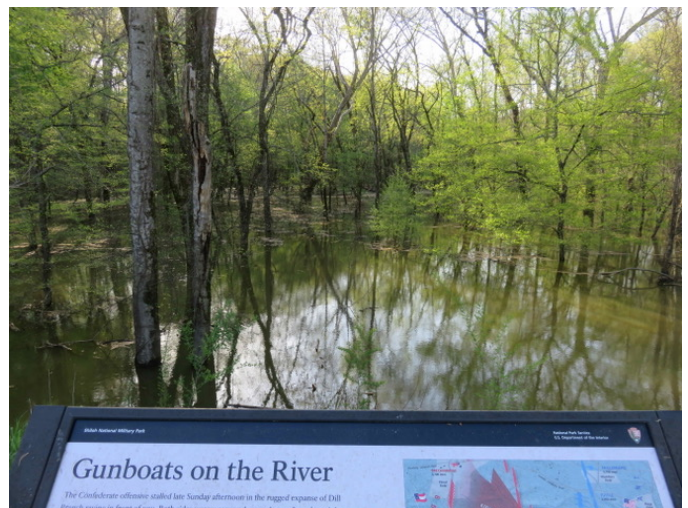
Reconstruction of Shiloh Church, on Union right, near Sherman's Headquarters.



Union 24 pound, smoothbore, siege cannon on Grant's Last Line, intended for the siege at Corinth.



Program on the Counterattack of Sherman's and McClernand's Divisions at noon on April 6th.



Flooded Dill Branch. Union gunboats fired on Confederate troops attacking Grant's Last Line.



Confederate General Albert Sidney Johnston Mortuary Monument. He was the highest ranking officer killed during the Civil War.



Minnesota Monument at Hornets Nest. Munch's Battery, 1st Minnesota Light Artillery, Prentiss' 6th Division.

Key Points Regarding the Battle of Shiloh

- Confederate General Albert Sidney Johnston's plan was to attack Grant's Army of the Tennessee before Grant could be reinforced by Buell's Army of the Ohio.
- The Confederates wanted to attack Grant on April 4th. However, the attack was delayed until April 6th, which gave Buell's army time to reach Pittsburg Landing late on April 6th.
- General Johnston's plan was also to turn the Union left and drive Grant's army into flooded Owl and Snake Creeks. Johnston did not know exactly where the Union left was. He did not have a good map and the Confederates did not do adequate reconnaissance prior to the battle.
- Confederate General P.G.T. Beauregard's battle plan was flawed. He stacked up four Corps in parallel lines. This created confusion as units became mixed during the battle.
- During the battle, Johnston thought he had turned the Union left and he over-committed his troops to attack the Union center and right.
- Grant's army was surprised by the Confederate attack on April 6th. When Grant arrived on the battlefield, he met with his division commanders and realized that the Union army was in trouble. Control of Pittsburg Landing was critical.
- On the Union right, Generals Sherman and McClelland counterattacked the Confederates at noon on April 6th, which slowed the Confederate attack. In the Union center, Generals Prentiss and W.H.L. Wallace defended the Hornets nest for several hours against the Confederates' piecemeal attacks. In both of these cases, Grant's army traded space for time.
- The Confederates surrounded the Hornets Nest and captured 2,200 Union troops. However, the Union defense of the Hornets Nest allowed Grant time to prepare a final line of defense near Pittsburg Landing.
- At the end of the first day of battle, Beauregard believed that the Confederates had won a great victory and just needed to wrap up Grant's army the next day. However, they had not achieved their goal of defeating Grant's army.
- On the morning of April 7th, Grant's army, reinforced by Lew Wallace's division, and Buell's army attacked the Confederates. Beauregard had no reinforcements and after another day of intense fighting, he decided to retreat back to Corinth MS.
- Total casualties at Shiloh were 23,746 killed, wounded, and missing. That was more than all of the previous American wars combined.

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