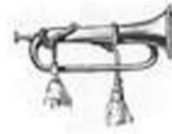




BORDER



BUGLE

Newsletter of the Civil War Round Table of Kansas City



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Civil War Round Table of
Kansas City
4125 NW Willow Drive
Kansas City MO 64116

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

573rd Regular Meeting Wednesday, April 16, 2025

Milburn Golf and Country Club

7501 West 69th Street, Overland Park, KS 66204

Social hour begins at 5:00 p.m. and dinner is at 6:00 p.m.

The meeting will include a plated dinner at a cost of \$35.00 per person.

Reservations are required in order to attend the dinner meeting.

Reservation Deadline: Tuesday, April 8th.

To make a dinner reservation, please contact Marlene Natoli:

<mailto:marnatoli@att.net>

Phone: 913-764-1336

April Program



Civil War Round Table member **Mr. Todd Stettner** will be giving a program titled: "Judah P. Benjamin, Jewish Son of the Confederacy."

Judah P. Benjamin served as a U.S. Senator from Louisiana before the Civil War. During the Civil War, he served as Attorney General, Secretary of War, and Secretary of State for the Confederacy.

American Jewish historian Bertram Korn, called Judah P. Benjamin, "the greatest Jewish political figure in our history." Some detractors called him, "The Dark Prince of the Confederacy."

Dinner Meeting Reservations and Payments

- **A reservation is required in order to attend the dinner meeting. All reservations must be submitted to Marlene Natoli by Tuesday, April 8th.** This will ensure that an accurate count can be submitted to the Milburn Country Club on Wednesday, one week ahead of the dinner meeting, as specified in our contract with the Country Club.
- Please e-mail or call Marlene if you are planning on attending. To make a reservation, call Marlene at 913-764-1336 or e-mail her at <mailto:marnatoli@att.net> If you send Marlene an e-mail and do not get confirmation back, then you do not have a reservation.
- **Please note that the cost of a dinner is now \$35.00 per person.** If you make a reservation, but are not able to attend the dinner meeting for any reason, you *must* contact Marlene Natoli by either phone or e-mail prior to the reservation deadline to cancel. You are responsible for the cost of your meal if you made a reservation, did not attend, and did not cancel before the deadline.
- You can pay for your meal at the dinner meeting or by mailing a check to **Dick Titterington**. Make check payable to the Civil War Round Table of Kansas City. Dick's mailing address is: 4125 NW Willow Drive, Kansas City MO 64116.
- You can also pay for your dinner using a credit or debit card. The Civil War Round Table of Kansas City is now accepting digital payments. This process is simple to use and secure. The Round Table uses the Square Digital Payment Processing System. Square charges the Round Table a fee for this service. The Round Table passes this fee on to its members who choose to use this service. The fees are slightly more if you pay online than paying in person at our dinner meetings. For more information or to see a schedule of the processing fees charged, visit our website https://cwrtrkc.org/digital_payments/

Dinner Menu

Milburn Golf and Country Club will serve the following meal at the April dinner meeting: Sherry Chicken with boursin mashed potatoes and vegetable medley. Dessert will be Vanilla Panna Cotta with macerated berries. All dinners are served with sliced bread, house salad and Milburn house dressing, iced tea, water, and coffee.

Gluten free and vegetarian meals are available with advance notice. Please advise **Marlene Natoli** if you require a gluten free or vegetarian meal when making

your reservation. Also, if you have a food allergy, Marlene requests that you please be very specific on what items you can't eat on that month's menu when making your dinner reservation.

This Month's Speaker



Mr. Todd Stettner

Round Table member **Todd Stettner** spent over 44 years in social services, serving in six cities from the East Coast to the Midwest, the Southwest to the West Coast, and finally settling in 1999 in the Midwest in Kansas City. He worked here as the President & CEO of the Jewish Federation of Greater Kansas City and has experience in fundraising, administration, planning, security, and community development.

Todd retired from that position in 2016, but in the spring of 2017, he was asked to become interim director of the Kansas City based Medical Missions Foundation. He held that post for two years. Medical Missions provides surgical and other medical services to underserved countries around the world. He currently serves on the board of Village Shalom, a continuum of care facility for seniors. In 2019 Todd became a Mentor in the Masters of Arts program at Spertus Institute for Jewish Learning and Leadership. He has been married to Shirley for over 45 years and has two sons and two grandsons, who he hopes will share his love of history.

Todd has been interested in the Civil War since his teens. He is a 20-year plus supporter of the American Battlefield Trust, formerly known as the Civil War Trust. Todd joined our Civil War Round Table in 2019. Todd has been to most of the major battlefields in the East and

has been to many Civil War battlefields in the Midwest as well. In 2013, he was asked to give a presentation on “Jews and the Civil War” at an event in Kansas City. In preparing for that program, Todd discovered a whole new aspect to the “War Between the States.” Todd also gave a program at our Round Table dinner meeting in April of 2022 titled: “Soldiers, Sailors, and Spies, Jews in the Civil War.”

This Month’s Program

The title of this month’s program is: “Judah P. Benjamin: Jewish Son of the Confederacy”

American Jewish historian Bertram Korn, called Judah P. Benjamin, “the greatest Jewish political figure in our history.” Some detractors called him, “The Dark Prince of the Confederacy.” Judah Philip Benjamin was the son of an immigrant family from England and the British West Indies. He was a true southern patriot but largely unspoken of except by students and scholars of the Civil War. We tend to focus on the generals and great battles and lose sight of those who were politically trying to give birth to a new nation.

In 1813 Benjamin’s family sailed north from St. Croix looking for a better life. They landed in Fayetteville, South Carolina. A few years later they moved on to Charleston. Benjamin developed a sharp intellect and at the age of 14 was admitted to Yale University. But in 1827, under mysterious circumstances, Benjamin left Yale and headed to New Orleans, a city booming with opportunity. He successfully apprenticed in the practice of law. Benjamin eventually opened his own very successful law practice specializing in commercial law. At the age of 21 he married Natalie St. Martin, 16, a beautiful Creole girl and daughter of a prominent Catholic family. They had a daughter together, but Natalie ultimately grew bored with life in Louisiana and took her daughter and left for Paris. Benjamin went on to become one of New Orleans and Louisiana’s most affluent citizens.

In 1852 he ran for senator and was elected to represent the state of Louisiana. Benjamin had always been a skilled orator and in January of 1860, on the floor of the Senate, he delivers a rousing speech in support of South Carolina’s secession from the Union.

Subsequently, he and other southern senators leave the Senate. His former senate colleague Jefferson Davis, becomes the new president of the Confederate States of America and appoints him to be the Attorney General for the Confederacy. Before the war is over Benjamin will rise to become Secretary of War and then the Confederate Secretary of State. He is one of Jefferson Davis’ key advisors and personal confidants throughout the war. They remain lifelong friends. When the war ends Judah Benjamin flees with the rest of the Confederate cabinet

and goes to Florida. He ultimately decides to go to England, where as a former citizen he is embraced by the British and becomes one of the leading barristers in Great Britain. He continues his specialty in commercial law, subsequently writing a book on the topic, which is still studied today. Judah Benjamin died in Paris in 1884, suffering from injuries obtained in a streetcar accident. He was buried in Paris.

Last Month’s Program



Mr. David Connon

At our dinner meeting on March 19th, **Mr. David Connon** gave an outstanding presentation titled: “Josiah Bushnell Grinnell and the Iowa Underground Railroad.” Attendance at the dinner meeting was 59.

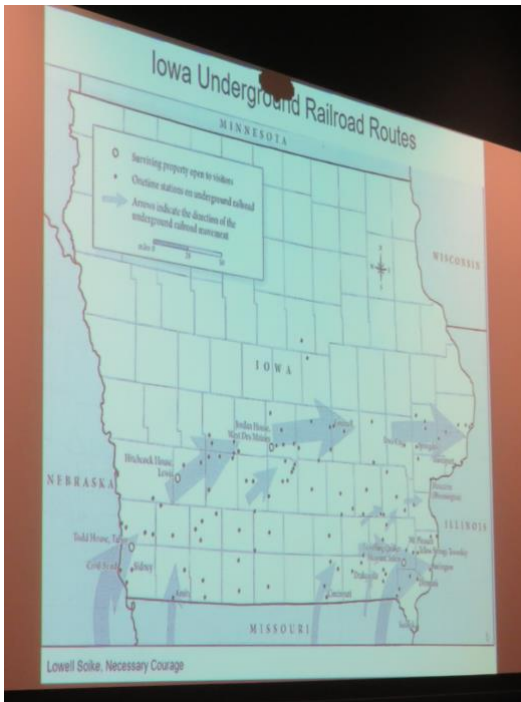
Josiah Bushnell Grinnell (1821-1891) was a U.S. Representative from Iowa’s 4th congressional district, an ordained Congregational minister, a radical abolitionist, one of the founders of Grinnell, Iowa and a benefactor of Grinnell College.

“Preacher,” “congressman,” “negro-stealer”: Josiah Bushnell Grinnell was called all of those things during his life. He was called a negro-stealer because he participated in the Iowa Underground Railroad. Rev. J.B. Grinnell and other Grinnell residents helped at least 37 fugitive slaves who passed through their town before the Civil War. But some residents opposed this work.

David Cannon told the story of racism, noble actions and conflict. He highlighted abolitionist John Brown's visit to Grinnell and Grinnell's first riot over the presence of fugitive slaves in the public school. John Brown stayed with Rev. J. B. Grinnell when he came through town in 1859 with a dozen formerly enslaved persons making their way to freedom, via the Underground Railroad.



Iowa Congressman Josiah Bushnell Grinnell



Underground Railroad Routes through Iowa

Upcoming Civil War Round Table Programs

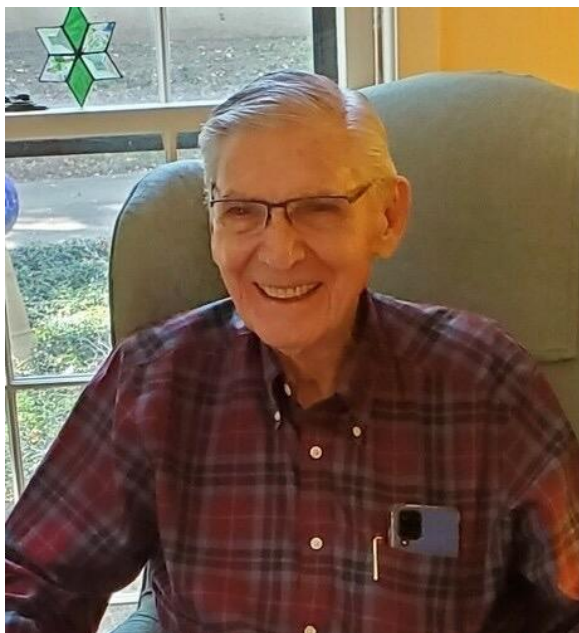
Our monthly dinner meetings are typically held on the third Wednesday of each month except for December which will be the second Wednesday of the month.

- **May 21, 2025: Dr. Jared Peatman** will give a program titled: “The long Shadow of Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address.”
- **June 18, 2025: Dr. Joseph Beilein, Jr.** will be giving a program titled: “A Man By Any Other Name: Quantrill.”
- **July 16, 2025: A. Wilson Greene** will give a program about the Petersburg Campaign 1864-1865.
- **August 20, 2025:** Round Table member **Arnold Schofield** will give a program titled: “A Brief History of Jennison’s Jayhawkers or the 7th Kansas Volunteer Cavalry.” (This program was scheduled for March of this year, but was cancelled due to weather.)
- **September 17, 2025:** Round Table member **Dr. David Meyers** will be giving a program about Civil War Medicine.
- **October 15, 2025: Joseph D. Ricci** will be giving a program titled: “Lessons of the Civil War are Still Relevant Today.”
- **November 19, 2025: David N. Duncan,** President of the American Battlefield Trust, will be giving a program about Battlefield Preservation.
- **December 10, 2025: David Von Drehle** will be giving a program about his book titled: *Rise to Greatness – Abraham Lincoln and America’s Most Perilous Year.*

UMKC Course on the Struggle for Missouri

Round Table member **Dick Titterington** is teaching another SPARK Life-long Learning course at UMKC this spring titled: “Border State Contest: The Struggle for Missouri at the Start of the American Civil War.” The 6-week course is being taught on Wednesdays, March 26 to April 30, 2025, from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at UMKC, 4747 Troost Avenue, Kansas City MO. Attendance requires paying a fee of \$40 for the course, a fee of \$15 for a quarterly membership in SPARK, and \$3 daily for parking, for a total of \$73, which is just a little more than \$12 per session. Please see the flyer on Page 8 of this newsletter.

Remembering Ray Borden



Raymond Eugene Borden, a long-time member of our Round Table passed away on March 3, 2025. Ray was born in Osawatomie, KS on September 18th, 1932, to Irvan Ray “John” Borden and Ruth N. Borden nee Johnson.

Ray graduated from Osawatomie High School in 1950 where he met the love of his life, Nan Porter Borden. He attended the University of Kansas, graduating in 1954 with a Bachelor of Business, later earning his CPA. He and Nan were married April 4th, 1953. After graduation, he joined the Army and was stationed in Colorado Springs, CO, and later Kaiserslautern, Germany.

After returning home, Ray began his career in accounting with Peat Marwick Mitchel & Co (now KPMG). He was later the controller for a local family-owned chain of lumber companies, and ended his career as Treasurer with Midwest Sales Co. Ray was actively involved with the Financial Executive Institute for many years, serving as the Kansas City area president from 1974 to 1975.

In retirement, Ray pursued his interest in genealogy. Ray and Nan took many trips exploring their roots and were able to identify over 900 names for their family tree. Ray also volunteered for numerous groups including the NCAA women’s Final Four hosted in Kansas City, was a weekly volunteer at the WWI museum, and was a food pantry volunteer for Community Christian Church. He participated in citizen’s academy for Johnson County and was a member of the Civil War Round Table for several years.

Ray was a lover of trains and was a sustaining member of the Missouri Pacific Historical Society. He was also a tried-and-true Jayhawk. His daughters followed in his

footsteps and through his generosity and perseverance, he and Nan put them all through school to become Jayhawks as well. He was a first-generation college graduate and now there are three generations of KU grads in the family so far.

Ray’s wife Nan died on March 9, 2021. They were married for almost 68 years. A service to celebrate Ray's life was held on March 14th at the Johnson County Funeral Chapel, located at 11200 Metcalf, Overland Park KS. Ray was a member of our Round Table until 2024. Please keep Ray’s family in your prayers.

Photographs from the March Dinner Meeting



New Member Gib Kerr. Gib was a member of our Round Table in the 1990’s.



New Member Jerry A. Coffelt



Round Table Members Terry Moore, Blair Hosford, and Bob Macoubrie



Round Table Members Dale Walters, Larry Goldsmith, and Jan Pringle

Sergeant Major's Roar

Battlefield Dispatches #808

A Civil War Nurse

At the beginning of the Civil War, one of the many problems faced by both sides was the absence of adequate medical care for the sick, wounded, and dying soldiers. It required a number of years before this problem was adequately addressed, but it was never completely resolved. Part of this problem was the constant absence of a sufficient number of nurses to care for the sick and wounded. At the start of the war, it was believed that only men were capable of functioning as nurses and a soldier would be paid a few extra dollars a month being a nurse. Eventually, women were allowed to volunteer as nurses and some were hired by the surgeons as paid nurses. One

of these permanent paid nurses at the Fort Scott General Hospital was Mary Holt Blakey. She was hired in 1862 and worked for three years until the war was over in 1865. We do not know how much she was paid each month, but her record indicates that she was granted a pension of \$12.00 a month for the rest of her life.

One of the most interesting and startling facts of Mary Holt Blakey is that she was an African American, who with her family had escaped from slavery in the Indian Territory (present eastern Oklahoma). This occurred in the summer of 1862 when she and her family followed Union soldiers north from the Indian Territory to Fort Scott. At that time, she was 44 years old, having been born according to her obituary in 1828, which was considered to be of old age in the mid 19th Century. If her birth year of 1828 is correct, she was probably born as a slave in Tennessee before her owner moved to the Indian Territory in the 1840's. Because of her age and experience in caring for the sick, she was well qualified to be hired as a nurse. She died in 1878 and the following obituary was published in the February 8, 1898 edition of the *Fort Scott Tribune* which was discovered by Carolyn Cooper, who was one of the finest and most helpful genealogists the author has ever known.

“MARY BLAKEY: AN ARMY NURSE DEAD

Mrs. Mary Blakey, One of the Oldest Colored Residents in the City, Passes Away.

Mrs. Mary Blakey, who for forty long years has been a resident of Fort Scott and who was an Old Army Nurse in the hospital then situated on the Plaza, died Sunday morning at her home, 314 south Horton Street, after a lingering illness. She had experienced 78 years in this world and her death is attributed to her age. She has been in close confinement for some months and her death was expected daily. She was the mother of Hop Blakey and a sister of Moses Holt.

Aunt Mary, as she was known in this community, was one of the best colored Ladies in fort Scott. She had been connected with hundreds of families where sickness prevailed during her residence here and was a faithful nurse, being extremely tender in her care of children. Mothers entrusted their children in Aunt Mary's care, recognizing in her a solace to comfort and future reward.

Aunt Mary was a characteristic Southern Negro and came to Fort Scott before the war. At the beginning of hostilities, she donned the white apron and cap and voluntarily rendered her assistance at the Union Hospital in this city and served until the close of the war, for which services the government allowed her a pension of \$12 per month.

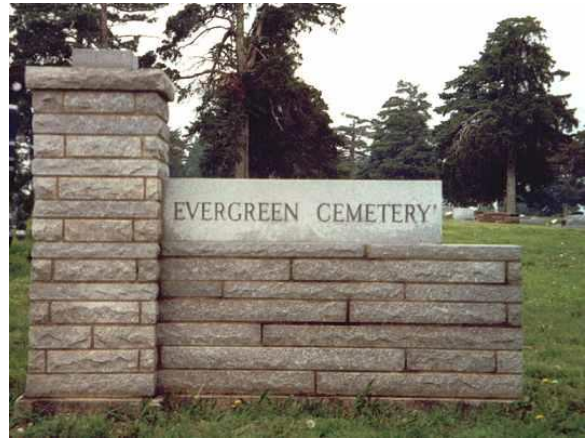
She was a devout Christian and the funeral service will be held this afternoon at 2 o'clock at the A. M. E. Church,

corner of third and Lowman Streets. Interment will be made in Evergreen Cemetery.

Fort Scott Tribune, February 8, 1898, Page 1.”

Now then, a bit more to Mary Blakey’s story. For many years her grave was not marked in Evergreen Cemetery. Then two exceptional and excellent genealogists, Carolyn J. Cooper and Sandra S. Haimerl surprised the author with the following statement. You are not going to believe this! We have found the unmarked grave of May Holt, Moses Holt’s sister, in Evergreen Cemetery! The cemetery’s burial register indicated that she was buried by her married name of Blakey not her maiden name of Holt! This would not do, so it was decided to secure a headstone for her grave. Because she had been a Veteran Nurse of and paid by the U. S. Army during the Civil War, she was entitled to an official military headstone. Therefore, I provided them with the appropriate form which they completed and mailed to the Veteran’s Administration in Washington, D. C. About six months later, the headstone arrived and was placed on “Aunt Mary’s” grave, which is directly south and across from the Gordon Park’s Memorial Headstone in Evergreen Cemetery.

This is but one of the many examples of the successful dedicated research efforts of Carolyn Cooper and Sandra Haimerl contributed to the history of Fort Scott. They were friends and colleagues for many years and are very much missed today. Carolyn died many years ago and Sandra and her family have since moved to southeastern Colorado. However, Carolyn’s legacy lives on because all of her intellectual property and research results were donated to the Old Fort Genealogical Society and Sandra was the editor of several books based on Carolyn’s research that are for sale at the Old Fort Genealogical Society. Thank You Sandra and Carolyn for your years of fruitful research, friendship and sharing your knowledge of the forgotten history of Fort Scott.



Evergreen Cemetery, Fort Scott Kansas



**Grave Marker for Army Nurse
Mary Holt Blakey**

Border State Contest

The Struggle for Missouri at the Start of the American Civil War



The Death of General Lyon at the Battle of Wilson's Creek

Dick Titterington will be teaching a course, "Border State Contest: The Struggle for Missouri at the Start of the American Civil War." The course is sponsored by the SPARK Flossie Pack Center for Lifelong Learning on the campus of UMKC. The course is six weeks long from March 26 to April 30, 2025, on Wednesdays from 1:30 to 3:30 pm. The classes will be held at 4747 Troost in Kansas City, Missouri (<https://lifelongspark.org/about-spark/relocating-in-2025/>). **Note: Attendance requires paying a fee for the class and fee to become a member of SPARK**

As a border state, keeping Missouri in the Union was of paramount importance to the Lincoln Administration. A large majority of Missourians wanted Missouri to stay in the Union. But there were two political extremes struggling against one another during the first year of the war. One, led by Claiborne Fox Jackson, wanted Missouri to secede from the Union. The other, led by Frank Blair, would do anything to keep Missouri in the Union. Come discover the decisions made that brought Missouri into the war. Events covered include Camp Jackson and the battles of Boonville, Carthage, Wilson's Creek, Lexington, and Pea Ridge. We will also learn about the political struggle taking place in Missouri during this time.

For more information visit <https://lifelongspark.org/>