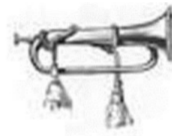




BORDER BUGLE



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://cwrktkc.org/>
Join us on Facebook!

574th Regular Meeting

Wednesday, May 21, 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.

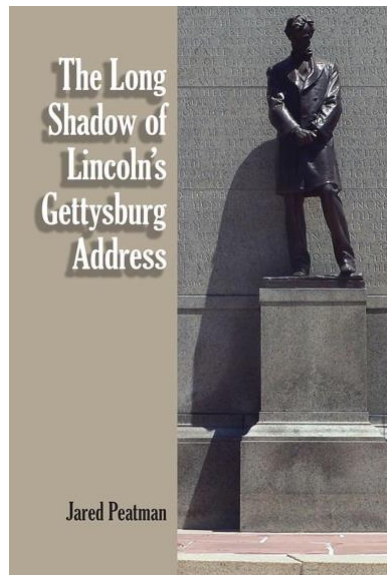
Reservation Deadline: Tuesday, May 13th.

To make a dinner reservation, please contact Marlene Natoli:

<mailto:marnatoli@att.net>

Phone: 913-764-1336

May Program



Dr. Jared Peatman will be giving a program based on his book: *The Long Shadow of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address*. Dr. Peatman seeks to reveal not only Lincoln's intentions at Gettysburg but also how his words were received, invoked, and interpreted over time.

After reviewing the events leading up to November 19, 1863, he will discuss immediate responses to the ceremony in New York, Gettysburg itself, Confederate Richmond, and London, showing how parochial concerns and political affiliations shaped initial coverage of the day and led to the censoring of Lincoln's words in some locales.

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, May 13th. 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://cwrk.org/digital_payments/

Dinner Menu

Milburn Golf and Country Club will serve the following meal at the May dinner meeting: Sautéed salmon with lemon butter sauce, rice pilaf, and vegetable medley. Dessert will be S'mores bread pudding. 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



A graduate of Gettysburg College with a master's degree from Virginia Tech and Ph.D. from Texas A&M, **Jared Peatman** is the author of *The Long Shadow of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address*. For that project he was named the Organization of American Historians and Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission Doctoral Fellow and in 2012 received the Hay-Nicolay Dissertation Prize for the best work on Abraham Lincoln or the Civil War. He has just finished a book on the Twentieth Maine and eagerly awaits its publication.

In his day job, Jared provides training events that use history as a metaphor to examine current leadership and performance challenges. He is the founder and president of Four Score Consulting and a senior fellow at the George Washington University Center for Excellence in Public Leadership. You can read more about his programs at: <http://www.historyleadership.com/>

This Month's Program

In this talk based on his book *The Long Shadow of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address*, **Dr. Jared Peatman** seeks to reveal not only Lincoln's intentions at Gettysburg but also how his words were received, invoked, and interpreted over time. After reviewing the events leading up to November 19, 1863, he will discuss immediate responses to the ceremony in New York, Gettysburg

itself, Confederate Richmond, and London, showing how parochial concerns and political affiliations shaped initial coverage of the day and led to the censoring of Lincoln's words in some locales. He then traces how, over time, proponents of certain ideals invoked the particular parts of the address that suited their message, from reunification early in the twentieth century to American democracy and patriotism during the world wars and, finally, to Lincoln's full intended message of equality during the Civil War centennial commemorations and the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s.

Book: *The Long Shadow of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address*

The following text is from the Amazon website:

"When Abraham Lincoln addressed the crowd at the new national cemetery in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, on November 19, 1863, he intended his speech to be his most eloquent statement on the inextricable link between equality and democracy. However, unwilling to commit to equality at that time, the nation stood ill-prepared to accept the full message of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address. In the ensuing century, groups wishing to advance a particular position hijacked Lincoln's words for their own ends, highlighting the specific parts of the speech that echoed their stance while ignoring the rest. Only as the nation slowly moved toward equality did those invoking Lincoln's speech come closer to recovering his true purpose. In this incisive work, Jared Peatman seeks to understand Lincoln's intentions at Gettysburg and how his words were received, invoked, and interpreted over time, providing a timely and insightful analysis of one of America's most legendary orations.

"After reviewing the events leading up to November 19, 1863, Peatman examines immediate responses to the ceremony in New York, Gettysburg itself, Confederate Richmond, and London, showing how parochial concerns and political affiliations shaped initial coverage of the day and led to the censoring of Lincoln's words in some locales. He then traces how, over time, proponents of certain ideals invoked the particular parts of the address that suited their message, from reunification early in the twentieth century to American democracy and patriotism during the world wars and, finally, to Lincoln's full intended message of equality during the Civil War centennial commemorations and the civil rights movement of the 1960s. Peatman also explores foreign invocations of the Gettysburg Address and its influence on both the Chinese constitution of 1912 and the current French constitution. An epilogue highlights recent and even current applications of the Gettysburg Address and hints at ways the speech might be used in the future.

"By tracing the evolution of Lincoln's brief words at a cemetery dedication into a revered document essential to

American national identity, this revealing work provides fresh insight into the enduring legacy of Abraham Lincoln and his Gettysburg Address on American history and culture."

Last Month's Program



At our dinner meeting on April 16th, Civil War Round Table member **Todd Stettner** gave an outstanding program titled: "Judah P. Benjamin: Jewish Son of the Confederacy." Attendance at the dinner meeting was 49.

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.



Speaker Todd Stettner and his wife Shirley

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.

- **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.*

Member News

Dale Walters had been in the hospital in Topeka for ten days, suffering from pneumonia and heart failure. Dale's daughter **Marcy Barkley** reports that Dale is doing better now. Dale came home from the hospital on April 28th and plans to be at the dinner meeting on May 21st. Marcy said she appreciates the phone calls and cards that members sent.

We would like to welcome new members **Todd Newton** and **Stephen Cutelli**. Todd lives in Leawood KS and Stephen lives in Kansas City MO. Stephen is a Civil War historian and a re-enactor.

At our dinner meeting on April 16th, **Father Richard Frank** announced that donations are needed to purchase the camp flag of Merrill's Horse, 2nd Regiment, Missouri Cavalry and bring it back to Missouri. Donations will be used to purchase the flag for the Missouri State Museum collection. The flag ended up at the Horse Soldiers store in Gettysburg PA. The flag is being offered for sale for \$22,000. For more information contact Pete Oetting at: <mailto:63relic@gmail.com>

Upcoming Executive Committee Meeting

At our dinner meeting on April 16th, Round President **Gary Nevius** announced that there will be a meeting of the Executive Committee at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, June 21st in the Lenexa Library conference room. He said the speaker search for 2026 is going well and we have nine commitments so far.

The primary topics will be nominations for officers and new board members prior to our annual meeting this fall. Gary said we need to fill the following Executive Committee positions and asked for recommendations regarding possible candidates to fill these positions:

- 2nd Vice President: **Blair Hosford**, will be moving up to the position of 1st Vice President.
- Board member at large: **Les Thierolf** is rotating off of the Board.
- Sergeant at Arms: **Lane Smith** would like to retire as our Sergeant at Arms.
- Secretary: **Judy Smith** is retiring as our secretary. **Mary Griffin** has graciously volunteered to take over for Judy as secretary of the Round Table.

Gary Nevius said due to impending Federal budget cuts, there may not be any funding for Freedom's Frontier as part of the National Park Service. He requested that our Round Table members write or call their Kansas or Missouri congress members and request that funding for Freedom's Frontier not be cut. Gary said not to send the congress members an e-mail.

Sergeant Major's Roar

Battlefield Dispatches #808

An Extraordinary Life

This column is about an "Extraordinary Clerk" who worked in what was the first general store in Fort Scott KS. The store was not in the town of Fort Scott, but was adjacent to the U. S. Fort of the 1840's. The store was owned and operated by Hiram T. Wilson and it is believed that it was located approximately near the present "Every" Building on Old Fort Boulevard. This particular clerk could read, write, and do math, which was expected, but she was a woman and an African-American Slave! Her name was Ann or Anna and Wilson rented her from her owner in Missouri. This was not unusual before the Civil War, when slaves with special skills, be they domestic or tradesmen, and were rented out by their owners.

References to Ann were discovered in two of Wilson's account books that were donated by the Molly Foster

Berry Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution to Fort Scott National Historic Site in the early 1990's. In addition to working at the store they indicated that Ann earned extra money by doing the washing and sewing for the army officers stationed at the fort. The books were donated by Elizabeth Wilson who was the oldest daughter of Hiram T. Wilson, who had inherited them from her father, and were used as part of her application for membership in the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Knowledge of Ann was very limited to that which was in the account books until Jeff Sheets, a former Park Ranger, discovered an article about her that was published in the *Topeka Commonwealth* newspaper on May 12, 1875. The article was written by Noble Prentis, who was an editorial writer for the *Kansas City Star* and a noted historian who interviewed "Ann." The following is a brief summary of the article:

"Ann Davis was born in 1817 in Crawford County, Illinois as a free black person. No small matter back then. As a young girl she learned to read, write, and cipher (do math). She was kidnapped by a slave catcher named Crisp and taken to Lafayette County, Missouri where slavery was legal.

"Ann apparently did not come quietly. Although Crisp's aim apparently was to sell her quickly for a nice profit, once in Missouri, Ann loudly proclaimed her freeborn status to any and all.

"That and the fact that Crisp had no bill of sale made Ann impossible to sell. Crisp eventually had to hire her out to a man named Douglas in Bates County, Missouri. Douglas made a deal with Ann: Work hard and I'll set you free for \$550. This was early in the 1840's. So, for seven years she worked for Douglas, had three children, and bided her time. When the seven years were up, Douglas reneged. He sent Ann to Boonville, Missouri to be sold along with her children. She talked to lawyers and with no clear title, no prospective buyer wanted anything to do with her.

"Back she went to Douglas, who took her children from her, shipped them to Texas and sent Ann to a Dade County, Missouri man. Once in Greenfield, she was allowed to "work out." It was at this time she became a clerk for H. T. Wilson in his General or Sutler's Store adjacent to the U. S. Army Post of Fort Scott. She also agreed to pay her new master in Dade County \$450 for her freedom.

"In 1844, a document was drawn and witnessed by one Edward Chouteau, a trader working near Fort Scott who was related to the Saint Louis Chouteau family who became Ann's "guardian".

"After working for Wilson for several years, Ann married another trader by the name of Chouteau and in

late 1847 she purchased her freedom by making a final payment of \$157. Her certificate of manumission or freedom was recorded in Independence, Missouri about one year later in 1848. From this time, she and her husband worked at various trading posts on the Neosho River, one in Linn County and they eventually ended up in Shawnee county just north of Topeka.

“There they operated a boarding house and bakery. Eventually, she managed to buy 100 acres of land in south Topeka, about where the State Fair grounds were located. There she raised two sons, who became substantial citizens.

“After about 1880, Ann fades from view. No record has yet been discovered of Ann’s death or where she was buried.”

Now then, when Prentis interviewed Ann in 1875, she was 58 years old and had lived an “Extraordinary Life.” Being “Born Free”, kidnapped into “Slavery”, purchased her freedom, and then living, surviving, and prospering through the turbulent times of “Bleeding Kansas” and the “Civil War”, Ann succeeded against all of the odds and was known as “Aunt Shaddy” in her later years.

Photographs of Fort Sumter, South Carolina

On April 12, 1861, Confederate forces bombarded Fort Sumter and the Civil War began. The Federal garrison, under the command of Major Robert Anderson, surrendered the next day and evacuated on the 14th, leaving the fort in Confederate hands. Throughout the Civil War, Fort Sumter was the center of conflict as Union forces struggled to regain the fort and control of Charleston Harbor. Fort Sumter was subjected to a Union blockade, attacks by ironclad warships, and a twenty-two-month siege, one of the longest in U.S. military history. Heavy shelling by Union land batteries (1863-1865) reduced most of the fort to a mound of rubble by the war’s end.



Fort Sumter, Charleston Harbor



Left Face Casemate Ruins and Harbor Cruise Boat



**8-Inch Columbiad Smoothbore Cannon in
Left Flank Casemate**



Right Face Casemate



Lowering the United States Flag at the end of the day



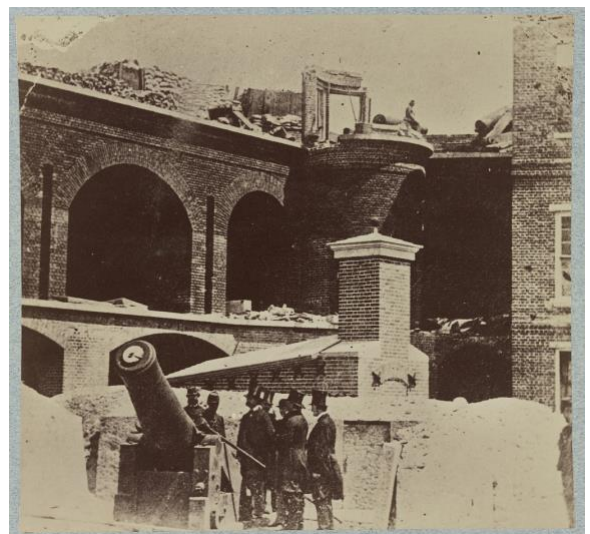
100-pounder rifled Parrott cannon in Right Face Casemate. The Army moved these to the fort in the 1870s.



Confederates used several field pieces like this 12-pounder mountain howitzer to defend against a surprise landing by Union forces.



Rifled and banded Columbiad cannon mounted as a mortar



Interior of Fort Sumter in April 1861 after its surrender by U.S. Garrison (Lib. of Congress)

It was 1870 before the United States began to clear the ruins of war from Fort Sumter. Work progressed until 1876 when a shortage of funds forced a suspension of activity. Sumter stood largely neglected until 1898. Around the turn of the century a massive naval buildup by world powers prompted the modernization of the fort. Two, 12-inch breech-loading rifled guns were installed in 1899. Their concrete emplacement, Battery Huger, still dominates the fort. In 1943, the outmoded guns were replaced with four 90-mm guns manned by the Coast Artillery.

Amphibious landings and air attacks used during World War II made static forts obsolete. Sumter was decommissioned in 1947 and transferred to the National Park Service to become a national monument on July 12, 1948. Today, Fort Sumter National Monument preserves the site where the most profound chapter in American history began.

Book: *The Demon of Unrest*

A good book regarding the events and personalities that led up to the attack on Fort Sumter is *The Demon of Unrest: A Saga of Hubris, Heartbreak, and Heroism at the Dawn of the Civil War* by Erik Larson.

The following summary of the book is from the Amazon website:

“On November 6, 1860, Abraham Lincoln became the fluky victor in a tight race for president. The country was bitterly at odds; Southern extremists were moving ever closer to destroying the Union, with one state after another seceding and Lincoln powerless to stop them. Slavery fueled the conflict, but somehow the passions of North and South came to focus on a lonely federal fortress in Charleston Harbor: Fort Sumter.

“Master storyteller Erik Larson offers a gripping account of the chaotic months between Lincoln’s election and the Confederacy’s shelling of Sumter—a period marked by tragic errors and miscommunications, enflamed egos and craven ambitions, personal tragedies and betrayals. Lincoln himself wrote that the trials of these five months were “so great that, could I have anticipated them, I would not have believed it possible to survive them.”

“At the heart of this suspense-filled narrative are Major Robert Anderson, Sumter’s commander and a former slave owner sympathetic to the South but loyal to the Union; Edmund Ruffin, a vain and bloodthirsty radical who stirs secessionist ardor at every opportunity; and Mary Boykin Chesnut, wife of a prominent planter, conflicted over both marriage and slavery and seeing parallels between them. In the middle of it all is the overwhelmed Lincoln, battling with his duplicitous secretary of state, William Seward, as he tries desperately

to avert a war that he fears is inevitable—one that will eventually kill 750,000 Americans.

“Drawing on diaries, secret communiques, slave ledgers, and plantation records, Larson gives us a political horror story that captures the forces that led America to the brink—a dark reminder that we often don’t see a cataclysm coming until it’s too late.”

