



The Scout's Report

Knoxville Civil War Roundtable
P. O. Box 52232
Knoxville, TN 37950-2232
Website: kcwrt.org

VOLUME XLIII

JANUARY 2026

NO. 7

KCWRT MEETING

Tuesday, January 13, 2026

****Buffet at 6:30 PM****

****Speaker at 7:30 PM****

Dinner & Presentation

\$22.00 Members

\$25.00 Non-members

Presentation Only

\$8.00 Members

\$10.00 Non-members

**DINNER RESERVATIONS
MUST BE MADE OR
CANCELED BY 11 AM,
FRIDAY, JANUARY 9TH
CALL (865) 671-9001 AND
LEAVE A MESSAGE**

MENU

Pork Loim
Honey Pecan Chicken
Oven Roasted New Potatoes
Glazed Carrots
Garden Salad
Beverages
Assorted desserts

LOCATION

Bearden Banquet Hall
5806 Kingston Pike

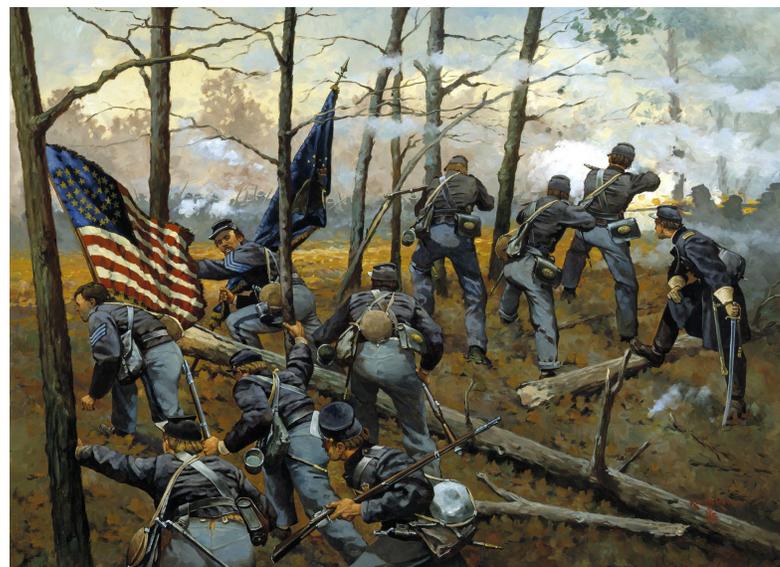
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A Test of Leadership – How the Small-Scale Battles Defined The Civil War Experience for Many Who Fought

Newspaper coverage of the fighting during the Civil War was spotty. Most of the news from the front came out of the Eastern theater, and most of that focused on the major battles and campaigns. Still, it is estimated that 25 to 30% of the casualties during the war occurred in the thousands of small engagements whose names were never in the headlines.

Following the Battle of Fort Sanders, Union forces pushed north of newly liberated Knoxville into what today is known as the Lakeway Area, then a fertile stretch of land between the Holston and the French Broad Rivers. With the bridges destroyed and armies reliant on what could be carried, forged, or commandeered, elements of the Union's Army of the Ohio and Army of the Cumberland struggled with Gen. James Longstreet's two detached 1st Corps divisions of the Army of Northern Virginia for control of the blighted land. It was a war of attrition that cold, harsh winter, a fight for corn and bacon and forage. Here junior officers and NCOs daily were making decisions that led to the survival or destruction of those they led. Soldiers on both sides knew cold and



hunger and the terror of many small sharp engagements. Come join us as David Needs examines their common experience through the prism of the Battle of Mossy Creek fought on December 29th, 1863.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



The end of a calendar year is always a good time to reflect on one year while eagerly getting ready to take on the challenges of the new one. So, let's take a little time to see what we've done in 2025: we won a national award and a national grant from the Civil War Roundtable Congress, continued hosting live theatrical Civil War themed events, completed nine consecutive quarters of maintenance efforts at Bethel and Odd Fellows cemeteries, stayed with the Dot Kelly Preservation Grants in both the Open and JROTC Divisions, started the Gerald L. Augustus History Scholarship, kept up with preservation work at Fort Dickerson, raised over \$9000 to buy a cannon that will immeasurably enhance the entrance to the fort, hosted another successful Living History Weekend while adding 24 new members to our ranks. There's more but there isn't enough space to account for it all. In short, it's an enviable record that we all should be proud of and I thank the board and every member for being a part of it.

However, we can't sit still and there are challenges ahead. One is to support Paul Estes in the challenges he faces in his efforts to develop a robust tour program. He got off to a good start in December with a trip to Nashville to the Tennessee State Museum and State Capitol Building but he'll need your help and participation in keeping the momentum going in 2026. Another area we'll need to focus on is finding a replacement for Jim Doncaster. As the director of programming, he's been solely responsible for the great speakers we're treated to every month, but he'll be leaving that position at the end of FY 2027. True, that's a long time from now but programming is perhaps the one board position that takes a while to master and we'll need someone to step up now to learn the ropes from Jim. He'll be talking about the requirements of the job at the January membership meeting.



Jim Ogden

The quality of speaker that Jim Doncaster brings to us was reflected by another Jim in December – Jim Ogden made his yearly pilgrimage to Knoxville to talk about the command climate in Braxton Bragg's Army of Tennessee during and after the Battle of Chickamauga. It certainly ranked as one of history's more dysfunctional collection of supposed leaders who never realized that they should have been fighting the Yankees and not each other.

Finally, as we all know too well, it's now tax season which means money is just about to be on every member's mind. Namely, how to keep more of it.

Last month members were shown our finances and saw that we're in pretty good shape. In that spirit, I want to thank all of you who paid more than the dues amount to the Roundtable. It's very generous of all of you and the

Board, particularly our treasurer, recognize that your donations give us the means to achieve the objectives outlined in our mission statement. In the coming months, we'll talk more about fundraising, means/wants, etc., but for now, my thanks to all of you for quite a successful 2025.

Now, together, let's take on 2026.

Timothy D. Vane, President KCWRT



Members in Period Dress
December 2025



Quarterly Maintenance
Days at Bethel and Odd
Fellows Cemeteries





December 2025
Nashville Tour



Dot Kelly 2025
Grant Open
Division Winner
Blount County
Historical Museum

December Program Attendance

The December meeting had 93 attendees (77 dinners and 16 lectures only); books sales and auctions brought in \$212; \$125 in print sales and memberships \$225.

— Bill Nicolai, serving as Treasurer

WELCOME TO THE KNOXVILLE CWRT, DAVID NEEDS!



David Needs is a graduate of Carson-Newman University with a degree in Political Science and a minor in History and Military Science. He was President of Phi Alpha Theta the History Honor Society while a student at C-N. He was also in ROTC and was commissioned as 2nd LT in the Field Artillery. He currently serves Carson-Newman University as a Professor in several departments (History, Education, Physical Education) and Director of Athletics Development. During his coaching career he was a National Assistant Coach of the Year for college football and twice Regional Coach of the Year for track and field coaching in 21 straight National Championships. He was recently elected to the Carson-Newman Athletics Hall of Fame.

Among the many classes David teaches at C-N is "Mossy Creek History 1850 to 1900" and the "Evolution of Sport". In 2019, David received the Community History Award from the East Tennessee Historical Society for his work in preservation and sharing the Mossy Creek Story. In 2019, he was also named the President of the Lakeway Civil War Preservation Association. In the Fall of 2021, he was named the first City Historian for Jefferson City. In 2023, he traveled to Austin, Texas and Colorado Springs, CO to share information and speak about the 160th Anniversary of the Battle of Mossy Creek. Additionally, he led the City of Jefferson City's remembrance of the Battle on December 29th. In 2024, David received the Teaching Excellence Award from the East Tennessee Historical Society for work in the classroom and as a lecturer. David Needs has been active in our community, researching, cemetery preservation, historical preservation, historical documentation, archaeological work, drone photography, leading tours, engaging student groups, planning events, and lecturing. He is also currently writing a book about the personal stories of the men and units who fought at the Battle of Mossy Creek.

BATTLE OF MOSSY CREEK

162nd ANNIVERSARY DECEMBER 29, 2025

REMINDER

The Mossy Creek battlefield tour led by our January speaker David Needs will start at the Heritage Center at Old City Hall at 2004 Branner Ave in Jefferson City at 10 am on December 29, 2025.



THE KNOXVILLE CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE 2026 SPEAKERS SERIES

February 10, 2026 — Daniel Feller, Historian & Author, “1860: The Second American Revolution?”

March 10, 2026 — Patrick Schroeder, Historian- Appomattox Court House NHP, “Myths About Lee’s Surrender”

April 14, 2026 — Bob Zeller, President - The Center for Civil War Photography, “Grand Review of Civil War Photography”



April 2026 Speaker:
Bob Zeller

May 12, 2026 — Bennett Parten, Historian & Author, “Somewhere Toward Freedom - Sherman's March and the Story of America's Largest Emancipation”

June 9, 2026 — Sean Michael Chick, Historian & Author, “Only the Flag of the Union Greets the Sky: Northern generals and the Just Cause”



July 2026 Speaker:
Leslie Goddard

July 14, 2026 — Leslie Goddard, Playwright & Actor, “Clara Barton”

August 11, 2026 — Steve Nash

September 15, 2026 — Lesley Gordon, Historian & Author, “Cowardice and Combat in the American Civil War”

October 13, 2026 — Drew Gruber, Park Manager, Culpeper Battlefields State Park, “The Siege of Yorktown”

REMINDER - DON'T FORGET TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

Dear Loyal Round Table Members!

If all our 2024-2025 members renew, we would have 218 members... alas, 51 former members have yet to renew for the 2026 campaign... but let's also make sure you get to know the 25 – yes, twenty five – new members this year!

Renew today, do not risk not receiving the monthly newsletter, which only goes to current members. A \$25 Individual Membership or \$40 for the family gets you access to the monthly newsletter, and any donations (i.e., a Sustaining, Supporting or Sponsoring Membership) go toward maintaining the best round table I have been associated with. You will find the application at the end of newsletter – you may mail them to our PO Box, or drop them off with your payment at any of the meetings. Encourage your friends to become members as well!

Should you have any questions, feel free to call me at 423.715.9034 or email me at nicolai.william@gmail.com – Thank you, Bill Nicolai - Membership Director

**Director of Membership
Knoxville Civil War Roundtable
P.O. Box 52232
Knoxville, TN 37950-2232**

(Mail Application to the above address or turn in at Monthly Meeting – 2nd Tuesday each month at Bearden Banquet Hall, 5806 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN; 6:30 pm Buffet, 7:15 Business Meeting, 7:30 pm Speaker)
(Knoxville Civil War Roundtable Website: <https://kcwrtorg.wordpress.com/>)
Facebook page is: <https://www.facebook.com/Knoxville-Civil-War-Roundtable-117118935033706/>
Membership year is by fiscal year (1 July – 30 June)

Membership Application

Name _____ Phone (H) _____ (W) _____

Mailing Address _____

E-mail addresses you want monthly Scout's Report and other KCWRT information sent to:

Name you want to be called on nametag (i.e., first name, middle name, or nickname) _____

Type Membership: Individual (\$25) ; Family (\$40) (List additional family members at bottom)
Sustaining (\$50) ; Supporting (\$100) ; Sponsoring (\$500) ;
Any additional donation is welcome and will help with KCWR Programs: \$ _____

Occupation _____ Employer _____

Year Joined _____ Where did you first hear of KCWRT? _____

Do you have ancestors who served in the Civil War? (Yes, No, Unknown) _____

Major Civil War interests (to be used in the Roster to network with members with similar interests.
Indicate specifically, if possible, a particular battle, person, unit or other interest).

Hobbies/Clubs other than the Civil War: _____

Field Trips: I am _____, am not _____ interested in field trips. If you are, for how many days?
1 day _____, 2 days _____, 4 to 7 days _____. Suggestions for field trip sites: _____

Area(s) of expertise I would be willing to share with KCWRT _____

Volunteers always needed! I would be willing to volunteer in the following areas:

Suggestions or comments to improve the KCWRT _____

Additional Information for Family Membership. List the following below (use back if necessary):
Names, additional mailing addresses, additional email addresses, and names for nametag.

The Scout's Report of the Knoxville Civil War Roundtable

KCWRT is a non-partisan, non-profit, educational forum for promotion of knowledge, commemoration, and preservation of our American Civil War heritage. Meetings are always open and visitors are always welcome.

President

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Treasurer

Stan Sech
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Director of Programming

Jim Doncaster
jdoncaster1@msn.com

The Knoxville Civil War Roundtable welcomes any person who has an interest in the American Civil War.

New Members are always welcome.

For more information, call 865-671-9001, visit our website at kcwrt.org, or email us: kcwrt1865@gmail.com



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