

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.



# The Scout's Report

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

VOLUME XLIII

FEBRUARY 2026

NO. 8

## KCWRT MEETING

Tuesday, February 10, 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, FEBRUARY 6TH  
CALL (865) 671-9001 AND  
LEAVE A MESSAGE**

## MENU

Southern Roast Beef  
Fried Chicken  
Baked Apples  
Whipped Potatoes  
Garden Salad  
Beverages  
Assorted desserts

## LOCATION

Bearden Banquet Hall  
5806 Kingston Pike

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
**250**  
ANNIVERSARY

The Board of Directors of the  
Knoxville Civil War Round Table  
cordially invites you to a special  
anniversary event celebrating  
250 years of American  
independence and freedom

Speaker: Dr. Daniel Feller,  
Emeritus Professor of History

**Tuesday, February 10th**  
Bearden Banquet Hall  
5806 Kingston Pike  
Knoxville

C-SPAN  
AMERICA  
250

KNOXVILLE  
CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE

## 1860: The Second American Revolution?

In March 1861, in Savannah, Georgia, Alexander Stephens delivered a major speech hailing the birth of a new nation, the Confederate States of America. Stephens, a longtime Whig party congressman and once a friend of Abraham Lincoln, had himself just been elected as the new country's provisional vice-president. His address celebrated what he called "one of the greatest revolutions in the annals of the world." As Stephens explained, the new Confederate government "preserved and perpetuated . . . all the essentials of the old constitution" while introducing certain "great improvements." In his telling, the new nation did not repudiate or depart from the legacy of the original American Revolution. Rather, it perfected it. Thirty-two months later, in November 1863, President Abraham Lincoln delivered a famous address at Gettysburg. Like Stephens, he harked back to the American Revolution and to the Declaration of Independence, but in an opposite way. Where Stephens hailed the fulfillment of America's promise, Lincoln warned of its destruction: the threat that with Confederate victory, "government of the people, by the people, for the people" would "perish from the earth."

So, which was it? Did the 'Second American Revolution' of 1860 build upon the First of 1776, or did it betray it? Did the new Confederate government perfect the principles of the old, or reject them? Who was right, Stephens or Lincoln? The answer depended on how one understood the Revolution itself. For the Revolution had bequeathed a dual legacy, both institutional and ideological: on the one hand, a governmental Union built on overlapping state and federal sovereignties; on the other, a principled dedication to the "self-evident truths" set forth in the Declaration of Independence, among them that "all men are created equal." These two legacies steered the American republic's history through its first fourscore years. Sometimes they worked in tandem; but friction between them produced a series of crises of Union, the last of which, in 1860, ended in armed conflict. Join us as University of Tennessee historian Daniel Feller unpacks these dual legacies, the ways they played out over time, and how the Civil War brought them finally into direct confrontation and eventual resolution.

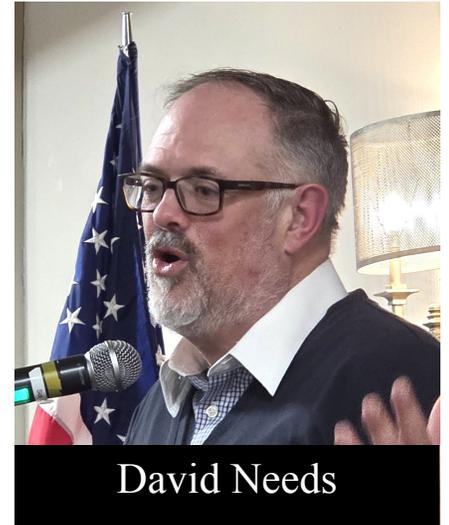




## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



There's a tendency, I suspect, amongst those of us who study the Civil War to focus on the big battles that occurred far away from East Tennessee. And why not since it makes sense to focus on fights that included thousands of soldiers and directly impacted the outcome of the war. But our guest speaker in January reminded us that there was a lot of drama that took place less than 30 miles from Knoxville at Jefferson City/Mossy Creek. David Needs artfully told the story of junior officers and non-commissioned officers who played important roles in that forgotten battle and reminded us of why their stories are important.



David Needs

But David has another equally important job – he's the primary leader of the Lakeway Civil War Preservation Association. They, like us, work very hard to preserve battlefields and other sites related to the fighting in East Tennessee during the winter of 1863/64. Since our missions so closely align, I think it makes a great deal of sense for us to work together in the future. Our director of community activities, Tim Dake, will be our leader in developing opportunities with the LCWPA.

Speaking of preservation opportunities, don't forget that we'll be working in Bethel and Odd Fellows cemeteries again in March. We'll be at Odd Fellows on March 21 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and at the same times in Bethel on March 28th. This is also the quarter when the JROTC students from South Doyle High School will join us.



Chris Magra

Another interesting opportunity came from the January membership meeting and that was brought to us by Chris Magra. He runs the Center for Study of Tennesseans and War at the University of Tennessee. The short and the long of it is that the Center's mission is to capture the stories of Tennesseans who've served their country in uniform so that information can be available to historians. Beyond that, he also wants stories from our members who had family members who served regardless of when that was. If you want to share your story or that of a family member, contact Chris at [cmagra@utk.edu](mailto:cmagra@utk.edu).

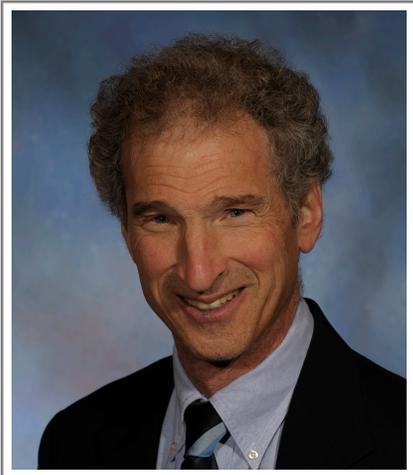
Next up to discuss his duties on the board is Bill Nicolai. He's been our secretary but is now the director of membership. He's done yeoman service in both capacities

and is the one who tracks how many members we have, creates and distributes badges and, most importantly, who's paid their dues and who hasn't. And some of you still haven't so please make Bill's life easier by paying your dues ASAP.

Finally, tour activity should pick up soon. Our tour coordinator, Paul Eastes, is working with the Roundtables in Crossville and Kingsport to develop joint tours with them as well as some on our own. Details to follow.

*Timothy D. Vane, President KCWRT*

## **WELCOME BACK TO THE KCWRT PODIUM, DR. FELLER!**



Daniel Feller is Distinguished Professor in the Humanities Emeritus at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville and also Editor/Director Emeritus of The Papers of Andrew Jackson. He received his PhD from the University of Wisconsin at Madison, and before coming to UT in 2003 he taught history at Northland College in Wisconsin and at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque. He is the author of *The Public Lands in Jacksonian Politics* and *The Jacksonian Promise: America, 1815–1840*, and the editor of six volumes of *The Papers of Andrew Jackson* covering the presidential years from 1829 through 1834. His professional recognitions include the Society for History in the

Federal Government's Thomas Jefferson Prize and the J. G. M. Ramsey Award for Lifetime Achievement, awarded by the East Tennessee Historical Society in 2024.

Dan's fascination with the Civil War dates from his youth in the Washington suburbs, where he collected Airfix toy soldiers, played Avalon Hill war games, devoured Bruce Catton, and roamed Cemetery Ridge on family visits to Gettysburg. He honed his interest, and varied his grad school academic training, with a job doing 'roving interpretation' at the Chancellorsville unit of Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park in 1978. His bosses there were Bob Krick and Will Greene, and Terry Winschel was a fellow seasonal. Dan still has his gray-and green NPS uniform from that summer, and it still fits.



## THE KNOXVILLE CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE 2026 SPEAKERS SERIES

**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”**

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



April 2026 Speaker:  
Bob Zeller



July 2026 Speaker:  
Leslie Goddard

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

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

**August 11, 2026 — Steve Nash, "Between Slavery and the Want of Railroads: Reconstruction in Western North Carolina."**



**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”**

**November 10, 2026 — TBD**

**December 15, 2026 — Jim Ogden**

### January Program Attendance

The January meeting had 84 attendees (74 dinners and 10 lectures only); books sales brought in \$60; \$15 in pin sales.

— *Bill Nicolai, serving as Treasurer*

## **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](mailto: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 – 2<sup>nd</sup> 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**

**Tim Vane**  
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**Director of Promotions**

**Taylor Jones**  
ptaylormjones@gmail.com

**Treasurer**

**Stan Sech**  
zachsam@yahoo.com

**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](http://kcwrt.org), or email us: [kcwrt1865@gmail.com](mailto:kcwrt1865@gmail.com)**



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