



The Scout's Report

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

VOLUME XLIII

DECEMBER 2025

NO. 6

KCWRT MEETING

Tuesday, December 9, 2025

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, DECEMBER 5TH
 CALL (865) 671-9001 AND
 LEAVE A MESSAGE**

MENU

Oven Roasted Turkey & Ham
 Cornbread Dressing with Gravy
 Whipped Potatoes
 Green Beans
 Garden Salad
 Beverages
 Assorted desserts

LOCATION

Bearden Banquet Hall
 5806 Kingston Pike

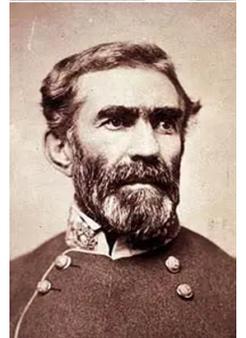
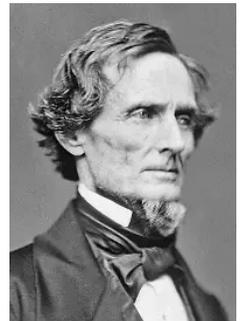
THIS ISSUE

The Race to the Potomac1
 President's Message.....2
 Bradley Gottfried Bio.....3
 Living History Weekend4
 Announcements5
 2025-2026 Speakers6
 Membership Form.....7

The President Visits the Army: Jeff Davis at Chattanooga, October 1863

"It has pleased Almighty God to reward the valor and endurance of our troops by giving to our arms a complete victory over the enemy's superior numbers. Homage is due and is rendered unto Him who giveth not the battle to the strong. Soldiers, after two days of severe battle... you have stormed the barricades and breastworks of the enemy, and driven before you in confusion and disorder an army largely superior in numbers, and whose constant theme was your demoralization and whose constant boast was your defeat... We drop a soldier's tear upon the grave of the noble men who have fallen by our sides and move forward. Much has been accomplished. More remains to be done before we can enjoy the blessings of peace and freedom."

So Braxton Bragg proclaimed to his troops in the heady days following their victory at Chickamauga. But this public statement of determination and encouragement hid a very important fact. Dissension among the Army of Tennessee leaders was rampant and had only worsened following the battle in the valley of the River of Death. Bragg and his senior subordinates were at each other's throats, and now there were new players in the fight. The situation was so bad that the President of the Confederate States of America felt compelled to leave his sick bed to come to the army to try to resolve it. It was not Jefferson Davis's first visit to the army, but this one portended more. Much more. The ramifications of it would play out six weeks later in the shadow of Lookout Mountain and on the slopes of Missionary Ridge. Come join us as Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park Historian Jim Ogden examines the reasons for Davis's visit to the Army of Tennessee and explores how both the officers and men of the army viewed the chief executive's visit, their expectations both real and imagined, and how they saw its outcome.





PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



November was a month packed with a lot of activities and possibilities. The main activity was, of course, our annual Living History Weekend. Led by our Vice President Tom Wright, who did his customary thorough job of planning and execution, we enjoyed beautiful weather, great reenactors/presenters and robust crowds. It was a terrific weekend that the entire Roundtable can take a great deal of pride in and that we shared with the city of Knoxville and East Tennessee.



Brian Gottfried

The next activity was the monthly membership meeting where we learned that the aftermath of big battles is often as interesting as the battle themselves. Both sides struggled after Gettysburg to reorganize themselves with the Confederates trying to cross the Potomac and reach safety in Virginia while the Federals attempted to cut them off and destroy Lee. And both armies had to figure out how to reach their objectives while having to care for thousands of men wounded in the great battle. The story was compelling and we thank Brian and Linda Gottfried for bringing it to us.

The last activity that the KCWRT was involved with in November was to apply for a Civil War Roundtable Congress (CWRTC) grant. They sponsored three different categories of grants with two \$250 awards per category. Our director of membership, Bill Nicolai, led the charge on applying for the grant in the History Research Initiative. As it turned out, we won. The grant will go towards signage that will be placed on Armstrong Hill. So, I guess we can say we were nationally recognized again. Our thanks to Bill in seeing it through.

The membership meeting was where we also learned about the possibilities in front of us. That came in listening to our two invited guests: Warren Dockter, the president and CEO of the East Tennessee Historical Society and



Warren Dockter



Greg Maciolek

Greg Maciolek, president of the Knoxville Breakfast Rotary Club. He was joined by Dan Hipsher, past president of that club. Both gentlemen talked about ways that we could work together in order to achieve both our individual and collective goals. As discussed, as we move into the new year, we'll be meeting periodically to see where we can work on joint projects to help each other.

Finally, since this is the December meeting that means two things: period dress is not only authorized, it's encouraged and please bring desserts, cookies, cakes, etc. to the dinner. Merry Christmas everyone!

—*Timothy D. Vane, President KCWRT*

WELCOME BACK TO KNOXVILLE, JIM OGDEN!



Jim Ogden, Chief Historian at Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park, is a historian, teacher, and tour guide par excellence. A frequent speaker at Round Tables and historical organizations across the U.S., Jim is a longtime friend of the KCWRT, our most visited speaker, and the first historian to be awarded with an honorary lifetime membership to our organization. A native of St. Mary's County, Maryland, Jim joined the National Park Service in 1982 and served at Chickamauga and Chattanooga, Russell Cave, and Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania before returning to Chickamauga and Chattanooga NMP in 1988 as historian, the position he now holds. Jim has taught numerous history courses, led hundreds of tours

and army staff rides, and written several articles on the Civil War. He also has appeared in several TV productions including "Civil War Journal," "Civil War Combat," and "History Detectives." Over the years Jim has been the recipient of a host of awards for his scholarship, preservation and advocacy work. His most recent awards include the United States Army Commander's Award for Public Service and the Civil War Trust's National Park Service Preservation Advocate Award. Jim, his wife Lora, and their son Jamie (born on the 133rd anniversary of the Battle of Fredericksburg) live in Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia near the Chickamauga Battlefield.

November Program Attendance

The November meeting had 75 attendees (61 dinners and 14 lectures only); books sales brought in \$72; memberships \$145. Sold two shirts! Living History Weekend brought in \$277 in book sales. Don't forget we have also have lapel pins for sale! Thank You!

— *Bill Nicolai, serving as Treasurer*

BATTLE OF MOSSY CREEK

162nd ANNIVERSARY

DECEMBER 29, 2025



BATTLE TOUR

STARTS AT HERITAGE CENTER AT OLD CITY HALL

2004 BRANNER AVENUE, JEFFERSON CITY

TN 10AM

Proudly presented by

THE LAKEWAY CIVIL WAR PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION

& THE HERITAGE CENTER AT MOSSY CREEK

Please note this guided tour of the Mossy Creek battlefield will be in your own car. Participants should ride share when possible to reduce the number of vehicles in the caravan.



MAINTENANCE DAY

Bethel Cemetery
December 11th
8:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Odd Fellows
Dec 13th
8:30 AM - 12:30 PM

HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP?

I am thrilled to report that we have 20 new members who have joined the KCWRT for the 2025-2026 Campaign which runs from July through June. We now have 210 members on the roster if ALL prior year members renew their memberships. My records indicate that about 60 members have yet to renew... You may mail a check to our PO Box or come see me at the membership desk at the monthly meeting.

And, please, don't forget to call in your dinner reservation by Friday at 11 am: help us better determine how many dinners we need so we have enough for everyone! Last month we overestimated to make sure we had enough dinners and paid for 7 extras... oops.

Bill Nicolai - Membership Director

THE KNOXVILLE CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE 2025-2026 SPEAKERS SERIES



January 2026 Speaker:
David Needs

January 13, 2026 — David Needs, History Professor-Carson Newman University, “A Test of Leadership – How the Small -Scale Battles Define the Civil War Experience for Those Who Led and Fought”

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”

November 10, 2026 — TBD

December 15, 2026 — Jim Ogden

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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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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