



The Scout's Report

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

VOLUME XLIII

MARCH 2026

NO. 9

KCWRT MEETING

TUESDAY, MARCH 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, MARCH 6TH

CALL (865) 671-9001 AND

LEAVE A MESSAGE

MENU

Baked Pork Chops

BBQ Chicken

Scalloped Potatoes

Green Beans

Garden Salad

Beverages

Assorted desserts

LOCATION

Bearden Banquet Hall

5806 Kingston Pike

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Myths About Lee's Surrender



Appomattox Court House, April 9, 1865: The Civil War comes to an end when General Robert E. Lee, in an effort to avoid further bloodshed, meets with General Ulysses S. Grant to discuss peace terms. The noble Lee hands Grant his sword, but the Union general, in a magnanimous gesture, promptly returns it to him thus ushering in an era of peace and reconciliation.

The Civil War has taken on an almost mythic quality in American memory, and perhaps nothing in the war has been more mythologized than the events surrounding Lee's surrender at Appomattox. The paragraph above, for example, is almost entirely half-truths and fiction.

One of the most persistent myths is that Appomattox marked the end of the Civil War. In truth, it was only the surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia. Several Confederate armies remained in the field, and fighting would continue for weeks.

As to the discussion of peace terms, Grant wrote to Lee on the morning of the 9th that he had "no authority to treat on the subject of peace"--only Lincoln had that authority—but what he could and was most willing to do was discuss "the laying down of arms".

After Grant heard some of the stories that arose, he said, “Wars produce many stories of fiction, some of which are told until they are believed to be true.” Later, when he was asked about returning General Lee’s sword in the parlor of the McLean House, Grant said, “I for one never believed those stories.”

In the end, the enduring image of Lee and Grant at Appomattox as a scene of mutual respect and reconciliation is comforting, but it simply doesn’t hold up. While Grant did offer generous terms, the idea that the moment symbolized national healing is a retrospective construction. The actual postwar period was marked by fierce political conflict and violent resistance to Reconstruction.

Come join us as Patrick Schroeder, Historian at Appomattox Court House National Historic Park, takes us back to Lee’s surrender to discuss these and many other myths as we winnow the wheat of historical truth from the chaff of fiction.

Welcome to the KCWRT, Patrick!

Patrick A. Schroeder was born January 1, 1968, at Fort Belvoir, VA, and attended Stuarts Draft High School in Augusta County, VA. In the spring of 1990, he graduated *Cum Laude* with a B.S. in Historical Park Administration from Shepherd College, Shepherdstown, WV. He has a M.A. in Civil War History from Virginia Tech. From the summer of 1986-1993, Patrick worked as a seasonal living history interpreter at Appomattox Court House National Historical Park. In 1993, he wrote *Thirty Myths About Lee’s Surrender*, which is currently in its twelfth printing. From 1994–1999, he was employed at Red Hill, the Patrick Henry National Memorial. Patrick has written, edited and/or contributed to more than twenty-five Civil War titles including: *More Myths About Lee’s Surrender*; *The Confederate Cemetery at Appomattox*; *Recollections and Reminiscences of Old Appomattox*; *Images of America: Appomattox County*; *Tar Heels*; *Sailor’s Creek*;



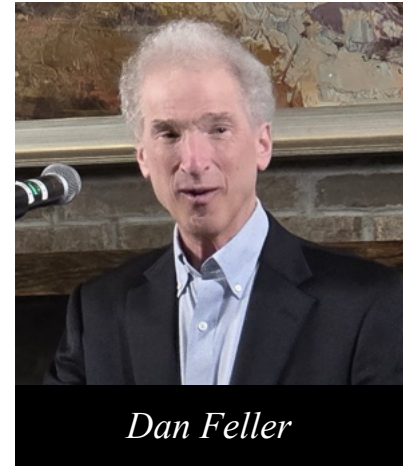
General Custis Lee Captured with Controversy; *Civil War Soldier Life: In Camp and Battle*; *A Duryee Zouave*; *We Came To Fight: A History of the 5th NY Veteran Vol. Inf.*; *Campaigns of the 146th Regiment New York State Volunteers*; *Pennsylvania Bucktails*; *The Bloody 85th*; *The Life of General Ely S. Parker: Least Grand Sachem of the Iroquois and Grant’s Military Secretary*; *Appomattox County*; *With the 11th New York Fire Zouaves*; *No One Wants to be the Last to Die: The Battles of Appomattox*; *The Final Bivouac*; and *Final Bloodshed: The Hospital System during the Appomattox Campaign*. Patrick resides in Lynchburg, VA, and has worked as an independent researcher, author, historian, and tour guide. He has served as the Historian at Appomattox Court House National Historical Park since 2002. Patrick is also the Historian and co-founder of the Appomattox-Petersburg Preservation Society that saves land important to the climatic events of April 1865.



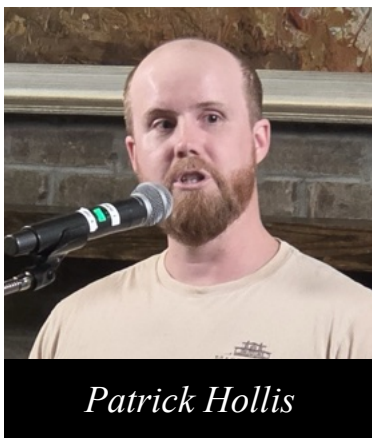
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Every once in a while, we're able to witness an event that we instantly know is unique, special, something that you can mark time by. It may not quite be the landing on the moon or 9/11, but for a Roundtable, something truly different and memorable. I suspect our members felt the same way ahead of time because over 100 people, the vast majority from the KCWRT, showed up. I'm speaking about the talk given in February by our friend and fellow member, Dan Feller. The former UT professor provided us a remarkable and thoughtful presentation regarding America's founding documents and their application to not only the birth of our country, but the birth of the Confederacy. It was a fascinating examination of political philosophy, regional tensions and the evolution of the United States in the 18th and 19th centuries. If that wasn't enough, C-SPAN recorded the entire event. Once again, our Roundtable will have national exposure. Better still, that talk will live on when it airs on C-SPAN. My thanks to our program director, Jim Doncaster, and Dan Feller for making it both an enjoyable and memorable meeting



Dan Feller



Patrick Hollis

One of the Roundtable's best friends and partners was also with us in February. Patrick Hollis, director of the Mabry-Hazen Foundation, gave us an update on what's happening at Bethel Cemetery. The most interesting aspect of his talk was to tell us what the results were of the ground penetrating radar analysis of the grounds. His report provided details of where the soldiers were buried and to what depth. What we learned was that many of them were interred not that far below the surface and some were in places they weren't expected. He also talked about the three new descriptive markers that were placed on the grounds and highlighted that two of them were built, in part, through Dot Kelly Grants. And, here's everyone's reminder, that the Spring cleanup in both Odd Fellows and Bethel

cemeteries will take place from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on March 21st and 28th respectively.

Now I want to introduce a new feature in The Scout's Report. One of the great aspects of an electronic newsletter is we're not strictly limited to a page count because of printing costs. Our newsletter is traditionally eight pages because of that legacy, but it doesn't have to be. The question then becomes what do we add. Over the next few months, we'll be experimenting with different features to include what I hope you'll find both interesting and useful. They'll each get their own introduction but this month I want to start with a Travelogue. I'm writing the first one, but this is open to all members for contributions. What we're looking for is articles on trips to Civil War venues and what was interesting about that site. Not the battle itself, because that's what we have speakers for, but the signage, terrain, unusual monuments, etc. We'll also place them on our website as well. There will be more details soon, but for now, I just wanted to get the ball rolling. Josh Antras, one of our at-large board members, will be the editor.

Timothy D. Vane, President KCWRT

Huzzah! Fort Dickerson Gateway Cannon in Place

Fort Dickerson is a Knoxville treasure. One of 16 earthen forts and battery positions surrounding the city, the fort represents the last best example of the Civil War fortifications that were hastily laid out and constructed in the fall of 1863 by the Army of the Ohio's chief engineering officer, Captain Orlando Poe. These fortifications withstood Confederate Gen. Longstreet's assault at Fort Sanders after which Gen. William T. Sherman declared them "nearly impregnable".



From L to R: Brian Burroughs, Tammie Burroughs, Bill Nicolai, Jim Doncaster, Graham Reed, Tom Wright, Tim Vane

Today Fort Dickerson sits within a city park that bears its name and is managed by the City of Knoxville Parks and Recreation Department and the Knoxville Civil War Roundtable. Since its founding in 1983, the Roundtable has worked tirelessly to protect and preserve the fort and enhance visitor experience through interpretive signage and the provision of memorial benches and replica artillery pieces. The Roundtable not only maintains the fort with the City but also conducts educational and commemorative activities there during our annual living history weekend.

In 2017, the Fort Dickerson Park Gateway was completed and gifted to the city by the Aslan Foundation. At long last the park had an entranceway worthy of the historic fort within. The entry portal was majestic and the stonework magnificent, but the entry circle next to Chapman Highway at the base of the hill seemed somehow incomplete.

That incompleteness gave rise to a Roundtable Board decision to place a Civil War cannon in the center of the gateway circle, a cannon that would be both easily visible from the highway and suggestive of the historic nature of the park beyond the portal. To make it a reality three things had to happen.



Tim Vane and Graham Reed

First, a cannon had to be found. Tom Wright knew of an ex-Brit, Graham Reed, in Hermitage, Tennessee, that fabricated sturdy replica cannons of steel and cement for public display. Tom and Sue Wright as well as Tammie and Brian Burroughs then made a trip to Middle Tennessee, examined Reed's handiwork, and declared it perfect for the purpose at hand.

Next the money to purchase the cannon had to be raised. A fundraiser was launched in October 2025, and the Roundtable membership responded with vigor. Over \$9,000 was raised in a matter of months, enough to purchase the cannon and have it and a memorial stone mounted in the circle.

Approvals from the City and the Aslan Foundation represented the final act, and both were garnered in short order. Both the City and Aslan have proved to be excellent partners in the process of commemoration and preservation.

On the cold afternoon of February 24, 2026, all of the pieces of the puzzle came together marvelously. The cannon was delivered, and, with the help of half a dozen Board members, unloaded, and secured in place by Mr. Reed and his associate. A formal dedication will follow in the spring.



THE HISTORY OF THOSE CANNON MOLDS

The molds were made by Mr. Harold Winstead of Manchester, TN who worked at Arnold Engineering in Tullahoma, TN.

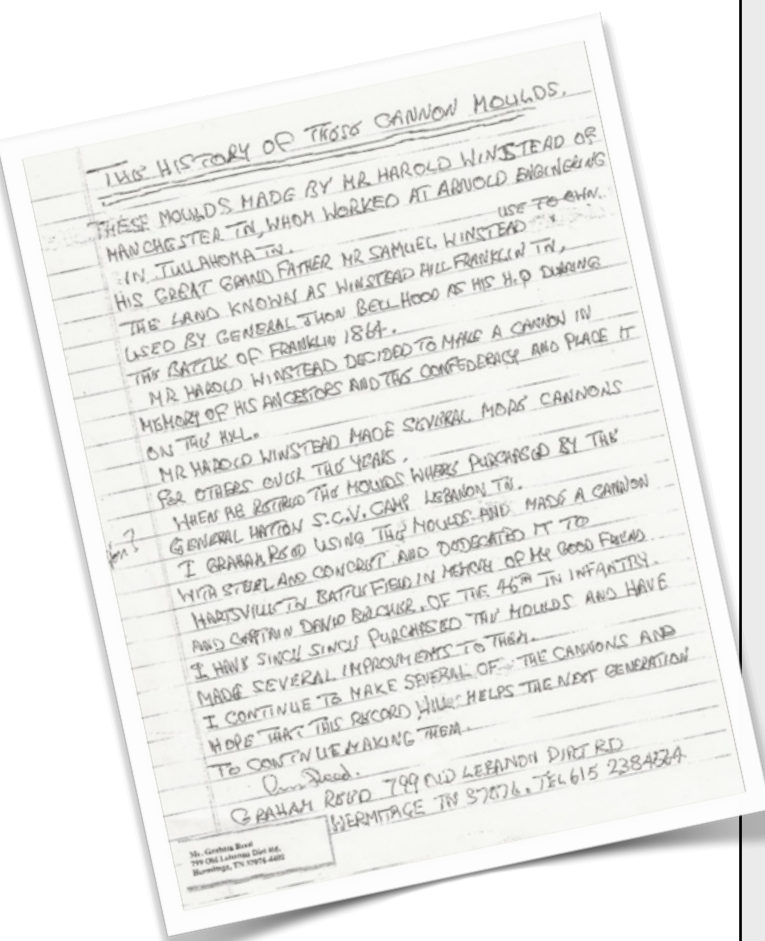
His Great Grandfather, Mr. Samuel Winstead, used to own the land known as Winstead Hill, Franklin, TN which was used by General John Bell Hood as his HQs during the Battle of Franklin in 1864. Harold decided to make a cannon in memory of his ancestors and the confederacy and place it on the hill.

Mr. Winstead made several more cannons for others over the years.

When he retired, the molds were purchased by the General Robert H. Hatton S.C.V. Camp, Lebanon, TN.

I, Graham Reed, using his molds, made a cannon with steel and concrete and dedicated it to the Hartsville, TN Battlefield in memory of my good friend and Captain, David Belcher of the 46th TN Infantry. I have since purchased the molds and have made several improvements to them. I continue to make several of the cannons and hope that this record will help the next generation to continue making them.

Mr. Graham Reed
799 Old Lebanon Dirt Rd.
Hermitage, TN 37076-4402
615.238.4564



TRAVELOGUE #1

Champion Hill



Tim Vane on Champion Hill

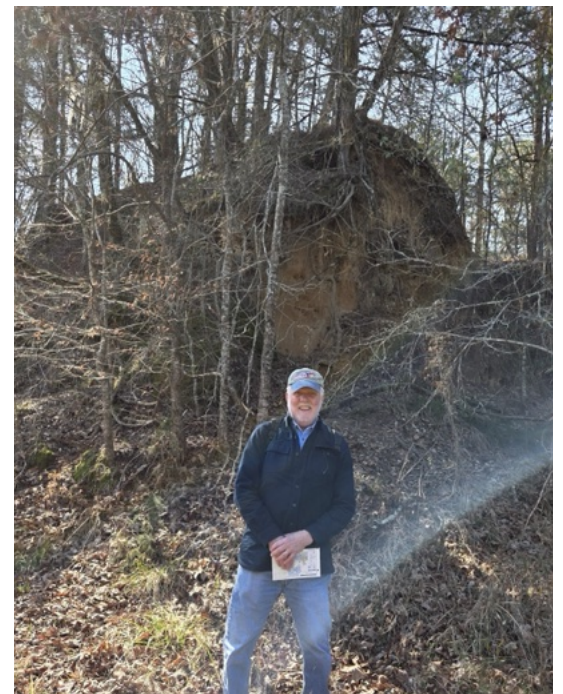
By Copilot definition, a travelogue is a film, book, or illustrated lecture about the places visited by or experiences of a traveler. We'll forego the film and book and just stick to a recounting of a visit by Jim Doncaster and me to Champion Hill, MS. It's a tradition of mine that in February I go to visit with my friend Sid Champion, the fifth generation descendent of a Confederate veteran on whose property the battle was fought. Jim came with me because he's studied the campaign closely but never been on the battlefield because, until recently, it's been private property. More on that later.

And quite a battle it was. It was the largest fight in Grant's Vicksburg campaign and largely determined the fate of that river city. While about 80,000 men were involved and it covered a lot of ground, we spent our time focused on the most important phase of the battle – the taking and re-taking of Champion Hill itself and the important crossroads where the Jackson and Middle roads intersected.

Control of the road would determine if the Confederate line would be severed and thus determine not only the fate of the battle but of the campaign. So, it was fought over desperately and its retention was so important to the Confederates that it was savagely retaken after its initial capture by perhaps the finest counterattack in the Civil War by John Bowen's Missourians.

But what's so interesting about this battlefield in its present state are two things: the signage and the terrain itself. First, the terrain. Champion Hill itself was mostly demolished in the 1930s to satisfy construction needs. So, it's not a hill in a conventional sense, but there's enough of it left so that you can see what the Rebels saw as the Union Army spread out before the attack. Recent logging paths have also cleared out enough terrain so that you can tell where S.D. Lee's Alabamans were placed to defend the ridge that tied into the hill.

The other key piece of terrain is the crossroads. The roads are both still there but the Jackson Road that came from Champion Hill to meet the Middle Road is still a dirt road as it was during the battle. As we walked up the road towards the hill the terrain is cut by severe draws and cuts that make walking incredibly difficult. It's hard to imagine how either side kept unit cohesion as they attacked across such challenging ground.



Jim Doncaster at the base of demolished Champion Hill



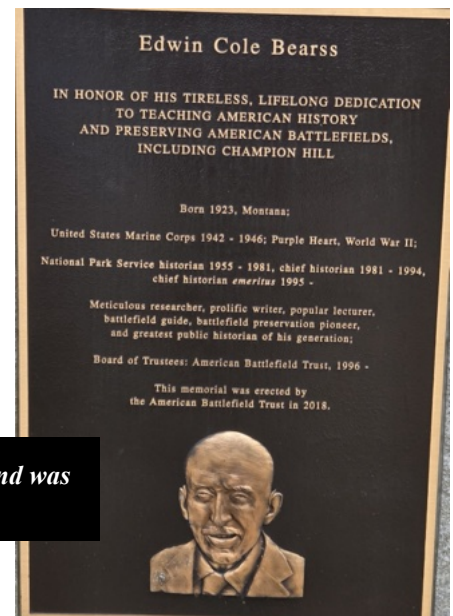
Jim Doncaster on the ridge tied to the rebel defense of Champion Hill

But as you walk around the field, there are several extraordinarily well written historical markers that tell the story. Sid told us they were written by a group of historians that disagreed on many things but were able to finally agree enough to complete the markers. Clearly written and accurately placed markers made for a compelling trip. We also brought along Tim Smith's book of the same name to help guide us and his maps came alive during the trip.

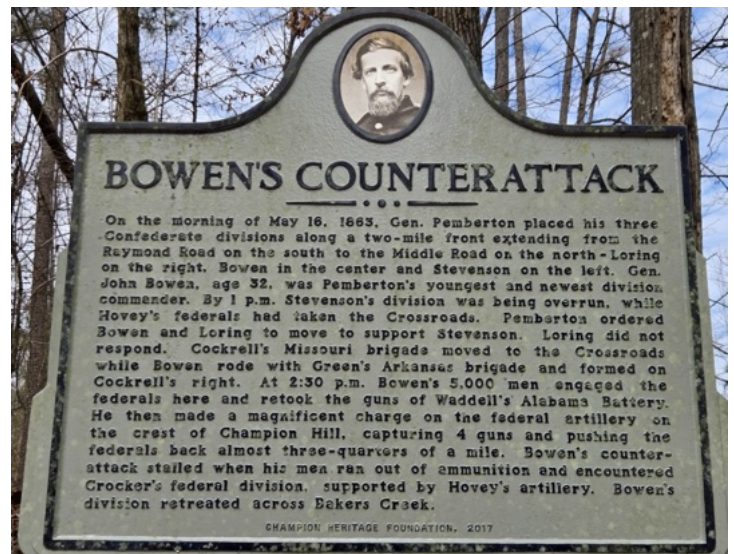
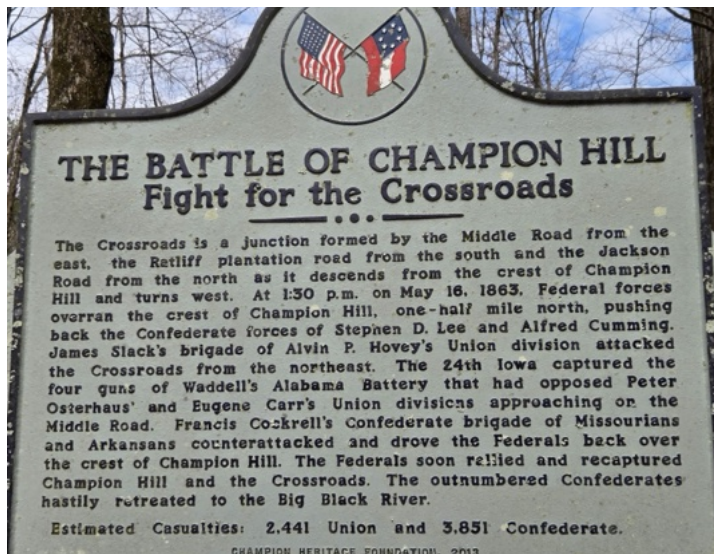
Recently, the land that we walked on was purchased by the American Battlefield Trust and will eventually become part of the Vicksburg National Park. Perhaps then it will eventually end up looking like other National Military Parks with cannons, paths, etc. But for now, it's still a lot like that hot day in May of 1863 when the biggest battle of the Vicksburg Campaign took place.



At least Champion Hill will avoid development



The KCWRT's friend was everywhere



Join us for the first annual Bearden History Fair!
Join the fun! Come and meet Marcus Bearden!

APRIL 18, 2026
10 AM – 4 PM

at
Central Baptist Bearden

Local Musicians

Food and Games

Vendors

Guest Speakers:

Dr. Christopher Magra
University of TN

Jack Neely
Knoxville History Project

Amy Mays Emert
Friends of Cavett Station

Local Bearden Historians



Hosted by Friends of Cavett Station
For more information, email beardenhistoryfair@gmail.com!

Please join us for the first annual Bearden History Fair! The fair will be held on April 18, 2026, from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., at Central Baptist Bearden. In our history tent, Dr. Christopher Magra from the University of Tennessee, Jack Neely from the Knoxville History Project, and Amy Mays Emert from Friends of Cavett Station will discuss historical topics including the Declaration of Independence, the history of the Bearden community, and Alexander Cavett and the history of Cavett's Station. Representatives from local historic house museums will discuss their homes and upcoming events, and longtime Bearden residents will reflect on the changes the community has seen throughout the years. We will also have a reenactor of Marcus DeLafayette Bearden giving his autobiography and greeting people at the fair. In addition to the history presentations, we will have food trucks, games for children, prizes, and craft and nonprofit vendor booths.

We hope to see you at the fair!

THE KNOXVILLE CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE 2026 SPEAKERS SERIES

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”

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



April 2026 Speaker:
Bob Zeller



July 2026 Speaker:
Leslie Goddard

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”



September 2026 Speaker:
Lesley Gordon

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

Yorktown”

November 10, 2026 — TBD

December 15, 2026 — Jim Ogden

February Program Attendance

The February meeting had 106 attendees (86 dinners and 22 lectures only); books sales brought in \$87; \$75 in memberships.

— Bill Nicolai, serving as Treasurer

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
Tim Vane

Director of Preservation
Brian Burroughs

Director of Technology
Craig T. Brown

Past President
Tammie Burroughs

Director of Community Activities
Tim Dake

Newsletter Editor
Marietta Fargueson

Vice President
Tom Wright

Directors of Membership
Jerry Patterson, Emeritus
William Nicolai

Directors at Large
Tom Morgan

Secretary
Chris Manning

Director of Promotions
Taylor Jones

Josh Antras

Treasurer
Stan Sech

Director of Programming
Jim Doncaster

**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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