



The Scout's Report

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

VOLUME XLIII

JUNE 2026

NO. 12

KCWRT MEETING

TUESDAY, JUNE 9, 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, JUNE 5TH
CALL (865) 671-9001 AND
LEAVE A MESSAGE**

MENU

Roast Beef w/Gravy
Honey Pecan Chicken
Whipped Potatoes
Cream Style Corn
Garden Salad
Beverages
Assorted desserts

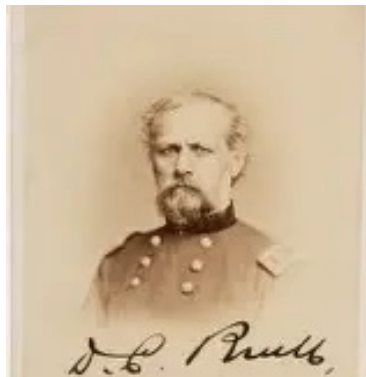
LOCATION

Bearden Banquet Hall
5806 Kingston Pike

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“Not a Useless Appendage” Don Carlos Buell in the Civil War



At the start of the Civil War, few Union generals seemed destined for greater success than Don Carlos Buell. A hero of the Mexican War, an able strategist, and a man of great personal courage, Buell's star was in the ascendancy in the first year of the war. Commissioned a brigadier general in May of 1861, he helped organize the defenses of Washington before being given a division in the Army of the Potomac in August. In November he succeeded Brig. Gen. William T. Sherman as the commander of the Department of the Ohio and was promoted to major general in March of '62. The timely arrival of the Army of the Ohio with Buell at its head on the evening of April 6 and its subsequent success on the 7th at the Battle of Shiloh was the apogee of his career. On the second day of the battle, Buell was everywhere, conspicuous at the front, skillfully moving units, and often under fire. Accolades flowed after the battle not just from Buell's men but also from the soldiers in Grant's command.

“Buell came just in time to save us.” – Edward Myers, 46th Ohio

“Buell's force came and that gave our men new life...” – Erman Mastick, 2nd Iowa

“Had it not been for the reinforcements of Buell, we would have [been] entirely annihilated, killed, or taken prisoners...” – Lawrence B. Worth, 7th Iowa

“Our dropping hearts were cheered by the sound of distant music and the information that Buell had just arrived with 20,000 of his advance. Such a cheer as rent the heavens will never again be heard in the forests of Tennessee!” – Martin Beem, 13th Missouri

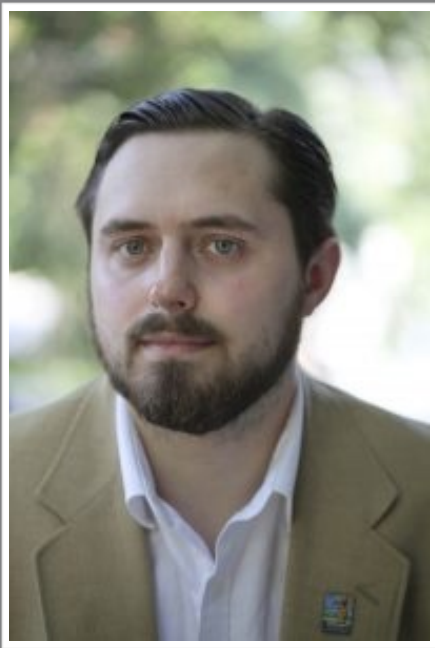
“At this time our case looked doubtful, but relief was at hand. Buell had arrived and his troops were crossing the river and came marching up at 5 o'clock on

quick time, their bands playing the Star Spangled Banner. Never did music sound as well and never did men take such new courage. – George W. Browning, 54th Ohio

“Gen. Buell everywhere inspired confidence as he rode along the lines and addressed words of cheer to his troops. His superior generalship completely foiled the rebels in all their maneuvers, and whilst he preserved his own line of battle intact, he completely broke theirs, driving them from one position to another until we had regained all the ground lost on the preceding day.” – Anonymous, 7th Iowa

Six months later, Buell was removed from command, investigated by a military commission, and left “awaiting orders” until May of 1864 when he was mustered out of the service. What happened is the focus of Historian Sean Chick’s upcoming presentation. Come join us as he explores the singular rise and fall of this once promising Union general.

Welcome to the Knoxville, Sean Michael Chick!



Author, historian Sean Michael Chick graduated from the University of New Orleans with a Bachelor of Arts in History and Communications and from Southeastern Louisiana University with a Master of Arts in History. He works in New Orleans, leading historic tours of his hometown. He is also a board game designer, concentrating on the period of Western warfare from 1685-1866. His main American Civil War research interests include Shiloh, the Army of Tennessee, New Orleans during the Civil war, P.G.T. Beauregard, the Petersburg Campaign, and Civil War tactics in relation to linear tactics from 1685-1866. He is a member of the Emerging Civil War group and author of six books: *The Battle of Petersburg, June 15-18, 1864* (Potomac Books, 2015); *Grant’s Left Hook: The Bermuda Hundred Campaign, May 5-June 7, 1864* (Savas Beatie, 2021); *Dreams of Victory: P.G.T. Beauregard in the Civil War* (Savas Beatie, 2022); *They Came Only to Die: The Battle of Nashville, December 15-16, 1864* (Savas Beatie, 2023); *A Grand Opening Squandered: The Battle for Petersburg: June 15-18, 1864* (Savas Beatie, 2025); and *The Shiloh Campaign, 1862: Battle for the Heartland* (Casemate, 2025). He is currently working on multi-volume books on Shiloh and Petersburg.

May Program Attendance

The May meeting had 65 attendees (54 dinners and 11 lectures only); \$26 in book sales and \$30 in a coin sales.

— Stan Sech, Treasurer



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Timothy D. Vane



Explaining the State of the Roundtable 2026 and Vision 2028 took a long time during the business portion of May's membership meeting. While I can't promise that it won't happen again, I will promise that I'll try to limit those lengthy discussions. But as we look forward to the end of Fiscal Year 2026, I thought it important to share with the membership where we are and where I think we need to go in order to ensure the long-term health of the organization.

We really need your input so I hope that, if you didn't respond in writing, that at least you gave it some thought and talked to a board member. Decisions we make now will set us on a course over the next few years so it's important to hear from as many members as possible to get it right. The board will vote on how to proceed on the Vision 2028's recommendations on June 2 and I'll share them with all of you at the June 9th meeting.

And while we're looking forward with Vision 2028, in the near-term future, please make plans to attend the July membership meeting. This will be another live performance and one you'll really want to see. Leslie Goddard will be in town for her presentation of Clara Barton. It'll be held at the Bearden Banquet Hall on July 14th and you'll want to make early reservations for it. And, speaking of the future, if everything works out, you can make your reservations online through our own website – kcwrt.org. Craig Brown, our technology director, has been working long and hard on this and hopefully it'll debut for July.



Leslie Goddard



Bennett Parten

Speaking of debuts, Bennett Parten made his debut with the Roundtable in May focused on how enslaved people aided and abetted the Union war effort in ways that haven't been truly appreciated over the years. Beyond the obvious fact that the presence of the Union Army meant liberation to them, they went above and beyond the call of duty to assist in whatever way they could. That level of commitment demonstrated that they were willing and able to earn their freedom.

Commitment to a cause or a mission statement can manifest itself in ways both large and small. Norman Shaw and Randy North did their part in remembering the fallen at a ceremony at the National Cemetery on Tyson St NW in Knoxville. But it's especially notable when no one is watching. Two of our stalwarts, Tammie and Brian Burroughs, left that Memorial Day service at the National Cemetery

in Knoxville and thought to check to see if flags had been placed on the USCT graves at Odd Fellows Cemetery. They hadn't. Fortunately, they had some and they placed them. They didn't have to go, but they did. That's commitment.

MEMBERS HONOR THE FALLEN ON MEMORIAL DAY 2026



Brian Burroughs places a flag at the grave of a USCT soldier



Randy North playing a tribute to the Fallen



Tammie Burroughs honoring a USCT soldier on Memorial Day 2026



Norman Shaw speaks at the 2026 Memorial Day Service



He's not forgotten. A flag at the grave of a USCT soldier at Odd Fellows Cemetery

TRAVELOGUE #4

Dalton to Resaca Sherman's March onto Atlanta

By Bill Nicolai

My next adventure is to understand Sherman's march on Atlanta, so when I saw a Georgia Battlefield's Association sponsored tour, I had to go... though I wondered, "what are we going to talk about for 3 ½ days when we are only covering what happened in Dalton and Resaca? Are they not about 12-15 miles apart?"



Jim Ogden with pictures taken from the same vantage point some 160 years ago

Jim Ogden and several other guests did not disappoint... about 40 of us left Dalton on a bus and went to The Old Stone Presbyterian Church (1837) converted to war time hospital, Tunnel Hill, the Clisby Austin home (site of Sherman's HQs), Mill Creek where we found Fort Fisk, Oliver's Eufaula Battery site, Gibson's La. Brigade site, earthworks that stretched from "here to there," the Huff House (Johnston's HQ and where Gen. Cleburne proposed arming slaves), Dug Gap, Snake Creek Gap, Rocky Face Ridge, Potato Hill, Resaca, Crow Valley, the Confederate Cemetery, and...

you get it... we

saw more than I ever could have imagined. Several locations are on private property, but we had permission to visit. Wow! We heard soldier's accounts of their marches, what they anticipated, what they faced, what they could expect... we walked miles in the soldier's footsteps – both Confederate and Federal.

What was most rewarding was the camaraderie... I met several authors, had some great conversations and met some wonderful folks who have committed so much time and energy in preserving battlefields, teaching others, interpreting the fields, or merely sharing stories. I found my tour guide for Atlanta!



Let us not forget why we are saving these fields...



If you have never seen an earthwork, visit Dalton and Resaca!

We met a family who worked with the team who thought they had uncovered unmarked graves. After meticulous research and GPR, they identified eight graves – we had a solemn ceremony right then and there. Funds were committed for markers, a fence... it was quite moving, as much or more when we visited a Confederate Cemetery with so many "unknown."

Next year's tour is scheduled for April 8-11: visit the GBA website for details.

THE KNOXVILLE CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE 2026-2027 SPEAKERS SERIES

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 2026 Speaker:
Lesley Gordon

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

October 13, 2026 — Gene Salecker, Historian & Author, “The sinking of the Sultana.”

November 10, 2026 — Brian Wills, Historian & Author, “George Thomas: The Rock of Chickamauga”

December 15, 2026 — Jim Ogden, Chief Historian, Chickamauga & Chattanooga NMP, “‘Fighting Joe’ Hooker and the Battle Above the Clouds”



January 2027 Speaker:
Jim Stovall

January 12, 2027 — Jim Stovall, Historian & Author, “The Dissenting South”

February 9, 2027 — TBD

March 9, 2027 — David Powell, Historian & Author, “The Atlanta Campaign”

April 13, 2027 — Brian Kowell, Historian, “The Magnificent Seven: Pook’s Turtles in the Civil War”

May 11, 2027 — Robert Girardi, Historian & Author, TBD

June 15, 2027 — Gil Hahn, Historian & Author, “Campaigns for the Confederate Coast”

July 13, 2027 — TBD

August 10 — Kevin Donovan, Historian, “The Court Martial of Fitz John Porter: Fair or Fixed?”

September 14—Juanita Leisch Jensen, Historian, “The War Through Women’s Eyes”

October 12— Ed Gantt, Historian



July 2026 Speaker:
Leslie Goddard



December 2026 Speaker:
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.

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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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