

# Nashville Civil War Roundtable

Founded April, 2009 – Nashville, Tennessee

Visit our web site: [www.nashvillecivilwarroundtable.wordpress.com](http://www.nashvillecivilwarroundtable.wordpress.com)

**August 15th, 2023 – Our 150th meeting!! We continue our fourteenth year!**

The next meeting of the Nashville (TN) Civil War Roundtable will be on Tuesday, August 15th, 2023, in the visitor's center of Ft. Negley Park, a unit of Metro Parks, Nashville, TN. This is located at 1100 Fort Negley Blvd. off I-65 just south of downtown between 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue South and 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue South on Edgehill Avenue/Chestnut Avenue. Take Exit 81, Wedgewood Avenue, off I-65 and follow the signs to the Science Museum.

The meeting begins at 7:00 PM and is always open to the public. Members please bring a friend or two – new recruits are always welcomed.

**July is our fiscal year so please plan on paying your membership dues at this meeting if you missed that. Without dues we cannot get speakers and programs so please support the Nashville CWRT.**

**Our Speaker and Topic** – *“William S. Rosecrans and His Campaign For Chattanooga”*

We meet this month, and year, on a historically auspicious day. One hundred and sixty years ago, Army of the Cumberland commander Major General William Starke Rosecrans was kicking off the next phase of his Campaign for Chattanooga, the phase, which, as it would turn out, would finally bring the Ohioan, and the Union cause, the Gateway to the Deep South city, Chattanooga, to then be able to thrust a saber into the very innards of the Confederacy, the Empire State of the South, Georgia.

Much was in the offing; much hung in the balance. Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park Historian Jim Ogden will discuss Rosecrans' mid-August plan of campaign in his talk for us this evening, a subject of much discussion on those same mid-August days in 1863, and a subject, which, as it unfolded would take his army into, and beyond, the mountains looming over Chattanooga. It is an aspect of “Chickamauga” and “Chattanooga” that gets less attention than the bloody, bitter, fighting in the Valley of the River of Death a month later or the spectacular Union victories on the slopes of Lookout Mountain and Missionary Ridge two months after that. But, it is, arguably, an aspect which, in the end, is equally as important for Union success as Thomas' stand on Snodgrass Hill or the Army of the Cumberland's famous charge up Missionary Ridge.

**James (Jim) Ogden, III** is a native of St. Mary's County, Maryland. Interested in the Civil War since childhood, he obtained a degree in American History through the Civil War period and American Military History from Frostburg State College. During college, he worked summers for the Maryland Park Service at Point Lookout State Park, site of the largest Civil War prison, where historical interpretation and research were among the many positions he held. As part

of a college internship, he worked for four months at Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, West Virginia, researching and writing on an aspect of that site's Civil War history that had not been addressed previously.

Beginning work with the National Park Service in 1982, he has been stationed at Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park, Georgia and Tennessee, Russell Cave National Monument, Alabama, and Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park, Virginia. In November, 1988, he returned to Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park as the Staff Historian, the position he presently holds.

He speaks regularly on aspects of the Civil War to historical organizations across the eastern half of the U. S. including Civil War Round Tables in New York, Chicago, Minneapolis, Atlanta, Birmingham, New Orleans, and Austin. In addition to doing tours of the Chickamauga and Chattanooga battlefields, he periodically takes groups to Shiloh, Perryville, Stones River, some of the Atlanta Campaign sites (including Dalton, Resaca, Cassville, New Hope, Pickett's Mill, and Kennesaw Mountain), and Franklin and Nashville.

He has taught a number of Civil War history courses for the Continuing Education Department of the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga and in the Spring Semester of 2012 he taught UTC's for-credit Civil War and Reconstruction course. He has published a number of short articles in several local publications and has appeared on Greystone Communications/Arts and Entertainment Network's "Civil War Journal," the History Channel's "Civil War Combat," PBS's "History Detectives," and C-SPAN.

Since 1986, he has been an instructor for over six hundred groups of officers of the U. S. Army conducting Staff Rides (an in-depth analysis of a historical military event) at Chickamauga and Chattanooga. For a decade, his Staff Ride clients even included two to six hundred officers annually from the British Army's Joint Services Command and Staff College.

The recognitions of his contributions to Civil War History and Preservation include the Friends of Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park Drew Haskins, Jr., Memorial Service Award (1998), Civil War Trust Chairman's Award for Excellence in Preservation (2011), Chattanooga Area Historical Association Dr. James W. Livingood Historian of the Year Award (2014), University of Tennessee at Chattanooga Department of Communication 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Symposium on the 19<sup>th</sup> Century Press, The Civil War, and Free Expression Dr. Hazel Dicken-Garcia Distinguished Scholarship in Journalism History Award (2014), the Civil War Round Table of Chicago Allan Nevins-Douglas Southall Freeman Award (2014), United States Army Commander's Award for Public Service (2017), Civil War Trust's National Park Service Preservation Advocate Award (2017), and the Department of the Army's Superior Public Service Medal (2019).

For those of you who have never heard Jim Ogden before please make sure you come to this meeting! He is always a wonderful speaker and his programs are of excellent research and presentation.

## **July 2023 meeting**

Walter Green of Franklin, TN gave us a fine program on the Nashville & Decatur Railroad during the Civil War. This crucial line for both sides ran from Nashville to Decatur, Alabama where it connected to the vital Memphis & Charleston Railroad. Mr. Green detailed the original formation and building of the line and then moved into its use in the war. The line was used more by the Union since Nashville fell so early in the war and it fell upon them to keep it maintained and protected since it was now a target for guerrillas and main force Confederate cavalry raids. Bridges were built and rebuilt (some washing out due to rain storms) and blockhouses and forts were erected to allow for its defense. With his engineering background, Mr. Green discussed how some of the bridge designs were not up to par especially in their supports, which caused a number of problems.

This was a really enjoyable and informative program and we thank him for sharing it with us. Those that missed the meeting can get his book on Amazon or through local book stores.

## **FUTURE PROGRAMS:**

**September 2023** - Col. Ed Lowe (ret.) – *“James Longstreet’s East Tennessee Campaign”* – based on his forthcoming book

**October 2023** – Philip Kemmerly, Historian, retired Austin Peay University professor – *“Logistics in U.S. Grant’s Vicksburg Campaign”*

**November 2023** – Dr. Minoa Uffelman, Austin Peay professor/historian – *“Sarah Kennedy Letters: A Clarksville Woman Looks at Her Civil War”*

**January 2024** – John Banks, historian/author – *“A Civil War Trip Of A Lifetime”* – based on his new book

**Some of our speakers are authors and bring books to sell at our meetings. Please support them by buying their books.**

**MEMBERS AND DUES** – July is our new fiscal year and that means it is time for your dues! Please plan on taking care of your membership renewals at this meeting. The annual dues structure for the Nashville CWRT is as follows:

Single membership - \$20

Family - \$30

Military – Active duty and Veterans - \$15

Military Family – Active duty and Veterans - \$25

Student - \$10

Senior (age 60 plus) - \$15

Senior couple - \$20

**Your dues for the 2022-2022 fiscal year will be due at this meeting if you have not paid as yet!** Please plan on paying them at that month’s meeting if you have not already.

**PLEASE PLAN ON PAYING YOUR DUES THIS MONTH SO WE CAN KEEP BRINGING IN GREAT SPEAKERS AND HELP SAVE CIVIL WAR SITES. If you cannot make a meeting then please drop off your check at Fort Negley.**

**BOTTOM LINE FOLKS – without your dues we do not have programs so please support the efforts of the Nashville CWRT. We could also use new members so if you have friends or family interested in the Civil War bring them along!**

When your dues are paid you will be issued a new name badge with the fiscal year on it. If you do not have a name badge then you are not current.

Our dues go to paying for speakers as well as donations for Civil War preservation causes especially those of a local nature. Please be sure to pay your dues so we can offer the best programs possible for you! We also utilize donated items for sales each month to help add to the treasury. If you have something you would like to donate for these auctions, please bring them to the meetings. Books, art, or anything Civil War, works very well. Thanks very much to all of you who have made such donations!

**A Note from Greg Biggs, Program Chair –** Folks, July is our fiscal year and that is when the dues are due to the Nashville CWRT. Without the dues we cannot function. We have to pay for speaker expenses (travel, meal, sometimes lodging) so that we can secure programs. It is also nice to be able to make donations for battlefield preservation like so many other CWRTs do. We meet at a Civil War site, one of the very few in the country that can make that claim.

We have wonderful members and a new president but we need your financial support to carry forward with what we do. Only three members paid their dues last month. If you cannot be at a meeting you can send them to our treasurer Philip Duer at – 1304 Red Oak Drive, Brentwood, TN 37027. Make the checks out to the Nashville CWRT. It would really help us budget for speakers if everyone paid in July too. We share speakers with the Clarksville and Evansville (Southern Indiana) CWRTs at times and that helps us with the costs of bringing in someone from further away.

The Nashville CWRT also accepts any financial donations to the treasury for our continued operations and getting in speakers. I try very hard to get programs of interest and variety to keep all of us informed. If you know of anyone who offers programs please let me know at a meeting.

## **CIVIL WAR NEWS AND EVENTS**

### **Notes From President Howard Mann**

Our new president has been very busy drafting the Mission Statement for the Nashville CWRT. It is published here for your review. We will discuss this at the upcoming meeting.

Mission Statement:

*The Nashville Civil War Round Table of Tennessee is a community of men and women who*

*share a common interest in the War Between the States and that period in American History that defined our nation as we know it today. We are dedicated to all aspects of the Civil War: Education: The Study, Discussion & Learning in Depth about America's War Between the States through lectures and community events.*

*Equity: No particular side is espoused - we have as many Yankees as we do Rebs.*

*We study battles, leaders, issues, personalities, politics, logistics, strategy, tactics, blunders and all the facets that made up the Civil War.*

*Participate In Preservation of Battlefields and Civil War Era Artifacts and collaborate with like-minded organizations within Middle Tennessee to support Civil War history, tourism and events.*

*Conduct Educational Field Trips to Various Civil War Battlefields and Sites*

*Promote & Attend Reenactments and Living Historian Presentations*

Values:

*The Nashville Civil War Round Table of Tennessee meets monthly to: Listen to speakers presentations on all aspects of the war, discuss issues of preservation and raise money for those various projects, disseminate information on local, state and national Civil War news, listen to members critique latest Civil War books, movies, videos & TV programs, recommend Civil War sites to visit and where reenactments are occurring.*

*It shall be the policy of the Nashville Civil War Round Table of Tennessee to provide equal membership opportunities to all eligible persons without regard to race, religion, color, national origin, citizenship, age, sex, marital status, parental status, handicap, membership in a labor organization, and political affiliation.*

### **Books Still Available at the Nashville CWRT This Month!**

We appreciate those of you who bought from this great book selection last month! The CWRT needs funds to keep getting in speakers and the book sales go towards that so thank you! The prices for these great books are 50 per cent off or more off retail prices so there's some great deals here for your library! Please keep buying and supporting your CWRT!

We sold a good number of books last month - thank you to those that supported our CWRT!

### **NASHVILLE CWRT OFFICERS**

President – Howard Mann - [hgmamm2930@gmail.com](mailto:hgmamm2930@gmail.com)

Gary Burke - Vice President – [Escaped886@yahoo.com](mailto:Escaped886@yahoo.com)

Philip Duer – Treasurer and Preservation Liason – [pwduer@gmail.com](mailto:pwduer@gmail.com)

Greg Biggs - Program Chair – [Biggsg@charter.net](mailto:Biggsg@charter.net)

Krista Castillo – President Emeritus