

Nashville Civil War Roundtable

Founded April, 2009 – Nashville, Tennessee

Visit our web site: www.nashvillecivilwarroundtable.wordpress.com

September 19th, 2023 – Our 151st meeting!! We continue our fourteenth year!

The next meeting of the Nashville (TN) Civil War Roundtable will be on Tuesday, September 19th, 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 4th Avenue South and 8th 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 – *“James Longstreet’s East Tennessee Campaign”*

Lieutenant General James Longstreet’s deployment to East Tennessee promised a chance to shine. The commander of the First Corps of the Army of Northern Virginia had long been overshadowed by his commander, Robert E. Lee, and the now-martyred Second Corps commander, Stonewall Jackson. Lee had nonetheless leaned heavily on Longstreet, whom he called his “Old Warhorse.” Reassigned to the Western Theater because of sliding fortunes there, the Old Warhorse hoped to run free with—finally—an independent command of his own.

For his Union opponent, Maj. Gen. Ambrose Burnside, East Tennessee offered an opportunity for redemption. Burnside’s early war success had been overshadowed by his disastrous turn at the head of the Army of the Potomac, where he suffered a dramatically lopsided loss at the Battle of Fredericksburg followed by the humiliation of “The Mud March.”

Removed from army command and shuffled to a less prominent theater, Burnside suddenly found his quiet corner of the war getting noisy and worrisome. The mid-September loss by the Union Army of the Cumberland at the Battle of Chickamauga left it besieged in Chattanooga, Tennessee. That, in turn, opened the door to Union-leaning East Tennessee and imperiled Burnside’s isolated force around Knoxville, the region’s most important city. A strong move by Confederates would create political turmoil for Federal forces and cut off Burnside’s ability to come to Chattanooga’s aid.

Into that breach marched Longstreet, fresh off his tide-turning role in the Confederate victory at Chickamauga. The Old Warhorse finally had the independent command he had longed for and

an opportunity to capitalize on the momentum he had helped create.

Longstreet's First Corps and Burnside's IX Corps had shared battlefields at Second Manassas, South Mountain, Antietam, and Fredericksburg. Unexpectedly, these two old foes from the Eastern Theater now found themselves transplanted in the Western—familiar adversaries on unfamiliar ground. The fate of East Tennessee hung in the balance, and the reputations of the commanders would be won or lost. Our speaker this month, Ed Lowe, will fill in all of the details for us at this month's meeting.

COL (ret) Ed Lowe served 26 years on active duty in the U.S. Army with deployments to Operation Desert Shield/Storm, Haiti, Afghanistan (2002 & 2011), and Iraq (2008). He attended North Georgia College and has graduate degrees from California State University, U.S. Army War College, U.S. Command & General Staff College, and Webster's University. He is an adjunct professor for the University of Maryland/Global Campus & Elizabethtown College, where he teaches history and government. He is currently working on two books for Savas Beatie. The first covers Longstreet's First Corps from Gettysburg to East Tennessee, and the second is an Emerging Civil War Series book on Longstreet's East Tennessee Campaign, which should be out in Winter 2023. He is married with two daughters and lives in Ooltewah, Tennessee. He serves as President of the Chickamauga & Chattanooga Civil War Round Table, reconstituted in September of 2020.

Do not miss this excellent program folks. Ed is a great speaker!

August 2023 meeting

Being the 160th Anniversary of Union General William S. Rosecrans and the advance on Chattanooga by his Army of the Cumberland to take that city, having Jim Ogden up to speak to us was a natural. Being the historian at Chickamauga-Chattanooga National Military Park, it was only natural for him to be our speaker last month.

Rosecrans is an interesting commander who is undergoing a new look by historians today. Tainted only by his defeat at Chickamauga and then replaced by Grant when he arrived in Chattanooga to affect its relief from the Confederate siege, Rosecrans has often been shunted aside in favor of all-things Grant. And yet, as Ogden told us, Rosecrans is very worthy of serious study for his command of logistics and the forward thinking of how he raised, equipped, trained his army. It can be argued that the Army of the Cumberland was the most advanced of the Union field armies from logistics to signal corps to engineering to repeating rifles and this was thanks to Rosecrans.

In the aftermath of his brilliant Tullahoma Campaign which ended on July 4th 1863 at the foot of the Cumberland Mountains, Rosecrans took a few weeks off active campaign to rebuild the railroad and bridges torn down by Bragg's Confederates during their retreat to Chattanooga. Once this was done, and once again the War Department kept badgering him to move forward, he would do so and using the same operational planning as in Tullahoma, he would feint one way and move another – and again the Confederates fell for it! Chattanooga was taken without a shot fired in early September 1863. The gateway to the Deep South and East

Tennessee, so valued by President Lincoln, was now secure. As if to try and make amends to Rosecrans, QM General Montgomery Meigs came down to visit and when seeing the terrain actually apologized to Rosecrans for not understanding what he had been dealing with!

This was an excellent program delivered with a full command of the facts and people involved. It is always enjoyable when Jim Ogden comes to our CWRT for a program. He is always loaded with knowledge and puts on excellent programs every time. Thanks Jim!

FUTURE PROGRAMS:

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

February 2024 – Joseph Ricci, Battle of Franklin Trust historian, *“John Schofield Versus Jacob Cox at Franklin”*

March 2024 – Tommy Smith, NPS historian, Meriwether Lewis National Monument, *“The Battle of Ringgold Gap”*

No date scheduled – Chris Mekow – Shiloh National Battlefield

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.

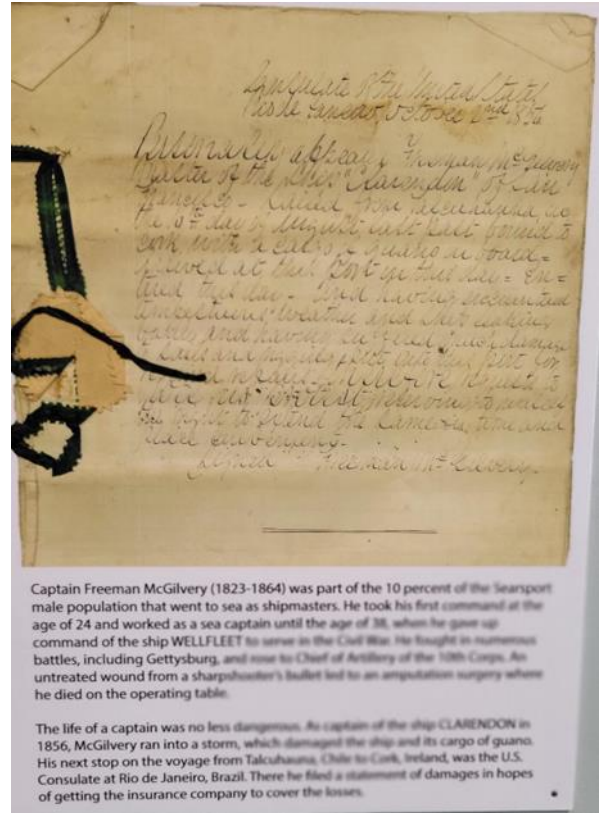
We have wonderful members and a new president but we need your financial support to carry forward with what we do. Only three members paid their dues last month. If you cannot be at a meeting you can send them to our treasurer Philip Duer at – 1304 Red Oak Drive, Brentwood, TN 37027. Make the checks 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

I just returned from an amazing trip up the East Coast from Tennessee to Maine and returned through Pennsylvania. We (Janice and me) got to meet a Civil War descendent from my great-grandfather's regiment, the 10th Kansas Infantry in Washington, DC. While we enjoyed Maine, with lobster rolls, scenic mountains and seacoast and rustic small towns, the Civil War was never very far away. So here are two Maine stories I came across:



Captain Freeman McGilvery (1823-1864) was part of the 10 percent of the Seaport male population that went to sea as shipmasters. He took his first command at the age of 24 and worked as a sea captain until the age of 38, when he gave up command of the ship WELLFLEET to serve in the Civil War. He fought in numerous battles, including Gettysburg, and rose to Chief of Artillery of the 10th Corps. An untreated wound from a sharpshooter's bullet led to an amputation surgery where he died on the operating table.

The life of a captain was no less dangerous. As captain of the ship CLARENDON in 1856, McGilvery ran into a storm, which damaged the ship and its cargo of guano. His next stop on the voyage from Talcahuana, Chile to Cork, Ireland was the U.S. Consulate at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. There he filed a statement of damages in hopes of getting the insurance company to cover the losses.

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His obituary reveals more:

Civil War Union Army Officer. Entered the Civil War in January 1862 as Captain and commander of the 6th Battery, Maine Light Artillery, which he commanded at the Battles of Second Bull Run, Antietam, and Fredericksburg. Promoted from Captain to Lieutenant Colonel, he assumed command of the 1st Volunteer Artillery Brigade in the Army of the Potomac's Artillery Reserve. Led his command in the Battles of Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, and Mine Run. His performance on the 2nd Day of Gettysburg is considered his finest hour and is what he is mainly remembered for. On that day he posted the cannons of his brigade

along the Wheatfield Road to support the III Corps line that extended to the Peach Orchard and Emmitsburg Road. When the Confederates from General James Longstreet's Corps attacked and smashed the III Corps line, his 4 batteries fought hard until they were threatened by the Rebels and were ordered by Colonel McGilvery to retreat to Cemetery Ridge. When he saw a huge hole in the Union line there, he ordered the 9th Massachusetts Battery to make a heroic, unsupported stand in front of the Trostle House while he scraped together a defense on the Ridge. Colonel McGilvery then formed a line along the Plum Run (located in front of the present-day Pennsylvania Monument) with time bought by the Massachusetts Battery, and he was able to hold off the Confederates until II Corps Infantry reinforcements were rushed to the area. This defense helped save the Union Army, and he was greatly lauded for his performance by his superiors. On the Third Day of the Battle his line of artillery helped destroy the celebrated Pickett's Charge. He continued to command the 1st Volunteer Artillery Brigade up to May 1864, when he was detailed to command the Army of the Potomac's ammunition and artillery train during the Overland Campaign. On August 9, 1864 he was named Chief of Artillery for the X Corps. At the Battle of Deep Bottom, Virginia (August 16, 1864) he sustained a slight wound to one of his fingers. He ignored this wound, and continued with his duties until an infection caused the need for the injured finger to be amputated. On September 2, 1864, in Petersburg, Virginia, he died suddenly during the surgery from the effects of chloroform. Today in the Gettysburg National Military Park an avenue is named "McGilvery Artillery Avenue" in honor of him and his command.



In a small local museum in Belfast, Maine we ran across a wonderful symbol of the women of Belfast who stitched a quilt flag that was on display. "On June 17, 1864 a group from the First Church of Belfast, Maine began sewing a bed quilt with an American flag theme to recognize and honor those who were fighting to preserve the Union. By July 7, 1864 the quilt was finished and was sent by Express to the Armory Square Hospital, a Union Army hospital in Washington, D.C. where it was displayed at the hospital as an inspirational piece and to recognize and honor the wounded soldiers. Written on the quilt, in ink, are the names of the twenty-two women who stitched it, the names of Civil War battles in which Maine regiments participated, a number of quips, puns and poems and "Belfast, Maine 1864". When the hospital closed in 1865 the quilt disappeared." The quilt was found and rescued from a burn barrel in Montana in 2011 and returned to Belfast.

The quilt had been inadvertently discarded by a descendent of the hospital's chief surgeon, Dr. D. Willard Bliss who also attended President Abraham Lincoln and James Garfield, when they were assassinated.



Other stops included Lexington, VA, the U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center in Carlisle, PA and Gettysburg, PA. A vacation without a touch of our Civil War heritage is inconceivable.

Civil War Events for the 160th Anniversary Of the Battle of Chickamauga – This Coming Weekend!

Fort Oglethorpe, GA: From Friday, September 15 to Wednesday, September 20, visitors are invited to join Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park staff and volunteers as we commemorate the 160th Anniversary of the Battle of Chickamauga and its subsequent memorialization through a series of tours, hikes, and living history demonstrations. There will also be a 160th anniversary Jr. Ranger activity booklet that can be picked up inside the visitor center. Participants will receive a special Jr. Ranger patch by bringing the completed booklet back to the visitor center.

Beginning September 18, 1863, Union and Confederate forces clashed along the banks of West Chickamauga Creek. At stake was Chattanooga, Tennessee, and with it, the fortunes of the fledgling Confederacy and the future of the United States and its citizens. For three days

the armies struggled through the woods and fields, leaving behind the broken dreams and lives of thousands of young men cut down in the prime of life. Despite the Confederate victory at Chickamauga, the US Army regrouped in Chattanooga, where a victory there marked the "Death Knell of the Confederacy."

A complete program schedule, including times and descriptions, is available at the following web address: <https://www.nps.gov/chch/chickamauga160.htm>

For more information about programs at Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park, contact the Chickamauga Battlefield Visitor Center at 706-866-9241, the Lookout Mountain Battlefield Visitor Center at 423-821-7786, or visit the park website at www.nps.gov/chch.

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 keep selling books which helps us get speakers so thank you to those that supported our CWRT!

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