

Clarksville Civil War Roundtable

Founded March, 2004 – Clarksville , Tennessee

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March 19th, 2014– Our 120th meeting. Happy Birthday to us! We are ten years old!

The next meeting of the Clarksville (TN) Civil War Roundtable will be on Wednesday, March 19th, 2014 at the *Bone & Joint Center*, 980 Professional Park Drive, right across the street from Gateway Hospital. This is just off Dunlop Lane and Holiday Drive and only a few minutes east of Governor's Square mall. 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.

OUR SPEAKER AND TOPIC: *“Conflicted Friendships: John Bull, Uncle Sam and King Cotton; The British Influence Upon Union and Confederate Naval Strategies”*

This month's program explores Union and Confederate naval policies as they expanded world-wide and influenced matters of Southern sovereignty and the war itself. The essential foreign policies of Presidents Lincoln and Davis become clear in the parts they played in the struggle for the Queen's favor in order to win the war. Look for many surprises to come out of this presentation, for example, the tremendous impact of Mr. Davis's largest but least known naval force; and the single greatest advantage suddenly and unexpectedly handed to Mr. Lincoln by Queen Victoria. Despite her position of neutrality, war with the mother country was narrowly avoided on a number of occasions for reasons that may also come as a surprise.

The program will shed new light upon other matters in which the handprint of the British was left, such as ironclads, commerce raiding and blockade running. The British influence upon American policy and vice-versa are laid open while examining yet another relatively unknown factor—the partnership between the Union Army and Navy on the coast and on rivers. The program also takes head-on the questions of the effectiveness of blockade and counter-blockade activities and dissects the almost mythical role of raiders and runners. The program will finish with the vital influence of foreign policy in producing Union dominance of the American waters and bringing the War for Southern Independence to its conclusion.

Our speaker this month is Kent Wright, program chair of the Tennessee Valley Civil War Roundtable in Huntsville, Alabama. Kent also runs the annual tours for the group. He is a former U.S. Navy veteran as well as working in the nuclear energy industry after his service. He has been researching naval topics for the past 25 years and has given several presentations on naval topics to Civil War interest groups. We welcome Kent back to speak to us this month!

LAST MONTH'S MEETING

Dr. Michael Bradley, noted Civil War author and historian, packed the house last month with a fine program on his recent book *Raiding Winter*. The program discussed the three cavalry raids of December 1862 by Earl Van Dorn, Nathan Bedford Forrest and John Hunt Morgan. Van Dorn and Forrest struck the Mobile & Ohio Railroad from northern Mississippi into western Kentucky and shut down the biggest portion of U.S. Grant's overland campaign to take Vicksburg. Grant was forced to pull back thanks to the destruction of his supply depot at Holly Springs and the railroad that supplied it. Morgan raided into central Kentucky and despite some 10,000 Union troops deployed along the vital Louisville & Nashville Railroad, he managed to destroy the twin trestles at Muldraugh's Hill south of Louisville. This cut off the supplies going to William Rosecrans' 14th Corps then moving towards Murfreesboro. Adding to Morgan's exploit was the fact that he did this only a few days after his marriage to Mattie Ready!

Dr. Bradley tied all of this together stating how these raids were a perfect storm in stopping or slowing down Union offensives forcing the Federals to deploy even more troops to hold their supply lines than ever before as an aftermath. This is a terrific program delivered by a historian in full control of the details. We look forward to more programs from Dr. Bradley.

FUTURE PROGRAMS:

April 2014 – Rob Cross, historian, Belle Meade Plantation – “*The Affair At Spring Hill, TN*”

May 2014 - Doug Richardson, park ranger, Fort Donelson National Battlefield – “*Lincoln and McClellan*”

June 2014 – Robert Girardi, historian/author, Chicago Police Detective – “*The Murder of Union General William “Bull” Nelson*”

July 2014 – Conrad Laplante, Ottawa, Canada CWRT – “*Canada and the American Civil War*”

August 2014 – Eric Wittenberg, historian, author – topic TBA

September 2014 – William C. Davis, noted author and historian – Topic TBA

October 2014 – David Mowery, historian/author – Cincinnati CWRT – “*John Hunt Morgan’s Great Indiana and Ohio Raid*”

November 2014 – Shirley Farris, author/historian – “Fort Donelson: One Soldier’s Story” (CS Surgeon, 41st Tennessee)

March 2015 – Mark Hoffman, historian/author – *The 1st Michigan Engineers and Mechanics in Middle Tennessee*” (from his book)

MEMBERS AND DUES: - DUES ARE DUE AT THE JULY 2013 MEETING. WHEN YOU ARE CURRENT YOU WILL GET A NEW CWRT MEMBERSHIP CARD FOR THE NEXT FISCAL YEAR.

Thanks to all of you, the Clarksville CWRT continues to grow. We would love to have you join us! If you have friends interested in the Civil War, please bring them along. ***July is our fiscal year when dues for the current campaign were due.*** If you haven’t paid your dues for this season yet please do so. Our dues help us get great speakers and for historical preservation. Annual dues are as follows:

√ Student - \$10

√ Single membership - \$20

√ Family - \$30

√ Military– Active duty and veterans - \$15

√ Military family – Active duty, veterans, and family - \$25

CIVIL WAR AND ASSOCIATED NEWS AND EVENTS

Lotz House Launches Private Tours of the Cellar and Unveils Newly Acquired Signature of General Patrick Cleburne

In November 2013, archeologist and historian John Marler completed a two year excavation of the Lotz House cellar. Marler uncovered and documented approximately 900 Civil War relics connected with civilian life in the mid-1800s. The historical house, located at 1111 Columbia Pike in Franklin, TN., is at the epicenter of the Battle of Franklin.

Lotz House will open the cellar for private tours the third Saturday of each month from March to October this year. The two hour tour will be conducted by historians Thomas Y. Cartwright and/or John Marler. Tours will be held from 10 a.m. – noon March 15, April 19, May 17, June 21, July 19, August 16, September 20 and October 18. The cost is \$30 per person for the Lotz House Cellar Tour. The guided tour of the Lotz House is \$10 and is a separate ticket. This is a limited tour, first-come-first-served. To make reservations contact J.T. Thompson at jtt@lotzhouse.com or call 615-790-7190.

In other news, Lotz House Executive Director J.T Thompson announced that the Lotz House will unveil a series of relics this year in commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Franklin. On March 16 the public is invited to the unveiling of CSA Major General Patrick Cleburne's wartime signature which is a rare piece of history.

In making the announcement, Thompson said, "The Sesquicentennial is such an historic time we want to create our own history and work toward preserving rare items as we commemorate the occasion. Patrick Cleburne and his story moves people, as he was highly regarded in life and death by both friend and foe. As his life was cut short in Franklin at the age of 36, anything and everything related to him is extremely rare. We're glad to offer this opportunity to our visitors." Thompson added, "We were able to acquire this rare find through a generous donation from the Civil War Round Table of Atlanta along with another donor, one of our Lotz House Foundation members, who wishes to remain anonymous. We're very grateful for their contribution to preserving this great piece of history."

Civil War Round Table of Atlanta President Arthur T. Carey commented, "The Civil War Round Table of Atlanta is proud to have assisted the Lotz House in adding a letter signed by Confederate Major General Patrick Cleburne to its outstanding collection of Civil War artifacts. Pat Cleburne is judged by most historians as the finest division commander in the Confederacy's Western Armies. His leadership and courage was unquestioned. It is altogether fitting that this artifact should reside near where he fell while leading his men in battle."

To mark General Cleburne's birthday, March 16 at 4 p.m. notable historian Thomas Y. Cartwright will share with visitors some interesting facts and stories about Cleburne during the Battle of Franklin. The public is invited to this free event, but does not include a tour of the home. Thomas Y. Cartwright is known as one of the leading authorities on the Civil War and the Battle of Franklin. He frequently appears on various documentaries for the History Channel, A&E, Travel Channel, CNN, Discovery, and Preservation Channel. For many years, he has lectured throughout most of the United States for Civil War Round Tables, corporations, preservation groups and heritage organizations.

The Lotz House will also unveil additional rare, Franklin Civil War items finds on July 13, September 12-13 and in November. The Lotz House, which has been on the National Historic Register since 1976, is located in the heart of downtown historic Franklin, Tennessee at "epicenter" of the Battle of Franklin which was a pivotal battle in the Civil War on November 30, 1864.

The house is open Monday – Saturday 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. and Sunday 1 p.m. – 4 p.m. or by appointment. Admission charged. The Lotz House is located at 1111 Columbia Avenue. For more information, call 615-790-7190 or visit the website is www.lotzhouse.com.

A Forrest Bluff Beats a Streight: The Abel Streight Raid in Alabama Tour – April 26th, 2014 – Tennessee Valley CWRT in Huntsville

The Tennessee Valley Civil War Round Table of Huntsville is offering a tour of one of the most famous cavalry actions in the Civil War known as "Streight's Raid." The running fight across North Alabama featured the renowned Confederate cavalryman, General Nathan Bedford Forrest against a Union Mounted Infantry brigade of Colonel Abel Streight. The capture of Streight happened near the Georgia line when Forrest tricked Streight into believing he was hopelessly outnumbered. The deadly clash between these daring units will be narrated by Huntsville's own Brigadier General (Ret.) and Civil War author, John Scales. John will present a program on the raid at the regular TVCWRT meeting on Thursday, April 10th, 2014.

The tour leaves Huntsville at 7 AM to tour the Town Creek battlefield, the Day's Gap battlefield, the Crooked Creek Museum, the Hog Mountain battlefield, several lesser engagements, the Black Creek Crossing, the Blount Plantation battlefield, and the final surrender site near the Georgia state line. Walking will be limited as most of these areas are on private property. Expect to return to Huntsville around 5:30 pm. The cost for the day will depend on the number of riders, but including the museum admission it is expected to be under \$50 for members, \$60 for non-members including g members of other Civil War Roundtables

For more information check the Tennessee Valley CWRT's web site at - www.tvcwr.org– or email Kent Wright at - kdwrt@netzero.com. Huntsville is about 90 minutes from Nashville and the TVCWRT folks are super nice! John Scales is a very talented guide and historian. The tour will be going through some of the most beautiful spots of northern Alabama as well. This

raid has a Tennessee connection too – many of the mules used by Streight’s mounted infantrymen were obtained at Palmyra, TN, near Clarksville on the Cumberland River.

Civil War Trust Seeks to Buy More Land for Stones River Battlefield

The Federals were in dire straits on the morning of New Year's Eve 1862. After a violent surprise attack shattered their right flank at Stones River, blue-clad reinforcements rushed to the imperiled sector to make a stand. Confederate veterans, clad in all manner of clothing, were battling fiercely for access to the Nashville Pike, the Union army's main supply line. Only the speed and determination of the Yankees prevented the valiant Confederates from achieving a catastrophic breakthrough.

If we act quickly, the Civil War Trust has the chance to save a small but key parcel at Stones River in Tennessee. This 1/8 of an acre—located within the boundary of the National Park—figured prominently during the fighting along the Nashville Pike, where Union troops staved off their Confederate attackers. With this land up for auction, we hope that you, like those brave soldiers 150 years ago, will join us to save this imperiled piece of hallowed ground! The Union Pioneer Brigade occupied this land just before moving south to collide with Confederate Brig. Gen. Matthew Ector's Texans. The 7th Indiana Artillery maneuvered here behind the Pioneers to provide support against the vicious Rebel threat. To make a donation and save this hallowed land contact the Civil War Trust via their web site – <http://www.civilwar.org/battlefields/stonesriver/stones-river-2014/>. You can make your donation there and view the map of the battlefield and see where this property is located as well as pictures. With the vast majority of Stones River battlefield lost to development (the park only has about 20 per cent) grabbing even small parcels like this can help tell the story.

150th Anniversary of Nathan Bedford Forrest's Raid on Paducah, KY - March 22 and 25th, 2014

In March 1864, Nathan Bedford Forrest launched yet another raid into west Tennessee and Western Kentucky. His goal was to capture supplies and horses to reequip his command as well as eliminate Union garrisons and secure more recruits. As part of this raid, Forrest attacked the Union garrison at Paducah, KY. As his forces drove the Federals into the large earthwork Fort Anderson, his men ransacked the town gaining weapons, food, horses and more needed supplies while two Union gunboats took shots at his men. One of his commanders, Col. Albert Thompson, of the 3rd Kentucky Mounted Infantry, which contained men largely from Paducah and the surrounding counties, decided to attack Fort Anderson and was killed not far from his home. After hauling the supplies out of town, Forrest withdrew. On his way back to Tennessee he decided to go after the Union garrison at Fort Pillow for the same reason he attacked Paducah. The ensuing battle there would remain his most controversial event of the war. The fine folks in Paducah are commemorating the events of 1864 with two featured programs:

Saturday, March 22 - Open House at Tilghman House & Civil War Museum (This was the home of CS General Lloyd Tilghman, who was captured at Fort Henry, Tennessee and killed at Champion's Hill, Mississippi in May 1863), 631 Kentucky Ave., Paducah, KY, 10 AM-4 PM (270) 575-5477.

Tuesday, March 25 - Interpretation & Discussion on The Battle of Paducah. McCracken Co. Library, 555 Washington St., Paducah, KY, 6-8 PM (270) 443-2510 • www.mclib.net.

Bill Baxter at the Tilghman House & Civil War Museum is the contact for both events and Bobbie Wrinkle at McCracken Co. Library has also helped facilitate the Interpretation & Discussion should you like more details!

Paducah is only 1 hour and 45 minutes from Clarksville (right up I-24).

Civil War Symposium at Lincoln Memorial University - Harrogate, TN, April 4-5, 2014

The seminar's theme will be - "Lincoln and the War." Friday afternoon will be registration with a Banquet in the evening featuring Dr. Brian McKnight of the University of Virginia-Wise as keynote speaker. Saturday will be busy with four presenters:

1. Warren Greer, Director of Kentucky's Lincoln Heritage Trail Alliance and former Director, KY Lincoln Bicentennial Project. The title of his presentation is "The Golden Mean: Lincoln's Essential Wartime Principle".
2. Dr. Anne Marshall from Mississippi State will be with us also. She has entitled her presentation "Ripe for Mutiny": Lincoln and Loyalty in Civil War Kentucky".

3. Dr. Daniel Stowell, Director and Editor of the Lincoln Papers will be with us also. His presentation is entitled "Little Burdens: Empathete in Chief Abraham Lincoln".

4. Hon. Frank J. Williams joins us also. He indicates that he will discuss "Abraham Lincoln's Re-Election: Almost Derailed by Casualties and the Pressure for Peace".

To register and for more information please email Carol Campbell at - Carol.Campbell@lmunet.edu

Shiloh 152nd Anniversary of the Battle Events, April 5 – 8, 2014

Shiloh National Battlefield Park will offer a variety of activities to commemorate the 152nd anniversary of the battle fought April 6 – 7, 1862. Activities to include battlefield hikes, special instruction at various locations on the field, artillery firing demonstrations, and evening programs will fill each day. The activities will culminate with a car caravan tour of Fallen Timbers. At this place, the Confederates under General Nathan Bedford Forrest attacked a Union reconnaissance force giving the exhausted and bleeding Confederate army time to retreat back to their base in Corinth. For the most part, the hikes are short – two or three miles and over easy terrain. For more information visit the 152nd Battle of Shiloh Anniversary. To register for hikes, call 731-689-5696

Brice's Crossroads Tour, April 11 – 12, 2014 – Kennesaw State University Civil War Center

Visit the area of northern Mississippi where General Nathan Bedford Forrest worked to cut the supply line of General William T. Sherman during the Atlanta campaign and defend Mississippi from Union assaults. The tour will focus on the Battle of Brice's Crossroads, perhaps the war's most tactically perfect battle where Forrest crushed a Union force twice the size of his command. This battle is still studied in military schools world-wide. Also included is the Corinth Interpretive Center with a surprise stop thrown in. Cost per person is \$295, based on hotel double occupancy. The cost includes bus transportation, admission fees, meals and battlefield map packets. The tour leaves and returns to Kennesaw, GA just north of Atlanta. Your guides are Brian Wills, noted Forrest biographer, and Mike Shaffer of the Kennesaw Civil War Center.

Deadline for booking a spot is April 1, 2014. Make reservations at www.kennesaw.edu/civilwarera.

Johnsonville Spring Hike, March 22, 2014 – Johnsonville State Historic Park

To celebrate spring, Johnsonville State Historic Park will host a hike to help kick off the season. Just show up at the park trailhead on Saturday, March 22, at 11:00 a.m. Participants will join a park ranger for a hike around one of Johnsonville's three great hiking trails. Participants should wear comfortable walking shoes and bring a light jacket and water bottle. For more information visit their web site at - <http://tnstateparks.com/parks/about/johnsonville>

The park commemorates the November 1864 battle where Nathan Bedford Forrest destroyed the huge Union supply base.

Fort Donelson National Battlefield and the Stewart County Visitor Center Present an Exhibit: "Lincoln and the Constitution" Until March 23, 2014

This exhibit examines how President Lincoln navigated the perilous waters of political philosophy in both the north and the south. Dealing with the secession of Southern states, slavery and wartime civil liberties, Lincoln used the Constitution to maintain the delicate balance needed to restore and maintain the Union. This exhibition develops a more complete understanding of Abraham Lincoln as president and the Civil War as the nation's gravest constitutional crisis.

This exhibit will be on display at the Stewart County Visitor Center in Dover, Tennessee during their normal operating hours (Monday-Saturday 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM, and Sundays 1:30PM-3:30 PM) until March 23, 2014). For more information contact the Stewart County Visitor Center at (931)232-5706, ext. 108.