MARCHING OUT OF STEP: ROBERT E. LEE AFTER APPOMATTOX

Following the surrender at Appomattox Court House, General Robert E. Lee’s life was fraught with uncertainty. The man of war who had had thousands of men marching with him for four years now was a man alone. Without a job, without a home, and without a country, Lee faced indictment for treason and was betrayed by his own failing health. Despite these setbacks, Robert E. Lee felt a greater obligation to the United States than ever before. He dedicated the rest of his short life to restoring peace in his own way—through education and personal example. Turning his back on his military past, the general made a point of “marching out of step” to follow a path of reconciliation. Only then did Robert E. Lee achieve true greatness as a man and as an American.

Come join us as Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania NMP historian Frank O’Reilly introduces us to “the lion in winter”, and we explore a Robert E. Lee few of us know.

RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED FOR DINNER

CALL (865) 671-9001 AND LEAVE MESSAGE
Thank you to everyone who attended the September meeting. There were 57 diners, six who were non-members. Also attending were an additional 30 members and four non-member to hear the lecture. Total attendance to hear the lecture was 97. Thank you for your support and interest in the Round Table.

Mark your calendar for the Fort Dickerson Living Heritage Weekend scheduled October 28th – 30th, 2016.
Remember to make your dinner reservation by 11 a.m. on October 10th to hear Frank O’Reilly speak on “Lee after the War”.

The Aftermath of the Civil War
With this month’s dinner speaker talk concerning General Lee after the War, it peaked my interest on the impact of the Civil War on the United States. I re-read Shelby Foote’s “Red River to Appomattox” Epilogue which dealt with the aftermath of the war. The following paragraphs are some writings from Shelby Foote and James McPherson.

Shelby wrote extensively about Jefferson Davis. Davis was arrested at the end of the war and was jailed for two years as the government pondered whether to try him on treason. After two years in prison he was freed because the trial would be held in Virginia and no jury in that state would convict him. Davis spent a good portion of his remaining years of life publishing his memoirs and the history of the Confederacy, in which he states it was a state’s right to secede, thus succession was legal and the Confederacy should have its independence. The problem is that his arguments and discussion were irrelevant. In contrast Lee, who worked to help heal the wounds and reconcile the South post-Civil War.

The succession’s movement and the War yielded the exact opposite results of its goals. The Federal Government expanded its power exponentially with six Amendments to the Constitution that expanded the Federal Government’s authority over the states and individuals. James McPherson explains the expansion of Federal authority through the establishment of an “internal revenue bureau to collect taxes, drafted men into the army, increased the powers of federal courts, created a national currency and a national banking system, and confiscated at least three billion dollars personal property by the emancipation of four million slaves”. The United States becomes a nation in 1865 as it transitions from a loose union of states according to McPherson.
President's Message Cont.

There is little doubt that the South suffered the most and the longest from the War. Prior to the war the Presidency was held by the Confederate states 49 of the 72 years. The South held 23 House speakers and 24 of the president pro tem of the Senate. The Southern States held a majority in the Supreme Courts from 1789 to 1861. The next half century one House speaker, no Senate pro tem and five of 26 Supreme Court justices were Southerners.

Tennessee’s Blue Book states that it took the state 100 years to recover economically from the Civil War.

Mark Twain wrote “that cataclysm uprooted institutions that were centuries old, changed the politics of a people, and wrought so profoundly upon the entire national character that the influence cannot be measured short of two or three generations”.

Today we continue to discuss the Civil War and measure the influence here at the Round Table.

John Stegner, 
President

Sources
Civil War, A Narrative – Red River to Appomattox by Shelby Foote
The Atlas of the Civil War edited by James M. McPherson

THE KNOXVILLE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
2016 SPEAKERS SERIES

October 11—Frank O’Reilly, NPS Historian/Author, “Marching Out of Step: Robert E. Lee After Appomattox”

**November 15—Ed Bearss, Chief Historian Emeritus/Author, "Custer at the Little Bighorn"**

December 13—Jim Ogden, Historian Chickamauga/Chattanooga NMP, “The Great Locomotive Chase”

***The date for the November KCWRT meeting has been moved to November 15, 2016.****

FORT DICKERSON CIVIL WAR WEEKEND
October 28, 29 and 30, 2016 – Knoxville, TN

Fort Dickerson was built by the federal army in 1863-64 across the across the Holston (now the Tennessee River) from Knoxville to prevent the Confederates from bombarding the city. Sponsored by the City of Knoxville Parks and Recreation Dept. and hosted by the Knoxville Civil War Round Table. The event will include a school day on Friday Oct. 28 and two days of public tours and military demonstrations. Activities include living history campsites, infantry drilling and firing, Civil War medical and surgical exhibit and much more. The fort is just south of Knoxville across the Henley street bridge off Chapman Highway. The address for the fort is 3000 Fort Dickerson Road. For more information, contact Perry Hill at Phone (865)283-1691, e-mail: cpthill63rdtn@yahoo.com, or Tom Wright at phone (865)482-1680, e-mail: thomaswright8@comcast.net.
WELCOME BACK TO KNOXVILLE FRANK O'REILLY!

Frank A. O'Reilly received both his BA and MA in American History with a concentration in Early American Military History and Civil War Studies. After graduating from Washington & Lee University in 1987, he joined the National Park Service at the Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania National Military Park. Later he worked with the Park Service at Independence Hall in Philadelphia before returning to Fredericksburg in 1990 as the park’s permanent historian. He has also served as an historical consultant for the City of Fredericksburg. O’Reilly, who has lectured extensively on military history to audiences around the world, has written numerous articles on the Civil War and Mexican War and has appeared on CSPAN and in several video documentaries. He is the author of Stonewall Jackson at Fredericksburg and The Fredericksburg Campaign: Winter War on the Rappahannock which garnered a number of awards including a nomination for the Pulitzer Prize in Letters. Currently he is researching a book on the Battle of Malvern Hill and the Seven Days’ Campaign around Richmond.
As part of the 225th Anniversary of the City of Knoxville, on September 30 the Knoxville Civil War Roundtable hosted a history day for 125 fifth grade students from Ritta Elementary School.

Students, teachers, and parent chaperones visited stations around the fort and learned about Civil War history and Knoxville's war history.

Also included was a medical presentation by reenactor Bill Walker and a musket firing demonstration and artillery talk by Ken Creswell. Guides for the two and one half hour event were members Tom Fine, Norman Shaw, Fred Sloop, John Burkhart, and Dennis Urban.
Kenny Creswell gives instructions on Infantry and Artillery.
RESACA BATTLEFIELD TOUR, SATURDAY, MARCH 18, 2017

--Norman C. Shaw

I know this date is several months off, but please mark you calendars today!

Since the state of Georgia last May finally opened a new Resaca battlefield park of about 500 acres of pristine land that includes most of the western half of the battle, I thought this would offer an excellent opportunity to tour nearly all of the battleground there since much of the eastern portion has already been saved.

The last two years we toured in March two major fights at Chattanooga that occurred in November 1863, Tunnel Hill and Lookout Mt., but I thought we should take this alternative tour in 2017. Even better is that Jim Ogden, NMP Historian, will again be our tour guide! I was pleasantly surprised to discover that Jim conducts some Atlanta Campaign tours.

The drive to Resaca is all Interstate and only takes about 2.5 to 3 hours, about the same time it took to drive to Franklin, which we toured last fall. We will have an extra hour to tour since Daylight Saving Time will be in effect! I hope we have another good turnout. More details later.

BRING OUT YOUR BOOKS TO THE OCTOBER MEETING

The Knoxville Civil War Roundtable is gearing up for the Annual Book Sale which will be held at the November meeting. All members are encouraged to bring your donated books to the October meeting. This is a wonderful opportunity to clear your used books from your bookshelves in order to make room for so many more.
THE SCOUT'S REPORT
For Knowledge, Commemoration, and Preservation of Our Civil War Heritage

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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 please call 865-671-9001 or visit our website at www.kcwrtorg.wordpress.com

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