



# The Scout's Report

*Knoxville Civil War Roundtable*

*P. O. Box 52232*

*Knoxville, TN 37950-2232*

*KCWRT Website:*

[www.kcwrt.org](http://www.kcwrt.org)

**VOLUME XXXIII**

**MARCH, 2017**

**NO. 9**

**Tuesday, March 14, 2017**

**Buffet at 7:00 PM**

**Speaker at 8:00 PM**

**Dinner & Speech**

**\$15.00 Members**

**\$17.00 (Non-members)**

**Speech Only**

**\$3.00 Members**

**\$5.00 (Non-members)**

**RESERVATIONS FOR  
BUFFET ARE REQUIRED  
AND MUST BE MADE OR  
CANCELED BY 11AM  
MONDAY, MARCH 13  
CALL (865) 671-9001  
AND LEAVE MESSAGE**

**MENU:**

- Garden Salad
- Baked Pork Chops
- Smoked Chicken
- Scalloped Potatoes
- Mixed Steamed Vegetables
- Rolls
- Beverages
- Assorted Desserts

**LOCATION:**

**Bearden Banquet Hall  
5806 Kingston Pike**

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## APPOMATTOX AND THE DAYS LEADING UP TO THE SURRENDER

In the last days of March, 1865, Lieutenant General U. S. Grant had planned to assault General Robert E. Lee's thinly-manned lines around Petersburg, Virginia. He felt that enough time had dragged by in the nearly year-long campaign and that Lee could not withstand a simultaneous attack all along his lines. However, General Lee, anticipating the assault, attacked Grant first. That attempted break-out failed, and Lee began to fall back, abandoning Richmond in the process. The next few days were a blur as one savage battle after another was fought by a far-from-dead Army of Northern Virginia. But Lee was running out of time and food.



On April 7th, Grant sent the first letter to Lee of what became a short series of exchanges between the two generals, a series that culminating in the surrender meeting in the most unlikely of places for such a momentous event. General Grant will talk of those letters and what was transpiring during the two days they were exchanged.

The General will also speak about the actual meeting between himself and General Lee, what was said, and what happened in the 75 or so minutes they were together in Wilmer McLean's parlor. He will address what he said in the surrender letter he wrote to General Lee effectively ending the war, and why he wrote what he did. He will also touch briefly on the unintended ramifications his letter later had on President Andrew Johnson's Cabinet and administration.



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**Thank you to everyone who attended the February meeting to hear Professor Earl Hess speak on “Civil War Tactics”. Total attendance for the lecture was seventy-nine. There were forty-five diners, five who were non-members. Also attending were an additional twenty-four members and four who were non-members to hear the presentation. Thank you once again for your support and interest in the Round Table.**

Remember to make your dinner reservation by 11 a.m. Monday March 13<sup>th</sup> to hear historian Curt Fields speak on “Appomattox: The Days before the Surrender”. I’m looking forward to seeing all of you at the March meeting.

### Everything you need to know about the war that divided the nation by David Vaughan

I found this book at the back of my book case and thought it would be interesting to look at the war from a lighter point of view. It is written for high school level readers and presents many facts and stories in an easy to read format. Here are a few short snippets taken from the book that I found interesting.

**The Rebel Yell:** Historians believe the rebel yell was first heard at the First Battle of Bull Run in July 1861. After nearly 14 hours of fighting, a corps of soldiers under Pierre G. T. Beauregard began a counterattack against Union forces and launched the now-famous yell. When the Union forces saw – and heard – what was coming at them, they panicked and fled in retreat. The rebel yell was heard during every major battle after that.

**Substitutes:** Future Presidents Chester A. Arthur and Grover Cleveland, both of draft age, avoided military duty by paying others to serve for them.

**Spencer Rifle:** Union ordnance men turned down the Spencer repeating breech loading rifle in 1860 with the explanation that soldiers would fire too quickly and waste ammunition. Smarter minds prevailed, and the Spencer eventually made its way to the battlefield, but not until near the end of the war.

**The Homes of Wilmer McLean:** Wilmer McLean witnessed firsthand both the beginning and the end of the Civil War. McLean’s family estate was located near Manassas, Virginia, directly in the path of the Battle of Bull Run.

McLean was so shaken by the incident that he decided to move as far away from the war as possible, settling his family in Appomattox, a quiet town southwest of Richmond. The McLeans lived in relative peace for almost the entire war, only to find the conflict knocking on their door once again on April 9, 1865. McLean was asked about possible locations in which Lee could meet with Grant to discuss surrender terms. McLean reluctantly offered his own home.



President's Message cont.

### **Civil War Facts:**

- Astoundingly, only one civilian (a young woman who was struck by a stray bullet) was killed during the three-day battle at Gettysburg.
- During the Battle of the Wilderness, fighting was halted on several occasions as both sides tried to rescue wounded comrades from the uncontrolled brushfires that threatened to burn them alive.
- The first federal income tax law was enacted during the Civil War but died after the war was over. It wasn't until 1913 and the ratification of the Sixteenth Amendment that the income tax became part of the U.S. Constitution.
- Weapons fire on both sides was often wildly inaccurate, due to the limitations of the weapons and the hurried panic of the men who used them. As a result, some soldiers estimated that it took a man's weight in lead to kill a single enemy in battle. According to a Union munitions expert, each Confederate who was shot on the battlefield required 140 pounds of powder and 900 pounds of lead.
- At the Battle of Chickamauga, the 535 members of the 21<sup>st</sup> Ohio Infantry Regiment used their Colt revolving rifles to help prevent a Union rout. During the five hours of fighting, the 21<sup>st</sup> Ohio fired off more than 43,500 rounds, proving the superiority of repeating rifles. Commented one captured Confederate soldier: "My God, we thought you had a division there!"
- Confederate General Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson drew his sword so infrequently that it actually rusted in its scabbard.
- The Civil War soldier was paid very little for laying his life on the line. Top pay for a Union infantry private was just \$16 a month. His Confederate counterpart received \$18 a month, but it was worth considerably less due to skyrocketing inflation.
- At its height, the Confederate POW camp near Andersonville, Georgia, contained more than 33,000 Union prisoners, making it the fifth largest city in the Confederacy.
- Lieutenant David H. Todd, commandant of the Confederate Libby Prison in Richmond, Virginia, was the half-brother of Mary Todd Lincoln.
- Jefferson Davis's plantation in Mississippi was turned into a home for freed slaves at the end of the war.

In April, Eric Wittenberg, Attorney, Historian and Author, will present "Brandy Station" at the Round Table's monthly meeting on April 11th, 2017. I'm looking forward to Mr. Wittenberg's thoughts and insights concerning this topic.

John Stegner, President

### Sources

*The Everything Civil Book by Donald Vaughn*

## **TOURING THE RESACA BATTLEFIELD, SATURDAY, MARCH 18<sup>TH</sup>**

--Norman C. Shaw

I'm very pleased to announce that a record-breaking 32 individuals have signed up for the all day tour of the Resaca Battlefield in Georgia on March 18th to be led by Chick./Chatt. Chief Historian, Jim Ogden, one of the best tour guides in the country! All we need now is good weather.

I will provide a complete written report with photos for the April newsletter.

**THE KNOXVILLE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE  
2017 SPEAKERS SERIES**

**Mar 14---Curt Fields, Historian,  
“Appomattox: The Days Before the  
Surrender”**

**Apr 11---Scott Mingus, Scientist,  
Historian & Author, “Extra Billy Smith”**

**May 9---Bud Robertson, Historian &  
Author, “The Four-Legged Soldiers”**

**Jun 13---Eric Wittenberg, Attorney,  
Historian & Author, “Brandy Station”**

**Jul 11---George Rable, Historian &  
Author, “Fredericksburg”**

**Aug 8---Greg Biggs, Historian, “The  
Question was one of supplies: The  
logistics of Sherman’s Atlanta  
Campaign”**

**Sept 12---Dave Mowery, Historian &  
Author, “Morgan’s Great Raid: Taking  
the War to the North”**

**Oct 10---Eric Jacobson, H & A, “For  
Cause and Country: Spring Hill and Franklin”**

**Nov 14---Ed Bearss, Chief Historian Emeritus/Author, TBD**

**Dec 12---Jim Ogden, Historian Chickamauga/Chattanooga NMP, TBD**



*Curt Fields*

**"KCWRT's CHRISTMAS PARTY:**

Many of us enjoyed the great fellowship and desserts after the December meeting. Unfortunately two members left their Christmas dishes. We will have them for you at the March meeting."

# WELCOME TO KNOXVILLE, GENERAL GRANT!

Dr. E. C. (Curt) Fields, Jr., is an avid and lifelong student of the American Civil War. His interest in portraying General Ulysses S. Grant was driven by that study and his deep respect and admiration for General Grant. Dr. Fields is the same height and body type as General Grant and therefore presents a convincing, true-to-life image of the man as he really looked. He researches and reads extensively about General Grant to deliver an accurate persona of the General. His presentations are in first person, quoting from General Grant's Memoirs, articles and letters the General wrote, and statements he made in interviews.



Dr. Fields holds a Bachelor and Master's degrees in Education from the University of Memphis. He later earned a Master's degree in Secondary Education and a Ph.D. in Educational Administration and Curriculum from Michigan State University. He is a career educator who taught for eight years at the junior and senior high school levels and then served for 25 years as a high school administrator. He also has taught as an adjunct Sociology Professor at the University of Memphis and in Education for Belhaven University's Memphis campus.

Dr. Fields is now an educational consultant and living historian. As a consultant, he has worked in leadership development as espoused and practiced by General Grant with several corporate and civic groups. As a living historian, Dr. Fields portrayed General Grant at the 150th Sesquicentennial



observations of Fort Donelson, Shiloh, Raymond, Vicksburg, and at Appomattox Court House in 2015. He has portrayed the general on film as well starring as General Grant in the Visitor Center film shown at Appomattox Court House National Historic Park and in the Discovery Channel's three-part documentary series "How Booze built America." Dr. Fields also was featured as General Grant, giving his life story, on the Civil War Trust website.

A frequent contributor to "The Civil War Courier" (A Civil War monthly newspaper), Dr. Fields is a member of The Tennessee Historical Society, The West Tennessee Historical Society, The Shelby County Historical Society, The Nathan Bedford Forrest Historical Society, The Tennessee Civil War Preservation Association, The Appomattox 1865 Foundation, The 290 Foundation (dedicated to the Civil War Navies), The Civil War Trust, and the Ulysses S. Grant Association.



## 2017 DOROTHY E. KELLY PRESERVATION GRANT

### Background:

In December 2015 the Knoxville Civil War Roundtable (KCWRT) created the to honor Dot Kelly for her many years of service to the KCWRT and her tireless efforts towards the preservation of Knoxville's Civil War history and historic sites. This annual grant, in an amount not to exceed \$500, will be given to a group, individual, or organization for a Knoxville Civil War preservation project. Beginning in 2017 and in future years, the annual grant information and application will be included with the East Tennessee Historical Society (ETHS) Awards of Excellence announced each February.

All applications for the Dorothy E. Kelly Preservation Grant are to be submitted in writing on this application mailed to the KCWRT, P.O. Box 52232, Knoxville, TN 37950-2232. Please mark the envelope "2017 Dorothy E. Kelly Preservation Grant". Submissions will be reviewed and awarded by the KCWRT. The winner will be announced at the ETHS annual meeting on May 2, 2017.

To request an application, please contact Dennis Urban at [chiefden34@gmail.com](mailto:chiefden34@gmail.com)

### Grant Application:

Please complete the grant application below and submit postmarked no later than April 17, 2017 to the KCWRT at the above address.

Name & address of person, group or organization submitting the grant application:

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Information: Name \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of individual, group, or organization nominated (may be the same as above):

\_\_\_\_\_ Address:

Contact Information: Name \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Projects can include, but are not limited to, preservation of a site, new or replacement signage for a site, clean-up or rehabilitation of a site, or other Knoxville Civil War preservation effort. The project can be an existing one or an entirely new endeavor. Please submit a proposed budget for the project; not to exceed \$500.



# 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.kcwr.org.wordpress.com](http://www.kcwr.org.wordpress.com)



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