



The Scout's Report

Knoxville Civil War Roundtable

P. O. Box 52232

Knoxville, TN 37950-2232

KCWRT Website:

www.kcwrt.org

VOLUME XXXIII

APRIL, 2017

NO. 10

Tuesday, April 11, 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, APRIL 10
CALL (865) 671-9001
AND LEAVE MESSAGE**

MENU:

Pork BBQ

Fried Chicken

Garden Salad

Roasted Red Potatoes

Baked Beans

Rolls

Beverages

Assorted Desserts

LOCATION:

Bearden Banquet Hall
5806 Kingston Pike

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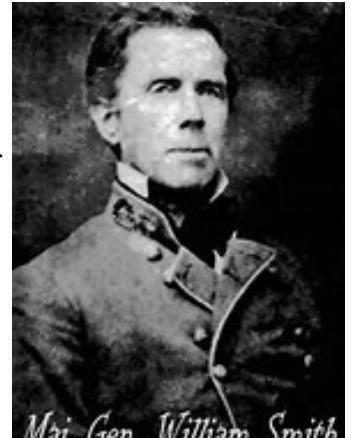
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CONFEDERATE GENERAL WILLIAM "EXTRA BILLY" SMITH: FROM VIRGINIA'S STATEHOUSE TO GETTYSBURG SCAPEGOAT

William "Extra Billy" Smith, the oldest and one of the most controversial Confederate generals on the field at Gettysburg, was also one of the most colorful and charismatic characters of the Civil War. Known nationally as "Extra Billy" because of his prewar penchant for finding loopholes in government postal contracts to gain extra money for his stagecoach lines, Smith served as Virginia's governor during both the War with Mexico and the Civil War, served five terms in the U.S. Congress, and was one of Virginia's leading spokesmen for slavery and States' Rights. Extra Billy's extra-long speeches and wry sense of humor were legendary among his peers. A lawyer during the heady Gold Rush days, Smith made a fortune in California and, like his income earned from stagecoaches, quickly lost it.



Maj. Gen. William Smith

Despite his advanced age, Smith took the field and fought well at First Manassas, was wounded at Seven Pines and again at Sharpsburg, and marched with Lee's Army of Northern Virginia into Pennsylvania. There, on the first day at Gettysburg, Smith's frantic messages about a possible Union flanking attack remains a matter of controversy to this day. Did his aging eyes see distant fence-lines that he interpreted as approaching enemy soldiers, or did his prompt action stave off a looming Confederate disaster? What we do know is that his calls for support diverted limited Confederate manpower away from attacks against Cemetery Hill and Culp's Hill that might have turned the tide of Southern fortunes in Pennsylvania.

Come join us as Scott Mingus, drawing from his award-winning 2013 biography, paints a broad, deep, and colorful portrait of one of the South's most interesting leaders and devoted sons. Extra Billy Smith will satisfy anyone who loves politics, war, and a great story well told.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Thank you to everyone who attended the March meeting to hear Curt Fields speak on "Appomattox: The Days before the Surrender". His appearance and presentation as General Grant was commanding as well as enlightening. Total attendance for the lecture was an even 100. There were sixty-three diners, nine who were non-members. Also attending were an additional thirty-seven members and six who were non-members to hear the presentation. Thank you once again for your support and interest in the Round Table as this is the best attended event of the year.

Remember to make your dinner reservation by 11 a.m. Monday April 10th to hear Scientist, Attorney, Historian and Author Scott Mingus speak on "Extra Billy Smith". I'm looking forward to seeing all of you at the April meeting.



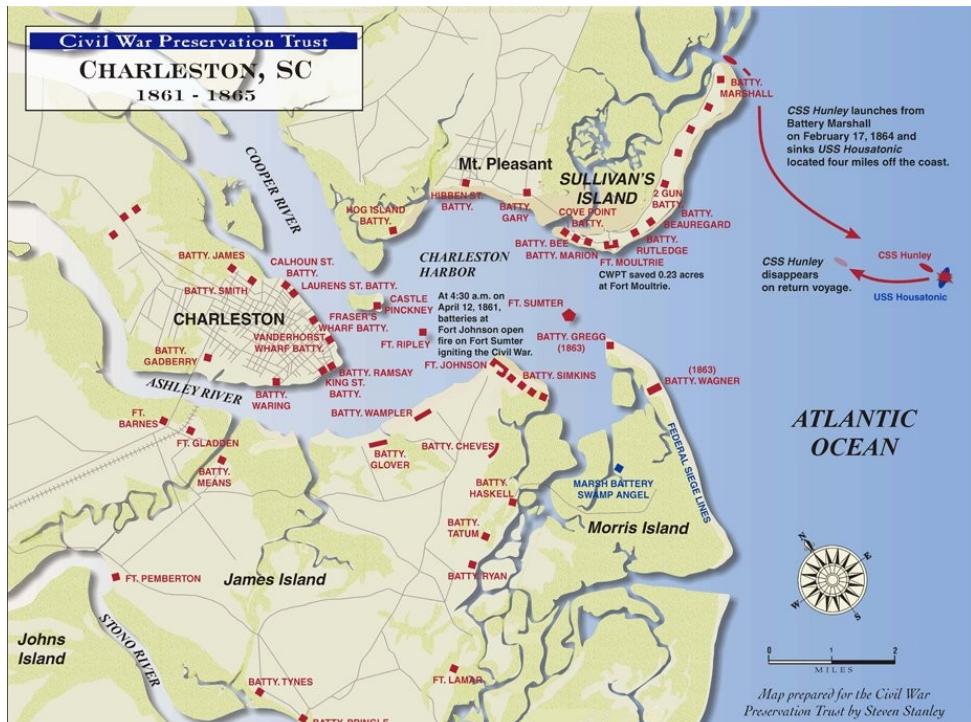
Looking forward to the May 9th dinner meeting, please mark your calendar to hear Bud Robertson's presentation on "The Four-Legged Soldier". You will not want to miss Mr. Robertson, who is an outstanding speaker, historian and author.

Fort Sumter

It is 4:30 pre-dawn in Charleston Harbor. The date is April 12, 1861 and a single mortar round is fired at a fort in the middle of the harbor. The shell explodes over Fort Sumter, a Federal Fort. The mortar round is fired by the Confederate States of America under the command of Brigadier General P.G.T. Beauregard. Major Robert Anderson is the commanding Federal officer of Sumter. The American Civil War has begun.

Surrounding the harbor, all of the Federal installations and Forts had been surrendered to the Confederacy except for Sumter. Strategically and geographically Sumter can control all ships coming and leaving Charleston. The South for the past several months has been demanding that the fort be evacuated and surrendered. On the afternoon of April 11th, Beauregard sent a letter of ultimatum to Anderson demanding its evacuation. Anderson replied "I regret that my sense of honor, and my obligation to my Government, prevent my compliance".

Beauregard was informed by friends in Washington that an expedition was en route to Charleston to relieve Anderson and a force would be landed to overcome all opposition. On the eve of the 11th, masts of the Federal ships could be observed forming offshore. Anderson sent word to Beauregard that he would evacuate the fort on April 15th. With the expedition force offshore, Beauregard could not wait. At 3:20 a.m. on Friday, April 12th, he sent word to Anderson that he would open fire within one hour.



President's Message cont.

By 5:00 a.m. gun batteries from Fort Johnson on James Island, Morris Island, Mount Pleasant, and Sullivan Island were firing on Fort Sumter. In Charleston, Mary Chestnut, the wife of Colonel James Chestnut, was awoken suddenly by the bombardment. She wrote, "I sprang out of my bed, and on my knees prostrate, I prayed as never before". Spectators circled the harbor to watch the shelling of the fort. Concussions of the shells hitting the walls of Fort Sumter could be felt in downtown Charleston and the sound of the guns could be heard more than forty miles away. It most certainly must have been a spectacular site.

The assault on Fort Sumter ended with Colonel Anderson's surrender at 2:30 p.m. on April 13th. The bombardment lasted for 34 hours with more than 70 Confederate guns and over 4000 shells fired. Although the fort had suffered considerable damage, no one lost their life.

The firing on the fort united a formerly divided North behind President Lincoln's mission to preserve the Union. On April 15th Lincoln proclaimed a state of insurrection rather than war and issued a call for 75,000 volunteers to quell the rebellion. Officially, the Civil war has begun.

John Stegner, President

Sources

The Atlas of the Civil War edited by James M. McPherson

The Union Is Dissolved by Douglas W. Bostick

The Everything Civil Book by Donald Vaughn

THE KNOXVILLE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE 2017 SPEAKERS SERIES

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"

Scott Mingus

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, "Farthest Forward: Pettigrew's Brigade at Gettysburg"

Dec 12---Jim Ogden, Historian Chickamauga/Chattanooga NMP, "Reopening the Tennessee River: Brown's Ferry, Wauhatchie, and the 'Cracker Line'"

WELCOME BACK TO KNOXVILLE, SCOTT MINGUS!

Scott Mingus is a scientist and executive in the paper industry and holds patents in self-adhesive postage stamps and bar code labels. He was part of the research team that developed the first commercially successful self-adhesive U.S. postage stamps.

Scott has written a dozen books and many articles on the Civil War, and his biography of Confederate General William "Extra Billy" Smith won the 2013 Nathan Bedford Forrest Southern History Book Award and the James I Robertson Jr. Literary Prize. He also has written six scenario books on miniature war gaming and was elected to the hobby's prestigious Legion of Honor.



Scott maintains a blog on the Civil War history of York County (www.yorkblog.com/cannonball) and is a sanctioned Civil War tour guide for the York County Heritage Trust. His great-great-grandfather was a 15-year-old drummer boy for the 51st Ohio. Other family members fought at Antietam and Gettysburg.



Ed Bearss (L) with historian Dean Shultz and April speaker, author and historian Scott Mingus (R).

HUGE BOOK SALE-MAY MEETING

The KCWRT will be holding a massive book sale at the May meeting. If you have any books to donate, bring them to the April meeting, so they can be sorted and priced. I've heard a rumor that historian Dot Kelly is donating one third of her extensive library. You will not want to miss this opportunity.

REPORT OF RESACA BATTLEFIELD TOUR, SATURDAY, MARCH 18TH-- NORMAN C. SHAW

On Saturday, March 18th, 34 hearty KCWRT members, friends and family members toured the Resaca Battlefield a few miles below Chattanooga. I'm pleased that the weather cooperated nicely and that everything went smoothly! Even though it seemed people were traveling from all points of the compass (only 3 vehicles from Knoxville) to rendezvous at the Dalton, GA, Walmart, all arrived on time by 9 a.m. and we departed at 9:30 in a nine vehicle caravan! Thanks to those who drove multi-seat vehicles!

Chick./Chatt. Chief Historian Jim Ogden did his usual superb job as tour guide taking us to and explaining the Resaca sites after we drove through Snake Creek Gap, the route Union General McPherson forces took to arrive at Resaca behind the unsuspecting Confederate army still at Dalton. The subsequent fight at Resaca, May 13th-15th, 1864, between Sherman's 100,000 and Joe Johnston's 50,000, was the first major battle during the Atlanta Campaign.

It was a nice surprise when Ken Padgett, president of the Friends of the Resaca Battlefield, and three members of his board greeted us after we arrived on the Resaca Battlefield!

After an hour or so of touring, we broke for lunch with most driving about two miles down Highway 41 almost to the next Resaca Interstate exit, where about half ate at Wendy's and the other half at Hardee's.

During our afternoon hike along the Confederate lines, we visited the sole monument on the 505 pristine acres opened to the public last May 2016. This small stone was erected in 1907 by men of the 103rd Ohio Infantry, a green regiment that defended South Knoxville during Longstreet's November 1863 siege, soldiers credited with advancing the greatest distance during the charge across Camp Creek's bottom land on May 14th to the base of the ridge defended by the Confederates.

We ended the warm day at the well-preserved artillery site of Confederate Capt. Max Van Den Corput's four cannon, which had been abandoned between the opposing lines. Amazingly, during the night of May 15th several Union men captured these guns dragging them to their trench-works! At 6:30 p.m. after an enjoyable day, everyone headed home.



Resaca cont.



L to r: Jim Ogden, Tony Patton, Ken Padgett, Keith Beason, Norman Shaw, and John Guider

A pass-the-hat collection was taken during the day. The resulting \$354 was divided equally between Jim Ogden, to thank him for spending the day with us, and the Friends of the Resaca Battlefield, which will go towards protecting the weather-worn 103rd monument and placing a state historical marker behind it.



An unexpected visitor joins tour.

Lastly, no matter what you may hear, I deny sightings of me chewing tobacco and swallowing it--I was eating from a bag of raisins!! That's my story, and I'm sticking to it!

Norman

ACCLAIMED CIVIL WAR SCHOLAR, DR. JAMES I. ROBERTSON, IS COMING TO KNOXVILLE MAY 9th! DON'T MISS IT!



One of the country's most distinguished Civil War historians, James I. Robertson Jr. will address the Knoxville Civil War Round Table on May 9, 2017, on "The Four-Legged Soldier in the Civil War". Dr. Robertson will speak to the critical role played by horses and mules in the war, far more of whom died than did humans, and to the invaluable role played by regimental mascots in boosting the morale and lifting the spirits of soldiers on both sides.

Dr. Robertson is the author or editor of more than 25 books on the Civil War. He served as Executive Director of the U.S. Civil War Centennial Commission in the 1960s and worked with Presidents Kennedy and Johnson in commemorating the war's 100th anniversary. He then taught 44 years at Virginia Tech before retiring in 2011 as Alumni Distinguished Professor Emeritus of History.

The recipient of every major award given in Civil War history and a lecturer of national acclaim, Dr. Robertson is probably more in demand as a speaker than anyone else in the field of Civil War studies.

Location: Bearden Banquet Hall, 5806 Kingston Pike

Time: May 9, 2017, Buffet at 7 PM & Speaker at 8 PM

**Fee: Dinner & Presentation-- \$15 for Members, \$17 for Non-members
Presentation only--\$3 for Members, \$5 for Non-members**

*****RESERVATIONS FOR THE BUFFET ARE REQUIRED. CALL (865) 671-9001 BY 11AM MONDAY, MAY 8th, AND LEAVE MESSAGE.**

THE SCOUT'S REPORT

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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.kewrtorg.wordpress.com



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