



For Knowledge, Commemoration and Preservation of Our Civil War

The Scout's Report

Knoxville Civil War Roundtable

P. O. Box 52232

Knoxville, TN 37950-2232

KCWRT Website: kcwrtorg.wordpress.com

VOLUME XXXVI

OCTOBER 2018

NO. 4

Tuesday, October 9, 2018

****Buffet at 6:30 PM****

****Speaker at 7:30 PM****

Dinner & Program

\$15.00 Members

\$17.00 Non-members

Program Only

\$3.00 Members

\$5.00 Non-members

**DINNER RESERVATIONS
MUST BE MADE OR
CANCELED BY 11AM,
MONDAY, OCTOBER 8.
CALL (865) 671-9001 AND
LEAVE MESSAGE**

MENU

Meatloaf
Honey Pecan Chicken
Garden Salad
Whipped Potatoes
Mixed Steamed Vegetables
Rolls
Beverages
Assorted Desserts

LOCATION

Bearden Banquet Hall
5806 Kingston Pike

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THE U.S. GRANT MEMOIRS: A RELUCTANT WRITER COMPOSES A MASTERPIECE

In the years after the Civil War, many of its participants both north and south wrote articles and memoirs discussing their roles in what they already had come to realize was a defining event in American history. U.S. Grant, however, opposed doing anything of the sort. From the start, he believed that the American public had no interest in anything he might say, and besides, he reasoned, he had no talent for writing. Yet he ended up producing what is universally acclaimed as the greatest work of non-fiction in American literary history. What happened? Like the memoirs themselves, how they came to be is a story worth knowing.

And who better to tell that story than preeminent Grant scholar John F. Marszalek, whose recently released annotated edition, *The Personal Memoirs of Ulysses S. Grant*, is getting considerable critical acclaim in its own right. "If Mark Twain called Grant's Memoirs 'a great, unique and unapproachable literary masterpiece,' *The Complete Annotated Edition* is its 'unique' companion," averred Ronald C. White, author of *American Ulysses: A Life of Ulysses S. Grant*. And no less an authority than Ron Chernow, author of *Grant and Hamilton* stated, "As the first fully annotated edition of Ulysses S. Grant's *Personal Memoirs*, this fine volume leaps straight onto the roster of essential reading for anyone even vaguely interested in Grant and the Civil War."

Come join us on October 9th and learn the story behind the story of Grant's Memoirs. This is one you're not going to want to miss!



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



There is an old story about a young African youth who walked down a path through eighteen miles of dangerous jungle to deliver a birthday gift to a missionary who had befriended him. The missionary gently chastised him for unnecessarily risking his life to deliver the gift. "But Miss Johnson," the boy exclaimed, "the long walk was part of my gift!"

The takeaway lesson here is that the gifts provided by others come in many different forms. Most commonly, the gifts that we choose to confer are material in nature. Then again, we may decide to share our individual talents with other people, giving freely of our time and energy to worthy causes involving service to others. According to numerous studies, there is a direct correlation between the gift of voluntary service and the sense of happiness and self-satisfaction that a person experiences. In 1983, The Knoxville Civil War Roundtable was formed by a small group of individuals who envisioned the need for an academic forum in the Knoxville area designed to study the American Civil War. Through their pioneering efforts, the Knoxville Civil War Roundtable has evolved into one of the finest Roundtables in the entire nation.

Bernard of Chartres, a 12th century scholar, once famously wrote: "We are like dwarfs on the shoulders of giants, so we can see more than them, and things at a great distance. It is not by virtue of any sharpness of sight on our part, or any physical distinction, but because we are carried high and raised up by their giant size."

Our current organization does indeed stand on the shoulders of giants. For over thirty-five years, volunteers from our membership have provided leadership and served as mentors and role models for those who succeeded them. They taught us by example the critical things that it takes to make an organization run smoothly and flawlessly over the years. The success or failure of the KCWRT rests entirely on the back of its volunteers. It is the soul of our Roundtable and the ultimate explanation for our prosperity. We owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to those who volunteered to serve the membership in the past and also gave unstintingly of their time and labor.

The management of the KCWRT requires the performance of a lot of work from individual volunteer board members and their collective "behind the scene" duties are far too numerous to describe in the space of one short page. There are a lot of moving parts involved in the management of this organization and they must all seamlessly flow together in order to conduct a successful Roundtable meeting each month.

The KCWRT continues to remain active in its long-term commitment to the preservation of Fort Dickerson. Each year, volunteers from our membership conduct a bi-annual clean-up of the park and donate their time and energy to hosting a special weekend that takes place in the fall. This year, our fall clean-up will be performed on October 6, 2018, from 9:00 a.m. until noon. Your assistance on that date will be immensely appreciated. On October 26th, 27th and 28th (Friday, Saturday and Sunday), the KCWRT will once again be hosting and participating in the Fort Dickerson Living History Weekend in conjunction with the City of Knoxville's Parks and Recreation Department. Two of our volunteer board members have put in long hours organizing and scheduling the different activities that will be available that weekend. The need for additional KCWRT volunteers to staff and manage the event is acute. I hope that you will consider assisting us during the course of the Living History Weekend by donating your time and effort to a wonderful cause.

Jack Spiceland, President

THE KNOXVILLE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

2018/2019 SPEAKERS SERIES

October 9

John Marszalek, H & A, The U.S. Grant Memoirs:
A Reluctant Writer Composes a Masterpiece

Upcoming:

Nov 13---Ed Bearss, Chief Historian Emeritus/Author, “Farthest Forward: Pickett and Pettigrew at Gettysberg”

Dec 11---Krista Castillo, Fort Negley Museum Coordinator, “Santa Claus in the Trenches: Celebrating Christmas in the Civil War”

Jan 2019 ---Jm Ogden, Historian, Chickamauga/Chattanooga NMP,TBD

November’s issue of The Scout will announce the 2019 Speaker Schedule *

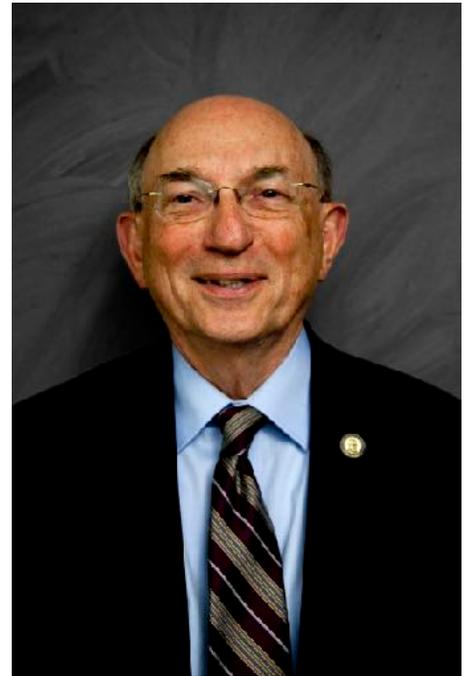


SAVE THE DATE! OCTOBER 27-28, 2018
Fort Dickerson Living History Weekend

WELCOME BACK TO KNOXVILLE, DR. JOHN MARSZALEK!

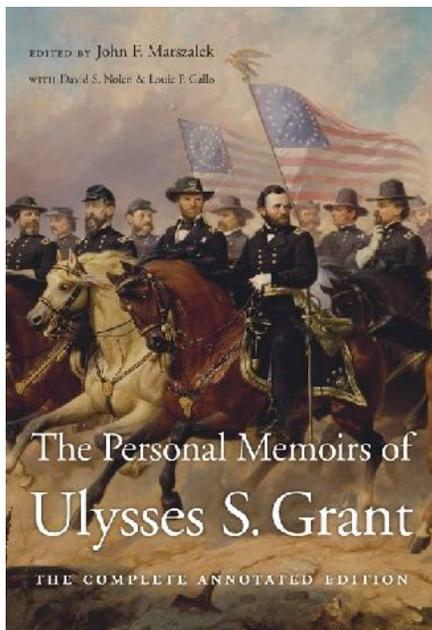
Dr. John F. Marszalek is Giles Distinguished Professor Emeritus of History at Mississippi State University. He began teaching at MSU in 1973 and retired from the History Department in 2002.

From 1998 to 2010, John served as director and mentor of MSU's Distinguished Scholar Program. From 2008 to the present, he has served as Executive Director and Managing Editor of the Ulysses S. Grant Association and the Ulysses S. Grant Presidential Library at MSU.



Beginning with his first book *Assault at West Point*, which was made into a made-for-television motion picture, Dr. Marszalek has written or edited some 15 books and 300 articles including award-winning biographies of Sherman, Halleck, and a book about the best writings of US Grant. In addition, Dr. Marszalek appears regularly on television, both in newscasts and documentaries.

His latest book, *The Personal Memoirs of Ulysses S. Grant*, was released in the fall of 2017 to much critical acclaim.



KCWRT expects a large turnout for both the October and November meetings and has **reserved the entire banquet space**. Be sure to make your reservation for the October 9 meeting by 11 a.m., Monday, October 8. Call 865-671-9001 and leave a message.

Fort Dickerson Living History Weekend

Everyone is invited to attend the weekend of October 27 & 28, 2018

Fort Dickerson, the Civil War earthworks atop a hill on Knoxville's southern riverfront, will once again be populated with soldiers in Blue and Gray as the Knoxville Civil War Roundtable and the City of Knoxville present a Living History weekend on October 27th and 28th, 2018. Local reenacting units, historians, and authors will commemorate the Siege of Knoxville that took place in November 1863.



Photo by Jerry Patterson, 2013

The free event is sponsored by the City of Knoxville's Parks and Recreation Department and hosted by the Knoxville Civil War Roundtable. To visit Fort Dickerson drive toward Sevierville on Chapman Highway (US-441). After crossing the Henley Street Bridge, proceed about 7/10 mile south of the Tennessee River, and turn right at the 3rd light signal. The entrance to the park is clearly marked.

Fort History

Fort Dickerson was one of sixteen earthen forts and battery positions surrounding Knoxville that were built by the United States

Army during the Civil War. It was one of three constructed upon the heights across the Holston (now Tennessee) River from Knoxville, the other two being Fort Stanley and Fort Higley.

The middle fort was named for Captain Jonathan C. Dickerson, 112th Illinois Mounted Infantry, who was killed in action near Cleveland, Tennessee.

Weekend Highlights & Parking

The Living History Weekend runs from 10 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. on Saturday October 27th, 2018, and from 11 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. on Sunday October 28th, 2018. Activities will include living history campsites, infantry drilling with rifle firing demonstrations, a Civil War medical and surgical exhibit, ladies fashions, battle reenactments, cannon firings, and a salute to all veterans including an American flag retirement ceremony. Visitors are invited to park for free at **"Wee Care Shoppe"** parking lot at 2537 Chapman Highway, across from Shoney's, where they can board a free shuttle to Fort Dickerson courtesy of the Knoxville Department of Parks and Recreation.

Special Note: Bring your American flags that are no longer in condition to be flown or displayed to the event so the members of the 8th Tennessee Volunteer Infantry can properly retire them. There will be a public flag retirement ceremony after the skirmish on both days of the event. We encourage everyone to bring their weathered flags.

Fort Dickerson Living History Weekend



School Day: Friday October 26, 2018

Activities

Saturday, October 27, 2018 Opening at 10:00 A.M.

Sunday, October 28, 2018 Opening at 11:00 A.M.

10:00 A.M. - Opening Ceremony, Saturday only

11:30 A.M.-Mustering in/Infantry Drill

2:00 P.M.-Civil War Skirmish

3:00 P.M.-Pass and Review; Plus Flag Retirement Ceremony

3:30 P.M. - Medical Demo

4:00 P.M.-Camps Closed to Public



**Other Activities throughout both days
Ladies Fashion, Civil War Arms,
Medical Demonstration, History of Fort
Dickerson and other interpreters talking
to the public about their historic
character.**

For more information on the event as well as Civil War History in Knoxville, go to <http://www.kcwrt.org>. Or contact Event Coordinator Tom Wright at 865-482-1680, thomaswright8@comcast.net, or Re-enactor Coordinator Perry Hill at 865-283-1691.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Big book sale at the November meeting!

KCWRT's November 13 meeting will have a GIANT BOOK SALE with more than 120+ books at bargain prices. The sale will begin at 5:30. There is no admission charge for the book sale, however the dinner requires a fee and a reservation in advance. Additionally, there is also a small fee required should you choose to stay and attend the speaker presentation only.

Extra Space at October & November Meetings

The Roundtable has reserved the entire banquet hall space for the next two meetings. We anticipate large crowds for upcoming programs. Make your reservation now for October meeting's dinner and the program. Prices and phone number are on page 1.

September Meeting Attendance

At the last meeting we had 73 diners of whom 7 were non-members. In addition we had 44 persons for the lecture only. — Treasurer Gene Akers

Saved: 63 Acres at Fort Donelson and Parker's Cross Roads

The American Battlefield Trust had an opportunity to save land at two of Tennessee's most famous battlefields. Now, they are thrilled to declare those 63 acres preserved, thanks to generous supporters, including KCWRT as a member of the Civil War Trust.

Fort Donelson was one of the first in a string of successes that earned Union general Ulysses S. Grant the moniker "Unconditional Surrender" Grant. Parker's Cross Roads is the place where Confederate general Nathan Bedford Forrest fearlessly declared, "charge 'em both ways," as his troops repelled a Union advance and lived to fight another day. The events on these two battlefields are essential to a full understanding of the Civil War in the Western Theater.

Read the whole story at the American Battlefield Trust website www.battlefields.org.



2013 Living History Weekend Photo by Jerry Patterson

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The Knoxville Civil War Round Table 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 <https://kcwrtorg.wordpress.com>

1st Class Postage

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