



KCWRT is a non-partisan, non-profit, educational forum for promotion of the knowledge, commemoration, and preservation of our American civil war heritage. Meetings are always open and visitors are always welcome.

The Scout's Report

Knoxville Civil War Roundtable

P. O. Box 52232

Knoxville, TN 37950-2232

KCWRT Website: kcwrtorg.wordpress.com

VOLUME XXXVI

MAY 2019

NO. 11

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

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

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

Dinner & Program

\$17.00 Members

\$20.00 Non-members

Program Only

\$5.00 Members

\$8.00 Non-members

**DINNER RESERVATIONS
MUST BE MADE OR
CANCELED BY 11AM,
MONDAY, MAY 13. CALL
(865) 671-9001 AND LEAVE
MESSAGE**

MENU

Lasagna
Char-Grilled Chicken
Steamed Broccoli
Oven Roasted New Potatoes
Rolls
Beverages
Assorted Desserts

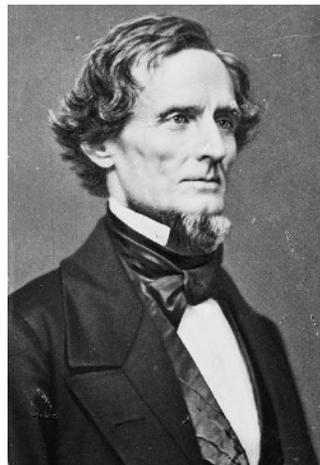
LOCATION

Bearden Banquet Hall
5806 Kingston Pike

THIS ISSUE

Jefferson Davis.....1
President's Message.....2
William Cooper bio.....3
2019 Speakers Series.....4
TN River Tour recap.....5
Fort Dickerson work.....6
Educational Outreach.....7

Jefferson Davis as President and Commander-in-Chief



More than 15,000 books have been written about Abraham Lincoln, more than anyone in history except for Jesus Christ. Meanwhile, Jefferson Davis, Lincoln's Confederate counterpart and antagonist, has languished in relative bibliographic obscurity. Perhaps that is not a bad thing, for while the klieg lights focused on Lincoln have largely illuminated his virtues as a man and as a president, Davis all

too often has been cast in a harsher light that has accentuated his shortcomings rather than his strengths. Was Davis a flawed leader? Did his personal failings contribute to Confederate defeat as some maintain, or could Lincoln himself not have succeeded under the circumstances Davis labored? A controversial figure in his own day, Davis remains very much the enigma today.

Come join us as pre-eminent Jefferson Davis scholar and award-winning author Dr. William C. Cooper, Jr. takes the Knoxville CWRT podium for the first time to address Davis and his years in the Confederate White House. Dr. Cooper's work on the complex Davis has been called "exhaustive", "comprehensive", and "definitive". Who better to address the political and military duties and roles Jefferson Davis played in the Civil War and assess his performance in each? Who better to cut through the complexity and unravel the enigma of Jefferson Davis? This is one you don't want to miss!



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



When most people think of field surgery during the Civil War, they envision a wounded soldier being forcibly held down while one of his appendages is surgically removed by a physician without the benefit of anesthesia.

Hollywood has largely perpetuated this misconception in its film dramatization of Civil War amputation scenes. In reality, the anesthetic properties of ether and chloroform were well known by the time of the Civil War, and anesthetics for surgical procedures were widely used by both Federal and Confederate forces during the war. Union medical records have documented the administration of anesthesia for at least 80,000 Federal soldiers during the four long years of conflict. Confederate numbers are less accurate since most of the supporting medical documentation was lost when Richmond burned in 1865. Although unauthenticated, it is believed from surviving records that the Confederacy also used anesthetics for a large majority of its wounded men.

Ether was first used as an anesthetic for surgery in 1846. The use of chloroform for surgical procedures swiftly followed in 1847. Civil War surgeons used chloroform in approximately 75% of the cases where anesthesia was used. Ether, or a combination of ether and chloroform, was used in other cases. Patients were also liberally provided with opium and its derivatives.

Chloroform was the preferred surgical anesthetic of choice for several reasons. Ether was highly flammable and volatile, less portable, and always had the potential for creating explosive and lethal scenarios in an era of gas and candle lighting. Chloroform was non-flammable, had a quicker onset of action, and required a smaller volume of liquid to render the patient unconscious.

The prevailing regimen of care dictated that the wounded receive only a low dose of the inhaled anesthetic for their surgery. The goal was to make

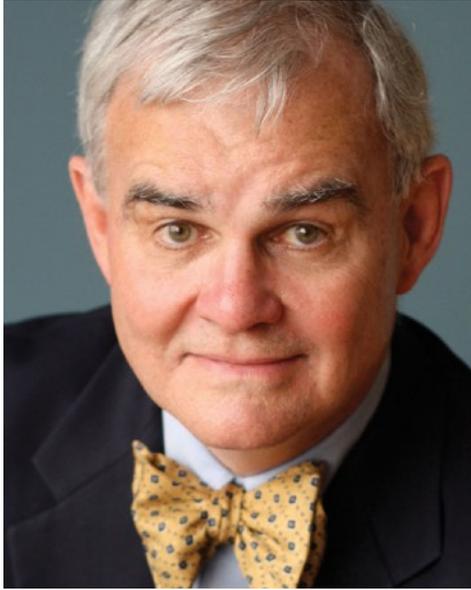
the patient insensitive to pain, but “light” enough to minimize the risks associated with deepening the anesthetic. An increasing level of anesthesia inevitably lowered the blood pressure to dangerous levels, resulting in circulatory collapse.

Respiratory failure was an omnipresent concern, and the aspiration of stomach contents in an unconscious patient quite often could lead to a fatal pneumonia. Many men moaned and moved about due to the agitating effects of a light dose of anesthesia. Some had to be held down by assistants, but they were unconscious and could not feel any pain.



It was reported that General Richard S. Ewell thrashed about when surgeons were amputating his leg. He had no memory of pain or these events following the surgery. General Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson remembered hearing the musical sound of the saw as his arm was amputated, but he also felt no pain. To the casual observer, the groaning of the men led to the erroneous assumption that surgery was being performed on conscious men without the benefit of anesthesia. This misperception spawned a plethora of false and misleading stories that have persisted until this day.

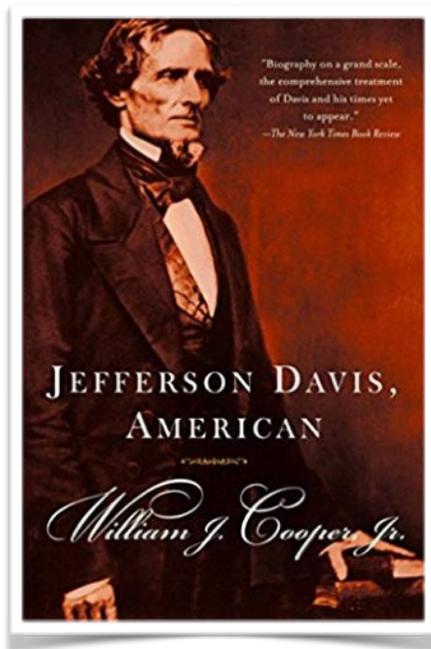
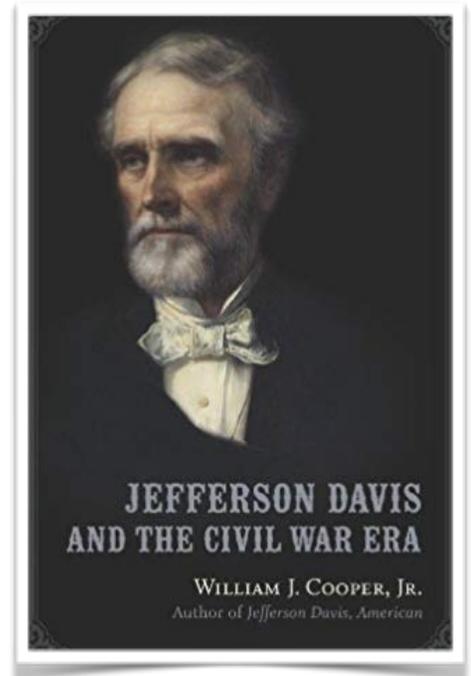
WELCOME TO KNOXVILLE, WILLIAM COOPER!



William J. Cooper is a Boyd Professor Emeritus at Louisiana State University. A native of Kingstree, S.C., he received his AB from Princeton University and his PhD from Johns Hopkins University. He served as an officer in the U.S. Army from 1966 to 1968. He spent his entire professional career at LSU, where he was also dean of the Graduate School from 1982 to 1989. He held fellowships from the Institute of Southern History at Johns Hopkins, the Charles Warren Center for Studies in American History at Harvard, the Guggenheim Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Humanities. He is a past president of the Southern Historical Association and a Fellow of the Society of American Historians.

Dr. Cooper is the author of *The Conservative Regime: South Carolina 1877-1890* (1968); *The South and the Politics of Slavery, 1828-1856* (1978); *Liberty and Slavery: Southern Politics to 1860* (1983); *Jefferson Davis, American* (2000), recipient of the Los Angeles Times Book Prize for Biography and the Jefferson Davis Award; *Jefferson Davis and the Civil War Era* (2008); *We Have the War Upon Us: The Onset of the Civil War, November 1860-April 1861* (2012), recipient of the

Jefferson Davis Award; *The Lost Founding Father: John Quincy Adams and the Transformation of American Politics* (2017); and *Approaching Civil War and Southern History* (2019). He is co-author of *The American South: A History* (2017, 5th edition), and has also edited or co-edited five other books.



He now lives in Atlanta with his wife Patricia.

THE KNOXVILLE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

2019-2020 SPEAKERS SERIES

Jun 11—Dan Feller, Historian, “*The Coming of the Civil War*”



**June Speaker:
Dan Feller**

Jul 9—Aaron Astor, Historian & Author, “*Reconstruction & The Aftermath of the Civil War*”



**July Speaker
Aaron Astor**

Coming this summer to the Roundtable is a two-part series of lectures focusing on the dark and turbulent times that bookended the Civil War. On June 11, UT professor Dan Feller will address “The Coming of the Civil War”, and on July 9 Maryville College professor Aaron Astor will speak to “The Aftermath of the Civil War”. In this special series, we’ll place the war in its historical context. The Civil War did not break out without warning, nor did hostilities end with the surrender of Lee and Johnston’s armies. Dr. Feller will examine the events that foreshadowed but couldn’t stave off the bloodiest period in American history. Dr. Astor, in turn, will explore those attempts that followed the war to bind up America’s wounds but couldn’t always rise above the deep-seated and lingering biases and animosities.

Aug 13—Brian Steel Wills, Historian & Author, “*The Civil War in Cinema*”

Sept 10—Chris Kolakowski, Historian & Author, “*Perryville*”



**December Speaker:
Jim Ogden**

Oct 8—Chris Mackowski, Historian & Editor, ECW, “*The Last Days of Stonewall Jackson*”



**November Speaker:
Ed Bearss**

Nov 12--Ed Bearss, Chief Historian Emeritus, NPS & Author, TBA

Dec 10--Jim Ogden, Historian, Chickamauga/Chattanooga NMP, “*Starving Rosecrans: Wheeler’s Raid of October ‘63*”

Jan 14, ‘20—Emma Murphy, Historian, “*The Aftermath of the Battle of Gettysburg*”

Reopening the Tennessee River Civil War Tour, March 23, 2019

I'm pleased to report that we had another successful Chattanooga battlefield tour in March! We had twenty-three KCWRT members and guests enjoy an all-day tour visiting sites associated with the operations of the Union Army's reopening of the Tennessee River in the autumn of 1863. We were lucky to have leading the tour NMP Historian, Jim Ogden, who I would say ranks as one of the best tour guides in the country!

This is our fifth consecutive March tour and fourth Chattanooga battlefield tour led by Jim. In March 2015, he led a tour focused on Sherman's assault on Cleburne's section of the line. In March 2016, our tour focused on the battle of Lookout Mountain, and in March 2018 we visited sites associated with the Army of the Cumberland and their successful assault up Missionary Ridge.

This year we focused on the operations in the autumn of 1863 that led to the reopening of the Tennessee River. These operations resulted in the formation of the Cracker line which allowed rations to flow into Chattanooga. This brought relief to the besieged Union Army of the Cumberland who were on quarter rations by that point in time.

We started our tour on the river side of Lookout Mountain traversing an old road that was used by the Confederates in 1863. Here Confederate soldiers had to run the gauntlet of Union artillery on Moccasin Bend to bring supplies from the western side of Lookout Mountain. We then went down to Moccasin Bend and followed portions of the old road that led down to the old landings along the Tennessee River where Union soldiers waited to cross the river during the operations in October 1863.

In contrast with many of the other tours we've taken in the past, this tour covered amphibious landings conducted by units from Army of the Cumberland to form beachheads from which pontoon bridges could be built. These bridges allowed Union troops to flow from Moccasin Bend to the other side of the Tennessee River. Since we



Jim Ogden discussing the Union landing at Brown's Ferry and the building of the pontoon bridges across the Tennessee River.

were lucky enough to have Jim as our guide, we got to visit and tour the portion of land recently acquired by the American Battlefield Trust (formally Civil War Trust) at Brown's Ferry!

Speaking for myself and I'm sure many others, it is

always nice to be able to go visit battlefield sites that have been preserved through organizations like the American Battlefield Trust and many others knowing that your donations helped to purchase that land and preserve it for future generations.

We then visited the Wauhatchie battle site where we discussed the fighting that occurred after the landings. The Wauhatchie fight was one of the few battles that occurred at night. Additionally, I would also like to point out that this is one of the few actions in the Western Theater where units from the Eastern Theater, Union Army of the Potomac (Corps XI and XII) and the Confederate Army of North Virginia (Longstreet's Corps) fought. At the last stop of the tour, we passed the hat and, I'm pleased to announce, collected \$327 which we gave to Jim in gratitude for taking time out of his busy schedule to give our group a tour of the reopening of the Tennessee. Jim said it would go to further preservation of more Civil War sites hopefully in the Chattanooga area.

These tours have been so successful I have asked Jim for another March tour in 2020. Please look for future announcements next winter.

Fort Dickerson Clean-Up

Volunteers across America spurred on by the American Battlefield Trust turned out on Saturday, April 6, 2019 to attend to the maintenance needs of museums and historic sites across the country. For us in the Knoxville Civil War Roundtable, this meant attending to the ongoing needs of our adopted site, Fort Dickerson. Seventeen people showed up for the event including eleven Roundtable members, Knoxville Police Department Explorers, and two of event-organizer Eric Wayland's extended family. The beautiful morning made the work a joy, and much was accomplished. Thanks to the ongoing work at the fort by the Roundtable and the City of Knoxville, Fort Dickerson has never looked better. A steady stream of visitors to the site throughout the morning and early afternoon testified to the interest the fort now holds for the community.



Volunteers L to R: John Burkhart, Jason Wasilewski, Eli Beatty, Fiora Cruey, Lincoln Hugo, Katherine Grote, Gene Akers, Dale Green, Jerry Patterson, Jack Spiceland, Travis Henson, Eric Wayland, Dennis Urban, Brian Burroughs. Absent from photo: Neil Williams, Ken Failing, & Jim Doncaster, photographer.

April Meeting Attendance

At the April meeting we had 70 diners. Four of those were non-members. In addition, we had 29 persons for the lecture only. — Treasurer Gene Akers

KCWRT EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH



Gerald Augustus teaches a class of Oak Ridge Institute of Continued Learning (ORICL) members about the Battle of Campbell Station on March 27th. Over 30 people attended his presentation.

On Tuesday, April 30th from 11 a.m. to noon, he gave a presentation on, as well as showed, Civil War weapons, munitions and artifacts at the Tellico Village Library.



The Battle of Fort Sanders was the first in a series of four classes Dewey Beard provided to the Oak Ridge Institute for Continued Learning during the month of April.

The Tennessee River Civil War Tour



Group photo on the banks of the Tennessee River at Brown's Ferry.

The Scout's Report of the Knoxville Civil War Round Table

For Knowledge, Commemoration, and Preservation of Our Civil War Heritage

President
Jack Spiceland
jspiceland@charter.net

Director of Preservation
Eric Wayland
ericwayland@gmail.com

Director of Technology
Jim Stovall
jgstovall@gmail.com

Past President
John Burkhart
laurapowers@bellsouth.net

Director of Community Activities
Tim Vane
tdvane@comcast.net

Newsletter Editor
Linda Billman
linbillman@gmail.com

Vice President
Stan Sech
zachsam@yahoo.com

Director of Membership
Jerry Patterson
jerrykpatterson@comcast.net

Director at Large
Trent Laviano
Phoenix-24@Live.com

Secretary
Steve Dean
Sdean2740@charter.net

Director of Promotions
Sheila Burchfield
sheila@samico.us

Director at Large
Tom Wright
thomaswright8@comcast.net

Treasurer
Gene Akers
POET0840@aol.com

Director of Programming
Jim Doncaster
jdoncaster1@msn.com

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

Knoxville Civil War Roundtable
PO Box 52232
Knoxville, TN 37950-2232

