



KCWRT is a non-partisan, non-profit, educational forum for promotion of 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: kcwrt.org

VOLUME XXXVII

FEBRUARY 2020

NO. 8

Tuesday, February 11, 2020

****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, FEBRUARY 10.
CALL (865) 671-9001 AND
LEAVE MESSAGE**

MENU

Pork Tenderloin
Lemon Pepper Chicken
Garden Salad
Wild Rice w/ Mushrooms
Spinach Casserole
Rolls
Beverages
Assorted Desserts

LOCATION

Bearden Banquet Hall
5806 Kingston Pike
Knoxville, TN 37919

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Admiral David Farragut and the War on the Waters

The Union Navy was one of the North's major advantages in the Civil War. Although the Navy started the war short of vessels and men, it could call on the North's ship building capabilities for warships and its large pool of men with sea-going experience for sailors. The Union could also call on a sizable group of experienced officers to command its growing flotillas.



Perhaps the best of these officers was David Glasgow Farragut. Born in Campbell's Station here in Knox County, he went to sea with his adoptive father Captain David Porter when he was a young teenager. He served bravely on Porter's frigate, the *Essex*, in the War of 1812 and stayed in the Navy, gaining valuable experience on sea and land duty, after the war. By the time of the Civil War Farragut had mastered the technological changes that had swept over the world's navies in the first half of the nineteenth century—steam power, rifled cannons firing explosive shells, and ironclads. When the war came, Farragut was living in Norfolk awaiting orders from the Navy. Although a Southerner by birth and married to a Virginian, he strongly opposed Southern secession and never wavered in his commitment to the federal government. Despite suspicions regarding his loyalty—he was initially assigned to a desk job in New York City--he was given the major role of commanding the Gulf Blockading Squadron in the winter of 1862. The assignment gave Farragut the opportunity to display his superlative planning and leadership skills as well as his dauntless courage at New Orleans, on the Mississippi River, and at Mobile Bay where his stirring order "Damn the torpedoes! Full steam ahead!" became part of US Navy lore.

Come join us as Tom Fine, long-time Round Table member and student of Farragut, traces the career of Knox County's native son and his many contributions to the war effort. Emphasis will be placed on Farragut's critical role in the Union Navy's effort to isolate the Confederacy and on his heroic actions in numerous naval engagements, actions that enabled him to become the first American to earn the rank of "Rear Admiral" and "Admiral" in the US Navy.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This month, our speaker will be one of our members, Thomas Fine. He will be speaking on local hero, David Farragut. The town of Farragut has an excellent museum dedicated to its native son. I have been there a couple of times, and I'm always happy to make photographs, so I set out to get a couple more pictures to add to my collection. I had taken some earlier, but the day was bright, making it difficult to capture the statue correctly. The other day was overcast, so I was able to get a couple of better shots, especially of the statue. I don't want to take away too much of Tom's lecture, so I will focus on other Farragut sites as well.



Statue at Farragut Museum

The Farragut Birthplace Park was dedicated in April, 2012. Several of us attended the dedication ceremony. It is located across the cove from the site where the family home stood. His father ran a ferry in the area, after serving in the Revolutionary War. The family left the area when Admiral Farragut was 6 and relocated to New Orleans. After the death of his parents, he was reared



Site of Birthplace of Farragut

and later adopted by a family friend, Captain David Porter. He got his start as a sailor by his connection with Porter. Farragut was the first person to hold the ranks of Rear Admiral, Vice Admiral, and Admiral of the United States Navy.

In 2013 we went to Fort Gaines in Mobile Bay. This is the site where the phrase "Damn the torpedoes, Full steam ahead!" originated. It is located on Dauphin Island, and it is a preserved site, but it was previously placed on the list of endangered Civil War Sites. The fort was also used during the Spanish-American War, and hurricane damage and erosion are always a threat. It was this battle at Fort Gaines that sealed Farragut's hero status, a decisive victory ensuring that the port of Mobile would be controlled by the Union and completing a



Interior of Fort Gaines

blockade in the Gulf and Mississippi River region.

I look forward to hearing more about Admiral Farragut. Hope you can join us for dinner and the meeting.

The Board of Directors Meeting will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 4 at 6:00 pm.



Cannon from the U.S.S. Hartford, Farragut's Flagship at the Battle of Mobile Bay

Tammie McCarroll-Burroughs, President

A BIG WELCOME TO OUR OWN TOM FINE!



Tom Fine is a retired TVA attorney. Thanks to a family trip to Gettysburg when he was a young boy, Tom has had a life-long interest in military history in general and Civil War history in particular. Born and raised in Massachusetts, he was converted into a Southerner by four years at Duke University where he majored in history. After obtaining his law degree at Boston University, he spent a year working for a federal district judge in Birmingham, Alabama, but he spent the bulk of his legal career representing TVA in courts across the region. Taking advantage of his business travel he visited such hallowed places as Fort Donelson, Shiloh, Chattanooga and Chickamauga. He has been a member of the Round Table since its formative years in the '80s. In times past, he has spoken to the Round Table and other groups on a raft of Civil War topics. He has also made a lecture tour of Sweden, discussing the impact of weather on war.

2020 DOROTHY E. KELLY PRESERVATION GRANT

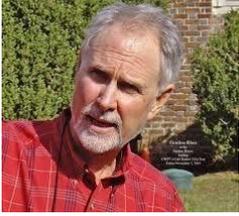
A group, individual, or organization whose work is deserving of KCWRT support may qualify for the annual Dorothy E. Kelly Preservation Grant. In December 2015, KCWRT created the grant to honor Dot Kelly for her many years of service to KCWRT and her tireless efforts toward the preservation of Knoxville's Civil War history and historic sites. The annual grant, not to exceed \$500, is awarded to a group, individual, or organization for a Knoxville area Civil War preservation project.

The grant application deadline is April 3, 2020.

All applications for the Dorothy E. Kelly Preservation Grant are to be submitted in writing. For an application and more information contact Tim Vane, tdvane@comcast.net. Submissions will be reviewed and awarded by the KCWRT. The winner will be announced at the ETHS annual meeting in spring 2020.

THE KNOXVILLE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

2020 SPEAKERS SERIES



March 2020 Speaker:
Gordon Rhea

Mar 10—Gordon Rhea, Attorney & Author, “Cold Harbor”

Apr 14—Dennis Frye, Historian & Author,
“Antietam Shadows: Mystery, Myth, and Machination”

**May 12—Timothy Smith, Historian & Author, “The Real Horse
Soldiers: Grierson’s Epic 1863 Raid through Mississippi”**



June 2020 Speaker:
Earl Hess

**June 9—Earl Hess, Historian & Author, “Civil War Combat: Enduring
the Ordeal in the Moment and After”**

July 14—Thomas Cartwright, Historian, “Sam Watkins—Company Aytch”

**Aug 11—John Urschel, Historian & CW Blogger, “Colonel Orlando Moore: The Best
Regimental and Brigade Commander You’ve Never Heard Of”**

Sept 15— Frank O’Reilly, Historian, Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania NMP, TBD

**Oct 13—Scott Mingus, Historian & Author, “Flames Beyond Gettysburg: The
Confederate Expedition to the Susquehanna River, June 1863”**

Nov 10— David Dixon, Historian & Author, “The Lost Gettysburg Address”

Dec 8—Jim Ogden, Chief Historian, Chickamauga & Chattanooga NMP, TBA

Wilder's Lightning Brigade at Chickamauga Civil War Tour, Saturday, March 21, 2020—by Neil J. Williams

Please join us on Saturday, March 21st, 2020, as we tour the locations and places where John Wilder's Lightning Brigade took the field during the Battle of Chickamauga September 18-20, 1863. We are pleased to have Jim Ogden, Chief Historian at Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park, returning as our guide.

This will be the KCWRT's fifth trip with Jim Ogden who on prior tours covered different portions of the Campaign and Battle of Chattanooga and the Battle of Resaca. This tour will follow the actions and tell the story of the men of Wilder's Lightning Brigade during the Battle of Chickamauga. The Battle of Chickamauga was the second bloodiest battle of the Civil War and the first Confederate victory in the Western Theater. While Chickamauga was a major setback for Federal forces and much of the Army of the Cumberland was driven off the field, one of the few units that was not driven off the field of battle was Wilder's Brigade of mounted infantry. This brigade was known as the Lightning Brigade as they would ride into battle, dismount and fight on foot. Wilder's Brigade was also the first brigade in the Federal army to be armed with the Spencer repeating rifle which

allows for a higher volume of fire (14 rounds per minute compared to 2 to 3 for a muzzle loading rifle). This high volume of fire was noted by Confederate troops who faced Wilder's Brigade and thought they had run into a Federal Division rather than a brigade.

For some good background reading on the Battle of Chickamauga and Wilder's Lightning Brigade please see William Glenn Robertson's *River of Death*, David Powell's Trilogy on the Chickamauga Campaign and Richard Baumgartner's *Blue Lightning: Wilder's Mounted Infantry Brigade in the Battle of Chickamauga*; or visit the American Battlefield Trust's (formerly Civil War Trust) web page (<https://www.battlefields.org/learn/civil-war/battles/chickamauga>) which has extensive information on the battle and the people that fought in it.

If you plan to go on the tour covering the actions of Wilder's Lightning Brigade at Chickamauga, please send an email to Neil Williams at njwilliams85@gmail.com, so I can add your name to the list.

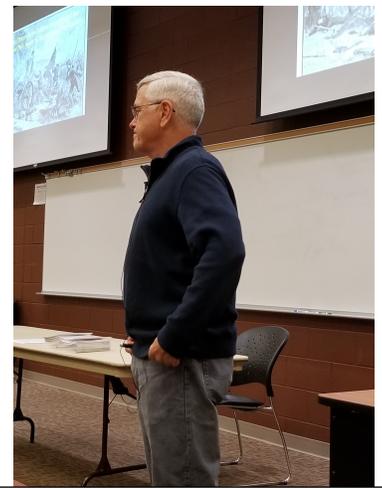
January Meeting Attendance

We had a total of 133 in attendance for the January meeting. There were 96 diners with 20 of those being non-members. In addition there were 37 for the lecture only.
- Treasurer Gene Akers

KCWRT UPCOMING COMMUNITY SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

On 19 February from 2:30 - 3:40 p.m. Tim Vane will be at the Oak Ridge Institute for Continued Learning and the topic is: "From Chevrons to Bars: The Corporals, Sergeants, Lieutenants and Captains Who Fought the Civil War."

On 27 February from 11 a.m. - Noon Tim will be at the Tellico Village Library and his talk is titled "From the Obscure to the Sublime: Forgotten Civil War Battles and Their Impact on the Outcome of the Conflict."



"From the Obscure to the Sublime: Forgotten Battles of the Civil War and Their Impact on the Conflict" was the topic of Tim Vane's class in November 2019 to the Oak Ridge Institute for Continued Learning.

Reminder: If you're planning to participate in the March 21, 2020 Chickamauga field trip with Historian Jim Ogden tracing the movements and telling the story of Wilder's Lightning Brigade at Chickamauga, please email Neil Williams at njwilliams85@gmail.com to sign up.

Upcoming lectures in the Frank H. McClung Museum Civil War Lecture Series

- February 23: **"Ambrose Burnside: Knoxville's Liberator or Conqueror?"** After years of urging by President Lincoln, Union troops finally took Knoxville more than half-way through the war. Burnside emerged from failure as commander of the Army of the Potomac, to become a liberating hero to Unionists in East Tennessee. His command decisions determined Knoxville's fate in 1863-65.
- March 29: **"James Longstreet: Hero at Chickamauga or Failure at Independent Command?"** Robert E. Lee's 'Old War Horse' was pleased with the August 1863 plan to reinforce the Army of Tennessee and perhaps saw himself as the successor to unpopular General Braxton Bragg. Infighting among the top Confederate generals led to Longstreet's orders to retake Knoxville in early November. As Longstreet predicted, nothing about that campaign went well.
- April 26: **"William T. Sherman: East Tennessee is my Horror"** yet he raced to the rescue of the besieged army of Gen. Burnside in November 1863. He praised the quality of the Knoxville defenses of engineer Orlando Poe. The photographs of those fortifications by George Barnard also caught his attention. Recognizing excellence, Sherman handpicked both Poe and Barnard for his 'March to the Sea.'

The McClung Museum is located at 1327 Circle Park Drive. Museum admission is free. The museum's hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Saturday and 1 to 5 p.m. on Sundays. Free parking is available on the weekends. Free public transportation to the museum is available on the Knoxville Trolley Vol Line. All lectures are free and open to the public. See <https://mcclungmuseum.utk.edu/> for more information about family programming, parking, and collections and exhibits.

CONTACTS:

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Farragut Museum Features Admiral Farragut Artifacts

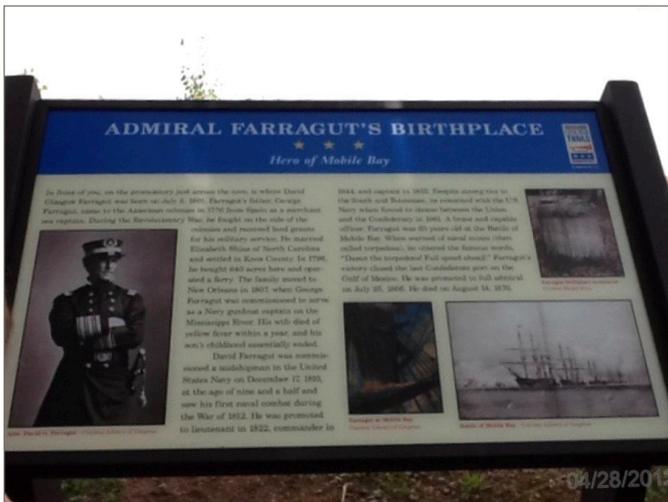
The Farragut Museum is located inside Farragut Town Hall. It is home to one of the largest collections of Admiral David Farragut artifacts in the country. Museum hours are Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. - 4:30 pm and admission is free.



Statue at Farragut Museum



Interior of Museum



Historical Marker at Museum



Model of Farragut's Ship

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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 kcwrt.org.

1st Class Postage

Knoxville Civil War Roundtable
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Knoxville, TN 37950-2232

