



The Scout's Report

Knoxville Civil War Roundtable

P. O. Box 52232

Knoxville, TN 37950-2232

KCWRT Website:

www.kcwrt.org

VOLUME XXXII

MAY, 2016

NO. 11

Tuesday, MAY 10, 2016
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, MAY 9
CALL (865) 671-9001
AND LEAVE MESSAGE

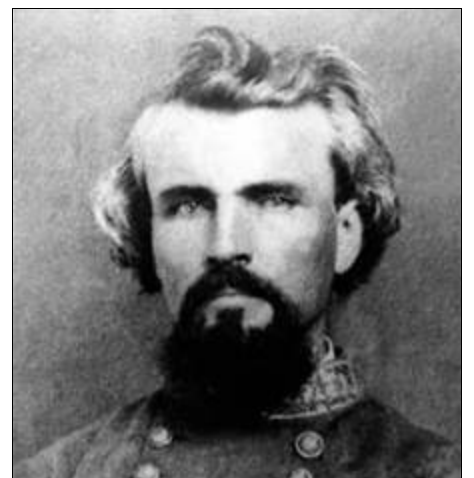
MENU:
Lasagna
Char-grilled Chicken
Steamed Broccoli
Oven Roasted New Potatoes
Garden Salad
Rolls
Beverages
Assorted Desserts
LOCATION:
Bearden Banquet Hall
5806 Kingston Pike

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~FAILURE IN THE SADDLE~

FORREST AND WHEELER IN THE CHICKAMAUGA CAMPAIGN

Braxton Bragg may not have been the most brilliant strategist or the most able tactician in the Confederate army, but no commander is well served when his lieutenants fail to take the initiative, follow orders, or make good judgment calls of their own. Despite the presence of two Southern cavalry corps—nearly 14,000 men-- under legendary leaders Nathan Bedford Forrest and Joe Wheeler, Union troops under William Rosecrans in August of 1863 crossed the Tennessee River and slipped through the mountain passes unseen and unopposed, thereby turning Bragg's left and forcing his Army of Tennessee out of its base in Chattanooga. "After two more weeks of maneuvering, skirmishing, and botched attacks Bragg struck back at Chickamauga, where he was once again surprised by the position of the Union army and the manner in which the fighting unfolded." Although he was able to defeat the Union Army of the Cumberland in signal fashion and drive it back into Chattanooga, his victory in the end counted for naught. Join us as author and historian Dave Powell leads us over some of the ground he covered in his book *Failure in the Saddle* as he examines the role the Confederate cavalry played in the loss of Chattanooga and "the staggering number of miscues that followed up to, through, and beyond Chickamauga."



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – MAY, 2016

Speaker Meeting Attendance

For the April meeting, we had 54 diners of whom 4 were non-members with two being the speaker and his son. In addition we had 32 persons for the lecture only and two of those were non-members.

Please be sure to make your reservation for the May 10 meeting by calling in your dinner reservations before 11 am on Monday, May 9.

For some reason, I let the April message pass without calling to your attention the 151st anniversary of the assassination of President Lincoln. I apologize for the oversight. As the first United States president to be assassinated and in such a brutal manner, the history of Reconstruction, of the civil rights movement and indeed the history of the entire nation country was forever changed by the untimely death of Abraham Lincoln. Sometime in the near future, a not often seen large painting of a scene from that event will go on display at the Ford's Theatre Museum on Tenth Street in Washington, DC.

In April 1865 a young German artist, Carl Bersch, was living in an adjoining boarding house on the north side of the Petersen house. His first floor room was above the street level and had a wrought iron balcony overlooking Tenth Street and Ford's Theatre. Bersch came to the United States around 1861 and worked in several cities around the east as a portrait artist and in the photography field. He is reputed to have spent time in Tennessee as well. Just when he came to Washington City is not established and he is said to have worked for Matthew Brady in his photographic studio.

During the week of April 9th, after General Lee's surrender was reported, the city's population was in a celebratory mood with crowds spontaneously demonstrating in the streets, a "grand illumination" of gaslights and candles displayed on public buildings and private homes, and banners decorating buildings and strung across streets. Fireworks were shot into the night sky and cannon fire rattled and broke fragile windows.

On Friday evening April 14th, Bersch, ever the artist, was drawing the scenes visible from his balcony. He was aware of Lincoln's visit to the theater that night so he stepped out on his balcony with "easel and sketch papers" in hand to draw the scene intending later to commit them to a painting.

His words, written in a letter to his family a few days later, tell the story. *"Shortly after 10 o'clock a silence fell upon the surging crowd of revelers. The marching line halted. A loud cry came from the window of the theater, 'President Lincoln has been shot; clear the street,' soldiers and police attended to that. In the course of 10 or 15 minutes, out of the north door of the theater appeared a group of men, carrying the prostrate form of an injured man on an improvised stretcher...I recognized the lengthy form of the President by the flickering light of the torches, and one large gas lamp post on the sidewalk. The tarrying at the curb and the slow, careful manner in which he was carried across the street, gave me ample time to make an accurate sketch of that particular scene; (I will) make it the center and outstanding part of a large painting I shall make."*

A short time later, Bersch did just that. He titled his painting, *Lincoln Borne by Loving Hands on the Night of April 14, 1865*. The over-sized painting was made for his family and never sold commercially. The painting was not displayed until 1932 when his daughter loaned the painting to the Ford's Theatre Museum. Later, the painting was willed to the White House, but not displayed. The painting was given back to the National Park Service and again exhibited in Ford's Theatre. At some point, it was put in storage where it remained for many years.



Lincoln Borne by Loving Hands on the Night of April 14, 1865



For the past year, the painting was undergoing a professional cleaning and restoration. It will soon be displayed again in the Ford's Theatre Museum. If you plan to be in or near Washington, DC, I suggest contacting the museum to determine if the painting is on display. To my knowledge, this is the only painting done by an eyewitness to this particular scene. I hope to see it and photograph it later this summer.

Source: Boothiebarn.com

Dennis D. Urban, President

**THE KNOXVILLE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
2016 SPEAKERS SERIES**

May 10--- David Powell, Historian/Author, “Wheeler & Forrest: The Failure of the Cavalry in the Chickamauga Campaign”

June 14--- Bud Robertson, Historian/Author, “The Four-Legged Soldiers”

July 12---John Marszalek, Miss. State Prof/Author, “Sherman: A Soldier’s Passion for Order”

August 9---Richard McMurry, Historian/Author, “General Johnston and the Atlanta Campaign”

September 13---Gordon Rhea, Author/Historian, “Cold Harbor”

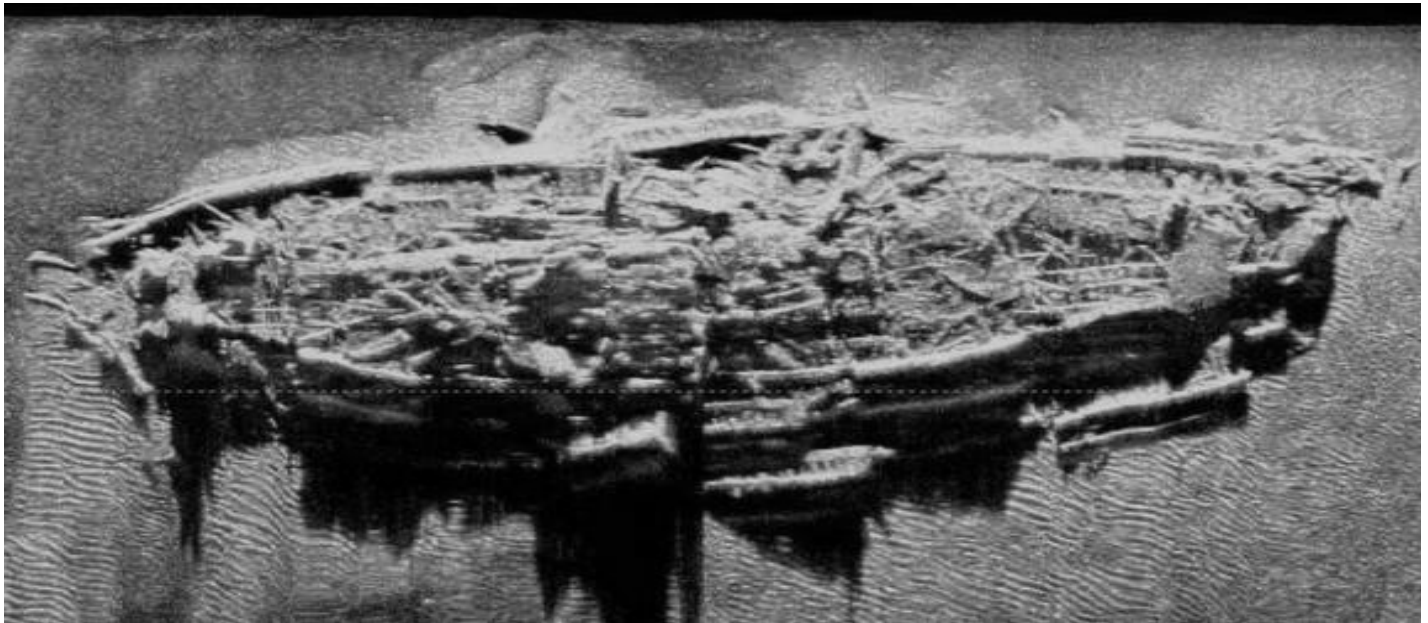
October 11---Frank O’Reilly, NPS Historian/Author, “Lee after the War”

*****November 15---Ed Bearss, Chief Historian Emeritus/Author, TBA*****

December 13---Jim Ogden, Historian Chickamauga/Chattanooga NMP, “The Great Locomotive Chase”

*****SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT*****

DUE TO THE UPCOMING PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION HELD TUESDAY NOVEMBER 8 2016, THE KNOXVILLE CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE HAS MOVED THE NOVEMBER MEETING ONE WEEK LATER, TO TUESDAY NOVEMBER 15, 2016, MARK YOUR CALENDARS!! YOU DO NOT WANT TO MISS ED BEARSS!!

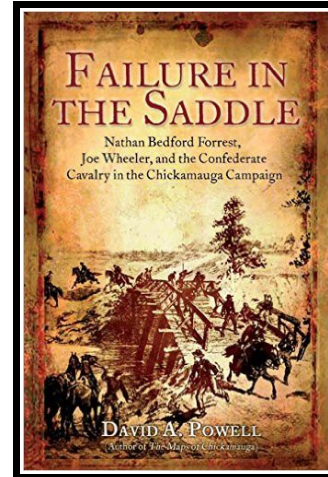
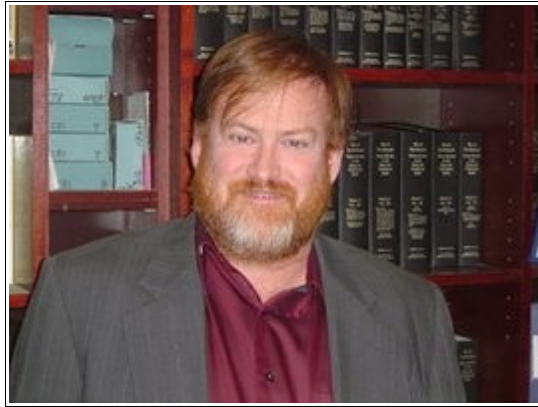


Shipwreck of Blockade Runner Agnes E. Frye located off NC Coast. With aid of Sonar:
“We were also able to ascertain that there is 5 feet of preservation inside of the cargo hole,” said Deputy State Archaeologist, Billy Ray Morris. “We know from historical documentation that she was not unloaded. I think this may be our first opportunity to look at an almost full cargo hold from a Blockade Runner.”

<http://www.wect.com/story/31776615/new-details-emerge-about-sunken-blockade-runner>

<http://www.ncdcr.gov/press-release/recently-discovered-civil-war-blockade-runner-tentatively-identified-agnes-e-frye>
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Agnes_E._Frye

WELCOME to KNOXVILLE, DAVE POWELL!

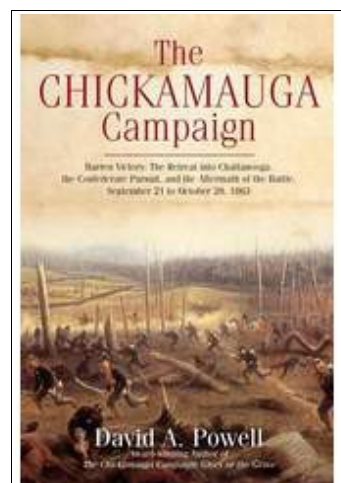
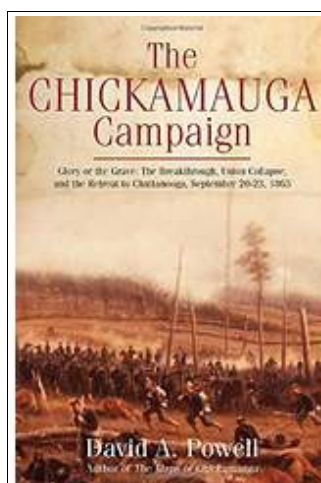
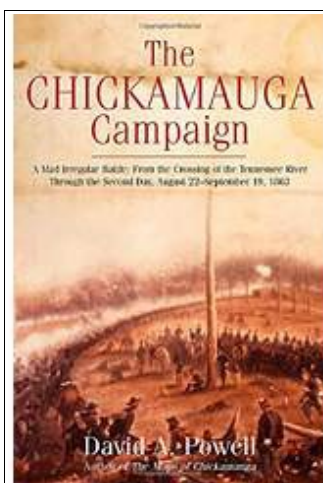
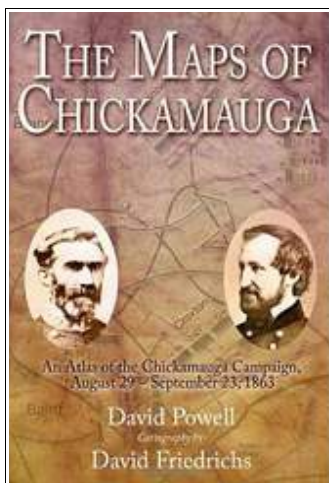


Dave Powell, our May speaker, is a graduate of the Virginia Military Institute (1983) with a BA in history. He has published numerous articles in various magazines and more than fifteen historical simulations of different battles.

For the past decade Dave's focus has been on the battle of Chickamauga, and he is nationally recognized for his writings on and tours of that important battlefield. His first full-length book on the battle was *The Maps of Chickamauga* (2009) followed two years later by *Failure in the Saddle: Nathan Bedford Forrest, Joe Wheeler, and the Confederate Cavalry in the Chickamauga Campaign* (2011), the subject of this month's presentation.

Dave is currently completing work on what Amazon has referred to as his "magisterial Chickamauga Campaign Trilogy". The first volume of that massive work, titled *The Chickamauga Campaign: A Mad Irregular Battle*, was released in 2014, while the second installment, *Glory or the Grave*, was published last year. The final volume, *Barren Victory*, is scheduled for release in September 2016.

David and his wife Anne live and work in the northwest suburbs of Chicago, Illinois. He is Vice President of Airsped, Inc., a specialized delivery firm.



FORT DICKERSON CLEAN UP DAY PICTORIAL April 2, 2016

(Photos courtesy Tammie McCarroll-Burroughs)





“We had a beautiful day for our park day clean up! We had over a dozen Explorer Scouts and two of my National Junior Honor Society students from Lenoir City Middle School to help. The park was spruced up in record time, and the teenagers really helped us tremendously.”
---Tammie McCarroll-Burroughs



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 call 865-671-9001 or go to our website: www.kcwrt.org

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