



The Scout's Report

Knoxville Civil War Roundtable

P. O. Box 52232

Knoxville, TN 37950-2232

KCWRT Website:

www.kcwrt.org

VOLUME XXXIII

SEPTEMBER, 2016

NO. 3

Tuesday, SEPT. 13, 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, SEPT 12
CALL (865) 671-9001
AND LEAVE MESSAGE**

MENU:

- Southern Beef Roast
- Lemon Pepper Chicken
- Garden Salad
- Oven Roasted New Potatoes
- Carrots
- Rolls
- Beverages
- Assorted Desserts

LOCATION:

Bearden Banquet Hall
5806 Kingston Pike

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THE ROCK FAILS TO ROLL: GEORGE H. THOMAS AT KENNESAW MOUNTAIN

The American Civil War opened avenues for many individuals to emerge as leaders in the conflict. In 1861, George Thomas brought with him a West Point education and extensive earlier service in the field, including active involvement in the Mexican-American War. Before Thomas could become one of the most renowned general officers to serve the Union, however, he had to overcome doubts concerning his Virginia birth, his fidelity to the Union cause, and his willingness to wage campaigns zealously against his fellow Southerners.



His meticulous manner, reflected in the pre-war nickname, "Old Slow Trot," also raised questions in the minds of superiors and some colleagues about the degree to which Thomas might be able to contribute to ultimate Union victory. George Henry Thomas overcame his doubters to become one of the Union's top generals, known best to history as "the Rock of Chickamauga."

Even so, when ordered to punch through the defenses of Joseph Johnston at Kennesaw Mountain during the 1864 Atlanta Campaign, Thomas found the work formidable in the face of some of the Confederacy's finest fighters —Patrick Cleburne and Benjamin Franklin Cheatham.

Come join us as author and historian Brian Steel Wills takes us for an in-depth look at the triumphant life and career of General Thomas while zeroing in on one of his more challenging days.

**RESERVATIONS REQUIRED FOR DINNER
CALL 865-671-9001**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Speaker Meeting Attendance and ETHS Fair

A thank you to everyone who attended the August meeting. There were 69 diners, five who were non-members. Also attending were an additional 20 members and two guests to hear the lecture. Total attendance for Dr. McMurry's lecture was 91. Thank you for your attendance and support.

Remember to make your dinner reservation by 11 a.m. on September 12th to hear Professor Brian Steel Wills speak on "George Henry Thomas". Please plan on attending.

A special thank you to Jim Doncaster, Dick Heisser, Dennis Urban, Jerry Patterson, Dave Terwell, Bill Lawhon, Stan Sech and Eric Wayland for their representation of the KCWRT at the East Tennessee History Fair on August 20th. I encourage all of our members to volunteer for KCWRT events as opportunities are presented. It is a very rewarding experience.

Hans Henry Danielson

Hans Danielson was born December 18th, 1832 in Norway and immigrated with his parents to Dane County Wisconsin. He married Elizabeth Anderson and settled in a newly established settlement in the area of Red Wing, Minnesota in August of 1856. Six years later Hans and his brother John were called to service in Company G, 7th Minnesota. Hans and Elizabeth were my Great Great Grandparents and Hans served in the Union Army. This is a brief account of a Norwegian immigrant who first saw action in the Great Sioux Uprising and later in the American Civil War.

The 7th Minnesota Infantry Regiment was formed in response to President Lincoln's calls for an additional 600,000 Northern troops in the summer of 1862. No sooner formed and the 7th was called to respond to the Sioux Uprising in the areas of Morton and New Ulm in Southern Minnesota. Hans served under Colonel Henry Sibley and fought against the Sioux at Birch Coulee and the Battle of Wood Lake in Southwestern Minnesota. He participated in expeditions against the Sioux Warriors that took him as far north and west as to the Missouri River near what is present day Bismarck, North Dakota.



With the defeat of the Sioux, the 7th Minnesota was sent south under the command of General A.J. Smith first to St Louis and later to the Memphis. In the summer and fall of 1864 Hans and the 7th took part in battles at Tupelo, Mississippi against Southern Armies commanded by General Nathan Bedford Forrest and General Sterling Price in Arkansas and Missouri. The defeat of Price marked the end of the Southern organized military operations west of the Mississippi.

Late in November, the 7th Minnesota as part of the Sixteenth Corps, arrive in Nashville commanded by General George Henry Thomas. Confederate General John B. Hood was in position and threatening the Union lines south of the city. The Battle of Nashville begin on December 14th and on the 16th it changed Hans Danielson's life as he suffered an extremely serious wound to his leg from fragments of a cannon shot. Hans was transported to a hospital in Louisville where his leg was amputated at the hip. Most men who suffered this type of wound did not survive. Hans returned home to Minnesota and was mustered out of the Union Army in August of 1865.

President's Message cont.

Upon his return home, the future looked bleak with a wife, four small children, his handicap and a homestead in need of attention, but with courage and fortitude he and Elizabeth overcame all of these problems. They were frontier people that rebuilt their lives building up a Midwestern farmstead and erecting a large machine shop. His shop became his pride and joy and as modern as any in nearby towns in those days. Hans and Elizabeth had twelve children. Hans Henry Danielson died on March 6, 1908.

Hans H. Danielson picture taken at the 7th Minnesota 1905 Civil War Reunion

I know that many of you have similar stories of relatives that served in the Civil War. If you would like to share their story, please send in an article about them and their service in the Civil War so their stories can be shared with the membership in the Scout Report.

John Stegner, President

Sources

Anderson Amundson von Krogh Family, Compiled by Lester W. Hansen
Minnesota Historical Society
Hans H. Danielson Diary

THE KNOXVILLE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE 2016 SPEAKERS SERIES



September 13---Brian Steel Wills, Historian/Author, Professor History Kennesaw State University, "The Rock Fails to Roll: George H. Thomas at Kennesaw Mountain"

October 11---Frank O'Reilly, NPS Historian/Author, "Lee after the War"

*****November 15---Ed Bearss, Chief Historian Emeritus/Author, "Custer at the Little Bighorn"*****

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

*****The date for the November KCWRT meeting has been moved to November 15, 2016. ******

***** SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT***
CALL TO ARMS
SEE PAGE 5**



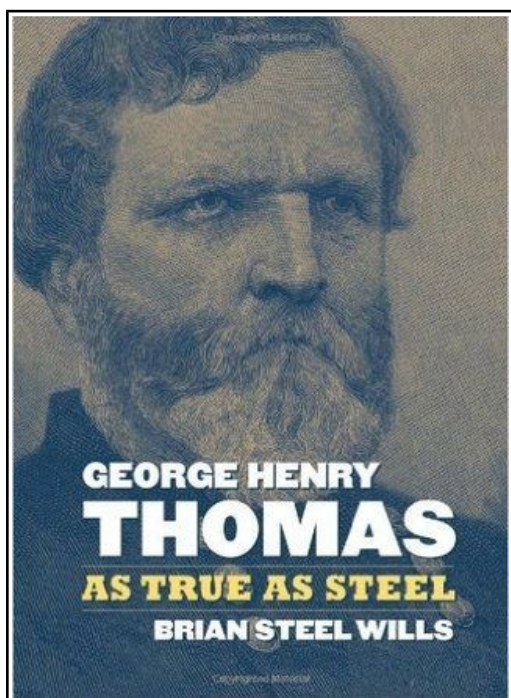
WELCOME BACK TO KNOXVILLE, BRIAN STEEL WILLS!

Brian Steel Wills is the Director of the Center for the Study of the Civil War Era and Professor of History at Kennesaw State University in Kennesaw, Georgia, after a long tenure at the University of Virginia's College at Wise. He is the author of numerous works relating to the American Civil War, including a new volume - *The River Was Dyed with Blood: Nathan Bedford Forrest and Fort Pillow*. His other titles include:

A Battle From the Start: The Life of Nathan Bedford Forrest Reprinted as: *The Confederacy's Greatest Cavalryman: Nathan Bedford Forrest*. This work was chosen as both a History Book Club selection and a Book of the Month Club selection. He also authored, *The War in Southeastern Virginia*, released in October, 2001, and *No Ordinary College: A History of The University of Virginia's College at Wise*, (2004), both by the University Press of Virginia. *Gone with the Glory: The Civil War in Cinema* appeared in 2006. An updated edition of the James I. "Bud" Robertson, Jr., *Civil War Sites in Virginia* (Virginia, 2011) arrived just in time for the 150th Anniversary of the Civil War, and in 2012 and 2013, Brian authored *George Henry Thomas: As True as Steel* and *Confederate General William Dorsey Pender: The Hope of Glory*.



In 2000, Dr. Wills received the Outstanding Faculty Award from the state of Virginia, one of eleven recipients from all faculty members at public and private institutions across the state. He was named Kenneth Asbury Professor of History and won both the Teaching award and the Research and Publication award from UVA-Wise.



CALL TO ARMS



225th
ANNIVERSARY
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1791-2016

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KNOXVILLE'S 225TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION; FORT DICKERSON TOURS PLANNED

VOLUNTEER TOUR GUIDES NEEDED. Events are currently in the planning stages for Knoxville's 225th Anniversary celebration. One of the programs includes school tours for students on Friday, September 30th. Various museums and historical sites in Knoxville will be offering free tours to 4th, 5th, and 8th graders that morning beginning at 9:00 am. Fort Dickerson is included. We plan to host 4-5 groups of about 30 students each.

These tours will be similar to what was done for the Sesquicentennial last May. We need volunteers to conduct these tours at Fort Dickerson. They will either be walking tours with one docent per group or we may have multiple stops with a docent at each station. Please advise if you can help the KCWRT do these tours. We'll put together a schedule based on the volunteer response we get. Please email your availability to Dennis Urban (chiefden34@gmail.com) as soon as possible. Thanks in advance for helping with this educational opportunity.



VOLUNTEER NEEDED TO COORDINATE ROUNDTABLE FIELD TRIP TO SALTVILLE, VA BATTLEFIELD ON SEPT 17TH!

Brian McKnight, University of Virginia at Wise history professor and author of *Confederate Outlaw: Champ Ferguson and the Civil War in Appalachia* and *Contested Borderland: The Civil War in Appalachian Kentucky and Virginia* has offered to be our guide for a tour of Saltville* on Saturday, September 17th, 2016. You may recall that Brian promised this tour when he spoke to us in June and is now making good on that promise.**

The volunteer coordinator will designate a convenient meeting time and place in Knoxville and assist with determining drivers and riders. All of the remaining details have been worked out in advance including joining forces with some fellow CW buffs from the Tri-Cities just off the Interstate in Kingsport and connecting with Brian for the tour in Saltville.

Anyone interested in coordinating this field trip should email at jdoncaster1@msn.com or call him at 412 908-2043 for more details.

*****Saltville became more and more important to the United States as the war was coming to a close. Lizzie Dietzen, author of "Saltville During the Civil War" said, "as the war progressed, the Union blockade and the encroaching armies of Ulysses S. Grant made supplies scarce and the Confederacy all the more dependent on Saltville."**

The Confederate soldiers planned to protect these saltworks from the Union soldiers by preparing a small army of 2,500 men, which was one-half of the Union army. Haynes acknowledged that the soldiers from the Confederate's army had dwindled from 10,000 s the beginning of the war in 1861.

According to Brian McKnight, author of "The Winnowing of Saltville: Remembering a Civil War Atrocity", most of the men who fought in the first Battle of Saltville, also known as the Battle of Cedar Branch, were Rebel troops comprised of locals from the area and Confederate provisional troops. The small numbers did not hinder the forces because they were able to defend their salt kettles.

The Union forces prepared for a surprise battle attack on the Confederate troops during the morning of Oct. 2, 1864 and continued until late into the night. According to an episode aired on the History Channel on April 9, 2014 titled Confederates score victory at the Battle of Saltville, the efforts of the small force ended up killing 329 men, which resulted in a victory. The Confederate forces only lost 129 men and saved their saltworks from Union control.

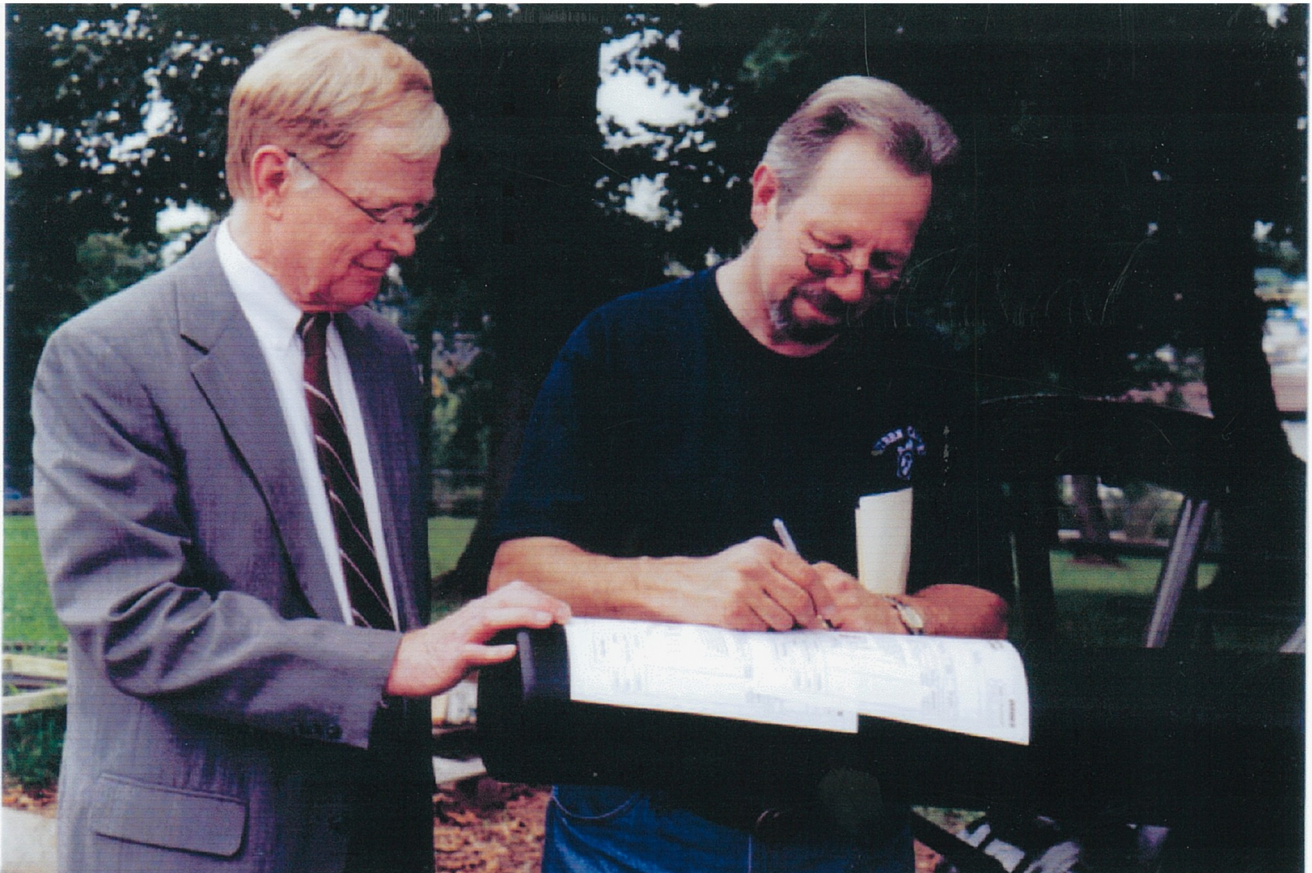
As the smoke from the muskets cleared in the early morning of Oct. 3, 1864, according to David E. Brown's article, "Was There a Massacre in Saltville in 1864?", the event following the battle later known as The Saltville Massacre occurred. According to Haynes, this event was technically not considered a massacre because around only fifty people were murdered, but to some historians the title could stick due to the killings of African-Americans as a result of racial discrimination.

HUGH MORGAN

News of the death of longtime KCWRT member and attorney Hugh Morgan on August 10th 2016 has just reached us. A native of west Tennessee, Hugh was a graduate of West Point (Class of 1958) and later the University of Tennessee School of Law. Hugh served the Roundtable as Treasurer, Vice President and President during a very active period when the Roundtable was raising funds and seeking grants for interpretive signs and the three cannon for Fort Dickerson.

Just as the last two cannon were to be dedicated in 2004, a new challenge arose. The Roundtable discovered that a developer from Atlanta had an option on Fort Dickerson's neighbor, Fort Higley. He planned to put 200+ condos on top of Fort Higley (with garages underneath), of course destroying the fort. Serving as KCWRT President, Attorney Hugh and Preservation Chair Dot Kelly began meetings with the Mayor, City Council, Metropolitan Planning Commission, and the developer. Local newspapers gave us support, State and National preservation organizations came on board and eventually the Civil War Trust named it one of the 10 most threatened Civil War sites. The process of approving the increase in density went on for months and months (thanks to the help from our supporters) and the developer lost some of his backers. Eventually the developer chose not to continue and Fort Higley survives today thanks in part to Hugh Morgan and the Knoxville Civil War Roundtable.

Hugh will be remembered and missed by his friends at the Roundtable.



2004: Treasurer Hugh Morgan watches as Marshall Steen of Steen Cannon writes "Paid In Full" across our invoice which rests on one of the cannons!

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.kcwrtorg.wordpress.com



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