



# The Scout's Report

Knoxville Civil War Roundtable  
P. O. Box 313  
Knoxville, Tennessee 37901

Tuesday, Oct. 13, 2009  
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 ARE  
REQUIRED FOR DINNER  
AND MUST BE MADE BY  
11AM, MONDAY, OCT 12  
CALL (865) 671-9001  
(PLEASE LEAVE  
MESSAGE)

**MENU:**  
Beef Tips over Noodles  
Grilled Chicken  
Garden Salad  
Green Beans  
Oven Roasted Potatoes  
Rolls  
Beverages  
Assorted Desserts  
Location:  
Bearden Banquet Hall  
5809 Kingston Pike

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## RECOVERING THE HISTORY OF THE *H. L. HUNLEY*

On the evening of February 17, 1864, the Confederacy's *H. L. Hunley* sank the USS *Housatonic* and became the first submarine in world history to sink an enemy ship. Not until World War I—half a century later—would a submarine again accomplish such a feat. But also perishing that moonlit night, vanishing beneath the cold Atlantic waters off Charleston, South Carolina, was the *Hunley* and her entire crew of eight. For generations, searchers prowled Charleston's harbor, looking for the *Hunley*. And as they hunted, the legends surrounding the boat and its demise continued to grow. Even after the submarine was definitively located in 1995 and recovered five years later, those legends—those barnacles of misinformation—have only multiplied.

With a focus on the *H.L. Hunley*, author and University of Tennessee historian Dr. Tom Chaffin discusses the challenges and rewards of finding the paper trails of the *Hunley* and the raider CSS *Shenandoah*, the subjects of his two most recent books.

Signing afterwards. Hard-bound copies of both books-"*The H. L. Hunley: The Secret Hope of the Confederacy*" and "*Sea of Gray: The Around the World Odyssey of the Confederate Raider Shenandoah*"-will be available: Hunley, \$22; Sea of Gray, \$18-cash or check.

\* \* \* \* \*

Recommendation of Tom Chaffin's *The H. L. Hunley: The Secret Hope of the Confederacy* by Clive Cussler, author who funded the search that eventually located the long sought wreck of the *Hunley*: "The boldest and most powerful book yet written on the saga of the H. L. Hunley. Each detail is sharply etched and dramatically told for a compelling read. The H. L. Hunley is a classic of Civil War history."



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Because we are an active roundtable, we sometimes have several important announcements to make at our RT meetings to help keep the members informed along with the newsletter and e-mail messages. This may take a few minutes, but be assured that I am mindful of getting the speaker started at or near 8 p.m.

During the formative days of the RT, it was decided that we would be more than just an "meet and eat" group. Even though our monthly meetings are essential in growing our organization by booking interesting speakers, we felt like our RT should be involved in CW activities outside the monthly meetings not only for the good of our members but also for the community. During the first few years of our RT's existence, we planned and implemented a Commemoration of the Battle of Fort Sanders, held at Ft. Dickerson; a tour of CW sites conducted during the three weekends of the annual Dogwoods Arts Festival; several field trips; and, believe it or not, a second meeting each month dealing with various CW topics on a more informal basis. That trend of activity continues today. On October 17th, a work day is planned at Ft. Dickerson to spread mulch supplied by the City. We are fortunate to have Air Force cadets volunteering to do the work (see John Burkhardt's article) with the involvement of only a few of our members as supervisors.

This work day has been planned to make the fort as presentable as possible for our Ft. Dickerson Civil War Living History Weekend scheduled for Nov. 13th-15th (see article). This annual activity accomplishes all three of our RT's goals of "Knowledge, commemoration, and preservation of our Civil War heritage"!

Last week, many of you received by e-mail a report of the archaeological work recently completed on Knoxville's Ft. Higley site. This is not an exclusive KCWRT project, but we have been involved in various ways from grant application to financial support.

I think the crown jewel of our RT's twenty-five years of work is the beautiful historical park we now have at Ft. Dickerson. During that time, we have achieved success in felling dead trees, stopping erosion, fighting the kudzu vines and other villainous weeds, blocking access to the all terrain vehicles, and installing three replica cannon and de tailed signage.

Couple more business matters:

1) October will be the final meeting to bid in the silent auction of an original Kurz and Allison print donated and personally framed by Paul Eastes. Thanks Paul! The highest bid so far is \$110.

2) Be sure to wear your newly designed name tags which hang around the neck so that we can all know who you are (including me!).

Norman Shaw

# KCWRT NEWS

<b>KCWRT Financial Statement</b>	
	<b>Sept</b>
<b>Operating Budget</b>	
<b>RECEIPTS</b>	
Member Dinners	\$690.00
Non-Member Dinners	\$68.00
Member Room Fees	\$99.00
Non-Member Room Fee	\$45.00
Fund Raiser	\$5.00
Books, Maps, & Newspaper reprints	\$79.00
Individual Dues	\$50.00
Family Dues	\$80.00
Sustaining Dues	
Supporting Dues	
Special Event	
Preservation Fund	
Donation	
Preservation Fund Donation	
Fort Dickerson Living History	
Miscellaneous	
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>\$1,116.00</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>	
Speaker Expenses	\$393.35
T.D.S.	\$22.83
Dinners & Gratuities	\$663.00
Newsletter expenses	\$147.44
Books, Maps, & Newspaper reprints	
Office Supplies	\$38.24
Misc	\$20.00
Dues	
Fort Dickerson Living History	
Preservation Fund	
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$1,284.86</b>
<b>Change for Month</b>	<b>(\$168.86)</b>
<b>Checking Account</b>	<b>\$7,157.52</b>
<b>Petty Cash</b>	<b>\$200.00</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$7,357.52</b>
<b>Preservation Account</b>	
<b>\$1000 to Arch Survey Acct</b>	

## UPCOMING SPEAKERS 2009

**October 13-** --Tom Chaffin, UT  
Professor, historian/author, "The H. L. Hunley, The Secret Hope of the Confederacy"

**November 10th**--Thomas Cartwright, historian/author, "Patrick Cleburne at the Battle of Franklin"

**December 8th**--James H. Ogden, Historian at Chick./Chatt. NMP, topic TBA

## SPEAKERS 2010

**February 9th**--Steve Wilson, Asst. Director & Curator, Lincoln Library & Museum (LMU), "Lincoln as Leader"

**April 13th**--Paul Taylor, historian/author, "Orlando M. Poe: Civil War & Great Lakes Engineer"

**July 13th**--Jim Lewis, Historian at Stones River NMP, "The History of the Orphan Brigade"

**August 10th**--Jeffry Wert, historian/author, Topic TBA

**November 10**—Ed Bearss NPS Chief Historian Emeritus, Topic TBA

## MEET TOM CHAFFIN

Tom Chaffin is a professor of history and the director/editor of the James K. Polk Correspondence Project at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Dr. Chaffin's research interests include antebellum and Civil War-era U.S. history, the American South, the American West, environmental history, U.S. expansionism, American literature, and 19th-century British and Irish history. His books include *Sea of Gray* (Hill and Wang, 2006) and *Pathfinder* (Hill and Wang, 2002). His work has appeared in *The New York Times*, *Harper's Magazine*, *Time*, and other publications. He lives in Knoxville.



## FORT DICKERSON

A Work-and-Cleanup-Day will be held at Fort Dickerson on Saturday, October 17 (rain date October 24). The City of Knoxville will furnish tools and mulch. Cadets from the Leadership Class at the Air National Guard base at McGhee Tyson airfield will volunteer their muscles and enthusiasm in morning and afternoon shifts. Roundtable members are needed for co-ordination, delegation of tasks, and supervision.

The Fort needs to be "dressed up" for our Living History Weekend in November.

**PLEASE HELP.**

Call John Burkhart at 384-6905 or e-mail him at <[laurapowers@bellsouth.net](mailto:laurapowers@bellsouth.net)>.

## FORT DICKERSON LIVING HISTORY AND SCHOOL DAY

Get ready! Fort Dickerson Civil War Living History Weekend is just around the corner. Friday, Nov. 13 is School Day. We have four area schools planning to attend with a total of 300+ students. We will divide them into small groups of 25-30 students and we need guides to escort the school groups to each living history station. We will need 10-12 guides on Friday. This task is not hard and the rewards are many. If you can walk and tell time, we need you. The hours on Friday are 8:30 AM–3:00 PM. Last year we had a remarkable group of guides and the day was amazing. If you have assisted as guide in past years, we need you. If you are a new member, you will want to volunteer for School Day. You can thank me later. Call Laura at 865-828-8752.

Saturday Nov. 14 and Sunday Nov 15 we will need members to assist in a few areas. If you plan to attend the event, perhaps you could volunteer for one or two hours. This is our yearly opportunity to make the public aware of Fort Dickerson and the Knoxville Civil War Roundtable. We will have an information table, promotions table for sale items, etc. The hours on Saturday are 9:30AM–4:30PM and Sunday, 10AM -4PM. We will have a sign up sheet at the meeting or you can call Laura at 865-828-8752.

Firewood will be needed for the soldiers. If you can donate firewood, call Laura at 865-828-8752.

I placed a Fort Dickerson flier on page 7. If you can, please print off a few copies and post them at your local library, grocery store, etc.

## **LENOIR CITY AND LOUDON COUNTY CIVIL WAR TRAIL MARKERS**

**The Knoxville Civil War Roundtable is about to have a Civil War Trail Marker erected at Fort Dickerson. It will join many others in East Tennessee as well as the rest of the state. First established in Virginia several years ago, the Civil War Trail marker program had expanded to several other states before it arrived in Tennessee last year. The makers are in color using maps, descriptions, and photographs to explain the significance of the site. Eventually there will be a brochure with a map to help visitors and locals find the markers. With each marker there are signs at important intersections pointing in the direction of the various markers.**

**To see the markers already erected, go to Civil War trails on the internet, then to Tennessee, and finally to the area you are interested in seeing. Not only does this give a description of the marker and a photograph of the area, but also gives detailed road, satellite and terrain maps.**



**Lenoir City unveiled two Civil War Trail Markers last November. One of the Lenoir City markers is located in the parking lot of the First National Bank of Lenoir City on Broadway and tells the story of Mrs. Henrietta Ramsey Lenoir, the daughter of Dr. J. G. M. Ramsey, and Union General William P. Sanders' raid on the Lenoir plantation. The second is located at the ruins of the Lenoir Cotton Mill, which survived the War only to be destroyed by vandals in the 20th Century.**

**Loudon County officially unveiled two Civil War Trail markers on Saturday 29 August 2009. One of the new Loudon County markers is located at the entrance to the National Campground near Greenback and tells the wonderful story of former enemies coming together in worship and the healing of local animosities. The other marker is located in the Morgantown Cemetery on the banks of Tellico Lake opposite Tellico Village. It tells the sad story of the third oldest chartered town in Tennessee and how when Union General William T. Sherman crossed part of his army here in 1863, he destroyed much of the town to build a bridge. The town never really recovered after Sherman's visit and was finally submerged under Tellico Lake in the 20th century.**

**Although the Civil War Trails markers are beautiful, informative and mark areas that often would otherwise go unknown except to a few, they are expensive. The state of Tennessee has received federal funds that pay for the largest part of the markers, but an individual, group, or the local government must pay \$1,100 for each one plus \$200 per year for maintenance. The Lenoir City Mayor and Council and the Loudon County Executive and Commission have been very supportive.**

**There are already many visitors in the Knoxville area looking for where their ancestors served, were wounded or killed during the 1861-1865 period. With the sesquicentennial of the War, occurring in 2011-2015, it is expected that interest in the War will mushroom as it did fifty years ago during the centennial 1961-1965. These markers will enrich people's lives and hopefully the economy of the area.**

**\_\_ Gerald Augustus**

# BATTLE OF FORT SANDERS

October 16-18 - Corryton, TN

On November 29, 1863, the Confederate forces of James Longstreet massed for a pre-dawn attack on a Union earthwork just west of Knoxville, Tennessee. The earthwork, held by the troops under Ambrose Burnside, seemed vulnerable. It appeared that the rate of fire from the northwest bastion simply could not stop a large attacking force. Incomplete or inaccurate Confederate reconnaissance failed to reveal a deep ditch in front of the parapet, and that flaw would lead to the disastrous attack. One Hundred forty four years later a documentary production crew used the description of Union engineer Orlando Poe to reconstruct the northwest bastion. Built on a slope very similar to the original location, the bastion stands as a monument to the men who met in battle on that fateful day.

General admission is \$7.

[www.battleoffortsanders.com](http://www.battleoffortsanders.com)



## FROM THE ARCHIVES

--by Norman C. Shaw

When I started law school back in the mid 1970s, I was like many first year students with little idea of what to expect. I soon discovered that I had to dedicate a heavy dose of time reading legal cases for almost every course.

After a few months of that, my mind was ready for an alternate reading experience. While packing to move into my apartment, I had taken with me a copy of *Gone with the Wind*, which I had owned for several years but had never read; after all, I had seen the movie several times! Now, motivated by my circumstances, I decided to try out a few pages.

I was hooked at the end of the first paragraph! Margaret Mitchell's style of writing was simultaneously addictive and entertaining! Allow me to reprint here the first paragraph of the first chapter, which describes the book's main character:

"Scarlett O'Hara was not beautiful, but men seldom realized it when caught by her charm as the Tarleton twins were. In her face were too sharply blended the delicate features of her mother, a Coast aristocrat of French descent, and the heavy ones of her florid Irish father. But it was an arresting face, pointed of chin, square of jaw. Her eyes were pale green without a touch of hazel, starred with bristly black lashes and slightly titled at the ends. Above them, her thick black brows slanted upward, cutting a startling oblique line in her magnolia-white skin--that skin so prized by Southern women and so carefully guarded with bonnets, veils and mittens against hot Georgia suns."

If that doesn't grab you, how about these lines from page 2:

". . . Life in the north Georgia county of Clayton was still new and, according to the standards of Augusta, Savannah and Charleston, a little crude. The more sedate and older sections of the South looked down their noses at the up-country Georgians, but here in north Georgia, a lack of the niceties of classical education carried no shame, provided a man was smart in the things that mattered. And raising good cotton, riding well, shooting straight, dancing lightly, squiring the ladies with elegance and carrying one's liquor like a gentleman were the things that mattered."

Needless to say, I had a hard time putting the book down over the next several weeks that it took me to read all of the 733 pages of *GWTW*, and not as many law cases were read and briefed as should have been.

# Fort Dickerson Living History Weekend November 13-15, 2009

## THREE DAYS OF LIVING HISTORY Celebrating Our Veterans, Past and Present

- ?? Confederate and Federal Camps
- ?? Artillery Demonstrations
- ?? Infantry Demonstrations
- ?? Cavalry Demonstration
- ?? Medical /Surgical Demonstrations
- ?? Signal Corps Demonstration
- ?? Ladies Fashions
- ?? Fort Tours
- ?? Free Event/ Free Shuttle
- ?? Battle Both Saturday and Sunday

Friday Nov. 13 is set aside for area schools to participate in Kids Day.

### Saturday, November 14, 2009

- 10:00 am - Camps open to public
- 10:30 am- Signal Corps
- 11:00 am - Remembrance
- 11:30 am - Infantry Drill
- 12:00 pm - Civil War Arms -Gerald Augustus
- 12:30 pm – Medical Demo by Ed Archer
- 1:00 pm - Artillery Demonstration
- 1:30 pm - History of Fort Dickerson
- 2:00 pm - Battle Of Fort Dickerson
- 3:00 pm - Pass In Review

### 3:30 pm - Civil War Medical Demonstration

4:30 pm - Camps close to public

### Sunday, November 15, 2009

- 10:00 am - Camps open to Public
- 12:00 pm - Civil War Arms -Gerald Augustus
- 12:30 pm - Infantry Drill
- 1:00 pm - Civil War Medical Demonstration
- 1:30 pm - History Siege Of Knoxville
- 2:00 pm - Civil War Skirmish
- 3:00 pm - Pass in Review
- 4:00 pm - Camps Close to Public

Fort Dickerson Park is located off Chapman Highway, South Knoxville at 3000 Fort Dickerson Road.  
Park and ride Free Shuttle. No vehicles beyond lower parking lot.



Hosted by  
The Knoxville Civil War Roundtable  
Sponsored by The City of Knoxville