

Middle Tennessee Civil War Round Table



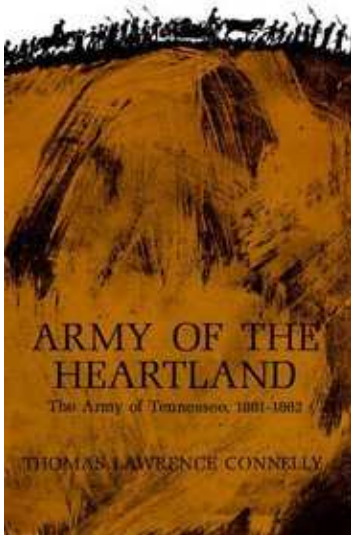
President – Mike Warfield
Vice President – Keith Schumann
Treasurer – Jerry Lutes
Secretary – Vacant
Program Director – Rhea Cole

JANUARY 2012 NEWSLETTER

OUR NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Middle Tennessee CWRT will be at 7 PM on Tuesday January 17, 2012. We will meet at the Heritage Center of Murfreesboro and Rutherford County (225 West College Street in Murfreesboro, TN).

We will be discussing Thomas Lawrence Connelly's [Army of the Heartland: The Army of Tennessee, 1861-1862](#). We will be meeting close to the 150th anniversary of Albert Sidney Johnston's concentration of his scattered forces here at Murfreesboro after the debacle at Ft Donelson. Connelly, for those of you unfamiliar with this book, deals with the events only from the Southern perspective with an emphasis on what facts decision makers at the moment of crisis.



Very few of us have any clear idea what the thinking was on the Southern side that brought the army from Murfreesboro to Shiloh, to Perryville and back to Murfreesboro during 1862. [Army of the Heartland](#) is focused on the events of the momentous year of 1862, in which our little town of Murfreesboro was a focus of attention by both sides in the war. Turnabout, one army or the other occupied, went north or went south or just plain left the bewildered citizens to

take a deep unoccupied breath as they wondered what would be next. Ultimately, of course, the armies would meet back up here for one last go around.

This discussion will give us a chance discuss the sometimes improbable events, personalities and decisions that led up to the Battle of Stones River. For the purposes of our discussion, Program Director Rhea Cole will be suggesting certain chapters that will be the focus of our attention at the meeting. As you read the book, do feel free to let Rhea know what chapters you want us to focus on.

UPCOMING PROGRAM SCHEDULE

[February 20, 2012](#)

James R. Knight – *Letters to Anna*

[March 20, 2012](#)

Bill Beard – *Leech & Rigdon: Confederate Military Supplier*

[April 17, 2012](#)

Mark Christ – Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission – *The Civil War in Arkansas*

If you would like to do a program for the Middle Tennessee CWRT, or if you have a suggestion for a group discussion topic, please get in touch with Rhea Cole at mtcwrtable@att.net.

NEW OFFICERS

We have the following candidates set to take on officer positions in 2012.

President – Mike Warfield
Vice President – Keith Schumann
Treasurer – Jerry Lutes

Keith has asked to VP for one more year since his school schedule may keep him from our meetings early in 2012. You may also notice that we have no one listed for Secretary. Unfortunately, Wayne Bradshaw cannot continue in that position as planned, so we need someone to step up to record the monthly minutes of our meetings.

In the meantime, we're going to borrow a page out of the local Rotary Club handbook. Unless we receive objections from 51% of our members to the current slate of candidates by our next meeting, we will consider them elected.

If you wish to nominate someone to run against the current candidates, please let Jim Lewis know by January 3, 2012 so we have time to alert the membership to a need to vote.

DUES ARE DUE!

2012 membership dues should be paid by our January 17th meeting. Please bring your dues (\$15 for individuals - \$20 for families) to the next meeting or mail them to:

Middle Tennessee Civil War Round Table
P.O. Box 10156
Murfreesboro, TN 37129

Dues help pay for speaker expenses, our website (<http://www.mtcwrt.org>), and support preservation/education initiatives.

CW150th HEATS UP IN TENNESSEE

Fort Donelson National Battlefield

Fort Donelson National Battlefield will be offering a variety of programs for visitors of all ages throughout the Sesquicentennial year. It is the park's hope that these opportunities strike a chord with visitors, allowing them to make a unique connection to this story and to the park resources, leading to an understanding of why they are worthy of preservation.

The park has launched a monthly Civil War Sesquicentennial film series, intended to introduce visitors to significant events and personalities. The film series features Civil War-related films from other parks, legendary documentary series, such as Ken Burns' legendary "The Civil War," film showing how the War became part of American popular culture, and more.

In addition, a new Sesquicentennial book discussion group explores significant themes and writers. Thus far, the book club has explored the causes and effects of secession, the significance of the election of Abraham Lincoln, the lives of Ulysses Grant and Nathan Bedford Forrest, and the published works of James McPherson and others.



In February and March of 2012, Fort Donelson will welcome back several true friends of the park who have written definitive works on the campaign. On February 11, Kendall Gott, author of [Where the South Lost the War](#), will speak at the park and share his unique insights. On February 14, Myron J. Smith, author of a new history of the USS Carondelet, will mark the 150th anniversary of the gunboat battle on the Cumberland. On February 25, noted author and former park historian, Benjamin F. Cooling, will share his thoughts on the campaign and the aftermath. On March 24, legendary historian, Ed Bearss, will walk the grounds with visitors and share his gift for storytelling.

All of these events and more are on the park website's schedule of events, at www.nps.gov/fodo.

Shiloh National Military Park



April 6-8, 2012 - 150th Anniversary Battlefield Hikes

Join us for three days of in-depth ranger led battlefield hikes following the movements of the troops on the field. Learn the stories of the men, their leaders, and the units as you travel in their footsteps. Each hike lasts around 2-hours and covers easy to difficult terrain. Please check back for a schedule of offered hikes.

Registration for the hikes will begin *after* a schedule is listed on this website.

April 7, 2012 - Shiloh's Grand Illumination

In commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the bloody Battle of Shiloh, the park will be presenting a "Grand Illumination" on the evening of April 7. Luminaries will be placed around the battlefield representing the 23,746 casualties of the terrible fight. The illumination will begin at dusk and run until about 10:00 pm. There will be no entrance fees charged.

April 6, 7, and 8, 2012 - The Premier of the New Shiloh Film - "Fiery Trial"

Join the park as we celebrate the release of the new Shiloh movie on the 150th anniversary of the battle. The film will begin showings at 8:00 am on Friday morning in the Visitor Center.

You can also find Shiloh on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ShilohNMP and follow them on Twitter at www.twitter.com/ShilohNPS for the latest park news and event information.