



SEPTEMBER 2024 NEWSLETTER

Meeting Date: MONDAY, September 9th, 2024

Social Hour: 5:30 PM | **Dinner:** 6:00 PM | **Presentation:** 7:00 PM



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I am pleased to present to the Kentucky Civil War Roundtable our speakers for the upcoming 2024/2025 Season. Beginning on September 9, 2024, we will have two speakers: Bryan Bush, the Manager of the Perryville Battlefield State Historic Site, and Harold Edwards, the most active individual in the restoration of the Perryville Battlefield, and the longest sitting member of the Perryville Battlefield Commission. They will discuss The Battle of Perryville, Kentucky, as it was on October 8, 1862, and as it looks today.

On November 25, 2024, we will be totally entertained by Lieutenant General Ulysses S. Grant, starring Dr. E.C. "Curt" Fields, Jr. of Collierville, Tennessee. You cannot miss this program;

it is one of the most talked-about programs in Civil War circles.

Then, on March 17, 2025, we will hear from Dr. Caroline E. Janney, the John L. Nau Professor of the History of the Civil War at the University of Virginia. She will speak about her remarkable and award-winning book and its riveting story, *Ends of War: The Unfinished Fight of Lee's Army after Appomattox*. It will be a memorable evening.

On April 28, 2025, we will hear from Donna Dodd Terrell, a long-time lawyer in the U.S. District Court in Lexington, Kentucky, who will speak on the "*Lionesses of White Hall*", the women in the *Life of Cassius Marcellus Clay*. After hearing the remarkable story of Cassius Marcellus Clay as set forth by Mel Hankla last year, here will be the story of the women in Cassius Clay's life. It will be a story you will never forget.

On May 12, 2025, we will hear from Phillip Seyfrit, the Madison County Historical Property Director, on the Battle of Richmond, Kentucky, as it was on August 29 and 30, 1862, and as it looks today. The lectures will mirror, for The Battle of Richmond, what we heard in September from the principal actors in the restoration of the Perryville Battlefield. ■

Kent Masterson Brown

PRESIDENT



SPEAKERS FOR THE SEPTEMBER 2024 MEETING



BRYAN BUSH

THE BATTLE OF PERRYVILLE "AS IT WAS ON OCTOBER 8, 1862"

A native of Louisville, Kentucky, Bryan graduated from Murray State University with a degree in History and Psychology and received his master's degree from the University of Louisville in 2005. With a passion for history, especially the Civil War, Bryan has been a member of numerous historical and preservation societies and Roundtables and has written for numerous magazines such as *Kentucky Civil War Magazine*, *North/South Trader*, *The Kentucky Civil War Bugle*, *The Kentucky Explorer*, and *Back Home in Kentucky*.

In 1999, Bryan published his first book, *The Civil War Battles of the Western Theater*. Since then, he has published fourteen books on the Civil War and the history of Louisville such as *Louisville During the Civil War: A History and Guide*, *Favorite Sons of Civil War Kentucky*, and *The Men Who Built the City of Progress: Louisville During the Gilded Age*.

An avid reenactor for more than fifteen years, Bryan served on the Board of Directors of the Old Bardstown Museum and Village: The Battles of the Western Theater Museum in Bardstown and was a Board Member for the Louisville Historical League and is the official Civil War guide for Cave Hill Cemetery in Louisville. In December 2019, Bryan became the Park Manager for the Perryville Battlefield State Historic Site. ■



HAROLD EDWARDS

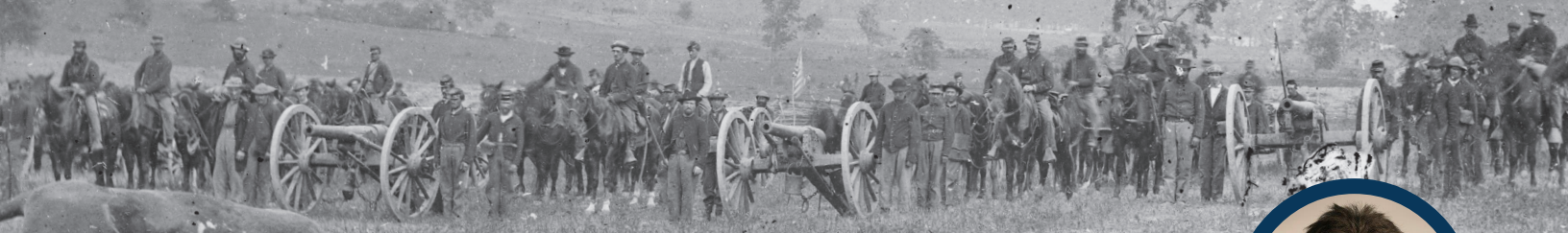
THE BATTLE OF PERRYVILLE; "AS IT LOOKS NOW"

A native of Danville, Kentucky, educated in the Boyle County Schools and the University of Kentucky, Harold has had a life-long interest in Kentucky frontier and Civil War History. Living near the Perryville Battlefield, Harold has had a passion for preserving the town of Perryville as well as the lands that make up the Perryville Battlefield.

Currently, Harold is in his sixteenth year serving on the Perryville Battlefield Commission. He is in his third year on the Mainstreet Board of Perryville, Kentucky. He is the Vice Chairman of the Boyle Landmark Trust and has just received the Ida Lee Willis Award for Historic Preservation.

He is currently working on the preservation of the Dye House on the Perryville Battlefield, a two-story structure that briefly served as the headquarters of Confederate General Simon B. Buckner before becoming a field hospital. Bloodstains can still be seen on the floors beneath the windows inside the house where the surgeons worked, operating on the wounded and amputating limbs.

Harold is also working on the Crawford House, situated on the Harrodsburg Road, just outside of the town of Perryville, a marvelous structure that served as Confederate General Braxton Bragg's Headquarters before and after the battle. ■



TREASURER'S REPORT | DARRYL TERRY



Once again, we look forward to gathering for the 2024-2025 Roundtable with a series of inspirational speakers and comradery with fellow members. The Board continues to review and discuss ways to make the organization financially secure for its long-term success. To address part of the ongoing budget deficits, the Board will be implementing changes in the pledge campaign.

When you receive this year's Dues invoice you will notice a chance to increase your pledge over and above the basic membership. We are happy to keep the membership dues unchanged for our next year's program. We will be including an additional opportunity to support YOUR Roundtable, as an additional giving level allows members to become a **Supporting Member** or **Sustaining Member**. The recent survey stated that members wanted Dues to remain fixed and this allows all members a basic membership as well as

opportunities for additional giving. Just as a reminder, **your Dues payments are tax deductible.**

This is one of the changes the Board is implementing because we ended with around a \$5,000 deficit at year's end. The new year projections still reflect a negative balance in this same range.

The Roundtable received a \$10,000 bequest from long time member Richard Marshall. These types of gifts go a long way in making the Roundtable financially secure. The Board will continue to review other income flows as we address our long-term success. Thanks to our members and feel free to bring other ideas to the table for YOUR organization. ■

SECRETARY'S REPORT | BILL SWINFORD, JR.



THE KCWRT is set to start its 72 nd year of existence in 2024. Founded in 1953 by William H. Townsend, it initially met in the library of his law firm, Stoll, Keenon, and Park in the First National Building at the corner of Main and North Upper Streets.

Your KCWRT Board of Directors has met twice since our last meeting to discuss several topics of import to the KCWRT. More information on topics that pertain to the Roundtable are set forth in this newsletter and may be mentioned at the September Meeting.

I ran across the following and wanted to share it with you all. From the archive of Frances Keller Swinford Barr, an article appeared in the March 19, 1960, *Lexington Herald or Leader* on March 16, 1960, which stated:

"On Friday, March 18, 1960, the Honorable Joseph Bradley, acting on a resolution from the KCWRT, dismissed 52 indictments for treason, invading Kentucky, and concealing state arms. All of the accused were Confederates. Kentucky never left the Union although many areas took opposing sides. Commonwealth Attorney Paul Mansfield, who requested the dismissal of the Indictments, told the court the defendants, from their graves, waive their right to be in Court. William H. Townsend, president of the Civil War Round Table, also appeared in Court and read the resolution asking for the defendants' names to be cleared." ■

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT | SUSIE MORTON



Hello Members! I hope you all have enjoyed a safe and healthy summer and are looking forward to meeting up again in September. I know I'm looking forward to seeing you all and catching up with you.

Probably the most surprising thing to happen to the KCWRT was the bequest we received from one of our previous members, Richard Marshall. Mr. Marshall passed

away in 2021 and was retired from IBM and a farmer. He had many interests, one of them being the Civil War and was thoughtful enough to remember our Organization in his Will. His remembrance could not come at a better time and the Board is especially grateful for his generous donation. ■

RSVP for the September 2024 Meeting BEFORE Wednesday, September 4th!

KENTUCKIANS AT CHICKAMAUGA

SEPTEMBER 1863

The most famous casualty from Kentucky at this decisive Confederate victory was Bardstown native and son of Kentucky Governor John L. Helm, Brigadier General Benjamin Hardin Helm. He became President Lincoln's brother-in-law by virtue of marrying Mary Todd Lincoln's half-sister, Emilie Todd, in 1856.

A Kentuckian who was a veteran of the battle, Joseph M. Tydings of the 9th Kentucky Infantry Regiment, Company B, CSA, wrote a poem entitled "The Battle of Chickamauga" (see images attached), in which he mentions several other Kentuckians who have not gotten as much attention as General Helm. In the next issue, we will explore the service of the Kentuckians he mentioned... Major Rice E. Graves, Lieutenant Colonel James W. Hewitt, Colonel Joseph H. Lewis and Captain Peter V. Daniel.

THE BATTLE OF CHICKAMAUGA.

KENTUCKY HEROISM IN THE ENGAGEMENT.

A Kentuckian Commemorates the Event in Verse.

By George Baber.

The battle of Chickamauga, fought in the vicinity of Chattanooga, ranks with the most severe engagements of the Civil War. On the Confederate side it was chiefly directed under the intrepid command of Generals Bragg, Longstreet, Breckinridge, Buckner and Bushrod Johnson; and on the side of the Union it was conducted with no less distinguished heroism by such leaders as Generals Thomas, Rosecrans, Buell, Crittenden, McCook and Croxton. The battle was prolonged through two days, Saturday and Sunday, September 19 and 20, 1863. On the Confederate side a large number of Kentuckians bore a noteworthy part, including such valiant spirits as General Ben Hardin Helm, Major Rice E. Graves, Lieutenant Colonel James W. Hewitt, Colonel Joseph H. Lewis and Captain Peter V. Daniel, whose memory is cherished by Kentuckians everywhere. The name "Chickamauga," is cited in the earliest history of Tennessee, and according to tradition was a favorite battleground of the Indian tribes

H. R.—5

who inhabited that portion of the State. It signifies "Death," and is, therefore, peculiarly appropriate to the scene of carnage which in 1863, added imperishable fame to the historic spot.

This desperate and bloody conflict has been commemorated in befitting verse by a Kentuckian—Joseph M. Tydings—who was a worthy participant. In September, 1864, he was held as a Confederate prisoner in the military prison at Chattanooga, where, during his confinement, he wrote the following poem, which, being in the present writer's possession, is here offered as a valuable contribution to the poetic literature of the war. The lines were especially intended to celebrate the memorable charge made at Chickamauga by the First Kentucky Brigade, the author being at the time a member of the Ninth Kentucky Infantry—that heroic command which contained many Kentuckians who, in the very shadow of death, won brilliant laurels on the field.

66

Register of the Kentucky State Historical Society.

Here is given the poem complete, viz.:

THE BATTLE OF CHICKAMAUGA

Madly is flowing the red tide of battle,
Dark Chickamauga, thy shadows among,
And true to thy legends, with fierce roar
and rattle,
The shadows of Death o'er thy bosom are
flung.

See, up yon hillside a dark line is sweeping,
Breasting the thick storm of grapeshot
and shell;
Shouting like demons o'er abattis leaping,
Sons of Kentucky, ye charge them right
well!

Up to the cannon's mouth, on to the rampart,
Shoulder to shoulder in companionlike
dress;
Steel into steel flashing fierce in the sunlight,
Pulsing out life-drops like wine from the
press!

Think they of far homes, once sunny and
bright,
Now blackened and dreary, swept by the
flame—
Fair sisters and sweethearts—God pity the
sight—
Wandering outcasts, with heads bowed
in shame!

Hark to the answer! That shout of defiance
Rings out like a knell above the fierce
strife;
'Tis death without shrift to the dastardly
foe,
And Heaven have pity on sweetheart and
wife.

On, on, like a wave that engulphs, do they
press
O'er rider and horse o'er dying and dead:
Nor stop they till night—blessed night for
the foe—
Her mantle of peace o'er the fallen hath
spread.

The battle is over; but where is thy chief,
The Bayard of battle, dauntless and
brave?
There, cold and uncoffined, lies chivalrous
Helm,
Where Glory's mailed hand hath found
him a grave,

Where Hewitt and Daniel? Where trumpet-voiced Graves?
And where the brave men they gallantly
led?

There, voiceless forever and dreamless,
they lie
On the field they have won, immortal,
though dead.

Flow on, Chickamauga, in silence flow on
Among the dun shadows that fall on thy
breast;
These comrades in battle, aweary of
strife,
Have halted them here by thy waters to
rest.

The author of this poem became a physician after the war, and was, likewise, licensed to preach in the Methodist Church, of which denomination his father, Rev. Richard Tydings, without seeking the honor, came within one vote of being elected a Bishop, and was long an eminent minister, preaching the Gospel with eloquence and power at various points where he was stationed in Kentucky. Dr. Tydings is a surviving veteran of the great struggle, and now resides in Louisville. He devotes his time mainly to charitable labors among the poor and needy of that city, doing for humanity a work that rivals his gallant services to the Lost Cause.

The battle which this fine poem commemorates was rated among the greatest military events of modern times by General H. V. Boynton, of Ohio, who was a notable participant, and who, in a valuable and interesting volume written by him and entitled a "Historical Guide to the National Military Park at Chattanooga and Chickamauga," says:

"The battle of Chickamauga was one of the best illustrations of the



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67

pluck, endurance, and prowess of the American Soldier which the War afforded. * * * Its strategy will always be notable in the history of wars. So far as the occupation of the field is concerned it was a Confederate victory. Considering the objects of the Campaign, it was a Union triumph."

The reader will readily concede that Dr. Tydings' soul-stirring stanzas richly deserve to be perpetuated in conjunction with a history of the great battle itself. It furnishes a brilliant chapter in the annals of Kentucky's part in the Civil War.

The Kentucky State Monument at Chickamauga

Honoring Kentuckians who fought each other nearby.

KENTUCKY STATE MONUMENT, CHICKAMAUGA PARK, CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE.

Inscription on Monument: "As we are United in Life and they United in Death, let one Monument Perpetuate their Deeds, and one People. Forgetful of all Asperities. Forever hold in Grateful Remembrance all the Glories of that Terrible Conflict which made All Men Free, and Retained Every Star on the Nation's Flag."

During the dedication ceremony on May 3, 1899, Kentucky Governor William O'Connell Bradley said:

"Kentucky has evinced no partiality in the evidence of loving remembrance. It carries with it no heart burning, no jealousy, no invidious distinction. It is not an emblem of honor to the victor and reproach to the vanquished, but an equal tribute to the worth of all. In future, the descendants of chivalrous Confederates may proudly gaze upon it, realizing that the state has honored their ancestors, and although their cause was lost, their heroism is revered and their memories perpetuated. And the sons of the brave men who fought on the other side may look upon it with equal pride, feeling that it fitly commemorates the gallant deeds of their illustrious ancestors, who preserved the Nation from destruction. May it endure forever, standing guard over victor and vanquished, with the statue that surmounts it, in one hand holding the torch of liberty shedding abroad its benign rays, in the other grasping the people, ready and anxious at all times to uphold the integrity of one country, and to drive, wounded and bleeding, from its shores any insolent foe that shall ever dare invade them." ■

Kentucky State Monument, Chickamauga Park, Chattanooga, Tenn.



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