



MAY 2023



**INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

<b>CWRT OF COBB COUNTY</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: IT ALL DEPENDS...</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>KNOXVILLE COMMITTEES</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>PUGET SOUND CWRT</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>SUSTAINABILITY CONFERENCE—GETTYSBURG!</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>BATTLEFIELD PRESERVATION—BULL RUN CWRT</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>CWRT OF MID-OHIO—CEMETERY WORK</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>GRANDPARENTS' NIGHT—TWIN CITIES CWRT</b>	

## **SOUTHERN HOSPITALITY: THE CWRT OF COBB COUNTY, GEORGIA**

*By Carol VanOrnum*

The CWRT of Cobb County, Georgia, strives to embody the spirit of Southern Hospitality. Members and visitors alike descend the grand staircase in the Atlanta/Marietta Hilton Hotel and are immediately welcomed. A special table is manned by a member to greet visitors and guests, and to provide information about the mission of the Round Table. The visitors are encouraged to provide contact information in order to receive news and information of forthcoming events. Another table displays the member nametags. The Round Table recognizes that a simple nametag serves as an effective “icebreaker” to encourage conversations among the members and guests. A visit to the Raffle Table is the next stop to view the display of prizes that will be awarded at the

meeting. One free raffle ticket is given to members and visitors for a drawing of Civil War books, done at the end of the meeting. Additional tickets can be purchased, proceeds of which go to the general operating support of the Round Table.

This strategic stationing is a collaborative effort orchestrated by President Angela Schneider. “I want to create a welcoming environment and make everyone feel that they are valued for taking their time to spend the next hour and a half with us. And if I see someone I don’t know, I make a point of welcoming them.”

As the meeting convenes, visitors and new members are encouraged to introduce themselves and to share a bit about who they are or why they’ve chosen to attend. No one is ignored. No one is rushed. All are welcomed.

The winner of the raffle drawing generally receives a gift card to dine at a local restaurant. Once or twice a year, the Round Table holds a “BIG” raffle. The prizes are usually of greater value, such as a cannon ball, Civil War paintings, or other Civil War related items.

Many of the members are published authors, speakers,

and/or own Civil War collections. To take advantage of that resource, there’s a “mini” speaker, someone who can share their relics or knowledge for 5 minutes or so, which bears a similar resemblance to a “show and tell.”

Each month, members and guests are treated with a special lecture from a distinguished historian. These speakers come from all over the eastern U.S. and are scheduled two years in advance by Michael Shaffer, a Civil War author and founding member.

The Leadership team continues to explore opportunities outside of the regularly scheduled meetings in order to promote camaraderie. A bus trip to the Civil War sites at Resaca, including sites related to the Georgia Military Institute, is currently being planned, trusting that the bus trip and the tour will provide the opportunity for everyone to visit and get to know one another better.

Angela credits the coordinated efforts of the “phenomenal” Board to connect all these efforts together to create a truly hospitable and welcoming experience for all who descend the staircase.

**REGISTER NOW!**

**For the 2023 Sustainability Conference**

**August 25-26-27, 2023**

**Gettysburg, PA**

**Early Bird Registration (\$150) ends 5/1**

**[LEARN MORE!](#)**

## IT ALL DEPENDS...

By Mike Movius, President

While at the Williamsburg CWRT a couple months ago, I overheard a conversation about zoom meetings that was rather interesting. The speaker seemed to believe that hybrid or zoom meetings were hurtful to a round table. His thesis was that by holding meetings with an Internet connection, CWRTs were degrading their membership numbers, incentivizing members to avoid attending in-person meetings and posing a negative effect on the treasury.

While it is true that some round tables increased their membership numbers during the pandemic by conducting online meetings, others did not. And then, there were those CWRTs that lost members despite their efforts to use online media. We also learned of those organizations that increased their meeting attendance at the beginning of the pandemic, but their members tended to lose interest meeting online as time wore on.

CWRT Congress has been encouraging round tables to evaluate the costs/benefits of hybrid meetings and to make decisions to continue using technology based on that analysis. We suspect that those decisions are based on the ease of incorporating tech into their meetings and feedback from members who attend in-person and those viewing through the Internet.

There are, of course, other things that factor into those decisions. I'm talking about the organizational diversity of CWRTs. For example, there are some CWRTs that have become an integral part of another organization that handles all their financial and technological needs. And there are those who scorn technology altogether. There are also CWRTs that don't have the need for a large treasury as their speakers are always members.

All in all, deciding whether to

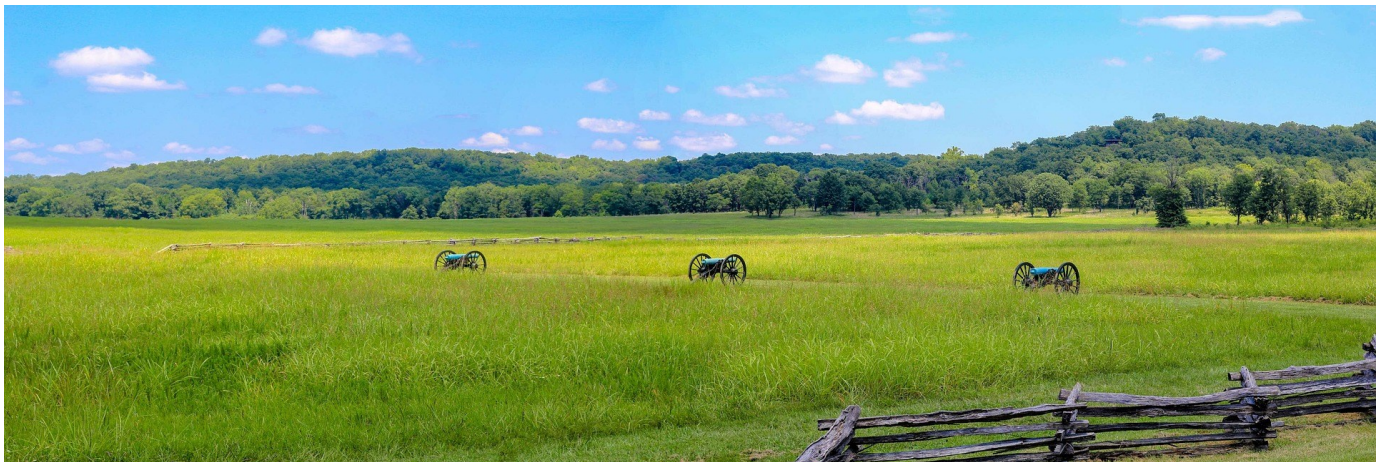
conduct meetings via the Internet is largely about the needs of the CWRT at the time. But a word of caution must be inserted. Those CWRT leaders who desire that their organizations become sustainable must remember that "convenience" is the watchword of potential younger members. Sustainability comes in a variety of flavors, and we should all be open to how those flavors manifest themselves in our local area.



### IMPROVEMENT THROUGH EDUCATION AND NETWORKING

#### CORRECTION

In the February 2023 *Light Post* article, "How You're Treating Your Visitors" we incorrectly identified Janet Whaley as the president of the Pasadena CWRT. The President is Nick Smith. We sincerely apologize for this error.



Pea Ridge National Military Park, Garfield, Arkansas

Photo: nps.gov

## THE VISION & PLANNING COMMITTEE – KNOXVILLE CWRT

By Carol VanOrnum and  
Tim Vane

While it's common for Civil War Round Tables to have some committees, Knoxville CWRT's committee structure is perhaps more advanced than some. A recent initiative of KCWRT, called the Vision and Planning (V&P) Committee, is their attempt to examine ways to meet the challenges of the future. We first reached out to Jim Doncaster, Director of Programming, for details.

"The V&P Committee is not a standing committee but rather an ad hoc one under the leadership of Tim Vane. Tim and a subset of our Board have met a few times with an eye toward strengthening and expanding the Round Table."

According to Tim Vane, Director of Community Activities, the evidence that change was needed is based on decisions that the KCWRT made as they planned the support needed to publicize an event in July 2022. When Curt Fields and Thomas Lee Jessee came to Knoxville to perform their living history work *Meeting at Appomattox Court House: The Last 48 Hours*, the KCWRT decided not to use paid advertising.

Instead, they used social media, personal networks, and flyers in selected venues in and

around the city to showcase the event. It worked. Attendance was higher than anticipated. They also applied that same approach to the KCWRT Living History Weekend in November 2022. Again, the results showed no drop off in attendance between 2021 to 2022. All of this suggested that what was done in the past was no longer an accurate measure of what will work in the future. It also highlighted the need to review the assumptions and processes used by the KCWRT. With those results in hand, Vane petitioned the Board to authorize a deeper and broader analysis.

Once the Board approved the review, Vane set about gathering as much data as possible about the KCWRT. By analyzing demographics, attendance, financials, partnerships, etc., patterns began to emerge that identified both strengths and weaknesses. It was after this analysis that the Vision and Planning Committee was formed. To guide the analysis, they used a roadmap developed by the Iowa State University's *Ag Decision Maker's* page, found [HERE](#). In this easy-to-use document, they were able to create a vision statement, reaffirm the existing mission statement, and identify the core values that will drive the KCWRT in the future. What flowed from

those developments were the five strategies the V&P Committee identified to focus on in the next few years.

Five committees were then formed to grow and mature the strategies. The committees and their focuses included:

**Publicity and Advertising** – Advertising and Promotion of KCWRT programs/events with an emphasis on using social media to engage different audiences.

**Monthly Meeting** – Enhancements to monthly speaker programs by exploring a wider range of topics including women, African Americans, immigrant groups, etc.

**Community Outreach** – More active recruitment/educational outreach efforts with schools, clubs, groups, churches, etc.

**Engagement** – Greater focus on welcoming new members and better internal engagement with existing KCWRT members.

**Tours Plus** – Consistently offering value-added tours, battlefield reenactments, and other living history experiences to enhance awareness of the American Civil War in general, and the KCWRT in particular.

It was at this point that the V&P team recognized they would need help in fleshing out these strategies as well as in

**Vision:** Big picture of what you want to achieve.

**Mission:** General statement of how you will achieve the vision.

**Core Values:** How you will behave during the process.

Iowa State University

accomplishing them. That could only come with the assistance of others, so at the KCWRT monthly meeting in February 2023 Vane presented the plans to the membership hoping to recruit and engage members to join the committees. Vane was pleasantly surprised to have seven members come forward to fill several committee spots. Doncaster added, "It was a healthy start, but only a start. We'll need to keep after it and hopefully involve many more members in the effort."

The next step for the five committees is to determine the goals, objectives, and action plans for each strategy.



George N. Barnard (1819–1902) photo shows Knoxville in 1864, looking north from Fort Stanley. - Credit: Library of Congress



## PUGET SOUND CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

By Carol VanOrnum

The evolution of a Civil War Round Table organization and governing board is an ongoing process. Many of us have only heard of the days when women weren't allowed into our organizations, let alone hold office. Evolving to be more inclusive, not only with people, but with ideas, is a long process. And the melding of all people to work together will have its challenges. So, when the President's Message in our February *Light Post* cited the past struggles of a Seattle Round Table, it hit a nerve with Richard Miller, Program Co-Chair of the Puget Sound CWRT.

Tucked in the upper corner of the Northwestern U.S., the PSCWRT has existed since the 1970s. With 68 dues-paying members and 90 on their mailing roster, they consider themselves to have an active and progressive membership.

Like most CWRTs, their challenges have to do with aging demographics. Finding ways to reach the community has shifted from newspaper advertising to using social media and their website. Prior to the pandemic, they had begun to formulate a speakers' bureau with the King County Library System. Stalled by COVID-19, they hope to start again.

But what Miller considers their strength is in their programming. He co-chairs with Rick Solomon, whose expertise is in battles and commanders. Miller likes to mix it up with topics of race and gender, and he firmly believes that that combination of programming is more attractive to a younger generation.

Both in person and on Zoom, they bring in three or four

nationally-known speakers, supplementing their schedule with local historians, professors from the University of Washington and other western colleges and universities, and tapping their own members' expertise. When the *Light Post* article came out, Miller felt compelled to share the positive aspects of his Round Table. And we are pleased to share his message with our readers.

**What Miller considers their strength is in their programming.**

To The Editor,

I would like to congratulate the CWRT Congress on its success during the last eight years. The Puget Sound Civil War Round Table, whose leadership was unfairly criticized in *The Light Post* column, "No Fear Leadership," has been providing monthly, high-quality presentations to Civil War buffs in Western Washington for almost fifty years. We successfully pivoted to a Zoom format during the pandemic and did not miss a single month's presentation.

The quality of our programs is consistently impressive. Chris Mackowski, Richard Etulain, Larry Daniel, and Eric Wittenberg joined our Round Table in person for presentations during our current program year. Among the fine speakers we have scheduled for our 2023-24 season are David Powell, Ethan Rafuse, and Caroline Janney. We also frequently tap emeritus professors of history among our membership to provide talks.

I would be happy to provide more information about the Puget Sound Civil War Round Table to any CWRT Congress member interested in learning about our organization.

Richard Miller

Program Co-Chair

[Milomiller882@gmail.com](mailto:Milomiller882@gmail.com)

The CWRT Congress wishes the Puget Sound CWRT continued success. Our resources are available to assist in the continued sustainability and growth of your organization.

## SUSTAINABILITY CONFERENCE!

By Steven Raushkolb

With the weather warming, trees starting to bud, and flowers blooming, it's clear that Spring is here, or at least on the way depending on where you live. Spring is the time of year that often brings thoughts of renewal, growth, and new beginnings. It is also a wonderful time of the year to think about the health and well-being of your Round Table. Soon we will move into the summer months when some Round Tables go on hiatus. Taking the time to ensure that your membership is satisfied, engaged, and growing is critical to your long-term sustainability.

Although sustainability is not seasonal, it is something that must always be top of mind to achieve your Round Table's mission and goals. For that

reason, we have chosen **Membership Expansion and Retention** as the theme of this August's CWRT Congress conference in historic Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. In our last issue of *Light Post*, we advised that we were putting the final touches on the conference agenda. We're excited to report that the agenda has been finalized and promises a full schedule of thoughtful presentations, discussions, best practices, and networking opportunities, with some education and fun thrown in. Some of the highlights include:

- ♣ An opening night reception at the Lutheran Seminary on Seminary Ridge, with the opportunity to climb to the cupola to see the countryside from General John Buford's perspective.
- ♣ All conference programs will

be held in the newly opened Adams County Historical Society Museum

- ♣ Saturday evening dinner in the spectacular Gettysburg National Park Service Visitor Center with a special surprise guest as Master of Ceremonies
- ♣ A private tour of the Spangler Farm on Sunday

If you haven't already registered, you can do so via the CWRT Congress website [HERE](#).

Don't miss this opportunity to network, exchange ideas, enhance your leadership skills, and learn about:

- ♣ Dealing with the challenges of emerging from the global pandemic
- ♣ *The Sustainability Challenge* including free tools, techniques, and ideas to

revitalize your CWRT

- ♣ How to identify and engage with local community partners to expand your membership and outreach
- ♣ Marketing to and attracting younger members to your CWRT

We are looking forward to seeing you in August.

August

25-26-27

Gettysburg

PA



Gettysburg National Military Park Museum and Visitors Center

Photo: NPS

## CALL FOR NOMINATIONS!

The CWRT Congress is calling for nominations for three annual awards. Round Tables that have embraced **innovation** and have recreated themselves, that have risen like a **Phoenix** from existential threats, and those whose **marketing** efforts are paying large rewards. Winners are slated to be presented with a plaque and \$250 at the 2023 Sustainability Conference in Gettysburg August 25-27, 2023.

The submission deadline is June 1, 2023. A simplified and fillable PDF submission form can be found on our [website](#). Nominate an outstanding fellow CWRT or nominate your own Round Table.

The **Wallace L. Rueckel Innovation Award** recognizes a CWRT for creative, effective, and inventive programs that provide value to their members. The program achieves measurable results and utilizes a variety of resources and partnerships within and outside the community, adapting to the changing conditions to meet critical objectives. The program increases the capacity of the community to work collaboratively to improve existing services, service delivery, and leadership.

The **Dr. John Bamberl Phoenix Award** recognizes a local CWRT for recreating itself after a period of stagnancy or extinction. The process of recreating a formerly

vibrant organization that lost its way is one that requires dedicated leaders, members who understand the value of public history, and a vision of the future. The program achieves success through commitment, adaptability, and community.

The **Matthew Borowick Marketing Award** recognizes a local CWRT for presenting itself to members, enthusiasts, community partners, potential supporters, and others by using a variety of methods and channels. It requires thought, planning, and logistical support.

Further details can be found [HERE](#).

Innovation

Phoenix

Marketing



Photo:  
National  
Park  
Service,  
Buddy  
Secor



## BATTLEFIELD PRESERVATION—BULL RUN CWRT

*CWRT Congress/Blake Myers*

We recently had a chat with Blake Myers, the Bull Run CWRT Preservation Committee Chair.

**Congress: You are currently involved in a project which affects the areas of Kettle Run Battlefield and the Bristoe Station Battlefield. Please share a brief overview.**

**Myers:** This specific project resulted from the August 2022 purchase of 85 acres of land from the Chapel Springs Assembly of God Church and the church's consulting firm Equinox Investments, LLC by commercial real estate developer Trammel Crow Company for a warehouse and logistics center development, consisting of six large warehouse and distribution buildings (772,400 square feet)

and associated parking and loading areas. The undeveloped and forested 85 acres, located along Bristow Road in Prince William County, Virginia, is within the American Battlefield Protection Program's designated Core Areas of the Battles of Kettle Run (August 27, 1862) and Bristoe Station (October 14, 1863) and is adjacent to Bristoe Station Battlefield Heritage Park and to land within the designated battlefield Core Areas that is owned by the American Battlefield Trust (ABT).

As the proposed logistics center project includes development on designated wetlands, the project proposal requires U.S. Army Corps of Engineer permits for the proposed project to proceed. Involvement of the Corps of Engineers brings into play the National Historic Preservation

Act and its Section 106 provisions which requires Federal agencies to consider the effects of the proposed undertaking on historic properties, and seeks to accommodate historic preservation concerns.

**Congress: How did you become interested and involved in battlefield preservation?**

**Myers:** My interest, advocacy, and involvement in battlefield preservation grew out of my love of history and the realization that history is not only learned from books - - history is all around us in the form of historic sites and battlefields where one can gain a better understanding of, and appreciation for, the people and the events that are that history. I was a career Army

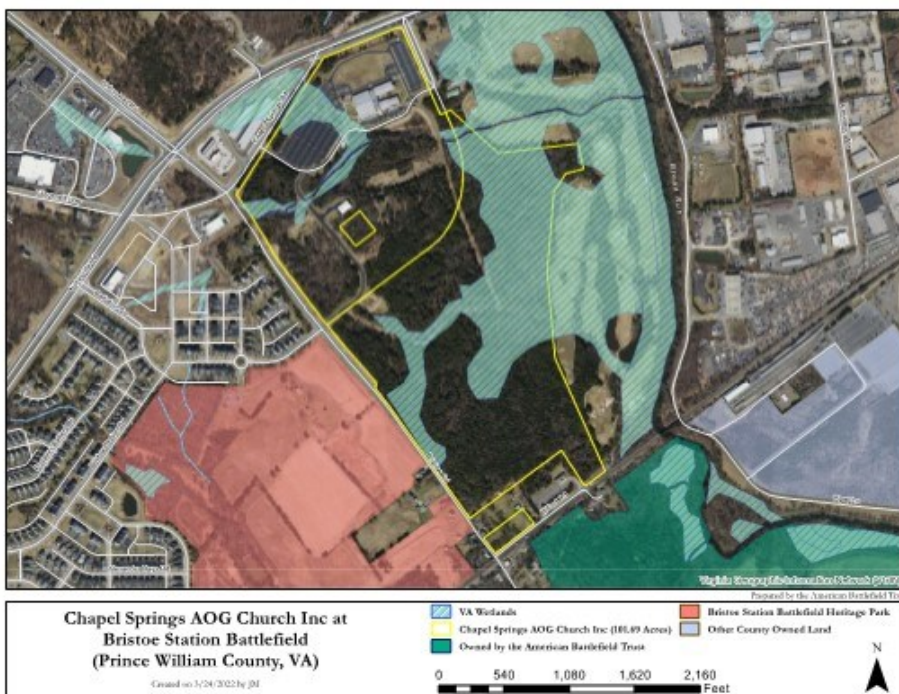
**“The church has consistently declined to engage in such discussions.”**

**Blake Myers**

Officer. It was during my Army career and my continued, albeit periodic, visits to Civil War battlefields that I became truly aware of the threats to these battlefields, both from neglect and from development.

I joined the Bull Run Civil War Round Table to continue learning about Civil War history and to learn about local preservation efforts. The Preservation Committee that I chair consists of six members, all of whom are very knowledgeable in Civil War history and sites within our local geographic area of Fairfax and Prince William Counties, Alexandria, and Washington, D.C. I joined the Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites, became a founding member of the Civil War Preservation Trust (now the American Battlefield Trust), and have been a member of the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation since its founding in 2012.

(continued on Page 8



## BATTLEFIELD PRESERVATION—BULL RUN CWRT

(continued from Page 7)

**Congress:** How were you alerted to this situation?

**Myers:** The preservation community and Prince William County have been aware of this privately owned historic property for years. The American Battlefield Trust (ABT) has attempted many times to engage the Church in discussions concerning potential ABT purchase of the historic property and sites. The church has consistently declined to engage in such discussions. In March 2022, Dovetail Cultural Resources Group began conducting Phase II Archaeological Testing of previously documented sites on the property – typically an indication of a pending development and/or property sale. Dovetail's testing confirmed the existence of remnants of hut sites of a Civil War era encampment with earthworks, and an associated cemetery containing military graves/burials and recommended the site as potentially eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

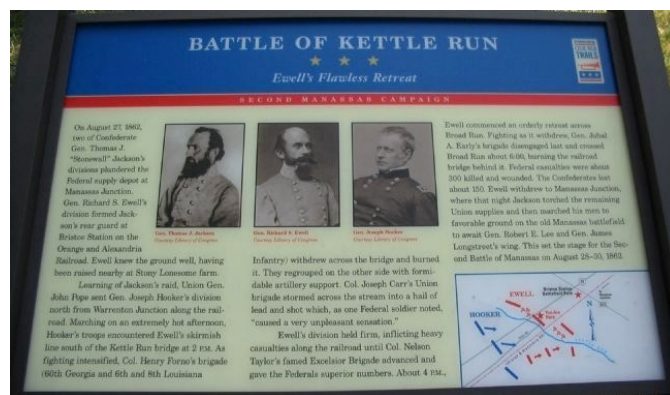
On October 31, 2022, ABT representatives met with representatives of the new owners. During that meeting, ABT informed the property owner that ABT had adequate funds to purchase some of the historic land for preservation purposes, but the owner expressed no interest in discussing any such sale.

**Congress:** Do you ever consult, collaborate, or compare notes with other battlefield preservation projects around the country?

**Myers:** As an organization, BRCWRT and our preservation committee typically work with and through our partners at the American Battlefield Trust, the Central Virginia Battlefields Trust, and the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation to support and collaborate on preservation projects and initiatives beyond our immediate geographic area. We have developed strong relationships, and collaborate extensively, with local jurisdictional History Commissions and Offices of Historic Preservation and with our two local battlefield parks, Manassas National Battlefield Park and Bristoe Station Battlefield Historic Park. We also maintain positive and mutually supportive relationships with several CWRTs in our area, including the CWRT of the District of Columbia, Loudoun County CWRT, and Fredericksburg CWRT.

**Congress:** What part of this process is most frustrating for you?

**Myers:** Three aspects of the tension (locally, anyway) between development and historic preservation frustrate me – 1) the failure of local jurisdictions to adequately and effectively document and 'protect' (where appropriate) historic properties and sites in their respective Comprehensive Plans and Zoning Ordinances,



Photographed By Craig Swain, August 24, 2008

2) the tendency of local jurisdictions to engage in 'private' discussions (including the recent trend of executing a prospective developer's non-disclosure agreement that limits transparency and public disclosures) with developers on specific development projects without considering potential historic preservation issues, or including even their own historic preservation offices/commissions in those discussions, and 3) historic preservation organizations and groups not being included in the front end of development discussions and with the respective jurisdiction's staff review and negotiation processes (re-zoning applications, project plan and design reviews, etc.), but rather coming in at the tail end of the processes after many key decisions may have already been made.

**Congress:** And finally, are you optimistic of its outcome, given the powerful alliances you've established?

**Myers:** Yes, based on the broad scope of the consulting parties that have provided input to the Corps of Engineers to date, and will be involved in the coming Section 106 Review, and the involvement of Virginia's State Historic Preservation Officer - I am reasonably optimistic that significant portions of the historic property and the documented archaeological sites will be preserved.



## MAKING HIGHER CONNECTIONS— CWRT OF MID-OHIO VALLEY

By Carol VanOrnum

The Civil War Round Table of Mid-Ohio Valley, Marietta, OH, has resumed its annual bus trips. Battlefield tours are always on the agenda, but the CWRTMOV creates a special moment for members to touch the souls of fallen soldiers.

Nancy Arthur, CWRTMOV Secretary, explained the process. “Each of the bus guests are given a name of one of the individuals, then we find that

person’s grave and place a flag on it. We hold a brief ceremony with a prayer. It’s very moving.”

In November 2022, they visited Gettysburg. However, the cemetery wouldn’t allow them to put down a few flags. Rather it was all or nothing. “Instead,” Nancy continued, “I cut holly sprigs and each person received one of those to lay on the grave. It was beautiful!”



Photo: Nancy Arthur

## GRANDPARENTS’ NIGHT! TWIN CITIES CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



Photo: Nancy Harder

Leslie Goddard, aka Clara Barton, with her young admirers.

By Carol VanOrnum

The Twin Cities Civil War Round Table of Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN held a first-of-a-kind Grandparents’ Night, featuring Clara Barton, aka Leslie Goddard. Ms. Goddard gave an excellent portrayal of *Clara Barton: Civil War Battlefield Nurse*. As an added bonus, many spouses were also present, some having never attended before.

One member’s introduction brought chuckles: “Now that my wife’s actually here, she

can see that there really is such a thing as a Civil War Round Table where I go on all those Tuesday nights.”

It was possibly the largest turnout for the TCCWRT at 117 registered, and a testament to the attraction of living historian presentations. Maybe some history seeds were planted as well!

Ms. Goddard is one of the CWRT Congress’ Five-Star Speakers and can be reached at [l-goddard@ATT.net](mailto:l-goddard@ATT.net).

Find us on the web! [www.cwrtcongress.org](http://www.cwrtcongress.org)

Facebook: **CWRT Congress**

Youtube: **CWRT Congress**

Subscribe and Follow

Facebook Leaders Group: **Team CWRT**

### Board of Directors

- Mike Movius, President  
mike@cwrtcongress.org
- John Bamberl, Vice President
- Carol VanOrnum, Vice President  
carol@cwrtcongress.org
- Andrew Mizsak, Secretary
- Bill Miller, Treasurer
- Mary Koik, Director
- Steve Raushkolb, Director
- Craig Apperson, Director

### Advisory Council

- Kim Brace  
Bull Run CWRT
- Peter Carmichael  
Civil War Institute, Gettysburg College
- Doug Dammann  
Kenosha Civil War Museum
- David Dixon  
Author/Historian
- Robert Ford  
Baltimore CWRT
- Cheryl Gooch  
State University of New York
- Michael Kirschner  
Roanoke CWRT
- James Knights  
Western Pennsylvania CWRT
- Chris Kolakowski  
Wisconsin Veterans Museum
- Ed Lowe  
Chickamauga & Chattanooga CWRT
- Ashley Luskey  
Civil War Institute, Gettysburg College
- Chris Mackowski  
Emerging Civil War
- Rosemary Nichols  
Capital District CWRT
- Jonathan Noyalas  
McCormick Civil War Institute,  
Shenandoah University
- Gerry Propokowicz  
Civil War Talk Radio
- Ted Savas  
Savas Beatie Publishers
- Janet Whaley  
Pasadena CWRT



CWRT of Cobb County Field Trip 2023

Our CWRT of Cobb County had a Field Trip to the Atlanta History Center in January. This is the Texas locomotive that was chasing the General. The very first CWRTECC meeting was held at the Marietta History Center, which was the old hotel building where Andrews and many of the Raiders spent the night before stealing the General.

Angela Schneider, President