

Circular Memorandum #492

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December, 2017

Announcing Our 524th Meeting

"The Spirit of Henry Clay and Kentucky in the Civil War"

Will be Presented by James C. Klotter

DATE: Saturday, December 9

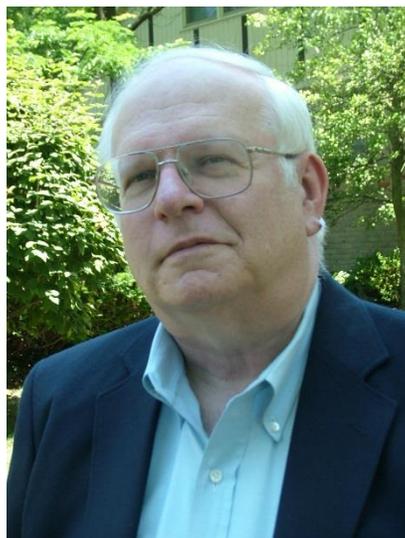
Location: Big Spring Country Club

COCKTAILS: 6:00 P.M.

DINNER (\$28.00): 7:00 P.M.

PROGRAM: 8:00 P.M.

Meet Our Speaker -James C. Klotter



We are glad to welcome back a distinguished historian and author, James C. Klotter. James is a native Kentuckian, and received his Ph.D. in history from the University of Kentucky. He is the author, coauthor, or editor of almost twenty prize-winning books, including the standard works on Kentucky used at the elementary, secondary, and college level. Among his books are: *William Goebel: The Politics of Wrath*; *A New History of Kentucky*; *Kentucky: Portrait in Paradox, 1900-1950*; and *Kentucky Justice, Southern Honor, and American Manhood* (which won the Governors' Award in 2007 for the best book on Kentucky history published over the past four years)

Most recently, he coedited *Kentucky Renaissance: The History and Culture of Central Kentucky, 1792-1852*. Dr. Klotter's study of Henry Clay and the American presidency will appear early next year from Oxford University Press.

Jim Klotter was the Executive Director of the Kentucky Historical Society for many years. He currently serves as Professor of History at Georgetown College and is the State Historian of Kentucky.

"The Spirit of Henry Clay and Kentucky in the Civil War"

Henry Clay was known as 'The Great Compromiser.' But he had been dead for almost a decade by the time the Civil War started and compromise after compromise failed to keep the conflict from starting. But Clay's lingering influence lived on long after his death and it would still prove crucial in shaping Kentucky's course during the conflict, and, by extension, the nation's future. In this talk, the State Historian of Kentucky brings to bear the work he has done for a study of Clay that will be published next year by Oxford University Press.

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Remember Price Increase at Big Spring

The management at Big Spring Country Club has informed us that they are increasing the price of the buffet from \$25 to \$28. This is the first price increase we have had in nine years. We are still getting a 26% discount on our meals from Big Spring.

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Big Spring Begins Renovation; Entrance and Parking is Changed

Big Spring Country Club has begun a renovation that will last for the next several months. They want us to park in the rear of the building and use those doors to enter the building. The front doors will be closed off during the renovation.

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RESERVATIONS: Call Doug Krawczyk (502-425-0325) to place your reservations. If you are making reservations for more than just yourself, please give the names of the others. If you leave your reservation on his answering machine, please spell out your name so he can correctly identify you. You can also make your reservation by e-mail by sending it to bryanw@macconstruction.com. Please call or email **no later than Wednesday, December 6**, by noon. If you wish to join us just for the program, please call and make a reservation so that we can provide you with a chair. If you are only coming for the program, you can call Doug anytime up to 4:00 p.m. the day of the meeting.

Reminder for Table Reservations: We can reserve tables for parties of **eight** only, and we need you to provide us with the names of all the people in your party when you make the reservation. This will enable us to manage our meeting space in a more efficient manner. Thank you.

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Fort Negley Civil War Seminar - The 153rd Anniversary of the Tennessee Campaign of 1864.

Please join us as we examine aspects of the Tennessee Campaign of 1864, when Confederate General John Bell Hood brought the Army of Tennessee into their namesake state to try and capture Nashville and perhaps move into Kentucky from there. Five scholars will offer programs that tie into this campaign from a lesser known aspect. We are pleased to have the following historians join us that day:

Dr. Thomas Flagel - Columbia State College - This Landscape Transformed: Union Fortification of the Western Theater of the Civil War

Greg Biggs - Clarksville/Nashville Civil War Roundtables/author/historian - Stopping Hood: The U.S. Navy In The Tennessee Campaign

Brian Allison - author/historian - topic TBA

Dr. Bobby Lovett - author/historian - topic TBA but probably an aspect of the United States Colored Troops at Nashville

John Scales - Brig. Gen. U.S. Army (ret.)/historian/author - Hood's Retreat From Nashville (Gen. Scales will have his brand new book analyzing the military career of Nathan Bedford Forrest for sale at this event!)

The event will be held on Saturday, December 16 and begins at 9 AM and concludes at 4 PM. The programs will be held at the Fort Negley Visitors Center, 1100 Fort Negley Blvd., Nashville, TN. This is not far off I-65 just south of downtown Nashville. Admission is free and seating is limited.

We hope to see you at the seminar!

Contact Greg Biggs biggsq@charter.net for more information.

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2018 Spring Field Trip: Chickamauga and Chattanooga

Due to scheduling difficulties, we have had to change next year's spring field trip from New Orleans to tour the battles connected with the 1863 Chickamauga and Chattanooga campaigns. We are very fortunate to secure the services of Chickamauga Park Historian Jim Ogden who is without doubt the best guide for the battle of Chickamauga having spent his career studying and interpreting this important campaign. Those of you who have been on field trips with Jim in the past know how great a guide he is. We will spend the final day of the tour covering the Chattanooga portion of the campaign and battles that took place there. Our guide will be Dr. Anthony Hodges who is a resident of Chattanooga and is President of the Friends of Chickamauga-Chattanooga National Military Park and is considered an expert on the Civil War sites in Chattanooga. He is a veteran tour guide of these sites. The dates will be **April 18 - 22, 2018**. The sign-up sheet will be available at the next meeting and we will begin collecting deposits. You can also email John Davis at johnd.davis@twc.com to make your reservation. You can send your nonrefundable \$200 deposit made out to LCWRT to Louisville Civil War Round Table, 9462 Brownsboro Road- #142, Louisville, KY., 40241. We will have a lot more information about this exciting trip in the coming months.

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Meet Our Guide: Chickamauga Battlefield's Jim Ogden

Anyone in this area who is a history buff or a [Chickamauga Battlefield](#) enthusiast has probably met Jim Ogden, the National Military Park's encyclopedic historian. To coin a phrase, if he doesn't know it, it probably can't be known — at least when it comes to Civil War and local history.



"I wanted to work for the park service from the time I was a kid," says Ogden. The path to his current position was not so smooth, though. The son of two teachers, James Ogden III says he was "expected to learn things" growing up. He settled on the American Civil War and military history as areas of expertise. At Frostburg State College in Maryland, when he informed his academic advisors of his intent to major in these areas, he was told it was not a well-rounded curriculum. He forged ahead anyway and graduated with the degree of his choice.

When Ogden wanted to do an internship at Harper's Ferry National Historical Park, he was told by his advisors it was not one of the available options. The young student borrowed a family friend's car, drove to the train station, took a train to Harper's Ferry, and returned with the information necessary to make the internship work. After graduation, Ogden says, "I learned that at that time, the park service didn't care if I had a degree in any kind of history. They were looking for law enforcement-trained officers to serve as rangers." So the newly minted historian took a six-week law enforcement course and was hired as a ranger at the Chickamauga Battlefield. There he worked for some years, patrolling the park, helping visitors and amassing additional knowledge. He took a break from Chickamauga for six years and did short stints at Russell Cave and Fredericksburg, Va., then returned to his first National Park home. In 1988, Chickamauga Battlefield created an official historian position and Ogden became the only historian the park has ever had.

That's the story of how Ogden got here. The rest of the story is about the history so close to the man's heart. He shares it with the passion that only someone who knows it like he knows himself can.

"After the Battle of Chickamauga," says Ogden, "men lay scattered all over the fields, dead, wounded — 4,000 of them. There had been a years-long drought in the area, so the ground was hard and dry. Add to that the limestone-laden soil that made digging adequate graves nearly impossible, and you can imagine what it was like trying to bury the dead." Only one body is known to be buried within the military park today, but originally, all the bodies were entombed on the fields of battle, Ogden explains. It would be years before they were all moved, one way or another, to permanent burial sites. Ogden's interests and studies encompass every aspect of the National Park he works for. Back in the early days of the battlefield's existence, he says, its administrative offices were housed in what is now Chattanooga's City Hall. The idea of locating a building in the battlefield in Catoosa County came during the 1930s, under President Franklin Roosevelt's programs to put people to work.

"As was the practice at that time," says Ogden, "projects were overbuilt to create more employment in a nation staggering under economic depression, and the new building at Chickamauga was no exception. For instance, where standard practice was to reinforce concrete every twelve inches, it was done every six inches instead —

more man hours, more materials that had to be produced by other workers." From this original building, which consisted of offices with a small visitor reception area, a visitor center gradually grew. The glass structure visitors see today was finished in 1990 and exhibits were updated in 2002. More recently, a new movie presentation was made to help visitors understand the battle the park commemorates.

"The first audio-visual element was added in the late 1950s in preparation for the centennial of the Battle of Chickamauga," says Ogden. "The Chickamauga events, commemorating the September 19-20 battle of 1863, were held as scheduled, but when it came time for the events related to the 1863 Chattanooga battles, those were cancelled because of the assassination of John F. Kennedy." This year — the first time in 27 years — Ogden missed the anniversary events at the battlefield, but with good excuse. His 92-year-old, World War II-veteran father wanted to attend his division reunion, and Ogden and his sister made sure it happened. "History shows us where we came from," says Ogden. "It tells us who we are and, if we listen, it gives us ideas about where we should go." "The world was watching America during the Civil War and asking: Can this nation of self-governing people survive?" Ogden says. "Totalitarianism was on the rise around the world at that time. America was a beacon of hope and inspiration for millions of people around the world. Some world leaders would have been happy to see us divided so they could move in to try to exert control."

"We just about tore ourselves apart in the mid-1800s, but we came through it and have grown stronger. We're further along the path of achieving the ideals in the Declaration of Independence than we were 150, 100, 50 years ago. If those ideals are attainable, the United States is the country that can achieve them. The study of history can help us reach that goal."

By Tamara Wolk, correspondent for the Walker County Messenger September 2016

The Non-Refundable Field Trip \$200 Deposit Explained!

The non-refundable \$200 field trip deposit is necessary in order to begin paying the bills for the trip. These include reserving our bus and other pre-payment deposits that are required. We also need to get an accurate count of who is actually going on the trip so we can price the trip fairly. We will refund the deposit up until the January 20, 2018 meeting. After that date, we will refund only the portion of the trip fee above the non-refundable \$200 deposit. We will be taking 45 reservations for the tour on this field trip.

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2017 - 2018 Schedule

Saturday	December 9	James Klotter	"The Spirit of Henry Clay and Kentucky in the Civil War"
Saturday	January 20	David Powell	"The Campaign and Battle of Chickamauga "
Saturday	February 10	Chris Kolakowski	"The Battle of Missionary Ridge"
Saturday	March 10	TBA	"TBA"
Saturday	April 14	Greg Mertz	"Gordon's Flank Attack in the Wilderness: One of Many Lost Opportunities"
Saturday	May 12	John Quarstein	"Battle of the Ironclads"

NOVEMBER 2017 QUIZ:

1. Who was Thomas Corbett?

As Boston Corbett (he changed his name in the 1850s), he killed John Wilkes Booth.

2. What was Virginia known as before its re-admission to the Union?

It was known as Military District No. 1.

3. What was the main provision of the first national income tax?

On August 5, 1861 Lincoln signed the first national income tax which imposed a 3% tax on annual incomes over \$800. This tax was never put in operation, but it did pave the way for the 1862 bill that imposed a 3% tax on incomes between \$600 and \$10,000 and a 5% tax on higher incomes.

4. What was the Swamp Angel?

It was a mammoth 16,300 pound, 8 inch Parrott Union gun, located on Morris Island, South Carolina. It fired 36 shots into Charleston for a few days in August 1863 before it exploded.

5. Who were the Copperheads?

They were a group of Northern Democrats who sympathized with the South, opposed the war, and wanted an immediate peace settlement with the Confederacy.

DECEMBER 2017 QUIZ:

1. How did Union General George McClellan take Yorktown, Virginia during the Peninsula Campaign of 1862?

2. What Confederate city had the largest population at the beginning of the war?

3. What Union ship was referred to as a "tin can on a shingle"?

4. Why was night signaling by the U.S. Army Signal Corpsmen considered perilous?

5. What two states maintained governments in exile in the Confederacy?

(The Quiz is prepared by Harriette Weatherbee)

Attest:

**John Davis
Adjutant**

By Order of:

**Art Boerner
President**