



Circular Memorandum #477

louisvillecwrtyolasite.com

March 12, 2016

Announcing Our 509th Meeting

"Difficult and Broken Ground: The Terrain Factor at Shiloh"

Will be Presented by Timothy B. Smith

DATE: Saturday, March 12

Location: Big Spring Country Club

COCKTAILS: 6:00 P.M.

DINNER (\$25.00): 7:00 P.M.

PROGRAM: 8:00 P.M.

Meet Our Speaker - Timothy B. Smith



Timothy B. Smith, Civil War author and historian, is a native of Mississippi but now resides in Tennessee, where he teaches history at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Smith received both BA and MA degrees in history from the University of Mississippi and a PhD from Mississippi State University in 2001. Pursuing his love of history, Smith worked for the National Park Service at the Shiloh National Military Park for seven years, where his interest in the Civil War was intensified. His main area of interest and specialty, besides the Civil War, is the history of Civil War battlefield preservation. **Tim Smith** is widely regarded

as the leading tour guide of the battle of Shiloh and of the siege and battle of Corinth. He is the author of a number of books including *Mississippi in the Civil War: The Home Front*, *The Untold Story of Shiloh: The Battle and Battlefield*, *Rethinking Shiloh: Myth and Memory*, *Shiloh: Conquer or Perish*, *The Golden Age of Battlefield Preservation: The Decade of the 1890s and the Establishment of America's First Five Military Parks*; and *Corinth 1862: Siege, Battle, Occupation*.

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Difficult and Broken Ground: The Terrain Factor at Shiloh

At the Battle of Shiloh, timing, numbers, and leadership all combined to sway the action in definite ways, but perhaps the most dominant reason was the terrain on which the battle took place. Any understanding of the battle has to be firmly based on an understanding of the battlefield, and Dr. Timothy B. Smith, basing this lecture on his award winning book *Shiloh: Conquer or Perish*, will walk us through a detailed examination of the terrain factors at Shiloh. He will explain how the ground, often described negatively as a trap for the Union forces, was actually set up perfectly for Union victory and Confederate defeat. Little known features will be examined in order to understand more fully how the battle was shaped and funneled in certain directions, leading to a major advantage for the Federal forces. Albert Sidney Johnston famously proclaimed that he must conquer or perish that day, and he, and perhaps his Confederacy, did the latter at Shiloh in large part due to the terrain on which the battle was fought.

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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 March 9**, 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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Vicksburg Field Trip - Balances Are Due!

(Please read this if you are going on the field trip - cost information)

If you are going on the Vicksburg field trip, please pay any remaining balance you may have. The cost of the field trip is \$390 (taking the bus or driving). We will be staying at **Comfort Suites**. Room reservations must be made by the individuals and the deadline is March 21. The hotel will not hold our block of rooms past this date. The person you want to talk to is Lynn Foley and her phone number is **601-618-9224**. **Ask to reserve a room off the Louisville Civil War Roundtable list**. This does includes breakfast. There will be a **pre-trip meeting** held on Sunday afternoon April 3, at 2:00 at Big Spring. Future information will be forth coming regarding dinner selections for Saturday night (included in trip cost), box lunch options for on tour stop (included in trip price), recommended reading from our guide, and a day by day agenda. Our guide will be former Vicksburg park historian **Terry Winschel**. The tour will include the entire Vicksburg campaign. Please pay your balance by March 21. To pay your balance by mail, send your check made out to the LCWRT to **Louisville Civil War Round Table, 11024 Indian Legends Drive - Apt-203, Louisville, Ky., 40241-3455**. Our treasurer would greatly appreciate receiving your check by mail if possible.

Need Pictures for the Field Trip Quiz

Please send any field trip photos you have that would be appropriate for our field trip quiz that we do on the last night of the field trip. The pictures should have people in them to be used in the quiz. You can send them to Bryan Winslow at bryanw@macconstruction.com.

Save This Date for Spring 2017 Field Trip The Seven Days Battles

We have confirmed next year's field trip to Richmond, Virginia to tour the Seven Days Battles with Bobby Krick the former park historian for the Richmond National Battlefield Park. The dates will be April 19 -23 2017.

2016 Schedule

Saturday	March 12	Tim Smith	"Difficult and Broken Ground: The Terrain Factor at Shiloh"
Saturday	April 9	Ron Blair	"Frank Wolford: The Great Kentucky Rivalry"
Saturday	May 14	Joe Reinhart	"Louisville's German Immigrants in the Civil War"
Saturday	September 10	Dennis Frye	"George B. McClellan: A Re-evaluation"
Saturday	October 8	Ethan Rafuse	"TBA"
Sunday	November 20	Bud Robertson	"The Four Legged Soldiers"

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Request for Updated Membership Information

We are in the process of updating our membership information and we would like for all members to help us with this project. We need your address, phone number(s), and email address for our records. We need this information so that we may insure that you receive your newsletter and also so that we may contact you in case we have inclement weather that may necessitate canceling our meeting and to send you other timely updates. Even if you do not receive the newsletter by email, we would like to have your email address in case we need to update you about our meetings or some other important item of information.

You can email this information to our secretary, Harriette Weatherbee, at harriettew@att.net. We will also have forms distributed at the next meeting that you can fill out with this information.

Thanks for your assistance! This will help us serve you better - The Board of Directors LCWRT.

Welcome New Members!

We wish to welcome the following new members into our fellowship.

Charlie Turner Lisa and Joe Wegner Mary Jean and Russ Lohan

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The Fifth Annual Bourbon and BBQ Set for June 11!

Once again the Louisville Civil War Round Table will hold a Bourbon and BBQ fund raiser event. This our fifth event will be held at Art Boerner's lovely home on the Ohio River on Saturday, June 11 beginning at 4:00. Sign-up sheets will be available at the next meeting. Spaces are limited to the first 55! Special guests include Bourbon historian Michael Veach and former food critic of the Courier-Journal Susan Reigler! They have co-authored a book entitled "**Bourbon Tasting Notebook**". This year we will feature several different bourbons in our tasting and we will receive special instructions on how to taste great bourbons. We will have our usual great food featuring BBQ ribs and pulled pork (we promise not to run out this year) with sides, desserts, sauces etc. Cost is \$50 per person for members of the Round Table and for non-members the cost will be \$60. After May 14, the cost will be \$60 for everyone. Don't delay, sign up as soon as possible and pay your fee. This is the only way to **guarantee** your reservation. The last four BBQ and Bourbon events sold out and we had to turn people away so act now! Send your check made out to the LCWRT to Doug Kremer, 11024 Indian Legends Dr., Apt 203, Louisville, Ky. 40241.

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Incredible Opportunity to Complete the Preservation of Perryville!

Thanks to the Civil War Trust, the last crucial parcel of core battlefield land can now be preserved forever and you can help! What Chris Kolakowski called the "goat farm" where the final critical action of the battle took place can now be purchased. This 70 acre farm can now be added to the 957 acres that has already been saved. This will make **over 1,000 acres** of preserved land where our history happened. Prospects like this don't come around often.

This parcel is one of the last major pieces of unprotected land at the battlefield, the largest and bloodiest battle fought in Kentucky. Preservation of this land is essential to the interpretation of the closing, climatic stages of the Battle of Perryville's northern flank. This land contains the most important man-made structure on the Perryville battlefield: the 430-foot long stone fence behind which Colonel John Starkweather's Union brigade finally stopped the advance of General Ben Cheatham's Confederate division, just 600 yards short of the entire Union First Corps supply train. The Yankees then used this fence to launch a slashing counterattack that drove the Confederates back. The fight for the Union left essentially ended on this land.

To donate, go to www.civilwar.org/battlefields/perryville/perryville-2016 and you will find directions on how to contribute a tax-deductible donation that will be matched 2-1 with matching funds. Or you can mail your donations to Civil War Trust, PO Box 17686, Baltimore, MD 21298-8333 and mark it for Perryville.

FEBRUARY 2016 QUIZ:

1. Besides the Emancipation Proclamation and the Militia Act of 1862, another important piece of legislation went into effect on January 1, 1863. What was it?

Congress was finally able to pass the Homestead Act, which President Lincoln signed on May 20, 1862. Up until then the Southern Democrats had been able to defeat all previous efforts. The Homestead Act allowed immigrants, women, and former slaves to file for homesteads. To file one needed to be the head of a household, at least 21 years old, and pay the \$18 filing fee to claim one of the 160-acre parcels of land. Reportedly Daniel Freeman of Illinois filed the first claim at the Brownville, Nebraska land claim office at ten minutes after midnight on January 1, 1863.

2. When did Robert E. Lee become General-in-Chief of the Confederate armies?

Confederate President Davis named General Lee general-in-chief of all the Confederate forces on January 23, 1865. (Some sources say it was on January 31 or February 8, 1865.)

3. What was the name of the house that Jefferson Davis and his family lived in during the Civil War?

It was called the Executive Mansion and/or the Brockenbrough House, since it had been owned by Dr. John Brockenbrough. It didn't become known as the White House of the Confederacy until after the war.

4. What Federal official supposedly argued against putting captured Confederate officers on trial for treason and said, "If you bring these leaders to trial it will condemn the North, for by the Constitution secession is not rebellion"?

It is believed that this opinion was privately delivered in 1865 by Salmon P. Chase, chief justice of the U.S. Supreme Court.

5. What postwar diplomatic post was awarded to Confederate partisan ranger John Singleton Mosby?

After the war, Mosby supported U. S. Grant for president, joined the Republican party, and was appointed American consul to Hong Kong by President Rutherford B. Hayes.

MARCH 2016 QUIZ:

1. What happened to Confederate General John C. Pemberton after he surrendered Vicksburg to Union forces?
2. Following the Battle of Champion Hill, what did Union General Alvin P. Hovey call the hill?
3. What were the five "Grant's Bayou Operations" that Union General U. S. Grant initiated in the winter of 1863 in order to approach and capture Vicksburg?

- 4. The Union victory at Vicksburg helped the Union in what two ways?
- 5. The word "siege" is often misapplied. Why can Vicksburg be called a true siege?

(The Quiz is prepared by Harriette Weatherbee)

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Civil War Seminar to Be Held in Huntsville, Alabama - April, 30th, 2016

The Tennessee Valley CWRT is again putting on a Civil War symposium down in wonderful Huntsville, Alabama - less than five hours from Louisville. The date is Saturday, April 30, 2016. The day long events begin at 9 AM and conclude at 4:30 PM.

The seminar will be held at the Marriott's Springhill Suites, 745 Constellation Place Drive SW, Huntsville, Alabama. Speakers include:

- Kent Wright (*Civil War Navies on River and Sea*, Tennessee Valley CWRT)
- Keynote speaker - Steve Woodworth (*Conspiracy to Assassinate President Lincoln* - noted Civil War author and professor of history at Texas Christian University)
- Peggy Allen Townes (*From Slavery, to Soldering, to Self-Sufficiency* - local historian and author)
- John Scales (*Did Forrest Make a Difference?* - retired Brigadier General U.S. Army, historian and author)
- Greg Biggs (*Laying the Blueprint: Sherman's Logistics in the Atlanta Campaign* - historian and author)

The day will conclude with an Interactive Panel Discussion (Q&A-based discussion open to all aspects of the ACW with a panel comprising Kent Wright, Peggy Allen Townes, John Scales, Greg Biggs, David Lady, and Jacque Reeves; and moderated by John Allen)

Registration fee: \$30 for members, \$40 for non-members. (Note that the member price extends to members of neighboring Round Tables - so this is good for members of the Nashville CWRT!). Lunch is on your own with many places nearby. You will need to inquire if this applies to the Louisville Civil War Round Table.

Advance registration required. Registration cut-off is April 15, 2016. Please contact Kent Wright for more details at - kdwrt@netzero.co. Go ahead and get your spaces early.

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Attest:
John Davis
Adjutant

By Order of:
Holly Evans
President