

Civil War  
**ROUNDTABLE**  
Of  
Arkansas

P.O. Box 7281 • LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72217



## Our 44rd Year

FOR THE MEETING TUESDAY, March 25, 2008

Meets Fourth Tuesday; January-November

Founded March 1964

Second Presbyterian Church

600 Pleasant Valley Drive

Little Rock

Program at 7 p.m.

Online: [www.civilwarbuff.org](http://www.civilwarbuff.org)

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Dues \$20 Per Year

VISITORS WELCOME!

VISIT THE BATTLEFIELDS WHEN YOU CAN...

WHILE YOU CAN

## Battle of Franklin

BY

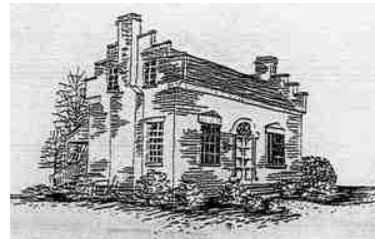
**George Davis**

The Second Battle of Franklin (more popularly known simply as The Battle of Franklin) was fought at Franklin, Tennessee, on November 30, 1864, as part of the Franklin-Nashville Campaign of the American Civil War. It was one of the worst disasters of the war for the Confederate States Army.

Although the Union Army of the Ohio, commanded by Maj. Gen. John M. Schofield, left the field after the battle, the Confederate Army suffered devastating losses—including six generals killed or mortally wounded—in its unsuccessful frontal assaults against the Union defenders, sometimes called the "Pickett's Charge of the West." A further

loss at the subsequent Battle of Nashville in December marked the end of Confederate General John Bell Hood's Army of Tennessee as a fighting force.

### THE BATTLEFIELD TODAY



The Carter House, which stands today and is open to visitors, was located at the center of the Union position. The site covers about 15

acres. The house and outbuildings still show hundreds of bullet holes. The Carnton Plantation,

## JULY 4, 5, & 6, 2008

home to the McGavock family during the battle, also still stands and is likewise open to the public. Confederate soldiers swept past Carnton toward the left wing of the Union army and the house and outbuildings were converted into the largest field hospital present after the battle. Adjacent to Carnton is the McGavock Confederate Cemetery, where 1,481 Southern soldiers killed in the battle are buried. Adjacent to the 48 acres surrounding Carnton is another 110 acres of battlefield, which is currently being converted to a city park.

Much of the rest of the Franklin battlefield has been lost to commercial development. The spot where Gen. Cleburne fell, for instance, was covered until late 2005 by a Pizza Hut restaurant. Although the restaurant was purchased by a preservation group and demolished, the Civil War Preservation Trust continues to rank the Franklin battlefield as one of the ten most endangered sites.

Our Speaker George Davis was born 2 1/2 years before Pearl Harbor in the Panama Canal Zone. The Federal Government in the Canal employed his dad. He was nearly eight years old when the Japanese surrendered so he was able to spend many hours watching warships traverse the Canal.

In his block, there was an underground bomb shelter, which he occupied for an hour each month in practice. All streetlights were red and all household lights were red or blue. The Canal Zone expected to be bombed next by the Japanese.

After a stint in the U. S. Navy, Mr. Davis graduated with a degree in social studies from the University of Texas. He then spent nine years teaching history in Texas. In 1984, he moved to Arkansas to enter the satellite dish business with his brother who lived here.

Currently he is "retired" but is in his sixth year as a security guard at Cabot high school. His wife is in her 25<sup>th</sup> year as a nurse at UAMS. When she retires, they will live on Maine's largest island, in a house they have never spent a night in, but have owned for eleven years!

Mr. Davis joined Company "A" of the 6<sup>TH</sup> Arkansas, CSA, in 1995 and has taken part in many civil war reenactments in eight states, and plans on doing the same at Gettysburg next July.

Next fall when your friends asks, "what did you do last summer"? You could say, "I watched an amazing civil war battle at Gettysburg." Join 10,000 of your closest friends for the Gettysburg 145th National Civil War Battle Reenactment

From Gettysburg

Business 15 North (Carlisle Street) to left on Boyds School Road, right on Table Rock Road to parking lots.

### SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, July 4th

9:00 - C.S. Generals: Lee, Pickett, Jackson, Ewell, AP Hill & more - (Tent 1)

9:30 - Civil War Infantry Talk presented by Brandon Booth, great grandson of John Wilkes Booth

10:00 - U.S. Generals, Meade, Hooker, Hancock, Reynolds, Gibbon - (Tent 1)

10:30 - Artillery by author and living historian Jack Travis - (Tent 2)

12:00 - General Longstreet portrayed by Ron Hawkins - (Tent 1)

12:30 - A.P. Hill as portrayed by actor/historian Patrick Falci of the film Gettysburg

1:00 - Brigade Commanders of the C.S.A., Generals Kershaw, Davis and Barksdale (Tent 1)

2:30 - Medical Demonstration by the Antietam Army Hospital - (Tent 2)

3:00 - Civil War Wedding in the 1860's Victorian setting (Tent 1)

3:30 - Gettysburg Ghost Stories - Hosted by guides from Gettysburg Ghost Tours (Tent 2)

4:00 - Victorian Fashions by Carolann Schmitt (Genteel Arts Academy) - (Tent 1)

4:30 - Drum & Bugle demonstration by the Indiana 1st Infantry - (Tent 2)

5:30 - Live Mortar Fire Demonstration (Field)

Saturday, July 5th

9:00 - U.S. Generals: Meade, Hooker, Reynolds, Gibbon, Hancock - (Tent 1)

9:30 C.S. Generals: Lee, Pickett, Stuart, Ewell - (Tent 2)

10:00 - Civil War Medicine presented by the Antietam Army Hospital - (Tent 1)

11:00 - Battle: "Polished Sabers Dazzling in the Sun", Cavalry Engagement at Hanover Road

## FUTURE PROGRAMS

12:00 - Live Mortar Fire Demonstration (Field)  
Independence Day Artillery Commemoration  
1:00 - A.P. Hill as portrayed by actor/historian  
Patrick Falci of the film Gettysburg  
1:30 - General Longstreet - Portrayed by Living  
Historian/Actor Ron Hawkins (Tent 1)  
2:00 - Brigade Commanders of the Confederate  
States: Generals Kershaw, Davis and Barksdale-  
(Tent 1)  
2:30 - Victorian Fashions by Carolann Schmitt  
(Genteel Arts Academy) - (Tent 2)  
3:00 - Gettysburg Ghost Stories - Hosted by guides  
from Gettysburg Ghost Tours (Tent 1)  
3:30 - Civil War Wedding in the 1860's Victorian  
Setting (Tent 2)  
4:00 - General Grant on Vicksburg (Tent 1)  
5:00 - Battle: "Hold The Line", Gallant Rally at the  
Klinge Farm  
6:15 - Civil War Religious Revival Service by Rev.  
Farley - (Tent 1)  
6:45 - Masonic Meeting - Gathering of the  
Brotherhood (Field)

Sunday, July 6th

9:30 - Period Worship Service - Reverend Farley  
(Tent 1)  
9:30 - Catholic Worship Service - (Tent 2)  
10:30 - U.S. Generals - Meade, Hooker, Hancock,  
Reynolds, Gibbon (Tent 1)  
10:30 - C.S. Generals - Lee, Pickett, Stuart, Jackson,  
Ewell and more (Tent 2)  
11:00 Cavalry Battle - "We Must Cross The  
Potomac to Virginia", Protecting the Retreat  
12:00 Live Mortar Fire Demonstration (Field)  
12:30 - General Longstreet - Portrayed by Living  
Historian/Actor Ron Hawkins (Tent 1)  
1:00 - A.P. Hill as portrayed by actor/historian  
Patrick Falci of the film Gettysburg  
1:30 - Drum & Bugle Demonstration - Presented by  
the Indiana 1st Infantry (Tent 1)  
2:00 Brigade Commanders of the C.S.A. - Generals  
Kershaw, Davis, Barksdale & more  
3:00 - Battle -  
"The High Tide Crashes", Pickett's Charge  
Independence Day Artillery Commemoration  
4:00 - Gettysburg Ghost Stories - Hosted by guides  
from Gettysburg Ghost Tours (Tent 1)

In addition, the 46th Pa Brass Band and other  
musical groups will be performing throughout the  
weekend

March 25 – George Davis  
Battle of Franklin

April 22 --Miss Ellie  
The Wound Has Never Healed

May 27 – Cal Collier  
TBA

June 24 – Mark Christ  
Recruiting Black Regiments

July 22 -- Brig. Gen. Parker Hills (ret) of  
Clinton, Mississippi.  
Battle of Raymond

August 26 – Dr. Michael B. Dougan  
Christian missionaries and Indians -- slavery  
and related themes

September 23 -- Dr. Ruth Hawkins  
Restoration of the Lakeport Plantation near  
Lake Village

October 28 --

November 25  
We Who Study  
Must Also Strive To Save!



GET 'EM

UP

At the last meeting of the Civil War Round Table of  
Arkansas, the membership voted to raise the annual  
dues to \$20 effective immediately.

If you have not paid dues, then forward your \$20 to

Brian Brown  
P. O. Box 25501  
Little Rock, AR 72221



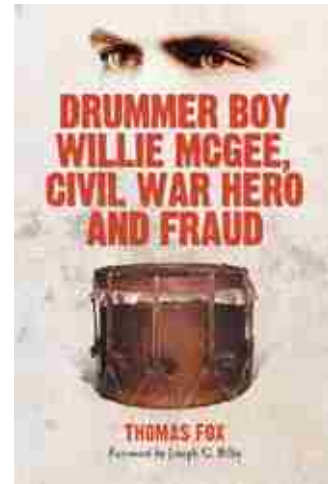
## NEED TO MOVE MONUMENT

With the coming Civil War Sesquicentennial, the push is on to move one of the Dodd monuments to McArthur Park near the Arsenal. (Seen above through the wire fence at the Law School.)

The monument originally marked the spot where they hung David O. Dodd. With the intervention of the Interstate off ramp, it was moved to state property across the street from the park. That property subsequently became the University of Arkansas Law School. However, it was deemed politically incorrect to have a civil war monument on that property, so the decision was made to move it.

The city of Little Rock was willing to accept the responsibility for the monument and place it in McArthur Park.

The Civil War Round Table of Arkansas is the last organization to endorse the project.



## Drummer Boy Willie McGee, Civil War Hero and Fraud

Thomas Fox

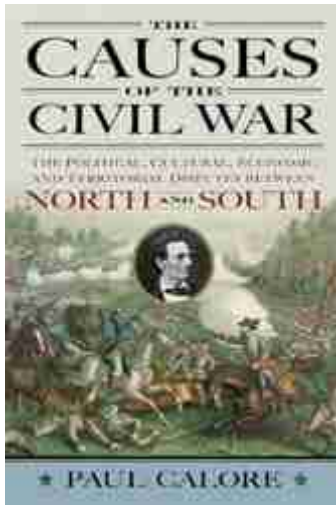
Foreword by Joseph G. Bilby

On December 7, 1864, just one week after the bloody battle of Franklin, Tennessee, William McGee, a drummer boy from Newark, New Jersey, was credited with leading a Federal force to a decisive victory over the Confederates in a clash just thirty miles from the carnage at Franklin. This 15-year-old Irish-American, on convalescent duty and acting as an orderly to General Lovell Rousseau, was recognized for the capture of two guns, several hundred prisoners, and the saving of Fortress Rosecrans in Murfreesboro from the famed Nathan Bedford Forrest.

For his actions, young McGee would soon be awarded a Medal of Honor, written up in newspapers and books as a glorious New Jersey legend, be commissioned as a lieutenant in the United States Army at age 18, and then, inexplicably at the height of his notoriety, virtually disappear from history for more than 100 years. This is the story of a lost war hero, a man-child with the world at his feet, whose fall from grace is accelerated by fame, lies, alcohol, bigamy, and murder.

### About the Author

Retired high school basketball coach Thomas Fox is a librarian at a private school in Sussex County, New Jersey.



Chocked full of things to take issue with. - durnette

## The Causes of the Civil War The Political, Cultural, Economic and Territorial Disputes between North and South

By Paul Calore

While South Carolina's preemptive strike on Fort Sumter and Lincoln's subsequent call to arms started the Civil War, South Carolina's secession and Lincoln's military actions were simply the last in a chain of events stretching as far back as the early 1750s. Increasing moral conflicts and political debates over slavery—exacerbated by the inequities inherent between an established agricultural society and a growing industrial one—led to a fierce sectionalism which manifested itself through cultural, economic, political and territorial disputes.

This historical study reduces sectionalism to its most fundamental form, examining the underlying source of this antagonistic climate. From protective tariffs to the expansionist agenda, it illustrates the ways in which the foremost issues of the time influenced relations between the North and the South.

### About the Author

Paul Calore was an operations branch chief with the Defense Logistics Agency of the Department of Defense before retiring. He is also the author of Naval Campaigns of the Civil War (2002) and Land Campaigns of the Civil War (2000) and is a supporting member of the Civil War Preservation Trust. He lives in Seekonk, Massachusetts. Visit his website at [civilwarhistorybook.com](http://civilwarhistorybook.com).

## SESQUICENTENNIAL LOGO

Listed below are some of the logos being considered by the Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission. The logo will be used on all official sites and papers during the 150-year celebration of the civil war.



## **Prairie Grove Battlefield State Park Events**

### **– Hundred Years of Heritage 1908-2008**

### **& Arkansas State Park 75th Anniversary**

#### Spring & Summer 2008

**January 26 & 27 – 8 am Each Day - Cannon Demonstration & Artillery School with Walker's Light Artillery Group** -- Cannon firing demonstrations are every hour from 10 am to 2 pm. Contact the park for further details. Reenactors, need to contact the park to register. There will be more Cannon demonstrations by First Arkansas Light Artillery group & Walker's Light Artillery group during the summer TBA

**February 1<sup>st</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> African Americans Heritage Month exhibit** -In celebration of Heritage Month this display will look at the lives of a pair of slaves from the Prairie Grove area and the roles African Americans had in the Battle of Prairie Grove.

**April 5<sup>th</sup> - 11th Annual Park Day – “Come make memories for the future.” Starts @ 9 am**

Clean up the Battlefield for the 100th anniversary of the park. Volunteers are needed to clean and beautify the battlefield and park grounds. Local Master Gardeners will prepare our heritage vegetable and herb gardens. General clean up trash pickup, raking leaves, painting signs, repair/replace split rail fence, and clean park roads and trails, gardening, and maintenance and cleaning the historic houses on the grounds. Some tools will be provided. **Please bring gloves** and tools if possible. Coffee, water, and some snacks provided. Volunteers receive a Park Day T-shirt, and will have the opportunity to hear a local historian discuss the significance of this site. Contact the Battlefield Park for further information. **Meet at Hindman Hall Visitor Center.**

**May 3<sup>rd</sup> - 9 am - 2 pm - Heritage Garden "Spring Planting" & "Caring for Herbs" Workshop**

Park's Heritage Garden teaches about the diversity of foods used in the 1860's during the time of the Civil War. All plants in this garden were grown during that time and are now called "heirloom varieties". Learn about compost methods, building, and installing garden structures, bed preparation, planting, and germination. Learn about basic herb gardening, how to choose your plants, site preparation, propagation, (division, layering, cuttings), harvesting, and most importantly, how to use the herbs you grow! Plant seeds and plant transplants are available for purchase. Enjoy lunch of beans and cornbread or bring a sack lunch. **Meet at the Prairie Grove Battlefield State Park Heritage Garden.** Contact the park to register or receive further details.

**Spinning & Lace Making Demonstrations Will Be On The Following Dates:**

June 22<sup>nd</sup> - 1 pm - 4 pm

July 13<sup>th</sup> - 1 pm - 4 pm

August 10<sup>th</sup> - 1 pm - 4 pm

Spinning & Lace Making Demonstrations - See members of the local Wool and Wheel Handspinners Guild and Dogwood Lace groups demonstrate the ancient art of spinning thread, and discuss the basics of making cloth in the Arkansas Ozarks. **Meet at Hindman Hall Visitor Center. Admission: Free** - The Wool and Wheel Handspinners have their monthly meeting here at the park on the first Wednesday of each month.

## **SEE YOU TUESDAY NIGHT**

**for George Davis  
& the Battle of Franklin**

## **GOD BLESS AMERICA**

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