



SPEAKER BIOGRAPHY **W. TODD GROCE**

In addition to being a leader in the field of public history, Dr. Groce is a published scholar and authority on the Civil War and U.S. military history. His first book, *Mountain Rebels: East Tennessee Confederates and the Civil War*, was based on his doctoral dissertation and published by the University of Tennessee Press in 1999. In 2005 he co-edited with Stephen V. Ash *Nineteenth Century America: Essays in Honor of Paul H. Bergeron*, also published by UT Press. He has written over 100 articles, essays and book reviews for publications ranging from the *New York Times* to the *Journal of Southern History*. Dr. Groce lectures to a wide variety of audiences, including college students, university faculty, K-12 teachers and the general public. He has made television appearances on the BBC, the Discovery Channel, C-SPAN, the History Channel, Georgia Public Television and various internet classroom productions.

Dr. Groce was born in Virginia and grew up there and in Tennessee. He holds three degrees in history, including a PhD from the University of Tennessee. He is avid outdoorsman who enjoys hiking, hunting and tramping old battlefields.



Tennessee TECH

N I N E T H A N N U A L W O M A C K L E C T U R E

LECTURE TITLE:

Which Side Are You On?: Conflicting Loyalties in Civil War East Tennessee

DATE:

**NOV. 4
2025
AT 6 P.M.**

LOCATION:

Tennessee Tech University
125 Wings Up Way
Stonecipher Lecture Hall
Room 113
Cookeville, TN 38505-0001

***THE EVENT IS FREE &
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.***

LECTURE BLURB

What would prompt someone to turn their back on their country and risk everything, including family and livelihood, in an uncertain political revolution? In 1861, East Tennesseans faced the most momentous decision of their lives. Would they remain loyal to the United States, the country of their birth and heritage, or would they bet their all on the success of a new nation founded by slaveholders in the Deep South? In this thought-provoking discussion, W. Todd Groce will explore the deep social, economic and political factors that split the people of East Tennessee during the mid-19th century and ultimately led them to kill one another over two very different visions of the future.