

# Tennessee Valley Civil War Round Table August 2019 Newsletter



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## 2019 2020 Member Honor Roll

- PATRONS
  - **Beth Altenkirch**
  - **April Harris**
  - **Emil Posey**
  
- SUSTAINING MEMBERS
  - **Kevin Rodriguez**
  - **Carol Codori**
  
- SUPPORTING MEMBERS
  - **Greg & Stephie Cousins**
  - **John Scales**

### Special Notes:



#### **A Tennessee Valley Civil War Round Table Bicentennial Salute to “The CSS Alabama” was well attended.**

In November 1867, Rafael Semmes, the former Captain of the CSS Alabama, was honored by the residents of Huntsville when he presented his perspective on the cruise of the internationally-renowned Confederate raider at the County Court House. That Court House no longer exists, but the Tennessee Valley Civil War Round Table, in conjunction with the Early Works Constitution Park, as a Bicentennial tribute.

Ed Semmes, the great, great, great grandson of Captain Raphael Semmes, presented a detailed discussion on Tuesday, July 16, 2019 at the remodeled Constitution Hall, Constitution Park. Over 40 people attended the event and approximately 50 percent of those attending were members of the Round Table. Officials at the Park indicated it was the best attended presentation they have had since beginning the series of Bicentennial presentations in June this year.

One additional piece of information: The English and the French pub jingles included a tune titled “Roll Alabama Roll”. The song was created long before Tide became famous.

**See the membership table to sign up for the field trip in November. Fill a bus save some money.**



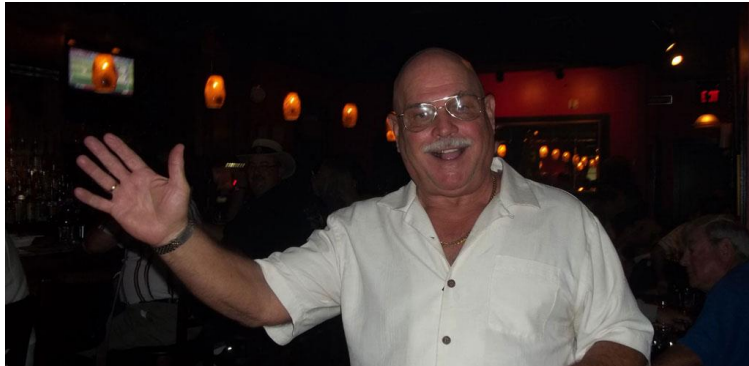
## Announcements:



**Paul Brueske**

Thursday August 8th our guest is Paul Brueske, currently the Track and Field Athletic Coach at UAB. He will address the *The Last Siege, The Mobile Campaign, Alabama 1865*. It is his new study of the 1865 Mobile Campaign, exploring events surrounding the Union's siege and capture of Mobile, a battle near the end the Civil War.

## LET'S VISIT NICK'S RISTORANTE



*Say Hello to Nick of Nick's Resturante. It remains the #1 steakhouse in Northeast Alabama and now has the Best Chef in the Valley as voted in the Planet.*



**The Bennet's are going to Nicks!**

Nick's Ristorante remains the #1 steakhouse in North East Alabama and now has the Best Chef in the Valley as voted in The Planet.

We thank, Homewood Suites by Hilton, (714 Gallatin Street SW Huntsville) for their support for the Round Table.

## Civil War Round Table Leaders and Members are invited to St. Louis.

April Harris, Jonathan Creekmore, and Arley McCormick will represent the TVCWRT in St. Louis, Mo., September 20-22, 2019 for the annual Congress. Attendees will learn strategies for recruitment and retention, governance, fundraising, marketing and effective advocacy. Tours of the Missouri Civil War Museum, Jefferson Barracks and Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site will also be available.

This year's event is sponsored by the Civil War Round Table of St. Louis and the Missouri Civil War Museum. Featured speakers include Dr. John Bamberl of



the Scottsdale CWRT, Matt Borowick of Civil War News, Jay Jorgensen of the R.E. Lee CWRT, Dr. Chris Mackowski of Emerging Civil War and Mike Movius of the Puget Sound CWRT. More information and registration details are available online at [www.cwrtcongress.org](http://www.cwrtcongress.org)

### **John Mason, former President of the TVCWRT, provides insight regarding the 19<sup>th</sup> Century wars in Europe.**

"In the middle of the 19th Century, Europe was trying it's best not to be torn apart. In France, Louis Napoleon longed to recreate his uncle's lost empire. While in Berlin, Otto von Bismarck worked fervently to unify the German states. Both actions were antithetical to each other, and could only have one result: war.

Did you know that that war would dominate the politics of the continent for the next 75 years? Come learn how it arose, how it was fought, and more importantly, what it wrought on the rest of the world."

The OLLI term begins Sep 16, and the class itself will be on Wednesdays at 1300.

Check with John Mason for more details [jdmason52@gmail.com](mailto:jdmason52@gmail.com)

## **Board Reports**

### **The 2019 Schedule of Speakers**

This year the speakers describe the activity and leadership in the Western Theater, and the aftermath of war in both North and South Alabama.

**Membership:** as of July 31, the TVCWRT has 127 members and there is still space for one of your friends.

**12-Sep,** Rebekah Davis/Dakota Cotton, Civil War Athens,

**10-Oct,** John Scales, Preview of Field Trip: Background and context of Breaking the Siege of Chattanooga – Bridgeport, Browns Ferry, and Wauhatchie – along with details of the field trip itself.

**14-Nov,** Peggy Towns, United States Colored Troops (USCT)

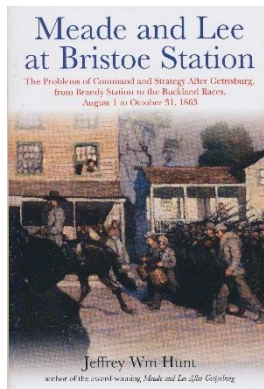
- Civil wars leave nothing but tombs. *Alphonse De Lamartine*
- War, at the best, is terrible, and this war of ours, in its magnitude and in its duration, is one of the most terrible.

*Abraham Lincoln*



## TVCWRT Features

### Book Reviews



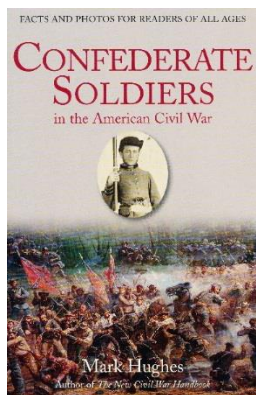
***Meade and Lee at Bristoe Station.*** Jeffery Wm. Hunt. Savas Beatie. 2019. 480 pages, 38 maps, 40 images. A Tennessee Valley Civil War Round Table Review by John Scales

*Meade and Lee at Bristoe Station* is an outstanding book that answers the question: what did Lee and Meade do when both armies were in Virginia after returning from Gettysburg? It will be remembered that Longstreet with two divisions was sent West to reinforce Bragg, leading to Chickamauga, and some may remember the Union countered by sending the XI and XII Corps to reinforce Rosecrans. This left two depleted armies

facing each other in Northern Virginia.

Lee resolved to take advantage of the situation by trying to replicate the Second Manassas Campaign – and he was partially successful, driving Meade all the way back to Centerville. However, miscues by A. P. Hill and skill mixed with some luck on Meade’s part thwarted Lee’s designs, and by the end of October, 1863, the armies had returned to their previous locations. This book is the story of that campaign.

The author has done a great job – excellent description with plenty of maps allow you to see exactly what both sides intended and how they executed those intentions. I highly recommend this book as an exposition of both the tactics employed and the campaign strategy (operational art to us Army guys). Great read!



***Confederate Soldiers in the American Civil War,*** Mark Hughes. Savas Beatie, California, 2019, 159 pages, \$15.95 (Paperback), a Tennessee Valley Civil War Round Table review by Ed Kennedy.

Mark Hughes has written a great primer for those who are new to studying the War Between the States. Chocked full of period “images”, this book gives a great overview into the culture of the period. It is not a definitive history but serves to whet the appetite of those who do not have an in-depth understanding of the war. It is a “picture book”. The table of contents gives a fast overview of the topics illustrated. They range from enlisting in the armies to technology, and POWs among other topics.



What should be interesting to the reader are the numerous descriptions and captions for images not usually seen in other publications. One would think that after all the books being printed, the images would be the same ones. Not so with this book. There are a plethora of images and they are well-annotated with interesting narratives.

Hughes does a very good job of tying the images to historical facts regarding the war. Prisoners are not just soldiers who are captured ---- they are used as teaching points. He uses the POW images to describe prisoner camps on both sides and the “exchange” system which eventually broke-down. The images serve as a means by which to discuss the war in finite “bytes”. For example, the war at sea is concisely addressed by giving the history of specific ships ---- such as the CSS Chicora. The Chicora’s history is the background for an explanation of the blockade. Hughes even includes an image of one of his ancestors, Andrew Jackson Hughes explaining what happened to each veteran.

The end of the book has interesting information on the “last” Confederate soldier; researching Confederate ancestors; an excellent glossary of period terms; and geographic points of interest in the South (including short descriptions, website addresses and locations).

I highly recommend this book for high school students to senior citizens who don’t have a depth of knowledge regarding the war but would like to learn more.

## **Nooks and Crannies;**

Next month Emil Posey introduces the TVCWRT prelude to the Civil War with a discussion of the political anglings that led to the division of the country. In September Arley McCormick will address the cultural change in the country as a result of political and military action and in November Ed Kennedy will address military activities that were the training grounds for leaders both North and South.

## **TVCWRT Little Round Table (LRT) Discussion and Schedule, 2019** by JR Ewing, LRT lead.

**August 22, 2019** - Peninsula Campaign 3- Jackson in the Valley, How he influenced the Peninsula Campaign; Led by Emil Posey, **September 26, 2019** - Peninsula Campaign 4- Lee takes charge; the Seven Days Battle (Part 1, through Gaines Mill); Led by John Mason

**October 27, 2019** - Peninsula Campaign 5- The Seven Days Battle (Part 2, to Malvern Hill) and the Aftermath; led by John Mason

**December 12, 2019** - The Most Important New Weapon of the American Civil War; Led by Mark Hubb

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*The TVCWRT is a not-for-profit organization providing a forum for non-partisan study, education, and discussions regarding the American Civil War. It also supports the preservation of Civil War battlefields and landmarks. The TVCWRT meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm, the Elks lodge on Franklin Street Huntsville, Al. TVCWRT will **never** sell or rent your email address to anyone. Address: P.O. Box 2872 Huntsville, Alabama 35804. Questions/Comments: Newsletter Editor; Arley McCormick*

**Looking for ideas and leads for our 2020 LRT lineup!  
Communicate your ideas to Jeffrey Ewing at your earliest.**



**Many Thanks!** Colonel Matt Spruill (Ret) for an impressive presentation outline key decisions at Stones River that impacted the outcome of the battle.

At left April Harris the president of the TVCWRT is presenting the Colonel with a Bicentennial Coin.

## **The TVCWRT Board of Directors, Advisors, Stage Crew**

### **OFFICERS**

**April Harris, President**  
**Johnathan Creekmore, Secretary and Website Manager**  
**Alan Markell Treasure**  
**Edwin "Ed" Kennedy, Communications Officer**  
**John Scales, Former President, Field Trip Coordinator**  
**Kevin Rodriguez, Membership Officer**  
**Arley McCormick, Newsletter Editor**  
**Robert Hennessee, Program Officer and Preservation Officer**

### **ADVISORS**

**John A. Allen, Former President and Founder of the Little Round Table**  
**Carol Codori, Former President**  
**Jeffrey Ewing, Little Round Table Coordinator**  
**Mark Hubbs, Former Preservation Officer and Co-founder**  
**John Mason, Former President**

**Kent Wright, Former Programs Officer**

### **STAGE CREW**

**Ed Kennedy, Master of the Screen and General Roustabout, Emil Posey, General Backup and Roustabout, Former Vice President**  
**Mike Sosebee, First Master of the Sound System**  
**Lin Turner, Second Master of the Sound System**  
**Brad Tuten, Master Projectionist**

