

2020 Member Honor Roll

- PATRONS
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 - ***Emil Posey***
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 - ***Jonathan Creekmore***
- SUPPORTING
 - ***Beth Altenkirch***
 - ***Terry & Keith Clevenger***
 - ***Greg & Stephanie Cousins***
 - ***Harry Gatzke***
 - ***Alan & Dottie Markell***
 - ***Kevin & Judy Rodriguez***
 - ***Alan & Diana Ruzicka***
 - ***John Scales***

Special Notes:



“Emma and the General - March 2, 1863” photo by Ron Simmons is actually pointing toward the membership table. Please support the Round Table.

Call to Action! – Join / Renew Now –

Basic Membership Categories

General member \$30; Student member \$0; Associate member \$0

Premium Membership Categories

Supporting member \$100; Sustaining member \$250; Patron \$500: See the membership table for benefits.

And for nonmembers

Friend of the Round Table (Any contribution you're comfortable with.)



Announcements:



Daniel Mallock

Thursday February 13, 6:30pm Daniel Mallock presents “John Adams, Thomas Jefferson and the Catastrophic Era of Reassessment”. How can we put the destruction of and hostility toward Confederate monuments and those of the founders into some understandable context? Why is our politics so dysfunctional and confrontational? These issues and others are at the heart of Mallock’s presentation. We need to go back to the very

source of these issues; the French Revolution, Adams, Jefferson, and the confounding contradictions of American history. These contradictions fuel the controversies of today as we face the greatest challenge ever to Civil War history, our Civil War heroes, and to our founders themselves. And not only is the past at risk, but the future as well. There is a solution, and it’s not easy, but it’s the only solution. Adams and Jefferson, through their friendship, their ten years of silence, then their renewed friendship provided us with one of the keys.

Mallock illuminates the present by shining a very bright light on the past. There’s information you may not know that you will be glad to know; in this extraordinary time of political and cultural conflict– a review of how we got here is of the utmost importance. History is meant to illuminate the present and help us, now; and this is Mallock’s mission. The essential problem we face is our inability to unify the contradictions of American history. There has to be a way forward and there is. We are in revolutionary times. There is a great deal at stake– basically, everything.

Daniel Mallock has been studying the Civil War since the age of 8. He was involved with the Civil War Round Table of Greater Boston starting at age 13, and the Quincy (MA) Historical Society at age 9. He grew up less than a mile from John Adams’s home “Peace Field.” He is the author of the NYT best seller *Agony and Eloquence: John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, and a World of Revolution* (2016). His work has appeared in *American Thinker*, *Washington Times*, *Cleveland Plain Dealer*, *Breitbart*, *New English Review*, and *North and South Magazine*, and more. He has appeared on *Inside Politics*, *Happy Hour on Blaze/CRTV*, *Steel on Steel*, and *History Authors Radio*. He lectured at the Adams National Historic Park (Quincy, MA), Sons of the American Revolution-Andrew Jackson Chapter (Nashville), SCV-Sam Davis Camp (Nashville), CWRT-Nashville, and CWRT-Clarksville. He is currently working in the IT world but thinks it would have been better had he been a celebrity chef. His website is danielmallock.com.

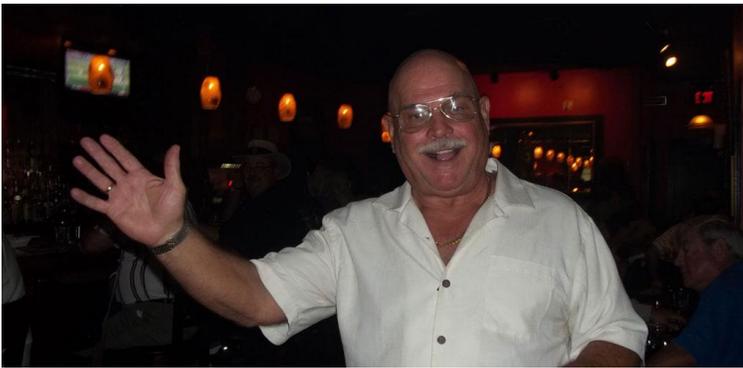
Advertisements contain the only truths to be relied on in a newspaper. (Thomas Jefferson: Letter to Nathaniel Macon)

Were it left for me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter. (Thomas Jefferson; Letter to Colonel Edward Carrington, January 16, 1787)

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



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



Now Raymond Doody is smiling because he is going to Nicks!

COMMUNITY BREAKFAST



**February 25
8:30 AM
FREE**

**Please RSVP
via Eventbrite**

**FEATURED SPEAKER:
PEGGY ALLEN TOWNS**
Historian, genealogist, and author of "Duty Driven: The Plight of North Alabama's African Americans during the Civil War" and "Scottsboro Unmasked: Decatur's Story."

**Athens State University
Center for Lifelong Learning
121 South Marion Street
256-233-8260**



Once upon a time the Bells of Huntsville danced the night away. Now, there is another chance to wear those hoops!

March 12 "Dress Out" with the Round Table.

Ladies, have you checked your hoop skirts lately? Gentlemen, have you dusted off your military hats? The March 12 meeting offers us another chance to "dress out" if desired, as we welcome our speaker Donna Castellano on "Huntsville's Historic Homes" and guests Patricia and Skip Cleveland.

The Cleveland's are devoted stewards of the early 18th-century "Old Allison Homestead" on Winchester Pike. They are long-time friends of the RT, having attended numerous events in their elegant (hand-made-by-Skip) period uniforms and gowns. We've invited them to be recognized as part of the evening's topic on the preservation of local historic homes.

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We hope they can attend in period dress, and that you too will take the opportunity to add to the ambience. Why not wear long skirts, uniforms, hats from any military or civilian era, or your medals and jewelry--just for fun.

Need some ideas on how to put together an easy period-esque look? Call Carol Codori, program chair at 256-293-0075.

What's Old, What's New in Downtown Huntsville: A Fun Stroll with Friends, in Partnership with Tennessee Valley Civil War Round Table and Historic Huntsville Foundation

Saturday Morning. March 21, 2020

Bring friends to connect as an informal group, rain or shine. Led by Carol Codori, local history buff and downtown resident, we'll stroll, learn, and/or eat at some spots you may not have checked out yet. Park for free on the street. Or use city lots on Greene and Eustis; Jefferson and Eustis; Washington and Clinton; or Jefferson and Holmes. No charge for tour, but your spending will benefit local merchants.

Connect with us for any combination of the following times:

10:30am-11:00: Visit on your own, the bi-monthly opening of the basement at historic Harrison Brothers Hardware. See architectural features from the 1800's, such as stone foundations, handmade brick walls, and a rope-pulled freight elevator. See many items you remember from grandpa's barn or grandma's house—even a wooden toilet tank! Browse upstairs at the local artisan-crafted wares, with time for gift shopping. Store opens at 9:30 and basement opens at 10:00, if you wish to arrive sooner.

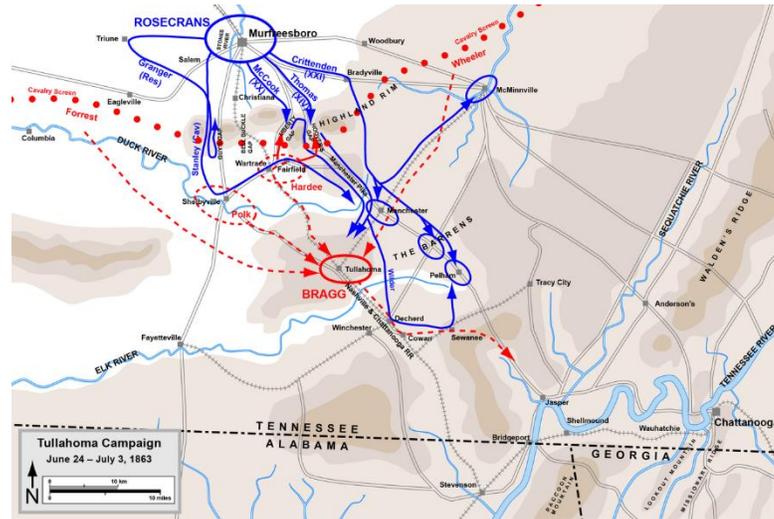
11:00am-11:45: Meet Carol in front of Harrison Brothers Hardware. Depart for an easy walk of 30-45 minutes around the Square. We'll be viewing architectural features of iconic buildings, including The First National Bank, the Schiffman Building, and Church of the Nativity. If weather is dry, we'll peer below street level at the 1860s-era "sunken sidewalk," and learn its history on East Side Square. At end of stroll, receive a free "**Finding Huntsville**" booklet as a gift from Historic Huntsville Foundation, as its Alabama Bicentennial education project.

11:45am—through lunch on own (optional): **Continue strolling** with Carol down Washington, then down Clinton, to see the many new shops. End up at intersection of Jefferson and Holmes, to see new spots in The Avenue block. These include MELT-Huntsville; Mo's BBQ; Moon Bakery; The Purveyor; and Indigo's Boutique. OR get your car and drive to nearby Cyn Shea's Bistro off Church Street, across from the old Railroad Depot, to catch the tail end of jazz brunch, until 1:30pm. **Announcing the Association of Licensed Battlefield Guides (ALBG) 2020 Spring Seminar: "Overlooked & Often Not Visited: Ridges, Farms & Other Battle Sites"** May 1-2, 2020. Registration online: <http://gettysburgfourguides.org/>



TVCWRT Field Trip Scheduled: October 31, 2020 the Tullahoma Campaign of 1863

Hold Saturday, October 31, 2020, for our annual field trip. Tentative plans are to depart Huntsville at 7 a.m. on October 31st, travel by bus to Murfreesboro and pick up Greg Biggs--expert guide and friend of the RT. He will lead us to the various key sites of the Tullahoma Campaign of 1863. The route will primarily be along the back roads actually used but will parallel I-24, ending at Sewanee (university of the



South). We'll then return to Murfreesboro, drop Greg off by 4, and return home. Cost for bus will be divided. Other costs will be tip for Greg and lunch on your own. Coordinator John Scales will provide specifics as they develop. Questions or early interest? Call John at 256-337-1444.

The 2020 TVCWRT Schedule of Speakers

Date/Speaker	Title of Presentation
12-Mar: Donna Castellano	Huntsville's Historic Homes: Statehood, Civil War, and Beyond
21-Mar: Saturday 11am TBD	Walking tour of architecture Spring Extra,
9-Apr: Michael Acosta	Fort Fisher, NC the Fall of "Southern Gibraltar"
14-May: Phillip Wirey	James Longstreet: Local Boy Meets Gettysburg, PA
11-Jun: Linda Moss-Mines	"Nurse Walker" Portrayal
9-Jul: Judge (Ret) David Breland ...	Stories of Civil War Decatur, AL:
And DeAngelo McDaniel	How African American. & White Citizens Coped
13-Aug: Curt Fields (US Grant)	Returns to Huntsville: From Early Years to Shiloh
11-Sept: Mauriel Joslyn	Battle of Chickamauga, Before and After
8-Oct: Dakota Cotton	Athens, AL: The Siege and Historic Beaty House
12-Nov: Eric Whittenberg	U.S. Cavalry at Brandy Station, VA

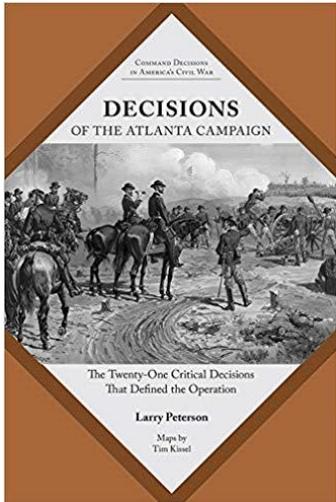
Membership: The membership for 2020 stands @ 163 member and the renewal rate 63%. All members who have not paid their 2020 dues please see Kevin.



TVCWRT Features

Book Reviews

Decisions of the Atlanta Campaign: The Twenty-One Critical Decisions That Defined the Operation. Larry Peterson. A University of Tennessee Press, Knoxville: 2019, 242 pages. Tennessee Valley Civil War Round Table Review by Review by John Scales.

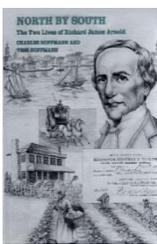


This book is one of a series entitled “Command Decisions in America’s Civil War”. As such the author follows the particular format of describing the situation at a point in time, articulating some of the options the decision-maker had at his disposal, revealing the decision and its results, and outlining possible results of alternative decisions. The decision-makers discussed include both presidents and Grant (prior to the campaign), as well as Sherman on his side and Johnston on his. Hood is included only when he assumed command from Johnston and no one of lesser rank than army command (with one exception) is included even though several times corps commanders made decisions that changed the flow and potentially the outcome of the campaign. The discussions of the various decisions, done in chronological order, are followed by directions for a detailed driving tour and by an order of battle.

The author’s approach works well most of the time and at reveals several useful insights into higher-level command that are often missing from many analyses. However, because of the breadth and immensity of the entire campaign, the amount of detail and discussion for each decision is spare and there is room for much more complete and nuanced discussion. Typically, there are about five pages devoted to each decision, and those five pages include both illustrations and maps. I wanted more discussion of each decision as well as discussion of several key decisions made by Hood in his role as corps commander, decisions which had a very negative impact on the Confederate campaign. I should also comment that the author apparently has a negative opinion of Johnston (shared by some but not most historians) which leads to him ignoring some of Johnston’s initiatives that were thwarted by others.

Overall, though, I evaluate *Decisions of the Atlanta Campaign* as a valuable but flawed interpretation of the campaign. As a companion to Cateel’s definitive *Decision in the West*, though, it would be an invaluable resource.

North by South, The Two Lives of Richard James Arnold. Charles Hoffmann and Tess Hoffman, Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1988, Reviewed by Emil L. Posey, Tennessee Valley Civil War Round Table



In 1823, Richard James Arnold (1796 – 1873) of Providence, Rhode Island, descendant of a Quaker family involved in the movement to abolish slavery in Rhode Island, married Louisa Gindrat of Bryan County, Georgia. Through her dowry, he acquired a rice and cotton plantation called White Hall – thirteen hundred acres of rice and cotton land and sixty-eight slaves on the Ogeechee

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River near Savannah. Over the next fifty years, Arnold led two distinct if never entirely separate lives, building through successive Georgia winters a profitable southern "paradise" rooted in human bondage, then returning each spring to his business interests and extended family in Rhode Island.

"Paradise" is how Frederick Law Olmsted described it after a brief visit in 1853. A "veritable Garden of Eden," it was a place where "the institution of slavery could be observed at its best as a system of labor" and Arnold "a paradigm of the paternalistic slave master" – a description that will ring socially heretical in the minds of many today.

Arnold faced a fateful decision with the acquisition of White Hall in 1823. He could neither sell it nor run it profitably. The crops that year was hardly enough to sustain the place, parts of it were already heavily mortgaged, and the remaining cultivatable land was not enough for the large work force of slaves he now owned. Either he would have to buy more land or sell off some one-quarter of the slaves. It "made more business sense to buy additional land at a low price than to sell part of his capital assets in the form of slaves at a time when slaves were worth less on the market."

Arnold's decision to not only keep the plantation but to enlarge it was a departure from the anti-slavery meme of the Arnold family in Rhode Island, but over the ensuing 50 years he balanced family and business responsibilities and sensibilities between Rhode Island and Georgia, dividing his time every year until the advent of war between the two. By 1860, Arnold was the largest landowner in Bryan County, with over 15,000 acres and 195 slaves.

Organized around a surviving plantation journal kept for two winters and one spring, *North by South* encompasses Arnold's career as a rice and cotton planter and his increasingly difficult social and moral disguises that enabled him to move freely through two cultures. Well written and full of rich detail, the book's greatest usefulness is enabling us to see the intricate tapestry of Antebellum America, not just the South, but the whole of the country. We can get so used to seeing political maps of the nation in 1861 divided into states, with the Confederacy depicted in one color and the North in another – clean, crisp delineation – that it's easy to forget that every state, along with the North and South in general, were intricately intertwined socially, culturally, and economically. *North by South* is a valuable example for everyone wanting to better understand these relationships.

Enjoy!

Charles Hoffmann was a professor emeritus of English at the University of Rhode Island. He is the author of individual books on the novelists Ford Madox Ford, Henry James and Joyce Cary, and coauthor, with Tess Hoffmann, of *Brotherly Love: Murder and the Politics of Prejudice in Nineteenth-Century Rhode Island*.

Your reviewer is Emil L. Posey, former Vice President of the TVCWRT, now continuing to support as Secretary and by being part of the Stage Crew. His work history spans almost 45 years of military and civilian service to our country. He retired from NASA/George C. Marshall Space Flight Center on December 27, 2014. He has a bachelor's degree in Political Science from Hood College, Frederick, Maryland; is a former president of the Huntsville chapter of the National Contract Management Association, and is a life member of the Special Forces



Association. He is also a member of Elks Lodge 1648 (Huntsville, AL) and the Tennessee Valley Genealogical Society. He is a dedicated bibliophile and a (very) armchair political analyst and military enthusiast.

The Tennessee Valley Civil War Round Table Civil War Tutorial On Line.

Under the heading of Nooks and Crannies, Emil Posey addressed the political issues that stimulated sectional rivalries during the Antebellum period leading to the Civil War. In this issue, former Round Table President J.D. Mason addresses the economic conditions that accompanied the political debate during and after the country descended into war. All the articles published to date will be placed on our website to encourage interest and study of the Civil War era. This month Ed Kennedy sets the stage for military operations and next month Arley McCormick will address the perspective of the population (North and South) toward war.

Training and education of the military and political leaders of the War Between the States

By Ed Kennedy

Principle Military Leader Battle Experience prior to Civil War

- [First Seminole War](#) (1817–1818)
- [Texas–Indian Wars](#) (1820–1875)
- [Arikara War](#) (1823)
- [Winnebago War](#) (1827)
- [Black Hawk War](#) (1832)
- [Texas Revolution](#) (1835–1836)
- [Second Seminole War](#) (1835–1842)
- [Mexican–American War](#) (1846–1848)
- Missouri/Kansas Border (1855–1861)

To say that every engagement, battle, operation, and campaign contributed to the training of both military and political leaders during the War Between the States is not trite. Stoff and Heller lay out the precedent of how Americans have learned the hard way through their experiences on the battlefields in “America’s First Battles: 1776-1965”. Because the US Army lacked an institutionalized military education system, every war started with a very steep learning curve. It was almost 20 years after the beginning of the War Between the States that a formal Army education system was instituted and even that system was severely deficient until the Root Reforms of the 20th Century.

From colonial times in the early 1600s until 1861, American military and politicians learned primarily by doing. Written military manuals were rare and those who were trained had been understudies serving in military units, primarily militia. Military educational institutions were not established until 1802 with the foundation of the US Military Academy at West Point. Politicians were largely educated with a disproportionate number of lawyers representing their ranks. There were no civil service schools and no systems to train politicians. They learned by doing.

Unfortunately, many people today tend to use “presentism” to evaluate and analyze the people and institutions in the past. For example, many authors and historians make much of officers educated at the US Military Academy, West Point as if there is a direct correlation to the officer graduates of today. The fact is that the US Military Academy today is nothing like the Military Academy of the 1800s. The Military Academy originally was begun strictly to produce trained engineers. Cadets could be branched into the other arms such as the



mounted services of cavalry and field artillery and the infantry, however, the focus was on creating engineers. Today, it is a liberal arts school but has extensive tactical-level and leadership training.

What the cadets received in terms of military training was very low-level tactical training to equip them to be company officers. The Corps of Cadets was no larger than a small battalion before 1861 meaning that nothing higher than battalion drill could be taught by application. Officers leaving the Academy were proficient in soldier skills and company-level drill. Because the Army was only 16,000 men strong at the beginning of the war and spread around the country primarily in company-sized garrisons, this training sufficed. Except for the War of 1812 and the Mexican-American War, large bodies of troops never had occasion to maneuver on the battlefield. When the armies did fight in large formations in the War of 1812 and Mexican-American War, large formations were quickly drilled and committed. Most battles were very small and commanders could actually see all their units on the battlefield.

What this all meant is that most American soldiers with any prior combat experience had very limited experience participating in large formations. By the time of the War Between the States, officers who had served in the Mexican-American War served mostly at the company level. This was the lowest tactical level. Very few had operational-level (Division/Battalion) experience. None had strategic-level experience.

TVCWRT Little Round Table (LRT) Discussion and Schedule - 2020

February 27, – Nat Turner; Led by Jeff Ewing Prepare for the discussion by watching <https://www.c-span.org/video/?461510-8/nat-turners-rebellion>

March 26, - Trading with The Enemy; Led by Jeff Ewing

April 23, - Vicksburg Campaign 1- Holly Springs to Chickasaw Bayou to Arkansas Post; Led by Arley McCormick

May 28, – Vicksburg Campaign 2 - Bayou and Canal Operations; Led by Fred Forst

June 25, - Vicksburg Campaign 3 - Porter Moves South – Grand Gulf - Snyder's Bluff; Led by Kent Wright

July 23, – Vicksburg Campaign 4 - Grierson's Raid; Led by Arley McCormick

August 27, – Vicksburg Campaign 5 - Port Gibson to Jackson; Led by Jeff Ewing

September 24, - Vicksburg Campaign 6 - Champion Hill and Big Black; Led by John Allen

October 22, - Vicksburg Campaign 7 - Siege Operations; Led by Emil Posey

December 10, - Armistead and Garnet - Parallel Lives; Led by Emil Posey



Thank You for our RT member Richard Jozefiak for tremendous money talk. One takeaway: Don't hide your Confederate money, it could be worth a small fortune.



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The TVCWRT Management Team

- **OFFICERS (Elected)** April Harris, President
- John Mason, Vice President (pending vote by the membership), Former President
- Emil Posey, Secretary and acting Sergeant at Arms, Former Vice President
- Alan Markell, Treasurer

BOARD MEMBERS (Appointed)

- April Harris, President
- Carol Codori, Former President, Programs Officer
- Johnathan Creekmore, Technology Manager
- Robert Hennessee, Preservation Officer
- Edwin "Ed" Kennedy, Communications Officer
- Arley McCormick, Newsletter Editor
- Kevin Rodriguez, Membership Officer
- (Vacant), Sergeant at Arms

COMMITTEE CHAIRS (Appointed)

- Jeffry Ewing, Little Round Table Coordinator
- Art Helms, Lead Greeter
- John Scales, Former President, Field Trip Coordinator

ADVISORS

- John A. Allen, Former President and Founder of the Little Round Table
- Mark Hubbs, Former Preservation Officer and Co-founder
- Kent Wright, Former Programs Officer

STAGE CREW

- Ed Kennedy, Master of the Screen and General Roustabout,
- Mike Sosebee, First Master of the Sound System
- Lin Turner, Second Master of the Sound System
- Brad Tuten, Master Projectionist

