

**Tennessee Valley Civil War
Round Table
January 2024 Newsletter/Journal**



**To Inform and Educate
Since 1993**

The Round Table meets at the Elks Lodge at 725 Franklin St @ 6:30pm the 2nd Thursday of each month except December (Chicken Buffet is available)

Announcements;

2. Thursday; January 11, Chuck Young: **“Blundering to Victory, Lee’s Defense of Richmond.”**
2. On to Chickamauga excursion is scheduled for September.
2. Books coming up for review from Savas Beatie by the Round Table members this winter.

3. Board Reports

4. TVCWRT Features;

Book Review;

4. Enduring Voices- Women of the Tennessee Valley: 1861-1865 by Nancy Rohr
4. He Died in Place of His Brother provided by BlueandGrayedicator.org.com
5. The Free City of Tri-Insula, Emil L. Posey
7. LRT; January 25, Jefferson Davis Goes West, Part 1, led by Jeff Ewing
8. Nooks & Crannies(tvcwrt.org): “The Self righteous Cause” by John Scales parts 1 & 2.
9. Alabama Education Conference announcement March 16, 2024 at Wetumpka, Alabama

Announcement: Thursday, January 11; Chuck Young: “**Blundering to Victory, Lee’s**

Defense of Richmond.” In June of 1862, the Union Army of the Potomac, led by Major General George McClellan was knocking on the door of the Confederate capitol, Richmond, Virginia. Confederate General Robert E. Lee successfully defended Richmond during the Seven Days Campaign. Nearly 200,000 men were involved in the battles and despite a series of blunders made by the Confederate Generals. McClellan lost his nerve leaving the



Chuck Young

field to Lee. We will hear the story Thursday.

A lifelong student of the American Civil War, Chuck Young has an extensive background in interpreting the war to the public. He began participating in living history events at age 15 and attended James Madison University, largely due to its location in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley and that valley's steep Civil War history. He graduated in 1992 with a degree in history, with emphasis on Early American and Military History. He has been employed by Pamplin Historical Park and the National Museum of the Civil War Soldier in Petersburg, VA, Ford's Theater National Historic Site in Washington, DC, Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania National Military Park in Fredericksburg, and Chancellorsville. Currently he serves as the Guest Services Manager at the American Civil War Museum in Richmond.

The 2024 Battlefield excursion is Chickamauga.

Currently the trip is scheduled for September. More details will follow.

Books coming up for review by Round Table members in 2024:

- ✓ Contrasts in Command: The Battle of Fair Oaks, May 31-June 1, 1862 by Vic Vignola; released November 2023
- ✓ The Boy Generals: George Custer, Wesley Merritt and the Cavalry of the Army of the Potomac, from the Gettysburg Retreat through the Shenandoah Valley Campaign of 1864 (second installment) by Adolfo Ovies; expected December 2023 **ON Hand Now!**
- ✓ Thunder in the Harbor: Fort Sumter and the Civil War by Richard Hatcher; expected December 2023
- ✓ The World Will Never See the Like: The Gettysburg Reunion of 1913 by John Hopkins; expected January 2024

Anyone interested in reviewing one of these books from Savas Beatie for the Round Table please notify arleymccormick@comcast.net.

Quote on the Civil War: “The point I would make is that the novelist and the historian are seeking the same thing: the truth – not a different truth: the same truth – only they reach it, or try to reach it, by different routes. Whether the event took place in a world now gone to dust, preserved by documents and evaluated by scholarship, or in the imagination, preserved by memory and distilled by the creative process, they both want to tell us how it was: to re-create it, by their separate methods, and make it live again in the world around them.”

– **Shelby Foote, The Civil War, Vol. 1: Fort Sumter to Perryville**

Thanks to Judge John Fogleman for introducing the plight of the Sultana to our November 2023 audience.



President Goss Presents the Judge a token of our appreciation.

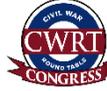


The Judge's trophy



Rick Dresbach is the final member of 2023 to go to

Blue & Gray Education Society (BGES): Check out what is going on in the BGES; [Blue and Gray Education Society – America's Premier Civil War Education Organization](#)



The Civil War Round Table Congress (CWRT): offers a speaker online each month.

Check out their website for the authors, speakers, topics you would like to learn about. [Check out the free](#)

[lectures and education opportunities scheduled for this month.](#)



We have expanded our Social Media formats; check these out! <https://gab.com/groups/22961>



<https://www.facebook.com/tvcwrtSharethe> TVCWRT Facebook notifications with your friends.

Board Reports; Join the Board and make a difference in our Round Table.

Technology Officer, Michael Acosta: Live streaming of our Round Table sessions to members via internet is offered through Discord at no charge. Be aware streaming can be limited because of the facility WiFi limitations. All dues-paying members that are interested should email our Tech/Website rep, Michael Acosta at michaelacosta1836@gmail.com. He will send instructions on how to set up an account on Discord and get rolling. ***The RT is looking for a backup Discord manager.***

Membership Chair, Kevin Rodriguez: Happy New Year to our 131 members.

Board Vacancies: ***Vice President, Communications Officer, and projectionist***

Programs Chair, Art Helms: The 2024 calendar is filling up. It's looking like another stellar year for the Round Table.

- **February 8:** Curt Locklear: **“Red River Campaign.”**
- **March 14:** Benjamin Sanders: **“Shutting Down the Union in North Alabama.”**
- **April 11:** John Coffindaffer: **“Fort Delaware, The Survivors Truths.”**
- **May 9:** Teresa Roane: **“The Davis Family and Their Relationship with People of Color.”**
- **June 13:** Cheryl McAuley: **“Thaddeus Low Made a Difference in the Civil War.”**
- **July 11:** **“TBD”**
- **August 8:** Curt Fields, aka General Grant and Thomas Jesse, aka General Lee **“Grant and Lee after the War.”**

- **September:** Jeff Ewing, “**Ft. Oglethorpe and the Chickamauga Battlefield.**”
- **October 10:** Kattie Blake: “**TBD**”
- **November 14:** “**TBD**”

TVCWRT Features:

Book Review:

Enduring Voices – Women of the Tennessee Valley: 1861-1865, by Nancy M. Rohr



The American Civil War was cataclysmic and left no Southern life untouched. *Enduring Voices – Women of the Tennessee Valley: 1861-1865* contains more than thirty accounts of north Alabama women during that time. It observes their everyday goings-on from different cities and landscapes, from poorest enslaved Black women to wealthiest plantation wives.

Although women comprised half the population, their stories have been overshadowed by hundreds of books about the battles. Now, these diaries, memoirs, and letters give us a doorway into the lives of these brave, resourceful women. These writers (young girls, in some cases) give us insights on home life, school, family, neighbors, and the dreaded enemy that give present-day readers a much-needed picture of daily life during

wartime in north Alabama.

Huntsville author, Mary Ann Cruse, held strong political views, and wrote that any implication that African slave trade caused the war was to imply that tea floating in the Boston Harbor caused the Revolutionary War. The Civil War’s conclusion brought little relief for Black women; the odds of success were entirely against them. The entry for Virginia Clay, whose picture adorns the cover, is entirely fascinating and by itself, is worth the price of the book.

Author Nancy Rohr is prolific in her journaling of history in the Tennessee Valley; *Enduring Voices* is her fifth book (she has also authored numerous articles). This intensely personal work of scholarship is a treasure to read and is an important addition to any Civil War archive.

John H. Allen – 11/03/2023



He Died in Place of His Brother by Dr. Michael Bradley, November 27, 2023, blueandgrayeducation.org

Today, a crumbling limestone shaft on the lawn of the courthouse in Fayetteville, Tennessee, is a reminder of an event that is both an example of a tragedy and an act of bravery from the days of the Civil War.

The inscription on the stone marker commemorates the deaths on July 15, 1864, of three civilian residents of the town: William Pickett, Franklin Burroughs, and John R. Massey.



Although the main armies were deep in north Georgia in July 1864, Middle Tennessee was something of a “no-man’s land,” with small garrisons of Union soldiers surrounded by numerous bands of irregular, or guerilla, fighters who supported the Confederacy. U.S. general

John R. Massey

Eleazer A. Payne, in command of the area, had resorted to drastic measures in opposition to these guerillas. On July 15, Payne led a detachment of U.S. cavalry into the town of Fayetteville and began arresting citizens. Payne announced that three of these citizens would be executed at 3:00p.m. that afternoon if information was not given to him about the location of guerilla encampments.

On June 15, 1864, Thomas Massey, William Pickett, and Frank Burroughs were arrested and were to be executed without trial by Union General E. A. Payne for the alleged charge of bushwhacking. Hearing of the order, John Massey, the older brother of Thomas Massey of the First Tennessee Regiment went to Payne to tell him that Thomas Massey, his younger brother, had never been in the army and was a husband and father. He offered his blood instead of his brother's. Payne released Thomas and arrested John. At 3:00 p.m. the three men were executed. Payne ordered that the bodies not be removed, but after dark, Miss Molly Goodrich had the bodies carried to a storehouse that she owned on the West Side of the square.



The Free City of Tri-Insula

With Abraham Lincoln's election the previous month being the trigger, on December 20, 1860, South Carolina became the first state to secede. Mississippi, the second state to secede, followed on January 9, 1861, and the Confederacy began to take formal shape. Two days before Mississippi declared secession, however, Democratic Mayor Fernando Wood of the City of New York delivered a message to the Common Council, the city's governing body, proposing that New York assert its independence. He was serious. He even had a name for his proposed city-state: The Free City of Tri-Insula (Latin for "three islands," to wit, Manhattan, Long Island, and Staten Island). Alas, his proposal was not well received and never came to be, but it is an interesting little ripple in the tumultuous sea of sea of change the nation was experiencing.

Here is Mayor Wood's message, in full: "To the Honorable the Common Council":

GENTLEMEN: We are entering upon the public duties of the year under circumstances as unprecedented as they are gloomy and painful to contemplate. The great trading and producing interests of not only the city of New York, but of the entire country, are prostrated by a monetary crisis; and although similar calamities have before befallen us, it is the first time that they have emanated from causes having no other origin than that which may be traced to political disturbances. Truly, may it now be said, "We are in the midst of a revolution bloodless as Yet." Whether the dreadful alternative implied as probable in the conclusion of this prophetic quotation may be averted, "no human ken can divine." It is quite certain that the severity of the storm is unexampled in our history, and if the disintegration of the Federal Government, with the consequent destruction of all the material interests of the people shall not follow, it will be owing more to the interposition of Divine Providence, than to the inherent preventive power of our institutions, or the intervention of any other human agency.

It would seem that a dissolution of the Federal Union is inevitable. Having been formed originally on a basis of general and mutual protection, but separate local independence—each State reserving the entire and absolute control of its own domestic affairs, it is evidently impossible to keep them together longer than they deem themselves fairly treated by each other, or longer than the interests, honor and fraternity of the people of the several States are satisfied. Being a Government created by opinion, its continuance is dependent upon the continuance of the sentiment which formed it. It cannot be preserved by coercion or held together by force. A resort to this last dreadful alternative would of itself destroy not only the Government, but the lives and property of the people.

If these forebodings shall be realized, and a separation of the States shall occur, momentous considerations will be presented to the corporate authorities of this city. We must provide for the new relations which will necessarily grow out of the new condition of public affairs.

It will not only be necessary for us to settle the relations which we shall hold to other cities and States, but to establish, if we can, new ones with a portion of our own State. Being the child of the Union, having drawn our sustenance from its bosom, and arisen to our present power and strength through the vigor of our mother—when deprived of her maternal advantages, we must rely upon our own resources and assume a position predicated upon the new phase which public affairs will present, and upon the inherent strength which our geographical, commercial, political, and financial preeminence imparts to us.

With our aggrieved brethren of the Slave States, we have friendly relations and a common sympathy. We have not participated in the warfare upon their constitutional rights or their domestic institutions. While other portions of our State have unfortunately been imbued with the fanatical spirit which actuates a portion of the people of New England, the city of New York has unfalteringly preserved the integrity of its principles of adherence to the compromises of the Constitution and the equal rights of the people of all the States. We have respected the local interests of every section, at no time oppressing, but all the while aiding in the development of the resources of the whole country. Our ships have penetrated to every clime, and so have New York capital, energy and enterprise found their way to every State, and, indeed, to almost every county and town of the American Union. If we have derived sustenance from the Union, so have we in return disseminated blessings for the common benefit of all. Therefore, New York has a right to expect, and should endeavor to preserve a continuance of uninterrupted intercourse with every section.

It is, however, folly to disguise the fact that, judging from the past, New York may have more cause of apprehension from the aggressive legislation of our own State than from external dangers. We have already largely suffered from this cause. For the past five years, our interests and corporate rights have been repeatedly trampled upon. Being an integral portion of the State, it has been assumed, and in effect tacitly admitted on our part by nonresistance, that all political and governmental power over us rested in the State Legislature. Even the common right of taxing ourselves for our own government, has been yielded, and we are not permitted to do so without this authority.

Thus, it will be seen that the political connection between the people of the city and the State has been used by the latter to our injury. The Legislature, in which the present partizan majority has the power, has become the instrument by which we are plundered to enrich their speculators, lobby agents, and Abolition politicians. Laws are passed through their malign influence by which, under forms of legal enactment, our burdens have been increased, our substance eaten out, and our municipal liberties destroyed. Self—government, though guaranteed by the State Constitution, and left to every other county and city, has been taken from us by this foreign power, whose dependents have been sent among us to destroy our liberties by subverting our political system.

How we shall rid ourselves of this odious and oppressive connection, it is not for me to determine. It is certain that a dissolution cannot be peacefully accomplished, except by the consent of the Legislature itself. Whether this can be obtained or not, is, in my judgment, doubtful. Deriving so much advantage from its power over the city, it is not probable that a partizan majority will consent to a separation—and the resort to force by violence and revolution must not be thought of for an instant. We have been distinguished as an orderly and law—abiding people. Let us do nothing to forfeit this character, or to add to the present distracted condition of a public affairs.

Much, no doubt, can be said in favor of the justice and policy of a separation. It may be said that secession or revolution in any of the United States would be subversive of all Federal authority, and, so far as the Central Government is concerned, the resolving of the community into its original elements—that, if part of the States form new combinations and Governments,

other States may do the same. California and her sisters of the Pacific will no doubt set up an independent Republic and husband their own rich mineral resources. The Western States, equally rich in cereals and other agricultural products, will probably do the same. Then it may be said, why should not New York city, instead of supporting by her contributions in revenue two-thirds of the expenses of the United States, become also equally independent? As a free city, with but nominal duty on imports, her local Government could be supported without taxation upon her people. Thus, we could live free from taxes, and have cheap goods nearly duty free. In this she would have the whole and united support of the Southern States, as well as all the other States to whose interests and rights under the Constitution she has always been true.

It is well for individuals or communities to look every danger square in the face, and to meet it calmly and bravely. As dreadful as the severing of the bonds that have hitherto united the States has been in contemplation, it is now apparently a stern and inevitable fact. We have now to meet it with all the consequences, whatever they may be. If the Confederacy is broken up the Government is dissolved, and it behooves every distinct community, as well as every individual, to take care of themselves.

When Disunion has become a fixed and certain fact, why may not New York disrupt the bands which bind her to a venal and corrupt master—to a people and a party that have plundered her revenues, attempted to ruin her and a party that have plundered her revenues, attempted to ruin her commerce, taken away the power of self-government, and destroyed the Confederacy of which she was the proud Empire City? Amid the gloom which the present and prospective condition of things must cast over the country, New York, as a Free City, may shed the only light and hope of a future reconstruction of our once blessed Confederacy.

But I am not prepared to recommend the violence implied in these views. In stating this argument in favor of freedom, “peaceably if we can, forcibly if we must,” let me not be misunderstood. The redress can be found only in appeals to the magnanimity of the people of the whole State. The events of the past two months have no doubt effected a change in the popular sentiment of the State and National politics. This change may bring us the desired relief, and we may be able to obtain a repeal of the law to which I have referred, and a consequent restoration of our corporate rights.”

For more detail, see “First South Carolina. Then New York?,” John and Charles Lockwood, at <https://archive.nytimes.com/opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/2011/01/06/first-south-carolina-then-new-york/>. –Emil L. Posey



Little Round Table

- **Next UP:** January 25, Jefferson Davis Goes West – Part I: Jeffry Ewing.

LRT Programs for 2024: Subject to change

- February 22, 2024, Jefferson Davis Goes West – Part II: Jeffry Ewing.
- March 28, 2024, Nashville, Chattanooga, Decatur Rail Loop: Emil Posey.
- April 25, 2024, River Operations from Belmont to Memphis: Kent Wright.
- May 23, 2024, Tunnel Hill: Emil Posey.
- June 27, 2024, Chickamauga – Deep Dive I: **T/B/D**.
- July 25, 2024, Chickamauga – Deep Dive II: **T/B/D**.
- August 22, 2024, Chickamauga – Deep Dive III: John Scales.
- September 26, 2024, Post-Tour Reactions-Photos, Open Discussion.
- October 24, 2024, John Breckenridge: Emil Posey.
- *November no scheduled meeting.*

- December 12, 2024, Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, What It's like to be on an Invasion Route: Jeff Ewing.

Recommendations to Jeffry Ewing Jr. fusionewing@gmail.com

Nooks & Crannies: Two new postings are available: "The Self-Righteous Cause," by John Scales, and "First Regiment, Alabama Cavalry (USV), LRT Facilitator Notes, Parts 1 and 2," by Richard Blanton. N&C keeps growing!

Member Honor Roll

Life Members

*Carol Codori
Ed Kennedy*

Patron

Emil Posey

Sustaining Member

Kent & Elizabeth Wright

Supporting Members

*Curtis & Cookie Adams
Daryl Carpenter*

Rick Dreisbach

Harry Gatzke

Art & Robin Helms

Robert Hennessee

Rick Jaramillo

Alan & Dottie Markell

John & Cheryl McAuley

Larry & Connie Parks

Kevin & Judy Rodriguez

Alan & Diana Ruzicka

John Scales

The TVCWRT Management Team

OFFICERS (Elected)

- William Goss, President
- Vice President **(Vacant – No experience necessary!)**
- Robert Hennessee, Secretary
- Sallyanne Cos, Treasurer

BOARD MEMBERS (Appointed)

- Michael Acosta, Technology Officer
- Art Helms, Programs Officer
- Preservation Officer, Alan Ruzicka
- Communications Officer, Robert Hennessee
- Arley McCormick, Newsletter Editor
- Kevin Rodriguez, Membership Officer

COMMITTEE CHAIRS (Appointed)

- Jeffry Ewing, Little Round Table Coordinator
- Harry Gatzke, Facebook Coordinator
- Marjorie Reeves, Reception Coordinator
- John Scales, Field Trip Coordinator (Former President)
- Emil Posey, Elks Liaison

GRAY BEARDS

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

STAGE CREW

- Master of the Sound System **(We need help)**

Alabama Education Conference



The last Alabama Education Conference was held in 2018 in Prattville. We kept trying to bring it back but just couldn't seem to make it happen. It is scheduled for March 16, 2024 and we have a new home for the event. The Southern Cultural Center in Wetumpka is providing the use of their building for this year and hopefully years to come. Don't procrastinate, register early enough so we know we can have the event (number of people coming dictates if we can put it on) and arrange the amount of food needed for the event. We hope to see you there. Any questions contact Jimmy Hill at editor@alscv.org or Carl Jones at csa6th-florida@att.net We hope to see you there! Our four speakers are listed below: Books will be available and signed by the authors.



James Ronald (Ron) and Walter Donald (Donnie) Kennedy were born and raised in Mississippi. Their book, *The South Was Right!* may be said to have initiated the modern Southern movement and has sold over 135,000 copies. Shotwell published in 2020 the third edition, updated for the 21st century. They have written numerous books on Southern topics. Many in the media have noted the Kennedy Twins advocacy of limited government—that is, real States' Rights—which have led to many interviews and TV appearances.



Dave Benner writes and speaks on issues related to the United States Constitution, founding principles, and United States history. He writes articles for The Tenth Amendment Center and the Abbeville Institute. He also produces history-oriented videos and podcasts. Dave is the author of *Compact of the Republic: The League of States and the Constitution*, a historical narrative that promises to be the definitive defense of the compact theory of the United States Constitution. He also wrote *The 14th Amendment and the Incorporation Doctrine*, a succinct tract that articulates how the federal judiciary has severely eroded the Constitution's original intent, giving the federal courts a historical excuse to meddle with the internal affairs of the states.



Ryan Walters is a life-long Mississippian and hails from the "Free State of Jones." He holds a bachelor and master's degree in American history from the University of Southern Mississippi. He writes columns for the Laurel Leader Call newspaper in Laurel, Mississippi, and for the Right Side Online, some of which have appeared on Townhall.com. He is the author of *The Last Jeffersonian: Grover Cleveland and the Path to Restoring the Republic*, a book that examines current political problems through the prism of history. He was also an occasional guest host and frequent commentator on the Right Side Radio Show with Chris McDaniel, Jack Fairchild, and Lewis Garvin.



Tom Daniel holds a Ph.D in Music Education from Auburn University. He is a college band director and teaches music at Chattahoochee Community College, who lives back in the woods of Alabama with a cotton field right outside his bedroom window. His grandfather once told him he was "Scotch-Irish," and Tom has been trying to live up to those lofty Southern standards ever since. Tom was a presenter at the 2018 Alabama Education Conference and did an outstanding presentation on the influence of the South into the different genres of music.



Alabama Education Conference



March 16, 2024

Vindicating the Cause, one mind at a time

*Southern Cultural Center
12814 U.S. Highway 231
Wetumpka, Alabama 36092
9:30 am to 3:30 pm*

Name _____ Title _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone Numbers: Home: (____) ____ - _____

Office: (____) ____ - _____

Cell: (____) ____ - _____

E-mail Address: _____

SCV Camp Name & Number: _____ Division: _____

Pre registered Alabama Division Members Seminars inc. lunch.....\$40.00
Registration postmarked after March 15, 2024 or at door will not include lunch..... \$40.00

Please send this form, or a copy thereof, completed, together with a check or money order in the amount of the total shown above, made payable to **Alabama Division SCV**

**PO Box 375
Capshaw, Al 35742**

Speakers are booked but are subject to cancellation and is beyond the control of the Alabama Division. There will be no refunds on this event unless the event is cancelled.