

**Tennessee Valley Civil War
Round Table
July 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). The Lodge has been smoke-free from 11 June 2024.

Announcements;

2. Thursday July 11: Nancy Rohr, Huntsville's "Queen of Civil War History" presents: "Rascality in Huntsville, 1861-1862; Union Spies in Huntsville"

2. Chickamauga excursion is scheduled for September. Let's fill up the bus. More details included.

3. Board Reports

Savas Beatie Books for Review

5. TVCWRT Feature;

Book Review: Union General Daniel Butterfield, a Civil War Biography; by James S. Pula, Savas Beatie, 2024, 265 pages; a Tennessee Valley Civil War Round Table review by Arley McCormick

6. The Federal Occupation of Huntsville and Women of Alabama

By Marjorie Ann Reeves

9. Little Round Table: Where we are and What's UP.

Attached: Women in the Western Theater: one speaker is Marjorie Ann Reeves

Announcement: Thursday July 11: Nancy Rohr, Huntsville’s Queen of Civil War History”: “Rascality in Huntsville, 1861-1862; Union Spies in Huntsville”



**Nancy Rohr,
“Queen of Huntsville
Civil War History”**

During the Civil War spies were active as agents in north Alabama and not generally recognized – after all that was their job. There were at least five documented agents of the Federal government active in Madison County during the years of the War. Using material from General Mitchel’s own letter books, the National Archives, and actual spy reports to their superiors the program illustrate a few tentative maps and actual reports naming the guerillas, those harboring guerillas, and loyalists needing protection from guerillas.

Nancy Rohr is a prolific writer and lecturer who has authored four books and numerous articles on the history of Huntsville. She has also contributed a series of audio recordings which tell stories about life in early Huntsville, the residents of historic homes and local heroines of the Civil War.

Listed below are a few of Nancy's works:

- Glimpses of Old Huntsville (audio recordings)
- An Alabama School Girl in Paris: The Letters of Mary Fenwick Lewis and Her Family, 1842-1844 (book)
- Echoes of the Past: Old Mahogany Table Stories (book)
- Free People of Color in Madison County, Alabama (book)
- Incidents of the War: The Civil War Journal of Mary Jane Chadick (book)
- Historical Essays (Articles)

2024, TVCWRT Field Trip to Chickamauga: September 21.



2024 Field Trip - Chickamauga



There are 34 members and friends of the Round Table that reserved seats on the bus. Plenty of seats remain. Share the opportunity with friends and let’s fill up the bus.

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/tvcwrt> Share the 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 Wi-Fi limitation. 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: In June there were 6 renewals, and 1 new member joined the Round Table. We currently have 84 paid memberships, 2 lifetime memberships, 1 complimentary membership (Elk's Lodge President), and 37 spouses/significant others for a total of 124 members.

Board Vacancies: Projectionist

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

- **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, "INTREPID HAZARD: The Civil War Adventures of General Hazard Stevens"**
- **November 14: Kent Wright, "Gasport"**
- **No meeting in December.**

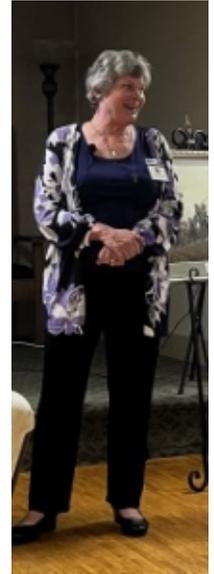
Savas Beatie may provide these books this summer for the Round Table to review:

With the summer temps climbing, we may have a few books for you to review, either under a beach umbrella or in an A/C cooled room. Please let Arley McCormick know if any are of interest to you. It's not clear if all of these will be hard copy.

- ✓ *The Blood-Tinted Waters of the Shenandoah: The 1864 Valley Campaign's Battle of Cool Spring, July 17-18, 1864* by Jonathan Noyalas - released June 2024
- ✓ *Holding Charleston by the Bridle: Castle Pinckney and the Civil War* by W. Clifford Roberts, Jr and Matthew A. M. Locke - expected July 2024
- ✓ *A Tempest of Iron and Lead: The Battle of Spotsylvania Court House, May 8-21, 1864* by Chris Mackowski - expected late August 2024

Thank You Cheryl It was a unique day for the Round Table, beginning with brunch in Cheryl and John McAuley's home celebrating the arrival of special guests attending the evening presentation. The guests were the great, great, great grandson of Thaddeus Lowe, Lance Fern and his wife Tammy Hightower, from California; Living Historians from

Kentucky, the Demorys; and Dr. Stephen Lemons and his wife, Jennie, from South Carolina, the great, great, granddaughter of one of the Confederate soldiers that shot at Thaddeus Lowe as he was observing troop movements. The gathering included current and former TVCWRT board members.



Cheryl is amused by the comments and questions members asked.

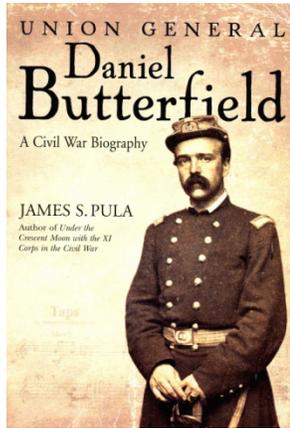
Back row: Bob & Pat Quigley, John Scales, Arley & Lynda McCormick, Bob Hennessee, Kent & Elizabeth Wright, Marjorie Reeves, Ed Kennedy, Mark & Phyllis Hubbs, Middle Row: Cheryl McAuley, Lance Ferm, Dr. Limons, Steve Demory. Seated, Tammy Hightower, Jennie Lemons, and Patrice Demory



Above; A near full house of members and guests listens to Thaddeus Low's wife aka reenactor Patrice Demory Far Left: Bill Goss, president of the Round Table, presents Cheryl McAuley a miniature union soldier created by Art Helms and Cheryl studies the detail of the miniature, and a closer view of the miniature.

TVCWRT Features:

Union General Daniel Butterfield, a Civil War Biography; by James S. Pula, Savas Beatie, 2024, 265 pages; a Tennessee Valley Civil War Round Table review by Arley McCormick



Who is Union General Daniel Butterfield? One answer; he may be the best example of a volunteer and honorable soldier who served the Union during the Civil War. He demonstrated courage under fire, received three brevet promotions, was awarded the Medal of Honor, and returned to the field after healing from battle wounds. He forgave his enemies and encouraged unity in the aftermath of the bloody contest.

He was Chief of Staff of the Army of the Potomac at Chancellorsville and Gettysburg and held a similar position in two corps' while relieving Chattanooga in 1863. Those achievements may be lost to all but a few historians, but today everyone will recognize his most enduring contribution to the military experience: his composition of

“Taps.”

How did he acquire permission to be buried at West Point, a right that is granted only to graduates of the Academy?

The author, James S. Pula, puts all of it in perspective for us. This is an enjoyable read and departure from narratives that describe the incompetent, often unsavory, leaders that used their position to enrich themselves or achieve personal ambitions. The narrative is accompanied by maps of the battles where General Butterfield participated, his contemporary leaders, events captured by Harper's magazine, and his family.

Members of the Round Table will enjoy the read.

The Federal Occupation of Huntsville and Women of Alabama

By Marjorie Ann Reeves

It has been 163 years since the United States experienced combat zones inside its borders and the memory continues to fade as American society changes. In the 1860s, citizens of the South experienced the Goth returning destroying their homes and lives during the War Between the States. Numerous men and women wrote journals of their lives during the period of the war. From these journals, we read what they experienced and develop an understanding what the ones that did not write suffered in the war. A young lady during that period put it plainly, “It is all very well for you to talk, you who have never known the wrongs that we have had to endure; you know nothing about the war.”

Alabama's lack of major battles within its borders produces little thought in discussions about the war but there were 194 running military clashes mainly in North Alabama until 1865 when Federal General Wilson and his troops went down through the middle of Alabama burning and destroying what was left with Confederate General Forrest's men nipping at their heels as the Federals rolled their tide through. The Tennessee River dipping into North Alabama gave the Union Navy an avenue to attack plus Union gunboats patrolled waterways through Alabama. Major naval battles were fought in Mobile Bay during 1864.

It is estimated that 100,000 Alabamians joined the Confederate Army and in the beginning were sent to Virginia to help protect the Confederate capital. Because the state was divided about succession, several counties threatened to secede from the state. When Lincoln called for volunteers to join the Union army to fight the South, the counties did not leave the state. About 2,700 Alabama men did join the Union army fighting against their own kin.

Most of the men were yeoman who had been raising food crops to feed the state. In the beginning of 1861, they were still on the farms preparing the fields for planting. Their leaving their families to take care of the farm fell on the women to plow, plant, harvest, cut wood, tend to the animals, and care for the remaining family members. The women left as head of household had no protection from the Federal invaders or outlaws and often fell victim. Farming communities were plundered, destroyed, and crops burned by Federal invaders throughout the war.

Meanwhile in the city of Huntsville where thousands of Federal invading soldiers took control, the women did what they could to defy the Union's efforts to crush their rebel spirit. After war was declared and before the invasion of North Alabama, the women of Huntsville gathered to make uniforms for men in the Confederate army. They used everything available to furnish the men clothing who were fighting for their homeland. When the invasion came, the women helped their men to escape out of the city. The women took supplies sewn in their clothing out to the Confederate soldiers as often as they could while under Federal rule in town.

Federal General O.M. Mitchel invaded Huntsville on April 11, 1862, at the crack of dawn with over 8,000 soldiers to conquer half that number of civilians who were women, children, slaves, freemen, and the elderly. The Memphis & Charleston (M&C) rail line dipped into North Alabama making it a valuable tool for transporting troops and supplies to the army, it was fought over by both sides, Union and Confederate. When Union General Mitchel came into Huntsville, train cars were running on the M&C line through Huntsville which made it possible for Mitchel's men to capture "18 engines, 100 freight cars, 6 passenger, 2 baggage, and a large number of smaller cars. "Two cars held Confederate soldiers, one got away but one was captured that held wounded soldiers coming from the Shiloh battlefield.

Mrs. Bradford, a widow, led several of the ladies to General Mitchel to ask permission to take care of the wounded soldiers on the train. Mrs. Chadick, a minister's wife, wrote in her journal: "The object of the visit then was stated to Mitchel by Mrs. Bradford, when, instead of a direct reply, he went on to speak of the very great surprise he had given us that morning, and expressing great surprise on his part that we had no reception prepared for him! Mrs. Chadick wrote, "I had it in my heart to let him know that we had a grand reception prepared for him at Corinth but considering that discretion was the better part of valor, kept silent." The ladies carried food and drink to the wounded soldiers aboard the car.

General Mitchel, being the first to invade Huntsville, made oppressive rules for the captured citizens to follow such as having to take the oath to the Federal Government (the South's oppressor) before buying anything including food, and have permission to travel anywhere, near or far. Mitchel allowed his men to burn surrounding communities outside of Huntsville and rob citizens in the city. Burning of communities left families homeless refugees. He supported Colonel Turchin in the sacking of Athens. Union General Buell, Commander of the Army of Ohio, wrote that "General Mitchel allowed his federal soldiers to be lawless: destroy, rape, arson, and plundering without punishment. "By the time Mitchel

was transferred out of Huntsville, his nickname had become "Ohio Monster Mitchel" by the citizens.

Women raped during this time of war, were too ashamed to tell anyone or if witnessed, had to live in fear and humiliation for the rest of their lives. It was not only the federal soldiers that plundered and abused the citizens but a growing number of outlaws were to be feared. With the majority of males gone, the outlaw population grew with no restraints. They murdered, stole, and raped at their pleasure and entertainment without any law to hamper or stop them.

Soldiers kept journals during that period such as Colonel John Beatty, 3rd Ohio Volunteer Infantry, wrote in his journal, "The men of Huntsville have a patient endurance of military rule. The women, however, are outspoken in their hostility and marvelously bitter." Many of the women's journals describe their feelings toward the Federal invaders. They were bitter at being captive, aggrieved by the ill treatment toward them, hated the destruction the soldiers did to their homes, and the pillaging. Miss Mary Frances Fielding told one Federal soldier, "maybe when all the men are killed, you'll have the glory of conquering women and children, but we won't give up before."

Official records and journals tell that Negroes fought on both sides, often without a choice. The Federal soldiers surrounded a Negro church in Huntsville and after the service when the men came out, the Federals gathered them up and sent them to Nashville to build fortifications, thus taking them away from their families. Many ran to the other side hoping for help but little was given because the Federals were more interested in caring for their own men. The Negroes had it rough either way they went because they were not considered citizens at that time. Many Negroes fought the enemy when they went with their masters to battle. Many free men volunteered to fight for their homeland by going into servitude with the Confederate Army. The ones that had a certain amount of freedom but mistreated by the Federals turned to the Confederacy. Many journals during the period discussed what Negroes experienced and their reaction. Miss Cassie Fennell wrote in her journal, "The Negroes here are badly frightened by the Yankees because they treat the Negroes very badly over in Madison and Limestone Counties...We have not as yet had but two Negroes to go with the Yankees. The Yankees are surprised themselves at our Negroes remaining at home when nearly everybody is losing theirs."

Miss Cassie Fennell was educated in D.C. then came home to Guntersville right before the beginning of the hostilities. She kept a detailed journal of her feelings about all that happened in Guntersville and in Huntsville. Raised in Ohio, Mrs. Chadick married a preacher who was sent to Huntsville to preach in the Cumberland Presbyterian Church and he joined the Confederate Army. She kept a detailed journal on what was happening in Huntsville during the period of the war. Mrs. Otey was married to an older invalid man and they lived in the country outside of Huntsville. She wrote about the continuous problems of protecting the animals and food supplies from the Federals that raided her plantation routinely.

The children growing up during the war developed a hatred for northerners that lasted a life time and carried on through generations. The children during the war and their children seeing how it affected their family passed down stories through generations. There are many traces of journals from women during that time describing their daily lives and what was happening to them and their love ones.

Huntsville changed hands many times; the Federals came then they left, the Confederates came then left, the Federals returned then left, and so on. The period in between the Federals gave the citizens a breather. Mrs. Virginia Clay wrote about her experience as a

refugee. Her husband was sent to Canada by President Davis leaving her without a place to be while Huntsville was captured. Virginia wrote "Of the months of '63, the story of my life is one of continuous change."

Miss Kate Cumming of Mobile volunteered her time nursing the wounded soldiers after the Battle of Shiloh and Chickamauga. She provides us with information on being a young single woman nursing men and the attitudes one had to deal with regarding what she was doing for the men. It was more favorable for a married woman nursing men than young single woman. Miss Augusta Evans of Mobile, known author at the time of war, broke her engagement to a northerner because he supported Lincoln. She devoted her time helping the wounded and supporting the Confederacy in many ways. Mrs. Juliet Hopkins sold her lands and gave over \$500,000 to the Confederate government to build hospitals which she ran for three years. She was shot twice while rescuing wounded men from a battlefield. After the war, she was left with a bad limp and nothing to live on. Fannie Beers writes about being on the battlefield, "The dead lay around us on every side, stingily, and in groups and piles; men and horses, in some cases, inextricably mingled. As I passed my arm under his head (wounded soldier) the red blood saturated my sleeve and spread in a moment over a part of my dress. We went on, giving water, brandy, or soup; sometimes successful in reviving the patient, sometimes able to only to whisper a few words of comfort to the dying. My hands and dress and feet were bloody, and I felt sick with horror."

By the end of the war, everyone in the South was suffering. The women had been working throughout the war to support the men in the field: their husbands, fathers, brothers, uncles, nephews, cousins, and friends. As the men came home after the war, broken and wounded, the women continued to work to help them. The women formed groups across the South to help raise funds to house the homeless veterans, help the widows and orphans, support veterans' camps, and paid for monuments to honor the beloved men who served their country. These groups of women across the country organized into the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC) and continue to honor the men and women, white and black, who will fight for their home and country during a war.

The full article, with references and explanatory endnotes, is available at <https://tvcwrt.org/nooks-crannies/>.

Marjorie will be a featured speaker at the Society for Women and the Civil War's 24th annual conference, "Women in the Western Theater," on July 26-28 in Kennesaw, Georgia. Informational flyer attached. Note that the flyer says registration for the conference should be accomplished by July 1. Apologies for the late notice, but we presume late registrations stand a really good chance of being accepted.

Quotes from Civil War Notables:

*"Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man's character, give him power." **Abraham Lincoln***

*"I hate newspapermen. They come into camp and pick up their camp rumors and print them as facts. I regard them as spies, which, in truth, they are. If I killed them all there would be news from Hell before breakfast." **William Tecumseh Sherman***

Little Round Table



In June the Little Round Table reviewed the Tullahoma Campaign that preceded their capture of Chattanooga and Chickamauga.

Next UP: July 25, 2024, Chickamauga – Deep Dive II: John Scales

LRT Programs for 2024: (Subject to change)

- August 22, 2024, Chickamauga – Deep Dive III: John Scales.
- September 26, 2024, Chickamauga – 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 for topics to Jeffery Ewing Jr., fusionewing@gmail.com

Member Honor Roll

Life Members

***Carol Codori
Ed Kennedy***

Patron

***Emil Posey
William Goss***

Sustaining Member

Kent & Elizabeth Wright

Supporting Members

***Daryl Carpenter
Terry Clevenger***

Rick Dreisbach

Harry Gatzke

William Goss

Art & Robin Helms

Robert Hennessee

Rick Jaramillo

John & Cheryl McAuley

Larry & Connie Parke

Kevin & Judy Rodriguez

Alan & Diana Ruzicka

John Scales

The TVCWRT Management Team

OFFICERS (Elected)

- *William Goss, President*
- *Cheryl McCauley, Vice President*
- *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*
- *Kent Wright, Former Programs Officer*

STAGE CREW

- **VACANT**, *Master of the Sound System*