

**Tennessee Valley Civil War
Round Table
March 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: Next month only 2024 members will receive the newsletter.

2. Thursday; March 14, Ben Sanders, "Shutting Down the Union in North Alabama."
2. Chickamauga excursion is scheduled for September. More details to follow.
2. Special Notice for Straight's Raid repeat in April and another in October.
3. Back on the table: Why did the South lose the "War of Northern Aggression".

4. Board Reports

See the highlight on future speakers.

5. TVCWRT Features;

Book Review; Thunder in the Harbor, Fort Sumter and the Civil War, by Richard W. Hatcher, III,

6. LRT; March 28, 2024, Maryland in the Civil War, A Profile: Emil Posey.

The Round Table Honor Role, Board members and support

Announcement:

Thursday: March 14, 630pm at the Elks, Benjamin Sanders presents; "Shutting Down the Union in North Alabama."



**Ben Sanders,
former Ranger**

Ben Sanders is a former 1st Battalion Army Ranger and Department of the Army Logistician. He is a published artist, author, data analyst and researcher. Ben has guided a number of personalized tours to the Shiloh and Chickamauga battle fields following the actions of the 64th Ohio Volunteer Infantry; the 6th Ohio Light Battery; the 10th Mississippi Volunteer Infantry and 9th Mississippi Sharp Shooters.

Ben is the author of "Order Without Law: The Wilbur Fisk Sanders Story." The work is the biography of Montana's first US Senator and Adjutant to Col James A. Forsyth and James A. Garfield during their commands of the 64th Ohio Infantry and the Sherman Brigade. Wilbur Sanders was the prosecuting attorney for the Montana Vigilantes and a founding member of the Montana Historical Society. The book also covers in great detail the movements of the Union Army under General Don Carlos Buell in Northern Alabama.

Currently the annual field trip is scheduled for September. We want to fill a bus for a comfortable one-day excursion. Let us know if you will join the trip. More details will follow.

Special Notice for Straight's Raid

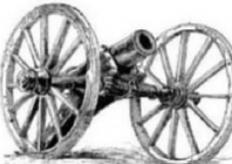


Streight's Raid
Civil War Reenactment
Reenactment held on actual surrender site!
Sponsored by: Cherokee Battle Preservation Corporation
~
OCTOBER 12 & 13, 2024
(OCTOBER 11, 2024 - Living History/School Days)
~
135 SR-35, Cedar Bluff, AL 35959

Spectator Admission: \$10/carload, bring your chairs
Reenactor Registration On-site \$10/person, 12 & under Free
Online Reenactor Registration Available Soon --follow our Facebook for updates

~~ SCHEDULE OF EVENTS ~~
*** ALL TIMES ARE CENTRAL TIME (CT) ***
Friday, October 11, 2024
10 AM - School Days /Living History Activities open
11 AM - 10 PM - Reenactor registration/Check-In
Saturday, October 12, 2024
8 AM - 10 AM - Reenactor registration/Check-In
11 AM - Spectator Activities Open
2 PM - Reenactment Battle begins
7 PM - 10 PM - Ball (Music by Emmy award-winning Unreconstructed)
(Public is Welcome to Attend)
Sunday, October 13, 2024
10 AM - Reenactor church service (Public Welcome)
11 AM - Spectator Activities Open
2 PM - Reenactment Battle begins

**** Sutlers & Food Trucks on-site ****
**** Porta-potties and water supply on-site ****
For questions: cherokeebattlefield@hotmail.com
Like us on Facebook: Cherokee Battlefield Preservation Corporation



For members by special request a repeat in April. John Scales will lead a one-day trip and follow the route of Straights' Raid executed 19 April - 3 May in 1863. As of now there are no more seat available. Notify John Scales at our Thursday meeting if you are interested (in case of an opening).

Another adventure waits June 8, 2024

Jefferson Davis State Historic Site Centennial Celebration & SCV National Event June 8, 2024, 11am-2pm

258 Pembroke-Fairview Rd, Pembroke, KY 42266.

Visit the 351ft obelisk dedicated to President Davis at the site of his birth on the 100th anniversary of its completion! Elevator rides to the top of the monument

and museum admission will be available. There will also be Special guest speakers, live artillery firing, living history displays, SCV camp & merchandise booths, food trucks and more!

Thanks! Curt Locklear, for an evening of storytelling, banjo and guitar serenades, a sing along, and certainly an informative and novel approach to explaining the Red River Campaign. It was Realcol, as Curt described Locklear spelled backward.



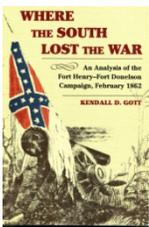
Former President John Scales, standing in for William Goss, current president, is presenting another Art Helms masterpiece miniature; A private of the 24th Texas Cavalry, C.S.A., to Curt Locklear for a very entertaining presentation.



Another Happy Member heading to Nicks!

It's back on the table;

Where the South Lost the War by Kendall D. Gott, Stackpole Books 2003 346 pages; A Tennessee Valley Civil War Round Table review by Arley McCormick



You missed it. It's been on the book table for months. It is the most concise analysis of the Forts Henry and Donelson Campaign of February 1862 written to date and by a certified Army Historian with an armor/cavalry and military intelligence background. It is indorsed by our resident Civil War scholar Brigadier General (Ret) John Scales, former President of the Round Table. Old timers of the Round Table visited the two Forts and listened to the guides tell the story and may have researched independently, but I'm betting, this is better.

Why is it better? Because, the author captures the events, describes the Order of Battle, Transport/Auxiliary transport vessels available, and describes the breakdown in command through incompetence and limited ability. He challenges the merit of the South's focus on a static defense of all territory of the Southern States rather than a mobile defense. One mistake compounded both tactical and strategic errors in judgment. It all began with the placement and design of the forts, outmanned out gunned, conflicting reports on the state of affairs of the two forts, location of the Theater Commanders headquarters, weak leadership on the part of subordinate Commanders, like John B. Floyd and Gideon Pillow, and the list grows.

Take it home and see what you think? Pick it up on the book table.

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 February 2024 we had 16 renewals. We have a total of 127 members. Our renewal rate for the year is 60%, slightly down from 2023. There are 17 premium members.

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

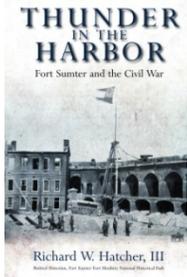
Programs Chair, Art Helms: The 2024 calendar is filling up. It's looking like another stellar year for the Round Table.

- **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: "Who was Thaddeus Lowe, and Did He Make a Difference in the Civil War?"**
- **July 11: Nancy Rohr: "Rascality in Huntsville, 1861-1862; Union Spies in Huntsville"**
- **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, "Instant Navies"**

TVCWRT Features:

Book Review:

Thunder in the Harbor, Fort Sumter and the Civil War, by Richard W. Hatcher, III, Savas Beatie, 2024, 239 pages, Tennessee Valley Civil War Round Table review by Arley McCormick



Students of Civil War history and indeed most Americans recognize the name Fort Sumter and the author, Richard W. Hatcher, III, a retired historian, explains the site from the beginning. Not the beginning of the War of the Rebellion but the landing of colonists in April of 1670. Most of the estimated 300,000 annual visitors to Fort Sumter never hear the full story. Here you have it. His narrative is amplified by numerous photos, diagrams, drawings, and maps that illustrate how Fort Sumter impacted the city of Charleston, the state of South Carolina, the nation over time and of course;

the War of the Rebellion.

The story could not be told without introducing the soldiers, politicians, and others whose roll in this historic and site of tragedy stood as a symbol of two nations will, from the description of the armament, incomplete defense structures, and the political puzzle that served as a backdrop against and for a rebellion.

The author references newspapers of the era, biographies from those involved, national archives and a significant resume of other primary and secondary sources that support his descriptions of the drama until its transfer to the National Park Service in 1948.

This book is a quick and is interesting to read and fills a void between what you knew regarding Fort Sumter and what you never thought about.



Little Round Table

Next UP: March 28, 2024, Maryland in the Civil War, a Profile: Emil Posey.

- **LRT Programs for 2024: Subject to change**
- 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

Member Honor Roll

Life Members

*Carol Codori
Ed Kennedy*

Patron

*Emil Posey
Bill Goss*

Sustaining Member

Kent & Elizabeth Wright

Supporting Members

*Curtis & Cookie Adams
Daryl Carpenter*

Terry Clevenger

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*
- *Kent Wright, Former Programs Officer*

STAGE CREW

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