

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



**To Inform and Educate  
Since 1993**

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

**Announcements;**

**2.** Thursday, May 9, Teresa Roane presents, **“The Davis Family and their Relationships with People of Color.”**

**2.** Chickamauga excursion is scheduled for September. Members register [HERE](#)

**2.** Special Notice for Straight’s Raid in October.

**3. Board Reports**

**4. TVCWRT Features; Check out the used book shelf on the table!**

**4. Book Report**

**Longstreet, the Confederate General Who Defied the South, by Elizabeth R. Varon,** Simon & Schuster, 2023, 437 pages, Tennessee Valley Civil War Round Table review by April L. Harris former President of the Tennessee Valley Civil War Round Table.

**5. Nooks & Crannies:** Two new postings are available on TVCWRT.org **Confederate Rest Cemetery, Point Clear, AL”** and **“Fort Gaines, Dauphin Island, AL.”**

**5.** Little Round Table; May 23, **“River Operations from Belmont to Memphis, Part 2”:** led by Kent Wright: Elks Lodge, 6:30 – 8:00 pm.

**Announcement: May 9: Teresa Roane: “The Davis Family and Their Relationship with People of Color.”**



Ms. Teresa Roane

Our May speaker, Ms. Teresa Roane, comes to us from Richmond, Virginia. This is her second visit. You may recall her presentation on Black Confederates last year. Teresa earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in history from Virginia Commonwealth University and worked eight years for the Richmond Public Library, followed by 15 years at the Valentine Museum’s library. The Valentine Museum, founded in 1898, is dedicated to collecting, preserving and interpreting Richmond’s history. More recently, for over seven years, Teresa was the Archivist at the Museum for the Confederacy and has served on several boards including the Historic Richmond Foundation.

**2024 TVCWRT Field Trip to Chickamauga is set: September 21.**

Let’s get comfortable and fill a 50-passenger bus. Depart from the Space and Rocket Center and return before(well almost before) dark. We are accepting participants on our website [www.tvcwrt.org](http://www.tvcwrt.org) and at the membership table on Thursday night. In June we begin offering vacant seats to the public. Sign up soon. Sign up [HERE](#)

**Streight’s Raid and TVCWRT Pursuit Tour 6 April 2024**



The first challenge was to decide if they were riding with Col Streight on mules or in luxury. For these hard, tough Civil War buffs, it was easy, air conditioning and the classic guide Brigadier General (R) John Scales leading the pursuit. They mounted up and headed west to catch Straight’s trail. They found Maj Gen Dodge’s U.S. artillery positions to the west of Town Creek and proceeded to the battlefield; on to the Penn Farm, the location of Streight’s overnight bivouac. But they didn’t rest they continued to pursue. They followed Day’s Gap Road and moved into the gap where Forrest’s position faced Streight’s on the battlefield; Then to the Hog Mountain battlefield, a part of the National Battlefield Trust, and on to the Blountsville Methodist Church that had replaced the wartime church in the 1880’s. A short stop at the Sansom family cemetery in Gadsden and the crossing site where Forrest gained time and surprise in pursuit of Straight. They ended the pursuit at the surrender monument and took a triumphant photo below.



## Art Helms Visits the Sultana Disaster Museum and delivers our donation.

Art Helms, the Programs Director of the Tennessee Valley Civil War Round Table of Huntsville, Alabama delivered a check for purchasing a brick for the new museum's Memorial Plaza. He also announced that the Sultana Disaster Museum is the designated project this year, as they pass the "Battlefield Bucket" around at our meetings. "We are grateful for their support!" Sultana Disaster Museum Director



Art Helms is delivering the TVCWRT check to the director of the Sultana Disaster Museum

**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](mailto: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 March we had 11 renewals; two were from past inactive lists and three new memberships (2 from the Grant and Lee presentation last year). We have a total of 136 members. Our renewal rate for the year is 74.5%. We exceeded last years' renewal rate of 71%. There are 17 premium members.

## Board Vacancies: ***Vice President and Projectionist***

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

- **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: Kellee Blake, “INTREPID HAZARD: The Civil War Adventures of General Hazard Stevens”**
- **November 14: Kent Wright, “Instant Navies”**



Our president is presenting a miniature to John Coffindaffer.

**Thanks to John Coffindaffer for an interesting presentation on the Fort Delaware prison.**



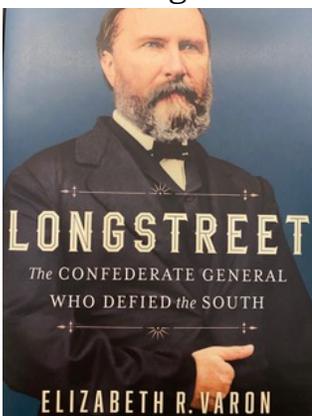
Art Helms’ Miniature military art is the famous Stonewall Jackson.



Rick Dreisbach is the last member to benefit from a certificate offering a discount to Nick’s.

### **TVCWRT Features:**

**Longstreet, The Confederate General Who Defied the South, by Elizabeth R. Varon,** Simon & Schuster, 2023, 437 pages, Tennessee Valley Civil War Round Table review by April L. Harris former President of the Tennessee Valley Civil War Round Table.



Was Longstreet a traitor to the South and the Lost Cause as his critics charged, or was he a harbinger of the next epoch in American history? Read this interesting book and decide for yourself. His life and war record is almost common knowledge among Civil War history enthusiasts.

✓ James Longstreet was a man of contrasts. Raised by a staunchly pro-slavery family on a cotton plantation, he later became an ardent advocate for integration.

✓ A West Point graduate, he was best friends with US Grant, but was also Robert E. Lee’s “old war horse,” considered by the Union as “Confederate #3,” behind Jefferson Davis and Lee.

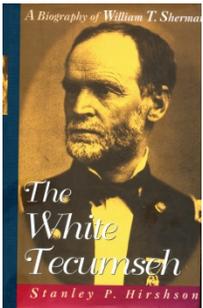
✓ He delivered a major Confederate victory at Chickamauga but disagreed with Lee on the battle plans at Gettysburg and as a consequence, was later blamed for defeat.

- ✓ Present at Appomattox, he felt honor bound to the pledge of loyalty to the Union as required under the terms offered by Grant but was reviled by former Confederate colleagues as a result.
- ✓ Permanently disabled from a friendly fire wound at the Wilderness, he couldn’t use his right arm or speak above a whisper for the remainder of his life, yet he lived to

age 83 and is thought to be the last Civil War general to die, remaining active until his death in 1904.

*Longstreet The Confederate General Who Defied the South*, a new book by noted Civil War historian Elizabeth R. Varon, is a balanced, well-researched, enlightening read. The majority of the book is devoted to Longstreet's long post-war career, and the image-tarnishing consequences of his participation in the social media platform of the day, writing letters to newspapers which were then either countered or supported by others. This decades-long stream of point-and-counterpoint generated by the fading memories and long-festering animosities of aging warriors, devolved into roorback, which didn't change any minds, but left an indelible taint on Longstreet's legacy. This, coupled with Longstreet's support of integration and his acceptance of Federal employment, sullied his reputation in the South, but elevated him to the model of enlightened Reconstructed man in the North.

### It's back on the table;



### **The White Tecumseh A Biography of William T. Sherman by Stanley P. Hirtshon 1997**

The author didn't break the intellectual's academic rules but today he may be labeled racist. His title was intended, I believe, as praise to a Native American Chief that unified tribes against the onslaught that would change their culture.

Check out the book shelf and take this one home. It's not the first biography of Sherman but it does address; education and pre civil war experience, the characteristics this General possessed that contributed greatly to the Union's success, and interestingly Patton's tactics in Germany mirrored Sherman's tactics in the Carolinas.

There is much to understand and digest. *-The Editor*

### **Little Round Table Entertains Florence Round Table**



**Kent Wright**  
RT Navy  
Historian

The 25<sup>th</sup> of April was a big night for the Little Round Table. Members of the Round Table from Florence were in attendance and the discussion carried on well after their bedtime. Kent Wright, our local navy historian, led the discussion with his normal flare for detail and excitement. Not to worry, he, no doubt will catch everyone up on 23 May as they extended the presentation to

Part 2.



**LRT engrossed in Kent's presentation.**



Jeffrey Ewing  
Director of the LRT

**Next UP:** May 23, 2024, River Operations from Belmont to Memphis Part 2: Kent Wright.

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

*Terry Clevenger  
Rick Driesbach  
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*
- *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)**

- *Jeffery 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*