

**Tennessee Valley Civil War  
Round Table  
September 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). The Lodge is smoke free as of 11 June 2024.

**Announcements;**

2. Thursday September 12: Jeff Ewing takes us to Fort Oglethorpe and the Chickamauga Battlefield; **a field trip preview**

2. Chickamauga field trip is scheduled for September. A few seats remain. Let's fill up the bus.

2. Check out our most new sponsor: Tortora's Wood fire Grill. We have tickets.

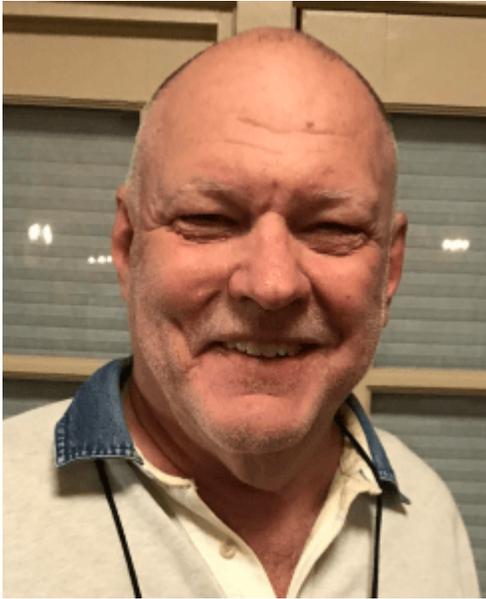
**3. Board Reports**

**3. TVCWRT Feature;**

**Book Review: Special Order 191: Ruse of War by Joseph Ryan Jr. 2024, 178 pages, a Tennessee Valley Civil War Round Table review by Arley McCormick**

5. Little Round Table; **Next UP: 26 September; the Chickamauga Field Trip Review**

**Announcement: Thursday September 12:** Jeff Ewing takes us to Fort Oglethorpe and the Chickamauga Battlefield; a preview



**Jeff Ewing; TVCWRT Little Round Table Lead**

In honor of the TVCWRT's upcoming field trip, our Little Round Table leader Jeffrey Ewing has dusted off his 2007 documentary "Frank Wright's Fort Oglethorpe" and paired it with his original "History of Chickamauga Battlefield Park" feature which was made with the assistance of Park Historian Jim Ogden. Jeff produced both films for the 6<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Museum, his first commercial work after "Floyd Collins" and "Pit Girls".

Featured is an interview with a then 92 year-old Chattanooga man whose father was a cavalry wagon master and who grew up on the post, witnessing visits by Teddy Roosevelt and General John Pershing. This was originally screened for the 6<sup>th</sup> Cavalry reunion and played for several years on Chattanooga area television. The 1904 era Queen Anne style houses of the cavalry officers still line the parade ground at Fort Oglethorpe, they have been

private homes since the army left the post in the late 1940's.

After a career as a hearing officer with the National Labor Relations Board and a compensation consultant with the accounting firm Coopers & Lybrand, Jeff returned to school to study video production and graphic design. He opened his own video production company in North Alabama and, until his retirement, produced independent documentaries and internet commercials. He has been a member of the TVCWRT since 2006 and the discussion leader of the Little Round Table since 2016.

*Jeff has a bachelor's degree from Cornell University and a MBA from UC-Berkeley. And he is a ten-plus year attendee at Gettysburg College's Civil War Institute's annual summer conference.*

\*\*\*

**2024, TVCWRT Field Trip to Chickamauga: September 21.**



**2024 Field Trip - Chickamauga**



SEPTEMBER 21, 2024

Thirteen (13) seats remain for members, friends, and those with an interest in the Civil War.

**Welcome our newest sponsor Tortora's.**

182 Old Highway 431 Ste B, Owens Cross Roads, AL 35763

Tuesday - Thursday 4:30-8:00

Friday-Saturday 4:30pm - 8:00

\* Closed Sunday-Monday \*



[https://www//Tortora's Wood Fired Grill \(tortoraswoodfiredgrille.com\)](https://www//Tortora's Wood Fired Grill (tortoraswoodfiredgrille.com))

**Oh! How great it was:** We thank the generals, upon their return, for a most educational presentation regarding their lives after Appomattox.



**The Generals in Civilian clothes addressing the fight for justice after the fighting ended.**



**Members and friends are captivated by the presentation.**



**The Professor at Washington and Lee University presents his challenges with the Federal authorities.**



**William Goss, President of the TVCWRT, present's the generals with a unique coin as a token of our appreciation.**



**A unique miniature of Grant and Lee as Art Helms artistry is shared with our guests.**



**John McAuley is headed to Tortora's.**



The Stone Mountain commemorative US half dollar (1925). The U.S. coin had generals Stonewall Jackson and R.E. Lee on the coin.



The General U.S. Grant U.S. half dollar (1922). It shows Grant in his army uniform rather than as president in civilian attire.

**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;

**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 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 needs a backup Discord manager.***

**Membership Chair, Kevin Rodriguez:** Nothing Significant to Report: NSTR

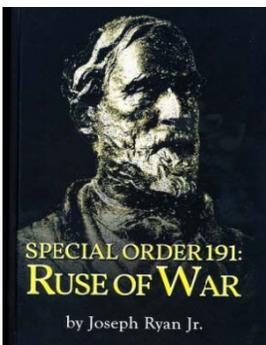
**Programs Chair, Art Helms:** The 2024 calendar is full. It's another stellar year for the Round Table.

- ✓ October 10: Kattie Blake, "INTREPID HAZARD: The Civil War Adventures of General Hazard Stevens"
- ✓ November 14: Kent Wright, "Gasport"
- ✓ No meeting in December.

## TVCWRT Features:

### Book Review:

**Special Order 191: Ruse of War by Joseph Ryan Jr. 2024, 178 pages, a Tennessee Valley Civil War Round Table review by Arley McCormick**



How many books, fiction and nonfiction, focus on Antietam? It's a guess, but a good bet that all address, in some fashion, Special Order 191. It's not a myth, an order was found. But for retired attorney Joseph Ryan Jr., when he became attracted to the Civil War at age 40 decided to build a case that would convince a jury that the order was planted in an area where Union soldiers would find it and discover General Robert E. Lee's plan for an upcoming battle.

For Mr. Ryan the mystery begins with the analysis of more than a few questions; who wrote it? Was it lost? Or deliberately placed where Union soldiers would find it? If it were a ruse, planted misinformation, how long was it on the ground? How did it survive the stormy weather? Who could possibly have given up three cigars wrapped in the order? And, you're the jury. Do you believe his argument has merit and Special Order 191, forever more, be described, "A Lee Orchestrated Deception".

Joseph Ryan Jr. includes maps, at least one illustrating the positioning or movement of military formations but mostly cities, places, areas, and land marks that would be impacted by competing armies on any given day of the fight. He builds his case beginning with how it was found, followed by thoughts on the operational situation as General Lee may have seen it and how General McClellan reacted upon learning about the order. As a juror you can assess Mr. Ryan's analysis of how the order was lost, who wrote the copy, the sequence in which it was created, and who deposited the order at its lost location.

The end notes are just as intriguing as Mr. Ryan's analysis and he supplements his analysis with eight appendix topics ranging from the Harper's Ferry surrender, evidence from those with personal knowledge of the order, or remember being close, and, what appears to be, a fictional discussion between General Lee and a young drummer boy regarding why Southerners fought the war.

If your inclined to read mysteries you will find this historical analysis interesting.

\*\*\*

## **Little Round Table**

### **Next UP: 26 September; the Chickamauga Field Trip Review**

**Little Round Table leadership guidance:** *After the field trip to Chickamauga in September we will assess the Campaign at the Little Round Table in October. With that task in mind, applying the current thinking regarding military leadership to Chickamauga may be a stretch, but there may be a nugget or two in this article that help with an analysis. The Editor*

## **LRT Programs for 2024: (Subject to change)**

- 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](mailto: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  
Greg and Steph Cousins  
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*
- *Interim Vice President, Cheryl McAuley*
- *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*
- *Jason Brunening, 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**

- *The team of Acosta and Brunening, Masters of the Sound System*