



## Nashville Civil War Roundtable

**Founded April, 2009 – Nashville, Tennessee – Now Part of the Battle of Nashville Trust, April 2025**

May 19th, 2026 – Our 178th meeting!! We continue our sixteenth year!

*The next meeting of the Nashville (TN) Civil War Roundtable will be on Tuesday, May 19th, 2026 – back again at Fort Negley, 1100 Fort Negley Blvd.*

**This meeting begins at 7 PM!**

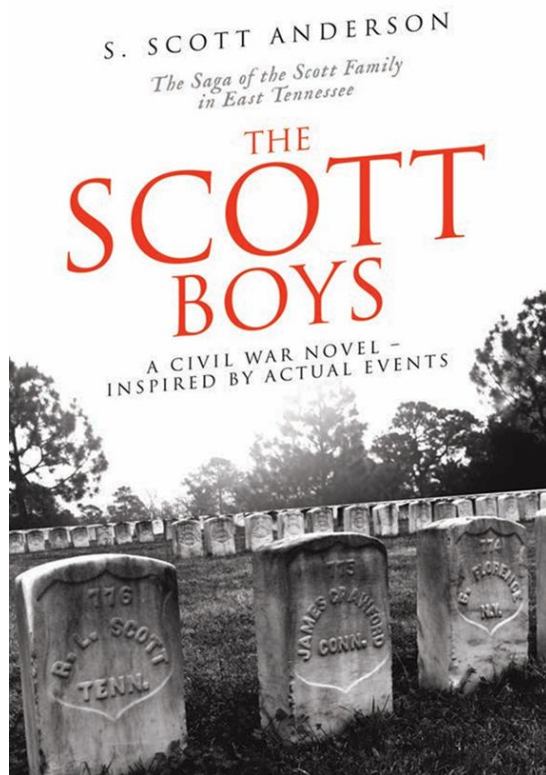
The meeting is always open to the public. Members, please bring a friend or two – new recruits are always welcomed.

**This month's program** – *“The Scott Boys From East Tennessee”*

Roane County in East Tennessee was located in an area of very large Union sympathies. County seat Kingston, once Tennessee's state capital (for a day), was an important location on the Tennessee and Clinch River confluence. While the Unionist predilection was powerful, there were still some Confederate sympathizers in the county. The Scott Brothers, six men who would fight in the war (Robert, James, Elisha, Israel, John R, Billy), were divided between those sympathies which plays into the mantra of “brother against brother.” Two joined the Confederacy and the rest the Union with one brother losing his life.

This family and their story have inspired a novel by S. Scott Anderson and his book “The Scott Boys – A Civil War Novel Inspired by Actual Events.” Our speaker this month will give us the details on this family, their exploits and their tragedies. Members of the family fought at Vicksburg, Resaca in Georgia and Franklin. Some were captured and did time at Belle Isle in Richmond, VA as well as Cahaba in Alabama with the horrific

tragedy of the Sultana factoring into one of the brother's lives. Anderson has used pension records, family letters and Bibles to weave his narrative.



An inveterate reader, history student and global traveler, S. Scott Anderson relies on his real-world experiences to provide substance to the characters in his works. While not a normal career path, studying journalism eventually led Anderson into a career as a construction equipment executive. A lifelong writer and photographer, he focuses on automotive history, creative fiction, and historically inspired unique stories since retiring. Anderson lives in Tennessee, where his family has been since the early 1700s; yet he remains a voyager constantly exploring new opportunities and vistas. You will likely find him at historic car gatherings, small vineyards, and history shows

Please join us for this personal look at an East Tennessee family and how the Civil War affected their lives.

Our speaker will have copies of his book for

sale at the meeting.

### **April Program**

William Parker of Clarksville, TN and former director of the Fort Defiance Interpretive Center, one of three forts built to defend Clarksville in 1861, gave us a fascinating and entertaining program on Civil War food. Laced with wonderful soldier accounts covering all aspects of food, good, bad and ugly, Parker's program moved through the phases of the war detailing what each soldier had as a daily ration and how that was obtained and distributed. From the cruder early war efforts to the improved system stemming from the supply depots that both sides established and had running by mid-1862, made for food supply and its distribution on an industrial scale. Even with this, there were still problems – spoilage, insect infestation, bad and corrupt food suppliers that dampened the soldier's morale and food quality.

Parker displayed artifacts that pertained to food such as haversacks and canteens and what each soldier used these for. The number of post-lecture questions showed how this program connected with those attending. Thanks, William, for coming down to Nashville CWRT.

## **Future Programs:**

**June 2026** – Dr. Larry Krunemaker, historian/author – *“Walking the Line: The Siege of Atlanta Through Existing Sites”*

**July 2026** – Steven Currie – Clarksville CWRT - *“Civil War Spies”*

**August 2026** – David Stewart, historian/author/Shiloh Battlefield Guide – *“The Controversial Confederate Attack Plan at Shiloh and Its Effect on the First Day's Battle.”*

**September 2026** – Kraig McNutt, author/historian – *“Nashville’s Civil War Hospitals”*

**October 2026** - Brian McCutchen, Superintendent, Fort Donelson National Battlefield – *“How Modern Technology Helps Map A Civil War Battlefield.”*

**November 2026** – Scott Mingus, historian/author

**December 2026** – Battle of Nashville Trust Dinner and Speaker

**January 2027** – Walter Green, author and historian – Topic TBA based on his new book

Some of our speakers are authors and bring books to sell at our meetings. Please support them by buying their books.

**MEMBERS AND DUES** – Our new dues structure is listed below. The new fiscal year is now January 1<sup>st</sup> through December 31<sup>st</sup>. Thus, we will begin collecting dues for the 2026 campaign year starting in January 2026. Our new dues schedule is thus:

\$50 – individuals and families. This also gets you some nice perks too like two gifts and some discounts to events!

\$25 – military – active duty and veterans

Students are free.

**DUES ARE DUE AT THE JANUARY MEETING SO PLEASE PLAN ON PAYING THEM THEN.**

When your dues are paid you will be issued a new name badge with the fiscal year on it. If you do not have a name badge then you are not current.

Our dues go to paying for speakers as well as donations for Civil War preservation causes especially those of a local nature. Please be sure to pay your dues so we can offer the best programs possible for you! We also utilize donated items for sales each month to help add to the treasury. If you have something you would like to donate for these auctions, please bring them to the meetings. Books, art, or anything Civil War, works very well. Thanks very much to all of you who have made such donations!

*Lastly, if you have not been back to the Nashville CWRT in some time please come again. We would love to have you back with us!*

## **CIVIL WAR NEWS AND EVENTS**

**This Month’s Column From Guest Author Casey Gillespie of Belle Meade Mansion – Belle Meade and the Battle of Nashville**

Few Nashville estates bore the weight of the Civil War more directly than Belle Meade, the magnificent Greek Revival plantation on Harding Pike. Its owner, William Giles Harding, was among the Confederacy's most committed supporters in Middle Tennessee. A staunch backer of the Confederate States of America, Harding raised \$500,000 for the Confederate Army's war effort, and in return was placed in charge of the Military and Financial Board of Tennessee. After Union forces took control of Nashville in 1862, Harding was arrested and imprisoned at Fort Mackinac in Michigan for six months before signing an oath of allegiance and returning home under house arrest.

Under Federal occupation, 500 wagon loads of materials were removed from the property to sustain the Union garrison in Nashville. Additionally, as many as 35 enslaved were conscripted from Belle Meade to erect fortifications in Nashville, including Sgt Moses Harding who served throughout the war, and was discharged from the Army in 1866.

*William Giles Harding*

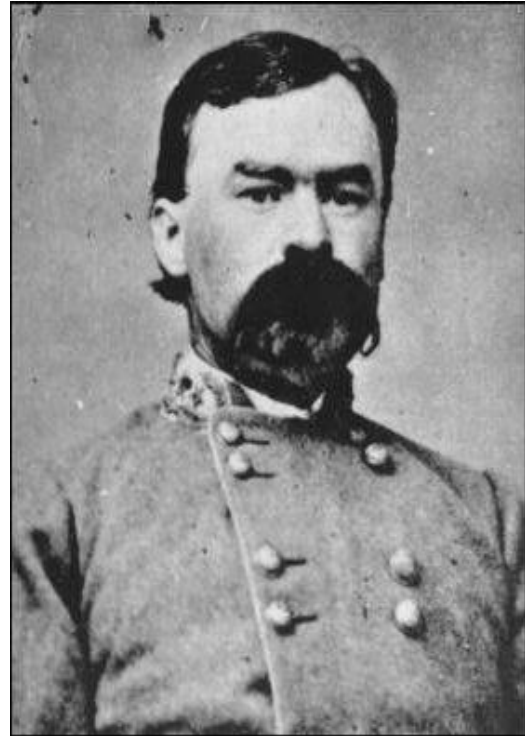


*The Harding Artillery*

Harding's Confederate ties ran even deeper — in 1868, his eldest daughter Selene married William Hicks Jackson, who had served in the Confederate Army and risen to the rank of Brigadier General, eventually taking over management of Belle Meade after the war.



Selene Harding Jackson



Gen William Hicks Jackson

When the Battle of Nashville erupted in December 1864, the plantation found itself squarely in the fight. Confederate General James R. Chalmers, serving under Nathan Bedford Forrest, used Belle Meade as his headquarters. On the first day of the fighting, Union soldiers burned Confederate supply wagons parked at the plantation's racetrack while Chalmers was elsewhere.

Returning to Belle Meade, Chalmers' men charged the Union soldiers and drove them back before running into a stiff resistance — and as the cavalry galloped back past the mansion, Selene Harding, just eighteen years old, stood on the front porch waving a handkerchief despite the bullets flying around her.



Gen James R. Chalmers



James Dinkins (later Captain)

As the fighting turned against the Confederates, Captain Dinkins, and Chalmers' escort, were ordered back to Belle Meade to retrieve the wagons. Dinkins and his men charged from behind one of Harding's barns, and during the engagement the fighting was close enough to the mansion that rounds were "clipping the shrubbery and striking the house." Dinkins stated that a fellow officer named Bleecker saw Harding's eighteen-year-old daughter Selene standing on the front porch, waving her handkerchief. He wrote, "The bullets were falling thick and fast about her, but she had no fear in her heart. She looked like a goddess. She was the gamest little human being in all the crowd". Bleecker then passed by her, took the handkerchief, urging her to take shelter from the fray. That one story has been told time and again ever since Belle Meade became a public museum in the mid-1950s. The storyteller even has physical proof in the marks on the face of the columns that adorn the front porch.<sup>1</sup>

General Wilson's cavalry reports confirm that Colonel George Spalding and the 12th Tennessee Cavalry (Union) were the specific unit that overran the Belle Meade grounds. Accounts specify the capture of 14 wagons containing official Confederate records,

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<sup>1</sup> *James Dinkins, Belle Meade, and the Battle of Nashville*, by [ECW Guest Post](#), Posted on December 15, 2024. This post was written by Robert D. Cross, the chief historian at Belle Meade Plantation, with edits and additions made by Sean Michael Chick

clothing, forage, and even a safe, along with roughly 43 Confederate soldiers near the mansion and the plantation.



*General George Spalding, 12<sup>th</sup> Tennessee Cavalry*

Following the war, Selene and General Jackson hosted several leading figures from the conflict, including: U.S. Grant, Stephen D. Lee, Fitzhugh Lee, and William T. Sherman. One of the last gatherings was a banquet for Nathan Bedford Forrest's Escort at the Carriage House in October of 1896.



Fitzhugh Lee and William Hicks Jackson

## **CIVIL WAR NEWS AND EVENTS**

**Western Theater Civil War Symposium – Dalton, Georgia – May 23, 2026 – FREE admission**

Blue & Gray Education Society invites you to our Civil War Western Theater Speakers Symposium!

**WHEN:** Saturday, May 23, 2026, from 9:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.

**WHERE:** The Historic Huff House, 314 N. Selvidge Street, Dalton, GA 30720

**HOW MUCH: IT'S FREE!!!**

**ITINERARY:**

9:00 A.M.: David A. Powell – Confederate Cavalry Raiders in NW Georgia and the Battle of Lafayette during the Atlanta Campaign

10:00 A.M.: James Ogden – Federal Hospitals in Chattanooga during the War

11:00 A.M.: Richard M. McMurry – “Joe Johnston in a Jar,” The Significant Role of Confederate General Joseph E. Johnston in the War

12:00 P.M.: Robert Jenkins – The Battles for Dalton and the Opening Chapter of the Atlanta Campaign

1:00 P.M.: Marvin Sowder – Confederate Hospitals in Dalton during the War

Founded in 1994 as a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, membership and donations are 100% tax free. Today, after over 30 years, BGES continues to lead both on the battlefield and off with over 20 annual Field University studies, sponsoring interpretive historic markers at parks and sites across the country, and telling the story with balance, accuracy, and truth. As the Executive Director of Blue and Gray Education Society, I want to invite you to join us as we lead in the preservation of our Nation's rich and diverse history by promoting and presenting Staff Ride level Field Studies with leading scholars and historians, providing resources to support educators, and supporting national, state, and local battlefields and historic sites with interpretive markers and other visual artifacts and displays.

We are dedicated to the objective study of the origins and impact of the American Civil War and related events. By “Leading From the Front,” we invite you to join America's premier results-oriented Civil War education society. We depend on our members' generosity to support our mission. BGES is a 501(c)(3) organization; therefore, membership and donations are 100% tax-deductible. [How to join.](#)

The Huff House was CS General Joseph E. Johnston's headquarters for the early phases of the Atlanta Campaign. Dalton, GA is only 2 ½ hours from Nashville and they have a lot of preserved Civil War pocket parks around the town pertaining to the Atlanta Campaign plus the historic Western & Atlantic Railroad Depot that was part of the 1862 Great Locomotive Chase

**Nashville CWRT 2026 Meeting Dates and Locations – Pay attention to these folks!!!**

The Nashville CWRT will be meeting at several new and old Locations in 2026. Please note each location below and the starting times. Here's the details with dates, locations and speakers:

**June 16<sup>th</sup>** – Belle Meade, 7 PM (cocktails at 5:30) – Dr. Larry Krunemaker

**July 14<sup>th</sup>** – Belle Meade, 7 PM (cocktails at 5:30) – David Stewart

**August 18<sup>th</sup>** – Belle Meade, 7 PM (cocktails at 5:30) – Steven Currie

**September 15<sup>th</sup>** – Longview, 6 PM – Kraig McNutt

**October 20<sup>th</sup>** – Longview, 6 PM – Brian McCutchen, Fort Donelson National Battlefield

**November 17<sup>th</sup>** – Longview, 6 PM – Scott Mingus

**December** – Traveler's Rest – time TBA – Battle of Nashville Trust dinner and speaker

**January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2027** – probably Fort Negley – Walter Green, historian/author

**Please make note of these locations and dates.** The February 2026 meeting is the second Tuesday of that month due to a holiday where Fort Negley is closed. Each newsletter starting in January will have the details for each location.

**NASHVILLE CWRT OFFICERS**

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