

IN MEMORY OF

Carolyn Jane
Heppler Kurz



SEPTEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

Meeting Date: Monday, September 22nd, 2025 | **RSVP:** kycivilwarroundtable.org/rsvp

Social Time: 5:30 PM | **Dinner:** 6:00 PM | **Presentation:** 7:00 PM | **Address:** 1801 Newtown Pike



Guarding the Central Kentucky Railroad

Charles H. Bogart grew up in Newport and Ft. Thomas, Kentucky, and now lives in Frankfort, Kentucky. He has a BA in History from Thomas More University and a MCP from The Ohio State University. He retired from the Kentucky Department of Emergency Management where he worked in the Hazardous Materials Plans and Operations Section. He is currently employed as a Conductor at the Bluegrass Railroad Museum, Versailles, Kentucky.

He has taught at Kentucky State University and Eastern Kentucky University. He has published six books and over 100 articles on military, naval, and railroad history. He is president of the Frankfort Civil War Roundtable and the North American Transit Historical Society. He is editor of the CSX Transportation Historical Society Journal and the Western River Report for the Steamship Historical Society of America. As a result of his great grandfather being a private in the 108th Ohio, he is a member of the Sons of Civil War Union Veterans. He has been a member of the Kentucky Civil War Roundtable since 1971. ■

PRESIDENT'S REPORT | BILL FARMER, JR.

Fellow Roundtable Members, it is an unexpected honor for the Board of Directors to initiate me as President of the Roundtable after Kent's resignation in June of this year. Kent, long a valued member of the club, his time as President followed other service to the organization including both lecture and Board service. Furthermore, his leadership in the Civil War field has helped us with procuring speakers and other valuable insights that keep our organization active and thriving. We will thank him personally but to note his work here is a fine beginning.

Good programming is the best calling card, and our Speakers Committee is doing fine work. Our website lists the Speakers for the 2025/2026 Season to date. Please mark your calendars. We continue to nurture our relationship with the Embassy Suites. I appreciate all they have done to help us and to give us fine food and service.

Each of us can pay our dues and add a little bit for the good of the order too, if possible. There are other underwriting options if you'd like to help. You too can have your name up in lights! We have been recipients of bequeaths as well, so I ask you to please consider this in any estate planning.

For now, I want to tell you how excited I am to lead the group, and that our mission to continuing education will be continue to be fulfilled.

All my best,

Bill Farmer, Jr.

PRESIDENT





TREASURER'S REPORT | DARRYL TERRY



Another momentous year is shaping up for your Roundtable. We had a great rebound in our financials in our last fiscal year. The bequest of \$10,000 and the new tiered membership structure has moved this organization back into a stable fiscal position. There will be no change in dues this year and we will still have the Basic, Supporting and Sustaining membership fee structure. We ask that everyone consider the importance of this organization and maintaining or moving up the tiered membership roster. This maintains the ability for planning top quality presentations. There will be an additional change in cost for those who still are requesting the newsletter be mailed, rather than the email version. This will be a charge of \$20.00 a year to cover postage and printing. Your Board is constantly looking for ways to maintain the same top quality of programming for your Roundtable. There are still opportunities for sponsorships for meetings and we ask you or your business to consider when these sponsorships could be advantageous. These changes allowed the group

to increase an additional \$9,000 towards the bottom line.

Another opportunity will be our partnership with the Richmond Battlefield tours on Saturday November 1st. The cost will be \$20.00 with BORA and your Roundtable splitting all proceeds. This is a first-class tour and operation and an excellent opportunity to experience and enjoy the battlefield tour. There will be a sign-up sheet at the September meeting at Embassy Suites. If you can't make the meeting but wish to attend the tour, please contact George Ridings

Currently we have 167 Members. To date we show a total of 45 Supporting memberships and 28 Sustaining Memberships.

Please feel free to inquire with any of your board members as to any questions on budgeted items. We are all here to support your efforts for the Roundtable. Thank you for making this a premier organization! ■

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT | SUSIE MORTON



Hello Members! I hope each and every one of you has enjoyed a pleasant summer. Hopefully by the time we meet in September some of this oppressive heat will be behind us. I will be emailing and mailing out the 2026 Dues invoices in the next several weeks.

Please RSVP for the upcoming September 22nd meeting at kycivilwarroundtable.org/rsvp, or via text, email, phone call to me, before Wednesday, September 17th at 4:00PM. You will find my contact information at the end of this Newsletter.

When you RSVP, let me know how you want to pay for your meal. Dinner is still \$33/meal. As of this printing, I don't know what the menu will be, but I will let you know ASAP. Remember a vegetarian option is available as well. Just let me know your preference when you RSVP. Looking forward to seeing you at the next meeting. ■



There is much to report since the KYCWRT last met in May of 2025. As many of you have heard, our beloved President, Kent Masterson Brown resigned as President, effective immediately. The Board met on June 18, 2025, to discuss our path forward. Bill Farmer was elected to step up to the President's position. Chris Anderson was elected as Vice President. Bill Swinford remains Secretary and Darryl Terry remains Treasurer.

The first order of business for our group was to form a Speaker's Committee. The Speaker's Committee consists of George Ridings, Chair, Bill Swinford, Charles Bogart, and Tom Sabetta. The Committee has been hard at work arranging speakers for the upcoming season. We believe we have a great slate of speakers for the upcoming season. The names, dates, and topics for the upcoming year are:

Monday, September 22, 2025 – Charles Bogart - Guarding the Kentucky Central Railroad

Monday, November 17, 2025 – Chief Justice Laurance VanMeter - The Most Brilliant Exploit of the War

Monday, March 16, 2026 - John David Smith - Colonel John Eaton and the Care of The Civilian Population Displaced by War

Monday, April 20, 2026 – Speaker and topic to be announced

Monday, May 18, 2026 – Derrick Lindow – We Shall Conquer or Die: Partisan Warfare in 1862 Western Kentucky

Be sure to mark your calendars for these dates. Looking forward to seeing everyone at the September meeting. ■

UPCOMING EVENTS



KHS Civil War History Day 2025 in Frankfort

September 27, 2025, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm EDT

This year, KHS is highlighting the stories of Kentuckians and their communities through presentations by Dr. Anne Marshall (Mississippi State University/Ulysses S. Grant Presidential Library), Dr. Brian McKnight (University of Virginia-Wise), and Dr. Cicero Fain (Marshall University).

history.ky.gov/events/civil-war-history-day-2025



Bourbon & BBQ Fundraiser for the LCWRT

October 19, 2025, 3:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Cocktail/Food/Jack Daniel's Whiskey Tasting + Historical Presentation

louisvillecwrt.yolasite.com/



Richmond Battlefield Tour – Nov. 1st, 2025

Join us on Saturday, November 1, for a Special Battlefield Tour to see the ground and witness buildings and preservation story at all Three Phases of Kentucky's Second-Largest Civil War battle. **More info at kycivilwarroundtable.org/special-events**



GUEST ARTICLE BY DR. ALAN DENNY

Continuing our Kentuckians at Battles series, KYCWRT member Dr. Alan Denny shared this article with us:

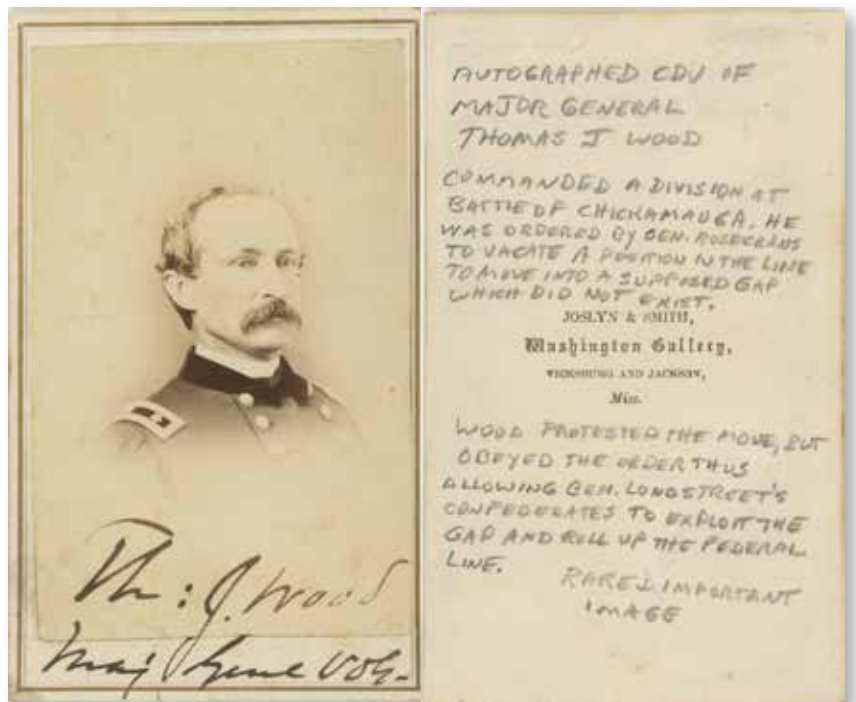
THOMAS JOHN WOOD

THE OTHER GENERAL FROM HART COUNTY

Most Civil War enthusiasts are familiar with Simon Bolivar Buckner. Buckner, a native of Hart County, Kentucky, was the recipient of Ulysses S. Grant's demand for "unconditional surrender" at Fort Donelson in 1862 and was governor of Kentucky from 1887 to 1891. But another Hart Countian, a playmate of Buckner's, also served as a general during the Civil War.

Thomas John Wood was born September 25, 1823, in Munfordville, Kentucky. He entered West Point in July 1841. One of Wood's roommates was Ulysses S. Grant, who was two years ahead of Wood in the Class of 1843. Also at the Academy, in the Class of 1844, was Simon Bolivar Buckner, who had boarded with the Wood family and shared a bedroom with Thomas while they were attending school in Munfordville. Wood graduated fifth out of a class of forty-one in 1845.

After graduation Wood was sent to Texas to join General Zachary Taylor's Army of Observation. When war broke out with Mexico, he fought in the battles of Palo Alto and Monterey. Although most of Taylor's Regulars went to Scott for the campaign against Mexico City, Wood remained in Northern Mexico with the Second Dragoons, and in February 1847 fought at the Battle of Buena Vista, where he was awarded a brevet promotion to first lieutenant for gallant and meritorious conduct. After Buena Vista he returned to New Orleans briefly before serving under General Winfield Scott during the occupation of Mexico City.



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THOMAS JOHN WOOD CONTINUED

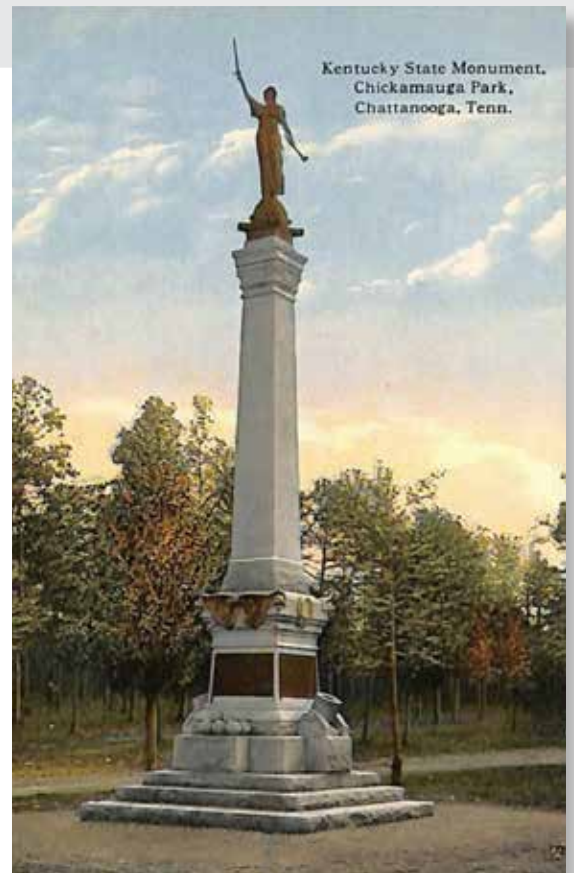
Between the wars, Wood served in Texas, Indian Territory and Kansas, and in Albert Sidney Johnston's Utah expedition. He took leave in 1859 to tour Europe, returning just in time for the Civil War. He spent the summer of 1861 raising volunteers, and for his efforts was promoted to Brigadier General of Volunteers. During the Fall of 1861 he commanded a brigade at Camp Nevin, near Glendale, Kentucky, only a few miles from Munfordville, and in early 1862 was given command of a division in the Army of the Ohio. Wood's division was part of Buell's army that reinforced Grant on the night of April 6 at Pittsburg Landing, and he led it during the Union counterattack the following day as well as the advance on Corinth.

During Braxton Bragg's invasion of Kentucky in the Fall of 1862, Wood led his division at Perryville. Wood remained in command of his division after Buell was replaced by Major General William S. Rosecrans and the Army of the Ohio was rechristened the Army of the Cumberland.

On New Years Eve, 1862, at Stone's River, Wood distinguished himself by holding the apex of the Federal line which had folded like a jack-knife. Although seriously wounded, he refused to leave the field until he was certain that his line would hold. He was on sick leave recovering from his wound until February 15, 1863, when he was given command of another division in the Army of the Cumberland.

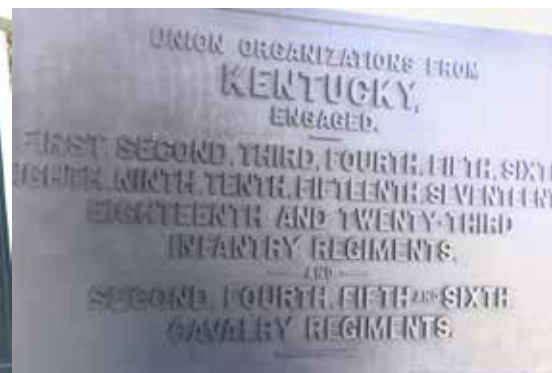
The most controversial incident of Thomas J. Wood's military career occurred in September 1863 at Chickamauga. At the height of the battle one of Rosecrans' staff officers believed that there was a gap between Wood's division and Reynolds' division of a different corps. Believing the erroneous report, he ordered Wood to "close up on and support" Reynolds. Wood was confused by the order. He could clearly see that there was no gap to fill, and the message was even more confusing in that it ordered Wood to both "close up" (move next to) and to "support" (get behind) Reynolds. But earlier that day Rosecrans had chastised Wood for "failing to obey orders with sufficient haste." So rather than ignoring the order or letting Rosecrans know there was no gap, he pulled his division behind another, creating a quarter-mile wide gap in the Union lines. At that precise moment, Confederate General James Longstreet's "giant lance of Confederate infantry" plunged through. As a result, Rosecrans and one-third of the Army of the Cumberland fled the battlefield, with General George Thomas and the rest of the army holding on until nightfall before withdrawing to Chattanooga. In the battle's aftermath, Rosecrans criticized Wood's actions, but Rosecrans was removed from command before Wood could be reprimanded.

After Chickamauga, Wood's performance for the rest of the war was exemplary. His men were the first to breach the Confederate lines on Missionary Ridge, and his division took part in the Knoxville campaign during the winter of 1863.



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Detailed images from Kentucky Monument at Chickamauga, dedicated May 3, 1899

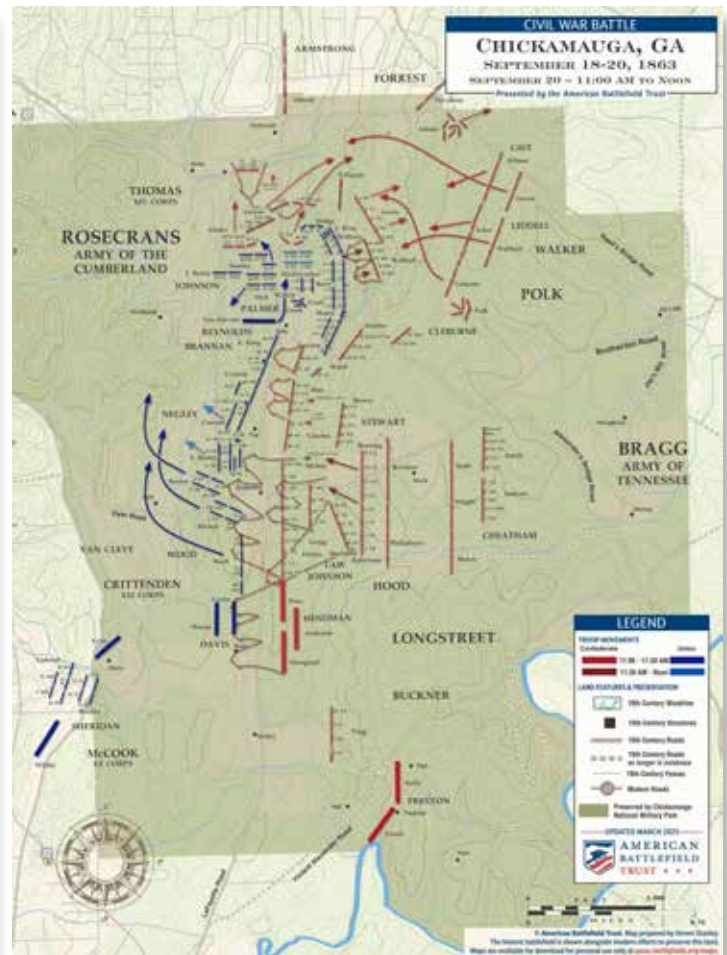
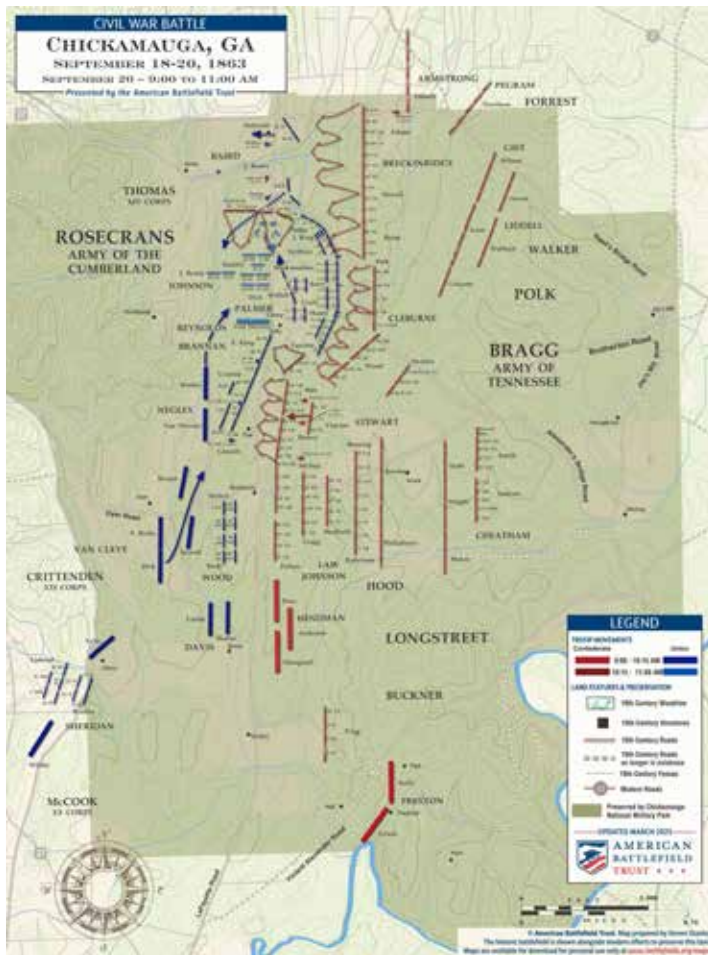


THOMAS JOHN WOOD CONTINUED

Wood fought in all the early engagements of the Atlanta campaign to include Resaca and Kennesaw Mountain, Peachtree Creek, Jonesboro, and Lovejoy. At Lovejoy he broke his leg, but had it wrapped tightly and did not leave the field until the end of the day. After Atlanta fell, Wood went back to Tennessee with most of the Army of the Cumberland and took command of IV Corps when David Stanley was wounded at the Battle of Franklin.

Wood was promoted to major general in February 1865. After the war, he served on occupation duty in Arkansas and Mississippi. He remained in the Army until June 1868, when he was retired due to disability from his wounds.

In retirement, Wood spent most of his time in Dayton, Ohio, his wife's hometown, and was active in several veterans' organizations and supported battle-field conservation. Wood died in 1906 at age 82, the last survivor of USMA's class of 1845. He was buried at West Point. ■



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