

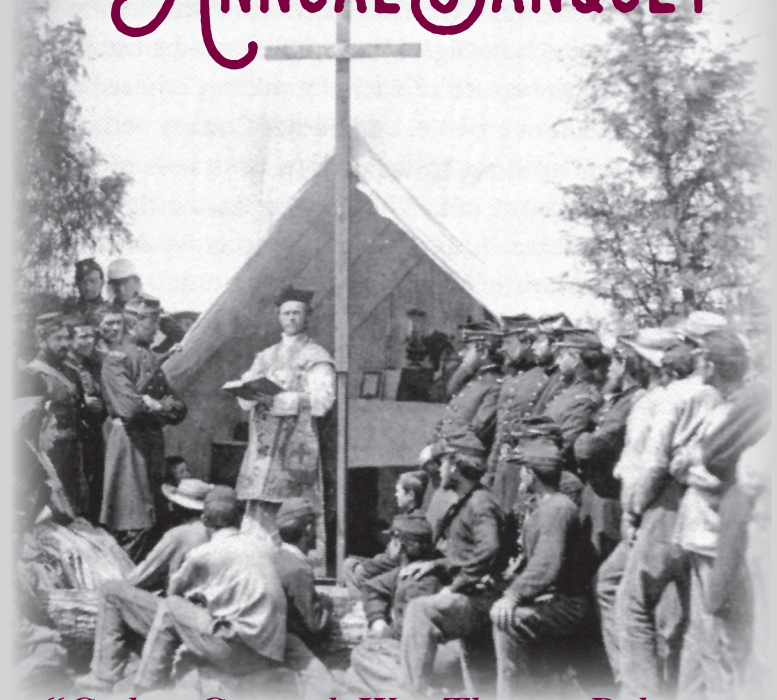
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## AUGUSTA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY 24TH ANNUAL BANQUET



### *“God as General: Was There a Religious History of the American Civil War?”*

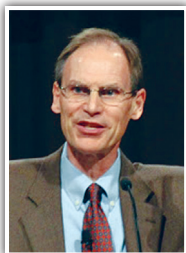
*(A look at how Americans interpreted the causes and course of the Civil War through the lens of religious faith.)*

**Dr. George C. Rable**

*Professor Emeritus, University of Alabama*

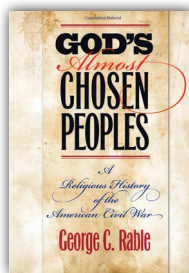
*Author, God’s Almost Chosen Peoples: A Religious History of the American Civil War.*  
University of North Carolina Press.

*“God as General: Was There a Religious History of the American Civil War?”* focuses on religious interpretations of the causes, course, and consequences of the Civil War. Themes of providence, sin, and judgment helped explain contemporary events including battles, emancipation, and even President Lincoln’s death. The rhetoric at times could be chilling. The opening prayer of a New York Methodist conference came right to the point: “We ask Thee to bring these men [the rebels] to destruction, and wipe them from the face of the country.” Writing to his brother, a southern Methodist minister matched this bloodcurdling rhetoric: “It is a righteous war. I feel a deep Christian and inextinguishable hatred toward the demons of the north. . . . It is doing God’s service to kill the diabolical wretches on the battlefield.”



### *About George C. Rable*

George C. Rable is Professor Emeritus and formerly the Charles G. Summersell Chair in Southern History at the University of Alabama. Born in Lima, Ohio, he received his B.A. from Bluffton College 1972, and his M.A. and Ph.D. from Louisiana State University. He taught at Anderson University in Indiana from 1979-1998. From 2004-2008, he served as the president of the Society of Civil War Historians. His award-winning books include: *God’s Almost Chosen Peoples: A Religious History of the American Civil War* (University of North Carolina Press, 2010), *Fredericksburg! Fredericksburg!* (University of North Carolina Press, 2002), *The Confederate Republic: A Revolution Against Politics* (University of North Carolina Press, 1994), *Civil Wars: Women and the Crisis of Southern Nationalism* (University of Illinois Press, 1989), and *But There Was No Peace: The Role of Violence in the Politics of Reconstruction*. (University of Georgia Press, 1984). His most recent book, *Damn Yankees! Demonization and Defiance in the Confederate South* (Louisiana State University Press, 2015), won the James I. Robertson, Jr. Literary Prize. He is currently working on a book on the relationship between Abraham Lincoln and George B. McClellan.



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(A look at how Americans interpreted the causes and course of the Civil War through the lens of religious faith.)

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