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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