



# General Orders

## PANNILL'S TEXAS BRIGADE

VOLUME 16

May 2005

G.O. 10

### "GRAY GHOST: JOHN SINGLETON MOSBY"

#### OUR SPEAKER: DR. JAMES A. RAMAGE



*Dr. James A. Ramage*

Dr. James Ramage is a native of Paducah, Kentucky, and a U.S. Air Force veteran. He earned his Ph.D. at the University of Kentucky under Dr.

Holman Hamilton. He joined the faculty at Northern Kentucky University in 1972, where he is now Regents Professor.

Dr. Ramage is the author of three books: *John Wesley Hunt: Pioneer Merchant, Manufacturer and Financier*; *Rebel Raider: The Life of General John Hunt Morgan* (which won the Douglas Southall Freeman Award and was co-winner of the Kentucky Governor's Award) and *Gray Ghost: The Life of Col. John Singleton Mosby*, a History Book Club selection.

Our speaker is currently working on a biography of Ulysses S. Grant, and co-writing a book on the history of Kentucky (1800-1865 with his daughter, Dr. Andrea Watkins.



#### OUR TOPIC: "GRAY GHOST: JOHN SINGLETON MOSBY"

With a genius for guerrilla warfare, Mosby diverted enemy troops from the front and used fear as a psychological weapon. For more than 27 months, he led daring overnight raids behind Union lines and created false alarms along the Potomac River.

Mosby became the South's "Prince of Guerrillas" with a model raid on the night of March 8, 1863, when he captured Union General Edwin Stoughton in bed, 15 miles from Washington.

Dr. Ramage will discuss several keys to Mosby's success, such as the use of spoils and boarding his men in homes. He will explain how Mosby's men defeated General Philip Sheridan's hand-picked force under Captain Richard Blazer. Mosby was captured and shot in the stomach on December 21, 1864, but still managed to escape from the 13th New York

**May 19, 2005**

**Briar Park Club**  
**2603 Timmons Lane @ Westheimer**  
**Command Post (Cash Bar) 6:00 PM**  
**Dinner and meeting 7:00 PM**

**RESERVATIONS - REQUIRED BY 10:00 AM TUE**

Dinner is \$30 and **reservations are required by 10:00 am Tuesday morning**; we would prefer them made by Monday night. The lecture only is \$3, and reservations are required for that, as well. Please help us by calling your reservation to Robert at **281-890-0556** by Tuesday morning before the meeting. Let him know also if you need a special meal. Cancellations must be made 48 hours in advance.

Cavalry. More than 70 search-and-destroy missions were dispatched against him, but Mosby retained the tactical advantage to the end of the war.

## QUIZ QUESTION

In March 1863, Lt. John S. Mosby led some 29 Rangers to Federal headquarters at Fairfax Courthouse, to capture Col. Percy Wyndham of the 5th New Jersey Cavalry. Fortunately for Col. Wyndham, he was spending the night in Washington. What Union General did Mosby capture instead?

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## BOOK RAFFLE

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Books to be raffled in April are: *Lee Takes Command* (Time-Life Books), donated by Jim Godlove; *The Fight for Chattanooga* (Time-Life Books), also donated by Jim Godlove; *The Blockade* (Time-Life Books), also donated by Jim Godlove; *Ghosts and Haunts of the Civil War* by Christopher K. Coleman, donated by Roland Bienvenu; *Civil War Ghosts and Legends* by Nancy Roberts, donated by Neal & Patricia Callahan; *The Amazing Civil War* by Webb Garrison, also donated by Neal & Patricia Callahan; and 4 assorted Civil War magazines.

Raffle tickets are 50¢ each, or 8 for \$3. Your purchase of raffle tickets helps keep us in the black.

## FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

by William Pannill

This is an after-action report on what the board has been doing to keep

this unit at top efficiency. The 50th-anniversary campaign closes on high ground, with the cavalry reconnoitering into the valleys.

Most important to us is that the Round Table has now taken up the challenge of recruiting by commissioning a new website, which can be visited at [www.houstoncivilwar.com](http://www.houstoncivilwar.com). For this, we owe thanks to those stalwarts, Charles Mitchell and Harry Bounds, who have dragged us into marketing our organization through both web and paper.

Two years ago, Charlie and Harry decided we needed more marketing material, so the two of them designed and printed brochures for us. They also set up distribution points at likely places, such as bookstores and the Museum of Southern History. Our membership committee chair, Robert York, has taken brochures to several re-enactments. Several new recruits have joined from those brochures.

Charlie and Harry also generously commissioned and donated to the Round Table a banner commemorating and promoting our 50th anniversary.

Charlie, who counts being a computer guru among his many talents, has maintained a one-page website for the Round Table for several years, using his own AOL membership. That website has brought in at least seven new members.

The Internet is now our prime means of marketing. Newspapers and broadcasters do not publicize us. But the Internet offers us a wide-open opportunity to inform hundreds of people about our organization. In particular, it helps us reach those under 40, who rely on the web for information even more than they do on television.

The board decided to expand the website by hiring a professional designer. I served as chairman of the website committee last year, and Lynda Crist the year before. Both of

us surveyed the websites of other Round Tables. Our research showed that our Round Table programs are among the best in the country. Our speakers are as good as anyone's. Our field trips are superb; there is nothing like an Ed Bearss battlefield tour. Many Round Tables use only local speakers and have no field trips at all.

All we need is to get the word out. Houston is no longer the centralized Southern town of 50 years ago, when the HCWRT came into being. But we know there is an audience for the history of the Civil War just by looking at many books on the subject that are selling in the chain bookstores.

The board decided to tailor our website to the younger generation. We retained Sydnee White, of White House Communications, to do the design. She knows what the young Internet clickers like because she is one herself.

Sydnee has worked to place our site so that search engines such as Google turn up our name for those web surfers who have an interest in the Civil War, but know nothing about Round Tables. Our new website became active on April 18, 2005. Members of the Round Table underwrote the development cost. Our web-hosting fees cost us less than \$7 a month, thanks to Sydnee's knowledge of that realm of activity.

Our hope is that the redesigned website will attract many new members. Although the speakers do not charge us an honorarium, membership fees are what pay for their travel expenses. Our membership has declined some in recent years, so we need new, young enlistees to maintain and improve our ability to continue presenting great programs.

Each of you can help in marketing. Word-of-mouth is still the best kind of advertising. Tell your friends about the Round Table, our speakers and our field trips. They can attend a meeting without a being with a member - just

have them call the reservation number (on the front page of the newsletter) by the Tuesday morning before any meeting.

Guests can also find reservation information on the website; we make back issues of our newsletter (*General Orders*) available there, and the phone number to call is always on the lower right corner of its front page. Our e-mail address is also available on the website, under the tab "Contact Us."

If you want your acquaintances to attend but you can't join them, have them call in or e-mail the president at houstoncw@houstoncivilwar.com. That should be easy to remember. We're always happy to have anyone as a guest at a meeting.

It has been a pleasure to serve as the RT president.

Press on.

## NEW OFFICERS TO BE ELECTED AT MAY MEETING

Round Table officers are elected (or re-elected) each May, and the slate is printed in the May newsletter prior to the election.

The nominating committee, chaired by past president Marsha Franty, has presented the following slate:

<b>President</b>	David Ivy
<b>Vice Pres.</b>	Don Zuckero
<b>Sec'y</b>	Joyce Kennerly
<b>Treas.</b>	Barry Brueggeman
<b>Board</b>	Jim Davis
	Mike Harrington
	Ben Ramsey
	Lynda Crist
	William Pannill (Immediate Past President)

Nominations will also be taken from the floor.

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

The Houston Civil War Round Table is dedicated to the study of the civilian, military and cultural aspects of United States history during the period of 1861 - 1865 and to the preservation of historical sites and artifacts.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ ST \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: **Houston Civil War Round Table**  
**P.O. Box 4215**  
**Houston, TX 77210-4215**

NEW MEMBER

**\$40** - Individual joining in Apr - Dec

**\$20** - Individual joining in Jan - Mar

**\$45** - Family joining in Apr - Dec

**\$22** - Family joining in Jan - Mar

**\$15** - Student or Out-of-state

RENEWAL

**\$40** - Individual

**\$45** - Family

**\$15** - Student or Out-of-state

**NOTE:** For memberships or subscriptions outside the U.S., extra cost of postage to mail the newsletter will be added. Cost may vary; please write to inquire.

## VANDIVER AWARD TO STONEWALL JACKSON FOUNDATION

by Lynda Crist

Since the award's inception in 1982, our Round Table has annually recognized many individuals and groups for superior contributions to Civil War heritage. To name a few: the Civil War Round Table (Chicago), the United Daughters of the Confederacy, the proprietor of Morningside Bookshop, the chairman of Civil War Round Table Associates, the Confederate Research Center, several historians, an artist, and a photographer.

This year, we applaud the efforts of the Stonewall Jackson Foundation of Lexington, Virginia. Michael Anne Lynn, executive director, will accept the award at the November 2005 meeting.

Many of us have visited the charming Jackson House—the only home the general ever owned. If you've been there recently, you will realize the great strides made in

renovation and reconstruction: reinforcing floors, new mechanical systems, paint, wallpaper, masonry repairs, garden improvements, museum storage, and library and archives space. The foundation also renovated the 1887 Davidson-Tucker House, neighboring the Jackson House, for staff offices.

In addition to ably managing the historic home, the Jackson Foundation has a year-round schedule of providing tours of the house and town, supplying interpreters for school programs, welcoming the public regularly for community get-togethers, sponsoring internships for graduate students interested in public history, sponsoring an annual children's art show, collecting artifacts, and—via the Garland Gray Research Center—offering an annual symposium with world-class speakers.

Preservation, education, and community outreach are areas in which the Stonewall Jackson Foundation excels, and these are goals that we acknowledge and commend with the Vandiver Award.

## FALL FIELD TRIP: RED RIVER

We are scheduled to tour the Red River Campaign this fall, from October 27-31 (Thursday - Monday). HCWRT favorite Ed Bearss will be our tour guide again this year.

We'll fly from Intercontinental Airport to Alexandria, Louisiana, on Thursday, Oct. 27. Our headquarters motel will be the Best Western in Alexandria. On Friday, we'll tour Old River, Fort DeRussy, Simmesport and the battles of Mansura, Yellow Bayou and Dunn's Bayou.

Saturday, we'll tour the battles of Henderson Hall, Monett's Ferry and Blair's Landing. We will also pick up important sites at Bailey's Dam, Natchitoches, Grand Ecore, Finerille, Fort Buhlow and Fort Randolph.

On our last touring day, we'll visit the battlefields of Pleasant Hill and Mansfield. We'll fly back into Houston on Monday, Oct. 31, and be back in time for Halloween.

Cost for the trip this year will be \$670 per person for singles; \$845 for doubles. Included in the cost are lunches each day, and one dinner. (The hotel offers a complimentary continental breakfast, and has an adjacent restaurant, as well.) The cost listed above includes airfare; if you choose to drive instead, check with Tony to learn what your cost per person will be.

A \$250 deposit per person must be made to confirm your reservation; another deposit per person will be due during the summer, and the final deposit must be in Tony's hands by the September Round Table meeting (Sep. 15). Send your deposit to Tony

Matt at **15811 Spruce River Ct.,  
Sugar Land, TX 77078-7122.**

If you have questions, call or email  
Tony at **281-277-0203;**  
**T94matt@aol.com.**

*Have a great  
summer, and  
we'll see you  
again in  
September!*



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**P.O. Box 4215  
Houston, TX  
77210-4215**