



General Orders

PANNILL'S TEXAS BRIGADE

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G.O. 5

" THE LEGACY OF THE CONFEDERATE CAVALRY CHIEF: MAJOR GENERAL J.E.B. STUART"

OUR SPEAKER:
J.E.B. STUART , IV



J.E.B. Stuart, IV

Col. J.E. B. Stuart, IV (retired) is the great-grandson of the famous cavalryman in gray, Major General J.E.B. Stuart. Stuart is the chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Museum of the Confederacy in Richmond, VA and

the President of the Virginia Society of the Sons of the American Revolution.

Stuart currently lives and works in Richmond, and is very involved with preservation efforts. This will be his second visit to the HCWRT to talk about his illustrious forebear.

OUR TOPIC:
"THE LEGACY OF THE CONFEDERATE CAVALRY CHIEF: MAJOR GENERAL J.E.B. STUART"

A native Virginian, James Ewell Brown (Jeb), Stuart graduated from West Point in 1854, and served in the Mounted Rifles until he became a captain in the Confederate cavalry in 1861. His ability to lead men in the face of danger and adversity and his

skills and adeptness at war ensured his rapid advancement in rank: within four months, he was promoted to brigadier general, and he became a major general in July 1862.

Stuart was a favorite officer of Robert E. Lee, who said once said that Stuart never gave him a piece of false information. His cavalry and raiding exploits gained him fame throughout the South. He was mortally wounded while trying to fend off a thrust toward Richmond by Union cavalry under Phil Sheridan on May 11, 1864 at Yellow Tavern, Virginia. He died the following day, at age 37.

QUIZ QUESTION

You're on your own this month, but I think it's a safe bet that the more you know about one of the South's most famous cavalrymen in gray, the better your chance of winning.

Dec 16, 2004

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. Please help us by calling **Robert** at **281-890-0556** by Tuesday morning before the meeting. Tell him also if you need a special meal. Cancellations must be made 48 hours in advance.

BOOK RAFFLE

Books to be raffled in December are: *The Civil War: Fredericksburg to Meridian* by Shelby Foote, donated by the Don Zuckero; *Tenting Tonight: The Soldier's Life* by James I. Robertson, Jr., donated by Jim Godlove; *Glory Road* by Bruce Catton, also donated by Jim Godlove; *First Blood* (Time-Life Books), also donated by Jim Godlove; *Civil War Etchings* by Edwin Forbes, donated anonymously; *Bivouacs of the Dead* by Steven R. Stotelmyer, also donated anonymously; and 4 assorted Civil War magazines.

Raffle tickets are 50¢ each, or 8 for \$3 - the more you buy, the better your chance of winning.

RENEWAL ASTERISK

If there is a red asterisk after your name on the mailing label, we have no record of receiving your membership renewal. This will be your last newsletter. If you have an asterisk but have paid your dues, call me at 281-341-2611.

FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

by William Pannill

Last summer I hired a battlefield guide to take me through the Wilderness and Spotsylvania battlefields. She was a young teacher who moonlighted on weekends for the National Park Service. When we met in the parking lot outside the bookstore at the Fredericksburg battlefield, I noticed that her license plate read, "JEBS GRL." I asked her why she picked that slogan.

Back in Missouri, she said, she had read the story of Jeb Stuart's ride around McClellan's Army in 1862 and that had captivated her. She had read

everything she could about Jeb Stuart. She became so interested in General Stuart and the Civil War that she quit her job in Missouri and moved to Virginia, to do research and work around the battlefields. She has now written a book about a Civil War general.

Much the same thing happened to me. The first history paper I can remember writing described Jeb Stuart's ride around McClellan. For me, he became the most vivid soldier in the Civil War. Part of it was his uniform – the cape with the red lining, the hat with the ostrich plume, and the golden spurs.

Part of it was the nick-name, "Beauty" Stuart, who, as John W. Thomas writes, was "the first man a beard ever improved." Part of it was his sense of humor, such as when he captured a Yankee camp and train and fired off a telegram to the War Department in Washington complaining of the quality of the supplies. Part of it was his love of music, enlisting a banjo player into his escort so he could sing as he rode. But most of it was his daring and love of combat.

Several years ago, J.E.B. Stuart IV spoke to us on his first visit to Houston. He gave us the family side of his great-grandfather. He said that Lieutenant Stuart had married Flora Cooke, the daughter of Stuart's commanding officer in the old Army. When the couple had their first son, they honored her father by naming the boy after her father, Col. Philip St. George Cooke.

But Colonel Cooke remained with the Union at the outbreak of the war. Stuart and his wife broke with her father. They changed their son's name to James Ewell Brown Stuart, Jr. That is the reason Colonel Stuart is the Fourth. Our speaker is the great-grandson of the general and a direct descendant. There is also a J. E. B. Stuart V and a J. E. B. Stuart VI. Thus, five generations have descended from General Stuart.

My battlefield guide, Jeb's Girl, knew this history. But I did stump her on one point. What was the name of

Jeb Stuart's mother? I asked. She pondered, but she did not know.

I told her that this is an important fact for Jeb's followers to know. His mother had great influence over her son. At the outbreak of the war, she wrote to Richmond to request an appointment for her son in the Virginia state forces.

General Stuart had promised his mother when he left home that he would never touch drink. He kept his promise throughout his Army career. Even after he received his death wound at Yellow Tavern, he refused brandy for the pain; he was not going to break his promise to his mother on his deathbed.

Jeb's Girl did not know the name, so I told her: it is Elizabeth Letcher Pannill. She is my second cousin, four times removed, and she produced the most famous scion of our family.

He remains the Southern cavalier.

MUSEUM OF THE CONFEDERACY MAY MOVE

The Museum of the Confederacy in Richmond, VA (recipient of the HCWRT Vandiver Award in 1996), has published a position statement on the need for exploring its future options, which includes a move to a new location. You can find the paper at the Museum's website: <http://www.moc.org>.

The statement describes declining visitation, difficult access, declining revenues and decreased endowment, poor location, and plans of the Virginia Commonwealth University to build a 14-story hospital immediately to the east of the museum building (beginning in January 2005) to sum up the Museum's current situation.

Anyone who has visited the Museum in the last 10 years knows how difficult it is to get to the site and find a parking space. When the building that is now the White House

of the Confederacy was built in 1818, it was in a neighborhood of new homes built by wealthy residents; the Museum was established on the premises in 1896. Now, almost all of the area surrounding the Museum is the property of Virginia Commonwealth University's Health System, and the White House/Museum complex is hidden by high-rise medical-complex buildings.

An addition to the VCU Hospital in 2001/02 further hindered access to the Museum by closing off 12th Street, the usual direct approach from East Broad Street. During the three-year construction process for the new hospital building, access to the museum—which is already difficult—will become even more limited, causing fewer visitors and more loss of revenue. The Museum complex will finally be entirely surrounded by high-rise buildings, completing the total alteration of the 19th-century landscape.

Early in 2004, the Museum Board of Trustees, chaired by J.E.B. Stuart, IV, identified three possible solutions to the problem and appointed a Task Force to explore the pros and cons of those three possibilities. The first option is to stay at the present location. The second option is to move both the Museum and the White House to another location in the Richmond area, leaving the current site to Virginia Commonwealth University. The third option is to move the Museum, but leave the White House where it is. As you can imagine, choosing the best option will be very difficult.

The Board plans to announce its decision in 2005, when it is satisfied that it has thoroughly explored all options. The decision will be based on the most positive outcome for the future of the institution.



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.

PRESERVATION NEWS

by Joyce Kennerly

VICKSBURG

Vicksburg National Military Park is seeking public comment on an Environmental Assessment concerning a proposed battlefield rehabilitation project at the park. The proposal is to return nine acres of the park to their wartime appearance by removing contemporary tree growth, thereby restoring the historic landscape. The purpose of the project is to enhance the visitor's experience and understanding of the events that took place at the battlefield in 1863. That is why the park was established, in accordance with the wishes of both Union and Confederate veterans who fought there and later petitioned Congress to establish the park.

The project is being challenged by individuals and organizations whose interests are in opposition to the purpose of the park.

Old friend Terry Winschel, VNMP historian, has written to urge that we request a copy of the Environmental Assessment or simply write to support the park-preferred alternative. He notes that you may also go even further, and request that the entire park

be returned to its wartime appearance. Comments should be sent in writing to: **Superintendent Monika Mayr, Vicksburg National Military Park, 3210 Clay Street, Vicksburg, MS 39183-3495.** You can also email her at monika_mayr@nps.gov.

MANSFIELD

I haven't heard a report from anyone who went to Hillsboro, but I'm sure they had a great seminar. For those of you who didn't/couldn't go, you can still help.

The Mansfield Battlefield in Louisiana is under severe threat from lignite mining. You can get the full story at the website: <http://mansfieldbattlefield.org/preservationissues.asp>. The Friends of the Mansfield Battlefield would welcome your donations and your membership. If you don't have access to the Internet, membership is \$25 for individuals, \$35 for families, \$100 for Legacy level individuals and families; \$100 for Business/Organization Regular and \$150 for Business/Organization Leadership. Send your check, made out to **Friends of the Mansfield Battlefield**, and send it to them at **P.O. Box 44144, Shreveport, LA 71134-4144**. Please consider adding a donation to the membership

amount. If you have questions, or would like copies of the website information, call me and I'll mail it to you: **281-341-2611**.

CHANCELLORSVILLE

The Civil War News (have you subscribed yet?) reports that the Spotsylvania County Board of Supervisors voted for a rezoning plan that will save 143 acres of the Chancellorsville battlefield. Tricord Inc., a local developer, purchased 227 acres from John Mullins, whose 800-acre farm adjoins Chancellorsville. Tricord will sell the 143 acres to the CWPT (the land fronts Route 3 east of the battlefield park), and will give up the right to zone 57 acres for commercial use. Tricord will develop 87 acres now zoned to create an age-restricted subdivision of some 300 homes.

The CWPT will be able to incorporate a 1000-foot buffer zone along the highway to screen Tricord's subdivision from view. The Trust is asking its

members and preservationists to help pay for the 143 acres - a \$3M deal. Send your donation, marked for Chancellorsville, to: **The Civil War Preservation Trust, 1331 H Street N.W. Suite 1001, Washington, D.C. 20005**

Although pleased with the Tricord deal, CWPT remains concerned that the western segment of the Mullins Farm, which is now owned by Toll Brothers, remains slated for development. Much still needs to be done at Chancellorsville.



HCWRT SPEAKERS 2004/2005

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| Jan 20 | Ed Bearss
"Meet the Press" |
| Feb 17 | Jason Philips
"Confederate Invincibility" |
| Mar 17 | John Simon
"Grant and Lee" |
| Apr 21 | Mauriel P. Josslyn
"The Immortal 600" |
| May 19 | James Ramage
"Gray Ghost: John Singleton Mosby" |



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