



General Orders

PANNILL'S TEXAS BRIGADE

VOLUME 16

February 2005

G.O. 7

" A BROTHERS' WAR? EXPLORING CONFEDERATE PERCEPTIONS OF THE ENEMY"

OUR SPEAKER: JASON PHILLIPS



Jason Phillips

Jason Phillips received his Ph.D. in History from Rice University, where he studied the Civil War, Southern history and Colonial America under the guidance of John Boles and Ira Gruber. He is an assistant professor of history at

Mississippi State University, where he teaches the Civil War, Reconstruction, and Southern history to undergraduates and graduate students. His latest publication is an essay on Confederate religion in Virginia's *Civil War*, a new book edited by Peter Wallenstein and Bertran Wyatt-Brown. Currently, Dr. Phillips is revising his book manuscript, entitled *Peculiar Defeat: Warfare and the Confederate Culture of Invincibility*.

OUR TOPIC: "A BROTHERS' WAR? EXPLORING CONFEDERATE PERCEPTIONS OF THE ENEMY"

Since Appomattox, advocates for reconciliation have depicted the Civil War as a tragic "broth-

ers' war." In doing so, they honored the sacrifices and courage of both sides, while ignoring the depths and consequences of wartime hatred. Reconciliation was noble, poignant, and necessary. But Phillips will look beyond the veil of brotherhood to discover how Confederates viewed the enemy during the war and how those perceptions affected white Southerners during and after defeat.

A host of wartime sources, including the writings of Confederate soldiers, camp songs, poetry, and religious tracts, reveals that white Southerners saw the enemy as barbarians with greater regularity as the war worsened. The ignominy of being defeated by seemingly inferior people, and the fear of being subjugated by them, caused widespread fear and anger among Confederate veterans. These emotions and experiences affected veterans' lives, shaped the

Feb 17, 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.

South's memory of the war, and promoted Lost Cause mythology.

QUIZ QUESTION

One of the martyrs of the "Lost Cause" was a young courier who bravely faced death rather than betray his comrades. This 20-year-old Tennessean enlisted in Coleman's Scouts. He was captured in November 1863, while carrying intelligence on Union troop movements. The villain of the piece was Union General Grenville M. Dodge, who told his captive that he (the Scout) would be hanged as a spy if he did not tell all he knew. Who was this gallant courier who refused to betray his friends and was hanged Nov. 27, 1863?

BOOK RAFFLE

Books to be raffled in February are: *Heroes of the Civil War* by Harrison Hunt, donated by Jim Godlove; *Confederate Ordeal* (Time-Life Books), also donated by Jim Godlove; *The Bloodiest Day* (Time-Life Books), also donated by Jim Godlove; *Gettysburg: A Journey in Time* by William Frassanito, donated anonymously; *Recollections of a Confederate Staff Officer* by G. Moxley Sorrel, also donated anonymously; *Guide to the Civil War National Battlefield Parks* by National Geographic, 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.

A TRIBUTE TO FRANK E. VANDIVER 1925 - 2005

by Lynda Crist

One of the earliest proponents of the Houston Civil War Round Table, Frank Everson Vandiver was a member and frequent speaker over nearly 50 years before his death on January 7, 2005, at the age of 79. He is survived by the children of his marriage to Susie Smith Vandiver, who died in 1979—Nita Vandiver Jackson, Nancy Vandiver Wahl, and Frank A. Vandiver—along with their spouses and four grandchildren, and by his second wife, Renée Aubry Vandiver, and her eight children and their families.

Most people were surprised to learn his age. Either they believed him ageless or they thought he was older because of his extraordinary record of accomplishment. Born in 1925 in Austin to a prominent mathematician and his wife, Frank was a precocious, only child who was homeschooled and never earned a B.A. nor a high school diploma (he was given one in 1969 by Houston's Robert E. Lee High School). He entered graduate school by examination; his professors were astonished that they had been using his publications as sources for their Civil War classes. He received a master's degree from Texas in 1949 and a Ph.D. from Tulane in 1951.

His first article was published in 1943 when he was 17, and his first book, *Confederate Blockade-Running Through Bermuda*, in 1947. Numerous standard works appeared regularly, most notably for *Civil Warriors*, *Ploughshares into Swords*, *Mighty Stonewall*, *Jubal's Raid*, *Rebel Brass*, and

Their Tattered Flags: The Epic of the Confederacy. He also penned a two-volume biography of John J. Pershing, a study of LBJ and Vietnam, *1001 Things Everyone Should Know about the Civil War*, and a similar title for World War II. A military history monograph was in production at the time of his death.

He was a professor at Washington University, Oxford University, West Point, and Rice (1955-79), where he taught Southern and Civil War history and founded the Jefferson Davis project. He was provost and interim president of Rice, acting president of the American University in Cairo, and president of what is now the University of North Texas, and Texas A&M. After heading the Mosher Institute for Defense Studies, he retired in College Station and remained devoted to Aggie football, even though his UT ring had long been a permanent fixture on his hand.

Frank was an award-winning classroom teacher and a model mentor to a legion of graduate students, among them Joe Glatthaar, Emory Thomas, Dick Sommers, and Tom Connelly. An inveterate punster and spell-binding storyteller, Frank liked nothing more than a spirited argument, in which he often happily played the devil's advocate. He loved to tell and hear good jokes, laughing louder and longer than anyone; relished Gilbert and Sullivan operettas; and had a ready store of memorized songs, poems (especially Kipling), and old music-hall melodies. A conscientious and careful scholar, he "took pains to spare the reader pain," an aphorism often quoted to his students. "When in doubt, leave it out," was another, along with his rule to never begin a sentence with the word "The." His own writing style was colorful and

elegant, appealing to laymen as well as experts, and frequently sending readers scurrying for a dictionary. With a legendary command of the language, he quoted and cited classical sources, Shakespeare, the Bible, the best of English and American fiction, and just about everything in between, including his truly encyclopedic knowledge of "the late unpleasantness."

In 1986, the Houston Civil War Round Table's annual Award of Merit was renamed to honor Frank E. Vandiver, and he was often on hand to present it. His last appearance at our Round Table was to present the award to Robert K. Krick in November 2002. While living in College Station, he spearheaded and frequently attended the Brazos Valley Civil War Round Table.

Always reading, always learning, Frank Vandiver was a giant of his profession, a devoted family man, and a remarkable, unforgettable human being.



FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

by William Pannill

On April 4, 1861, William C. Cherry and his brother James enlisted as private soldiers in the West Point Guards, a militia unit, at West Point, Georgia. Their unit formed Company D of the Fourth Georgia Regiment, which trained

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.

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Mail to: **Houston Civil War Round Table**
P.O. Box 4215
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<input type="checkbox"/> 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	<input type="checkbox"/> RENEWAL \$40 - Individual \$45 - Family \$15 - Student or Out-of-state
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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.

for a year before going into action during the Seven Days' Battles and the Battle of Sharpsburg (Antietam).

In the spring of 1863, the 4th Georgia joined three other Georgia regiments to form Doles's Brigade, which fought with great casualties at Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, The Wilderness, Spotsylvania Court House, Cold Harbor, Early's Valley Campaign, and Petersburg.

The regiment surrendered at Appomattox with the rest of the Army of Northern Virginia. Lt. William C. Cherry was by then a prisoner of war at Fort Delaware, in Delaware. James A. Cherry remained a private in the regiment.

According to the *History of the Doles-Cook Brigade*, by Henry W. Thomas (Atlanta 1903), "... the brigade participated in the last engagement of the Army of Northern Virginia, and was fighting and driving the enemy steadily before them at Appomattox Court House, Va., on

the 9th day of April, 1865, when the Flag of Truce was borne into our lines." *History*, p. 45. At this point, the men had not eaten for several days.

The 4th Georgia surrendered 92 non-commissioned officers and men. The brigade surrendered 28 officers. The total number of officers and men in the Doles-Cook Brigade was 304, of whom 50 were non-combatants. *Ibid*.

To me, the question is: why did those men kept fighting through the slaughters of 1864 and into 1865? Did they not know the war was over after Gettysburg and Vicksburg?

That is hindsight. An unpublished letter Lt. Cherry received in prison camp in the fall of 1864, from another of his brothers at home in Georgia, shows no sign of defeat. The brother in Georgia writes instead that he believes the Northern public is growing weary of the war and hopes the North will sue for peace. He wrote before

the re-election of Lincoln in 1864. But apparently the Confederacy believed victory was possible almost to the end.

This is the question Jason Phillips has been studying as a historian. He is writing a book about the belief in Confederate invincibility that kept these soldiers fighting. Indeed, this belief lived on in the author of the brigade history, who wrote: "Read the history of all the armies of any nation, and you will not find a single one to compare to that of the Confederate army. . . They did not fight for conquest or glory, but simply for the protection of their homes and the independence of the South." *Ibid.*, p. v.

This month, we will learn more about why they hung on.

**HCWRT SPEAKERS
2004/2005**

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|---------------|---|
| Mar 17 | John Simon
"Grant and Lee" |
| Apr 21 | Mauriel P. Josslyn
"The Immortal 600" |
| May 19 | James Ramage
"Gray Ghost: John Singleton Mosby" |



**PLEASE CALL
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*Remember to call in
your reservations, for
either the dinner or
lecture only, by the
Tuesday morning before
the meeting.*



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