



# General Orders

## PANNILL'S TEXAS BRIGADE

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G.O. 8

### "POLITICS AND PROFESSIONALISM: THE EVOLUTION OF UNION COMMAND IN THE CIVIL WAR"

#### OUR SPEAKER: JOHN Y. SIMON



*John Y. Simon*

John Y. Simon received a B.A. at Swarthmore College in 1955, and a Ph.D. in history at Harvard University

in 1961. He taught at Ohio State University, began editing *The Papers of Ulysses S. Grant* in 1962, and in 1964, he moved to Southern Illinois University Carbondale, where he is professor of history as well as editor of the *Grant Papers*, now with 26 published volumes. He is a founder of the Association for Documentary Editing and a spokesman for the craft. He also writes on various Civil War topics.

#### OUR TOPIC: "POLITICS AND PROFESSIONALISM: THE EVOLUTION OF UNION COMMAND IN THE CIVIL WAR"

Dr. Simon will discuss the balance between the need for professional military treatment of the American Civil War by the federal government and the coexisting necessity for a political balance between forces, in order to maintain a coalition capable

of winning the war. He will show that, relatively early in the war— around November 1, 1861—this attempted balance was, in reality, ineffective.

By March 1864, President Lincoln had found a more effective way of dealing with these competing pressures. In essence, what made General Ulysses S. Grant an effective commander in 1864 was, in part, his recognition of the important role that General Henry W. Halleck, so inept in many areas of human relations, played in Lincoln's policy, and at the same time the role of political generalship in correlation with Grant's own campaign against Richmond,

Dr. Simon will dwell on the appointment of Robert Todd Lincoln to Grant's staff as an example of the give and take of this unusual relationship.

Mar 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.

## QUIZ QUESTION

"My family is American, and has been for generations, in all its branches, direct and collateral." Thus begins Chapter 1 of one of the most famous books to be written about the Civil War. Name the title and the author.

## BOOK RAFFLE

Books to be raffled in March are: *Forward to Richmond* (Time-Life Books), donated by Jim Godlove; *Spies, Scouts and Raiders* (Time-Life Books), also donated by Jim Godlove; *Battles for Atlanta* (Time-Life Books), also donated by Jim Godlove; *Photographic Views of Sherman's Campaign* by George N. Barnard, donated anonymously; *A Soldier's Story: The Double Life of a Confederate Spy* by David Phillips, also donated anonymously; *Gettysburg's Forgotten Cavalry Actions* by Eric J. Wittenberg, 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!

## DICK DOWLING STATUE 100 YEARS OLD

by Ed Cotham, Jr.

The Dick Dowling Statue in Hermann Park was unveiled St. Patrick's Day in 1905, 100 years ago. It was Houston's first public monument, coming even before the statue of Sam Houston, for whom the city was named. Standing today on a triangle near the intersection of Hermann Park Loop, Holcombe, and North MacGregor, the monument consists of an 8-foot statue made of Italian marble sitting atop a 20-foot granite base. The

creator of the monument was German sculptor Frank Teich, who sculpted the statue at his studio near Llano.

Richard "Dick" Dowling was one of the most interesting figures in Houston and Texas history. Dowling Street was named in his honor, as was Tuam Avenue, the place in County Galway, Ireland, near which he was born in 1837. Because of the Great Famine in Ireland, Dowling and his family came to America some time after 1846 and eventually settled in Houston. Dowling made his name and fortune in a number of saloon businesses. The most notable of these establishments was the "Bank of Bacchus," which he shrewdly located across the street from Houston's courthouse. "The Bank," as Dowling's bar was fondly known, became an immediate success, making its owner one of the most prominent Irishmen in Houston.

Dowling was a man of great vision. He was the first person in Houston to install gas lighting at his business. He also became one of the founding members of Houston Hook and Ladder Company No. 1, the predecessor of Houston's fire department. Dowling and his associates bought some of the earliest oil and gas leases in Texas, foreseeing the great oil boom that would eventually begin to change the world at the turn of the century.

Although his business and civic accomplishments are impressive, Dowling is remembered today primarily for his role in leading a group of unruly Irish dockworkers to one of the greatest upsets in military history at the Civil War Battle of Sabine Pass. Dick Dowling was the 26-year-old lieutenant in charge of a Confederate fort (Fort Griffin) at Sabine Pass on September 8, 1863, when a Union invasion fleet of 27 ships and almost 6,000 men attempted to capture the fort as part of a planned invasion of Texas.

In a battle that took less than an hour, Dowling and his fewer than 50 men repelled the invasion, capturing two Union gunboats and winning a victory that Jefferson Davis later called the most amazing feat in military history. The names of Dowling's small artillery company

(the Davis Guard) are inscribed on the side of the Dowling monument.

Not long after Dowling's death in 1867 from yellow fever, the Dick Dowling Camp of the United Confederate Veterans decided to begin raising money to build a statue of Dowling in Houston. A number of Irish societies such as the Ancient Order of Hibernians wanted to participate in the project, so the Dowling Monument Association was created to coordinate and lead the effort.

After a lengthy period of planning, design, and construction, the statue was finally finished in early 1905. It was placed originally at City Hall on Market Square. In 1939, it was moved to Sam Houston Park. In 1958 the Dowling monument was relocated to its present location near Hermann Park.



The Dowling statue shows the mustached lieutenant with his binoculars in one hand and a sword in the other. The sword has caused problems over the years. By 1958, a Houston newspaper reported that "Dick Dowling's sword is missing again. [Nobody] has the faintest idea where it went. Five times now swords have vanished from the cupped left hand of Dowling's statue." Speculating that leprechauns might have a stash of the rusted swords somewhere in Ireland, the reporter noted that in some ways the missing sword was an improvement, since Dowling did not actually

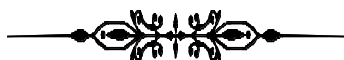
own a sword at the time of his famous battle.

Because of the Irish heritage of Dowling and most of his men it was decided to formally dedicate the statue on St. Patrick's Day 1905. One of the largest crowds in Houston history participated in a parade and a large ceremony to dedicate the monument. When the parade finally reached the statue about 3:00 pm, bands played "God Save Ireland" and "Dixie." After a series of speeches, Mrs. W. F. "Annie" Robertson, Dowling's daughter, pulled the silken cord to remove the canvas from the statue of her father amid deafening cheers from the massive crowd of dignitaries, Confederate veterans, school children, and interested citizens.

The reason that the people of Houston found it appropriate to so enthusiastically dedicate such a large monument to Dowling and his men is because the Union invasion thwarted at Sabine Pass was not actually aimed at that part of Texas. Sabine Pass was merely planned to be the initial landing point for a Union invasion that would have rapidly marched west with the intention of capturing Houston and Galveston. The people of Houston knew that by stopping that invasion before it even landed Dowling and his men had saved their city from occupation and possible destruction.

To express their gratitude, Houstonians raised funds shortly after the battle to issue a special silver medal for Dowling and each of his men. This medal (extremely rare today) is sometimes said to have been the Confederate equivalent of the Medal of Honor that was awarded to Union heroes. After the war, the people of Houston banded together to build a statue of Dick Dowling and thus permanently honor a man who had meant so much to the city and its early history.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Ed Cotham's latest book is Battle of Sabine Pass: The Confederate Thermopylae. It tells the whole marvelous story!)



## 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.

## TWO CONFERENCES COMING UP: HILLSBORO AND DEEP DELTA

I am passing along what information I have on these two conferences; we'll have some copies of registration forms for each at the meeting.

### HILLSBORO

The date is April 2, at Hillsboro College. The speakers are Allen Hatley on "The 1st Texas Legion During the Civil War"; Dr. Richard Lowe on "Walker's Texas Division"; Dr. Robert Corwin on "Up Close and Personal"; and Brad Johnson on "Pvt. Leonard Gee: Co. E, 5th Texas Infantry Confederate Hero." I don't have speaker's times, but they will begin at 9:00 am and probably end about 4:00 pm.

Cost is \$25. Make check payable to CHS 2005, P.O. Box 619, Hillsboro, TX 76645. Motel information is not given. For more information, call Peggy Fox at 245-582-2555 x 242.

### DEEP DELTA

Dates are June 10 & 11, at Hammond, Louisiana. The theme is

"War on the Periphery: Commandos, Spies, Sailors, and the Human Cost of War."

Speakers include Kendall Gott, Dr. Jim Hollandsworth, Dr. Gary Joiner, Tim Smith, Dr. Bill Still, Dr. Jerry Thompson, Dr. Brian Steel Wills, and Terry Winschel. Both Union and Confederate topics will be covered within the general theme. No dates or times are given for the speakers. As I recall, it begins about noon on Friday, and goes all day Saturday.

Early registration prices are the only ones listed on this flyer. All sessions and meals are \$140; \$120 for students and spouses. Cost for all sessions, without meals, is \$75 and \$65. Individual days, with or without meals, are also available.

Make checks payable to Deep Delta Civil War Symposium and mail to 19th Annual Deep Delta Civil War Symposium. SLU 10530, Hammond, LA 70402. For more information, call 985-549-2151.



## ***U.S.S. MAINE*** **COMMEMORATION**

by Robert York

On February 15, 1898, the *U.S.S. Maine* was destroyed in Havana harbor by an explosion of unknown cause. Two hundred and sixty-six crew members lost their lives in the destruction of the ship and many more lives would be lost during the Spanish-American War that ensued.

Each year the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department sponsors ceremonies and interpretive displays aboard the *U.S.S. Texas* to commemorate the sinking of the USS Maine. Three members of the Houston Civil War RoundTable participated in the event on February 12 & 13, 2005.

Seated at the left side of the photograph are Martha and Greg Graham. Standing at the right side of the photo is Robert York.



*Reenactors at the U.S.S. Maine commemoration*

Anyone interested in attending the event next year, or in re-enactments and living history generally, can email

me at [reyork@ev1.net](mailto:reyork@ev1.net) or talk to me about it at the March meeting.



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