



GENERAL ORDERS

Zuckero's Texas Brigade

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www.houstoncivilwar.com

MEETING – DEC 21, 2006

Briar Park Club
2603 Timmons Lane @ Westheimer

6:00 Cash Bar –
7:00 Dinner & Meeting

CALL: 713-956-8302 or
713-305-5510 by Mon prior
Dinner \$25; lecture only \$3

Make your reservations!

SPEAKER: BRUCE ALLARDICE

Bruce Allardice currently is President of the Northern Illinois Civil War Round Table and is a past President of the Civil War Round Table of Chicago. A lifelong Chicago area resident, he has authored or co-authored three books and numerous articles on the Civil War. His *More Generals in Gray* (LSU Press, 1995) was a selection of the History Book Club. A fourth book dealing with the Confederate army officer corps is due out soon.

TOPIC: “WHY THE NORTH WON THE CIVIL WAR”

Was the Northern win inevitable in the American Civil War? Could the Union have won it sooner than it did? Clearly the North with its larger population and industrial strength possessed a distinct advantage in its ability to produce soldiers and supplies. Bruce's presentation will center on a

comparison of our Civil War to the wars waged by other nations at the time. He will focus on the disparity of resources between combatants and the strategies pursued by each side. His talk will challenge many preconceptions about the war and its outcome.

BOOK RAFFLE by *Mike Pierce*

Books to be raffled in December are: *Bloody Bill Anderson* by A. Castel & T. Goodrich, donated by Jim Godlove; *Elkhorn Tavern* by Douglas C. Jones, donated by Jim Godlove; *The History of Rome Hanks and Kindred Matters* by J. S. Pennell, donated by Jim Godlove; *Bold Dragoon* by Emory Thomas, donated by Harry Bounds; *Shiloh* by Shelby Foote, donated by Harry Bounds; *With the 3rd Wisconsin Badgers* by S. S. Raab, donated by Karen Stone; *General Joshua Chamberlain* from the History Channel's *Civil War Journal*, donated by Bruce Greek; and four (4) assorted *Civil War Magazines*, also donated by Bruce Greek.

Raffle tickets are 50 cents each, or 8 tickets for \$3.00. That's quite a bargain! Please buy lots of tickets and help support your Round Table!

QUIZ QUESTION by *Jim Godlove*

One of the reasons the Union victory was achieved was because it followed a plan set forth by a leading general early in the war. This plan called for a blockade of Southern ports and the occupation of the Mississippi

River. Many Northerners derided this plan as too slow and its proponents as too old; however, elements of this plan were instrumental in Union success. What was the name of this plan and who proposed it?



Liendo, Nov, 2006

LIENDO REENACTMENT REPORT by *Mike and Linda Pierce*

While patrolling the Brazos River, the 12th Texas Cavalry spotted increased Union army activity. Their scouts scurried back to Camp Groce and along with the Texas Brigade dug in for the inevitable attack. The Union advance came none too soon; in fact it came so swiftly that Mr. William Detering, owner of Liendo, did not have time to evacuate his family or his livestock. The federal advance fell like a sledgehammer all along the Confederate lines. The lines faltered and then broke as the federals overran Confederate artillery. Mr. Detering looked on in horror from the protection of his beautiful plantation home and thought that all was to be lost as the carnage unfolded on his pasture. The 12th Cavalry, however, held in reserve, came to the rescue and stopped the Union advance dead in its tracks, allowing the Confederates to regroup and push the enemy back to the Brazos.

Reenactments afford students of the Civil War the opportunity to experience the conflict in a tactile way. One cannot fully

experience the war without handling Civil War weaponry, wearing the uniforms and accoutrements, experiencing the thunder of a cavalry charge or cannonade, or watching the tragic unfolding of a Pickett's Charge or the carnage of a Miller's Cornfield. These events cannot be experienced solely through books; they must be recreated through participation or observation of reenactment events and by field trips to actual battlefield locations.

HCWRT member Mike Pierce, assisted by his fellow member and naval reenactor Robert York, staffed our Round Table station at the recent Liendo Plantation event. Liendo's owner Will Detering, along with event coordinator Will Gibson (www.11texascav.org), provided space at no charge, thus enabling Mike and Robert the opportunity to talk to interested attendees about our Round Table. The Liendo Plantation (www.liendo.org), which is open to the public for tours, will now feature the literature of the HCWRT.

Every year on the weekend before Thanksgiving, the Liendo Civil War Reenactment takes place in Hempstead, just a powder shot northwest of Houston. The event is well run, well attended, and it provides an authentic depiction of the Civil War period, both civilian and military.

We urge you to take advantage of this opportunity next year to deepen your own understanding of the War as only the drama of real life reenactment can provide.



Liendo, Nov, 2006

CHATTANOOGA FIELD TRIP (OCTOBER, 2006) BY *Tony Matt*

Our group departed Houston on Thursday afternoon for Chattanooga, Tennessee. Everything went smoothly. The bus was waiting for us; we loaded up and headed for the hotel in East Ridge, stopping to grab a bite to eat along the way.

On Friday morning we met with Ed Bearss, our guide, and James Ogden, the historian for Chickamauga-Chattanooga National Military Park. Our guides for the entire interpretation of the two battlefields, they made an excellent team, Ed explaining the Federal position and tactics and Jim presenting the Confederate plans.

We began our day in the Visitors Center located on the northern edge of both the battlefield and the park. Our guides detailed the maneuvers initiated by General Rosecrans to compel General Bragg's retreat from central Tennessee to the Chattanooga area. They also explained Bragg's goal to drive the Union army into McLemore's Cove where the Confederates hoped to destroy Rosecrans' army before it could escape over the mountain. Communications difficulties, however, precluded this plan from working during that first day of battle.

On the second day, the Confederates were able to break the Union line, but their line collapsed, leaving the Federals between the Confederates and Chattanooga, thus enabling the Federals to fight another day.

We were intrigued by the charge of Longstreet's troops as they poured through the gap in the Union line that was caused when General Wood was mistakenly ordered to shift north. It was also interesting to learn that when the Federals

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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\$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.

made their stand on Snodgrass Hill, General Thomas was nowhere near that particular spot. He appeared later, thus taking away some of the luster from his "Rock of Chickamauga" sobriquet.

On the third day, we covered the Battle of Chattanooga. Jim was able to take the group to the outcropping of boulders that is off limits to any one else. Ed stated that this was only the second time he himself had been out on these rocks. These are the same rocks that Union troops passed after they had successfully moved the Confederates off Lookout Mountain. Jim also took us to the spot where General

Grant stood smoking a cigar, recreating that incident for us by standing in that spot himself and lighting up a cigar as he did so. On this excursion, Jim did not have the time to take us up to Missionary Ridge as he did when Charlie Mitchell organized our trip over ten years ago.

I would like to thank Marsha for the afternoon sweets, Joyce for putting the packages together, including nametags, and Barry and Cheryl for lending me an umbrella! And of course I want to thank Ed and Jim for their time and effort to help us better understand what happened here in Northwest Georgia and Southeast Tennessee.

MARGIE BEARSS'S PASSING **by Joyce Kennerly**

It shouldn't have been a shock, but it was. As long as I had known Margie Bearss, she had been in a very fragile state of health, but she had been through so many precarious situations that I had come to think of her as being almost invincible. So it was a shock to learn that she was gone.

I first heard of Margie years ago in two or three conversations with the late Bob Younger (founder of Morningside Books/Press). We inevitably talked about publishing, and Margie had edited Ed Bearss' and other works for Morningside. Bob told me about her bad health, which included both cancer and heart problems.

Several months later, I called for Ed and got Margie. Her voice was husky, and she had a slow, Southern drawl that made you immediately settle back and relax. Conscious of her health, I didn't keep her long, but my subsequent calls led to longer and longer conversations, which were always full of history and Margie's observations. She talked about books--she loved poetry, which sustained her in the long hours she was alone. Sometimes, her voice would be a little weak when I first called, but as we

got into interesting topics, it gained strength, and by the end of the call, she sounded strong. I always asked up front how she was doing, and she was always frank in answering—it was seldom good. Still, Margie continued to confound her doctors by surviving each situation and by persevering time after time. I sometimes called after I knew she was going in for tests or for a procedure, just to check up on her. She was very matter-of-fact about the severity of her condition and would chuckle about “hanging on” and surprising her doctors. She gave particular credit to her heart doctor--a female.

When Jack Waugh began work on his biography of Ed, Margie put much time and effort into gathering photos and memories for him. I heard quite a few stories then about how Ed and Margie got together, the growth of his professional career, and how much she hated to move from Mississippi. I thought the bio project energized her—being involved in the publishing process again. That project also brought her some personal attention—an article about her appeared in the *Washington Post*. The article made it clear that Margie was a strong individual and a respected historian and editor in her own right, and it pleased her to no end.

During one conversation, we were talking about editing, and I told Margie that Bob Younger had once told me she was the best editor he had ever had. There was a silence on the other end of the line for a few seconds, and then Margie told me that hearing that meant more to her than I could know—she had great respect for Younger's opinion, and it was great to know that he thought highly of her work. I always meant to tell Bob about Margie's reaction to his compliment, but I never got it done before his unexpected death, much to my regret.

When Margie moved back to Mississippi and her health improved enough, she quickly involved herself in more publishing projects. To see some of her writing and

hear her read some of it, go to the web, at the www.battleofchampionhill.org website.

My last conversation with Margie occurred while she was in Mississippi; she was very much enjoying her new projects. At some point, she told me that she had been gathering information on Forrest at Brice's Crossroads for years and would like to write a new book about that battle. I told her that Forrest is my husband's favorite general, and she said, "Oh, mine, too." I thought I should try sometime to get the two of them together—wouldn't that have been something to hear!

It's still hard to believe she's gone—I'll miss never being able again to hear her wry observations and down-to-earth assessments. I'm sorry she's gone before giving the Civil War community more of her knowledge and talents as historian, writer, and editor. We're all the more bereft for that but fortunate that the lady persevered so long as to give us what she did.

OUR MOST ENDANGERED CIVIL WAR SITES

According to the Civil War Preservation Trust (CWPT), the ten most endangered Civil War battlefields include the following:

Gettysburg, PA, scene of the war's largest and bloodiest battle in July, 1863, where a casino is proposed to be built a mile from East Cavalry Field.

Shenandoah Valley, VA, where a consortium of developers wants to double the width of Hwy I-81, a major trucking route traversing the length of the Valley. Also, the Cedar Creek battlefield and ten others are also threatened by the loss of ground and accompanying densification of the area.

Chattahoochee River Line, GA, where suburban development has damaged the defensive line that Gen. Joseph Johnston set up along the northern bank of the river

in the wake of the battle of Kennesaw Mountain.

Glorieta Pass, NM, where heavy traffic along Route 50 traversing the battlefield keeps the site closed to visitors. Views of the battlefield where Federal forces finally turned back the Southern invasion of New Mexico are presently observable only through the windows of passing vehicles.

Circle Forts, Washington, D. C., where expanding neighborhoods have largely obscured the ring of sixty-eight fortifications erected to protect the Union capital.

Fort Morgan, AL, where safety concerns have closed sections of the site to the public, and where its future management is uncertain. The fort fell to Union Admiral David Farragut after an eighteen-day Federal bombardment.

Glendale, VA, site of current construction on three housing projects surrounding the battlefield, with three more in the planning stage. Here at Glendale, or Frayser's Farm, savage fighting resulted in 6,500 casualties and marked the fifty day of the famous 1862 Seven Days' Campaign around Richmond.

New Orleans Forts, LA, where intense damage caused by Hurricane Katrina has compromised the structure of two forts that stand on opposite banks of the Mississippi River seventy miles south of New Orleans. In the wake of changes wrought by the storm, these sites are not currently safe for people to visit.

Raymond, MS, where development is increasing along Highway 18 connecting the battlefield to the nearby suburbs of Jackson. Only sixty-five acres of the one thousand-acre battlefield are protected, although Raymond was a significant turning point in Grant's Vicksburg Campaign.

Wilderness, VA., where Orange County "is transforming itself from a largely rural area

to a suburban community with immense population growth and proposed home construction,” threatening parts of the battlefield not protected by the National Park Service. In this area, some twenty-five thousand dead and wounded soldiers were left after two days of fighting in May, 1864.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

If you have been receiving the newsletter and still have not paid your dues for this campaign, you will see a red asterisk on your newsletter label. If you are not sure if you have paid or not, check your label. If the red asterisk appears there, this will be your last newsletter unless you renew.

HCWRT SPEAKERS 2006 – 2007

Jan 18	Ed Bearss
Feb 15	Jeff Murrah
Mar 15	Pending
Apr 19	Thomas Cartwright
May 17	Anne Bailey



**HOUSTON CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
P.O. BOX 4215
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