



# GENERAL ORDERS

## *Zuckero's Texas Brigade*

Vol. 18  
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Feb 2007

[www.houstoncivilwar.com](http://www.houstoncivilwar.com)

### MEETING – THURS FEB 15, 2007

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!**

## OUR SPEAKER: JEFF MURRAH



*Jeff Murrah*

As a sixth-generation Texan, Jeffrey Murrah grew up surrounded by history and heritage. His fascination with the history and people of Texas is reflected in his work as a counselor and in his books. His first book, *None but Texians: A History of Terry's Texas Rangers*, took him ten years to write and later earned him the 2002 Summerfield G. Roberts Award for the best book on Texas and Texans during the Civil War. It is considered a “must-read” by many re-enactors. His upcoming book, *Texans Always Move Them: A True History of Texas*, is to be published later this year. The writing of this book has taken him five years and travel through four countries. It promises to be another important contribution to the culture and history of Texas.

In addition to writing, Jeff's public speaking, dating from his teaching days as a professor at San Jacinto College, always provides thought-provoking and informative evenings for his audiences. In addition to his writing and speaking, Jeff has worked alongside historians, re-enactors, teachers, and politicians in preserving the heritage of Texas. He is a member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans as well as Texas State Chairman of the League of the South and was recently commissioned an Admiral in the Texas Navy by Governor Rick Perry. Jeff can be reached through the following website: [www.RestoreTheFamily.com](http://www.RestoreTheFamily.com).

Jeff's topic for the evening, “*Governor Pendleton Murrah: Standing on Confederate Principles*,” addresses the life and times of this wartime Governor of Texas.

Make your reservations by Monday, February 12 and join us for a most informative Thursday evening with Jeff!

## **SPRING FIELD TRIP—FINAL REMINDER: GALVESTON CIVIL WAR TOUR with Ed Cotham, Jr.**

The time is rapidly approaching for Ed's field trip on **February 24, 2007** for us to explore Civil War sites in Galveston. Those who have signed up for the tour will be meeting at 9:30 AM on the third floor of the Rosenberg Library at 2310 Sealy.

Specifics concerning the event were detailed in the January edition of our newsletter and on our website. The day will conclude at approximately 4 PM with all proceeds allocated to the HCWRT's Preservation Fund.

You may contact Joyce Kennerly via phone at (281) 341-2611 or (713) 385-5592 for wait-listing or cancellation information. If you prefer email, Joyce may be contacted at [jkennery@fortbend.lib.tx.us](mailto:jkennery@fortbend.lib.tx.us).

## **FALL FIELD TRIP NEWS UPDATE from Tony Matt**

Come October 25 – 28, 2007, our group will be journeying to Petersburg, and our host and guide for the event will be Ed Bearss. More details concerning the trip will be forthcoming in later editions of the newsletter, and if you wish to sign up now, please make our customary \$250 per person deposit.

You may contact me, Tony Matt, at (281) 277-0203 or by email at [t94matt@aol.com](mailto:t94matt@aol.com). My home address is 15811 Spruce River Court, Sugar Land, TX 77478. **Join us!**

## **BOOK RAFFLE by Mike Pierce**

Books to be raffled in February are *An Honorable Defeat* by William C. Davis, *The Diary of a Dead Man, 1862-1864* with compilation by J. P. Ray, and *Kate, The Journal of a Confederate Nurse* by Kate Cummings, all three of which are being donated by Jim Godlove; *Heroes of the Civil War* by Harrison Hunt, donator unknown; *Rebel Private: Front and Rear* by William A. Fletcher and *With Pen & Saber* by Robert J. Trout, both of which are being donated by Karen Stone; *Battlefield Medicine* (VHS format) from the History Channel's *Civil War Journal*, donated by Bruce Greek; and four (4) assorted *civil war magazines*, donated by Karen Stone.

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**

On March 16, 1861, the Texas secession convention summoned the state's governor before he was to take the oath of allegiance to the Confederacy. When the governor failed to appear, his office was declared vacant and the lieutenant governor was sworn in as governor. Who was this gentleman who had run on a unionist platform in 1859?



## **HCWRT'S EXPRESSION OF CONDOLENCES TO TWO OF OUR MEMBERS**

Members, officers, and directors of the Round Table were saddened to receive news this month of the passing of former HCWRT member Elizabeth Lewis, who, along with her husband Norman, was a longtime supporter of our organization. Elizabeth was a presenter at one of our past chapter meetings, and she will be remembered and honored for that as well as for the disciplined research she undertook in the publishing of her Civil War book *Queen of the Confederacy* in 2002.

We also express our sympathies to HCWRT member J. Fred Duckett on the loss of his wife Baudine on January 23<sup>rd</sup>. Fred as well has been a long-time supporter of our Round Table and an appreciated history aficionado. Baudine will be remembered for many things, among them her many contributions to foreign students at Rice University down through the years.

### **BATTLE OF THE BEES – APRIL 3, 1864**

One of the oddest confrontations of the Civil War occurred on April 3, 1864, when three determined combatants were pitted against one another—Union troops, Confederate fighters, and a swarm of angry honeybees!

The skirmish is commemorated by an historical marker about a mile north of present-day Okolona, Arkansas and is considered part of the Red River Campaign. Near this site, Confederate General

Joseph Shelby caught up with General Samuel Rice's Union troops and gave battle in a pecan orchard during a severe thunderstorm. Along with the other damage due to hail and high winds, several beehives were overturned. First attacking the Confederates, the bees then unleashed their fury on the Union Army, whereupon both armies vacated the field, leaving the swarming honeybees the undisputed winners of the day's engagement!

After their hasty exits from the pecan grove, the two primary combatants met again the following day on April 4, at Elkins' Ferry on the Little Missouri River before they waged a decisive battle April 9-12 at Prairie de Ann near present-day Prescott. There the Union forces were turned away from their target—old Washington, the Confederate capital of Arkansas and Missouri.

Steele proceeded to Camden but then headed back north to Little Rock, abandoning his southern campaign for the duration of the war.

### **DID YOU KNOW THAT?**

There is a Civil War Round Table chapter in Melbourne, Australia? Sure enough, the American Civil War Round Table of Australia publishes its *Minie News* from Melbourne approximately five times per year, and our newsletter editor Karen Stone has printed up about a dozen copies of the January, 2007 issue for those of you who might like to see what these enterprising Aussies are doing in their intriguing and very thorough research of this conflict.

The link between the Confederacy and Australia was apparently sealed when the C.S.S. "*Shenandoah*" visited Melbourne in January-February, 1865. Also, according to Barry Crompton of the ACWRT, who, in quoting the author of "*Coal: a Human History*," by Barbara Freese, suggests that one of the prime reasons the "*Shenandoah*"

was out on the high seas at that time was to clean out the Union whale fishing vessels which provided factories and homes with whale oil, in those days a major source of lighting fuel. Mr. Crompton goes on to say that gas made from coal and kerosene at or about this time became the main source of light for consumers and in the process led to the end of the use of sperm whale oil, the very product the officers and crew of the "Shenandoah" were targeting when engaging the enemy on the high seas.

## THE MARINERS' MUSEUM: THE USS MONITOR CENTER IN NEWPORT NEWS OPENS ON MARCH 9, 2007

That's right! After a delay of approximately one hundred and forty-five years, the Mariners' Museum and its partners at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administrations (NOAA) and the National Marine Sanctuaries Program will soon open the new \$30 million USS Monitor Center in Newport News, Virginia. The facility promises to be state-of-the-art in every way and will house the Monitor's famous gun turret and recovered artifacts, in addition to guiding visitors on an exciting, interactive journey as they learn the Monitor's story—about the people who lived and died on her as well as those who worked on her recovery years later.

For further information about the opening events, please call (757) 596-2222 or visit the website, [www.MarinersMuseum.org](http://www.MarinersMuseum.org).

### 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 CIVIL WAR MUSEUMS OF INTEREST by *Charlie Mitchell*

The Texas Civil War Museum in Fort Worth contains both private collections of Civil War artifacts and a collection in public trust. These combined collections make this the largest Civil War museum west of the Mississippi River.

The museum houses three very fine collections, a theatre, and a gift shop. More than 3,000 artifacts and some 60 flags are on rotating display there.



The United Daughters of the Confederacy—Texas Confederate Collection—on display at the museum, contains articles from the home front and places emphasis on the Texas soldier.

The museum is located at 760 Jim Wright Freeway North, Fort Worth, Texas 76108. The telephone number is (817) 246-2323. The hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Note the closures on New Year's Day, July 4, Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, and Christmas Day.



On the West Side of Fort Worth!

**The Navarro College Pearce Civil War Museum** is located in Corsicana, Texas and is housed on the campus of Navarro College. The Pearce Civil War Museum is the life-long collection of Charles S. Pearce. The exhibits contain over 7,000 items housed in the Navarro College Archives and facilitate research on all aspects of the United States Civil War.



The collection includes a limited number of antebellum and Reconstruction materials representing both the North and the South during the Civil War.

In addition to the Civil War museum, the building showcases the Pearce Western Art Collection, an extensive display of western art from a number of painters focusing on this genre of American art.

The museum is located at 3100 W. Collin Street, Corsicana, TX 75110. The phone number is (903) 875-7438 or (800) 988-5317.

If you are interested in exploring museums, I recommend these two to you. You don't have to travel very far from home for this worthwhile investment of your time and can probably manage to tour them both in just one day!

## CURIOUS PARALLELS BETWEEN JEFFERSON DAVIS AND ABRAHAM LINCOLN



*Jeff Davis*

**Birthplace:** Christian County, Kentucky

**Military Service:** Blackhawk War, 1831.

**Political Service:** House of Representatives, 1845-1846.

**Elected President:** November 6, 1861

**Children:** Four sons, two daughters. Lost two sons before 1865--Samuel Emory (1852-54) prior to becoming President; and Joseph Evan (1859-64) during his presidency.

**End of Administration:** May 10, 1865; captured in Irwinville, Georgia.



*Abe Lincoln*

**Birthplace:** Hardin County, Kentucky

**Military Service:** Blackhawk War, 1832

**Political Service:** House of Representatives, 1847 – 1849

**Elected President:** November 6, 1860

**Children:** Four sons. Lost two sons before 1865—Edward Baker (1846-50) prior to becoming President, and William Wallace (1850-62) during his presidency.

**End of Administration:** April 15, 1865; assassinated in Washington, DC.

**HCWRT SPEAKERS  
2006 – 2007 CAMPAIGN**

**Feb 15  
Mar 15  
Apr 19  
May 17**

**Jeff Murrah  
Jerry Don Thomson  
Jamie Gillium  
Anne Bailey**



**HOUSTON CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE  
P.O. BOX 4215  
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77210- 4215**