



General Orders

Godlove's Texas Brigade

Vol. 19
No. 2
Oct,
2007

www.houstoncivilwar.com

MEETING – THURS, OCT 18, 2007

Briar Park Club
2603 Timmons Lane @ Westheimer

6:00 Cash Bar –
7:00 Dinner & Meeting

CALL: 713-956-8302 or
713-305-5510 or email to:
george_bishop@sbcglobal.net
by Monday just prior to the meeting
Dinner \$25; lecture only \$3

Make your reservations!

OUR SPEAKER: **LAWRENCE LEE HEWITT –** “General Robert E. Lee’s Finest Hour (or Two?)”



Lawrence Lee Hewitt

Larry Hewitt, our October featured speaker, examines in depth the seven-day period between May 5 and May 12, 1864. He delves into Lee’s actions during this pivotal week, including the two “Lee to the Rear!” episodes, the first on the morning of May 6th, in the Wilderness, and the second on May 12th, near Spotsylvania Courthouse. Professor Hewitt contends that these two incidents comprise Lee’s “two finest hours” as Commanding General of the Army of Northern Virginia.

Join us while Larry cogently develops his arguments in support of this position as contrasted against the backdrop of a crumbling Confederate high command. He contends that elements of this deterioration among the general officers of the Army of Northern Virginia do not appear in any of the standard histories of the period.

In his scrutiny of these two singular events in conjunction with the worsening state of Lee’s high command, Larry provides his listeners with a fresh prospective by which to judge Lee’s overall performance against that of his nemesis, General Grant.

A FEW WORDS ABOUT LARRY’S BACKGROUND

A native of Louisville, Kentucky, Lawrence Lee Hewitt studied at the University of Kentucky before moving to Louisiana in 1975 to complete his graduate studies at Louisiana State University. Between 1978 and 1986, he managed the Port Hudson and Camp Moore State Commemorative

Areas. He began teaching at Southeastern Louisiana University in 1985, coordinated the Deep Delta Civil War Symposia between 1987 and 1992, and was promoted to full professor in 1993.

A past president of the Baton Rouge Civil War Round Table, Larry was the 1991 recipient of SLU's *President's Award for Excellence in Research* and also the New Orleans Civil War Round Table's *Charles L. Dufour Award for Outstanding Achievements in Preserving the Heritage of the American Civil War*.

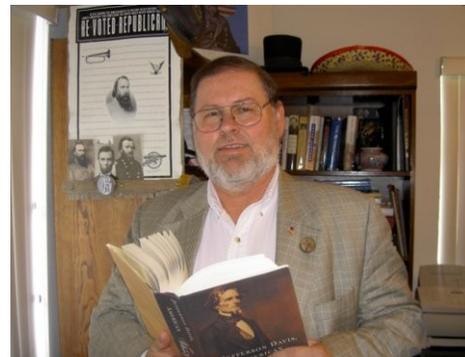
Relocating to Chicago in 1996, Larry has served as Managing Editor (1997-1998) and also Book Review Editor (1997-1999) of *North and South*. His publications include *Port Hudson, Confederate Bastion on the Mississippi* (1987), *The Confederate High Command & Related Topics* (1990), *200 Years a Nation* (2001), *Leadership During the Civil War* (1992), and *Louisianians in the Civil War* (2002).

Larry and Bruce Allardice, who spoke to us last December, are currently working on *Kentuckians in Gray: Confederate Officers from the Bluegrass State* for the University Press of Kentucky, due out in 2008. He is

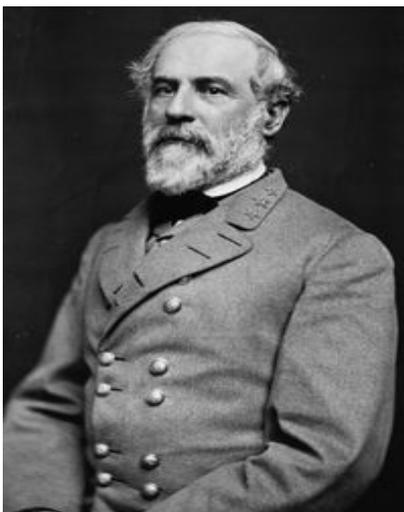
also working on a series of anthologies with Arthur W. Bergeron on Confederate generals in the Western Theater and in the Trans-Mississippi. His other projects include a biography of Admiral David Farragut and a history of the 14th Louisiana Infantry.

Larry first spoke to our group in October, 1989. Join us for what promises to be a most informative and engaging evening with Larry Hewitt at the Briar Club on October 18th!

GODLOVE'S GARRISON



Jim Godlove



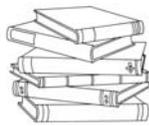
Robert E. Lee

I want to thank all the members who turned out for our September meeting with a special thanks to those of you who brought guests. Our first program this fall was quite a success, and we encourage you to attend as many meetings as possible this year and bring along a friend, family member, colleague, or neighbor to accompany you.

As you know, we have scheduled our annual field trip from October 25 – 28. Once again Ed Bearss will lead us on an exciting, in-depth journey through the past—Petersburg is our destination, and we

are really looking forward to the experience. For those of you who have not been on a field trip, you don't know what you are missing! Ed is an incomparable guide. Our thanks also to Tony Matt, our Field Trip Director, for putting this itinerary together and making the arrangements for us.

If you are unable to participate in the field trip, however, you will still have the opportunity to see, question, and learn from Ed at our January meeting. Details will follow as the campaign year unfolds.



OCTOBER BOOK SALE & BOOK RAFFLE by *Mike Pierce*

Books to be raffled in October are: *The Memoirs of Charles Henry Veil* by Herman Viola; *The Civil War as a Theological Crisis* by Mark Noll; *The Vacant Chair* by Reid Mitchell; *Plenty of Blame to Go Around* by Eric Wittenberg and J. David Petruzzi; *The Battle of Jackson* by Edwin Bearss; *Manse* by Wilton Earle; and *Ordeal of the Union* by Allan Nevins.

We have an excellent selection of Civil War Magazines to offer for sale, so many in fact that I ask that you contact me if you are interested in any of these wonderful collections of in-depth articles on Civil War topics. mpiercePC@comcast.net is my email address, so let me hear from you if you have an interest or see me at next month's meeting. Prices are very reasonable and we offer volume discounts as well. All proceeds go into Round Table coffers to help defray our operating costs this year.

OCTOBER QUIZ QUESTION by *Jim Godlove*

On the morning of May 6, 1864, the Confederate lines were crumbling. General Robert E. Lee spotted approaching troops and asked the identity of the advancing brigade. "The Texas Brigade" was the reply.

Who was the general whom Lee addressed and why didn't Lee recognize the general commanding the Texas Brigade?

UPCOMING REENACTOR EVENTS by *Mike Pierce*

Mark your calendars, Round Tablers and reenactor enthusiasts!

"Liendo Civil War Days" – November 17-28. For further information go to the website www.liendo.org.



Liendo Plantation Reenactment

CURRENT GETTYSBURG RESTORATION EFFORTS

Contemporary thinking regarding battlefield authenticity dictates the simulated return of these historically

Important areas to their appearance at the time the actual battle took place. This turn of events explains why stacks of tree trunks at Gettysburg stand waiting to be hauled away from the area around Devil's Den, and why a modern building on Cemetery Ridge encroaching on the scene of Pickett's Charge stands empty, awaiting demolition.

With approximately \$131 million in projects under way, the fields and farms in the Gettysburg undoubtedly have not witnessed this level of sustained activity since the days of the conflict itself. Gettysburg is the spearhead of contemporary efforts to restore many Civil War battlefields to appearances more closely resembling actual battlefield conditions at the time.

In the one hundred and forty-two years that have elapsed since the end of this terrible war, Gettysburg fields that once were farmed have now fallen fallow, allowing trees to grow and obscure the clear lines of fire present in 1863. Over the years, many fences were lost; and at Gettysburg, a fence could mean the difference between life and death to soldiers in direct line of fire.

Under a plan devised in 1999, the National Park Service (NPS) will cut down 576 acres of woodland at Gettysburg that did not exist at the time of the battle; moreover, it will replant 115 acres of trees that have since disappeared. Currently, efforts are being directed toward removing trees around Devil's Den as well as on part of the Confederate line around Seminary Ridge. The plan also calls for reconstructing nearly 10 miles of farm lanes and restoring 39 miles of fences and other area boundaries. These reconstruction efforts will facilitate our understanding of the actual events taking place here at the time.

In the meantime, a \$103 million museum and visitor center is under construction across the road from the national cemetery

where Abraham Lincoln delivered the Gettysburg Address in late 1863.

Your newsletter editor wishes to thank Harry Bounds and Charlie Mitchell for bringing these developments to her attention. Hopefully, in the future, funds will be made available for such restoration efforts on other important battlefields as well.



Gettysburg Restoration Planning

THREE OF LEE'S LETTERS SELL FOR \$61,000 AT AUCTION

The three subject Lee letters were among more than 400 documents Thomas Willcox put up for auction last month after a protracted fight with the state of South Carolina, which had claimed ownership rights to the letters that had been in Willcox's family for years. Estimates place the total sales at less than \$400,000.

One of Lee's letters, written to South Carolina Gov. Francis Wilkinson Pickens, dealt with troop strength and conditions along the state's coast and fetched \$20,000. "The strength of the enemy, as far as I am able to judge, exceeds the whole force that we have in the state," Lee wrote to Pickens on December 27, 1861. It can be thrown with great celerity against any point, and far outnumbers any force we can bring against it in the field."

PETERSBURG UPDATE By Tony Matt

Room Rate Correction: Single room cost is \$840, not \$805; shared room cost is correct at \$705 as stated previously.

Flight Schedule: Depart IAH Oct 25 @ 11:08 AM; Arrive Washington, DC @ 3:08 PM. Return from DC Oct 28 @ 5:57 PM; Arrive IAH @ 8:15 PM.

Hotel: Hampton Inn, Stony Creek, VA, 10476 Blue Star Hwy, Stony Creek, VA 23882; Telephone: 1-434-246-5500

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

FORREST BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS FROM LAST MONTH'S SPEAKER, GREG BIGGS

An Untutored Genius: The Military Career of General Nathan Bedford Forrest, by Lonnie Maness (Guild Press, 1990)—a thoroughly detailed analysis of Forrest as a military commander written by a retired history professor from the University of Tennessee.

The Campaigns of Lt. Gen Forrest and of Forrest's Cavalry, by Thomas Jordan and J. P. Pryor (Morningside, 1973)—the authors were contemporaries of Forrest, and their manuscript was reviewed by the general prior to publication. Jordan and Pryor also interviewed subordinate officers, analyzed papers, and conducted detailed research.

The Bloody Crucible of Courage: Fighting Methods and Combat Experience of the Civil War, by Brent Nosworthy (New York, 2008)—this Napoleonic Wars historian of note examines in depth the rifled musket and all of its functions on and off the battlefield. In order for the weapon to be truly accurate, the Civil War soldier needed to perfect range estimation as well as the use of back-sights. Yet neither skill was taught to the average Civil War soldier. This weapon extended the killing zone by several hundred yards over the smooth-bore and could have been much more deadly had the soldiers been taught to use it properly at the onset.

Battle Tactics of the American Civil War, by Paddy Griffith (Yale, 2001)—the author is a former military history instructor at Britain's Sandhurst and analyzes in detail both Confederates and Federals in terms of doctrine, weapons, infantry deployment, drill, combat ranges and the like.

THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR: FACT QUESTIONS WITH SOMETIMES SURPRISING ANSWERS

Q: How many Federal and Confederate generals were West Point graduates?

A: Of the 583 generals in the Union army, 217 were West Point graduates; of the 425 Confederate generals, 146 had graduated from West Point.

Q: Which side suffered more battle deaths in the war, Union or Confederate?

A: Battle deaths were higher for the North, which recorded an estimated 110,000 killed or mortally wounded in battle, compared with an estimated 94,000 Confederate deaths.

Q: Where did the bloodiest eight minutes of the war occur?

A: Grant's massive frontal assault against Lee's entrenched line at the Battle of Cold Harbor on June 3, 1864 resulted in approximately 7,000 Union casualties and 1,500 Confederate casualties within eight minutes—the bloodiest eight minutes of the Civil War.

Q: "It was not war—it was murder" referred to what battle?

A: Confederate General D. H. Hill used this phrase to describe the Battle of Malvern Hill, which produced 5,355 casualties on January 1, 1862.

Q: Which Confederate charge was made over a longer distance—Pickett's Charge at Gettysburg or the charge by the Confederate Army of Tennessee at the Battle of Franklin?

A: At Gettysburg, R. E. Lee's troops charged across an open field one mile long against makeshift Federal works, supported by massive pre-assault artillery support. At Franklin, Hood's soldiers charged across a two-mile-long open field against a heavily fortified Union position, unsupported by a heavy artillery barrage.

Q: What postwar diplomatic post was awarded to John Singleton Mosby, the famous Confederate partisan ranger?

A: After the war, Mosby supported Grant for President, joined the Republican Party, and was appointed American consul to Hong Kong by President Rutherford B. Hayes.

Q: How many troops did Confederate cavalry commander J. E. B. Stuart lose in his famous ride around McClellan's army on the eve of the Seven Days' Battles?

A: One trooper.

Q: What 1865 battle broke Robert E. Lee's defensive line at Petersburg, resulting in the fall of Richmond and Lee's withdrawal to Appomattox?

A: Five Forks.

Q: Who was "Johnny Shiloh," also known as the "Drummer Boy of Chickamauga?"

A: He was John L. Clem, who left home at age 9 and became a drummer in the Union Army. His drum was destroyed by an artillery round at Shiloh. At age 12 he shot a Confederate officer at Chickamauga, later suffered two battle wounds, remained in the army after the war, and retired from the service on the eve of World War I as a major general.

Q: What prominent Confederate general operated an Arkansas drugstore before the war?

A: General Patrick Cleburne, killed at the Battle of Franklin in 1864, was a professional pharmacist and half-owner of a drugstore in Hellena, Arkansas before the war.



**HOUSTON CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
P. O. Box 4215
Houston, TX 77210-4215**