



# General Orders

## *Godlove's Texas Brigade*

Vol. 19  
No. 3  
Nov,  
2007

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

**MEETING – THURS, NOV 15,  
2007**

Briar 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 \$3**

**Make your reservations!**



*Captain Paul Matthews (USCT)*

## **THE BUFFALO SOLDIERS!**

Our speaker for this evening, Captain Paul Matthews, is the founder and

Executive Director of Houston's own Buffalo Soldiers National Museum, established in 2000 and designated a non-profit 501(c)(3) institution. The museum's Historian is Dr. Franklin D. B. Jackson, a highly decorated Viet Nam veteran, and its Chief Docent is Trooper Arthur Joseph, a Silver Star recipient and author of the World War II book *Driving at the Edge of Death*. The museum is a proud member of the Houston Museum District and is the only repository in the U. S. dedicated primarily to preserving the legacy and honor of the African-American soldier.

In 1866, the U. S. Congress passed legislation to create six all-black military regiments. According to legend, American Indians, primarily Cheyenne warriors, attached the name "buffalo soldiers" to black combatants of the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Regiments because their curly hair and fighting spirit reminded the Indians of the buffalo's strength and courage.

This museum is dedicated to the brave men and women of color who courageously protected and defended the American frontier and who have participated in every great American war and military campaign—an impressive time span of contribution and sacrifice from the years 1770 forward.

The Museum is located at 1834 Southmore and is open for tours Monday through Friday from 10 AM to 5 PM and on Saturdays from 10 AM to 4 PM. The Museum is closed on Sunday. Admission is \$2 per person. You may email Captain

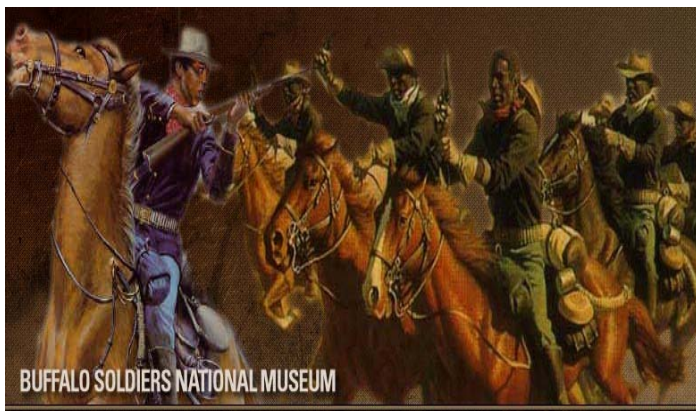
Matthews for more information at [matthews@buffalosoldiarmuseum.com](mailto:matthews@buffalosoldiarmuseum.com), and you may telephone the Museum for driving directions at (713) 942-8920.

## A FEW WORDS ABOUT CAPTAIN MATTHEWS

Our speaker received a B. S. in Biology from Prairie View A&M University in 1968. He served two years active duty and four years reserve duty in the United States Army and was awarded a Bronze Star, an Army Commendation Medal, and a Combat Medical Badge for his service in Viet Nam.

Prior to founding the Museum, Captain Matthews worked for thirty years as an Executive Business Manager and Director of Military Affairs for Merck. During this time, he spent much of his off-hours collecting military artifacts and conducting painstaking research required for the establishment of this museum.

Join us on the evening of November 15 while Captain Matthews shares with us some of the individual stories of ordinary people who achieved extraordinary things in preserving and protecting our American way of life—on our frontier and in our wars, including the tragic saga of our American Civil War. We will listen and learn from the stories of Sgt. William Carney and Sgt. Milton Holland, among others. Make your reservations!



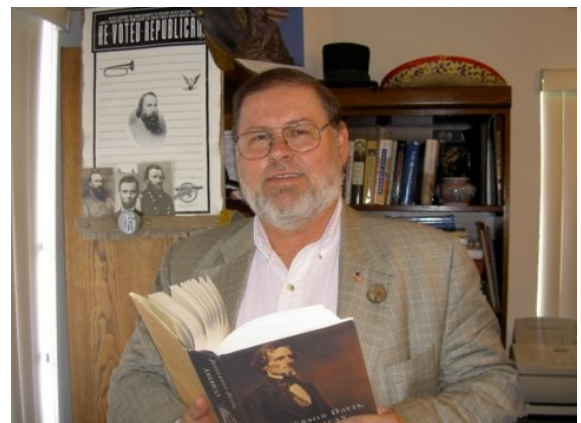
## NOVEMBER BOOK SALE & BOOK RAFFLE by Mike Pierce

Books to be raffled in November are: *General James G. Blount: Tarnished Glory* by Robert Collins, and *The Peninsula Campaign of 1862* by Kevin Dougherty, both donated by James Davis; *The Bloody Ground* by Bernard Cornwell and *Jeb Stuart* by Burke Davis, both donated by yours truly; and *The Civil War Album* by Tom Robotham.

As I mentioned in last month's newsletter, 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](mailto:mpiercePC@comcast.net) is my email address, so let me hear from you if you have an interest or see me at one of our monthly meetings. Prices are very reasonable and we offer volume discounts as well. All proceeds go into Round Table coffers to help defray our operating costs.



**GODLOVE'S GARRISON**



The annual HCWRT field trip was a great success. Sixteen campaigners braved rainy weather and the grueling pace set by Ed Bearss to explore the Petersburg battlefields. All of us who went returned with a deeper understanding and appreciation for the Petersburg campaign. A special trip highlight were the breathtakingly beautiful Tiffany windows at Blandford Church.

Our co-guide on the trip was National Park Ranger, Chris Calkins. Chris and Ed literally wrote the book on Five Forks. I cannot thank Tony Matt enough for the superb job he did for us. Tony modestly says that he just asks Ed where he wants to go and that's it. Not true! Tony's hard work and attention to detail were manifested in our splendid accommodations, comfortable transport, and excellent meals. Thanks, Tony!

By the way, where are we going next fall?

## **HCWRT TABLE AT THE RECENT GUN SHOW by Mike Pierce**



*Steven Burns and Chris Wise, Reenactors*

The recent Houston Gun Show on October 27 was quite an event—in spite of our as-pictured Northern Aggressor's thwarted attempt to commandeer the HCWRT table! Following is a photo of the desired spoils,

successfully defended by yours truly on behalf of the HCWRT!



*The HCWRT Table Display at the Event*

A special word of thanks to four members from the Texas Brigade Reenactors who assisted me on behalf of the Round Table at this event: Dereck Easterling, Steven Burns, Mike Bringhurst, and Chris Wise. We sold \$40 worth of books, handed out 25 pamphlets, and created a distribution list of 15 people interested in receiving our newsletter!

## **NOVEMBER QUIZ QUESTION by Jim Godlove**

The highest-ranking African-American in the Civil War served as a Major in the 104<sup>th</sup> USCT.

Who was this officer whose various careers also included service as an African explorer, a doctor, a judge, and an editor?

## **A FEW WORDS FROM YOUR NEWSLETTER EDITOR, Karen Stone**

Over fifty of our members have now signed up to receive their monthly news-

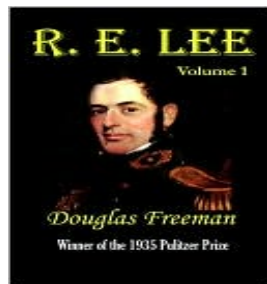
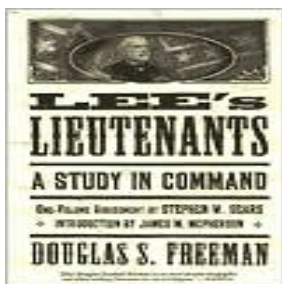
letters by email. We especially thank those of you who have taken this step, as the savings from email distribution can be substantial to your Round Table over time and will enable us to control our costs better and keep a lid on future dues increases. The hope is that cost savings from email distribution will also enable us to defray more efficiently the media and travel expenses that our speakers incur each month to address us here in Houston.

So, all this said, we would appreciate it very much if those of you receiving by email decide to change your email address that you will let us know. Conversely, if you are on the hard copy distribution list, we also need to know if you change your mailing address or phone number during the year.

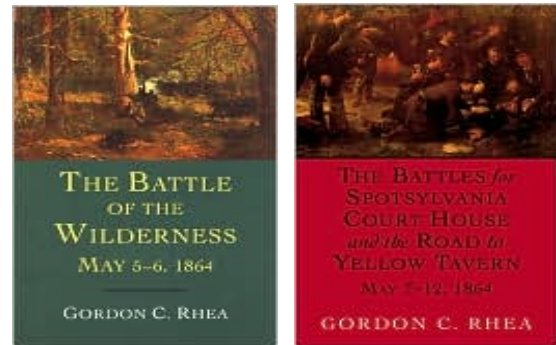
One last request: if for any reason you are not receiving your newsletter by either method, please let me know. You can inform me at the meeting, or you can email me at [kstone6@attq.net](mailto:kstone6@attq.net). Many thanks!

## ROBERT E. LEE BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS by LAST MONTH'S SPEAKER, *Larry Hewitt*

Because my talk dealt with Robert E. Lee and the high command of his Army of Northern Virginia between May 5 and May 12, 1864, I would first recommend the corresponding section of Douglas Southall Freeman's *Lee's Lieutenants: A Study in Command*, followed by the appropriate volume of Freeman's *R. E. Lee: A Biography*.



In my opinion, the best account of the events that occurred on both sides during this eight-day period appears in two volumes by Gordon C. Rhea: *The Battle of the Wilderness, May 5-6, 1864* and *The Battle for Spotsylvania Court House and The Road to Yellow Tavern, May 7-12, 1864*.



All four of these books are must-reads for Civil War enthusiasts and can be purchased at your favorite bookstore.

## LIENDO CIVIL WAR WEEKEND NOVEMBER 17 AND 18

This annual event is scheduled near Hempstead, Texas, some 55 miles west of Houston (290 West) on Wyatt Chapel Road off Liendo Parkway. Admission is only \$10, and just \$5 for seniors and children twelve and under. More information is available at [www.liendoplantation.com](http://www.liendoplantation.com). You may also learn more at [www.11TexasCav.org](http://www.11TexasCav.org). The event hotline is (979) 826-6252. Join us!

## FALL FIELD TRIP PHOTOS FROM PETERSBURG by *Gary Chandler*

Hot off the presses! Gary took these photos of the Petersburg excursion for the enjoyment and interest of our members—those who were able to go on the trip and those who were not. Look for the full write-up next month. Thanks, Gary!



*Ed Bearss and Company at Sutherland Station*



*Ed and Company at the A. P. Hill Death Site*



*Ed and Company at Pamplin Park*



*Ed, Chris Calkins and Company at Five Forks*

## 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

## OLDEST LIVING BUFFALO SOLDIER MARKS 108<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY

Retired 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. Mark Matthews was born in 1894 in Greenville, Alabama and enlisted with the Buffalo Soldiers at age 16 and served for many years in Arizona and Texas. He patrolled the Mexican border with the 10<sup>th</sup> Cavalry, which was disbanded in 1949 during the desegregation of the Army after World War II.



*1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. Mark Matthews (Retired)*

On August 7, 2002, Sgt. Matthews met with Secretary of State Colin Powell, a long-time advocate of commemorating the Buffalo Soldiers who served on the Western frontier in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

Powell was among those who campaigned strongly for a monument honoring the Buffalo Soldiers. Those aspirations were finally realized, and Powell was the choice to dedicate the monument in Fort Leavenworth, Kansas in 1992.

Still active and spry at 108 years of age, Sgt. Matthews at the time he was honored was living in D. C. with family members.



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