



# General Orders

## *Godlove's Texas Brigade*

Vol. 19  
No. 5  
Jan,  
2008

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

### MEETING – THURS, JAN 17, 2008

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**

### OUR SPEAKER'S TOPIC: "TIPPING POINTS OF VARIOUS CIVIL WAR BATTLES"



*Edwin C. Bearss*

Have you ever considered pivotal moments in Civil War battles—that critical decision or act which decided the issue at a particular point in time for one side or the other? Have you ever pondered the outcomes which were only made possible by such unanticipated occurrences, quick or delayed battlefield decisions, technological innovation or ingenious improvisation, broad or narrow interpretation of a commander's orders, or just plain "luck"—fortuitous happenings that perhaps no one could have predicted would ever occur at that critical moment? Have you ever wondered what character trait in this general or that ordinary soldier which had never before been tested could surface under great pressure and impel him forward to victory or spiral him downward into fear, blame, excuses, or ultimate defeat?

If you have ever been transfixed by dilemmas and deliberations such as these (and who among us who study this war have not?), then you will not want to miss hearing our speaker respond to your questions at the January 17<sup>th</sup> meeting. Come listen to Edwin Cole Bearss—Historian Emeritus for all aspects of this prolonged and devastating "modern" war.

### A FEW WORDS ABOUT ED BEARSS

Our speaker, a U. S. Marine Corps veteran of WWII, is a military historian and author greatly admired and respected for his command of American Civil War history and for his colorful tours of battlefields from

that era as well as important battle sites from contemporary times.

He also is known for the important work he did in Vicksburg along with several colleagues on the location of the long-lost Union gunboat USS Cairo and for pinpointing the location of two forgotten forts at Grand Gulf, Mississippi. Serving with distinction as Chief Historian of the National Park Service from 1981 to 1994, Ed developed during his tenure an impressive assortment of new parks, among them Pea Ridge and Wilson's Creek. In addition, he made important contributions to the development of sites at Bighorn Canyon, Fort Moultrie, the Eisenhower Farm at Gettysburg, Fort Donelson, the Lyndon B. Johnson Ranch, and the gold miners' route over Chilkoot Pass, among others.

But it is as a personal interpreter and contemporary guide to important historical sites that Ed is best known and revered by most Americans today. Those who have been privileged to follow him in the footsteps of history where it happened cannot fail to be impressed by his colorful dialogue, remarkable attention to detail, seemingly boundless energy and perceptive insights into the subjects of his tutelage.

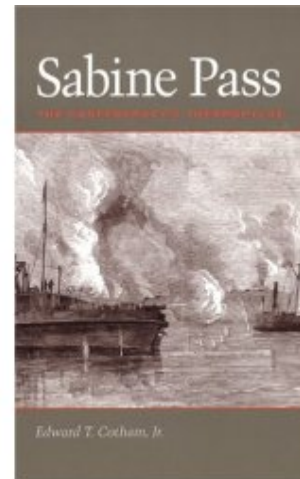
Members of our Round Table are indeed privileged to have Ed as our special guest this month. Join us on January 17 and give Ed a special Houston welcome!

## **JANUARY SPECIAL BOOK RAFFLE by Mike Pierce**

In addition to our regular book raffle, your Round Table is offering two special book offerings this month.

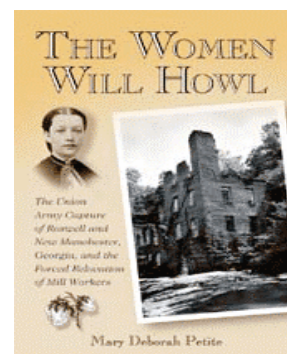
First of all, our own Ed Cotham has donated a copy of his second book, ***Sabine Pass: The Confederacy's Thermopylae***,

to be won by some lucky member or guest who purchases one of our special raffle tickets for this particular drawing. This critically acclaimed book deals with Union miscalculation of Confederate strength at Fort Griffin in the Sabine Pass area, the scrappy little force that overcame the odds to carry the day, and the inglorious end to the myth of the invincibility of Union gunboats in giving battle to the enemy.



*Our Own Ed Cotham's Second Book*

Our other book is a December new release, ***The Women will Howl***, by Mary Deborah Petite, who has previously spoken here at our Round Table. This selection chronicles the arrest and deportation of hundreds of mill workers, most of them women, from Roswell and New Manchester, Georgia in July 1864. Under orders from General William T. Sherman, the mills were put to the torch, and the workers were torn from their homes and sent hundreds of miles away where food was scarce and jobs were few. This book tells their story and honors their memory for the readers of today.



So, browse through these two special book offerings as well as our regular raffle selections on the back table at our January meeting. We hope you will consider purchasing a raffle ticket (or two!). Prices are very reasonable—you can acquire one special raffle ticket for only \$3 or two for \$5. So, here's your chance to enrich your mind and help your Round Table with funding at the same time!



## JANUARY REGULAR BOOK RAFFLE by *Mike Pierce*

Offerings this month are: *Marching through Georgia* by Lee Kennett, donor unknown; *Soldiers of the Cross* by Kent Dollar, *Justice Curtis in the Civil War* by Stuart Streichler, and *Reforging the White Republic* by Edward Blum, all three of which have been donated by the Jefferson Davis Papers; and numerous Civil War Magazines, donor(s) unknown.



## GODLOVE'S GARRISON

Happy New Year! May your holiday season have been as joyful and rewarding as possible, and may 2008 bring you more of the same!

We are privileged to have Ed Bearss here again to start off the New Year. It is always

a pleasure to have a "living legend" address us, so be sure to invite a friend to come along with you and attend Ed's lecture.



*Jim Godlove, President*

We are also honoring the Civil War Preservation Trust (CWPT) as our 2007 Vandiver Award winner. Dave Duncan from their Washington headquarters will be present at our meeting to accept the Bullet. As those who were on the Petersburg Field Trip know, the CWPT has been very active in saving our battlefields.

Any Round Tabler who is not yet a member of the CWPT should seriously consider joining so that future generations will be able to visit "hallowed" ground.

## JANUARY QUIZ QUESTION by *Jim Godlove*

Which Civil War battle contained landmark sites such as the Dunkard Church, the Cornfield, and Bloody Lane?



## 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

## COUNTY TRANSFERS 194 ACRES AT FISHER'S HILL TO FOUNDATION

Shenandoah County recently transferred 194 acres of county-owned battlefield land to the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation. The Ramseur's Hill tract lies at the western end of the Fisher's Hill Battlefield and is the site of the battle's turning point wherein Union troops overwhelmed Gen. Ramseur's entrenched Confederate units.

The September 22, 1864 Battle of Fisher's Hill was one of the last major battles fought in the Shenandoah Valley. After delivering a crushing defeat at Winchester on September 19, Gen. Philip Sheridan's troops circled around the thinned Confederate lines at Ramseur's Hill. Sheridan prevailed in this pivotal battle that opened the Shenandoah Valley to the General's campaign of "total warfare."

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