



General Orders

Godlove's Texas Brigade

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Mar,
2008

www.houstoncivilwar.com

MEETING – THURS, MAR 20, 2008

Briar Club
2603 Timmons Lane @ Westheimer

6:00 Cash Bar
7:00 Dinner & Meeting

E-Mail george_bishop@sbcglobal.net
OR call him at (713) 305-5510 to Reserve
by Monday 6 PM Prior to Feb 21 -
Dinner \$25; Lecture Only \$3

**E-Mail Reservation is Preferred;
No Need to Reserve for Lecture Only**

OUR SPEAKER STEVE MAYEUX'S TOPIC: "FORT DeRUSSY AND THE DEFENSE OF RED RIVER"



Steve Mayeux

Fort DeRussy, located on the Red River in central Louisiana, comprised the primary defensive position against Union gunboats moving upriver and thwarted enemy naval advances directed toward Shreveport and over into Texas. Several major battles and numerous skirmishes took place in and around the fort, and it was also the staging point for the expedition against the federal ironclad *Indianola* in 1863. Focusing on a previously ignored area of the war, our speaker will address us on the fort's battle history as well as its various deployments as a steamboat landing, contraband camp, and Union recruiting and gunboat station.

But it is for its participation in the 1864 Red River Campaign that Fort DeRussy is best known. During this conflict, Texas and Louisiana troops defended the fort against federals in the 16th, 17th and 19th Corps.

Steve's 2007 book release—*Earthen Walls, Iron Men: Fort DeRussy, Louisiana and the Defense of Red River*—not only details the major battles at the fort but also the sagas of the soldiers who defended it, the citizens who lived around it, the slaves who built it, and the federal soldiers and sailors who captured and destroyed it. The book was recipient of the 2007 A. M. Pate, Jr. Award from the Fort Worth CWRT for the best book of the year on the Trans-Mississippi theater of the war.

Come join us on March 20th and learn how various members of **Burnet's Texas Sharpshooters Battalion** stowed away on Confederate steamboats rather than pass up the opportunity to get involved in the *Indianola* affair. Then Steve will describe

how the fort's defenders successfully held out for four hours against overwhelming odds and what that meant to **Walker's Texas Division** and to the outcome of the Battle of Mansfield the following month.

A FEW WORDS ABOUT STEVE MAYEUX

Our speaker earned undergraduate and graduate degrees from Louisiana State University in 1972 and 1976. In addition to authoring his 2007 Fort DeRussy book, Steve has published numerous articles on the Fort and other area conflicts. A former Marine officer (1972-1974), he researches for the Red River Waterway Commission and is a frequent speaker at Round Tables and Sons of Confederate Veterans chapters in Baton Rouge and New Orleans.

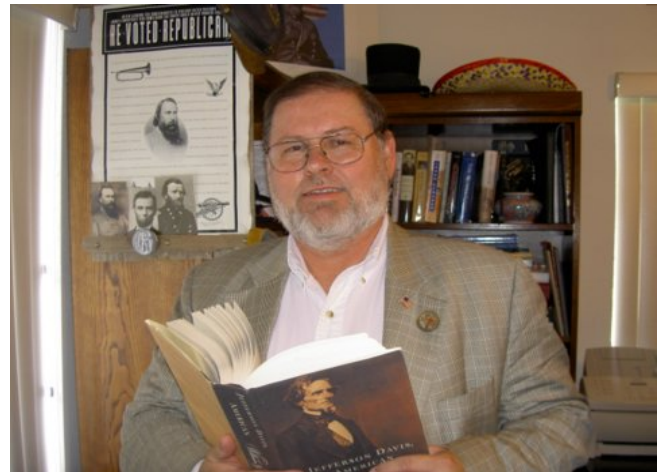
Steve has served as an historical consultant for the Louisiana Office of State Parks re the Fort DeRussy Master Plan. And lastly, but certainly not least, he has escorted numerous Red River Campaign tours, sometimes on his own and also as co-tour guide with Ed Bearss, Jerry Russell, Bud Robertson, Gary Joiner, and others.

We are very pleased to welcome Steve as our special guest speaker for our March meeting. Make your dinner reservations by 6 PM, Monday, March 17th. If attending the lecture only, you do not need to make a reservation and the lecture fee is only \$3. Bring along a friend and join us!



Fort DeRussy

GODLOVE'S GARRISON



Jim Godlove, President

First of all, let me say how excited I am to have Steve Mayeux speak to our Round Table. Those of you who met him on our field trip in October, 2005 will remember quite well what a fine historian, guide, conservator, conversationalist and true gentleman he is. His book, *Earthen Walls, Iron Men: Fort DeRussy, Louisiana and the Defense of Red River*, was published last year and has been very well received. Ed Bearss wrote the book's *Forward*, and Gary Joiner has described its content as of "great use to historians of the Western Theater." Dr. Joiner, as you will remember, was also a guide on the 2005 trip and has been a speaker at our Round Table. Terry Jones, author of *Lee's Tigers*, has written that Steve's book is "very well written, impressively researched, and highly entertaining." So please set aside the evening of March 20th to join us as we welcome Steve's presentation.

One more thing: I want to thank Harry Bounds for his recent letter to me. Harry enclosed two articles from *Civil War News* about the Austin Civil War Round Table. The first article described the organization's efforts to pay off a half acre of the **Carter House Garden**, site of some of the bloodiest fighting during the Battle of Franklin.

The second article dealt with Austin's \$20,000 challenge grant to **New Orleans's Memorial Hall**, still struggling from the effects of Hurricane Katrina. Both monies from the Austin Round Table were the gifts of an anonymous donor. So, if any of our members wish to make a similar donation, please do it in the name of the HCWRT. Notwithstanding that eventuality, Harry suggested that we "pass the hat" at our March meeting to assist Memorial Hall. To this end, we will have a donation jar at our next two HCWRT meetings. All the proceeds from collection will be given to Memorial Hall. This effort will be entirely voluntary, but please, be as generous as you can. And again, thanks, Harry, for bringing this urgent need to our attention.

Lastly, one of our ladies left a pair of reading glasses at our February meeting. I will bring them to the March meeting. Karen tells me that the Briar Club has a wrong telephone number for me. My cell is (713) 820-2517. Please call if you need your glasses before the March meeting. I hope to see as many members as possible at the March meeting!

UPCOMING REENACTMENT EVENTS AT PORT HUDSON AND GETTYSBURG by *Mike Pierce*



Port Hudson's 80-Foot Protective Bluffs

Local reenactors will be participating in two upcoming events at Port Hudson and Gettysburg. The Port Hudson event is scheduled for March 28-30 and Gettysburg, for July 4-6. There is a possibility that participants will be allowed to relic-hunt for spent ammunition rounds.



Gettysburg—Sunset Solitude

The second event, at Gettysburg, will encompass a reenactor march in the streets of the town to recreate the advance of Early's troops into the area in search of supplies. The Mayor and other local gentry as city officials will be participating. It will be the first time since 1863 that an organized "Confederate" army has marched along these same streets. Please see or email me for more information.



Gettysburg Reenactment Events



THE MUSEUM OF THE CONFEDERACY— AN UPDATE

Due to the overcrowding of the area surrounding the MOC and the growth of the VCU Medical System, the Museum of the Confederacy is facing a challenge to continue its mission of education. Current plans are under way to establish a “museum system” to display the MOC’s vast historical collection.

The system will have sites in four locations in the state of Virginia—Richmond, Appomattox, Spotsylvania County, and Hampton’s Ft. Monroe. These locations were chosen because of their historical relevance to the Civil War, their location from a tourism and economic development standpoint, and their enthusiasm for the MOC. Each site will have an approximately 5,000 square foot museum devoted entirely to the visitor experience.

The collections at each museum site will contain a semi-permanent exhibit with relevance to the area and the period of the war most significant there as well as a rotating exhibit that will move from site to site. The administrative headquarters and the Brockenbrough Library, as well as conservation and preservation efforts, will remain in Richmond along with the White House of the Confederacy.

The plans are currently in the concept and design phase, and the MOC hopes to have two of the sites ready to open in 2011 for the kickoff of the CW Sesquicentennial.

The Museum estimates that the cost of the system will be \$10 to \$15 million, and plans for a capital campaign are underway.

HCWRT members who wish to contribute or receive more information can contact Megan Stagg, Public Relations Specialist, The Museum of the Confederacy, 1201 E. Clay Street, Richmond, VA 23219. You may also email her at mstagg@moc.org.



Museum of the Confederacy, Richmond, VA

The idea of combining artifacts with battlefields will bring new life to both,” stated Civil War Preservation Trust’s Preservation Trust’s President Jim Lighthizer. “It will provide visitors a glimpse into the stories of the war which is the most defining conflict in American history. It’s the perfect marriage.”

SHILOH – PHOTOS FROM RON FEATHERSTON’S NOVEMBER, 2007 VISIT



Shiloh Cemetery and Eternal Rest



Shiloh in Autumn __A Fall Celebration of Color & Harmony

We are much indebted to Ron for these beautiful photos he is sharing with us. The battle may have been waged in the spring but the scenes and landscapes are most Inspiring when viewed in the fall.



Ron and Company, Shiloh Fellow Reenactors

Remember, these beautiful scenes are best viewed on the emailed version of our newsletter! We will try to insert more of these photos as time and space permit.



Shiloh Sunrise __Nature's Symphony

Additional photos will follow in subsequent newsletters, so stay tuned.



Shiloh's Tennessee Monument at Dawn

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

MARCH SCHEDULED BOOK RAFFLE by *Mike Pierce*

Offerings this month are: *"The Civil War"* by Bruce Catton, donated by Don Zuckero; *"Lincoln's Unsung Heroes"* by Phillip Katcher, donor unknown; *"Justice of Shattered Dreams"* by Michael Ross, donor unknown, *"Grant Rises in the West, The First Year, 1861-1862"* by Kenneth P. Williams, donated by Bruce Greek; and a Civil War Journal video tape *"McClellan's Way,"* also donated by Bruce Greek.

Please support your Round Table by buying these very inexpensively priced raffle ticket offerings!



One final word! I have 12 VHS tapes containing War Department, newsreel, and war public support information covering all theaters of WWII. **A donation of \$25 to the Round Table, and the collection is yours!**

MARCH QUIZ QUESTION by *Jim Godlove*

Gen N. P. Banks failed to accomplish what he had been sent to do on the Red River and eliminated the use of 40,000 veterans whose cooperation in the Grand Campaign had been expected—10,000 with Sherman and an additional 30,000 against what Confederate position?



N. P. Banks

HOUSTON CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
P. O. Box 4215
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