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General Orders

Franty's Texas Brigade

Vol. 20
No. 3
Nov, 2008

NEW INSTRUCTIONS!

MEETING – THURS, Nov 20, 2008

**Briar Club
2603 Timmons Lane @ Westheimer
6:00 Cash Bar
7:00 Dinner & Meeting**

**E-Mail drzuckero@sbcglobal.net
OR call him at (281) 479-1232 to Reserve
by Monday 6 PM Prior to Nov 20**

Dinner \$30; Lecture Only \$5

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

evolved over time from a fraternal organization into a fighting unit. She will discuss the key trademarks of the Artillery as well as its distinctive uniforms, kepis, and its catchy motto: "Try us!" She will introduce us to the major players in the unit, including Col. J. B. Dalton and William Miller Owen, adjutant and author of the classic unit history: *In Camp and in Battle with the Washington Artillery*. And finally Stacy will relate the unit's participation in many major battles, most notably First Manassas, Antietam, Fredericksburg, Gettysburg, and Petersburg, delving a bit as she does so into the accounts of individual soldiers and of unique events traceable to this remarkable organization.

STACY HUMPHREYS: "MEMORIES OF 'TRY US' AND THE WASHINGTON ARTILLERY OF NEW ORLEANS"



Stacy Humphreys

We are very pleased to welcome Stacy to our Round Table as she informs and intrigues us with her program on the famous Washington Artillery. Stacy will demonstrate how the unit

A FEW WORDS ABOUT OUR SPEAKER

Stacy Humphreys grew up in Morgantown, West Virginia and has always been very intrigued by the subject of history, her parents having initially sparked her interest at the age of four on a family visit to New Market Battlefield.

Our speaker graduated from West Virginia University with both a B.A. and an M.A. in History. She is a member of Phi Beta Kappa and also of Phi Alpha Theta (honorary history organization). In 2000 she began the first of two summers in employment with the Gettysburg National Military Park. From there she moved on to the Independence National Historical Park in Philadelphia and in 2003, she became a Park Ranger/Historian at Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park.

Stacy's duties at the Park include leading tours of battlefields and also serving as the Supervisor of the Visitors Center Building, as

Assistant Education Coordinator, and as NPS-certified Historic Weapons Supervisor! She specializes in Civil War artillery and participated in the acquisition of a working twelve-pounder Napoleon Cannon that the Park uses during living history demonstrations, especially those pertaining to the Washington Artillery Unit of New Orleans.



Stacy with her Twelve-Pounder Napoleon "Matilda"

Stacy has completed detailed research on the unit and has presented programs relative to it for the Park as well as for numerous Round Tables. She has written her first article on her area of interest in the 2006 edition of the *Fredericksburg: History and Biography Journal* and has titled it "Francis Dunbar Ruggles: A Massachusetts Yankee in the Washington Artillery."

Join us on the evening of Thursday, November 20 as Stacy informs and entertains us with stories of this unforgettable unit in southern military history.



Washington Artillery, Shiloh, 1862

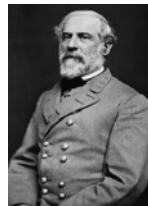
FREDERICKSBURG AND CHANCELLORSVILLE FIELD TRIP

Our October excursion to these two important battle sites truly afforded those able to journey to these areas a first-hand opportunity to

walk the Fredericksburg battlefield and see exactly why the struggles waged there were such a disaster for Burnside's federals. Occupying strong defensive positions south of Deep Run (Jackson) and north at Marye's Heights (Longstreet), Lee held compelling positions in which to await the anticipated federal frontal assaults.

But it was at Chancellorsville that Lee experienced his greatest triumph of the war. The struggle waged there pitted Lee (striking from the front) and Jackson (launching from the right) in a two-pronged attack against Joe Hooker's defensive position. The battle was significant for a number of reasons, among them the simple fact that Lee, outnumbered two-to-one, split his army there in the face of the enemy. But his success was not achieved without tremendous cost—the loss of Jackson due to a tragic accident and the continuing diminution of troops he could not replace.

Chancellorsville



R. E. Lee



T. J. Jackson



Joseph Hooker



Marsha Franty, President



A great big "thank you" to Tony Matt, our intrepid field trip chairman, for planning and executing another great experience for our members. A small but enthusiastic group spent a very interesting weekend touring Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville with historian Frank O'Reilly. Frank and his wife Amy also offered us a candlelit visit to the Jackson Shrine on Saturday evening when Frank enthralled us with his remarkable evocation of the esteemed CSA General's last days. Once again, it was most

rewarding to walk some of the most historic acres of battleground that have been preserved because of our contributions to the Civil War Preservation Trust and other preservation groups. Our tour concluded on Sunday with a stop at the Marine Corps Museum in Quantico; there we were fortunate to have a retired Marine give us a two-hour tour highlighting the main exhibits. This is a fascinating place where we could have spent much more time. Thanks to all who participated and especially to Tony for his work in providing us this experience!

I am looking forward to seeing all of you this month as we welcome Stacy Humphreys to our podium. Stacy was able to join us for dinner during our field trip, and we are all eager for her visit to Houston!

HCWRT SPEAKERS 2008 – 2009 CAMPAIGN	
Nov 20	Stacy Humphreys
Dec 18	John Lundberg
Jan 15	Ed Bearss
Feb 19	Parker Hills
Mar 19	Patrick Falci
Apr 16	Anthony Waskie
May 21	William M. S. Rasmussen

NOVEMBER BOOK RAFFLE by Mike Pierce

November book raffle offerings are: *From Manassas to Appomattox* by General James Longstreet and *River Run Red: The Fort Pillow Massacre* by Andrew Ward, both donated by Adrain Huckabee; *Pickett: General George E. Pickett in Life and Legend* by Lesley Gordon, donated by the author; *Grant* by William McFeely, donated by Jim Godlove; and *This Hallowed Ground* by Bruce Catton, donated by the Estate of Edwin Ekholm.

If you have books, audios, videotapes, magazines, or DVDs to contribute to our book raffle, please let me know. You can contact me at

mpiercePC@comcast.net or see me at one of our meetings.



THE TEXAS CIVIL WAR MUSEUM – FORT WORTH by Roland Bienvenu

While planning a long weekend visit to the Dallas-Ft. Worth area several weeks ago, I came across some information about the Texas Civil War Museum in Ft. Worth. My first reaction was one of surprise, since I had no idea there was such a museum in that area. When I asked a friend of mine residing in Ft. Worth about it, he indicated that he had indeed visited the Museum and found it quite worthwhile.

Based largely upon his feedback, my friend Valerie and I decided to incorporate the Museum in our visit. The facility is located in a stand-alone building on the Jim Wright Expressway in



northwest Ft. Worth and is quite easy to find. The hours are convenient and the admission fees are nominal. Quite frankly, it exceeded my expectations.

The Museum boasts what it calls “the most comprehensive collection of artifacts west of the Mississippi River.” This collection (a portion of which is rotated regularly) includes a large collection of Texas regimental flags, uniforms, weaponry, musical instruments, medical supplies, and furniture. I enjoyed their interactive exhibits, one of which plays specific bugle calls. The artifacts, while maintaining something of a Texas focus, include weaponry and uniforms from the Union and Confederacy, infantry, cavalry, artillery, and navy. The Museum’s 75-seat theater continuously shows a well-produced

thirty minute film entitled "Our Homes-Our Rights-Texas in the Civil War."

Another feature that we particularly enjoyed was a video which depicted the everyday life of an average Civil War soldier; another one featured a detailed demonstration of an artillery battery in operation. Both films utilized re-enactors and were very informative. Finally, the Museum has a large collection of original women's and children's clothing from the Victorian era. There is also a gift shop with specialty gift items, toys, books, and more.

If you find yourself in the Metroplex area for some reason, or may perhaps just be passing through, I highly recommend that you take a couple of hours to visit the Museum. I assure you that it will be time well spent! Check out their website at www.texascivilwarmuseum.org.

NOVEMBER QUIZ QUESTION by Jim Godlove



UPCOMING EVENTS

Charlie Mitchell reminds us of the **Civil War Western Theater Tour** March 9-12, 2009 with Dr. Craig Livingston. The group will be touring Shiloh, Corinth, and Vicksburg. The estimated cost will be between \$425 and \$575 depending on the number travelling and on the decision of van or charter transportation. That price will include everything except your souvenirs. Overnight accommodations will be in first-rate Holiday Inn Express motels. Send your \$50 non-refundable deposit to secure your seat today to Dr. Craig Livingston, 3200 College Park Drive, Conroe, TX 77384.

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 _____

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How did you Hear About us? _____

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

UPDATE ON BEAUVOIR by Karen Stone

On October 17 – 19, Beauvoir held its first Fall Muster since Hurricane Katrina. A national historic landmark, the home and adjoining buildings were almost destroyed in the storm. The library cottage where Davis wrote his memoirs was gone and the Jefferson Davis Presidential Library was badly damaged. Fully one-third of the collections were lost.

Thanks to the efforts of numerous volunteers, staffers, contractors, and outside experts, as well as funding from FEMA, the Mississippi

Emergency Management Agency, and private donors, Beauvoir is proceeding well on its path to restoration. The Library Cottage is complete, and the Hayes Cottage is 95% finished. Final blueprints for the Jefferson Davis Presidential Library and Museum are being prepared.

On June 3rd, the two hundredth anniversary of Davis's birth, the main house reopened to the public. More than four thousand people attended the celebratory event, including the Gov. Haley Barbour and Bert Hayes-Davis, great-great-grandson of Jefferson Davis.



Beauvoir, Pre-Katrina

Constructed between 1848 and 1852, Beauvoir is a stately, elegant cottage in the Greek Revival style. Its original construction under the home, its sturdy interlocking pine beams, held in place with heavy wooden pegs, helped to save it from the ravages of the storm. More than half of the original window glass and doors, as well as numerous furniture, artifacts, and personal mementos of Davis survived. Many pieces of furniture have been returned to the interiors, including Davis's shaving stand and a rocking chair that he fashioned himself. Work is progressing on restoration of the frescoes to their appearance over one hundred years ago, and all work is supported by extensive, meticulous research.

The continuing work on Beauvoir is indeed a labor of love to everyone involved in this monumental effort to restore the home and grounds to their appearance when Jefferson Davis lived there from 1877 – until the time of his death in 1889.



Beauvoir, immediately post-Katrina

If you would like to visit the home, the address is 2244 Beach Blvd, Biloxi, MS. The home is open 9 – 5 PM, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Mail donations to Beauvoir, 2244 Beach Blvd, Biloxi, MS 39531. The phone number is (228) 388-4400 or (228) 832-3343. Beauvoir is owned and operated by the Mississippi Division of the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

BRITISH VIEWS OF GENERAL LEE AND THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR by Karen Stone

Have you ever wondered about the views held by citizens of other nations toward our American Civil War and toward our generals who commanded its troops? Is it possible that a foreign perspective could afford contemporary Americans who have ancestral ties to its combatants a better understanding of the internal conflicts which led to it?

I, for one, think it does.

According to Brian Holden Reid, Professor of American History and Military Institutions in the Department of War Studies at Kings College, London, there has long been English interest in the American Civil War and in Robert E. Lee in particular. Why? "History knows no frontiers," as there has always been "good writing on others' history," according to Reid. Do you remember the observer Sir Arthur Fremantle's first-hand account of the Battle of Gettysburg? How about the comment of American historian T. Harry Williams to the effect that Europeans were attracted to Lee because he was such a gentleman—"English style?"

To continue my point, are you aware that the statue of Stonewall Jackson that stands in Capitol Square in Richmond was underwritten by funds raised by his English admirers during and immediately after the war and dedicated in 1875? How about the two-volume study of the fallen hero written by British military historian George Francis Robert Henderson that was published in 1898? A true friend of the South, Henderson's book praised both Lee and Jackson, and his literary treatise rivals the contributions of Douglas Southall Freeman.

And what of the work of Sir John Frederick Maurice, whose biography of Lee encompassed a compelling comparison of Lee's Seven Days' Battle with Napoleon's Italian Campaign? Maurice believed that Lee's 1864 warfare was fifty years ahead of his time and that Lee was indeed a greater general than Wellington. Along with praise, he critiqued some of the great man's actions concurrently, namely his decision to stay and fight at Antietam and for his excessive amiability.

Moving on, John Frederick Charles Fuller engaged in a critical assessment of Lee and on

his tendency to develop strategies that were too narrowly defined as opposed to centering his attention on the war as a whole, his failure to be a good judge of character, and his lack of an astute political instinct.



However, Winston Churchill in his excerpt on the American Civil War that he issued as a separate book in 1961 ignored Fuller's remarks and compared Lee and Jackson to Marlborough.

The major problem with recognition of the South by European nations was the deplorable institution of human bondage that had already been abolished on the other side of the Atlantic. As a practical matter, Britain profited from neutrality during the war and had developed other sources for southern cotton. And finally, Britain and other European nations felt that the Confederacy was incapable of winning enough victories to convince other nations that they could sustain independence as a separate nation.

Civil War Round Table
P. O. Box 4215
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