



General Orders

Franty's Texas Brigade

Vol. 20
No. 7
Mar, 2009

www.houstoncivilwar.com

MEETING – THURS, MAR 19, 2009

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 Mar 19
Dinner \$30; Lecture Only \$5
E-Mail Reservation is Preferred;
You Do Need to Reserve for Lecture Only!

PATRICK FALCI PRESENTS: “THE MAN IN THE RED BATTLE SHIRT: THE LIFE OF A. P. HILL”



Patrick Falci as A. P. Hill

Patrick Falci, known to movie audiences from his role as Gen. A. P. Hill in the film “Gettysburg,” has also served as director/screen-

writer Ron Maxwell’s historical advisor for an equally intriguing Civil War drama, “*Gods and Generals*.” He provided casting director Joy Todd and the actors with photographs and research for both films and even scouted out Maryland locations for the movies. Again acting as historian and actor, he appeared in Rob Child’s “*Gettysburg: Three days of Destiny*” and “*Lincoln and Lee—The Cost of Freedom at Antietam*.”

Pat, a native of Astoria, New York, appeared in Tom Berenger’s film “*Rough Riders*,” has served as Jeff Shaara’s historical advisor, and has vetted writer John Jakes’s manuscripts for “*On Secret Service*” and “*Charleston*,” at the editor’s request. His love of preservation has propelled him into a lifetime membership in the Civil War Preservation Trust, talks on Civil War subjects throughout the country, and a school program entitled “*The Life and Times of the Civil War Soldier*.” He is the recipient of the CWRT/NY Distinguished Service Award, the Fort A. P. Hill Commander’s Award for Excellence, and the U.D.C. Jefferson Davis Historical Gold Medal, among other honors. Previously he also served for some fifteen years as a reenactor with the 14th Tennessee.

But it is during the last fifteen-year period that Pat has garnered critical acclaim as the face of Lt. Gen. A. P. Hill. Since creating the role of Hill, he has enlightened the public about “Lee’s Forgotten General,” and he joined the Museum of the Confederacy in raising over \$10,000 to restore Hill’s 13th Virginia



regimental flag. The first three-time President of the Civil War Round Table of New York, he travelled to Richmond in January, 2007 to give a speech to the Sons of Confederate Veterans on Lee's Bicentennial. He is an honorary member of the Virginia SCV.

Ambrose Powell Hill was a fiery commander known for wearing his signature red battle shirt and for his opportune arrivals at battlefields at critical moments to cinch a victory or to stem the tide of defeat. From Patrick we will learn many of the details concerning Hill's perspective on life, class, and the war, his struggles and his triumphs, and his importance to those of us who study this conflict today.

We are very much looking forward to welcoming Pat to Houston and to our Round Table. Make your reservations to join us on March 19th for what promises to be a very relaxed and enjoyable evening!



Marsha Franty, President

As we anticipate our next meeting, it's hard to believe that just three meetings remain in this year's campaign. Our March program is one you do not want to miss! Patrick Falci is traveling from his New York home to entertain and inform us with his portrayal of Confederate Gen. A. P. Hill. Plan to join us on March 19 and bring a friend!

Because of an unexpected change in Briar Club policy, we must now ask that those who plan to attend the lecture only make a reservation to do so. Reserve your seat for the lecture only by calling or emailing Don Zuckero, just as you would for dinner reservations.

Our ability to bring great speakers to our meetings depends primarily on your membership dollars and secondarily on your support of our

raffles. **If you have not yet renewed, please do so in order to remain a member in good standing.** Your renewal is necessary if you wish to continue receiving a paper copy of the monthly newsletter. In the next few months, there will be some special raffles or offerings of interesting and valuable Civil War resources, so be watching for those!

Duane Lewis and his committee of Roland Bienvenu, Barry Brueggeman, and Ben Ramsey have reviewed and revised our [By-Laws](#). See more about this from Ben Ramsey's column on the following page.

Last month, I asked members to bring new books or events to our attention. I soon received a response from John Barnes, a new member, with a link to a review he had written for the "Wall Street Journal" of four new books on Abraham Lincoln. It's an excellent article and well worth reading. The link is: <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB123388322061755019.html>. If you are unable to access the site, please let me know and I'll provide you with a print copy.

Please let us know what we can do to encourage your attendance and participation in our Round Table. See you on March 19th!

GETTYSBURG FALL FIELD TRIP by Tony Matt

Ed Bearss will be our guide for the trip departing Thursday, October 22 and returning Sunday, October 26. A deposit of \$250 will be required and should be mailed to me, Tony Matt, at 15811 Spruce River Ct, Sugar Land, TX 77498. You may email me with any questions or concerns at T94matt@aol.com. My home phone is (281) 277-0203.

We are anticipating a good turnout and a great trip. We do not believe that you will find a better value for your battlefield touring dollar than our Round Table offers. So sign up and join us!



Gettysburg Visitors Center

NOTICE OF REVISION TO BYLAWS by Ben Ramsey

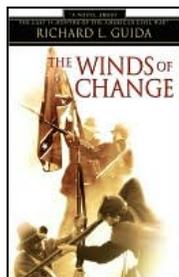
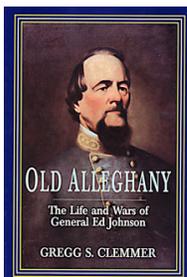
The Committee formed by the Board of Directors to review the Round Table Bylaws has studied them and has made recommendations for various changes to them.

Most of the modifications are minor and technical in nature. The Committee has prepared a form of the prepared, revised Bylaws showing the proposed changes. If you wish to see a copy of these proposed Bylaws, with the changes clearly indicated, please contact Ben Ramsey at (713) 552-1892, and he will be pleased to forward a copy to you.

The Bylaws must be amended by two-thirds (2/3's) vote of the members present at any regular membership meeting, provided that notice is given in the newsletter. With this notice being given, the Board has recommended that the President place the revised Bylaws before the membership for vote at the Annual Meeting of the Round Table to be held in April, 2009.

MARCH BOOK RAFFLES by Mike Pierce

March **special book raffle** offerings postponed from February will be: ***Old Alleghany: The Life and Wars of General Ed Johnson*** (2005 winner of the Douglas Southall Freeman History Award) by our 2008 speaker Gregg Clemmer, donated by Karen Stone; and two copies of ***The Winds of Change***, an historical novel focused on the last fourteen months of the Civil War by HCWRT member Richard L. Guida, kindly donated by the author.



Then, on our **regular monthly raffle**, we will offer the following books: *Reading the Man: A Portrait of Robert E. Lee Through his Private Letters* by Elizabeth Pryor and *Lee Considered: General Robert E. Lee and Civil War History* by Alan Nolan, both donated by Jim Godlove; *Lee, His Last Days in Texas* by E. W. Mergele, autographed by the author and donated by Dr. Joe Goulding; and *Robert E. Lee: The Recollection of his Letters* by his son Captain Lee, donated by Don Zuckero.

We're also offering by silent auction some unusual, authoritative, and carefully catalogued collections from donor and HCWRT Board member Mike Harrington. See details below.

CIVIL WAR MAGAZINE COLLECTIONS LOOKING FOR A GOOD HOME

Mike Harrington and his wife are downsizing, and one of the things that the retirement digs won't accommodate is Mike's collection of Civil War magazines. **So this is your opportunity to acquire a great collection on the cheap and to help out the Round Table in the process.**

In return for the buyer's contribution to the Round Table, Mike is willing to part with all or part of his collection. It will go to the person who makes the best bid no later than **May 21**. Mike will receive nothing from the sale other than the knowledge that his collection has found a good home and that the Round Table has received some needed funds.

The rules are simple: Make an offer to acquire all, or a specific part, of the collection by emailing charrington@velaw.com, faxing to (713) 615-5306, or telephoning Mike (281) 980-9281 prior to May 21. If your bid is accepted, you must arrange for pick-up and delivery at Mike's home in Sugar Land. If you want to inspect the collection, Mike will open his home to you for that purpose. The collection consists of:

America's Civil War magazine—all issues since the first issue in 1988. All issues between 1988 and 2003 are bound up in eight separate

blue leather volumes with gold stamping on the spine identifying the magazine and the years covered, with all subsequent issues being loose.

Blue & Gray magazine—all issues since 1988 with partial coverage of prior years beginning with the first issue in 1983, all loose copies and stored in a large plastic archival container. This is Bob Krick's favorite Civil War magazine.

Civil War Times and its predecessor publication, **Civil War Times Illustrated**—reprints of the first 20 years of the magazine (1962-1982), contained in 20 separate blue leather bound volumes with gold stamping on the spines identifying the magazine by name and the years covered, plus roughly the last 20 years of the magazine issues, with most of those latter issues, with most of those latter issues being in leather containers open at one end with the magazine's name stamped on them.

Confederate Veteran magazine—a virtually complete run of this publication of the SCV (Sons of Confederate Veterans), beginning in 1987, along with some prior issues, all being contained in a loose plastic binder permitting unrestricted removal.

Gettysburg magazine—A complete run going back to Bob Younger's inaugural issue of about 20 years ago, with most being stored in two separate grey, leather binders with black stamping identifying the magazine by name. These binders can be opened, and the magazines are loose within. Ed Bearss is the general editor of this superb semi-annual publication.

MI (Military Images) magazine—all issues since the first issue in 1979, with the issues between 1979 and 2001 being bound up in 12 separate brown leather volumes with black lettering on the spines indicating the name of the magazine and the issues covered, with all subsequent issues being loose. If you are not familiar with **MI**, it's an overlooked jewel among Civil War magazines and Mike's favorite. It's devoted to pictures and write-ups of Civil War soldiers.

North South Trader's Civil War magazine—all issues since 1990 with seven prior issues and with most issues being inserted in removable leather binders with no lettering on the spines.

North & South magazine—all issues since the initial issue, and with the great bulk of the copies of the predecessor magazines, **Civil War**, the magazine of the Civil War Society, and **Virginia's Civil War**, with most issues being inserted in removable binders, some with the magazine's name gold-stamped on the binder.



HCWRT SPEAKERS 2008 – 2009 CAMPAIGN

Mar 19	Patrick Falci
Apr 16	Anthony Waskie
May 21	William M. S. Rasmussen

MARCH QUIZ QUESTION by Jim Godlove



"<For> God's sake, Nelly-why didn't you marry him!" is what one Union soldier is supposed to have said while undergoing another fierce attack by A. P. Hill's men. Whom did Ellen "Nelly" Marcy marry instead of A. P. Hill?

March Quote: "Military genius is a gift from God, but the most essential quality of a general-in-chief is the strength of character and resolution to win at all costs."

--Napoleon Bonaparte

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 _____

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

Then in May, the Museum of Southern History is offering a special exhibition organized by the Virginia Historical Society. Simply entitled *Lee and Grant*, the exhibit assesses the lives and profound impact of these two men and Houston is only one of five stops this travelling exhibit will make across the country. Lynda Crist has seen this exhibit in Richmond and highly recommends it to our membership.



Lee and Grant at Appomattox Courthouse

Dr. William S. Rasmussen, exhibition Co-curator and Virginia Historical Society Curator, is scheduled to be the speaker at our May meeting.

BOOK REVIEWS: NEW MEMBER JOHN BARNES ON LINCOLN'S BIRTH BICENTENNIAL

The Round Table welcomes new member John Barnes and his recent Lincoln book reviews as published last month in the *Wall Street Journal*. John reviews four of the more recent books on the remarkable life of the nation's sixteenth president.

The first book, authored by Ronald C. White, is *A. Lincoln* (Random House, 796 pages, \$35), traces for the reader the lawyer-politician's development of the character traits that would aid him most as the nation's leader and how he would use religious overtones, metaphors, and

TWO UPCOMING EVENTS: MUSEUM OF SOUTHERN HISTORY

The museum, in partnership with the Gettysburg Foundation, is presenting Dr. John Latschar, Superintendent of the Gettysburg National Military Park, in a dinner and lecture format on Wednesday, March 25 from 6:30 to 8:30 PM at the Morris Cultural Arts Center, Houston Baptist University, 7502 Fondren Road, Houston, TX 77074. The cost is \$25 per person. You may RSVP or direct questions to Suzie Snoddy at (281) 649-3997 or email her at ssnoddy@hbu.edu.

simple language in his speeches to inspire and persuade his listeners.

The second book is Fred Kaplan's *Lincoln: The Biography of a Writer* (Harper 406 pages, \$27.95) and describes Lincoln as not only a first-rate political thinker but also a first-rate American writer. What makes this statement so extraordinary when applied to Lincoln is that he was largely self-educated. His *Gettysburg Address* is remarkable in the depth of its powerful imagery amid the simplicity of its language.



The third book reviewed is Craig Symonds's *Lincoln and His Admirals* (Oxford, 430 pages, \$27.95). The book traces the difficulties Lincoln faced with naval officers who hearkened back to earlier times in adapting to the newer technologies of steam, ironclads, and combined land-marine operations. Mr. Symonds posits that Lincoln's leadership propelled much of the Union success in the naval theater of the war.

And lastly the fourth book reviewed is Daniel Mark Epstein's *Lincoln's Men* (Collins, 262 pages, \$26.99) which is an in-depth study of Lincoln's secretaries: John Hay, John Nicolay, and William Stoddard. These were the men who assisted Lincoln in his correspondence with political leaders, families, etc.—all Illinoisans, they each knew Lincoln very well.

John concludes his reviews with the statement that few of today's politicians can approach Lincoln's intelligence, oratorical skills, natural wit, and capacity for empathy. Your editor agrees and wishes to add a few more of his qualities—a steadfastness of purpose, a strong sense of personal humility, pragmatism, candor, honesty, and forgiveness.

A recent article by the *Arizona Republic's* Richard Nilsen as reprinted in February by Australia's *Minie News* contains a telling quote: *[Lincoln's] genius, his political and moral genius—it is to have been a great surfer of events, turning this way or that to maintain his balance and herd those events toward the general good he held firm to. "My policy is to have no policy," he once said. It is what made him the right man for the job in 1860...Lincoln's steadfastness of purpose was matched with a flexibility that many saw as being unprincipled. Yet that flexibility is what worked. [He is honored] not because he was perfect but because he was not and yet triumphed.*

Houston Civil War Round Table
P. O. Box 4215
Houston, TX 77210-4215