



General Orders

Franty's Texas Brigade

Vol. 20
No. 8
Apr, 2009

www.houstoncivilwar.com

MEETING – THURS, APR 16, 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 Apr 16
Dinner \$30; Lecture Only \$5
E-Mail Reservation is Preferred;
You Do Need to Reserve for Lecture Only!

ANTHONY WASKIE
PRESENTS:
“GEN. GEORGE G. MEADE”



Anthony Waskie as Gen. Meade

For your enlightenment and enjoyment, your Round Table is pleased to present on the evening of April 16 one distinguished Civil War general by the name of *George Gordon Meade*, as splendidly portrayed by Anthony Waskie, Ph.D.,

our speaker for the evening. A specialist on the life and career of this able Civil War commander, Andy recreates the general through a living history format as he weaves the general's evolving leadership qualities and entertains his audience. Using Meade's own words, he skillfully recounts the details of the general's career and his wartime and post-war contributions to the country—and at the appropriate time he affords his listeners the opportunity to pose questions to “Meade” about his life and work.

ABOUT OUR SPEAKER

Professor Waskie was born and reared in Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania. He pursued a German/Russian major with a History minor at Bloomsburg University and an M.A. and Ph.D. from New York University. His diverse background includes experience with the U. S. State Department as a Foreign Service officer and with the U. S. Army Reserves as a specialist in language interrogation and interpretation. As a teacher of languages and history at Pennsbury School District in Bucks County, he spent thirty-one years there as a language and history teacher, curriculum supervisor and department head.

Retiring in 1999 from public education, Anthony is now a professor at Temple University. He also serves as an adjunct professor at Rider University and Holy Family University in Philadelphia and Bucks County, teaching Civil War history in the Civil War Institute that he helped establish.

He is not only a Civil War historian but also a published author very active in Civil War history, research, and preservation communities.

Seeking to promote the Civil War history of the city of Philadelphia, he is a charter member of the Philadelphia Civil War History Consortium and is also active in the new Civil War Museum of Philadelphia. He was elected to membership in the Union League of Philadelphia in 2003.

ABOUT GENERAL MEADE

George Gordon Meade (1815-1872) was a career U. S. Army officer and civil engineer. Born in Cadiz, Spain, where his father served



as the United States naval agent, George was educated in the United States, entering West Point in 1831. He graduated four years later, 19th in his class of 56. Proficient in both military tactics and civil engineering, he distinguished himself in the Seminole War and the Mexican

American War, as well as in several civilian engineering assignments in the area around the mouth of the Mississippi River.

During the 1850s he held a succession of army engineering posts and at the outbreak of the Civil War, he accepted a brigadier's commission in the Union army and took command of a brigade of Pennsylvania infantry. He fought in most of the important battles in the eastern theater, including the battles of the Peninsula, the Seven Days, second Bull Run, Antietam, Fredericksburg, and Chancellorsville.

But it is as Lincoln's abrupt choice for Commander of the Army of the Potomac a mere three days before the battle of Gettysburg in July, 1863 that Meade is best known to Americans today. Like many Civil War military leaders, Meade has his defenders as well as his critics. Listen and learn new facts and revelations as our speaker recreates this Union warrior with all of his strengths and weaknesses—his "overly



cautious leader" reputation, his personality and temperament, his eccentricities and foibles, his overall contributions to the war effort, his post-war achievements and "favored son" Philadelphia honors—and then judge him for yourself!



Marsha Franty, President

Thank you, members, for the great turnout we had for our March speaker! Patrick Falci's dramatic presentation of CSA General A. P. Hill was unforgettable and earned him many compliments. Thanks to Mike and Linda Pierce and their reenactment friends and also to Don Zuckero for contributing to the program! Please join us for this month's meeting when Dr. Anthony ("Andy") Waskie will appear as Union General George G. Meade.

Let me take this opportunity to remind you of the generous offer made by Director Mike Harrington. His collection of Civil War periodicals, many of them in bound collections, is up for bid as he and Jodie prepare to move to their new home. You may refer to the March newsletter or call or email Mike (charrington@velaw.com) for further information or to place a bid. Thank you, Mike, for offering these treasures to our membership; the proceeds will go to our Round Table.

Another reminder: reserve your place for our Gettysburg trip in October and send Tony Matt your \$250 deposit.

Just recently, we were pleased to have Dr. John Latschar, Superintendent of the Gettysburg NMP, and Bob Wilburn, President of the Gettysburg Foundation, here in Houston. Our RT was well-represented at a dinner and lecture held at HBU on March 25th, and I was honored to represent our group the following evening at a reception hosted by John Nau.

Those attending these events were told of the remarkable changes at this historic battlefield. The new Visitors' Center, Museum, and restored Cyclorama have received rave reviews. We were also meaningfully engaged by Dr. Latschar's remarks comparing 1860s politics to those of today and also elaborating on the significance of the battle of Gettysburg in shaping American history in the ensuing years.

A brief summary such as this cannot even begin to do justice to his presentation. Having been there last July to witness the accomplishments of which both men spoke, I can only urge you to join us for the October field trip!

I look forward to seeing you all on April 16th!

SECOND CALL FOR GETTYSBURG 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 telephone 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!



North Carolina Monument

CIVIL WAR MAGAZINE COLLECTIONS LOOKING FOR A GOOD HOME

Round Tablers, this is your opportunity to acquire a great periodical collection on the

cheap and to help out our organization in the process.

Mike Harrington is willing to part with all or part of his collection, and these often bound collections 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.

His rules are simple: Make an offer to acquire all, or a specific part, of the collection by emailing Mike at charrington@velaw.com, by faxing him at (713) 615-5306, or by telephoning him at (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. The issues between 1988 and 2003 are bound in eight separate blue leather volumes with gold stamping on the spine that identifies the magazine and the years covered; all subsequent issues are unbound.

Blue & Gray magazine—all issues since 1988 with partial coverage of prior years beginning with the first issue in 1983, all unbound copies that are 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

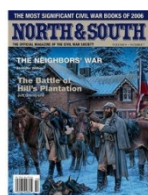
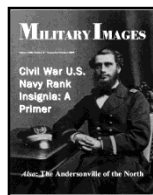
contained in a loose plastic binder permitting unrestricted removal.

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 unbound. 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.



FINAL BYLAWS REVISION NOTICE by Ben Ramsey

The Committee formed by the Board of Directors to review the Round Table Bylaws

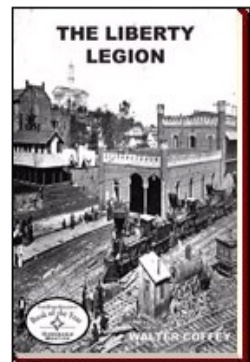
has studied them and has made recommendations for various changes to them.

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.

A PRELUDE TO THIS MONTH'S BOOK RAFFLE by LINDA PIERCE

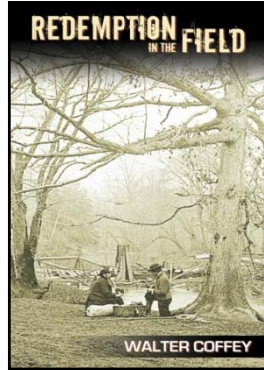
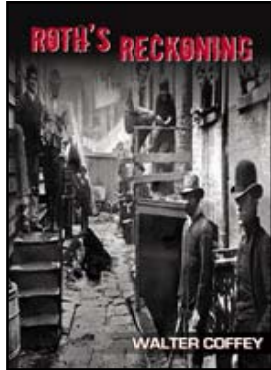
In the spirit of *The New York Times*' summer reading recommendations published annually, I recommend Walter Coffey's fiction series starring Civil War era detective J. B. Carver.



There's no need to wait until summer to start, however—the author has donated to the Round Table an autographed set of the first three books in the series: *The Liberty Legion*, *Redemption in the Field*, and *Roth's Reckoning*.

Traditionally Round Table members focus on non-fiction, but this story is knowledgeably woven through actual events. For those ready for a break from tactics, maneuvers, and “what-ifs”, the emotionally scuffed and war-dirtied soldier-turned-detective Carver will provide an engaging romp through familiar Civil War territory.

More information about the author and this collection can be found at Walter's website: www.waltercoffey.com. He offers links to Civil War organizations, including the Sons of Confederate Veterans Camp 2103's *Waul's Texas Legion*. He also offers his readers a free subscription to his monthly newsletter.



Incidentally, Walter and his wife Gianna are the Round Table's newest members. His three books will be part of the regular raffle, to be offered as a set, with official notice below.

APRIL BOOK RAFFLES by Mike Pierce

April book raffle offerings will be: Five NPS *Handbooks on Petersburg, Antietam, Gettysburg, Manassas, and Scotts Bluff*, offered as a set, donated by Jim Godlove; *The Army of the Potomac* by Bruce Catton, donor unknown; *Lincoln's Men* by William C. Davis, donated by Jim Godlove; *Army of the Potomac* by Russell Beatie, donated by Adrain Huckabee; and to any interested party, two copies of the film *Gettysburg*, in VHS format.



HCWRT SPEAKERS 2008 – 2009 CAMPAIGN

Apr 16 Anthony Waskie
May 21 To be Announced

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 Learn 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

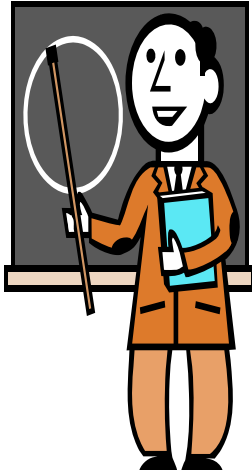
RENEWAL

\$40 – Individual
\$45 – Family
\$15 – Student or Out-of-State

CWPT'S 2009 "HISTORY UNDER SIEGE" SITES

- 1) **Gettysburg, PA**
- 2) **South Mountain, MD**
- 3) **Monocacy, MD**
- 4) **Cedar Creek, VA**
- 5) **New Market Heights, VA**
- 6) **The Wilderness, VA**
- 7) **Fort Gaines, AL**
- 8) **Port Gibson, MS**
- 9) **Sabine Pass, TX**
- 10) **Spring Hill, TN**

APRIL QUIZ QUESTION by Jim Godlove



George Meade was appointed to West Point from Pennsylvania. Consequently, when he was given command of the Army of the Potomac during R. E. Lee's invasion of Pennsylvania, one superior commented that Meade should fight well "on his own dunghill." Name that superior.

CIVIL WAR HISTORY PUBLICATION

Civil War History, in its fifty-fifth year of publication, features articles by some of the nation's

top historians, including David Eltis, winner of the renowned Frederick Douglass Prize in 2000, and Drew Faust, President of Harvard University.

This publication appeals to both academics and history buffs and offers well-researched and well-written articles on a wide variety of topics. Past issues have included articles on Lincoln, slavery and abolition, Reconstruction politics, military history, and social and cultural developments in mid-nineteenth century America. Included in each issue are comprehensive book reviews that keep readers aware of the best current Civil War literature.

As members of the Civil War Round Table, you are eligible to receive a year's subscription of *Civil War History* at \$35 per subscriber when you sign up with five or more members. For additional information, including the publication schedule and subscription information, please see <http://upress.kent.edu/journals/index.htm> or contact Sandy Clark, Journals Manager, The Kent State University Press, at (330) 672-8090 or email her at sclark1@kent.edu.

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