



General Orders

Franty's Texas Brigade

Vol. 20
No. 9
May, 2009

www.houstoncivilwar.com

MEETING – THURS, May 21, 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 May 21
Dinner \$30; Lecture Only \$5
E-Mail Reservation is Preferred;
You Do Need to Reserve for Lecture Only!

JOHN A. BARNES PRESENTS: “GRANT VS. LEE: CONTRASTS IN COMMAND”



John A. Barnes

Why did the Union win the Civil War and the Confederacy lose it? Veterans of the war and historians alike have argued about the answer

for nearly one hundred and fifty years. John A. Barnes, author of *Ulysses S. Grant on Leadership*, thinks that part of the answer can be found in the contrasts between the two major opposing commanders and the different ways in which they approached the conduct of the war.

The conventional view of the war's outcome is summed up by the first line of Robert E. Lee's *General Order No. 9*, issued after the surrender at Appomattox: "...the Army of Northern Virginia has been compelled to yield to overwhelming numbers and resources." Grant, it was said, "butchered" his way to victory on a tide of men and *materiel*. The implication is that the defeat of the South was inevitable.



Lee & Grant at Appomattox

Not so, Barnes argues. That the war ended as it did was due to U. S. Grant's extraordinary gifts as a strategist and army administrator as well as the inability of the Confederate leadership to agree on a war-winning strategy.

From the earliest days of the war, Grant sought to constrict the territory held by the Confederacy and to limit its options. Gradually, he imposed his successful action plan upon the South. By contrast, Lee sought a Napoleonic "decisive battle" approach that would compel the Union to abandon the war, a strategy opposed by Confederate President Jefferson Davis. This conflict was never resolved, a fact that played to Grant's advantage in his conduct of the war.

Join us on the evening of May 21st as our speaker delves into the details of his reasoning

and develops his position on these issues that continue to absorb and perplex us today.

ABOUT OUR SPEAKER

A new member of the Houston Civil War Round Table, John is not new to the Civil War scene. He has been a member of the Civil War Round Table of New York for fourteen years. He contributed the chapters on Ulysses S. Grant and Robert E. Lee from his previously mentioned *Ulysses S. Grant on Leadership: Executive Lessons from the Front Lines* (Prima Forum 2001) to *The Art of War: the Great Commanders*, published in Britain by Quercus. His articles have appeared in *America's Civil War* and other publications.

A native New Yorker, John received a bachelors degree in journalism from New York University in 1982 before going to work as a reporter for the *Washington Times*. It was the beginning of a seventeen-year career as a reporter and editorial writer for columnists Rowland Evans and Robert Novak, the *Detroit News*, *Investor's Business Daily*, and the *New York Post*.

John's first job in corporate communications was with Pfizer, Inc., where he drafted speeches, presentations, and op-eds, also providing content for the corporate Intranet site. He is now Executive Speechwriter for BP America here in Houston. The author of *Irish-American Landmarks: A Traveler's Guide* and *John F. Kennedy on Leadership: the Lessons and Legacy of a President*, John earned a master's degree in Finance and Economics from Michigan's Walsh College in 1997.

As another campaign year comes to a close, I would like to thank the Officers, Chairs, and Directors who worked to make this an enjoyable and interesting year for our members. I hope that you will join me in extending our appreciation to Vice-President Duane Lewis, Secretary and Membership Chair Linda Pierce, Treasurer Barry Brueggeman, Newsletter Editor Karen Stone, Reservations Chair Don Zuckero, Raffle Chair Mike Pierce, Quizmaster and Past President Jim Godlove, Field Trip Chair Tony Matt, and Directors Roland Bienvenu, Mike Harrington, Ben Ramsey, and Mike Wade.

As with all associations, success is determined by the support and enthusiasm of membership, and I thank each of you who have contributed to sustaining our efforts to maintain and expand our Round Table.

This month we are privileged to welcome fellow member John Barnes to our lectern. A recent émigré to Houston, John brings a wealth of knowledge and tremendous *esprit* to our group. We hope that you will be with us on Thursday, May 21, for his program on Generals Grant and Lee. John's expertise and analysis will prepare us for the upcoming exhibit on these two commanders which will open at the Museum of Southern History at Houston Baptist University on Wednesday, May 25 to the following September.

I look forward to seeing you at this last meeting of the 2008-2009 campaign, and thank you again for your continuing participation and support.

FOLLOW-UP ON GETTYSBURG FIELD TRIP by Tony Matt

Ed Bearss will be our guide for the trip departing Thursday, October 22 and returning Monday, October 26. The total cost of the trip for a double room will be \$970 per person. For a single room accommodation, the cost is anticipated at \$1,230, but that price may be subject to change.

I ask that you send me a second payment of \$300 by July 1st if you are planning to join us



Marsha Franty, President

and your final payment by September 1st. We will fly into and out of BWI.

You may contact me with questions or concerns at 15811 Spruce River Ct, Sugar Land, TX 77498. My email address is



James Longstreet Memorial

T94matt@aol.com, and my phone is (281) 277-0203.

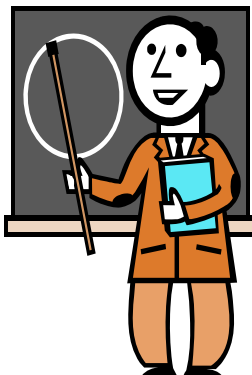
Join us for a once-in-a-lifetime battle-field touring experience with value-centered pricing and led by storied Civil War military expert Ed Bearss.

MAY BOOK RAFFLE by Mike Pierce

May book raffle offerings will be: *Band of Brothers* by James Fleming, donated by Jim Godlove; *Hard Tack and Coffee: A Soldier's Life in the Civil War* by John Billings, donated by Adrain Huckabee; *Four Days in 1865: The Fall of Richmond* by David Ryan, donated by Jim Mundie; *U. S. Sharpshooters: Berdan's Civil War Elite* by Roy Marcot, donated by Michael and Linda Pierce; and *From the Field* music CD by Kyle Thompson, gifted by CWPT.



MAY QUIZ QUESTION by Jim Godlove



On May 5, 1864, U. S. Grant and R. E. Lee first opposed each other in the Battle of the Wilderness.

What rank did each hold in his respective army?

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 _____

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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

A FEW WORDS FROM YOUR EDITOR by Karen Stone

For those of you new to the Round Table this year, I wanted to pass on some information to you about how we organize our newsletters.

We publish nine monthly newsletters from September through May and a single issue in the Summer, usually in July. This is the issue

that will be mailed to every member on our roster and will contain your dues envelope for the 2010-2011 campaign affixed to the inside of your issue. Please fill in the information we request on your dues envelope and promptly return your payment to Houston Civil War Round Table, P. O. Box 4215, Houston, TX 77210-4215.


Currently we distribute 78 copies of our monthly newsletters by email to our members. Approximately 60 newsletters are also sent out by hard copy. A small number are exchanged with a dozen other Round Tables and a few are emailed to interested parties, including former and prospective speakers for our program offerings.

Our dues collections fund our speakers' travel expenses to our meetings. Without membership dues, we are severely hampered in offering quality programs to our membership, so please do not delay in taking care of this responsibility when you receive your Summer issue, especially those of you who have requested conveyance of your newsletter by hard copy.

The second reminder I want to pass on to you is that if you receive newsletters by email and change your email address for any reason to please notify us of the change. You may email me directly with this information since I maintain the email database. My email address is kstone6@attg.net, and I will make the records change for you. And of course I need to know if for any reason you are having difficulty receiving your emailed copy of our newsletter.

And thirdly, if you receive by hard copy and change your physical address, again, please let us know of the change so that we do not pay for postage on newsletters that are returned to our P. O. Box undeliverable as addressed and no forwarding address indicated by the Post Office to help us track you down. You may contact **Linda Pierce, our Secretary and Membership Chair**, with your change of address or one of our officers if you cannot reach her for some reason. Also our website has contact information available to you as well.

Lastly, thank you for your interest in American Civil War history! Happy Summer Reading!



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