



# General Orders

## *Lewis's Texas Brigade*

Vol. 21  
No. 1  
Summer,  
2009

[www.houstoncivilwar.com](http://www.houstoncivilwar.com)

PLEASE NOTE 2009 DUES  
ENVELOPE ATTACHED

### HCWRT SPEAKERS 2009 – 2010 CAMPAIGN

Sept 17	Donald E. Reynolds
Oct 15	Troy Harman
Nov 19	TBA
Dec 17	Philip Caudill
Jan 21	TBA
Feb 18	Dick Sommers
Mar 18	Patrick Falci
Apr 15	TBA
May 20	TBA

### LEE AND GRANT: THE EXHIBIT by Roland Bienvenu

You have probably heard by now about the Lee and Grant Exhibit at the Museum of Southern History at Houston Baptist University. The exhibit is housed in the Morris Cultural Arts Center here and runs through September 20<sup>th</sup>.

I toured this exhibit shortly after it first opened in early June. I think it's a safe bet to say that any active member of our Round Table will feel rewarded after viewing it. After all, how often does one have the opportunity to see the actual uniforms that were worn by Generals Lee and

Grant at Appomattox?

These are on display in the exhibit, along with a number of other documents and artifacts that educate and inform attendees about the entire lives of these two men, not just their Civil War experience and service.



One develops an understanding of and appreciation for both generals after viewing the various displays that include weaponry, paintings, and items of various personal correspondence.

One display item that particularly surprised me was correspondence from Lee to his young female cousin Markie. The personal comments he makes in that letter could be considered by some to be "aggressive flirtation."

I was informed by a staff member that Houston is the final stop for the exhibit when it closes here on the 20<sup>th</sup> of September. There is an excellent chance that no one will ever again



Duane Lewis, President

### LEWIS'S LEGIONS

Your officers and directors have scheduled an interesting variety of speakers and topics for your edification and enjoyment during this our 2009 – 2010 Campaign year. We hope you will mark your calendars for the above-listed dates and will plan to invite several friends and family members to attend some of our meetings with you this year.

have the opportunity to view all of these wonderful items in the same place and at the same time as we enjoy now right here in Houston.

The posted hours for the exhibit are 10 AM to 4 PM, Monday through Saturday. Admission for non-museum members (adults) is \$10.00 and \$8.00 for senior citizens. Houston Baptist University is located at 7502 Fondren. HBU's web address is [www.hbu.edu](http://www.hbu.edu). Look for the "Lee and Grant" link under "News."

## **SHENANDOAH VALLEY CIVIL WAR SESQUICENTENNIAL** *by Karen Stone*

*The Winchester Star* and the July 2 edition of *Civil War News* report that the Winchester area's roots to the Civil War are so strong that it joined with Harpers Ferry, West Virginia on June 29 to begin the sesquicentennial commemoration two years early.

Noted Virginia Tech history professor James I. "Bud" Robertson, Jr., Director of the Virginia Center for Civil War Studies, emphasized in his address that the Shenandoah Valley, breadbasket to the Confederacy and a repeated target of the Union, proved to be crucial to the outcome of the war. Winchester alone changed hands between the Union and the Confederacy more than seventy times.

Gen. Stonewall Jackson was well aware of the strategic importance of the area and was quoted by Robertson as saying in January, 1862, that "if the Valley is lost, then Virginia is

lost." Robertson also stated that Union Gen. Philip Sheridan even made it a point to burn Harrisonburg at about the same time that Union Gen. William T. Sherman was burning Atlanta.



Even before the first cannons were fired at Fort Sumter in South Carolina, signaling the official beginning of the Civil War, many people

feel that the war actually began with slavery abolition confrontations in Harpers Ferry in 1859.

A tragedy such as the Civil War is an event that should be commemorated, not celebrated, according to event sponsors, not as an active conflict but in a series of living history happenings. As Robertson opined, "no one paid a heavier toll in the Civil War than [did] the honest and hardworking people of the Shenandoah Valley," and as we commence this sesquicentennial, "no one should want to perpetuate the bitterness of that war, and yet to forget what happened there would be a 'callous disregard' for the sacrifices made during the conflict."

## **OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS 2009 – 2010 CAMPAIGN**

President – Duane Lewis  
Vice President – David Rains  
Secretary – Linda Pierce  
Treasurer – Barry Brueggeman  
Director – Mike Harrington  
Director – Roland Bienvenu  
Director – Ben Ramsey  
Director – Gary Chandler  
Director – Marsha Franty (Past President)

## **STATUS OF WAL-MART PROJECT INCURSION NEAR WILDERNESS BATTLEFIELD SITE**

On June 26 a split 5-4 Orange County Planning Commission endorsed a Wal-Mart Supercenter proposal for a 51.6 acre tract approxi-



imately one-quarter mile from the Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania National Military Park. Actor Robert Duval, filmmaker Ken Burns, hundreds of historians and congressmen from Texas and

Vermont have rallied to the preservationists' cause to protect the battlefield on which 29,000 Union and Confederate soldiers were injured or killed 145 years ago.

## 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

“Celebrating Women” this year with four exhibits in 2009. May 16 – Nov 7 will showcase “Women in the War” (information does not say *which* war). May 16 – Sept 26 will feature “Women in Western Art” and also “Real Women of the West.” And finally May 28 – August 24 will headline “Apron Chronicles: A Patchwork of American Recollections.”

All of the exhibits will run concurrently with three summer programs. One of these was presented in June, and the two remaining programs are “Cooking and Southern Women” by Dr. Rebecca Sharpless of TCU (July 16 at 6:30 PM) and “Belle Starr” by Dr. Kathleen Hudson of Schreiner University.

Last spring I went to Navarro College to attend a program on Vicksburg that was presented by Ed Bearss. It was a good program, but a little short for me! Ed was the only speaker and did his customary excellent work. The talk and dinner following with Ed comprised the program for that day. The campus Museum displayed various Civil War artifacts and something I had never seen in a museum—actual correspondence of most of the major players in the war. These documents are on permanent display in special cases to protect them from exposure to light. The Museum also offers earphones with tapes that explain the various exhibits.

One could spend all day just in the Museum. Moreover, Corsicana is rich in history not only from the standpoint of the Civil War but also as a major city in Texas during the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Ladies in our Round Table might enjoy spending some Thursday this summer listening to the program, Friday viewing the exhibits in the Museum, and Saturday touring old Corsicana and taking in the Russell Stover’s candy factory there in Corsicana!

## “CELEBRATING WOMEN” AT NAVARRO COLLEGE by *Don Zuckero*

In May I received a call from Navarro College in Corsicana. The Museum and College are



Navarro College in Corsicana

For more information on the Civil War collection at Navarro or for programs specific to its focus on celebrating women at the college this summer, telephone (903) 875-7642. So look into it, ladies!

## CSS ALABAMA CIVIL WAR CANNONS IN CHARLESTON


Paul Mardikian, Senior Conservator at the Warren Lasch Conservation Center, is optimistic that his restored cannons from the famed Confederate raider will at some time in the future be displayed in a *Hunley* museum. For several years, these historic cannons have sat in tanks beside the *Hunley*, the doomed Confederate submarine, unbeknownst to most of the sub's weekend visitors.

These cannons come from one of the few Civil War ships that rival the *Hunley's* fame. In the restoration process, Mardikian and his team have gently scraped away several inches of hard-shell concretion from the 32-inch smooth bore cannons. Then they soaked the guns in a

chemical bath to leach out the salt that permeated the iron during a century under water. In the midst of their work, they found a human jawbone stuck to one of the cannons—the first human remains ever found on the *Alabama's* wreckage.

The results of the conservation are amazing—the manufacturer's name is plainly visible on both cannons. The cannons even have their lock plates and sights on them, something you don't see on many big guns from the era.

The famed *Alabama* was one of the most notorious and feared vessels to roam the seas during the war. Built in Liverpool in 1862, the vessel was captained by Raphael Semmes and gained fame as it seized dozens of Union merchant ships during the war. Vanquisher of the *USS Hatteras* in the Gulf of Mexico, the *Alabama* was sunk off the coast of France in 1864 by the *USS Kearsage* while awaiting the completion of repairs. Lost to us for 120 years, the vessel is considered by some to be a natural artifact for the yet-to-be-built *Hunley* museum, blending well with the Southern maritime collection that also includes Semmes' Naval Academy sword.



Houston Civil War Round Table  
P. O. Box 4215  
Houston, TX 7721-4215