



General Orders

Lewis's Texas Brigade

Vol. 21
No. 2
Sept,
2009

www.houstoncivilwar.com

MEETING – THURS, Sept 17, 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 Sept 17
Dinner \$30; Lecture Only \$5

E-Mail Reservation is Preferred;
You Do Need to Reserve for Lecture Only!

DR. DONALD E. REYNOLDS AND "THE 1860 SLAVE INSURRECTION PANIC"

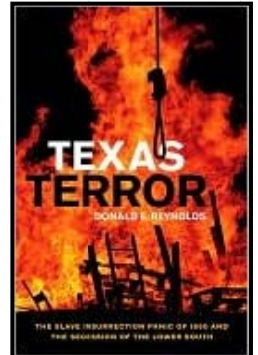


Donald E. Reynolds

The great slave insurrection panic of 1860 erupted after several fires broke out in North Texas on July 8, most notably in Dallas, Denton, and Pilot Point. Initial reports indicated that in each instance the fires were accidental and were caused by a combination of extreme heat and new highly unstable phosphorus matches.

Four days after flames destroyed the entire business section of Dallas, Charles R. Pryor, Editor of the Dallas *Herald*, wrote the first of several letters to other editors in which he alleged that the fires were the result of a vast abolitionist conspiracy, the purpose of which was to devastate northern Texas and to free the region's slave population.

Pryor's letters were reprinted by newspapers all over the Lone Star State, and various parties were accused of involvement in the purported conspiracy. Charges were sometimes followed up by quick hangings, with secessionists asserting that the Republican Party had given tacit approval if not active support to the alleged abolitionist scheme. Southern fire-eaters repeatedly cited the "Texas Troubles" as an example of what would happen throughout the south if Lincoln were elected as president.



Following Lincoln's election, those who wanted to create a separate southern nation used the panic with great success in advocating their cause—both in Congress and in the state secession conventions. Their exploitation of the "Texas Troubles," was, in the opinion of our speaker, a critical and possibly decisive factor in the Lower South's decision to leave the Union and to join the Confederacy.

A FEW WORDS ABOUT OUR SPEAKER

Donald Reynolds is a native of Munday, Texas. He received B.A. and M.A. degrees in history from North Texas State University (now UNT) and earned a Ph.D. from Tulane in 1966.

Professor Reynolds taught for thirty-one years at East Texas State University/Texas A&M, Commerce. During that time he received the faculty senate's award for distinguished achievement in 1973, and he also served as chairman of the Department of History from 1982 until 1993. He retired in 1996 and subsequently was named professor emeritus of history by the Texas A&M University Board of Regents.

He has published three books: *Editors Make War: Southern Newspapers in the Secession Crisis* (Vanderbilt U. Press, 1970), which was republished in paperback by the Southern Illinois University Press in 2006 and also received a Texas Writers Roundup Award in 1971; *Professor Mayo's College: A History of East Texas State University* (ETSU Press, 1993); and *Texas Terror: The Slave Insurrection Panic of 1860 and the Secession of the Lower South* (LSU Press, 2007). *Texas Terror* was the winner of the 2008 Kate Brooks Bates Award, an honor presented annually by the Texas State Historical Association.

Texas Terror will be the focus of Professor Reynolds's presentation on September 17. You will recall that we had to postpone his presentation in September, 2008 due to the regrettable intervention of Hurricane Ike, so we are especially pleased to welcome him to Houston one year later and urge you to join us!



Duane Lewis, President

I am pleased to serve as your president during this next year and want to take this opportunity to welcome each and every one of you to another campaign of interesting speakers and informative topics about this critical period in American history. We have a variety of topics

and entertaining presentations for you during 2009-2010 and encourage you to mark your calendars now with speaker dates as indicated below.

For now at least, your Round Table is able to offer our members meal accommodations and speaker presentations that will entail no additional cost over last year. We hope we can continue along these lines and that our membership will support us in this endeavor by paying membership dues as early in the year as possible. If you're new to us this fall, please consider email delivery of your monthly newsletter as well.

So join us on September 17th, the third Thursday of the month, as you listen, learn, and share your Civil War knowledge and interest with friends and fellow Civil War buffs. Don't forget to call Don Zuckero with your reservation by Monday 6 PM, September 14th!

HCWRT SPEAKERS 2009 – 2010 CAMPAIGN

Sept 17	Donald E. Reynolds
Oct 15	Troy Herman
Nov 19	Thomas M. Settles
Dec 17	Philip Caudill
Jan 21	TBA
Feb 18	Dick Sommers
Mar 18	Patrick Falci
Apr 15	Tony Banzhaf
May 20	TBA

FOSTER PARENT OPPORTUNITY AVAILABLE!

The Round Table is looking for a foster parent for its raffle book collection, as our Raffle chairperson, Mike Pierce, will be relocating to Virginia in the near future.

Our book raffle chair keeps the book stock and handles the selections of those volumes to be raffled each month. The books must then be delivered to the monthly meeting to be presented to the winners. And this office is not without

its benefits, as all of these books are there for the reading before being raffled off each month.

Anyone willing to take on this duty can contact Mike by email (mpiercepc@comcast.net) or by phone (713-861-6990).

PATRICK FALCI & COMPANY

The Round Table is much indebted to Gary Chandler for snapping the following photos of our March, 2009 speaker, Patrick Falci, and HCWRT members Linda and Mike Pierce along with fellow reenactors Kyle Evans and Mike Bringhurst. You will recall that Patrick presented a most entertaining program featuring the life and times of Confederate Gen. A. P. Hill. We are delighted that Patrick will return in 2010 to present a different program and one we know you will enjoy equally as well. So be sure to mark your calendars now for Patrick's encore living history event on March 18, 2010!



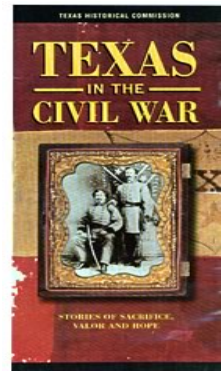
Patrick Falci & Company



Patrick as the General Himself!

COMMEMORATION OF THE CIVIL WAR SESQUICENTENNIAL IN TEXAS

As plans for the commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the Civil War are gearing up across the country, a number of Texas residents, including our own Ed Cotham, along with members of the Texas Historical Commission, are focusing increased attention to our own battlefields and favorite sons from the period.



Its numerous cotton and sugar plantations, its trade with Mexico, and its open ports gave Texas a place of special importance in the Confederacy that more than compensated for its location at the far western border of the new country. Confrontations within the state of Texas during the war included the Battles of Galveston, Sabine Pass, and Palmito Ranch. The state was also significant in that it became a western operational base for the efforts to gain control of New Mexico in 1861.

Among the forts or camps bearing Civil War history in Texas are Fort Bliss, which served as the launching place for Gen. Henry Sibley's 1862 New Mexico operation; Fort Davis, named for Jefferson Davis, Secretary of War at the time it was established (1854), which also served as a supply post for Gen. Sibley; and Camp Fort (Tyler), which was established in 1862 as a Confederate muster and training facility and later became a Union prison.

Approximately 90,000 Texans served in the Civil War conflict. They fought in every theater and distinguished themselves in the battles of Antietam and Gettysburg, among many others.

For more information about the important role this state of Texas played in the war, we refer you to the excellent booklet pictured above, *Texas in the Civil War*, published by the Texas

Historical Commission. Last year we had copies of this very informative publication on our back table for members and guests to take home and read at their leisure. If you missed picking up a copy, you may download or order a free copy from www.thc.state.tx.us.



Texas State Cemetery Image: Texas Tourism

The Texas State Cemetery, 909 Navasota Street in Austin, was established in 1851 and holds the remains of many prominent Texans, none more respected and admired than Gen. Albert Sydney Johnston, considered by many to be the South's best general, who was tragically killed at Shiloh in April, 1861. There are more than 2,200 Confederate soldiers and their widows buried here.

The Visitors Center at the Cemetery is open Monday through Friday, from 8 AM to 5 PM. So, check out any of these sites that interest you and participate fully in the 150th commemoration effort!

BOOK RAFFLE by *Mike Pierce*

In September we are having two raffles: a **special raffle** and our **regular monthly offering**.

On the special raffle, we are offering two books. Both are a combination of history and tour guide of the Civil War in the East by Jim Miles. They are: Volume I - *Forged in Fire – 1861–1862* and Volume II – *The Storm Tide – 1862-1863*. These books are part of a five-volume set. Unfortunately, I did not see the

other volumes at Half-Price Books when I purchased these. They are both quite good.

On the regular raffle, we are offering *Prince John Magruder* by Paul Casdorph, donated by Jim Godlove; *On Fields of Fury from the Wilderness to the Crater* by Richard Wheeler, donated by Mrs. Ed Ekholm; *Glory Enough - Sheridan's Raid and the Battle of Trevilian Station* by E. Wittenburg, donor unknown; and "Little Phil" by Eric Wittenberg, donated by Norman Lewis.

I will be handling the book raffle for the next three months.



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 _____

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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

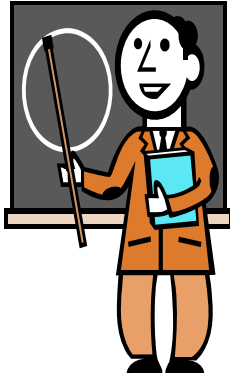
\$40 – Individual joining in Apr – Dec
\$20 – Individual Joining in Jan – Mar
\$45 – Family joining in Apr – Dec
\$22 – Family joining in Jan – Mar
\$15 – Student or Out-of-State

RENEWAL

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

SEPTEMBER QUIZ QUESTION

by Jim Godlove



On July 8, 1860, fire destroyed most of the business section of a Texas city. This event seemed to lend credence to the threat of an imminent slave uprising.

Name this Texas city.



Lee and Grant

This well-received exhibit will be on display at the Museum of Southern History at HBU through **September 19th**. Below are listed some of the exhibit highlights that you may find very worth your time to see:

- ❖ Chair in which Lee sat when he wrote his letters of resignation from the Army.
- ❖ An 1849 photograph of Grant as a first-lieutenant in the Fourth Infantry at Sackets Harbor.
- ❖ A 1904 oil on canvas painting of Lee by Thomas E. Pine.
- ❖ An 1854 photograph of Julia Grant and her two sons, Buck and Fred.
- ❖ Lee's *General Orders No 9*, written April 9, 1865.
- ❖ Paul Philippoteaux's c. 1863 oil on canvas of Grant at Fort Donelson.
- ❖ The coat and sword of Robert E. Lee before 1864.
- ❖ Grant's handwritten terms of surrender to Lee on April 9, 1865.
- ❖ A June 20, 1865 letter from Grant to Lee
- ❖ An 1836 Episcopal *Book of Common Prayer* signed by Lee.

- ❖ An 1885 photograph by John Gilman of Grant on his front porch four days before his death.
- ❖ A 1904 oil on canvas painting of Lee by Theodore E. Pine.
- ❖ A five-foot-wide oil on canvas painting of City Point, Virginia headquarters of General Grant, c. 1865-73.
- ❖ A photograph taken of Lee by Michael Miley, c. 1870, the year Lee died.
- ❖ An 1885 original of Grant's *Personal Memoirs of U. S. Grant*
- ❖ Amnesty oath signed by Lee on October 2, 1865.
- ❖ A December, 1862 photograph of Grant's officers of the 47th Illinois in Oxford, Mississippi.
- ❖ An 1865 emancipation deed signed by Lee.
- ❖ A 1772 oil on canvas painting of George Washington owned by Mrs. Lee.
- ❖ James Reid Lambdin's 4 ft x 3 ft 1868 oil on canvas painting of General Grant.
- ❖ A 1772 oil on canvas portrait of Lighthouse Harry Lee by Charles Wilson Peale.

According to Dr. William Rasmussen, exhibition co-curator, "these generals have been explored by historians for decades, but *Lee and Grant* is the first exhibition to present the two men together so that visitors can make decisions about them, side by side, based on facts. We hope that after they view *Lee and Grant*, visitors will give more thought to the legacies of both generals."

Well spoken indeed!

TEN BLOODIEST BATTLES OF THE CIVIL WAR

1. Gettysburg – **40,638** casualties
2. Chickamauga – **28,399** casualties
3. Seven Days – **27,535** casualties
4. Antietam – **23,381** casualties
5. Wilderness – **22,033** casualties
6. Chancellorsville – **21,862** casualties
7. Shiloh – **17,897** casualties
8. Atlanta – **19,715** casualties
9. Second Manassas – **19,204** casualties
10. Stones River – **18,459** casualties

INTERESTING FACTS RELATIVE TO OUR SPEAKER'S TOPIC:

DID YOU KNOW THAT?

- Did you know that the first major insurrection episode in Texas occurred in 1835-36? **Yes**, apprehensive Texas leaders, facing the impending arrival of the forces of Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna, accused their enemies of fomenting a black rebellion in the summer of 1835.
- Did you know that a supposed slave-Mexican coalition also aroused anxiety around 1856? **Yes**, the rebellion, suspected first as being caused by vigilantes in Colorado County in September, reportedly spread into neighboring counties to the west and south, but only the alleged conspirators suffered actual damage.
- Did you know that these scares among others followed a consistent pattern? **Yes**, all of them broke out when Texans felt strong outside political or military pressure and became apprehensive about the perceived internal enemies of slavery?
- Did you know that the general lure of freedom made Mexico the common destination of runaways in the 1850s? **Yes**, the Mexican avenue to freedom served as an outlet for slave discontent and removed some potential militants from bondage in Texas. Thus, although slaves resisted individually, the necessary conditions for organized rebellion never completely were achieved in Texas.



Houston Civil War Round Table
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