



General Orders

Lewis's Texas Brigade

Vol. 21,
No. 4
Nov,
2009

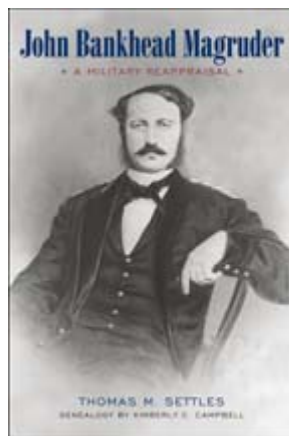
www.houstoncivilwar.com

MEETING – THURS, Nov 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 Nov 19
Dinner \$30; Lecture Only \$5
E-Mail Reservation is Preferred;
You Do Need to Reserve for Lecture Only!

THOMAS M. SETTLES PRESENTS: *JOHN BANKHEAD MAGRUDER: A MILITARY REAPPRAISAL*



Virginia-born John Bankhead Magruder graduated from West Point in 1830. He served with distinction in the Mexican War, fighting in every

major engagement of that war except Buena Vista and, at war's end, was recognized as one of the leading artillerists in the army. Subsequently, in the 1850s, he commanded the posts at San Diego, California; Newport, Rhode Island; and Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, where he also headed the prestigious Artillery School for Instruction.

After Virginia seceded, Magruder resigned his commission in the United States Army and offered his services to his native state. Governor John Letcher made Magruder the third-ranking officer in Virginia's forces. Trailing only Robert E. Lee and Joseph E. Johnston, Magruder commanded on the Virginia Peninsula where he won the first battle of the war at Big Bethel. More importantly, in April and May of 1862, with a force of only 13,600 men, he used every deceptive ploy imaginable to hold his ground against George B. McClellan's 105,000 troops until Confederate authorities could send him reinforcements.

Most Virginians believed at the time, as did journalist E. A. Pollard, that he rendered "a service which saved Richmond." However, following the Seven Days' Battles, when Lee lost an opportunity to crush McClellan's reeling army, Magruder was criticized for being too slow at Savage Station and too rash at Malvern Hill.

He was reassigned to command the District of Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona, where he exhibited great skill as an independent commander. On January 1, 1863, he brilliantly recaptured Galveston and held it for the Confederacy until the end of the war. Afterward, he journeyed to Mexico but eventually settled in Houston where he died on February 18, 1871.

Our speaker's chronicle of this remarkable soldier, *John Bankhead Magruder: a Military Reappraisal*, is a revisionist military biographi-

cal study of one of the most colorful, yet least understood of the major figures of the Civil War era. Even Douglas Southhall Freeman underestimated Magruder as evidenced by several documentable errors in his writings *R. E. Lee and Lee's Lieutenants*.

Mike's book takes issue with the factual inaccuracies that relate to Magruder and brings to light a significant amount of new material on the Magruder family. Other research he has done produces the heretofore untold final chapter on "Prince John" from the time of his death until he was memorialized by the citizens of Galveston in a splendid ceremony nearly a quarter of a century later.



"Prince John" Magruder

And finally, our speaker's book addresses several areas of controversy such as Magruder's alleged drinking problem and his relationship with his family. Earlier, incorrect conclusions have been drawn about Magruder in these and other matters, thus thwarting a clear understanding of the man and his proper place in history.

It should be mentioned in this regard that Ed Cotham, a HCWRT member and former President, reviewed our speaker's book for the LSU Press and declared that "...in my opinion this is one of the best biographies that has ever been written about a Civil War military figure."

A FEW WORDS ABOUT OUR SPEAKER

Thomas "Mike" Settles received a BA from the University of Texas in 1966, an MA from Trinity University in 1968, and a PhD from Tex-

as Christian University in 1972, and since leaving Fort Worth and TCU, he has served on the faculty of San Antonio College. He first became interested in John Bankhead Magruder while writing his MA thesis on "*The Port of Galveston during the Civil War.*" Magruder, of course, superintended the daring capture of Galveston from the federals in January, 1863.

Mike went on to write his doctoral dissertation on *The Military Career of John Bankhead Magruder* and has been working on his Magruder book project for over thirty years. The publication of his book, *John Bankhead Magruder: A Military Reappraisal*, by the LSU Press in 2009 brings this long-pursued endeavor to a close.



Magruder Post-War



Episcopal Cemetery Galveston

We are especially pleased to welcome this accomplished presenter and his fascinating subject to our podium on November 19th and encourage you to join us for dinner and/or lecture as we gain new insights into the life of this distinguished soldier. And don't forget to make your reservations by Monday evening, November 16th. See the Announcement Box on Page 1 for details.

GETTYSBURG FALL FIELD TRIP by TONY MATT

A group of seventeen Gettysburg enthusiasts gathered at Intercontinental Airport for points northeast on Thursday, October 22nd and met up with Ed Bearss the next morning. Our tour began at the new Visitors Center, and I for one was really impressed with the new Cyclo-

rama and its improved lighting. Then we embarked upon Day 1 of the battle, beginning at the Railroad Cut and ending at Barley Knoll. A bit of rainfall slowed us down at times, but we had engaged a smaller bus than usual – a thirty-two passenger bus which enabled us to maneuver more easily to the various sites.

For me, the battlefield actions on Day 2 were critical to understanding the conflict, and the struggles waged on Culp's Hill, East Cemetery Hill, Little Round Top, and the Devil's Den areas could have culminated such that Day 3 and Pickett's Charge may never have had to take place.

Ed intrigued us with his running commentary on the Charge and the outcome of Day 3, and we especially heeded his comments on the various topographical features that aided confederates in the doomed march.

Returning to Houston on Monday, October 26, those of us who made this trip will have a memory to revisit and share with others for the rest of our lives. And I, as your Field Trip Chairman, thoroughly enjoyed planning this trip and seeing the improvements at the battlefield since the last Round Table trip there some years ago.

CIVIL WAR PHOTO OF THE MONTH by *Karen Stone*



Gouverneur K. Warren at Little Round Top, Gettysburg

Attention all shutterbugs! We are starting a new monthly column for the newsletter. If you have a favorite Civil War period photo to share with your fellow Round Tablers, just email the jpeg file of your selection to your editor, and I will choose one submitted photo for each issue of future newsletters.

I saw this month's photo in a recent Civil War Preservation Trust membership drive brochure. I contacted the organization and was given permission to use it for the November issue. I want to give credit to the photographer, Chris Heisey, and to David Duncan of the CWPT for assisting me in this project.

My only regret is that those of you who lack access to email cannot enjoy the beautiful colors of the sunset in this photo. I find it quite inspiring!

NOVEMBER BOOK RAFFLE by Donnie Stowe

This month for your reading pleasure, we are offering *Great Gambles of the Civil War* by Philip Katcher, donated by Jim Godlove; *Den of Misery - Indiana's Civil War Prison* by James R. Hall, donor unknown; *The Devil Knows How to Ride - the True Story of William Clarke Quantrill and his Confederate Raiders* by Edward E. Leslie, donated by Adrain Huckabee; and *The War for the Union - The Organized War 1863 - 1864* by Alan Nevins, donor unknown.

I'm happy to be taking over for Mike on the book raffle and although he left me a fairly good supply of books, I will be happy to accept more along with any magazines that any of you wish to donate to our raffle. All the money goes to the HCWRT and your continued support is always welcomed and encouraged. Next month, since it will be December, I will be offering a special raffle on a set of books that would be a great Christmas gift for any student of Civil War history. So don't miss the December meeting!



My email address is dcstowe58@comcast.net if you have any questions regarding the book raffle. If you prefer to contact me by telephone, my number is (713) 466-0524. Happy reading, folks!



UPCOMING LIENDO EVENT ON NOVEMBER 21 & 22

Member and Secretary of the 11th Texas Cavalry Susan Gibson has notified us of the coming Civil War Reenactment Event at Liendo just outside Hempstead at the crossroads of Hwy 290 and 1488.

The 11th Texas Reenactment unit organizes the Living History/Civil War Reenactment Event every year on the weekend before Thanksgiving. The group also holds a school day on Friday, November 20, just for schools and home schools to bring their students for a Living History Day. Saturday and Sunday are open to the public.

A food court, period sutlers, and modern-day vendors are present, and there are also period demonstrations on the lawn all day such as



weaving, spinning, and blacksmithing, along with music, medical, etc.

Students and the public can walk through the camps, visit with the soldiers and civilians, and watch the

demonstrations in the camps, with the Artillery, and on the battlefield.

Hours and Times

School Day	Nov 20
Public Attendance	Nov 21 – 22
Admission – General	\$10 per Person
Admission – Seniors	\$5 per Person
Admission – Children	\$5 per Person
Hours – Saturday, Nov 21	9 AM – 5 PM
	Battle – 2 PM
Hours – Sunday, Nov 22	9 AM – 4 PM
	Battle – 2 PM

In summary, the Civil War Weekend at Historic Liendo Plantation is a unique way in which to experience the grandeur and passion of the Victorian era versus the harsh reality of a war fought between States and families.

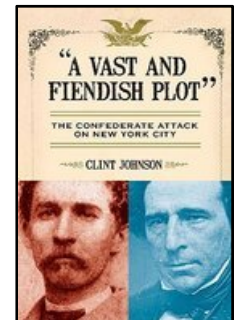
This year, why not join in the fun at Liendo?

NEW BOOK: A VAST AND FIENDISH PLOT – THE CONFEDERATE ATTACK ON NEW YORK CITY

Clint Johnson, former speaker at the Round Table in 2007, has written the captioned book due to be released in March, 2010. He has also sent us an advance reading copy of his text and has suggested that we offer the book as a door prize for some upcoming meeting of our group. We plan to do that.

In his transmittal letter, Clint emphasizes his point that New York City was not always the liberal metropolis that we think of today. For a fifty-year period before the outbreak of hostilities, NYC was, according to Johnson, the South's best friend...The city's most prominent men supported the institution of slavery in the South and harbored strong feelings against abolition in the North.

Six Confederate officers working in civilian clothing attempted to burn down the nation's largest city of 816,000 inhabitants on November 25, 1864. According to the author, had the Confederates been better spies, they might actually have succeeded.



This book deals with that story and will be offered soon on a special raffle for your enjoyment and enlightenment on the historic events involved in this failed attempt. Stay tuned!

HCWRT SPEAKERS 2009 – 2010 CAMPAIGN

Nov 19	Thomas M. Settles
Dec 17	Philip Caudill
Jan 21	Donald Frazier
Feb 18	Dick Sommers
Mar 18	Patrick Falci
Apr 15	Tony Banzhaf
May 20	TBA

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 _____

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

CONGRESS ALLOCATES \$9 MILLION FOR CIVIL WAR BATTLEFIELDS

On October 28, 2009, members of the U. S. House and Senate allocated \$9 million dollars, the largest single-year allocation ever, for the federal Civil War Battlefield Preservation Program, a mechanism that utilizes government matching grants and private funds to permanently protect historic Civil War battlefields throughout the nation.

CWPT President James Lighthizer was quoted as saying that “this is tremendous news that could not come at a more critical time. Each day thirty acres of hallowed Civil War battlefield land are paved over and lost forever. This money will allow us to preserve historic land that would otherwise be lost to development and urban sprawl.”



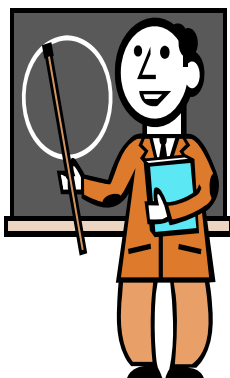
It should be noted that the Civil War Battlefield Preservation Program targets priority unprotected Civil War sites outside the National Park Service boundaries. The matching grants formula of the program encourages state and private sector investment in historic land preservation.

Since its creation in 1999, the Civil War Battlefield Preservation Program has been used to protect in excess of 15,000 acres of hallowed ground at sixty battlefields in fourteen states. This program has aided historic properties at Antietam and South Mountain, Champion Hill, Chancellorsville, Fredericksburg, Manassas, Chattanooga, Fort Donelson, and Harpers Ferry. The program is funded through the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund.

Jim Lighthizer stressed that the upcoming 150th anniversary of the Civil War present an ideal time to accentuate ongoing efforts to preserve and protect these endangered battlefields. He stated that “I can think of no more fitting – and lasting – tribute during this **sesquicentennial** commemoration than to preserve the places where these brave soldiers fought and died.”

NOVEMBER QUIZ QUESTION

by *Jim Godlove*




According to Ed Cotnam's excellent book, *Battle on the Bay*, John Bankhead Magruder acquired a nickname from his “army colleagues because of his elegant uniforms, theatrical manners, and dramatic pretensions.

Name this sobriquet.

QUOTABLE QUOTES FROM ROBERT E. LEE

- *I cannot trust a man to control others who cannot control himself.*
- *Whiskey – I like it, I always did, and that is the reason I never use it.*
- *Do your duty in all things. You cannot do more; you should never wish to do less.*
- *To be a good soldier, you must love the army. To be a good commander, you must be willing to order the death of the thing you love.*
- *It is well that war is so terrible – lest we should grow too fond of it.*
- *The education of a man is never completed until he dies.*
- *Never do a wrong thing to make a friend or to keep one.*
- *This war is not about slavery.*
- *We failed, but in the good providence of God apparent failure often proves a blessing.*
- *We must expect reverses, even defeats. They are sent to teach us wisdom and prudence, to call forth greater energies, and to prevent our falling into greater disasters.*
- *What a cruel thing war is...to fill our hearts with hatred instead of love for our neighbors.*
- *The war...was an unnecessary condition of affairs, and might have been avoided if forbearance and wisdom had been practiced on both sides.*
- *At present, I am not concerned with results. God's will ought to be our aim, and I am quite contented that his designs be accomplished and not mine.*
- *We have fought this fight as long, and as well as we know how. We have been defeated. For us as a Christian people, there is now but one course to pursue. We must accept the situation.*
- *I think it better to do right, even if we suffer in so doing, than to incur the reproach of our consciences and posterity.*



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