



General Orders

Lewis's Texas Brigade

Vol. 21,
No. 7
Feb,
2010

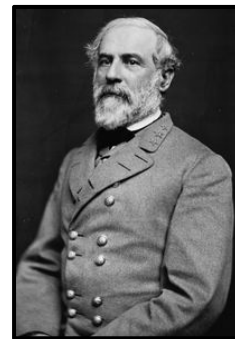
www.houstoncivilwar.com

MEETING – THURS, Feb 18, 2010

Briar Club
2603 Timmons Lane @ Westheimer
6:00 Cash Bar
7:00 Dinner & Meeting

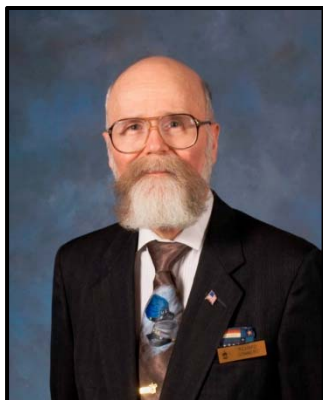
E-Mail drzuckero@sbcglobal.net
OR call him at (281) 479-1232 to Reserve
by Monday 6 PM Prior to Feb 18
Dinner \$30; Lecture Only \$5
E-Mail Reservation is Preferred;
You Do Need to Reserve for Lecture Only!

General Robert E. Lee. In his in-depth study of the distinguished leader, our speaker will focus on elements of Lee's greatness as a general and will address various areas of criticism that have been levied against him in recent years.



Gen. Robert E. Lee

DR. RICHARD SOMMERS: *The Generalship of Robert E. Lee and the Civil War in the East*



Richard J. "Dick" Sommers

The Houston Civil War Round Table is pleased to welcome Dr. Richard Sommers to Houston and especially to our Round Table as he presents to us his analysis of the military leadership of the foremost Confederate commander.

A FEW WORDS ABOUT OUR SPEAKER

Dr. Richard J. (Dick) Sommers received his BA from Carleton College and his PhD from Rice University. His field of concentration at both being in History, Dick also taught American History at Rice from 1966 to 1967 and from 1969 to 1970.

From October, 1970 through January, 1997, he has held a number of positions at the U. S. Army War College, Carlisle Barracks, PA. Among his responsibilities have been those of Chief Archivist-Historian at the Military History Institute and Professor of Military History at the U. S. Army Heritage and Education Center. From July of 2008 until the present, he has served as Senior Historian of the AHEC at the War College.

Focusing on the American Civil War and U. S. Military History, Dick has authored many publi-

cations. The best known of his works is *Richmond Redeemed: The Siege at Petersburg* (1980). He has also contributed chapters to *Virginia at War 1864* and *The Art of War: Great Commanders of the Modern World* (both published in 2009).

He has served on the Historical Advisory Board of the Jefferson Davis Association, and he wrote the "Foreword" for Volume XI of *The Papers of Jefferson Davis* (2003). Recognition afforded Dick includes the Bell I. Wiley Award from the National Historical Society for the best Civil War book in 1981-82 (*Richmond Redeemed*), the Distinguished Alumnus Award from Carleton College in 1989, and the Frank E. Vandiver Award for merit from the HCWRT in 2009. Since he studied under Frank, that honor is particularly meaningful to Dick.

He has also served as Vice President of the Harrisburg Civil War Round Table from 1972 to 1973 and again in 1988. In 1973-1974 as well as 1988-1990, he served as President of the Round Table and also serves currently as its Program Chairman.

Dick first addressed the HCWRT in February of 1982. He spoke at that time on the siege of Petersburg. Please welcome him on the evening of February 18th as he presents his analysis of the leadership qualities of General Lee.

FEBRUARY BOOK RAFFLE by *Donnie Stowe*

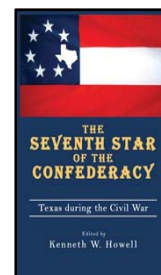
This month the HCWRT book raffle begins with *Collis' Zouaves—the 114th Pennsylvania Volunteers in the Civil War* by Edward J. Hagerty and donated by Karen Stone; second is *The Women's War in the South—Recollections and Reflections of the American Civil War* by Charles G. Waugh and Martin H. Greenberg and is donated by Norm Lewis. Our third pick is *The 14th South Carolina Infantry Regiment, of the Gregg-McGowan Brigade, Army of Northern Virginia*; this donation comes to us from Mike Harrington. February's last selection is *The Civil War—Strange and Fascinating Facts* by Burke Davis and was donated by Edwin Ekholm.

Thanks to all the members who have bought books to donate to our raffle in January. Please continue your support to the HCWRT by contributing books of Civil War interest that you would recommend to your fellow enthusiasts. Magazines, such as *North and South*, *Civil War Times*, etc. would also be appreciated.



BREAKING NEWS: THE SEVENTH STAR OF THE CONFEDERACY

HCWRT members and others interested in Civil War history, and particularly **Texas** Civil War history, will be interested to know that the new book featured in January's newsletter, *Seventh Star of the Confederacy*, has won the Fort Worth Civil War Round Table's A. M. Pate, Jr. Award for excellence in research and writing on the Civil War in the Trans-Mississippi theater.



You will recall that longtime HCWRT member Ed Cotham has a chapter in this book entitled "Nothing But Disaster: The Failure of Union Plans to Capture Texas." The book was edited by Kenneth W. Howell and was published by the University of North Texas. Interested parties may also contact Ed Cotham for additional information.

CIVIL WAR PHOTO OF THE MONTH by *Karen Stone*

February's recipient of the recognition for this month's photography falls to **Linda and Mike Pierce** for their photo of the memorial honoring war dead at the University of Virginia Cemetery. The photo reminds me of how Civil War infantry, many lacking proper shoes, clothing, food, and blankets, must have felt when enduring the long winter marches and encampments of that period. And though today's times are difficult for many, the photo makes us realize how much we Americans still have to be thankful for.

Thank you, Linda and Mike!



Memorial Honoring War Dead
University of Virginia Cemetery

HCWRT SPEAKERS 2009 – 2010 CAMPAIGN

Feb 18 Dick Sommers
Mar 18 Patrick Falci
Apr 15 Tony Banzhaf
May 20 TBA

FOCUS: 2009 ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE CIVIL WAR PRESERVATION TRUST

Notwithstanding today's difficult economy, the Civil War Preservation Trust (CWPT) has managed to preserve 2,775 acres of hallowed ground during 2009. While recognizing that the work of protecting historic landscapes is often beyond the scope of any single organization, CWPT has partnered with a wide variety of regional and local preservation groups to purchase significant pieces of land otherwise unattainable individually.

CWPT ACREAGE PROTECTED IN 2009

SITE ACQUIRED	STATE OF ACREAGE	ACREAGE PROTECTED
Natural Bridge	Florida	55
Wood Lake	Minnesota	60
Raymond	Mississippi	66
Tupelo	Mississippi	12
Davis Bridge	Tennessee	643
Parkers Crossroads	Tennessee	5
Aldie	Virginia	68
Appomattox Station	Virginia	47
Brandy Station	Virginia	433
Chancellorsville	Virginia	85
Glendale	Virginia	11
Malvern Hill	Virginia	178
Sailor's Creek	Virginia	35
Shenandoah Valley	Virginia	730
Trevilian Station	Virginia	253
Wilderness	Virginia	94
Total		2,775

This is a remarkable record of achievement for the CPWT in a challenging fundraising milieu!

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 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

UPCOMING RICE UNIVERSITY EVENT by *Lynda Crist*

HCWRT members and guests are invited to attend an approaching event that is sponsored by the Houston Area Southern Historians. The first meeting of the Spring, 2010 semester will be held on Thursday, February 11 at 7:00 PM on the Rice University campus in Room 328 of the Humanities Building.

Gary Bryant, who recently completed his Ph.D at the University of Houston, will lead discus-

sion of his paper entitled “Women of the Confederate Hospitals: Paid and Volunteer, Slave and Free.”

There is no charge for attendance. If you need further information, please contact me, Lynda Crist, at (713) 348-4990.

HCWRT NEWSLETTER EDITOR SOUGHT FOR 2010- 2011 CAMPAIGN YEAR

The Round Table is looking for volunteer(s) to edit the bulletin during the next club year. If you have an interest in assuming this task for the Round Table, please see Duane Lewis, Mike Harrington, or any member of the Board.

Any volunteer who steps up to the job will receive a free lifetime membership in the HCWRT. Duane may be reached at (713) 436-1302. Mike may be reached at (281) 980-9281. Both are available to answer questions at the monthly meetings.

DECEMBER COMMEMORATIVE EVENT: JEFFERSON DAVIS LIBRARY AND MUSEUM by *Karen Stone*

The \$10.5 million project to rebuild the Davis Presidential Library and Museum was celebrated at the groundbreaking ceremony held in early December at Beauvoir. The event was scheduled on the 120th anniversary of Davis's death of pneumonia while he was on a riverboat in New Orleans. His great-great grandson Bertram Hayes-Davis of Dallas was the keynote speaker at the Mississippi event.

Hurricane Katrina in 2005 damaged Beauvoir and destroyed the library and museum on the beachfront Biloxi property. Funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and its state counterpart will pay 90 percent of the combined project costs because the site is a national historic landmark. Other funding will come from money the museum had before the

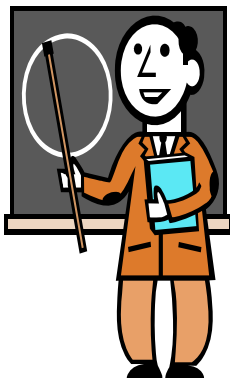
storm, insurance, and donations. The reconstruction is scheduled to be completed in August, 2011 on the 51-acre Beauvoir site owned by the Mississippi Division of the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

More information is available on the Beauvoir website at www.beauvoir.org.



Jefferson Davis Presidential Library and Museum--A Work-in-Process

FEBRUARY QUIZ QUESTION by Jim Godlove



On Jun 1, 1862, Robert E. Lee took command of the army that he would rechristen the Army of Northern Virginia. This was the result of the wounding of the previous commanding general in battle. What are the two names of this battle and also that of the wounded general?

INSIGHTS INTO THE MAN: QUOTABLE QUOTES FROM *THE PERSONAL MEMOIRS OF ULYSSES S. GRANT* by Karen Stone

Thoughts on the Impending Mexican War:
“The presence of United States troops on the edge of

the disputed territory furthest from the Mexican settlements was not sufficient to provoke hostilities. We were sent to provoke a fight, but it was essential that Mexico should commence it. It was very doubtful whether Congress would declare war; but if Mexico should attack our troops, the Executive could announce, “Whereas, war exists by the acts of, etc.” and prosecute the contest with vigor.”

Remarks on Accelerating War Fervor in the Initial Stages of the Mexican War: “What General [Zachary] Taylor’s feelings were during this suspense I do not know; but for myself, a young second-lieutenant who had never heard a hostile gun before, I felt sorry that I had enlisted. A great many men, when they smell battle afar off, chafe to get into the fray. When they say so themselves they generally fail to convince their hearers that they are as anxious as they would like to make believe, and as they approach danger they become more subdued. This rule is not universal, for I have known a few men who were always aching for a fight when there was no enemy near, who were as good as their word when the battle did come. But the number of such men is small.”

Thoughts on leaving the Pacific Coast and resigning from the Army in 1854: “...I rejoined my family, to find in it a son whom I had never seen, born while I was on the Isthmus of Panama. I was now to commence, at the age of thirty-two, a new struggle for our support. My wife had a farm near St. Louis, to which we went, but I had no means to stock it. A house had to be built also. I worked very hard, never losing a day because of bad weather, and accomplished the object in a moderate way. If nothing else could be done I would load a cord of wood on a wagon and take it to the city for sale. I managed to keep along very well until 1858, when I was attacked by fever and ague. I had suffered very severely and for a long time from this disease, while a boy in Ohio. It lasted now over a year, and while it did not keep me in the house, it did interfere greatly with the amount of work I was able to perform. In the fall of 1858 I sold out my stock, crops and farming utensils at auction, and gave up farming.”

Comments on stragglers under the bluffs at the Battle of Shiloh: “I rode back as far as the river and met General Buell, who had just arrived; I do not remember the hour, but at that time there probably were as many as four or five thousand stragglers lying under cover of the river bluff, panic-stricken, most of whom would have been shot where they lay, without resistance, before they would have taken muskets and marched to the front to protect themselves...As we left the boat together, Buell’s attention was attracted by the men lying under cover of the river bank. I saw him berating them and trying to shame them into joining their regiments. He even threatened them with shells from the gunboats nearby. But it was all to no effect. Most of these men afterward proved themselves as gallant as any of those who saved the battle from which they had deserted. I have no doubt that this sight impressed General Buell with the idea that a line of retreat would be a good thing just then. If he had come in by the front instead of through the stragglers in the rear, he would have thought and felt differently. Could he have

come through the Confederate rear, he would have witnessed there a scene similar to that at our own."

[Insight into the character of two adversaries \[Bragg and Longstreet\] at the opening of the Battle of Chattanooga:](#)

"Bragg was a remarkably intelligent and well-informed man, professionally and otherwise. He was also thoroughly upright. But he was possessed of an irascible temper, and was naturally disputatious. A man of the highest moral character and the most correct habits, yet in the old army he was in frequent trouble. As a subordinate, he was always on the lookout to catch his commanding officer infringing his prerogatives; as a post commander he was equally vigilant to detect the slightest neglect, even of the most trivial order...Longstreet was an entirely different man. He was brave, honest, intelligent, a very capable soldier, subordinate to his superiors, just and kind to his subordinates, but jealous of his own rights, which he had the courage to maintain. He was never on the lookout to detect a slight, but saw one as soon as anybody when intentionally given."

[Comments re Johnston's and Sherman's performances at Atlanta and Hood's subsequent appointment by Jefferson Davis:](#)

"My own judgment is that Johnston acted very wisely; he husbanded his men and saved as much of his territory as he could, without fighting decisive battles in which all might be lost. As Sherman advanced, as I have shown, his army became spread out, until, if this had been continued,

it would have been easy to destroy it in detail. I know that both Sherman and I were rejoiced when we heard of the change. Hood was unquestionably a brave, gallant soldier and not destitute of ability; but unfortunately his policy was to fight the enemy wherever he saw him, without thinking much of the consequences of defeat."

[Thoughts of General Lee at Appomattox:](#)

"Whatever his feelings, they were entirely concealed from my observation; but my own feelings, which had been quite jubilant on receipt of his letter, were sad and depressed. I felt like anything rather than rejoicing at the downfall of a foe who had fought so long and so valiantly, and had suffered so much for a cause, though that cause was, I believe, one of the worst for which a people ever fought, and one for which there was the least excuse. I do not question, however, the sincerity of the great mass of those who were opposed to us."

[Remarks on the Assassination of Lincoln:](#)

"He [Lincoln] would have proven the best friend the South could have had, and saved much of the wrangling and bitterness of feeling brought out under Reconstruction."

Grant's poignant observations aside, I still find it difficult to reconcile the acuity of his people observation skills in his memoir with some of the unfortunate choices he made in the selection of politicians, advisors, financiers, and business partners post-war.



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