



General Orders

Lewis's Texas Brigade

Vol. 21
No. 8
Mar, 2010

www.houstoncivilwar.com

MEETING – THURS, MAR 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 Mar 18
Dinner \$30; Lecture Only \$5
E-Mail Reservation is Preferred;
You Do Need to Reserve for Lecture Only!

PATRICK FALCI PRESENTS: THE MAKING OF THE MOVIE “GETTYSBURG”



Patrick Falci as A. P. Hill

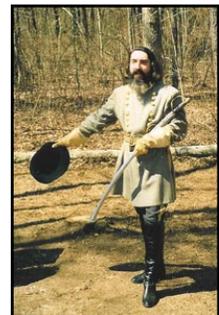
Patrick Falci, known to movie audiences from his role as Gen. A. P. Hill in the 1993 film *Gettysburg*, served as historical advisor to director

Ron Maxwell's epic film based on Michael Shaara's 1975 Pulitzer Prize fiction winner, *The Killer Angels*.

Our speaker also assisted casting director Joy Todd and the principal actors in the portrayal of their characters and in acting out movie scenes. He will share with the Houston Round Table members and guests his “behind the scenes” and “in front of the camera” experiences during the five-year preparation period prior to the release of this \$12 million film. Heavily immersed in everything from props to wardrobe to film locations to period music, Patrick has many informative and entertaining stories to share with his audience about the major players in the film, among them Martin Sheen, Tom Berenger, Jeff Daniels, Stephen Lang, and Sam Elliott, as well as the cameo appearance by the principal financier, Ted Turner. He will also have a special slide show accompaniment for the evening's program.

A FEW WORDS ABOUT OUR SPEAKER

Pat, a native of Astoria, New York, appeared in Tom Berenger's film *Rough Riders*, has served as Jeff Shaara's (*Gods and Generals*) historical advisor, and has vetted writer John Jakes's manuscripts for *On Secret Service* and *Charleston*, at the editor's request. His love of preservation has propelled him into a lifetime membership in the Civil War Preservation Trust, talks on Civil War subjects throughout the country, and a school program entitled *The*



Life and Times of the Civil War Soldier. He can also be seen in the documentary *Gettysburg: Three days of Destiny*. He is the recipient of the CWRT/NY Distinguished Service Award, the Fort A. P. Hill Commander's Award for Excellence, and the U.D.C. Jefferson Davis Historical Gold Medal, among other honors. Previously he also served for some fifteen years as a reenactor with the 14th Tennessee.

But it is during the last fifteen-year period that Pat has garnered critical acclaim as the face of Lt. Gen. A. P. Hill. Since creating the role of Hill, he has enlightened the public about "Lee's Forgotten General," and he joined the Museum of the Confederacy in raising over \$10,000 to restore Hill's 13th Virginia regimental flag. The first three-time President of the Civil War Round Table of New York, he traveled to Richmond in January, 2007 to give a speech to the Sons of Confederate Veterans on Lee's Bicentennial. He gave the keynote speech at Grant's Tomb birthday celebration in 2003, took part in the R. E. Lee Bicentennial Celebration on January 19, 2007, and served as keynote speaker at the Confederate Memorial Service at Arlington National Cemetery in 2009. He is an honorary member of the Virginia SCV, and he has been honored with invitations to the White House and various awards for the work that he has done.

So, mark your calendars for March 18, 2010, Round Tablers, and listen, learn, and enjoy from our expert guide Patrick Falci as we focus on the making of this epic film! Come with the questions you may have on the ins and outs of the moviemaking business as applied to historical events, and let Pat entertain you and your guests along the way!

MARCH BOOK RAFFLE by *Donnie Stowe*

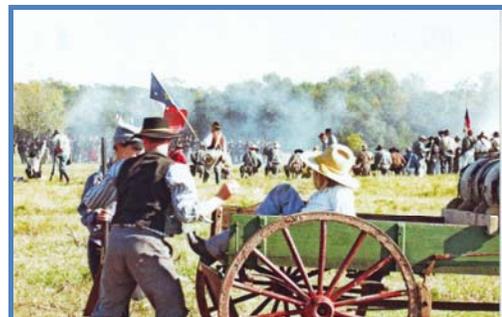
For this month's book raffle we begin with *Twenty Days—A Narrative in Text & Pictures of the Assassination of Abraham Lincoln* by Dorothy Meserve Kunhardt and Philip B. Kunhardt, Jr. and donated by Mike Orsak; second is Allen Nevins's *The War for the Union: The Organized War to Victory 1864-1865*—donor is unknown. Our third pick is *Grant and Lee—the The Virginia Campaigns 864-1865* by William A. Fras-

sanito and is donated by Norm Lewis. The final selection to be in the raffle this month is from my own collection—*The Civil War Source Book* by Phillip Katcher.

I want to thank everyone for remembering to donate to our raffle in February. We received some great works by various members. Please continue to bring any volumes you've had for awhile and maybe need a little extra space on your bookshelves at home. I also wish to thank Ric Ricards for the stamps that he donated at the last meeting.



CIVIL WAR PHOTOS OF THE MONTH by *Karen Stone*



Liendo Plantation Reenactment, Nov, 2009

Your editor wishes to thank HCWRT member **Marilyn Wilbert** for her great action shots at Liendo, the effect of which, to me at any rate, approaches the quality of an oil painting as opposed to mere snapshot imagery.

The Liendo Plantation Civil War Weekend on November 19-21, 2009 featured reenactors engaged in a "Fight for Liendo"—two battles performed by Civil War buffs at 2 PM on each day of the annual event. Besides the battle, reenactors performed spinning, weaving, quilting, black-smithing, soap, broom, furniture-making and period dance demonstrations. There was an orchestra and brass band to recreate music popular in the mid-1880s and the Liendo house was held open for tours.

It was estimated that about 1,800 students from Galveston to Austin attended some part of the event, and there were about a thousand reenactors and between 12,000 and 15,000 visitors throughout the weekend. Many of the regiments who attend the reenactment each year had their origins at Liendo.

Liendo Plantation, built in 1853, was originally a Spanish land grant of 67,000 acres and was one of Texas's earliest cotton plantations. The site is recognized as a Texas historic landmark and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

As for the 11th Texas Cavalry Regiment, it was organized by William C. Young in Grayson County during the summer of 1861. Young had previously served as a United States Senator. The 11th was often known by an alternate designation, usually derived from the name of its then current commanding officer, and unofficial names for the 11th unit included Young's Cavalry, Reeve's Cavalry, etc.

The unit served west of the Mississippi River until the spring of 1862, when it transferred to the Eastern theater and remained there for the duration of the war. The 11th Cavalry was one of the most frequently engaged of all the Texas units. It is credited with participation in more than 150 engagements, battles, and skirmishes during its distinguished career. Not including Indian Territory operations and duties, the 11th's long list of engagements includes the battles of Pea Ridge, Parker's Crossroads, Stone's River, the Siege of Savannah, Johnson's Station, Fayetteville, Bentonville, and Durham Station. The unit surrendered at Bennett's House, Durham Station, North Carolina on April 26, 1865. Of the 500 men serving in the unit, only about 50 returned to their Grayson/Cook County homes at the conclusion of hostilities.

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 _____

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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

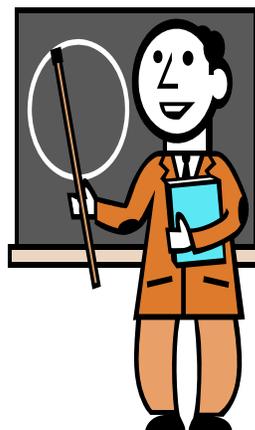
RENEWAL

\$40 – Individual

\$45 – Family

\$15 – Student or Out-of-State

MARCH QUIZ QUESTION by *Jim Godlove*



At Gettysburg, most Union regiments carried flags with 34 stars in the canton. One regiment had 35 stars. According to legend, a soldier had cut off a star from an Ohio regiment and had sewn it on his unit's flag. Name this unit's state.

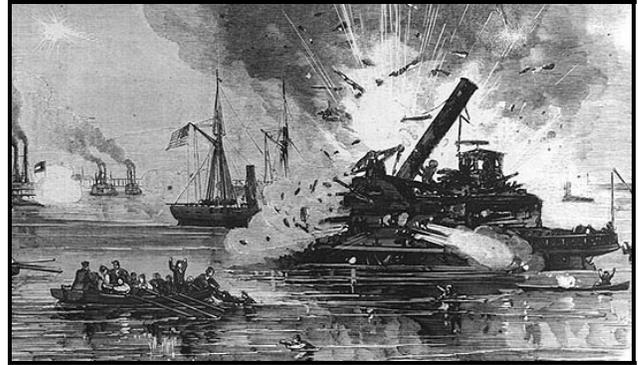
FOLLOW-UP ON THE WESTFIELD'S DAHLGREN SHELL GUN RESTORATION

Your editor wishes to thank HCWRT member **Harry Bounds** for sending an article from the current *Civil War News* that follows up on the conservation efforts ongoing at Texas A&M that were the subject of an article in the January, 2010 issue of the *General Orders*.

You will recall from that article issue that the *Westfield* was constructed in 1861 as a Staten Island ferry and was purchased that same year by Cornelius Vanderbilt and converted into a Union gunboat. In July and early August, 1862, the *Westfield* made her way down the Mississippi River through Baton Rouge and New Orleans to the Gulf of Mexico. She then took up blockading duties along the Texas coast as a unit of the West Gulf Blockading Squadron. On October 4 she led a unit composed of the vessels *Harriet Lane*, *Owasco*, *Clifton*, and *Henry Janes* in a successful assault on Galveston. Galveston capitulated on October 9.

The *Westfield* remained at Galveston until January 1, 1863, when, during the successful Confederate recapture of the city, she was attacked by Confederate warships ignoring Union gunboats in Galveston Bay and focusing on the enemy warships in the harbor. The *Westfield* was anchored in the channel between Pelican Island and the Bolivar Peninsula, outside the harbor, when the battle began.

Approaching the scene, *Westfield's* captain, Cmdr. William B. Renshaw, quickly gave chase to attacking Confederate warships. Unfamiliar with the waters in the area, however, he took the *Westfield* out of the channel and grounded it hard on the shallow shoals off Pelican Island. When he subsequently ordered the destruction of his vessel so that it not fall into Confederate hands, Renshaw was distressed when his gunboat did not explode within the time expected, whereupon he and a small contingent of his men returned to relight the explosive charge. Immediately the gunboat fuses ignited, killing Renshaw along with the small boat crew that had accompanied him on the task.



The Ill-Timed Explosion of the Westfield, 01/01/1863

The *Westfield* lay buried deep in the Texas City Channel for almost 150 years. In November of 2009, divers and salvage crews located the nine-inch, 9,200 pound Dahlgren shell gun that was part of the vessel wreckage. The weapon was raised on November 22, 2009 and is currently undergoing restoration at Texas A&M. The A&M Conservation Research Lab is one of the world's leading facilities for this type of restoration. It is fairly certain that the gun and other artifacts from the wreckage will be on display for the public during the Battle of Galveston Sesquicentennial on January 1, 2013.



The Raising of Westfield's IX-inch Dahlgren Shell Gun

Several Texas museums have requested loan of the Dahlgren and other *Westfield* artifacts once conservation and clean-up efforts are complete. The *Westfield* project remains the property of the United States Navy, however, and the Navy will be the ultimate arbiter of their disposition and display.

FOND FALL FIELD FORAY “FOTOS” FROM FIVE FORKS!



Ed Bearss, Past President Jim Godlove, and their Charges, October 25 – 28, 2007

Your editor sends her thanks to HCWRT member and Past President **Bill Pannill** for his belated but nevertheless appreciated photo from field trips past.

For those of you new to the study of the Civil War, the Five Forks Battlefield is part of the Petersburg touring experience. The struggle at Five Forks was waged in the waning days of the war, some say while Confederate surrender soundings were being proffered.

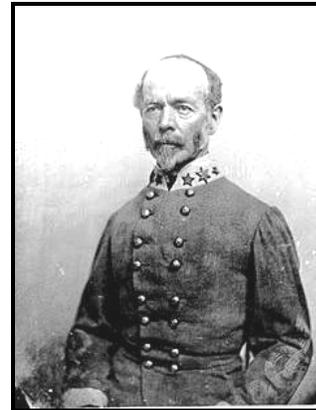
How incredibly sad it must have been for the families of those soldiers to die at Five Forks—a battle lost in a larger sense before it began—only eight days before Lee surrendered.

The result of the April 1, 1865 battle? A Union victory. The cost? 3,780 casualties, of which 2,950 were Confederate.

HCWRT SPEAKERS 2009 – 2010 CAMPAIGN

Mar 18	Patrick Falci
Apr 15	Tony Banzhaf
May 20	TBA

RETHINKING THE MAN: The Johnston-Hood-Davis Controversy



General Joseph E. Johnston

With orders from Jefferson Davis to reorganize his army and go on the offensive, Joe Johnston took command of Braxton Bragg's demoralized Army of the Tennessee in December of 1863. Bragg's army had just been defeated at Chattanooga and driven into north Georgia.

Johnston immediately began to rebuild his army and by spring, 1864 he had an effective fighting force with which to oppose General William T. Sherman's advance from Chattanooga to Atlanta. Johnston's plan was to lure Sherman's more powerful force deep into rebel territory—land on which he could defeat the Yankees on ground of his own choosing.

Johnston fought a skillful series of running battles with Sherman's troops during the spring of 1864 and almost caught the Union general at Kennesaw Mountain on June 17, but in the end the Yankees were too powerful (100,000 men) for his limited forces (60,000). Johnston adroitly maneuvered against Sherman's advances but would never risk taking the aggressive position Jefferson Davis urged him to take. Retreating to Atlanta, he was removed from command on July 17 by an irate President Davis and replaced by John Bell Hood.

According to historian Craig Symonds in his Johnston biography, "Sherman's superior numbers allowed him to **pin down Johnston's**

army with three-fourths of his own, and use the remaining fourth to probe for a flank, or better yet, to threaten the vital W&A Railroad from Atlanta on which Johnston was dependent for support...Johnston was always reacting to Sherman's initiatives rather than making Sherman react to his. Sooner or later, however, he believed that the Federal commander would make a mistake and give him an opportunity to deliver a telling counterattack."

Sherman won this battle of wits, however, never affording Johnston the opportunity he so desperately needed. When the Confederate army had breached the outskirts of Atlanta, Davis replaced Johnston with Gen. John Bell Hood, one of Johnston's division commanders, who had been, according to Symonds, surreptitiously writing to Davis and bad-mouthing Johnston. As he promised when selected for the task, Hood took the offensive and in a series of ill-judged initiatives managed to effectively destroy the Army of Tennessee. His late 1864 losses at Franklin and Nashville were devastating, and Hood resigned his command shortly thereafter.

In February, 1865, Davis dispatched Johnston to South Carolina to take command and to initiate offensive operations against his nemesis then engaged in his infamous march to the sea. Probably nothing could have stopped Sherman at this point, but Johnston just may have been the best possible choice for an impossible task. Why? Because he already had garnered much experience in side-stepping his opponent, and he was a leader and tactician of superior ability. Most important of all, his men would fight for him. He had never sacrificed his men rashly, as Hood had done. But after the Battle of Bentonville, Johnston followed Lee's capitulation on April 9 and surrendered his own army at Durham, North Carolina on Apr 26, 1865.

In summary, It is generally agreed that Johnston's strategy of **defeating the enemy rather than defending territory** was probably a good one. As Symonds concludes, he was "an old-style soldier who fought in a new-style war to the best of his considerable ability and who foolishly allowed himself to be dragged into a political struggle that ruined his credibility in Richmond and eventually made it impossible for him to be effective in the field."



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