



General Orders

Rains' Regiment

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Summer
2010

www.houstoncivilwar.com



FIRST MEETING

Thursday, September 16, 2010

The 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. 16
Dinner \$33; Lecture Only \$5
E-Mail Reservation is Preferred;
You Do Need to Reserve for Lecture Only!

* Increased to \$33 to cover higher cost.

2010 – 2011 CAMPAIGN

Officers and Directors

President: David Rains
Vice-President: John Barnes
Secretary: Ben Ramsey
Treasurer: Barry Brueggeman
Directors: Roland Bienvenu
Gary Chandler
Mike Harrington
Donnie Stowe
Marsha Franty
Duane Lewis (Past President)

2010 – 2011 DUES

Please use the "Membership Application" included in this newsletter to mail in your 2010 - 2011 dues. We elected not to mail out envelopes as in the past. The mailing address is noted on the application.

2010 – 2011 CAMPAIGN

By David Rains

I am honored to serve as your president for this campaign after being vice president last year. As may be noted below we have some good speakers scheduled to cover a variety of interesting topics. Most of the speakers have not been with us previously but we are fortunate to be able to get the Civil War Legend Ed Bearss back again for the January meeting after he missed speaking for us last year. His depth of knowledge, unique presentation style, and great anecdotes are unmatched. Hence he always draws a large crowd.

Tony Matt has an interesting field trip scheduled to the Seven Days Battlefield November 4 - 7. Tony always does a great job in organizing our trips. He has been doing it for about 20 years!

Please make plans to attend all our meetings and to make the trip with Tony if possible.

We look forward to seeing everyone at the September 16 meeting!

HCWRT SPEAKERS 2010 – 2011 CAMPAIGN

Sep 16, 2010 William W. Bergen
Grant's Army 1864-1865

Oct 21, 2010 Brian McGinty
John Brown's Trial

Nov 18, 2010 Troy Banzhaf
Pea Ridge Battle

Dec 16, 2010 Donald Jones
Irish Brigade

Jan 21, 2011 Ed Bearss
Receding Tide: Vicksburg & Gettysburg

Feb 17, 2011 Ed Bonekemper
Six Turning Points of War

Mar 17, 2011 To Be Announced

Apr 21, 2011 Don Frazier
To Be Announced

May 19, 2011 To Be Announced

VIRGINIANS BATTLE WAL-MART *Submitted by David Rains*

The following article was reprinted with permission from the Orange County Review, Orange Va.

County, Wal-Mart foes return to court

By Drew Jackson
Published: July 21, 2010

Over a year ago the Orange County Board of Supervisors approved a special use permit for the construction of a Wal-Mart Supercenter on Route 3. Today that lot remains untouched, and ground has been broken only on a growing mound of litigation. At the July 13 supervisors' meeting, county attorney Sharon Pandak presented an update on the Friends of the Wilderness Battlefield versus the board of supervisors lawsuit. The lawsuit alleges the BOS erroneously approved a special use permit allowing for the construction of the Wal-Mart, citing the historical significance of the land.

Orange County Circuit Judge Daniel Bouton ruled in a late August hearing that the suit could move forward, denying the county's motion to throw out the case.

Having been to a status hearing earlier in the day, Pandak reported to the board several motions made before the court. One motion made by the county requests the style of the lawsuit be changed to Friends of the Wilderness Battlefield, and six other individual defendants against the board, as the judge had previously ruled the National Trust had no standing in the suit. Emails sent to the supervisors have also been printed and delivered to the court, totaling more than 20 pounds of documents, said Pandak.

A trial date was expected to come from the status hearing, but as certain matters remain unresolved the date is now expected to come from an August 13 hearing.

Pandak said that the plaintiff told the judge it anticipated being ready to present its case by the second week in November, a date she said would be agreeable.

"We want to present our case as soon as possible," Pandak told the supervisors.

The plaintiff informed the court that their case alone would require 30 hours of non-repetitious testimony.

The disputed land is on an area zoned for commercial use, adjacent to property owned by the National Park Service.



A trial date in the ongoing Friends of the Wilderness Battlefield versus the Orange County Board of Supervisors lawsuit could be set in an Aug. 13 hearing. The lawsuit is the result of a dispute over the approval of a special use permit allowing for the construction of a Wal-Mart near Rt. 3 and 20, in close proximity to the Wilderness Battlefield.

PHOTO OF THE MONTH *Submitted by David Rains*



"The Virginia Monument at Gettysburg"

MEMBERSHIP NEWS **Former Member Ron Astin Dies in Utah**

Ronald Taylor Astin, aged 63, died suddenly in Salt Lake City of a brain hemorrhage on July 24, 2010. Long-time members of the Round Table will recall Ron as a deep student of the Civil War with a sharp wit and pronounced conservative political views. He accompanied the Round Table on trips to Shiloh and the Valley of Virginia, and he enlivened each tour with his sense of humor and historical insights.

Ron was born in Salt Lake City in 1947, and he received both his bachelor and master degrees from the University of Utah. Ron entered the University of Chicago in 1972 as a Ph.D. candidate in history, but, with an eye to post-graduation employment, he transferred to the law school at Chicago before completing his doctoral thesis.

After receiving his J.D. from Chicago in 1977, Ron practiced briefly in San Francisco before coming to Houston to join Vinson & Elkins, where he practiced corporate finance law and advised on corporate mergers and acquisitions for nearly 30 years. Ron retired from Vinson & Elkins at the end of 2006 and joined the faculty at the South Texas College of Law.

About two years ago, Ron relocated to his hometown to be nearer to his family. Ron's wife, Adele, predeceased him in 2005. The couple had no children.



A New Civil War novel about Andersonville Prison

Submitted by
Karen Stone

13 Days at Andersonville: The Trial of the Raiders

A Novel By
Phillip J. Tichenor

In all the accounts about notorious Andersonville prison during the Civil War, a 146-year-old mystery remains. That mystery is about what actually happened at a trial of "Raider" prisoners, by other prisoners, in early July 1864. The trial was outside the stockade, and no transcript has been found.

By summer of 1864, the bloody Civil War was more than 3 years old. Gettysburg and Vicksburg victories a year earlier had failed to end it. In June, the disastrous Union assault at Cold Harbor caused 5,000 Union casualties. Union troops under General Hunter were destroying Shenandoah Valley farms. Confederates faced starvation. General R. E. Lee ordered Jubal Early to save the Valley and the South's granary. He also told Early, secretly, to attack Washington D. C. Meanwhile, prisoner exchange had stopped. At Andersonville Prison in Georgia, some 30,000 captured Union soldiers were packed into a 20-acre stockade. More than 12,000 died. Making the horror worse, gangs of "Raiders" terrorized the Andersonville stockade... until their capture. A Court Martial of prisoners put the gang on trial. This trial is unique in military history, but the transcript has never been found.

All these elements come together in this novel, in which: Sgt. Lucius McCordle is captured at Cold Harbor and sent to the notorious prison. He is a small-town lawyer on the Western frontier, where patriotic fervor for saving the Union is not matched by general sympathy for African Americans. Lucius can't forget a tumultuous former romance with Maryanne Callander, whose work with the Underground Railroad confronted Lucius' lingering doubts about emancipation. He has one unshaken belief: Every accused person, no matter how heinous the crime, is entitled to a fair trial and a vigorous defense. No convicted person, he believes, should be executed.

Acting on these principles has led him to confrontations with town leaders especially a local judge-turned-regimental colonel who had kept Lucius from becoming an officer.

Lucius arrives at Andersonville shortly before the Raiders are captured. He volunteers to defend these thugs in the court martial, and discovers that:

- His friend Harry, and one-time fiancé of Maryanne, is involved with the Raiders;

- A Raider chieftain has a copy of General Lee's secret order to Early to attack Washington; and
- The judge he alienated at home is also a prisoner at Andersonville and will preside over the Court Martial of the Raiders.

How will Lucius defend the Raiders? And how can he get the secret orders to General Ulysses Grant?

Phillip J. Tichenor, retired journalism teacher, is co-author of Civil War P.O.W.: Life and Death of a Farmer-Lawyer-Soldier (biography) and Athena's Forum, a novel.

READING UP ON THE SEVEN DAYS By John A. Barnes

As much as one can read about any battle, there is simply no substitute for walking the ground yourself. I found that out for myself when I first visited the Seven Days battlefields in 1994. The various fields all look widely separated on a map, but I discovered that it is possible to drive the entire campaign between morning and nightfall. That these relatively short distances on modern roads were fiercely contested in 1862 is awe-inspiring.

The Seven Days are not often studied as closely as they ought to be, given the valuable clues they provide for the future course of the war under Robert E. Lee. (Pickett's Charge becomes even harder to understand once you see what happened to Lee's army at Malvern Hill.) As for the Union commander, George B. McClellan, all one can say is that his conduct at the Seven Days was so shameful and inexplicable that it is one of the eternal mysteries of the war as to why anyone thought so highly of him at any point.

There are a number of good books on the Seven Days battles that one can read to prepare for this fall's tour. But given the shortness of time and the need to find books that are widely available, I recommend three:

- **Lee Takes Command** (originally published in 1964 as *The Seven Days: The Emergence of Lee*), by Clifford Dowdey. This is widely considered the master study of the campaign and it has held up well in the more than forty years since it originally appeared. A bit outdated in places, but a good introduction.
- **To the Gates of Richmond: The Peninsula Campaign**, by Stephen W. Sears. McClellan's premier biographer turns his eye to Little Mac's biggest campaign. Though only the last third of the book deals with the Seven Days, it is well worth reading in its entirety.
- **Fields of Battle: The Wars for North America**, by John Keegan. Some of the best American military history has been written by British historians, who bring a fresh, often less biased eye to the events. John Keegan book *Fields of Battle* has only a chapter on the Seven Days, but it is worth reading, especially for his look at the geography of the battle space.

HOUSTON CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE 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 learn about us? _____

Mail To: **Houston Civil War Round Table**
P. O. Box 4215
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NEW MEMBER

RENEWAL

\$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



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