



# General Orders

## Rains' Regiment

Vol. 22  
No. 2  
Sept.  
2010

[www.houstoncivilwar.com](http://www.houstoncivilwar.com)

**SEPTEMBER 2010 MEETING**  
**Thursday, September 16, 2010**

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

**E-Mail Reservation is Preferred;**  
at [drzuckero@sbcglobal.net](mailto:drzuckero@sbcglobal.net)  
or call Don Zuckero at (281) 479-1232  
by 6 PM on Monday Sept. 13, 2010  
**Dinner \$33; Lecture Only \$5**

**Reservations are required for Lecture Only!**

### The HCWRT PRESENTS

#### **“Grant’s Army at Last: The Army of the Potomac, November 1864-April 1865”**

The Houston Civil War Round Table is pleased to start off the 2010-2011 Speakers Campaign with a presentation from Bill Bergen.

Accounts of the Appomattox campaign emphasize the pathos of Lee’s retreat, focusing on how his outnumbered, underfed, and poorly clad army marched forlornly to the war’s quiet end in Wilmer McLean’s parlor.

Too often overlooked in the drama of those 10 days is the near-perfect performance of the Union Army of the Potomac. The change is startling; before April 1865, it had won but one clear-cut victory and that on its own soil at Gettysburg. What caused this heretofore slow and inept army to surround Lee’s still-dangerous Army of Northern Virginia at Appomattox?

Part of the answer is that Lt. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant had finally made the army his own. No longer constrained by political considerations in his final campaign, Grant was able to promote and demote on the basis of merit. And, over the winter of 1864-1865, he infused his army and its commanders with his own aggressive spirit. How Grant remade his forces into the invincible, relentless army that brought

Lee to bay is the focus of Bill Bergen’s multi-media presentation at our next meeting.

### **About Our Speaker: Bill Bergen**

Bill Bergen has had a lifelong interest in the Civil War. He has lectured widely on the topic and has conducted many battlefield tours. Bill has served as an instructor at several of the University of Virginia’s annual Civil War Conferences. Bill’s specific interests have been focused on the Army of the Potomac, the Petersburg Siege, and the Battle of Cedar Creek. He authored “The Other Hero of Cedar Creek: The ‘Not Specially Ambitious’ Horatio G. Wright”, a biographical essay that appeared in “The 1864 Shenandoah Campaign” published by the University of North Carolina Press in 2006.



Bill Bergen

Bill is an undergraduate of Vassar College and has a graduate degree from the University of Virginia. He is presently the Assistant Dean for Administrative Services for the University of Virginia Law School. In this role he has managed several major expansion projects of the Law School’s facilities and has served as a law school admissions official.

We are indeed fortunate to have Bill Bergen help us kickoff our 2011-2012 Campaign.



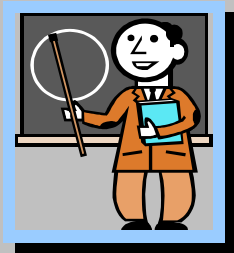
## SEPTEMBER BOOK RAFFLE by Donnie Stowe

I hope everyone had a wonderful summer break. Our September HCWRT meeting book raffle begins with **COURAGE UNDER FIRE- Profiles in bravery from the Battlefields of the Civil War**, by Wiley Sword and was donated by Jim Godlove. Next up is a historical novel of the Civil War by Newt Gingrich & William R. Forstchen entitled **GRANT COMES EAST**. We will also be raffling the **RECOLLECTIONS AND LETTERS OF ROBERT E. LEE**, by his son, Captain Robert E. Lee and donated by Adrain Huckabee. The fourth and final selection is **THE CIVIL WAR: AN AMERICAN ILIAD** by Otto Eisenschiml & Ralph Newman – Donor is Linda Erdeley.

Members are encouraged to donate some of your well-read books or a small monetary donation for purchase of books to continue a valuable support to the HCWRT Raffle.

## SEPTEMBER QUIZ By Jim Godlove

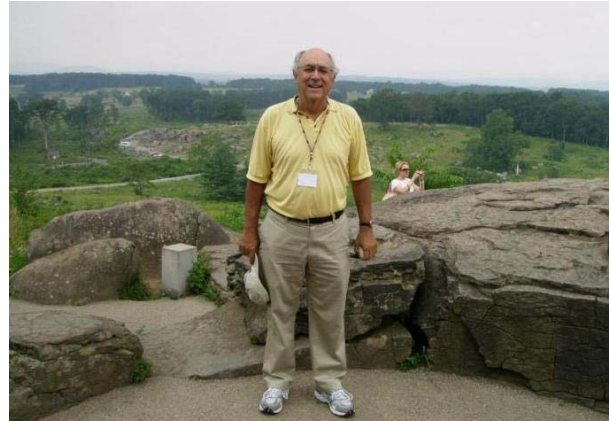
May 1864, saw the beginning of Grant's Overland Campaign. There were four Union generals commanding corps crossing the Rapidan at that time. By April 1865, all four corps had new commanders. The longest lasting corps commander led the 5<sup>th</sup> Corps.



Who was this general who was removed from command by Gen. Phil Sheridan at the Battle of Five Forks?

## COMMANDER'S CORNER By David Rains

I hope everyone had a wonderful summer and was able to escape the Houston heat for at least a few days.



*Where did David escape the heat?*

Please make plans to come to our September 16<sup>th</sup> first meeting. I have attended several of Gary Gallagher's UVA Civil War conferences and Bill Bergen has always made major contributions in terms of well-organized presentations and excellent battlefield commentaries. I am sure you will enjoy his presentation on the Army of the Potomac in the final days of the war.

Please send in your annual dues if you haven't done so.

I am looking forward to a great year for HCWRT with interesting speakers, an enjoyable battlefield trip, good attendance at our meetings, and an increasing membership. See you all on the 16<sup>th</sup>!

## 2010 FALL FIELD TRIP: THE SEVEN DAYS BATTLE By Tony Matt

This fall's field trip will find our members traveling to Virginia. The Round Table is offering its members and guests an opportunity to join us from November 4 through November 7, 2010 with our guide Robert Krick of the Battles of the Seven Days.

The three day itinerary will include tours of The Dabbs House, Mechanicsville (Beaver Dam Creek), Walnut Grove Church, Jackson's March of June 27, Old Cold Harbor, and Gaine's Mill, White Oak Swamp, Frayser's Farm (Glendale), Malvern Hill, Harrison's Landing, and a trip to Tredegar Iron Works.



The Seven Days Battles, the weeklong Confederate counter-offensive fought June 26 - July 1, 1862 near Richmond, Virginia, ended the Peninsula Campaign. The most prominent players in this series of struggles were Gen. Robert E. Lee and Gen. George B. McClellan.

The sixth and last of the Seven Days Battles was Malvern Hill, fought on July 1, 1862. In this battle, Gen. Lee launched a series of disjointed assaults on the nearly impregnable Union position on Malvern Hill. The Confederates suffered more than 5,300 casualties without gaining any ground in this calamitous effort.

Despite his perceived victory at Malvern Hill, McClellan withdrew to entrench at Harrison's Landing on the James River where his army was protected by gunboats. General Lee had succeeded in driving McClellan's invading Army of the Potomac away from the Confederate capital at Richmond, Virginia.



The weeklong series of battles left McClellan's retreating army with 15,855 casualties out of a total force strength of 104,100 men. His number of killed totaled

1,734, his wounded were 8,066, and his missing/captured tallied 6,055. Lee's army entered the conflict with a strength of 92,000 men and suffered casualties of 20,204, of which 3,494 were reported killed, 15,758 were listed as wounded, and 952 were tallied missing/captured.

After the completion of the Seven Days Battles, Lee became convinced that McClellan would not resume his threat against Richmond, and he moved north for initiation of the Northern Virginia and Maryland Campaigns.

I hope that many of our members will be interested in the study of these epic struggles of the Seven Days Battles and will sign up to join us this fall. You will not find better bargain pricing anywhere for a guided tour of this quality with as complete an itinerary as we offer. We select the best

accommodations available to us in the areas we visit, and we know you will enjoy touring and learning in the company of fellow aficionados of this critical period in mid-1862.

**Double Room Accomodations:** \$785 per person.

**Single Room Accomodations:** \$920.

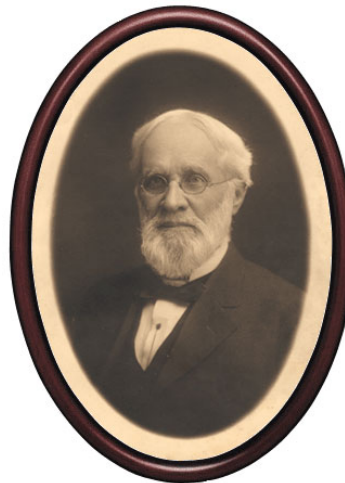
The price includes airfare, Hotel, guide, three lunches, one dinner, a charter bus.

**IMPORTANT: FINAL PAYMENTS FOR THE 2010 TRIP ARE DUE NO LATER THAN THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2010.**

For more information you can email [Tony Matt](mailto:T94matt@aol.com) at [T94matt@aol.com](mailto:T94matt@aol.com) or call him at (281) 277-0203.

## FROM THE EDITOR

*By Philip Brown*



Henry Martyn Trueheart

This is the third newsletter that I have produced for the HCWRT and I thought it was about time I introduced myself. I was born here in Houston and I inherited my interest in the Civil War from my Great Grandfather, Henry Martyn Trueheart. He served under Maj. Gen. Magruder at the Battle of Galveston in January of 1863 and also served with the 7<sup>th</sup> Virginia Cavalry under Maj. Gen. J.E.B. Stuart's Cavalry Division. In 1864 he became a

member of McNeill's Rangers who operated behind enemy lines on the Virginia-Maryland border. He was a member of the sixty-six man partisan force that McNeill led on a mission in which they captured Union Generals Kelley and Crook in February of 1865 at Cumberland, Maryland. His and his brother's experiences are documented in the book entitled "Rebel Brothers – The Civil War Letters of the Truehearts" by Edward B. Williams.

I am honored to be able to provide my services to the Round Table and hope to serve its members as honorably as my great grandfather served the Confederacy.

In my spare time I enjoy working and spending time on a piece of property that my great grandfather purchased in 1898, Trueheart Hill, just NW of Centerville Texas

I would also like to take this opportunity to encourage your participation in the production of the newsletter. If you have news you would like to share with the membership or if you would like to submit an article or a photograph for publication, please email your submissions to me at [Newsletter@HoustonCivilWar.com](mailto:Newsletter@HoustonCivilWar.com).



# 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 \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ St \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

How did you learn about us? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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

**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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