



General Orders

Rains' Regiment

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No. 7
Feb.
2011

www.houstoncivilwar.com

FEBRUARY 2011 MEETING
Thursday, February 17, 2011

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

E-Mail Reservation is Preferred;
at drzuckero@sbcglobal.net
or call Don Zuckero at (281) 479-1232
by 6 PM on Monday Feb. 14, 2011
Dinner \$33; Lecture Only \$5

Note: Reservations are required for Lecture Only!

The HCWRT PRESENTS

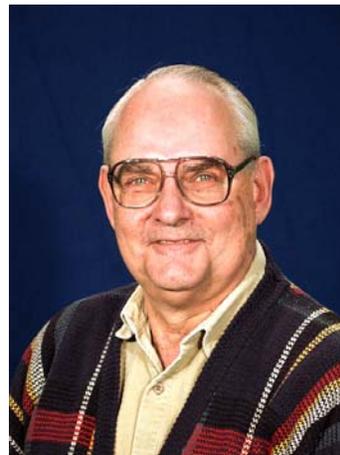
Edward (Ed) H. Bonekemper, III **“Six Turning Points of War”**

This February we are pleased to host Ed Bonekemper as our speaker. Ed travels all the way from Willow Street, Pennsylvania to join us in Houston. A Civil War and military historian Mr. Bonekemper will deliver a stimulating presentation on his selection of the six turning points of the Civil War: (1) Ulysses S. Grant's February 1862 capture of Forts Henry and Donelson in Tennessee; (2) Lee's September 1862 strategic loss to George B. McClellan at Sharpsburg (Antietam), Maryland; (3) George Meade's July 1863 defeat of Lee at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania; (4) Grant's mid-1863 capture of Vicksburg, Mississippi; (5) Grant's November 1863 breakout at Chattanooga, Tennessee, and (6) William T. Sherman's - September 1864 capture of Atlanta, Georgia.

Bonekemper will set the stage for each of these major clashes, describe how they occurred, and conclude with an explanation of their significance to the outcome of the war by addressing the following questions: Which battles changed the course of the war? Which battles led to Union control of the

western rivers? Which ones split the Confederacy into pieces? Which ones destroyed the offensive and even counter-punching capability of Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia? Which battle opened the door for President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation? Which battle ensured Lincoln's reelection? Which ones were uniquely significant in hastening the Union victory?

About Edward Bonekemper



Edward H. Bonekemper, III is a 1964 American History cum laude graduate of Muhlenberg College in Allentown, PA. He received his Master's degree in history from Old Dominion University in 1971, completing his formal education with a J.D. from Yale Law School in 1967.

While distracted by a 34-year career as a U.S. Government attorney with the Coast Guard, Department of Transportation, and Department of the Interior, he found time to be active in community service, write, teach and lecture on a variety of subjects. His numerous book reviews have been published in the Civil War Times, The Washington Times, USCG Academy Alumni Bulletin, Journal of Afro-American History, and the Journal of Negro History. He has also published four books that include: Grant and Lee: Victorious American and Vanquished Virginian (Praeger/Greenwood, Westport, Connecticut and London, 2008), McClellan and Failure: A Study of Civil War Fear, Incompetence and Worse (McFarland & Company, Jefferson, North Carolina, 2007), A Victor, Not a Butcher: Ulysses S. Grant's Overlooked Military Genius (Regnery Publishing, Inc., Washington, D.C., 2004), and How

Robert E. Lee Lost the Civil War (Sergeant Kirkland's Press, Fredericksburg, VA, 1998).

His passion however, appears to be lecturing and teaching. Of the 100's of lectures that he has given over the years he has been welcomed to the Smithsonian Institute; the National Civil War Museum (Harrisburg, PA): the CCNY Military Affairs Symposium, the Association of Military Colleges and Schools of the U.S., and Civil War Roundtables in Los Angeles, San Francisco, San Diego, Orange County, Seattle, Chicago, Milwaukee, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Baltimore, Washington D.C., Wilmington, New Jersey, and New York. His teaching credentials include positions at Muhlenberg College, The Chautauqua Institution, The Smithsonian Institution, George Mason University, American Military University, U.S. Coast Guard Academy, and U.S. Coast Guard Reserve Training Center.



FEBRUARY BOOK RAFFLE

By Donnie Stowe

I wish to give a special thanks to all the members last month that brought in so many new books for the HCWRT raffle. This month the raffle begins with **LEADERSHIP DURING THE CIVIL WAR**, edited by Roman J. Heliak and Lawrence L. Hewitt and donated by Mrs. Ed Ekholm. Inside this small volume is an excellent piece on Nathan Bedford Forrest by Ed Bearss. Next in line is a book donated by Joe Goulding - **JUSTICE OF SHATTERED DREAMS – Samuel Freeman Miller and the Supreme Court during the Civil War** by Michael A. Ross and as a bonus, it is signed by the author. Our third selection is **THE WAR FOR THE UNION: The Organized War to Victory 1864-1865** by Allan Nevins. The final volume this month is **BLOCKADE – The Civil War at Sea** by Robert Carse. This is donated by Norman Lewis.

Even though we did get several new and varied books in last month, let's keep them coming. Every book you donate goes to help this roundtable in providing some fun at our meetings and giving back knowledge and enjoyment of a subject we all hold dear to our hearts. Each book sheds the light of knowledge on some subject that we may not have been aware of or gives a different perspective/angle on events we thought we understood.

COMMANDER'S CORNER

By David Rains

It was great to again see and hear Ed Bearss at the January meeting. We had the largest attendance since the last time Ed spoke. We are also pleased to have Ed Bonekemper as our speaker for the February meeting and look forward to his presentation on "The Six Turning Points of the War. Please email or call Don Zuckero with your reservation.

FEBRUARY QUIZ Valentine's Special

By Jim Godlove



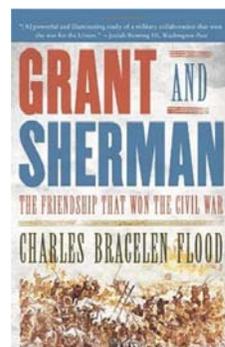
LINCOLN OFTEN REMARKED ON THE PRETENSIONS OF HIS WIFE'S FAMILY. HE NOTED THAT "ONE "D" WAS GOOD ENOUGH FOR GOD BUT NOT ENOUGH FOR ..."

WHAT WAS MARY LINCOLN'S MAIDEN NAME AND WHAT WAS THE SPELLING?

The Top 12 Civil War Books Ever Written

By Glenn W. LaFantasie

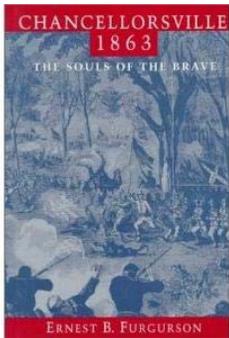
We continue our count down of the Top 12 Civil War book ever written this month with numbers 9, 8 and 7.



9. "Grant and Sherman: The Friendship That Won the Civil War": As Charles Bracelen Flood makes perfectly clear in this engaging book, the Union would have lost the war had it not been for the professional and personal relationship between Ulysses S. Grant, the Union army's general in chief, and William Tecumseh Sherman, his subordinate. From

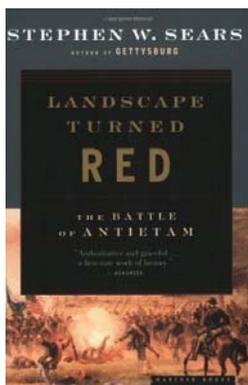
the very start of this book, the reader follows these men as they lead their armies to victory in both theaters of the war, east and west. Flood's writing is

fluid and compelling: He does not get caught in the trap of telling one man's story and then the other, chapter by chapter, like a pendulum in a grandfather clock -- first tick (Grant), then tock (Sherman). Instead, the author blends his account of the two generals into a perfect whole and makes us feel, page after page, that we are in the presence of these great soldiers, marching off to war or sitting by a campfire with them. There is probably no better book that explains precisely how the Union, guided by these two brilliant officers, won the Civil War.



8. "Chancellorsville 1863: The Souls of the Brave": Countless "battle books" about the Civil War have been published, particularly over the past 50 years or so, but this account of Chancellorsville, written by Ernest B. ("Pat") Furgurson, stands out as one of the very best. Furgurson, another former journalist, not only recounts the story behind what

most historians regard as Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee's greatest victory, he does so in a manner that keeps the reader totally enthralled, page after page. Focusing as much on ordinary soldiers as he does on generals (including Confederate Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson, who was fatally wounded by "friendly fire"), he depicts the battle as a grim human ordeal, which it surely was, with men grappling desperately to kill their enemies in rows and droves, struggling all the while to achieve victory at practically any cost. As one would expect from a newspaperman, Furgurson has a fine eye for detail and displays a nimble aptitude for injecting pathos into this tale of two armies bent on destroying one another. His prose flows with a simple felicity that is enviable. One sentence offers a prime example: "The rain fell and the river rose." Sounds like Hemingway. Reads like F. Scott Fitzgerald.



7. "Landscape Turned Red: The Battle of Antietam" by Stephen W. Sears: This is probably the best book ever written on any single battle of the Civil War. On Sept. 17, 1862, the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia, under the command of Robert E. Lee, clashed in Maryland with the Union Army of the Potomac, led by George B. McClellan, in what

would turn out to be the single bloodiest day of the

Civil War and in all of American history. The casualties were staggering: More than 23,000 soldiers were killed, lay wounded on the field, or went missing after the battle. Stephen W. Sears, the author of several splendid Civil War books, conveys all the human drama of the battle, skillfully shifting from generals to soldiers in the ranks to reconstruct the battle through the eyes of the men who fought it. With deftness, Sears shows how this great fight -- which ended technically in a draw -- unfolded by fits and starts, with no one on either side having control over what was taking place or what would happen next, a whirlwind of men and noise that ripped from one end of the battlefield to the other, the whole outcome fully dependent on contingency, fate and luck. Although Sears is not a lyricist (his writing tends to be lean and taut), he writes with terrific polish and great authority.

2010 - 2011 SPEAKERS CAMPAIGN

- Feb 17, 2011 Ed Bonekemper – “*Six Turning Points of War*”
- Mar 17, 2011 James Bevill – “*Confederate Money*”
- Apr 21, 2011 Don Frazier – “*Fire in the Cane Field: The Invasion of Louisiana and Texas January 1861 to January 1863*”
- May 19, 2011 Jack Waugh – “*Maxey and the Indians*”

2011 - 2012 SPEAKERS CAMPAIGN

- Sep 16, 2011 Wayne Motts - "*The Seminary Tower at Gettysburg*"
- Oct 20, 2011 Jim Robbins - "*Last in Their Class: Custer, Pickett and the Goats of West Point*"
- Nov 17, 2011 Prof. Susannah Ural - "*Hood and the Texans*"
- Dec 15, 2011 Tom Carhart - "*West Point Civil War Rivalries*"
- Jan 19, 2012 Ed Bearss - *To Be Announced*
- Feb 16, 2012 Stephen Kinnaman - "*The Building of the Alabama*"
- Mar 15, 2012 Carol Berkin - "*Civil War Wives*"
- Apr 19, 2012 Pat Falci - "*A.P. Hill: Lee's Forgotten General*"
- May 17, 2012 *To Be Announced*

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
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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