



# General Orders

## *Barnes' Texas Brigade*

Vol. 23  
No. 3  
Nov. 8,  
2011

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



### The HCWRT PRESENTS

### Dr. Amanda Foreman



Amanda's second book, *A World on Fire*, was published in the UK by Penguin (November 2010) and in the US by Random House (June 2011). The book was critically acclaimed in both countries and went on to become a national best seller in the United States. *A World on Fire* has been optioned by BBC Worldwide.

In addition to writing and public speaking, Amanda has also served on a number of juries including The Orange Prize, the Guardian First Book Prize and the National Book Awards.

She is the daughter of Carl Foreman, the Oscar-winning screenwriter of many film classics including, *The Bridge on the River Kwai*, *High Noon*, and *The Guns of Navarone*. She lives in New York with her husband and five children.

For more on Dr. Foreman visit her website at: <http://www.amanda-foreman.com>. You can also follow her on Facebook at: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Amanda-Foreman/138806302860896> and on Twitter at: <http://twitter.com/#!/DrAmandaForeman>.

### Speaking on the Topic;

### *“Tales of Heroism, Tales of Terror: The British Volunteers in the American Civil War”*

The Houston Civil War Round Table is delighted to welcome Dr. Amanda Foreman, who will discuss the British volunteers in the Civil War and their many and varied experiences on both sides.

Amanda Foreman is the award-winning historian and international bestselling author of *Georgiana, Duchess of Devonshire* and *A World on Fire: Britain's Crucial Role in the American Civil War*. Amanda received her bachelor's degree at Sarah Lawrence College and her PhD at Oxford University. In addition to being an international best seller, Amanda's first book, *Georgiana, Duchess of Devonshire*, won the 1998 Whitbread Prize for Biography and has been developed into a television documentary, a radio play starring Dame Judi Dench, and the Oscar-winning movie, titled *'The Duchess'*.



**NOVEMBER 2011 MEETING**  
**Thursday, Nov. 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](mailto:drzuckero@sbcglobal.net)**  
**or call Don Zuckero at (281) 479-1232**  
**By 6 PM on Monday Nov. 14, 2011**  
**Dinner \$33; Lecture Only \$5**

**Note: Reservations are required for Lecture Only!**

## [A World on Fire: Britain's crucial role in the American Civil War](#)

*By Amanda Foreman*

*Reviewed by John A. Barnes*

The Civil War was not an exclusively American conflict. While it did not qualify as a "world war" by 20th century standards, the major European powers followed the progress of the fighting closely and with great interest. Almost to the very end, the Confederacy desperately hoped – and Union supporters greatly feared – that one or more of these countries would intervene militarily in the conflict and so ensure Southern independence.

That did not happen, of course, but the story of how it might have happened is Amanda Foreman's subject in *A World on Fire*. Her canvas is enormous and involves a great galaxy of soldiers, sailors, diplomats, politicians, journalists, socialites, spies and even artists in the United States, the Confederacy and in Great Britain.

The latter was the key to any foreign intervention in the American war. While France's Napoleon III was prepared to recognize the Confederacy almost from the start, he did not possess the naval power needed to break the Union blockade of Confederate ports. Only the Royal Navy could do that, so Foreman's book necessarily focuses on the diplomatic dance between London and Washington.

So the narrative shifts back and forth across the Atlantic, ranging from the drawing rooms and parliamentary chambers of the British governing classes to the battlefields of Shiloh and Gettysburg. As fans of the film *Gettysburg* know, Lt. Col. Arthur Fremantle of the Coldstream Guards famously witnessed the battle. On July 2, 1863, Fremantle recorded how, in the midst of James Longstreet's powerful assault against the Union left flank, a Confederate band "began to play polkas and waltzes, which sounded very curious, accompanied by the hissing and bursting of shells."

In London, the United States was represented by Charles Francis Adams, the son and grandson of presidents, both of whom also served as ministers to Britain. Despite this background, Adams' demeanor made him an odd choice for the post. He found little to recommend the English aristocracy, for example, members of which returned the favor: "Those who did try to be friendly to Adams were often put off by his stiff manner," Foreman writes. "Adams was incapable of producing charm on demand, a serious handicap for a diplomat."

The often ham-fisted diplomacy of Adams and his superior, Secretary of State William Seward, sometimes seemed almost calculated to drive Britain into the arms of the South. That it ultimately did not is a tribute to the diplomatic skills of Lord Lyons, the British minister to Washington, and strong opposition to slavery on the part of the overwhelming majority of the British public.

This brief review can only hint at the depth of this remarkable story and the skill with which Amanda Foreman tells it.

### [NOVEMBER QUIZ](#)

*By Jim Godlove*

**One Hundred and fifty years ago today on November 8th, 1861, a US Navy vessel stopped a British ship and removed two Confederate commissioners in route to Europe. The captain on the navy ship had been in command of the U. S. Exploring Expedition of 1838-1842.**



**Who was this captain and what major discovery did the "US Ex Ex" make?**

### [NOVEMBER BOOK RAFFLE](#)

*By Donnie Stowe*



For our November meeting the book raffle begins with a book donated by Keith Fletcher. It is **LAST CHANCE for VICTORY** – *Robert E. Lee and the Gettysburg Campaign* by Scott Bowden & Bill Ward. Next in line is **CIVIL WAR JOURNAL – THE LEGACIES** – Edited by William C. Davis, Brian C. Pohanka and Don Troiani - donated by Charles Mitchell. I am donating **1858** – *Abraham Lincoln, Jefferson Davis, Robert E. Lee, Ulysses S. Grant and the War They Failed to See* by Bruce Chadwick. The final selection is an advance uncorrected proof copy of "**A VAST AND FIENDISH PLOT**" *The Confederate Attack on New York City* by Clint Johnson.

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

# THE GETTYSBURG CAMPAIGN *A SPECIAL TRAVEL REPORT* *By Danny Huckabee*

I went on Mary Gane's South Mountain Tour of the complete Gettysburg campaign 12-20 October, with Ed Bearrs as our guide. This is the first time that anyone has ever done the entire campaign, from the Confederate launch to their retreat back over the Potomac after their defeat. Ed was absolutely pumped at the prospect.

We started tracing the movement of Lee's army north, on October 13th, going to a number of the cavalry battle sites that ensued as they screened it from the Union cavalry. This included Brandy Station, Aldie, Middleburg, and Upperville battlefields. Our day ended in Leesburg.



**Ed Bearrs and Our Group**

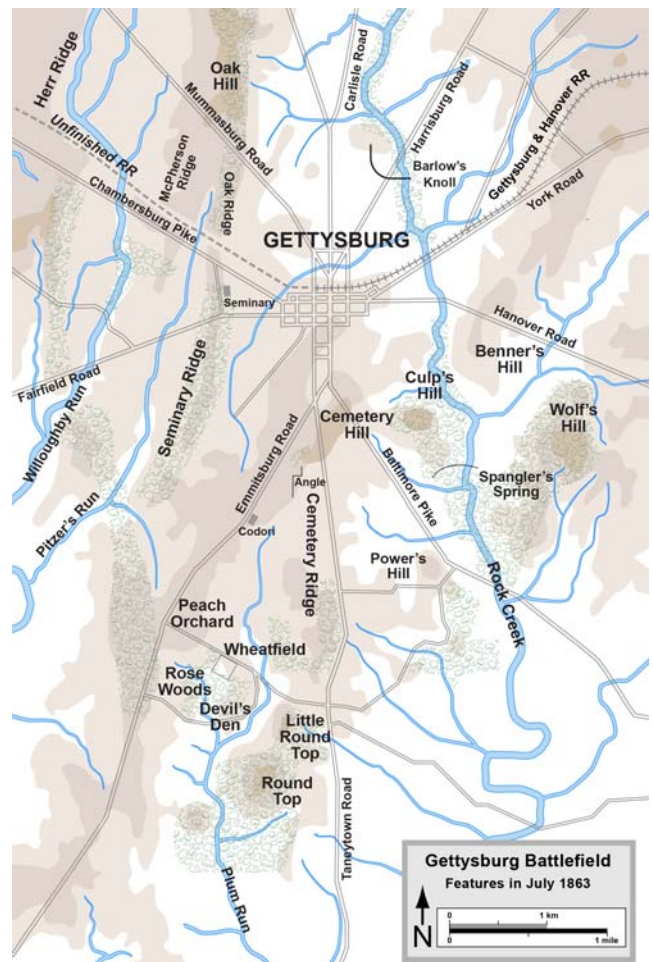
The next day, we traced Stuart's ride around the Union army, starting at Rowser's Ford, then Westminster, Union Mills, and Hanover. We finished the day at the Gettysburg Visitor center and Museum, where Ed had arranged a special after-hours tour of the cyclorama and its restoration, with the presentation being made by Sue Boardman, who heads their Leadership Program. This included going down into the cyclorama, inside the facility and getting all the incredible history of these venues.

October 15, we did the first day of Gettysburg, following Buford's arrival, site of Reynold's death, and the Iron Brigade's struggle with Archer's brigade, concluding the day at Barlow's Knoll. Next day, we did the second day, starting with Lee's attempt to envelop the Yankees first on their left, then the right. This included visits to the Peach Orchard,

Wheatfield, Devil's Den, Little Round Top, and Culp's Hill, concluding at East Cemetery. 17 October, we did the climatic 3rd day, starting out with the Confederates driven from Culp's Hill. Then, we conducted Pickett's charge, with Ed leading the way, as part of Kemper's brigade of Pettigrew's division, obliquing across the field as we closed on the copse of trees. The day ended with local historian Dean Schultz walking us on Neil Avenue, known as the "Lost Avenue", the far right of the Union position, which is almost exactly as it was 3 July 1863.

18 October started at East and South Calvary Fields and the combat 3 July between the opposing cavalries. Then we did Soldiers' National Cemetery, Gettysburg Railroad Station, Willis House, Evergreen and Gettysburg National Cemetery, tracing Lincoln's steps. Lastly, we had a special presentation from Jim Getty, who does an almost uncanny Lincoln, as a news conference with all of us asking him questions.

19 October we traced Lee's retreat, following the trail through Fairfield, Monterey Pass, Smithsburg, Funkstown, Boonsboro, and finally, Williamsport, where Lee crossed back over the Potomac to safety. 20 October was travel home.



## HOUSTON CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE 2011 - 2012 SPEAKERS CAMPAIGN

Nov 17, 2011 Amanda Foreman - *"Britain and the Civil War"*

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 Jerry D. Thompson - *"Sibley and the Southwest"*



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