



General Orders

Barnes' Texas Brigade

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THE HCWRT PRESENTS

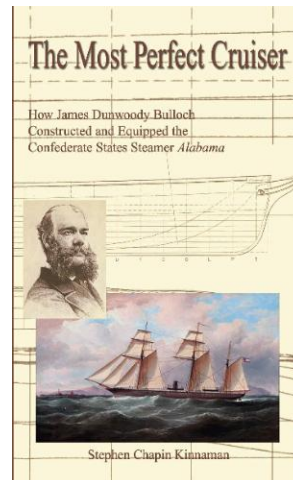
Stephen Kinnaman Speaking on the Topic; "The Building of the Alabama"

The Houston Civil War Round Table welcomes Stephen Kinnaman to Houston. He will be sharing insights into his recent publication "*The Most Perfect Cruiser*" which was published on March 30th of 2009.

The Most Perfect Cruiser is the story of how the Confederacy got to sea the most deadly of its raiders, the C.S.S. *Alabama*. It is a both a complex and a human tale, one that occurred entirely outside of North America. We encounter the ambitions of the brilliant James Dunwoody Bulloch, the Confederate secret naval agent who brought *Alabama* into being thinking he would command her; and her resourceful captain, Raphael Semmes, whose previous success had already alarmed the North. As for the *Alabama*, she began her maiden voyage in the teeth of a rising gale, barely escaping the clutches of a Union warship and the belated efforts of British authorities to seize her. All of these threads culminated in a three-way rendezvous in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean, where through a remarkable combination of luck, skill, and hard work, the South commissioned the most successful commerce raider the world has ever known.

The Civil War reigns as a favorite subject of American literature: the battles, the men who fought in them, and the enormous impact of the Nation's bloodiest war, the consequences of which affect us to this very day. Nowhere is this more true than the remarkable achievements of the Confederate commerce raiders. In less than four years, a handful of hastily improvised cruisers managed to reduce the world's most vibrant merchant marine--that of the United States--into a husk of its former self. The damage was permanent. From 1865 to the present time, with brief exceptions due solely to war, America's merchant marine has played a decreasingly prominent role in the country's economy and psyche. The effects

of the 'flight from the flag' wrought by Southern naval prowess are with us still



The Most Perfect Cruiser brings a different focus to a tale, which has had its share of previous coverage, but always in a piecemeal fashion. Many books have been written about Raphael Semmes, *Alabama's* cruise, and the Civil War at sea. However none have explored *how* the South pulled off the incredible feat of putting the right matériel in the hands of the right men, and accomplished so much against such overwhelming odds. With the broader perspective that only time can provide, this saga can now be embraced as an American achievement, not simply North against South.

Incorporating fresh interpretations of old material and hitherto unreported new sources, *The Most Perfect Cruiser* will appeal to readers of adventure classics as well as Civil War history buffs and those with an interest in America's maritime history.

You can learn more about Mr. Kinnaman and his works at <http://www.stephenkinnaman.com>.

FEBRUARY 2012 MEETING Thursday, Feb. 16, 2012

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. 13, 2012
Dinner \$33; Lecture Only \$5

Note: Reservations are required for Lecture Only!

About Stephen Kinnaman



Stephen Kinnaman is an offshore and marine technology professional with over thirty years of experience. He was born in 1950 and grew up in upstate New York and New Jersey. He and his wife, Maureen, currently reside in Chappell Hill, Texas.

In preparation for writing *The Most Perfect Cruiser*, Stephen Kinnaman visited all the principal locations touched by Bulloch, Semmes, and *Alabama*, gaining a first-hand feel for the terrain which shaped *Alabama's* birth. Mr. Kinnaman was a director of the Mobile, Alabama-based C.S.S. *Alabama* Association, and as such was involved with aspects of the ongoing wreck recovery efforts in France. He participated in the Association's first field trip to Cherbourg during the summer of 1999. His nautical background and love of the sea has allowed him to craft a spirited account of the operational side of *Alabama's* creation which is so central to this book.

A naval architect by training, Stephen Kinnaman has held positions requiring hands-on operational experience as well as those demanding engineering, management and contract skills. His writing abilities have brought him editing, marketing, bid preparation and expert witness assignments. Stephen Kinnaman has also seen extensive foreign service: he performed graduate research at Cambridge University, he crewed on a North Sea drilling rig; he was based in the United Kingdom while working on a major offshore oil installation; he lived in Sweden while consulting for a leading Swedish shipbuilder; and he has recently worked on various offshore projects in Brazil,

Singapore and the Gulf of Mexico. Presently he is an independent consultant based in Houston, Texas.

During his consulting career, Mr. Kinnaman has authored or co-authored eight articles about offshore technology; they have appeared in trade journals such as *Ocean Industry* and *Oil & Gas Journal*. Mr. Kinnaman is also the author of an article titled, "Inside the *Alabama*", which appeared in the U.S. Naval Institute's Summer 1990 issue of *Naval History*. This article presents the results of many years' research into the ship that was *Alabama*, and discusses the physical attributes, which made her so formidable.

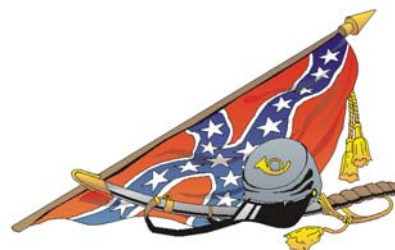


FEBRUARY BOOK RAFFLE *By Donnie Stowe*

We sure had a good group to hear Ed Bears at the January meeting. And as Ed would say Semper Fi!!

For February our book raffle begins with a book donated by Diane Davis. It is **BLOOD & TREASURE – Confederate Empire in the Southwest** by Donald S. Frazier. Next up is **THE CIVIL WAR REENACTORS' ENCYCLOPEDIA**—by William C. Davis. Third in the raffle is **THE MOST GLORIOUS FOURTH – Vicksburg and Gettysburg, July 4th, 1863**. James Godlove donated this book to us. The final selection is really four volumes in a set. It is **GREAT GENERALS OF THE CIVIL WAR**. The generals are (1) General Ulysses S. Grant by F. Norton Booth, (2) Robert E. Lee by Ian Hogg, (3) William T. Sherman by Marsha Landreth and (4) Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson by Bronwyn Mills. I'm afraid the donor is unknown.

I want to thank all the members who keep bringing in their books and magazines for the Raffle. Your efforts make the meetings all that more entertaining and educational.



FEBRUARY QUIZ

By Jim Godlove

Due to neutrality regulations, the building of what became the *CSS Alabama* at the Lairds Shipyard had to be kept secret.



What was the designation of the *CSS Alabama* while under construction in Liverpool?

HOUSTON MUSEUM OF NATURAL SCIENCE

Discovering The Civil War NOW OPEN!!!

From <http://www.hmns.org/>

As proclaimed on the Houston Museum of Natural Science website – the exhibit *Discovering the Civil War* is now open. The exhibit, which opened on October 14, 2011, will be closing on Sunday April 29, 2012, so make your plans now to go see history today.

You can go to www.hms.org for more information on the exhibit but here is an excerpt from the web:

Layers of time and memory obscure the American Civil War in a smoky haze. The real human beings, military and civilian, who lived through these years of travail and sacrifice, are lost to us, but the records they left behind give us a pathway back to the past.

The National Archives holds millions of records, both Union and Confederate. *Discovering the Civil War* draws on these letters, diaries, photos, petitions, and patents to give visitors a chance to walk in the shoes of researchers in unlocking secrets, solving mysteries, and uncovering unexpected events from this pivotal point in our history.

The exhibit is divided into 12 thematic areas that combine great original treasures, engaging touch screen interactives and social media tools, selected

to illustrate the breadth of the conflict and to ask, "How do we know what happened?"

Each area is anchored by an original document, and all the records become powerful tools that let visitors consider and ask questions about evidence; listen to a wide variety of voices; and make up their own minds about the struggle that tore apart these United States.

EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION

On Display at HMNS

The Emancipation Proclamation was issued on Jan. 1, 1863, declaring that "all persons held as slaves" within the rebellious states "are, and henceforward shall be free."

This historic document will be on display for 6 days only! Make plans to visit *Discovering The Civil War* between Thursday, Feb 16 and Tuesday, Feb. 21, 2012.

Upcoming Lectures at HMNS

From <http://www.hmns.org/>

All the following lectures will be held at the Wortham IMAX Theatre at 6:30 PM.

- Tuesday, February 21, 2012: ***Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation: The Second Declaration of Independence*** given by John C. Waugh
- Tuesday, March 6, 2012: ***The Emancipation Proclamation: Myths and Realities*** given by James Oakes, Ph.D.
- Tuesday, March 20, 2012: ***USS Westfield, A Civil War Shipwreck in Galveston Bay*** given by Robert Gearhart, Amy Borgens and Edward T. Cotham, Jr.
- Tuesday, March 27, 2012: ***Patriots for Profit - The Blockade Runners of the Confederacy*** given by Andrew Hall
- Tuesday, April 24, 2012: ***Dick Dowling and the Battle of Sabine Pass*** given by W. Caleb McDaniel

For more information on the lectures presented by the Houston Museum of Natural Science, go to http://www.hmns.org/?option=com_content&view=article&id=157&Itemid=164.



CIVIL WAR BITS and PIECES

Submitted by Donnie Stowe

Civil War Vocabulary - Abatis: One of the most formidable obstacles laid around defensive positions during the war, abatis were tangles of trees and large limbs carefully arranged with the branches pointed toward the attackers. Small branches and leaves were stripped away to prevent their use as cover for the enemy. Remaining branches were sharpened at the ends, and larger chunks were often covered with earth, staked to the ground, or nailed to crossbeams to inhibit efforts to dismantle the obstacles.

Strange Fact - The South had its own Abraham Lincoln, but he didn't stick around with his fellow soldiers in Company F, 1st Virginia Cavalry, to see it through to the end of the war. Private Abraham Lincoln was listed as a deserter in 1864.

Did You Know? - Though more than 27,000 were casualties of the battle of Chickamauga (September 19-20, 1863), and 4,000 were killed, only one soldier is known to lie on the field today. He is Private John Ingraham, of the 1st Confederate Regiment, Georgia Volunteers. Ingraham was an orphan who was buried by his comrades where he fell and remains there, despite removal of all other known bodies in the development of the battlefield park.

Civil War Quote - "Faint is the echo; but it is coming; we now hear it sighing sadly through the pines, but it shall yet break in thunder upon the shore – no North, no South,

but the United States of America!" ___ *Henry Ward Beecher (1813-1887), Brooklyn preacher and abolitionist, in a speech at the ceremonial raising of the U.S. flag at Fort Sumter, April 14, 1865. (The same day Lincoln was assassinated.)*

HCWRT 2011 - 2012 SPEAKERS CAMPAIGN

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|--------------|---|
| Feb 16, 2012 | Stephen Kinnaman – <i>"The Building of the Alabama"</i> |
| Mar 15, 2012 | William McWhorter – <i>"Texas Battlefield Preservation"</i> |
| Apr 19, 2012 | Pat Falci – <i>"A.P. Hill: Lee's Forgotten General"</i> |
| May 17, 2012 | Jerry D. Thompson – <i>"Sibley and the Southwest"</i> |



Houston Civil War Round Table
P. O. Box 4215
Houston, TX 77210-4215

