



# General Orders

## Barnes' Texas Brigade

Vol. 23  
No. 9  
May.  
2012

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

**NOTICE – DINNER WILL BE SERVED AT 6:30 PM – A OUR NEXT MEETING – 5/17/2012**

**MAY 2012 MEETING**  
**Thursday, May 17, 2012**

**The Briar Club**  
**2603 Timmons Lane @ Westheimer**  
**6:00 Cash Bar**  
**6:30 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 May. 14, 2012**  
**Dinner \$33; Lecture Only \$5**

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

### The HCWRT PRESENTS

**Dr. Jerry D. Thompson**  
**“Brig. Gen. Henry Hopkins Sibley**  
**and the 1861-1862 Confederate**  
**Invasion of the New Mexico**  
**Territory”**

***By John Barnes***

The Houston Civil War Round Table is pleased to welcome back Dr. Jerry Thompson, who addressed us once before several decades ago. Since 2002, he has Regents Professor of History of the Social Science Department at Texas A&M International University in Laredo.

Louisiana native Henry Hopkins Sibley graduated 30th out of 44 cadets in the West Point Class of 1838, where his fellow cadets included future Confederate Generals P.G.T. Beauregard and William Hardee as well as Union Gen. Irvin McDowell.

Commissioned into the cavalry, he took part in the Seminole and Mexican Wars as well as “Bleeding

Kansas,” the occupation of Texas and the Utah Uprising. He found time to invent the “Sibley Tent,” which would be used by the Union Army throughout the war. They were heated by the “Sibley stove,” which would be used by the US Army in the field almost until the eve of World War II. Union Brig. Gen. Henry Hastings Sibley was a distant cousin.

Resigning from the US Army on May 13, 1861 – the day he was promoted to major – Sibley offered his services to the Confederacy.

After service under Gen. Richard Taylor in Louisiana in 1861, Sibley conceived the New Mexico campaign as a means of bringing Southern sympathizing New Mexico settlers into the Confederacy and seizing the gold and silver mines of Colorado to finance the Confederate war effort. The ultimate goal was to break through to the California coast and circumvent the Union blockade of the Atlantic and Gulf coasts.

In addition to looking at Sibley himself, Dr. Thompson will discuss what he hoped to achieve and exactly what went wrong. In the process, he will also discuss Col. John Robert Baylor and the conquest of the Mesilla Valley in the summer of 1861 before Sibley arrived at Fort Bliss in December of that year. In particular, Dr. Thompson will mention the battles of Valverde and Glorieta Pass, the role of the Union resistance, including the part played by the New Mexico Volunteers, the Colorado “Pikes Peakers” and Brig. Gen. James Henry Carleton's California Column.

**Vandiver Award To**  
**John L. Nau, III**  
***By John Barnes***

In 1982, the Houston Civil War Round Table established the Frank E. Vandiver Award of Merit, named for the first recipient, who had been a member since the mid-1950s and who was a leading authority on the Civil War and past president of Rice University and Texas A&M University until his death in 2005. The award is given each year to an

individual or organization making a substantial contribution to the study of the war.



For this year's award, the board unanimously chose John L. Nau, III, in honor of his magnificent Nau Collection of Civil War artifacts, which was on display earlier this year at the Houston Museum of Natural Science. He has graciously accepted and will give a short talk about how he came to assemble his

collection, as well as his work on the board of the Civil War Trust.

The Nau Civil War Collection is one of the largest private collections of Civil War documents, photographs, weapons, and artifacts in the country. The collection contains items related to all aspects of the war, Union and Confederate.

The collection contains more than 15,000 documents and letters, 2,000 photographic images, and 300 weapons. It also includes a considerable assortment of military accoutrements, equipment, and uniforms.

He is a graduate of the University of Virginia, where he earned a BA in History and currently serves on the Board of Visitors, a position appointed by Virginia's governor. Nau and his wife, Bobbie, reside in Houston, Texas. They have two married daughters and five grandchildren.

We hope you will join us to thank him for his extraordinary work to preserve our Civil War history.

## About Dr. Thompson

*By John Barnes*



A native of Arizona, Dr. Thompson earned his bachelor's degree in History from Western New Mexico University in 1964, his master's from the University of New Mexico in 1968, and his doctorate from Carnegie-Mellon in Pittsburgh, PA in 1982. His dissertation was written on Sibley and the New Mexico campaign and was published by Northwestern State University Press in 1987.

His academic awards and publications are too numerous to list, but include the A. M. Pate Award for Best Civil War book on Trans-Mississippi for Civil War and Revolution on the Rio Grande Frontier (2004); serving on the executive committee of the Texas State Historical Commission; Texas A&M University System Teaching Excellence Award; and in 2011 he was elected to the prestigious Texas Institute of Letters.

We welcome Dr. Thompson back to the Houston Civil War Round Table.

### MAY QUIZ *By Jim Godlove*

**On Feb. 21, 1862, a battle was fought during which two companies of Texas Lancers from the regiment of Col. Tom Green charged the Union line. Though picturesque, the charge was a disaster.**



**Name this Confederate victory in the Southwest.**

### HCWRT Annual Dues Increase

#### *Renewals and New Members (Joining before Jan. 1, 2013)*

Individual	--	\$45.00
Family	--	\$50.00
Student	--	\$20.00

#### *Discounted - New Members (Joining on or after Jan. 1, 2013)*

Individual	--	\$23.00
Family	--	\$25.00

# COMMANDER'S CORNER

*By John Barnes*



Dear HCWRT Members:

As our current campaign draws to a close and all of us look forward to summer activities, your Round Table leadership has been busy planning the next campaign.

We have lined up a strong stable of speakers for the coming campaign season. We hope to see all of you – and as many new recruits as you can bring with you – when we reconvene this fall.

Tony Matt has done his usually yeoman work putting the trip together. This year's will be to Charleston, an appropriate venue as we mark the war's sesquicentennial. The details are elsewhere in this issue.

As you can see, however, the board decided to raise the dues. Many of our members are retirees on fixed incomes and we are extremely reluctant to raise prices. But we are victims of inflation as much as anyone, and the cost of speakers and general expenses rise along with the falling dollar.

A related issue I would like to place before the membership is that of meal costs.

Many have noticed that the Briar Club no longer serves a salad prior to the main course at our meals. This was a deliberate decision on the part of the board to hold our 2011-12 meal costs to the same level as the year before.

Unfortunately, we are still losing money on every meal we serve. Not a great deal (less than \$1), but it all adds up. We have not been informed of any planned price increases by the Briar Club, but a price increase at some point in the future seems inevitable.

The question I would like to place before you is this: would you prefer an increase in the cost of meals of a few dollars, or shall we explore a new venue that might be less costly, but also not as well-appointed as the Briar Club?

I am not asking for a formal vote, but the board members would be interested in hearing your views in writing or in person. The board will make the ultimate decision at our July meeting, but we want to ensure that everyone has a chance to be heard.

Remember, it's *your* Round Table. Speak up!

John Barnes ...

## MAY BOOK RAFFLE

*By Donnie Stowe*

I start out this month with a book donated by Norman Lewis – ***Combat: The Civil War***, edited by Don Congdon. Next is a wonderful book about “Old Granny” – Robert E. Lee. The title is ***Recollections and Letters of Robert E. Lee*** by his son Captain Robert E. Lee and donated by Jim Godlove. My third choice for this month is ***Battles of the American Civil War, 1861-1865*** authored by Kevin Dougherty, Martin Dougherty, Parker Hills, Dr. Chris McNab and Michael Pavkovic. Please forgive me but I misplaced the donor information on this book. And last but not least is ***Spartan Band – Burnett's 13th Texas Cavalry in the Civil War*** by Thomas Reid, which was donated by Mike Harrington.

I know I keep repeating this over and over again, but I wish to thank all of the members who have helped keep this raffle going with donations from their own collections.

Since May is our last meeting before we take a summer break, I want to wish all of you a safe and happy summer.

## PROPOSED

### 2012-2013 HCWRT

## OFFICERS and DIRECTORS

*By David Rains*

President	John Barnes
Vice-President	Nate Jennings
Secretary	Ben Ramsey
Treasurer	Barry Brueggeman
Past President	David Rains
Directors	Roland Bienvenu Gary Chandler Marsha Franty Mike Harrington

Voting will take place at our May 2012 meeting.

## 2012 Field Trip Planned for Charleston, SC

Our 2012 Field Trip will take us to Charleston, South Carolina.

We will depart on **Thursday, November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012** and return on the **Monday, November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2012**.

**COST:** Double Room: TBD - \$?????.00 per person  
Single Room: TBD - \$?????.00 per person

**PAYMENTS:** Initial Deposit of \$250.00 due 5/17/2012  
Second Payment of \$300 due 7/15/2012  
Final Balance due 9/1/2012

**CHECKS PAYABLE TO:** Tony Matt  
15811 Spruce River CT  
Sugar Land, TX 77498

### 2012 FIELD TRIP ITINERARY:

**Friday and Saturday (Days 1 & 2):** Visits to Fort Moultrie, Breech Inlet, Fort Sumter, Hunley tour, Magnolia Cemetery, Ft Johnson and the Battle of Secessionville.

**Sunday - Day 3:** We will travel to Beaufort for a walking tour of Beaufort and visit the Honey Hill Battlefield.

For more information please go to [www.HoustonCivilWar.com/fieldtrips.shtml](http://www.HoustonCivilWar.com/fieldtrips.shtml) or contact Tony Matt at [Fieldtrips@HoustonCivilWar.com](mailto:Fieldtrips@HoustonCivilWar.com) or call him at (281) 277-0203.

### 2011 - 2012 SPEAKERS CAMPAIGN

May 17, 2012 Jerry D. Thompson – *"Sibley and the Southwest"*

### 2012 - 2013 SPEAKERS CAMPAIGN

Sep 20, 2012 Brian Steel Wills - *"The Confederacy's Greatest Cavalryman: Nathan Bedford Forrest"*  
Oct 18, 2012 Craig Symonds - *"Lincoln and His Admirals"*  
Nov 15, 2012 To Be Announced  
Dec 13, 2012 John C. Waugh - *"Re-electing Lincoln"*  
Jan 17, 2013 Ed Bearss - *To Be Announced*  
Feb 21, 2013 Carol Berkin - *"Civil War Wives"*  
Mar 21, 2013 James Morgan - *"The Battle of Ball's Bluff"*  
Apr 18, 2013 Peter Mullen - *"Civil War Medicine"*  
May 16, 2013 Scott Bowden - *"Robert E. Lee"*



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

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