



General Orders

Barnes' Texas Brigade

Vol. 24
No. 5
Jan.
2013

www.houstoncivilwar.com



JANUARY 2013 MEETING
Thursday, January 17, 2013

The HESS Club
5430 Westheimer Rd @ Westheimer Way
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 Jan. 14, 2013
Dinner \$28; Lecture Only \$10

***** Reservations are Required *****
FOR BOTH DINNER and LECTURE ONLY

THE HCWRT PRESENTS

Open Mic Night with Ed Bearss

A January tradition at the Civil War Round Table of Houston continues with the return of legendary Civil War historian Ed Bearss.

Ed will address two topics. First, he will return to the subject of his newest book, The Petersburg Campaign. The wide-ranging and largely misunderstood series of operations around Petersburg, Virginia, were the longest and most extensive of the entire Civil War.

The fighting that began in early June 1864 when advance elements from the Union Army of the Potomac crossed the James River and botched a series of attacks against a thinly defended city would not end for nine long months.

Although commonly referred to as the "Siege of Petersburg," that city (as well as the Confederate capital at Richmond) was never fully isolated and the combat involved much more than static trench warfare. In fact, much of the wide-ranging fighting involved large-scale Union offensives designed to cut important roads and the five rail lines feeding Petersburg and Richmond.

After his short presentation, Ed will throw it open to the floor for your questions. If you've ever fantasized about asking Ed his opinions on anything related to the Civil War, this is your opportunity. Who were the best generals on either side? The worst? Overrated? Underrated? What could Lee have done differently at Gettysburg? You name it.

We look forward to seeing you for a great evening with Ed.

About Mr. Bearss



Mr. Ed Bearss

Mr. Bearss is a U.S. Marine Corps veteran of WWII, a military historian and author especially respected for his work on the Civil War. A much sought-after tour guide of historic battlefields,

Ed served as Chief Historian of the National Park Service from 1981 to 1994 and provided commentary for The Civil War, PBS Series by Ken Burns and also for Civil War Journal on The History Channel.

Ed is a native of Billings, Montana and grew up on a ranch several miles away from the nearest neighbor. His father introduced him to a John Thomason book on Confederate cavalryman Jeb Stuart when he was a young teenager, and from then on Ed was captivated by the study of the Civil War.

After leaving the Marine Corps, Ed completed his undergraduate education at Georgetown and his

graduate work at the University of Indiana. While with the NPS, Ed performed important work in Vicksburg when he and several colleagues pinpointed the location of the long lost Union gunboat USS Cairo and also for identifying two forgotten forts at Grand Gulf, Mississippi.

A forty-one year veteran of the NPS, Ed, serving with distinction as Chief Historian, developed an impressive assortment of new parks, among them Pea Ridge and Wilson's Creek. In addition, he made important contributions to the development of sites at Bighorn Canyon, Fort Moultrie, the Eisenhower Farm at Gettysburg, Fort Donelson, the Lyndon B. Johnson Ranch, and the gold miners' route over Chilkoot Pass, among others.

It is as a personal interpreter and contemporary tour guide that Ed to most Americans is best known today. His booming voice, colorful dialogue, boundless energy and above all, unlimited enthusiasm for his subject never fail to captivate and inspire his listeners.

Become a member of his ever-expanding circle of admirers; join us on the evening of January 17th!

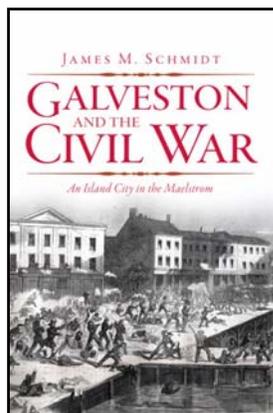
JANUARY BOOK RAFFLE

By Donnie Stowe

I hope everyone had a great and Happy New Year's celebration. Onward to our raffle for January 2013. We begin the raffle with "**BAYONET! FORWARD**" – *My Civil War Reminiscences*, by Joshua L. Chamberlain. This book was donated by Grant C. Woodard. The second book for this month is **STARVING the SOUTH – How the North won the civil war** by Andrew F. Smith. Also included in this month's raffle is **GRAY GHOSTS OF THE CONFEDERACY: Guerilla Warfare in the West 1861-1865**, written by Richard S. Brownlee and donated by Norm Lewis. The final selection is **CIVIL WAR WOMEN- The Civil War seen through Women's eyes in stories by, Louisa May Alcott, Kate Chopin, Eudora Welty, and other great women writers**. Frank McSherry, Jr., Charles G. Waugh, and Martin Greenberg edit this volume. Donor is James Godlove.

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.

BRAZOS BOOKSTORE BOOK SIGNING – Thursday 1/10/13



James M. Schmidt will be available to sign copies of "Galveston and the Civil War" this Thursday, Jan. 10, 2013 beginning at 7:00 PM.

On the eve of the Civil War, Galveston was a jewel of the Gulf Coast--a booming city with a fine natural harbor and all the commerce, culture and improvements that attended it. Galveston was also home to the largest slave market west

of New Orleans and a hotbed of secessionist sentiment. Once the war started, Galveston became the focus of Union efforts to take Texas and Confederate efforts to defend it. Through the voice of its people, this lively book relates the interesting and important role the Island City played during the war, including the story of the Union naval blockade, the dramatic Battle of Galveston, Unionists, dreadful epidemics of yellow fever, the surrender of Galveston as the last major port still in Confederate hands and the bondage and liberation of the island's enslaved African Americans.

Brazos Bookstore is located at: 2421 Bissonnet St. Houston, Texas 77005. Go to:

<http://www.brazosbookstore.com/event> for more information.

Our Condolenses

Matie Linson

Matie Linson, the 12-year old step-granddaughter of our former president and HCWRT stalwart Marsha Franty, died suddenly on Christmas Eve. The family has established a Matie Linson Memorial Fund to benefit the special education program in Johnson City, TX where Matie went to school. Checks should be made out to Mathew Linson with Matie Linson Memorial Fund in the memo field. They can be sent to Arrowhead Bank at 5700 Highway 2147 West, Horseshoe Bay, TX 78657.

Mary Ruisard

Mary Ruisard, the wife of HCWRT member Bruce Ruisard passed away on Friday, January 4, 2013. A memorial service is tentatively scheduled for Friday January 18, 2013.

CIVIL WAR BITS & PIECES

By Donnie Stowe

Civil War Quote: “I don’t believe I will draw anything for them but salt.”

- Union Brigadier General William Tecumseh Sherman, saying that he would only supply his troops with salt because they were so good at stealing during their march through Georgia.

Did You Know?

Control of the James River extending along the southwest edge of Virginia’s peninsula was vital to both sides in the war because it was positioned like a knife pointed at Richmond, the heart of the Confederacy. The river was navigable by shallow-draft gunboats and other craft most of the way north.

Strange Fact

The Civil War began at 4:30 A.M. on April 12, 1861, when the Confederate commander, a dapper showy Creole from Louisiana named General Pierre Gustave Toutant Beauregard, ordered his men to open fire at Fort Sumter in South Carolina. Beauregard was himself a gunner, so skilled as an artillery student at West Point that his instructor had broken with tradition to keep him on as his assistant for another year. Major Robert Anderson, commander of the helpless Federal outpost upon which his guns were now trained, had been that instructor.

Did You Know

General Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson and his men were responsible for the largest capitulation of Union troops before World War II. When he led his men into Harpers Ferry on Monday, September 15, 1862, he accepted the surrender of more than 12,000 men in blue.

Civil War Weaponry

Burnside’s Invention: As a general, the Union’s Ambrose Burnside turned in a spotty performance, but his invention of a breach-loading carbine was a solid success. The revolutionary weapon was especially prized by cavalrymen.

Civil War Vocabulary

Homemade Yankees: Common name for Unionists of the Deep South, who joined the ranks of fighting men in blue.

JANUARY QUIZ

By Jim Godlove

The Army of the Potomac’s famed II Corps suffered its most humiliating defeat on Aug 25, 1864, during the Petersburg Campaign. During the battle, the II Corps commander told a staff officer: “Colonel, I do not care to die, but I pray to God I may never leave this field.”



Who was this “superb” corps commander and what was this battle?

2012 - 2013 SPEAKERS CAMPAIGN – THE HESS CLUB

Jan 17, 2013 Ed Bearss – *Open Microphone*

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*"

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