



General Orders

Barnes' Texas Brigade

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Feb.
2013

www.houstoncivilwar.com

FEBRUARY 2013 MEETING
Thursday, February 21, 2013

The HESS Club
5430 Westheimer Rd @ Westheimer Way
6:00 Cash Bar
7:00 Dinner & Meeting

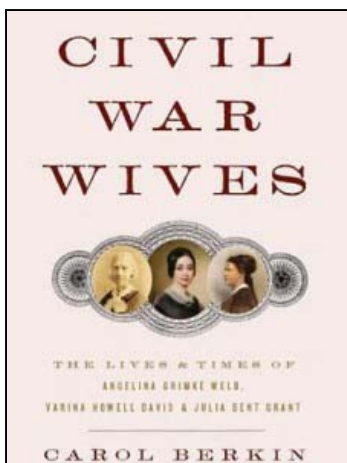
E-Mail Reservation is Preferred;
at drzuckero@sbcglobal.net
or call **Don Zuckero at (281) 479-1232**
by 6 PM on Monday Feb. 18, 2013
Dinner \$28; Lecture Only \$10

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

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THE HCWRT PRESENTS

“Civil War Wives”
Carol Berkin, Ph.D.



The mass armies that fought the American Civil War required the mobilization of virtually the entire society in order to take the field, very much including women. Their attitudes toward the struggle that raged around them have rarely been explored in any depth, however. Our speaker this month, Carol Berkin, has sought

to rectify that oversight in her acclaimed 2009 book, *Civil War Wives*.

Prof. Berkin looks at three women in her book: Angelina Grimke Weld, wife of abolitionist leader Theodore Weld, Varina Howell Davis, the First Lady of the Confederacy, and Julie Dent Grant, the

Southern-born wife of the Union's General-in-Chief, Ulysses S. Grant.

She will focus on what their lives tell us about the antebellum and Civil War eras that are different from what accounts of and by the men of the era provide. These women recorded the struggle for abolition and the war itself very differently than their husbands -- and quite differently from one another. Their participation was shaped by sex roles of the day that drew sharp lines around female participation in public and political spheres.

These women led vastly different lives, yet they all had one thing in common. They were strong and opinionated women who challenged their society's view of a women's place and made a big difference in their communities. All three were exceptionally intelligent and interested in public affairs, yet had to struggle to make their voices heard, even within their own households.

Jefferson Davis, a widower, was attracted to Varina Howell because of her outgoing personality. But he disapproved of this once they were married, expecting a more traditional, obedient wife. While he didn't encourage her political involvement, she pursued it nevertheless and she ultimately became an effective lobbyist for her husband. This was never truer than when she campaigned successfully for his release from prison after the end of the war.

Julia Grant was born into a slaveholding family and not brought up to be educated or think for herself, and her husband did nothing to change that. Nevertheless, she was ambitious for her husband (and herself) and did as much as she could to further his career. In many respects, she was the first "modern" First Lady, issuing press releases in her own name and later becoming the first presidential wife to write her own memoirs.

Angelina Grimke Weld is the least known of the trio. Born into a socially prominent slaveholding South Carolina family, she nevertheless chose to live most of her life in the north, becoming a fervent advocate of abolition and women's rights. After the war, she became a prominent early member of the women's suffrage movement.

Please join us for what promises to be a fascinating evening of discussion around a side of the Civil War that is rarely discussed.

About Our Speaker Carol Berkin, Ph.D.



Carol Berkin, Ph.D.

Carol Berkin is Presidential Professor of History at Baruch College and a member of the history faculty of the Graduate Center of CUNY. She teaches early American and women's history.

She received her B.A. from Barnard College and her M.A. and Ph.D. from Columbia University, where she won the Bancroft Dissertation Award. She

Her publications include: Jonathan Sewall: Odyssey of an American Loyalist (1974); First Generations: Women of Colonial America (1996); A Brilliant Solution: Inventing the American Constitution (2001), Revolutionary Mothers: Women in the Struggle for America's Independence (2004), and Civil War Wives: The Life and Times of Angelina Grimke Weld, Varina Howell Davis, and Julia Dent Grant (2009).

Professor Berkin has worked as a consultant on several PBS and History Channel documentaries, including, The "Scottsboro Boys," which was nominated for an Academy Award as the best documentary of 2000. She has also appeared as a commentator on screen in the PBS series by Ric Burns, New York, the Middlemarch series Benjamin Franklin and Alexander Hamilton on PBS, and the MPH series, The Founding Fathers. She serves on the Board of The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History and the Board of the National Council for History Education.

FEBRUARY BOOK RAFFLE *By Donnie Stowe*

It was great to see so many members out at our last meeting with Ed Bearss. This month's raffle begins with ***The Official Military Atlas of the CIVIL WAR***, by Major George B. Davis, Leslie J. Perry & Joseph W. Kirkley. Ron Featherston donated this volume. Next up is ***4 YEARS ON THE FIRING LINE*** by James Cooper Nisbet and Edited by Bell Irvin Wiley. We thank Mitchell Tomlinson for this book. Our third treat this month is ***CARVED IN STONE – The History of Stone Mountain*** -by David B. Freeman and is also a donation from C.R. Featherston. For our final volume I've chosen ***JUSTICE of SHATTERED DREAMS –Samuel Freeman Miller and the Supreme Court during the Civil War Era*** by Michael A. Ross and is a donated selection from Doctor Joe.

Usually I wind up this column with a request for more books, and I by no means want to dissuade anyone from continuing their support of this raffle. This time, however, I wish to thank C. Ron Featherston for donating a significant amount of books and magazines to our inventory and also, Don Zuckero for transporting all of said material to my home one Saturday morning. Thank You Both.

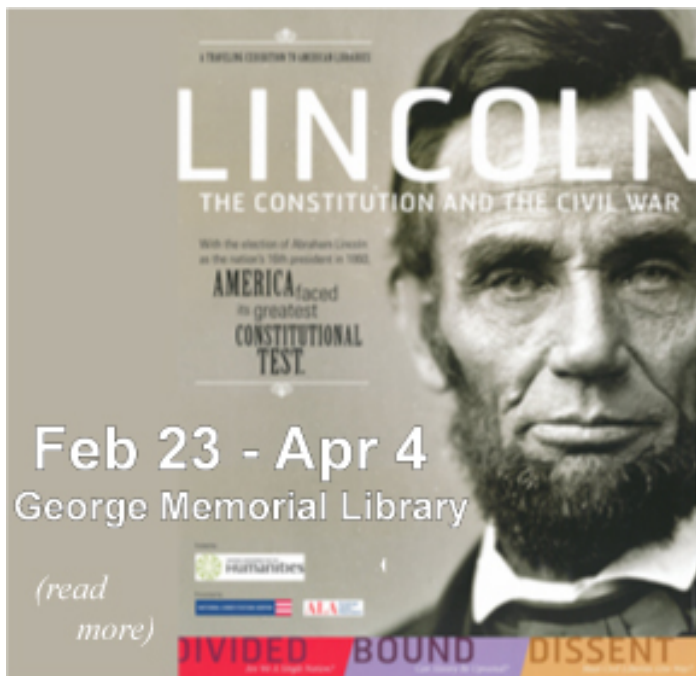
FEBRUARY QUIZ *By Jim Godlove*

In the spring of 1844, a young lieutenant stationed at Jefferson Barracks visited White Haven, the family home of one of his West Point classmates. He soon began courting the eldest daughter of the family. Their courtship was interrupted by his service in the Mexican War. The couple was finally married in St. Louis on Aug. 22, 1848. Among the groomsmen were future Confederate generals – James Longstreet and Cadmus Wilcox.



Name this future Civil War general and his bride.

LINCOLN EXHIBIT COMES TO
GEORGE MEMORIAL LIBRARY IN
RICHMOND, TEXAS
February 23 – April 4, 2013



RICHMOND, TX – The exhibition, “Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War,” will be on display at Fort Bend County Libraries’ George Memorial Library, 1001 Golfview in Richmond, beginning February 23, and continuing through April 4, in the Bohachevsky Gallery.

An Opening Reception for the exhibit will take place on Saturday, February 23, beginning at 2:00 pm, in the library’s Bohachevsky Gallery. Award-winning writer and Civil War scholar John C. Waugh will be the guest speaker.

Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War, a traveling exhibition, examines how President Abraham Lincoln used the Constitution to confront three intertwined crises of the Civil War – the secession of Southern states, slavery, and wartime civil liberties. The exhibit is composed of informative panels featuring photographic reproductions of original documents, including a draft of Lincoln’s first inaugural speech, the Emancipation Proclamation, and the Thirteenth Amendment. Letters, photographs, and images from Civil War soldiers and their families supplement the documents.

Lincoln is widely acknowledged as one of America’s greatest presidents, but his historical reputation is contested. Was he a calculating politician willing to accommodate slavery, or a

principled leader justly celebrated as the Great Emancipator? This exhibition provides no easy answers. Rather, it encourages visitors to form a nuanced view of Lincoln by engaging them with Lincoln’s struggle to reconcile his policy preferences with basic American ideals of liberty and equality. This exhibition develops a more complete understanding of Abraham Lincoln as president, and the Civil War as the nation’s gravest constitutional crisis.

Abraham Lincoln was elected President of the United States in 1860, at a time when the nation was on the brink of war. Seven states had already seceded from the Union. Lincoln struggled to resolve the basic questions that divided Americans at the most perilous moment in the nation’s history: Was the United States truly one nation, or was it a confederacy of sovereign and separate states? How could a country founded on the belief that “all men are created equal” tolerate slavery? In a national crisis, would civil liberties be secure? President Lincoln used the Constitution to confront these three crises of war.

Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War, a traveling exhibition for libraries, was organized by the National Constitution Center and the American Library Association Public Programs Office. The traveling exhibition has been made possible by a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. *Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War* is based on an exhibition of the same name developed by the National Constitution Center.

Fort Bend County Libraries is sponsoring free programs and other events for the public in connection with the exhibit. Visit the library’s website – www.fortbend.lib.tx.us – for more information on upcoming programs.

The exhibit is free and may be viewed during regular library hours. For more information, call the library’s Public Information Office at 281-341-2677.



2012 - 2013 SPEAKERS CAMPAIGN – THE HESS CLUB

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

