



General Orders

Barnes' Texas Brigade

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Apr.
2013

www.houstoncivilwar.com



APRIL 2013 MEETING
Thursday, April 18, 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 Apr. 15, 2013
Dinner \$28; Lecture Only \$10

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

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THE HCWRT PRESENTS

"Civil War Medicine" ***Prof. Peter P. Mullen***

During the Civil War, both the North and the South practiced "state of the art" medicine. Unfortunately, the state of the art wasn't terribly high at the time, for the Civil War was fought at the end of what might be termed the Medical Middle Ages.

Two years typically produced a doctor. Once the war was underway, however, apprenticeship (which was how most physicians were trained) was cut to fifteen months. Knowledge of physiology would be comparable today to a middle school science student. At the beginning of the war, the North had 98 doctors, but 13,000 by the end. The South had 24 doctors at the beginning and 4,000 at the end. About 4,000 nurses served both sides.

Some 600,000 soldiers, northerners and southerners died in the conflict. But unless they were killed outright, relatively few soldiers died of battle wounds themselves. Rather, disease, including infections caused by wounds, was by far the biggest killer.

Seven major microorganisms were responsible, but these were unknown at the time and, therefore, without treatment. In France, Louis Pasteur was just beginning to transform medical knowledge. Doctors did not know that blood circulated. Antibiotics were non-existent and would have saved hundreds of thousands of lives had they been available.

Horse-drawn ambulances moved at three mph across rutted roads. Experimental medications were used blindly, and many medicines that were available were toxic, used inappropriately or simply ineffectively.

Soldier diets didn't help. Both consumed high amounts of bad carbs and salted protein. Even when consumed in limited quantity, these played havoc with soldiers' immune systems. "Traveling" tent stores owned by entrepreneurs followed the troops, selling moonshine, tobacco, sardines and cheese. If only the soldiers had spent more money on sardines and cheese, rather than whiskey and tobacco, the health damage might have been much less.

Join us for a look at this all-too-rarely discussed aspect of the war with Prof. Peter P. Mullen.



A typical Surgeons Kit.

About Our Speaker Prof. Peter Mullen



Peter P. Mullen

Peter Mullen is a native born Kentuckian and a graduate of the University of Louisville and Western Kentucky University earning degrees in Bachelor of Arts and Master of Science and currently living in Callahan, Florida where he is a professor at Florida State College at Jacksonville. He is a member of the Speakers Bureau for the Georgia Historical Society, Sons of Confederate Veterans, Michigan Civil War Sesquicentennial, Connecticut Civil War Sesquicentennial, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Anthropological Multicultural Association of the South, and Florida State College; he lectures to professional and historical societies nation wide observance of the Sesquicentennial Commemoration of the Civil War.

Governor Steven L. Beshear of the Commonwealth of Kentucky commissioned Professor Mullen as a Kentucky Colonel on September 20, 2011 in the 220th year of the Commonwealth.



APRIL BOOK RAFFLE *By Donnie Stowe*

For our April meeting the HCWRT book raffle begins with **GENERAL A. P. HILL - The story of a Confederate Warrior**, by James I. Robertson, Jr. and is donated by Norm Lewis. Next up is **SOUL OF THE LION - The Biography of General Joshua L. Chamberlain** by Willard M. Wallace. Also included in this month's raffle is **BATTLE MAPS of the CIVIL WAR – Featuring Rare maps from the Library of Congress** by Christopher Nelson. Both Soul of the Lion and this Battle Maps volume are donations from Ron Featherston. For our final selection there is a variety of **CIVIL WAR TIMES ILLUSTRATED** magazines.

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.

APRIL QUIZ *By Jim Godlove*

Born in Maryland in 1828, this Marylander was appointed surgeon general with the rank of brigadier general on April 25, 1862. He began to revitalize the Union Army's medical department. He helped establish the ambulance corps and the Army Medical Museum. He began the collection of data, which was the basis for the **Medical and Surgical History of the War of the Rebellion**.



Who was this physician who ran afoul of Sec. of War Stanton and was dismissed from the army in August 1864?

HOUSTON CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



The Houston Civil War Round Table is dedicated to the study of the civilian, military, and cultural aspects of United States history during the period of 1861 – 1865 and to the preservation of historical sites and artifacts. For additional copies of this form please go to www.HoustonCivilWar.com

MEMBERSHIP TYPE

(CHECK ONE BOX ONLY.)

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 \$50 – Family
 \$20 - Student or Out-of-State

JOINING BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND APR. 30

- \$23 – Individual - Joining in Jan – Apr
 \$25 – Family - Joining in Jan – Apr
 \$15 – Student or Out-of-State - Joining in Jan – Apr

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Note: For memberships or subscriptions outside the U.S., extra cost of postage to mail the newsletter may be added. Cost will vary; please write to inquire.

Mail your completed application to: **Houston Civil War Round Table**
P. O. Box 4215
Houston, TX 77210-4215

2012 - 2013 SPEAKERS CAMPAIGN – THE HESS CLUB

Apr 18, 2013 Peter Mullen - "*Civil War Medicine*"

May 16, 2013 Scott Bowden - "*Robert E. Lee*"

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