



General Orders

Jennings' Brigade

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Mar
2014

www.houstoncivilwar.com

MARCH 2014 MEETING
Thursday, Mar. 20, 2014

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 Mar 17, 2014
Dinner \$28; Lecture Only \$10

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

The HCWRT Presents
Gordon Rhea

Speaking on:
Grant's Overland Campaign of 1864
The Wilderness
Through
Spottsylvania Courthouse

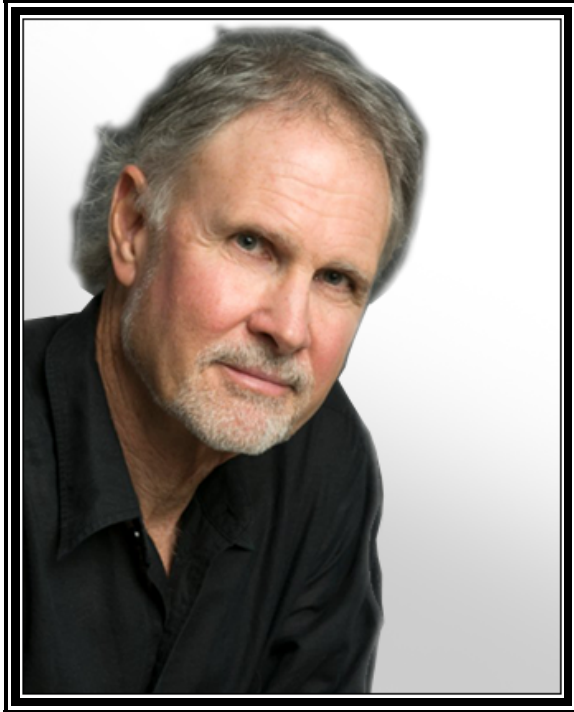
This spring marks the 150th anniversary of the Overland Campaign, some forty-odd days of maneuver and combat from the Rapidan to the James that pitted the war's premier generals – Ulysses S. Grant and Robert E. Lee – against one another in a grueling contest of endurance and guile. Grant's strength was unwavering adherence to the strategic objective of neutralizing Lee's army. While he frequently stumbled, the overall pattern of his campaign was that of an innovative general employing thoughtful combinations of maneuver and force to bring a difficult adversary to bay. Lee's strength was his resilience and the fierce

devotion that he inspired in his men. He, too, made mistakes, often misreading Grant and placing his smaller army in peril, only to devise a creative solution that turned the tables on his adversary. In many respects, the generals were similar. Each favored offensive operations and were willing to take risks; each labored under handicaps, although of different sorts; and each was bedeviled by subordinates who often seemed incapable of getting things right. Grant and Lee were about as evenly matched in military talent as any two opposing generals have ever been.

Opening the campaign, the Army of the Potomac crossed the Rapidan River downstream from Lee and marched into a thickly forested region known as the Wilderness. Acting boldly, Lee seized the initiative and fought the Potomac army to stalemate in a bloody two-day engagement. Grant countered by sidling south toward Spotsylvania Court House, aiming to interpose between Lee and Richmond and force the Confederates to fight him on open ground. But the Army of Northern Virginia reached the courthouse town first, blocked the Union advance, and crafted an imposing line of earthworks that once again thwarted the Federal commanders. Combat escalated at a dizzying pace over the next two weeks as Grant unleashed a welter of unsuccessful offensives intended to break Lee's Spotsylvania defenses. The story of those engagements is one of military history's most exciting tales.



About Gordon Rhea



Mr. Gordon C. Rhea

Gordon C. Rhea has authored six award-winning books about the Overland Campaign, including *The Battle of the Wilderness*; *The Battles for Spotsylvania Courthouse*; *To the North Anna River*; *Cold Harbor*; *Carrying the Flag*; and *In the Footsteps of Grant and Lee*. A frequent lecturer throughout the country on military history and a practicing attorney, he has appeared on the History, A&E, and Discovery networks and has written numerous articles in scholarly and popular publications.

THE HCWRT

2014 SPEAKERS CAMPAIGN *THE HESS CLUB*

April 17, 2014 - Pat Falci – *“Up came A.P. Hill - Cedar Mountain to Antietam”*

May 15, 2014 - Edward Bonekemper - *“Lincoln & Grant”*

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2014 FIELDTRIP CHAIRMAN Announced

Barry Brueggeman has volunteered to hold the office of Fieldtrip Chairman for the 2014-2015 Campaign. He will take over primary planning for the 2014 Fall Field Trip.

The committee has been working on a field trip to the Gettysburg area to cover Gettysburg from a different perspective -- the movement of confederate troops before the battle, the new Gettysburg museum, and Lee's retreat. Opinions will be solicited from the membership starting at the meeting on March 20, 2014.

FIELDTRIP PICTURES ADDED to www.HoustonCivilWar.com

Have you visited the HCWRT website lately? Several long awaited updates have been made. Among them are new links to Slide Shows of photographs taken by Bill Pannill that chronicle the exploits of the HCWRT Brigades in 2007 and 2012. Take a look to get a feel and flavor of our past Fieldtrips.

The pages web-address is:

<http://www.houstoncivilwar.com/fieldtrips.shtml>

MARCH QUIZ

By Jim Godlove

On May 2, 1863, Stonewall Jackson was wounded by his own troops during the Battle of Chancellorsville. He died eight days later.

On May 6, 1864, very near the spot where Jackson was shot, Confederate soldiers again fired on their own officers. Gen. James Longstreet was badly wounded. Another general was mortally wounded and died the same day.



Who was this South Carolinian killed during the Battle of the Wilderness?

MARCH BOOK RAFFLE

By Donnie Stowe



For our March, 2014 meeting the HCWRT book raffle begins with ***A GLORIOUS ARMY – Robert E. Lee’s Triumph 1862-1863***, by Jeffrey D. Wert and is donated by James Godlove.

Next up is ***Shattered Nation: An Alternate History Novel of the American Civil War*** written by Jeffrey Evan Brooks. It explores one of the most thought-provoking questions of the Civil War: what if General Joseph Johnston had been kept in command of the Army of Tennessee in the summer of 1864? Could the Confederacy have held Atlanta? Could Abraham Lincoln have lost his bid for reelection? A story of military adventure and political intrigue, ***Shattered Nation*** is one of the most spellbinding works of Civil War fiction yet published. This selection was submitted by our president, Nate Jennings.

Our third selection is ***CALL FORTH the MIGHTY MEN*** by Bob Womack. This volume is about the actions and experiences of magnificent women and men who soldiered in the 1860’s and is a gift from Danny Huckabee. For our final offering I’m giving away a variety of civil war magazines/monographs.

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.

CIVIL WAR INNOVATIONS

Borrowed from

The March Edition of

The Woodlands CWRT Newsletter

Edited By: Renee Kernann

Paper Money

The Civil War transformed the U.S. banking system. Paper money became legal tender for the first time and "greenbacks" (named for the anti-counterfeit green ink used on the back of the notes) were issued by the federal government, replacing

paper notes issued by local banks around the country. These local notes were not always honored in different regions and if they were, bank-issued notes only received 90 percent of face value. The new notes were backed by the federal government. In fact, some Confederate soldiers demanded to be paid with Union greenbacks.

Canned Food

Until the war, most food was prepared and eaten locally. Gail Borden patented condensed milk in 1854 and when the war started he sold the Navy condensed coffee and cider.

By 1862, Borden found that tens of thousands of soldiers were eating his tinned goods -- meat biscuits, condensed coffee and condensed milk. But the war provided the market for this technology to take off. Entrepreneurs like Van Camps, Armour and Swift put the name on single-serving canned beans and meat, according to Scott R. Nelson, history professor at the College of William and Mary and author of "People at War: A Social History of the Civil War." The new availability of canned foods gave weary soldiers a taste of home and included things like lobster, blueberries, corned beef and ginger cakes.

The new canned goods industry later allowed for the colonization of Australia and Argentina, where settlers could bring healthy food with them to begin their new life.

The Pocket Watch

Until the war, portable timepieces were a luxury item for the ultra-rich. The Waltham Watch company in Massachusetts figured out how to make interchangeable pieces for their pocket watch, which made the watch affordable for the masses, according to Alexis McCrossen, history professor at Southern Methodist University.

This manufacturing breakthrough coincided with the start of the war, and soldiers began taking watches into battle. For one, the personalized engravings on the cover reminded the men of loved ones back home. And they also allowed them to keep up with the regimented schedule of camp life

Sewing Machines

The development of the sewing machine allowed for an enormous expansion in everything from sheltered tents to military uniforms and blankets, according to J. Ritchie Garrison, history professor at the University of Delaware. It also led to coated

fabrics, canvas tents and rubberized tarpaulins. These portable devices were often carried by infantry regiments on campaigns.

Standard Sizes

If you wanted a new pair of shoes, chances are you would pay a visit to your local cobbler. But as the great armies geared up, that solution wasn't feasible. For the first time, standard shoe sizes

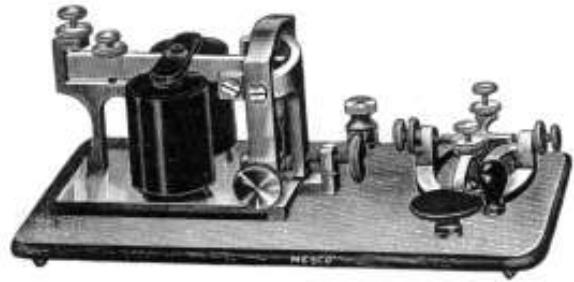
Weaponry

In terms of destruction, nothing previous matched the firepower of the Civil War. Both sides used the newly-developed bored rifle that gave bullets a spinning motion and increased range from 100 yards to 500 yards. The minie ball was propelled and rotated through the bore. It flattened on impact, destroying bones and tissues where older-style musket balls had passed directly through the body. The six-shot revolver was invented and issued to officers. Also rifles and carbines could fire multiple shots. Instead of getting off three or four shots a minute, the repeating guns could be fired as fast as soldiers could pump them, Garrison said.

The Telegraph

The e-mail of the 19th century was a key tool for both the military and the press. Samuel Morse's invention had already made an impact in the years before the war, with 50,000 miles of telegraph wires strung by 1860. Another 15,000 miles were added by the Union and President Lincoln used the telegraph to get real-time info from his generals.

By October 1861, the telegraph spanned coast to coast, eliminating the Pony Express. During the war, several important patents improved the distance and power of the original Morse telegraph. If you are not current on your membership dues, please pay them soon as The HCWRT is very dependent on your dues.



Houston Civil War Round Table
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