



General Orders

Jennings' Brigade

Vol. 26
No. 3
Nov
2014

www.houstoncivilwar.com

NOVEMBER 2014 MEETING
Thursday, November 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 Nov 17, 2014
Dinner \$30; Lecture Only \$10

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

The HCWRT Presents
John Michael Priest
Speaking on:

The Battles of South Mountain

On September 4, 1862, pursuant to a year old directive from the Confederate White House, that the Confederate army should carry the war into Maryland, when the army was in a position to do so, Robert E. Lee and the Army of the Northern Virginia, crossed the Potomac River. Of the 55,000 officers and men, he had at Leesburg, approximately 15,000 sick, wounded, and shoeless men did not cross into Maryland. A large number of men threw their shoes into the river, rather than change the focus of the war from one of defense to one of aggression.

On September 9, 1862, despite his proclamation, which liberated Maryland from Northern repression, Lee quickly discovered that Western Maryland did not want to be freed. Instead of the estimated 35,000 Marylanders, his army intelligence awaited his arrival; he recruited

only 500 men, all from Baltimore. Realizing he was continually losing men to desertion, illness, and fatigue, Lee retreated west toward Washington County, Maryland, a move, which resulted in the capture of Harpers Ferry and the three battles along South Mountain. Those battles played a major role in Lee's decision to fight at Sharpsburg three days later. This presentation is about those battles, in particular, the rugged ground over which they were fought.

About Mike Priest



A retired high school history teacher with 30 plus years in the classroom, Mike has been interested in the civil War since he was 5. Inspired by the works of Erich Remarque, Ernie Pyle, and Bruce Catton, Mike describes Civil War combat from the perspectives of the front-line soldiers. His battle books include "***Antietam: The soldiers' Battle***", "***Before Antietam: The Battle for South Mountain***", "***Into the Fight: Pickett's Charge at Gettysburg***", a two volume set on the Wilderness – "***No Where to Run***" and "***Victory without Triumph***", and "***Stand to It and Give Them Hell***"- the second day at Gettysburg along Cemetery Ridge.

Mike and his wife have been married for 45 years. They have three children and four grandchildren and live in Clear Spring, MD.

NOVEMBER QUIZ

By Jim Godlove

“Hello, Sam, I’m dead – good-by!” said the highest-ranking officer to be killed at South Mountain. This was said to Brig. Gen. Samuel D. Sturgis as the mortally wounded general passed him on a stretcher. He was right.



Who was this Wheeling (West) Virginia native?

NOVEMBER BOOK RAFFLE

By Donnie Stowe



Just a word of appreciation to Barry Brueggeman for the great tour of Pre and Post

Gettysburg – our trip was a great one with beautiful weather every day. Well for this month we can thank our member Lynda Crist for our first two selections this month. She and the Fondren Library at Rice donated about six boxes of great books to raffle or sale. My plans are to possibly set up a table – not at this meeting, but maybe in January, 2015 with books to sell. More on that later. The first selection this month is ***The UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS in the Civil War – The First Year*** by David M. Sullivan. In the second offering we have ***The CLASS OF 1861 – Custer, Ames, and their Classmates after West Point***, by Ralph Kirshner. ***DOUGLASS and LINCOLN***, by Paul and Stephen Kendrick is our third selection and was donated by Mr. Norm Lewis. This work is about how a “Revolutionary Black Leader and a Reluctant Liberator struggled to end slavery and save the union. The next selection is ***BLOODY ROADS SOUTH – The Wilderness to Cold Harbor, May-June, 1864*** by Noah Andre Trudeau and is a gift from C. R. Featherston. Our Fifth and final selection is ***LEE’S REAL PLAN AT GETTYSBURG***. This book is autographed and written by Troy D. Harman.

Since we often have other “Special Offerings” at our meetings, I suggest you make your reservations to come and join us for our meeting and maybe there will be more offerings available. The above items are the only ones I will raffle.

“GETTYSBURG 2014”

Jennings’ Brigade Invasion of Maryland and Pennsylvania



The Susquehanna River at Wrightsville, Pa.

Sixteen members of the Round Table toured Pennsylvania and Maryland during the 2014 Field Trip October 24 to 27. One of the two tours on the trip was conducted by Scott L. Mingus, Sr., who

covered Confederate Gen. Early's advance from Gettysburg to the Susquehanna River in late June, 1863. Early's orders were to advance through York to Wrightsville and burn the bridge over the Susquehanna. We followed Early's advance to York and his capture of the Union camp and hospital there. Early then decided that he might be able to capture the bridge at Wrightsville intact and advance even further into Pennsylvania. We followed his advance to Wrightsville where Early's troops were confronted by a force of Union militia and convalescents that were able to delay the Confederates long enough to allow the burning of the bridge. Early's troops were then recalled for a swift march back to Gettysburg. Some of the troops in the 54th Massachusetts Regiment (of Glory movie fame) were recruited in Wrightsville, and we visited a cemetery in Columbia where some of the members of the regiment are buried. We were also able to visit the park and museum at Hanover Station. Many of the Union casualties from Gettysburg were evacuated through Hanover Station, and several famous photographs were taken there of dignitaries arriving for the dedication of the cemetery at Gettysburg in November, 1863.

The second tour conducted by John A. Miller covered Lee's retreat back into (West) Virginia after the Battle of Gettysburg. We toured the Monterey Pass Battlefield where Union Gen. Kilpatrick's troopers broke Lee's line of retreating troops to capture or destroy nine miles of Confederate wagons. We also visited the new, week-old museum at Monterey Pass. Lunch at Washington's Monument gave a lovely view of the Cumberland Valley and of one of the assaults by Union troops through Turner's Gap in an attempt to crush the Army of Northern Virginia before it could retreat across the Potomac after Gettysburg. We also visited Funkstown where two other of those assaults took place. The trip also included a visit to the new Seminary Ridge Museum in Gettysburg, which had excellent interpretive displays. We climbed to the cupola to have the view that Union Gen. Buford had of the first day's assault at Gettysburg.

Although we missed the peak Fall colors by a week, they were still spectacular. Hopefully you will be able to join us for our tour of the Battle for Atlanta scheduled for Fall of 2015.

Jennings' Brigade at Seminary Ridge Museum, Gettysburg



Fourth Row (left to right): Jim Godlove, Neil Weaver
Third Row: Mitch Tomlinson, Roland Bienvenu, Cheryl Brueggeman, Barry Brueggeman
Second Row: Gene Boisabuin, Beth Moreno, Gary Chandler, Marty Campbell, Betsy Lake
First Row: Jean Boisabuin, Donnie Stowe, Bill Pannill, Molly Hammond, Ben Ramsey

THE HOUSTON CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

2014 - 2015 SPEAKERS CAMPAIGN – THE HESS CLUB

Nov. 20, 2014 - John Michael Priest – *“Battles of South Mountain”*

Dec. 11, 2014 - John Waugh – *“The Compromise of 1850”*

Jan. 15, 2015 - Ed Bearss – *“Battle of Five Forks”*

Feb. 19, 2015 - Keith Bohannon – *“Battle of Chickamauga”*

Mar. 19, 2015 - Dr. Sally Anne Schmidt – *“The Nau Civil War Collection”*

Apr. 16, 2015 - Gordon Rhea – *“Grant's Overland Campaign - 1864”*

May 21, 2015 - Eric Jacobson – To Be Determined

www.HoustonCivilWar.com



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

