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# General Orders

## Chandler's Texas Brigade

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2015

**DECEMBER 2015 MEETING**  
**Thursday, December 10, 2015**

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](mailto:drzuckero@sbcglobal.net)  
or call Don Zuckero at (281) 479-1232  
by 6 PM on Monday Dec. 7, 2015  
**Dinner \$30; Lecture Only \$10**

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

**The HCWRT Presents**  
**Andrew Hall Speaking on:**

***Civil War Blockade Running on  
the Texas Coast: Captain Dave  
versus the Yankees***



*Blockade runner Will o' the Wisp was already famous for trips in and out of Wilmington, NC before wrecked near Galveston in early 1865. (Image by Andrew Hall)*

On a Sunday morning in May 1864, the lives of two men intersected violently on the deck of a blockade-running schooner off the mouth of the Brazos River. In many ways, the two men were

very much alike. Both were young and in the prime of their lives. Both were professional merchant seamen, and both were immigrants to this country. But the circumstances of war brought these men, who otherwise might have been fast friends, together in violent conflict.

The story of these two men, Dave McCluskey and Paul Börner, embodies the back-and-forth story of blockade running on the Texas coast during the American Civil War. While Texas was far from the center of the conflict, it remained an important part of the Confederacy and major source of cotton being shipped overseas. Texas' importance actually grew during the war, as other ports on the Atlantic and Gulf coast were systematically seized by U.S. forces. The Union's pervasive and systematic seizure of Southern ports left Galveston as one of the only strongholds of foreign imports in the anemic supply chain to embattled Confederate forces. Long, fast steamships ran in and out of the city's ports almost every week. Texas experienced a flurry of blockade-running activity in the last months of the conflict, with the last runners slipping in and out of Galveston some six weeks after Lee's surrender at Appomattox and the collapse of Confederate armies in the east.

**CIVIL WAR MUSIC!**  
***Contributed by Marsha Franty***

For your Christmas wish list or for your listening pleasure! Anonymous 4 and Bruce Molsky have combined their talents in a fabulous new recording called 1865: Songs of hope and home from the American Civil War. It is a treasure trove of the period's music, including The Faded Coat of Blue, Shall We Gather at the River, Home Sweet Home, Aura Lea, and fourteen others. It is a delightful recording. The CD is available from Barnes and Noble online and both the CD and the MP3 version are available from Amazon.

## About Andrew Hall



**Andrew W. Hall** is a native of the Texas Gulf Coast and a longtime researcher and author, specializing in Texas maritime and Civil War history. He holds a bachelor's degree in Historical Studies from the University of Houston - Clear Lake, and a master's degree in Museum Science from Texas Tech University. Since 1990 Hall has volunteered with the office of the State Marine Archaeologist at the Texas Historical Commission to help document historic shipwrecks in Texas waters. Hall has worked on numerous marine archaeology projects in Texas, including shipwrecks of the famous blockade runners Denbigh and Will o' the Wisp and the blockaders USS Arkansas and USS Hatteras. Most notably from 1995 to 2004 he worked on the Denbigh Project, the most extensive excavation and research program on a Civil War blockade runner in the Gulf of Mexico. In 2001 Hall was part of the inaugural group of volunteer marine archaeological stewards appointed by the Texas Historical Commission, the first group of its kind in the nation. Hall writes and speaks frequently on the subjects of Texas' maritime history and its military conflicts in the 19th century. In 2012 Hall published his first book, *The Galveston-Houston Packet: Steamboats on Buffalo Bayou*, with the History Press of Charleston, South Carolina. Hall was recently appointed an Honorary Texas Navy Admiral in recognition of his work in bringing Texas' maritime history to a wider audience. His second book with the History Press, *Civil War Blockade Running on the Texas Coast*, was released in 2014, and received the Jefferson Davis Historical Gold Medal from the Terry Texas Rangers chapter of the UDC.

## DECEMBER QUIZ

*By Jim Godlove*

After the re-capture of Galveston by Gen. Magruder's forces, Admiral Farragut sent a Union fleet to re-establish the blockade and to re-take the city. On Jan. 11, 1863, a strange sail was spotted in the distance by the Union ships. Assuming it was a blockade runner, Commodore Henry Bell sent a ship to chase it. The approaching ship was a Confederate raider; and, the Union ship was soon sunk. Commodore Bell, consequently, called off the attempt to re-take Galveston.



What were the names of the sunken Union ship and the Confederate raider?

## Silent Auction **January 21, 2016**

With our **Silent Auction** coming up at the January 21<sup>st</sup> meeting, we ask our HCWRT members and friends to donate Civil War-related items and memorabilia, including cups, framed or unframed pictures and prints, publications, other commemorative items, or other items of interest. You can give your items to either **Don Zuckero** or **Jim Godlove, Co-Chairs for the auction**, at the December 10<sup>th</sup> HCWRT meeting. If you have questions or suggestions, please contact Don Zuckero at 281.479.1232 or Jim Godlove at 713.820.2517. Also, Donnie Stowe, our Book Raffle Chair, will provide to the auction some of the best titles from our donated books inventory.

## COMMANDER'S CORNER

*By Gary Chandler*



*Gary Chandler and The Locomotive "General", Kennesaw, GA*

Dear HCWRT Members:

Our December meeting is on the second Thursday of the month rather than the customary third Thursday due to the upcoming holidays. This month, we welcome Galveston's own **Andy Hall** as our speaker, who will tell stories close to home of the Texas Gulf Coast and Confederate blockade runners daring and often desperate forays to break the Union blockade. Andy underscores his presentation, illustrating the very personal drama of Blockade Running on the Texas Coast with the theme and subtitle, **"Captain Dave versus the Yankees"**.

### **"SILENT NIGHT: CHRISTMAS 1865" TOUR AT MANSFIELD, LA. ON DECEMBER 12<sup>th</sup>** -

With the holiday season upon us, I'd like to call your attention to a Civil War holiday event on **Saturday, December 12<sup>th</sup>** at the **Mansfield State Historic Site** in Northwestern Louisiana. **"Silent Night: Christmas 1865"** will be a night time battlefield tour that will re-create the scenes of Christmas experienced by those living in that Louisiana region near the East Texas border in 1865. Beginning at 6 pm, tour guides in period clothing will take visitors onto the battlefield by candle lantern, where reenactors will act out various scenes at stops along the trail. Visitors will see the experiences of a refugee family, Union soldiers, former Confederates, and more, as this program demonstrates the mixed feelings of

finally celebrating a Christmas without war. Tours will start every 15 minutes, with the last tour departing at 7:45 pm. Admission is \$6 per person age 4-61 and \$4 for seniors 62 and over; children age 3 and under are admitted free. Mansfield State Historic Site is located on State Highway 175, three miles south of Mansfield (and slightly over 200 miles NE of Houston). For more information, please call 318.872.1474 or 888.677.6267, or visit [www.LaStateParks.com](http://www.LaStateParks.com).

Our **January 21<sup>st</sup>** speaker, the incomparable **Ed Bearss** will open the new year with his talk on the crucial fight for control of the key border state, the Kentucky Campaign and the Battle of Perryville. We also will celebrate our annual visit with Ed Bearss by holding our Silent Auction, a major fund-raiser of our HCWRT campaign year.

On behalf of the HCWRT Board of Directors, we wish everyone a happy holiday season and a happy and healthy new year in 2016!

## DECEMBER BOOK RAFFLE

*By Donnie Stowe*



For our December meeting (a week early this month) the HCWRT book raffle begins with **FORT DONELSON TO MEMPHIS** by Shelby Foote. This is volume 2 of a 14 volume Time-Life Books collection from the Civil War A Narrative that we are all know and love. My second selection this month is **THE CIVIL WAR** . an American Heritage Book w/ narrative by Bruce Catton and introduction by James M. McPherson. The third volume in our raffle is **WHY TEXANS FOUGHT IN THE CIVIL WAR** by Charles David Grear and comes from my own library. Our fourth book is **IRONMAKER TO THE CONFEDERACY** . Joseph R. Anderson and the Tredegar Iron Works by Charles B. Dew. Our final selection is **THE MOST PROMISING YOUNG OFFICER –A life of Ranald Slidell Mackenzie** by Michael D. Pierce and is donated by Norm Lewis. Good to see you back again . Norm.

I want to thank all you members who continue to make this raffle work by contributing fine volumes of Civil War treasures that we find here each month. Have a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

## THE HOUSTON CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE 2015 - 2016 SPEAKERS CAMPAIGN – THE HESS CLUB

- Dec. 10, 2015 - Andrew Hall – *“Civil War Blockade Running on the Texas Coast”*
- Jan. 21, 2016 - Edwin C. Bearss – *“The Kentucky Campaign and the Battle of Perryville”*
- Feb. 18, 2016 - Charles Grear – *“In Defense of My Native State—Why Texans Fought”*
- Mar. 17, 2016 - Gary Joiner – *“Union Naval Operations in the Red River Campaign”*
- Apr. 21, 2016 - Caroline Janney – *“Remembering the Civil War: Reunion and the Limits of Reconciliation”*
- May 19, 2016 - Stephen M. Sam Hood – *“The Lost Papers of General John Bell Hood”*

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