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General Orders

Chandler's Texas Brigade

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2016

JANUARY 2016 MEETING
Thursday, January 21, 2016

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 Jan. 18, 2016
Dinner \$30; Lecture Only \$10

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

The HCWRT Presents Ed Bearss Speaking on:

“The Kentucky Campaign and the Battle of Perryville”

The only time the South could have won the war was in that period from August 1862 to October 1862, as they were on the offensive on a 1500-mile front and it was the high-water mark for them. During that period, there were two critical battles that determined the South's fate: Sharpsburg (Antietam) and Perryville. *Ed Bearss suggests what might have happened if these events had ended differently, and some factors that impacted the outcomes in Kentucky.* If the South had won both battles, the British and French would have recognized the Confederacy and we would have been two countries. Instead, Lee was fought to a draw at Sharpsburg by McClellan and **Buell** tactically lost Perryville but stopped the invasion of Kentucky, which meant it was a strategic victory for the North.

Kirby Smith had won a resounding victory at Richmond, KY. Then he was to join **Bragg** at Perryville for the big push. But he and Bragg did not get along and did not coordinate their efforts. Thus, the South

did not win the conclusive victory they could have over Buell at Perryville.

Unusual factors were the effects (after falling off his horse) of Buell's injury on his decision-making ability, plus the effect of acoustic shadow on Buell, who was within 5 miles of the battle and didn't know about the fighting. The results were that Buell won and stopped Bragg but was fired because he did not pursue Bragg when he withdrew. Kirby Smith was transferred to the Trans-Mississippi. Bragg was promoted and commanded the Army of Tennessee, which he much abused. Because of this Perryville battle and Sharpsburg, the South was not recognized by the Europeans and that was the last chance they would have. From this point until Appomattox, the South had no chance to militarily win by defeating the North. They could only hope for a war of attrition, and the North's exhaustion and giving up-which nearly happened but never did, due greatly to Lincoln's leadership.

About Edwin C. Bearss



Edwin C. Bearss, a U.S Marine veteran of WWII and historian emeritus of the National Park Service, is the most well-known battlefield guide in America and leads military history tours year-

around of the Civil War, American Revolution, American West, and World War I and World War II in Europe. Mr. Bearss is acclaimed as one of the stars of Ken Burns' award-winning PBS series, *The Civil War*, recently re-released in HD clarity and color. In 1956, Ed helped locate and raise the ironclad gun-boat *Cairo*, one of the most significant artifacts of the Civil War.

He is the author of several books, including: *Hardluck Ironclad: The Sinking and the Salvage of the Cairo; The Vicksburg Campaign: Volumes I, II and III; Steele's Retreat from Camden & The Battle of Jenkins' Ferry; Forrest at Brice's Cross Roads; Fields of Honor: Pivotal Battles of the Civil War*, with James McPherson; *Receding Tide: Vicksburg and Gettysburg – Campaigns that Changed the Civil War*, with Parker Hills; *The Petersburg Campaign: Volumes I and II*, with Bruce Suderow.

Ed is recipient of the **Frank E. Vandiver Award of Merit** from the Houston Civil War Round Table, along with countless other honors.

COMMANDER'S CORNER By Gary Chandler, President



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

Dear HCWRT Members:

The HCWRT is honored to welcome back the incomparable **Ed Bearss**, our own Vandiver Award recipient, as our January 2016 speaker, continuing what has become an annual tradition to open the new calendar year during most of the

past decade. In the decade before that, Ed was then a frequent HCWRT speaker too, and the leader or co-leader of most of our field trips. His vast knowledge and recall, booming voice, colorful speech, and his boundless energy and enthusiasm captivated all of us as he has with listeners around the country. Today, at 92, Ed continues to amaze and inspire us. Ed will focus on the crucial fight for control of the key border state, the Kentucky Campaign and the Battle of Perryville, one of the war's major milestones.

We also sponsor our **Silent Auction** this month, a major event for HCWRT's year. Please see the next article for auction details. We hope you will enjoy this month's 2016 kickoff meeting!



JANUARY QUIZ By Jim Godlove

The bloody but indecisive Battle of Perryville occurred on Oct. 8, 1862. The Union commander of the Army of the Ohio was removed from office on Oct. 24th due to the slowness of his pursuit.

When US Grant became Lt. Gen. he requested that several officers including this general be restored to duty. The Secretary of War, Edwin Stanton, later told Grant that this officer had been offered an assignment. The general had declined it stating that it would be a degradation since he would have to serve under officers that he had ranked. Grant wrote: "This was the worst excuse a soldier can make for declining service."



Who was this native-born Ohioan?

Silent Auction January 21, 2016

With our **Silent Auction** coming up at the January 21st meeting, there's still time to donate Civil War items and memorabilia, including cups, commemorative items, photos/prints--framed or unframed, or other items. **Please contact Co-Chairs Don Zuckero at 281.479.1232 or Jim Godlove at 713.820.2517 by Wed. 1/13.** Also, Book Raffle Chair Donnie Stowe has provided for auction some fine titles from our book raffle inventory. Some of the items in the auction are:

- A collectible signed copy of *Edwin Cole Bearss: History's Pied Piper* by John Waugh;
- 3 framed portraits of R. E. Lee, small to large;
- a large framed photo of Braxton Bragg (a key figure in this month's Perryville presentation);
- 2 collectible hand-painted and numbered 5+ figurines of R.E. Lee and George A. Custer;
- 3 different Texas unit histories: much-sought Harold Simpson's *Lee's Grenadier Guard* (Hood's Texas Brigade), John Lundberg's *Granbury's Texas Brigade*, and Alwyn Barr's *Polignac's Texas Brigade*;
- a 3-volume set of classic by Douglas Southall Freeman, *Lee's Lieutenants* (paperback ed.);
- a 6-volume set of the National Historical Society's *The Image of War: 1861-1865*;
- 16 (that's sixteen!) volumes from the *Time-Life Civil War* series; and many more items.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

By Brad York, Membership Chair

Many thanks to our Membership Committee and HCWRT members for your focus upon and commitment to **Grow Membership.** Your efforts are commendable; growth to date is significant.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Join me in welcoming **Mike Berry, James & Martha Davis, Bobby Dover, Andy Hall, Erin Hodgess, Oscar & Mary Hurtado, Jack Moorhead, Mark Moorhead, Doug Richardson, Peter & Shirley Smith, John Stevens, Jim Trexel, Scott Wilkey, and Grant & Ann Williams.** Search out these New Members.

Welcome them; get to know them; and make them feel at home.

YET MORE ...

Other friends, guests have already attended a Meeting and are exploring benefits of joining HCWRT. Sponsors, please encourage them to take that step.

We have February through May remaining in this year's Chandler Campaign. **New Members . . . all . . .** please take time to recruit your friends, neighbors and work colleagues interested in Civil War History. Your special attention, and encouragement will surely bring more New Members to HCWRT.

Thanks again for all you do.

JANUARY BOOK RAFFLE

By Donnie Stowe



For our January 2016 meeting the HCWRT book raffle begins with **CAMPAIGNS OF THE CIVIL WAR** by Walter Geer, donated by Dr. Joseph Goulding. Our second book is **ENCYCLOPEDIA of the AMERICAN CIVIL WAR** edited by David S. Heidler with a forward by James M. McPherson. The third selection is **YEAR OF DESPERATE STRUGGLE** by Monte Akers and is one of my own volumes. Our fourth selection is **THE CIVIL WAR IN THE WEST – Victory and Defeat from the Appalachians to the MISSISSIPPI** by Earl Hess. Fifth is **SOUTHERN STORM – Sherman's March to the Sea** by Noah Andre Trudeau.

Members are encouraged to donate your well read books or a small monetary donation for purchase of books to continue a valuable support to the HCWRT Raffle.



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

- 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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