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General Orders

Chandler's Texas Brigade

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2016

FEBRUARY 2016 MEETING
Thursday, February 18, 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 Feb. 15, 2016
Dinner \$30; Lecture Only \$10

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

The HCWRT Presents Charles Grear Speaking on:

“In Defense of My Native State - Why Texans Fought”

Making the decision to risk ones' life, future, and health to fight in a war is never easy; even for Texans. Although Texans experienced similar influences to join the war as the rest of the South, there were also differences. A major difference was that Texans had multiple local attachments. Since the majority of Texans were born in other states, they had more than one hometown, usually both the town where they grew up and the town where they lived in Texas at the onset of the war. Essentially, there was more than one location with which they had a significant emotional attachment or sense of loyalty, so men had to decide which place they wanted to protect and in some cases which side to fight for, Confederate or Union. With their current homes and families not directly threatened by the war and its destruction, Texans felt a strong desire to return to their former states to defend their hometowns and or family members who still lived there.

Where a Texan came from had a direct impact on why he fought in the Civil War and, more important, where he fought. Multiple local attachments affected more Texans than residents of the rest of the Confederacy because in the mid-nineteenth-century Texas was a migrant state. On the other hand, men born in Texas had little or no connection with any other state in the South. Many of them tended to join units earmarked to stay in Texas since they had no other place to defend. Others from Northern and Border States and foreign countries, such as the Germans, tended to join the ranks of the Union or attempted to sit out the war entirely.

Texans, being on the western flank of the Confederacy, had more choices of locations to serve; and most notably the men from the Lone Star State served in all theaters of the war and in more states and territories than any other Confederate or Union soldiers. Essentially, Texans had many more connections to people and places outside of the state than men from any other state in either the Union or the Confederacy.

About Charles Grear



Charles D. Grear received his Ph.D. in history at Texas Christian University and has taught history for over ten years, currently as a Professor of History and Online Manager at Central Texas College. A specialist in Texas and Civil War history, he has authored five articles, eight book chapters, and eight books: His

books include: *The Tennessee Campaign of 1864*, *The Vicksburg Campaign, March 29-May 18, 1863*, *The Chattanooga Campaign*, *Texans and War: New Interpretations on the Military History of the Lone Star State*, *The House Divided: America in the Era of Civil War and Reconstruction*, *Why Texans Fought in the Civil War*, *Beyond Myths and Legends: A Narrative History of Texas*, *The Fate of Texas: The Civil War and the Lone Star State*,

Future projects include co-editing the *Civil War in the Heartland Series* for Southern Illinois University Press with Steven E. Woodward, a book about Gano's Brigade in the Indian Territory during the Civil War, and a general history of the Civil War in the Trans-Mississippi. He is a recipient of the Lawrence T. Jones III Research Fellowship in Civil War Texas History for Texas State Historical Association, the fellowship to the 2007 West Point Summer Seminar in Military History, and the Burney Parker Research Fellowship for the Texas Collection at Baylor University.



Rice University Conference February 19-20, 2016

This conference at Rice University will be entitled, “**Jefferson Davis’s America: New Perspectives on the Mid-Nineteenth-Century United States**”. It will start with a Keynote Address at 7 PM followed by a Reception on February 19th, then will continue from 8 AM to 6 PM followed by a Reception on February 20th. All sessions will be held in Rm. 100, Herring Hall on campus.

This conference coincides with the completion of “The Papers of Jefferson Davis” documentary editing project. A group of leading American historians ‘will look unblinkingly’ on the 19th-century U.S. as a nation in which Jefferson Davis was in many ways the typical figure. The conference poster says, “we ‘wish to consider not the man, but the type of civilization which his life represented,’ with papers on the forces — territorial expansion, slavery, capitalism, nationalism, Civil War memory and empire — with which Jefferson Davis’s life intersected at crucial moments in U.S. history.” The conference is sponsored by the Journal of Southern History, Department of History, the Dean of Humanities, and the Humanities Research Center at Rice.

For details, please go to the conference poster at: <http://bit.ly/JeffersonDavissAmerica>.

COMMANDER’S CORNER

By Gary Chandler



HCWRT Pres. Gary Chandler with Ed Bearss at the January Meeting

Dear HCWRT Members:

January’s meeting with the legendary **Ed Bearss** was well-attended and a great success. Many thanks to all who donated items to the Silent Auction--and to those who had the winning bids! Also thanks to **Don Zuckero, Jim Godlove and Donnie Stowe** for pulling it all together!

The HCWRT is pleased to welcome this month **Dr. Charles (Chuck) Grear**. In his talk, Dr. Grear will explain the reasons why many Texans left the Lone Star State to risk their lives with Confederate units east of the Mississippi River, why some joined CS units that stayed closer to home, and why some remained loyal to the Union and some of them joined US units.

In the decade before the Civil War, the population of Texas tripled. Texas was settled by immigrants mostly from throughout the South, and from many foreign countries. When war came, it was not only Texas that Texans enlisted to protect, but also the states where they had deep family ties. Very few other people have examined Texas soldiers, in particular, especially the reasons of those who fought so far from their home and hearths in Texas. Join Chuck Grear as he profiles Texans who fought in the most famous regiments and many other Texas units.



Actual flag of the 5th Texas Infantry

FEBRUARY QUIZ

By Jim Godlove

Many Texans fought for the South in the Civil War because they were born in other Southern states. In fact, only one native-born Texan achieved the rank of general in the CSA.



Dying in 1928, who was this Texan who was also the last surviving general officer of the Confederacy?

FEBRUARY BOOK RAFFLE

By Donnie Stowe



We sure had a good group to hear Ed Bearss at the January meeting. And as Ed would say, "Semper Fi!" I'm also glad we had a good return on our silent auction.

For February our book raffle begins with three books donated by Dr Joe Goulding. The first is **THE DESTRUCTIVE WAR** – *William Tecumseh Sherman, Stonewall Jackson, and The Americans* by Charles Royster. Then we have **DID LINCOLN OWN SLAVES** –by Gerald J. Prokopowics. Third in the raffle is **JEFFERSON DAVIS, AMERICAN** – by William J. Cooper Jr. The fourth volume is **CHANCELLORSVILLE 1863** – *The Souls of the Brave* by Ernest B. Furgurson. The last book is **THE CIVIL WAR: AN AMERICAN ILLIAD** by Otto Eisenschiml & Ralph Newman. This book was donated by Harry Bounds.

I want to thank all the members who keep bringing in their books and magazines for the Raffle. Your efforts make the meetings all that more entertaining and educational.

HISTORY TOURS

By Marsha Franty

"Pack your bags and get your hat..." according to song lyrics from several decades ago! There are many opportunities for travel that enrich our experience of history. Two resources that offer excellent adventures in historical tourism are **South Mountain Expeditions** and **Civil War Seminars**.

South Mountain Expeditions is developed and managed by Marty Ganes. Many of Marty's tours feature our friend Ed Bearss. A brief list of her tours for 2016 includes:

- West Texas and NM, featuring the Trinity Site and Big Bend National Park (March 29-April7)
- Ed Bearss' Montana: Big Sky Country (July 13-23)
- WWII England: featuring the Battle of Britain and "The Mighty Eighth." (September 6/7-16)
- Normandy (September 15/16-21)

Details on the above programs are available at www.smountainexpeditions.com.

Marty also runs Civil War Tours. This year's tours include: Lincoln's Washington (featuring the Booth Escape Route), Shiloh, Chickamauga/-Chattanooga, Gettysburg, and the Maryland Campaign.

For details, go to www.civilwartours.org. Several of our members have participated in Marty's tours and recommend them highly!

I can also lend a personal reference for **Chambersburg Civil War Seminars & Tours**. Sponsored by the Greater Chambersburg (Pa.) Chamber of Commerce and organized and managed by Ted Alexander (former HCWRT speaker, historian at Antietam NMP), these events blend lectures, panel discussions and field trips. This year's offerings include:

- Ed Bearss Symposium: Military Leadership and Combat (April 7-10)
- Stonewall Jackson in the Valley (May 19-22)
- Gettysburg Day 3 and Beyond (July 27-31)
- Lincoln at Gettysburg (September 22-25)

More details are at www.civilwarseminars.org

Happy Traveling!!!

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

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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Houston Civil War Round Table
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