



www.houstoncivilwar.com

General Orders

Chandler's Texas Brigade

Vol. 27
No. 7
Mar.
2016

MARCH 2016 MEETING
Thursday, March 17, 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 Mar. 14, 2016
Dinner \$30; Lecture Only \$10

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

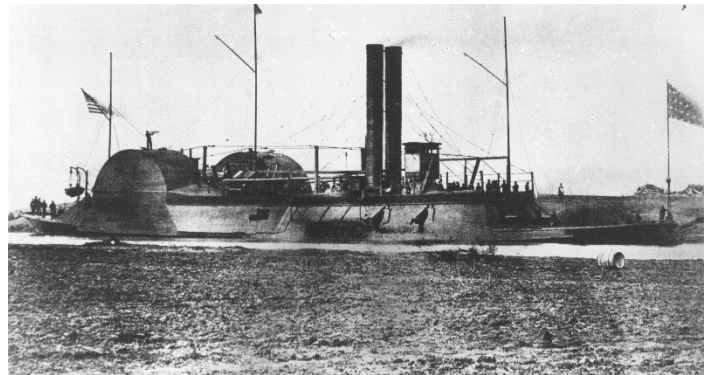
The HCWRT Presents
Gary Joiner Speaking on:

***“Union Naval Operations in the
Red River Campaign”***

The Union inland navy that became the **Mississippi Squadron** is one of the greatest, yet least studied aspects of the Civil War. Without it, however, the war in the West may not have been won, and the war in the East might have lasted longer and ended differently. The men who formed and commanded this large fighting force, with few exceptions, have not been as thoroughly studied as their army counterparts. The vessels they created were highly specialized craft, which operated in the narrow confines of the Western rivers in places that could not otherwise receive fire support. Ironclads and gunboats protected army forces and convoyed much needed supplies to far-flung Federal forces. They patrolled thousands of miles of rivers and fought battles that were every bit as harrowing as land engagements, yet inside iron monsters that created stifling heat with little ventilation. Intrepid men fought under these conditions and in highly improvised boats.

The officers of the Mississippi Squadron wrote the rules for modern riverine war.

On March 10, 1864, **Admiral David Dixon Porter's** fleet assembled at the mouth of Red River near Simmesport, Louisiana for what was to be the **Red River Campaign—the Union's last attempt invade Texas**. Porter's assemblage of vessels was an impressive array of ironclads, tinclads, and transports. The ironclads, his most powerful ships, numbered thirteen in all: *Essex*, *Benton*, *Lafayette*, *Choctaw*, *Chillicothe*, *Ozark*, *Louisville*, *Carondelet*, *Eastport*, *Pittsburg*, *Mound City*, *Osage*, and *Neosho*. Tinclads, light draft and lightly armored gunboats that would be useful in the shallow and often treacherous confines of the Red River, were also well-represented in Porter's fleet. The tinclads were: *Cricket*, *Gazelle*, *Signal*, *Juliet*, *Lexington*, *Black Hawk* (Admiral Porter's flagship), *Covington*, *Ouachita*, *Fort Hindman*, and *Avenge*. Among the other vessels was a steamer named *Black Hawk*, which was used by **General Nathaniel Banks** as his flagship during the expedition (not to be confused with the tinclad of the same name used by Porter).



USS Eastport

The admiral took seriously his orders to support Banks. He had stripped the inland navy from its Mississippi River operations base for this expedition and was “determined there should be no want of floating batteries for the troops to fall back on in case of disaster.” The ironclads, together with the tinclads, would act as the primary protection for the vessels carrying men, munitions, and supplies for the campaign. All of them were needed to help make the effort a success. But, events did not go as planned!

About Gary Joiner



Gary D. Joiner received a B.A. in history and geography from Louisiana Tech University, a M.A. in history from Louisiana Tech University and a Ph.D. in history from St. Martin's College, Lancaster University in the United Kingdom. He is a Professor of History at Louisiana State University in Shreveport and serves as the Chair of the Department of History and Social Sciences, where he holds the Mary Anne and Leonard Selber Professorship in History and serves as the Director of SAC LSUS and the Red River Regional Studies Center.

He is the author or editor of 26 books including: *Shiloh and the Western Campaign of 1862*, ***One Damn Blunder From Beginning to End, Through the Howling Wilderness, The Red River Campaign: The Union's Last Attempt to Invade Texas, No Pardons to Ask Nor Apologies to Make, The Red River Campaign: Union and Confederate Leadership and the War in Louisiana, Little to Eat and Thin Mud to Drink, Mr. Lincoln's Brown Water Navy: The Mississippi Squadron, The Battle of New Orleans: a Bicentennial Tribute, Red River Steamboats, and Lost Shreveport: Vanishing Scenes From the Red River Valley.***

Dr. Joiner is also the author of numerous articles and technical reports and served as a consultant for ABC, the Associated Press, A&E Network, C-SPAN, the Discovery Network, HGTV, the History Channel, MSNBC, MTV, SyFy, and Louisiana Public Broadcasting among others.

COMMANDER'S CORNER

By Gary Chandler

Dear HCWRT Members:

The HCWRT is pleased to welcome this month long-time friend **Gary Joiner**. Gary was co-leader with **Ed Bearss** on our field trip of the Red River Campaign a decade ago. We learned of the naval story on the Red River, filled with drama—from sailors seizing cotton as war prizes and clashes of Union gunboats with Tom Green's Texas cavalry, to dangerous low water and Bailey's Dam to counter it.

Coming up—two more meetings in this 2015-16 campaign. **On April 21**, we'll welcome **Caroline Janney** speaking on *"Remembering the Civil War: Reunion and the Limits of Reconciliation"*. **On May 19**, we'll have a special treat-- **two** presentations. Our speaker **Sam Hood** will delve into *"The Lost Papers of General John Bell Hood"*.

We also will present our HCWRT **2016 Frank E. Vandiver Award of Merit** to **Eric A. Jacobson, CEO & Historian, Battle of Franklin Trust**, who will tell us of remarkable historic preservation and reclamation successes and plans in Franklin, TN. Eric also was our May 2015 speaker. We will have more information about the Vandiver Award in the next newsletter.

Finally, it is with regret that I inform you of **Danny Huckabee's** resignation as Vice President. Danny wants to devote more time to his family and business. **Many thanks to Danny for his contributions as VP**—notably chairing the Vandiver Award Committee. I am pleased to announce that the Board of Directors named **Brad York** as the new VP. Brad also will continue his role as Chair, Membership Committee and will continue to serve on the Vandiver Award Committee, which he will chair. **Please welcome Brad as our new VP of the HCWRT!**

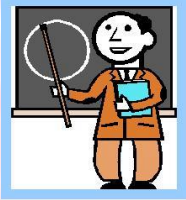


HCWRT Pres. Gary Chandler with Ed Bearss at the January Meeting

MARCH QUIZ

By Jim Godlove

On March 14, 1864, this fort fell to Union Forces. Led by Brig. General Joseph Mower, Union troops attacked the fort's weak land side while Union ships engaged the stronger river defenses.



What was the name of this fort called by some Confederates “our Red River Gibraltar”?

MARCH BOOK RAFFLE

By Donnie Stowe

It was great to see such a good turnout at our last meeting and hearing the lecture by Charles Grear.

For March our book raffle begins with a book donated by Gladys F. Glover. Many may recall; this is the lady that was never a member of our roundtable but donated many a volume from her estate. This book is ***The REBEL and the ROSE*** – James A. Semple, Julia Gardiner Tyler, and the Lost Confederate Gold by Wesley Millett and Gerald White. Next up is ***NO GREATER COURAGE*** (A Novel of the Battle of Fredericksburg by Richard Croker. This book is from the Estate of Lee Adams. Third in the raffle is ***PRINCE JOHN MCGRUDER*** – His Life and Campaigns by Paul D. Casdorff. The inside front cover has a bookplate signed by Paul Casdorff. The fourth selection is a donation from Mrs. Ed Ekholm – ***The American Heritage's PICTURE HISTORY of THE CIVIL WAR***. Its Narrative is by Bruce Catton. Finally, we have ***MEMOIRS of a TEXAN: WAR*** by Tim Murray.

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.



USS Neosho

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

By Brad York

The Membership Committee and HCWRT members have brought in 26 new members, closing in on our goal of 30 during the 2015-16 Chandler Campaign. With three months remaining, that target is achievable with your continued efforts and support. Thanks to the committee and HCWRT members for all you do to bring in new members!

Please search out our New Members and greet them warmly, welcome them to HCWRT. They bring a sincere interest in Civil War history and offer their enthusiasm and energy to make HCWRT even stronger. Join me in welcoming our newest members: **Mary Bicknell, Rion Braddock, James Logan, Jeff Nuttall, Howard Rose, and Jack Vaughan.**

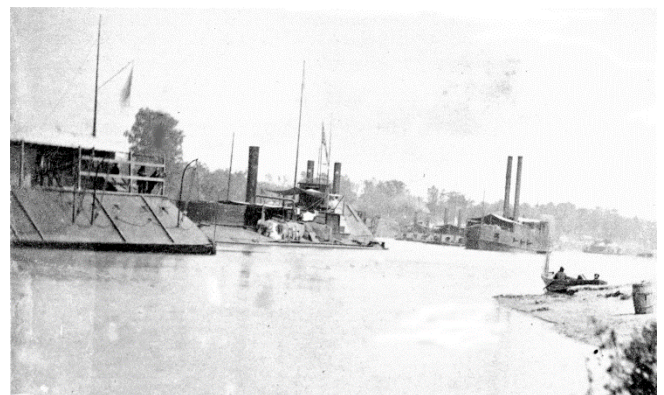
Also, I'm happy to announce that our stalwart member **Emily Ryan** has agreed to serve as Vice Chair of the Membership Committee. **Thanks and Congratulations, Emily!**

HTBAR Tour & Camp Grose

Two other Texas-related Civil War items of interest:

Hood's Texas Brigade Assn. Re-activated (HTBAR) will hold its annual tour, **“The Scarlet Tide: The Battle of Chickamauga”** on **June 7-10, 2016**. Follow Hood's Texas Brigade, detached under Gen. Longstreet and moved by rail from VA to GA as they fight in the September 1863 Battle of Chickamauga and the early battles for Chattanooga. Please contact m.hartzog@mail.utexas.edu

Follow Camp Grose CSA: Efforts are underway to protect and commemorate Civil War history in Waller, Washington and Austin Counties. Camp Grose was a Confederate training camp and a camp for Union POWs. For more details, please go to: <https://www.facebook.com/dlisarelli/?ref=bookmarks>



The Union Fleet above Alexandria

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

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”*
plus Presentation of 2016 Vandiver Award to Eric A. Jacobson

www.HoustonCivilWar.com



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

