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General Orders

Chandler's Texas Brigade

Vol. 27
No. 9
May
2016

MAY 2016 MEETING
Thursday, May 19, 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 May 16, 2016
Dinner \$30; Lecture Only \$10

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

The HCWRT Presents
Stephen M. ("Sam") Hood
Speaking on:

***"The Lost Papers of
General John Bell Hood"***

Scholars hail **Confederate General John Bell Hood's** personal papers as "the most important discovery in Civil War scholarship in the last half century." This invaluable cache includes documents relating to Hood's U.S. Army service, Civil War career, and postwar life. It includes letters from Confederate and Union officers, unpublished battle reports, detailed medical reports relating to Hood's two major wounds, and dozens of letters exchanged between Hood and his wife Anna. This treasure trove was made available for the first time (2015) for both professional and amateur Civil War historians in ***The Lost Papers of Confederate General John Bell Hood***, edited and annotated by award-winning author Stephen M. Hood. The historical community long believed General Hood's papers

were lost or destroyed, and numerous books and articles were written about him without the benefit of these invaluable documents. In fact, the papers had been carefully preserved for generations by Hood's descendants. In 2012, collateral descendent Stephen Hood was given access to these papers as part of his research for his book ***John Bell Hood: The Rise, Fall, and Resurrection of a Confederate General*** (Savas Beatie, 2013).

This 200+ document collection sheds important light on some of the war's lingering mysteries and controversies. For example, letters from Confederate officers help explain Hood's failure to entrap Schofield's Union army at **Spring Hill**, Tennessee, on November 29, 1864. Another letter by Lt. Gen. Stephen D. Lee helps to explain Maj. Gen. Patrick Cleburne's gallant but reckless conduct that resulted in his death at **Franklin**. Lee also lodges serious allegations against Confederate Maj. Gen. William Bate's troops. Other papers explain, for the first time, the purpose and intent behind **Hood's "controversial" memoir *Advance and Retreat***, and validate its contents. While these and others offer a military perspective of Hood the general, the revealing letters between he and **Anna, his beloved and devoted wife**, help us better understand Hood—the man and husband.



Confederate General John Bell Hood

[About Stephen M. Hood](#)



Stephen M. Hood

Stephen M. ("Sam") Hood is a distant relative of Confederate General John Bell Hood. Sam is a retired industrial construction company owner, and lives in Huntington WV with his wife of 38 years, the former Martha Ann Hager. He is a 1970 graduate of Kentucky Military Institute, and earned a BBA in Marketing from Marshall University in 1976. Sam served in the United States Marine Corps Reserve and has had a life-long interest in the sport of soccer. He is a former Head Men's Soccer Coach at Marshall University, and coached Huntington St. Joseph Catholic High School to West Virginia State Championships in 1983, 1984, 1985, and 1988. He was named West Virginia High School Coach of the Year in 1990 and 1993, and was a charter inductee into the West Virginia High School Soccer Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 2010. A former college soccer referee, Sam was a founder of the West Virginia Intercollegiate Soccer Officials Association in 1982. With an abiding interest in Civil War history, Sam is a past member of the Board of Directors of the Blue Gray Education Society of Chatham VA, and is past president of the Board of Directors of Confederate Memorial Hall Museum in New Orleans.

FYI—we'll have Sam's books for sale at the meeting. He'll be available to sign them.

[Hood's Brigade at Chickamauga](#)

Hood's Texas Brigade Association, Re-activated (HTBAR) will hold its annual June tour, entitled "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 fought in the

September 1863 Battle of Chickamauga, GA and the early battles for Chattanooga, TN.

For more information, contact Martha Hartzog:

m.hartzog@mail.utexas.edu or go to
<http://www.hoodstexasbrigade.org/>

[Eric A. Jacobson](#) [2016 Vandiver Award Recipient](#)

The Houston Civil War Round Table is honored that the 2016 Frank E. Vandiver Award of Merit will be presented to **Eric A. Jacobson** at the May 19 meeting.

Since 1982, the HCWRT has presented its prestigious Frank E. Vandiver Award of Merit annually in recognition of an individual or an organization making a substantial contribution to the preservation of our Civil War heritage. The Vandiver Award is named for the late Civil War historian and former President of Texas A&M University, the University of North Texas, and Rice University, who also was one of the earliest members of the HCWRT.



Eric Jacobson

Eric is currently the **Chief Executive Officer** and Historian for the **Battle of Franklin Trust**, which manages the **Carter House** and **Carnton Plantation** in Franklin, Tennessee. He was our May 2015 speaker at the Houston Civil War Round Table. At the May 19 HCWRT meeting, Eric will give us an update on the remarkable historic preservation and *reclamation* successes, as well as future plans in Franklin.

About Eric A. Jacobson

Eric Jacobson has been studying the American Civil War for nearly 25 years. A Minnesota native, Eric lived in Arizona for over a decade. While there he, along with two other principals, started and ran a small business, which grew to over 150 employees by 2003. Eric left Arizona to pursue other interests and relocated to Middle Tennessee in 2005. He is the author of **For Cause & For Country: A Study of the Affair at Spring Hill and the Battle of Franklin**, a project which encompassed nearly 10 years. The book was published in March 2006 and is considered by some to be one of the most important books ever written about the 1864 Tennessee Campaign.



Eric Jacobson works to save Franklin battle sites

Eric's second book, **The McGavock Confederate Cemetery**, was published in April 2007. His third book, entitled **Baptism of Fire**, which details the roles of three Federal regiments at the Battle of Franklin, was released in September 2011. He is currently working on his fourth book.

Eric has worked closely with preservation organizations such as the **Civil War Trust, Franklin's Charge, and Save the Franklin Battlefield** for nearly a decade to reclaim and preserve important sections of the Spring Hill and Franklin battlefields. He has also been one of the driving forces behind the installation of dozens of Civil Wars Trails markers across Middle Tennessee.

He lives in Spring Hill, Tennessee, not far from the battlefield.

COMMANDER'S CORNER

By Gary Chandler



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

Dear HCWRT Members:

At this month's meeting May 19, we'll have two presentation events, not just one: **Sam Hood's** presentation and HCWRT's presentation to **Eric Jacobson** of the 2016 Vandiver Award. Also on May 19—**Board of Directors elections** (see "Nominees for 2016-17" article below).

The **2016 Vandiver Award** will be the 35th presentation to add to a distinguished recipients list of Civil War historians, preservationists, and organizations. I am honored to have served on the two most recent Vandiver Award Committees that selected **James M. McPherson in 2015** and now **Eric Jacobson in 2016**. The Vandiver Award provides a legacy that should make HCWRT members feel very proud!

This meeting will conclude the 2015-16 Campaign, as well as my term as President. My last two campaign years—as VP in 2014-15 and as President in this 2015-16 year—constantly reminded me that our greatest strengths are **our speakers**, and **above all, our members**.

As to our speakers—for this 2015-16 and next year's 2016-17 campaigns, I am proud of the line-up of **outstanding speakers**. Their topics have covered **all "theaters of war"** (Eastern, Western, and Trans-Mississippi), **Union and Confederate**, as well as **"battles & leaders"** and **"Civil War memory."** I call your attention to the 2016-17 Speakers Schedule on the back of this newsletter. **Please note: the October meeting will be on a TUESDAY (October 18), instead of our usual "third Thursday"** to

accommodate our fall Franklin Trip beginning October 20 (see article below).

As to our members—it has been gratifying to see a **loyal group of long-term “veteran members”** continuing to support HCWRT and attend our meetings. It also is gratifying to see a **strong infusion of new members**, due to the Membership Committee and other HCWRT members who have brought new members to sustain and grow HCWRT. Speaking of members, a **Membership Application form** is included in this newsletter and is on our website. **We’ll welcome your dues for the next campaign**, starting at the May 19 meeting and over the summer before the campaign begins in September. We need and appreciate your financial support in order to continue to bring such high quality speakers to Houston.

As outgoing President, I personally **appreciate and thank our members** for your support and attendance. I also **thank our Board, Chairs and Committee members** for your good work. I am honored to have served as President, and look forward to next year on the Board as we continue to strengthen the HCWRT mission.

[HCWRT FALL FRANKLIN TRIP Franklin Symposium, Oct. 20-23](#)

As another tie-in with our Vandiver Award to Eric Jacobson for Franklin site preservation, our annual Fall Field Trip this year will be to Franklin, TN. We will attend the **“The Battle of Franklin and American Memory History Symposium” on October 20–22 (with an optional add-on tour on October 23).**

Through lectures, panel discussions, and tours of the battlefield and historic homes, the symposium will offer an in-depth look at the Civil War in 1864 and the long post-war years. Attendees will learn about the events leading up to the Battle of Franklin, the battle itself, and civilian perspectives. The long path to our modern times will also be covered. This symposium will allow guests to learn about these pivotal moments in American history in a unique way. **The Battle of Franklin Trust** is sponsor of the symposium. **Co-Coordinator** Barry Brueggeman and Emily Ryan are local contacts for the Franklin Trip. If interested or if you plan to attend, contact **Emily Ryan** at [713-781-1418](tel:713-781-1418) or TRN@aol.com. For travel information or to share your travel plans, contact **Barry Brueggeman** at [281-480-1130](tel:281-480-1130) or bqbrueg@aol.com. Individuals are responsible for making reservations and arrangements for symposium registration, transportation, and hotel accommodations (the Drury Franklin is the symposium hotel). **For more details, go to: <http://www.boft.org/events/symposium.htm>**

[MAY BOOK SALE](#) *By Donnie Stowe*



Due to an unusually full May Meeting agenda, we will NOT be having a Raffle or Quiz this month. Instead, we are going to have a Special Book Sale!

Notable Books for sale are:

- ***Manhunt*** – 12-day chase for Lincoln’s killer by James L. Swanson
- ***From Manassas to Appomattox*** - Memoirs by Gen. James Longstreet
- ***Stars in Their Courses*** – the Gettysburg Campaign by Shelby Foote
- ***The Civil War Day by Day*** by Phillip Katcher
- ***National Geographic Atlas of the Civil War*** - by N. Kagan & Steve Hyslop
- ***Lee’s Terrible Swift Sword*** by Richard Wheeler
- ***Black Jack Logan*** by Gary Ecelbarger
- ***The Long Surrender*** - The you are there story of the Confederacy’s *Collapse* by Burke Davis
- ***Lee – The Last Years*** by Charles Bracelen Flood

One other gem or gems that we may also receive for this meeting is the collection of the ***“War of the Rebellion: Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies”***.

[NOMINEES FOR 2016-17 Board of Directors Election, May 19](#)

As announced at the April 21st meeting the nominees for election to the 2016-2017 HCWRT Board of Directors **on May 19** are:

Officers:

President - Marsha Franty
Vice President - Brad York
Secretary - Ben Ramsey
Treasurer - Barry Brueggeman

Directors:

Michael Harrington
Nathan Jennings
Norman Lewis
Emily Ryan

Immediate Past President - Gary Chandler

HOUSTON CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



The Houston Civil War Round Table is dedicated to the study of the civilian, military, and cultural aspects of United States history during the period of 1861 – 1865 and to the preservation of historical sites and artifacts. For additional copies of this form please go to www.HoustonCivilWar.com

MEMBERSHIP TYPE

(CHECK ONE BOX ONLY.)

- \$45 – Individual
 \$50 – Family
 \$20 – Student/Faculty or Out-of-Town

JOINING BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND APR. 30

- \$23 – Individual - Joining in Jan – Apr
 \$25 – Family - Joining in Jan – Apr
 \$15 – Student/Faculty or Out-of-Town - Joining in Jan – Apr

ADDRESS / INFORMATION UPDATE ONLY

Name: _____
(FIRST, MIDDLE, LAST)

Month and Year of Birth: _____, Male, Female

Address: _____

City: _____ St _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

In which format would you like to receive your newsletter?

- Email (PDF), U.S. Postal Service (Printed)

How did you learn about us? _____

FOR FAMILY MEMBERSHIPS ONLY

Family Member Name: _____
(FIRST, MIDDLE, LAST)

Month and Year of Birth: _____, Male, Female

Relationship to Applicant: _____

Email Address: _____

Note: For memberships or subscriptions outside the U.S., extra cost of postage to mail the newsletter may be added. Cost will vary; please write to inquire.

Mail your completed application to: **Houston Civil War Round Table**
P. O. Box 4215
Houston, TX 77210-4215

THE HOUSTON CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE 2016 - 2017 SPEAKERS CAMPAIGN – THE HESS CLUB

- Sep. 15, 2016 Wayne Mott: *“Pickett’s Charge at Gettysburg: A Fresh Perspective”*
- Oct. 18, 2016 A. Wilson Greene: *“Civil War Petersburg”* (Note: This is a TUESDAY Night!)
- Nov. 17, 2016 Susannah J. Ural: *“Hood’s Boys”*
- Dec. 8, 2016 Donald S. Frazier:
“Blood on the Bayou: Vicksburg, Port Hudson, and the Trans-Mississippi”
- Jan. 19, 2017 Edwin C. Bearss: *“The Camden Expedition and Battle of Jenkin’s Ferry, AR”*
- Feb. 16, 2017 Edward H. Bonekemper III: *“The Myth of the Lost Cause”*
- Mar. 16, 2017 Brian Steel Wills: *“George Thomas at Nashville”*
- Apr. 20, 2017 Elizabeth R. Varon:
“Legacies of Appomattox: Lee’s Surrender in History and Memory”
- Mar. 16, 2017 To Be Determined - Holding for 2017 Vandiver Award recipient

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