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# General Orders

## *Franty's Brigade*

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2016

**OCTOBER 2016 MEETING**  
**Tuesday, October 18, 2016**

The HESS Club  
5430 Westheimer Rd @ Westheimer Way  
6:00 Cash Bar  
6:45 Dinner & Meeting

**E-Mail Reservation is Preferred;**  
Email Barry at [bgbrueg@aol.com](mailto:bgbrueg@aol.com),  
or call 281 480-1130  
by 6 pm Thursday, October 13, 2016  
Dinner \$30; Lecture Only \$10

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

### The HCWRT Presents A. Wilson Greene Speaking on:

#### ***“Civil War Petersburg”***

#### ***“The Day was the Jubilee of Fiends in Human Shape and Without Souls: The Battle of the Crater”***

The Petersburg Campaign lasted 292 days and involved 79 armed conflicts between June 1864 and April 1865. None of those engagements possesses more notoriety than the brutal fight known as the Battle of the Crater.

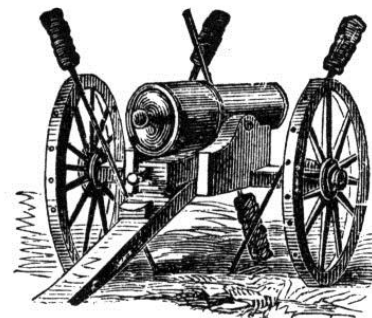
Beginning in late June, a regiment of Pennsylvanians--many of them anthracite coal miners from the northeastern part of the state--began excavating a tunnel that eventually stretched more than 500 feet under a prominent Confederate fort southeast of Petersburg. Packing the galleries with 8,000 pounds of black powder, the Pennsylvanians exploded their mine on the morning of July

30. The blast killed more than 300 South Carolinians and Virginians.

What followed involved some of the most horrific hand-to-hand combat every seen on the North American continent. Confusion over orders, drunken and cowardly commanders, and sheer amazement at the results of the explosion conspired against the Union attackers, who soon crowded into and around the resulting crater. The Confederates quickly recovered from their shock and mounted three counterattacks, eventually restoring their shattered lines while inflicting more than 3,800 losses on their opponents.

Many of those casualties were United States Colored Troops. Their experience at the battle and afterward comprise a uniquely disturbing chapter of Civil War history that sheds light on the mindset of Confederate and Union soldiers alike.

Will Greene's talk will explain the origins of the mine, the techniques used to construct it, and the background to the disastrous Federal assault. He will highlight the sequence of Confederate counterattacks, the nature of the fighting that followed, and the significance of the battle in the greater scheme of the contest for Petersburg. His presentation is based on a portion of his forthcoming book, *A Campaign of Giants: The Petersburg Campaign, June 12-August 1, 1864*, currently in production at the University of North Carolina Press.





## About A. Wilson Greene

**A. Wilson (Will) Greene** is a native of Chicago, Illinois, and was raised in Wheaton, Illinois. He received a B.A. in American History at Florida State University and M.A. in History at Louisiana State University.

Since 1995, Will Greene has served as Executive Director of Pamplin Historical Park and the National Museum of the Civil War Soldier, Petersburg, VA. From 1990 to 1994, he was President and Executive Director, Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites (now the Civil War Trust). Will's prior career included sixteen years as historian and manager with the National Park Service, including assignments at Fredericksburg National Military Park and Petersburg National Battlefield.

Will is the author of several books, such as: *The Second Manassas Campaign*, *Breaking the Backbone of the Rebellion: The Final Battles of the Petersburg Campaign*, and *Civil War Petersburg: Confederate City in the Crucible of War*. He has published over 20 articles in history journals and contributed to such books as *National Geographic Guide to Civil War Battlefield Parks* and *Conservation Fund Guide to Civil War Battlefields*.

He is a frequent study leader, tour leader, and speaker covering all major Civil War campaigns. Will has spoken to more than 100 Civil War Round Tables, ***including the HCWRT***, and led many tours for history groups ranging from the Smithsonian Institute to the Delta Queen Steamboat Company, Blue and Gray Education Society, and Civil War Society. He has participated in many symposia and seminars nationwide.

His memberships include: National Advisory Board, Civil War Preservation Trust; Board, Institute of Museum and Library Services (Presidential appointment); and Board, Society of Civil War Historians. He received numerous Awards: Outstanding Southerner by Southern Living Magazine; Austin CWRT Laney Award for Outstanding Book on Civil War History (*Civil War Petersburg*); D. H. Hill Award, North Carolina Civil War Round Table; Nevins-Freeman Award, Chicago Civil War Round Table; and Shelby Foote Preservationist Legacy Award, Civil War Trust.

Will's other Interests include international travel, golf, and minor league hockey.

## OCTOBER QUIZ *By Jim Godlove*

In his memoirs, US Grant writes about one of his generals involved in the Battle of the Crater. He wrote: "besides being otherwise inefficient, (he) proved also to possess disqualification less common among soldiers."



**Who was this New York general that Grant called a coward?**



## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

*By Emily Ryan*

The 2016-2017 Campaign got off with a bang! Wayne Motts was a riveting speaker who had the audience in the palm of his hand. He is the CEO of the National Civil War Museum in Harrisburg, PA. His topic was Pickett's Charge at Gettysburg. His delivery was over the top!

Also, we had an excellent turnout, and we enjoyed a delicious dinner with 12 new members joining our ranks. It was a terrific time to see old friends and finally meet new ones that I had been talking with over the summer. Our room at HESS was buzzing!

Members of the Membership Committee (Brad York and Emily Ryan) will attend the Houston History Conference on October 1st at the new MATCH venue. Hopefully, many attendees will come to our table to learn about us. Donnie Stowe gave us books to sell and an attractive banner for our table. It should be a worthwhile way to get the message out about our great Round Table.

## NEWS FROM HOOD'S TEXAS BRIGADE ASSN., RE-ACTIVATED

On Saturday, November 12<sup>th</sup>, there will be a dedication of a marker to Jacob Hemphill, Co. H, 5th Texas, recipient of one of the nine Gold Stars for Bravery awarded to Hood's Texas Brigade Soldiers in 1864.

The marker is being presented by the SCV Camp #1250 Temple, TX. The ceremony will

take place at 2:00 pm at the North Belton Cemetery (1500 N. Main Street, Belton, TX). The Bell County Chapter #101, UDC will dedicate a Southern Cross to this soldier as well. Also, the Texas Order of the Confederate Rose will participate with a Black Rose Ceremony.

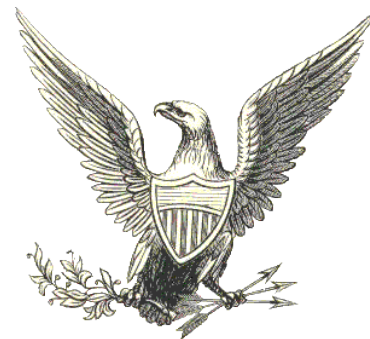
After the ceremony, there will be a BBQ Lunch and Social at Confederate Park in Belton (500 E. Ave C. Belton, TX). Cost will be between \$10 and \$15. RSVPs are need if you wish to attend the BBQ. They can be sent to the Camp #1250 2nd Lt Commander and event organizer, Compatriot James Bozeman, at:

[james\\_bozeman@hughes.net](mailto:james_bozeman@hughes.net).

Hood's Texas Brigade Association Re-activated will present a Scholarly Seminar the weekend of Friday, 18 November, and Saturday, 19 November. In addition to a trip to the historic village of Chatfield, Texas, on Friday, the Saturday's events will take place at the Cook Education Center, Navarro College, in Corsicana. Past HCWRT speakers who will be presenting include Rick Eiserman, Dr. Richard McCaslin, and our November speaker Dr. Susannah Ural. Several new authors will participate as well, and there will be exhibits and vendors to complement the lectures and discussions. The registration deadline is November 6, and more information is available by contacting Martha Hartzog at:

[mhartzog@mail.utexas.edu](mailto:mhartzog@mail.utexas.edu) or on her cell 512-431-2682. For registration information, contact Charleen Mullenweg at: [cmullenweg@gmail.com](mailto:cmullenweg@gmail.com) or 512 300-7567.

Fliers with detailed information pertaining to this event will be available at the October meeting.



## COMMANDER'S CORNER

*By Marsha Franty*

Cooler days are here at last! A change of seasons is most welcome after a long, hot summer.

Speaking of change, a change of meeting nights is happening this month. Due to the participation of some of our members in the Franklin Symposium, we shall gather on Tuesday, 18 October. Reservations will be due to Barry Brueggeman (not Don Zuckero this month) by Friday, 14 October. We wish those members attending the Symposium safe travels; we know they are in for a treat with Sam Hood, last year's Vandiver Award winner Eric Jacobson, and other speakers.

For those of you with a desire to tour Civil War battlefields, there are a variety of options. Ed Bearss can be one of your guides if you choose one of Marty Gane's tours ([www.civilwartours.org](http://www.civilwartours.org)). Both Barry and I can vouch for the quality experience offered by Marty and her excellent tour leaders.

The Chambersburg (Pa.) Chamber of Commerce offers a variety of conferences and field experiences through-out the year. I have attended several of their July events; they offer an excellent variety of speakers and tours and you will enjoy the camaraderie of fellow Civil War buffs from around the country. For more information on their offerings, visit [www.civilwarseminars.org](http://www.civilwarseminars.org). While in Pennsylvania, you will want to travel to nearby Harrisburg, PA, to visit the National Civil War Museum and last month's speaker, Wayne Motts. It's a wonderful museum and well worth your time.

Other groups offering history adventures are the Civil War Education Association [www.cwea.net](http://www.cwea.net) and the Blue and Gray Education Society. [www.blueandgrayeducation.org](http://www.blueandgrayeducation.org) Both of these groups are headquartered in Virginia, but offer a variety of seminars and tour experiences for aficionados of American history.

Road Scholar is known for its economical tours to all parts of the world and for its coverage of a variety of interests. In 2017 they are again offering "The Life and Legacy of Abraham Lincoln." It is a 6-day tour and will be offered at

four different times. Go to [www.roadsscholar.org](http://www.roadsscholar.org) for all the relevant details.

Thanks for submitting your dues to Barry and for up-dating your information on the membership page of the website!

Don't forget... see you on Tuesday, October 18th, for Will Greene!

## OCTOBER BOOK SALE

*By Donnie Stowe*



Hope everyone had great time out at the Hess Club for our first meeting this year. Onward to our raffle for the meeting in October. We begin with **WILLIAM TECUMSEH**

**SHERMAN – Memoirs of General W.T. Sherman** by W.T.Sherman. This is a Library of America book that is two volumes in one. The second book for this month is **UNCERTAIN GLORY – Lee's Generalship Re-Examined** by John D. McKenzie. This book challenges us to take another look at R.E. Lee and his excellent reputation as a superior strategist and tactician. The third book this month is **COMBAT: THE CIVIL WAR** Edited by Don Congdon. Our fourth selection is **VOICES OF THE CIVIL WAR – An eyewitness History of the War Between the States** by Richard Wheeler. Our last selection for this month is from James Godlove. **THE HISTORICAL ATLAS OF THE CIVILWAR** by John Macdonald. This book includes maps & photographs the dramatic story of the Civil War. There will also be a book sale this month at very rock-bottom prices of \$1.00-2.00. The low price is due to the highlighting and under-lining found in all of them. But they are still a bargain!



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

- Oct. 18, 2016 A. Wilson Greene: “*Civil War Petersburg*” (Note: This is a TUESDAY Night!)
- Nov. 17, 2016 Susannah J. Ural: “*Hood’s Boys: The Long Road Home*”
- 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*”
- May 18, 2017 To Be Determined - Holding for 2017 Vandiver Award recipient

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**Houston Civil War Round Table**  
**c/o Barry G. Brueggeman**  
**3706 Lonnie Wood Drive**  
**Houston, TX 77059**

