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General Orders

Franty's Brigade

Vol. 28
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January
2017



JANUARY, 2017 MEETING
Thursday, January 19, 2017

The HESS Club
5430 Westheimer Rd @ Westheimer Way
6:00 Cash Bar
6:45 Dinner & Meeting
7:30 Program Begins

E-mail Reservation is Preferred;
E-mail Don Zuckero at drzuckero@sbcglobal.net,
or call (281) 479-1232 by 6 pm Monday, January
16, 2017
Dinner \$30; Lecture Only \$10

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

The HCWRT Presents
Edwin C. Bearss
Speaking on:

***“The Camden Expedition and Battle
of Jenkins’ Ferry”***

Considered a part of the overall Red River Campaign in the spring of 1864, with the invasion of Texas by Union forces as one of the key objectives, the Arkansas portion of the campaign also is known as the Camden Expedition. It became a failed attempt by Union troops in Arkansas to converge on Shreveport and link up with General Banks’ forces advancing northward through Louisiana and then toward Texas.

Maj. Gen. Frederick Steele’s Union forces retreated from Camden after being mauled in fierce engagements at Poison Spring and Marks’ Mills. On the afternoon of April 29, 1864 the Union troops reached Jenkins’ Ferry to

begin crossing the Saline River, which was swollen by heavy rain. Gen. Edmund Kirby Smith’s Confederate army caught Steele’s men and launched a succession of Confederate attacks on April 30. Many of the soldiers (including Texans) had fought at the battle of Mansfield, Louisiana only 22 days earlier. The Federals repulsed the attacks and finally crossed with all their men and supply wagons, many of which they were compelled to abandon in the swamp north of the Saline. The Confederates missed the opportunity to destroy Steele’s army, which after crossing the river, regrouped to the north at Little Rock. Their failure at the Battle of Jenkins’ Ferry cost the Confederates any chance they may have had to capture the Union army or retake Little Rock.

Edwin C. Bearss authored the in-depth book documenting Steele’s part of the ill-fated Red River Campaign (***Steele’s Retreat from Camden & The Battle of Jenkins’ Ferry***). Ed Bearss will speak about the events and impact of this expedition and its final battle on the Trans-Mississippi theater and Texas.



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-round of the Civil War, American Revolution, American West, and World War I and World War II in Europe. He is acclaimed as one of the stars of Ken Burns' award-winning PBS series, *The Civil War*. In 1956, he helped locate and raise the ironclad gunboat *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 many other awards and honors. He has been our speaker in virtually every HCWRT campaign for decades and a frequent guide for many of our Round Table tours over that period. It is an honor and pleasure to again welcome Ed back to Houston!

COMMANDER'S CORNER

By Marsha Franty

Happy New Year! Once again we open the calendar year by welcoming our dear friend Ed Bearss back to the podium. Ed's unique personality and remarkable knowledge have guided many of us across battlefields and through historic sites both here and abroad. With his detailed descriptions of both strategy and tactics, accompanied by his candid insights into the personalities of those involved, Ed enthalls both casual participants and dedicated students of history. He is indeed the Pied Piper of History, a national treasure, and an inspiration!

Just a January reminder: if you forgot to pay your dues for this campaign, please do so. Our commitment to bring you dynamic, interesting speakers is dependent on the receipt of dues. Details are on the website. If you are unsure as to your status, please check with Barry Brueggeman. You will also find additional information regarding membership dues on the next page. Thanks!

Please make your reservation by Monday, 16 January, and plan to join us this month on Thursday, 19 January, for another memorable evening with the one and only Ed Bearss!

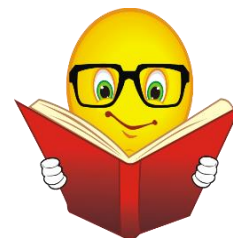


Gary Chandler & Ed Bearss at the January 2016 meeting

JANUARY BOOK RAFFLE

By Donnie Stowe

Hope all of you had a very wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year! I'm sure I am not the only one that enjoyed our program with Donald Frazier on December 8th - and we still have a lot of great speakers to come.



For our January book raffle we begin with a book donated by past president, Gary Chandler. It is ***MOTHER MAY YOU NEVER SEE THE SIGHTS I HAVE SEEN*** by Warren Wilkinson. It details the events of the Fifty-

Seventh Massachusetts veteran volunteers in the last year of the Civil War. Next up is ***SPIES and SPYMASTERS of the CIVIL WAR*** written

by Donald E. Markle. This is a book that was donated by the estate of Gladys Glover. Third in line is **LINCOLN'S GAMBLE** by Todd Brewster and was donated by Donald Jones. The final book selection this month is also a volume from Don Jones – **CHAMPION HILL – Decisive Battle for Vicksburg** by Timothy B. Smith.

To end this month's raffle, I'm also offering a two disc DVD on Civil War Battlefields.

MORE BOOKS

Bob Tucker recently contacted us and indicated that he has some old Civil War books he would be interested in selling. These include two volumes of **Personal Memoirs of U. S. Grant (first edition), Abraham Lincoln** by William O. Stoddard, two large volumes of **Pictorial History of the Civil War (Harpers)**, as well as other books. Most are in reasonably good condition. Bob can be contacted via e-mail at revtucker@icloud.com.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT *By Emily Ryan*

Happy New Year! A brand new year with brand new speakers, brand new topics, and brand new members. 2017 should be a terrific year for our Round Table. We have much to look forward to: great drinks, delicious dinner, new ideas and thoughts, new books, and new friends. Let's make this a memorable one!

Just a reminder to our members: if you have not yet paid your annual dues for the 2016-2017 campaign, please do so as soon as possible! Your dues help support our programming, particularly our excellent speakers who appear at each meeting. The dues are as follows:

Individual:	\$50.00
Family:	\$60.00
Out of Town:	\$25.00
Academic (Faculty/Students):	\$25.00

Payment can be sent (payable to "HCWRT") to Barry G; Brueggeman, 3706 Lonnie Wood

Drive, Houston, TX, 77059. Of course, you may also pay in person at our January 19th meeting.

JANUARY QUIZ *By Jim Godlove*

This Confederate general was born in Tennessee in 1821 but moved to Texas in 1839. As a lawyer and politician, he strongly supported states' rights and voted for secession in the Texas convention.

He became Lt. Col. In the 4th Texas Cavalry and took part in Sibley's New Mexico campaign. As a brigadier general, he commanded the ground forces in the Battle of Galveston. He and his brigade took an active part in the Battles of Mansfield and Pleasant Hill.



On April 30, 1864, he was mortally wounded at the Battle of Jenkins' Ferry. Who was this hero who refused to leave the field of battle to be treated for his wounds?



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

Jan. 19, 2017 Edwin C. Bearss: “*The Camden Expedition and Battle of Jenkins’ Ferry*”

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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c/o Barry G. Brueggeman
3706 Lonnie Wood Drive
Houston, TX 77059

