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General Orders

Franty's Brigade

Vol. 28
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February
2017

FEBRUARY, 2017 MEETING
Thursday, February 16, 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, February
13, 2017
Dinner \$30; Lecture Only \$10

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

The HCWRT Presents Edward H. Bonekemper III Speaking on:

"The Myth of the Lost Cause"

The Southern-created Myth of the Lost Cause has long dominated Americans' remembrance of the Civil War, the country's watershed event. Drawing on decades of research, historian **Ed Bonekemper** discusses controversial Myth issues, such as whether the South could have won the Civil War, whether Lee was a great general, whether Grant was a mere "butcher" who won by brute force, whether Longstreet lost Gettysburg for Lee, and whether the North won by waging "total war."

Bonekemper examines the accuracy of the Myth and how it has affected our perception of slavery, states' rights, the nature of the Civil

War, and the military performance of Robert E. Lee, Ulysses S. Grant and James Longstreet. He begins by discussing the nature of slavery in 1860, including whether it was a benign and dying institution. The heart of his analysis is whether slavery was the primary cause of secession and the Confederacy's creation. He does this by examining Federal protection of slavery, slavery demographics, seceding states' conventions and declarations, their outreach to other slave states, Confederate leaders' statements, and the Confederacy's foreign policy, POW policy and rejection of black soldiers.

About Edward H. Bonekemper III



Ed Bonekemper earned a B. A., cum laude, in American history from Muhlenberg College, an M. A. in American history from Old Dominion University, and a J. D. from Yale Law School.

He is the author of six Civil War books: *The Myth of the Lost Cause: Why the South Fought the Civil War and Why the North Won*; *Lincoln and Grant: The Westerners Who Won the Civil War*; *Grant and Lee: Victorious American and Vanquished Virginian*; *McClellan and Failure: A Study of Civil War Fear, Incompetence, and Worse*; *A Victor Not a Butcher: Ulysses S. Grant's Overlooked Military Genius*; and *How Robert E. Lee Lost the Civil War*.

Bonekemper was Book Review Editor of *Civil War News* (2010 – 2016) and adjunct military history lecturer at Muhlenberg College (2003 – 2010).

COMMANDER'S CORNER *By Marsha Franty*



President Marsha Franty and Ed Bearss

In January, a large number of new and old members gathered to greet our dear friend Ed Bearss once again. The appearance of the USMC Color Guard made the evening extra-special for Ed and for all of us.

Please plan to join us this month for Ed Bonekemper. His presentation, "The Myth of the Lost Cause" should prove quite thought-provoking!

We do hope that you are enjoying the speakers featured in this campaign. They come to us without recompense (we cover only travel

expense, hotel, and dinner) because they appreciate the knowledge and enthusiasm they find in our members. Your membership and your support of our raffle and book sales are what provide the resources for us to continue to bring quality speakers to our podium.

February marks the anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln, our great and good sixteenth President. His tolerance and humility, coupled with his instinctive political savvy, remain through the decades as examples for us all. Although deprived of much formal education, his extensive reading provided a reservoir from which sprang the powerful and unique use of language for which he is frequently remembered. I have two small books of his quotations which reveal both his humor and intelligence and his relevance through the ages. The following quotations are offered in *Abraham Lincoln: Wisdom and Wit* (Peter Pauper Press, 1998): "If you call a tail a leg, how many legs has a dog? Five? No; calling a tail a leg don't make it a leg." "If the head of Lee's army is at Martinsburg, and the tail of it on the Plank road between Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville, the animal must be very slim somewhere. Could you (General Hooker) not break him?" "Bad promises are better broken than kept." "Better to remain silent and thought a fool than to speak out and remove all doubt." "Die when I may, I want it said of me, by those who know me best, that I always plucked a thistle and planted a flower when I thought a flower would grow."

Looking forward to seeing you on Thursday, 16 February!



Norm Lewis & Ed Bearss with USMC Color Guard

FEBRUARY BOOK RAFFLE

By Donnie Stowe

We sure had a good group to hear Ed Bearss at the January meeting and I might add the Marine Color Guard was a nice touch. As Ed would say, "Semper Fi!" For February our book raffle begins with a book donated by Jim Godlove. It is **LEE'S CAVALRYMEN** – a *History of the Mounted Forces of the Army of Northern Virginia* by Edward G. Longacre. Next up is **THE WOMEN'S WAR IN THE SOUTH** – Edited by Charles G. Waugh & Martin H. Greenberg. Third in the raffle is **AMERICAN ULYSSES – A LIFE OF ULYSSES S. GRANT** by Ronald C. White. I



wish to thank Mike Harrington for this book. The next selection is **THE WHITE TECUMSEH** – A biography of *William T. Sherman* and was written by Stanley P. Hirshson. This book was from

the Estate of Gladys Glover. Our final book this month is **EDMUND J. DAVIS** by Carl H. Moneyhon and is also from Jim Godlove's collection. 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.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

By Emily Ryan

What a way to start the New Year! I wish every member could have attended our January meeting. Because of Ed Bearss, there was a huge crowd, and because Ed Bearss is a former Marine, we had a Color Guard before we pledged allegiance. It was absolutely an outstanding presentation, and Ed was extremely pleased. The idea of the color guard was initiated by Brad York and facilitated by Norm Lewis and Nate Jennings. All three men serve on the Membership Committee! The four marines in the color guard sat at four different tables for dinner so conversation was lively and energetic. Just a heads up - if you have not

been attending, get the dates on your calendar. There are more surprises to come!

FEBRUARY QUIZ

By Jim Godlove

One of the architects of the Myth of the Lost Cause was a former Confederate Lieutenant General. He fought in most of the major campaigns of the Army of Northern Virginia and held an independent command in the Shenandoah Valley late in the war.



Who was this Virginian who Robert E. Lee called "my bad old man?"

"GETTYSBURG OF THE WEST: TEXANS AND THE BATTLE OF FRANKLIN"

Martha Hartzog with the Hood's Texas Brigade Association, Re-activated has provided us information about a tour scheduled for June 6 – 9, 2017.

Sam Hood, our speaker from last May, is putting together this tour of Spring Hill and Franklin, Tennessee. Confirmed guides and speakers are 2016 Vandiver Award Recipient Eric Jacobson, CEO of the Battle of Franklin Trust, and Robert Hicks, author of *Widow of the South*, a novel about the Carnton Plantation and the McGavock Cemetery.

Registration cost is \$595.00 per person, and does not include airfare or hotel. Once all the details are finalized, we will distribute flyers at a future meeting. For additional information, contact Martha by phone at (512) 431-2682 or via e-mail at m.hartzog@mail.utexas.edu.

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

- 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
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