



General Orders

Franty's Brigade

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April
2017

www.houstoncivilwar.com

APRIL, 2017 MEETING
Thursday, April 20, 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, April 17,
2017

Dinner \$30; Lecture Only \$10

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

The HCWRT Presents **Elizabeth R. Varon** **Speaking on:**

“Legacies of Appomattox: Lee’s Surrender in History and Memory”

Robert E. Lee’s surrender to U.S. Grant at Appomattox Court House, Virginia on April 9, 1865 marked the effective end of the Civil War, as it symbolized the downfall of the Confederacy’s most powerful institution and spelled the doom of Southern independence. But the mythical Appomattox—a sweet and swift reconciliation that closed the book on the war—was not the one Americans chose in the spring of 1865 or in the months that followed. Lee’s meeting with Grant in the McLean House pitted two irreconcilable views of victory and defeat against each other.

For Grant the Union victory was one of right over wrong. For Lee the Union victory was one of might over right. As soon as Lee and Grant left the stage, the nature and terms of surrender

immediately became sources of contention. Grant’s magnanimity and Lee’s stoic resignation were politicized: Northerners generally saw the surrender as a vindication of the way the Union had waged the war and of the superiority of the free labor system, while former Confederates saw it as a promise of restoration--of their political voice and of the racial caste system. African Americans saw Appomattox, together with subsequent Confederate surrenders, especially in Galveston, Texas on June 19, 1865, as a crucial phase in the long, ongoing process of emancipation.

As postwar reconstruction took shape, political rivals soon came to regard the end of the war as a golden moment lost: they accused each other of betraying the peace terms and reviving sectional and racial conflict. The Lost Cause creed took shape at Appomattox, but so too did the countervailing Won Cause and emancipationist interpretations of the war’s meaning. Peace-making involved the clash of divergent visions of the meaning of the war. The clash of these visions meant that the work of “making peace” was steeped in ideological strife.



Elizabeth R. Varon

About Elizabeth R. Varon

Elizabeth R. Varon is Langbourne M. Williams Professor of American History at the University of Virginia. Varon grew up in northern Virginia. She received her PhD from Yale, and has held teaching positions at Wellesley College and Temple University. A specialist in the Civil War era and 19th-century South, Varon is the author of *We Mean to be Counted: White Women and Politics in Antebellum Virginia* (1998); *Southern Lady, Yankee Spy: The True Story of Elizabeth Van Lew, A Union Agent in the Heart of the Confederacy* (2003), *Disunion!: The Coming of the American Civil War, 1789-1859* (2008) and ***Appomattox: Victory, Defeat and Freedom at the End of the Civil War*** (2013).

Southern Lady, Yankee Spy won three book awards and was named one of the “Five Best” books on the “Civil War away from the battlefield” in the *Wall Street Journal*. *Appomattox* won the 2014 Library of Virginia Literary Award for Nonfiction, the 2014 Dan and Marilyn Laney Prize for Civil War History (Austin Civil War Roundtable), and the 2014 Eugene Feit Award in Civil War Studies of the New York Military Affairs Symposium, and was named one of *Civil War Monitor’s* “Best Books of 2014” and one of National Public Radio’s “Six Civil War Books to Read Now.”

Varon’s public presentations include book talks at the Lincoln Bicentennial in Springfield; at Gettysburg’s Civil War Institute; and on C-Span’s Book TV.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

By Emily Ryan

We have both sad and happy news to report. Our long time member Paul Ache, Jr. passed away on March 19th. He had been a great student of military history, having graduated from West Point.

We have had so many enthusiastic and interested new members (over 60 in the past two years), that new members now equal our seasoned members in monthly attendance. Their eagerness and energy is definitely contagious. Sparks are flying!

COMMANDER’S CORNER

By Marsha Franty

For Civil War buffs, April brings remembrance of the end of the long conflict that divided our nation one hundred fifty years ago, but for baseball buffs this month brings the beginning of a new season. For both soldiers and citizens, April 1865 brought hope for reconciliation and peace; for today’s baseball fans, April brings hope for success for favored teams.

The Civil War brought many changes to our country: political, economic, medical, and social. In the last category we could place the game we know as baseball. While games similar to what we know today as baseball were played prior to the War, it was those long years of strife that promoted the spread of the game and eventually led to the standardization of rules and regulations.

During the war years, new immigrant groups were assimilated and tested in conflict. African-Americans enlisted and were likewise tested. As decades have passed, various immigrant and ethnic groups have made their way into the mainstream of American life via baseball leagues at all levels, thereby gaining access and acceptance.

Today, both Civil War and baseball buffs have much in common. Both groups have extensive research and literature (fiction and non-fiction alike) to extend their knowledge and appreciation. Both groups have opportunities to travel to meaningful sites, with Civil War aficionados touring battlefields and memorials and baseball fans attending games at all levels throughout the country. Civil War fans may participate in or attend re-enactments, while baseball fans may participate in or attend vintage baseball games played according to 1862 rules.

Do you have other interests that dovetail with your interest in the Civil War? Inquiring minds want to know!

If you have not already done so, please check out our Facebook page, designed and managed by the very dedicated Scott Wilkey! And, of course, please join us this month as we welcome Liz Varon to our lectern!

APRIL BOOK RAFFLE

By Donnie Stowe

The first book this month is ***Prince John Magruder – His Life and Campaigns*** by Paul D. Casdorff and is a donation from both Dr. Bob Stout and Dr. Joe Goulding. Our second selection is ***Forty-Six Years In The Army*** by Lieutenant-General John M. Schofield. Next in line is ***Decision In The West – The Atlanta Campaign of 1864*** by Albert Castel and is a



donation from C. R. Featherston. The fourth book this month is ***Secret Missions of the Civil War*** by Philip Van Doren Stern. The final offering this month – ***Battles and***

Leaders of the Civil War – Retreat With Honor (volume IV of this series), donated by our own Ed T. Cotham.

I wish to thank President Marsha Franty for helping with the last Book Raffle, as I was unable to attend the March meeting.

FALL 2017 FIELD TRIP:

“TEXANS ON THE

TECHE”...AND OTHER

IMPORTANT LOUISIANA SITES

Our excellent December 2016 speaker Don Frazier is organizing and will lead a tour of the Louisiana sites he described in December, to be held during our usual HCWRT field trip time frame: Thursday, October 26 – Monday, October 30, 2017. Further details will come soon, but Don has submitted the following synopsis:

“The battles for Texas will be fought in Louisiana,” wrote a Confederate soldier to the editor of the *Houston Tri-Weekly Telegraph*. “Therefore it behooves us to strike for our homes.”

When considering the American Civil War, Texas often gets short shrift, as do the men who served in its regiments. This tour answers in part the old question, “What did Texans do in the Civil War?” Well . . . mostly they fought in Louisiana. The typical Texas Confederate soldier lived, struggled, and died among the

cane fields, bayous, and swamps east of the Sabine and West of the Mississippi. This tour takes you there!

Starting in Houston, we will visit the earthworks at Niblett’s Bluff, the depot for troops serving in Louisiana, then on to Baton Rouge and New Orleans. From there we will cover the Lafourche Country, passing the battlefields of Kochs’s Plantation, Fort Butler, Georgia Landing, Lafourche Crossing, and a host of other important sites important to understanding the fabric of antebellum Louisiana society. Next we will head up Bayou Teche, the oft-trampled country, exploring the battles of Brashear City, Bisland, and Irish Bend and other small-scale dustups. Basing in Lafayette, we will cover the mysterious region of Pointe Coupee Parish and visit the battlefield of Sterling’s Plantation before heading across the Atchafalaya bottoms toward an important trio of towns—Port Barré, Washington, and Opelousas. We will investigate the battlefields of Bayou Bourbeau and Buzzard Prairie on this loop. On the way home, our expedition will take us through the land terrorized by Jayhawkers and Conscript Hunters alike, to round out the picture of Civil War Louisiana.

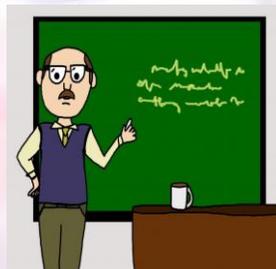
Mark your calendars and stay tuned for more information.

MARCH QUIZ

By Jim Godlove

Regarding R. E. Lee at Appomattox, one Union officer wrote:

“I felt like anything rather than rejoicing at the downfall of a foe who had fought so long and valiantly, and had suffered so much for a cause, though that cause was, I believe, one of the worst for which a people ever fought, and for which there was the least excuse.”



Who was this officer and what was his rank?

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

Apr. 20, 2017 Elizabeth R. Varon: “*Legacies of Appomattox: Lee’s Surrender in History and Memory*”

May 18, 2017 John F. Schmutz: “*The Bloody Fifth*” (*The Fifth Texas Infantry*)

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

