



General Orders

Franty's Brigade

Vol. 28
No. 10
May
2017

www.houstoncivilwar.com



MAY, 2017 MEETING
Thursday, May 18, 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, May 15,
2017
Dinner \$30; Lecture Only \$10

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

The HCWRT Presents
John F. Schmutz
Speaking on:

"The Bloody Fifth"

The 5th Texas Infantry constituted one of only three infantry units from the Lone Star State volunteering to fight in the East, in what was to become Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia. Its ten companies were recruited from east central Texas, with its members willingly choosing to fight over a thousand miles from home to protect their state and loved ones, as well as their state's right to control its own destiny. Sadly, a large number of them were never to see home again. The 5th Texas fought in a total of 38 major engagements, including six of the most significant battles of the war, giving its life's blood at such celebrated fields of battle as Antietam, Second Manassas, Gettysburg,

Chickamauga and Darbytown Road. Its official overall casualty rate topped over 62 percent in four years of fighting.

The first winter along the shore of the Potomac River at Dumfries, Virginia proved devastating to the soldiers of the regiment. Totally unprepared for unhealthy living conditions in close quarters with a bitter cold so unfamiliar to Texans, they soon began succumbing to measles, typhoid fever, pneumonia, rheumatism, tuberculosis, chronic diarrhea and dysentery at an alarming rate. In all, over 260 men were lost that first winter alone.

At Dumfries, Virginia, the 5th Texas encamped along the Potomac River across from the 5th New York Infantry, also known as "Duryee's Zouaves." These two units traded vicious insults throughout that bitter season across the river, offering to "take care" of the other should they ever meet on the field of battle. At Second Manassas, on August 30,



John F. Schmutz

1862, the 5th Texas was in a position to settle accounts, confronting the 5th New York, which had purposefully chosen to confront the Texans. The 5th Texas emerged from the woods and confronted the 5th New York, situated across a creek on higher ground. The regiment then fell on the Zouaves and, in a short but brutal fight, thoroughly destroyed the New York regiment as a fighting unit. The Texans, flush with that victory, continued on, tearing through the disintegrating Federals and outdistancing the remainder of the Texas Brigade, as well as the rest of the Lee's army, thereby earning its sobriquet "The Bloody Fifth."

At Gettysburg, on July 2, 1863, the 5th Texas was asked to perform the impossible, despite formal protests from division commander Major General John Bell Hood. Ordered to charge across an open field, then climb the heights of Little Round Top, a steep, rocky precipice crowned by thousands of Federal soldiers and artillery on the extreme left of the Union line, the task appeared doomed from the start. However, the intrepid Texans vigorously assailed the heights twice, despite chilling losses at every step. These brave Texans attacked for yet a third and final effort, actually breaking the Union right on the crest. However, they were finally forced to withdraw. The regiment, marching in with 409 men, lost 211 men during the battle, or nearly 52 percent of its effective strength, the most for any regiment that day.

At the Wilderness, the Texans arrived at the focal point of a huge Federal breakthrough just in time to avert disaster. A relieved General Lee inquired as to the identity of these first troops. Their commander, Brigadier General John Gregg, replied "the Texas Brigade." Lee confidently responded "the Texans always move them." In his zeal, Lee attempted to lead the Texans forward, until the men of the 5th Texas halted him, pledging they would take the ground once he retired. The 5th Texas went into the fray with 180 men and officers, suffering 111 in killed and wounded in a mere 25 minutes, including its acting commander, his replacement, and its acting lieutenant colonel.

At the war's end, the 5th Texas surrendered a total of 22 officers and 149 men at

Appomattox; it had suffered 303 killed in action, 280 deaths from disease, and 663 wounded during the conflict. Regardless of their situation, their fighting spirit remained intact to the end. In many respects, their resoluteness embodied the motto atop their flag—*Vinere Sat Vincere*—"to live long enough is to conquer." While they failed to win their war, their conquest was in achieving eternal glory in the annals of history.

[About John F. Schmutz](#)

John F. Schmutz, a corporate attorney, served as a member of the executive management teams of several large, public corporations. His first book, *The Battle of the Crater: A Complete History*, enjoyed critical acclaim in the Civil War/Military History arena. His recent "*The Bloody Fifth: The 5th Texas Infantry Regiment, Hood's Texas Brigade, Army of Northern Virginia*, Volume I has met with considerable success since its release. It just won the 2017 Best Book Award in Nonfiction/Military History from the Association of Texas Authors. In addition to immersing himself in the Civil War, Schmutz also pursues genealogical research, remains an avid golfer and general sports fan (especially the San Antonio Spurs), in addition to possessing a passion for international travel, which he indulges in on a frequent basis. He also serves on boards and advises several charitable organizations. Schmutz lives with his wife in San Antonio, Texas. Together they have three grown children living in various parts of the country.

Schmutz holds a B. A. from Canisius College, a Juris Doctor from the University of Notre Dame, and a Master of Laws from George Washington University.



NOMINEES FOR 2017-2018
Board of Directors Election, May 18
By Gary Chandler

The HCWRT bylaws require that the **Board of Directors** shall consist of: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Immediate Past President, and four Directors. Bylaws also provide that a **Nominating Committee** of three members, including Immediate Past President as Chair and former Presidents and/or Directors, nominates a slate of Officers and Directors for the next campaign, to be elected by the members at the Annual Meeting of HCWRT in May of each year. The 2017 Nominating Committee is: **Gary Chandler (Chair), Ben Ramsey, and Roland Bienvenu.**

The Nominees for election to the 2017 - 2018 Board of Directors **at our May 18th meeting** are:

Officers:

President – Jim Godlove
Vice President - Michael Harrington
Secretary – Bobby Dover
Treasurer - Barry Brueggeman

Directors:

Nathan Jennings
Norman Lewis
Scott Wilkey
Don Zuckero
Immed. Past President - Marsha Franty

WANTED: YOUR SUBMISSIONS
By Roland Bienvenu

Our members are both welcome and encouraged to submit articles to the newsletter editor that they feel would be of interest to the HCWRT membership. Possibilities include, but are not necessarily limited to, book reviews, reviews of Civil War museums/sites, and poetry. Additionally, if you are interested in serving as Newsletter Editor for the 2017 – 2018 campaign, please contact Roland Bienvenu at the e-mail address given below.

Your inquiries and/or submissions may be sent to NewsLetter@HoustonCivilWar.com.

COMMANDER'S CORNER
By Marsha Franty

As our 2016 - 2017 campaign comes to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members for their support and attendance this year. We have enjoyed fantastic speakers who have expanded our knowledge and challenged and enriched our understanding of the complex legacy of the Civil War.

I would also like to thank the officers, directors, and chairs who have made these experiences possible. **Mike Harrington**, Vice President, provides wise and consistent support and advice. Secretary **Ben Ramsey** maintains our minutes and records with reliable accuracy. As Treasurer, **Barry Brueggeman** continues to keep our finances in good order as he has for many years. Past President **Gary Chandler** has served us well in many capacities, particularly in recruiting and coordinating excellent speakers. Director **Jim Godlove** has advised and supported Gary's efforts in addition to providing us with the monthly quiz. Directors **Nate Jennings** and **Norm Lewis** have continued their involvement as Directors this year. **Emily Ryan** has put her infectious enthusiasm and energy into leading the Membership Committee. **Don Zuckero** has again held the responsibility of reservations chair and made sure that relations with the HESS Club ran smoothly each month. **Roland Bienvenu** stepped up admirably when we needed an editor for the monthly newsletter; he took on a challenging task with dedication and graciousness. Our monthly book raffle has been ably carried out by **Donnie Stowe**. **Philip Brown** has developed new digital applications for us, updated our website, and gotten the newsletter out to email subscribers each month. **Scott Wilkey** has worked with our digital membership applications and put us back on Facebook. Thanks are also due to both the Vandiver Award Committee (**Mike Harrington, Bobby Dover, Danny Huckabee, and Ben Ramsey**) and to our Nominating Committee (**Gary Chandler, Roland Bienvenu, and Ben Ramsey**). Thanks also to **David Rains** for mailing the print version of the

newsletter each month and to **Brad York** for providing nametags and his work on the Membership Committee. To each and all of these people, I am deeply grateful.

The Houston Civil War Round Table has an excellent reputation among Civil War scholars and authors, as well as among other Round Tables. With the dedication and enthusiasm of all its members, this will continue. It has been my privilege to serve, once again, as your President. I am most sincerely grateful for your support.

Please plan to join us once again for the 2017 - 2018 campaign. We have scheduled an excellent list of speakers (see back page of this newsletter). See you in September!

2017 VANDIVER AWARD

We are pleased to announce that the renowned Civil War historian **Gary W. Gallagher** is the recipient of this year's Frank E. Vandiver Award of Merit. Dr. Gallagher stands in the foremost ranks of today's Civil War scholars. He is the John L. Nau III Professor in the History of the American Civil War and Director of the John L. Nau III Civil War Center at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville.

Dr. Gallagher is the author or editor of numerous books and articles on the Civil War. His most recent book, published just over a year ago and co-authored with Joan Waugh, is *The American War: A History of the Civil War Era*. Acclaimed Civil War historian William C. "Jack" Davis has hailed this book as "easily the best one-volume assessment of the Civil War to date." Much in demand as a Civil War battlefield tour guide and lecturer, Dr. Gallagher earned his M. A. and Ph.D. in History from the University of Texas at Austin.

The Houston Civil War Round Table will bestow the Vandiver Award on Dr. Gallagher when he speaks to us at our meeting on October 19, 2017.

The late Dr. Frank E. Vandiver was one of the earliest members of our organization. Each year for the past 35 years, we have bestowed the Vandiver Award in his honor to recognize outstanding contributions to Civil War

scholarship or preservation efforts by an individual or an institution. Lynda Crist, a long-time member of our round table and editor of the Jefferson Davis Papers at Rice University, was the first recipient in 1982. Other past winners include Ed Bearss, Frank O'Reilly, Don Troiani, William A. Frassanito, John Nau, James "Bud" Robertson, Ed Cotham, Gordon Rhea, James McPherson, and last year, Eric Jacobson.

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, based in New Orleans and Lafayette, of the Louisiana sites he described in December, to be held during our usual HCWRT field trip time frame: **October 26 – 30, 2017**. Details about this tour were included in a flyer and last month's newsletter.

Mark your calendars and stay tuned for more information. To reserve a spot by June 1, 2017, or if you have questions, please contact **Scott Clowdus** with the McWhiney History Education Group at (325) 793-4686 or email director@tfhcc.com. Also, please check the website for itinerary and final pricing: <http://mcwhiney.org/texans-on-the-teche/>.

"GETTYSBURG OF THE WEST" TOUR

The Hood's Texas Brigade Association, Re-Activated is sponsoring a "Gettysburg of the West" tour to Franklin and Spring Hill, Tennessee **June 6 - 9, 2017**. The Association indicates they are still accepting reservations for this tour.

The deadline to receive a discount on the hotel rooms at the J. W. Marriott in Cold Springs is May 16th. Reservations made after that are at the full rate. Hood's Brigade has been guaranteed a certain number of rooms, so everyone should be able to take advantage!

This is your chance to hear Tom Cartwright, Eric Jacobson, and Robert Hicks, under the able coordination of Sam Hood.

For further information, contact Martha at m.hartzog@mail.utexas.edu or via cell phone at (512) 431-2682.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

By Emily Ryan

We have had a great run this campaign! 32 new members have joined our ranks to bring energy, enthusiasm, and knowledge to our Round Table.

We are conducting a survey this month to see if we need to make organizational improvements, as feedback from our membership is paramount. The results will be presented to the board.

Lastly, it has been a huge pleasure to serve with the members of my committee - Norm Lewis, Nate Jennings, Brad York, Emily George, Judy and Fred Duncan, and next year's chair, Scott Wilkey - plus making new friends with other history lovers. Thank you for the opportunity!

MAY BOOK RAFFLE

By Donnie Stowe

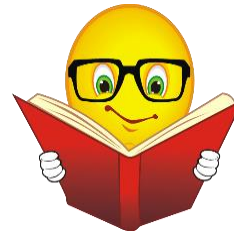
I start out this month with ***STORM OVER THE LAND*** by Carl Sandburg. This book is a rewritten, one volume version of Sandburg's four volume *Abraham Lincoln: The War Years*. Next up is ***The CIVIL WAR QUIZ & FACT***

BOOK by Rod Gragg. Let's hope our quiz master (Godlove) doesn't get this one! The third volume is ***WHO WAS WHO in the CIVIL WAR*** and is edited by John S. Bowman. My fourth

choice for this month is ***The LONGEST NIGHT – A Military History of the Civil War*** by David J. Eicher with a forward by James M. McPherson. And last but not least is ***Spartan Band – Burnett's 13th Texas Cavalry in the Civil War*** by Thomas Reid. This book was donated by Mike Harrington.

I know I keep repeating this over and over again, but I wish to thank all of the members who have helped keep this raffle going with donations from their own collections.

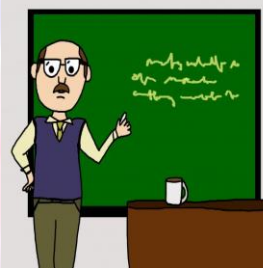
Since May is our last meeting before we take a summer break, I want to wish all of you a safe and happy summer.



MAY QUIZ

By Jim Godlove

The second colonel of the 5th Texas was a professional soldier who had served with distinction in the Mexican War. Despite his Maryland birth, he soon gained the respect of the regiment. In June 1862, he was promoted to brigadier general and took command of a Tennessee brigade.



Who was this officer who was captured July 1, 1863 at Gettysburg?



Donnie Stowe at McGavock Confederate Cemetery during last year's trip to Franklin

THE HOUSTON CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

2016 - 2017 SPEAKERS CAMPAIGN – THE HESS CLUB

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

2017 - 2018 SPEAKERS CAMPAIGN – THE HESS CLUB

Sep. 21, 2017 Brian Matthew Jordan: *“Union Veterans and the Unending Civil War”*

Oct. 19, 2017 Gary W. Gallagher (2017 Vandiver Award Recipient): *“Another Look at the Generalship of Robert E. Lee”*

Nov. 16, 2017 Eric J. Wittenberg: *“John Buford at Gettysburg”*

Dec. 14, 2017 Dennis Trainor: *“VMI at New Market”*

Jan. 18, 2018 Edwin C. Bearss: *“Brice’s Crossroads and Tupelo”*

Feb. 15, 2018 Mark Christ: *“All Cut to Pieces and Gone to Hell: Racial Atrocities During Camden Expedition”*

Mar 15, 2018 Scott C. Patchan: *“Second Manassas: Longstreet’s Attack and the Struggle for Chinn Ridge”*

Apr. 19, 2018 Lesley J. Gordon: *“The 2nd Texas at Shiloh”*

May 17, 2018 To Be Determined – Holding for 2018 Vandiver Award recipient



Houston Civil War Round Table
c/o Barry G. Brueggeman
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Houston, TX 77059

