



General Orders

Godlove's Brigade

Vol. 29
No. 2
Sept.
2017



SEPTEMBER, 2017 MEETING
Thursday, September 21, 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,
September 18, 2017
[Dinner \\$32; Lecture Only \\$10](#)

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

The HCWRT Presents
Brian Matthew Jordan
Speaking On:

***“Marching Home: Union Veterans
and Their Unending Civil War”***

For well over a century, traditional Civil War histories have concluded in 1865, with a bitterly won peace and Union soldiers returning triumphantly home. In this talk, Brian Matthew Jordan challenges sterilized portraits accepted for generations. Union veterans--tending rotting wounds, battling alcoholism, campaigning for paltry pensions--tragically realized that they stood as unwelcome reminders to a new America eager to heal, forget, and embrace the freewheeling bounty of the Gilded Age. Mining previously untapped archives, Jordan uncovers anguished letters and diaries, essays by amputees, and

gruesome medical reports, all deeply revealing of the American psyche.

About Brian Matthew Jordan

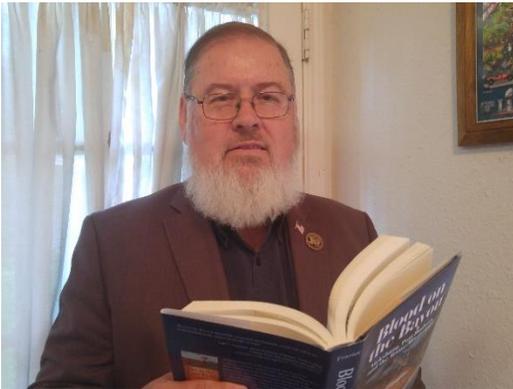
A native of Ohio and a lifelong student of the Civil War, Brian Matthew Jordan is Assistant Professor of History at Sam Houston State University. He teaches undergraduate and graduate courses on the Civil War, military history, and historical methods. Dr. Jordan earned his M.A., M.Phil, and Ph.D. degrees in History at Yale University, where his doctoral dissertation earned the 2014 George Washington Egleston Prize (for Best U.S. History dissertation at Yale), and the 2014 John Addison Porter Prize, one of Yale's highest academic honors. Most recently, he is the author of *Marching Home: Union Veterans and Their Unending Civil War*, named one of three finalists (runners-up) for the 2016 Pulitzer Prize in History, as well as the winner of the 2016 Governor John Andrew Award. Since 2014, he has served as the Book Review Editor for *The Civil War Monitor*; he is also co-editor (with Chris Mackowski) of the Engaging



Brian Matthew Jordan

the Civil War Series at Southern Illinois University Press. He has delivered talks at Civil War Round Tables in more than twenty states.

Dr. Jordan's more than seventy book reviews, articles, and essays have appeared in *Civil War History*, *The Civil War Monitor*, *The Journal of the Civil War Era*, *The New York Times*, and *The Journal of Military History*, among many others. At present, he is working on an anthology of essays about Civil War veterans (under contract with LSU Press), a biography of Benjamin Butler, and a study of Union soldiers from enlistment through demobilization.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Jim Godlove

I am very excited about our speaker this month, Brian Jordan. As noted above, his book *Marching Home: Union Veterans and Their Unending Civil War* was a finalist for the 2016 Pulitzer Prize in History.

It seems that the Civil War is unending, as recent events in Charlottesville proved. It was sickening to see the Confederate battle flag used by such hate groups as the KKK and Nazis.

Liz and I visited Santa Fe, New Mexico this summer. There is an Indian War monument in the main plaza that was erected in 1868. Two sides commemorated the Federal soldiers who fought the "Rebels" at Val Verde and Pigeon's Rancho. The north side was dedicated: "To the Heroes who have Fallen in the Various Battles with [word chiseled out] Indians in the Territory of New Mexico."

The monument had a new plaque set in front of the south side which tried so hard to be

"politically correct". It stated that when the monument was originally erected, the country had gone through a period of great strife between the northern and southern states; therefore, such unsuitable words as "savage" and "rebel" were used. Personally, I don't consider the word "rebel" to be inappropriate. The word "savage" was chiseled out on the south side. Also, I believe the "great strife" is called the Civil War.

Despite the awkward wording, the plaque was an attempt to educate the public. Instead of removing Civil War monuments, authorities should perhaps place interpreting signage by them. We just need to make sure that they are historically accurate rather than politically correct.

We should try to understand and respect all sides of the war. Gen. U.S. Grant wrote about his feelings at the Appomattox surrender. He did not rejoice "at the downfall of a foe who had fought so long and valiantly and had suffered so much." He did not doubt the sincerity of the Rebels, though he felt their cause was "one of the worst for which a people fought." I believe that Grant's views are still relevant today. Truly, the Civil War is still unending.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

By Scott Wilkey

The Membership Committee has had a productive start to the 2017-2018 campaign and is hard at work trying to identify what attracts new members – and what keeps our current members coming back year after year. One of these efforts is a membership survey that has been sent to all current and former members. If you have not received the survey, please take a moment to e-mail us at HCWRTFeedback@houstoncivilwar.com; we'll re-send it to you. We offer a big "thank you" to all who have participated so far – your opinions help to ensure the HCWRT remains one of the greatest Civil War Round Tables in the country.

While we are still gathering "data" from the responses, one verified fact (that has long been known) is that the majority of the membership discovered the HCWRT via "word of mouth". This means that our members (**YOU!**) are our

most important recruitment tool. Please let your friends, family, and colleagues know about the HCWRT and, most importantly, bring them to a meeting!

The survey has piqued the interest of some past attendees and we hope they will join our ranks once again this year. The remainder of the survey results will hopefully be presented by the September meeting.

If you have not yet sent in your 2017-2018 dues, please mail your check to Treasurer Barry Brueggeman as soon as possible (the mailing address can be found on the return address page in this newsletter).

LOUISIANA FALL FIELD TRIP

October 26 – 30, 2017

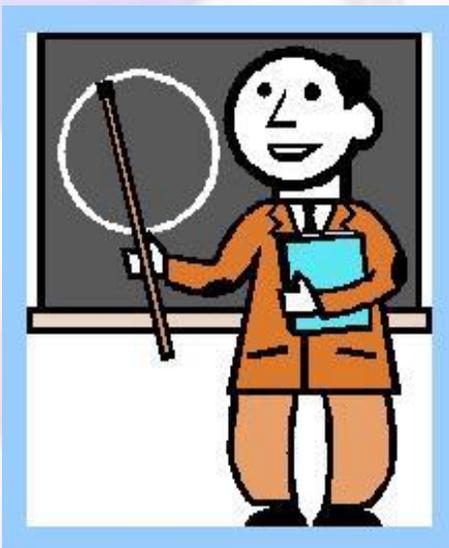
Spaces are still available for our “Texans on the Teche” fall field trip to Louisiana, being led by Don Frazier. Hotel rooms with king beds are available for single or double occupancy. To register, promptly contact Scott Clowdus with the McWhiney History Education Group at (325) 793-4686 or e-mail director@thcc.com.



SEPTEMBER QUIZ

By Jim Godlove

The first post of an organization was held in Springfield, Illinois on April 1, 1866. The goals of this organization included the encouragement of fraternal feelings among Union veterans, aid for needy or disabled veterans, and support of their widows and children. It also encouraged public displays of allegiance to the government. What was the name of this organization which was soon to be considered an arm of the Republican Party?



BOOK RAFFLE

By Donnie Stowe

Hope everyone had a wonderful summer and survived the heat as much as possible. Onward to our raffle for September, 2017! We begin the raffle with **A RIVER UNVEXED** by



Jim Miles. This book is a history and tour guide of the campaign for the Mississippi River and is a donation from Jim Wolfe. Our second selection this month is from the library of Ron Featherston:

WITNESS TO GETTYSBURG by Richard Wheeler. Next we have **“THE BLOODY FIFTH”**– The 5th Texas Infantry Regiment, Hood’s Texas Brigade, by John F. Schmutz. This volume is from my own library and is volume 1 of a two volume study of this famous Texas regiment. The fourth book is **LINCOLN** by Gore Vidal. This is a historical novel in which most of the events and much of the dialog are actual. For the final raffle item I’m giving a bundle of five Civil War magazines.

THE HOUSTON CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE 2017 - 2018 SPEAKERS CAMPAIGN – THE HESS CLUB

- Sep. 21, 2017 Brian Matthew Jordan:
“Marching Home: Union Veterans and Their 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 Cadets 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’: Atrocities During the 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
3706 Lonnie Wood Drive
Houston, TX 77059

