



General Orders *Godlove's Brigade*

Vol. 29
No. 3
Oct.
2017

OCTOBER, 2017 MEETING
Thursday, October 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, October
16, 2017

Dinner \$32; Lecture Only \$10

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

The HCWRT Presents
Gary W. Gallagher
Speaking On:

***“Another Look at the Generalship of
Robert E. Lee”***

Robert E. Lee has come under considerable criticism over the past 40 years as a general who wasted Confederate manpower, focused too much on events in Virginia, and made strategic and tactical decisions that, on balance, hurt as much as helped the Confederate war effort. Dr. Gary Gallagher's presentation will examine some of Lee's most influential critics with an eye toward offering a balanced assessment of his career as an army commander.

One of the most common criticisms of Lee alleges a lack of appreciation for the problems and importance of the trans-Appalachian Confederacy. One historian observed Lee's

inability to see the war as a whole, stating that Lee was obsessed by Virginia, as he considered it the most important area of the Confederacy. Other historians expanded the idea that Lee failed to see the entire strategic situation. Lee's aggressive style of generalship, with its attendant high casualties, also has generated much criticism, with some historians concluding that Lee's devotion to offensive tactics almost bled the South to death—thus sealing the Confederacy's fate.



Gary W. Gallagher

A different reading of the evidence, however, suggests that Lee pursued a strategy attuned to the expectations of most Confederate citizens and calculated to exert maximum influence on those who made policy in the United States and in Europe. Far from being innocent of the importance of the West and the psychological dimension of his operations, he might have seen more clearly than any of his peers the best road to Confederate independence. His victories buoyed Confederate hopes when defeat lay in all other directions, dampened spirits in the

United States, and impressed European political leaders. They also propelled him to a position where, long before the end of the war, he stood unchallenged as a military hero and his Army of Northern Virginia had become synonymous with the Confederacy in the minds of many southern whites. While his army remained in the field, there was hope for victory; his capitulation extinguished such hope and in effect ended the war.

About Gary W. Gallagher

Gary Gallagher is the John L. Nau III Professor in the History of the American Civil War at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville. A native of Los Angeles, California, he received his B.A. from Adams State College of Colorado (1972) and his M.A. (1977) and Ph.D. (1982) from the University of Texas at Austin. He taught at Penn State University for twelve years and headed the Department of History for five. He joined the faculty of the University of Virginia in 1998 where, in addition to his position in the Department of History, he is the director of the John L. Nau III Center for Civil War History.

He is the author or editor of more than thirty books, including *The Confederate War* (Harvard University Press, 1997), *Lee and His Generals in War and Memory* (Louisiana State University Press, 1998), *Causes Won, Lost, and Forgotten: How Hollywood and Popular Art Shape What We Know About the Civil War* (University of North Carolina Press, 2008), *The Union War* (Harvard University Press, 2011), *Becoming Confederates: Paths to a New National Loyalty* (University of Georgia Press, 2013), and *The American War: A History of the Civil War Era* (Spiegelvogel Books, 2015).

Professor Gallagher was the Times-Mirror Foundation Distinguished Fellow at the Henry E. Huntington Library in San Marino, California, in 2001-2002, recipient of the Cavaliers' Distinguished Teaching Professorship for 2010-2012 (the highest teaching award conveyed by the University of Virginia), and the Philip Merrill Award for Outstanding Contributions to Liberal Arts Education from the American Council of Trustees and Alumni in

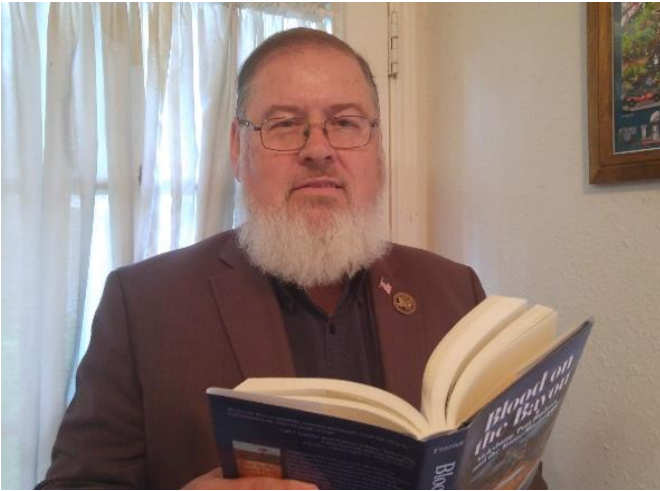
2013. Active in the field of historic preservation, he was president from 1987 to mid-1994 of the Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites (an organization with a membership of more than 12,500 representing all 50 states). He also served as a member of the Board of the Civil War Trust and has given testimony about preservation before Congressional committees on several occasions.

The HCWRT's 2017 Vandiver Award Presented to Gary W. Gallagher

On February 16, 2017, the Houston Civil War Round Table proudly announced that the renowned Civil War historian Gary W. Gallagher is the recipient of this year's Frank E. Vandiver Award of Merit. The Vandiver Award will be bestowed on Dr. Gallagher at the October 19th HCWRT meeting, followed by his keynote presentation.

Dr. Gallagher stands in the foremost ranks of today's Civil War scholars. He is the author or editor of numerous books and articles on the Civil War. His 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." Dr. Gallagher is also much in demand as a Civil War battlefield tour guide and lecturer.

The late Dr. Frank E. Vandiver was a distinguished historian and former President of Texas A&M University, the University of North Texas, and Rice University. He was one of the earliest members of our round table, and 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 HCWRT and editor of the Jefferson Davis Papers at Rice University, was the first recipient in 1982. Recipients include: Ed Bearss, Frank O'Reilly, Don Troiani, Ed Cotham, Jack Davis, Richard Sommers, John Nau, James "Bud" Robertson, Gordon Rhea, James McPherson, and Eric Jacobson.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Jim Godlove

It is with great pleasure that we welcome our 2017 Vandiver Award winner Gary Gallagher. Dr. Gallagher is a most prolific and pre-eminent Civil War historian. He has not only authored or edited numerous Civil War books or articles; he has also been a leader in Civil War preservation. His lecture style is available to the public via “the Great Courses” series where he is rated as outstanding. I can personally recommend his course:” Robert E. Lee and His High Command.”

The “Frank E. Vandiver Award of Merit” is awarded “to an individual or an organization making substantial contribution to the preservation of the America’s Civil War heritage.” As mentioned above, the Award was first presented in 1982 to our own Lynda Lasswell Crist, editor of the Jefferson Davis papers at Rice University. It was named after Frank E. Vandiver (1925-2005) who was a distinguished historian and president of three universities (Rice, University of North Texas and Texas A&M). He was also a member of HCVRT.

While researching the Vandiver Award, I came across the 1955 Charter of the HCVRT. It stated that the purpose of the corporation “is for the study and discussion of the history, battles, personalities and significant events of the War Between the States and to encourage historical research into this period”. This is similar to our current mission statement: “to

promote impartial inquiry, study and education about the period of the American Civil War and its causes and aftermath.” It is humbling to be associated with an organization that has been promoting interest in the Civil War for 62 years. It is up to all of us to keep the HCVRT going for another 62 years. We can do this by spreading the word about our Round Table. I feel that our list of speakers is second to none. Our speakers realize that they will receive a warm Texas welcome with an engaged and respectful audience. Here’s to the next 62 years.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

By Scott Wilkey

The Membership Committee is proud to welcome these new members who have joined the HCVRT for the 2017-2018 “Campaign”:

- Jim Ballard
- Tom Bell
- Gary Casper
- James Cox
- Tom Eishen
- Leslie Gross
- Rebecca Howard
- Duane and Lori Ann Siskey

When you see these members at our meetings, please introduce yourself and make them feel welcome! It is great to see so many new faces join us. It was also great to “catch up” with all our returning members during the September meeting – welcome back! Obviously, the committee has had a great start in attracting new members. You can assist us in this effort by bringing a friend, family member or co-worker the next time you attend. We’ll have updated membership brochures available at next month’s meeting. If you are able to help us distribute them in locales (history appropriate) you frequent, we would greatly appreciate the extra help. *A Friendly Reminder:* 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). Dues are: \$50 for individuals, \$60 for families, and \$25 for Students/Faculty or out-of-towners.

BOOK RAFFLE

By Donnie Stowe

OCTOBER QUIZ

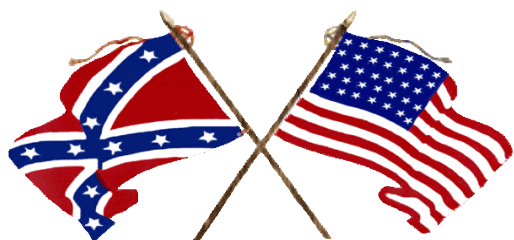
By Jim Godlove

On April 9, 1865 at Appomattox, a Confederate general suggested to General Robert E. Lee that, instead of surrendering to U. S. "Unconditional Surrender" Grant, General Lee should order his army to disperse. Lee responded by saying that would lead to lawless bands from which it would take the country years to recover. Lee stated that it was early spring and that he hoped his men could return home "to plant crops and begin to repair the ravages of war."

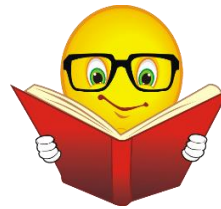
This officer then wrote "I have never half known before what a big heart and brain Lee had."



Who was this general whose recollections were ably edited by our speaker in his book *Fighting for the Confederacy*?



Hope everyone had a great time out at the Hess Club for our first meeting this year. Onward to our raffle for our meeting in October. We begin with **BATTLE CRY OF FREEDOM- The Civil War ERA** by James M. McPherson. The second book for this month is **AMERICAN GENERAL- The Life and Times of William Tecumseh Sherman** by



John S.D. Eisenhower (Yes – the son of Dwight D. Eisenhower). This book is donated to us by our President – James Godlove.

The third book this month is **THE CIVIL WAR UP CLOSE** by Donald Cartmell and was given to us by Jim Wolf. The fourth selection is **MATHEW BRADY'S ILLUSTRATED HISTORY of the CIVIL WAR with 737 BRADY PHOTOGRAPHS** by Benson J. Lossing. And last, but not least is **CONFEDERATE AGENT** by James D. Horan. This is a history of Captain Thomas H. Hines CSA – and the Northwest Conspiracy.

Members are encouraged to donate some of your well read books or a small monetary donation for purchase of books to continue a valuable support to the HCWRT Raffle.

Members are respectfully reminded that our guest speakers are by and large professionals who take time out of their busy days to share their expertise with us. They receive no honoraria or other speaking fees from us. These considerations make it all the more imperative that members and their guests show our speakers every courtesy when they are presenting to us. Please keep table talk to a minimum once the speakers commence their talks, and reserve running commentary to the Q&A session. It is perfectly acceptable to disagree with a speaker, but when asking questions of the speaker please strive to keep them on point and polite.

LOUISIANA FALL FIELD TRIP

October 26 – 30, 2017

For those going on the trip, our chartered bus will leave at 8:00 am sharp on Thursday, October 26th from the Hampton Inn located at 15831 JFK Boulevard, just south of Bush Intercontinental Airport.. If you are not staying at the hotel the night before and have arranged to park there until returning the afternoon of Oct. 30, you are advised to have someone bring you and pick you up, or park only at the Hampton to simplify logistics, using the day rate offered to our group. In any event, it is advised that that participants should be at the hotel and ready to board the bus no later than 7:30. Should you have any questions, please contact Scott Clowdus at (325) 793-4686 or via e-mail at director@tthcc.com.



FALL SPECIAL OFFER ON ENGRAVED BRICKS

Main Street Gettysburg, Inc. is a non-profit, 501 (c) (3) organization committed to the preservation and revitalization of historic Gettysburg for the benefit of its citizens, businesses, and visitors. They are asking for help in laying the foundation for preservation as they carve out a special place along Lincoln's path to commemorate those who gave their last full measure of devotion.

You can order an engraved brick by the end of 2017 and receive a discounted price of \$100 (regularly \$125).

Your brick will join thousands of others that will collectively lay the foundation for the preservation of Gettysburg's future and the historic pathways in downtown Gettysburg.

To order, call Main Street Gettysburg at (717) 337-3491. Be sure to mention that you are a member of the Houston Civil War Round Table!



POET'S CORNER

This month, we are reprinting a poem by HCWRT member Marilyn Wilbert which originally appeared in the December, 2014 issue of this newsletter.

THE THIEF

The leaf is dark red, moving
together with others.
Peacefully, not wishing to witness
the death of brothers.

It is Autumn, snow storms
not yet bold,
There lie the two soldiers,
not yet cold.

To those who loved them, their
whereabouts are a mystery,
the News received will bring deep
sorrow – as throughout history.

War, the Thief, comes forth
an army to unite;
Of the brothers' sacrifice, we
must never lose sight.

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

- 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

