



General Orders

Godlove's Brigade

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www.houstoncivilwar.com

NOVEMBER, 2017 MEETING
Thursday, November 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, November
13th, 2017

Dinner \$32; Lecture Only \$10

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

The HCWRT Presents
Eric J. Wittenberg
Speaking on:

"The Devil's to Pay: John Buford at Gettysburg"

Eric Wittenberg's talk is based on his award-winning 2015 book of the same name, and focuses on the critical role played by Brig. Gen. John Buford's First Cavalry Division on June 30 and July 1, 1863. Buford and his troopers made an epic, heroic stand that slowed the advance of Robert E. Lee's infantry on the morning of July 1 by conducting a brilliantly designed and executed covering force action that held off nearly three times his number long enough for Maj. Gen. John F. Reynolds and the First Corps of the Army of the Potomac to arrive and assume the fight. Most students of the Civil War are aware of that action, which is still taught at West Point today.

However, most people are not familiar with the stand by Col. William Gamble's brigade during the afternoon phase of the first day's battle. Gamble's troopers almost single-handedly saved a First Corps brigade from being flanked by feinting a mounted charge, and they then helped to save the entire First Corps later that afternoon by holding on long enough to permit those beleaguered soldiers to escape to safety on East Cemetery Hill. Finally, Buford's two brigades feinted another mounted charge and halted the advance of the Confederates at the Lutheran Seminary. Buford proudly said of his men, "A heavy task was before us; we were equal to it, and shall all remember with pride that at Gettysburg we did our country much service."



Eric J. Wittenberg

Wittenberg will focus on Buford, his troopers, and the superb covering force action that they conducted at Gettysburg on July 1, 1863. Their stand made it possible for the Army of the Potomac to hold the high ground and ultimately win the Battle of Gettysburg.

About Eric J. Wittenberg

Eric J. Wittenberg is a native of southeastern Pennsylvania. As a third grader, he made his first visit to the battlefield at Gettysburg, which caused him to be hooked on Civil War history by the end of that visit. He has been to Gettysburg close to 100 times. His earliest memories of that first visit include the death of John F. Reynolds and the story of the stand of John Buford and his troopers.

Wittenberg is a graduate of Dickinson College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, where he received his Bachelor of Arts in political science and economics. He received a master's degree in international affairs at the University of Pittsburgh's Graduate School of Public and International Affairs and his juris doctorate at the University of Pittsburgh School of Law. He is a partner in the Columbus, Ohio law firm of Cook, Sladoje & Wittenberg Co., L.P.A., where he manages the firm's litigation practice.

He is the award-winning author of twenty published books on the Civil War. His specialties are the Gettysburg Campaign and especially the Cavalry Corps of the Army of the Potomac. His first book, *Gettysburg's Forgotten Cavalry Actions*, was named the winner of the Bachelder-Coddington Literary Award as the best new work interpreting the Battle of Gettysburg of 1998. The second edition of that book, published in 2011, won the Army History Foundation's Distinguished Writing Award for that year's best reprint. His 2015 book, "*The Devil's to Pay*: John Buford at Gettysburg. A History and Walking Tour", won the Gettysburg Civil War Roundtable's 2015 book award. He is a past president and past program chairman of the Central Ohio Civil War Roundtable, and works with the Civil War Trust on numerous preservation projects. He's a regular lecturer and tour guide.

Eric, his wife Susan, and their three golden retrievers live in Columbus, Ohio.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *By Jim Godlove*

It is with great sadness that I report the death of Norm Lewis. A member of the current

HCWRT board and long-time member, Norm was also a WW II veteran, and will be sorely missed. Per Norm's request, there will be no memorial arrangements or services.

On a happier note, many members of our Round Table enjoyed a very rewarding experience exploring Civil War sites along Louisiana's Bayou Teche. Don Frazier proved to be an expert guide of not only battle sites but also of great places to eat. (I know I gained weight.)

The Confederate Memorial Hall in New Orleans opened its doors to us on Thursday night. The Hall received our Vandiver Award about ten years ago. They were gracious hosts, plying us with food and drink.

The tour included a visit to the beautiful Oak Alley Plantation and various battle sites. At Donaldsonville, there is a monument dedicated to the Battle of Fort Butler. Dr. Frazier is quoted by name on it. He is truly the leading authority on the Civil War in that area.

Another highlight was our visit to Port Hudson. We were able to witness the firing of Confederate artillery. Two of our members were part of the artillery crew. Bobby Dover and Don Zuckero did excellent service in manning the piece. (Ask Don why he wore a Yankee uniform though he was part of a Rebel crew!)

We had a wonderful time. Thanks go out to Bear Leader Tours. Special thanks go to our bus driver, Holly, and especially, Scott Clowdus, tour manager.

Just a reminder that HCWRT will have a silent auction at our January meeting. Let us know if you have any items to donate and bring your checkbook.

NOVEMBER BOOK RAFFLE *By Bonnie Stowe*

Hope everyone had a great evening listening to Gary Gallagher at our October meeting; I only wish I could have been there. We begin the raffle with *LINCOLN'S MEN – How President Lincoln became Father to an Army and a Nation* by William C. Davis. We need to thank Dr. Joe Goulding for this volume. The second book for this month is *The CIVIL WAR A NARRATIVE (Vol 3) – Red River to*

Appomattox by the one and only Shelby Foote. The third book this month is **BATTLEFIELDS of the CIVIL WAR** by James V. Murfin. This volume was the last major work by Mr. Murfin in a long line of Civil War histories. The fourth selection is **WHAT THEY FOUGHT FOR 1861 - 1865** by James M. McPherson (the author of Battle Cry of Freedom). And to close out this month's raffle we have **EMBATTLED REBEL - Jefferson Davis as Commander in Chief** which also happens to be by James M. McPherson and is donated by our President James Godlove.



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I want to thank Gary Chandler for handling the raffle last month while I was missing in action.



Gary Gallagher receiving Vandiver Award at October meeting



"Texans on the Teche" fall field trip – Don Frazier at Port Hudson

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

By Scott Wilkie

Please welcome these new members who have joined the HCWRT for the 2017-2018 "Campaign": Mike Talplacido and Lyle Smith.

Dr. Gary Gallagher's presentation during our November meeting was fantastic! I overheard several members remarking that his was possibly one of the most entertaining discussions we have ever had the pleasure to witness. This is quite a statement considering the incredible amount of speaker talent that HCWRT has assembled over these years!

The remaining 2017-2018 campaign features more preeminent Civil War historians. When you consider the vast number of Round Tables across the country, your HCWRT is extremely fortunate to be able to attract these lecturers. Obviously, the lineup of esteemed speakers is a major draw for our members, and for those who are visiting us for the first time. Your Membership Committee wants others who have an interest in our nation's history to join us and we are always seeking new avenues to advertise the amazing speakers we bring year after year. Thank you once again for your suggestions during our survey and for your assistance in bringing your friends, relatives, and colleagues to join us.

NOVEMBER QUIZ

By Jim Godlove

Q. While surveying the battlefield from the cupola of the Lutheran Seminary, Gen. John Buford was hailed by an approaching Union general. "What's the matter, John?" the general asked. "The devil's to pay" Buford replied. Buford was then asked if he could hold until infantry arrived. "I reckon I can" Buford told the general.

1. Who was this general?
2. What troops did he command?
3. What was his fate?



THE HOUSTON CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

2017 - 2018 SPEAKERS CAMPAIGN – THE HESS CLUB

- Nov. 16, 2017 Eric J. Wittenberg: *"The Devil's to Pay: 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*

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

