



General Orders

Godlove's Brigade

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2017

www.houstoncivilwar.com



DECEMBER, 2017 MEETING
Thursday, December 14, 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, December
11th, 2017

Dinner \$32; Lecture Only \$10

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

The HCWRT Presents
Dennis Trainor
Speaking on:

“VMI Cadets at New Market”

The Virginia Military Institute Corps of Cadets fought as a unit at the Battle of New Market, Virginia, on May 15, 1864. The cadets, numbering 257, were organized into a battalion of four companies of Infantry and one section of Artillery. Ten cadets were killed in battle or died later from the effects of their wounds; 45 were wounded. The youngest participating cadet was 15; the oldest 25.

On May 10, 1864, the VMI Corps of Cadets was ordered to join Gen. John C. Breckinridge's Confederate forces near Staunton, Virginia. After marching nearly 85 miles northward, the Corps arrived at New Market on Sunday morning May 15, 1864. Gen. Franz Sigel's Union troops, positioned atop Bushong's Hill,

raked the Confederate line with cannon and musketry, thus creating a gap in the line. Remarkably, the cadets helped close the gap, allowing the Confederate forces to regroup and push back the Union army. Breckenridge forced Sigel and his men to retreat, securing the battlefield for the Confederacy. Many cadets lost their footwear in the freshly plowed soil, turned to thick mud after several days of rain. That section of the battlefield became known as the “Field of Lost Shoes.”



Dennis Trainor

About Dennis Trainor

Dennis M. Trainor attended the Virginia Military Institute from 1970 to 1975. His course of study was Civil Engineering with a minor in History and Computer Science. While at the “I,” Dennis enjoyed riding through the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains chasing the elusive fox on most Sundays in the fall and spring. On one of those hunts, he was approached to join a Civil War re-enactment group.

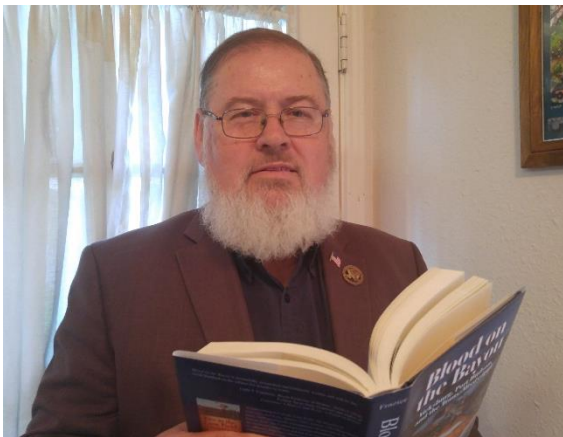
Although Yankee by birth, the cause of the South appealed to his historical interest, so Dennis joined a small band of re-enactors

identified as the 1st Virginia Cavalry that worked closely with the infantry of the Jackson Brigade. The group could muster 50 mounted cavalry at its heyday. Dennis indicates that participating in these re-enactments gave him an appreciation of what men on both sides of the conflict endured in combat.

While the main course of Dennis' topic is the Virginia Military Institute's participation at the Battle of New Market on May 15, 1864, it is the "back story" of the cadets who fought and died on the battlefield that is the true focus. Indeed, the Institute was a true force to be reckoned with!

After VMI, Dennis worked for various agencies plying his skills worldwide. He met and married his wife of 40 years while working as an EMT in a small community hospital in New Jersey. As quickly as possible, they moved to Texas where they raised four children.

Dennis is retired from Koch Industries as well as the State of Texas Department of Disabilities. Today he spends his time with the Knights of Columbus, a Catholic Men's Fraternal Organization. But even more importantly, he is a member of the Bull & Bear Lunch club where our illustrious president, Jim Godlove, is an active member.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *By Jim Godlove*

Season's Greetings, Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah and a Joyous New Year to all! Just a reminder that the December meeting is on the second, and not the third Thursday of the month. We will be meeting on December 14th to

hear one of our own members speak about the VMI cadets at the Battle of New Market. Dennis Trainor, a VMI grad, is a dynamic and entertaining speaker. It will be fun!

My heartfelt gratitude goes out to Roland Bienvenu for agreeing to become a HCWRT Director. He was elected at our November meeting. Roland is replacing our beloved Norm Lewis. Norm, a WW II veteran and long-time member, will be missed. Roland is an invaluable and longstanding member of our Round Table. He is our outstanding newsletter editor (as you can tell by reading this issue). Let him know how much you appreciate him.

Another reminder: we will be having a silent auction at our January meeting when Ed Bearss will be speaking. (The legendary Ed Bearss always has a large turnout.) If you have anything you want to donate, contact me on my cell (713-820-2517) or e-mail me at elzgd1@earthlink.net. Be sure to bring your checkbooks and some friends. I hope each of you enjoy a happy holiday season!

DECEMBER BOOK RAFFLE *By Donnie Stowe*

I believe everyone enjoyed Eric Wittenberg's talk on Gen. John Buford last meeting and hopefully we can get him to speak to us in another HCWRT campaign. Onward to our raffle for our December meeting. We begin with ***THE FATE of TEXAS – The Civil War and the Lone Star State*** edited by Charles D. Grear and donated by Jack Moorhead. Our second



book for this month is ***THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR – 365 DAYS*** by Margaret E. Wagner. This book is from the Library of Congress. The third book is ***The BIG BOOK of CIVIL WAR SITES - from Ft.***

Sumter to Appomattox, a Visitor's Guide to the History and Places of America's Battlefields. Our fourth selection is ***The CIVIL WAR: A NARRATIVE*** by everyone's favorite historian, Shelby Foote. This is a ***Time-Life Books 40th Anniversary Edition*** covering Secession to Fort Henry. The final book this month comes from my own collection, ***The***

SECRET TRIAL of ROBERT E. LEE by Thomas Fleming. This book brings to life a fascinating chapter in American history that might have happened.

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. Your contributions will help fund the operation of our Round Table and enable us to continue bringing quality speakers each and every month!



Virginia Military Institute

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

By Scott Wilkey

DECEMBER QUIZ

By Jim Godlove

Q. Perhaps in retaliation for the cadets' part at the Battle of New Market, Federal troops burned the Virginia Military Institute at Lexington on June 11, 1864. Gen. Franz Sigel no longer was in command of these troops but rather "a stern, unrelenting soldier, who [makes] war of the sternest character."



Who was this 61 year old general?

SUBMISSIONS WANTED

Submissions for this newsletter are most welcome from our membership! If you would like to provide a review for a book, a museum, or anything else related to the Civil War, please see Roland Bienvenu at our meeting or contact him at Newsletter@houstoncivilwar.com.

At the time of submission for the November HCWRT newsletter, the Membership Committee had not yet learned of the passing of longtime member Norman J. "Norm" Lewis. While the seriousness of Norm's illness was conveyed at the October meeting, his passing still came as a shock and was deeply felt by all. While I personally only had the privilege of knowing Norm for a short couple of years, I could immediately tell that he was a warm and engaging individual. During our time together on the Membership Committee, he was a constant source of advice and feedback – his input was greatly valued. As Chair, I would, without fail, be advised to "ask for Norm's opinion." During the final exchange I had with him, Norm lamented that while his health was not what he wished it to be, he was nevertheless more than willing to assist in any way possible and was thankful to be part of the process. I assured him it was the Membership Committee, and the HCWRT at large, that was the beneficiary of his service.

While Norm obviously had the love, respect and admiration of the HCWRT membership, it was evident that same love, respect and admiration transcended our group and was felt within the community as well. I have enjoyed listening to others' recollections about Norm and look forward to preserving his memory in the years to come. Although Norm would be the last person seeking such praise and adulation, this column would be remiss if we didn't recognize our great loss. The Membership Committee dedicates this month's column to a great man and a great American...Thank you Norm - you will be missed!

THE HOUSTON CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

2017 - 2018 SPEAKERS CAMPAIGN – THE HESS CLUB

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 Lonnie Wood Drive
Houston, TX 77059

