



# General Orders *Godlove's Brigade*

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[www.houstoncivilwar.com](http://www.houstoncivilwar.com)



**FEBRUARY, 2018 MEETING**  
**Thursday, February 15, 2018**

**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](mailto:drzuckero@sbcglobal.net),**  
**or call (281) 479-1232 by 6 pm Monday, February**  
**12, 2018**

**Dinner \$32; Lecture Only \$10**

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

The Battle of Poison Spring and its bloody aftermath remain a source of great controversy among students of Civil War Arkansas, with some seeing it as a massacre spurred by racial animosity and others viewing it as a continuation of a war that had grown increasingly savage, especially in the Trans-Mississippi South. Mark K. Christ's presentation will grapple with many questions from some of the darkest hours of American military history, such as: "What actually happened during the campaign?" "What is to be learned from reconstructing Poison Spring and the aftermath at Jenkins' Ferry?" Mark Christ draws his presentation title "*All Cut to Pieces and Gone to Hell*" from soldiers' words at the scene in Spring, 1864, and from a book, which he edited containing papers (including his own) presented at Old State House symposium.

## The HCWRT Presents Mark K. Christ Speaking on:

***" 'All Cut to Pieces and Gone to Hell': Atrocities During the Camden Expedition "***

A Union army left Little Rock on March 23, 1864, the same day a second Federal column left Fort Smith, with both intending to link up with another U.S. army in Shreveport to invade cotton-rich east Texas. What followed was a disastrous campaign that almost destroyed the Union army and witnessed the worst racial atrocities to occur in Civil War Arkansas. In a savage fight at Poison Spring, Confederate troops butchered wounded and surrendered men of the First Kansas Colored Infantry Regiment. Two weeks later, at Jenkins' Ferry, soldiers of the Second Kansas Colored sought bloody revenge by murdering wounded Confederate troops.

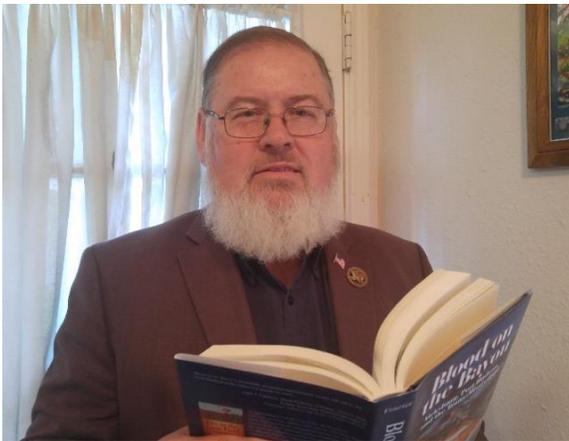


*Mark K. Christ*

## About Mark K. Christ

Mark Christ is the Community Outreach Coordinator for the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, where among other duties he directs the agency's Civil War

Battlefield preservation efforts. A former journalist, he currently serves as president of the Arkansas Historical Association and on the board of the Arkansas World War One Centennial Commemoration Committee. He formerly served on the Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission, leading the state's commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the Civil War, and on the Board of Directors of the Arkansas Humanities Council. He is the recipient of the Civil War Trust's State Preservation Leadership Award and the Arkansas Historical Association's Lifetime Achievement Award. He is the author and editor of several books on Arkansas history and the Civil War, including ***All Cut to Pieces and Gone to Hell: The Civil War, Race Relations and the Battle of Poison Spring***, *Civil War Arkansas 1863: The Battle for a State* (which won the Military Order of the Stars and Bars' Douglas Southall Freeman Award), and *This Day We Marched Again: A Union Soldier's Account of the Civil War in Arkansas and the Trans-Mississippi*. He lives in Little Rock with his wife Kim and daughters Emily and Cassandra.



## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE** ***By Jim Godlove***

My deepest appreciation goes out to **Ed Cotham** who was able to fill in as our January speaker on short notice. Ed is **the** historian on the Battles of Galveston and Sabine Pass. He is not only a member of our Round Table but also a past President and Vandiver award winner. Ed gave an absolutely riveting talk on "Juneteenth"

which will be the subject of his next book. Can't wait to read it!

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Ed Bearss. He reported having some flu-like symptoms which forced him to cancel. Fortunately, Ed did not have the flu and recovered relatively quickly. Since Ed is in his 90's, any illness can be serious, even life-threatening. Many of us were eager to hear his talk on Brice's Crossroads and Tupelo. Hopefully, he will be able to present it another time.

Thanks to all who took part in our silent auction. We had many generous donors and bidders. HCWRT can certainly use the funds!.

Our speaker this month, Mark Christ, is tackling a controversial and difficult topic: atrocities during the 1864 Camden Expedition. Both sides were guilty of such actions. A member who has heard Mark says it is an outstanding presentation. A word of warning: it may not be for the faint-hearted! War is an ugly affair; but I'm certain that our members will be attentive and respectful on this difficult subject.

**Please note a change of speakers for our March 15<sup>th</sup> meeting.** Scott Patchan is unable to appear, but we were able to secure another speaker. We are very fortunate to have **Gordon Rhea** fill in for Scott. Not only has Gordon spoken to the HCWRT, he is a recipient of our own Vandiver award, in addition to other awards.

## **MEMBERSHIP REPORT** ***By Scott Wilkey***

The Membership Committee is proud to welcome new members **Peter Sterling and Barry Graham**, who have joined the HCWRT for the second half of the 2017-2018 "Campaign". When you see our newest members at meetings, please introduce yourself and make them feel welcome! January's meeting was fantastic - what a way to start off 2018!

While we unfortunately had a late cancellation with respect to our scheduled speaker, the esteemed Mr. Ed Bearss, the change allowed the HCWRT another opportunity to showcase some our talented and

knowledgeable members, such as **Walker Agnew** and “our own Ed”, **Ed Cotham, Jr.** Following on the heels of HCWRT member **Dennis Trainor’s** December “VMI Cadets at New Market” topic, Mr. Cotham’s presentation, “The Story Behind Juneteenth” was phenomenal! I know we share the opinion of many other members who take pride in the fact that we have such a diverse and knowledgeable group of amateur and professional historians among our membership, particularly those who can be counted on to offer high quality presentations!



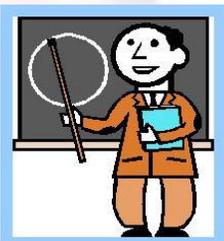
*Our January speaker, Ed Cotham with President Jim Godlove*



## FEBRUARY QUIZ *by Jim Godlove*

Q. The commander of the Department of Arkansas was asked to advance on Shreveport in conjunction with General Banks’ Red River Campaign. He was reluctant to do so and wired the War Department that such a move was “against my own judgement ... the roads are most of not quite impracticable; the country is destitute of provision.”

On March 15, 1864, he received a telegram from his former West Point classmate, Lt. General U. S. Grant, which ordered him to fully co-operate with Banks.



**Who was this New Yorker (who through no fault of his own) led his troops in the disastrous Camden Expedition?**

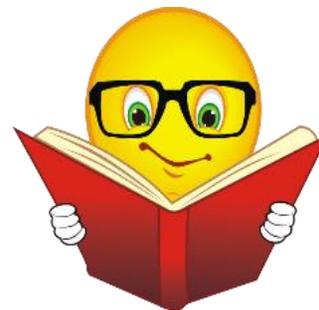
## BOOK RAFFLE *By Donnie Stowe*

Hope everyone had a great time at our last meeting. Although our primary speaker was not able to attend, we still had a wonderful lecture/discussion with Ed Cotham, Jr. Onward to our raffle for February. We begin the raffle with **HARD TACK and COFFEE – Soldier’s Life in the Civil War** by John D. Billings. This book was first published in 1888 and its author served in the Army of the Potomac. Our second selection this month is **THE SWORD of LINCOLN** by Jeffry D. Wert and is from my own library. Next we have **ULYSSES S. GRANT – The Unlikely Hero**, by Michael Korda.

The fourth book is **A PICTORIAL HISTORY of the CIVIL WAR YEARS** by Paul M. Angle.

The final volume this month is a Civil War novel – **THE BLACK FLOWER** by Howard Bahr. This is a story about Bushrod Carter who finds himself once again on a battlefield below the obscure little village of Franklin, Tennessee.

I wish to conclude this article by thanking everyone who contributed to the silent auction last month. I believe it was a great success for the HCRWT.



# THE HOUSTON CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

## 2017 - 2018 SPEAKERS CAMPAIGN – THE HESS CLUB

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

Mar 15, 2018 **[NOTE—NEW!]** Gordon Rhea:  
“On to Petersburg: Grant and Lee, June 4 - 15, 1864”

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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