



General Orders

Harrington's Brigade

Vol. 30
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October
2018

www.houstoncivilwar.com

OCTOBER, 2018 MEETING
Thursday, October 18, 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 Barry Brueggeman at bgbrueg@aol.com or
call (281) 480-1130 by 6 pm Monday, October 15,
2018

Dinner \$32; Lecture Only \$10

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

The HCWRT Presents **Peter S. Carmichael Speaking on:**

***“The War for the Common Soldier”:
Will the Real Civil War Soldier Please
Stand Up?”***

How did Civil War soldiers endure the brutal and unpredictable existence of army life during the conflict? This question is at the heart of Peter S. Carmichael's presentation on men at war. Based on close examination of the letters and records left behind by individual soldiers from both the North and the South, Carmichael explores the totality of the Civil War experience - the marching, the fighting, the boredom, the idealism, the exhaustion, the punishments, and the frustrations of being away from families who often faced their own dire circumstances.

Carmichael focuses not on what soldiers thought but rather how they thought. In doing so, he reveals how, to the shock of most men, well-established notions of duty or disobedience, morality or immorality, loyalty or disloyalty, and bravery or cowardice were blurred by war.

Digging deeply into his soldiers' writing, Carmichael resists the idea that there was "a common soldier," but looks into their own words to find common threads in soldiers' experiences and ways of understanding what was happening around them. In the end, he argues that a pragmatic philosophy of soldiering emerged, guiding members of the rank and file as they struggled to live with the contradictory elements of their violent and volatile world.



Peter S Carmichael

About Peter S. Carmichael

Dr. Peter S. Carmichael is the Fluhrer Professor of History and the Director of the Civil War Institute (CWI) at Gettysburg College. After completing his doctorate at Penn State University under Dr. Gary W. Gallagher, Professor Carmichael went on to teach at

Western Carolina University, the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, and West Virginia University. He is the author and editor of four books, including: ***Lee's Young Artillerist: William R. J. Pegram; Audacity Personified: The Generalship of Robert E. Lee;*** and ***The Last Generation: Young Virginians in Peace, War, and Reunion.*** In late October, the University of North Carolina Press will release his ***The War for the Common Soldier: How Men Thought, Fought, and Survived in Civil War Armies.*** He also has published a number of articles for both scholarly and popular journals, and he speaks frequently to Civil War Round Tables, general and scholarly audiences. Every June, Professor Carmichael directs the Civil War Institute's Summer Conference, which draws more than 250 attendees from across the country. He also helped create the Brian Pohanka Internship program that places more than 25 Gettysburg College students at Civil War-related historical sites every summer. More recently, Professor Carmichael has appeared on the popular show *Who Do You Think You Are?* He also has been involved in documentaries for the Smithsonian Institute, the National Park Service, the History Channel, and his talks have been on C-Span.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Mike Harrington

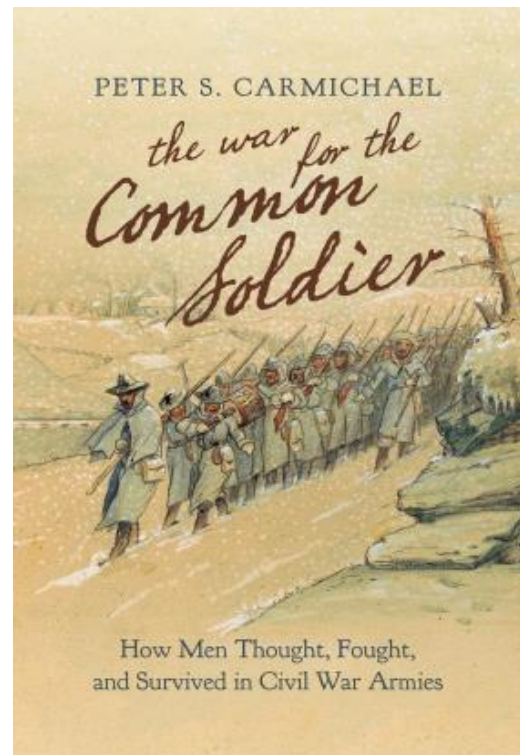
If you attended our September meeting, I think you will agree with me that we heard a memorable presentation by Dr. Danny Sessums on Granbury's Texas Brigade at the bloody Battle of Franklin. Granbury's Texans were arguably the premier fighting brigade in the premier fighting division – Pat Cleburne's division – of the main Confederate army in the Western Theater. One of the prime reasons that I and some others in our round table support the Battle of Franklin Trust is attributable to the extraordinary heroism that Granbury's Texans exhibited at Franklin.

The presentation at this month's meeting should be equally engaging. Dr. Peter Carmichael is a former doctoral student of Dr. Gary Gallagher, the distinguished Civil War historian whom many of you will recall as the

recipient of our Vandiver Award of Merit in 2017. Besides teaching at the Civil War Institute in Gettysburg, Dr. Carmichael is a noted Civil War author. Perhaps some of you, like me, have enjoyed reading one of Dr. Carmichael's books. My favorite is his study of one hundred young Virginia men on the eve of the Civil War entitled *The Last Generation: Young Virginians in Peace, War, and Reunion.* Forms for ordering Dr. Carmichael's upcoming new book, *The War for the Common Soldier: How Men Thought, Fought and Survived in Civil War Armies,* will be available at our meeting. Information on ordering is also provided below. I intend to buy a copy for my library; I invite you to do likewise.

NEW CARMICHAEL BOOK

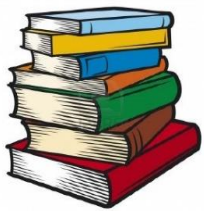
Peter Carmichael's new book "***The War for the Common Soldier***" will be unavailable at the time of our October meeting, but will be released in the near future. The retail price of this 408-page hardcover book is \$34.95. To order, visit www.uncpress.org or call (800) 848-6224. To receive a 40% discount, enter code 01DAH40 during checkout or mention while ordering.



BOOK RAFFLE

By Donnie Stowe

We start this month's raffle with **JOURNEY TO PLEASANT HILL - The Civil War Letters of Captain Elijah P. Petty Walker's Texas Division CSA** edited by Norman D. Brown; this is a donation from the library of our late member Norm Lewis. Next in our lineup is **THE GENERAL WHO MARCHED TO HELL** by Earl Schenck Miers. This book comes from the estate of Gladys Glover and deals, of course, with General William T. Sherman. The third book this month is **FATEFUL LIGHTNING - A New**



History of the Civil War & Reconstruction by Allen C. Guelzo. The fourth selection is **THE CIVIL WAR on the WEB - A Guide to the Very Best Sites** by William G. Thomas & Alice E. Carter. The

final book this month is **BATTLES AND LEADERS OF THE CIVIL WAR** edited by Ned Bradford.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

By Scott Wilkey

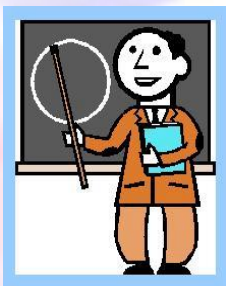
What a great start to the year! Dr. Danny Sessums' fantastic presentation was a very appropriate way to begin our new season: a *Texan* discussing the actions of *Texas* troops. By now, you've been able to peruse our list of upcoming speakers and I'm sure you're as excited as we are about the roster. In October, longtime friend of the HCWRT, Peter Carmichael, will be focusing on "The War for the Common Soldier." If you are familiar with the concept of "six degrees of separation," it seems Dr. Carmichael has a link with almost every speaker the HCWRT has hosted in the last several years. No doubt many of you are also familiar with his tireless work with the Civil War Institute at Gettysburg College and his many television appearances, particularly on C-SPAN. If you begin to run out of reading material, these lectures are very entertaining and a great way to expand your knowledge. They're even available 24/7 online! You'll also recognize the familiar faces of many lecturers who have graciously spent time with the HCWRT in the past. We'll be posting links to some of the presentations on our social media sites – so be sure to "Like" and "Follow" your HCWRT!

Your dues are the reason we can bring these fantastic speakers to Houston. We'll be sending out another membership renewal reminder soon in case we have any "stragglers" (to use a military term), but if you noticed one of your membership friends missed the September meeting, give 'em a call and make sure they attend next month. We'll see you then!

OCTOBER QUIZ

By Jim Godlove

Perhaps the finest historian who examined the common soldier's war was born in Halls, Tennessee in 1906. In 1943, he published **The Life of Johnny Reb: The Common Soldier of the Confederacy**. In 1952, he published **The Life of Billy Yank: The Common Soldier of the Union**.



Who was this distinguished author who wrote: "The greatest people I know in American history are the plain soldiers who wore the blue and gray during the Civil War."?



THE HOUSTON CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

2018 - 2019 SPEAKERS CAMPAIGN – THE HESS CLUB

- Oct. 18, 2018 Peter Carmichael: *“The War for the Common Soldier”*
Nov. 15, 2018 Stephen Davis: *“General John B. Hood’s Efforts to Defend Atlanta, July 18 – Sept. 2, 1864”*
Dec. 13, 2018 Kevin Weddle: *“Samuel Francis Dupont – Lincoln’s Tragic Admiral”*
Jan. 17, 2019 Edwin C. Bearss: *“Brice’s Crossroads and Tupelo – Summer 1864”*
Feb. 21, 2019 Catherine Clinton: *“Stepdaughters of History: Southern Women and the Civil War”*
Mar. 21, 2019 Lorien Foote: *“The Sternest Feature of War: Retaliation in the Trans-Mississippi”*
Apr. 18, 2019 John Fazio: *“Intrepid Mariners”*
May 16, 2019 To Be Determined - holding for 2019 Vandiver Award Recipient

www.HoustonCivilWar.com



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

