



# General Orders

## Harrington's Brigade

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2018

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

**DECEMBER 13, 2018 MEETING**  
**Thursday, December 13, 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](mailto:bgbrueg@aol.com) or**  
**call (281) 480-1130 by 6 pm Monday, December**  
**10, 2018**

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

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

**The HCWRT Presents**  
**Kevin Weddle**  
**Speaking On:**

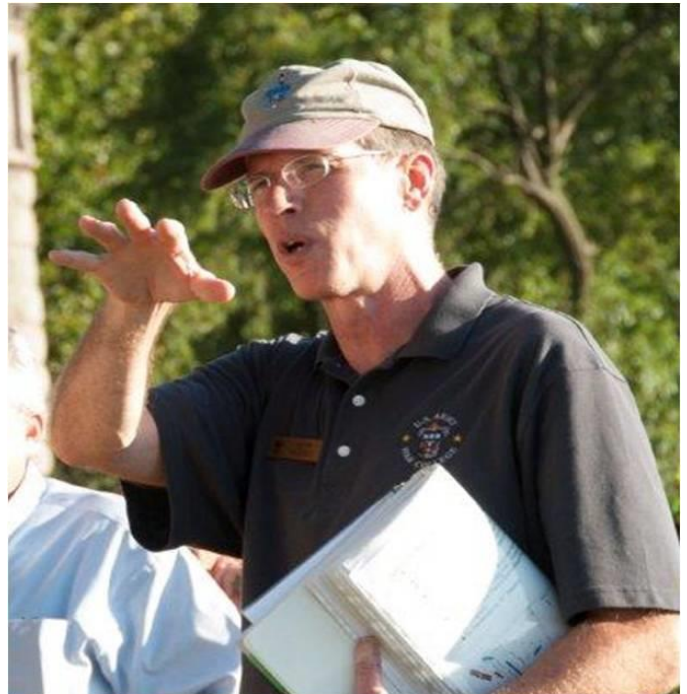
***“Samuel Francis Du Pont –  
Lincoln's Tragic Admiral”***

“Lincoln's Forgotten Admiral” is the story of a long-forgotten naval officer whose stellar peacetime and early wartime career was overshadowed by his failed attack on Charleston in April 1863. Although Admiral Du Pont championed technological innovation, he outspokenly opposed the use of the new ironclads to attack Charleston, which caused him to clash with the powerful Secretary of the Navy, Gideon Welles. Only when his objections were

overridden, did his use of these modern vessels bring his career to a tragic end.

The talk exposes this historical misunderstanding, while also pinpointing Du Pont's crucial role in the development of United States naval strategy and his work in modernizing the Navy between the Mexican War and the Civil War.

The talk, based on the award-winning book, ***Lincoln's Tragic Admiral: The Life of Samuel Francis Du Pont***, also unveils the life-long partnership that Du Pont shared with his wife and confidante, Sophie, while also touching on larger historical questions such as civil-military relations, attitudes toward slavery, innovations in military strategy and organization, and the introduction of new military technology in wartime.



**Col. (retired) Kevin Weddle**

## About Kevin Weddle

Kevin Weddle is Professor of Military Theory and Strategy at the US Army War College, Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania. He is a native Minnesotan, graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York, and served over 28 years as a combat engineer officer. Throughout his career he worked in a variety of command and staff positions in the United States and overseas and is a veteran of Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm and Operation Enduring Freedom.

Colonel Weddle's assignments included service as a platoon leader, assistant battalion operations officer, company executive officer, company commander and tours of duty at West Point, Germany, the Defense Intelligence Agency, and the Pentagon. He also served as operations officer for the 555<sup>th</sup> Combat Engineer Group, battalion commander of the 299<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion, 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, and was selected for brigade command before joining the US Army War College faculty. At the War College he was the director of the Advanced Strategic Art Program, served as the Deputy Dean of Academics, and held the General Maxwell D. Taylor Chair in the Profession of Arms.

Dr. Weddle has led dozens of civilian and military groups to battlefields in the United States including Vicksburg, Antietam, Gettysburg, Grant's Overland Campaign, and others. In addition, he has also led groups to European battlefields including Agincourt, Waterloo, Gallipoli, the Somme, Verdun, Ypres, Dunkirk, Sicily, Anzio, and Normandy.

Colonel Weddle holds master's degrees in history and civil engineering from the University of Minnesota and a Ph.D. in history from Princeton University. He has written numerous articles for popular and scholarly journals and his first book, *Lincoln's Tragic Admiral: The Life of Samuel Francis Du Pont* (University of Virginia Press, 2005), won the 2006 William E. Colby Award, was runner up in the Theodore and Franklin Roosevelt Naval History Prize competition, and won the Army War College's faculty writing award. His strategic history of the

Saratoga campaign will be published by the Oxford University Press in the fall of 2019. Colonel Weddle has also twice won the Army War College excellence-in-teaching award and is a licensed professional engineer. He will serve as the William L. Garwood Visiting Professor at Princeton University in 2019.

He is married to the former Jean Buechner of St. Paul, Minnesota and they have one daughter, Anne, a forensic scientist for the FBI who is married to a US Naval aviator.



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*By Mike Harrington*

If you did not attend our November meeting, you missed a lively, entertaining talk by Steve Davis on General John Bell Hood's efforts to save Atlanta in the summer of 1864. If you were among those present, you know what I'm talking about.

If you're like me, you know far less about the Civil War at sea than the war on dry land. We landlubbers are therefore fortunate to have Col. Kevin Weddle speak to us at our December 13 meeting. His topic relates to Samuel Francis Du Pont, a rear admiral in the U.S. Navy during the war and a member of the prominent Du Pont family of Delaware. It will be especially interesting to learn why Col. Weddle views the admiral as a tragic figure.

I hope you had a splendid Thanksgiving holiday, and I wish you an early Merry Christmas!

## DECEMBER QUIZ By Jim Godlove



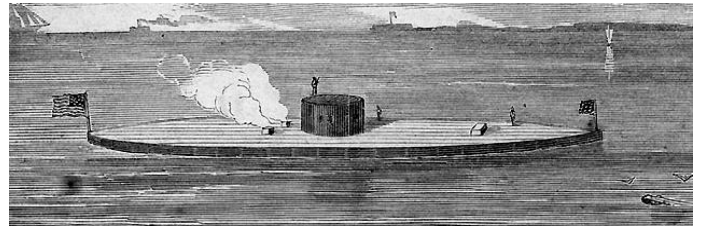
By 1861, Samuel F. Du Pont had served in the U. S. Navy for 46 years. Du Pont was less than impressed by the new Navy secretary. He wrote that when that man had been in charge of the Bureau of Clothing and Supply he “once made a remarkable contract for cheese.” Who was this cabinet member?

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT By Scott Wilkey

By the time you read this, the Thanksgiving holiday will have come and gone and the busy Christmas holiday season will be upon us. Fittingly, these two holidays have some of their “roots” in the American Civil War. President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed “a Day of Thanksgiving and Praise” a national holiday in 1863. Also in 1863, *Harper’s Weekly* cartoonist Thomas Nast popularized the image of Santa Claus that we are familiar with today. I know many of our members we aware of these fun facts – maybe you can think of several others (a fun topic of conversation for our next meeting!). I hope I didn’t spoil a preview of Jim Godlove’s trivia questions!

Speaking of the holidays, if you are searching for that perfect gift to give that historian in your life, a membership to the HCWRT is just the thing. Your membership dues are truly vital to the HCWRT’s ability to provide travel and lodging costs for our speakers. As you know, the

HCWRT does not pay speaking fees or “honorariums” to our guests. If you haven’t yet sent in your dues for the year, or if you or a guest have been attending meetings on a “month-by-month” basis, please join today. Visit our [website](#) or [Facebook](#) pages to find out more. As an added bonus, you can also avoid long shopping lines at the store and there’s no waiting at the post office.



## BOOK RAFFLE By Donnie Stowe

Hopefully everyone had a safe and happy Thanksgiving! We start this month’s raffle with **ATLAS OF THE CIVIL WAR** by Steven E. Woodworth & Kenneth J. Winkle. This volume from the Oxford University Press could make for a great re-gift for Christmas. Next in our lineup is **THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR** by Peter J. Parish. This book does have some minor highlighting but is certainly



a good read. The third book this month is Susannah J. Ural’s newest volume **HOOD’S TEXAS BRIGADE – The Soldiers and Families of the Confederacy’s Most Celebrated Unit**. This comes from my personal collection and I apologize for putting my bookplate in it. The fourth selection is **SHIPS OF THE CIVIL WAR 1861-1865 – An Illustrated Guide to the Fighting Vessels of the Union and Confederacy** by Kevin J. Dougherty. This is a donation from Jim Godlove’s library. The final book this month is **DOUBLE DEATH – The True Story of Pryce Lewis, The Civil War’s Most Daring Spy** by Gavin Mortimer. .

Members are encouraged to donate used books or give a monetary donation for purchase of books to continue this valuable HCWRT raffle.



# THE HOUSTON CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

## 2018 - 2019 SPEAKERS CAMPAIGN – THE HESS CLUB

- Dec. 13, 2018 Kevin Weddle: *“Samuel Francis Du Pont – 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

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

