



# General Orders

## Harrington's Brigade

Vol. 30  
No. 6  
Jan.  
2019

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



**JANUARY, 2019 MEETING**  
**Thursday, January 17, 2019**

**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, January**  
**14, 2019**

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

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

### The HCWRT Presents Edwin C. Bearss Speaking on:

***“Brice’s Cross Roads and Tupelo –  
Summer 1864”***

In late May 1864, Maj. Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest set out from Mississippi with his cavalry corps to enter Tennessee and destroy the Nashville & Chattanooga Railroad, which was carrying men and supplies from Nashville to support Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman’s campaign against Atlanta. Sherman, who suspected the Confederate cavalry leader would cause havoc behind his lines, ordered Brig. Gen. Samuel Sturgis to move from Memphis to counter Forrest and to control northern Mississippi. Sturgis’s first objective was the Mobile and Ohio Railroad that ran north and south from Tupelo. Forrest’s cavalry met Sturgis’ infantry and cavalry column on June 10<sup>th</sup> at Brice’s Cross Roads, 20 miles north of Tupelo, beating back the first Union cavalry

division to arrive there. Sturgis sent in infantry reinforcements and counterattacked the Confederates. Although outnumbered two to one, Forrest used his more mobile cavalry to threaten both ends of the Union infantry line simultaneously and his artillery to focus on the center. When Forrest’s 2<sup>nd</sup> Tennessee Cavalry, on a wide flanking move, captured the bridge over Tishomingo Creek in Sturgis’ rear, the Union force fell back. The Confederate cavalrymen pursued the rapidly retreating Federals several miles toward Memphis. Forrest’s brilliant tactical victory against long odds cemented his reputation as one of the foremost mounted infantry leaders of the war.



**Edwin C. Bearss**

Our distinguished speaker, Edwin C. Bearss, wrote the book *Forrest at Brice’s Cross Roads and in North Mississippi in 1864* (first published in 1979), which still stands as a foundation for subsequent study of this battle -- one of the most

spectacular Confederate victories in the Civil War's western theater. It is considered by many as Nathan Bedford Forrest's greatest battle. Ed Bearss will focus on this battle, but will also bridge briefly to the Tupelo Campaign about a month later, which resulted in a very different outcome. Coincidentally, some HCWRT members are relatives of two notable persons involved at Brice's Cross Roads. Rev. Samuel A. Agnew's home, which soldiers' accounts referred to as the "white house" and the "White House Ridge," would become part of the last stand in the battle. LTC Robert Cowden commanded the 59th U.S. Colored Infantry Regiment in Bouton's Brigade, and was severely wounded in that stubborn rearguard stand at the White House Ridge. Ed will also address current progress toward battlefield preservation at both Brice's Cross Roads and Tupelo.

and a frequent guide for many of our Round Table tours over that period.



### About Edwin C. Bearss

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *By Mike Harrington*

**Edwin C. Bearss**, a U. S. Marine veteran of WWII and historian emeritus of the National Park Service, is the best-known battlefield guide in America and leads military history tours year-round of the Civil War, American Revolution, American West, and World War I and World War II in Europe. He is acclaimed as one of the stars of Ken Burns' award-winning PBS series, *The Civil War*. In 1956, he helped locate and raise the ironclad gunboat *Cairo*, one of the most significant artifacts of the Civil War. He is the author of several books including *Hardluck Ironclad: The Sinking and the Salvage of the Cairo*; *The Vicksburg Campaign: Volumes I, II and III*; *Steele's Retreat from Camden & The Battle of Jenkins' Ferry*; *Forrest at Brice's Cross Roads*; *Fields of Honor: Pivotal Battles of the Civil War*, with James McPherson; *Receding Tide: Vicksburg and Gettysburg – Campaigns that Changed the Civil War*, with Parker Hills; *The Petersburg Campaign: Volumes I and II*, with Bruce Suderow. Ed is recipient of the Frank E. Vandiver Award of Merit from the Houston Civil War Round Table, along with many other awards and honors. He has been our speaker in virtually every HCWRT campaign for decades

Happy New Year to each and all! I trust your Christmas holiday was as enjoyable as mine.

We are both proud and privileged to have the redoubtable Edwin Cole Bearss as the speaker at our next meeting, a continuation of a tradition of Ed's addressing our January meeting that goes back more than a decade. Even at the advanced age of 95, Ed continues to bring the past to life. And I say: "long may he growl."

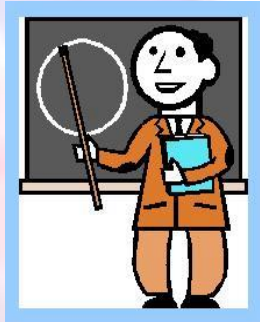
On behalf of our entire Round Table, I want to extend a hearty thanks to Marsha Franty for taking such good care of Ed during his January trips to Houston. Marsha reminds me that anybody who desires to take a picture with Ed, or to have him autograph a book, should plan to do so **prior** to the commencement of the meeting at 6:45 p.m. Ed prefers an early bedtime nowadays, so he will want to depart the HESS Club promptly after the meeting concludes. It is the least we can do to accommodate him.

Unfortunately, I will not be with you at the January meeting due to a schedule conflict involving an out-of-town family wedding. However, I hope to see each of you at our February meeting, if not before.

## JANUARY QUIZ

*By Jim Godlove*

Q: The Union commander at Brice's Cross Roads uttered some memorable statements during the Civil War. After Brice's Cross Roads, he said: "for God's sake, if Mr. Forrest will leave me alone, I will let him alone." Another comment was: "I don't care for John Pope one pinch of owl dung."



*Who was this 1846  
West Point graduate?*

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

*By Scott Wilkey*

Here's hoping everyone had a wonderful holiday season and are now enjoying a fantastic start on the New Year! If you're like me, your New Year's resolution will be to start arranging for more shelving space to fit all the new Civil War books and magazines I seem to acquire this time of year. Or perhaps I need to donate several of those titles to a worthwhile cause, such as the monthly HCWRT book raffle (heads up, Donnie!).

Although the holiday gift-giving season is behind us, I have a suggestion for those of you who have a "belated" shopping list to fulfill – or for those generous souls who feel like the joy that comes with offering gifts doesn't come often enough.

A membership in the HCWRT makes a perfect gift for holidays, birthdays, anniversaries – or any other occasion you can imagine. As you know, membership dues are vital to ensuring we cover the tremendous costs of bringing you the highest quality speakers that you have come to enjoy and expect month after month, year after year. Additionally, new (non-renewing)

members joining after January 1 for the remaining 2018-2019 campaign will get an added bonus. For more details, please visit our website at [www.houstoncivilwar.com](http://www.houstoncivilwar.com) or contact us at [membership@houstoncivilwar.com](mailto:membership@houstoncivilwar.com).

One of our most popular speakers, the legendary Ed Bearss, will be visiting us in a couple of short weeks. So, surprise a friend or family member with the gift of membership and come listen to one of our country's greatest historians – they'll be thankful that you did!

## BOOK RAFFLE

*By Donnie Stowe*

I hope everyone had a safe and merry Christmas 2018! We start this month with the first 2019 Raffle. Our first book is A HISTORY OF THE 15TH SOUTH CAROLINA INFANTRY 1861-1865 by James B. Clary. This wonderful volume is a donation from Jim Godlove. This is from the South Carolina Department of Archives and History. Next in our lineup is the HEROES OF THE CIVIL WAR by Harrison Hunt and is from the library of Joe Plaza. The third book this month is LINCOLN IN AMERICAN MEMORY by Merrill D. Peterson. According to Richard N. Current, Peterson "presents a comprehensive, keenly perceptive, and highly readable history of



Lincoln's reputation." The fourth selection is THE CIVIL WAR IN DEPTH (and also 3-D) by Bob Zeller. This is a two-volume set due to the 3D viewer that is included. The fifth book in this month's raffle is DON'T SHOOT THAT BOY!

ABRAHAM LINCOLN AND MILITARY JUSTICE by Thomas P. Lowry. This book is also a gift from James Godlove. Our final volume is LEE IN THE SHADOW of WASHINGTON by Richard B. McCaslin, Professor of History at North Texas State.

If anyone has a new year's resolution to clear their bookshelves of some well-read books still in good condition, then the HCWRT Raffle would be a great place to donate them!

# THE HOUSTON CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

## 2018 - 2019 SPEAKERS CAMPAIGN – THE HESS CLUB

- Jan. 17, 2019 Edwin C. Bearss: *“Brice’s Cross Roads 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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