



General Orders

Harrington's Brigade

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MARCH, 2019 MEETING
Thursday, March 21, 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 hgbrueg@aol.com,
or call (281) 480-1130 by 6 pm Monday,
March 18, 2019
Dinner \$32; Lecture Only \$10

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

The HCWRT Presents **Lorien Foote Speaking on:**

***“The Sternest Feature of War:
Retaliation in the Trans-Mississippi”***

Every military campaign of the American Civil War included a ritual of retaliation. In these incidents, a commander charged his opponent with violating the customs of civilized warfare among western nations. He wrote his enemy with the accusation and gave him a certain number of days to respond to the allegations – to either disprove them or demonstrate that such behavior did not have the official sanction of the government. The commander stated that if a satisfactory response was not received, he would retaliate. Often the threatened retaliation was to execute prisoners of war that had been set aside for the purpose. The usual response from the opponent was either to deny the allegations or to claim that the actions taken were consistent with the customs of civilized

war, and then to announce that prisoners of war had been set aside for execution in case the threatened retaliation was carried out. During these negotiations, military commanders, and often the Lincoln and Davis administrations, staked out positions on points of contention between the combatants and drew the lines that they believed should not be crossed in civilized warfare. What is striking about these incidents is that they often resulted in alterations to policy and practice. Retaliation shaped how the Union and the Confederacy conducted their military campaigns.

Retaliation in the Trans-Mississippi in 1861-1862 was foundational to how the practice evolved in other theaters and to shaping national policies. In Missouri, Gen. Henry Wager Halleck defined the rules of retaliation in a series of general orders. In Missouri and Arkansas, Union generals used retaliation to communicate to their Confederate counterparts their belief that the laws of war did not sanction guerrillas, while Confederate generals used the ritual to demand that partisans be recognized and treated as legitimate combatants. The



Lorien Foote

Confederate leadership eventually conceded the Union position on guerrillas. Jefferson Davis employed the ritual to respond to the actions of Union Maj. Gen. Benjamin Butler in New Orleans and to demand key protections for citizens and property in occupied areas. Davis declared all commissioned officers in Butler's army to be criminals who were reserved for execution if captured. In response, the Union suspended all exchange of officer prisoners of war, starting a process that led to the breakdown of prisoner exchange during the Civil War.

About Lorien Foote

Lorien Foote is the Patricia & Bookman Peters Professor in History and Director of Graduate Studies for the History Department at Texas A&M University. She is the author of four books on the American Civil War, including *The Yankee Plague: Escaped Union Prisoners and the Collapse of the Confederacy* (2016), which was a 2017 Choice Outstanding Academic Title, and *The Gentlemen and the Roughs: Manhood, Honor, and Violence in the Union Army* (2010), which was a finalist and Honorable Mention for the 2011 Lincoln Prize. She is the co-editor, with Earl J. Hess, of the *Oxford Handbook of the Civil War*. Her digital humanities project, which is mapping the escape and movement of 3,000 Federal prisoners of war, can be explored online at www.ehistory.org/projects/fugitive-federals.html.

Dr. Foote holds a B.A. from the University of Kansas and a Ph.D. from the University of Oklahoma. She previously taught at Middle Tennessee State University and the University of Central Arkansas, where she won the Teaching Excellence Award in 2010 as the outstanding teacher in the university. As the Director of Graduate Studies for the History Department at TAMU, she earned the program one of 25 grants awarded by the American Historical Association to transform graduate history education. She teaches undergraduate courses on the Civil War and graduate seminars in the field of War and Society. She has spoken about her work at a variety of national and local venues, including CSPAN3, the Civil War

Institute at Gettysburg College, the U.S. Capitol Historical Society, Andersonville National Historic Site, the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, and the Arkansas Literary Festival.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Mike Harrington

At our February meeting, we heard Dr. Catherine Clinton of UTSA speak on southern women in the Civil War. Dr. Clinton is a Cantab – a shorthand term for a graduate of Harvard College. After the meeting, I spoke briefly with another Cantab who was making his first appearance at one of our meetings in quite some time. I asked him if he had come to the meeting mainly to hear a fellow Cantab speak? He replied: “No, I came tonight because of the topic.” That answer was music to my ears, believe me.

It is always helpful to the officers of your Round Table to receive feedback from members about our choice of speakers and their topics. Gary Chandler and I are the officers most involved in selecting our speakers, and we strive to line up speakers on a variety of topics that are both informative and likely to pique the interest of our members. As an organization dedicated to the study of the Civil War, we never fail to bring in speakers each campaign who address specific battles or generals.

But we don't just line up speakers on battles or generals. Dr. Clinton's talk last month is an example of our attempt to broaden the focus of our Round Table presentations by bringing in experts on some of the social, economic, or political aspects of the war. Dr. Lorien Foote's upcoming talk on retaliation in the Trans-Mississippi theater is another example of a topic that transcends specific battles.

If there is some aspect of Civil War history that you think we are overlooking in our speaker lineup, please do not hesitate to bring it to Gary's or my attention. We would be glad to hear from you, just as I was from Dr. Clinton's fellow alum. Your interests are our interests!

As I indicated in the February newsletter, **A. Wilson Greene** has been named this year's recipient of the **Frank E. Vandiver Award of Merit**. Mr. Greene will be present at our May

meeting to accept the award and also to speak regarding the topic “Our Work Here Progresses Slowly: Grant’s Second Offensive at Petersburg.”

I would like to thank Vice-President Bobby Dover and his Vandiver Committee members (John Stevens, Gary Chandler, Jim Godlove, and Keith Altavilla) for their efforts in making this selection, which started out with 17 candidates under consideration!

MARCH QUIZ *By Jim Godlove*

Q: Retaliation in the Trans-Mississippi started well before the attack on Fort Sumter. One of the most famous and brutal incidents during “Bleeding Kansas” occurred on May 24, 1856. To avenge the sack of Lawrence, Kansas, eight antislavery men took five proslavery men from their cabins and killed them with broadswords.



Who was the leader of the “Pottawatomie Massacre”?

MEMBERSHIP REPORT *By Scott Wilkey*

When one thinks of the American Civil War west of the Mississippi, the state of Texas is not often considered a “hotbed” of history. However, upon closer examination, there are several sites within a day’s drive (or closer) where we can explore Texas’ rich history. From Sabine Pass to Galveston to Palmito Ranch, we can find several sites where prominent battles took place. Additionally, there are sites even closer to Houston that one can visit that speak to us over these many years. The HCWRT recently

“shared” a link on our Facebook page to Camp Groce at Liendo Plantation in Hempstead. Camp Groce was a Confederate camp of instruction, and later, a Union Prisoner of War site. It is of even greater interest that the famed General, George Armstrong Custer, and his equally famous wife, “Libbie”, spent some time in the area. Historians amongst our Round Table can even claim some authored membership. We’ll be posting some of our members’ works – along with information on how to purchase and support their efforts - on our social media pages in the near future (yes, you can view our social media pages even if you do not have an account).

There is not enough space here to chronicle the deep roots that Texas has to our shared Civil War history, but if you have a story about your travels or a place of special interest to you, please share it – we’d love to hear from you!

BOOK RAFFLE *By Donnie Stowe*

We start this month’s raffle with **TEAM OF RIVALS: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln** by Doris Kearns Goodwin. This book is a donation from Jim Godlove. Next in our lineup are two (2) items I’m raffling as one: **THE CIVIL WAR SOLDIER** by Angus Konstam & **AMERICAN CIVIL WAR ARMIES (4): STATE TROOPS**. This is an Osprey publication with text by Philip Katcher. The third book this



month is **BRAWLING BRASS: The Most Famous Quarrels of the Civil War** by the late and great Colonel Harold B. Simpson (Founder & Director of the Harold B. Simpson-Hill College

History Complex). The fourth selection is **THE CIVIL WAR** by Robert Paul Jordan: I believe this volume was donated by Ed Cotham. The final book this month is **AMERICAN BRUTUS: John Wilkes Booth and the Lincoln Conspiracies** by Michael W. Kauffman.

THE HOUSTON CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

2018 - 2019 SPEAKERS CAMPAIGN – THE HESS CLUB

- 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 A. Wilson Greene, 2019 Vandiver Award Recipient: *“Our Work Here Progresses Slowly: Grant’s Second Offensive at Petersburg”*

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