



www.HoustonCivilWar.com

General Orders

Harrington's Brigade

Vol. 30
No. 10
May
2019

MAY, 2019 MEETING
Thursday, May 16, 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 bgrueg@aol.com or
call (281) 480-1130 by 6 pm Monday, May 13, 2019

Dinner \$32; Lecture Only \$10

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

The HCWRT Presents A. Wilson **Greene Speaking On:**

***“The Capture of Petersburg Bids Fair
to be Tedious’: Grant’s Second
Petersburg Offensive”***

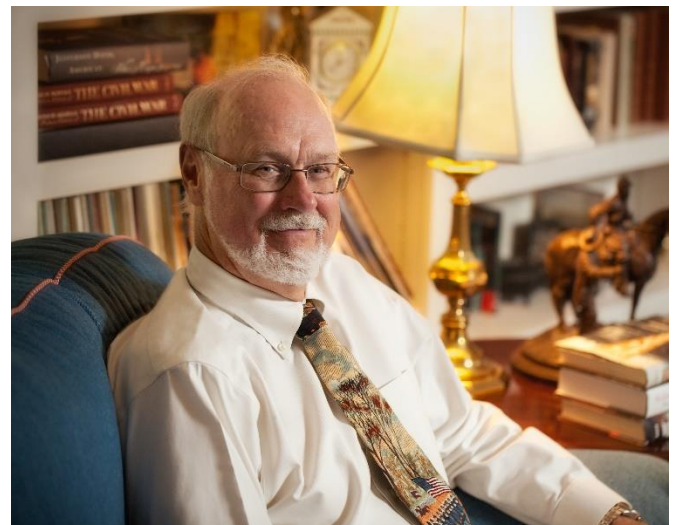
Ulysses S. Grant's army group--the Army of the Potomac and the Army of the James--failed in its efforts to bull its way into strategic Petersburg, Virginia between June 15 and 18, 1864. Styled the First Petersburg Offensive, this series of bloody battles persuaded some in the Federal armies that the time to implement siege operations had arrived. Grant disagreed.

On June 20, he hatched a plan that, if successful, would isolate Petersburg from its supply lines and communications and force Robert E. Lee to abandon the city. This operation--the least known major aspect of the

Petersburg Campaign--would be called Grant's Second Petersburg Offensive.

Grant would use a combination of a two-corps infantry offensive and a massive cavalry raid to accomplish his goal. The Union II Corps and VI Corps would shift to the west, sever Petersburg's connections with the Petersburg (and Weldon) Railroad and the South Side Railroad, and anchor themselves on the Appomattox River above the city. Meanwhile, two divisions of cavalry led by Grant's young protégé, James Harrison Wilson, received the assignment of riding at least fifty miles west of Petersburg to disable three railroads serving Richmond and Petersburg.

Will Greene will explore the engagements known as the Battle of Jerusalem Plank Road and the Wilson-Kautz Raid and explain why Grant's elaborate plan failed. These topics are a part of his recent book, *A Campaign of Giants: The Battle for Petersburg, Volume 1*, which was just named the best book of American Military History for 2018 by the Society for Military History.



A Wilson Greene – Photo by Tina Harris

About A. Wilson Greene

A. Wilson (Will) Greene is a native of Chicago and was raised in Wheaton, Illinois. He received a B.A. in American History at Florida State University and M.A. in History at Louisiana State University.

Will Greene served as Executive Director of Pamplin Historical Park and the National Museum of the Civil War Soldier, Petersburg, VA, retiring in 2017. From 1990 to 1994, he was President and Executive Director, Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites (now the Civil War Trust). Will's prior career included sixteen years as historian and manager with the National Park Service, including assignments at Fredericksburg National Military Park and Petersburg National Battlefield.

Will is the author of several books, such as: *The Second Manassas Campaign*, *Breaking the Backbone of the Rebellion: The Final Battles of the Petersburg Campaign*, *Civil War Petersburg: Confederate City in the Crucible of War*, and *A Campaign of Giants: The Battle for Petersburg, Volume 1: From the Crossing of the James through the Battle of the Crater*, published in 2018. He has published over 20 articles in history journals and contributed to such books as the National Geographic *Guide to Civil War Battlefield Parks* and *Conservation Fund Guide to Civil War Battlefields*.

He is a frequent study leader, tour leader, and speaker covering all major Civil War campaigns. Will has spoken to more than 100 Civil War Round Tables, **including the HCWRT**, and led many tours for history groups ranging from the Smithsonian Institute to the Delta Queen Steamboat Company, Blue and Gray Education Society, and Civil War Society. He has participated in many symposia and seminars nationwide.

His memberships include: National Advisory Board, Civil War Preservation Trust; Board, Institute of Museum and Library Services (Presidential appointment); and Board, Society of Civil War Historians. His numerous awards include: Outstanding Southerner by *Southern Living* magazine; Austin CWRT Laney Award for Outstanding Book on Civil War History (*Civil War*

Petersburg); D. H. Hill Award, North Carolina Civil War Round Table; Nevins-Freeman Award, Chicago Civil War Round Table; Shelby Foote Preservationist Legacy Award, Civil War Trust; Atlanta CWRT Award, and National History Book Prize..

Will's other Interests include international travel, golf, and minor league hockey.

Vandiver Award to be Presented to A. Wilson Greene

The Houston Civil War Round Table is honored that that the **2019 Frank E. Vandiver Award of Merit** will be presented to **A. Wilson Greene** at the May meeting.

Since 1982, the HCWRT has presented its prestigious Frank E. Vandiver Award of Merit annually in recognition of an individual or an organization making a substantial contribution to the preservation of our Civil War heritage. The Vandiver Award is named for the late Civil War historian and former President of Texas A&M University, the University of North Texas, and Rice University, who also was one of the earliest members of the HCWRT.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *By Mike Harrington*

Our 2018-29 campaign will come to an end with the upcoming meeting on May 16. In addition to the election of officers and directors for the next campaign, we will present the **Frank Vandiver Award of Merit to Will Greene** and

hear his presentation on Grant's Second Offensive at Petersburg. It should be a fitting conclusion to a campaign that has afforded our members the opportunity to learn from experts on a wide variety of subjects pertinent to the Civil War. Our speakers' topics have run the gamut this campaign from land battles (Franklin, Brice's Crossroads and Petersburg), to prominent commanders (John Bell Hood and Samuel Du Pont), to the war on blue water (Admirals Semmes and Winslow at Cherbourg), to socio-political topics (Southern women in the war and the war for the common soldier) and to the military doctrine of retaliation. Likewise, our presenters came to us from a variety of backgrounds, including college history professors, National Park Service historians and independent scholars.

Next year's campaign promises to be just as interesting, as you can see from the lineup of speakers and their topics near the end of this newsletter. If our Round Table is to continue to host such outstanding speakers, we **need the support of all of our members**. You may demonstrate that support by completing and submitting the Membership Application form included in this newsletter and paying your dues, preferably before our kickoff meeting in September.

It has been my pleasure and my privilege to have served as your President during the current campaign. I am especially grateful that a loyal group of long-term "veteran" members continues to support HCWRT financially and to attend our meetings. It is equally gratifying to see a healthy infusion of new members to our Round Table, a tribute to both the strong leadership of the Membership and Communications Committee and to the efforts of individuals to bring new members to HCWRT.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

By Scott Wilkey

Wow, what a campaign it has been (it seems like I say that every year...). We've hosted fantastic speakers and delved heavily into parts of the American Civil War that I personally learned a great deal about. We hope you feel the

same way. Not to mention that we are closing this season out with a literal legend in the field,

A. Wilson Greene!

Mr. Greene has had a busy year, having completed his first of three volumes on the Petersburg campaign and being a guest on numerous web sites, blogs, seminars, videos, Round Table meetings and forums – just to name a few. We'll be highlighting his tireless work in the coming weeks, so be sure to "Like" our social media page. It is our privilege to be honoring him with our "**Frank E. Vandiver Award of Merit**" this year.

The membership committee also wants to extend a sincere thank you to all the HCWRT board members who helped make this banner year possible. More importantly, we want to thank our membership – without your enthusiasm and support, the HCWRT would have a very difficult time fulfilling our mission, "to promote impartial inquiry, study, and education about the period of the American Civil War and its causes and aftermath."

It's never too early to renew your membership for the upcoming "campaign", so we have placed a membership renewal application in this edition of the newsletter as a gentle reminder. Your dues will ensure our "2019-2020 campaign" gets off to a great start. Over the coming months, many of you will be traveling to a variety of historical sites, including those linked with the American Civil War. Inevitably, you'll meet other folks with the same passion for the preservation and study of these hallowed grounds. We hope you'll keep the HCWRT in mind and help further publicize our organization when those opportunities arise. Please be sure to share our newsletter and membership form during your travels. When we next meet, we'll hopefully see some new faces mixed with those of our "veteran" members. "Safe travels", and we'll see you in September!

NOMINEES FOR 2019-2020 Board of Directors Election, May 16

As published in the April newsletter and announced at our last meeting, the nominees for election to the 2019-2020 Board of Directors at our May meeting are:

Officers:

- President – Mike Harrington**
- Vice President – Eugene Boisubin**
- Secretary – John Stevens**
- Treasurer - Barry Brueggeman**

Directors:

- Keith Altavilla**
- Roland Bienvenu**
- Scott Wilkey**
- Don Zuckero**
- Immed. Past President – Jim Godlove**

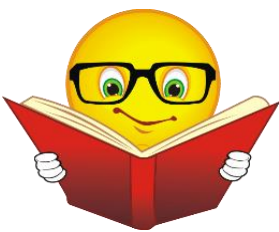


October 2004 HCWRT Field Trip with Ed Bearss on Fisher's Hill Battlefield in Virginia near the "Witness Tree"

BOOK RAFFLE

By Donnie Stowe

We start this month's raffle with **McCLERNAND – Politician in Uniform** by Richard L. Kiper. General John McClelland led union troops in battles at Fort Donelson, Shiloh, Arkansas Post and Vicksburg. Next in our lineup is **MOTHER MAY YOU NEVER SEE THE SIGHTS I HAVE SEEN** by Warren Wilkinson.



This book relates the unit history of the 57th Massachusetts Veteran Volunteers in the last year of the Civil War. The third book this month is **ROBERT E. LEE** by

Emory M. Thomas. The fourth selection is **BATTLES OF THE CIVIL WAR 1861-1865 from Fort Sumter to Petersburg**. The final book this month is from Dr. Joseph Goulding's collection. It is **IN DEADLY EARNEST** by Phil Gottschalk. It

is the first comprehensive history of Cockrell's Missouri Brigade.

Members are encouraged, as always, to donate some of your well read books to contribute a valuable support to the HCWRT raffle.

WANTED: YOUR SUBMISSIONS

By Roland Bienvenu

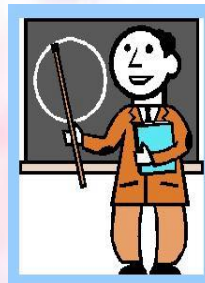
Our members are both welcome and encouraged to submit articles to the newsletter editor that they feel would be of interest to the HCWRT membership. Possibilities include, but are not necessarily limited to, book reviews, reviews of Civil War museums/sites, and poetry. Additionally, if you are interested in serving as Newsletter Editor for the 2019 – 2020 campaign, please contact Roland Bienvenu at the e-mail address given below.

Your inquiries and/or submissions may be sent to NewsLetter@HoustonCivilWar.com.

MAY QUIZ

By Jim Godlove

Q. Grant's second offensive at Petersburg included a cavalry raid involving units from the Army of the Potomac and the Army of the James. The troopers of the Army of the James were under the command of Gen. August V. Kautz. Those from the Army of the Potomac were under the command of one of the "boy generals" of the Civil War who had graduated from West Point in 1860.



Who was this former member of Grant's staff who in 1912 published the book *Under the Old Flag*?



HOUSTON CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

The Houston Civil War Round Table is dedicated to the study of the civilian, military, and cultural aspects of United States history during the period of 1861 – 1865 and to the preservation of historical sites and artifacts. For additional copies of this form please go to www.HoustonCivilWar.com

Membership Type

(CHECK ONE BOX ONLY.)

- \$50 – Individual
- \$60 – Family
- \$25 – Student/Faculty or Out-of-Town
- Existing Member - Address / Information Update Only

JOINING BETWEEN JANUARY 1 AND MAY 31

NON-RENEWING members joining in the months of January through May will automatically be enrolled as members for the current and following year's speaker series ("campaign").

Name: _____
(FIRST, MIDDLE, LAST)

Address: _____

City: _____ St _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____ Cell Home Work

Email Address: _____

In which format would you like to receive your newsletter?

- Email (PDF)
- U.S. Postal Service (Printed)

How did you learn about us? _____

FOR FAMILY MEMBERSHIPS ONLY

Family Member Name: _____
(FIRST, MIDDLE, LAST)

Relationship to Applicant: _____

Phone: _____ Cell Home Work

Email Address: _____

Note: For memberships or subscriptions outside the U.S., extra cost of postage to mail the newsletter may be added. Cost will vary; please write or email to inquire.

Mail your completed application and dues to: **Houston Civil War Round Table**
C/O Barry G. Brueggeman
3706 Lonniewood Drive
Houston, TX 77059

2018 - 2019 SPEAKERS CAMPAIGN – THE HESS CLUB

May 16, 2019 A. Wilson Greene, 2019 Vandiver Award Recipient: “The Capture of Petersburg Bids Fair to be Tedious’: Grant’s Second Petersburg Offensive”

2019 - 2020 SPEAKERS CAMPAIGN – THE HESS CLUB

Sep. 19, 2019 Brian Steele Wills: *“Inglorious Passages: Noncombat Deaths in the American Civil War”*

Oct. 17, 2019 Thomas A. Pressly: *“Held in the Highest Esteem by All”*

Nov. 21, 2019 Dennis Frye: *“Antietam Shadows: Mystery, Myth & Machination”*

Dec. 12, 2019 Michael Parrish: *“The Vital Importance of Texas in the Civil War”*

Jan. 16, 2020 TBD

Feb. 20, 2020 Scott C. Patchan: *“Second Manassas: Longstreet’s Attack”*

Mar. 19, 2020 Stephen Kinnaman: *“Merrimack: Biography of a Steam Frigate”*

Apr. 16, 2020 Lorien Foote: *“The Dogs of War”*

May 21, 2020 TBD (HOLDING FOR 2020 VANDIVER AWARD RECIPIENT)

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c/o Barry G. Brueggeman
3706 Lonnie Wood Drive
Houston, TX 77059

