



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

# General Orders

## Harrington's Brigade

Vol. 31  
No. 2  
Sept.  
2019

**SEPTEMBER, 2019 MEETING**  
**Thursday, September 19, 2019**

**The HESS Club**  
**5430 Westheimer Rd @ Westheimer Way**  
**6:00 Cash Bar**  
**6:45 Dinner & Meeting**  
**7:30 Program Begins**

**E-mail reservations are preferred. Please E-mail Don Zuckero at [drzuckero@sbcglobal.net](mailto:drzuckero@sbcglobal.net) or call 281 479-1232 by 6 pm Monday, September 16, 2019**

**Dinner \$32.00, Lecture only \$10.00**

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

**The HCWRT Presents**  
**Brian Steel Wills Speaking on:**

***“Inglorious Passages: Noncombat Deaths in the American Civil War”***

All wars exact terrible tolls on their participants. The American Civil War proved exceptionally brutal. Yet, so many of those who perished during the hostilities, soldiers and civilians alike, did so from effects that occurred beyond the deliberate fire of the opposing forces. The letters, diaries, journals and newspaper accounts from individuals on both sides recorded the results of such perils, often in poignant and dramatic fashion, as disease and accident added to the ever-lengthening lists of the dead.

Cold statistics, when they existed, have tended to shift away from the intensely personal aspects of these fatalities. However, the losses were just as real to the family members who would not see loved ones returning home. Indeed, some comrades feared that the focus on memorializing those who fell in combat would obscure the “inglorious passages” of so many more of those who also paid the ultimate sacrifice in the service to their respective causes.

Every form of mortal danger added to the staggering totals, ranging from murder, suicide, “friendly fire,” drowning, lightning strikes and sunstroke to railroad, steamboat and other transportation accidents and mishaps. Individuals were not immune to death from preventable blunders and missteps or equipment failures. For civilians the impacts could be just as devastating, from unintended battlefield incidents to factory explosions and other accidents occurring in the course of their roles in support of the military operations. Taken together, the undoubted real cost of the conflict far surpasses the traditional numbers for mortality in the cataclysm that the Civil War represented.



**Brian Steel Wills**

## About Brian Steel Wills

Brian Steel Wills is the Director of the Center for the Study of the Civil War Era and Professor of History at Kennesaw State University in Kennesaw, Ga. Dr. Wills is a member of the Georgia Civil War Commission and current President of the Atlanta Civil War Round Table. He is also the author of numerous works relating to the American Civil War. His latest publication *Inglorious Passages: Noncombat Deaths in the American Civil War* (Kansas, 2017) received the 2018 Richard Barksdale Harwell Award for the best book on a Civil War topic for the year 2017. This award is presented by the Atlanta Civil War Round Table.

His biography of Confederate General Nathan Bedford Forrest, *A Battle From the Start: The Life of Nathan Bedford Forrest* (HarperCollins) is currently in reprint as *The Confederacy's Greatest Cavalryman: Nathan Bedford Forrest* (Kansas). This work was chosen as both a History Book Club selection and a Book of the Month Club selection.

His other titles include *The River was Dyed with Blood: Nathan Bedford Forrest and Fort Pillow* (Oklahoma, 2014); *Confederate General William Dorsey Pender: The Hope of Glory* (Louisiana State University, 2013); *George Henry Thomas: As True as Steel* (Kansas, 2012), which was the recipient of the 2013 Harwell Award; *Gone with the Glory: The Civil War in Cinema* (Rowman and Littlefield, 2006); *The War Hits Home: The Civil War in Southeastern Virginia* (Virginia, 2001) and an updated edition of the James I. "Bud" Robertson, Jr., *Civil War Sites in Virginia* (Virginia, 2011).

In 2000, Dr. Wills received the Outstanding Faculty Award from the Commonwealth of Virginia, one of eleven recipients from all faculty members at public and private institutions across the state.

Brian Wills is one of our most popular speakers. He has appeared before our Round Table several times in recent years, and hosted our 2015 Fall Field Trip of the Atlanta campaign. His talks are always a treat – powerful, interesting, and witty.



## COMMANDER'S CORNER

*By Mike Harrington*

I trust that you all had an enjoyable summer and are ready to embark on a new campaign season with the Houston Civil War Round Table. Thanks in large part to the unstinting efforts of our Programs Chair, Gary Chandler, a sterling group of speakers is on tap for the new campaign.

This month, the ever popular Brian Steel Wills returns to Houston to speak to us about noncombat deaths in the Civil War, a topic that is novel to me and, I suspect, to most of you, too. If you have heard Dr. Wills speak, you already know that his talks are as entertaining as they are informative.

So please join me and the other officers of your Round Table as we kick off another campaign at the HESS Club on September 19.

Finally, I would like to remind our members to make reservations for the meeting -- whether for dinner or just attending. Some have failed to do so in the past, and this has resulted in additional charges from the HESS Club. Further, if you find you cannot attend after making a reservation, please cancel your reservation by the stated deadline, if possible. This will enable us to provide an accurate dinner count to the HESS Club and avoid additional charges. If you make a dinner reservation and fail to cancel in time, you are

responsible for the dinner charge. Remember also to check the meeting announcement in each newsletter to know whom to contact for reservations. Don Zuckero is handling reservations for September; his contact information can be found in the box on the first page.

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

*By Keith Altavilla*

Greetings to all Round Table members present and future. I hope you are as excited as I am about the upcoming campaign. Brian Steel Wills' talk on noncombat deaths promises to be a fascinating way to view the conflict. It might even be a good way to introduce a friend (who may be worried about "just another battle talk"), or even re-introduce yourself, to the Round Table this year.

The Membership Committee is once again going to work hard in serving our members, including getting name tags for new members, and perhaps even new ones for those that need replacing. Membership recruitment, though, is really a job for all members. Anything you can do to bring in friends or other history buffs is helpful to us. Getting people in the door is that important first step to gaining new members for all of us to meet, new members like Rick and Jane Mumej, who we are happy to see join our ranks.

With our first meeting just around the corner, we once again urge you to make sure your membership is renewed for the 2019-20 campaign. You can mail your check to Treasurer Barry Brueggeman. For your convenience, a membership application is provided on page 5 of this newsletter. You can also bring the money to the meeting. Even if you are not able to make all the meetings this year, your continued membership will ensure that you are sent the newsletter every month as a reminder. Those dues are also a great help which enable us to continue bringing in great speakers like Brian Steel Willis, continuing the Round Table not just for this year, but in the years to come. Looking forward to seeing everyone again on the 19th!



*HCWRT members at last month's Jefferson Symposium*

## BOOK RAFFLE

*By Donnie Stowe*

I wish to welcome everyone back to the start of another wonderful campaign with the HCWRT. And since our first speaker is Brian S. Wills, I'm starting the raffle with **A BATTLE FROM THE START** by Brian. It is, of course, about the life and times of Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest and has no author's signage in it yet! This wonderful volume is a donation from Jim Godlove (past president). Next in our lineup is the **CIVIL WAR BATTLEFIELDS THEN AND NOW** by James Campi Jr. and is from member Neil Weaver. The third book this month

is **REBELS FROM WEST POINT** by Gerard A. Patterson.

This is about the 306 graduates from the United States Military Academy that led the Confederacy and is a



gift from the Jefferson Davis Association/Rice University c/o Lynda Crist. The fourth selection is **JEB STUART: THE LAST CAVALIER** by Burke Davis. This book is from the library of past president Nate Jennings. The fifth book in this month's raffle is **The ENCYCLOPEDIA OF CIVIL WAR USAGE** by Webb Garrison with Cheryl Garrison. This book is an illustrated compendium of the everyday language of soldiers and civilians.

As always, if anyone has some well read books still in good condition, then the HCWRT Raffle would be a great place to donate them!

## CIVIL WAR TRUST

Threats to Virginia's Civil War sites, particularly the almost complete loss of the battlefield at Chantilly, in the mid-1980s gave birth to the modern battlefield preservation movement. Historians and private citizens began working together to secure important properties and work with communities to find win-win solutions that appropriately balance preservation and development.

In 1999, the Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites (founded in 1987) and the Civil War Trust (founded in 1991 as the American Battlefield Preservation Foundation) merged to become the Civil War Preservation Trust, which grew to become the most successful private heritage land protection organization in American history. At the outset of the war's sesquicentennial commemoration in 2011, the organization changed its name to the Civil War Trust to better reflect its growing commitment to ensuring high-quality history education on the field, in classrooms and online.

Today, the Civil War Trust remains the principal land preservation division of the American Battlefield Trust. This reflects not only the organization's commitment to its roots, but also the significant number of these battlefields in relation to other conflicts, their larger size and the availability of preservation opportunities.

Through the Trust's efforts, more than 50,000 acres of battlefield land in 24 states have been saved, including 74 acres of land at the sites of the 1863 battles of Chancellorsville, Brandy Station, and Champion Hill, forever protecting this hallowed land from development,

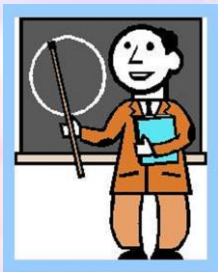
For additional information regarding the Civil War Trust, visit [battlefields.org](http://battlefields.org) or call (202) 367-1861.



### SEPTEMBER QUIZ

*By Jim Godlove*

April 27, 1865 saw the deaths of more Union troops than in any single battle other than Antietam, Gettysburg, the Wilderness, and Spotsylvania Courthouse.



***What was the name of the disaster that saw between 1500 and 1800 Union soldiers killed?***

### THIS MONTH IN CIVIL WAR HISTORY

**Sept. 2, 1862** – Major General George McClellan restored to command in Virginia.

**Sept. 2, 1864** – Federal army enters Atlanta

**Sept. 4, 1864** – John Hunt Morgan killed in Greeneville, Tennessee

**Sept. 6, 1861** – Federal forces seize Paducah, Kentucky

**Sept. 8, 1863** – Confederates repulse attack at Sabine Pass, Texas

**Sept. 12 to 15, 1861** – Battle of Cheat Mountain, Virginia (now West Virginia)

**Sept. 17, 1862** – Battle of Antietam, Maryland

**Sept. 19 and 20, 1863** - Battle of Chickamauga, Georgia

**Sept. 22, 1862** – President Lincoln issues his Preliminary Emancipation Proclamation

**Sept. 27, 1864** - Battle of Pilot Knob (Fort Davidson) Missouri



# 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](http://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

## 2019 - 2020 SPEAKERS CAMPAIGN – THE HESS CLUB

- Sep. 19, 2019 Brian Steel 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 Steve Davis: *“George Barnard: Photographer of Civil War Atlanta”*
- Dec. 12, 2019 Michael Parrish: *“The Vital Importance of Texas in the Civil War”*
- Jan. 16, 2020 Don Frazier: *“The Houston Campaign, 1863”*
- 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)

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



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

