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General Orders

Harrington's Brigade

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2019

OCTOBER, 2019 MEETING
Thursday, October 17, 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 Barry Brueggeman at bgbrueg@aol.com or call 281 480-1130 by 6 pm Monday, October 14, 2019

Dinner \$32.00, Lecture only \$10.00

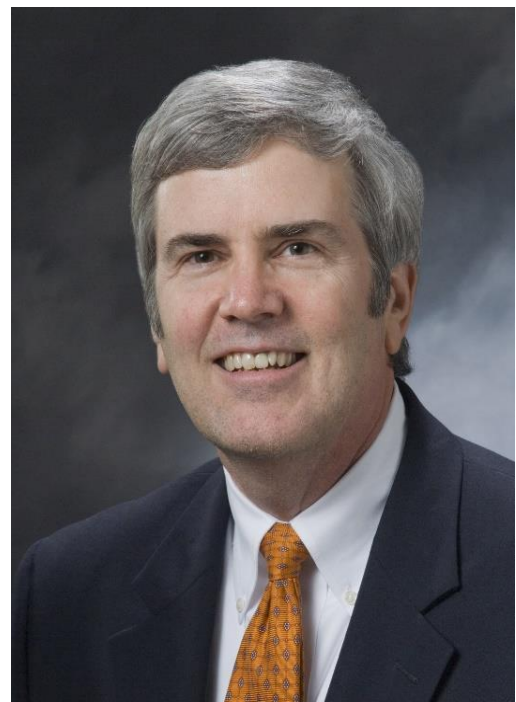
***** Reservations are Required *****
FOR BOTH DINNER and LECTURE ONLY

The HCWRT Presents
Dr. Thomas Pressly Speaking
on:

***“Held in the Highest Esteem by All:
The Civil War Letters of Corporal
William B. Chilvers, 95th Illinois
Infantry”***

Relatively few rank-and-file Civil War soldiers left an extensive written record of their service. One such soldier, William Burnham Chilvers of the 95th Illinois Infantry, is a major exception to this rule. The 170 surviving letters written between Will Chilvers and family members in Illinois and England tell fascinating stories of massacres, combat, and idealism in the face of the brutal realities of war.

As an orphan growing up in Victorian England, Will Chilvers did not have parents to coach him through his journey of life, a journey that eventually took him across the Atlantic to the United States. Shortly after immigrating to the United States, he found a home in the army and campaigned with the 95th Illinois Infantry. Years of hard marching and tough fighting carried him through the Vicksburg Campaign and into Louisiana and the Red River Campaign. He served at Brice's Cross Roads (Mississippi), in Missouri, then at Nashville, before finishing his career assaulting the Confederate works near Mobile, Alabama. Through it all, Chilvers was a strong abolitionist and sympathetic to the plight of slaves. He wrote about the atrocities faced by African Americans at the hands of Southern whites — as well as by his fellow Union soldiers.



Dr. Thomas A. Pressly

Students of the Civil War are fortunate that Chilvers' correspondence fell into the hands of Dr. Thomas Pressly a few years ago. Together with his co-editor, Dr. Gary Joiner, an expert on the Red River Campaign, Dr. Pressly has skillfully edited and published this correspondence. Dr. Pressly's presentation to our Round Table will center on the development of this remarkable man, Will Chilvers, and how his compassion and humanity rose above the ugliness of the Civil War.

About Dr. Thomas A. Pressly

Thomas A. Pressly III is a rheumatologist in private practice at Shriners Hospital for Children in Shreveport, Louisiana. A native of San Antonio, Tom Pressly graduated from Alamo Heights High School. He obtained his M. D. in 1983 from the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio. Following his medical residency, in 1988 Dr. Pressly took up permanent residency in Louisiana.

Dr. Pressly has a life-long interest in Civil War history. His work in historical medical forensics has been featured on the PBS program *History Detectives* dealing with Civil War female soldiers. His work has also been the subject of articles in *Louisiana Cultural Vistas*, including one titled "The Louisiana State Museum Acquires an Artifact Discovered by a Shreveport Collector on E-Bay."

He serves as program coordinator for the North Louisiana Civil War Round Table, and is an advisor to the board of the Jefferson Historical Society & Museum in Jefferson, Texas.

Dr. Pressly's first publication is the topic of his presentation to our Round Table, *Held in the Highest Esteem By All: The Civil War Letters of Corporal William B. Chilvers, 95th Illinois Infantry*, published in May 2017.



COMMANDER'S CORNER

By Mike Harrington

Mother Nature frowned on HCWRT on September 19, when we were scheduled to open this year's campaign. Flooding in the Houston area caused us to cancel the meeting, the first time such a thing has happened since Hurricane Ike in September 2008. However, our September speaker, Brian Wills, has agreed to present at our May 21, 2020 meeting.

Hopefully, the weather will not prevent our gathering at HESS Club on Thursday, October 17, to hear a lively presentation by Dr. Thomas Pressly respecting the Civil War experiences of Will Chilvers, an enlisted man in the 95th Illinois Infantry. Dr. Pressly practices medicine in Shreveport, Louisiana, but he is a native of the Alamo City. A big turnout by our Round Table to welcome Dr. Pressly back to Texas would be most fitting and hospitable.

As a gentle reminder, please remember to make a reservation if you are attending the October meeting. Even if you're not dining with us and just sitting in on the presentation, it is still important that we hear from you by 6 pm on Monday, October 14.

Our Programs Chair and former President, Gary Chandler, had his gall bladder removed on September 25. The operation was a success, and we are delighted that Gary is now good for another 10,000 miles.



MEMBERSHIP REPORT

By Keith Altavilla

Hello fellow Round Table members, and all potential future members! It was disappointing to see our last meeting washed out, but hopefully everyone was able to stay high and dry. Don't let that missed meeting deter you from joining us for the rest of the year's campaign. I am certainly looking forward to a biographical focus from this month's speaker. Seeing an event like the Civil War through the eyes of one individual, no matter how small he may seem, really grounds you not just in what happened, but what it was like to experience it.

Just as one man could play a part in the war's great historical drama, so too can each member help keep the Round Table growing. This may seem a bit of a stretch, but what really isn't is the impact each of us has on the group. The committee and board are always looking for ways to get membership involved, so if you've ever wondered what you can do to help, just ask! Even just one guest brought along every month can help us maintain these great opportunities for us all. Recruitment is everyone's job, and getting folks in the door to experience our good times is the most important step.

Just as we planned for September, membership committee members will be on hand to help collect renewal dues. If you don't want to wait until the meeting, go ahead and mail your dues in to make sure you continue to receive the newsletter. Even if you cannot make every meeting, having that monthly reminder never hurts! Getting the quiz question in advance is a nice bonus too. Those dues are also a great help that allows us to continue

bringing in great speakers like Thomas Pressly, continuing the Round Table not just for this year, but in the years to come. Looking forward to seeing everyone again on the 17th!

OCTOBER QUIZ

By Jim Godlove

William B. Chilvers was a member of the 95th Illinois Infantry. During the Vicksburg campaign, this unit was assigned to the XVII Corps. The commander of the XVII Corps was later promoted to command the Army of the Tennessee.



Who was this Ohio native who was killed in battle on July 22, 1864?

BOOK RAFFLE

By Donnie Stowe

I hope everyone remained dry last month when we cancelled the meeting due to flooding. To begin our raffle this month, we have **WHO WAS WHO IN THE CIVIL WAR** edited by John S. Bowman. This great volume has alphabetically arranged some 520 mini



biographies of the Civil War's most noteworthy figures. Next in our lineup is **THE FATE of TEXAS – The Civil War and the Lone Star State** edited by Charles D. Gear and from the library of Neil Weaver. The third book this month is **RICHMOND REDEEMED – The Siege at Petersburg** by the late Richard J. Sommers. As many may recall, Dick Sommers was our

Vandiver Award recipient and speaker who regrettably passed away last year. This book is signed by the author/historian, which should make it a memorable keepsake! The fourth book is **LINCOLN at GETTYSBURG – The Words that Remade America** by Garry Wills. Also in this month's raffle is **AMERICA and the CIVIL WAR ERA 1850 - 1875** by Fon W. Boardman, Jr. This volume was donated to us by Ed Cotham, Jr. Our final volume is **GETTYSBURG – A JOURNEY IN TIME** by William A. Frassanito. This piece of work recreates, through photographs, the history of this great battlefield.

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.

“GIANTS OF THE TEXAS CONFEDERACY”

Hood's Texas Brigade Association, Re-activated, is sponsoring its 11th annual scholarly seminar on Friday and Saturday, November 15 and 16, 2019. The theme of this seminar is “Giants of the Texas Confederacy.”

A reception will take place Friday night from 6 to 8 pm at the Texas Civil War Museum, which is located at 760 Jim Wright Freeway N. in Ft. Worth, Texas, 76108. The \$35.00 fee for this reception will include light refreshments and a tour of the museum.

Saturday's seminar will take place at the Norris Bible Center, located at 724 Jim Wright Freeway, Ft. Worth, 76108. Registration will be from 8 to 9 am, and the seminar, which includes lunch, is from 9 am to 5 pm. The seminar will also feature speaker book signings, vendors, and exhibits. Cost for the seminar will be \$60.00.

Speakers and topics include Dr. David B. Gracy, “Major Littlefield and the Preservation of Confederate Memory”; Dr. Richard McCaslin, “Francis R. Lubbock and John H. Reagan: To the Bitter End”; Joseph Ricci, “At War and Peace with General John Bell Hood”; and our own John Stevens, “Average Two Scars to the Man: Four Watts Boys of Anderson County, Co. G, 1st Regiment, Hood's Texas Brigade.”

A block of hotel rooms has been reserved at the Best Western Hotel near the museum; the address is 201 W. Loop 820 N., Ft. Worth. Their phone number is (817) 246-8777. A limited number of rooms are available on November 15 and 16 for approximately \$88.00 per night, tax included.

Registration deadline is November 1. For additional information, contact Martha Hartzog at (512) 431-2682 or e-mail her at m.hartzog@mail.utexas.edu.

KEY FIGURES IN THE CIVIL WAR



General Thomas Green

Tom Green was an American soldier and lawyer who took part in the Texas Revolution of 1835-36, serving under Sam Houston, who rewarded him with a land grant. Green was clerk of the Texas Supreme Court until the outbreak of the Civil War, when he became a Confederate cavalry leader. After winning several victories, including the Battle of Valverde and the recapture of Galveston, he was promoted to Brigadier General and assigned command of the cavalry division of the Trans-Mississippi Department. Green led his cavalry division to Louisiana to reinforce General Richard Taylor and help stop the advance of Union General Nathaniel Banks toward Shreveport. On April 12, 1864, he was mortally wounded while charging a fleet of Federal gunboats.

THIS MONTH IN CIVIL WAR HISTORY

October 3, 1861 - Battle of Greenbrier River (Camp Bartow), Virginia (now West Virginia)

October 3, 1862 - Battle of Corinth, Mississippi

October 8, 1862 - Battle of Perryville (Chaplin Hills), Kentucky

October 14, 1863 - Battle of Bristoe Station, Virginia

October 19, 1864 - Battle of Cedar Creek (Belle Grove), Virginia

October 19, 1864 - Raid on St. Albans, Vermont

October 21, 1861 - Battle of Ball's Bluff (Leesburg), Virginia

October 24, 1862 - Union Major General William Rosecrans replaces Major General Don Carlos Buell as commander of the Army of the Ohio

THIRD CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE CONGRESS *By Eugene Boisaubin*

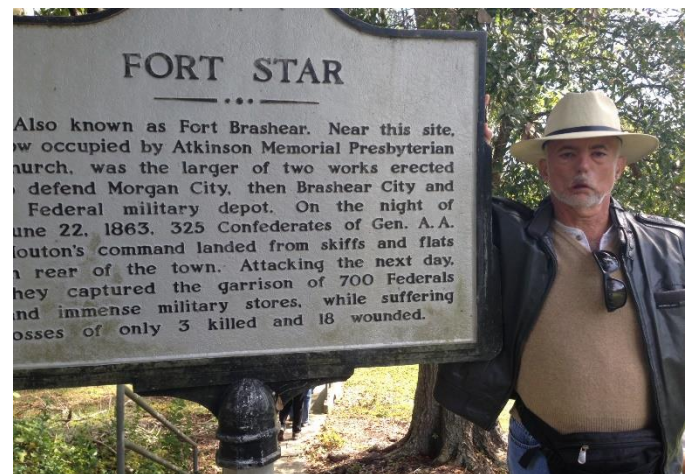
The Congress was held in St. Louis, Missouri, from September 20-22, 2019 at the Missouri Civil War Museum at Jefferson Barracks and hosted by the CWRT of St. Louis and Mark Trout. Jefferson Barracks was a major U.S. Army training fort from the time of the Civil War through World War II. A final number of attendees has not yet been provided, but about forty CWRTs from across America were present. Donnie Stowe and I represented the HCWRT.

The Friday evening session was dominated by a moving presentation of "Grant - The Desperate Years" as portrayed by E.C. Fields, Jr., PhD, an actor nationally acclaimed for his role as U.S. Grant. Saturday began with "CWRTs and Battlefield Preservations" by Adam Gillenwater of the American Battlefield Trust, describing how CWRTs can be actively involved in local or regional battlefield preservation. This was followed by a detailed

presentation of "The Growing Scottsdale CWRT" by President John Bamerl. This is one of the largest and most active CWRTs in the country. John emphasized that the 'best marketing device is happy members', so they make efforts to meet their members' needs through phone calls and surveys.

After lunch, and in response to last year's request to include more CWRTs in discussions, a series of breakout sessions was organized where groups of eight to ten members met with national leaders to ask questions and discuss their own programs. After concluding the breakout session reports, Mike Movius discussed 'Observations and Challenges for Round Tables', including establishing their round table as a 501(c) organization, fund raising opportunities, and identifying new speakers. After dinner, Jim Erwin, a Missouri college historian, gave an informative lecture from his book, "*Guerillas in Civil War Missouri*". Sunday morning offered attendees the opportunity to visit either the Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery or the U.S. Grant National Historic Site.

This meeting, like the one in 2018, offered an excellent opportunity for members to network, as well as to listen to the reports and experiences of a number of very active CWRTs. One of the best new sites available for CW material and contacts is "cwr.congress.org" which now has detailed lists of many CWRTs throughout the country, and recommended potential speakers.



Roland Bienvenu at site of Fort Star during 2017 fall field trip to Louisiana

2019 - 2020 SPEAKERS CAMPAIGN – THE HESS CLUB

Oct. 17, 2019	Thomas A. Pressly: <i>“Held in the Highest Esteem by All: The Civil War Letters of Corporal William B. Chilvers, 95th Illinois Infantry”</i>
Nov. 21, 2019	Steve Davis: <i>“George Barnard: Photographer of Civil War Atlanta”</i>
Dec. 12, 2019	Michael Parrish: <i>“The Vital Importance of Texas in the Civil War”</i>
Jan. 16, 2020	Don Frazier: <i>“The Houston Campaign, 1863”</i>
Feb. 20, 2020	Craig Morin: <i>“General Rodes Leads the Way to Pennsylvania”</i>
Mar. 19, 2020	Stephen Kinnaman: <i>“Merrimack: Biography of a Steam Frigate”</i>
Apr. 16, 2020	Lorien Foote: <i>“The Dogs of War”</i>
May 21, 2020	Brian Steel Wills: <i>“Inglorious Passages: Noncombat Deaths in the American Civil War”</i> (rescheduled from September)

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Houston Civil War Round Table
c/o Barry G. Brueggeman
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