



www.HoustonCivilWar.com

General Orders

Harrington's Brigade

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Dec.
2019

DECEMBER, 2019 MEETING
Thursday, December 12, 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 bjbrueg@aol.com or call 281 480-1130 by 6 pm Monday, December 9, 2019

Dinner \$32.00, Lecture only \$10.00

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

The HCWRT Presents

Michael Parrish Speaking on:

"The Vital Importance of Texas in the Civil War"

The Red River Campaign underscored the Union high command's persistent determination to invade, conquer, and reconstruct Louisiana and especially Texas. In response, Confederates concentrated large numbers of troops from Louisiana, Texas, Arkansas, and Missouri in a desperate effort to defend Louisiana and Texas. The Red River Campaign ended in a crushing Union defeat that damaged the overall war effort, while devastating the heart of Louisiana and leaving Texas unscathed and prosperous.

Several serious Union attempts to invade Texas during 1862 and 1863 had failed,

including an attempt to capture Galveston, an attack on Sabine Pass, and the Texas Overland Expedition via southern Louisiana. Now, in the spring of 1864, a large Federal invasion force of 30,000 troops commanded by Maj. Gen. Nathaniel P. Banks and a powerful fleet of naval vessels commanded by Adm. David Dixon Porter pushed up the Red River Valley. Banks intended to capture Shreveport, launch westward into Texas, and conquer the entire Lone Star State. Politicians, citizens, and newspapers throughout the United States and the Confederacy focused sustained attention on the campaign.



Michael Parrish

The Union's goals of the campaign reflected important economic, political, and strategic priorities. First, President Abraham Lincoln's administration wanted huge quantities of cotton that would supply New England cotton mills and enhance Lincoln's campaign for re-election in November. Conquering Texas would also reap vast herds of cattle and agricultural bounty.

Second, the Lincoln administration sought to embolden Unionists in Louisiana and Texas. Unionists led by the charismatic Andrew Jackson Hamilton had convinced Lincoln that the Lone Star State teemed with loyal Germans and other European immigrants, Anglo farmers, and Tejanos. Lincoln therefore viewed Texas as a hotbed of potential Republicans who could transform the state, strengthen Republican majorities in Congress, and help ensure his re-election.

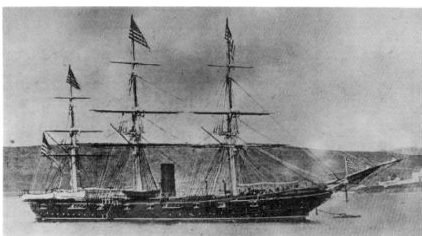
Finally, conquering Texas would advance the Union's grand strategy by ruining hopes of cooperation between the Confederacy and Emperor Maximilian's French military regime in Mexico.



COMMANDER'S CORNER *By Mike Harrington*

About Michael Parrish

T. Michael Parrish is the Bowers Professor of American History at Baylor University, where he teaches courses on Texas History, the Civil War Era, and Religion & War in American History. In 1977 he began work in Austin, Texas, as a dealer and appraiser of rare books, manuscripts, maps, photographs, and other historical materials, and he continues to do appraisals of collections for donation and insurance purposes. From 1994 to 2002 he was a research archivist at the Lyndon B. Johnson Library & Museum and taught in the History Department at the University of Texas. Dr. Parrish is the author, co-author, or editor of several books on the Civil War and Texas, including *Richard Taylor: Soldier Prince of Dixie*, winner of the Davis Award. His latest book, co-authored with Thomas W. Cutrer, is *Doris Miller, Pearl Harbor, and the Birth of the Civil Rights Movement*. He is also the editor or co-editor of three Civil War book series for Louisiana State University Press, the University of North Carolina Press, and the University of Arkansas Press.



On behalf of the members of HCWRT, I want to extend our deepest sympathy to our past President and long-time loyal member, David Rains, who lost his wife Donna to ALS in October. Many of you knew Donna for the lovely and gracious person that she was.

If you're not already aware of it, the preeminent Civil War historian James I. "Bud" Robertson, Jr. died on November 2, aged 89. A native of Virginia, Dr. Robertson was a tenured history professor at Virginia Tech for more than 40 years. He was also the author of 18 books on the Civil War, including his magisterial biography of Stonewall Jackson published in 1997 under the title *Stonewall Jackson: The Man, The Soldier, The Legend*. I regard that book as the most thoroughly researched piece of Civil War historiography that I've had the pleasure of reading. The book is also famous for finally unraveling the meaning of Jackson's enigmatic dying words: "Let us cross over the river and rest under the shade of the trees." If you've not read the book – and I could not recommend it to you too highly – I will not spoil it by summarizing Dr. Robertson's explanation.

Despite the many demands on his time, Dr. Robertson still found time to speak to our Round Table on several occasions, and he was a recipient of our Frank E. Vandiver Award of Merit for his many contributions to the study of the war. In common with the Civil War community generally, we at HCWRT will miss Bud Robertson.

On a more pleasant subject, I hope that you enjoyed Steve Davis' return to HCWRT last month. As one who believes that the Civil War was won in the West, and not in the much more publicized Virginia Theater, I especially value Steve's contributions to our understanding of the pivotal Atlanta Campaign.

Ordinarily HCWRT meets on the third Thursday of each month between September and May. The exception is December, when we meet on the second Thursday (to minimize conflicts with the Christmas season). So set your clocks and calendars to **Thursday, December 12**, when Dr. Michael Parrish will be our keynote speaker.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

By Keith Altavilla

As we head toward the holiday season, I sometimes cannot believe this campaign is nearly halfway done. Getting Michael Parrish is an incredible way to close 2019, and I cannot wait to hear about Texas' role in the war. One of the most incredible things to me about the war is the way it affected all Americans, even those in places like Texas that seem to be far removed from the conflict. I'm very much looking forward to hearing how such a prestigious historian places Texas in this great struggle.

People always ask not just about attending, but also helping, and we value anything you can bring to the table. Round Tables across America need volunteers to help with the various tasks necessary to make our meetings work, so if you want to know how to help, just ask. The Membership Committee in particular is always seeking new ways of reaching out to potential audiences, and we are interested in any places you think we can find new recruits. Sometimes just a word or two from a regular attendee (such as yourself!) can make a big difference.

As you meet with friends and family over the holidays, consider bringing one or two around to a Round Table meeting for the first time. A little local history never hurt with making a connection. With the holidays coming up, a Round Table Membership can make a great gift to the history buff you haven't gotten to attend one of our meetings quite yet. Perhaps you can

just get them in the door for the meeting, and let the membership work itself out later. Your membership and attendance allow us to bring in great historians like Michael Parrish to provide fresh and interesting perspectives on this endlessly fascinating war. Looking forward to seeing everyone on the 12th!

BOOK RAFFLE

By Donnie Stowe

Hard to believe, but Christmas is nearly here! We begin this month's raffle with **THE CIVIL WAR DAY BY DAY – An Almanac 1861-1865** by E.B. Long with Barbara Long. This book comes from the library of John Worsham. Our second selection is **THE EMERGENCE OF LINCOLN: DOUGLAS, BUCHANAN, AND PARTY CHAOS 1857-1859** by Allan Nevins. Next we have **THE SECOND DAY AT GETTYSBURG – The Attack & Defense of Cemetery Ridge, July 2, 1863** by David L. Shultz and Scott L. Mingus Sr. This volume



came from one of the co-authors of the book – David L. Shultz. Our fourth book is **THE CIVIL WAR – An Illustrated History** by Geoffrey C. Ward with Ric Burns and Ken Burns. This volume comes to us from Barry Brueggeman. And lastly, is **THE ROAD TO SHILOH - Early Battles in the West**. This book is from the Time Life Civil War series. I'm also giving another book from Barry – **CIVIL WAR QUIZ AND FACT BOOK** by Rod Gragg.

That's it for our December raffle. Look forward to seeing you at the HESS Club once again!



DECEMBER QUIZ

By Jim Godlove

Texas may have been of vital importance, but it did not provide many Texas-born military leaders to the Confederacy.

Of the various generals who led the Texas Brigade, none were born in Texas. Louis T. Wigfall was born in South Carolina, John Bell Hood and Jerome Robertson in Kentucky, and John Gregg in Alabama.



Who was the only native-born Texan to become a Confederate general?

UPCOMING BATTLE OF GALVESTON TOURS

On Saturday, January 4, 2020, Houston Civil War Round Table's own Ed Cotham will be conducting two walking tours of downtown Galveston focusing on the Battle of Galveston. The first tour will begin at 10 a.m. and the second at 2 p.m. Each tour will last about 90 minutes.

Fought out on land and sea over the course of several months, the Battle of Galveston concluded on New Year's Day in 1863 with Confederate forces under Maj. Gen. John Bankhead Magruder driving out the Federal ships that had held Galveston Harbor since October 1862. Tom Green's dismounted cavalry, dubbed the "Horse Marines," played a key role in securing the Rebel victory.

Disgusted by the outcome of the Battle of Galveston, Union Admiral David Farragut described it as a "most disgraceful affair." Whether or not you agree with Admiral Farragut,

the battle came to represent the most thorough defeat for the U. S. Navy during the entire Civil War.

There is nobody better suited to conduct these historical tours than Ed Cotham. Ed maintains a home on the island, and he is the author of *Battle on the Bay: The Civil War Struggle for Galveston*, published by the University of Texas Press in 1998. Ed's book is the definitive account of this important battle.

Tickets to each tour are \$20 per person, and reservations must be made through the Galveston Historical Foundation by phone (409-765-7834) or through the Foundation's website (www.galvestonhistory.org/events/battle-of-galveston-walking-tour).

THIS MONTH IN CIVIL WAR HISTORY

Dec. 3, 1863 – Siege of Knoxville, Tennessee concludes

Dec. 8, 1861 – CSS Sumter seizes Northern merchant ship *Eben Dodge* in the mid-Atlantic

Dec. 11 to 15, 1862 – Battle of Fredericksburg, Virginia

Dec. 15, 1864 – Battle of Nashville, Tennessee begins

Dec. 18, 1865 – The Thirteenth Amendment, which abolished slavery, becomes a part of the U. S. Constitution

Dec. 20, 1860 – South Carolina adopts an Ordinance of Secession

Dec. 31, 1862 – Battle of Parker's Cross Roads, Tennessee

Dec. 31, 1862 – Battle of Stones River near Murfreesboro, Tennessee





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 Lonnie Wood Drive
Houston, TX 77059

2019 - 2020 SPEAKERS CAMPAIGN – THE HESS CLUB

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|---------------|--|
| 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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