



www.HoustonCivilWar.com

General Orders

Harrington's Brigade

Vol. 31
No. 6
Jan.
2020



JANUARY, 2020 MEETING
Thursday, January 16, 2020

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, January 13, 2020

Dinner \$32.00, Lecture only \$10.00

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

There are two reasons. First, Civil War scholars often misunderstand the global geopolitical climate in which this war was waged. The French intervention in Mexico is often cited as the reason for interest in Texas during the war, but the actual mechanics of that fear and threat are often overlooked or unexamined. It just doesn't make sense to brush back the French by taking Tyler, Texas!

When President Abraham Lincoln ordered the US flag to be planted in Texas, he imagined that happening closer to the *tricolore* of the French forces creeping up the coast of Mexico. The instructions issued to General Nathaniel P. Banks in the summer of 1863 made this clear, and the subsequent campaigns bear this out. The successes of Union forces in Texas brought the French to the negotiating table, with important strategic results.

The HCWRT Presents Don Frazier Speaking on:

"The Houston Campaign, 1863"

Scholarship related to the Trans-Mississippi campaigns in Louisiana and Texas tends to focus on the early actions—the Battles of New Orleans, Wilson's Creek, Pea Ridge, and Baton Rouge—or what seems to be the most important campaign, the Red River Campaign of 1864. While this later action certainly had the greatest commitment of blood and treasure on the part of the Federal government, it was, in reality, all an afterthought, the legacy of an obsolete strategy. But, how could the well-known story of the Red River Campaign be so misunderstood?



Don Frazier

The second reason is the emphasis placed on Shreveport as the center of gravity in the Confederate Trans-Mississippi. Union General-in-Chief Henry Halleck claimed the fall of Shreveport would collapse the enemy efforts west of the great river. Certainly, this was the political and military headquarters for the South's efforts, but this misses a critical point.

Houston was the supply and logistics gateway to the Trans-Mississippi. Powder mills and slaughterhouses in northeast Texas would not win the war. Rather, it was the uniforms, weapons, and ammunition in the depots of Southeast Texas, imported from French and British sources, which were the keys to victory.

To win in the Trans-Mississippi, Houston must fall. To merely buy time in the Trans-Mississippi, while Union forces finished the job of demolishing the Confederacy on other fields, a large raid on Shreveport would suffice.

This is the story of the Houston Campaign, the key to victory west of the Mississippi.

About Don Frazier

Dr. Donald S. Frazier teaches history and leads The Texas Center at Schreiner University in Kerrville, Texas. A graduate of The University of Texas at Arlington and Texas Christian University, Frazier is also the award-winning author of five books on the Civil War including *Blood and Treasure*, *Cottonclads*, *Fire in the Cane Field*, *Thunder Across the Swamp*, and *Blood on the Bayou*. His latest work, *Tempest Over Texas*, will be released in May 2020. His other work includes serving as co-author of *Frontier Texas*, *Historic Abilene*, and *The Texas You Expect*, as well as general editor of *The U.S. and Mexico at War* and a collection of letters published as *Love and War: The Civil War Letters and Medicinal Book of Augustus V. Ball*.

In addition to his teaching duties, Dr. Frazier has been very involved in work on Civil War and frontier heritage trails in Texas, New Mexico, and Louisiana, and work on historical projects in Europe and Mexico. He is the writer and director for the video *Our Home, Our Rights: Texas and Texans in the Civil War*, a winner of the Mitchell Wilder Award for Excellence in

Publications and Media Design from the Texas Association of Museums. Dr. Frazier is an elected member of the prestigious Philosophical Society of Texas, the oldest learned organization in the state, a Fellow of the Texas State Historical Association, and a Director-Scholar on the board of the Texas Historical Foundation.

In 1995, Dr. Frazier helped found the McWhiney Group, a Texas-based 501(c)(3) non-profit that operates an educational adventure enterprise, Bear Leader Tours; State House Press, a publishing imprint in consortium with Texas A&M University Press; and online education efforts through YouTube, Go2History.com, and Diogeneslantern.com. The McWhiney Group also sponsors the Anne Bailey Dissertation Prize through the Society of Civil War Historians.



COMMANDER'S CORNER *By Mike Harrington*

If you missed our December meeting, you missed a superb presentation by Dr. Michael Parrish of Baylor on the vital importance of Texas in the Civil War. Of course, we Texans knew it all along, but it was encouraging to hear Mike Parrish re-enforce our instinctive belief that the Lone Star State was not a mere epicycle to the grand events of 1861-65.

At our January meeting, we will hear a talk by Dr. Donald Frazier of Schreiner University on a complementary subject: the Yankees' planned Houston Campaign of 1863.

Many of you will recall Don Frazier's prior presentations to our Round Table. They were lively, informative and well attended. And his upcoming presentation should be just as entertaining and equally instructive. An additional reason for coming to our January meeting is that not much has been written about the Houston Campaign. So I urge you not to miss this opportunity to learn about the campaign from an expert on the war west of the Mississippi.

Shifting gears, for those of you inclined to make New Year's resolutions, let me urge you to resolve to pay your annual dues if you've yet to do so and to make an effort to attend all five of this campaign's remaining meetings in 2020. We need and want your active presence and participation in our monthly meetings.

May I also wish each of you and yours a healthy, happy and prosperous New Year.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

By Keith Altavilla

Happy New Year Round Table goes! Welcome to 2020 and an exciting back-half of the schedule. Perhaps your holidays included some great new Civil War reads. Or maybe a holiday party led you to a new history buff, who needs only your recommendation to start attending meetings. As an added inducement for potential recruits (or anyone else you may have in mind), any new members who sign up starting in January will get their membership not only through the rest of this campaign, but also through 2020-21 as well.

I am certainly looking forward to this month. Don Frazier has appeared several times before, and always presents a great talk. The Houston Campaign is a good piece of local history, and it is fun to see how our not-so-little corner of the country was involved in the Civil War. If you made it last month, looking at Houston specifically should follow up nicely to Mike Parrish's great explanation of how important Texas was during the war. Even if you didn't make it, who doesn't like to hear about how important Texas is to, well, anything? As membership chair, I feel compelled to add that

local connections like this are a great way to introduce potential new members to our ranks.

Speaking of advertising to new members, if you were here in December, you saw our new pamphlets. It lists the speakers for the rest of the 2020 campaign through May, including Don Frazier this month, as well as information on contacting us for membership and meeting information. We'll try to have a few more at this month's meeting for folks to take with them. The committee is busy at work looking to spread the word about the Round Table, so if you know a place that would benefit from some direct advertising, we'll be glad to get a few copies into your hands. See everyone on the 16th!



BOOK RAFFLE

By Donnie Stowe

With a Happy New Year to all, we start this month's raffle with an author-signed copy of **BLOOD ON THE BAYOU** by Donald S. Frazier (our speaker). This book comes from my library and I highly recommend it. Our second selection is **EMBATTLED REBEL - Jefferson Davis as**



Commander in Chief by James M. McPherson. Next we have **The AMERICAN HERITAGE NEW HISTORY OF THE CIVIL WAR** edited by

James M. McPherson. This volume came from the collection of Tom Kleinworth. Our fourth book is **CIVIL WAR WIVES – The Lives & Times of Angelina Weld, Varina Davis & Julia Dent Grant** by Carol Berkin. This volume was donated by James Godlove. And last, but not least is **THE CIVIL WAR NARRATIVE – Secession to Fort Henry** by Shelby Foote. This book is the first volume in the Narrative series published by the editors of Time-Life Books.

That's it for our January 2020 raffle. I look forward to seeing you at the HESS Club once again!

JANUARY QUIZ *By Jim Godlove*

The Houston campaign of 1863 started with a major Confederate victory at Galveston.



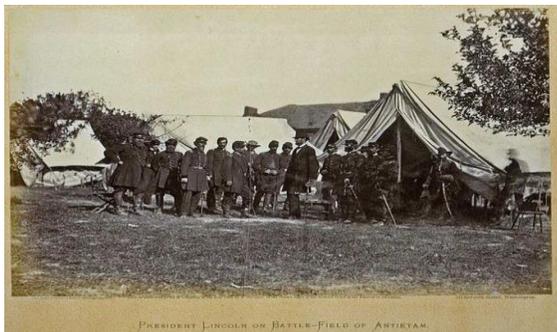
Who was the commander of this victory and what was the date?

BLUE & GRAY EDUCATION SOCIETY UPCOMING TOURS

Blue & Gray Education Society (BGES) opens its 2020 tour schedule with a two-part tour in Texas next month that starts in Houston and moves to San Antonio after five nights. Participants can register for the entire 10-day program or just half of it. These tours will be led by historian Neil Mangum, and will cover many aspects of Texas and U. S. history with unique and interesting twists on the history that shaped Texas.

Additionally, BGES is offering a March tour covering the Vicksburg campaign. Participants will be able to walk the key locations from which military operations were planned and conducted.

For additional information, call (434) 250-9921 or go to blueandgrayeducation.org.



Don Frazier at Port Hudson, Louisiana during 2017 Fall Field Trip

THIS MONTH IN CIVIL WAR HISTORY

January 1, 1863 – Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation goes into effect

January 2, 1861 – South Carolina troops seize Fort Johnson in Charleston Harbor

January 13, 1865 – Second attack on Fort Fisher, North Carolina, begins

January 22, 1862 – Bombardment of Fort Henry, Tennessee by *USS Lexington*

January 25, 1863 – Union Major General Ambrose Burnside is relieved of command of the Army of the Potomac and is replaced with Major General Joseph Hooker

January 27, 1864 – Engagement at Fair Gardens (Kelly's Ford), Tennessee

January 30, 1862 – The *USS Monitor* is launched at Greenpoint, New York

January 31, 1865 – U. S. House passes 13th Amendment abolishing slavery





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

2019 - 2020 SPEAKERS CAMPAIGN – THE HESS CLUB

Jan. 16, 2020 Don Frazier: *“The Houston Campaign, 1863”*
Feb. 20, 2020 Craig Morin: *“General Rodes Leads the Way to Pennsylvania”*
Mar. 19, 2020 Stephen Kinnaman: *“Merrimack: Biography of a Steam Frigate”*
Apr. 16, 2020 Lorien Foote: *“The Dogs of War”*
May 21, 2020 Brian Steel Wills: *“Inglorious Passages: Noncombat Deaths in the American Civil War”* (rescheduled from September)

www.HoustonCivilWar.com



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

