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General Orders

Harrington's Brigade

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2020



FEBRUARY, 2020 MEETING
Thursday, February 20, 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 bgbrueg@aol.com or call 281 480-1130 by 6 pm Monday, February 17, 2020

Dinner \$32.00, Lecture only \$10.00

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

The HCWRT Presents
Craig Morin Speaking on:

“General Rodes Leads the Way to Pennsylvania”

To the average Southerner in May of 1863, the battle of Chancellorsville had been a brilliant victory for General Robert E. Lee and the Army of Northern Virginia. Yet, in the great general's mind, the benefits had not outweighed the high costs. In letters to his wife, Lee was despondent following Chancellorsville. Why?

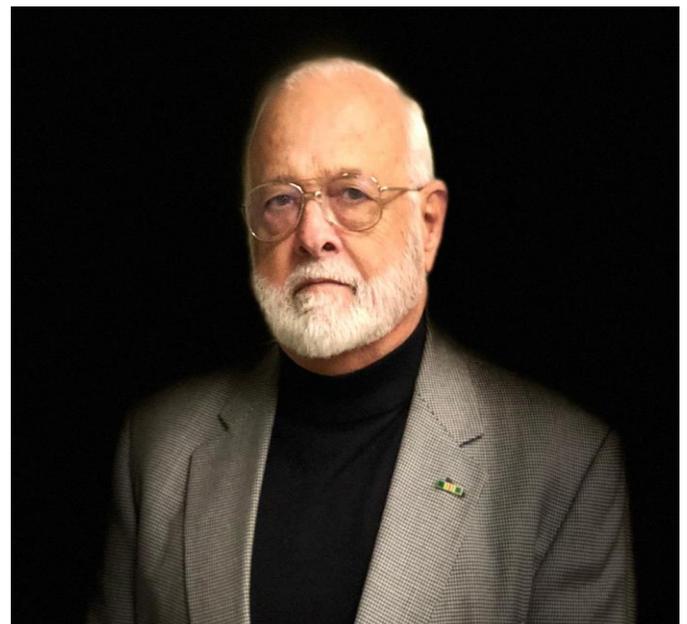
The easy answer for most of us is that he had lost Stonewall Jackson, the one man, perhaps the only man, who could accurately interpret Lee's orders of discretion and understand the often unstated intent behind those orders. But, there were even more problems. Lee's victory had cost him 13,000 casualties, amounting to 25% of his army. Also, General Joe Hooker had

escaped, preventing Lee from gaining a crushing strategic victory. Furthermore, General Lee had to fight at Chancellorsville with a smallish army when he was unable to get several brigades of his deployed troops released and back in time to fight Hooker.

The good news for General Lee is that he had wrested the offensive initiative away from the Army of the Potomac. However, with his smaller army, he cannot sit still. There is only one way to maintain the offensive initiative and prevent the enemy from advancing on Richmond: advance and attack.

Following Chancellorsville, the Army of Northern Virginia desperately needed supplies. General Lee also believed that to secure the South's independence, he must achieve a smashing STRATEGIC victory north of the Potomac River, preferably in Pennsylvania. He has been considering this plan since February of that year.

How will he get his army to Pennsylvania and who will lead it there?



Craig Morin

The Cumberland Valley in Pennsylvania is a virtual cornucopia of the supplies that Lee's army needs. It also offers the topography that may be conducive for Lee to encounter and attack the Union army and strike a strategic blow in a Northern state. To get to the Cumberland Valley and Pennsylvania, Lee will use the Shenandoah Valley as his valley of invasion. Who will lead his army northward?

General Richard Ewell has replaced Jackson as the commander of the Second Corps. Ewell served with Jackson in the Valley in Jackson's brilliant 1862 Valley Campaign. Ewell knows the Valley. His corps will lead the Army of Northern Virginia northward. New division commander General Robert E. Rodes will lead the Second Corps down the Valley to the Potomac River and on to Pennsylvania. However, many unforeseen issues and challenges will plague the Army of Northern Virginia on this campaign and most will manifest themselves at the worst possible time for General Lee.

About Craig Morin

Cdr. Craig Morin is a retired U. S. Navy officer and environmental consultant who lives in Houston. He received a B.S degree in Biology with a minor in History from the University of Central Oklahoma and a Master of Public Health degree in Environmental Science from the University of Oklahoma.

He entered the U.S. Navy in 1966 as a Seaman Recruit and was later trained as a Navy Hospital Corpsman. As a Corpsman, he served with various Navy and Marine Corps commands. After completing his graduate education, he re-entered the Navy as a commissioned officer in the Medical Service Corps. Following the completion of the first Gulf War, he retired as a Navy Commander in 1991.

As a consultant to the energy and chemical industries, he has managed projects and assignments in Asia, North America, the Middle East, Europe, West Africa and the Caribbean.

A student of the Civil War for almost 70 years, he was introduced to the War by his great grandmother, whose father and his two brothers served in the Army of Northern Virginia in

Jackson's Second Corps. He is currently writing a book about his Alabama ancestors and their experiences in the War.

He has written one book about a friend and fellow Navy Corpsman who was killed in Viet Nam, *More Than a Name on a Wall*.

Craig is a Trustee on the Board of the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation (SVBF) and currently serves as the Foundation's secretary. The Morin family has erected and dedicated two monuments on the battlefield at Third Winchester honoring General Robert Rodes and the Alabama Brigade, in which the Morin ancestors served. In 2019, Craig was awarded the Graves Family Award for his family's philanthropic efforts in preserving battlefields in the Shenandoah Valley. Craig currently chairs the SVBF Committee on Education and Scholarship. In 2019, his family awarded the Committee's first scholarship to a local high school student who is continuing his studies in Civil War history at the collegiate level.

He is an avid sports fan, following the Houston Astros, the Oklahoma Sooners and his grandson's Pony League baseball team.



COMMANDER'S CORNER

By Mike Harrington

If you missed our January meeting, you missed a near spell-binding presentation by Don Frazier on the Union's failed attempts to take Houston in 1863. Don's talk was both

informative and leavened with his typical Southwest Texas wit and humor.

This month, Craig Morin is on tap to address our Round Table. I have never heard him speak, but he comes highly recommended to us. We do not hear much about Confederate Major General Robert Rodes, so our upcoming meeting presents a rare opportunity to learn something about this division commander in Stonewall Jackson's Corps.

When I think of Rodes, the first thing that comes to my mind are the words that Jackson imparted to him as Jackson's Corps was about to embark on its grand flanking movement at the Battle of Chancellorsville. Supposedly, as the movement was getting underway, Jackson turned to Rodes, a VMI alum, and said to him: "The Institute will be heard from today." And so it was.

Commander Morin is an admirer of General Rodes, and two of his ancestors served in Rodes' command. So I am particularly interested in what Commander Morin has to say about how well Rodes performed at Gettysburg, once he was deprived of the benefit of Jackson's leadership. Did Rodes measure up? You'll need to join us at the meeting to find out.

to talk about Robert Rodes and the Gettysburg Campaign. Rodes led the Confederate invasion into Pennsylvania, setting up some great stories not only about those fateful days in early July 1863, but the critical weeks leading up to them. Easily the war's most famous battle, the Battle of Gettysburg is a good introduction to that friend of yours who is on the fence about attending our next meeting.

As always, we look for your help in recruitment to keep meetings full, give our great speakers the audiences their work deserves, and provide all of us the chance to make new friends. Over the last months we have welcomed Gus Elizondo and Maureen Carroll to our ranks. Be sure to say hello if you haven't met them yet.

One important reminder for any potential recruits: any new members who sign up through May get their membership not only through the rest of this campaign, but also through 2020-2021 as well. Also, February may be a good time to start thinking about next year for yourself. You don't need to re-up already, but be thinking about getting ready for our renewal push at the end of this campaign.

Just like last month, we can still provide extra pamphlets to continue the Round Table's advertising efforts around Houston. If you know a place that would benefit from learning about the Round Table (and what location couldn't, really?), just ask us for some before they get too out-of-date for the first part of 2020. Maybe a few locations can be "tested out" for more in 2020-2021. See everyone on the 20th!



Jim Godlove and Eric Jacobson at Franklin, Tennessee during the 2016 Fall Field Trip

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

By Keith Altavilla

Hello everyone! Hopefully, your 2020 is going well as we are suddenly one month down in the New Year. Craig Morin joins us this month



January speaker Don Frazier with Mike Harrington

BOOK RAFFLE

By Donnie Stowe

We begin this month's raffle with **A RIVER UNVEXED** – A History and Tour Guide of the Campaign for the Mississippi River by Jim Miles. Our second selection is **THE WAR FOR THE UNION: The Improvised War 1861 – 1862** by Allan Nevins. This volume is another in Dr. Nevins' Civil War series and is the first of his four volumes dedicated to the war. Next we have **THE STORY THE SOLDIERS WOULDN'T TELL** by Thomas P. Lowry, M. D. Walt Whitman once said of the Civil War – "the real war will never get in the books." But part of that

war made it into this one and with a little bit of humor by a very good writer. Our fourth is **THE CIVIL WAR: AN AMERICAN ILIAD** by Otto Eisenschiml and Ralph Newman. This volume was donated by



Roland Bienvenu. And last, we have **UNHOLY SABBATH** – The Battle of South Mountain in History and Memory, September 14, 1862 by Brian Matthew Jordan and donated by Mike Berry.

Please check your book collection and consider donating some of your Civil War books for our raffle. The proceeds from ticket sales help to support the Round Table and provide you with the excellent speakers that we feature each month.

That's it for our February raffle. I look forward to seeing you at the HESS Club on February 20th



FEBRUARY QUIZ

By Jim Godlove

Robert E. Rodes was born in Lynchburg, Virginia in 1829. He was also buried in that city after he was mortally wounded in battle.



Name that battle which claimed Gen. Rodes' life

THIS MONTH IN CIVIL WAR HISTORY

February 1, 1861 – Texas adopts an Ordinance of Secession and schedules a referendum for February 23.

February 3, 1863 – Union General William T. Sherman begins the Meridian Campaign in Mississippi

February 6, 1862 – Surrender of Ft. Henry, Tennessee

February 6, 1865 – John C. Breckinridge named Confederate Secretary of War

February 9, 1861 – Jefferson Davis elected provisional Confederate President

February 16, 1862 – Fort Donelson (Tennessee) surrenders unconditionally to Ulysses S. Grant

February 17, 1864 – Confederate submarine *H. L. Hunley* sinks the USS *Housatonic*

February 29, 1864 – George Custer's cavalry fights skirmishes during a raid on Albemarle County, Virginia





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

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)

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