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General Orders

Harrington's Brigade

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APRIL MEETING CANCELLED

By the time you read this, you should have received an email from the HCWRT announcing the cancellation of our April meeting which was to feature Dr. Lorien Foote. This is only the second time in recent memory we have had a meeting cancellation.

Our organization wants to keep its primary focus on the health and safety of our members, speakers, and guests. The reality is that considerations regarding "social distancing" and meeting limitations may well extend into the future. Our Board felt the need to get ahead of this possibility without inconveniencing those who cannot depend on a "last minute" meeting cancellation by our host facility.

Dr. Foote has committed to joining us next campaign (these meeting dates are listed on the last page of this newsletter). This is great news considering the popularity of Dr. Foote's presentation in March of 2019.

We will continue to provide timely updates in anticipation of holding our regularly scheduled May meeting. To be sure, our May event is a big one - our annual presentation of the HCWRT "**Frank E. Vandiver Award of Merit.**" Please follow our web site and social media pages for more updates on our 2020 recipient, **Dr. Brian Steel Wills.** Once again, we would like to thank everyone for their support of the HCWRT. Without this, we would be unable to provide the quality of speakers and fellowship you have become accustomed to.



COMMANDER'S CORNER

By Mike Harrington

What with all of the "social distancing" and home confinement of the past few weeks, I have come to appreciate what Pharaoh must have gone through during the 10 Plagues of Egypt. Every day it just seems to get worse.

I perceive, however, a light at the end of the tunnel for us Civil Warriors. God willing, Houston Civil War Round Table will meet as scheduled on Thursday, May 21, and break the trial and tedium of the preceding weeks.

We have a blockbuster speaker – **Brian Steel Wills** – lined up to talk to us in May, and we will also present to Dr. Wills our annual **Frank Vandiver Award of Merit.** In addition, we will elect a new slate of directors at our May meeting.

What better reasons could you want to attend our May meeting? Until then, stay safe and keep your powder dry.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

By Keith Altavilla

While I know much attention is focused on the present, Round Table leadership is looking to the future. In addition to finalizing an excellent slate of speakers for the 2020 - 2021 campaign, we also want to make sure you are going to join us.

It is that time to get ready and renew your membership for the upcoming campaign. We would be grateful if you would renew your membership by June 1. Our website sets forth the amount of our annual dues and instructions for paying them by mail. You may also pay dues by bringing a check to our May meeting.

Don't forget what your membership dues get you! For starters, all members receive this monthly newsletter, filled with great information about our meeting, and of course the first question of the monthly quiz. What better way to get a reminder and prepare yourself for upcoming events?

Your dues also are vital to keeping this organization going. Even if you cannot make every meeting, your continued membership allows us to continue bringing in great speakers, and keeping alive the history of our nation's great Civil War. Without your support, that cannot happen. Fingers crossed we'll all be able to see everyone again in May!

NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

By Jim Godlove

The HCWRT bylaws specify that the Board of Directors will consist of the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Immediate Past President, and four Directors. The bylaws further provide that a Nominating Committee of three members, including the Immediate Past President as Chair, nominate a slate of Officers and Directors for the next campaign, to be elected by the members of the HCWRT Annual Meeting in May of each campaign year. The 2020 Nominating Committee is comprised of Jim Godlove (chair), Gary Chandler, and Scott Wilkey.

The HCWRT bylaws also require that names of nominees be announced at the April meeting and published in the May newsletter, for election at the May meeting. As April's meeting is cancelled due to COVID-19, the slate of names is published here. The nominees are as follows:

President:	C. Michael Harrington
Vice President:	Eugene Boisabuin
John Stevens	Secretary
Barry Brueggeman	Treasurer
Directors:	Walker Agnew
	Keith Altavilla
	Roland Bienvenu
	Scott Wilkey
Past President:	Jim Godlove

CIVIL WAR WEB RESOURCES

By Roland Bienvenu

Since so many of us are "home bound" these days, this is an opportune time to share available web resources (including websites) which relate to Civil War battlefields, speakers, and other topics. After all, there is no time like the present to take a virtual battlefield tour or watch C-SPAN videos, some of which feature many speakers the HCWRT membership has enjoyed in the past.

Emerging Civil War is an online community that has a ton of online articles, weekend trip itineraries/sites to see and content from some of the newest "up and coming" scholars. Additionally, lead contributor Chris Mackowski hosts annual symposiums, battlefield tours, book reviews and a host of other items of interest. <https://emergingcivilwar.com>

C-SPAN's Civil War series features videos from some of our favorite authors and speakers regarding a large number of various Civil War topics. <https://www.c-span.org/series/?theCivilWar>

The American Battlefield Trust offers "virtual battlefield tours", "virtual reality war" (through YouTube), and online guided battlefield tours with some of the best scholars in the business and hosts Garry Adelman and Kris White.

<https://www.battlefields.org/visit/virtual-tours>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xuVHe-0r>



Dr. Brian Steel Wills

2020 VANDIVER AWARD
RECIPIENT: BRIAN STEEL
WILLS

*By Eugene Boisaubin, Committee Chair and
Gary Chandler, Member/Facilitator*

The Houston Civil War Round Table is honored that the **2020 Frank E. Vandiver Award of Merit will be presented to Brian Steel Wills** at the May 21 meeting. Since 1982, the HCWRT has presented its highly respected Vandiver Award annually in recognition of an individual or an organization making a substantial contribution to the preservation of our Civil War heritage. Past recipients include a “Who’s Who” of Civil War notables.

Brian 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, including biographies of prominent leaders. His latest book, *Inglorious Passages: Noncombat Deaths in the American Civil War*, 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. Dr. Wills’ acceptance talk at our upcoming May 21 meeting will be **“Inglorious Passages.”**

Brian Wills is one of our most popular speakers. He has appeared before our Round Table four (soon to be five) times, and led our 2015 Fall Field Trip of the Atlanta campaign. His talks are always a treat – powerful, interesting, and witty.

The Vandiver Award is named for the late Civil War historian and former President of Texas A&M University, the University of North Texas, and Rice University, who also was one of the earliest members of the HCWRT. The 2020 Vandiver Award Committee consisted of Gene Boisaubin (Chair), Keith Altavilla, Gary Chandler, Jim Godlove, and John Stevens.

2020-2021 SPEAKERS
SCHEDULE ANNOUNCED
By Gary Chandler, Programs Chair

Amid all that’s going on with COVID-19, we all hope that the special May 21 HCWRT meeting with Brian Wills, the Vandiver Award presentation to him, and Board elections comes off as planned, and is well-attended.

Another bright spot to which we can look forward is our next speakers’ campaign and their topics—now with a full lineup confirmed. All three major theaters of war are represented, yet with a distinct “Western flavor” this new campaign beginning in September. The talks will cover various “sides” of the war, military, home-front, and other interesting topics. Talks will be presented by a distinguished cadre of historians, authors, and historic preservationists. Some are past speakers and familiar faces, and some are new to HCWRT.

A personal note: After coordinating seven speakers campaigns (first as VP, next as President, then for several subsequent campaigns including the upcoming campaign), I am “retiring” as Programs Chair at the end of this campaign, due to health issues. My heartfelt thanks go to **Mike Harrington, Jim Godlove, and Gene Boisaubin** for their many contributions to planning the speakers/topics lineup, contacting speakers, and dividing the labor between us for speaker logistics in this current campaign—and for the upcoming **2020 - 2021 speakers lineup (listed on the next page).** .

2019 - 2020 SPEAKERS CAMPAIGN – THE HESS CLUB

May 21, 2020 Brian Steel Wills, 2020 Vandiver Award Recipient: *“Inglorious Passages: Noncombat Deaths in the American Civil War”*

2020 - 2021 SPEAKERS CAMPAIGN – THE HESS CLUB

Sept. 17, 2020 Thomas E. Parson: *“Work for Giants: The Campaign and Battle of Tupelo/Harrisburg”*

Oct. 15, 2020 Eric J. Wittenberg: *“Holding the Line on the River of Death: Union Mounted Forces at Chickamauga”*

Nov. 19, 2020 Jeffrey Hunt: *“Meade and Lee at Bristoe Station: The Problems of Command and Strategy after Gettysburg”*

Dec. 10, 2020 Stephen Davis: *“Hood’s Great Attack East of Atlanta, July 22, 1864 (Or, Why Jackson’s Flank Attack at Chancellorsville Succeeded and Hood’s Did Not)”*

Jan. 21, 2021 Danny Sessums: *“Arkansas Post”*

Feb. 18, 2021 Lorien Foote: *“The Dogs of War”*

Mar. 18, 2021 Timothy B. Smith: *“The Real Horse Soldiers: Benjamin Grierson’s Epic 1863 Civil War Raid Through Mississippi”*

Apr. 15, 2021 William MacKinnon: *“Before Fort Sumter: The Utah War Experiences of Union and Confederate Leaders”*

May 20, 2021 Don Frazier: *“Tempest Over Texas”*

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