



www.HoustonCivilWar.com

General Orders

Harrington's Brigade

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2020



SEPTEMBER, 2020 MEETING
Thursday, September 17, 2020, 7:00 pm

Virtual Meeting Via Zoom
(please read article on page 3 for detailed information regarding using Zoom)

The HCWRT Presents Thomas Parson Speaking on:

“Work for Giants: The Campaign and Battle of Tupelo/Harrisburg”

During the summer of 1864, a Union column, commanded by Maj. Gen. Andrew Jackson Smith, set out from Tennessee with a goal that had proven impossible in all prior attempts - to find and defeat the cavalry under the command of Confederate Major General Nathan Bedford Forrest. Forrest's cavalry was the greatest threat to the long supply line feeding Sherman's armies as they advanced on Atlanta.

Smith marched at the head of his “gorillas”, veteran soldiers who were fresh from the Red River Campaign. Aside from diverting Confederate attention away from Sherman, Smith's orders were to destroy Southern railroads and confront Forrest in Mississippi. Just weeks earlier, a similar Union expedition had met with disaster at the Battle of Brice's Crossroads, perhaps the greatest victory of Forrest's military career. Joined by reinforcements led by Lt. Gen. Stephen Dill Lee, Forrest and his men were confident, and their morale had never been higher.

However, for two weeks in July 1864, Smith outmarched, outfought, outmaneuvered and outgeneraled the team of Lee and Forrest. In

three days of bitter fighting, culminating in the battle at Harrisburg, the Confederates suffered a staggering defeat. Forrest's corps was devastated. He and his men would recover but would never regain their earlier strength, nor would they ever again prove a serious threat to veteran Union infantry.

Mr. Parson's program will focus on the details of this overlooked campaign and the efforts, post-battle and post-war, to minimize the outcome and consequences of an important Union victory. The program will include a slide presentation with numerous maps, photos and artwork.



Thomas Parson

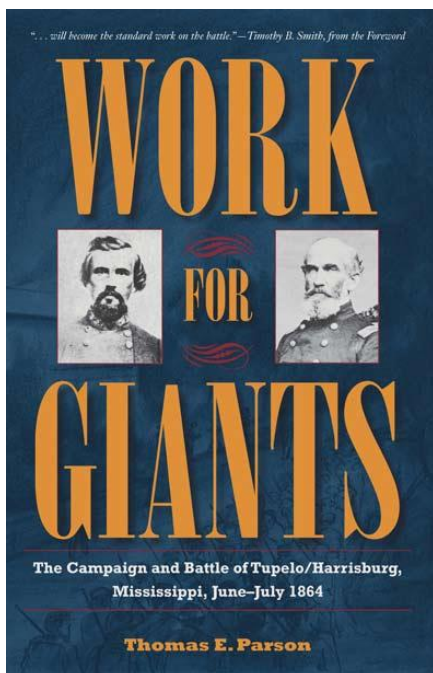
About Thomas Parson

Thomas (Tom) Parson is a native of Sylmar, California, a suburb of Los Angeles. Upon graduating high school in 1978, he enlisted in the US Navy for a four-year hitch which turned out lasting for twenty years. While on leave in May of 1980 he visited his first Civil War battlefield, Shiloh. Tom served on four ships and retired in 1998 as a Chief Petty Officer.

Not long after retiring, Tom joined the National Park Service and has spent the last twenty-one years with Shiloh National Military Park. He spent his first five years with the park maintaining the Shiloh National Cemetery, the mass Confederate burial trenches and other sites across the battlefield.

In 2004, Ranger Parson was assigned to the new Corinth Civil War Interpretive Center in Corinth, Mississippi. His accomplishments include certification as a Historic Preservation Specialist (stone and masonry), a Wild-Land Firefighter, and presentation of the Award of Merit from the Mississippi Historical Society for exemplary research and interpretation of the battles of Tupelo/Harrisburg, Corinth, and Shiloh. His research focuses on military activities in North Mississippi and West Tennessee. Tom lives in the historic Duncan House in Corinth with Nita, his wife of 40 years.

Tom's books include *Work for Giants: The Campaign and Battle of Tupelo/Harrisburg* (Kent State University Press, 2014), and *Bear Flag and Bay State: The Californians of the Second Massachusetts Cavalry Regiment*. (McFarland Publishers, 2001). His two books in progress are *Forrest Victorious: The Battle of Brice's Crossroads* and *The Civil War Journal of Chaplain Elijah Edwards, 7th Minnesota Veteran Volunteers*. Additionally, Tom has published articles in *Blue & Gray Magazine*.



COMMANDER'S CORNER

By Mike Harrington

The upcoming campaign marks my third (and last) year as President of your Houston Civil War Round Table. It has been an honor to serve you in this capacity, and I especially appreciate the confidence that our Board of Directors has vested in me, given the manifest challenges of the new campaign.

With the prospect of our meeting virtually for at least the near future, this campaign shapes up as the most challenging in the history of our organization. Let me assure you that the Board of Directors is committed to returning our Round Table to in-person monthly meetings as soon as practicable. Just how soon that will be, however, we cannot predict.

In the meantime, we will strive to keep our organization together by meeting virtually over Zoom. Unfortunately, some of our long-standing traditions will be suspended while we are in virtual mode, including the Book Raffle and Jim Godlove's celebrated Civil War Trivia Quiz. The biggest loss, of course, is the opportunity to visit face-to-face with new and old friends over cocktails and dinner.

Not all is doom and gloom at HCWRT, however. There is some joy in Mudville. Specifically, we have an exciting roster of speakers lined up for this campaign, beginning with Thomas Parson's talk on the Battle of Tupelo/Harrisburg. You will find a complete listing of scheduled speakers and their topics on the last page of this newsletter.

If you have not yet paid your membership dues, please do so promptly by mailing a check to Barry Brueggeman at the address indicated in this newsletter. Our organization does not have an endowment, so we are financially dependent upon our members' dues. That dependence is even greater this year due to the likely depression in the number of our dues-paying members so long as the Virus forbids our resuming past practices.

In closing, I want to remind our members that, the Virus notwithstanding, the mission of our organization remains unchanged from that proclaimed in our charter, way back in the mid-1950s: the study and discussion of the history, battles, personalities and other significant events of the Civil War era. The recent emergence of the "cancel" culture in our city, our state and our nation should serve as a jarring reminder of the importance of a balanced understanding of the historical events of the 1860s.

HOW TO USE ZOOM

By Keith Altavilla

Welcome back, Round Table-goers to a new year and a new, hopefully temporary, way to handle our meetings. Due to the ongoing pandemic, we will be conducting meetings virtually through Zoom until further notice. While some of you may have experience using Zoom with family members or the Civil War Round Table Congress, others might still be new to the technology. Fortunately, it is very user friendly, and I hope this brief set of instructions will give you the confidence to stay with us and enjoy another year with the Round Table.

The first and most important thing in order to stay with us is to **ensure your dues are paid and up to date**, or else you won't be able to get access to our meetings. All members in good standing will be sent an email with a link to the meeting shortly before it begins. Click that link, and your internet browser (something like Edge, Chrome or Firefox) will prompt you to download Zoom if you don't already have it. Go ahead and do that, as it is a quick and simple process for your computer. If you have not already provided us with an email address, please contact Barry

Brueggeman at (281) 480-1130 and furnish him with one.

For this first meeting, the link will be sent to all members, so please make sure that you have given us your current email address. However, after September, the meeting link will be sent to dues-paid members only, so make sure you get those dues sent in!

If you would like to register for Zoom before the meeting, you can download it by going to zoom.us. There is no charge, and it might make the process on meeting night a little quicker.

Once you are into the meeting, you should see our fearless leader, the speaker, and perhaps several others. If you have a camera with your computer, your face will be there too, though if you don't have one, you should be able to watch the video just fine. When you come in, your own microphone will be muted, so we won't have extra noise during the presentation.

During the presentation, you will have the ability to provide questions using the "Chat" feature at the bottom of the screen. President Mike and the speaker will be looking at that during the talk and the speaker will address these following his presentation.

And that's it! As a viewer, the meeting set up is simple and straightforward, and hopefully you will be able to join us.

For additional information regarding using Zoom, you may view the following links:

<https://www.wikihow.com/Join-a-Zoom-Meeting-on-PC-or-Mac>

Video from Zoom:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hIkCmbvAHQQ>

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

By Walker Agnew

The 2020-2021 campaign is underway and is starting very differently as our world has changed. We ask that you make sure your membership has been renewed. Checks can be sent to Treasurer Barry Brueggeman (his mailing address can be found on the return address page in this newsletter). Your dues are necessary to enable us to continue bringing you

quality speakers month after month, year after year! The active membership list will be used for sending out the link for our Zoom meetings.

Even with the current format, we would love to have visitors. Think about having another family member or friend join you to watch the meeting together. Let me know of any ideas you might have for increasing our membership. Word of mouth is still the best way, even with the current format. My email address is walkeragnew@comcast.net.

Once we are able to meet in person, I look forward to seeing everyone again!

[HCWRT CONGRESS SPEAKERS](#)

The Civil War Round Table Congress has been offering a series of outstanding online speakers' programs (presented via Zoom) which cover various topics. You can go to cwrctcongress.org/lectures.html to view the various speakers and programs, as well as to register for the programs you would like to view.

The various dates and the corresponding speakers and topics for the next several weeks are as follows:

September 9th – interview with Tom Van Winkle, Central Virginia Battlefield Trust

September 10th – Scott Mingus, *Confederate Calamity: J.E.B. Stuart's Cavalry Right Through York County, PA*

September 17th – Peter Carmichael, *The War for the Common Soldier*

September 24th – Chuck Veit, *Sea Miner*

October 1st – Kenneth R. Rutherford, *America's Buried History: Landmines in the Civil War*

October 8th – David Dixon, *Radical Warrior*

October 15th – Garry Adleman, *Photo Extravaganza*

A limited number of spaces are available for each speaker/program, so register early! There is no charge, although donations to the CWRT Congress are appreciated!

Additionally, some past CWRT speakers and programs are available on YouTube. To subscribe, go to YouTube and enter "civil war roundtable congress." You will then see a red "subscribe" button.

[SOCIETY FOR WOMEN AND THE CIVIL WAR](#)

The Society for Women and the Civil War has announced its 21st Conference, entitled "Women of the Shenandoah Valley." The conference is scheduled for July 23 through 25, 2021 at the Hotel Madison & Shenandoah Conference Center located in Harrisonburg, Virginia.

For more information and to register, go to <http://www.swcw.org/2021-conference-registration.html>.

[THIS MONTH IN CIVIL WAR HISTORY](#)

Sept. 2, 1862 – Major General George McClellan restored to command in Virginia.

Sept. 2, 1864 – Federal army enters Atlanta

Sept. 4, 1864 – John Hunt Morgan killed in Greeneville, Tennessee

Sept. 6, 1861 – Federal forces seize Paducah, Kentucky

Sept. 8, 1863 – Confederates repulse attack at Sabine Pass, Texas

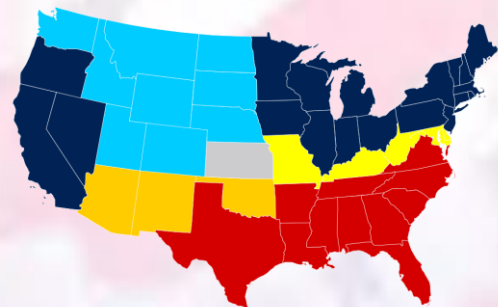
Sept. 12 to 15, 1861 – Battle of Cheat Mountain, Virginia (now West Virginia)

Sept. 17, 1862 – Battle of Antietam, Maryland

Sept. 19 and 20, 1863 – Battle of Chickamauga, Georgia

Sept. 22, 1862 – President Lincoln issues his Preliminary Emancipation Proclamation

Sept. 27, 1864 – Battle of Pilot Knob (Fort Davidson) Missouri





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

2020 - 2021 SPEAKERS CAMPAIGN

- 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 Brian Steel Wills: *"Inglorious Passages: Noncombat Deaths in the American Civil War"* (2020 Vandiver Award Recipient - rescheduled from May 21, 2020)
- 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"* (rescheduled from April 16, 2020)
- Mar. 18, 2021 Timothy B. Smith: *"The Real Horse Soldiers: Benjamin Grierson's Epic 1863 Civil War Raid Through Mississippi"*
- Apr. 15, 2021 Stephen Kinnaman: *"Merrimack: Biography of a Steam Frigate"* (rescheduled from March 19, 2020)
- May 20, 2021 Don Frazier: *"Tempest Over Texas"*

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