



General Orders

Harrington's Brigade

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FEBRUARY, 2021 MEETING
Thursday, February 18, 7:00 pm
Fellowship Period from 6:30 to 7:00 pm

Virtual Meeting Via Zoom
(please refer to article on page 3 of
September's newsletter for detailed
information regarding using Zoom)

The HCWRT Presents Lorien Foote Speaking on:

"The Dogs of War"

During the American Civil War, dogs served as the police force to maintain control over the slave population in the South. Dogs were omnipresent in the fields, farms, and plantations of the state. Ordinary farm dogs guarded territory and alerted whites to movement along the roads and through the by-ways of the rural countryside. Every neighborhood boasted a specialist who owned and managed a pack of bloodhounds that were used to track and recapture runaway slaves. Confederate conscription in states such as South Carolina, which drained the state of white men, boosted the already important role that dogs played. Women regularly petitioned the state and Confederate government to exempt the specialists who managed dogs from conscription. They claimed that dogs were essential to maintaining order in their states.

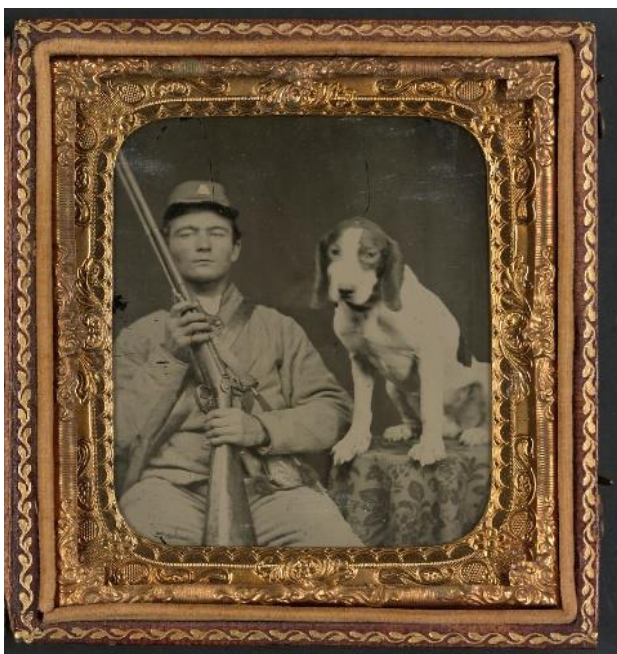
The Confederate military in South Carolina used dogs to repel Union raids that were intended to liberate slaves and recruit black men for the Union Army. When a force of black Union soldiers conducted a raid on the

Combahee River Ferry in June 1863, the Confederate pickets left their position in order to get the military dogs of the 4th South Carolina Cavalry. The dogs attempted, but failed, to cut off over 700 slaves making their way to the Union gunboats at the ferry. After a raid near Pocotaligo in November, 1863, 60 black Union soldiers from the 1st South Carolina, 20 liberated slaves, and several Confederate POWs were waiting on shore for Union gunboats to pick them up. A company of the Confederate 4th South Carolina Cavalry attacked the party, putting a pack of five bloodhounds in the advance. The men of the 1st South Carolina charged the dogs with bayonets and killed three of them. The Confederates then fired an artillery piece and attacked again with the cavalry and the remaining two dogs. The men of the 1st South Carolina opened fire, killed the last two bloodhounds, and repelled the cavalry attack. When the Confederate military planned to transfer the dog pack of the 4th South Carolina Cavalry to Virginia in March, 1864, overseers in the region petitioned Gen. P.G.T. Beauregard to stop the transfer because the loss of the dogs left the region "defenseless."



Dr. Lorien Foote

Emancipation and the political process of reconstruction changed the role of dogs in the South. Vast numbers of dogs were no longer necessary to police slaves. The numbers had even increased in some locations because dogs had followed the movement of the armies. Southerners perceived the high number of dogs in the countryside differently after the war. Thousands of dogs roamed loosely across farms and fields. Hill Carter wrote from the Tidewater region of Virginia that wild dogs killed hogs and sheep. "The negroes too over whom we have no control now, all keep dogs, though they have not bread for their families, and we are overrun with dogs." Carter advocated for a tax on dogs and a reward for killing every dog found off his master's property. "The dogs ought to be exterminated," he concluded. South Carolina and Kentucky passed taxes on dogs in the aftermath of the war. South Carolina legislators viewed the high number of dogs as a source of revenue and put a \$1 tax on each dog. During debates at the state's 1868 constitutional convention, delegates discussed the excess of dogs in the state, the amount of money that could be raised through continued taxes on dogs, and whether or not high dog taxes would cause people to kill their dogs rather than pay the tax. Needless to say, Emancipation had drastic consequences for the dog population of the South.



About Lorien Foote

Lorien Foote is the Patricia & Bookman Peters Professor in History at Texas A&M University. She is the author of four books and numerous articles and essays on the cultural, intellectual, and military history of the American Civil War. Her books include *The Yankee Plague: Escaped Union Prisoners and the Collapse of the Confederacy* (2016), which was a 2017 Choice Outstanding Academic Title, and *The Gentlemen and the Roughs: Manhood, Honor, and Violence in the Union Army* (2010), which was a finalist and Honorable Mention for the 2011 Lincoln Prize. She has two additional books forthcoming in 2021. One is an edited volume on POWs in American history, *Useful Captives: The Role of POWs in American Military Conflicts* (University Press of Kansas) that will be out in February. Her monograph *Rites of Retaliation: Civilization, Soldiers, Campaigns*, published by the University of North Carolina Press, will be released in October. Dr. Foote is also the co-editor, with Earl J. Hess, of *The Oxford Handbook of the Civil War*. She is the creator and principal investigator of a digital humanities project, which is mapping the escape and movement of 3000 Federal prisoners of war. The project includes contributions from undergraduate researchers at four universities. It can be explored on-line at www.ehistory.org/projects/fugitive-federals.html.

COMMANDER'S CORNER

By Mike Harrington

If you missed our January meeting, you missed a riveting presentation by Danny Sessums on the Battle of Arkansas Post.

This month, Dr. Lorien Foote is on tap to address our Round Table. She was well received when she spoke to us in March 2019 on retaliation in the Trans-Mississippi Theater of the war, as some of you will recall. Last April, she was scheduled to speak to us on "The Dogs of War," but the shutdown of the HESS Club in response to COVID-19 scotched that meeting. Fortunately, Dr. Foote has agreed to address that same topic at our February 2021

meeting. Who knew that dogs were employed in fighting the war? Certainly, not I.

It is always helpful to the leaders of your Round Table to receive feedback from members about our choice of speakers and their topics. For the past several years, Gary Chandler and I have been the two most involved in selecting our speakers, and going forward Gene Boisaubin and Keith Altavilla will be filling that role. We strive to line up speakers on a variety of topics that are both informative and likely to pique the interest of our members. As an organization dedicated to the study of the Civil War, we unfailingly bring in speakers each campaign who address specific battles or generals. However, we are not content to just line up speakers on battles or generals. Dr. Foote's talk this month is an example of our attempt to broaden the focus of our Round Table presentations by bringing in experts on some of the other aspects of the war.

If there is a topic relevant to the Civil War era that particularly interests you, and that you think we may have overlooked, I encourage you to bring it to the attention of Gene or Keith.

On another program note, Timothy B. (Tim) Smith is unable to make his presentation to us in March and thus had to cancel. However, we have arranged for a well-regarded substitute speaker, author and lecturer Gene Schmiel. His topic, based on one of his books, is entitled "*Jacob D. Cox, Citizen-General and Hero of Franklin.*" OK, and more good news: Tim Smith is still to be with us, but on our speaker schedule a year later – on March 17, 2022, speaking on the topic of his very interesting book, "*The Real Horse Soldiers.*"

I end my message on a sad note. Elsewhere in this newsletter you'll read of the passing of our long-time member and friend, Dr. Joe Goulding. Joe was a fountainhead of knowledge on the Civil War. In the few times I bested him in the monthly Trivia Quiz, I always walked away with the feeling that I had accomplished something to brag about.



MEMBERSHIP REPORT

By Walker Agnew

Even with the change in our program format, the Houston Civil War Roundtable has been able to add new members. We are excited to have them with us this year! By starting our meetings a little earlier (at 6:30 pm) to enjoy some "social" time, we will make a point to introduce our new members plus welcome back anyone that has been gone a while.

A personal invitation is still the best way to get the word out. Please be sure to let me know of any ideas you may have for recruiting and retaining members. My e-mail address is walkeragnew@comcast.net



DR. JOE GOULDING, 1931 - 2021

We are saddened to hear of the passing of "Dr. Joe" on January 17th in Ft. Worth at age 89. Joe was a past president of our Round Table and was always an outstanding competitor during our trivia quiz competitions, claiming many prizes through the years due to his encyclopedic knowledge of the Civil War. He was also actively involved with the Pasadena Historical Society and often toured various battlefields and museums around the country.

Joe had practiced family medicine in Pasadena for many years following his service in the Air Force. He and his wife Eva relocated to Dallas several years ago to be closer to their children and grandchildren.

Joe is survived by his wife Eva and his four children who reside in the Dallas-Ft. Worth area. Memorial donations may be made in Joe's name to your favorite charity while honoring his memory by loving and caring for one another.

2020 - 2021 SPEAKERS CAMPAIGN

Feb. 18, 2021 Lorien Foote: *"The Dogs of War"* (rescheduled from April 16, 2020)
Mar. 18, 2021 Gene Schmiel: *"Jacob D. Cox, Citizen-General and Hero of Franklin"*
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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