



General Orders

Harrington's Brigade

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www.HoustonCivilWar.com



JUNE, 2021 MEETING
Thursday, June 17, 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 these states. 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. Dr. Foote's edited volume on POWs in American history, *Useful Captives: The Role of POWs in American Military Conflicts* (University Press of Kansas) was released 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*

At our annual meeting in May 2018, you elected me to serve as President of **our** round table for the upcoming campaign. At the risk of overstaying my welcome, I stood for re-election at each of the two subsequent May meetings. This coming meeting will mark the end of my term as your President.

It has been both an honor and a privilege to have served our round table these past three years. During this period, our organization has experienced the harsh reality of the old Chinese curse, "may you live in interesting times," what with the permanent closure of our long-time meeting place at the HESS Club in May of 2020 and our resort to Zoom meetings as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Faced with these unprecedented challenges, we persevered and have kept our round table together.

In parting as your President, I wish to salute the extraordinary group of officers and directors for the current campaign. First and foremost, my kudos to our Programs Chair, **Keith Altavilla**, who stepped up and took over the management of our Zoom meetings, beginning last

September. Keith unselfishly donated his time to work with our monthly speakers to prepare their presentations for showing on Zoom, a behind-the-scenes task that took considerable technical expertise, not to mention time and effort, on Keith's part. I also want to recognize **Gary Chandler** for his unstinting efforts in helping to line up a splendid group of speakers over the past several campaigns and for the upcoming campaign, too. **Barry Brueggeman's** service as our chief financial and accounting officer for lo these last many years is equally worthy of high praise. What would we have done without **Donnie Stowe's** superintending our book raffles or **Jim Godlove's** acting as Quiz Master or managing the supply chain for the Minie ball trophies we award to our speakers? **Roland Bienvenu** has steadfastly continued as our Newsletter editor throughout my tenure, with aid from our Communications Chair, **Scott Wilkey**, who has also seen to it that HCWRT has an ongoing presence on Facebook. **John Stevens**, our Secretary, **Gene Boisaubin**, our VP, and **Walker Agnew**, our Membership Chair, have also played vital roles in our round table during my stewardship. To each of these gentlemen, I say "well done."

As I said to you in the July 2018 Newsletter in my first President's Message, I prefer the term "our" round table, because the Houston Civil War Round Table isn't "my" round table; nor is it the other officers' or directors' round table. It's **your** round table, and I hope you will work with our incoming leadership team to continue the proud legacy of the Houston Civil War Round Table as an organization that promotes the **nonpartisan** study and discussion of – in the words of our charter – the "history, battles, personalities, and significant events of the War Between the States."

If you ask me what "work" I have in mind for our members, it begins with renewing your membership, attending our monthly meetings regularly and encouraging others to join our round table. This upcoming campaign, which begins in September 2021, could well prove to be a "make or break" year for our round table. With the pending transition back to in-person meetings, I am optimistic that both membership and attendance will revive to levels sufficient to enable HCWRT to continue its

mission indefinitely. But **we** – you, the other members and I – will have to make it happen.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

By Walker Agnew

As we close out this year's campaign, we thank everyone for continuing to meet via Zoom to hear our wonderful and great level of speakers. A personal invitation is still the best way to get the word out, so keep thinking about friends you might invite to the June meeting. Please take time during the summer to send in your membership renewal; the membership application is on page 5 of this newsletter.

Your officers and directors are working on finding a suitable location for resuming our in person meetings beginning this fall, and will provide updates when they are available.

We're really looking forward to our outstanding line up of speakers for the 2021-22 campaign. Be sure to read Gary Chandler's article below to see what's in store!

Let me know of any ideas you may have for the membership committee. My email address is walkeragnew@comcast.net.

2021-22 SPEAKERS SCHEDULE ANNOUNCED

By Gary Chandler (Programs Committee & Past Programs Chair)

The Programs Committee during this past 2020-21 campaign has consisted of Vice President **Gene Boisaubin**, Programs Chair **Keith Altavilla**, President **Mike Harrington**, Immediate Past President **Jim Godlove**, and myself. This has been truly a team effort, with each of us handling one or more monthly speakers' coordination, communications, and logistics for 2020-21, as well as dividing the labor to contact and engage the next 2021-22 campaign's speakers. I thank them all for their great work. I especially want to express our appreciation to **Keith** for doing a fine job of prepping speakers for a Zoom format and managing our Zoom meetings—a role none of us saw coming when he agreed to be Programs Chair before the COVID pandemic changed our lives.

Now, what a great lineup of excellent speakers and varied topics we have coming up, beginning September 16th! Like the 2020-21 schedule, all three major military theaters of war (Eastern, Western, and Trans-Mississippi—including Texas) are to be addressed in various presentations, yet with a distinct “Western flavor” in this new campaign. The talks will cover various “sides” or perspectives of the war, military battles and campaigns, home front, and other interesting topics—including social, cultural, and political issues before, during, and after the war, as well as the Civil War in memory and memorialized. Presentations will be made by a distinguished group of historians, authors, historic preservationists, and avid students of mid-19th century America. Some are past speakers and familiar faces. Most will be new to HCWRT.

Our leadoff speaker, Prof. **Andrew Lang** will return to Texas, where he earned his M.A. (UNT) and Ph.D. (Rice), and will speak on “In the Wake of War” – post-war Reconstruction and the experiences of military occupation of the South.

Rice Prof. **Caleb McDaniel** will speak on the topic of his 2020 Pulitzer Prize-winning book “Sweet Taste of Liberty” – the true story of Henrietta Wood, enslaved in Texas and other states, her journey to freedom, and restitution.

William MacKinnon will talk about a setting and events really Westward – the “Utah War” before the Civil War and the experiences of future Union and Confederate leaders in Utah.

Texan **Jeffrey Hunt**, Curator of the Texas Military Forces Museum in Austin, will speak on an Eastern Theater topic in his excellent book series on Meade and Lee after Gettysburg, this topic being “Meade and Lee at Bristoe Station.”

We welcome back to HCWRT **Stephen M. (Sam) Hood**, who will speak on his book “Patriots Twice” about the total body of work of ex-Confederates who built America in prominent roles before and after the war.

National Park Service Historian **James Ogden** (Chickamauga, Chattanooga and Moccasin Bend), who with Ed Bearss led our tour of Chickamauga and Chattanooga in 2006, will talk on “Opening the Cracker Line and the Battle of Wauhatchie.”

Prof. **Timothy B. Smith**, historian and prolific author specializing on the Civil War in the Western Theater, will speak on his book, “The Real Horse Soldiers”—not John Wayne’s Horse Soldiers, but Grierson’s epic raid through Mississippi.

HCWRT welcomes back Prof. **Lorien Foote** of Texas A&M, whose presentation will be on “Affairs of Honor in the Armies” focusing on codes of conduct and honor, cultural norms, and behaviors, both Union and Confederate.

We will hold open our May meeting date for the HCWRT **2022 Vandiver Award**.

Please refer to the last page of this newsletter for the 2021-22 Speakers Schedule.



JEFFERSON SYMPOSIUM

The 10th Annual Civil War Symposium in Jefferson, Texas will be held on Saturday, August 7th, 2021. The theme of this year’s symposium is “Trans-Mississippi: Of Webfeet, Bowlegs, Redlegs, and POWs.” Featured speakers for this one-day event are Vicki Betts, William J. Bozic, Jr., M. Jane Johansson, and Stephen M. Mayeux.

Registration (which includes a barbeque lunch) is \$75.00 for adults and \$35.00 for students. There will also be a Friday night speakers’ reception for \$25.00 per person. Vendors and exhibitors will be present, and a silent auction will be held. All proceeds will go towards the Jefferson Historical Society & Museum for operation and maintenance of the Museum.

For information on registration and lodging, contact the Museum at (903) 665-2775, or visit their website at www.jeffersonmuseum.com. For information on events, contact Weldon Nash at wnash@sbcglobal.net.



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

2020 - 2021 SPEAKERS CAMPAIGN

June 17, 2021 Lorien Foote: *"The Dogs of War"* (rescheduled from February 18, 2021)

2021 – 2022 SPEAKERS CAMPAIGN

Sept. 16, 2021 Andrew Lang: *"In the Wake of War"*
Oct. 21, 2021 Caleb McDaniel: *"Sweet Taste of Liberty"*
Nov. 18, 2021 William MacKinnon: *"Before Fort Sumter: The Utah War Experiences of Union and Confederate Leaders"*
Dec. 16, 2021 Jeffrey Hunt: *"Meade and Lee at Bristoe Station"*
(Note: 3rd Thursday of December, not 2nd)
Jan. 20, 2022 Stephen M. (Sam) Hood: *"Patriots Twice"*
Feb. 17, 2022 James Ogden: *"Opening the Cracker Line and the Battle of Wauhatchie"*
Mar. 17, 2022 Timothy B. Smith: *"The Real Horse Soldiers"*
Apr. 21, 2022 Lorien Foote: *"Affairs of Honor in the Armies"*
May 19, 2022 TBD: *Holding for 2022 Vandiver Award Recipient*

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