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General Orders

Boisaubin's Brigade

Vol. 33
No. 3
Oct.
2021



OCTOBER, 2021 MEETING
Thursday, October 21, 2021

Rudi Lechner's Restaurant
2503 South Gessner Road
6:00 (or sooner) Dinner
7:00 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, October 18, 2021

*** **Reservations are Required** ***

There is no cost for dues-paid members.
\$10.00 charge for visitors.

The HCWRT Presents **Caleb McDaniel Speaking on:**

“Sweet Taste of Liberty”

The topic of Caleb McDaniel's presentation is an unforgettable saga of one enslaved woman's fight for justice and reparations. Born into slavery, Henrietta Wood was taken to Cincinnati and legally freed in 1848. In 1853, a Kentucky deputy sheriff named Zebulon Ward, abducted her, and sold her back into bondage. She remained enslaved throughout the Civil War, never forgetting who had put her in this position.

By 1869, Wood had obtained her freedom for a second time and returned to Cincinnati, where she sued Ward for damages in 1870. Astonishingly, after eight years of litigation,

Wood won her case: in 1878, a federal jury awarded her \$2,500. The decision stuck on appeal. More important than the amount, though the largest ever awarded by an American court in restitution for slavery, was the fact that any money was awarded at all.

Dr. McDaniel's book is an epic tale of a black woman who survived slavery twice and who achieved more than merely a moral victory over one of her oppressors. *Sweet Taste of Liberty* is also a searing reminder of the lessons of her story, which continue to raise questions today about how we might go about addressing the debt that the United States owes to the people whose unfree labor constructed a great deal of that nation.



Dr. Caleb McDaniel

About Caleb McDaniel

Dr. Caleb McDaniel is the Mary Gibbs Jones Professor of Humanities and current Chair of the History Department at Rice University, where he also serves as Co-Chair for Rice's Task Force on Slavery, Segregation, and Racial Injustice. He received his Ph.D. in History at Johns

Hopkins University, and served as Assistant Professor of History at the University of Denver.

Dr. McDaniel's latest book, *Sweet Taste of Liberty: A True Story of Slavery and Restitution in America*, was published in 2019 by Oxford University Press. It was supported by a Public Scholar grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities and received the 2020 Pulitzer Prize in History and the Avery O. Craven Award from the Organization of American Historians.

His first book, *The Problem of Democracy in the Age of Slavery*, won the Merle Curti prize from the Organization of American Historians and the James Broussard Prize from the Society of Historians of the Early American Republic.

In addition to numerous academic articles about the history of slavery, antislavery, and emancipation in the nineteenth century, Dr. McDaniel has written essays that have appeared in the *New York Times*, *Smithsonian*, *The Atlantic*, and *TIME*. He is also the creator or co-creator of several digital humanities projects.



PRESIDENT'S PRESS

By Gene Boisaubin

By any measure, the first, face-to-face meeting of the HCWRT in over a year, at our new venue at Rudi Lechner's, was a success. A substantial and enthusiastic crowd of over thirty members attended and enjoyed both well prepared and served meals as well as a provocative presentation by our speaker,

Professor Andrew Lang. His topic, "In the Wake of War" analyzed the period after the war when large numbers of Union troops occupied vast areas of the South, creating an entirely new dynamic that was often confusing and even chaotic for soldiers and civilians. The presentation was very well received and Professor Lang deftly handled the question and answer period, including suggestions as how the topic can readily tie into current events. There was ample seating space for the attendees and the safety protocols in effect were followed without hesitation. We did learn that in order to begin the meeting precisely at 7:00 PM as planned, we need to ask **attendees to consider arriving as early as 5:30 PM** to make sure they have adequate time to order, be served, perhaps add in a dessert/coffee, settle their account and take a seat in the presentation area. I realize 5:30 PM is a bit early for many evening meals, so a light lunch might be considered that day.

We are also quite fortunate to continue the new campaign with another top-ranking historian and presentation. W. Caleb McDaniel is a Professor of History at Rice University in Houston and will present material from his best-selling Pulitzer Prize in History-winning *Sweet Taste of Liberty: A True Story of Slavery and Restitution in America*. Professor McDaniel's biographical information can be found on the previous page of this newsletter. Not only will we continue Donnie Stowe's popular book raffle, but will also resume Jim Godlove's equally popular "Monthly Quiz". As they say in the Navy, September's meeting was our "shake-down cruise" where we found out what went well and what needs some fine tuning. Please join us on Thursday, October 21 around 5:30 at Rudi's for an exciting and even smoother cruise!

The memorial service for **Ed Bearss**, originally scheduled for October 9th in Manassas, Virginia, has been postponed until Spring of 2022. We will post updated details regarding Ed's rescheduled service in a future newsletter as soon as we receive this information.

HTBAR HILL COUNTRY SCHOLARLY SEMINAR

The Hood's Texas Brigade Association, Re-Activated, is sponsoring a Hill Country Scholarly Seminar in Kerrville, Texas on Friday and Saturday, November 12 and 13, 2021.

Dr. Don Frazier, CEO of the Texas Center at Schreiner University in Kerrville, will be the host throughout the weekend. He will lead a bus tour Friday afternoon starting at 1:30 which includes visits to various historical sites in the area. Saturday's schedule includes talks by Dr. Frazier, Michael Pittmon, Danny Sessums, Barry Hendler, and Scott Bowden.

There will be a reception at the Texas Center following the seminar. The event also includes vendors, speaker book signings, and exhibits. Inasmuch as there is no "official hotel" for this seminar, attendees may make arrangements at a local hotel/motel of their choice. Registration fees are \$40.00 for the Friday event and \$75.00 for Saturday's event.

For further information and to register, contact HTBAR President Martha Hartzog at m.hartzog@mail.utexas.edu or (512) 431-2682. HCWRT member John Stevens is registering attendees; he can be reached at (713) 885-5288.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

By Walker Agnew

It was great to see such a wonderful group of attendees at last month's meeting. We have had a good number of members who have already sent in their dues for the '21-'22 campaign. If you have not submitted your dues yet, please mail to: Houston Civil War Round Table, C/O Barry G. Brueggeman, 3706 Lonniewood Drive, Houston, TX 77059. The application form is on page 5 of this newsletter.

Please let me know if you need to have a new name tag made. These help new members (and some "old" ones) to remember names!

A personal invitation is still the best way to get the word out. Let me know of any ideas you may have for the membership committee. My email address is walkeragnew@comcast.net.

HCWRT NEW MEETING VENUE, FORMAT, AND SAFETY MEASURES

Our September newsletter contained an article regarding our new meeting venue, meeting format, and safety measures being put in place due to the current COVID situation. The following is information contained in this article and reiterates these important measures (approved by the HCWRT Board of Directors) which all meeting attendees should be aware of:

- All persons attending will wear a mask during the meeting. Please bring your own. A few extra masks will be available at each meeting.
- At our brand-new venue, Rudi Lechner's, dinner will not be served during the course of the meeting, but instead **we ask diners to arrive no later than 6:00 p.m. (earlier if possible)** to be served in a designated area in the restaurant's main dining room. Be sure to mention you're with the Houston Civil War Round Table when being seated by Rudi's staff.
- Attendees will order from a regular menu, and will have their own tabs, whether for dinner, appetizers, and/or drinks. Tabs need to be closed by 6:55 p.m. in order for attendees to be in their seats in the separate meeting room by 7:00 p.m. (sharp).
- The HCWRT meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. and include the recitation of our Pledge of Allegiance, the speaker's presentation, and a post-presentation question / answer session. HCWRT agenda items (e.g., pertinent membership announcements, book raffle, and other limited business items) also are planned.

- Book sales and signings generally are at the discretion of the speaker.
- Meeting attendees will be seated in rows - "classroom" fashion - and in chairs spaced for "social distancing".
- If you feel sick, have a fever, or personally feel you cannot abide by these temporary requirements, we ask that you please stay home. If you cannot attend for any of these reasons, we hope you'll be able to attend future meetings.
- We will revisit our community COVID status and our meeting plans month by month as long as COVID spiking continues, so please stay tuned for future meeting information.
- As our socially-distanced space in the meeting room is likely limited to some 30 - 35 spaces, **it is imperative that attendees adhere strictly to the RSVP requirements shown in the upper left corner of the first page of this newsletter in order to ensure that a seat is available.** Those who do not RSVP by the deadline and walk-ins will risk not being able to enter the meeting space due to lack of seating capacity.

BOOK RAFFLE

By Donnie Stowe

I have to say I really enjoyed seeing everyone again, up close and with our masks on, at the September meeting. Even some "semblance of normalcy" makes me feel good!

Well now, back to this month's raffle. We begin with **The CLASS of 1846 – From West Point to Appomattox** by John C. Waugh. This book was donated by our former quiz king, the late Dr. Joe Goulding. Next in our lineup is **The WAR HITS HOME** by Brian Steel Wills and was provided to us by Ms. Diane Davis. The third book this month is **EMBATTLED SHRINE – Jamestown in the Civil War** by David F. Riggs. In this volume, David Riggs (once curator of the Jamestown Museum collection) gives the account of Jamestown's role in the Civil War. The fourth selection is **THE WAR FOR THE UNION: The Organized War 1863-1864** by Allan Nevins. For many years, Allan Nevins was the De Witt Clinton Professor of American History at Columbia University. The fifth book in this month's raffle is **THE VACANT CHAIR – The Northern Soldier Leaves Home** by Reid Mitchell and comes from my own stock of books.



Our members are encouraged to donate any well-read Civil War books to the Houston Civil War Round Table, but I do ask that they be in at least fair to good condition. I have a well-stocked inventory of books that should last us through at least three to four more campaigns, but I do examine each volume that is submitted and feel obligated not to offer books that are water damaged/heavily highlighted or underlined to our members as raffle prizes.

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OCTOBER QUIZ

By Jim Godlove

Q: Since this month's topic has such a narrow focus (Henrietta Wood), our questions will concentrate on events 160 years ago, on October 21, 1861. On this day, a battle was fought on the south bank of the Potomac River.

Name this action which saw the death of the United States Senator from Oregon.



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

2021 – 2022 SPEAKERS CAMPAIGN

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

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