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General Orders

Boisaubin's Brigade

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NOVEMBER, 2021 MEETING
Thursday, November 18, 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 bqbrueg@aol.com or call 281 480-1130 by 6 pm Monday, November 15, 2021

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

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

The HCWRT Presents Edward Cotham Speaking on:

“A Busy Week in Texas: Ulysses S. Grant’s 1880 Visit to the Lone Star State”

The scheduled speaker for our November meeting has cancelled his trip to Houston due to health concerns. Fortunately, our own Ed Cotham has agreed to fill the vacancy.

Ed will speak to us about the subject of his newest book, *A Busy Week in Texas: Ulysses S. Grant's 1880 Visit to the Lone Star State*. Ed's presentations are always interesting, and this one should be no exception.

In the spring of 1880, Ulysses S. Grant, former general-in-chief and two-term president of the United States, stepped ashore at

Galveston and began what turned out to be a seven-day whirlwind visit to Texas. Because of his past accomplishments and the chance that he might be nominated to serve an unprecedented third presidential term, Grant was the most famous and eagerly awaited celebrity ever to visit the Lone Star State. The general visited Galveston, San Antonio, and Houston, where he was greeted by thousands of cheering Texans.

As Ed will relate, Grant's visit to Texas was the subject of extensive coverage in newspapers across the nation, providing a unique time capsule for modern readers. The detailed reports of parades, banquets, receptions, and social activities not only document what Grant did at these functions, but also provide a record of what the thousands who came to see him said and did. The elaborate banquet menus and the word-by-word transcriptions of after-dinner toasts and speeches provide a fascinating window into social activities that are no longer an active part of modern life.



Ed Cotham

Like his book, Ed's talk will tell the story of Grant's busy week in Texas, giving us a picture of Texas in 1880 the way Grant experienced it.

About Ed Cotham

Edward Terrel Cotham, Jr. needs little introduction to members of the Houston Civil War Round Table. A long-term member of our organization, Ed has served as President of HCWRT. In 2006, we proudly bestowed the Frank C. Vandiver Award of Merit on Ed.

A native Texan, Ed grew up in Houston. He holds an undergraduate degree in Economics from the University of Houston and an M.A. in Economics from the University of Chicago. In 1979, Ed received a law degree from the University of Texas and returned home to practice law.

Currently, Ed serves as the Chief Investment Officer of the Terry Foundation in Houston. The Terry Foundation is the largest private source of scholarships at Texas universities.

A Life Member of the Civil War Preservation Trust, Ed is also a member of the Company of Military Historians, the Society of Civil War Historians, the Southern Historical Association, and the Author's Guild.

Ed and his wife Candy maintain homes in both Houston and Galveston. Ed's ties to Galveston Island run deep. He has guided historical tours there for many years. In 2011, he received the President's Award for Distinguished Volunteer Service from the Galveston Historical Foundation. Ed's first book, *Battle on the Bay: The Civil War Struggle for Galveston*, was published in 1998 by the University of Texas Press.

Ed's other published Civil War books and articles tend to emphasize battles and skirmishes in Texas. They include two widely acclaimed books, *Sabine Pass: The Confederacy's Thermopylae*, published in August 2004, and *Juneteenth: The Story Behind the Celebration*, published earlier this year.

Ed's most recent publication is his book relating to President's Grant's visit to Texas in March 1880, the subject of this month's talk to HCWRT. Ed will have copies of this new book

as well as his *Juneteenth* book available for purchase at our meeting.

Additionally, Ed will be leading Battle of Galveston walking tours on January 8 and 9, 2022. To register for either of these tours, go to www.galvestonhistory.org/events/battle-of-galveston-walking-tour



PRESIDENT'S PRESS *By Gene Boisaubin*

The second meeting of the HCWRT's annual campaign was held on Thursday, October 21, with thirty members present to hear Professor W. Caleb McDaniel, Chairman of the Department of History at Rice University, speak about his Pulitzer Prize-winning book, *Sweet Taste of Liberty: A True Story of Slavery and Restitution in America*. Professor McDaniel not only spoke about Henrietta Wood's ordeal in gaining her freedom from slavery and ultimate financial recompense from her enslaver, but other themes such as the movement of whole plantations, including slaves, to Texas as increasing areas of the southeast came under Union control following the fall of Vicksburg.

Sadly, for a number of slaves, neither the end of the war nor Juneteenth gave them personal freedom. The presentation was extremely well received with a lively discussion period after. Rudi's restaurant did an excellent job of accommodating our members who dined there.

Our group is also looking forward to the November presentation when Civil War

historian Ed Cotham will relate the experiences of Ulysses S. Grant during his 1880 visit to the Texas gulf coast as described in his new book. Ed's book also includes a tour guide that allows readers to retrace the general's path to many historic sites.

We are currently planning to maintain the same COVID precaution measures for the November meeting, but depending upon the state of the pandemic in Houston at that time, these measures could be modified.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

By Walker Agnew

Once again, we had a great group at our last meeting. Dr. Caleb McDaniel from Rice University related the story of Henrietta Wood's slavery and restitution. His research and writing earned a Pulitzer Prize in 2020.

Please make sure you have sent in your dues for the current campaign. If you have not done so yet, please mail your payment to: Houston Civil War Round Table, c/o Barry G. Brueggeman, 3706 Lonnie Wood Drive, Houston, TX, 77059. A membership application form can be found on page 5 of this newsletter.

Also, please let me know if you need to have a new name tag made. It really helps our new members (and some old) to remember a name.

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.



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

It was good to see everyone at our last meeting in October; we're hoping for an even bigger crowd at this month's meeting!

I begin this month's raffle with **ROBERT E. LEE on LEADERSHIP: Executive Lessons in Character, Courage, and Vision** by H.W. Crocker III. The lessons in this book are as relevant today as they were in the Civil War era. Our next selection is **BLOODY SPRING: Forty Days That Sealed the Confederacy's Fate** by Joseph Wheelan. This is a used – like new volume from my own collection. The third book

this month is **THE BLUE and THE GRAY** by Thomas B. Allen and photography by Sam Abell. I might add that the forward is written by the late Shelby Foote. This is a handsome



volume that could be a great Christmas gift. Sliding into the fourth spot is **LEE'S COLONELS** by Robert K. Krick. This book is from the Jefferson Davis Association/Rice University c/o Lynda

Crist. It is a biographical register of the officers of the Army of Northern Virginia. Our final selection is **THE FINAL FURY: Palmito Ranch** by Phillip Thomas Tucker and was donated by William McQue. As many of you know, this was the last battle of the Civil War and took place in Cameron County, Texas.

NOVEMBER QUIZ
By Jim Godlove

Q: Ulysses S. Grant had been in Texas during the Mexican War. During one of the opening battles, Lt. Grant was left in command of his company. He wrote that his company had charged and captured a wounded Mexican colonel and others. When sending them to the rear, he discovered that the ground had been charged over before. He wrote that his exploit was like that of a "soldier who boasted that he had cut off the leg of one of the enemy." When asked why he did not cut off his head, he replied: "Someone had done that before."

What was the name of this battle in which Grant asserted that the battle would have been won "just as it was, if I had not been there"?



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

- Nov. 18, 2021 Edward Cotham: *“A Busy Week in Texas: Ulysses S. Grant’s 1880 Visit to the Lone Star State”*
- 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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