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General Orders

Boisaubin's Brigade

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2021



DECEMBER, 2021 MEETING
Thursday, December 16, 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, December 13, 2021

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

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

The HCWRT Presents Jeffrey Hunt Speaking on:

“Meade and Lee at Bristoe Station”

Although most histories of the Civil War skip lightly over events in Virginia between the Battle of Gettysburg and the start of Grant's Overland Campaign, the second half of 1863 was anything but quiet. After returning to the upper Rappahannock River, the Army of the Potomac paused for six weeks on Lincoln's orders, while nearly 10,000 of its troops went north to enforce the draft. The Confederacy took advantage of that lull to transfer James Longstreet's corps from the Army of Northern Virginia to Georgia, where it helped Braxton Bragg win the battle of Chickamauga. In the face of that defeat, the

North shifted the XI and XII Corps from the Army of the Potomac to Tennessee in hope of redeeming the desperate situation at Chattanooga.

Despite losing one-third of his strength due to Longstreet's departure, Gen. Robert E. Lee took advantage of the Federal countermove by launching a daring offensive against Maj. Gen. George Meade's Army of the Potomac, located inside a treacherous sideways 'V' created by the Rappahannock and Rapidan rivers. What followed was a fast-based campaign of maneuver as Lee sought to land a crippling blow on his opponent, while Meade strove to avoid the thrust by rapidly withdrawing toward Centreville. For a week, the two armies engaged in a race, with violent cavalry actions taking place almost daily as Lee tried to head off Meade's infantry before it slipped beyond his reach. The campaign climaxed in a bloody rearguard action at a place called Bristoe Station.



Jeffrey Hunt

This campaign, never before studied in depth by Civil War historians, is the subject of the second book in author Jeffrey William Hunt's *Meade and Lee* series of books examining the war in Virginia between Lee's retreat over the Potomac after Gettysburg and the end of active campaigning in December 1863, and will be the subject of his forthcoming presentation before the HCWRT on December 16th.

About Jeffrey Hunt

Jeffrey William Hunt is the Director of the Texas Military Forces Museum at Camp Mabry in Austin, Texas, which is the official museum of the Texas National Guard, and an Adjunct Professor of History at Austin Community College, where he has taught since 1988. Prior to taking the post at the Texas Military Forces Museum in 2007, he was the Curator of Collections and Director of the Living History Program at the Admiral Nimitz National Museum of the Pacific War in Fredericksburg, Texas for 11 years. He holds a bachelor's degree in Government and a master's degree in History, both from the University of Texas at Austin. In 2013, Mr. Hunt was appointed an honorary Admiral in the Texas Navy by Governor Rick Perry, in recognition of his efforts to tell the story of the Texas Navy during the period of the Texas Revolution and Republic.

He is a veteran reenactor, with 35 years of experience conducting, participating in and hosting a wide variety of events ranging from the War of 1812 through the Vietnam War.

Mr. Hunt's is the author of *The Last Battle of the Civil War: Palmetto Ranch, Meade and Lee at Bristoe Station: The Problems of Command and Strategy After Gettysburg, From Brandy Station to the Buckland Races, August 1 to October 31, 1863, and Meade and Lee at Rappahannock Station: The Army of the Potomac's First Post-Gettysburg Offensive: From Kelly's Ford to the Rapidan, October 21 to November 21, 1863.*

Mr. Hunt is also a contributor to the *Essential Civil War Curriculum, The Revised Handbook of Texas, The Gale Library of Daily Life: American Civil War, and North & South Magazine.*

The final book in his post-Gettysburg Series, *Meade and Lee at Mine Run*, is forthcoming in 2022.



PRESIDENT'S PRESS

By Gene Boisaubin

The third meeting of the HCWRT's annual campaign was held on Thursday, November 18th with once again over 30 members in attendance to hear Ed Cotham, a familiar face and voice to our Round Table, who gave an excellent presentation on his newest book, *A Busy Week in Texas: Ulysses Grant's 1880 Visit to the Lone Star State*. Ed never fails to impress and his presentation was met with avid attention and a lively discussion. This was followed by a book signing.

Continuing our series of outstanding presenters and topics of the Civil War era, we are extremely fortunate to have Professor Jeffrey Hunt as our December speaker who will speak to us about "Meade and Grant at Bristoe Station."

Mr. Hunt's impressive background is described in the foregoing article on this page. His book *Meade and Lee After Gettysburg: The Forgotten Final Stage of the Gettysburg Campaign: From Falling Waters to Culpeper Court House*, was named Eastern Theater Book of the Year by Civil War Books & Authors; and was the 2018 recipient of the Gettysburg Civil War Round Table Distinguished Book Award

Since there is good evidence that COVID is remaining active during the holiday period, we will continue our current masking and distancing policy for the December meeting. With the New

Year, we are hopeful for a change in the pattern of the pandemic and eventually we will not have to require these precautions.

I urge all members to become familiar with the article entitled “New Meeting Venue, Format, and Safety Measures” contained in the September, October, and November newsletters. In particular, **please phone or e-mail your reservations by 6 pm the Monday prior to each meeting in order to ensure your seat for the presentation and to assist us in managing our attendance.**

NOVEMBER QUIZ

By Jim Godlove

Q: The Confederate general whose division suffered the most casualties at Bristoe Station is most famous for starting the Battle of Gettysburg while “looking for shoes.” He was also wounded July 1st.

Who was this Virginia general who was said to have been the only officer in the Army of Northern Virginia whom R. E. Lee addressed by his given name?



MEMBERSHIP REPORT

By Walker Agnew

I’m excited that our members and guests continue to fill up the meeting room at Rudi’s to hear wonderful presentations from our speakers! We would appreciate everyone making timely reservations (by 6 pm Monday, December 13th) to ensure your seat.

The membership committee will continue to reach out to members from previous years for their continued support of the Round Table. The

best way to increase our membership is to invite a friend to the programs. Membership forms are normally on page 5 of each month’s newsletter and can also be downloaded from the website.

Please contact me now if you need to have a new name tag made. It really helps 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.



Ed Cotham and HCWRT Vice President Keith Altavilla at November meeting



2021 Vandiver Award recipient Dr. Donald S. Frazier with HCWRT Members attending last month’s Hood’s Texas Brigade Association’s Scholarly Seminar hosted by Dr. Frazier and The Texas Center in Schreiner, Texas. Standing behind Dr. Frazier in the photo are HCWRT members (top row left to right: HCWRT Secretary and Vandiver Award Committee member John Stevens and Don Zuckero; and front row left to right: Neal Weaver and Vandiver Award Committee member Gary Chandler).

THIS MONTH IN CIVIL WAR HISTORY

Dec. 3, 1863 – Siege of Knoxville, Tennessee concludes

Dec. 8, 1861 – CSS Sumter seizes Northern merchant ship *Eben Dodge* in the mid-Atlantic

Dec. 11 to 15, 1862 – Battle of Fredericksburg, Virginia

Dec. 15, 1864 – Battle of Knoxville, Tennessee begins

Dec. 18, 1865 – The Thirteenth Amendment, which abolished slavery, becomes a part of the U. S. Constitution

Dec. 20, 1860 – South Carolina adopts an Ordinance of Secession

Dec. 31, 1862 – Battle of Parker's Cross Roads, Tennessee

Dec. 31, 1862 – Battle of Stones River near Murfreesboro, Tennessee



ARTICLES AND SUBMISSIONS WANTED

HCWRT members are welcome and encouraged to submit book reviews, photos, articles, and other items of interest to editor Roland Bienvenu for possible inclusion in upcoming newsletter editions.

In the past, we have published poems, members' photos, book reviews, articles regarding Civil War museums, as well as various other topics relating to the Civil War which are of interest to our general membership.

Feel free to send submissions to Roland at NewsLetter@HoustonCivilWar.com.



BOOK RAFFLE

By Donnie Stowe

I really enjoyed Ed Cotham's talk at last month's meeting and was also pleased with the "sell-out" attendance at that meeting!

Now for this month's selection of books/magazines: I start off with a great one that could well wind up under someone's Christmas tree this year, and that's **THE AMERICAN HERITAGE NEW HISTORY of the CIVIL WAR** narrated by Bruce Catton with



introduction by James M. McPherson. This wonderful volume is a donation from Roland Bienvenu (past president). Next in our lineup is **A WORLD ON FIRE** by Amanda Foreman. This book details Great Britain's role in the American Civil War. The

third book this month is **LINCOLN'S MEN – How President Lincoln Became Father to an Army and a Nation** by William C. Davis. This volume comes from the library of our past member Joseph C. Goulding. The fourth selection is **COMBAT: THE CIVIL WAR**, edited with a running commentary by Don Congdon and introduction by Bruce Catton. The fifth book in this month's raffle is **JOHN BROWN'S TRIAL** by Brian McGinty and is from Barry Brueggeman's collection.



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

- 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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