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# General Orders

## *Boisaubin's Brigade*

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**FEBRUARY, 2022 MEETING**  
**Thursday, February 17, 2022**

**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 [bjbrueg@aol.com](mailto:bjbrueg@aol.com) or call 281 480-1130 by 6 pm Monday, February 14, 2022

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

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

### The HCWRT Presents James (Jim) Ogden Speaking on:

### **“Opening the Cracker Line and the Battle of Wauhatchie”**

The fate of Chattanooga and the starving Union Army of the Cumberland hung in the balance after the Battle of Chickamauga. If a *viable* supply line was not soon opened into the only recently won “Gateway to the Deep South” city, it might have to be abandoned. A break-out and break-in plan, and its component parts—reinforcements from the Union Army of the Potomac’s Eleventh and Twelfth Corps, assets to bridge the rising and often unruly Tennessee River, hastily assembled steamboats—were in the making. But could it

be executed before the Army of the Cumberland was starved into retreat or surrender? And would Braxton Bragg’s besieging Confederate Army of Tennessee (augmented by James Longstreet’s First Corps from the Army of Northern Virginia) who occupied dominating Lookout Mountain, additional heights and other vital ground, stymie any attempt?

The stakes were high as William B. Hazen’s 1,400 Union soldiers pushed off for Brown’s Ferry in 50 pontoon boats and two flatboats on the Tennessee River in the pre-dawn darkness of October 27, 1863. In “Opening the Cracker Line and the Battle of Wauhatchie,” Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park Historian Jim Ogden will examine the Union’s October, 1863, reopening of the Tennessee River operation, including its largest engagement, the Battle of Wauhatchie, one of the few, and perhaps the largest, of all nighttime engagements of the war.



*Jim Ogden*

The “Cracker Line” opened into Chattanooga ensured continued Federal possession of the “Gateway to the Deep South” and set the stage for Ulysses S. Grant’s victories on Lookout Mountain and Missionary Ridge in the Battles for Chattanooga a month later, thus opening the pathway to Atlanta.

The Battle of Wauhatchie occurred on the night of October 28-29, 1863, featuring elements of Longstreet’s Confederate First Corps versus elements of the Union Eleventh and Twelfth Corps. Longstreet’s command included Jerome Robertson’s Brigade, consisting of the hard-fighting First, Fourth, and Fifth Texas Infantry Regiments and the Third Arkansas Infantry Regiment. Units from both sides had been heavily engaged at the Battle of Gettysburg early in July. Robertson’s Texans and Arkansans engaged the enemy only once while positioned among the hills along the Tennessee River. That affair was the Battle of Wauhatchie, remembered and recorded by Texans (despite their relatively low casualties) as one of the eeriest, strangest, and most terrorizing battles of the war—fought as it was under fire, in the dark of night, on the steep, slippery mountainside and hills below Lookout Mountain.

## About Jim Ogden

**James (Jim) Ogden, III** is a native of St. Mary’s County, Maryland. Interested in the Civil War since childhood, he obtained a degree in American History through the Civil War period and American Military History from Frostburg State College. During college, he worked summers for the Maryland Park Service at Point Lookout State Park, site of the largest Civil War prison, where historical interpretation and research were among the many positions he held. As part of a college internship, he worked for four months at Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, West Virginia, researching and writing on an aspect of that site’s Civil War history that had not been addressed previously.

Beginning work with the National Park Service in 1982, he has been stationed at Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park, Georgia and Tennessee, Russell

Cave National Monument, Alabama, and Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park, Virginia. In November, 1988, he returned to Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park as the Historian, the position he currently holds.

He speaks regularly on aspects of the Civil War to historical organizations across the eastern half of the U. S. including Civil War Round Tables in New York, Chicago, Minneapolis, Atlanta, Birmingham, New Orleans, and Austin. In addition to doing tours of the Chickamauga and Chattanooga battlefields, he periodically takes groups to other Western Theater battlefields. He has taught Civil War history courses for the Continuing Education Department of the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, and has published a number of articles. Jim has appeared on Greystone Communications/Arts and Entertainment Network’s “Civil War Journal,” the History Channel’s “Civil War Combat,” PBS’s “History Detectives,” and C-SPAN.

Since 1986, he has been an instructor for over six hundred groups of officers of the U. S. Army conducting Staff Rides (an in-depth analysis of a historical military event) at Chickamauga and Chattanooga. For a decade, his Staff Ride clients included two to six hundred officers annually from the British Army’s Joint Services Command and Staff College.

The recognition of his contributions to Civil War history and preservation include the Friends of Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park Drew Haskins, Jr. Memorial Service Award (1998), Civil War Trust Chairman’s Award for Excellence in Preservation (2011), Chattanooga Area Historical Association Dr. James W. Livingood Historian of the Year Award (2014), the Civil War Round Table of Chicago Allan Nevins-Douglas Southall Freeman Award (2014), United States Army Commander’s Award for Public Service (2017), Civil War Trust’s National Park Service Preservation Advocate Award (2017), and the Department of the Army’s Superior Public Service Medal (2019).

Jim, his wife Lora, and their son James reside in Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia.



## PRESIDENT'S PRESS

*By Gene Boisubin*

The fifth meeting of the HCWRT's Annual Campaign was held on Thursday evening, January 20, 2022, with 27 attendees gathering to hear Sam Hood present "Patriots Twice: Former Confederates and the Building of America after the Civil War." Sam's very spirited and informative presentation was extremely well received and an enthusiastic question and answer period followed.

Our speaker for February 17 will be Jim Ogden, Historian of the Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park presenting "Opening the Cracker Line and the Battle of Wauhatchie." Jim is an extremely well informed and stimulating speaker and a larger account of his background and accomplishments appear elsewhere in this newsletter. But suffice it to say he is highly regarded as one of the nation's most renown tour guides and lecturers, and we are extremely fortunate to have him present. As usual, we will also feature our popular quiz and book raffle. We had hopes to be able to move away from the impact of COVID, but unfortunately, the new Omicron strain is even more contagious than previous ones and makes our close quarters at the restaurant an ideal opportunity for potential spread. Therefore, we are asking all attendees to continue to bring a mask to wear and try to distance as much as is reasonably possible. Also **please let Barry Brueggeman know of your attendance for the meeting by Monday, February 14 at 6 p.m.** I hope to see you all in February!

## FEBRUARY QUIZ

*By Jim Godlove*

Q: The Union troops that took part in the Battle of Wauhatchie had been transferred from the Army of the Potomac.

**What former Army of the Potomac commander led them?**



## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

*By Walker Agnew*

I'm quite pleased that our meeting attendance numbers have been averaging around 30 through the first half of this campaign year. We are noticing some members bringing a friend or two, which is a positive way to build our membership. A few have even brought their younger family members who have an interest in history, which is great to see! Please think about those friends, acquaintances, or relatives who might like to join us for these wonderful presentations and invite them to attend one night as a guest!

Membership forms are normally available in the monthly newsletter and can be downloaded from the HCWRT website, which is [houstonscivilwar.com](http://houstonscivilwar.com).

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](mailto:walkeragnew@comcast.net).



**WHATEVER HAPPENED TO .....  
JOSHUA LAWRENCE  
CHAMBERLAIN?**

Best known for his historic participation in the Battle of Gettysburg, Chamberlain returned to his native state of Maine following the war where he served four terms as the state’s governor. He later served as president of Bowdoin College alongside former general and Bowdoin alumni Oliver Otis Howard.

Chamberlain spent his later years writing and speaking about the war. His memoir of the Appomattox Campaign, *The Passing of the Armies*, was published after his death in 1914.

**BOOK RAFFLE  
*By Donnie Stowe***

It was good to see everyone last month at our first meeting in 2022!

The book raffle this month starts off with **DISUNION, WAR, DEFEAT, and RECOVERY IN ALABAMA – The Journal of Augustus Benner 1850-1885**. Edited by Glenn and Virginia Linden, Benner’s diary is very rich about both public events as well as his personal life. It shows us the perspective of one



man who enjoyed privilege but not overwhelming wealth, and who witnessed destruction but was not destroyed himself. Our second selection is **CAMPAINING WITH GRANT** by General Horace Porter. Porter became a

member of Grant’s staff and rode with Grant during the Wilderness, Cold Harbor, and Petersburg campaigns. Next in the line-up is **THE CIVIL WAR** by Robert Paul Jordan. At the time of its writing, Mr. Jordan was a member of the National Geographic Senior Editorial Staff. The fourth selection this month is **LEE and GRANT**, a dual biography by Gene Smith. This book “skillfully interweaves the lives of these two charismatic figures” in their early lives, during the war as opponents, and in their post war years regarding their contributions to this nation. The fifth book in this month’s raffle is **ATTACK and DIE – Civil War Military Tactics and the Southern Heritage** by Grady McWhiney and Perry D. Jamieson.



*Last month’s speaker Sam Hood*



## 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](http://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

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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