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General Orders

Boisaubin's Brigade

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March
2022



MARCH, 2022 MEETING
Thursday, March 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 bqbrueg@aol.com or call 281 480-1130 by 6 pm Monday, March 14, 2022

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

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

National Park Service ranger, battlefield guide, prolific author, as well as a battlefield preservationist. Dr. Smith's extensive biography and background can be found on page 2 of this newsletter.

In addition to the presentation of this distinguished award at our March 17 meeting, the meeting will feature a talk by Dr. Smith based on one of his most recent books, *The Real Horse Soldiers*. He has indicated he will be happy to autograph any of his books which members would like to bring to the meeting, as Dr. Smith will not have any with him available for purchase. However, his books are available through University Press of Kansas, Amazon Prime, and Savas Beatie.

The Vandiver Award is named for the late Civil War historian and former President of Texas A&M University, the University of North Texas, and Rice University, who also was one of the earliest members of the HCWRT. The 2022 Vandiver Award Committee consisted of Keith Altavilla (Chair), Gary Chandler, Roland Bienvenu, Scott Wilkey, and John Stevens.

2022 VANDIVER AWARD **RECIPIENT: TIMOTHY B. SMITH**

The Houston Civil War Round Table is honored that the **2022 Frank E. Vandiver Award of Merit will be presented to Dr. Timothy B. Smith** at the March 17 meeting. Since 1982, the HCWRT has presented its highly respected Vandiver Award annually in recognition of an individual or an organization making a substantial contribution to the preservation of our Civil War heritage. Past recipients include a "Who's Who" of Civil War notables.

This year's Vandiver Committee met last month and, after consideration of his various accomplishments, decided to grant him this special recognition. The committee felt that Dr. Smith exemplified the award's intent and purpose, as he has been a historian, lecturer,



Timothy B. Smith

The HCWRT Presents Timothy B. Smith Speaking on:

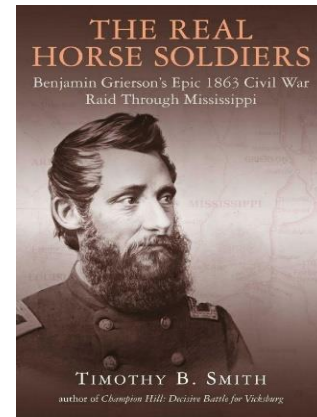
“The Real Horse Soldiers”

Benjamin Grierson’s Union cavalry thrust through Mississippi is one of the most well-known operations of the Civil War. There were other simultaneous operations to distract Confederate attention from the real threat to Vicksburg posed by U. S. Grant’s Army of the Tennessee, but Grierson’s operation, mainly conducted with two Illinois cavalry regiments, has become the most famous, and for good reason.

For 16 days (April 17 to May 2, 1863) Grierson led Confederate pursuers on a high-stakes chase through the entire state of Mississippi, entering the northern border with Tennessee and exiting its southern border with Louisiana. The daily rides were long, the rest stops short, and the tension high. Ironically, the man who led the raid was a former music teacher who some say disliked horses. Grierson displayed outstanding leadership and cunning, destroyed railroad tracks, burned trestles and bridges, freed slaves, and created as much damage and chaos as possible. His raid broke a vital Confederate rail line at Newton Station that supplied Vicksburg and, perhaps most importantly, consumed the attention of the Confederate high command. While Confederate Lt. Gen. John Pemberton at Vicksburg and other Southern leaders looked in the wrong directions, Grant moved his entire Army of the Tennessee across the Mississippi River below Vicksburg, spelling the doom of that city, the Confederate chances of holding the river, and perhaps the Confederacy itself.

Novelists have attempted to capture the larger-than-life cavalry raid in the popular imagination, and Hollywood reproduced the daring cavalry action in *The Horse Soldiers*, a 1959 major motion picture starring John Wayne and William Holden. Although the film replicates the raid’s drama and high-stakes gamble, cinematic license chipped away at its accuracy.

Based upon years of research and presented in gripping, fast-paced prose, Timothy B. Smith’s *The Real Horse Soldiers: Benjamin Grierson’s Epic 1863 Civil War Raid through Mississippi* captures the high drama and tension of the 1863 horse soldiers in a modern, comprehensive, academic study. This talk, based on the book, will bring you along for the ride.



About Timothy B. Smith

Dr. Timothy B. Smith is a Civil War historian, teacher and lecturer, battlefield guide, author or co-author/editor of many books and articles, former National Park Service (NPS) ranger, and historic preservationist. A native of Mississippi, Dr. Smith now resides in Tennessee where he teaches history at the University of Tennessee at Martin. He received BA and MA degrees in history from the University of Mississippi and a PhD from Mississippi State University in 2001.

Pursuing his love of history, Dr. Smith worked for the National Park Service at the Shiloh National Military Park for seven years, where his interest in the Civil War was intensified, including work at the NPS Shiloh Park Corinth unit’s then-new Corinth Interpretive Center and preserved interpretive sites. In addition to many articles and essays, he is the author, editor, or co-editor of some 20 books, *Champion Hill: Decisive Battle for Vicksburg* (2004), which won the nonfiction book award from the Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters, *Corinth 1862: Siege, Battle, Occupation* (2012), which won the Fletcher Pratt Award and the McLemore Prize, *Shiloh: Conquer or Perish* (2014), which won the

Richard B. Harwell Award, the Tennessee History Book Award, and the Douglas Southall Freeman Award; and *Grant Invades Tennessee: The 1862 Battles for Forts Henry and Donelson* (2016), which won the Tennessee History book Award, the Emerging Civil War Book Award, and the Douglas Southall Freeman Award.

His most recent books include *The Union Assaults at Vicksburg: Grant Attacks Pemberton, May 17–22, 1863* (2020), and *The Siege of Vicksburg: Climax of the Campaign to Open the Mississippi River, May 23–July 4, 1863* (2021). He currently is awaiting publication of *Early Struggles for Vicksburg: The Mississippi Central Campaign and Chickasaw Bayou, October 25–December 31, 1862* (expected release by early May 2022) from University Press of Kansas. This is to be Dr. Smith's sixth in-depth book in the University Press of Kansas' Modern War Studies series.

Dr. Smith's main area of interest, along with the Civil War in general and specifically its Western Theater, is the history of Civil War battlefield preservation, notably the National Military Parks. Such historic preservation works are also the subjects of several of his books, as well as tours and talks he has given.

Besides the books Dr. Smith has written, he has also published numerous articles in history journals including *North and South*, *Civil War Times*, *Tennessee Historical Quarterly*, *America's Civil War*, *Annals of Iowa*, *West Tennessee Historical Society Papers*, and *Journal of Mississippi History*. In addition, he has contributed entries of specific events and people for encyclopedias and reference books. Dr. Smith has also written not only introductions, but also contributed chapters to books and reprints written or edited by others.

Since 2002, Dr. Smith has received a score of grants, honors, and awards. He has at least three videos in the C-SPAN Video Library and has been the guest speaker at various Civil War Round Tables and other events. Several YouTube videos can be found online of battlefield tours by Timothy Smith.

He lives with his wife Kelly and children Mary Kate and Leah Grace in Adamsville, Tennessee.



PRESIDENT'S PRESS

By Gene Boisaubin

At last month's meeting of our Round Table's annual campaign, attendees heard Jim Ogden, Historian of the Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park presenting "Opening the Cracker Line and the Battle of Wauhatchie." Mr. Ogden, a consummate National Park Service Historian and Ranger with over forty years of experience, provided a very lively and informative presentation including both contemporary material from that period and compared it with modern photographs of the same sites. An enthusiastic question and answer period followed. Follow-up email communication also revealed that he was very appreciative of our interest and support of his visit and talk.

Our speaker for March 17 will be this year's Vandiver Award recipient Timothy B. Smith, who will present "The Real Horse Soldiers," the story of Benjamin Grierson's epic 1863 Civil War raid through Mississippi. Tim has also been a National Park Service guide in the past and grew up and trained close to the hills and valleys that were part of Grierson's journey. As usual, we will also continue our popular quiz and book raffle. Although COVID remains part of our lives, there appears to be not only a recent plateauing, but decreases in national and local rates of transmission. **Therefore, in accordance with the most recent guidelines, for the March meeting we will no longer require masking, but will make it optional. Also, please be sure to RSVP with Barry Brueggeman by 6 pm, Monday, March 14.**

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

By Walker Agnew

We are still obtaining new members, which is great news! There have also been several repeat visitors who indicated they plan to join. The presentation this past month by James Ogden was one of the best I have heard in a while. It showed how difficult it was just to feed the soldiers and animals while fighting a war, and that even the best plans may be subject to change. Please try to bring a friend to one of the next three meetings remaining in this campaign year.

A membership form may be found on page 5 of this newsletter and can also be downloaded from the website.

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.

BATON ROUGE SYMPOSIUM

The fifth annual Baton Rouge Civil War Symposium, sponsored by the Baton Rouge Civil War Round Table, will take place there on May 14 and 15, 2022.

The theme of this year's symposium is "The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly of the Trans-Mississippi," and will include a total of six speakers, including such names as Stephen (Sam) Hood, Danny Sessums, and Mark Bielski.

The weekend will feature these speakers, two local tours, meals, a book raffle and a grand raffle. The total cost for all this is \$135.00, with an "Early Bird" special being offered for \$115.00 if registered by May 1st. Special hotel room rates are also available.

The location of this symposium is the River Center Library, 250 North Boulevard, 4th floor, in Baton Rouge. Doors open at 8 am on Saturday and the program begins at 9 am.

For additional information or to register for the symposium, go to their website: www.brcwrt.com or contact Program Director John Potts at (225) 937-2782.

BOOK RAFFLE

By Donnie Stowe

We had a few new faces in our meeting in February and I'm glad to see it. Let's keep it up!

I'm starting the raffle this month with **CHANCELLORSVILLE – LEE'S GREATEST BATTLE** by Edward J. Stackpole. This book was donated by past president James Godlove. And as sort of a follow-up, the second selection is **GREAT BATTLES OF THE CONFEDERACY** by Swafford Johnson. This

book was part of a collection of books from Edward T. Cotham Jr.; I would like to thank Ed, not only for this book but also on the fine talk

he presented on Ulysses Grant's visit to Texas in 1880. The third book, **THE PRIDE OF THE CONFEDERATE ARTILLERY – The Washington Artillery in the Army of Tennessee** by Nathaniel C. Hughes, Jr. is a donation by Lynda Crist. It also has a personalized signing to Lynda by the author. Next in line is **HIGH TIDE At GETTYSBURG** by Glenn Tucker. This book is from the estate of Ms. Gladys F. Glover. The fifth book in this month's raffle is also in connection with Gettysburg – **GETTYSBURG – A JOURNEY IN TIME** by William A. Frassanito. Also this month, I'm offering a bundle of five magazines as a sixth selection to the raffle.



MARCH QUIZ

By Jim Godlove

Q: Grierson's Raid started from LaGrange, Tennessee and ended in which state capital?





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: _____
(Printed)

How did you learn about us? _____

In which format would you like to receive your newsletter?

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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

2021 – 2022 SPEAKERS CAMPAIGN

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

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