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General Orders

Altavilla's Brigade

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2022

OCTOBER, 2022 MEETING
Thursday, October 20, 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
bgbrueg@aol.com or call 281 480-1130
by 6 pm Monday, October 17, 2022

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

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

Dr. Clinton will discuss how women North and South coped with the rising death tolls, how those robbed of their loved ones stoically survived, and how Mary Todd Lincoln responded to the loss of her husband, Abraham Lincoln.

About Catherine Clinton

Catherine Clinton holds the Denman Chair of American History at the University of Texas at San Antonio and is also Professor Emerita at Queen's University Belfast. She has authored or edited over 30 books on historical subjects, including *Harriet Tubman: The Road to Freedom*, *Tara Revisited: Women, War and the Plantation Legend*, *Stepdaughters of History: Southern Women and the American Civil War*, and *Mrs. Lincoln: A Life*.

The HCWRT Presents Catherine Clinton speaking on:

“Mary Lincoln and Mourning in Civil War America”

Mary Lincoln entered the White House with severe reservations about her husband's burdens as a wartime President. With the mounting casualties of war and the black armband becoming a national symbol, Mrs. Lincoln endured the death of a child, the death of brothers and a brother-in-law (enlisted in the Confederate military), and joined women across the nation engulfed by grief and rituals of death.



Dr. Catherine Clinton

Dr. Clinton won a Guggenheim in 2016, and has served as president of both the Southern Historical Association and the Southern Association for Women Historians. She has been elected to the Society of American Historians, was a consultant for Steven Spielberg's *Lincoln*, and serves as co-editor of the University of Georgia Press series, *History in the Headlines*. A founding member of Biography International Organization, she has served on both the Pulitzer Prize jury for Biography and the jury for History. She is currently completing a study of Union soldiers and mental illness during and after the Civil War.



PRESIDENT'S POST

By Keith Altavilla

It was great to see everyone again, especially in such a packed house. Those of you who were there will know this, but it really was packed, almost full capacity. This is a good problem, but it does mean everyone needs to be proactive about reserving their seats with Barry no later than 6 pm on Monday the 17th. I would hate for you to miss out!

Chris Mackowski gave an engaging presentation to get us started, and we are fortunate to follow with another accomplished historian and excellent presenter in Catherine Clinton. This is not her first time in Houston, and now she comes to share her work on the life of Mary Lincoln, the president's wife. You will leave with much to consider and reconsider about the Union's First Lady.

I was looking forward to attending the CWRT Congress' Sustainability Conference this past month, but unfortunately it was cancelled due to low attendance. There is little we can do about that, but sustaining our round table is in our hands, recruiting new and returning members. We are in good shape, so let's keep that going. Those who were here in September received copies of our business cards, so please pass those out to anyone who may want to join. If you run out, we will have more at the October meeting.

One last reminder that our monthly silent auction begins next month. Look for items that might interest you, and let Barry and/or Donnie know if you have Civil War-related items that might make for good auction pieces. For details about next month's auction items, see Donnie's article following this column.

Once again, I am looking forward to our next meeting!



OCTOBER SILENT AUCTION

By Donnie Stowe

For our first silent auction this month, we will offer the following book sets:

1. Four volume set: **Battles and Leaders of the Civil War** - Selected & Edited by Ned Bradford
2. Four volume set: **R. E. Lee - A Biography** by Douglas Southall Freeman
3. 19 volume set: **Confederate Military History Extended Edition** edited by Confederate General Clement Evans and reprinted in 1987 by the Broadfoot Publishing Company (17 volumes are the history, with two volumes being the cumulative index)

THIS MONTH IN CIVIL WAR NAVAL HISTORY

By Stephen Kinnaman

October 12, 1861 – In the first ever act of war committed by an ironclad ram, the CSS *Manassas* attacked the US steam sloop *Richmond* near Head of Passes, Mississippi River. *Richmond* was damaged and forced aground; *Manassas* retired upriver.

October 7, 1862 – William Gladstone, the British chancellor of the exchequer, remarked in a speech given in Newcastle, England that “there is no doubt Jefferson Davis and other leaders of the South have made an army, they are making it appears, a navy, and they have made, what is more than either – they have made a nation.” Gladstone’s comments were taken to indicate the possibility that Britain might formally recognize the Confederacy.

October 28, 1863 – The commerce raider CSS *Georgia* put into Cherbourg, France at the end of a seven-month war cruise, during which she captured nine prizes. But due to her poor sailing qualities and deficient machinery, she was retired and later sold.

October 7, 1864 – The commerce raider CSS *Florida* was captured by the USS *Wachusett* while at anchor in the neutral port of Bahia, Brazil. Although *Wachusett*’s illegal act was disavowed by Secretary of State Seward, *Florida* remained in Union hands and was later “accidentally “ sunk while anchored in Hampton Roads.



BOOK RAFFLE

By Donnie Stowe

Well, it was great to see everyone again at our last meeting and I’m looking forward to this new campaign and hope you are too!

As I stated in last month’s newsletter, we’re giving away two books for every winning ticket holder, so let’s look at some of the many featured volumes being offered in October.

The first book in this month’s raffle is **JOHN BROWN – Abolitionist** by David S. Reynolds. John Brown: the man who killed slavery, sparked the Civil War and started civil rights.



This book is from the collection of books we received from the estate of Mrs. Gladys Glover. Next up is **BURNSIDE** by William Marvel and is a donation from Nate Jennings. General Ambrose Burnside, of course, reminds most

people about his “sideburns,” but also for his wasteful loss of Union soldiers’ lives at Fredericksburg. **GETTYSBURG REQUIEM** by Glenn W. LaFantasie is also in this month’s raffle and is from my collection of books. It chronicles Col. William C. Oates – best remembered as the Confederate officer defeated at Gettysburg’s Little Round Top. Another offering this month is Doris Kearns Goodwin’s **TEAM OF RIVALS**. This volume is from Norm Lewis’s library and illustrates the political genius and leadership ability of Abraham Lincoln. And just one more to highlight this month: **WHO WAS WHO in the CIVIL WAR** by Stewart Sifakis. From four-star general to gunrunner, President to scout, this book tells the stories of individuals whose lives were drawn into the maelstrom of the Civil War.

Other books and items this month include **A CIVIL WAR MARINE AT SEA, ABRAHAM LINCOLN and the SECOND AMERICAN REVOLUTION, THE EMERGENCE OF LINCOLN: Douglas, Buchanan, and Party Chaos 1857 – 1859**, and more. To see them all and get a chance to add to your library, please come and join us!

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

By Michael Clennan

September's meeting was a "full house"! It was heart-warming to see Rudi's dining and lecture room full of numerous new members, members from long ago and current members! I thought this was a great way to start off our new campaign!

We're looking forward to another well-attended program on October 20th. Come early, by approximately 5:30, to enjoy a hearty German beer and meal. The fellowship and conversations are overwhelming! Please be sure to timely RSVP with Barry so we can reserve you a seat!

MILITARY MUSEUM OF TEXAS

By John Stevens

If you enjoy military history from WWI to present day, the Military Museum of Texas is well worth the \$10.00 (veterans receive a discount) for a guided two or three hour tour. The location is a few blocks west of the 610 East Loop at 8611 Wallisville Road. It's open Wednesday through Sunday. There are two display rooms inside. Although not large, they are packed with well-organized displays and cases of military paraphernalia, weapons, and uniforms. They have a warehouse with a large variety of military vehicles, Humvees, personnel carriers, jeeps, and a helicopter. There is an outside shop where vehicles are refurbished and put back in running condition. I found it interesting how the museum goes about obtaining vehicles, equipment, and parts to restore. The rest of the property is covered with various vehicles, boats, helicopters, and an M60 tank. Except for those in various stages of restoration, most are in operational condition.

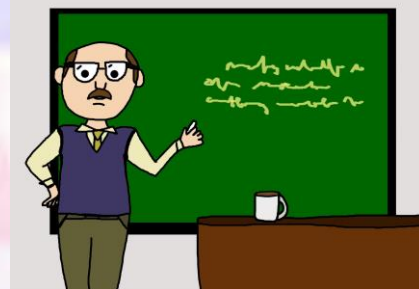
Visitors can only tour the facility with a guide who points out interesting items and answers questions. Some of their high-water vehicles were used for search and rescue during Hurricane Harvey. I had a most interesting and informative tour there, and believe it's a good place to take the kids or spend a few hours. Call (713) 673-1234 for times or to schedule a group tour.

OCTOBER QUIZ

By Jim Godlove

Q: Mary Todd Lincoln's step-sister married a man who would become a Confederate general.

Who was he and in what battle was he killed?



September speaker Chris Mackowski and HCWRT President Keith Altavilla



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

2022 – 2023 SPEAKERS CAMPAIGN

Oct. 20, 2022	Catherine Clinton: <i>“Mary Lincoln and Mourning in Civil War America”</i>
Nov. 17, 2022	Edward Cotham: <i>“Sabine Pass: Thermopylae of the Confederacy”</i>
Dec. 15, 2022	Brian Matthew Jordan: <i>“A Thousand May Fall: An Immigrant Regiment’s Civil War”</i>
Jan. 19, 2023	Donald S. Frazier: <i>“The Texas Hill Country during the Civil War”</i>
Feb. 16, 2023	Lorien Foote: <i>“The Yankee Plague”</i>
Mar. 16, 2023	Jeffrey Hunt: <i>“Rappahannock Station”</i>
Apr. 20, 2023	Jonathan M. Steplyk: <i>“Fighting Means Killing: Civil War Soldiers and the Nature of Combat”</i>
May 18, 2023	Reserved for the 2023 Vandiver Award Recipient

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