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# General Orders

## *Altavilla's Brigade*

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Dec.  
2022



**DECEMBER, 2022 MEETING**  
**Thursday, December 15, 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](mailto:bgbrueg@aol.com) or call 281 480-1130  
by 6 pm Monday, December 12, 2022

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

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

**The HCWRT Presents**  
**Brian Matthew Jordan**  
**speaking on:**

**“A Thousand May Fall: An  
Immigrant Regiment’s Civil War”**

*A Thousand May Fall* is the tale of an ethnically German regiment from northeastern Ohio. This unit was in the thick of the killing at Chancellorsville and Gettysburg, only to be transferred to the war's margins in late 1863. Through its two years and ten months of service, the 107<sup>th</sup> Ohio battled a host of enemies: Confederates at the front and

Copperheads back home; boredom, chronic disease, and harsh environments; a hostile press, incompetent officers, and suffocating self-doubt. Keeping body, mind, and soul together was not an insignificant challenge for these men, who illuminate deep truths about the realities of Civil War soldiering. This talk chronicles the unsung experiences of their hard-luck from enlistment through the onerous errands of postwar memory.



*Brian Matthew Jordan*

### **About Brian Matthew Jordan**

Dr. Brian Matthew Jordan is Associate Professor of U. S. Civil War History and Chairperson of the Department of History at Sam Houston State University, where he has taught since 2015. Dr. Jordan earned his M.A.,

M.Phil., and Ph.D. degrees in history at Yale, where his doctoral dissertation earned the George Washington Eggleston Prize (for Best U.S. History Dissertation at Yale) and the John Addison Porter Prize, one of Yale's highest academic honors.

He is the author or editor of six books on the Civil War and its era, including *Marching Home: Union Veterans and Their Unending Civil War*, which was a finalist (one of three runners-up) for the 2016 Pulitzer Prize in History; *The War Went On: Reconsidering the Lives of Union and Confederate Veterans* (Louisiana State University Press, 2020); *A Thousand May Fall: An Immigrant Regiment's Civil War* (Liveright/W.W. Norton, 2021), which scored a starred review from *Publisher's Weekly*; *The Great What Ifs of the Civil War* and *Final Resting Places: Reflections on the Meaning of Civil War Graves*, which the University of Georgia Press will publish next year. His more than 150 reviews, articles, and essays have appeared in scholarly journals, popular magazines, and newspapers. Dr. Jordan has contributed chapters to more than a dozen scholarly anthologies and appeared as a talking head in two episodes of the History Channel's 2020 mini-series, "Grant."

Since 2014, Brian has served as the Book Review Editor for *The Civil War Monitor*. He has addressed Civil War round tables in twenty-five states. Brian is currently at work on a major interpretive synthesis of the Civil War and its era, *Crucible of the Republic: The Triumph and Tragedy of the Civil War*, which Liveright/W.W. Norton plans to publish in 2025. Brian resides in Conroe with his wife and eleven-month-old daughter, Elizabeth, who, despite her youth, has already visited four Civil War battlefields!

## **PRESIDENT'S POST**

***By Keith Altavilla***

Like quite a few of you, I am a native-born Yankee, and thus prone to laugh at the temperature level that constitutes "cold" for locals. That being said, it is only right that the weather turns to something more appropriate for

the coming holiday season. If you are still in need of gifts, the book raffle is always a good place to look. It can even work as gifts for other people, once you are done stuffing your own stocking, of course!

Our November speaker, Ed Cotham, gave us another engaging narrative from the Gulf Coast region, and made great connections to things going on today, especially in terms of remembrance and preservation. Our speaker this month is another familiar face. Brian Matthew Jordan has another well-reviewed book to discuss, one looking at a German immigrant regiment from Ohio. If you have not picked up a copy, hopefully you will before the meeting, as it is well worth your time.

As many of you no doubt saw last time, the room is tight, so you definitely want to reserve your seat in advance by letting Barry know that you are coming. **Please remember that the deadline to RSVP is 6 pm on the Monday before our meeting!**

A merry Christmas and happy holidays to everyone!

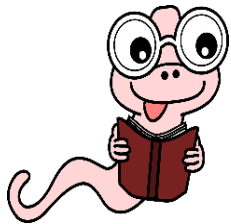
## **BOOK RAFFLE**

***By Donnie Stowe***

It was great to see everyone prior to Thanksgiving and now we can turn our attention to Christmas/Advent. Due to the approaching of Christmas, I've selected a few volumes in this raffle that would be great Christmas gifts for younger students or grandkids that will become avid Civil War buffs!

That's why my first selection is **HARPER'S PICTORIAL HISTORY of THE CIVIL WAR** by Alfred H. Guernsey and Henry M. Alden. This volume contains the accounts and illustrations from the greatest magazine of the time. Next is **THE CIVIL WAR BATTLEFIELD GUIDE (second edition)**, edited by Frances H. Kennedy. This guide is the gift of Edward Cotham. The third book is **DEFENDER OF THE CHESAPEAKE: The Story of Fort Monroe** by Richard P. Weinert, Jr. and Col. Robert Arthur. This fort was positioned to guard the entrance to Virginia's Chesapeake Bay. Next we have **GRAY FOX: Robert E. Lee and**

the **Civil War** by Burke Davis. This was a gift from the estate of Dale Troth. Another volume for this month is **A DIARY OF BATTLE: The Personal Journals of Colonel Charles S. Wainwright 1861-1865**, edited by Allan Nevins. This book is from the Rice University's Jefferson Davis Association, in care of Lynda Crist. The next volume also comes from the Jeff Davis



Association collection: **THE OFFICERS of the CSS SHENANDOAH** by Angus Curry. The last book that we have well worth making special note of is **FIGHTING for the CONFEDERACY:**

**The Personal Recollections of General Edward Porter Alexander**, edited by Gary W. Gallagher, which is in very fine condition. This book is from the Dale Troth estate collection. .

Other books and items this month include **THE CIVIL WAR DICTIONARY, A STILLNESS AT APPOMATTOX, JEFFERSON DAVIS: AMERICAN PATRIOT, THE NEW YORK TIMES COMPLETE CIVIL WAR 1861-1865 (CD Included)**, and many more. To see them all and get a chance to add to your library, please come and join us and bring a friend!



## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

*By Michael Clennan*

Your organization has discovered the number one secret of increasing our membership: each year, every one of us gets to invite a new or old member to attend. Dr. Gene Boisubin is setting the pace with five new members. We are steadily increasing our membership rolls! Our excellent November meeting was well attended with 26 for dinner

and 32 members at the lecture. Do your friends a favor and invite them for a great German dinner and beer followed by an outstanding Civil War lecture. It's the best buy in town!



*HCWRT members at Hood's Texas Brigade Association Annual Scholarly Seminar. From left: John Stevens, Gary Chandler, Donnie Stowe, Don Zuckero*

## HTBAR SCHOLARLY SEMINAR

*By John Stevens*

The annual Hood's Texas Brigade Scholarly Tour and Seminar held on November 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> went well. There were 58 persons present for the Friday tour of Independence and dinner at the Community Center. Four members of our Round Table (pictured above) were also in attendance. My personal favorite from the weekend was seeing where Sam Houston carved his initials on the back of a pew at the old 1839 Baptist Church where he was baptized.

The Veterans Day ceremony planned at the cemetery was cut a little short due to inclement weather. The Saturday seminar at the restored old Barnhill Center in Brenham, Texas had 74 registered to hear four excellent speakers and partake in a BBQ lunch. Brenham was the site of the 1881 reunion for the old veterans of Hood's Brigade, which was their 11th annual reunion.

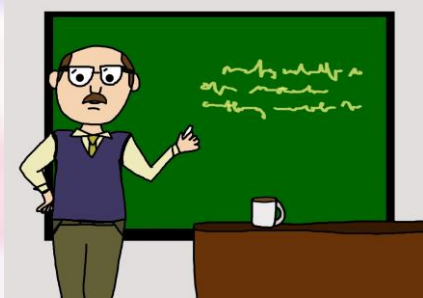


## DECEMBER QUIZ

*By Mike Harrington*

Q: Just before the Battle of Fredericksburg opened in December 1862, a young Confederate artillerist was asked for an assessment of his gun dispositions on Marye's Heights. He answered, "A chicken could not live on that field when we open on it."

**Name this brilliant cannoneer**



## THIS MONTH IN CIVIL WAR

### NAVAL HISTORY

*By Stephen Kinnaman*

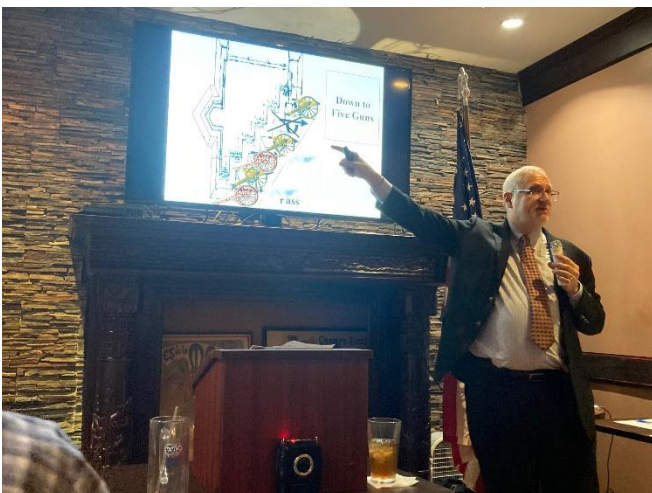
**December 20, 1861** – The "Stone Fleet" was sunk off Charleston harbor under the direction of U. S. Navy Captain Charles Davis. Twenty-four old whaling ships filled with stone were scuttled in the port's shipping lanes to further strengthen the federal blockade. Ultimately the effort was futile, as shifting currents soon scoured new channels.

**December 12, 1862** – The Union ironclad *Cairo* sank in a matter of minutes, striking a Confederate "infernal machine" (mine) in the Yazoo River. The wreck was located nearly one hundred years later by National Park Service historian Ed Bearss; the story of her discovery and salvage is described in his book *Hardluck Ironclad*.

**December 7, 1863** – The passenger steamer *Chesapeake* was seized off Cape Cod by a group of Confederate vigilantes led by John C. Braine. She was later recaptured by a federal warship off Nova Scotia. Braine and most of his men escaped; Braine would later cause more trouble before the war's end.

**December 7, 1864** – The blockade runner *Stormy Petrel* was run ashore and later destroyed off Wilmington by Union blockaders. Admiral David D. Port reported that his squadron had captured and destroyed \$5.5 million of enemy property in the past fifty days, showing the "immense gains the runners make and the straits the enemy is in."

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**November Speaker Ed Cotham**



## 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

## 2022 – 2023 SPEAKERS CAMPAIGN

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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