



www.HoustonCivilWar.com

General Orders

Altavilla's Brigade

Vol. 34
No. 6
Jan.
2023

JANUARY, 2023 MEETING
Thursday, January 19, 2023

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, January 16, 2023

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

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

The HCWRT Presents
Donald S. Frazier speaking
on:

“The Texas Hill Country During
the Civil War”

The American Civil War seemed remote to folks on the Texas frontier. There were no pitched battles along the lines of Gettysburg or big sieges like Vicksburg. Yet, violence and mayhem also visited the pioneers in this area.

The specter of war haunted places like Gillespie, Kerr, and Kendall counties and would leave an indelible mark on the people who

called the Hill Country home. The very violence and threat of conscription that had driven them from the old country had now arrived on their doorsteps.

Dr. Donald S. Frazier, the Director of The Texas Center at Schreiner University and an authority on the American Civil War west of the Mississippi River, will describe how this national tragedy unfolded in the valleys and hills of this once remote Texas region.



Don Frazier

About Don Frazier

We are privileged to welcome back to the Houston Civil War Round Table, Dr. Donald S. Frazier, the Director of The Texas Center at Schreiner University in Kerrville. Don has addressed our Round Table several times over the years, and his presentations have always been entertaining as well as informative.

Growing up in Arlington, Texas, Don graduated from the University of Texas at Arlington. He studied for the Ph.D. in history at Texas Christian University under the late Dr. Grady McWhiney, one of the giants among Civil War historians. Before joining The Texas Center, Dr. Frazier was professor of history at McMurry University in Abilene, Texas.

Dr. Frazier is also the award-winning author of six books on Texans in the Civil War, including the four volumes that make up his Louisiana Quadrille: *Fire in the Cane Field*, *Thunder Across the Swamp*, *Blood on the Bayou*, and his latest book, *Tempest Over Texas*, which was published in May 2020.

In addition to his duties at The Texas Center and his Civil War writings, Dr. Frazier has been very involved in work on museums, including The Texas Civil War Museum, The Buffalo Gap Historic Village and Frontier Texas! in Abilene, which he helped to design. Don has also helped develop Civil War and frontier heritage trails in Texas, New Mexico, and Louisiana. He is the writer and director for the video *Our Home, Our Rights: Texas and Texans in the Civil War*, a winner of the Mitchell Wilder Award for Excellence in Publications and Media Design from the Texas Association of Museums. Don's first full-length play, *Come and Take It*, a treatment of the life story of Susannah Dickinson, premiered in Abilene in the summer of 2020.

Dr. Frazier is an elected member of the prestigious Philosophical Society of Texas, the oldest learned organization in the state, a Fellow of the Texas State Historical Association, and a Director-Scholar on the board of the Texas Historical Foundation. In 1995, Dr. Frazier helped establish the McWhiney Group, a Texas-based 501(c)(3) non-profit that operates an educational adventure enterprise, Bear Leader Tours; State House Press, a publishing imprint in consortium with Texas A&M University Press; and online education efforts. The McWhiney group currently sponsors the Anne Bailey Dissertation Prize through the Society of Civil War Historians and supports the efforts of The Texas Center at Schreiner University.

Dr. Frazier is also the 2021 recipient of our annual Frank E. Vandiver Award of Merit.



PRESIDENT'S POST

By Keith Altavilla

Hello and a hearty welcome to 2023! I hope everyone enjoyed a restful holiday season and is ready to come back to the Round Table, as well as whatever else to which you are returning. The changing calendar is the perfect starting point for something new, like all those New Year's resolutions we just might keep until March this year! I'm sure most of you are already regular attendees, but if there is anyone in need of a resolution, we would certainly appreciate "go to more Round Table meetings."

Those of you who were here in December saw another great talk from Brian Jordan about the benefit of studying regiments like the 107th Ohio. We have another former Vandiver Award winner with us to start the new year. Don Frazier is coming to talk about the Texas Hill Country during the Civil War. As many of you know, Don is one of the most engaging presenters we get to bring in, an excellent start to the new year and a great introduction to the Round Table for any potential visitors.

If you are looking to help a friend out with their resolutions, consider having new people get in the habit of coming to the Round Table. Remember that any new members who sign up in January or later are automatically enrolled for next year's 2023-24 campaign. As if coming to see Don Frazier wasn't enough!

Happy New Year to our Round Table, and I hope to see everyone on the 19th.



PERSONALITIES OF THE CIVIL WAR: **JAMES WADDELL**

Born in North Carolina in 1824, James Waddell graduated from the U. S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland. During his time at Annapolis, he was injured in a duel with a fellow midshipman, rumored to be over a woman. He spent 19 years in the Navy before resigning his commission in 1861. Waddell was appointed a lieutenant in the Confederate States Navy in March 1862 and then served in different capacities until 1864 when he became captain of the CSS *Shenandoah*, a full-rigged sailing ship which served as a commerce raider for 13 months from 1864 to 1865.

The ship's mission was to capture and destroy Union merchant ships. *Shenandoah* is known for having fired the last shot of the Civil War across the bow of a whaling ship in the Pacific. The crew subsequently learned of the war's end on August 3, 1865 after receiving news from another ship that the Confederate armies had surrendered and of the capture of Jefferson Davis.

Following the war, Waddell captained a commercial steamer and held an administrative position with the State of Maryland. He died at Annapolis, Maryland in 1886 and is buried there.

THIS MONTH IN CIVIL WAR HISTORY

January 1, 1863 – Battle of Galveston takes place with Confederate forces under Major Gen. John B. Magruder expelling occupying Union troops from the City of Galveston

January 1, 1863 – Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation goes into effect

January 5, 1861 – US Senators from seven Southern states meet in Washington, D. C. to discuss secession

January 9 to 11, 1863 – The Battle of Arkansas Post (Fort Hindman), Arkansas

January 15, 1865 – Ft. Fisher (North Carolina) stormed

January 19, 1862 – Battle of Mill Springs (Logan's Cross Roads), Kentucky

January 22, 1862 – Bombardment of Ft. Henry, Tennessee by *USS Lexington*

January 25, 1863 – Burnside relieved of command of the Army of the Potomac and replaced with Major General Joseph Hooker

January 30, 1862 – The *USS Monitor* is launched at Greenpoint, New York



BOOK RAFFLE *By Donnie Stowe*

Although you've probably heard it a hundred times by now, Happy New Year!

The first offering for 2023 is ***SOUTHERN STORM – Sherman's March to the Sea*** by Noah Andre Trudeau. Following this, we have ***THE BLUE AND THE GRAY*** edited by Henry Steele Commager. Just the forward and introductory sections by Douglas Southall Freeman and Mr. Commager, respectively, are treasures in anyone's library. Another book this month is ***BARKSDALE'S CHARGE – The True High Tide of the Confederacy at Gettysburg***,

July 2, 1863 by Phillip Thomas Tucker, Ph.D. This is an in-depth account of how close Barksdale's Mississippi Brigade came to winning the battle at Gettysburg. And once again, thanks to the Estate of Gladys F. Glover, we have the **HISTORICAL TIMES ILLUSTRATED ENCYCLOPEDIA of the CIVIL WAR** edited by Patricia L. Faust.



For you Grant fans, we have **GRANT MOVES SOUTH** by Bruce Catton. This was originally a donation by Joe Goulding, M.D. And to be fair to our Confederate book fans, we have **The ROBERT E. LEE**

READER edited by Stanley F. Horn. Another great book this month is **EDMUND J. DAVIS** by Carl H. Moneyhon and was donated by James Godlove. Edmund Davis is billed as a Civil War general, Republican leader, and governor of Texas during Reconstruction.

Other books included in our raffle this month are **THE LAND THEY FOUGHT FOR, LINCOLN LEGENDS, EYEWITNESS to the CIVIL WAR (National Geographic), A HISTORY of SOUTHERN MISSOURI and NORTHERN ARKANSAS**, and more. To see the entire offering and get a chance to take a couple home, please come to the meeting and bring a friend.



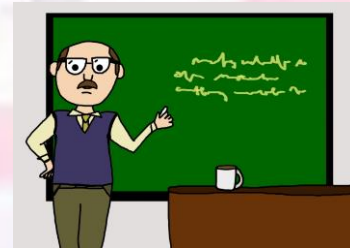
December speaker Brian Matthew Jordan with HCWRT President Keith Altavilla

JANUARY QUIZ

By Jim Godlove

Q: On August 10, 1862, Unionist Texans making their way to Mexico were attacked by Confederate Texans. Several of the German Unionists were able to escape. Others were killed during the battle, and at least nine were executed after the fight.

What was the name given to this massacre?



MEMBERSHIP REPORT

By Michael Clennan

It is a new year---2023---for all of us at HCWRT! Time for new resolutions: perhaps go to the gym, lose weight, and connect with old and new friends.

Let's all commit to inviting one new or old member to our Thursday meetings in 2023. Nothing works better than a personal invitation and sincere friendship. We have great German food, beer and an awesome selection of upcoming speakers on the Civil War!

For those of you who plan to attend this month's meeting, **please be sure to RSVP with Barry no later than 6 pm Monday, January 16th!** I look forward to seeing you on the 19th at Rudi's.



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
Page 5

2022 – 2023 SPEAKERS CAMPAIGN

Jan. 19, 2023 Donald S. Frazier: *“The Texas Hill Country During the Civil War”*
Feb. 16, 2023 Lorien Foote: *“The Yankee Plague”*
Mar. 16, 2023 Jeffrey Hunt: *“Rappahannock Station”*
Apr. 20, 2023 Jonathan M. Steplyk: *“Fighting Means Killing: Civil War Soldiers and the Nature of Combat”*
May 18, 2023 Reserved for the 2023 Vandiver Award Recipient

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