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# General Orders

## *Altavilla's Brigade*

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**FEBRUARY, 2023 MEETING**  
**Thursday, February 16, 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](mailto:bgbrueg@aol.com) or call 281 480-1130**  
**by 6 pm Monday, February 13, 2023**

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

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

Burnside's disastrous defeat at the Battle of Fredericksburg, obscures the fact that he demonstrated greater capability in combined army-navy operations than nearly all his contemporaries.

In the spring of 1862, Burnside commanded a Union amphibious expedition that won a string of victories along the North Carolina coast, securing Federal control of that region for the remainder of the war. Burnside's performance during this expedition demonstrates that, unlike his historical caricature, he possessed the strategic foresight, cooperative spirit, intelligence, and tactical innovation necessary for such an operation to succeed. Shane Makowicki's talk analyzes how, in a period when successful army-navy cooperation was the exception, Burnside worked harmoniously with his naval counterparts and thereby achieved complete victories at Roanoke Island, New Bern, and Fort Macon.

**The HCWRT Presents**  
**Shane Makowicki**  
**speaking on:**

**“Master of Combined**  
**Operations: General Ambrose**  
**Burnside in North Carolina,**  
**1862”**

Few names in Civil War history evoke greater scorn than that of Ambrose Burnside, a general who historians believe could “snatch defeat from the jaws of victory.” This traditional interpretation, which is predicated upon



***Shane Makowicki***

## About Shane Makowicki

Shane D. Makowicki was born and raised in Stratford, Connecticut. He received his B.A. from the University of Connecticut in 2013 before moving to College Station and earning an M.A. in history from Texas A&M University in the spring of 2016. He is now a Ph.D. candidate at Texas A&M, where he studies American military history with a focus on the Civil War. His research interests include conventional military operations and tactics, occupation policy, civil-military relations, and naval history.

As a graduate assistant lecturer at Texas A&M, Shane has taught courses on American Military History and the History of American Sea Power to large survey classes that include many members of the Corps of Cadets. His dissertation explores the interplay between conventional operations, guerrilla warfare, and Federal occupation policy in eastern North Carolina from 1861-1863. While completing this dissertation, he has received fellowships from the John L. Nau III Center for Civil War History at the University of Virginia, the Southern Studies Collection at the University of North Carolina's Wilson Library, and the U.S. Army Center of Military History (CMH). Shane currently works full time at CMH, where he has led dozens of staff rides to battlefields across Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania. He has also coauthored two publications for CMH: *Occupation and Demobilization 1918-1923*, and *The Lincoln Assassination Staff Ride Guide*.

## PRESIDENT'S POST

*By Keith Altavilla*

Greetings Round Table members, and welcome to February! Our meeting this month is an auspicious date, February 16 being the day Ulysses Grant received the "unconditional surrender" of Fort Donelson, the first of his many critical victories. While we do not typically celebrate the 161st anniversary of an event, identifying and recognizing critical moments like this is part of what we do regularly, especially important when it falls outside nice round numbers.

As always, January's speaker Don Frazier presented an engaging and fascinating topic, including a little more about his work with the Texas Center at Schriener. For this month, we had to make a late adjustment to the schedule, bringing Shane Makowicki to Houston. Shane is a young, up-and-coming scholar who has done extensive work with the military, and he comes highly recommended. There are many good scholars with local ties (Shane is finishing at Texas A&M), and the Round Table is always on the lookout for new speakers in our region.

We are starting to look ahead to the next campaign, and as we ask you to consider advancing your dues, you may also want to consider Round Table leadership. We have several potential positions for members to help with running the organization, even just in terms of volunteering. If you feel you possess some skill in business, fundraising, recruiting, technology, or anything else that might benefit the Round Table, we would love to hear it.

I look forward to seeing everyone at Rudi's!

## BATON ROUGE SYMPOSIUM

The Baton Rouge Civil War Round Table is conducting its annual Civil War Symposium on March 17, 18, and 19, 2023. This year's symposium, entitled "Blazing Saddles," features Saturday speakers, breakfast and lunch, and a Sunday tour. Speakers include John Scales, Scott Bell, Jim Woodrick, Richard Holloway, and Jeffrey Hunt.

For additional information, contact John Potts at (225) 937-2782 or visit their website at [www.brcwrt.com](http://www.brcwrt.com).

## UPCOMING HTBAR EVENTS

The Hood's Texas Brigade Association – Revisited is sponsoring a battlefield tour to Virginia June 6 – 9, 2023. Association Historian Rick Eiseman will be designing and leading this tour. Top guides will be leading the group for visits to historic sites, and special speakers are to be featured at dinner. Detailed fliers can be obtained by emailing Martha Hartzog at [m.hartzog@gmail.utexas.edu](mailto:m.hartzog@gmail.utexas.edu).

Also, be sure to save the date for HTBAR's annual Scholarly Seminar to be held November 3 and 4, 2023 in Kerrville, Texas at the Schreiner Institute. This event will be hosted by Dr. Donald Frazier and the Texas Center.



January's speaker Don Frazier

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

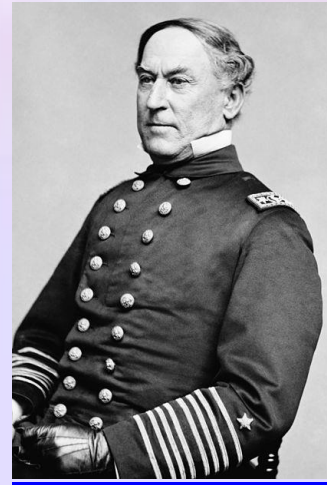
*By Michael Clennan*

New members are the life blood of every organization! HCWRT has an amazing opportunity for all new members right now: join between now and May 31, 2023 and your new membership will last until May 31, 2024. That's 16 months if you join soon! Do your friends a favor and bring them to our February dinner, book raffle, and lecture. Family membership is only \$60.00, individuals are \$50.00 and out of town members and students are only \$25.00!

As President Keith mentions in his column above, we are seeking members who would like to become more involved in our organization, particularly by joining our Board. It doesn't matter if you're a long-time member or a new one. Interested members may reach out to Eugene Boisaubin, who is serving as Chair of our Nominating Committee this year. His email address is [Eugene.Boisaubin@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:Eugene.Boisaubin@uth.tmc.edu).

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, February 13<sup>th</sup>.**

If you have any questions regarding dues or membership, please call me at (713) 864-1204.



## PERSONALITIES OF THE CIVIL WAR: DAVID FARRAGUT

Born near Knoxville, Tennessee in 1801, David Glasgow Farragut was fostered (and later adopted) by naval officer David Porter following the death of his mother. Entering the U. S. Navy at age 9, he served under Porter aboard the frigate *Essex* during the War of 1812. By the age of 12, Farragut had risen to the rank of prize master, the officer in charge of captured ships.

Farragut commanded the Union blockade of Southern ports, helped capture New Orleans, and provided support for the siege of Vicksburg. He is best known for his victory at the Battle of Mobile Bay in August 1864, during which he commanded his fleet to ignore Confederate defenses in the harbor, famously proclaiming "damn the torpedoes, full speed ahead."

The Battle of Mobile Bay was the capstone of Farragut's career, but his poor health precluded further active service. He was made a full admiral in 1866, becoming the first U. S. Navy officer to hold that rank.

Farragut died of a heart attack in 1870 at the age of 69 after serving nearly 60 years in the Navy. He is buried in The Bronx, New York.

## BOOK RAFFLE

*By Donnie Stowe*

If you were not able to make it to our last meeting, you missed a great presentation by Dr. Donald S. Frazier concerning the German immigrants and their role in the Texas hill country during the Civil War.

Hopefully you can make this meeting and enjoy another great speaker. And with regard to our raffle this month, we start off with **NATHAN BEDFORD FORREST: FIRST with the MOST** by Robert Selph Henry. This selection is from the estate of Gladys Glover and, of course,

is about one of the south's greatest cavalry generals. Our next selection is **CHICKAMAUGA – Bloody Battle in the West** by Glenn Tucker. Our donor of this book was Mr. Charles Chambers.

Another selection of note this month

is **AMERICAN BRUTUS – John Wilkes Booth and the Lincoln Conspiracies** by Michael W. Kauffman and is another book from the estate of Gladys Glover. A historical novel – **THE BATTLE of the CRATER** by Newt Gingrich and William R. Forstchen is also available this time and is a gift from the library of Neil Weaver. Next is **TRIED BY WAR – Abraham Lincoln as Commander in Chief** by James M. McPherson. Another offering is **A PEOPLE'S CONTEST – The Union and Civil War 1861-1865** by Philip Shaw Pauldan. This book shows how the North redefined itself as a modern nation through the war and the social and economic changes that came with it.

For those of you who like memoirs, we have **MEMOIRS of GENERAL WILLIAM T. SHERMAN** with an introduction by William S. McFeely. And a note of thanks goes to Charles R. Featherston for this book. Also this month I'm offering a book from the U.S. Army War College Guides to Civil War Battles – **GUIDE to the RICHMOND – PETERSBURG CAMPAIGN** edited by Charles R. Bowery, Jr. and Ethan S. Rafuse.

Other books & items this month are **MARY CHESTNUT'S CIVIL WAR, WAR ON THE MISSISSIPPI – Grant's Vicksburg Campaign, CAMPAIGNS of the CIVIL WAR**, 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/new member.

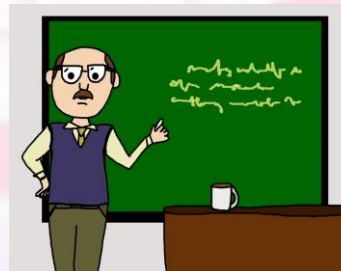
## FEBRUARY QUIZ

*By Jim Godlove*

The questions this month will focus on events that occurred in February during the Civil War years.

Question: On February 16, 1851, William L. Yancey declared that "the man and the hour have met" at a hotel in Montgomery, Alabama.

**To whom was he referring?**





## 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 Lonniewood Drive  
Houston, TX 77059

## 2022 – 2023 SPEAKERS CAMPAIGN

- Feb. 16, 2023 Shane Makowicki: *“Master of Combined Operations: General Ambrose Burnside in North Carolina, 1862”*
- 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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