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General Orders

Altavilla's Brigade

Vol. 34
No. 10
May
2023



MAY, 2023 MEETING
Thursday, May 18, 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
bgrueg@aol.com or call 281 480-1130
by 6 pm Monday, May 15th, 2023

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

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

The HCWRT Presents **Lorien Foote speaking on:**

"The Yankee Plague"

During the last winter of the Civil War, nearly 3,000 Union prisoners escaped from Confederate prisons in the Carolinas and fled toward Union army lines. Black and white southerners fed, hid, and guided the fugitives across hundreds of miles of dangerous terrain. Lorien Foote will share what the journey of escaped prisoners reveals about Union soldiers' experiences in the final months of the war and the transformation of the home front to a battle front inside the Confederacy.

Dr. Foote reveals connections between the collapse of the Confederate prison system, the large-scale escape of Union soldiers, and the full unraveling of the Confederate States of America. The fugitive soldiers moving across the countryside in large numbers accelerated this collapse as slaves and deserters decided the presence of these Union escapees presented an opportunity for escalated resistance.

About Lorien Foote

Lorien Foote is the Patricia & Bookman Peters Professor in History at Texas A&M University. She is the author of four books, editor of three volumes, and writer of numerous articles and essays on the cultural, intellectual, and military history of the American Civil War. Her most recent book is *Rites of Retaliation: Civilization, Soldiers, and Campaigns in the American Civil War* (2021), which won the Organization of American Historians Civil War and Reconstruction Book Award. Dr. Foote's book *The Yankee Plague*, published in 2016, is the subject of this month's presentation.

She is the co-editor, with Earl J. Hess, of *The Oxford Handbook of the American Civil War*. She is the creator and principal investigator of a digital humanities project, which is mapping the escape and movement of 3,000 Federal prisoners of war. The project includes contributions from undergraduate researchers at four universities. It can be explored online at: <https://sites.google.com/tamu.edu/fugitive-federals/the-project>.

Dr. Foote received her B.A. from the University of Kansas and her Ph.D. from the University of Oklahoma. She is a ballroom dancer and a dog lover. Buzz, her eight-year-old Shih Tzu, is the mascot of the TAMU Study Abroad program and visits the office on campus regularly.



Dr. Lorien Foote

PRESIDENT'S POST *By Keith Altavilla*

Hail, and farewell to this year's Round Table campaign. It has been an incredible year of speakers, presentations, and seeing members both old and new. As we finish this campaign, I want to start by thanking all of you for your continued support and membership. The members make the Round Table, and Houston continues to have the best.

Jonathan Steplyk is an old friend of mine, and after our April meeting I hope he becomes a new friend for the Round Table. Jonathan provided a fun evening of conversation and a great presentation about Civil War soldiers and killing. Our final speaker for the year is another familiar face. Lorien Foote joins us again to tell the story of escaped Union prisoners in North and South Carolina. Originally scheduled for February, we are always happy for Lorien to join us from College Station.

As we come to the end, a few reminders before we disperse for the summer months. Please get those renewals in to Barry. I'll have

mine to hand in for the meeting. You don't want to miss the newsletter, or any updates about the coming year. Your membership is part of what keeps us going, bringing in great speakers and providing the fellowship we all enjoy. Speaking of enjoyment, the other thing we enjoy seeing is new faces, so take some time this summer to spread the word about the Round Table. Maybe you can find a new guest or member for when we return in the fall. I know we all hope to see the group continue to grow, and we all have a part to play in that.

I look forward to seeing everyone at Rudi's in May, and seeing all of you back with us in September.



*April speaker Jonathan Steplyk and
HCWRT President Keith Altavilla*

HCWRT SPEAKERS FOR THE 2023-2024 CAMPAIGN *By Walker Agnew*

Continuing with the success and quality of the speakers for the past several years, we are excited to announce the following speakers for our new campaign.

We will kick off in September with **Brian Steel Wills** telling us about the exciting history and current preservation events surrounding Parker's Crossroads in Tennessee. **Jennifer**

Murray from Oklahoma State University will talk on George Meade. **Barbara Gannon** from the University of Central Florida will present from her book *The Won Cause: Black and White Comradship of the Grand Army*.

For December we will have a university graduate student present their awarded work. This is something new that has been discussed and approved by our board. Graduate students will be asked to submit a presentation and will be voted on by a HCWRT committee.

In January, **Richard McCaslin** from the University of North Texas will talk on *Lee in the Shadow of Washington*. February will feature our 2022-2023 Vandiver Award winner **Chris Mackowski** from Emerging Civil War. Fay Yarbrough from Rice University has written a book on *Choctaw Confederates: The American Civil War in Indian Country* and will present on this unique topic. Our own **Stephen Kinnaman** will present on his work, entitled "The Abandonment and Destruction of the Gosport Navy Yard." May will be reserved for our 2023-2024 Vandiver Award recipient.

We have a very wide array of topics this year covering many aspects of the Civil War, and are looking forward to having all of you for these wonderful presentations. A listing of these speakers can also be found in our "speakers' box" section on page 6 of this newsletter.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

By Michael Clennan

The HCWRT has enjoyed a wonderful campaign for 2022-2023! We've featured outstanding lectures every month, and May will be just the same when we welcome Dr. Lorien Foote back! This will be your last chance during this campaign to invite a friend to a great German dinner and an interesting Civil War lecture! If you haven't joined us already, come and make new friends.

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

Finally, please be sure to RSVP with Barry no later than 6 pm Monday, May 15th. We really appreciate everyone's cooperation in placing your reservations timely!

MAY QUIZ *By Jim Godlove*

Since this month's topic is on "The Yankee Plague," the questions will center on the Carolinas during the last months of the war.

In North Carolina on March 21, 1865, a 16-year old son of a Confederate general finally overcame his father's objections and joined the 8th Texas Cavalry. Later that day, his father encountered litter bearers carrying his only son who had been mortally wounded in his first charge.

Known as "Old Reliable," who was this general who was famous for writing the textbook *Rifle and Light Infantry Tactics*?



BOOK RAFFLE

By Donnie Stowe

Since this is the last meeting before we adjourn for the summer months, I've tried to make the raffle an extra good one. I'm starting off the raffle with **THEIR TATTERED FLAGS – The Epic of the Confederacy** by Frank E. Vandiver. Another selection this month is **JOSEPH E. JOHNSTON – A Civil War Biography** by Craig L. Symonds. Our next selection is **AN HONORABLE DEFEAT – The Last Days of the Confederate Government** by William C. Davis. This book is a donation from the late Norm Lewis. A second donation, also from Norm, is **THE ORPHAN BRIGADE – The Kentucky Confederate Who Couldn't Go Home**, also by William C. Davis. Inside, there

is a personalized autograph by the author to Norm Lewis.

Representing the North, we have **LINCOLN** by David Hebert Donald and **SHERMAN'S MARCH** by Burke Davis. A couple more from the Norm Lewis collection are **YOURS FOR THE UNION – The Civil War Letters of John W. Chase** (First Massachusetts Light Artillery), edited and autographed by John S. Collier & Bonnie B. Collier, and **SOUTHERN HERO – Matthew Calbraith Butler** – by Samuel J. Martin. Butler was a Confederate general, Hampton Red Shirt, and a U. S. Senator. Another offering this month is **GRANDFATHER'S JOURNAL** May 27, 1861 – July 15, 1865 by Austin C. Dobbins. This journal is of Franklin Lafayette Riley, Company B, 16th Mississippi Infantry Volunteers, Harris' Brigade, Mahone's Division of Hill's Corps.

Other books in this month's raffle are **ANTIETAM - The Soldier's Battle, THE MILITARY OPERATIONS OF GENERAL BEAUREGARD – Vol. 1, JUBAL EARLY - Robert E. Lee's "Bad Old Man," THE OPENING BATTLES**, and a few more. To see the entire offering and get a chance to take a couple home, come join us..

HTBAR "RETURN TO VIRGINIA" TOUR

The Hood's Texas Brigade Association Re-activated (HTBAR) is sponsoring a "Return to Virginia" tour on Sunday, June 11 through Wednesday, June 14, 2023. The "early bird" fee is \$645.00 if registered by May 12; thereafter, it will be \$725.00.

The tour price includes historians, speakers, docents, admission to historic sites, handouts, and tour bus to all sites. Most meals are included in the fee.

The tour leader will be Rick Eiserman, Historian for HTBAR. All persons are welcome to register for this special program, which will feature sites in Richmond, Appomattox, Gaines Mill battlefield, and a visit to the Mariners' Museum in Newport News.

Interested parties may contact HTBAR Treasurer John Stevens at (281) 431-8195 or via e-mail at htbar1967@yahoo.com. You can also visit the HTBAR website at hoodstexasbrigade.org and click on "Virginia Tour" for a flier containing complete information.

NOMINATIONS ANNOUNCED FOR HCWRT OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

By Eugene Boisubin, Past President

Our thoughts are focused not only on our new program for the 2023-2024 campaign, but also on our organizational structure. And as Chairman of the Nominating Committee, it is my pleasure to announce our newly nominated officers and directors. Barry Brueggeman has agreed to continue his long-standing role as Treasurer, as has Walker Agnew as our Vice President. Nominated for the role of Secretary, the very versatile Scott Wilkey will also continue in his important role as Communications Chair. We also appreciate the hard work that John Stevens has put into the role of Secretary for so many years.

With our current and very successful campaign coming to a close, we are delighted that Keith Altavilla has agreed to continue as President. I will then continue as the immediate Past President. With Scott Wilkey moving from the Board of Directors to his new role as an officer, an opening was also created. We are very fortunate to be nominating a new board member, Vince Trovato. Vince is a very successful local businessman in the energy sector and has had a life-long interest in the Civil War. His intelligence and enthusiasm will provide added energy to our current and very active board members being nominated: Mike Clennan, Jim Godlove, and Roland Bienvenu.

Pursuant to our organization's Bylaws, the above-referenced nominees for officer and director positions will be voted on by the general membership present at the May 18th meeting. Additionally, nominations may be made from the floor.



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 SPEAKERS' 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

May 18, 2023 Lorien Foote: *“The Yankee Plague”*

2023 – 2024 SPEAKERS CAMPAIGN

Sept. 21, 2023 Brian Steel Wills: *“Parker’s Crossroads: Charging in Both Ways - A Civil War Success Story”*
Oct. 19, 2023 Jennifer Murray: *“George Meade”*
Nov. 16, 2023 Barbara Gannon: *“The Won Cause: Black and White Comradeship of the Grand Army”*
Dec. 14, 2023 Graduate student award winner
Jan. 18, 2024 Richard McCaslin: *“Lee in the Shadow of Washington”*
Feb. 15, 2024 Chris Mackowski, 2023 Vandiver Award Recipient: Topic TBA
Mar. 21, 2024 Fay Yarbrough: *“Choctaw Confederates: The American Civil War in Indian Country”*
Apr. 18, 2024 Stephen Kinnaman: *“The Abandonment and Destruction of the Gosport Navy Yard”*
May 16, 2024 TBA: 2024 Vandiver Award Recipient

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