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General Orders

Altavilla's Brigade

Vol. 35
No. 1
August
2023



PRESIDENT'S POST *By Keith Altavilla*

Greetings everyone! I hope you are looking forward to the upcoming Round Table campaign, with our first meeting set for September 21.

I want to start the new campaign year by thanking the officers and directors of our board, many of whom are taking their positions once again. Their leadership helps these meetings continue, and I sincerely appreciate their efforts.

We will still be meeting at Rudi Lechner's. For those of you who want dinner, I recommend arriving around 5:30 pm so you can enjoy the meal before heading to the back. We have had plenty of seats in the past, but it never hurts to make sure Barry knows you are coming via your reservations so we can get a better setup in the room.

Since you're contacting Barry anyway, why not consider getting your membership dues in

quickly as well? That will keep you on the mailing list for the newsletter and keeps our organization going strong for another year. If not right away, there is always the September meeting to bring that check. For those less interested in checks, we are now digital, and you can pay that membership fee using Zelle. Barry's article in the newsletter has more details on that process.

We have a great speaker lineup this coming year, and while Walker's article on page 3 provides a good summary, I want to highlight two particularly interesting dates. Our Vandiver Award recipient from 2023, Chris Mackowski, will be receiving his award in February 2024. If you were here last September when he spoke on Stonewall Jackson, you know this will be a great evening. We are also going to have a presentation at our December meeting from a graduate student at one of the many great institutions of higher education in our region. We look forward to announcing that winner (we hope the first of many) later in the fall.

I hope everyone has been staying cool this summer, and that you are as excited as I am to get back to our meetings. See you all on September 21!

MEMBERSHIP REPORT *By Michael Clennan*

I'd like to extend a cordial heartfelt invitation to all Civil War aficionados to come and join our merry gang of 80 members for our gathering on September 21. This is the kickoff for our 2023-2024 campaign. Our monthly events, usually on

the third Thursday of each month, include 1) gathering at 5:30 or 5:45 for fellowship with a hearty German dinner and, if so desired, an excellent German beer, 2) a welcoming at 7 pm by President Keith, a book raffle and an enjoyable Civil War quiz, and 3) our featured live lecture by a Civil War scholar. Join us for an engaging evening!

Please do not hesitate to contact me at (713) 864-1204 or mgclennan@gmail.com should you have any questions. We look forward to welcoming you at the front door at approximately 5:45 pm for dinner or 7:00 pm for our program.

After an extensive city-wide search of over 30 locations, our board has chosen Rudi's as our home for the 2023-2024 campaign! Rudi's provides a very reasonably priced and excellent selection of food and beverages. Our lecture room is exceptional for seeing and hearing our live Civil War presentations.



October 2004 HCWRT Field Trip with the late Ed Bearss on Fisher's Hill Battlefield in Virginia near the "Witness Tree"

PAYING YOUR MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL USING ZELLE

By Barry Brueggeman

We want to inform our members that you can now pay your membership renewal or dues using Zelle. Please send your payment to treasurer@houstoncivilwar.com and indicate it

is from you. Also, I ask that you **do not send it to my personal email address.**

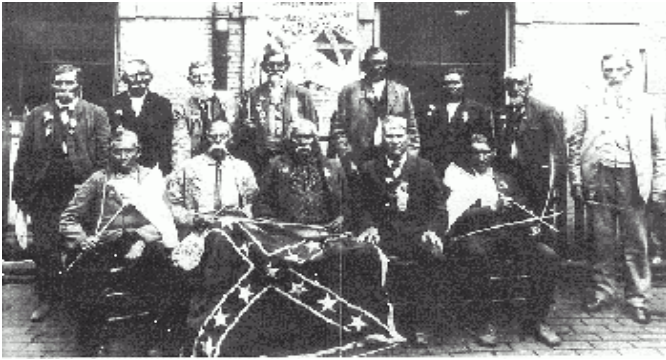
Zelle is a payment app from your bank that links your email address to your bank account. When you want to send money, simply indicate the receiver's email address (who also has to be registered with Zelle), and the money is sent free from the sender to the receiver without either being charged or spammed. Zelle was set up by several of the large banks so they could compete with other payment apps and save the cost of handling personal checks. Some small banks, e.g., Moody, do not offer Zelle, but most do. You can check with your bank to see if they offer Zelle or check this on-line reference: www.zellepay.com/get-started.

In order to set up Zelle with your bank, take the following steps:

:

1. Log into your on-line bank account.
2. Find the Zelle link.
 - Bank of America – Zelle is very visible. Top for laptop and bottom for cell phone.
 - Wells Fargo Bank – It is under the "Transfer & Pay" tab. Top for laptop and bottom for cell phone.
 - Capital One 360 – It is under "I Want To"
3. Once you click "Zelle", follow the instructions.

I was able to set up both the HCWRT account at Wells Fargo and my personal account with Comerica. Make sure you type the email address correctly when sending your payment as the payment will not go through otherwise, or, worse, go to the wrong person. Also, indicate it is from you so I understand clearly who it is from. Some banks may require a confirming zip code; it is 77059 for the HCWRT. Some banks may allow you to save the email address so it will be easier for you in future years. When you renew, remember also to let me know if there are any changes to your personal data (telephone number, address, etc.) at either the above email address or my personal one so we keep your records current.



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 Comradeship 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.

WANTED: YOUR SUBMISSIONS

By Roland Bienvenu

Our members are both welcome and encouraged to submit articles to the newsletter editor that they feel would be of interest to the HCWRT membership. Possibilities include, but are not necessarily limited to, book reviews, reviews of Civil War museums/sites, photographs, and poetry. We also welcome suggestions or ideas from our membership regarding this newsletter.

Your feedback and/or submissions may be sent to NewsLetter@HoustonCivilWar.com.



Members of Hood's Texas Brigade Association Re-Activated at the Texas State Marker at Gaines' Mill during their June, 2023 "Return to Virginia" tour. HTBAR was instrumental in organizing, applying, and donating money to have this marker installed. It is located where then-Colonel John Bell Hood led the 4th Texas across Boatwain Creek and up the hill to break the Union line. Pictured from left are HTBAR board members Rick Eiserman (tour organizer & Historian), Martha Hartzog (President Emeritus), Curt Locklear (Chaplain), Liz Leifester (Secretary), Glenn Carroll (President), and John Stevens (Treasurer)

THIS MONTH IN CIVIL WAR HISTORY

August 3, 1861 – Balloon ascension by John LaMountain at Hampton Roads, Virginia

August 5, 1861 – President Lincoln signs the Revenue Act of 1861 into law, creating the first national income tax in American history

August 5, 1864 - Battle of Mobile Bay, Alabama

August 6, 1962 – CSS *Arkansas* scuttled near Baton Rouge, Louisiana

August 10, 1861 – Battle of Wilson's Creek, Missouri

August 10, 1862 – German-American Unionists are massacred by Confederates on the banks of the Nueces River in Texas

August 14, 1861 – Soldiers of the 79th New York mutiny near Washington, D. C.

August 18, 1864 – Battle of Globe Tavern (Weldon Railroad), Virginia begins

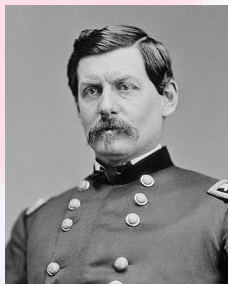
August 23 1864 – Fort Morgan, at the entrance to Mobile Bay, Alabama, falls to the Federals

August 27, 1862 – Stonewall Jackson captures and plunders Union supply depot at Manassas Junction, Virginia

August 28, 1862 – The Battle of Second Manassas (Bull Run) begins at Brawner's Farm (Groveton), Virginia

August 30, 1861 – Acting without higher approval, Major General John C. Fremont issues an edict freeing the slaves of all Confederate sympathizers in Missouri

August 31, 1864 – Union General George McClellan nominated for President by Democratic Party at Chicago convention



BOOK RAFFLE CHAIRPERSON NEEDED

Our long-serving chairperson for our monthly book raffles, Donnie Stowe, has recently stepped down from that position. We are seeking an interested member who would be willing to assume this duty, which basically involves keeping a supply of donated Civil War-related books on hand, selecting several for each month's book raffle, and bringing them to meetings.

If this is something you might consider, please send an email to NewsLetter@HoustonCivilWar.com or see any of our officers or directors at the September meeting.



Donnie Stowe at McGavock Confederate Cemetery during 2016 Field Trip to Franklin, Tennessee





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 Lonnie Wood Drive
Houston, TX 77059

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: “The Victor of Gettysburg: George Gordon Meade and the Civil War”
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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