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General Orders

Altavilla's Brigade

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2024

FEBRUARY, 2024 MEETING
Thursday, February 15, 2024
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, February 12, 2024

*** Reservations are Required ***

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

The HCWRT Presents Chris Mackowski Speaking on:

“Grant’s Next Chapter: Vicksburg, Chattanooga, and the Rise of U. S. Grant”

We often look at "the rise of Ulysses S. Grant" as an almost inevitable arc of the Civil War: from Belmont to Fort Donelson to Shiloh to Vicksburg to Chattanooga to the Wilderness to Appomattox Court House. One victory unleashed the next which unleashed the next, and so on, allowing Grant to rise from an unknown colonel to general-in-chief of the army in an incredibly short period of time.

But that rise was hardly smooth or inevitable. Moments of contingency threatened to derail him time and time again. Was there "a" single moment of particular importance? Well, Grant finished one volume of his memoirs with the aftermath of Vicksburg and opened the second with the battle of Chattanooga. Not only did that point serve as a convenient break for Grant in his narrative, it marked a point of his career that Grant himself saw as a pivotal moment. Vicksburg closed out one chapter, while Chattanooga began other.



Chris Mackowski

About Chris Mackowski

Chris Mackowski, Ph.D., is the editor-in-chief and co-founder of Emerging Civil War and the series editor of the award-winning Emerging Civil War Series published by Savas Beatie. Chris is a writing professor in the Jandoli School of Communication at St. Bonaventure University

in Allegany, NY, where he also serves as associate dean for undergraduate programs. He is also historian-in-residence at Stevenson Ridge, a property on the Spotsylvania battlefield in central Virginia. He has worked as a historian for the National Park Service at Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park, where he gives tours at four major Civil War battlefields (Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Wilderness, and Spotsylvania), as well as at the building where Stonewall Jackson died.

Chris has authored or co-authored nearly two dozen books and edited a half-dozen essay collections on the Civil War, and his articles have appeared in all the major Civil War magazines. Chris serves as vice president on the board of directors for the Central Virginia Battlefields Trust, on the advisory board of the Civil War Round Table Congress and the Brunswick (NC) Civil War Round Table—the largest in the country. He is also a member of the Antietam Institute and the U. S. Grant Homestead Association. In 2023, he was honored with the Houston Civil War Round Table's Frank Vandiver Award of Merit and also selected as the Copie Hill Fellow at the American Battlefield Trust.



PRESIDENT'S POST

By Keith Altavilla

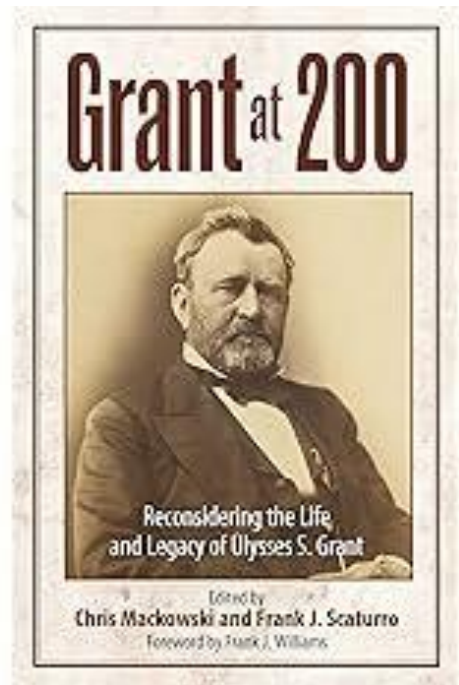
Hello everyone, especially those of you who were with us in January, which was quite a few of you! We had a huge turnout, and it was fantastic to see our room at Rudi's packed, even to the point where we had to get some extra chairs. As great as that is, **it is a big help if you**

can send a reservation to Barry before the meeting. It doesn't commit you to coming, and certainly not to eating dinner, but helps us get a good head count so we have enough seats for everybody. We love seeing as many people as possible, and even better when it isn't a surprise!

Those of you who packed the room in January heard a great presentation from Richard McCaslin. Back after a long absence, he did not disappoint when talking about Lee and Washington. We've got a great follow-up this month as we present the 2023 Vandiver Award to Chris Mackowski. I'm sure those who were there remember Mackowski's visit at the September 2022 meeting, and we are excited to welcome him back, both for his coming talk on Grant, and to be presented with our round table's prestigious award.

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

I look forward to seeing everyone at Rudi's!



MEMBERSHIP REPORT

By Michael Clennan

Winter in Houston. Cold and rainy; all the better reason to come and join our Civil War Round Table for a hearty German beer and warm dinner at Rudi's. Our Round Table members are having a great time, so please join us. The monthly meetings begin at 7:00 pm. Even better, consider inviting a friend and a new potential member to join our fellowship on February 15th for a free visit.

New members can join this month and their membership will last until June 2025! This is simply one of the best social and educational organizations in Houston! For further details, call me at (713) 864-1204.

THIS MONTH IN CIVIL WAR HISTORY

February 1, 1861 – Texas adopts an Ordinance of Secession and schedules a referendum for February 23.

February 3, 1863 – Union General William T. Sherman begins the Meridian Campaign in Mississippi

February 6, 1862 – Surrender of Ft. Henry, Tennessee

February 6, 1865 – John C. Breckinridge named Confederate Secretary of War

February 9, 1861 – Jefferson Davis elected provisional Confederate President

February 16, 1862 – Fort Donelson (Tennessee) surrenders unconditionally to Ulysses S. Grant

February 17, 1864 – Confederate submarine *H. L. Hunley* sinks the USS *Housatonic*

February 29, 1864 – George Custer's cavalry fights skirmishes during a raid on Albemarle County, Virginia



BOOK RAFFLE

By Rita Campbell

Do you need a perfect Valentine's Day gift for someone special? Consider purchasing tickets for a chance to win one of these great books.

This month's "pearls" for the book raffle include **HARD TACK AND COFFEE: SOLDIER'S LIFE IN THE CIVIL WAR** by John D. Billings; **UPON THE ALTAR OF THE NATION: A MORAL HISTORY OF THE CIVIL WAR** by Harry Stout; **A BROTHERHOOD OF VALOR: THE COMMON SOLDIERS OF THE STONEWALL BRIGADE, CSA AND THE IRON BRIGADE, USA** by Jeffery Wert; **GETTYSBURG: THE LAST INVASION** by Allen Guelzo; and **MARCHING THROUGH GEORGIA: THE STORY OF SOLDIERS AND CIVILIANS DURING SHERMAN'S CAMPAIGN** by Lee Kennett.

I look forward to seeing everyone at this month's meeting. Don't forget to purchase your tickets when you sign in at the entrance!

FEBRUARY QUIZ

By Jim Godlove

At the beginning of Grant's Vicksburg campaign in April 1862, he commanded three army corps – the XIII, VX, and XVII. During the siege of Vicksburg, one of the corps commanders was removed from command on June 18th. Who was he and what corps did he command?



2023 – 2024 SPEAKERS CAMPAIGN

- Feb. 15, 2024 Chris Mackowski, 2023 Vandiver Award Recipient: “Grant’s Next Chapter: Vicksburg, Chattanooga, and the Rise of U. S. Grant”
- 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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