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General Orders

Walker's Brigade

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President's Comments

Happy Summer! While we are off for the summer, the Houston Civil War Round Table executive committee is working toward having an incredible year. We have the following speakers lined up:

Lorien Foote speaking on *The Yankee Plague*, Jeremi Suri on *How Slaves Became Union Soldiers (and Veterans)*, Brian Matthew Jordan on the *Battle of South Mountain, Maryland*, Sean Michael Chick on *Creole General: P.G.T. Beauregard*, Jeff Hunt on *Battle of Palmito Ranch, Texas*, Neil Chatelain on *Treasure and Empire in the Civil War: The Panama Route, the West and the Campaigns to Control America's Mineral Wealth*, and Andrew Bledsoe on the *Decisions at Franklin: The Nineteen Critical Decisions That Defined the Battle*. In addition, we will also hear from our Graduate Student Award recipient in December

and our Vandiver Award recipient (normally in May).

I am amazed that almost 160 years after the Civil War, there are still so many new books on newly discovered (and re-discovered) information. We are fortunate to have so many well-known authors that can present to us. As we are always looking for topics of interest, please let me know of any specific topics of interest, and of course, speakers who might be able to speak to our group. This information will be passed on to our Programs Committee.

On Saturday, September 7th, 2024, a tour will be conducted by Ed Cotham on the 161st anniversary of the Battle of Sabine Pass. Please see article on page 2 for detailed information.

I thank you for the opportunity to serve as your new president. I welcome your input.

Sincerely,

Walker Agnew
President

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

By Michael Clennan

Welcome one and all! A new campaign begins on Thursday, September 19th. Be prepared to bring your family members, make new friends and see many of our long-term members. Arrive prior to 6:00 pm and join a friendly crowd of 30 members for a hearty German meal at Rudi's in their dining area. At 7:00 pm, we will move to their meeting room for our Round Table's program. We will resume our popular book raffle and always challenging Civil War quiz.

Remember, all first-time visitors are guests and are exempt from paying the \$10.00 fee.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to call me at (713) 864-1204.

161st ANNIVERSARY TOUR OF SABINE PASS BATTLEGROUND STATE HISTORIC SITE

2024 JEFFERSON SYMPOSIUM

The Jefferson Historical Society and Museum will hold their 13th annual Civil War Symposium on Saturday, August 3rd, 2024, at the City of Jefferson Convention and Visitors Center, 305 East Austin Street in Jefferson, Texas. The theme of this year's symposium is "War on the Periphery of the Trans-Mississippi."

Registration on Saturday is from 8:00 to 9:00 am, with the program beginning at 9:00 am. Featured speakers include M. Jane Johannson, Steven Mayeux, Henry O. Robertson, and William J. Bozic, Jr. The program also includes a silent auction and various vendors and exhibitors.

The \$80.00 advance registration fee for adults (\$40.00 for students) also includes lunch. There will also be a Friday evening speakers' reception from 6:00 to 7:30 pm; cost for this is \$20.00.

For further information on registration, contact the Museum at (903) 665-2775 or visit their website at www.jeffersonmuseum.org.

On the afternoon of September 8th, 1863, a small garrison of fewer than fifty Confederate artillerymen in Fort Griffin defeated a large Union invasion force, including four navy gunboats. Outnumbered more than a hundred to one, a young Irish saloonkeeper from Houston named Dick Dowling led his men to victory in a battle that Jefferson Davis later called the most amazing achievement in military history.

Come join us on Saturday, September 7th, 2024 from 2:00 to 3:30 pm to hear the remarkable story behind this famous battle on the ground where it happened. Our tour will start near the water at the covered area with historic panels explaining the battle. Although the battleground park charges a \$5.00 per car fee for entering automobiles, the tour is free and open to anyone interested in history. The tour will be conducted by Ed Cotham, author of *Sabine Pass: The Confederacy's Thermopylae* (University of Texas Press, 2004). Ed is a former president of the Friends of Sabine Pass Battleground and the Houston Civil War Round Table. He has been leading tours of Texas Civil War battlefields, including Sabine Pass, for more than 25 years.

The author of many books on the Civil War and Texas history, Ed also serves as a volunteer Marine Steward for the Texas Historical Commission. Sabine Pass Battleground is located at 6100 Dick Dowling Road in Sabine Pass, a small community located off Highway 87 about 15 miles south of Port Arthur. For those who wish to come early, an informal group will be gathering at about 11:30 am for a Dutch treat lunch at the Schooner Restaurant, 1507 S. Hwy 69 in Nederland, Texas. This restaurant is about 95 miles from Houston. It is then about 24 miles from the restaurant to the battleground in Sabine Pass. Those not wishing to join the group for lunch may instead want to make a morning visit to the Museum of the Gulf Coast located at 700 Proctor Street in Port Arthur.





2024 Vandiver Award recipient Ted Savas with Immediate Past President Keith Altavilla

Open from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, the Museum tells the story of the Texas/Louisiana Gulf Coast region, beginning with paleontology and biology. Permanent exhibits include a section on Native Americans, European contact, the Texas Navy, the Civil War, economic and cultural growth, the petroleum industry, and the region's maritime history.

If you have any questions regarding this tour, you may email Ed at edcotham@gmail.com.

MEDICAL CARE AND LEARNING DURING THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR

by Eugene Boisaubin, M.D., F.A.C.P.

American medical science and care was quite primitive at the start of the Civil War. Future doctors who desired a good medical education, whenever possible, traveled to Europe well into the twentieth century. In places such as London, England, Paris, France and Berlin, Germany, doctors could learn the most advanced techniques in patient care, including surgery, as well as experimental science.

Initial battles, such as First Manassas, also created thousands of casualties, even within a day, which overwhelmed the handful of physicians who were present. By the end of the Civil War, however, over ten thousand doctors were available. Infectious diseases, such as dysentery, were actually the primary cause of



death in over two thirds of the fatalities, but the germ theory of disease would not be accepted for several more decades. Amputations were the most common form of major surgery, but had to be performed within several minutes since effective anesthesia and intravenous fluids would not be introduced until later in the century. However, amputations created significant advances in areas such as physical medicine and rehabilitation. Mass casualties also eventually created the first effective triage plan for battlefield injuries and a system that is largely in use today.

By the end of the war, American medicine had left the “dark ages” of care, and had advanced to the limits of known medical science at home and abroad. But a true renaissance of medical science and care would take another half century to be discovered and practiced.



THIS MONTH IN CIVIL WAR HISTORY

July 1, 1862 – Battle of Malvern Hill, Virginia

July 1, 1863 – Battle of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania begins

July 4, 1863 – Confederates surrender Vicksburg, Mississippi

July 5, 1861 – Engagement at Carthage, Missouri

July 7, 1865 – Conspirators in the assassination of Lincoln are executed

July 11, 1861 – Engagement at Rich Mountain, Virginia (now West Virginia)

July 12, 1862 – John Hunt Morgan’s Confederate raiders capture Lebanon, Kentucky on their first raid

July 12, 1864 – Jubal Early’s raid of Fort Stevens, DC

July 13, 1862 – Garrison at Murfreesboro, Tennessee captured by Confederate General Nathan Bedford Forrest

July 14, 1864 – Battle of Tupelo, Mississippi

July 17, 1863 – Engagement at Honey Springs, Indian Territory (now Oklahoma)

July 18, 1863 – Assault on Battery Wagner, Morris Island, South Carolina led by the 54th Massachusetts

July 18, 1864 – Battle of Cool Spring, Virginia

July 22, 1864 – Battle of Atlanta, Georgia

July 26, 1863 – John Hunt Morgan captured at Salineville, Ohio

July 27, 1861 – Major General George McClellan put in command of the Federal Division of the Potomac

July 28, 1864 – Battle of Ezra Church, Georgia

July 30, 1864 – Battle of The Crater at Petersburg, Virginia

July 31, 1861 – Ulysses Grant promoted to brigadier general





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

2024 – 2025 SPEAKERS CAMPAIGN

Sep. 19, 2024	Lorien Foote: “The Yankee Plague”
Oct. 17, 2024	Jeremi Suri: “How Slaves Became Union Soldiers (and Veterans)”
Nov. 21, 2024	Brian Matthew Jordan: “Battle of South Mountain, Maryland”
Dec. 12, 2024	Reserved for Graduate Student Award Recipient, topic TBA
Jan. 16, 2025:	Sean Michael Chick: “Creole General: P. G. T. Beauregard”
Feb. 20, 2025:	Jeff Hunt: “Battle of Palmito Ranch, Texas”
Mar. 20, 2025	Neil Chatelain: “Treasures and Empire in the Civil War: The Panama Route, the West, and the Campaigns to Control America’s Mineral Wealth”
Apr.17, 2025:	Andrew Bledsoe: “Decision at Franklin: The Nineteen Critical Decisions That Defined the Battle”
May 15, 2025:	Reserved for 2025 Vandiver Award Recipient, topic TBA

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