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General Orders

Walker's Brigade

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DECEMBER, 2024 MEETING
Thursday, December 12, 2024

Rudi Lechner's Restaurant
2503 South Gessner Road
6:00 pm (or sooner) - Dinner
7:00 pm - Program Begins

***** No Reservations Required for this Meeting*****

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

refugees continued their raids, even fighting alongside Mexican soldiers. Concern that these forces would overpower the Rio Grande line paralyzed all of Confederate General Kirby Smith's domain as Confederate bastions to the east fell.

Noah Crawford argues that military operations in Texas influenced the course of the war. Furthermore, he demonstrates how refugee soldiers compelled many Northerners to align themselves with transnational republicanism. In so doing, he both promotes the importance of Civil War Texas's military history and details how military events provide a lens through which we can see the international dimensions of the conflict.

The HCWRT Presents
Noah Crawford, Gary Chandler
Graduate Student Award
recipient, speaking on:

“ ‘Alien Enemies’: Refugee Raids, Republican Mexicans, and the Collapse of Confederate Texas”

By 1864, the most elusive threats to Confederate Texas came not from Union armies along the coast, but from the south. Hundreds of Unionist refugees from Texas who fled to Mexico launched guerilla raids into Confederate territory. Eventually, over 4,300 Confederate troops were tasked solely with guarding the border between Texas and Mexico. Still, Unionist



Noah Crawford

About Noah Crawford

Noah F. Crawford is a PhD candidate and graduate assistant lecturer at Texas A&M University who studies the social and military

history of the American Civil War era. His research focuses on refugees during that conflict—who they were, how they lived, and the ways in which they influenced the course of the war. His master's thesis—"A Matter of Increasing Perplexity": Public Perception, Treatment, and Military Influence of Refugees in the Shenandoah Valley During the American Civil War"—won the Outstanding Master's Thesis Award at Virginia Tech. Archival research funding through the Nau Center for Civil War History, Virginia Center for Civil War Studies, and the Texas State Library and Archives Commission yielded conference presentations with the Center for Civil War Research, the East Texas Historical Association, and the Texas State Historical Society. Noah has published an article with the *Journal of the Shenandoah Valley During the Civil War Era* and given lectures for the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation and the Save Texas History Symposium. His research demonstrates how refugee studies can serve as a vehicle for synthesizing disparate aspects of Civil War history including race, diplomacy, gender, and military operations.

BATTLE OF GALVESTON WALKING TOURS

Ed Cotham will be conducting walking tours regarding the Battle of Galveston on Saturday and Sunday, January 4th and 5th, 2025. These tours mark the 162nd anniversary of the battle. To register or to obtain information, visit Ed's website at edcotham.com and click on "Events."

President's Comments

We heard another wonderful presentation by Brian Matthew Jordan of Sam Houston State University which covered the Battle of South Mountain, Maryland. Robert E. Lee was heading toward the Northern states for the first time, hoping to move the fight onto Northern soil. There were discussions about Lee's Lost

Order No. 191 and how this was a benefit to the Yankee army. As to how these orders were lost, there is still speculation. Brian demonstrated he had spent many hours in researching this battle and was able to indicate that Lee may have learned much that would influence his future battles.

Our December speaker is the recipient of the Gary Chandler Graduate Student Award. Gary was a very active member of the Houston Civil War Round Table who held multiple offices and positions over the years. Civil War history was one of his true loves!

As we are an all-volunteer group. I ask each and every one of you to consider joining a committee to help with the operation of the Round Table or to become involved in whatever way you can. Please let me know if you are interested.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

By Michael Glennan

Why not celebrate the Christmas season with your "history buff friends" by bringing a new friend along! This month, we have an outstanding young PhD graduate student, Noah Crawford, to share his fresh research and findings on the Civil War. Arrive by 5:45 pm and enjoy fellowship and a hearty dinner at Rudi's. At 7:00, we retire to the meeting room for our program and lecture. You can also enjoy the monthly Civil War quiz and book raffle! Also, we have a great schedule of speakers for the remainder of this campaign!

Merry Christmas to all and Happy Holidays!



DECEMBER QUIZ

By Jim Godlove

Q: There were tensions between Unionists in Matamoros and Texans well before 1864. On March 15, 1863, Texans crossed the Rio Grande and attacked a Unionist camp. The Confederates took some prisoners back across the river. They lynched Capt. William W. Montgomery. They might have lynched their chief prisoner, but the Mexican authorities strongly protested the raid. Fearing that the Mexicans might close the border to the cotton trade, Gen. Hamilton P. Bee released him back to Mexico. This man later became a Union general and a Republican governor of Texas during Reconstruction.

Who was this Texan whose son, Britton, later graduated from West Point and was involved in the capture of Geronimo?





*President Agnew with last month's speaker
Brain Matthew Jordan*

BOOK RAFFLE

By Rita Campbell

This month's book selections include **JEFFERSON DAVIS: THE MAN AND HIS HOUR** by William C. Davis, **DECAPITATING THE UNION: JEFFERSON DAVIS, JUDAH BENJAMIN, AND THE PLOT TO ASSASSINATE LINCOLN** by John Fazio, **THE CONFEDERACY'S LAST HURRAH: SPRING HILL, FRANKLIN, AND NASHVILLE** by Wiley Sword, **FROM MANASSAS TO APPOMATTOX** by James Longstreet, and finally, **GENERAL LEE'S ARMY: FROM VICTORY TO COLLAPSE** by Joseph Glatthar.

I'd like to take this opportunity to remind you that this month and January we have a special "holiday delight" for you! Each month, we will be including one book from Shelby Foote's Civil War series. You have a chance to win the remaining volumes if you attend the next two meetings!

2024 – 2025 SPEAKERS CAMPAIGN

Dec. 12, 2024	Noah Crawford, Gary Chandler Graduate Student Award recipient: “ ‘Alien Enemies’: Refugee Raids, Republican Mexicans, and the Collapse of Confederate Texas”
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	Catherine Clinton: “Lincoln: The Immortal President”
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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