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# General Orders

## *Walker's Brigade*

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**JANUARY, 2025 MEETING**  
**Thursday, January 16, 2025**

**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.**

However, his flaws are what sticks in the minds of many. He was reviled by Jefferson Davis and often mocked by Mary Chesnut in her diary. Yet, he was popular with his soldiers and subordinates. Outside of Lee, he was the South's most consistently successful army commander. However, Beauregard lived his life in the shadow of his one major defeat, Shiloh, where he crafted perhaps the worst tactical deployment of any Civil War army about to engage in a major battle.

After the war, he was a successful railroad executive and took a stand against racism, violence, and corruption during Reconstruction. Yet, he was ousted from both railroads he oversaw and his foray into Reconstruction politics came to naught. His was a life of contradictions and dreams unrealized.

### The HCWRT Presents Sean Michael Chick speaking on:

**“Creole General: P. G. T.  
Beauregard”**

Few Civil War generals attracted as much debate and controversy as Pierre Gustave Toutant Beauregard. He combined brilliance and charisma with arrogance and histrionics. Beauregard was a Catholic Creole in a society dominated by white Protestants, which made him appear exotic next to the likes of Albert Sidney Johnston and Robert E. Lee.

Beauregard was a gifted military engineer who did much to ensure that Charleston, South Carolina, never fell to direct attack during the war.



**Sean Michael Chick**

## About Sean Michael Chick

Sean Michael Chick graduated from the University of New Orleans with a Bachelor of Arts in History and Communications and from Southeastern Louisiana University with a Master of Arts in History. He currently works leading historic tours of his hometown, New Orleans. He is the author of *The Battle of Petersburg, June 15-18, 1864*, *Grant's Left Hook: The Bermuda Hundred Campaign*, *Dreams of Victory: P.G.T. Beauregard in the Civil War*, and *They Came Only to Die: The Battle of Nashville, December 15-16, 1864*.

## President's Comments

Our December presentation was by Noah Crawford from Texas A&M University. Noah was the recipient of the Gary Chandler Graduate Student Award. On his topic of "Alien Enemies: Refugee Raids, Republican Mexicans, and the Collapse of Confederate Texas," we learned about the many Texans that still wanted to support the Union. Mexicans tended to support both sides depending on what was more beneficial for them. The collapse of the ability to export Southern cotton also crippled the economy. We could tell that Noah had done a great deal of research on this topic and gave a great talk.

Lone Star College along with HCWRT member Neil Chatelain will be presenting a **FREE** Civil War Symposium on Friday, April 4, 2025. More information will be provided in an upcoming newsletter and announced at our meetings.

Our January speaker will be Sean Michael Chick from New Orleans speaking on "Creole General: P.G.T. Beauregard."

As we are an all-volunteer organization, I would ask each of you to think about joining a committee to assist us in administering our Round Table. Please let me or any of our officers and directors know if you are interested. Thanks!



*President Agnew with our December speaker, Noah Crawford*

## BOOK RAFFLE

*By Rita Campbell*

Remember, January is your final chance to win the third volume of Shelby Foote's three-part series. Did you know that Abe Lincoln was our only poet president? You can experience this if you win the first selection for this month, **THE COLUMBIA BOOK OF CIVIL WAR**



**POETRY: FROM WHITMAN TO WALCOTT** by Richard Marius. Other books to be raffled include **A GREAT CIVIL WAR: A MILITARY AND POLITICAL HISTORY, 1861 - 1865** by Russell Weigley, **THE WAR**

**FOR THE UNION: THE IMPROVISED WAR, 1861 - 1862** by Alan Nevins, and **THE CAUSE AND COMRADES: WHY MEN FOUGHT IN THE CIVIL WAR** by James McPherson.

## THIS MONTH IN CIVIL WAR NAVAL HISTORY

*By Stephen Kinnaman*

**January 13, 1862** - Lieutenant John Worden was ordered to command the U.S. steamer being built by John Ericsson in Brooklyn, N.Y. Although she wasn't launched until the last day of January, this doughty craft—the ironclad *Monitor*—would win laurels less than two months later at Hampton Roads, Virginia, during one of the most iconic battles of naval history.

**January 1, 1863** - In the only episode where Confederate forces recaptured a major seaport—and held it until the end of the war—two cotton-clads under the command of Major Leon Smith, stormed out of Galveston Bay's morning mists and seized the Union gunboat *Harriet Lane*, causing her fellow squadron mates to flee in panic. In their mad rush they destroyed their flagship *Westfield*, leaving the port of Galveston, Texas' largest city, in Confederate hands.

**January 11, 1864** - Flag Officer Samuel Barron, CSN, wrote from France to Secretary Mallory crowing that “three Confederate ‘men-of-war’ are now enjoying the hospitality and courtesies of this Empire—a strange contrast with the determined hostilities ... of Earl Russell ... Louis Napoleon is not Lord John Russell!” Barron's boast proved to be hollow. Of the three cruisers, *Florida*, *Georgia* and *Rappahannock*, only *Florida* would ever go to sea again.

**January 15, 1865** - Fort Fisher, guardian of the port of Wilmington, fell to a combined land-sea assault by Union forces. Colonel Lamb, the fort's commander, later wrote: “For the first time in the history of sieges the land defenses of the works were destroyed, not by any act of the besieging army, but by the concentrated fire, direct and enfilading, of an immense fleet poured into them without intermission.” With the South's only remaining Atlantic port in enemy hands, less than three months later General Lee was compelled to surrender at Appomattox.

## JANUARY QUIZ

*By Jim Godlove*

On January 28, 1861, P. G. T. Beauregard was dismissed from an important military posting due to his clear secessionist sympathies.

**What was this position?**



## MEMBERSHP REPORT

*By Michael Glennan*

Welcome to the New Year! The HCWRT's officers and board of directors have an exciting speaker's series lined up for you in 2025! Start the New Year right by bringing an old or new friend to attend our meeting on Thursday, January 16<sup>th</sup>. Plan to arrive at about 5:45 pm for an excellent and relaxing dinner at Rudi's. Then at 7:00 pm, let's retire to our meeting room for our program which includes the popular book raffle and Civil War quiz. Following a few items of business, we will hear Sean Chick's presentation regarding General P. G. T. Beauregard.

Should you have any questions about our organization or programming, please call me at (713) 864-1204.

## 2024 – 2025 SPEAKERS CAMPAIGN

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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Houston Civil War Round Table  
c/o Thaddeus Fine  
3333 Luella Boulevard  
La Porte, TX 77571-3614

