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# General Orders

## *Walker's Brigade*

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**MARCH, 2025 MEETING**  
**Thursday, March 20, 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.**

### **The HCWRT Presents** **Catherine Clinton Speaking On:**

#### **"Lincoln: The Immortal President"**

Abraham Lincoln's stature continues to grow. The worldwide esteem stems from a variety of movements and impulses, and has culminated in the most significant tidal wave of American historical literature. Abraham Lincoln is the second most popular individual written about in English after Jesus Christ. Although the pedestal was polished immediately, Lincoln's ascension was not a smooth and steady incline. His road to immortality was slowed considerably by the tumultuous times in which he lived and died. He has certainly been the most cinematic President, as Mark Reinhart suggests in his study, Abraham Lincoln on Screen. Lincoln has appeared in over

200 film productions from cinema's origins in the 1890s until the present. How and why Lincoln's legacy remains a part of our political landscape will be explored in Dr. Clinton's presentation.



*Catherine Clinton*

#### **About Catherine Clinton**

Catherine Clinton holds the Denman Chair of American History at the University of Texas at San Antonio and is also Professor Emerita at Queen's University Belfast. She has authored or edited over 30 books on historical subjects, including *Harriet Tubman: The Road to Freedom*, *Tara Revisited: Women, War, and the Plantation Legend*, *Stepdaughters of History: Southern Women and the American Civil War*, and *Mary Lincoln: A Life*.

Dr. Clinton won a Guggenheim in 2016, and has served as president of both the Southern Historical Association and the Southern

Association for Women Historians. She has been elected to the Society of American Historians, was a consultant for Steven Spielberg's motion picture *Lincoln*, and serves as co-editor of the University of Georgia Press series, *History in the Headlines*. She is a founding member of the Biography International Organization, and has served both on the Pulitzer Prize jury for Biography, as well as the jury for History. She is currently completing a study of Union soldiers and mental illness during and after the Civil War.



*President Agnew with last month's speaker Jeff Hunt*

## President's Comments *By Walker Agnew*

It is always interesting how a war finally ends. Last month, Jeff Hunt gave us the details on the last battle of the Civil War: Palmetto Ranch. And, of course, it took place in Texas! While the major Confederate armies in the East had surrendered, Texas still had a group that had not. There was also the French army in Mexico that added another level to the complex nature of the war. Would they fight with the Confederates or not? Though the Union army lost this battle, the land war itself came to an end with Palmetto Ranch. In researching this event,

Jeff mentioned that a court martial just after the battle contained hundreds of pages of details that were not in the standard battle reports.

Our March speaker will be Catherine Clinton from the University of Texas - San Antonio speaking on "Lincoln: The Immortal President."

As we are an all-volunteer group, please consider joining a committee to help out during our upcoming campaign. Our nominations committee will soon be collecting names of those who would like to serve on our committees and/or may be interested in serving on our board of directors. Please let us know what might be of interest to you.

## March Quiz *By Jim Godlove*

President Lincoln headed a team of rivals. Who were his first and second Secretaries of War and which states did they come from?



## Jefferson Symposium

Jefferson's Fourteenth Annual Civil War Symposium, sponsored by the Jefferson Historical Society and Museum, will be held on Saturday, August 2<sup>nd</sup> from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. Location will be the City of Jefferson Convention

& Visitors Center at 305 E. Austin in Jefferson, Texas.

The theme of this year's symposium is "Critical Decisions in the Trans-Mississippi." The symposium will feature four speakers who are noted authors, speakers, professors, and historians on various aspects of the Trans-Mississippi Civil War history. They include our own Edward T. Cotham, Jr., Randal Gilbert, Michael Lang, and David Sesser, M.L.I.S., Ed.D.

Vendors and exhibitors will be present at the symposium and there will be ample time in the schedule for viewing. The program will include a traditional raffle of books and ephemera and a grand prize plus a silent auction. The raffle prize is a framed, signed print of Don Troiani's *Lone Star*, a rare print of the Texas Brigade in Miller's cornfield at Sharpsburg.

Advance registration for the symposium is \$80.00 per adult and \$40.00 per student, which includes a catered luncheon at the Jefferson Convention & Visitors Center.

On Friday evening, there will be a Speakers' Reception which will cost \$20.00 per person to attend. The reception will provide an opportunity to meet and visit with the speakers and to hear a brief synopsis of their programs. The event will include refreshments and light hors d'oeuvres and will be held in the Art Gallery of the Jefferson Historical Museum which is now accessible with a new elevator.

For further details and registration information, contact the Museum at (903) 665-2775 or visit their website [www.jeffersonmuseum.org](http://www.jeffersonmuseum.org). For information on Jefferson and lodging, go to [www.VisitJeffersonTexas.com](http://www.VisitJeffersonTexas.com) and [www.jefferson-texas.com](http://www.jefferson-texas.com).

All proceeds from the symposium will go to the Jefferson Historical Society and Museum for operation and maintenance of the Museum.

## Membership Report *By Michael Clennan*

Let's all celebrate Spring together on Thursday, March 20<sup>th</sup>! Please consider bringing a new member or an old friend to Rudi's for this

springtime event. I hope you can join us as we will gather in fellowship to enjoy a great hearty German meal accompanied by a favorite beverage.

Remember, members who join in March receive eighteen months of membership for our reasonably priced membership dues. The Programs Committee is lining up an outstanding series of great Civil War lectures for the 2025 – 2026 campaign.

We arrive for dinner at 5:45 and then move to the meeting hall at 7:00 pm. We will also hold our monthly book raffle and challenging Civil War quiz.

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



## Book Raffle *By Rita Campbell*

Our in-depth collection of Civil War book reflects the extensive knowledge base of our members, which I find quite impressive! Please help us to continue this fun book raffle: consider donating your unwanted books to make room for more unread treasures!

This month's selections include **CIVIL WAR WIVES** by Carol Berkin, **GENERAL GEORGE E. PICKETT IN LIFE AND LEGEND** by Lesley Gordon, **RECOLLECTIONS AND LETTERS OF GENERAL ROBERT E. LEE**, Civil War Library, **BEST LITTLE STORIES FROM THE CIVIL WAR** by Brian Kelly, and **PRICE'S LOST CAMPAIGN: THE 1864 INVASION OF MISSOURI** by Mark Lause.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their past donations and support of our raffle!

## 2024 – 2025 SPEAKERS CAMPAIGN

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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