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General Orders

Walker's Brigade

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2025



APRIL 2025 MEETING
Thursday, April 17, 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.

Nashville shrunk the Army of Tennessee to fewer than ten thousand men and effectively neutralized the army for the remainder of the Civil War.

Andrew Bledsoe will explore the critical decisions made by Confederate and Union commanders during the battle and how these decisions shaped its outcome. Rather than offering a history of the battle, he will hone in on a sequence of critical decisions made by commanders on both sides of the contest to provide a blueprint of the Battle of Franklin at its tactical core. Identifying and exploring the critical decisions in this way allows students of the battle to progress from a knowledge of what happened to a deep understanding of **why** events happened.

The HCWRT Presents Andrew Bledsoe Speaking On:

“Decisions at Franklin: The Nineteen Critical Decisions That Defined the Battle”

The Battle of Franklin pitted beleaguered Confederate general John Bell Hood against Union general John Schofield and his Army of the Ohio. The Army of Tennessee had nearly twenty thousand men when it began assaulting the Union's fortified positions around Franklin. While Hood forced the Army of Ohio to retreat to Nashville, his losses were considerable, and he would face a fortified Army of the Ohio yet again. Hood's defeat in the subsequent battle of



Andrew Bledsoe

About Andrew Bledsoe

Dr. Andrew S. Bledsoe, Ph.D. is Professor of History at Lee University in Cleveland,

Tennessee. He received his Ph.D. in History from Rice University in 2012, and is a historian of the American Civil War and American military history. He is the author of *Citizen-Officers: The Union and Confederate Junior Officer Corps in the American Civil War* (LSU, 2015), *Upon the Fields of Battle: Essays on the Military History of America's Civil War* (LSU Press, 2018), and *Decisions at Franklin: The Nineteen Critical Decisions that Defined the Battle* (University of Tennessee Press, 2023). In addition to teaching courses on the Civil War, Dr. Bledsoe leads a college seminar at the Chickamauga National Military Park. He has been a fellow at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, the Civil War Institute at Gettysburg College, the United States Army Heritage and Education Center, Yale University, and the Virginia Historical Society.

President's Comments

By Walker Agnew

As we are an all-volunteer organization, I would like to take this opportunity to ask for everyone to help out this year and during the 2025-2026 campaign. There are several things our members can do to help continue our success. Our group is always looking for recommendations for future speakers. Please tell us if you know of a speaker you have heard or one that has a new book out that may be of interest to our Round Table. The Membership Committee is one example where one could help with greeting new visitors and explaining to them how they can become a new member. You might like to write an article on an interesting piece of Civil War history to be placed in our monthly newsletter. If you are skilled with social media, our Communications Committee might be able to utilize you. Our board is another area to consider to help guide us through each year. Let any of our officers or directors know you would like to step up.

Our April speaker will be Andrew Bledsoe from Lee University in Cleveland, Tennessee. His topic will be "Decisions at Franklin: The Nineteen Critical Decisions that defined the

Battle." I look forward to seeing everyone on April 17th!

SAVE THE DATE

Hood's Texas Brigade, Re-Activated has announced that the dates of their annual Scholarly Seminar will be November 7th and 8th, 2025. The seminar will be held at the Walker Conference Center at Sam Houston State University in Huntsville. We will publish further details regarding this event in a later newsletter.



Vice President Scott Wilkey and last month's speaker Catherine Clinton

Nominating Committee Report

By Keith Altavilla

In fulfillment of the duties of the immediate past president, it is my pleasure to announce to the Round Table membership our nominated slate of officers and directors for the 2025 - 2026 campaign.

The Round Table's leadership has all offered to return to their positions for another year.

President - Walker Agnew
Vice President - Scott Wilkey

Secretary - Eugene Boisaubin
Treasurer - Thaddeus Fine

Membership Report *By Michael Clennan*

In addition, the other members of the board have also offered to serve for another year. The candidates are:

Roland Bienvenu (also serving as newsletter editor)
Michael Clennan (also serving as chair of the Membership Committee)
Jim Godlove
Vince Trovato

Per our bylaws, these nominations are being published for your review and consideration. At our final meeting for this campaign in May, all present will vote on this slate. Additionally, nominations may be made from the floor at that time. Please also feel free to reach out to any officer or board member about various opportunities for getting involved with the Round Table. Committees such as Membership are always looking for volunteers to help our organization's work continue and grow.

Be a good friend! Why not bring a new member (or even an old one) to hear Andrew Bledsoe's talk at this month's meeting? Our Thursday, April 17th dinner at Rudi's and the following 7:00 pm program will be a time of entertainment and fellowship. We always hold our popular book raffle and informative (and competitive) Civil War quiz. And remember, first-time guests attend free of charge! If a new member signs up for membership and pays dues on April 17th, their membership fee will cover both the remainder of this campaign as well as the 2025-2026 campaign!

I'll see you at the front door! Should you have any questions regarding our programs or membership, please feel free to call me at (713) 864-1204.

Book Raffle *By Rita Campbell*

This month's books were donated by Donnie Stowe, who capably managed our book raffles for many years!

This month's selections include **THE SCALAWAGS: SOUTHERN DISSENTERS IN THE CIVIL WAR AND RECONSTRUCTION** by James Alex Bagget, **SEARCHING FOR STONEWALL JACKSON: A QUEST FOR LEGACY IN A DIVIDED AMERICA** by Ben Cleary, **CHARLIE MOSHER'S CIVIL WAR:**



FROM FAIR OAKS TO ANDERSONVILLE WITH THE PLYMOUTH PILGRIMS edited by Wayne Mahood, **CIVIL WAR PETERSBURG: CONFEDERATE CITY IN THE CRUCIBLE OF WAR** by A. Wilson Greene, and **MEMOIRS OF LT. GENERAL WINFIELD SCOTT** edited by Timothy Johnson.

Thanks to everyone for their past donations and support of our raffle! Revenues from your ticket purchases assist us in covering the HCWRT's operating expenses.

April Quiz *By Jim Godlove*

As the Texas brigade charged at Franklin, their general yelled "Forward men, forward! Never let it be said that Texans lag in the fight." Just then, a ball fatally struck him in the head. Who was this gallant Texan?



2024-2025 SPEAKERS CAMPAIGN

Apr. 17, 2025

Andrew Bledsoe: "Decisions at Franklin: The Nineteen Critical Decisions That Defined the Battle"

May 15, 2025

Dr. Bruce Winders: "Civil War Generals and the Mexican War Experience"

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

