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# General Orders

## *Walker's Brigade*

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2025



**MAY 2025 MEETING**  
**Thursday, May 15, 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.**

Bruce Winders will discuss the experience of Mississippi in the Mexican War and the role its veterans would later play in the Civil War.



### The HCWRT Presents Bruce Winders Speaking On:

#### **"The Mississippi Rifles in Two Wars** **(1846-1848 & 1861-1865)"**

Several years after the Civil War, General Lew Wallace was asked about his most remarkable experience. He replied, the Mexican War, saying that they were young men then and their experiences marked them for life. He wasn't alone in his assessment, as their days spent in Mexico influenced the lives and careers of countless soldiers of that conflict. The war had a profound effect on Mississippi's future Civil War leaders. While former Colonel Jefferson Davis of the 1st Mississippi Rifles was elevated to head the new Confederacy, many who served under him returned to the field wearing grey. Dr. Richard

### About Bruce Winders

Richard Bruce Winders served as the Historian and Curator at the Alamo for twenty-three years before leaving in 2019. He is a 1994 graduate of the doctoral program at Texas Christian University, studying under noted Civil War historian and author Dr. Grady McWhiney. Winders followed his mentor's interest in the Mexican War, penning a number of works on that conflict. His first book, *Mr. Polk's Army*, has become a standard in military science classes. A later work, *Panting for Glory*, chronicles the story of the 1st and 2nd Mississippi Rifles, in which he encountered Jefferson Davis and a number of other future Civil War leaders. Winders' philosophy is "all history is connected," something that certainly applies to his fields of study. Throughout his work on the Texas

Revolution, he has endeavored to present it as an incident in a larger Mexican civil war. In addition, to winning several book awards, Winders has been named to the Texas Literary Hall of Fame. He resides in San Antonio, Texas.



*President Agnew and last month's speaker Andrew Bledsoe*

## President's Comments

*By Walker Agnew*

Andrew Bledsoe gave another wonderful talk to us last month on "Decisions at Franklin." It is interesting to see how decisions made before and during a battle resulted in outcomes that might not have been planned. For example, Jefferson Davis placed John Bell Hood in command of the Army of Tennessee because he "hoped that Hood, an offensive-minded and aggressive combat commander .... could turn things around." However, this aggressiveness led to a significant reduction in the total number of his army's soldiers and their ability to stop the Union forces.

I'm pleased to announce that our 2025 Frank E. Vandiver Award of Merit recipient is **D. Scott**

**Hartwig** who was the supervisory park historian at the Gettysburg National Military Park for twenty years. He has recently completed a two-volume study on the Battle of Antietam. Scott will be present at the April, 2026 meeting to speak to us on his book and to receive his Vandiver Award.

Your Round Table's Programs Committee, ably chaired by Scott Wilkey, has arranged an exceptional line up of speakers for the upcoming 2025-2026 campaign. You can view a full list of these speakers and their topics on the last page of this newsletter.

## May Quiz *By Jim Godlove*

Graduating second in his 1838 West Point class, this Louisianian was posted to General Winfield Scott's engineer company during the Mexican War. He was commissioned a full general in the regular Confederate army to rank from July 21, 1861. Who was this person who had a rather touchy relationship with President Davis?



## May Book Raffle

*By Rita Campbell*

This month's selections, and the very last ones for this campaign, include **THE LIFE AND WARS OF GIDEON J. PILLOW** by Roy Stonesifer and Nathaniel Hughes, **FINANCIAL FRAUD AND GUERILLA VIOLENCE IN MISSOURI'S CIVIL WAR, 1861-1865** by Mark W. Geiger, **PAULINE CUSHMAN: SPY OF THE CUMBERLAND** by William Christen, **REBELS ON THE BORDER: CIVIL WAR EMANCIPATION AND THE RECONSTRUCTION OF KENTUCKY AND MISSOURI** by Aaron Astor, and **THE BLACK FLOWER: A NOVEL OF THE CIVIL WAR** by Howard Bahr.

Thanks to everyone for their support of our raffle during this campaign. Our next campaign promises many more good selections that you may love to add to your personal library!



## Membership Report

*By Michael Clennan*

Summertime will be upon us before you know it! Please join us at Rudi Lechner's on Thursday, May 15th at 5:45 pm to hear Bruce Winders speak about Civil War generals and the Mexican War. Be sure to bring a friend who will be admitted at no charge if they are a first-time

guest! This is our last meeting before our three-month summer vacation. Let's celebrate with a delicious dinner at Rudi's with our fellow Civil War enthusiasts. Then at 7:00 pm, we'll move into Rudi's meeting room for our program, which always includes our popular Civil War quiz and book raffle. I'll see you there! If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at (713) 864-1204.

## 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

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 on May 15<sup>th</sup>, all present will vote on this slate. Additionally, nominations may be made from the floor at that time. Also, please don't hesitate 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.



## 2024-2025 SPEAKERS CAMPAIGN

May 15, 2025 Dr. Bruce Winders: "The Mississippi Rifles in Two Wars (1846-1848 & 1861-1865)"

## 2025-2026 SPEAKERS CAMPAIGN

Sept. 18, 2025 Dr. Jeremi Suri: "How Slaves Became Union Soldiers (and Veterans)"  
Oct. 16, 2025: Dr. Shae Smith Cox: "The Fabric of Civil War Society"  
Nov. 20, 2025 Dr. Leah Tarwater: "Kentucky Soldiers in the Civil War"  
Dec. 11, 2025 Reserved for Gary L. Chandler Graduate Student Award Recipient  
Jan. 15, 2026 Dr. Don Frazier: "Tom Green: Soldier of Three Republics"  
Feb. 19, 2026 Danny Sessums: "Granbury's Texas Brigade"  
March 19, 2026 John Michael Priest: "Reynolds, Iverson, and Buford at Gettysburg: New Interpretations"  
April 16, 2026 D. Scott Hartwig (2025 Vandiver Award Winner): "I Dread the Thought of the Place: The Antietam Campaign"  
May 21, 2026 Reserved for 2026 Vandiver Award Recipient

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