



# General Orders

## *Godlove's Texas Brigade*

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Sept,  
2007

[www.houstoncivilwar.com](http://www.houstoncivilwar.com)

### MEETING – THURS, SEPT 20, 2007

Briar Park Club  
2603 Timmons Lane @ Westheimer

6:00 Cash Bar –  
7:00 Dinner & Meeting

CALL: 713-956-8302 or  
713-305-5510 or email to:  
[george\\_bishop@sbcglobal.net](mailto:george_bishop@sbcglobal.net)  
by Monday just prior to the meeting  
Dinner \$25; lecture only \$3

**Make your reservations!**

### OUR SPEAKER: **GREG BIGGS**



*Greg Biggs*

Our speaker for the first meeting of our 2007-2008 campaign will be addressing us Thursday, September 20 on **Nathan Bedford Forrest**—charismatic, decisive, independent, flawed and yet remarkably successful Confederate cavalry leader. A man to be judged by the standards of his day and by the frontier environment in which he matured and once prospered, he is a fascinating subject for study by any modern-day Civil War researcher.

As we touched upon briefly in the Summer issue of our newsletter, Greg's topic is titled "**Nathan Bedford Forrest – Napoleonic Cavalryman.**" Beginning with an analysis of how Napoleon fought battles using cavalry on a tactical basis as well as in the pursuit phase, this lecture delves into how most Civil War commanders failed to use cavalry properly in a Napoleonic sense. This situation, in turn, led to a great number of indecisive battles and to a more costly, prolonged war. Greg presents a brief history of American cavalry as well as its doctrine and then illustrates how Forrest used cavalry both tactically and in pursuit during all phases of his military career.

Greg applies Napoleonic standards to three specific Forrest battles. His lecture is designed to challenge conventional Civil War thought, and he will use slides to develop and focus on the various points he wishes to emphasize.

Greg is a former Associate Editor, *Blue & Gray Magazine*; current President and Program Chair of the Clarksville, TN Civil War Round Table; a former Program Chair

of the Western Ohio Civil War Round Table; a past VP of Programs for the Ohio Civil War Association; and current President of the Friends of Ft. Donelson Campaign. He has also authored or co-authored several forthcoming books, among them *Tattered Banners: Alabama's Civil War Flags*. In addition, Greg has served as research contributor to a number of other Civil War book authors, and he has published articles in the *Blue and Gray Magazine* and *Civil War Regiments*, among others. He has also served as a tour guide on in-depth studies of Civil War campaigns, among them the Atlanta Campaign and Ft. Donelson. And lastly, he has served as co-tour guide with Ed Bearss and Brian Steel Wills on one of the "Riding with Forrest" campaigns.

Please plan to attend this September 20 lecture on the exploits of this most dynamic and controversial Confederate General. You may **call or email George Bishop with your reservation** (see Announcement Box for details).

## Fall Field Trip to Petersburg by Tony Matt

Field trippers will be touring this pivotal Civil War siege site with famed expert guide Ed Bearss from October 25 – 28. The final payment for the journey is due by **September 15**. The cost for a person sharing a room is \$705—for one alone, \$805.

I can be reached at (281) 277-0203 or by email at [T94matt@aol.com](mailto:T94matt@aol.com). My address is 15811 Spruce River St, Sugar Land, TX 77478. This will be a great trip!

## September BOOK SALE & BOOK RAFFLE by Mike Pierce

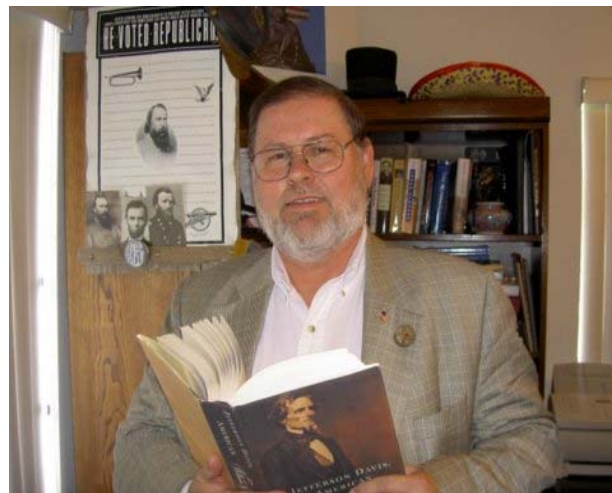
I will be offering **Southern officers' biographies** for sale at the September

meeting. The next book sale will be another "**theme**" event. So, if reading about interesting Confederate leaders is your passion, come to our campaign launch for 2007-2008 well "armed" with wallet and pocketbook close-by!

Books to be raffled in September are: *Lee's Lieutenants, Vol 3* by Douglas Southall Freeman, donated by Norman and Elizabeth Lewis; *American Military History* edited by John Whiteclay Chambers, II, donated by George Covington; *Fallen Leaves*, edited by Robert Garth Scott, by George Covington; *Captains of the Civil War* by William Wood, donated by Norman and Elizabeth Lewis; and two (2) VHS *Civil War Journal* tapes—*The Monitor vs the CSS Virginia* and *Reporting the War*, both donated by Bruce Greek.



## GODLOVE'S GARRISON



Jim Godlove, President

Welcome to the 2007-08 Campaign of the Houston Civil War Round Table! I wish to thank the Board of Directors and Committee Officers for their hard work this summer and for their dedication to this organization. Special thanks go to our immediate past

President, Don Zuckero, for last year's successful campaign. Don, you have been a real inspiration to me.

This year, we will be starting off with two of the South's most famous generals- [Nathan Bedford Forrest](#) this month and [Robert E. Lee in October](#). Our own Ed Cotham and the legendary Ed Bearss will also be speaking to us this year, so mark your calendars for the third Thursday of each month and bring a friend!

We are approaching the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Civil War. This milestone should spark renewed interest in our nation's bloodiest struggle. One hundred and fifty years ago, James Buchanan was inaugurated as President. His Vice-President, [John C. Breckinridge](#), would later become a Confederate general and Jefferson Davis's last Secretary of War. Also a century and one half ago, the Mountain Meadows Massacre occurred. This event catapulted the nation toward a Mormon War. Fortunately, the U. S. Army column that entered the Utah Territory was under the command of an able general who was able to defuse a dangerous situation. This army general would later gain greater fame in a gray uniform—[Albert Sidney Johnston](#).

We look forward to seeing you in September!

## **PETERSBURG SIEGE AND THE BATTLE OF THE CRATER**

On June 25, 1864, Lt. Col. Pleasants, the commanding officer of the 48<sup>th</sup> Regiment, PA Veteran Volunteer Infantry, a large proportion of which was composed of former coal miners, ordered the digging of a mine shaft beneath Confederate works in the Petersburg area. The intended target was Elliott's Salient, a Confederate stronghold less than 400 feet from the Union picket line.



*Union Lt. Col. Henry Pleasants*

One of the most remarkable features of the shaft was the method devised to supply the end-of-line diggers with fresh air. The longer the tunnel grew, the more serious became the problem of ventilation. The men solved this problem by applying the simple physical principle that warm air rises. Behind the Union picket line and to the right of the mine gallery (although connected to it), the miners dug a ventilating chimney. Between the chimney and the mine entrance they erected an airtight canvas door. Through that door and along the gallery floor, they laid a square wooden pipe. Then they lit a fire at the bottom of the ventilating shaft. Warmed air wafted up the chimney. The draft thus created drew the bad air from the end of the tunnel where the men were working. As this air went out, fresh air replaced it through the wooden pipe.

By July 17 the diggers were nearly 511 feet from the entrance and directly beneath the battery in Elliott's Salient. The Confederates, now suspicious of faintly audible digging sounds from the earth, began the construction of several countermines, but the gray-clads were not successful in locating the Union gallery.

Union digging was finally completed on July 23, the mine was charged with black powder, and the first attempt was made to ignite the mine fuse on July 30 at 3:15 AM. This attempt failed, and a second was initiated. At 4:45 AM, the explosion took place. Men, equipment, and debris were

hurled high into the air. At least 278 Confederate troops were killed or wounded in the blast. The crater torn by the powder seems to have been at least 170 feet long, 60 to 80 feet wide, and 30 feet deep.

It is estimated that over 15,000 Union soldiers shortly rushed into or surrounded the crater. Confederates, under the command of Maj. Gen. William Mahone,



*Confed. Maj. Gen W. Mahone*

directed three batteries down upon the federals in the crater. The Confederates launched shells on the blue-clads with deadly precision and initiated several charges into the area. Mahone's forces jumped into the crater and commenced a desperate assault with bayonets, rifle butts, and hand-to-hand fighting.



*The Crater as it Appeared in 1865*



*The Crater as it Appears Today*

The carnage was appalling. The Battle of the Crater resulted in a loss of over 4,000 Union soldiers and about 1,500 Confederates. Following the assault, Ambrose Burnside, the general commanding the IX Corps, to which the 48<sup>th</sup> PA. Infantry was attached, was subsequently relieved of his command. Pleasants, who had no role in the battle itself, received praise for his idea and its execution and was brevetted a brigadier general on March 13, 1865. Mahone's performance in the assault earned him a lasting reputation as one of the best young generals in Lee's army during the final year of the war.

## **PAMPLIN PARK HISTORICAL PARK COMPLEX**

This year's Petersburg field trippers will also be touring the **Pamplin Historical Park Complex**, a privately-owned park and museum located on a portion of the Confederate lines constructed around Petersburg during the long 1864-1865 siege.



*Pamplin Historical Park Museum Entrance*

The focal point of the complex is the multi-million dollar **Museum of the Civil War Soldier**. In addition to the exhibits, bookstore, and coffee shop, the Museum showcases a virtual tour of the life of a Civil War soldier.



*Pamplin Park Battle Center*

The Museum presents the saga of the three million soldiers who fought in America's bloodiest conflict using the very latest in museum technology, boasting interpretive learning stations, living history venues, audio tours, and costumed interpreters conducting engaging demonstrations of military and civilian life of the Civil War era, not to mention excellent bookstore materials. The Park itself boasts three miles of interpreted trails winding through some of America's best-preserved Civil War fortifications and excellent historian guides as well as four antebellum homes.

Pamplin Park draws visitors world-wide and is recognized as one of America's premier historical attractions and as the most innovative Civil War history park in the country.

## September QUIZ QUESTION by *Jim Godlove*

On June 14, 1861, Nathan Bedford Forrest joined Captain Josiah White's

Tennessee mounted rifles. On Feb 28, 1865, he received his last promotion. With what ranks did Bedford Forrest enter and leave the Confederate Army?

## Upcoming Reenactor Events by *Mike Pierce*

Mark your calendars, Round Tablers and reenactor enthusiasts!

"Ghost Walking Tour" – League City,  
October 20 (tentative)  
Liendo Plantation – November 17-28

See me for details.

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

The Houston Civil War Round Table is dedicated to the study of the civilian, military, and cultural aspects of United States history during the period of 1861 – 1865 and to the preservation of historical sites and artifacts.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ ST \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Mail To: **Houston Civil War Round Table**  
**P. O. Box 4215**  
**Houston, TX 77210-4215**

**NEW MEMBER**

**\$40** – Individual joining in Apr – Dec  
**\$20** – Individual Joining in Jan – Mar  
**\$45** – Family joining in Apr – Dec  
**\$22** – Family joining in Jan – Mar  
**\$15** – Student or Out-of-State

**RENEWAL**

**\$40** – Individual  
**\$45** – Family  
**\$15** – Student or Out-of-State

# QUOTABLE QUOTES – “THAT DEVIL FORREST!”

- 1) “Well, I got there first with the most men.”  
2) “Forward, men, and mix with ‘em!”  
3) “Boys, these people are talking about surrendering, and I am going out of this place before they do or bust hell wide open.”

\_\_Forrest at Fort Donelson

- 4) “Charge them both ways!”

\_\_Forrest at Parker’s Crossroads

- 5) “I will be in my coffin before I will fight again under your command.”

\_\_Forrest to Gen. J. Wheeler, Feb, 1863

- 6) “You have played the part of a damned scoundrel, and are a coward, and if you were any part of a man I would slap your jaws and force you to resent it...I say to you that if you ever again try to interfere with me or cross my path it will be at the peril of your life.”

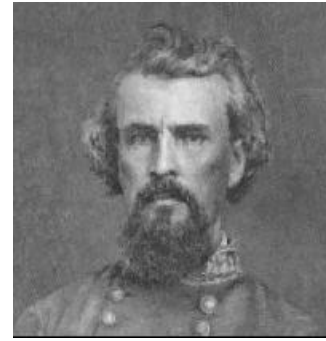
\_\_Forrest to Gen Braxton Bragg, Oct, 1863

- 7) “Why Bedford, I couldn’t consent. You cuss and gamble and Mary Ann is a Christian girl.”

\_\_Samuel Cowan (Mary Ann’s uncle and guardian to Forrest, in response to Bedford’s request to marry his charge).

- 8) “I know it, and that’s why I want her.”

--Forrest to Cowan, Mary Ann’s guardian



*Nathan Bedford Forrest*

- 9) “Whenever you see anything blue, shoot at it, and do all you can to keep up the scare.”

- 10) “War means fighting and fighting means killing.”

- 11) “Well, General, you have beaten me badly, and for the first time I am compelled to make such an acknowledgment.. I have met many of your men, but never before one that I did not get away with, first or last.”

\_\_Forrest to Gen. J. H. Wilson, April, 1865

- 12) “Any man who is in favor of a further prosecution of this war is a fit subject for a lunatic asylum, and ought to be sent there.”

\_\_Forrest to his men, May, 1865

- 13) “Men, you may all do as you please, but I’m a-going home.”

\_\_Forrest to his men, May, 1865

- 14) (I have come) “out of the war pretty well wrecked...completely used up..shot to pieces, crippled up.”

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