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General Orders

Harrington's Brigade

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2020



SEPTEMBER, 2020 MEETING
Thursday, September 17, 2020

Virtual Meeting Via Zoom
(please read article on page 2 for detailed information regarding using Zoom)



COMMANDER'S CORNER

By Mike Harrington

This is not an easy message for me to deliver to the membership of the Houston Civil War Round Table. For sure, it was not an easy message to write.

I don't have to tell you that the past five or so months have been difficult ones for our Round Table, our city, our state, our nation – indeed, for virtually the entire world. In addition to the troubles that the Coronavirus has visited on us, America has witnessed rolling waves of indiscriminate urban violence. The mob mentality that first contented itself with toppling

Confederate statues soon spread to the desecration or outright destruction of memorials honoring everybody from Christopher Columbus to a Spanish priest in old California, to George Washington and Thomas Jefferson. Not even General Grant's statue in San Francisco or the Boston memorial to the black Union regiment, the 54th Massachusetts Infantry lauded in the movie *Glory*, has been spared the mob's blind wrath.

Joining in this "cancel" culture movement, some city governments – including Houston's – have removed Confederate monuments from display. More recently, Democrats in the Texas Legislature have demanded the removal of all Confederate monuments on the capitol grounds, including those honoring Terry's Texas Rangers and Hood's Texas Brigade.

At a time when so much unthinking public emotion has been directed towards Civil War figures, the Houston Civil War Round Table, I am proud to proclaim, will persist with its historic mission: namely, the **nonpartisan** study and discussion of, in the words of our charter, "the history, battles, personalities, and significant events of the War Between the States."

As you will read elsewhere in this newsletter, our Board of Directors has reluctantly decided to hold our monthly meetings by Zoom until such time as we are comfortable that in-person meetings can be resumed without significant risks to the health of our members, guests or speakers. Our Board is continuing to evaluate several potential new venues for our monthly meetings, with the aim that we will have a fitting place to gather when it's safe to recommence in-person meetings.

In closing, let me end on a high note. I am excited about our speaker line up for the new campaign; I hope you feel likewise, notwithstanding our temporary movement to virtual meetings. Thanks in large part to the

tireless exertions of our prior programs chair, Gary Chandler, over the nine months beginning in September we will hear from a variety of accomplished speakers covering a wide range of topics related to the Civil War. Of particular note, the recipient of our latest Vandiver Award, **Dr. Brian Steel Wills**, will be with us in November, either virtually or in the flesh. The full line up of our scheduled speakers and their respective topics are presented on the last page of this newsletter.



THE NEW TEMPORARILY VIRTUAL HCWRT

As President Mike Harrington indicates in his column, the pandemic is greatly impacting our ability to have in-person meetings for at least the beginning of the 2020-21 campaign. We do not want to expose our members or speakers to this virus, nor would we expect much attendance if we were to hold an in-person meeting. Due to the fact that the H.E.S.S. Club has permanently closed, the Board of Directors is exploring several options for a new venue. However, we are having difficulty getting a new venue to commit to us until the situation returns closer to normal. Our intent is to return to in-person meetings as soon as we are able to do so.

In the meantime, we want to continue to meet as best as possible and have decided to conduct our meetings virtually by Zoom starting in September. Mike Harrington has graciously offered to be the Zoom host. When he has the meeting set up, he will forward the I.D. and passcode to Barry Brueggeman; Barry will forward them via email a couple of days before the meeting to all members in good standing (**those with paid 2020-21 dues**). In the past we have allowed members to pay their dues at the first meeting they attend in the campaign, but, since we are not meeting in person, **you**

will need to send your membership dues by mail. An application/renewal form can be found on the following page of this newsletter, or you can simply send a check to Barry Brueggeman if none of your contact information has changed.

Some of you have not provided us an email address, but we will need one to send you the Zoom info. If you already receive your newsletter notice and link by email, the email address should not be a problem. If you have any questions about the process, please contact Barry either by telephone at 281-480-1130 or via email at bgrueg@aol.com. If you have questions about Zoom, please contact Mike at 832-630-6225 or otherwise email him at charrington@velaw.com.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT *By Walker Agnew*

Welcome back for the 2020-21 campaign! The Membership Committee hopes all have been able to stay well during these incredible times. I am excited to be the new Membership Committee chair and hope to help with increasing our active membership. As you can see from the schedule on page 4, we have some wonderful speakers lined up for the coming meetings.

Since we will be using the active list of members in good standing to send links for the online presentations as we begin the year with Zoom, please make sure you provide us with your updated information. In addition, your dues help to bring in great speakers. They also allow us to send the monthly newsletter with information on our speakers, upcoming events as well as the Quiz Question. The application/renewal form is in this newsletter as well as on our website. Checks can be sent to Barry Brueggeman at the address indicated.

I would ask each of you to think about one, two or three individuals that you could invite to our meetings this coming year. A personal invitation is the best way to welcome someone to this organization and makes for an enjoyable time. There are many people interested in the history and events of this time period.

Once we are able to meet in person, I look forward to seeing everyone again!



HOUSTON CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE 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. For additional copies of this form please go to www.HoustonCivilWar.com

Membership Type

(CHECK ONE BOX ONLY.)

- \$50 – Individual
- \$60 – Family
- \$25 – Student/Faculty or Out-of-Town
- Existing Member - Address / Information Update Only

JOINING BETWEEN JANUARY 1 AND MAY 31

NON-RENEWING members joining in the months of January through May will automatically be enrolled as members for the current and following year’s speaker series (“campaign”).

Name: _____
(FIRST, MIDDLE, LAST)

Address: _____

City: _____ St _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____ Cell Home Work

Email Address: _____

In which format would you like to receive your newsletter?

- Email (PDF)
- U.S. Postal Service (Printed)

How did you learn about us? _____

FOR FAMILY MEMBERSHIPS ONLY

Family Member Name: _____
(FIRST, MIDDLE, LAST)

Relationship to Applicant: _____

Phone: _____ Cell Home Work

Email Address: _____

Note: For memberships or subscriptions outside the U.S., extra cost of postage to mail the newsletter may be added. Cost will vary; please write or email to inquire.

Mail your completed application and dues to: **Houston Civil War Round Table**
C/O Barry G. Brueggeman
3706 Lonnie Wood Drive
Houston, TX 77059

2020 - 2021 SPEAKERS CAMPAIGN

- Sept. 17, 2020 Thomas E. Parson: *"Work for Giants: The Campaign and Battle of Tupelo/Harrisburg"*
- Oct. 15, 2020 Eric J. Wittenberg: *"Holding the Line on the River of Death: Union Mounted Forces at Chickamauga"*
- Nov. 19, 2020 Brian Steel Wills: *"Inglorious Passages: Noncombat Deaths in the American Civil War"* (2020 Vandiver Award Recipient - rescheduled from May 21, 2020)
- Dec. 10, 2020 Stephen Davis: *"Hood's Great Attack East of Atlanta, July 22, 1864 (Or, Why Jackson's Flank Attack at Chancellorsville Succeeded and Hood's Did Not)"*
- Jan. 21, 2021 Danny Sessums: *"Arkansas Post"*
- Feb. 18, 2021 Lorien Foote: *"The Dogs of War"* (rescheduled from April 16, 2020)
- Mar. 18, 2021 Timothy B. Smith: *"The Real Horse Soldiers: Benjamin Grierson's Epic 1863 Civil War Raid Through Mississippi"*
- Apr. 15, 2021 Stephen Kinnaman: *"Merrimack: Biography of a Steam Frigate"* (rescheduled from March 19, 2020)
- May 20, 2021 Don Frazier: *"Tempest Over Texas"*

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