



GENERAL ORDERS

Zuckero's Texas Brigade

Vol. 18
No. 5
Jan 2007

www.houstoncivilwar.com

MEETING – THURS JAN 18, 2007

Briar Park Club
2603 Timmons Lane @ Westheimer

6:00 Cash Bar –
7:00 Dinner & Meeting

CALL: **713-956-8302** or
713-305-5510 by Mon prior
Dinner \$25; lecture only \$3

Make your reservations!

SPEAKER: ED BEARSS

The Houston Civil War Round Table once again proudly welcomes Ed Bearss into our midst! A past recipient of our Vandiver Award of Merit, Ed is an outstanding scholar of the history of our American Civil War in particular and of most military engagements in general.

Ed was born and reared in Montana where he grew up on his grandfather's ranch. He joined the Marine Corps and fought with the 3rd Marine Raider Battalion and 1st Marine Division on Guadalcanal and New Britain during World War II. Badly wounded by Japanese machine gun fire, he spent twenty-six months recuperating in various hospitals.

In 1949, Ed received a B. S. degree in Foreign Service from Georgetown University. Later he earned an M. A. in History from Indiana University.

Commencing his career in the National Park Service (NPS) in 1955 at Vicksburg, he received much acclaim there with his research into pinpointing the location and successful raising of the Union gunboat *Cairo*. Examination of the remains of this artifact in and of itself is reason enough to visit Vicksburg.

Transferred to Washington, D.C. in 1966, Ed was the NPS Chief Historian from 1981 until his retirement in 1994. His long service with the NPS totaled forty years; those in government service, some fifty years.



Ed Bearss

But it was in his retirement years that Ed has become known to so many Americans interested in history and particularly Civil War military history. Down through the years, he has served as a wonderfully thorough and enthusiastic tour guide for countless groups of knowledge-hungry individuals eager to draw upon his vast encyclopedic memory for detail in the sites he has selected to lead us for study.

We are indeed fortunate to be the focus of his attention at our January 18th meeting. Be sure to make your reservations early!

TOPIC: “CIVIL WAR EXCHANGE: MEET THE PRESS” WITH ED BEARSS

Welcome to our program for this evening, “Winfield Scott Meets the Press!” Ed will portray the intrepid general himself as he responds to questions from a panel of HCWRT grilling experts led by our President, the esteemed Don Zuckero. General Scott will field a barrage of rapid-fire queries from HCWRT members George Bishop, Lynda Crist, Jim Davis, Jim Godlove, and Mike Harrington. Subjects our panelists plan to explore include Scott’s early military career, his service in the war with Mexico, and the effectiveness of his “Anaconda” plan. Join us for an evening that promises to be very informative as well as highly entertaining! This is an event you won’t want to miss!

SPRING FIELD TRIP: CIVIL WAR TOUR OF GALVESTON by Ed Cotham, Jr.



Ed Cotham

Ed Cotham will be leading another field trip on February 24, 2007 to view the Civil

War sites of Galveston. We will be meeting at 9:30 AM on the third floor of the Rosenberg Library at 2310 Sealy, where we will tour the museum, and the curator will show us some of the Library’s extensive collection of Civil War documents, maps, and artifacts.

We will then proceed to the Strand area and have lunch at a restaurant (each participant will pay for his or her own lunch) near the waterfront where Ed will talk about the naval action at the Battle of Galveston on January 1, 1863. We will then take a walking tour of the area near the strand where Ed will discuss the land battle and point out some of the remaining buildings and monuments with significant links to the Civil War period. After that, we will explore the cemetery complex off Broadway where we will view the grave markers of several generals and various Union and Confederate monuments.

We will conclude our tour with a discussion of the dramatic funeral that took place the day after the Battle of Galveston. Our day’s adventure is expected to end at approximately 4:00 PM. The tour is limited to thirty participants, and sign-up is on a first come/first serve basis.

The cost to participate is only \$10 for members and \$15 for non-members with all proceeds allocated to the HCWRT’s Preservation Fund. To register and pay for the trip, please contact Joyce Kennerly via phone (281) 341-2611 or (713) 385-5592. If you prefer, you may email her at jkennerly@fortbend.lib.tx.us.

Ed will be at the January meeting to pass out maps and to provide additional information for the tour. Please contact Ed if you have an interest in participating in this very worthwhile investment in your day.

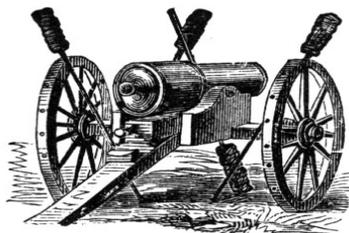
BOOK RAFFLE by *Mike Pierce*

Books to be raffled in January are *The Last Full Measure* by Richard Moe, donated by Jim Godlove; *This Hallowed Ground* by Bruce Catton, donated by Jim Godlove; *Ultimate Civil War Battles: R. E. Lee vs. U. S. Grant* (PC game by GameMill), donated by Jim Godlove; *The Civil War at Charleston* by Arthur M. Wilcox, donated by Karen Stone; *The Official Records Series I Vol. 34*, donated by Karen Stone; *Decoding the Yanks...Jackson's Valley Campaign* by Champ Clark, donor unknown; *Alexander Gardner: War Photographer* from the History Channel's *Civil War Journal*, donated by Bruce Greek; and four (4) assorted *Civil War Magazines*, donated by Karen Stone.

Raffle tickets are 50 cents each, or 8 tickets for \$3.00. That's quite a bargain! Please buy lots of tickets and help support your Round Table!

QUIZ QUESTION by *Jim Godlove*

On July 5, 1814, British Major General Phineas Raill looked on as gray-clad American soldiers under the command of Winfield Scott advanced towards him. At first, he mistook Scott's brigade for Buffalo militia, which could easily be defeated. But as Scott's troops came steadily on through heavy fire, Raill exclaimed, "Those are regulars, by God!" In honor of Scott's brigade, cadets at West Point still wear gray uniforms. What was the name of this battle?



CWRT MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN 2006 – 2007 REPORT by *Charlie Mitchell*



Charlie Mitchell

Our President Don Zuckero has started a campaign to help increase our membership. His first effort was to set up a table at the Houston Gun Show in October, 2006. Mike and Linda Pierce, Marsha Franty, Jim Godlove, and myself manned the table. We felt the effort was successful because we initiated the effort and drew interest in our organization.

Don's second membership initiative was commandeered by Mike and Linda Pierce at the Liendo Plantation encampment in November, 2006, an event featured in our December newsletter. We are earnestly seeking new members interested in Civil War history and renewed interest in this period from former members!

We encourage you to contact Don and/or myself with any ideas that you may have to accomplish this. In the meantime, we have included below a list of some possible ideas for increasing membership. Share with us your comments and include some ideas of your own:

- 1) Reinstate the essay contest for eighth grade students.
- 2) Allow free membership for all eighth grade history teachers.

- 3) Promote active involvement with all Civil War organizations, i.e., Sons of Union Veterans (SUV), Sons of Confederate Veterans (SCV), United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC), and local and regional re-enactor organizations.
- 4) Continue mail-out of HCWRT brochures to all museums presenting Civil War displays.
- 5) Set up a permanent table at yearly festivals at George Range, Liendo Plantation, and Civil War seminars.
- 6) Advertise in selected Civil War newspapers and magazines.
- 7) Organize and present an annual book sale or seminar.
- 8) Join with the SCV and SUV in annual parades.
- 9) And, most important of all, form and staff a permanent HCWRT membership committee.

We encourage you to present your membership ideas, suggestions, and opinions to Don, Charlie, or members of your Officers and Board.

UPCOMING EVENTS – MADISONVILLE and SHILOH by *MIKE PIERCE*

A new re-enactor event this year, Madisonville, replaces Livingston. The event is scheduled for February 10 – 11, the second weekend of next month. The contact numbers for Madisonville are (936) 348-6737 or (936) 349-1991.

An especially important reenactment event will be Shiloh, scheduled for March. Combatants will be positioned about two miles from the actual battlefield in the woods where the troops were maneuvering and skirmishing in 1862. For more information, please email me at mpierce1@houston.rr.com or see me at the January meeting.

CIVIL WAR QUIZ AND FACTS FOCUS

You may have some idea of the number of immigrants entering the United States during the Civil War.

That number exceeded 800,000 people. But do you know how this number is broken down into the countries they came from?

Well, the majority of these people came from Germany (233,052), followed by Ireland (196,359) and England (85,116).

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

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

CIVIL WAR PROFILES: LEONIDAS POLK - AN IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTOR OF HIS DAY – JUST NOT IN MATTERS OF GENERALSHIP! *by Karen Stone*

Born in Raleigh, North Carolina in 1806 to a prominent family that included President James K. Polk as a member, Leonidas Polk received his early education in Raleigh and enrolled at West Point two years later.

While a cadet at West Point, Polk met Jefferson Davis and roomed with Albert Sidney Johnston. In his fourth year he became a devout Episcopalian under the tutelage of the Academy's chaplain, Dr. Charles McIlvaine.

After graduating from West Point *eighth* in his class in 1827, Polk resigned his commission after only six months, having decided that his true calling was with his church. He then entered the Virginia Theological Seminary and was ordained a priest in May, 1831. By 1838 he had been elevated to missionary bishop for the Southwestern states. In this position, he was responsible for an area that included Arkansas, Louisiana, parts of Texas, and even Alabama and Mississippi. The sickly young bishop was to administer a territory of approximately 500,000 square miles, most of it in frontier wilderness. Arduous work lay ahead for him; and one may well wonder what bit of Providence led the church to appoint such a man for so difficult a task. Yet the office of bishop seemed to have suited Polk well.

Ordained as the first Episcopal Bishop in Louisiana in 1841, his health improved, and under his direction the Church in Louisiana experienced steady growth. In his new role, Bishop Polk oversaw the establishment of church parishes in Baton Rouge, Houston, and many other southern towns and localities.

On May 23, 1847, St. James Episcopal Church was consecrated. Bishop Polk signed the certificate for its dedication. During his visit to Baton Rouge to consecrate St. James, Bishop Polk also voided a vestry election because female pewholders had been denied the right to vote in it.

After his consecration as Bishop of Louisiana, Polk and his wife settled on a large sugar plantation. Through an inheritance of his wife's, he owned four hundred slaves. The Bishop is said to have established a Sunday school for them. The plantation venture proved to be a failure for Polk, and he turned once more to his pastoral duties.

His many contributions include helping to establish the University of the South, which he hoped would educate a Southern ruling class, laying the cornerstone for the first building at Sewanee, Tennessee, in October, 1860.

When war broke out the following year, Jefferson Davis, who had been a cadet with Polk at West Point, offered him a major general's commission in the Confederate army. After deliberating a few months, Polk accepted the appointment.

Polk was initially assigned command of the Confederacy's entire western theater, but when his old West Point roommate Albert Sidney Johnston offered his services to the Confederacy, Polk suggested to Davis that the more experienced Johnston would be a better choice for commander than he and stepped aside.

Polk later became a corps commander under Johnston and fought with him at Shiloh in April, 1862. General Polk remained in the west as one of Johnston's most trusted subordinates. Assigned to protect the central Mississippi River Valley on November 7, 1862, Leonidas defeated a federal assault at Belmont, Missouri, led by a little-known brigadier general named

Ulysses S. Grant, making Polk almost the only Southern commander who could claim a victory over the Union Army's future general-in chief.

He was Braxton Bragg's second in command at Perryville in October of 1862 and won promotion to lieutenant general later in the month. His performance at Stones River toward the end of 1862 and at Chickamauga in September, 1863, however, left a great deal to be desired. His failure to attack at daybreak at Chickamauga prompted Bragg to remove him from command and to recommend his court martial. Jefferson Davis, however, interceded in the action and reinstated him to command; and given his lack of military experience, Polk probably did as well as could be expected as a corps commander

for the Confederacy. He was killed near Marietta, Georgia, during the Atlanta campaign, blown out of his saddle by a Union Parrott-rifled cannon.

**HCWRT SPEAKERS
2006 – 2007 CAMPAIGN**

Jan 18	Ed Bearss
Feb 15	Jeff Murrah
Mar 15	Jerry Don Thomson
Apr 19	Jamie Gillium
May 17	Anne Bailey



**HOUSTON CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
P.O. BOX 4215
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77210- 4215**