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General Orders

Godlove's Texas Brigade

Vol. 19
No. 6
Feb,
2008

MEETING – THURS, FEB 21, 2008

Briar Club
2603 Timmons Lane @ Westheimer

6:00 Cash Bar
7:00 Dinner & Meeting

E-Mail george_bishop@sbcglobal.net
OR call him at (713) 305-5510 to Reserve
by Monday 6 PM Prior to Feb 21 -
Dinner \$25; Lecture Only \$3

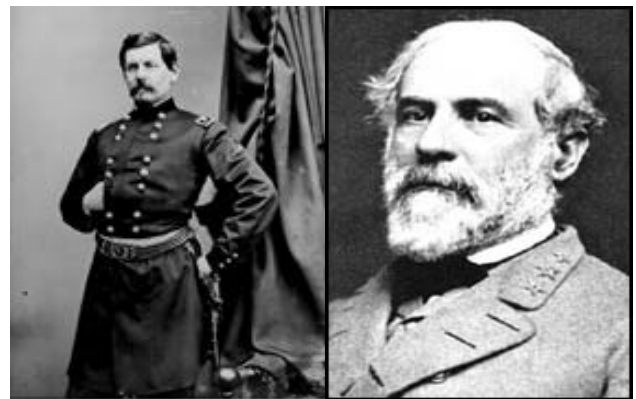
E-Mail Reservation is Preferred;
No Need to Reserve for Lecture Only

OUR SPEAKER FRANK O'REILLYS TOPIC: “RETREATING FROM VICTORY: MALVERN HILL”



Frank A. O'Reilly

The Battle of Malvern Hill, fought on July 1, 1862, was the sixth and last of the Seven Days' Battles around Richmond. New to command, General Robert E. Lee led his forces into a series of desperate, disjointed, and doomed charges against a nearly impregnable Union position on Malvern Hill. The devastating results scarred the memories of both Union and Confederate soldiers for years to come.



Gen. George B. McClellan

Gen. Robert E. Lee

As a result of the epic struggle at Malvern Hill, General Lee lost his army—and won a battle, and his opponent, General George B. McClellan, won a battle—and lost *his* army, by “**retreating from victory.**”

Join us for a most enlightening evening as we listen to Frank's analysis of the tactics of these two opposing commanders as they enter into the last of the Seven Days' Battles—how and why one was so willing to take great risks and why the other was so cautious—and how such strategies played out in the conduct of this struggle and those in the remaining years of the war.

A FEW WORDS ABOUT FRANK O'REILLY

Our speaker is a 1987 graduate of Washington & Lee University. After completing college, Frank joined the National Park Service at the Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania National Military Park. He worked briefly at Independence Hall in Philadelphia, returning to Fredericksburg in 1990 as the permanent historian for the "Stonewall" Jackson Shrine. He has also served as an historical consultant for the City of Fredericksburg and the Shenandoah Valley Battlefield Planning Commission.

Frank has written numerous articles on the Civil War and the Mexican War in addition to having authored introductions to several books, among them Phil Sheridan's memoirs, William McCarter's *My Life in the Irish Brigade* and *The History of the 1st Massachusetts Cavalry*. In 1993 he published a book on the Fredericksburg Campaign entitled *Stonewall Jackson at Fredericksburg*.

His latest book, *The Fredericksburg Campaign: Winter War on the Rappahannock*, received a 2003 nomination for the Pulitzer Prize in Letters. Released by LSU Press in December, 2002, the publication has won the 2002 Capital District (Albany, NY) Book Award, the 2003 James I. Robertson, Jr. Book Award, the 2004 Daniel Laney Book Award, and the 2004 Richard Barksdale Harwell Book Award.

Frank has appeared in quite a few video documentaries and has lectured extensively on military history in the United States and abroad.

He is currently researching a book on the Battle of Malvern Hill and the Seven Days Campaign. We are looking forward to its release and are indeed pleased and honored to have him as our special guest speaker for our February meeting.



Willis Church Parsonage Remains, Malvern Hill (2005)



Parsonage Ruins in Broader Perspective (Red Arrow)

GODLOVE'S GARRISON

First of all, let me apologize for the confusion at last month's meeting. For all those who attended that night, you can see now how important it is to call in your reservations on time. Some of our members had to forego their reserved meals in order to accommodate the large crowd.

Heretofore the Briar Club has made some concessions to us, but now we have to set

a firm reservations policy. If you do not call in a reservation on time, you may not get to eat with us that evening. Details of the new policy will follow in the adjoining column.

By the way, both our speaker Ed Bearss and our award recipient David Duncan of the Civil War Preservation Trust offered to give up their meal to someone else. Fortunately, we had enough volunteers that we did not have to ask them to do that.



Jim Godlove, President

And speaking of the CWPT, if you are not already a member, please consider joining this very worthy organization that has done so much to save our Civil War heritage and to preserve our battlefields for future generations. It was truly an honor to recognize their contribution last month. Our thanks go, too, to David who not only represented the CWPT here that evening but who also brought along books and reading materials for our Round Table. He is a true gentleman.

This month's speaker is well-known to our Round Table. He last spoke here on the death of Stonewall Jackson. Frank is not only a fine speaker but is also an outstanding author. His book on Fredericksburg is on my "Top Ten" list. Don't miss out on an important topic. Make your reservations early and bring along a friend!

SPECIAL NOTICE FROM YOUR TREASURER, BARRY BRUEGGEMAN, AND FROM YOUR BOARD

We have always relied upon our members to make reservations in order to know the meal count for our meetings. Having an accurate count is important because our contract with our caterer only allows for a small overage. Fortunately, for most of our meetings, this has not been a problem, particularly since our caterer has been accommodating. However, at times this system has not worked, particularly when we have had such a large group as we did in January. We had approximately 15 more people show up for a meal than the number of reservations. This resulted in our not having meals for some who had made reservations in addition to complaints on the smaller portions that resulted from the caterer trying to stretch the meals to accommodate as many people as possible.

To avoid such problems in the future, the following rules and practices are being put into place for the February meeting forward:

Reservations are due by **e-mail (preferred) or telephone** (with name, telephone number, and number of meals) by 6:00 PM the Monday before the meeting. Each reservation will be confirmed with a **reservation number** before Tuesday morning. If you have not received a confirmation by Tuesday morning, please **call George on his cell phone (713) 305-5510** that morning to confirm that your reservation has in fact been received.

Cancellations: After 6:00 PM Monday, it will be too late to cancel. Your reservation will have been booked, and you are responsible for the cost of your meal. However, we will try to mitigate the loss for

people who cannot attend. We will sell the meals for those who do not show up at 7:00 PM. If you are one of those who show up regularly at 6:59 PM and are concerned about being caught in traffic that will cause you to arrive later than 7 PM, we will offer you the opportunity to **guarantee** your meal when you make your reservation. In that case, we will hold your meal whether you show up or not. However, if you do not appear that evening, you will be responsible for the full cost of the meal.

No Reservations: If you do not have a reservation and would still like to dine with us, we will take your name at the door and available meals will be released at 7:00 PM in the order names were taken. **The only reason you should need to call George after 6:00 PM Monday is on Tuesday morning if you still have not received your confirmation.**

I would like to apologize on behalf of your Board to all those who were inconvenienced at the last meeting and to thank those who gave up their meal or otherwise accommodated the situation. In the past, we have not implemented a policy that would have prevented this situation from happening. In the future, we will adhere to the policy as stated above.

FEBRUARY SCHEDULED BOOK RAFFLE by Mike Pierce

Offerings this month are: **A Civil War Preservation Trust hat and music CD "From the Fields,"** donated by David Duncan of the CWPT; *Best Little Stories from the Civil War* by C. Brian Kelly and *War Stories—A Collection of 150 Little Known Human Interest Accounts of the Campaign and Battle of Gettysburg* by Gregory Cocco (**both to be offered as 1 item**), donor unknown; *The Civil War Dictionary* by Mark Boatner, donor unknown; *A Civil War Treasury of Tales and Folklore*, edited by B. A. Botkin; "No

Taint of Compromise—Crusaders in the AntiSlavery Politics," and *"The Divided Family in Civil War America,"* by Amy Murrell Taylor, both of which have been donated by the Jefferson Davis Papers.

Be sure to buy our inexpensively priced raffle tickets and help your Round Table with its funding needs in 2008.



FEBRUARY SPECIAL BOOK OFFERINGS by Mike Pierce

As your book editor for this campaign year, I am offering some lucky Round Tabler the opportunity to purchase two prized books from my personal library and help out the Round Table at the same time.

The two books are *"Hitler's Last Gamble"* by Trevor Dupuy and *"The Arms of Krupp"* by William Manchester. The cost is \$15, and the entire proceeds go toward Round Table funding this year. Please e-mail me at mpiercePC@comcast.net or see me at the back table at the February meeting.



FEBRUARY QUIZ QUESTION by Jim Godlove

Who was the general who made the comment on Malvern Hill that "it was not war—it was murder?"



SHILOH—NOTES FROM MY NOVEMBER, 2007 VISIT by Ron Featherston

On the morning of April 6, 1862, the sun rose over the Union encampment at Pittsburg Landing. Neither Grant, the Union Commander, nor Albert Sidney Johnston, the Confederate Commander, could possibly know what this day would hold. It would bring advances in military tactics. It would bring innovations in medicine. It would change all preconceived notions that the Civil War would be of short duration. For Johnston and thousands of other brave soldiers on both sides of the conflict, it would bring death.

During the winter of 1861-1862, Federal forces pushing southward from St. Louis captured Forts Henry and Donelson on the Tennessee and Cumberland Rivers. This action forced General Johnston to abandon southern Kentucky and much of West and Middle Tennessee, and on April 2, he began his march from Corinth. Striking hard on the morning of April 6, the Confederates pushed the Federals back along a sunken road where their opponents were finally able to establish and hold a line that impeded the southern advance. Under the protection of a huge barrage of cannonry, the gray-clads were able to move in and take the sunken road. Dubbed by soldiers as the "Hornets' Nest, this area was particularly bloody in intense fighting.

On the night of April 6, Don Carlos Buell's Union reinforcements arrived. That morning the Confederates were pushed back on the ground that they had fought so hard to win the day before. With the incursion of fresh Union troops, the weary Confederates had little chance to win a complete victory, and they were forced to march back to Corinth.

The final number of dead or missing was 13,000 on the Union side and 10,500 on the

Southern side. There were as many men killed at Shiloh as there were at Waterloo. The difference between that Napoleonic war and the American Civil War is that the former didn't involve twenty more Waterloos to come. Shiloh was indeed a decisive bat-



The battle at the Hornet's Nest
Union troops held for 6 hours

tle in the war. The South needed a win to make up for land lost in Kentucky and Ohio and protection from attack for the Mississippi Valley, Memphis, and Vicksburg.

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

DUDLEY WARD PAPERS ADDED TO THE TEXAS GENERAL LAND OFFICE ARCHIVES by *Mike Pierce*

On January 18 Commissioner of the Texas General Land Office (TGLO) Jerry Patterson honored Confederate Heroes Day with the announcement that the TGLO Archives had acquired the 34 letters of Texas Confederate Private Dudley Ward.

Dudley Ward joined Company G, 2nd Texas Infantry at 17. Early in 1863 he became a prisoner of war at Vicksburg. Upon parole, Ward's unit returned to Texas and was assigned to duty in Galveston. Dudley did not survive the war, dying like so many others in the 1864 yellow fever epidemic.

Ward's father was Thomas William Ward, the third Commissioner of the TGLO. The elder Ward, known as "Peg-Leg," was a notable hero of the Texas Revolution and a

major player in early Texas politics. As Land Commissioner, Peg-Leg enforced Sam Houston's order calling for the removal of governmental papers from Austin that sparked the infamous Archives War in 1842. During that skirmish, Ward, already missing an arm and a leg, single-handedly faced down an angry, heavily armed mob in front of the TGLO.

Created by Patterson in 2004, the TGLO "Save Texas History Program" is a unique campaign that brings together private and governmental efforts to preserve the 35 million maps and documents in the TGLO Archives—the very documents that trace the history of modern-day Texas, including Stephen F. Austin's original Spanish field notes and records bearing the signatures of Alamo defenders Jim Bowie and William Barrett Travis. All items are conserved and digitally preserved and made available to the public via the Internet. For more information, visit www.savetexashistory.org.



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P. O. Box 4215
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