



General Orders

Franty's Texas Brigade

Vol. 20
No. 5
Jan, 2009

www.houstoncivilwar.com

MEETING – THURS, Jan 15, 2009

Briar Club
2603 Timmons Lane @ Westheimer
6:00 Cash Bar
7:00 Dinner & Meeting

E-Mail drzuckero@sbcglobal.net
OR call him at (281) 479-1232 to Reserve
by Monday 6 PM Prior to Jan 15
Dinner \$30; Lecture Only \$5
E-Mail Reservation is Preferred;
Reserve for both Lecture Only as Well as
for Dinner & Lecture

ED BEARSS PRESENTS: “FIVE LITTLE-KNOWN BATTLES OF THE CIVIL WAR”



Edwin C. Bearss, NPS Historian Emeritus, Retired

We are indeed fortunate this month to welcome Ed Bearss to Houston and to our Round Table as he presents a small group of five relatively unknown Civil War battles selected for our edification and enjoyment.

A U. S. Marine veteran of WWII, Ed is a military historian and author especially respected

for his work on the Civil War. A much sought-after tour guide of historic battlefields, Ed served as Chief Historian of the National Park Service from 1981 to 1994 and provided commentary for *The Civil War*, PBS Series by Ken Burns and also for *Civil War Journal* on The History Channel.

Ed is a native of Billings, Montana and grew up on a ranch several miles away from the nearest neighbor. His father introduced him to a John Thomason book on Confederate cavalryman Jeb Stuart when he was a young teenager, and from then on Ed was captivated by the study of the Civil War.

After leaving the Marine Corps, Ed completed his undergraduate education at Georgetown and his graduate work at the University of Indiana. While with the NPS, Ed performed important work in Vicksburg when he and several colleagues pinpointed the location of the long-lost Union gunboat USS Cairo and also for identifying two forgotten forts at Grand Gulf, Mississippi. A forty-one year veteran of the NPS, Ed, serving with distinction as Chief Historian, developed an impressive assortment of new parks, among them Pea Ridge and Wilson's Creek. In addition, he made important contributions to the development of sites at Big-horn Canyon, Fort Moultrie, the Eisenhower Farm at Gettysburg, Fort Donelson, the Lyndon B. Johnson Ranch, and the gold miners' route over Chilkoot Pass, among others.

But it is as a personal interpreter and contemporary tour guide that Ed is best-known to most Americans today. His booming voice, colorful dialogue, boundless energy and above all, unlimited enthusiasm for his subject never fail to captivate and inspire his listeners. Be one of this ever-expanding circle of his admirers; join us on the evening of January 15th!



Happy New Year, everyone! I look forward to joining you this month as we welcome our dear and valued friend, Ed Bearss! The “Pied Piper of History,” as he has been called, is always a joy to those of us who have been fortunate enough to be with him for battlefield tours as well as to those who know him from previous meetings, books, and television. We trust that you will contact Don Zuckero with your timely [dinner reservations](#), and, because of Ed’s popularity at our lectern, we ask that you contact Don also with your [lecture-only reservation](#) so that we can be better prepared for the number of chairs we will need to accommodate our audience. Seating is limited, and of course will be on a reservation basis, so please do contact Don promptly.

The reservation deadline will be Monday evening, January 12th, and we will see you, all of you who can possibly make it, on Thursday evening, January 15th!

POSTAL SERVICE TO ISSUE SABINE PASS LIGHTHOUSE STAMP IN 2009

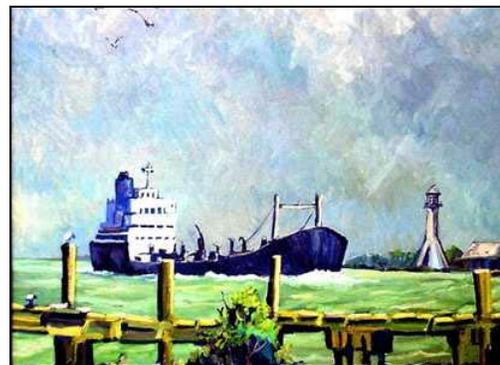


Ed Cotham has notified your editor that the U.S. Postal Service has announced a new

selection of commemorative stamps bearing paintings of lighthouses that will present, among others, the Sabine Pass landmark. A total of five Gulf Coast lighthouses have been selected for this summer’s release.

The Sabine Pass structure, completed in 1856 on a mud flat that was only three feet above high tide, has been entered into the National Register of Historic Places. It is of brick construction and has eight concrete buttresses to bolster its stability. The tower has an octagonal shape and a height of seventy-five feet.

The lighthouse can be seen at a distance from Sabine Pass Battleground State Historic Park at Sabine Pass, Texas. During its life span of approximately a century and a half, the landmark has survived Civil War battles, innumerable storms, hurricanes and floods, a marsh fire, vandalism, and long periods of neglect.



Oil Painting Inclusive of the Sabine Pass Lighthouse, Port Arthur's Museum of the Gulf Coast

Other Gulf Coast lighthouses to be included in the 42-cent stamp collection are Sand Island Lighthouse, the 135 year-old tower near Dauphin Island at the entrance to Mobile Bay, as well as lighthouses at Matagorda Island, TX; Biloxi, MS; and Fort Jefferson, FL.

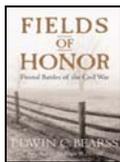
JANUARY BOOK RAFFLES by Mike Pierce

January book raffle offerings are: *Battle in the Civil War* by Paddy Griffith, donor unknown; *The Fight for Chattanooga*, a Time-Life Book, donor unknown; *An Honorable Defeat* by William C. Davis, donated by Jim Godlove; and *The*

Civil War by Otto Eisenschiml and Ralph Newman, donated by Joe Goulding.

In addition to these four books offered on our regularly scheduled raffle, we are offering three copies of Ed Bearss's book *Fields of Honor* under a special raffle for the evening.

You will have the opportunity to acquire signed copies of Ed's book at a very reasonable price, so be sure to participate in the special raffle and also in our monthly raffle—both at the same time!



HCWRT SPEAKERS 2008 – 2009 CAMPAIGN

Jan 15	Ed Bearss
Feb 19	Parker Hills
Mar 19	Patrick Falci
Apr 16	Anthony Waskie
May 21	William M. S. Rasmussen

JANUARY QUIZ QUESTION by Jim Godlove



In 1956, Ed Bearss and others discovered and salvaged a gunboat from the Yazoo River. Name the gunboat and the historic first associated with her.

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 _____

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How did you Hear About us? _____

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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

BRIG. GEN. HARRY HAYS AND HIS LOUISIANA TIGERS

Harry Thompson Hays, born in Tennessee in 1820, reared by an uncle in Mississippi, studied law at St. Mary's College in Baltimore and then established a prominent law practice in New Orleans. He saw his first military service during the Mexican War and in 1861 entered the CSA as Colonel of the 7th Louisiana Infantry in the Army of Northern Virginia in Jubal Early's brigade. In 1st Manassas, Hays' men shared in the march and



flank attack that completed the rout of the Federal army. In Jackson's brilliant Valley Campaign of 1862, the unit was attached to Gen. Richard Taylor's brigade of Ewell's division. At Port Republic, Col. Hays was wounded. This prevented his participation in the Seven Days' battles and Second Manassas. On July 25, 1862, he took over as brigade commander of the 1st Louisiana (the famed "Tigers") when Taylor was reassigned to the Western Theater, serving principally in his home state of Louisiana.

At Sharpsburg, Hays' brigade was in the fiercest part of Jackson's battle and lost half its unit. At Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, and Gettysburg, Hays and his brigade exhibited much tenacity and valor, especially at Gettysburg where Hays directed his troops in a twilight assault on Cemetery Hill. The brigade stubbornly fought its way up the steep slope and overran several artillery batteries before finally being driven off for lack of support.

Briefly captured in November, 1863 at Rapahannock Station, Hays escaped. In fierce fighting at the Battle of the Wilderness on May

5, 1864, he lost a third of his remaining men. Five days later, he was severely wounded by a shell fragment at Spotsylvania. This injury marked the end of Hays' service in the Army of Northern Virginia. Upon his recovery, he was transferred to the Trans-Mississippi and then assigned command in Louisiana.

On May 10, 1865, Hays was promoted to major general by Kirby Smith; with the demise of the Confederacy everywhere except in the Trans-Mississippi theater, however, his promotion was never formally approved by President Jefferson Davis or the Confederate Congress, and on May 26th, the western theater also gave up the fight.

After the war, Hays received a pardon from President Andrew Johnson and served as sheriff of Orleans Parish for a year. Having played a prominent role in the July, 1866 New Orleans Race Riot, however, Hays was removed from office by the federals in November at the insistence of influential former Union general Phillip Sheridan. Hays then resumed his law practice until his death in 1876 at age 56. He is buried in Lafayette Cemetery No 1 in New Orleans.

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