



# General Orders

## Barnes' Texas Brigade

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### THE HCWRT PRESENTS

## Edwin C. Bearss Speaking on the Topic; "The Campaign for Petersburg - June 15, 1864 to April 2, 1865"

The Houston Civil War Round Table welcomes our good friend and tour guide Ed Bearss back to Houston. One of our favorite speakers he will be sharing insights into his newest publication "**The Petersburg Campaign: Volume 1, The Eastern Front Battles, June - August 1864**" which is scheduled for release in March of this year. Ed co-authored the book with Bryce A. Suderow.

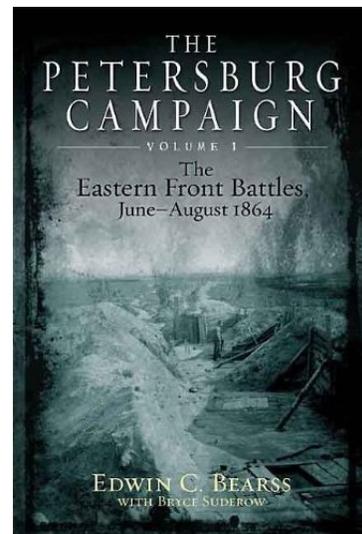
As Amazon.com tells us: The wide-ranging and largely misunderstood series of operations around Petersburg, Virginia, were the longest and most extensive of the entire Civil War. The fighting that began in early June 1864 when advance elements from the Union Army of the Potomac crossed the James River and botched a series of attacks against a thinly defended city would not end for nine long months. This important-many would say decisive-fighting is presented by legendary Civil War author Edwin C. Bearss in "**The Petersburg Campaign: Volume 1, The Eastern Front Battles, June - August 1864**", the first in a ground-breaking two-volume compendium".

Although commonly referred to as the "Siege of Petersburg," that city (as well as the Confederate capital at Richmond) was never fully isolated and the combat involved much more than static trench warfare. In fact, much of the wide-ranging fighting involved large-scale Union offensives designed to cut important roads and the five rail lines feeding Petersburg and Richmond.

This volume of Bearss' study of these major battles includes: • The Attack on Petersburg (June 9, 1864) • The Attack on Petersburg (June 15, 1864) • The Battle of the Jerusalem Plank Road (June 21 - 24, 1864) • The Battle of the Crater (July 31, 1864) • The Battle of the Weldon Railroad (August 18 - 21,

1864) • The Battle of Reams' Station (August 24, 1864).

Accompanying these salient chapters are original maps by Civil War cartographer Steven Stanley, together with photos and illustrations. The result is a richer and deeper understanding of the major military episodes comprising the Petersburg Campaign.



Perhaps as the title of the presentation implies Ed will give us a sneak peek of the contents in Volume 2.

**JANUARY 2012 MEETING**  
**Thursday, Jan. 19, 2012**

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

**E-Mail Reservation is Preferred;**  
**at [drzuckero@sbcglobal.net](mailto:drzuckero@sbcglobal.net)**  
**or call Don Zuckero at (281) 479-1232**  
**By 6 PM on Monday Jan. 16, 2012**  
**[Dinner \\$33; Lecture Only \\$5](#)**

**Note: Reservations are required for Lecture Only!**

## About Edwin C. Bearss



Mr. Bearss is a U. S. Marine veteran of WWII, 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 Bighorn 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.

It is as a personal interpreter and contemporary tour guide that Ed to most Americans is best known today. His booming voice, colorful dialogue, boundless energy and above all, unlimited enthusiasm for his subject never fail to captivate and inspire his listeners. Become one of his ever-expanding circle of admirers; join us on the evening of January 19<sup>th</sup>!



## JANUARY BOOK RAFFLE

*By Donnie Stowe*

I do hope everyone had a safe and Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

I think we'll start the new year off by raffling ***BLOODY ROADS SOUTH – The Wilderness to Cold Harbor, May- June 1864*** by Noah Andre Trudeau. The title summarizes our recent HCWRT Trip with Frank O'Rieley. Next up is ***SWAMP DOCTOR*** – Edited by Thomas P. Lowry, M.D. and donated by Norm Lewis. This is a diary of a union surgeon – Dr. William M. Smith while going through the Virginia & North Carolina marshes during the war. The third book in this month's raffle is ***The ANNALS of the CIVIL WAR*** – with articles written by leading participants from the North and South. This book was donated by our past secretary – Karen Stone. The final selection is Volume 7 of the Random House edition of Shelby Foote's ***The CIVIL WAR – A Narrative: Red River to Chattanooga*** and is a donation from John Newcomb.

Members are always encouraged to donate some of their well read books or a small monetary donation for purchase of books to continue this valuable support to the HCWRT Raffle

## JANUARY QUIZ

*By Jim Godlove*

In honor of Ed Bearss' latest book on the Petersburg Campaign, this month's question concerns the August 25, 1864, Battle of Reams' Station. The Union corps commander at Reams' Station may have seen his soldiers fail to carry entrenched positions "but he had never before had the mortification of seeing them driven, and his lines and guns taken, as on this occasion," according to one officer.



Who was this corps commander and what was his corps?

# HOUSTON MUSEUM OF NATURAL SCIENCE CIVIL WAR LECTURES

## The Untold Story of Confederate Coins *Submitted by Jim Bevill*



While Confederate paper money was rendered all but worthless due to massive propagation, the Confederate cents and half dollars are ultra-rare pieces which tell the story of a handful of men who sought to capitalize on these rarities after the war.

James Bevill will treat the audience to the vivid story of the clandestine efforts by the

Confederate States of America to produce a national coinage in 1861, struck at the New Orleans mint, only to go underground.

James Bevill is a financial historian who focuses on Texas and Confederate money and its role in our culture and history. He is a First Vice President - Investments in the River Oaks office of UBS Financial Services in Houston. Following the lecture, Bevill will sign copies of his book *The Paper Republic: The Struggle for Money, Credit and Independence in the Republic of Texas*.

Jan. 24, 2012 6:30PM, Houston Museum of Natural Science, Wortham IMAX® Theatre, Tickets \$18 | Members \$12.

For tickets, purchase online at [www.hmns.org](http://www.hmns.org), <http://store.hmns.org/Selection.aspx?sch=419660> or call the Museum Box Office at (713) 639-4629.

## They Fought Like Tigers: Skirmish at Island Mound *Submitted by Chris Tabor*

Chris Tabor, Historian Before the Emancipation Proclamation, a regiment of former slaves struck a blow for freedom in western Missouri proving that not only could those so recently out of bondage fight, but they could win on the field of battle. The action fought by the 1st Kansas Colored Volunteers on October 29, 1862, marked the first time that an African-American regiment experienced combat during the Civil War.

No quarter was asked and none given by either side during the fight, which involved brutal hand-to-hand combat.

A veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps, Chris Tabor has focused his research on the particularly brutal warfare that raged in Western Missouri. He authored *The Skirmish at Island Mound*, which provides the first ever detailed research into the first battle fought by African American soldiers during the Civil War.

Feb. 6, 2012 6:30PM, Houston Museum of Natural Science, Wortham IMAX® Theatre, Tickets \$18 | Members \$12. For tickets, purchase online at <http://store.hmns.org/Selection.aspx?sch=419656>.

## Request For Photographs *Submitted by John Barnes*

Jeff Giambone is currently working on a book for Arcadia Press entitled ***BY VALOR & ARMS: MISSISSIPPI'S CONFEDERATES***. For this book he needs images of Mississippi Confederate soldiers - pre-war, wartime and post-war images are wanted. Since many Mississippians moved to Texas after the war it is possible that some of our readers have images that would be of benefit to Jeff, and would be able to provide them to him. Jeff tells us that that for possible use in the book he needs high-resolution images that are at least 300 dpi.

You can contact Jeff by email at [jeff@commarts.net](mailto:jeff@commarts.net), or by calling 601-953-3194.

## CIVIL WAR USAGE *Submitted by Donnie Stowe*

The following is from Webb Garrison and Cheryl Garrison's ***The ENCYCLOPEDIA of Civil War Usage***.

1. **To accept the gage** – Although archaic by scholarly standards, this medieval term was used occasionally by general officers on both sides. Occasionally a commander faced the undeniable likelihood of defeat but still felt compelled by honor to fight. When he reached such a decision, he considered himself much like a medieval knight who stooped down to pick up a gage, or glove, tossed to the ground by an opponent as a challenge. At Pea Ridge, Arkansas, Confederate Gen. Earl Van Dorn recorded the reluctance with which he “accepted the gage” from the enemy.
2. **To blenker** – To appropriate forcibly the benefit of another's labor. The phrase may stem from 1862, when Union Gen. Louis Blenker regularly

dispatched his men into the Virginia countryside to plunder and forage.

3. **Deadline** – An area, not always but sometimes marked by a Dead Rope which prisoners could not pass without risking death from their prison guards. There is evidence that some desperate and hopeless men violated the deadline rather than struggle to live under intolerable conditions in the camps. It's a term that was the precursor to the editor's deadline in news media.
4. **Buttermilk ranger** – A derisive phrase used by Confederate Infantry of Southern cavalymen in the early months of the war, because mounted troops were often sent to the rear before combat.
5. **Ace of Spades** – A name of admiration bestowed upon Gen. Robert E. Lee as a tribute to the skill with which he directed his men to dig trenches in front of Petersburg

**HCWRT**  
**2011 - 2012 SPEAKERS CAMPAIGN**

|              |   |
|--------------|---|
| Jan 19, 2012 | Ed Bearss – <i>“The Campaign for Petersburg June 15, 1864 to April 2, 1865”</i> |
| Feb 16, 2012 | Stephen Kinnaman – <i>“The Building of the Alabama”</i>                         |
| Mar 15, 2012 | Carol Berkin – <i>“Civil War Wives”</i>   |
| Apr 19, 2012 | Pat Falci – <i>“A.P. Hill: Lee’s Forgotten General”</i>                         |
| May 17, 2012 | Jerry D. Thompson – <i>“Sibley and the Southwest”</i>                           |



**Houston Civil War Round Table**  
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