



General Orders

Barnes' Texas Brigade

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THE HCWRT PRESENTS

William A. McWhorter Speaking on the Topic; "Texas Battlefield Preservation"

The Round Table welcomes Mr. McWhorter to Houston. He will be informing us about some of the programs of the Texas Historical Commission.

Texas forces fought with distinction during the Civil War, and the Texas Historical Commission (THC) has long been committed to preserving and interpreting their stories. In 2011, the THC established a *Texas Civil War Sesquicentennial Initiative* with the goal of increasing public awareness of agency programs that enhance the interpretation and preservation of Civil War sites and topics. William McWhorter's presentation will focus on how the Texas Historical Commission's one-person Military Sites Program works in a down economy to highlight the history of Texas' premier role in the American Civil War, focusing on two key agency projects, the *Texas Civil War Monuments Fund*, and *Palmito Ranch Battlefield National Historic Landmark*.

Continuing the tradition begun in the 1960s by the Texas Civil War Centennial Commission and the Texas State Historical Survey Committee (the THC's predecessor), the THC seeks to commemorate the contributions of Texas' military units during the war by placing granite battlefield monuments across the U.S. To date, the THC has provided monuments at key Civil War sites including Vicksburg, Shiloh, Antietam, Gettysburg, Chickamauga, The Wilderness, Bentonville, Kennesaw Mountain, and Mansfield. More recently, the agency has placed monuments in Galveston, Texas; Raymond and Corinth, MS; Rowletts and Richmond, KY; and Gaines' Mill, VA.

Since 2007, the Military Sites Program has worked to enhance interpretation of the Last Land Battle of the Civil War, Palmito Ranch Battlefield National Historic Landmark in Cameron County. The program has applied for and received eight grants and gifts between 2008 and 2011, to increase public awareness of the site and its history. Projects at the site include: historical research and archeological survey work,

publication of a full-color brochure, regional workshops promoting the site's significance, and a radio broadcast repeater system [heard locally on 1610 AM], which brings the historical narrative of the battle and the conservation efforts of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (the primary landowner) to heritage tourists, traveling the length of the battlefield.

If you would like to do a little research before attending the presentation you can learn more about the Texas Historical Commission at <http://www.thc.state.tx.us/>

MARCH 2012 MEETING Thursday, Mar. 15, 2012

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

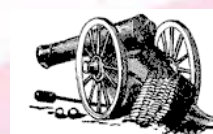
E-Mail Reservation is Preferred;
at drzuckero@sbcglobal.net
or call Don Zuckero at (281) 479-1232
By 6 PM on Monday Mar. 12, 2012
Dinner \$33; Lecture Only \$5

Note: Reservations are required for Lecture Only!

HCWRT 2011 - 2012 SPEAKERS CAMPAIGN

Apr 19, 2012 Pat Falci – "A.P. Hill: Lee's
Forgotten General"

May 17, 2012 Jerry D. Thompson – "Sibley and
the Southwest"



About William McWhorter



William A. McWhorter is the Military Sites Program and Oral History Program Coordinator for the Texas Historical Commission (THC), he joined the THC in August 2005. A native of Eagle Pass, TX, Mr. McWhorter graduated from the University of Texas at Austin with a B.A. in Marketing in 1998. After working for Adams USA and Enterprise Rent-A-Car, Mr. McWhorter enrolled in Texas State University-San Marcos, where he earned his Master of Arts in History with a focus in American military history in May 2005. That same year the U.S. Army Military History Institute (Carlisle, PA) awarded Mr. McWhorter a research grant for his scholarship on the 106th Infantry Division (the "Golden Lions") during the Battle of the Bulge in World War II.

Mr. McWhorter heads up the THC's major initiative, *Texas in World War II* that consists of several commemorative, educational, and heritage tourism focused projects, including a statewide survey of more than 1,800 military and home front sites, a series of oral history training workshops, 21 special historical markers, various publications; and a one-of-a-kind historic research and interpretation project on Japanese, German, and Italian civilian Enemy Alien internment sites in Texas during World War II. In 2011, Mr. McWhorter received the American Association of State and Local History's Leadership in History Award of Merit for the *Texas in World War II* Initiative.

Concurrently, McWhorter coordinates the THC's grant funded *Texas in the Civil War* projects that consist of the *Texas Civil War Monuments Fund* (which places granite monuments at battlefields outside Texas); multiple interpretive and heritage tourism projects on the Battle of Palmito Ranch, and the THC's *Texas Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War* Initiative.

Mr. McWhorter has had multiple academic journal articles, a cover article on the Battle of Palmito Ranch in the Civil War Trust's *Hallowed Ground*, and numerous public history articles published. In addition to the before mentioned key agency projects, Mr. McWhorter handles the THC's military sites consultations part of the agency's Federal Review Program.



MARCH BOOK RAFFLE *By Donnie Stowe*

As we all look forward to our speaker this month, I've tried to provide a varied and interesting list of books for the Raffle. I am also including an **extra** book this time as well (to celebrate spring).

For March let's begin the raffle with **THE 7TH SOUTH CAROLINA CAVALRY TO THE DEFENSE OF RICHMOND** – The South Carolina Regimental-Roster Set by Marc Ramsey. The next volume is Dave Page's **SHIPS VERSUS SHORE** – Civil War Engagements along southern shores and rivers and is a donation by Mitchell Tomilson. Third in the raffle is **CIVIL WAR SAVANNAH** by Derek Smith and was gifted to us by Past President Roland Bienvenu. Our fourth book this month is from my own library – **IRONMAKER TO THE CONFEDERACY** – *Joseph R. Anderson and the Tredegar Iron Works* by Charles B. Dew. The Fifth book offered for this month is **ARMS & EQUIPMENT OF THE CIVIL WAR**, written and Illustrated by Jack Coggins and is a donation by Edward T. Cotham, Jr.

I want to thank all the members who keep bringing in their books and magazines for the Raffle. Your efforts make the meetings all that more entertaining and educational.



MARCH QUIZ

By Jim Godlove

The first battle of the Mexican War was fought on May 8, 1846. This site is now a National Historical Park. The last land battle of the Civil War was fought nineteen years later on May 12-13, 1865. Ironically, these two battlefield sites are within 15 miles of each other.



Can you name the two battles?

CIVIL WAR BITS and PIECES

Submitted by Donnie Stowe

Did You Know? - The oldest of General Robert E. Lee's three sons, Custis Lee, began his service with the Confederacy as an Army captain of engineers, constructing fortifications around Richmond. Most of the remainder of his service was spent as an aide and courier, delivering secret messages to the front for Jefferson Davis and his staff.

Civil War Vocabulary - **Vivandiere:** Women who acted as a form of sutler, peddling provisions and accompanying soldiers into battle carrying small kegs of water or rum for the wounded on shoulder straps. Some vivandiere performed feats of heroism, and one of the most famous was "French Mary", who was wounded while braving thirteen battles.

Letters from the Field -

You must not expect long letters from me in such busy times as these, but always believe your husband never forgets his little darling.

___ Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson,

Confederate major general, in a letter to his wife Mary Anna, June 2, 1862. He had escaped a Union trap the day before, during his Shenandoah Valley Campaign.

Civil War Who's Who: J. B. Ferguson - In September 1862, this Confederate quartermaster purchasing agent slipped

through the Union blockade and sailed to England to buy shoes, bulk wool cloth, and other desperately needed items to clothe and equip the South's fighting men.

Did You Know? - General Gabriel J. Raines and his younger brother, George Washington Raines, were West Point Graduates who put their fertile minds to work for the Confederacy, with devastating results for the Union. They were explosives experts who created the coal bomb to blow up ships, water mines, and land mines, and although they denied having anything to do with the insidious devices, they were also credited with devising the first booby traps.

Top 10 Movies / Top 11 Books

Submitted by David Rains

The Top Ten-according to a search on the internet, and yes, there are more than one list and they can vary...

Top 10 Best/Most Popular Civil War Movies

1. Gettysburg
2. Glory
3. Ride With the Devil
4. Andersonville
5. Gods and Generals
6. Red Badge of Courage
7. North and South
8. Outlaw Josey Wales
9. Shenandoah
10. Cold Mountain

Top 11 Best/Most Popular Civil War Books

1. *Battle Cry of Freedom* by James McPherson
2. *The Civil War: A Narrative* by Shelby Foote
3. *Landscape Turned Red* by Stephen Sears
4. *Memoirs by Ulysses S. Grant*
5. *Mary Chestnut's Diary*
6. *This Republic of Suffering: Death and American Civil War* by Drew Gilpin Faust
7. *The Destructive War: Wm Tecumseh Sherman, Stonewall Jackson, and the Americans* by Charles Royster
8. *Team of Rivals: The political Genius of Abraham Lincoln* by Doris Kearns Goodwin
9. *The Fiery Trial: Abraham Lincoln and American Slavery* by Eric Foner
10. *Race and Reunion: The Civil War in American Memory* by David W. Blight
11. *Confederates in the Attic: Dispatches from the Unfinished Civil War* by Tony Horwitz.

Upcoming Lectures at HMNS

Tuesday, March 20, 2012, 6:30 PM: ***USS Westfield, A Civil War Shipwreck in Galveston Bay*** given by Robert Gearhart, Amy Borgens and Edward T. Cotham, Jr.

In the fall of 2009, a team of marine archeologists working under the direction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers supervised the recovery of artifacts from USS Westfield, a Staten Island ferryboat that had been converted into a Civil War gunboat after its purchase by the U.S. Navy in 1861. Westfield saw significant Civil War action, participating in battles at New Orleans, Vicksburg and other places along the Gulf Coast. Its destruction at the Battle of Galveston on January 1, 1863, was one of the most important and dramatic events of the Civil War in Texas. This audiovisual program uses rare historic documents and images to describe the conversion of a ferryboat to armored warship and examine the military career of this unique "fighting ferryboat" and its impact on the war in Texas. It retraces the series of events that led to the relocation of Westfield's wreck and the challenging project that resulted in recovery of tons of artifacts undergoing conservation at the Conservation Research Laboratory at Texas A&M University. Among the artifacts being conserved is a more than 4

ton Dahlgren cannon capable of firing a projectile almost 2 miles. Principal Investigator of the USS Westfield Project, Robert Gearhart is a marine archeologist and hydrographer at Atkins North American, Inc. Amy Borgens, project archeologist of the USS Westfield Project, is the State Marine Archeologist with the Texas Historical Commission. Edward T. Cotham, Jr., president of the Terry Foundation and USS Westfield Project historian, is author of *Battle on the Bay: The Civil War Struggle for Galveston*, which will be available for signing following the lecture.

Long-time Member, Greek Passes

The Round Table mourns the passing of Bruce F. Greek, age 85, who passed peacefully with his family beside him on March 5, 2012, in Houston, Texas. Born on December 8, 1926, in Cleveland, Ohio. He is survived by his son, Henry F. Greek and wife Sharron. Visitation will be held from 6 to 8 PM on Thur. 3/8 with a funeral service in the main Chapel of Forest Park Westheimer on Fri 3/9 at 2PM, interment to follow. A reception will be held inside the funeral home from 3 to 5 PM.



Houston Civil War Round Table
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