



# General Orders

## *Jennings' Brigade*

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[www.houstoncivilwar.com](http://www.houstoncivilwar.com)

**March 2015 MEETING**  
**Thursday, March 19, 2015**

**The HESS Club**  
**5430 Westheimer Rd @ Westheimer Way**  
**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 March 16, 2015  
**Dinner \$30; Lecture Only \$10**

**\*\*\* Reservations are Required \*\*\***  
**FOR BOTH DINNER and LECTURE ONLY**

**The HCWRT Presents**  
**Sally Anne Schmidt**  
**Speaking on:**

***“The Nau Civil War Collection”***

The Nau Civil War Collection, assembled by John L. Nau, III of Houston, Texas, is one of the largest private collections of Civil War documents, photographs, weapons, and artifacts in the country. The collection's curator, Dr. Sally Anne Schmidt, will present an illustrated talk describing the collection and some of its highlights.

Mr. Nau's collection includes items related to all aspects of the war, Union and Confederate. Currently his collection contains more than 35,000 letters, diaries, and documents by soldiers; 3,000 photographic images, mainly ambrotype, tintype, and carte-de-visite portraits of soldiers; 175 swords and sabers; and 200 pistols, revolvers, carbines, and longarms. It also includes a considerable assortment of military accoutrements, equipment, and uniforms.



Selections from the collection are on display at both the Houston and San Antonio headquarters of Silver Eagle Distributors, and items are often on loan to museums such as the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum in Austin and the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. In 2011, the Houston Museum of Natural Science exhibited over 200 Nau collection artifacts in the exhibition, *Discovering the Front Line*. In addition, photographic images from the collection were included as part of the acclaimed MFAH-organized exhibition *WAR/PHOTOGRAPHY: Images of Armed Conflict and its Aftermath*, which opened in Houston in 2012 and visited the Annenberg Space for Photography in Los Angeles; the Corcoran Gallery of Art in Washington, DC; and the Brooklyn Museum.

Mr. Nau has been fascinated with all aspects of the Civil War since childhood. He studied history at the University of Virginia and is an avid reader of military history. He is also active advocate for battlefield preservation and is a former chairman of the Civil War Trust, the federal Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and the Texas Historical Commission. In May 2012, the Civil War Round Table of Houston presented him with the Frank E. Vandiver Award of Merit. Through Mr. Nau's tireless historic preservation efforts and his passion to create a comprehensive collection of Civil War artifacts and documents, Mr. Nau works to ensure that both the historic landscape and the tangible material culture of the Civil War era are safeguarded for future generations.

## About Sally Anne Schmidt



Sally Anne Schmidt

Sally Anne Schmidt is the Curator of the Nau Civil War Collection and has worked for Mr. Nau for over ten years. She received her bachelor's degree from Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland, and her master's degree and Ph.D. from Rice University, where she worked with Professor John B. Boles. Sally Anne held the Jameson Fellowship at Bayou Bend Collection and Gardens in 2003 – 2004. Prior to her work with the Nau Civil War Collection, she interned or worked as a consultant in various departments at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, the Maryland Historical Society, the National Archives and Records Administration, and the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History.

As curator, Dr. Schmidt is responsible for the care, organization and exhibition of the Nau collection. She created and continues to update the collections database and object files. She conducts research related to collection items and assists historians with research inquiries. Sally Anne collaborates with conservation specialists and negotiates with dealers. She also plans, writes, and directs the installation of the exhibitions at Silver Eagle Distributors' Houston and San Antonio headquarters and the two-room gallery in Mr. Nau's home. In addition, she conducts tours and coordinates events for teachers, students, and adults interested in viewing the collection.



## Sabine Pass Spring Field Trip

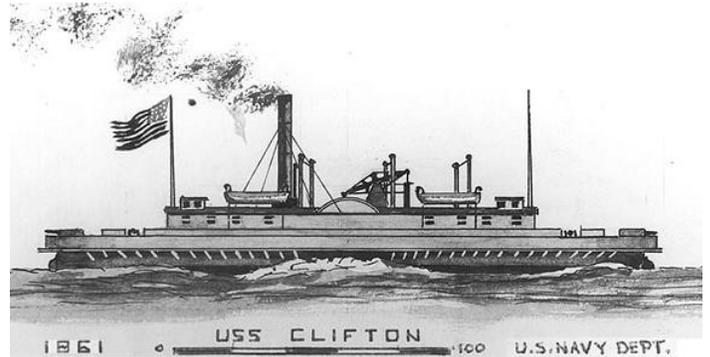
*By Barry Brueggeman*

This year we will have a Spring Field Trip to **Sabine Pass Battleground State Historic Site** on Saturday, April 25.

We will meet at the Home Depot at 13400 Market St. (I-10 @ Uvalde), Houston, at 8:00 am and be driven by bus to Port Arthur where we will visit the **Museum of the Gulf Coast** at 10:00 am.

The Museum of the Gulf Coast combines conventional and unconventional methods to tell the exciting story of the Texas / Louisiana Gulf Coast region. It has numerous historic and cultural artifacts and is well worth visiting.

After spending an hour at this museum we will drive to Sabine Pass where we will have a box lunch at the Sabine Pass Community Center and see a presentation on the USS Clifton and its distinctive walking beam engine by Justin Parkhoff, the archeologist who is heading up conservation efforts for Clifton's sister ship, USS Westfield. Clifton was the primary Union steamer involved in the Battle of Sabine Pass and is the subject of some exciting new research.



The USS Clifton – by Erik Heyl

We will then travel a short distance to reach the Battleground. The battleground has recently been updated and is in better shape than ever. At the battleground we will have a comprehensive tour by Ed Cotham. We will start by reviewing the role of the Sabine Pass Lighthouse (still standing on the Louisiana side of the Pass - you may want to bring binoculars) and the skirmishes around it.

We will then go to the scale model of Fort Griffin and cover the battle itself. We will then go to the Clifton's walking beam (recently moved to the park and displayed there) and talk about the naval side of the battle. We will visit the Union and Confederate monuments and honor the veterans who served. We will also visit the Sabine Pass Cemetery and talk

about the role of the civilians in the aftermath of the battle.

We plan to return to Houston about 5:00 pm. Cost of the trip is \$90 per person.

**Checks can be made out to HCWRT and mailed to Barry Brueggeman, 3706 Lonnie Wood Drive, Houston, TX 77059.**

You can contact Barry by email at: [Fieldtrips@HoustonCivilWar.com](mailto:Fieldtrips@HoustonCivilWar.com).

For additional information visit these websites: <http://www.museumofthegulfcoast.org> <http://www.visitsabinepassbattleground.com>

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT By Brad York

HCWRT is pleased to introduce new members Paul & Sandra Barone, Diana Kokernot, Charles Britton, Paul Lester and Dr. Stuart Weil. If you have not yet met these new members, make a point to introduce yourself; welcome them; and make them feel at home at HCWRT.

I also wish to recognize members who have joined and are serving with me on the newly formed HCWRT Membership Committee: Norman Lewis, Gary Chandler, Emily Ryan, and Martha Campbell. We have room for a couple more; so if you have an interest and a few minutes to share each month, please contact me at [byork7@comcast.net](mailto:byork7@comcast.net).

At our last two monthly meetings we have been busy brainstorming ideas and shaping strategies to attract new members as well as serve our current members.

Our thrust is to build upon 'current successes' and to extend our communication network into different venues and organizations. As a starting point, we are reaching out to area colleges and high school history departments. Early responses have been promising

Another strategy to highlight HCWRT and to "trigger discussion" is crafting a lapel pin. An order is now being processed and with a little luck, these attractive lapel pins will be available for sale at our March meeting.

One last thought. HCWRT "member growth" is best influenced by member outreach and making connections with colleagues at work, social organizations or neighbors. In our culture, people like to be asked to participate. Extending an invitation to join us at a meeting is a powerful way to introduce them to HCWRT.

## MARCH BOOK RAFFLE

By Donnie Stowe



The March book raffle will start with a book about one of my favorite generals **LEE** written by Douglas Southall Freeman. Now this is an abridgement of the Pulitzer Prize-Winning 4-Volume set of Freeman's and is a donation by Ed Ekholm. Our next selection is **THE MEMORIAL VOLUME OF JEFFERSON DAVIS** by J. William Jones D.D. This volume is a gift provided by Linda Crist and the Rice Fondern Library and is still completely sealed in the cover from the publisher. Third in the raffle is a coffee-table book from the Collection of Eric C. Caren. **CIVIL WAR EXTRA – A Newspaper History of the Civil War from Nat Turner to 1863**. The final selection this month is a civil war classic – **TEAM of RIVALRS – The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln** by Doris Kearns Goodwin and is a gift from the library of David Shaffer. This month, I'm also raffling a selection of various civil war magazines.

I wish to continue my thanks and praise to all you members bringing in these marvelous volumes to share with us each meeting. Without this type of support, our meetings would lose a lot of its fun and entertainment. Please keep the HCWRT in mind when you do some of your Spring-cleaning and donate a well-read book or magazine for our raffles.

## MARCH QUIZ By Jim Godlove

**Comparing Robert E. Lee to one of his brothers, Mary Chestnut wrote: "I like (the brother) better, and I like his looks too."**

**Among the items in the Nau collection is a letter from RE Lee to this same brother. Having just resigned from the US Army,**

**RE Lee is writing as a civilian to his brother who is still in US service.**



**Name this brother and his branch of service.**

# THE HOUSTON CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

## 2014 - 2015 SPEAKERS CAMPAIGN – THE HESS CLUB

Mar. 19, 2015 - Dr. Sally Anne Schmidt – *“The Nau Civil War Collection”*

Apr. 16, 2015 - Gordon Rhea – *“Grant's Overland Campaign - 1864”*

May 21, 2015 - Eric Jacobson – *“Baptism of Fire - in the Federal Lines at Franklin”*

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