



General Orders

Jennings' Brigade

Vol. 26
No. 8
Apr
2015

www.houstoncivilwar.com



April 2015 MEETING
Thursday, April 16, 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
or call Don Zuckero at (281) 479-1232
by 6 PM on Monday April 13, 2015
Dinner \$30; Lecture Only \$10

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

The HCWRT Presents
Gordon Rhea

Speaking on:
Grant's Overland Campaign 1864
(The Conclusion)

Last year, we journeyed with Grant and Lee in the spring of 1864 as they grappled with one another in the Wilderness and around Spotsylvania House. This year we will follow them as they maneuver to the North Anna River, where Lee will once again stymie the Army of the Potomac with a clever wedge-shaped formation, arranged so as to split the Union juggernaut in half and give Lee a chance to engage at least part of the Federal force with parity of numbers. Fortune will intervene, and Lee will fall ill with dysentery and find himself unable to deliver the attack he so ingeniously arranged.

After three days of stalemate, Grant will break the impasse with a midnight withdrawal, pulling his army across the North Anna and sidling southeastward along the Pamunkey River. Lee will respond by interposing between Grant and Richmond, and the mounted arms of each force will lock horns in a day-

long cavalry battle at Haw's Shop. The armies will stare each other down across Totopotomoy Creek until the martial center of gravity shifts a few miles south to a strategic intersection called Old Cold Harbor. There Grant will almost achieve a breakthrough on June 1 and, emboldened by his near success, venture a massive frontal assault on June 3. His failure to breach the strong Confederate defenses will bring Grant's monolith to a grinding halt.

Undeterred, Grant plans yet another offensive, dispatching his cavalryman Phil Sheridan on a raid to cut the railroads north of Richmond and plotting a movement by the Army of the Potomac to slice the remainder of Lee's supply lines by capturing Petersburg. Grant's maneuver from Cold Harbor to Petersburg is a masterpiece of military logistics, but the culmination of the operation - an assault against Petersburg's defenses by Baldy Smith's 18th Corps, supported by Winfield Hancock's 2nd Corps - proves a disappointment.

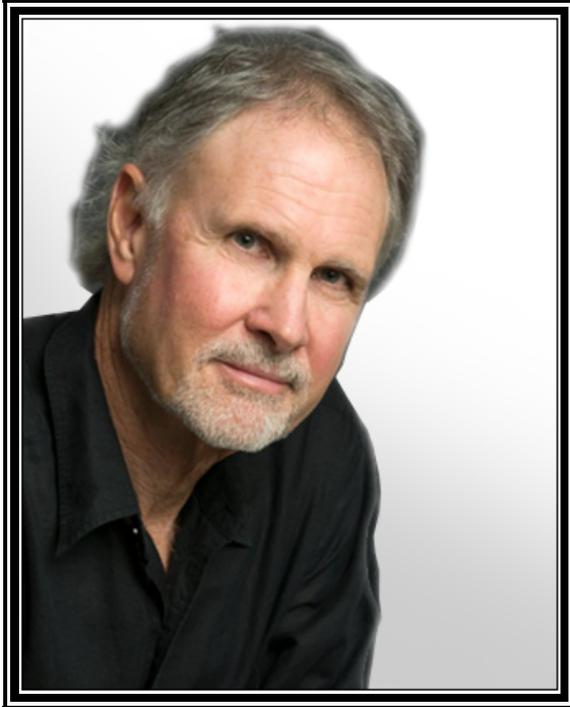
We will close with a rousing discussion of the comparative generalship of Grant and Lee and a debate over which of those generals "won" the campaign.



President Nate Jennings
Recovering

Our HCWRT President, Nate Jennings sustained a head injury in a fall at his home on Sunday March 22nd and has been recuperating in the hospital since the 23rd. He is on the road to recovery and this week was moved to a rehab facility. You may send cards to his home address at 13506 Pebblebrook St., Houston, TX, 77079. He is not yet receiving visitors or phone calls. Please keep Nate in your thoughts and prayers as we wish him a speedy and full recovery.

About Gordon Rhea



Mr. Gordon C. Rhea

Gordon C. Rhea has authored six award-winning books about the Overland Campaign, including *The Battle of the Wilderness; The Battles for Spotsylvania Courthouse; To the North Anna River; Cold Harbor; Carrying the Flag;* and *In the Footsteps of Grant and Lee.* A frequent lecturer throughout the country on military history and a practicing attorney, he has appeared on the History, A&E, and Discovery networks and has written numerous articles in scholarly and popular publications.

THE HCWRT

2015 SPEAKERS CAMPAIGN THE HESS CLUB

April 16, 2014 - Gordon Rhea – *“Grant's Overland Campaign - 1864”*

May 21, 2014 - Eric Jacobson - *“Baptism of Fire - in the Federal Lines at Franklin ”*

www.HoustonCivilWar.com

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.

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.

For additional information visit these websites:

<http://www.museumofthegulfcoast.org>

<http://www.visitsabinepassbattleground.com>

APRIL BOOK RAFFLE

By Donnie Stowe



The April book raffle will start with **FORTY-SIX YEARS IN THE ARMY – John M. Schofield** with a Foreword by William Ferraro. This volume was a donation from the Fondern Rice University Library. Our next selection is **LAST TO JOIN THE FIGHT – The 66th Georgia Infantry** by Daniel Cone and is a donation from Nate Jennings. Third in our raffle is a book /monograph combination of both north and south: **MINNESOTA IN THE WAR** by Kenneth Carley and two monographs: **History of the 48th Alabama Volunteer Infantry Regiment, C.S.A.** by Sgt. John Dykes Taylor & **History of the Third Alabama Regiment, C.S.A.** by Col. Charles Forsyth. This last monograph has a roster of the Third Regiment from 1861-1865. Next is another donation courtesy of Lynda Crist – **MARY BOYKIN CHESTNUT – A Confederate Woman's Life** by Mary A. DeCredico. Our final selection is **MASTER OF WAR – The Life of General George H. Thomas** from James Godlove.

Thanks, as always, for those of you who continue to contribute your used books and magazines to make this raffle such a wonderful and entertaining addition to our monthly gatherings.

Naval Re-enactment Event

In Jefferson, Texas



The Historic Jefferson Railway captures the spirit of the Civil War during Pilgrimage & Civil War Weekend in Jefferson, May 2 and 3, 2015, by recreating the battle of the Great Locomotive Chase aboard a live steam train, with soldiers, sailors and Marines from the North and South fighting along the track. Tickets: \$15.00. For more information call 866-398-2038 or 903-665-6400, or go to:

<http://www.jeffersoncivilwardays.com/>

IN MEMORIAM

Lee Adams, age 74 and a member of the Round Table for the past several years, died of a sudden heart attack at College Station on February 13, 2015. It's somehow fitting that Lee died in College Station following his attendance at an Aggie baseball game, because Lee loved Texas A&M and was a dedicated fan of all Aggie sports, especially football.

A native Houstonian, Lee graduated from St. Thomas High School. Passing on football scholarships to both Rice and the Naval Academy, Lee entered Texas A&M in 1959 and graduated four years later with a business degree. Lee and Betty Leatherwood were married on June 1, 1963, and Betty survives her husband as does their daughter, Carroll Ann Adams.

After brief service in the U.S. Marines, Lee began a distinguished 49-year career in the rice industry, retiring as President of American Rice, Inc. four years ago. Lee held many positions in the rice industry, including Chairman of the USA Rice Millers' Association and Chairman of the USA Rice Federation.

Lee was an active member of St. Laurence Catholic Church in Sugar Land, and his funeral was held there on February 20. Inurnment took place recently in the Adams' family plot at historic Morton Cemetery in Richmond.

APRIL QUIZ

By Jim Godlove

The Overland Campaign is also known as the Wilderness Campaign after the first historic battle between Generals US Grant and RE Lee. Among the over 25000 casualties was a South Carolinian general. He was accompanying Gen. Longstreet on a reconnaissance of the Federal position. In an eerie parallel to the wounding of Stonewall Jackson the year before and near the same spot, Confederate soldiers fired on Longstreet's party. Longstreet was severely wounded while this general was mortally wounded.



Who was this 28 year-old officer?

LEE SURRENDERS TO GRANT

APRIL 9, 1865 - APPOMATTOX



Figure 1 - "The Surrender" by Keith Rocco

Lee arrived at the McLean house about one o'clock and took a seat in the parlor. A half hour later, the sound of horses on the stage road signaled the approach of General Grant. Entering the house, Grant greeted Lee in the center of the room. The generals presented a contrasting appearance; Lee in a new uniform and Grant in his mud-spattered field uniform. Grant, who remembered meeting Lee once during the Mexican War, asked the Confederate general if he recalled their meeting. Lee replied that he did, and the two conversed in a very cordial manner, for approximately 25 minutes. The subject had not yet gotten around to surrender until finally, Lee, feeling the anguish of defeat, brought Grant's attention to it. Grant, who later confessed to being embarrassed at having to ask for the surrender from Lee, said simply that the terms would be just as he had outlined them in a previous letter.

The terms would parole officers and enlisted men but required that all Confederate military equipment be relinquished. The discussion between the generals then drifted into the prospects for peace, but Lee, once again taking the lead, asked Grant to put his terms in writing. When Grant finished, he handed the terms to his former adversary, and Lee -- first donning spectacles used for reading-- quietly looked them over. When he finished reading, the bespectacled Lee looked up at Grant and remarked "This will have a very happy effect on my army." Lee asked if the terms allowed his men to keep their horses, for in the Confederate army men owned their mounts. Lee explained that his men would need these animals to farm once they returned to civilian life. Grant responded that he would not change the terms as written (which had no provisions allowing private soldiers to keep their mounts) but would order his officers to allow any Confederate claiming a horse or a mule to keep it. General Lee agreed that this concession would go a long way toward promoting healing. Grant's generosity extended further. When Lee mentioned that his men had been without rations for several days, the Union commander arranged for 25, 000 rations to be sent to the hungry Confederates. After formal copies of the surrender terms, and Lee's acceptance, had been drafted and exchanged, the meeting ended.

Reprinted from: <http://www.nps.gov/apco/the-meeting.htm>



Houston Civil War Round Table
P. O. Box 4215
Houston, TX 77210-4215

