



General Orders

Godlove's Brigade

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2018

www.houstoncivilwar.com

JANUARY, 2018 MEETING
Thursday, January 18, 2018

The HESS Club
5430 Westheimer Rd @ Westheimer Way
6:00 Cash Bar
6:45 Dinner & Meeting
7:30 Program Begins

E-mail Reservation is Preferred;
E-mail Don Zuckero at drzuckero@sbcglobal.net,
or call (281) 479-1232 by 6 pm Monday, January
15, 2018

Dinner \$32; Lecture Only \$10

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

The HCWRT Presents **Edwin C. Bearss** **Speaking on:**

“Brice’s Crossroads and Tupelo”

In late May 1864, Maj. Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest set out from Mississippi with his cavalry corps to enter Tennessee and destroy the Nashville & Chattanooga Railroad, which was carrying men and supplies from Nashville to support Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman’s campaign against Atlanta. Sherman, who suspected the Confederate cavalry leader would cause havoc behind his lines, ordered Brig. Gen. Samuel Sturgis to move from Memphis to counter Forrest and to control northern Mississippi. Sturgis’s first objective was the Mobile and Ohio Railroad that ran north and south from Tupelo. Forrest’s cavalry met Sturgis’ infantry and cavalry column on June 10th at Brice’s Crossroads, 20 miles north of Tupelo, beating back the first Union cavalry

division to arrive there. Sturgis sent in infantry reinforcements and counterattacked the Confederates. Forrest, although outnumbered two to one, used his more mobile cavalry to threaten both ends of the Union infantry line simultaneously and his artillery to focus on the center. When Forrest’s 2nd Tennessee Cavalry, on a wide flanking move, captured the bridge over Tishomingo Creek in Sturgis’ rear, the Union force fell back. The Confederate cavalrymen pursued the rapidly retreating Federals several miles toward Memphis. Forrest’s brilliant tactical victory against long odds cemented his reputation as one of the foremost mounted infantry leaders of the war.



Edwin C. Bearss

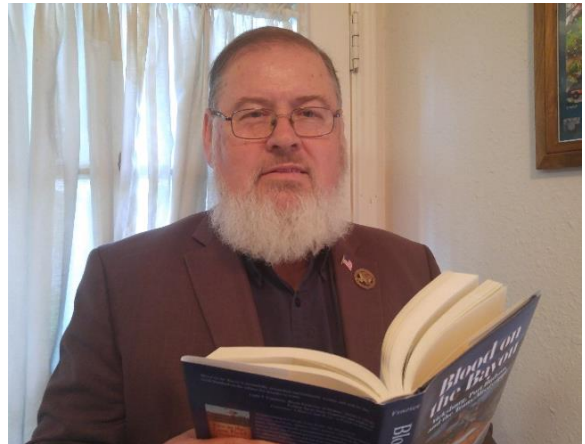
Our distinguished speaker, Edwin C. Bearss, wrote the book *Forrest at Brice's Cross Roads and in North Mississippi* in 1864 (first published in 1979), which still stands as a foundation for subsequent study of this battle -- one of the most

spectacular Confederate victories in the Civil War's western theater. It is considered by many as Nathan Bedford Forrest's greatest battle. Ed Bearss will focus on this battle, but will also bridge briefly to the Tupelo Campaign about a month later, which resulted in a very different outcome. Coincidentally, some HCWRT members are relatives of two notable persons involved at Brice's Crossroads. Rev. Samuel A. Agnew's home, which soldiers' accounts referred to as the "white house" and the "White House Ridge," would become part of the last stand in the battle. LTC Robert Cowden commanded the 59th U.S. Colored Infantry Regiment in Bouton's Brigade, and was severely wounded in that stubborn rearguard stand at the White House Ridge. Ed Bearss also will address current progress toward battlefield preservation at both Brice's Crossroads and Tupelo.

About Edwin C. Bearss

Edwin C. Bearss, a U. S. Marine veteran of WWII and historian emeritus of the National Park Service, is the most well-known battlefield guide in America and leads military history tours year-round of the Civil War, American Revolution, American West, and World War I and World War II in Europe. He is acclaimed as one of the stars of Ken Burns' award-winning PBS series, *The Civil War*. In 1956, he helped locate and raise the ironclad gunboat *Cairo*, one of the most significant artifacts of the Civil War. He is the author of several books including *Hardluck Ironclad: The Sinking and the Salvage of the Cairo*; *The Vicksburg Campaign: Volumes I, II and III*; *Steele's Retreat from Camden & The Battle of Jenkins' Ferry*; ***Forrest at Brice's Cross Roads***; *Fields of Honor: Pivotal Battles of the Civil War*, with James McPherson; *Receding Tide: Vicksburg and Gettysburg – Campaigns that Changed the Civil War*, with Parker Hills; *The Petersburg Campaign: Volumes I and II*, with Bruce Suderow. Ed is recipient of the Frank E. Vandiver Award of Merit from the Houston Civil War Round Table, along with many other awards and honors. He has been our speaker in

virtually every HCWRT campaign for decades and a frequent guide for many of our Round Table tours over that period.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *By Jim Godlove*

Happy New Year! May your holiday season have been as joyful and rewarding as possible and may 2018 bring you more of the same.

We are privileged again to have Ed Bearss as our speaker to start off the New Year. It is always a pleasure to have a "living legend" address us. My deep appreciation goes out to Marsha Franty who takes such good care of Ed when he is visiting Houston. Be sure to bring a friend to hear Ed's talk and to take part in our silent auction.

Two stars of the silent auction are: a 24"x16" Keith Rocco print "Rally on the Battery" (160/2000) generously donated by our Vice-President Michael Harrington; and a 35"x25" framed Bruce Marshall print "Rebel Yell" (1243/1865) depicting Terry's Texas Rangers, generously donated by Past President Gary Chandler. Among the many books and other items is a diorama of a Rebel artillery crew and cannon created by former HCWRT member Mike Pierce. There is also a Gregory Tsistinas print of US Grant (74/950) and a large framed portrait of a Confederate general.

There are also numerous bundles of magazines which will be offered as bundles and not as individual issues. They include:

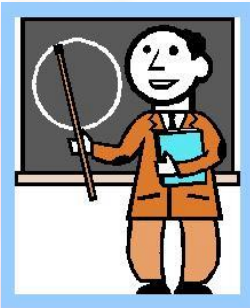
- Blue & Gray – 25+ issues
- North-South Trader – 20+ issues
- America's Civil War - 31 issues
- The Civil War Monitor - 12 issues

Civil War Times - 36 issues
North & South - 12 issues
Confederate Veteran - 40 issues
Gettysburg Magazine - 14 issues

Be sure to bring your checkbook!

JANUARY QUIZ by Jim Godlove

Q. Gen. Samuel D. Sturgis was in overall command of a force of Union infantry and cavalry at Brice's Crossroads. His cavalry commander had conducted a very productive raid during the Vicksburg campaign. This raid was credited by U. S. Grant as being "one of the most brilliant cavalry exploits in the war." This officer had a less brilliant time on June 10, 1864, at Brice's Crossroads.



Who was this general who became commander of the 10th Cavalry after the war?

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

By Scott Wilkey

The Membership Committee is proud to welcome Rick and Alice Ciacco who have joined the HCWRT for the second half of the 2017-2018 "Campaign".

When you see our newest members at meetings, please introduce yourself and make them feel welcome! We hope everyone has had a happy holiday season and are having a fantastic start to 2018!

With the start of the new year, we have a unique opportunity to attract new members for the remainder of our meetings through May. Along with the fantastic speakers scheduled, new memberships are discounted on a pro-rata basis. These discounted dues offer prospective members a "trial basis" of the HCWRT, but they are truly vital to the HCWRT's ability to provide travel and lodging costs for our speakers. As you know, the HCWRT does not pay speaking fees, stipends, or honoraria to our guests. If you haven't yet sent in your dues for the year, or have been attending meetings on a "month-by-month" basis, ***please*** consider a new individual or family membership and help us maintain the quality scholars and lecturers that you have come to expect.

Once again, please mail your check to Treasurer Barry Brueggeman as soon as possible (the mailing address can be found on the return address page in this newsletter).

NOTE CHANGE TO SPEAKER'S SCHEDULE

We are pleased to announce the return to HCWRT of Vandiver Award recipient **Gordon Rhea**, on **March 15, 2018**, to speak on his new fifth book on the Overland Campaign, ***On to Petersburg: Grant and Lee, June 4-15, 1864.***



Two WWII Vets and USMC Honor Guard at January 2017 HCWRT meeting: Ed Bearss (R), the late Norm Lewis (L)

THE HOUSTON CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

2017 - 2018 SPEAKERS CAMPAIGN – THE HESS CLUB

Jan. 18, 2018 Edwin C. Bearss: *“Brice’s Crossroads and Tupelo”*

Feb. 15, 2018 Mark Christ: *“ ‘All Cut to Pieces and Gone to Hell’: Atrocities During the Camden Expedition”*

Mar 15, 2018 **[NOTE—NEW!]** Gordon Rhea:
“On to Petersburg: Grant and Lee, June 4 - 15, 1864”

Apr. 19, 2018 Lesley J. Gordon: *“The 2nd Texas at Shiloh”*

May 17, 2018 To Be Determined – *Holding for 2018 Vandiver Award recipient*

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Houston Civil War Round Table
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