



General Orders

Godlove's Brigade

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2018

www.houstoncivilwar.com

APRIL, 2018 MEETING
Thursday, April 19, 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, April 16,
2018
Dinner \$32; Lecture Only \$10

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

The HCWRT Presents

Lesley J. Gordon Speaking on:

***“A Badge of Conspicuous Gallantry:
The 2nd Texas and Questions of
Cowardice at Shiloh and Corinth”***

The 2nd Texas Infantry Regiment was one of the first infantry regiments to be mustered into the Confederate Army from Texas. It was organized by **John Creed Moore** in Galveston during the summer of 1861. Many of the men were from Houston and Galveston. After serving in the Department of Texas, it moved east of the Mississippi River and fought at the Battle of Shiloh in Tennessee on April 6-7, 1862. By the time that the 2nd Texas was engaged in the Battle of Corinth, Mississippi in October 1862, it had already become a seasoned combat unit. The 2nd Texas went on to fight at Hatchie Bridge, Snyder's Bluff and played a prominent role in the defense of

Vicksburg, where the regiment was distinguished for its defense of a crescent-shaped fortification to be known as the Second Texas Lunette located in the center of the Vicksburg line of defense, under the command of Colonel **Ashbel Smith**.

After the surrender of Vicksburg on July 4, 1863, furlough to Texas as paroled prisoners of war, and prisoner exchange in November 1863, the regiment was reassembled near Houston and placed under Gen. John B. Magruder. With heavy losses during its service in Mississippi, the 2nd Texas could muster no more than a battalion of effective troops, but continued to carry the regimental designation throughout the remainder of the war. Stationed at Galveston Island, the 2nd Texas continued to participate in the defense of Galveston. Rather than surrender as hostilities ended in June 1865, the men disbanded and went home.



Lesley J. Gordon

The 2nd Texas Infantry went to war with high expectations they would perform bravely in battle, which they did on many a field. However, soon after their baptism of fire at Shiloh, there were public accusations of cowardice. General William Hardee called the entire regiment “a pack of cowards.” Dr. Gordon’s talk examines the regiment’s beginnings and how these stinging accusations had short and long-term implications, not just for this regiment, but in understanding the wider significance of this charge.

About Lesley J. Gordon

Lesley J. Gordon is the Charles G. Summersell Chair of Southern History at the University of Alabama. She earned her BA from the College of William and Mary and her MA and PhD in History from the University of Georgia. Her publications include *General George E. Pickett in Life and Legend* (1998), *Intimate Strategies: Military Commanders and their Wives* (2001), and *This Terrible War: the Civil War and its Aftermath* (2008). She served as editor of the academic journal *Civil War History* from 2010-2015. She previously taught at Murray State U. (KY) and University of Akron (OH).

Dr. Gordon is no stranger to the HCWRT. She last spoke to our Round Table **10 years ago**, on April 17, 2008 on “*General George E. Pickett in Life and Legend*.” Coincidence #2—HCWRT Pres. **Jim Godlove** was our President then too—10 years between terms!

2018 Vandiver Award to be Presented to David E. Roth

If you attended our March 15 meeting, you know that David E. Roth is the recipient of this year’s Frank E. Vandiver Award of Merit. The Vandiver Award of Merit will be bestowed on Mr. Roth at our meeting on May 17, followed by his keynote presentation.

Our members who are familiar with *Blue & Gray* magazine will recognize Dave Roth as the co-founder, editor and publisher of this

outstanding Civil War magazine. Founded in 1983, *Blue & Gray* is no longer published, but for many years it was the go-to Civil War magazine for readers who wanted in-depth analysis of particular battles or campaigns. For many of us, preparation for a Civil War battlefield tour began with reading the write up of the battle in *Blue & Gray*.

Mr. Roth makes his home in Columbus, OH. He’s the co-founder of the Central Ohio Civil War Round Table and a dedicated Civil War battlefield preservationist.

The Vandiver Award of Merit honors the memory of Dr. Frank E. Vandiver, who died in 2005 at age 79. Dr. Vandiver was one of the earliest members of our round table. He was a distinguished Civil War historian in his own right, and some of us regard Dr. Vandiver’s book, *Their Tattered Flags*, as the best single-volume history of the Confederacy. During an academic career that spanned more than four decades, Dr. Vandiver also served as president of Rice University (1969-70), the University of North Texas (1979-1981), and Texas A&M University (1981-1988).

BOOK RAFFLE By Donnie Stowe

We start this month’s raffle with **THE SOUTH’S FINEST - The First Missouri Confederate Brigade** by Phillip Thomas Tucker. This volume tells the story of a



distinguished group of Irish immigrants whose role in the Civil War may have been forgotten. Next in our lineup is the **TERRIBLE SWIFT SWORD** by Bruce Catton. This is volume two of Catton’s Centennial

History of the Civil War. The third book this month is **MEMOIRS of ROBERT E. LEE** by A. L. Long. The fourth selection is **A CIVIL LIFE in an UNCIVIL TIME - Julia Wilbur’s Struggle for Purpose** by Paula Tarnapol Whitacre. Julia Wilbur was a nineteenth century abolitionist. The final book this month is **GENERAL ROBERT F. HOKE - Lee’s Modest Warrior** by Daniel W. Barefoot. This

book was donated by our President, James Godlove.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *By Jim Godlove*

I am excited to welcome back Dr. Lesley Gordon to our Round Table. It was ten years ago this month when she spoke to us about Gen. George Pickett. At that time, she was Associate Professor at the University of Akron in Ohio. She is currently the Charles G. Summersell Chair of Southern History at the University of Alabama. Go Crimson Tide!

At the last meeting, I mentioned the generous donation of items by John McGuire. His minie balls will be used as awards in the monthly quiz question. I presented an authentic Civil War bayonet to Gary Chandler in recognition of his services to HCWRT. He has been invaluable behind the scenes of HCWRT, especially in obtaining and hosting speakers. John wanted this bayonet to go to someone who would appreciate it, and will be pleased to know that Gary immediately recognized the bayonet as being an early version of an Austrian type. John praised our newsletter; and, I want to thank Roland for his outstanding work.

I want to welcome Eugene Boisaubin as our newest Director. He served on the Vandiver Award committee, and agreed to be nominated at the last meeting of the committee. The Board subsequently elected him at their last Board meeting. Thank you, Gene!

Gene replaces Nate Jennings. Our thanks go to Nate for his services to HCWRT. His leadership in getting donations to provide cornerstones for the Texans interred at the McGavock Confederate Cemetery was outstanding.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT *By Scott Wilkey*

As I spoke to a member at a recent meeting, he was discussing his interesting travels to various historical sites and museums in the greater Houston / Galveston area. During these travels, he indicated that he had

held conversations with several other visitors who were also like-minded history buffs. Naturally, this member began speaking about our HCWRT and was surprised when the patron remarked that they had not heard of our organization. The point is, despite our long-standing and proud history as one of the pre-eminent Round Tables in the United States, we still have a long way to go to reach potential members with similar historical interests.



There are always opportunities to venture out and broaden our reach – including the upcoming 2nd Annual Baton Rouge Civil War Symposium (“Civil War Life: Sex, Lies, and Tintypes”) on April 27 - 29, hosted by the Baton Rouge CWRT. We do our best to promote these events not only for the benefit of our members, but also in an effort to cross-promote our national Civil War Round Tables. And while Louisiana is a long road to travel for most of us, other locations you visit closer to home may be a perfect place to capture the interest of a future member. Please let us know if you will be making visits where our flyers would reach potential members and would be favorably received. We'll make every effort to get you some of our HCWRT promotional materials.

APRIL QUIZ *by Jim Godlove*

Q. Charles P. Roland's biography of the Confederate full general at Shiloh was sub-titled “Soldier of Three Republics.”



Who was he and what were the three republics?

THE HOUSTON CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

2017 - 2018 SPEAKERS CAMPAIGN – THE HESS CLUB

Apr. 19, 2018 Lesley J. Gordon: *“A Badge of Conspicuous Gallantry: The 2nd Texas and Questions of Cowardice at Shiloh and Corinth”*

May 17, 2018 David E. Roth: *“Behind the Scenes at Blue & Gray Magazine”*

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