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General Orders

Altavilla's Brigade

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2024



APRIL, 2024 MEETING
Thursday, April 18, 2024

Rudi Lechner's Restaurant
2503 South Gessner Road
6:00 (or sooner) Dinner
7:00 Program Begins

E-mail reservations are preferred. Please
e-mail Barry Brueggeman at
bgbrueg@aol.com or call (281) 480-1130
by 6 pm Monday, April 15, 2024

***** Reservations are Required *****

There is no cost for dues-paid members.
\$10.00 charge for visitors.

U.S. Navy was reminiscent of the Japanese assault eighty years later on Pearl Harbor.

Once Virginia seceded, its insurgent forces initiated a relentless campaign of isolation, intimidation and obstruction against Gosport. The yard's Commodore Charles McCauley was trapped between the secessionists' pressure and the inability of Navy Secretary Gideon Welles to provide reinforcements. Attempts to remove the big steam frigate *Merrimack* failed, largely due to the masked actions of the yard's Southern officers. But despite the setback, the watchful guns of the Home Squadron's flagship *Cumberland* gave assurance the yard was well guarded.

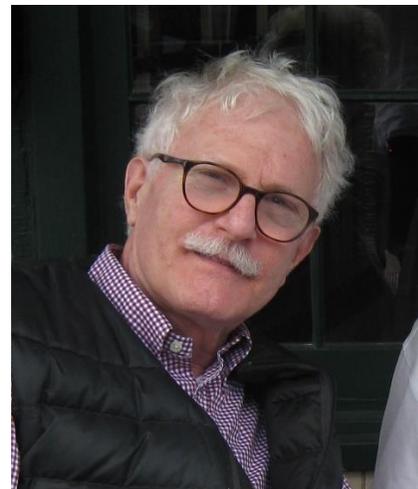
Stephen Kinnaman will discuss the Union's flawed response to threats of the yard's seizure and the subsequent loss of the nation's most valuable dockyard together with eleven U. S. Navy warships and the 1,200 heavy guns.

The HCWRT Presents

Stephen Kinnaman speaking on:

“The Destruction and Abandonment of the Gosport Navy Yard”

In the opening days of the Civil War, the U.S. Navy suffered the catastrophic loss of its most valuable navy yard at Gosport, Virginia, commonly known as the Norfolk Navy Yard. Early in the morning of Sunday, April 21, fleeing federal forces set fire to and abandoned the navy yard, destroying ten warships, leaving 1,200 naval guns to the secessionists and giving up a superbly equipped dockyard. No lives were lost, but the humiliation suffered by the



Stephen Kinnaman

About Stephen Kinnaman

Stephen Chapin Kinnaman is a naval architect and marine engineer, and an alumnus of the University of Michigan and Cambridge University. His first career was in the offshore industry, where he worked as an international consultant to shipyards, rig operators, oil companies and engineering contractors. He later pursued a second career as a naval historian focusing on navies of the Civil War era. He has published three works of history: *John Lenthall, The Life of a Naval Constructor*; *Merrimack, The Biography of a Steam Frigate* and *Captain Bulloch: The Life of James Dunwoody Bulloch, Naval Agent of the Confederacy*. His fourth book presents the story of one of the seminal opening events of the Civil War, the destruction and abandonment of the Norfolk Navy Yard. Stephen Kinnaman and his wife Maureen Carroll live in Chappell Hill, Texas. Stephen is a member of our Round Table.

Stephen's new book *A Crisis of Loyalties* is available through Vernon Press via the following link: <https://vernonpress.com/book/1888>. A special discount code CFC2060052D4 entitles you to a 24% discount off the book's list price.



PRESIDENT'S POST

By Keith Altavilla

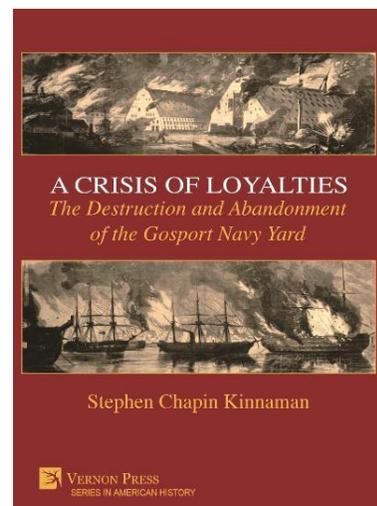
Greetings Round Table members! Just like that, we are suddenly nearing the end of the calendar. Just two speakers remaining, but plenty about which to be excited. It has been

quite a year so far, and we are shaping up for a strong finish.

Many of you were present to see Fay Yarbrough give a great talk about the Choctaws and their support for the Confederacy. Lots of great questions and discussion afterward about a part of the war we don't usually hear much about. We stay local this month, going back to a repeat speaker from our own Round Table, Stephen Kinnaman, an accomplished naval historian. Stephen will talk about his newest book, a history of the Gosport Naval Yard in Virginia. Check out the above article for a discount code in picking up your own copy before the meeting.

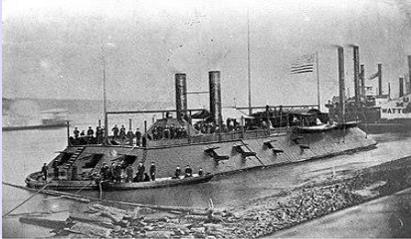
With only two meetings to go, there are two things you should be thinking about. First is renewing your membership for next year. Why not renew now? Get your payments to Barry, either by mail, in person, or online, and check that off the to-do list. Make sure you don't miss anything from the newsletter (including quiz questions!), or anything for the coming year, and help keep the Round Table going strong for another HCWRT campaign. As we look ahead to next year, and another slate of board members, there are always opportunities for participating. I encourage you to reach out to the board if you have skills or interests that would help the Round Table function and grow. We can't (and don't want to) do anything without all of you.

I look forward to seeing everyone soon.



APRIL QUIZ

By Jim Godlove



Who was the Union leader who organized and commanded the Union land and sea forces that led to the capture of Norfolk?

SAVE THE DATE

Hood's Texas Brigade, Re-Activated recently announced the dates and location of their 2024 Annual Scholarly Seminar. It will be held November 15 and 16 in Huntsville, Texas. Further details will be provided at a later date.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

By Michael Clennan

Spring has sprung! Texas bluebonnets are blooming! Our Round Table is ready to party! In March, thirty old and new members enjoyed good German beer and cuisine at Rudi's! Dr. Fay Yarbrough's lecture and research on the Civil War involvement of Native Americans in battles in Oklahoma brought on a blizzard of questions and answers.

Our gang also had a festive time with Rita Campbell's book raffle and Jim Godlove's quiz questions. This month, we will hear HCWRT member Stephen Kinnaman speak about the destruction and abandonment of the Gosport

Navy Yard. Consider bringing a friend to this meeting! New members can still join in April and have a membership that extends through to June 2025. What a bonus! If you have any questions regarding our organization or membership, please call me at (713) 864-1204. I hope to see you on April 18!

BOOK RAFFLE

By Rita Campbell

Doing your spring cleaning? Consider donating your "gently used" Civil War books to the Round Table's arsenal of literary treasures. Your donations will enable us to include more books in each month's raffle, making it more fun with various topics and authors! This month's selections are **BEFORE ANTIETAM: THE BATTLE FOR SOUTH MOUNTAIN** by John Michael Priest, **THE SWORD OF LINCOLN: THE ARMY OF THE POTOMAC** by Jeffry Wert, **SHILOH AND THE WESTERN CAMPAIGN OF 1862** by Edward Cunningham, **TO THE GATES OF RICHMOND: THE PENINSULA CAMPAIGN** by Stephen Sears, **CHICKAMAUGA AND OTHER CIVIL WAR STORIES** by Shelby Foote, and **BATTLE IN THE WILDERNESS: GRANT MEETS LEE** by Grady McWhiney.

Remember, if you have any Civil War-themed books that you would like to donate to our raffle, please bring them to the next meeting!



2023 – 2024 SPEAKERS CAMPAIGN

Apr. 18, 2024 Stephen Kinnaman: “The Destruction and Abandonment of the
Gosport Navy Yard”
May 16, 2024 Ted Savas, 2024 Vandiver Award Recipient; topic TBA

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