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# General Orders

## *Walker's Brigade*

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### SEPTEMBER 2025 MEETING Thursday, September 18, 2025

Saltgrass Steakhouse  
8943 Katy Freeway  
6:00 pm (or sooner) - Dinner  
7:00 pm - Program Begins

\*\*\* No Reservations Required for this Meeting\*\*\*

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

the Union's eventual victory. However, Dr. Suri also emphasizes that the fight for full equality did not end with the war's conclusion. In the Reconstruction era, and even beyond, these Black veterans faced significant obstacles, effects that can still be felt today.

Dr. Suri's talk will present new research on the most extraordinary and enduring transformation that occurred during the Civil War, namely the emancipation of slaves and their rise as free, patriotic American citizens. His lecture will focus on the more than 125,000 slaves who became Union soldiers. Dr. Suri will address the questions of how this happened, the effect it had on the Civil War, and how it shaped the United States after the war. This is the story of how the Civil War indeed became a new birth of freedom for so many Americans and their descendants.

### The HCWRT Presents Jeremi Suri Speaking On:

#### **"How Slaves Became Union Soldiers (and Veterans)"**

Jeremi Suri has written numerous works and extensively studied the experiences of former slaves who became Union soldiers during the American Civil War. His research delves into how these individuals, motivated by the pursuit of equality and freedom, assisted the Union war effort, despite facing discrimination (in both pay and assignments), great dangers on the battlefield (especially if captured), and prejudice on both sides. Dr. Suri highlights the ways in which these former slaves were often relegated to non-combat duties and received lower pay. Through all this, these troops demonstrated remarkable courage and played a crucial role in



*Dr. Jeremi Suri*

## About Jeremi Suri

Jeremi Suri holds the Mack Brown Distinguished Chair for Leadership in Global Affairs at the University of Texas at Austin. He is a professor in the University's Department of History and the LBJ School of Public Affairs. Dr. Suri is the author and editor of eleven books on politics and foreign policy, most recently *Civil War by Other Means: America's Long and Unfinished Fight for Democracy*. His other books include *The Impossible Presidency*, *The Rise and Fall of America's Highest Office*, *Liberty's Surest Guardian: American Nation-Building from the Founders to Obama*, *Henry Kissinger and the American Century*, and *Power and Protest: Global Revolution and the Rise of Détente*. His writings appear in the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Wall Street Journal*, *CNN.com*, *Atlantic*, *Newsweek*, *Time*, *Wired*, *Foreign Affairs*, *Foreign Policy*, and other media. Dr. Suri is a popular public lecturer and comments frequently on radio and television news. His writing and teaching have received numerous prizes, including the President's Associates Teaching Excellence Award from the University of Texas and the Pro Bene Meritis Award for Contributions to the Liberal Arts. He hosts a weekly podcast, "This is Democracy."

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## President's Comments

*By Walker Agnew*

Welcome, welcome, welcome back! As announced earlier, we are all set to begin our new campaign at the Saltgrass Steakhouse located at 8943 Katy Freeway, just outside Loop 610. We are excited that all of our programs can be held here through May, 2026. The meeting room is just to the right as you enter the restaurant. The current set up will be to order from their menu and have individual checks. We will also be eating in the same room as the presentation.

Our programs committee has an incredibly talented lineup of speakers on a wide range of topics. The full list of these speakers and dates are shown on the back page of the newsletter.

After fifteen years of service on our website and email list, Philip Brown is stepping down. We thank him for all of the "behind the scenes" work he has done to help keep the public and our membership informed. The Round Table is seeking someone to step into this role. Please let me or any of our other officers or directors know of your interest.

## Treasurer's Report

*By Thad Fine*

Welcome back to everyone as we begin our 2025 - 2026 campaign! I'd like to remind everyone that the dues for this campaign are now being accepted and very much appreciated. Please pay cash or check at the meeting room door. You can also mail a check to Thad Fine, 3333 Luella Blvd, #216, LaPorte TX 77571. Please make checks payable to Houston Civil War Round Table.

When arriving at our meetings, please sign in so we can track our meeting attendance, update contact info, etc. Speaking of sign in sheets, you may see a quick survey relating to future topics, favorite Civil War personalities, possible tour ideas, fund raising efforts, etc.

One of our best attended meetings recently was 29 attendees in February 2025. Let's beat that number with our season opener and new venue at Saltgrass on Thursday, September 18<sup>th</sup>! Also, we averaged approximately \$40.00 in monthly raffle ticket revenue during the last campaign. Let's top that average this year!

## Membership Report

*By Michael Clennan*

Get Ready!---Set!---Go! Our new campaign kicks off with our September 18<sup>th</sup> meeting at Saltgrass Steakhouse. There's plenty of parking! Our talk by Dr. Suri entitled "How Slaves Became

Union Soldiers (and Veterans)” will be one to remember! Why not do a friend a favor and invite him/her to come? We’ll have our popular Civil War book raffle and the fun, competitive Civil War quiz right before Dr. Suri’s presentation.

Please remember to pay your membership dues if you haven’t already done so. The entire membership fee for the year is only \$50.00 for individuals and \$60.00 for families – best deal in town! If you have any questions, call me at (713) 864-1204. See you at the meeting!



*HCWRT members in attendance at the Jefferson Civil War Symposium last month. From left, Thad Fine, Ed Cotham, Donnie Stowe, and Walker Agnew. Ed gave a presentation on the critical decisions at the Battle of Galveston.*

## HTBAR UPDATES

Our July newsletter featured an article about Hood’s Texas Brigade Association, Re-Activated sponsoring their annual Scholarly Seminar in Huntsville, Texas on November 7 and 8, 2025. You can now register for this event by going to the HTBAR website: [hoodtexasbrigade.org](http://hoodtexasbrigade.org). Once you bring up their website, click on “Events.” Fliers regarding this event will be available at our meetings for those interested.

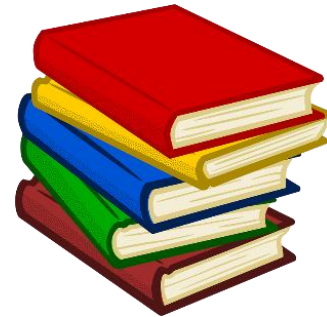
Also, HTBAR has announced they are sponsoring a Civil War tour in Virginia around mid-April 2026, and will provide further details at a later time.

## September Quiz

*By Jim Godlove*

Born a slave, this important abolitionist was one of the most famous Black leaders of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. He helped raise colored troops in the Civil War and had two sons serve in the 54<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts.

**Who was this escaped slave whose autobiography is essential reading in US history?**



## Monthly Book Raffle

*By Rita Campbell*

Welcome back, HCWRT members! I hope you have enjoyed many captivating books this summer. When attending our September meeting, please purchase raffle tickets for the following gems: **BATTLES AND LEADERS OF THE CIVIL WAR** (VOLUMES I, III, AND IV) by Robert Underwood Johnson, **SHILOH: IN HELL BEFORE NIGHT** by James Lee McDonough, and **SEASONS OF WAR: THE ORDEAL OF A CONFEDERATE COMMUNITY, 1861-1865** by Daniel E. Sutherland.

I’m looking forward to seeing everyone on the 18th!

## 2025-2026 SPEAKERS CAMPAIGN

Sept. 18, 2025	Dr. Jeremi Suri: "How Slaves Became Union Soldiers (and Veterans)"
Oct. 16, 2025:	Dr. Shae Smith Cox: "The Fabric of Civil War Society"
Nov. 20, 2025	Dr. Leah Tarwater: "Kentucky Soldiers in the Civil War"
Dec. 11, 2025	Reserved for Gary L. Chandler Graduate Student Award Recipient
Jan. 15, 2026	Dr. Don Frazier: "Tom Green: Soldier of Three Republics"
Feb. 19, 2026	Danny Sessums: "Granbury's Texas Brigade"
March 19, 2026	John Michael Priest: "Reynolds, Iverson, and Buford at Gettysburg: New Interpretations"
April 16, 2026	D. Scott Hartwig (2025 Vandiver Award Recipient): "I Dread the Thought of the Place: The Antietam Campaign"
May 21, 2026	Reserved for 2026 Vandiver Award Recipient

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**Houston Civil War Round Table**  
**c/o Thaddeus Fine**  
**3333 Luella Boulevard, Apt. 216**  
**La Porte, TX 77571-3614**

