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# General Orders

## *Walker's Brigade*

Vol. 37  
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2026



**APRIL 2026 MEETING**  
**Thursday, April 16, 2026**

**Saltgrass Steak House**  
**8943 Katy Freeway**  
**5:45 pm - 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 HCWRT Presents** **D. Scott Hartwig Speaking On:**

**“Antietam: The Soldiers’  
Experience”**

While many who study the American Civil War have opinions about the generals and generalship of the war's battles and campaigns, our idea of the soldiers' experience in those battles is largely shaped by Hollywood. We often imagine that somehow the Civil War was different than other wars America engaged in. It was in certain respects, but our mental picture of a Civil War battle is often at odds with what the participants experienced. Through letters written in the immediate aftermath of the battle, when the memories of the engagement were

still raw and fresh, and some outstanding post-war writing, we will try to strip away the nostalgia and myth and gain a greater understanding of what a battle like Antietam was really like for those who participated.



#### **About D. Scott Hartwig**

D. Scott Hartwig was the supervisory park historian at Gettysburg National Military Park and retired in 2014 after a 34-year career in the National Park Service, nearly all of it spent at Gettysburg. He received the regional Freeman Tilden Award for excellence in interpretation in 1993, and was a key player for the design of all aspects of the current Gettysburg museum/visitor center. Scott is the author of *To Antietam Creek: The Maryland Campaign from*

September 3 to September 16, published in September 2012 by Johns Hopkins University Press, and of *I Dread the Thought of the Place: The Battle of Antietam and End of the Maryland Campaign*, also published by Johns Hopkins in August 2023. The latter title won the 2024 Barksdale Award, Emerging Civil War's Book Award, and was one of two books which received honorable mention for the American Battlefield Trust 2024 History Prize.



*President Agnew with March speaker Evan Rothera*

## President's Comments

*By Walker Agnew*

We had a great presentation by Evan Rothera, Sam Houston State University, on "Our Sister Republic of Mexico." During the American Civil War, the French took control of the Mexican government due to Mexico stopping loan payments. Great Britain and Spain had also shipped troops to Mexico but did not want to take over the government. Mexico

was fighting to become a republic again while the U.S. was fighting to maintain its republic.

Because the Monroe Doctrine (1823) was still the law, the United States did not want France to have control of a nation in the Western Hemisphere. Following mounting military pressure from Mexican forces, financial strain, and pressure from the United States, Napoleon III ordered his troops to withdraw, with the final French forces leaving in 1867. During this time, the U.S. had to balance saving the Union while making sure the French did not invade our country.

Please be sure to let us know if you're interested in serving on a committee for the HCWRT such as membership or programs.

## Event Dispatches

There are still available spots remaining for the **Virginia battlefield tour** sponsored by Hood's Texas Brigade Association, Re-Activated. The tour is from April 14 – 18. Contact Thad Fine at (502) 475-3923 for information.

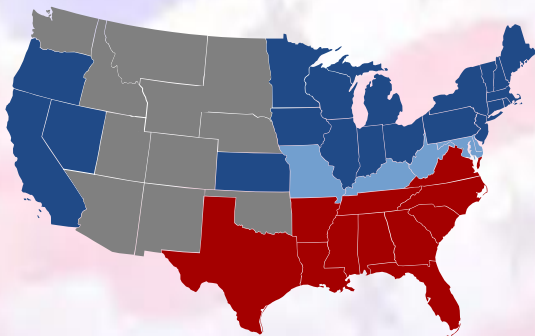
The Jessie Allen Wise Garden Club is sponsoring its **Jefferson Pilgrimage in Jefferson, Texas** from April 30 - May 3. The theme this year is "Honoring the Past, Celebrating the Future." It features beautifully restored historic homes, lush gardens, and enduring Southern charm. Visit their website [jeffersonpilgrimage.com](http://jeffersonpilgrimage.com) for information and tickets.

The **26<sup>th</sup> Annual Battle for Jefferson (Texas) Civil War Re-Enactment** will take place from May 1 - 3 in Jefferson. For event information and tickets, visit [battleforjefferson.com](http://battleforjefferson.com).

The Texas State Historical Association will host the **2026 Texas Revolution Rendezvous** April 17 – 19 at the Menger Hotel in San Antonio, Texas. The event will include the 1836 dinner and silent auction, walking tours and symposium, and access to the Witte Museum, Briscoe Western Art Museum, San Antonio Museum of Art, and the Ralston Family Collections Center at the Alamo. For additional information, visit their website at [tshaonline.org](http://tshaonline.org), then go to "Events."

## April Quiz *By Jim Godlove*

This soldier served in the armies of the Republic of Texas and the U. S. before the Civil War. He was the second highest ranking general of the Confederacy and the only "four star" Confederate general to die in the war. Who is this native of the Bluegrass State and adopted son of Texas?



## Membership Report *By Michael Clennan*

The 2025 - 2026 campaign has two more outstanding events lined up to close out this campaign: our meetings on April 16 and May 21. A new member signing up this month will see their dues cover the remainder of this campaign and the entire 2026 - 2027 campaign – the best deal in Houston! Remember, our fellowship begins at Saltgrass at 5:45 pm with a great dinner. At 7:00 pm, we begin our meeting which will feature our popular Civil War quiz and book raffle. Scott Hartwig's talk begins at approximately 7:15 pm. We expect a full house, so be sure to arrive early. I will see you at the front door. If you have any questions, please call me at (713) 864-1204.

## Monthly Book Raffle

*By Rita Campbell*

I believe we have an excellent selection to offer for this month's raffle. We start off with **LEE: THE LAST YEARS** by Charles Flood; **THE CIVIL WAR BATTLEFIELD GUIDE: THE DEFINITIVE GUIDE TO THE 384 PRINCIPAL BATTLES** by



Frances Kennedy and Patrick Noonan; **GRANT** by Ron Chernow; **GRAY GHOSTS AND REBEL RAIDERS: THE DARING EXPLOITS OF THE CONFEDERATE GUERILLAS** by Virgil

Carrington Jones; and **CIVIL WAR MEMORIES: LOST TALES OF THE CIVIL WAR** by S. T. Joshi.

Please be sure to purchase some raffle tickets when you check in for the meeting. Also, we always welcome your Civil War book donations!

## Civil War Humor

I come from a stupid family. During the Civil War, my great uncle fought for the West!

The Union might have won the war, but the South won the BBQ contest!

Why did the soldiers carry pencils? To draw their weapons!



## 2025 - 2026 SPEAKERS CAMPAIGN

April 16, 2026 D. Scott Hartwig (2025 Vandiver Award Recipient): “Antietam: The Soldiers’ Experience”  
May 21, 2026 Jerry Patterson: “A Layman’s Guide to Defending Your Confederate Ancestor Against Other Laymen”

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