

March, 2024

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We strive for accuracy. But if you see something that doesn't look right, please contact us. Sources for newsletter content available upon request.

From the Brigade Commander

During March, like every other month, Americans will recognize a plethora of holidays and other special events, health awareness reminder days and, in some cases, downright nonsense, like Cheese Doodle Day. Similarly, historians have created their own (no-nonsense) lists. But most of the items on their lists never make it to a square on a calendar page. Take, for example, March 2, the day Texas Governor Samuel Houston was forced to resign his post, and Texas formally joined the Confederacy. Which is too bad, because Houston is a unique character in American history and remains widely respected, warts and all. You'll find a synopsis of his life's story inside.

According to the American Battlefield Trust, more contemporary scholars and historians argue that women did fight in the Civil War, and the women who fought shared the same motivations as their male companions. Our March meeting speaker, Professor James R. Hedtke, will share his extensive research on the subject. You'll find a preview of his talk inside on page 2, as well as how (and by when) to sign up to attend the dinner that will precede the talk.

Planning work continues for a spring field trip; we expect to be able to share those details soon.

Barry

The Civil War Round Table of Eastern Pa., Inc. is a proud leader of America's battlefield preservation movement. It has been designated by the American Battlefield Trust (ABT) as a Top 300 Lifetime Donor, a Brigade member of the Color Bearer Society, and a member of ABT's 25-Year Club, all in recognition for its loyal and general support of battlefield preservation.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ Our 46th Campaign Year! ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Join us for:**“Women Combat Soldiers in the Civil War”****Tuesday, March 5, 2024**

During the Civil War, more than 2,100,000 men fought for the Union. But you never hear of any women, other than in the context of nursing or housekeeping. In the Victorian era of prudery, the women discussed in this lecture pretended to be men, took a male name, enlisted in the army and then *fought like demons!!* The question of female participation has been argued by historians; Prof. Hedtke will answer these questions head on in his forceful analysis of what the reality is. This program is especially relevant today.



Prof. James R. Hedtke earned a B.S. from St. Joseph's University, a M.A. in from Villanova University, and a Ph.D. from Temple University. He has taught history and political science at Cabrini University for 50 years.

SIGN UP TODAY ...

to attend “Women Combat Soldiers in the Civil War,” Tuesday, March 5, 2024

Dinner & lecture fee: \$30 ***Lecture-only fee: \$5**

All fees are payable at the door.

Delta Hotel by Marriot**7736 Adrienne Drive • Breinigsville**

Dinner start: 6:30 PM * Lecture start: ~ 7:15 PM

Deadline to reserve a spot for dinner:**Friday, March 1 by/before 12:00 p.m.**

To register, contact Jim Duffy

duffysocwk@aol.com) or 610-253-4549

(email preferred).

**Walk-in lecture reservations are
NOT required!**

February, 2023, meeting recaps

* **Re-enlistments:** John Maly, Marie Maly, Robert Whitman, plus a fourth person, who paid their dues in cash. **If this person is you,** please contact Jeff Gates jefgates@ptd.net so that he can update his membership records. Thanks much!!

* **Donations:** Kay Bagenstose

* **Attendance:** 30 dinner attendees;
9 walk-ins

* **Book raffle proceeds:** \$104

* **Print raffle ticket sales:** 3 booklets
(\$15)

February Book Raffle Winners

(l-r): Monica Stevens, John Maly, Doug Widdowson, Neil Coddington, Tony Major

**February's guest speaker,**

Steve Knowlton, received \$50 honorarium to donate to a nonprofit organization of his choice.



Samuel Houston: Above All Else, He Loved Texas, America ... and Margaret

Samuel Houston is best known as a soldier and a Texan. But before reaching 35 years of age, Samuel Houston had done more than just fight with valor during the War of 1812. He had also served as a country school teacher, Indian agent, Nashville lawyer and actor, governor to both Tennessee and Texas (he's the only person to ever serve more than one state as governor), congressman to Tennessee, senator to Texas and president to Texas during its independence.

He was in possession of a fine address, courtly manners and a magnetism approaching that of his mentor, General Andrew Jackson. But, like so many other "emigres" to Texas, Houston was also a

mercenary revolutionary with an appetite for empire and personal and political redemption, all of which he wholly satisfied. And although some flaws were blatantly apparent, like boozing it up in public and displaying a tendency to embellish the tales of his many exploits, there was a whole other side to Sam Houston: He not only turned a beleaguered wilderness into a functioning republic, he conducted himself, in certain areas, with the highest ideals and held the traits of honesty and fairness in highest regard.

Though himself a slaveholder, Houston repeatedly voted against the spread of slavery to new territories of the United States during his years in the senate. And when Texas voted, in February 1, 1861, to separate from the Union, he proclaimed Texas to once again be an independent republic—refusing to recognize the legislator's authority to join Texas to the Confederacy. In return, the legislature declared the governorship vacant. Before he departed, he was quoted to say, "I love Texas too well to bring civil strife and bloodshed upon her."

Houston would continue do everything possible to prevent secession and war but, ultimately, his first loyalty was to Texas—and the South. He refused offers of troops from the United States to keep Texas in the Union and announced, on May 10, 1861, that he would stand with the Confederacy in its war effort. Later, and speaking of himself, Houston said, "I wish no prouder epitaph to mark the board or slab that may lie on my tomb than this: 'He loved his country, he was a patriot; he was devoted to the Union.'"

Houston didn't receive his last wish: His memorial, in Oakwood Cemetery (Huntsville, Texas) is simply worded, "The world will take care of Houston's fame."

(continued on page 4)

His Lives!

Following the death of his father in 1806, Houston ran away from home and was taken in by John Jolly, a leader of the Cherokee in the Arkansas District of the Missouri Territory. Sam became Jolly's adopted son and lived in Jolly's village, spending his days (according to Houston) *wandering along the banks and streams, side by side with some Indian maiden, sheltered by deep woods ... making love and reading Homer's "Iliad."* He lived among the Cherokee as a citizen for three years. He would later return to live with them for another few years. (More about that later.)

Considering the time he spent living with the Cherokee, he is thought to have been among the most enlightened man of his day when it came to the Indians. But the truth is he used the Cherokee much more than he was useful to them. To his credit, however, he did take extensive measures, while serving as a Tennessee senator, to divert the white man's Manifest Destiny away from the Indians. But his efforts came too late.

During his life, he was known by many names, including: Colonneh, "Sam the Man," "Old Sam Jacinto" (for his role in fight for Texas independence and the victory over the Santa Anna's men), "The Father of Texas," "The Magnificent Barbarian", "a slave-holding Anglo Saxon racist and the most grandiose imperialist of his time." Since his death, he has been canonized by at least 50 biographers, and many U.S. structures and municipalities are named in his honor.



A 21+foot statue of a raven was installed June, 2023, at Sam Houston State University. (His Cherokee name "Colonneh" translates as "raven.") The statue and university are two of many examples of the ways that Houston's legacy has been honored. Others include cities in three states, counties in three states, several streets and schools, a park, a bridge, a coliseum, national park and a regional library.



A teenage image of Houston, then known as Colonneh.

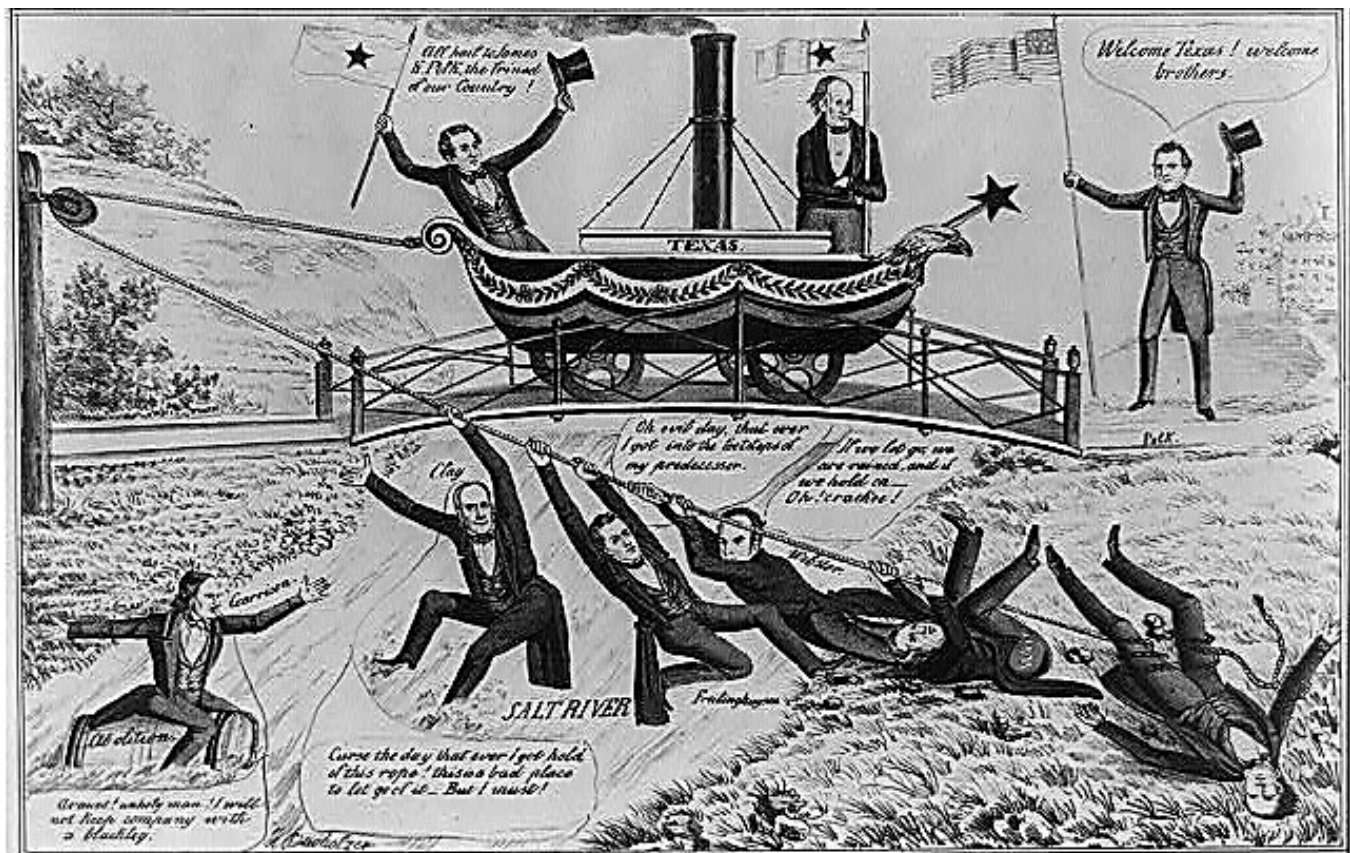
His Wives!

It's been said there were two types of people that Houston followed his entire life: artists and women. Houston cut a fine figure in public, and he enjoyed unbounded popularity in public, turning ladies' heads ... and turning men's hearts to envy. But, in truth, Houston was spurned by nearly every woman he seriously pursued, including Mary Custis who, in spite of Sam's close attentions, chose a quieter man who neither drank or smoked. His name was Robert E. Lee.

Some believe Houston first came to Texas to escape the humiliation of a failed marriage to Eliza Allen, which ended in mystery after just 11 weeks while he was serving as governor of Tennessee. In April of that year, he resigned from his position and returned, without waiting for a divorce decree, to live among the Cherokee. Some weeks later, he was told that Eliza had reconsidered her position. Houston was unmoved. In fact, just weeks later, in 1830, during a

ceremony sanctioned by Cherokee law, he married Diana (a.k.a. Tiana) Rogers Gentry, an Indian woman of mixed blood. Together, they established a residence and trading post called Wigwam Neosho on the Neosho River near Fort Gibson (in today's Oklahoma). But after living just three and one-half years with Diana, he forever abandoned her—and his life among the Cherokee—and headed to Texas.

In 1839, while on horse-buying expedition, he met 21-year-old Margaret Lea. At the time, Houston was 47. Houston's friends, well aware of his "terrible habits" as they related to women, tried to talk him out of marrying Margaret, without success. The two married in 1840 and, together, had eight children. He stopped drinking, began attending church services, and was later baptized. When he died in 1863, his last words were reported to have been, "Texas ... Texas ... Margaret."



A pro-Democrat cartoon forecasting the collapse of Whig opposition to the annexation of Texas. James K. Polk, the expansionist candidate, stands at right near a bridge spanning "Salt River." He holds an American flag and hails Texans Stephen Austin (left) and Samuel Houston aboard a wheeled steamboat-like vessel "Texas." Austin, waving the flag of the Lone Star Republic, cries, "All hail to James K. Polk, the friend [sic] of our Country!" Below the bridge, pandemonium reigns among the foes of annexation. Holding onto a rope attached to "Texas" above, they are dragged into Salt River. Led by Whig presidential nominee Henry Clay, they are (left to right) Theodore Frelinghuysen, Daniel Webster, Henry A. Wise, and an unidentified figure whose legs are tangled in the rope.

(See page 6 for a typewritten version of text inside the speech balloons in the cartoon.)

Clay: "Curse the day that ever I got hold of this rope! This is a bad place to let go of it--But I must!"

Frelinghuysen: "Oh evil day, that ever I got into the footsteps of my predecessor."

Webster: "If we let go, we are ruined, and if we hold on--Oh! crackee!"

Abolitionist William Lloyd Garrison, straddling a barrel labeled "Abolition" in the river, shouts at Clay, "Avaunt! unholy man! I will not keep company with a blackleg!" referring to the candidate's reputation as a gambler.

(Source: Library of Congress)

Campaign 46 Lecture Schedule: Mark Your Calendars!

The list below represents the final three speakers for Campaign 46 speakers and the titles of their presentations. (You'll find information about the March lecture on page 2 of this newsletter).

April 2 **"Fort Sumter's Long Shadow:
Mr. Lincoln Calls for an Army, and Northern
States Respond"**
(His book on the subject is reported online to be in
final edits.)



Leon Reed

May 7 **"Hell Comes to Southern Maryland: The Point
Lookout Confederate POW Camp for
Confederates"**
(Mr. Gottfried has written a book on the same subject.)



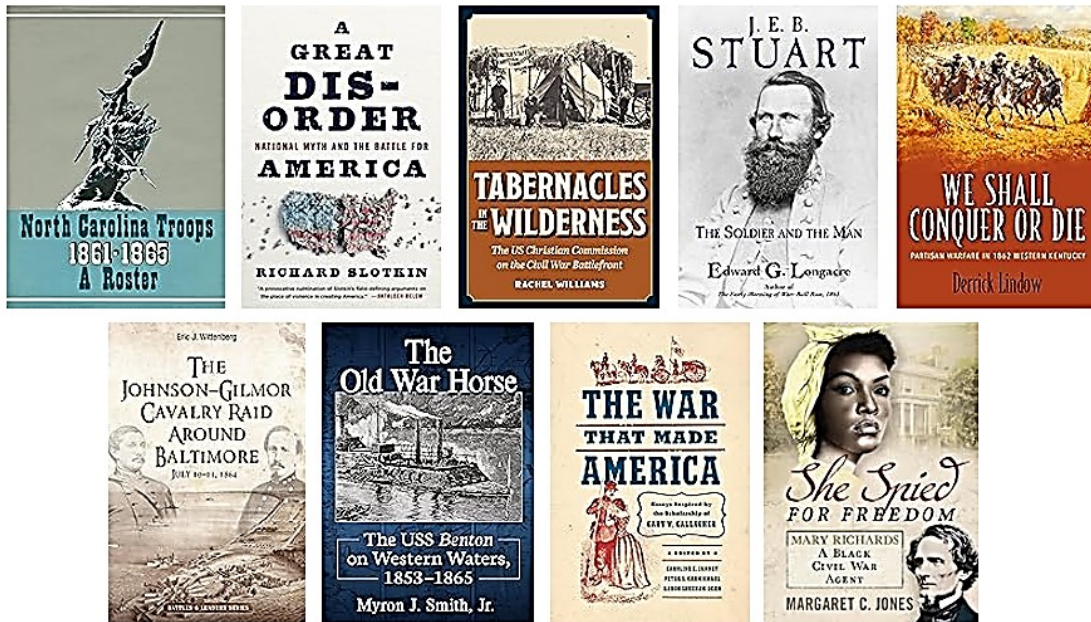
Bradley Gottfried

June 4 **"Who is James Longstreet?"**



Lt. General
James Longstreet, CSA,
and his wife, Helen Dortch
Longstreet

March, 2024, Civil War Book Releases



North Carolina Troops, 1861-1865: A Roster, Volume 22: Confederate States Navy, Confederate States Marine Corps, and Charlotte Naval Yard, by Katelynn A. Hatton and Alex Christopher Meekins | Mar 1, 2024

A Great Disorder: National Myth and the Battle for America, by Richard Slotkin | Mar 5, 2024

Tabernacles in the Wilderness: The US Christian Commission on the Civil War Battlefield, by Rachel Williams | Mar 5, 2024

J. E. B. Stuart: The Soldier and the Man, by Edward G. Longacre | Mar 8, 2024

We Shall Conquer or Die: Partisan Warfare in 1862 Western Kentucky, by Derrick Lindow | Mar 15, 2024

The Johnson-Gilmor Cavalry Raid Around Baltimore: July 10-13, 1864, by Eric J. Wittenberg | Mar 15, 2024

The Old War Horse: The USS Benton on Western Waters, 1853-1865, by Myron J. Smith Jr. | Mar 17, 2024

The War That Made America: Essays Inspired by the Scholarship of Gary W. Gallagher, by Caroline E. Janney, Peter S. Carmichael, et al. | Mar 19, 2024

She Spied for Freedom: Mary Richards, A Black Civil War Agent, by Margaret C. Jones | Mar 31, 2024

Civil War Round Table of Eastern Pa., Inc.

CAMPAIGN 46 MEMBERSHIP FORM (2023-2024)

Please complete the form below and mail it along with your Campaign 45 dues to **CWRT of Eastern Pa., Inc., P. O. Box 333, Allentown, PA 18105**. Make your check payable to: "CWRT of Eastern Pa., Inc."

Select one:

- I am reenlisting for Campaign 46
 I am a new recruit

Indicate your membership preference:

- Individual: \$25
 Full-time student: \$10

(Please print clearly, ESPECIALLY your email address!!)

Name:

Mailing address:

Email address:

Phone number:

I am including a donation (in addition to my membership dues) \$ _____.

Your donation will be used by the CWRT of Eastern Pa., Inc. to benefit preservation efforts related to the Civil War, e.g., supporting the vital work of museums and saving battlefield acreage from developers.

(NEW RECRUITS): Please tell us about your American Civil War interests and experiences:

How did you hear of the CWRT Round Table of Eastern Pa.?

Are you a reenactor (Yes/No)? If yes, unit(s)?

Use the space below to share name(s)/unit(s) of ancestor(s) who fought in the Civil War:

(NEW RECRUITS AND REENLISTERS): Do you have a particular interest in the Civil War?

If yes, please elaborate in the space provided below:

Are you willing to speak to groups on some aspect of the Civil War (Yes/No)?

Are you interested in participating in Round Table activities? If yes, please specify below:

public functions political action preservation living history other (note below):

*Sending newsletters and other information to our members via email speeds the distribution process and allows us to divert more funds to preservation and conservation. By providing us with your email address, you are giving the CWRT of Eastern Pa., Inc. permission to contact you and/or send information to you via email. We rarely have a need to contact our members by phone, but having this information on file is occasionally very helpful. IMPORTANT NOTE: The CWRT of Eastern Pa., Inc. will **NEVER** share your contact information unless it has obtained your permission in advance to do so.*

**The Civil War Round Table of Eastern, Pa., Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.
 Your membership dues are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law.**