



# Battle Lines

Newsletter of the Civil War Round Table of Atlanta

Founded 1949

*PROMOTING THE SERIOUS STUDY OF THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR*

## June Meeting

*Join us via Zoom*

*Tuesday, June 8, 7:30 p.m.*

## DUES ARE DUE

Treasurer Tim Whalen reports a dearth of dues from the Pandemic Campaign Season. Please check with Tim to see if you paid for 2020-2021. He will soon send a dues notice for our upcoming campaign season, 2021-2022. Contact Tim for any questions: [whalen315@aol.com](mailto:whalen315@aol.com). Pay dues online at [www.atlantacwrt.org](http://www.atlantacwrt.org) or mail a check or checks, \$75.00 per Campaign Year, to:

**Tim Whalen P.O. Box 2355  
Griffin, GA 30224**

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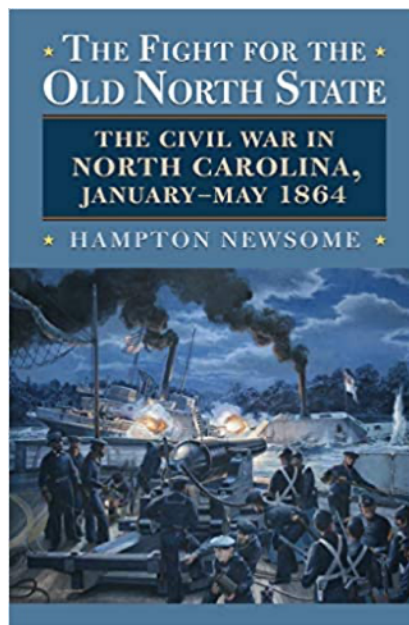
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## The Fight for North Carolina

**J**oin us for Tuesday night for Hampton Newsome's presentation based on his award-winning book *The Fight for the Old North State: The Civil War in North Carolina, January-May 1864*. Hampton won the 2019 Harwell



Book Award for this singular work. It is particularly heartening that he will accept the award and speak for our 678th meeting as his anticipated appearance last year had to be rescheduled due to the pandemic. An attorney and author, Hampton is the author of two previous books on the Civil War. *Fight For the Old North State* was also recognized with the Emerging Civil War Book Award (2020) and the Civil

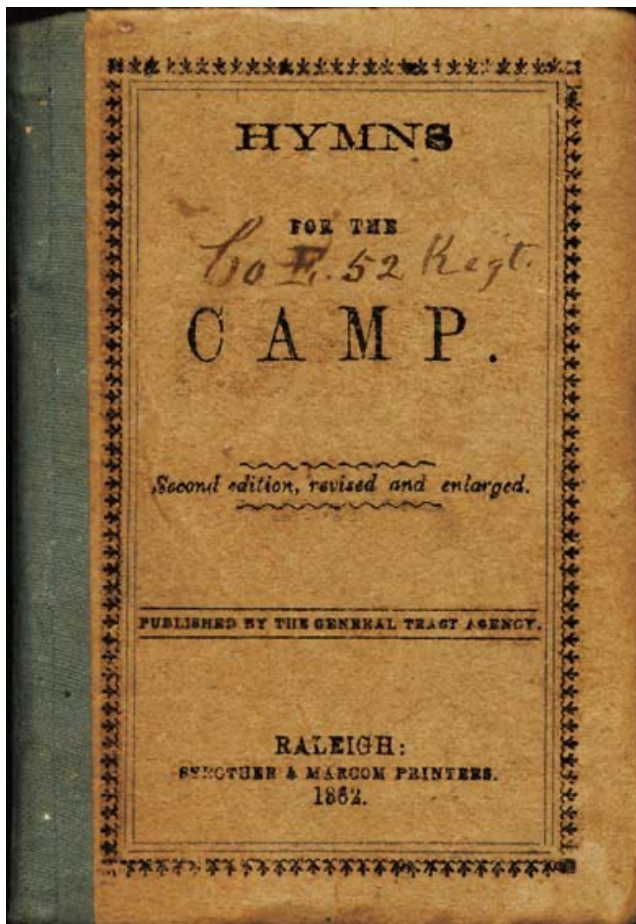
War Books and Authors Book of the Year (2019). It explores a neglected facet of the war, reads well and is magnificently researched, according to Harwell Book Award Chairman Gary Barnes. Atlanta Civil War Round Table Members are offered a 30 percent discount for purchase of *Fight for the Old North State*. Please join us for this outstanding program.

## **From Our Chaplain: *His Name Yields Rich Perfume***

**I**n their book, *The Spirit Divided: Memoirs of Civil War Chaplains - The Union*, editors Maryniak and Brinsfield include this description of a Sunday evening prayer meeting as told by Chaplain Alonza Hall Quint of the 2nd MA Infantry.

**“A familiar revival hymn, ... A prayer, reading of Scripture, a short address from the chaplain, singing, and then all are invited to speak, or pray, or sing... Here and there are visible**

*tears. rolling down some rough cheek;  
"it seems so like home,"  
or "it makes me feel human."*



*Hymns for the Camp, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed.* was one of many pocket hymnals that might have contributed to that feeling of home or humanity for Southern soldiers, who held similar services. One can easily imagine them singing this prayerful excerpt from the hymn, “How tedious and tasteless the hours,” as they mused on happier Southern summers at home.

*His name yields the richest perfume,  
And sweeter than music His voice;  
His presence disperses my gloom,  
And makes all within me rejoice:  
I should, were He always thus nigh,  
Have nothing to wish or to fear;  
No mortal so happy as I,  
My summer would last all the year.*

**“But thanks be to God,** who in Christ always leads us in triumph, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of Him everywhere. For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing.” **2 Corinthians 2:14-15 RSV**

**Chaplain, Dr. Mary-Elizabeth Ellard**

# Donald Frazer's *Louisiana Quadrille*

*Review By David Beale of the Harwell Book Award Committee*

**T**he French word “quadrille” denotes a grid or map squared; in another sense, it describes control of an area within a geographic map. The *Louisiana Quadrille*, a series of four books by Texas historian Donald Frazier, presents the “quadrille” of the Trans-Mississippi and Gulf Coast, delineating the efforts of Civil War opponents, the Union and the Confederacy, to gain possession and control of this region in Louisiana and adjoining areas. Mississippi, Tennessee, and Arkansas, where bordered by the Mississippi River, and the Gulf Coast at its Texas and Louisiana shores, were the territory of this multi-faceted series of campaigns. Multinational interlopers, including France and Mexico, also figured in this contest.

This review focuses on *Blood on the Bayou* and *Tempest Over Texas*, the last two of the the four books of the *Louisiana Quadrille*. These are the four books of the series:

Frazier, Donald. *Fire in the Cane Field, the Federal Invasion of Louisiana and Texas, from January, 1861 through January, 1863*.

Kerrville, Texas, State House Press, July 1, 2009.

Frazier, Donald. *Thunder Across the Swamp, the Fight for the Lower Mississippi River from February Through May, 1863*. Kerrville, Texas, State House Press, September 28, 2011.

Frazier, Donald. *Blood on the Bayou, Vicksburg, Port Hudson, and the Trans-Mississippi from May, 1863 through July 1863*. Kerrville, Texas, State House Press, March 5, 2015.

Frazier, Donald. *Tempest over Texas, the Fall and Winter Campaigns Press June, 1863 through February 1864*. Kerrville, Texas, State House Press, August 17, 2020.



Confederate fortifications at Ft. Jackson and Ft. St. Philip and the Union fleet along the Mississippi at the time of Admiral Farragut's attack, New Orleans, April 1862. The Union victory in May achieved a vital step toward the Federal possession of the Mississippi River. Contributor: Robert Knox Sneden, 1854. (Library of Congress)

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## *Donald Frazier's Louisiana Quadrille* (from Page 3)

**M**ost people with only a cursory knowledge of the history of Louisiana during the Civil War think of only two major episodes:

1. The fall of New Orleans in May 1862;

2. The Red River Campaign of 1864.

In approaching the *Louisiana Quadrille*, Donald Frazier, Ph.D, who was then professor of history at McMurry University in Abilene, Texas, set out to tell the story of the silent spaces before, between, and after New Orleans' fall and the Red River Campaign, and to illuminate the opaque periods framed by the two.<sup>1</sup> Louisiana and the lower Mississippi River region are an obscure area of the U.S., even today. The region remains a backwater—and it was much more so in the Civil War era. The *Louisiana Quadrille* provides an essential guide to this overlooked portion of Civil War history. Now director of the Texas Center at Schreiner University in Kerrville, Texas, Frazier is an award-winning author and specialist in the history of Texas and the Trans-Mississippi. An esteemed military historian, he completed fellowships at the United States Military Academy at West Point and at the University of Scotland, Edinburgh. This series of books, published within six years, presents a groundbreaking exploration of this neglected area of study. Frazier wrote as he discovered within a span of only six years.



Donald Frazier: Director, The Texas Center at Schreiner University.

**I was born in Houston, Texas in 1950** and spent four of my early years in Eagle Lake, Texas, about 100 miles southwest of Houston in the Texas rice country. Four years in Port Sulfur, Louisiana followed. Port Sulfur is about 100 miles southeast of New Orleans on the Mississippi Delta, on the southern side of the river. Another seven years of my youth were spent in New Orleans. I was a Boy Scout in an active troop, traveling and camping throughout deep southern Louisiana and Mississippi. I made and visited friends in southern central Louisiana as far west as Lafayette through church camp activities and school functions. As a young boy, I had the opportunity to visit and walk many of the local battlefields and forts from the War of 1812 and the Civil War. There were many around New Orleans and Port Sulphur. I thoroughly explored a number of these before I was 14. Some forts were only available by a small pirogue (a flat boat about the size of a canoe). Most of the remote forts were not restored and totally overgrown. I left New Orleans in 1968. Then, as an adult in my first job

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<sup>1</sup> Donald Frazier *Blood on the Bayou* (Buffalo Gap, Texas: State House Press 2015) Preface.





Above: Frazier's Louisiana Quadrille focuses on the Trans-Mississippi theatre as bounded by the Mississippi River (in the center of this map) and the Gulf of Mexico at its Louisiana and Texas shores (left). Map of the Union Department of the Gulf, Created January 1, 1864. Contributors Francis D'Avignon and Charles Darwin Eliot. (Library of Congress)

**I** worked on maps of Louisiana and Texas making recommendations about where to open new offices. I continued to visit New Orleans often and further explored the area. When I became a member of the Atlanta Civil War Round Table and then joined the Harwell Award Book Committee, I was naturally drawn to books and our discussions of the War in Louisiana, Texas and Mississippi.

**W**hen Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans in September of 2005, I assiduously followed all of the news and developments. It was astonishing to me to see the absolute surprise of the media and Americans in general as to how important the New Orleans port area is to the U.S. It was and remains the only national entryway for many products such as petroleum and sulfur. After the port was so badly damaged by the hurricane, the shipments of raw sulfur and petroleum products from Port Sulphur and New Orleans abruptly stopped for many months. The stoppage affected the availability of a host of products including medicines, vulcanized rubber, explosives, and matches.

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## *Donald Frazier's Louisiana Quadrille* (from Page 5)

**N**ew Orleans was also essential before, during, and after the Civil War. The Mississippi River, then as now, provided a natural highway for many of the U. S. products shipped through New Orleans' port. The city was the most valuable route to the Gulf Coast for both the North and the South. The highest levels of command in the Confederate government never seemed to fully realize this and failed to take the necessary steps to protect this vital transportation route and port until it was too late. The efforts of the Confederacy to hold onto control of New Orleans and the Mississippi River were always a dollar short and a day late. Failing to keep the Confederate Capital in Montgomery and moving it to Richmond was an incredibly stupid mistake. This doomed Confederate forces to stay close to Richmond and eliminated the Confederate military's ability to serve where it was most needed.

**I** must pause here to explain the nature of the landscape in Southern Louisiana. The soldiers who fought on both sides were generally not from southern Louisiana and not familiar with the terrain. They were shocked to encounter the endless swamps, the high temperatures, one-hundred percent humidity, daily rains and the predatory

animals native to the area. The almost tropical nature of the place, the unknowable depth of the water in the swamps and many other features of this most challenging terrain were overwhelming. The water of the swamps was dark and murky, colored by tannins from native trees; so depths, even of only one or two feet, were imperceptible. When moving through such water, a man could not see its depths. His next step could land at a depth of only one or two feet or take him to a depth of ten feet. Also, a bright green slimy mold could cover the water to a depth of many inches.



Port of New Orleans: The Federal Fleet at anchor in the Mississippi River, circa 1862. Illustration from Rossiter, Johnson, et. al. *Campfire and Battlefields*. New York. Knight and Brown. 1894.

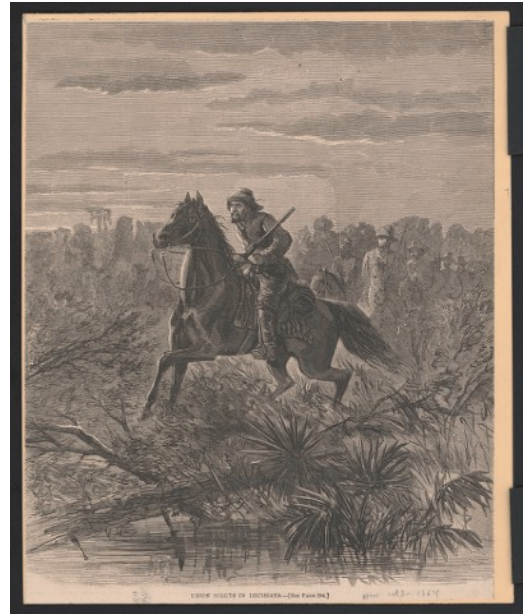
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## *Donald Frazier's Louisiana Quadrille* (from Page 6)

**T**his often made stretches of water invisible. Alligators, snakes, spiders, and mosquitoes challenged humans who entered. Snakes bit people with deadly poison. Alligators attacked humans and the bodies of their victims were stashed below the water and stored for food. Female mosquitoes were drawn to human blood for the nourishment of their eggs. These mosquito attacks often left human victims with malaria or yellow fever for which there was no cure at that time. Many invisible and tiny insects also targeted humans. There were no insecticides, no spray or oil to place on skin, no medicines to reduce the itches resulting from bites. All of Southern Louisiana remains rife with infection-laden mosquitoes. I remember walking out of the back door of my house one year in August. Before I had gone ten feet, I was completely surrounded by a large black cloud of mosquitoes. It was 102 degrees Fahrenheit and the humidity was one-hundred percent. I had applied insect spray, but it did no good. The encounter was scary and I immediately returned inside.

**S**ome of land where grass grew several feet high looked dry. If a soldier stepped onto such ground, he would sink to the ankle or halfway up the calf. A second step could pull shoes off; the black mud would then only slowly release a man's foot. After traversing only ten feet, anyone would be exhausted, wet, and muddy. In this terrain, the loss of balance and falls were inevitable. As men faced these conditions, mosquitoes and other insects swarmed and struck. The earth was jet black and full of bugs, a huge bog for many miles! Imagine a cannon carriage, wheels or a fully loaded wagon moving over this type of land. And imagine soldiers attempting to deal with the challenging terrain and insect swarms while outfitted with 35-pound packs, 15-pound rifles and wool clothes in August! All of this made military operations hard, especially for the men and the leaders of the Union Army. The land could change abruptly from a swampy area, to land with pines, to plains with tall grasses like those of the Great Plains, then to bogs, to open water, to dark bayous, and then back to swamps. This landscape was perfect for ambushes. There were no roads in the swamps or the bogs, no signs, no compass directions, no maps, and no blazed trails.



Union Scouts going through the swamps of Louisiana on horseback; Harpers Weekly, 1864, Vol 8, Page 288 (Library of Congress)

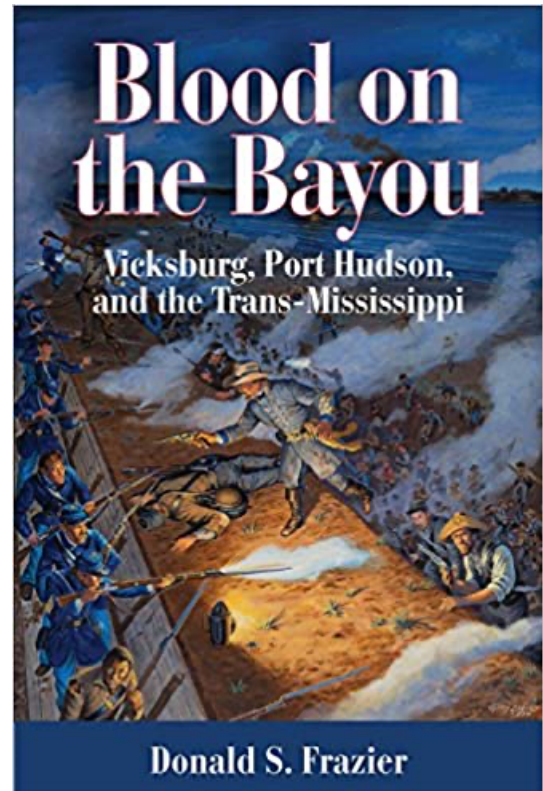
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## *Donald Frazier's Louisiana Quadrille* (from Page 7)

**F**or this review, I focus on the last two books of the *Louisiana Quadrille*. I intend to review the first two later. Donald Frazier wrote the third and fourth books during a year-long sabbatical from McMurry University where he served as professor of history from 1993 through 2019. Frazier was in a process of discovery as he wrote these. *Tempest over Texas* is the back part of the manuscript of both books. I present the last books first as they lead into the other two.

In *Blood on the Bayou*, the third in the *Quadrille* series, Frazier focuses on the period from May through July 1863 and the problems the Union had with the Mississippi River. At that juncture, the Union had possession of the river but it did not control the land on the western side. The Confederacy, assembling soldiers with their rifles and artillery on the western levees, used the guerilla tactic of hit and run attacks when ships came south on the river. Most of the targeted ships were steamboats equipped with a few cannon and soldiers, not military ships. These vessels were not equipped with heavy metal plates to protect against bullets and cannon balls. When the ships were hit by bullets and cannon fire, the shooters were aiming for the boilers and the side portions of the hull. Sometimes they successfully sunk ships. Other times, a hit would render a ship powerless. These vessels would then drift with the current. Those drifting to the western shore were generally burned by Confederates. This disturbed Northern shipping. U.S. Navy ships were equipped with metal plate protection around the upper part of the ship but the hulls were wooden. Shells hitting a vulnerable spot could sink these ships.



**After the Emancipation Proclamation** became law in January of 1863, the Union military began to devise strategies to use former slaves from conquered territory to oppose the Confederacy. The push to add these men into a force of combatants, farmers and laborers to assist the Union depended on eliminating the Vicksburg, Mississippi and Port Hudson, Louisiana forts on the Mississippi. The forts were the only remaining obstacles to river traffic coming south. Their capture would free the river and bring the Federals and President Lincoln closer to the goal of eradicating slavery.

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## *Donald Frazier's Louisiana Quadrille* (from Page 8)

**W**hile General Ulysses S. Grant moved onto the eastern shore of the Mississippi south of Vicksburg, Union General Nathaniel P. Banks moved on his own to take Port Hudson in Louisiana, defying

Union Commanding General Henry Halleck's orders to cooperate with Grant in targeting Vicksburg and Port Hudson. Banks' May 27, 1863 attempt to take Port Hudson on his own resulted in failure and a high loss of life. Meanwhile, in the areas west of the Mississippi, the Union and Confederate forces fought back and forth, each side winning some engagements and losing others. Confederate generals Richard Taylor and Thomas Green seemed to be winning more of the small battles.

After Grant's many frontal assaults on Vicksburg failed, he launched a siege of the stronghold on May 18, 1863. During the siege of Vicksburg, Banks attacked Port Hudson on June 14, sustaining another failure with many losses. After many such failed assaults, Banks initiated a siege of Port Hudson. Vicksburg surrendered July 4, 1863; Confederate General Franklin Gardner surrendered at Port Hudson five days later on July 9.



Union troops surround the Confederate fortifications at Port Hudson, Louisiana, 25 miles north of Baton Rouge. Union General Banks initiated a siege on the fort May 27, 1863. After news of Vicksburg's surrender on July 4, 1863, a surrender of Port Hudson followed five days later. Contributor: Robert Knox Sneden, 1863. (Library of Congress)

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## *Donald Frazier's Louisiana Quadrille* (from Page 9)

**A**fter the surrenders, Banks placed troops on both sides of Louisiana's Bayou LaFourche to attack, defeat, and drive away all Confederates. Other bayous, rivers, and lakes in the areas west of the Mississippi River were also targeted. The Federal troops were battered and diminished in numbers following the siege at Port Hudson so Confederates were able to defeat Banks on both sides of the LaFourche and the other waterways. Grant responded, providing large numbers of men to reinforce Banks after the surrender of Vicksburg. Banks was able to surround the Confederates on their southern and eastern flanks with overwhelming forces. The Confederates were greatly weakened after many small battles with Banks. As they reviewed their options, generals Green and Taylor received word from President Davis that they were on their own, that no more reinforcements, supplies, clothing, ammunition or arms would be provided to them; the Confederacy had none to spare. The eastern Confederacy was now totally cut off from the Confederate forces west of the Mississippi. Taylor and Green decided to retreat north and west to deflect defeat and to live another day. They headed to Texas, withdrawing all Confederate forces and moving north on Bayou LaFourche and Bayou Teche in Louisiana before crossing from the east to the west of Louisiana's Berwick Bay at the Atchafalaya River and the Gulf. So the Mississippi River was now free of Confederates on both sides thus allowing the Union to have full possession. This achieved the goals of President Lincoln, Commanding General Halleck and the Federal Government.



Union General Nathaniel Banks in his military uniform, circa 1861. (Portrait by Matthew Brady)

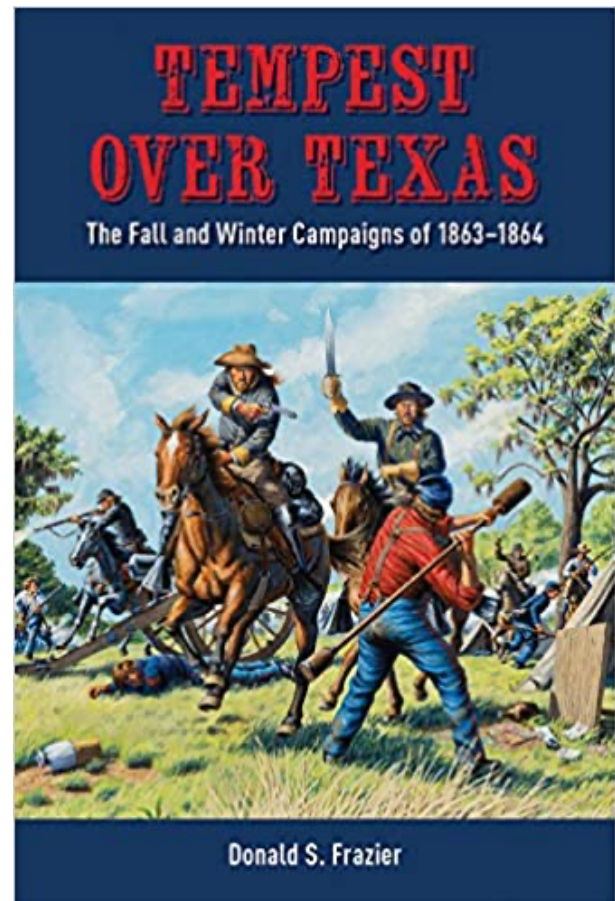
As he finished *Blood on the Bayou*, the third in the *The Louisiana Quadrille* series, Frazier realized that his "quadrille" of four books would not complete the tale of Louisiana and Texas in the Civil War. Too much material emerged as he researched and he now expects that five or six books, including material on the already well-researched and published Red River Campaign will be needed to complete the series.

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## *Donald Frazier's Louisiana Quadrille* (from Page 10)

**T***empest over Texas, the Fall and Winter Campaigns of 1863 through 1864*, the fourth and current end of the series, begins with the machinations of the Mexican government under President Benito Juárez and the French government, under Napoleon III. Within this period, the French launched a plan to install Austrian Archduke Ferdinand Maximilian Joseph as Emperor of Mexico. At the time, many competing parties were vying for full control of Mexico. These included President Juárez of the liberal party, head of the Mexican government after the Reform War of 1857-1860; a Mexican conservative faction, defeated when Juárez gained the upper hand in the Reform War and several guerilla factions. Most notorious of the guerilla forces was one led by warlord Juan Cortilla, who controlled the Gulf Coast of Mexico. Cortilla had troubled the U.S. for many years at the Rio Grande border and saw an opportunity for advancement when the American Civil War began. There were old resentments among the Mexicans. In their view, the United States had stolen Mexican land in Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona. The French supported these ideas in order to distract the U.S. from the French interest in Mexico. The new Mexican government then provoked other international interest. In an effort to gain control of the Mexican economy at the end of the Reform War in 1860, President Juárez suspended payments on loans that had been extended to Mexico by France, Great Britain, and Spain to support the war that had put him in power. In October of 1861, France, Spain and the United Kingdom joined in an agreement, the Convention of London, which aimed to collect loan repayments from Mexico. In 1862, the three countries sent a coalition joint task force of warships and armed soldiers to the Mexican Gulf Coast. The Convention of London was not interested in taking part on any side of the Mexican brawl. The coalition was blockading the coast solely to extract payment from Mexico.



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## *Donald Frazier's Louisiana Quadrille* (from Page 11)

**T**he Spanish took the port of Veracruz with a 6,000 force army, while France took several coastal cities with a 2,500 troop force. The French landed more troops until a force of 40,000 was assembled. The French began to see an opportunity to back the minority conservatives and create a client state which could help the French direct the Mexican economy for the sole benefit of France. This would help the French in the greater Gulf of Mexico area. They would be able to meddle in the affairs of the U.S., helping the Confederacy and reducing the strength of the Union. These French measures alarmed the British and the Spanish to such an extent that both countries removed their soldiers from Mexico and withdrew all of their ships from Mexican waters. The Union blockade of cotton exports from the Confederacy had devastated French mills so the French began to think of running guns, ammunition, and other supplies into Texas to help the Confederacy with costs secured by Confederate bails of cotton. This military activity, so close to the U.S. and Mexican border, alarmed the Union, which sent the U.S. Navy to the region in October of 1862. This modest naval squadron captured the ports of Galveston and Indianola in Texas as the U.S. and Mexico took the measure of each other. A sizable French fleet, including the just launched Normandie with an iron hull and six inch rifled cannons in its broadsides, had just crossed the Atlantic to Mexico. Military leaders recognized the sizable threat the French posed to the Federal navy. Unknown to the U.S. military, the French had two more iron hulled sister warships back in France ready to travel to Mexico.



Confederate General Hamilton P. Bee

**C**oncurrently, Confederate Brigadier General Hamilton P. Bee, headquartered in Texas, identified Mexican liberals, specifically the Juárez government, to be enemies of the South. Afterwards Mexican governors loyal to President Juárez announced they would oppose President Juárez if he continued his anti-Confederate declarations. Bee was facilitating a profitable trade of cotton for munitions with Mexico. On the opposing side, M. M. Kimmey, the American Vice-Consul in Matamoros, became an advocate for Juárez and his cause and encouraged Mexicans to join the U.S. Army and to plunder Texan settlements across the Rio Grande.

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Confederate Forces Attack the Union Flotilla at Galveston. January 31, 1863: Harper's Weekly.

**A**fter the New Year in 1863, Confederates recaptured Galveston, secured Sabine Pass, and Matagorda Bay in Texas, and effectively swept the coast of Texas of Federal forces. Mexican conservatives prevailed over President Juárez by taking Mexico City with the aid of 30,000 French troops. Across the Rio Grande and Mississippi rivers, Union forces had penned two large Confederate armies inside the forts at Vicksburg and Port Hudson while most of Tennessee was cleared of Confederate forces. Diplomacy did not favor the South. If the French supported the Confederacy, it might appear that they also supported slavery. President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation, which became effective in January of 1863, now made the abolition of slavery central to Federal war aims. Further, Great Britain would not tolerate a French-Confederate alignment. On July 4, 1863, the Union captured a vital fort with the surrender of the Confederates at Vicksburg. Five days later, the Confederacy surrendered its fort at Port Hudson. The surrender of both forts completed the possession by the Union of the entire Mississippi River. Napoleon III grew cold to the Confederacy while formulating plans for a Second Mexican Empire and inviting Maximilian of Austria to assume the Cactus throne of Mexico and become its Monarch.

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## *Donald Frazier's Louisiana Quadrille* (from Page 13)

**G**eneral Halleck wanted General Banks to clear out all Confederates in Louisiana west of the Mississippi. Banks was failing this due to the fierce resistance of Confederate General Richard Taylor. Grant opposed Halleck's focus on Louisiana and advocated moving military forces to Mobile, Alabama. Halleck's other generals also supported taking Mobile but President Lincoln wanted the moves of Napoleon III countered with a Federal conquest of Texas. Union generals and President Lincoln considered several options; all featured an invasion of Texas. One plan proposed an invasion of Texas near the Gulf Coast to counter the Mexican and French threat. Another envisioned entering Texas along the Red River.

**A**fter recapturing Galveston in January 1863, Confederate General John B. Magruder was placed in charge of the Trans-Mississippi with orders to reorganize the Confederate forces and to defend against all Union attacks. He only had 8,000 men to defend the entire Gulf Coast and lacked adequate supplies for the needs of his soldiers and the Army. Magruder would have to anticipate the enemy's direction and prepare the necessary defense. Though New Orleans was now Banks' command center, many Southern sympathizers remained there and helped Magruder with intelligence. Mexican diplomats also aided Magruder with information. After several months, Magruder accomplished a reorganization, deployed his forces and waited for the Union invasion.

Countering Grant, General Banks was in favor of the Coastal campaign. After much discussion, a strategy was determined. Grant and General Frederick Steele would invade Texas near the Red River, Banks would sweep up the Texas Coast to the Rio Grande, to demonstrate a sizable force visible to the Mexicans and the French, thus deterring their entry into Texas. Banks received thousands of reinforcements from the redistribution of Grant's armies at Vicksburg.



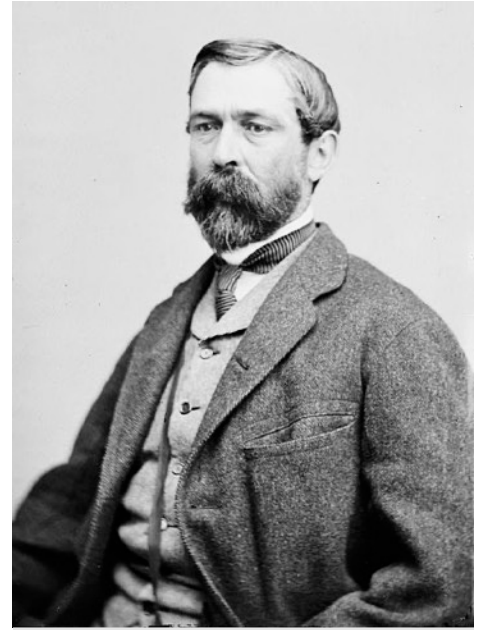
General John B. Magruder, circa 1860s (Library of Congress)

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## *Donald Frazier's Louisiana Quadrille* (from Page 14)

**O**rders were issued. General Banks sent an Army corps into Texas. Navy ships transported them to deployment near Beaumont at Sabine Pass. The forces were directed toward Galveston and Houston. Union Armies moved towards Sabine Pass on September 2, 1863. The Federal attack was blunted by Confederate forces with heavy artillery installed along both sides of the Sabine River. One Union gunboat was sunk and another damaged. Two Union gunboats were captured by the Southern troops. The Union retreated and abandoned the invasion.

**Banks then assembled 30,000 Army troops** on the eastern side of Berwick Bay in Louisiana, had them transferred to the west of the bay, and began moving west in three columns of 10,000 each towards the Texas border. There had been sporadic attacks and counter attacks from Confederate General Richard Taylor. Now Taylor began withdrawing his forces anticipating a large Union advance. Union General James B. McPherson was advancing west from Natchez in Mississippi to Morganza in Louisiana on the western side of the river. General Francis J. Herron moved west from Louisiana's Atchafalaya River, and a massive column under generals William B. Franklin and Edward Ord moved west towards New Iberia. Sherman was marching toward Shreveport in Louisiana from Vicksburg. Federal forces advanced and then all paused. The Confederates noted the break in movement and many wanted to attack, but they decided to wait for an understanding of what had stopped the Union forces.



Confederate General Richard Taylor, circa 1860s. (Library of Congress.)

**C**hickamauga had detained the Union. General Banks lost many of his Trans-Mississippi troops after Grant recalled them to assemble in Chattanooga. Banks then sent troops toward Opelousas, along Bayou Teche, and across Bayou Vermilion in Louisiana. Union General William B. Franklin received orders from General Banks to secure Opelousas and Port Barre' in Louisiana. Franklin's soldiers were then to turn around and head toward Brownsville, Texas, near the Texas and Louisiana border. Suddenly, Banks disappeared. General Charles Pomeroy Stone, Banks' new chief of staff, told Franklin he was being held in place south of Opelousas to keep the enemy in place as Banks was headed to the Texas coast. Franklin then understood that his job was to keep the Confederates there so they would not go to Texas to attack Banks. Banks and Union General Napoleon J.T. Dana were headed to the coast with Franklin's 2<sup>nd</sup> Division, 113<sup>th</sup> Corps.

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The State Department recently discovered Major General Banks' Map of the Union military operation of November 1863 on the Texas Gulf Coast. (Library of Congress)

**D**ana's troops landed on Brazos Island and on Padre Island, Texas on November 2, 1863. Banks set up his headquarters at Brazos Santiago. On November 5, 1863, the Union captured Brownsville, Texas without a fight. The Confederates in the vicinity retreated. A force of 200 Mexicans noticed the Union troops landing and retreated across the Rio Grande to Mexico. There was a battle going on between two Mexican factions on the Mexican side of the Rio Grande that Union soldiers watched in fascination. The Union soldiers also took Matamoros. Troopers ranged inland and upriver in a wide arc, destroying the Confederate salt works at El Sal de Rey. The Confederate formations in the Rio Grande valley collapsed. Franklin consolidated his force at Vermilionville in Louisiana to hold the opposing Confederates in place.

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*Donald Frazier's Louisiana Quadrille* (from Page 16)

Dana had been sending his troops north up the coast and encountering little resistance. Union General Cadwallader C. Washburn landed new forces on St. Joseph Island, next to Aransas Pass, Texas. Banks then turned over the advance up the Rio Grande to Dana, and entrusted the forces on the coast to Washburn. Afterwards, Banks returned to New Orleans to resume overall command of the Union Department of the Gulf. After finishing their occupation of the coast, the Union troops were now ready to move inland.



**Detail: Civil War Atlas; Plate 26; Maps  
of Ft. Esperanza, Texas: U.S. War  
Records Office, 1892**

**W**ashburn moved his forces to take Fort Esperanza on Matagorda Island. After several days of moving ever closer to the fort and the taking the outer works, The Confederates abruptly left, blowing up the fort's large magazine. Back in Louisiana, the Union forces had moved to New Iberia, promptly followed by the Confederates. After Banks returned to New Orleans, President Lincoln pressed him to reform Louisiana and bring it back into the Union so its voters could participate in the 1864 election.

Federal troops continued to claim Texas cities, including Indianola and Port Lavaca, near the end of 1863. Dana's troops captured cotton bales from the Confederates and from south Texas's King Ranch. A major cotton producer, the King Ranch had provided the Confederacy with supplies. In return the Confederacy had assisted King Ranch, moving its cotton bales through the Union blockade of the Gulf.

**A**fter the Confederacy's defeat on the Texas coast, political winds began to shift. Texas became less important; Louisiana took precedence. The Mexicans and French had agreed to leave Texas and the Americans alone, and the Americans had agreed not to intervene in French and Mexican pursuits in Mexico. Banks' mission now focused on bringing Louisiana back into the U.S. as a state. The war had shifted further north and east.

Here we must take leave of this story as we are at the end of the fourth book. Mr. Frazier has promised a fifth and perhaps a sixth book covering this part of the Trans Mississippi. We shall continue this story at that time.

## Atlanta Civil War Round Table Jonesboro Tour

**S**tanding in one of the parking lots that with strip malls now line Tara Boulevard, site of the first day of the Battle of Jonesboro, tour leader Bill Dodd pointed north, indicating where lines of combatants would

have approached on August 31, 1864. It was as if the men were marching toward us as Bill described the first day of the two-day Battle that ended the Atlanta campaign. “About 3 p.m. the advance was ordered,” recalled Lieutenant Edwin Rennolds of the C.S.A Fifth Tennessee Infantry. “We met a murderous fire of shrapnel, grape and rifle balls,” Rennolds remembered in his

1904 account *A History of the Henry County Commands*. Bill showed us relics of the “murderous fire.” Formerly an investigator for the Atlanta and Fulton County Fire Departments, Bill gathered a first collection of relics when his research began in 1982. Metal

detectors used from 1985 to 1986 uncovered much more as did state highway archaeologists.



Strip malls and parking lots now cover Jonesboro's Tara Blvd. It was the site of August 31, 1864's battle. Bill Dodd displays battle relics and points to corps positions.



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## Atlanta Civil War Round Table Jonesboro Tour (From Page 18)

Archaeologists from Savannah's Lamar Institute were also involved in investigations of the Tara Blvd. site, though Lamar Institute's 2007 report focused on the action at nearby Lovejoy's station on August 20, 1864. A stalemate, the National Park Service now deems

the Lovejoy action that preceded the Jonesboro conflict a battle. Bill closely followed the historical archaeology investigations that took place on the Nash Farm battle site along the McDonough-Jonesboro Road. He has singular insight into the Atlanta Campaign as it occurred south of present-day Hartsfield-Jackson Airport.



Holding a civil war era sword, Bill Dodd stands at the Confederate Cemetery central monument with this inscription by Wilbur Kurtz: "To the honored memory of the several hundred unknown Confederate soldiers reposing within this enclosure who fell at the Battle of Jonesboro, August 31-September 1, 1864. These soldiers were of Hardee's Corps, commanded by Maj. Gen. Patrick R. Cleburne, Lieut. Gen. Stephen D. Les's Corps and a portion of Maj. Gen. Joseph Wheeler's Cavalry Corps. Commanded by Lieut. Gen. William J. Hardee and charged with the defense of Jonesboro—though vastly outnumbered by Federal forces—they gave their lives to parry the final thrust of the Southern Confederacy. Erected by the Atlanta Ladies Memorial Association, 1934."

For the second leg of the tour, we gathered at the Patrick Cleburne Confederate Cemetery for a review of the second day of battle, September 1, 1864. The two-day battle was focused on the control of the Macon & Western Railroad, a last supply line for Confederate forces in Georgia. After the railroad was captured Confederate General William J. Hardee, whose men were vastly outnumbered at Jonesboro, sent word to commanding Confederate General John B. Hood at his headquarters in Atlanta. Hood ordered the evacuation of Atlanta and Sherman's victory in the Atlanta Campaign was sealed. The city surrendered on September 2. This secured President Abraham Lincoln's re-election. Union General W. T. Sherman's "March to the Sea" soon followed. The two days in Jonesboro saw heated battle. The Union endured 1,149 casualties (Killed, wounded, missing or captured) to the Confederacy's 2,000.





The graves of up to 1,000 Confederate soldiers killed in the fighting at Jonesboro on August 31 and September 1, 1864 are buried in this tranquil cemetery near the center of the old town of Jonesboro. It is named for Confederate Major General Patrick R. Cleburne, who won acclaim as the able commander of this battle. He is not buried here. General Cleburne died later at the Battle of Franklin in Tennessee. Above: notables who died are named on some of the tombstones. Left, Center: Tour participants at the gate of the cemetery, which is designed with walkways leading to the central monument in a pattern of the St. Andrews Cross, echoing the Confederate Battle Flag. Left, Bottom: Tim Whalen takes a picture as Bill Dodd lectures with one of his excellent maps. This one addressed movements on the second day of the battle. Thanks to John Miller, Gould Hagler and Tom Lee for the great photos of our tour.



## Upcoming Atlanta Civil War Round Table Tours



New Manchester Mill ruins: Photo courtesy Sweetwater Creek State Park

### Come Join Us for Tours of Sweetwater Creek and the Kennesaw Mountain Battlefield

*We still have room for a tour coming up this Saturday, June 12 Time: 1130a-2p  
Location: Sweetwater Creek State Park, 1750 Mt Vernon Rd, Lithia Springs, GA 30122*

Saturday, we will join Georgia DNR Parks' Interpretive Ranger Sarah Kelehear for a tour of the New Manchester Mill ruins, site of one of the more significant textile mills in the Atlanta area and one which became a target for Sherman's forces.

To signup please go to this link <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C084CADAB22A31-tour3>

Topics we look to explore during this tour include its antebellum development, its production during the war, sources for materials, distribution methods for completed goods, timeline of Sherman's activities in the area, and any postwar use. We will also examine its use of slave labor for textile materials, construction, mill labor, and distribution of completed work.

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## Sweetwater Creek and the Kennesaw Mountain Battlefield Tours (From Page 21)

**W**e will commence at the Sweetwater Creek State Park Visitor's Center where we will gather for a picnic lunch. The tour will commence at 12noon. While it is not a difficult walk to the mill

site, please be aware that it will be a short hike of .5 mile out and .5 mile back on gravel and dirt trails.

We will bring our own picnic lunches to enjoy at the Visitor's Center and we will wrap up before 2pm. We will proceed rain or shine so please be prepared for inclement weather.

We will strictly adhere to CDC guidelines such that everyone must wear a mask when indoors, maintain proper social distancing, and bring their own water and lunch. We will drive separate vehicles because some of us are just not quite ready to board a bus yet, but registrants are welcomed to carpool. No mask is required outdoors at the park.

While there will be no fee for this tour, online contributions will support the Friends of Sweetwater Creek State Park. Contributions are always welcomed at this web address:

<https://friendsofgastateparks.org/parks/sweetwater-creek>

There will be a park entrance fee so please bring \$5 cash PER CAR and be prepared to pay upon park entry.

Additional logistical guidance will be distributed when the registration is complete.

While we are limiting registrations, as this tour fills we encourage others to register in standby slots. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C084CADAB22A31-tour3> We have seen some cancellations and welcome standby registrants to join us as space becomes available.

We are hoping to schedule a Kennesaw Mountain tour with Michael Schaffer in the Fall. Mike has experienced some health issues of late and may still be recovering so please keep him in your thoughts and prayers.

**John Miller ACWRT At Large Executive Board**



**Battle of Kennesaw Mountain. Contributors Kurz and Allison. (Library of Congress)**





Zion Baptist Church

### Burial Weekend Celebration

**T**o celebrate men of African descent who served in General W. T. Sherman's army, there will be a series of events at the Marietta National Cemetery and the historic Zion Baptist Church in Marietta, from Thursday, July 8 to Sunday, July 11. The burial weekend celebrations will begin with a tour of the Marietta National Cemetery July 8 at 7 p.m. Tour leader Brad Quinn has served as a volunteer historian at the cemetery for 32 years with a special interest in veterans of African descent. A series of tours will follow Friday and Saturday. These include "Living History of the African Descent men;" "Tour of Marietta 1864, The Civil War Hospital City;" and "On Glory," a presentation about the filming of the movie. "It Could Be Me: The Story of the Undercooks in Sherman's Army" will also be featured Saturday. On Sunday, "A Funeral for a Hero" with a service at 2 p.m. at Zion Baptist followed by a procession from the church to the cemetery at 5 p.m. is planned. For further information, query Marietta National Cemetery: 866-236-8159.

## Washington and Lee retains Lee Name

**L**ast week, the Board of Trustees at Washington and Lee University voted 22 to 6 against changing the institution's name. The move followed years of controversy and conversation. Though the name will remain there will be changes. Lee Chapel, where the former university president and Confederate General Robert E. Lee, is buried will be renamed University Chapel. The worship space will be altered to separate the auditorium from the crypt and a memorial statue of Lee. University diplomas will no longer bear images of Lee and President George Washington, the university's other namesake. Founders' Day, traditionally celebrated on Lee's birthday, will be discontinued. The board also unveiled a \$225 million plan for racial equity, including the establishment of a center for the academic study of Southern race relations.

### Atlanta Civil War Round Table

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#### At Large Executive Committee First Year:

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