

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume XLIV, Number 3

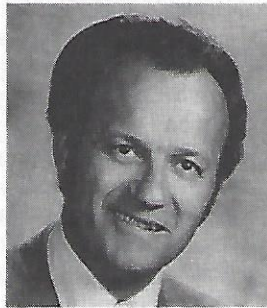
Chicago, Illinois

November, 1983

William M. Anderson on Colonel Lawler and the Lawless 18th Illinois

Illinois contributed 156 regiments of infantry to the Union cause and each would possess its own distinctive personality. On November 11, William M. Anderson, president of West Shore Community College in Scottville, Michigan, will address the 425th meeting of The Round Table on the unruly 18th Illinois Infantry regiment and its Irish-born commander, Michael K. Lawler. Our speaker presented a paper on this subject to the Third Annual Illinois History Symposium in December, 1982, and the paper has been selected for forthcoming publication by the Illinois State Historical Society.

In his studies of the volunteer soldier of the Civil War, Dr. Anderson has been intrigued by the style of leadership displayed by the volunteer officer and the behavior of citizens turned soldiers. Colonel Lawler evidently ran a loose organization and when matters got out of control, he took forceful, impulsive and strong measures to regain control. Lawler instituted discipline by knocking down rebellious individuals with his fists, feeding emetics to drunken soldiers lodged in the guardhouse, and threatening violence to officers and enlisted men alike. When a court martial was convened to try Lawler for these 'alleged' offenses, he was quickly acquitted of the charges by Henry W. Halleck, then commander of the Department of Missouri.



William M. Anderson

Dr. Anderson finds it difficult to reach definite conclusions that a regiment's behavior was particularly dutiful, disciplined and honorable, or the reverse, in the absence of standards for determining good or bad conduct. Any judgments, therefore, have to be based on impressions and generalized comparisons. Within that framework, he believes, the behavior of the 18th Illinois would appear to compel a conclusion of infamous character marked by frequent acts of lawlessness. The internal problems of this regiment and its leader were notoriously highlighted by the slaying of an enlisted man by a fellow soldier, which was quickly followed by a 'kangaroo-court' trial and a lynching.

Lawler and the 18th Illinois served together in the western campaigns. Lawler was wounded in the assault on Fort Donelson. The regiment took part in Grant's central Mississippi campaign of late 1862, as well as the final siege and capture of Vicksburg in July, 1863. Later, it saw action in the Arkansas campaign in the spring of 1864 and was

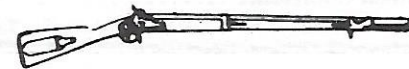


425th Regular Meeting

William M. Anderson
on
Col. Lawler and the
Lawless 18th Illinois

Friday, November 11, 1983

Hotel Continental
505 N. Michigan
Camelot Room, 3rd Floor
Cocktails at 5:30 p.m. Dinner at 6:30 p.m.
\$13.00 per person
Entree: Turkey



For the convenience of members and guests, we will be listing in the newsletter the dinner entree for each month's meeting (see above). If you would prefer fish, please so indicate on your reservation card.

mustered out at Little Rock, Arkansas on December 16, 1865. Lawler was brevetted major general as of March 13, 1865. Lawler returned to farm life near Equality, Illinois where he died on July 26, 1882.

Prior to accepting his present position this year, Dr. Anderson was president of Carl Sandburg College in Galesburg, Illinois. He received his B.A. in history from Michigan State University, his M.A. in history from Central Michigan University, and his Ph.D. in administration of higher education from Southern Illinois University. He has served as assistant to the president and history instructor at Southwestern Michigan College and was a teacher and

(continued on page 2)

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



Founded December 3, 1940
18 East Chestnut Street
Chicago, Illinois 60611
Phone: (312) 944-3085

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The only requirement for membership in The Round Table is a genuine interest in the Civil War and its era. For information, address Ward C. Smidl, 1104 Whippoorwill Lane, Palatine, Illinois 60007.



Gettysburg Battlefield Preservation Association
The Gettysburg Battlefield Preservation Association, first established in 1959, has been reorganized and is undertaking a membership campaign to raise funds to purchase remaining lands within Gettysburg National Military Park. The concern was, and is, that areas of the battlefield not owned by the National Park Service might be subject to commercial development.

According to Bill Frassanito, writing in the June-July issue of *Civil War Book Exchange*, since 1961 the organization has purchased 172 acres of land. However, there are still 46 tracts totalling 251 acres within the Park's authorized boundaries for which purchase money is not available.

Membership in the Association is only \$5. To become a member, or for further information, contact Gettysburg Battlefield Preservation Association, P.O. Box 1863, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania 17325. (Editor's note: The Round Table has donated \$50 to the Association.)

Items of interest

The following are all from the Williamsburg Round Table newsletter.

The City Point unit of the Petersburg National Battlefield, which includes Appomattox Manor, was officially opened on June 26. It was on this site that Grant maintained his headquarters from June 1864 to March 1865. Grant's cabin, where he lived while there, is being reconstructed.

The Civil War is still alive in Charleston, S.C. where bomb experts had to be called in on June 14th to remove an 18-inch Civil War shell uncovered by workmen.

Mr. and Mrs. Warren West of Powhatan County, Va. have restored Edgemont Plantation, the birthplace of Col. John Singleton Mosby, The Grey Ghost. The house was in very bad shape when they bought it in 1978 just before it was due to be dismantled. The house has been moved to a new location.

Underwater salvage experts are considering an attempt to salvage the remains of America's first ironclad ship, *The Manassas*, which was sunk in the Mississippi River in 1862 while attempting to prevent the fleet of Union Admiral Farragut from reaching New Orleans.

At Fort Mason near San Francisco the National Park Service continues to uncover the remains of a Civil War Battery which was built to protect the entrance to the San Francisco harbor during the Civil War. The Park Service hopes to eventually stabilize this site, known as Black Point Battery, and partly reproduce the battery of ten inch Rodman Cannon which served there.

(continued from page 1)

coach at a high school in Jackson, Michigan.

Dr. Anderson is the author of numerous articles dealing with the Civil War and in 1980 authored a book, *They Died to Make Men Free: History of the 19th Michigan Infantry*. From his personal collection he has contributed photographs to *The Papers of Ulysses S. Grant—Volume 7*; *Civil War Times Illustrated* (December, 1980), and to Volume 1 of the photographic history, *The Image of War, 1861-1865: Shadows of the Storm*. In addition to his historical pursuits, Dr. Anderson is involved in numerous community activities and with various higher education organizations.

A reminder: 1983-84 dues must be paid by November 1. Members not paying by that date will be dropped from the rolls.

October meeting

Cedar Mountain, Stonewall Jackson's last independent operation, and a battle he came close to losing, was Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park chief historian Robert Krick's subject when he addressed 84 members and guests at The Round Table meeting October 14. Bob, who is writing a book on Cedar Mountain, described the battle in detail. And, he made it come alive by interspersing his description with the first-hand accounts of many of the participants.

As Bob noted in beginning his talk, in August, 1862, Stonewall Jackson was perhaps the most famous man in the world. He also noted that Cedar Mountain was to be Jackson's last independent operation; after it he would always be under Lee's direct command. Of course, as it turned out, at the time of the battle of Cedar Mountain he had only nine months to live.

Lee had ordered Jackson to "suppress Pope" who was obviously readying an offensive. On August 2, 1862, there was a cavalry clash at Orange Court House in which the Confederate cavalry did poorly. Bob noted that because of the poor quality of the Confederate cavalry he had with him, under Beverley Robertson, Jackson did not have his "eyes."

On August 7 the court-martial of Dick Garnett began (Jackson had brought charges against him following the defeat at Kernstown). The trial went badly for Jackson, however; most of those who testified supported Garnett. Bob speculates that because the court-martial was going so badly from Jackson's point of view he decided to break it off and lunge across the Rapidan on August 8, north toward Culpeper Court House. (The court-martial was never resumed.)

On August 9, Jackson unexpectedly ran into the Union army under Banks at Cedar Mountain. The first contact was between cavalry, with the Federals being driven back at The Cedars. The action then settled down to an artillery dual. The Confederates held Cedar or, as it is also called, Slaughter Mountain from which they could hit the Federals in the flank.

The Confederate infantry moved into the woods on the left, but in an L-formation to protect the artillery. They were thus poorly prepared for the Union infantry attack which came across the wheat field and struck at their unprotected left. Although the Union forces were outnumbered they shattered the Confederates on the left in fighting that was in many cases hand-to-hand.

Jackson and the Confederates had been so involved in the artillery fight that the Union charge took them by surprise—Jackson himself was caught in the middle with bullets coming from three sides. However, as Bob explained, Jackson seemed transformed by the excitement and began to rally his troops. The Confederates also brought up reinforcements. Bob said that although the Confederates would never have been destroyed at Cedar Mountain, they could have been badly defeated if the reserves had not come up in time.

The Confederate line was rebuilt and swept back across the wheat field. Those Confederates on the right of the line took heart from this, pushed forward, and captured some Federals, including Brigadier General Prince. As the Union forces retreated, the cavalry was used to slow down the Confederate pursuit; the cavalry lost 60 per cent of their men in the process.

During the evening the battle moved toward the north-

east (toward Culpeper Court House). However, the Federal artillery continued to batter the Confederates and the action broke off. On August 11, the Confederates fell back to the Southwest across the Rapidan.

Divers recover Monitor's anchor

Divers from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration recently recovered the anchor and six feet of chain from the ironclad warship Monitor. They also took clear videotape pictures of the vessel. The Monitor, which sank in a storm while being towed on December 31, 1862, lies in about 230 feet of water 16 miles southeast of Cape Hatteras.

The anchor, which was floated to the surface by means of an air bag, was transported to East Carolina University where it was placed in a tank of water through which electricity was run to remove the encrustation. Study of the degree of deterioration of the anchor will indicate the difficulty of salvaging the Monitor's rotating turret and other mechanisms. The videotapes, which show the ship to be resting upside down, will be an invaluable asset to those trying to stabilize the site. Scientists ultimately hope to build a support structure for the hull so the turret can be removed.

Several museums in Richmond, including The Museum of the Confederacy, The Valentine Museum, The Virginia Historical Society (Battle Abbey) and the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts are all having a display of Painting in the South. Among the works on display are "The Burial of Latane" at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts (Captain William Latane was the only Confederate casualty resulting from Stuart's ride around McClellan in June, 1862), a portrait of Stonewall Jackson at the Battle Abbey, and several portrait busts of Confederate heroes. The display runs through November 27.

Civil War Round Table Associates reports that a committee has been assembled at Balls Bluff to assist in setting aside land around the cemetery for a 70-acre Balls Bluff park. The land is owned by a Swiss company which is willing to donate or sell it in exchange for a transfer of development rights to adjacent property.

The Harpers Ferry Round Table newsletter reports that the Rohrback Farm at Antietam is for sale for about \$300,000. The farm, which borders the Antietam National Battlefield, is where the Ninth Corps under General Burnside prepared for and staged its attack on September 17, 1862. The owner of the farm is attempting to sell it to a preservationist.

A one man show, "Mr. U.S. Grant: A Man and a Patriot," was presented at Shiloh National Military Park on September 4. The action of the show took place in 1862 at Grant's headquarters near the Tennessee River and told, in flashback, the story of Grant's life. Dan Haughey portrayed Grant.

According to the U.D.C. Magazine, the battlefield of Port Hudson is now open to the public. The park, which commemorates the siege of Port Hudson that lasted from May 23 to July 9, 1863, while Vicksburg was under siege by Grant, includes six miles of trails, observation towers, and picnic sites.

THE NEW BOOKS



(compiled by Dick Clark)

Baylor, George. *Bull Run to Bull Run; or, Four Years in the Army of Northern Virginia*. Containing a Detailed Account of the Career and Adventures of the Baylor Light Horse, Company B, Twelfth Virginia Cavalry, C.S.A., with Leaves from my Scrapbook. Washington, D.C.: Zenger Publ. Co., 1983. Original of 1900. 427 p. \$21.95.

Clarke, James W. *American Assassins: The Darker Side of Politics*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1982. 321 p. \$18.50.

Barron, Samuel Benton. *The Lone Star Defenders: A Chronicle of the Third Texas Cavalry, Ross' Brigade*. Washington, D.C.: Zenger Publ. Co., 1983. Original of 1908. \$19.95.

Goodloe, Albert Theodore. *Confederate Echoes: A Voice from the South in the Days of Secession and of the Southern Confederacy*. Washington, D.C.: Zenger Pub. Co., 1983. 452 p. \$21.95.

Harper, Annie. *Annie Harper's Journal, a Southern Mother's Legacy*. Denton, Texas: Flower Mound Writing Co., 1983. 76 p. \$7.50 pbk.

McKim, Randolph Harrison. *A Soldier's Recollections. Leaves from the Diary of a Young Confederate, with an oration on the Motives and Aims of the Soldiers of the South*. Washington, D.C.: Zenger Pub. Co., 1983. 352 p., \$19.95. Original of 1910.

Morseberger, Robert E. and Katharine M. Morseberger. *Lew Wallace: Militant Romantic*. New York: McGraw-Hill, 1980. \$17.95.

Naisawald, L. Van Loan. *Grape and Canister. The Story of the Field Artillery of the Army of the Potomac, 1861-1865*. Washington, D.C.: Zenger Pub. Co., 1983. Original of 1960. 593 p., \$29.95.

Oates, Stephen B. *Our Fiery Trial: Abraham Lincoln, John Brown, and the Civil War Era*. Amherst: The University of Massachusetts Press, 1983. Pbk \$7.95. Hardcover of 1979.

Palumbo, Frank A. *George Henry Thomas, Major General, U.S.A. The Dependable General, Supreme in Tactics of Strategy and Command*. Dayton, Ohio: Morningside House, 1983. 466 p. \$25.00.

Pullen, John J. *Comic Relief: The Life and Laughter of Artemus Ward, 1834-1867*. Hamden, CT: The Shoe String Press, 1983. 208 p., \$22.50.

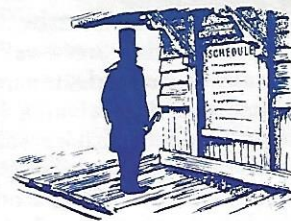
U.S. War Department. *United States Army Regulations, 1863*. Yuma, AZ: Fort Yuma Press, 1983. \$15.95.

Warren, Robert Penn. *The Legacy of the Civil War*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1983. Original of 1961. Pbk \$4.95.

Williamson, James Joseph. *Mosby's Rangers: A Record of the Operations of the Forty-third Battalion Virginia Cavalry from its Organization to the Surrender*. Alexandria, VA: Time-Life Books, 1982. 511 p. \$19.95.

Wood, Robert C., compiler. *Confederate Hand-book: A Compilation of Important Data and other Interesting and Valuable Matter Relating to the War Between the States, 1861-1865*. Falls Church, VA: Civil War Books, 1983. \$12.95. pbk \$7.95. Original of 1900.

BULLETIN BOARD



Future meetings

Regular meetings are held at the Hotel Continental, 505 N. Michigan, the second Friday in each month, except as noted.

November 11: William M. Anderson on "Col. Lawler and the Lawless 18th Ill."

December 9: Karen Osborne on "Women in the Civil War."

January 13, 1984: Mike Cohn on "Civil War Telegraphy."

February 17: Marshall Krolick, Bill Sullivan, Jim Vlazny and Gordon Whitney in "Senate Confrontation, November-December, 1860" with Ralph Newman as Pres. Pro. Tem.

March 9: Col. Roy K. Flint on "Cold Harbor."

April 13: Richard McMurry on "John Bell Hood."

May 2-6: Battlefield Tour to Washington, D.C.

May 11: To be announced.

June 8: Dan Jordan on "John S. Mosby."

New members

Maryanne Cosentino, 304 Kensington St. Palatine, Illinois 60067.

Steven C. Filipowski, 3520 S. 57th Ct., Cicero, Illinois 60650.

Steven A. Gfesser, 1996 Erie, Hoffman Estates, Illinois 60195 (312) 884-7851.

Terry M. Hatch, 886 Fair Way, Libertyville, Illinois 60048 (312) 362-9725.

James R. Linder, 215 W. Willow, Lombard, Illinois 60148 (312) 629-3368.

Kathleen Spaltro, 805 Michigan Avenue, #3, Evanston, Illinois 60202 (312) 328-5056.

Tom Suhs, 9200 54th Avenue, Oak Lawn, Illinois 60453 (312) 425-2819.

Daniel A. Vetter, 3978 Dorchester, Gurnee, Illinois 60031 (312) 244-0106.

Changes of address

Gary S. Bellos, 627 Pheasant Lane, Deerfield, Illinois 60015.

Allan W. Follett, 12 Westover Court, Madison, Wisconsin 53719.

Bradford Gregg, 505 Lake Shore, Apt. 2308, Chicago, Illinois 60611.

Carl Haverlin, 17711 Margate, Apt. 7, Encino, California 91316.

Lois Lynn, 12847 Ponderosa Drive, Palos Heights, Illinois 60463.

Jacqueline A. Wilson, 6229 N. Winthrop, #307, Chicago, Illinois 60660 (312) 764-5839.

Fellow member Dr. Grady McWhiney has sent a note to advise us that he has accepted the Lyndon Baines Johnson Chair of History at Texas Christian University. He was formerly a professor at The Center for the Study of Southern History and Culture at the University of Alabama.