

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

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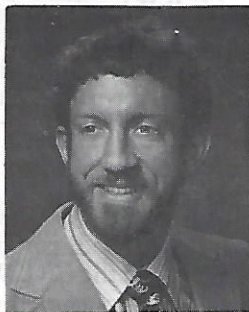
Chicago, Illinois

October, 1986

Dr. Richard F. Selcer on Two Gentlemen From Virginia: The Lee and Pickett Connection

As the weary survivors of Pickett's, Pettigrew's and Trimble's commands made their way back to the Confederate lines on Seminary Ridge, General Lee saw Pickett returning, rode up to him and gave him instructions as to the placement of his troops to repel a possible Federal counter-attack. Pickett replied to Lee, "I have no division now, Armistead is down, Garnett is down and Kemper is mortally wounded." Lee tried to reassure him and said, "Come, General Pickett, this has been my fight and upon my shoulders rests the blame. The men and officers of your command have written the name of Virginia as high as it has ever been written before."

Robert E. Lee and George E. Pickett remain two of the greatest heroes of those who fought for the Confederacy. Both men seemingly went far beyond the ordinary call of duty in their service to the "Lost Cause." At The Round Table meeting October 10, Dr. Richard F.



Dr. Richard F. Selcer

"Rick" Selcer, an instructor in the Forth Worth Independent School District, will explore the relationship between these two Confederate leaders and discuss those instances when their paths crossed.

They enjoyed a common heritage as sons of Virginia and represented career military officers. Both graduated from West Point, though Lee graduated 2nd in a class of 46 in 1829, while Pickett ranked at the very bottom of the 59-man class of 1846. Both received brevets for their service in the Mexican War, though Lee emerged from that conflict with a brilliant reputation. After service in the elite 2nd U.S. Cavalry and a three-year term as Superintendent at West Point, Lee, on the recommendation of Gen. Winfield Scott, was offered command of the Federal armies by President Lincoln on February 18, 1861. Lee declined and resigned his commission two days later to take command of Virginia's troops. Likewise, Pickett resigned a captaincy in Federal service and secured a colonel's commission in the Confederate army. In his first command, he directed rebel troops on both sides of the lower Rappahannock river.

In Dr. Selcer's view, the major differences in their personalities, temperament and ideas about duty produced disaster every time their careers intersected. This was particularly true on three separate battlefields, Gettysburg, Five Forks and Saylor's Creek, where the conduct of the two men was a study in contrasts.



454th Regular Meeting

Richard F. Selcer
on
Two Gentlemen From Virginia:
The Lee and Pickett Connection

Friday, October 10, 1986

Quality Inn
Halsted and Madison
Cocktails at 5:30 p.m. Dinner at 6:30 p.m.
\$13.00 per person
Entree: Veal Scaloppine, Fish, or Fruit Plate



Executive Committee meeting

President Pat Sumner has announced there will be an Executive Committee meeting on October 25 at 10:30 a.m. It will be held in Room 407 at the Quality Inn. All current officers, trustees and committee chairmen, and all past presidents, are urged to attend.

Lee had directed Pickett to hold Five Forks "at all hazards," for if the right flank of the Confederate lines at Petersburg should fall, the entire route of retreat for the Army of Northern Virginia from Petersburg and Richmond would be threatened. At the invitation of Tom Rosser, Pickett and Fitz Lee had joined Rosser at a "shad bake" when the Federal attack in great strength rolled up the Confederate lines, causing a precipitous retreat that would end nine days later with the surrender at Appomattox Court House.

At Saylor's Creek, Pickett, among others, had failed to remain in contact with troops ahead and behind him as the Confederate troops moved westward seeking food and a

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THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



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

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House	Hal Ardell
Picnic	

The only requirement for membership in The Round Table is a genuine interest in the Civil War and its era. For information, address Dan Weinberg, 18 E. Chestnut St., Chicago, Illinois 60611.



A committee, under the chairmanship of past president Paul Klinger, has been formed to plan the 50th anniversary celebration of The Round Table, which will occur in 1990. The participation of all members is welcome. If you have any suggestions regarding the nature of the celebration, when and where it should be held, etc., or if you are interested in working with Paul, please contact him at 1923 Warren, Evanston, Illinois 60202 (312) 864-4029.

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possible juncture with Johnston's army in North Carolina. Although Lee had ordered his relief from command, the order had evidently never reached him and he continued to accompany the troops in retreat. When Lee saw him later, he is said to have remarked, "I thought that man was no longer with the army."

In March, 1870, just a few months before Lee's death, the famed rebel cavalryman, John S. Mosby, encountered the Confederate leader on the streets of Richmond. Later on the same day, Mosby also met Pickett and told him of meeting Lee. Pickett agreed to go and pay his respects to Lee if Mosby would accompany him. The meeting, in Mosby's words, was "cold and formal," and evidently embarrassing to both men. After the short meeting, Mosby and Pickett left the room and Pickett spoke bitterly of Lee, calling him "that old man." Pickett complained to Mosby, "He had my division massacred at Gettysburg." Mosby's reply was, "Well, it made you immortal."

Currently a resident of Forth Worth, Texas, Dr. Selcer received his bachelor's and master's degrees from Austin College and his doctorate in U.S. history from Texas Christian University. Prior to his current academic assignment, he served as assistant professor of history at Jarvis Christian College, Hawkins, Texas; head of the history department at Yankton College, Yankton, South Dakota; and academic dean of Cottey College, Nevada, Missouri. His publications include: "The Third Day at Gettysburg: The Day of Reckoning," *Proceedings, Sixth Annual Civil War Symposium* (1985); "The Several Sides of Raphael Semmes," *Proceedings, Fourth Annual Civil War Symposium* (1983). He has two works awaiting publication, a book entitled *Hell's Half Acre*, and a journal article, "Lee and Pickett."

The Tenth Annual tours of the Battles of Westport and Mine Creek will be held October 25 and 26. Both are sponsored and conducted by the Westport Historical Society and the Civil War Round Table of Kansas City. The Battle of Westport tour on October 25 will cover all the significant battle sites in the Independence and Kansas City area. The Mine Creek tour will include a visit to Fort Scott, which was built in 1842. The cost of the Westport Tour is \$25; the Mine Creek tour is \$29. You can take both for \$50. Travel by air-conditioned buses and lunch is included in the price of both tours. Accommodations are available at the Regency Park in Overland Park for \$35 single and \$42 double. To register for the tours, write: Westport Historical Society, P.O. Box 10076, Westport Station, Kansas City, Missouri 64111. Indicate if accommodations are required.

The Fourth Annual Michigan Civil War Collectors Show will be held on Saturday, October 11 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Oakland University in Rochester, Michigan. There will be 150 tables for Civil War memorabilia, guns, paper items, swords, images, books, etc. Admission is \$2.50. For further information, contact Dave Parks, 18387 Ash Creek Drive, Mt. Clemens, Michigan 48044 (313) 286-6462.

Videotapes of the Third Annual Assembly on "Lt. General U.S. Grant—The Civil War Years," held last March, are now available for \$50 each. The tapes, containing all eight of the talks, are in VHS format. For further information, or to place an order, call Merl Sumner at (312) 539-1863.

September meeting

On September 12, 125 members and guests met for the 13th annual Nevins-Freeman Award Dinner. In addition to honoring Professor Harold Hyman as this year's recipient of the award, the meeting was of historic note as Pat Sumner, The Round Table's first woman president, chaired the meeting.

Founder and former president Ralph Newman introduced Professor Hyman and recalled when he made his first appearance at The Round Table 34 years ago. Since that time, Professor Hyman has published several books and numerous articles on the Civil War. He has also become one of the leading scholars on American law and the Constitution.

In his opening remarks, Professor Hyman said he was indeed privileged to receive the Nevins-Freeman Award because he studied for his doctorate under Allen Nevins' tutelage. He also said that he knew Douglas S. Freeman, and that both men had much in common. Although neither had earned a doctorate, both were excellent scholars and historians. With their background in journalism, both could bring forth the drama of history. Their main works are considered monuments in historical writing.

Professor Hyman then turned to his topic for the evening, which dealt with Lincoln and other "Yuppie" lawyers in the years before the Civil War. Along with Lincoln, there were two others who developed their legal skills in the states of the former Northwest Territory—Salmon P. Chase and Edwin Stanton. The common problem they faced was abolitionism.

Of the three, Chase was the best educated. He graduated from Dartmouth and studied law under a former U.S. attorney general. Stanton attended but never graduated from Kenyon College, and he served an apprenticeship under a lawyer. Lincoln had very little formal education and was self-taught in the law. Regardless of their educational backgrounds, all three had successful practices.

In the 1840s and '50s, Chase was involved in the abolitionist movement and defended fugitive slaves in the courts. He was also involved in politics in Cincinnati and won several local elections. Stanton's legal practice specialized in corporate law; Lincoln, while serving corporate clients, did occasionally defend fugitive slaves.

Before the Civil War, slavery was a state defined property right. As part of this definition, there were complicated theories dealing with the relationship between master and slave. In this regard, the laws of slave states could intrude into the free states. After the Fugitive Slave Act was passed, federal commissioners could seize former slaves residing in free states and extradite them to their former masters. The legal profession was not a strong voice in articulating issues before the Civil War, particularly issues dealing with the Bill of Rights or federal laws. Most lawyers were concerned with the law of the state in which they practiced.

During the Civil War, Lincoln, Chase and Stanton had to face legal problems in addition to waging a war. One problem was how a civilian government could control a major war effort. Another was the issue of slavery. For example, if slaves were considered as property, then to free the slaves would be denying someone's property rights. During the first year of the War, the federal government proposed compensating slave owners for escaped slaves.

The military situation brought a radical change to this concept. Slavery, instead of being a property right, became a moral wrong. Emancipation became both a military neces-

sity and a moral imperative. After the war, emancipation became law when the Thirteenth Amendment was passed prohibiting slavery and involuntary servitude.

The Second Annual West Coast Civil War Conference will be held November 8-9, 1986 at Griswold's Hotel in Fullerton, California. Among the speakers will be W.C. "Jack" Davis on "First Bull Run," Jerry Russell on "The Battle of Pea Ridge," and Bob Krick on "The Amazing Career of General William Barksdale" and "Reflections on James Longstreet's Attitude." The registration fee, which includes all sessions and meals, but not lodging, is \$145 (\$10 discount if paid by October 15). For further information, contact CWRT Associates, P.O. Box 7388, Little Rock, Arkansas 72207.

Museum thefts are becoming steadily more serious, according to the Congress of Illinois Historical Societies and Museums. They report the following recent losses: 1864 Spencer rifle, field officer's sword and scabbard, U.S. cavalry saber, eagle head mounted officer's saber, Remington revolver, 1812 canteen, Revolutionary War canteen, and uniform buttons and GAR badge. All these items were taken during open hours, many from locked cases. In addition, labels were removed and displays rearranged to disguise the gap left after removal.

The Congress believes the thefts are being committed by either one person or an organized group. Anyone with information about the stolen pieces, or other information, should contact the Congress at Old State Capitol, Springfield, Illinois 62701.

The Meridian Expedition: Sherman's Forgotten Campaign by Margie Riddle Bearss, will be published by the Jackson Civil War Round Table in the spring of 1987. The nearly 400-page book contains numerous maps and illustrations. The pre-publication price is \$13.75, which includes postage and handling. After publication it will sell for \$18 plus postage. To order, send your check to The Jackson Civil War Round Table, Inc., Apt 816 Magnolia Towers, 809 North State Street, Jackson, Mississippi 39201. Expect delivery sometime in the spring.

Also available at a prepublication price is John Schildt's biography of Stonewall Jackson's surgeon, Hunter McGuire. The 200 page hardbound book is available for \$10 prior to October 15. Thereafter, it will sell for \$13.50. Order from Antietam Publications, P.O. Box 37, Chewsville, Maryland 21721 (301) 733-8387.

And finally, you might be interested in a copy of *The Rough Side of War: The Civil War Journal of Chesley A. Mosman*, edited, with a biographical sketch and notes, by Arnold Gates. Mosman was a 1st Lieutenant with Company D, 59th Illinois Volunteer Infantry. The approximately 480 page journal will be issued in a limited, signed and numbered edition of 500 copies for \$25 each. Send your check to Arnold Gates, 168 Weyford Terrace, Garden City, New York 11530.

According to an item in the Chicago Daily Law Bulletin last spring, Scott County, Tennessee, which seceded from Tennessee out of loyalty to the Union, has officially rejoined the state after 125 years of independence. The east Tennessee county seceded in 1861 and never formally applied for readmission until this year. Governor Lamar Alexander signed the readmission resolution in late April.

The New Books

compiled by Dick Clark



BULLETIN BOARD

Beers, Fannie A. *Memories: A Record of Personal Experience and Adventure during Four Years of War*. Alexandria, VA: Time-Life Books, 1985. 336 p. Original of 1888. \$19.95.

Berling, Ira, ed. *The Destruction of Slavery*. Edited by... et al. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1986. 852 p. \$39.50.

Brandt, Nat. *The Man Who Tried to Burn New York*. Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, 1986. (Capt. Robt. Cobb Kennedy, C.S.A.) \$19.95.

Casey, Silas. *U.S. Infantry Tactics*. Dayton: Morningside Bookshop, 1985. The three volumes in one. \$45.00.

Cornish, Dudley Taylor and Virginia Jeans Laas. *Lincoln's Lee: The Life of Samuel Phillips Lee, United States Navy, 1812-1897*. Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 1986. \$19.95.

Davis, William C. *Civil War Parks: The Story Behind the Scenery*. Las Vegas: KC Publications, 1984. pbk. \$8.95.

Davis, William C. *Gettysburg: The Story Behind the Scenery*. Las Vegas: KC Publications, 1983. \$8.95. pbk \$4.50.

Eliot, Alexander. *Abraham Lincoln: An Illustrated Biography*. New York: W.H. Smith, 1985. \$10.00. A juvenile.

Elliott, Joseph Cantey. *Lieutenant General Richard Heron Anderson: Lee's Nobel Soldier*. Dayton, OH: Morningside Bookshop, 1985. 172 p. \$20.00.

Fields, Frank E. *28th Virginia Infantry*. Lynchburg, VA: H.E. Howard, 1985. 89 p. \$16.45. In the Virginia Regimental Histories series.

Foote, Shelby. *The Civil War: A Narrative*. The 1974 work in paperback; 3 vols. @ \$15.95 each; boxed together: \$50.00. New York: Random House.

McLean, James L. *Gettysburg Sources*. Vol. I. Ed. & intro. by... Baltimore: Butternut and Blue, 1986. 149 p. \$20.00.

Greenberg, Martin H. and Bill Pronzini, eds. *A Treasury of Civil War Stories*. New York: Bonanza Books, 1985. pbk. \$7.95.

Hanover Chamber of Commerce. *Encounter at Hanover: Prelude to Gettysburg*. Shippensburg, PA: Beidel Printing House, 1985. 274 p., \$17.95. A second printing of the 1963 original.

Harter, Eugene C. *The Lost Colony of the Confederacy*. Jackson, MS: University Press of Mississippi, 1985. 141 p. \$14.95. (In Brazil!)

Hitchcock, Frederick Lyman. *War from the Inside: The Story of the 132nd Regiment Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry in the War for the Suppression of the Rebellion, 1862-1863*. Alexandria, VA: Time-Life Books, 1985. 308 p. Original of 1904. \$19.95.

Hoar, Jay S. *The South's Last Boys in Gray*. Foreword by Thomas W. Crigler, Jr. Bowling Green, OH: Popular Press. 617 p., illus. \$29.95; pbk \$19.95.

Koch, Freda Postle. *Colonel Coggeshall: The Man who Saved Lincoln*. Columbus, OH: Poko Press, 1986. \$11.95.

Krick, Robert. *40th Virginia Infantry*. Lynchburg, VA: H.E. Howard, 1985. 108 p. \$16.95. In the Virginia Regimental Histories series.

Future meetings

Regular meetings are held at the Quality Inn, Halsted and Madison, the second Friday in each month, except as noted.

October 10: Richard F. Selcer on "Two Gentlemen From Virginia: The Lee and Pickett Connection."

October 25: Executive Committee meeting, 10:30 a.m., Quality Inn, Room 407.

November 14: Wilson Greene on "The Bloody Angle of Spotsylvania."

December 12: Alan T. Nolan on "A Northerner's View of Robert E. Lee."

January 9, 1987: Marshall D. Krolick on "Captain to Brigadier: The Promotions of Custer, Farnsworth and Merritt."

February 20: Ralph G. Newman on "Robert Todd Lincoln in the Civil War." **Note:** This is the third Friday of the month.

March 13: Howard McManus on "The Battle of Cloyd's Mountain."

April 10: Mike Chesson on "The Bread Riots in Richmond."

April 30-May 3: Annual Battlefield Tour—The Trans-Mississippi.

May 8: Betty Otto on "Maryland Campaign, September 1862."

June 5: Mark Boatner on "How the Civil War Dictionary Came Into Being." **Note:** This is the first Friday of the month.

New members

Teri Bentcover, 8057 N. Harding, Skokie, Illinois 60076 (312) 677-6267.

Richard A. Farmer, 550 Standish Dr., Deerfield, Illinois 60015 (312) 945-5549.

Joseph D. Good, 1337 Washington Ave., Wilmette, Illinois 60091 (312) 251-1029.

Ralph C. Greene, 6033 N. Sheridan Rd., Chicago, Illinois 60660.

Thomas and Judith Hauff, 1227 Pine St., Glenview, Illinois 60025 (312) 998-6177.

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Julie Vohs Rocco, 5324 S. Benton, Downers Grove, Illinois 60515 (312) 960-2873.

David J. Smith, 488 Taylor Ave., Glen Ellyn, Illinois 60137 (312) 858-1737.

Kimberly A. Yale, 1920 W. Morse, Chicago, Illinois 60626 (312) 262-8756.

Changes of address

Robert J. Jensen, 2320 Central, Evanston, Illinois 60201.

Randy H. Lusher, 5430 Washington St., Downers Grove, Illinois 60515.