

# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

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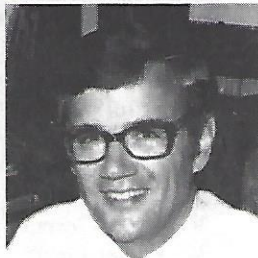
Chicago, Illinois

June, 1984

## Dan Jordan on A Ride with the Gray Ghost: The Life and Adventurous Times of John S. Mosby

A man of many paradoxes and no stranger to controversy, Mosby was the most celebrated and successful practitioner of guerrilla warfare for the Confederacy. On June 8, 1984, Daniel P. Jordan, professor of history at Virginia Commonwealth University, will deliver a slide presentation covering the full sweep of the 'Gray Ghost's' long and colorful career and emphasizing his exploits as a partisan ranger.

Born at Edgemont, Powhatan County, Virginia, Mosby entered the University of Virginia in 1849 where he showed special aptitude in his studies. As an undergraduate he was sentenced to six months in jail and fined \$1,000 for shooting and wounding a fellow student in a dispute. However, the sentence was annulled by the Virginia legislature. He was admitted to the Virginia bar in 1855. At the outbreak of the Civil War, he enlisted in the cavalry and participated in the Bull Run campaign. In April, 1862, he was attached to 'Jeb' Stuart's staff and served with him during the Peninsular, Second Manassas and Antietam campaigns.



Daniel P. Jordan

In January, 1863, Mosby began independent operations as a ranger in Loudoun County with only 9 men. Acting under the partisan ranger law which permitted the division of captured property among the captors, Mosby attacked isolated pickets with immediate success, and was soon commissioned a lieutenant. His rangers never had camps and boarded where they chose. Each man furnished his own food, horse, arms and uniform. After an engagement, the command scattered to meet again at a time and place agreed at disbanding. There were no drills; revolvers were the principal weapons, and sabers were not used. The life with its booty and adventures, free from camp drudgery, fascinated many, and Mosby's ranks were constantly increasing in numbers through the recruiting of bold riders and fearless fighters. His first great success came on March 9, 1863, as his men crept within the Federal lines to enter Fairfax Court House, capturing General Stoughton and 100 prisoners, as well as mounts for all. This achievement earned him a captain's bars, and he became a major after a raid on Chantilly. When he was directed to organize a regular company, he declined, stating he wanted rangers, not regulars. On June 10, 1863, he won out and his men became Company A, 43rd Battalion Partisan Rangers, and additional companies were organized later.



432nd Regular Meeting

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Dan Jordan  
on

A Ride with the Gray Ghost:  
The Life and Adventurous Times of  
Col. John S. Mosby, C.S.A.

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Friday, June 8, 1984

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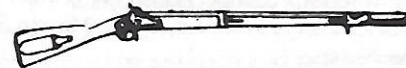
Hotel Continental  
505 N. Michigan

Camelot Room, 3rd Floor

Cocktails at 5:30 p.m. Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

\$13.00 per person

Entree: Roast Beef



Mosby performed valuable scouting work at the beginning of the Gettysburg campaign, but was unable to accompany Lee's army northward. The counties of Loudoun, Prince William, Fairfax and Fauquier became known as 'Mosby's Confederacy', as the residents helped him in his military operations. After his promotion to lieutenant colonel in February, 1864, he was ruthlessly hunted by Union cavalry, but since his troops dispersed when danger threatened, he was never caught.

When Lee surrendered, Mosby realized that the war was over. On April 21, 1865, he reviewed his men at Salem, Virginia and disbanded them. With his own surrender in June, 1865, he settled in Warrenton, Virginia to resume the practice of law. After joining the Republican party, he was

(continued on page 2)



### May meeting

The impact of party politics on John Pope's military career through the Second Bull Run Campaign was the focal point of Walter Trenerry's address to 86 members and guests at the Round Table meeting on May 18th. The speaker pointed out that Pope is the only first rank Union general without a full-length biography, a vacuum that he is planning to fill with a work currently titled, *John Pope: Miles Gloriosus or Gulliver in Chains?*

Though born in Louisville, Kentucky, Pope had grown up in Kaskaskia, Illinois. His father, Judge Nathaniel Pope, was a U.S. judge in whose courtroom Lincoln had practiced law and the Popes were kinsmen of George Washington as well as Illinois' first governor, Ninian Edwards. Pope graduated 17th in a West Point graduating class of 56 in 1842. After four years of survey duty as a topographical engineer, Pope won the brevets of lieutenant and captain for gallantry in service with Zachary Taylor's army in the Mexican War. In 1859, he married the daughter of a rich Ohio Republican who was a Congressman and a personal friend of Salmon P. Chase, Secretary of the Treasury in Lincoln's cabinet. An important assignment for Pope was the detail as one of four army officers assigned to accompany the Lincoln family from their Springfield home to Washington.

When war came, Pope scrounged for a command like every other Army officer and wrote letters to friends that included Lincoln himself, and Judge David Davis and Governor Richard Yates. The letter to Yates was successful and Pope was placed in charge of recruiting and training Illinois troops. In July, 1861, Yates gave Pope the command of Illinois' first brigade. When he took command of the Union Army of the Mississippi in February, 1862, he led a four-week blitzkrieg which secured the capture of New Madrid, Missouri in March and the capture of Island No. 10 in April. The surrender of Island No. 10 made Pope an instant hero. In June, 1862, he was called to Washington where Lincoln and Secretary of War Stanton offered him the command of a new army, the Army of Virginia. Its mission would be to guard Washington, chase Stonewall Jackson's troops out of the Shenandoah Valley, take Charlottesville and then join with the Army of the Potomac in an attack on Richmond.

Although Lincoln didn't tell Pope as much, his would be a 'Republican' to offset the 'Democratic' Army of the Potomac led by George B. McClellan. However, Pope had no choice of key subordinates, and had to take three defeated corps as they were, with three unsuccessful commanders who still had political value—John C. Fremont, Nathaniel P. Banks, and Irvin McDowell. Pope took this assignment with reservations, but probably received some promises and assurances from Lincoln. His masters wanted him to win victories that they could use as political capital to carry the November, 1862 Congressional elections.

Pope's Democratic counterpart, McClellan, was sure to be that party's candidate for President in 1864. McClellan saw Pope's appointment as a threat to him and his party and wanted Pope out of the way. Evidence hints that Stanton and Chase really engineered Pope's appointment and planned to get McClellan's army transferred to Pope. Despite urgings from Congress and his cabinet, Lincoln would not dismiss McClellan. Lincoln said that McClellan was the best general on hand, Democrat or not, and Lincoln would take the political risk of leaving him in command.

Pope took the field after being held in Washington for five weeks by Lincoln's orders. He moved his army to the Rappahannock River, believing that Army of the Potomac units

coming out of Washington would guard his rear, his supply depots at Manassas, and the gaps in the Bull Run Mountains that the rebels might use to outflank him on his right.

McClellan was irked at being recalled from the Peninsula and felt it a blow to the Democrats. He decided to make reinforcing Pope's Republican army as slow and useless as he could. Meanwhile Lee had determined that McClellan's army would go back to unite with Pope and ordered Jackson northward to 'suppress' Pope before the two Federal armies could unite and secure Gordonsville. Pope moved Banks' corps toward Gordonsville but they found Jackson already in possession of the town. Jackson himself drove north and clashed with Banks' corps at Cedar Mountain. Banks was forced to retreat.

Lee now split his army, sending Jackson ahead with one column to go around Pope's right and down through Thorougfare Gap to destroy Pope's supply depots at Manassas Junction. The attack succeeded when Army of the Potomac units, directed to watch the gaps, were not on hand. In this move, Jackson cut the line of the Orange & Alexandria Railroad on August 26th, leaving Pope with no communication tie to Washington. Pope, not aware of the separation in the rebel forces, moved to attack Jackson on the old Bull Run battlefield; he pushed Jackson back but lacked the strength to completely defeat him on August 29th. Longstreet, on the 30th, moved forward and overran Pope's left when Fitz John Porter failed to move forward as ordered to support the Union left flank. Pope retreated to Washington and was dumped by his Republican friends. By September 8th, he was on his way to St. Paul, Minnesota and 'military Siberia'. In the speaker's view, Pope was more of a man than he was credited with being by his many critics.

**An exhibit, "Lincoln at Home,"** is on display at Illinois Benedictine College in Lisle through June 23. The centerpiece of the show is a 1/12 scale replica of the Lincoln home in Springfield. For further information, contact The Lincoln Chronicle, Illinois Benedictine College, Lisle, Illinois 60532.

**Thousands of Civil War items and other early military memorabilia** will be displayed and sold Saturday, September 22, during the Second Midwest Civil War Collectors Show in Wheaton, Illinois. The show will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the DuPage County Fair Grounds, 2015 Manchester Road. General admission is \$2.00 per person. Living history people and reenactors are encouraged to attend in uniform and period costumes. For more information about the show, call Bob Nowak at (312) 539-8432.

**A special award from the National Park Service** was presented to the Commonwealth Life Insurance Co. for donating a 1.5 acre tract of land at Chattanooga to the Park Service. The land, at the foot of the Sherman Reservation atop Missionary Ridge, was excavated several years ago during construction of a commercial building. Erosion of the excavated area has caused landslides which jeopardized the Sherman Reservation. The Park Service will now be able to fill in the excavated area.

**We report with sadness the death, on May 8, of John Wilhelm.** John had been a long-time member of The Round Table and was a frequent Battlefield Tour participant. Our sincere condolences are extended to his family.

# THE NEW BOOKS



(compiled by Dick Clark)

Arceneaux, William. *Acadian General: Alfred Mouton and the Civil War*. Lafayette, LA: Center for Louisiana Studies, University of Southwestern Louisiana, 1971. \$10.95.

Brownlee, Richard S. *Gray Ghosts of the Confederacy: Guerrilla Warfare in the West, 1861-1865*. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1984. pbk \$8.95. Original hardcover of 1958.

Buenger, Walter L. *Secession and the Union in Texas*. Austin: University of Texas Press, 1984. \$17.50.

Bushong, Millard K. and Dean M. Bushong. *Fightin' Tom Rosser*, C.S.A. Shippensburg, PA: Beidel Printing House, 1983. 281 p., maps, illus., notes, bibliog., index. \$20.00.

Chambers, Lenoir. *Stonewall Jackson and the Virginia Military Institute: The Lexington Years*. Lexington: Garland Gray Memorial Research Center, Stonewall Jackson House. \$15.95.

Chapla, John D. *42nd Virginia Infantry*. Lynchburg, VA: H.E. Howard, Inc. 1983. 147 p., maps., illus., roster, bibliog. \$14.95.

Davis, William C. *Brother Against Brother: The War Begins*. Alexandria, VA: Time-Life Books, 1983. 176 p., illus.

Davis, William C. *First Blood*. Alexandria, VA: Time-Life Books, 1983.

Divine, John E. *8th Virginia Infantry*. Lynchburg, VA: H.E. Howard, 1983. 89 p., maps, illus., muster roll, bibliog. \$14.95.

Fisk, Wilbur. *Anti-Rebel: The Civil War Letters of Wilbur Fisk*. Croton-on-Hudson, NY: E. Rosenblatt, 1983. 361 p., maps, port, bibliog., index. \$25.95. With 2nd Vermont infantry.

Flayderman, Norm. *Flayderman's Guide to Antique American Firearms and their Values*. 3rd ed. Northfield, IL: DBI Books, 1983. 624 p., illus., bibliogs. & indexes. pbk \$18.95.

Garavaglia, Louis A. and Charles G. Worman. *Firearms of the American West, 1803-1865*. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1983. \$35.00.

Genco, James G. *To the Sound of Musketry and Tap of the Drum. A History of Michigan's Battery D through the letters of Artificer Harold J. Bartlett, 1861-1864*. Rochester, MI: Ray Russell, 1983. Ltd. 500 copies. \$17.50.

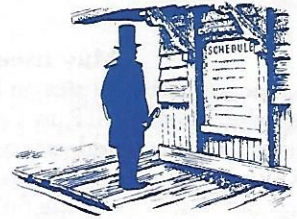
Gill, John. *Reminiscences of Four Years as a Private Soldier in the Confederate Army, 1861-1865*. Washington, DC: Zenger, 1983. \$16.95. Original of 1904.

Holzer, Harold, Gabor S. Boritt, and Mark E. Neely, Jr. *The Lincoln Image: Abraham Lincoln and the Popular Print*. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1984. \$35.00. xxi, 234 p., index.

Oates, Stephen B. *Abraham Lincoln: The Man Behind the Myths*. NY: Harper & Row., 1983. 224 p., bibliog., index. \$12.95.

Riggs, David F. *7th Virginia Infantry*. 2nd edition. Lynchburg, VA: H.E. Howard, 1982. 108 p., maps, illus., roster, bibliog. \$14.95.

## BULLETIN BOARD



### Future meetings

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

June 8: Dan Jordan on "A Ride with the Gray Ghost: The Life and Adventurous Times of Col. John S. Mosby, C.S.A."

July 14: Summer Executive Committee meeting

July 29: Picnic

September 15: Second Annual Nevins-Freeman Assembly. Recipient of Award: Richard B. Harwell.

### New member

Edgar Archer, Abraham Lincoln Museum, Lincoln Memorial University, Harrogate, Tennessee 37752. (615) 869-3611.

### Changes of address

Al Hadden, 771 N.E. 32 St., Boca Raton, Florida 33431.

Louis Szathmary, 2218 N. Lincoln Ave., Chicago, Illinois 60614.

**The tenth annual Gettysburg Civil War Relic and Collector's Show** will be held at the Sheraton Inn in Gettysburg on July 6-8, 1984. The show, which features artifacts, images and books related to the Civil War, is one of the largest presented each year. In conjunction with the show, the Gettysburg Travel Council will also present its annual lecture series which this year will feature Ed Bearss on July 2nd, Kent Brown on July 3rd, our own past-president, Marshall Krolick on July 5th, and Dr. James I. "Bud" Robertson on July 6th. Each lecture will take place at 8:00 p.m. in the Cyclorama Building at Gettysburg. For additional information on either the show or the lecture series, contact the Travel Council at (717) 334-6274. In addition, a separate show, limited to Civil War books, images and documents, will be held at the Holiday Inn in Gettysburg on July 7th and 8th.

### Summer Executive Committee meeting

President-elect Bob Ziegler has announced that the summer meeting of the Executive Committee will be held on Saturday, July 14 beginning at 10 a.m. at the Pheasant Creek Clubhouse, 3100 Pheasant Creek Drive, Northbrook. All 1984-85 officers and committee chairmen, and all past presidents, are encouraged to attend. Further details will be sent prior to the meeting.

### 1985 Battlefield Tour

The Executive Committee, at its meeting May 18, selected Richmond as the site of the 1985 Battlefield Tour. The tour, to be held May 1-5, 1985, will concentrate on the 1864 campaign and will include Petersburg and Appomattox. The co-chairman of the tour are Marvin Sanderman and Paul Kliger.