

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

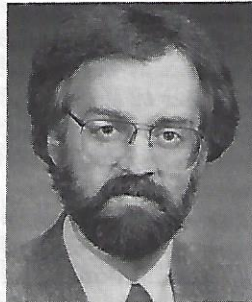
Volume XLV, Number 4

Chicago, Illinois

December, 1984

David D. Finney on The Death of 'Stonewall' Jackson

"Let us cross over the river, and rest under the shade of the trees." His medical director, Dr. Hunter McGuire, recorded these words as the last uttered by Jackson when he passed away on May 10, 1863, and joined the ranks of Confederate military leaders who would lose their lives in the course of the war. On December 14, David D. Finney, chairman of the History Department of North Farmington High School, North Farmington, Michigan, will narrate the events from Jackson's mortal wounding in the forest near Chancellorsville until his burial at Lexington, Virginia on May 15, 1863. His lecture will include personal reminiscences and anecdotes of those associated with General Jackson and will be followed by slides.



David D. Finney

Though faced with an attack by Hooker's Army of the Potomac, Robert E. Lee boldly decided to split his forces, leaving Jubal Early to contain Sedgwick and Reynolds at Fredericksburg. When Stuart's cavalry had found that Hooker's right flank was "in the air", Lee resolved to strike it with Jackson's 26,000 men. By 6:00 p.m. on May 2nd, Jackson had six of his 15 brigades in position to attack. Though the movement of these troops had been detected, neither O. O. Howard, commander of the Union right wing, nor Hooker was convinced of any danger from this maneuver. In the two hours of daylight that remained, Jackson's troops drove the Federal forces backward in great confusion and with heavy losses.

Jackson, attempting to organize a night attack to drive through Chancellorsville, was reconnoitering with his staff in the darkness when shots from his own forces (the 18th North Carolina regiment) responded to the approach of Federal infantry. Jackson was struck by three bullets, one in the right hand and two in the left arm, cutting the main artery and crushing the bone below the shoulder. Despite heavy artillery and rifle fire, he was borne from the field. At two o'clock on the following morning, Dr. McGuire performed the amputation of his left arm.

On May 4, under orders from Lee, Jackson was transported in an ambulance to a small office-type building on the Chandler property at Guiney's Station. The next two days passed without change in his general condition, but on the night of May 6-7, the advent of nausea and pain from the fall of the litter when he was being removed from the Chancellorsville battlefield prompted Dr. McGuire to examine him closely and detect the presence of pneumonia.



436th Regular Meeting

David D. Finney
on
The Death of Stonewall Jackson

Friday, December 14, 1984

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: Beef tenderloin



Meeting site

Due to unavailability of space at the Chicago Press Club, the December meeting will be at the Hotel Continental, 505 N. Michigan (Camelot Room, 3rd Floor). We will return to the Press Club in January.

Mrs. Jackson and their 5 month old daughter, Julia, arrived by train on May 7th, but Jackson continued to weaken and died at 3:15 in the afternoon of May 10th. Though the men of the 'Stonewall' brigade asked permission to escort Jackson's body to the train that would carry it to Richmond, Lee couldn't permit it, with the tense situation then existing.

The Mayor of Richmond had asked for the suspension of all business, and state and national authorities closed their offices. Flags were at half-staff and a crowd of 5000 awaited the arrival of the train bearing his body. A procession of military and civilian leaders formed an escort, and the body lay in state in the Confederate House of Representatives. On May 13th the coffin was taken to the railroad station for the trip to Gordonsville, then to Lynchburg and

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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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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.



(continued from page 1)

on to Lexington. There, under the charge of the cadets at Virginia Military Institute, the body lay for the night in the lecture room that Jackson had left just two years earlier. On May 15th, Jackson was buried, as he had wished, in the little cemetery above the town.

A Georgian by birth, Mr. Finney's great grandfather, along with his great grandmother's brothers, fought under Jackson in the 4th and 12th Georgia Infantry (Doles-Cook brigade). He was raised in Indiana and secured both his B.S. and M.A. degrees from the University of Indiana. He has pursued his doctoral studies at Wayne State University where he received the Education Specialist degree. From 1978 to 1983 he was a summer employee of the U.S. National Park Service at Fredericksburg-Spotsylvania and Petersburg National Parks. His present teaching duties include not only North Farmington High School but evening classes at Oakland Community College, Farmington Hills, Michigan. At both institutions he teaches courses on the Civil War. His published work includes articles in both the Michigan History Magazine and Michigan Antique Arms Collectors Journal.

What some have called the "Third Battle of Manassas" appears to be almost over. And, this time the Federal forces will be victorious. By mid-1985, about 550 acres of land should be added to the Manassas National Battlefield Park. According to Rolland Swain, Superintendent at Manassas, the seven acre site adjacent to the Stone Bridge has already been purchased, an offer has been accepted for another 10 acre site adjacent to the Bridge, negotiations are underway for the purchase of an 8.7 acre tract at Groveton, and a Declaration-of-Taking has been initiated on the 312 acre Brawner Farm. (The government has been trying to buy the Brawner Farm for some time but the title is clouded and, in addition, some heirs want more money; the Declaration-of-Taking will enable the government to protect the farm from relic hunters, etc. while the dispute is sorted out in the courts.)

Editor's note. The above information comes from the Friends of Virginia Civil War Parks news bulletin. The Friends was formed last year "to assist the present and future National Park Service Civil War Parks in Virginia... to protect and interpret the historical resources therein contained for the benefit of this and succeeding generations and to promote the historical, scientific, educational and interpretive activities of the Civil War Parks." Charter memberships are still available for only \$10. Members receive the news bulletin and a soon to be published quarterly newsletter. Make your check payable to Friends of Virginia Civil War Parks and send it to: Dennis W. Madison, 6006 Omo Road, Richmond, Virginia 23234.

The Confederate Historical Society in England was formed in 1962, but was disbanded in 1973. Now, however, it is being reconstructed and members are being sought. Although the Society studies all aspects of the American Civil War, its main aim is research into the connections between Great Britain and the Confederate States of America. Members of the Society receive a quarterly journal and newsletters; membership is \$15. (Payment by overseas members must be in sterling by I.M.O.) Make money orders payable to the Confederate Historical Society and send to Mr. M.T.B. Forsey, 2 Pipers End, Longdon, Nr. Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire, England.

November meeting by Wayne Anderson

On November 9, 1984, 92 members and guests met at the Chicago Press Club to hear fellow Round Table member, Merl Summer, discuss and analyze the officers who served on Grant's staff. Being a staff officer can be both a reward and disqualification, Merl explained. On the one hand, he is an eyewitness to historic events and can understand why a certain decision was made. However, there are many individuals in an army, especially line officers, who consider staff officers superfluous and think they receive too much credit for their activities.

As Merl pointed out early in his discussion, staff officers must possess two important traits: competence and loyalty. The reasons are obvious. A commander needs a competent staff to expedite the details involved with an army, and he also needs an officer whom he can personally trust. When competence and loyalty are combined, a commander has a very valuable officer who is hard to replace. At times, this has worked to the detriment of a staff officer. Because he is hard to replace, he won't receive other assignments which could lead to a promotion.

In late 1861, Grant was an unknown brigadier general in a secondary theatre of operations (the West). As a result, serving on his staff, as compared with the major commands in the Eastern Theatre, was not attractive. This meant that Grant had to recruit and train his own staff. During the Civil War, over 100 officers served on Grant's staff. Included were such individuals as John Rawlins, Joseph Webster, Horace Porter, Ely Parker, and James Wilson.

John A. Rawlins is the one individual who is associated with Grant's staff throughout the Civil War. He was born in poverty in Shawneetown, Illinois, read the law under an attorney who saw his potential, and was a lawyer in Galena, Illinois, when the war started. Shortly after being promoted to brigadier general, Grant asked Rawlins to serve on his staff. Beginning as an aide-de-camp, then as adjutant general, and later as chief-of-staff, Rawlins was the officer who insured that Grant's staff functioned. It was Rawlins who handled the details and the paperwork. For his services, he was brevetted a Major General of Volunteers. Unfortunately, Rawlins post-war career was to be short-lived. In 1863, his health began to fail and he contracted tuberculosis. After Grant was elected President in 1868, he appointed Rawlins as Secretary of War. This was primarily an honorarium, because Rawlins' health had greatly deteriorated, and he died on September 6, 1869.

Joseph D. Webster was Grant's chief-of-staff during the campaign for Forts Henry and Donelson. Probably his finest hour was during the first day of fighting at Shiloh. When defeat appeared imminent, Grant asked Webster to place some artillery along the bluff line. Webster responded by lining up 50 cannon, and these batteries repulsed the last Confederate attack of the first day at Shiloh. Later during the war, Webster served as Sherman's chief-of-staff during the march to Atlanta, and as Thomas' chief-of-staff during the Battle of Nashville. After the war, Webster was appointed by Grant to several offices in the Treasury Department. He died in 1876 and is buried in Rosehill Cemetery in Chicago.

Merl also discussed the contributions of other members of Grant's staff during the Civil War. Adam Badeau, Horace Porter, and James Wilson were officers who were on his staff, and who each wrote a book in the post-war

years describing their Civil War service with Grant. In particular, Porter's *Campaigning With Grant* is an interesting volume highlighting Grant's personality and activities during the campaign of 1864-65.

Merl's analysis of Grant's staff was summed up as: in 1861, a minus; in 1862, minus but improving; in 1863, equal and improving; in 1864, a definite plus; and in 1865, a double plus. Was Grant served well by his staff? Merl answered this question by stating that although several opportunities were missed, Grant's staff were all dedicated in carrying out their commander's plans, and by their abilities they served their commander. However, one must remember that a staff can only give its opinion, the responsibility rests entirely on the commander.

Distinguished Lecturers Series

The following cassette tapes of previous talks to The Round Table are now available.

54. Avery O. Craven, "Southern Secession" (11/14/58)

55. Grady McWhiney, "Confederate Generals—Their Strengths and Weaknesses" (1/12/79)

56. Edwin C. Bearss, "John Pope" (recorded during CWRT battlefield tour to Washington, D.C./McLean, Virginia 5/4/84)

All orders should be sent to: Pat Sumner, 403 Hatlen, Mt. Prospect, IL 60056. The cost of each tape, unless otherwise noted, is \$7; add \$2 per order for shipping.

For a complete list of available tapes, see previous newsletters or send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Pat Sumner at the above address.

More than 275 Confederate letters and documents were uncovered when a long-forgotten vault was opened at Johns Hopkins University last May. According to university archivist James Stimpert, who is currently cataloging and preserving them, the papers are in very good condition. Although a number of historians have expressed interest in working on the letters, for now they remain in their original order in acid-free archive folders.

Many of the documents were previously published in the 31 volume Official Record of the Union and Confederate Navies. However, many of the original letters give interesting insight into war plans. According to Stimpert, one letter describes a plan to board and capture the Monitor at the mouth of the James River a month after her historic battle with the Merrimack. Another letter, written to the Confederate Navy Department by a Lt. William Murdaugh, proposed that a secretly armed merchant steamer with a crew of about 50 wreak havoc through the Great Lakes by attacking ships and canal locks.

The letters and documents were found in a vault which had been locked and painted over since the 1940s. They were apparently a small part of the J. Thomas Scharf Historical Collection given to the University in 1891.

The Atlanta Historical Society has published a special issue of its *Atlanta Historical Journal* devoted to the battlefields around the city. Included are maps that tie the 1864 battles in with modern streets and other landmarks and modern and Civil War era photographs. Copies of the Atlanta Campaign issue are \$10 each and may be ordered from the Atlanta Historical Society, 3101 Andrews Drive, N.W., Atlanta, Georgia 30305.

THE NEW BOOKS

(compiled by Dick Clark)



Fieberger, G. J. *The Campaign and Battle of Gettysburg*. Prepared for the use of the cadets of the United States Military Academy. New Oxford, PA: Bloodstone Press, 1984. \$7.75.

Klement, Frank L. *Dark Lanterns: Secret Political Societies, Conspiracies, and Treason Trials in the Civil War*. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1984. 336 p., \$25.00.

Mays, Joe H. *Black Americans and their Contribution toward Union Victory in the American Civil War, 1861-1865*. Washington, DC: University Press of America, 1984. \$19.75, pbk \$9.75.

Milgram, James W. *Abraham Lincoln Illustrated Envelopes and Letter Paper, 1860-1865*. Northbrook, IL: Northbrook Publishing Co., 1984. \$24.95.

Neely, Mark E., Jr. *Lincoln and the Constitution*. Bulletin 39th Annual Meeting, Lincoln Fellowship of Wisconsin. Madison, Wisconsin, 1983. pap. \$2.50.

Roper, John H. *U.B. Phillips, a Southern Mind*. Macon, GA: Mercer University Press, 1984. \$16.95.

Siegel, Alan A. *For the Glory of the Union*. Rutherford, NJ: Fairleigh Dickinson University Press, 1984. 231 p. \$29.50. On New Jersey media during the war and the New Jersey 26th.

Spiegel, Marcus. *Your True Marcus: The Civil War Letters of a Jewish Colonel*. Edited by Frank L. Bryne and Jean Soman. Kent, Ohio: Kent State University Press, 1984. \$19.95. With the 67th and 120th Ohio.

Tample, Wayne C. *By Square and Compasses: The Building of Lincoln's Home and its Saga*. Bloomington, IL: Ashlar Press, 1984. 165 p., illus., pbk. \$4.75.

Wayland, John W. *Stonewall Jackson's Way. Route, Method, Achievement*. Second edition, revised. Dayton, Ohio: Morningside Bookshop, 1984. \$45.00. With new foreword by James I. Robertson.

Young, Ford E., Jr. *The Third Day at Gettysburg*. Edited by Ann N. Davis. Bethesda, MD: Americana Stories, 1981. 364 p., illus. \$17.50.

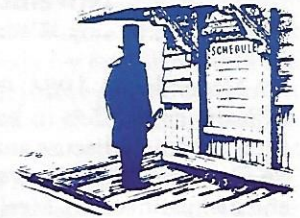
A reminder: Unless you have a change of address or other message to bring to the attention of The Round Table, there is no need to send in the meeting reservation card if you are not planning to attend.

Gettysburg National Military Park recently celebrated the centennial of Gettysburg's most famous work of art, the "Pickett's Charge" cyclorama. The painting, measuring 356 feet in circumference and 26 feet in height, is not only a great historic object documenting the tragic fight, it also is one of the few examples of a nearly extinct art form.

On behalf of the newsletter staff and the officers of The Round Table, we wish all members and their families a happy holiday season and a healthy and prosperous New Year.



BULLETIN BOARD



Future meetings

Regular meetings are held at the Chicago Press Club, 410 N. Michigan, the second Friday in each month, except as noted.

December 14: David Finney on "The Death of Stonewall Jackson." **Note:** The meeting will be at the Hotel Continental, 505 N. Michigan.

January 11, 1985: J. Brooks Davis on "The Grand Army of the Republic."

February 8: Herman Hattaway on "How the North Won the Civil War."

March 8: Gary Gallagher on "General Stephen D. Ramseur."

April 12: William Sullivan on "The War in the Trans-Mississippi."

May 1-5: Annual Battlefield Tour to Richmond/Petersburg/Appomattox.

May 10: Jeffrey D. Wert on "The 1864 Shenandoah Valley Campaign."

New members

Donald Katz, 2740 W. Rascher, Chicago, Illinois 60625.

Romie J. Palmer, 5539 Fairway Drive, Crestwood, Illinois 60445 (312) 371-6966.

Change of address

Breck Androff, P.O. Box 301, St. John, Indiana 46373.

The Lincoln Times, a national publication that reports the life and times of Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War in a contemporary journalistic format, welcomes articles about uncommon personalities and unusual events of the Lincoln era, and articles about people who are active in preserving the American heritage. Articles should be written as living history in a news or feature story style. Preferred length is 2,000 words or less. Pictures and artwork are welcomed and will be returned upon request. Payment for articles is in copies only. Articles may be submitted to Gina Jung, The Lincoln Times, P.O. Box 1092, Indianapolis, Indiana 46206. For more information, call (317) 637-8147.

It is with deep regret and a profound sense of loss that we have learned of the untimely death of Dave Lilley, one of the most dedicated historians on the staff of the National Park Service. He had worked with Bob Krick at Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park since 1975. Dave, who grew up in the Aurora area, had spoken to us on several occasions on recent Battlefield Tours and also had addressed us here in Chicago a few years ago. A memorial fund has been established in his memory to provide for emergency needs of the members of Dave's former fraternity at his alma mater, Gettysburg College. Donations can be sent to Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity, c/o Roy Giese, 6427 Rotunda Court, Springfield, VA 22150.