



# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

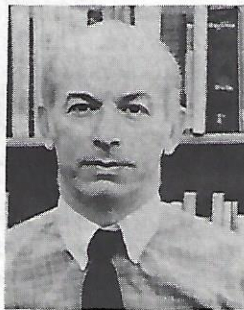
Volume XLV, Number 9

Chicago, Illinois

May, 1985

## Jeffry D. Wert on 'Old Jube' and 'Little Phil': Generalship in the Shenandoah Valley Campaign

Three days after Sheridan had achieved a smashing victory at Cedar Creek, President Lincoln wrote to him: "I tender to you and your brave army the thanks of the nation and my own personal admiration and gratitude for the month's operations in the Shenandoah Valley, and especially for the splendid work on October 19." The quality of leadership exhibited by both Sheridan and his adversary, Jubal Early, will be the focus of an address by Jeffry D. Wert when he speaks to the May 10th meeting of The Round Table. A history teacher at Penns Valley Area High School, "Jeff" has recently completed work on a book on the 1864 Shenandoah Valley campaign. His talk will concentrate on the battles of Third Winchester (September 19, 1864), Fisher's Hill (September 22, 1864) and Cedar Creek (October 19, 1864).

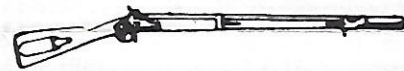


Jeffry D. Wert

Due to Early's raid on Washington (June to August, 1864), Federal authorities established the Middle Military Division under "Phil" Sheridan, and he took command on August 7, 1864. This command included the VI Corps, the 1st Division of the XIX Corps and the two infantry divisions of Crook's West Virginia Corps. Cavalry was organized into a corps under Torbert and when the 2nd Division of the XIX Corps arrived, effectives under Sheridan's command totaled about 48,000.

By mid-August, Early's four infantry divisions and his cavalry were near Bunker Hill where he was reinforced by the infantry division of Kershaw and Fitz Lee's cavalry under the overall command of Richard H. Anderson. A five week period of maneuvering took place before the first real battle occurred at Winchester on September 19th. When Sheridan heard vague reports of the withdrawal of Kershaw's division, he sent Federal cavalry across the Opequon north of Winchester toward the Martinsburg Pike and Stephenson's Depot. At the same time, he sent the main infantry force along the Berryville Pike, which then headed west to strike the highway running north of Winchester.

Ramseur's division was forced to retire along the Berryville Pike and Early called in the divisions of Gordon, Rodes and Breckinridge to blunt the attack. The Confederate troops hit a gap in the Federal lines, and Rodes fell mortally wounded. The Federal lines held against the rebel counterattack and slowly drove them back. Faced with the



441st Regular Meeting

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Jeffry D. Wert  
on  
"Old Jube" and "Little Phil:"  
Generalship in the Shenandoah Valley Campaign

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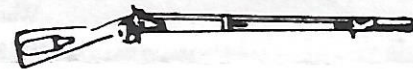
Friday, May 10, 1985

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Chicago Press Club  
410 N. Michigan

Cocktails at 5:30 p.m. Dinner at 6:30 p.m.  
\$13.00 per person

Entree: Beef Tenderloin Tips or Boston Scrod



### Meeting site

Due to the unavailability of space at the Quality Inn, we will return to the Chicago Press Club, 410 N. Michigan, for the May meeting. The June meeting will be at the Quality Inn.

attack of Northern cavalry, Breckinridge withdrew his division to the north of town and formed the left of a new Confederate line east and north of Winchester. Late in the afternoon, Sheridan's forces advanced again and Early was compelled to order a general retreat up the Valley Pike. Losses here were heavy, 4,018 for the Union and a total of 3,921 Confederates killed, wounded, missing or captured. A delay in deployment of his troops may have cost Sheridan an even more complete victory, but Early had been soundly beaten.

Union troops followed quickly on the heels of Early's  
*(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.



(continued from page 1)

retiring force, with fighting at Middletown, Strasburg and Cedarville. Sheridan had fortifications established on the high ground north of Strasburg, while the rebel lines were positioned south of town on Fisher's Hill. As Breckinridge's division was detached to serve in the department of Southwest Virginia, Early was assured the early return of Kershaw's division. Early's lines were far too long for so small a force and Sheridan skillfully capitalized on the situation.

George Crook, with one of Sheridan's three corps, moved during the night of September 21-22 and the morning of the 22nd to the right and beyond the Confederate left. With a shout, Crook struck Lomax's dismounted cavalry, routing them. Meanwhile, the VI and XIX Corps attacked frontally in the Tumbling Run ravine and up Fisher's Hill. "Sandie" Pendleton, formerly a member of Jackson's staff, fell mortally wounded trying to stem the advance. The pursuit continued for 4 miles before Early rallied his forces. The Federal forces suffered 528 casualties, Early's losses were 1,235, including 1,000 missing.

Sheridan then secured Grant's approval to retire to Winchester and reinforce Grant with troops thus available. After a Confederate defeat at Tom's Brook on October 9th, Sheridan felt that he had finally disposed of rebel control of the Shenandoah Valley and withdrew to Middletown. Although numerically inferior, Early felt confident that he could whip Sheridan's army. Hidden by early morning fog on October 19th, the divisions of Gordon, Ramseur and Pegram struck the Federal encampment at Cedar Creek or Belle Grove. The Northern positions crumpled and the rebels took possession of the camps and earthworks of the VII and XIX Corps, taking many prisoners, artillery and stores. As the hungry Confederates looted the stores just captured, Early halted the attack despite Gordon's recommendation. Sheridan, returning from Washington by special train, arrived from Winchester, helped to inspire the troops, and strengthened the lines. About 4 o'clock in the afternoon he attacked, driving Early back to Fisher's Hill with heavy losses in men and material. Union casualties were 5,665, while Confederate losses were 2,910 including Ramseur who fell mortally wounded. Though Early remained a nuisance, Cedar Creek marked the last major battle in the Shenandoah, and the Federals controlled the Valley until the end.

A life-long resident of Pennsylvania, "Jeff" secured his bachelor's degree in history from Lock Haven University in 1968, and received his master's degree in history from Penn State in 1976. Although he has served at Penns Valley Area High School since 1969, he also has been a part-time history instructor at Penn State since 1981. He is serving as associate editor of *The Historical Times Illustrated Encyclopedia of the Civil War*, which will soon be published by Harper & Row. He has had articles published in *Civil War Times Illustrated*, *American History Illustrated*, *Blue & Gray Magazine*, *Virginia Cavalcade*, *Pennsylvania History* and *Military History Magazine*. His articles in *Civil War Times Illustrated* include the following: "Old Jubilee's Last Battle" (August, 1977); "Robert E. Rodes" (December, 1977); "Johnston vs. Patterson: The Valley Campaign of 1861" (December, 1978); "One Great Regret: Cold Harbor" (February, 1979); "First Fair Chance—The Battle of Fisher's Hill" (August, 1979); "Woodstock Races" (May, 1980); "In One Deadly Encounter" (November, 1980); "George Crook: Sheridan's Second Fiddle" (December, 1983); and "Mutiny in the Army" (April, 1985).



### April meeting

Fellow Round Table member Bill Sullivan was the speaker at the 440th Regular Meeting on April 12. The topic he presented to the 120 members and guests was "The Trans-Mississippi in 1864: A Game of Pitch and Toss."

In the summer of 1864, the war east of the Mississippi was witness to active campaigning but, as of mid-August, there were no decisive results. Lee's army was held in the Petersburg defenses and failed to retake the Weldon Railroad; Sherman had Hood's army surrounded in Atlanta, but had not captured the city; Sheridan had just started his campaign in the Shenandoah Valley; and Farragut was about to send his fleet against Ft. Morgan in Mobile Bay.

Politics was also playing a major role that summer. The Democrats held their convention in Chicago and nominated Gen. George McClellan as their Presidential candidate. Lincoln seriously believed that he would not be re-elected and asked his cabinet to sign a memorandum stating that they would support the new President-elect.

During the Civil War Missouri was the site of many small battles and skirmishes, notably Confederate General "Jo" Shelby's raid in early 1863. In April, 1864, General E. Kirby Smith was ordered by the Confederate high command to either reinforce the Army of Tennessee or take the offensive. Because it was impossible to transport Confederate troops across the Union controlled Mississippi River, Kirby Smith decided to take the offensive and seize the state of Missouri for the Confederacy. The officer he chose to lead the expedition was Gen. Sterling Price.

When Price moved into Missouri, he led a force of 12,000 men and 14 guns. His three division commanders (Fagan, Marmaduke and Shelby) were combat-experienced and good leaders. However, two factors hindered Price's expedition from the start. One was the lack of artillery; he had only 14 guns. The second was that Price was an infantry officer who did not realize how far a mounted force could travel in one day, usually 40 miles. Price's force averaged only 18 miles per day.

The Union commander in St. Louis, Gen. William Rosecrans, was taken by surprise when Price moved into Missouri. He was not aware of their presence until the Confederates were near Pilot Knob, 86 miles from St. Louis. Rosecrans reacted swiftly; he called out the state militia to reinforce the city garrison and wired Gen. Halleck in Washington for reinforcements.

As the Confederate forces neared Pilot Knob, Price wanted to take its fortifications by assault. The Union garrison was about 800 strong and commanded by Gen. Thomas Ewing, who is known for publishing Orders 10 and 11 which forcibly evicted civilians whose homes were along the Missouri-Arkansas border.

On September 26, the Confederates assaulted Ft. Davidson, the main fortification at Pilot Knob, but were driven back with casualties of 1,500 men. During the night, Gen. Ewing evacuated Pilot Knob and marched to St. Louis. He left behind his dead and wounded and also spiked the 14 guns which Price wanted to add to his already small artillery force.

When Price reached the outskirts of St. Louis, reinforcements for Rosecrans (A. J. Smith's corps from the Army of the Tennessee) had arrived. The city could not be taken. Price then headed west to the Missouri capital, Jefferson City. He arrived there on October 6, but decided he couldn't seize it. Scouts reported to him that two Union columns of 20,000 men each, under Gen. Samuel Curtis,

were marching towards Price from the Kansas border. Price decided to march further west and defeat Curtis before Rosecrans could join him.

However, in late October, Price was defeated in a week-long series of battles (Big Blue and Little Blue Rivers and Mine Creek) and was forced to leave Missouri. His expedition was a failure, and there was a formal inquiry about his campaign. Price defended himself by stating he forced the Union to withdraw reinforcements from other areas and that his force captured or destroyed over \$10 million worth of military equipment.

Bill summarized his talk by stating that Price's campaign was a "game of inches." He narrowly missed seizing St. Louis and almost captured Jefferson City. This would have affected the Presidential campaign in the fall of 1864. However, neither happened and in December, 6,000 Confederates (out of an initial 12,000) had returned to Arkansas and were no longer a threat to the Union forces in Missouri.

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**A seminar on Stonewall Jackson's Shenandoah Valley Campaign** will be held May 23-26 in Winchester, Virginia. Among the lecturers will be Kent Masterson Brown, Gary W. Gallagher, Robert Krick, James I. Robertson, Jr., and Robert Tanner. The cost is \$265 per person, which includes all seminar materials, lectures, social functions, transportation to historical sites, and some meals. For further information, contact Civil War Seminar, Virginia Country Magazine, P.O. Box 432, Middleburg, Virginia 22117.

**The focus of Gettysburg College's Civil War Institute** this year, to be held June 30-July 6, is the Battle of Antietam. Among the speakers will be Ed Bearss, William Frasanito, Francis A. Lord, James Murfin and John Schildt. A day-long tour of Antietam will be conducted by John and Dennis Frye.

Lodging and meals during the Institute will be at Gettysburg College. The entire cost is \$288 double occupancy and \$295.50 single. A non-refundable deposit of \$25 must accompany applications. Checks, payable to Gettysburg College, should be sent by June 1 to G.S. Boritt, Box 577, Gettysburg College, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania 17325.

**The North Carolina Round Table newsletter** recently reported on two new publications that might be of interest. The first is "The Firing Line: The Newsletter of Civil War Travel and Historic Preservation." Annual subscriptions are \$10 from Capsule Publications, P.O. Box 2154, Manassas, Virginia 22110-9990. The second, *Southern Valor: The Magazine of the Confederacy*, is scheduled to begin publication this summer. It plans "to present to interested readers historically accurate accounts of the Confederate States of America." An annual subscription to this bi-monthly is \$24. To order, write P.O. Box 3151, Temple, Texas 76501.

**Jerry L. Russell**, founder and national chairman of Civil War Round Table Associates, has received the second annual Dr. Alvin J. Calman Award of the Civil War Round Table of Northern New Jersey for his contributions to the study and preservation of Civil War history. The award, named for the late Dr. Calman, long-time head of the history department at Upsala College and a founder of the Northern New Jersey Round Table, was presented last year to Ed Bearss.

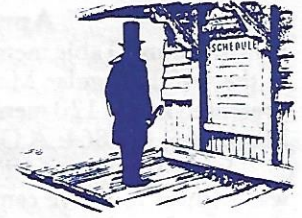


# THE NEW BOOKS

(compiled by Dick Clark)



# BULLETIN BOARD



Alexander, Ted., ed. *The 126th Pennsylvania*. Compiled and edited by. Shippensburg, PA: Beidel Printing House, 1984. 182 p. \$13.95.

Booth, Andrew B. *Records of Louisiana Confederate Soldiers and Louisiana Confederate Commands*. Compiled by...Spartanburg, SC: Reprint Co., 1984. 3 vol. set \$187.50. Originally published in 1920.

Chance, Joseph E. *The Texas Second Infantry: From Shiloh to Vicksburg*. Austin: Eakin Press, 1985. 216 p. \$13.95.

Channing, Steven A. *Confederate Ordeal: The Southern Home Front*. By...and the editors of Time-Life Books. Alexandria: Time-Life Books, 1984.

Davis, Burke. *The Long Surrender*. New York: Random House, 1985. 319 p. \$19.95.

Dilts, Bryan Lee. *1890 Michigan Census Index of Civil War Veterans or their Widows*. Compiled by. Salt Lake City, UT: Index Pub., 1984. \$53.00. Microfiche \$5.00.

Elliott, Colleen Morse and Louis Armstrong Moxley, eds. *Tennessee Civil War Questionnaires*. Easley, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1985. 5 vols. \$250.00.

Goss, Warren Lee. *Recollections of a Private: A Study of the Army of the Potomac*. Alexandria, VA: Time-Life Books, 1984. \$19.95.

Harrison, Walter. *Pickett's Men: A Fragment of War History*. New introduction by Gary W. Gallagher. Gaithersburg, MD: Battered Press, 1984. 214 p., frontis., index. \$24.00. Original of 1870.

Hoogerwerf, Frank W. *Confederate Sheet-music Imprints*. Brooklyn: Institute for Studies in American Music. Monograph No. 21. \$12.00.

McKivigan, John R. *The War Against Proslavery Religion: Abolitionism and the Northern Churches, 1830-1865*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1984. 327 p. \$29.95.

Nevin, David. and editors of Time-Life Books. *The Road to Shiloh: Early Battles in the West*. Alexandria, VA: Time-Life Books, 1984. \$19.95.

**A tour, tracing the path of the Confederate's retreat from Gettysburg and the Union cavalry's pursuit, will be held on May 11. Sponsored by the Smithsonian, the tour will be led by Rev. John Schildt and Ted Alexander. The cost is \$42 for Smithsonian members and \$54 for non-members. For more information, contact Smithsonian Resident Associate Program, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC 20560 (202) 357-3030.**

### Executive Committee meeting

President Bob Ziegler has announced there will be an Executive Committee meeting on May 10 at 5 p.m., just prior to the regular meeting. The main item on the agenda is selection of the 1986 Battlefield Tour site. All current officers, committee chairmen and past presidents are urged to attend.

### Future meetings

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

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

May 10: Jeffry D. Wert on " 'Old Jube' and 'Little Phil:' Generalship in the Shenandoah Valley Campaign." **Note:** The meeting will be at the Chicago Press Club.

June 14: Richard B. Harwell, subject to be announced.  
September 20: Nevins-Freeman Award Dinner: Recipient of Award, Dr. John Y. Simon. **Note:** This is the third Friday of the month.

March 15, 1986: All-day assembly on U.S. Grant featuring talks by Ed Bearss, Wiley Sword, Richard Sommers, and others. The cost will be \$35 per person. Further details and a reservation form will be included with the June newsletter. You are encouraged to get your reservation in early.

### New members

Dr. Glenn F. Boas, 135 S. LaSalle St., Chicago, Illinois 60603.

Bernard Paprocki, 2736 N. Melvina, Chicago, Illinois 60639 (312) 745-5730.

Robert Paprocki, 2704 N. Oak Park Ave., Chicago, Illinois 60635 (312) 889-7617.

John S. Peterson, 18 E. Chestnut, Chicago, Illinois 60611 (312) 944-3085.

Sue Rogull, 7408 Tripp, Skokie, Illinois 60076 (312) 675-3044.

Gene Eric Salecker, 2736 N. Melvina, Chicago, Illinois 60639 (312) 745-5730.

### Nominating Committee report

Don Anderson, chairman of the Nominating Committee, has announced the following proposed slate of officers for the 1985-86 year:

President ..... Paul I. Kliger  
Senior Vice President ..... Patricia Sumner  
Vice President ..... William J Sullivan  
Vice President ..... Lowell Reidenbaugh  
Secretary ..... Leslie MacDonald  
Treasurer ..... Richard McAdoo  
Assistant Secretary ..... Wayne Anderson  
Assistant Treasurer ..... Joseph Wisheart  
Trustee ..... John Coverick  
Trustee ..... Larry Gibbs  
Trustee ..... Paul Klekner  
Trustee ..... Duff McGovern

The election will be held during the May meeting, at which time additional nominations for any of the above offices may be made from the floor. Four current trustees, Mary J. Abroe, Martin P. Dutch, James Vlazney, and Daniel R. Weinberg, will remain in office as they complete their two year terms.