DR. HERMAN HATTAWAY ON STEPHEN D. LEE

Robert E. Lee has often been the subject of discussion at Round Table meetings. However, there is another Lee, Confederate General Stephen D., who has received far less attention. At the meeting on March 9, Dr. Herman Hattaway, associate professor of history at the University of Missouri-Kansas City, will attempt to remedy that situation and give S. D. Lee some of his due.

Stephen D. Lee is best remembered for his distinguished Civil War military record. His brilliant performance at Second Manassas, Chickasaw Bayou, and Nashville led Jefferson Davis to describe him as "one of the best all-round soldiers which the war produced." However, Lee's accomplishments were not limited to his war record. He consistently used his military skills and background in later years to serve his reunited country in a number of ways. He established a home in Mississippi and was briefly a farmer, insurance salesman, and politician. He found an enduring challenge as the first president of Mississippi A & M College, a post he held for 19 years. One of the founders of a revived Mississippi Historical Society, he also became a writer, benefactor, and concerned critic of history. As a member of the Vicksburg National Military Park Commission, the first former Confederate to have such a position, he rendered exemplary influence upon that landmark.

But it is still his Civil War performance which intrigues the historian and which Dr. Hattaway will emphasize in his talk. Lee rose higher than any other man his age, becoming a lieutenant general at thirty. Yet, he had advanced methodically, holding every rank starting with captain. An organizer, a master of logistics and training, and a disciplinarian, Lee had the ability to win admiration, confidence, and cooperation. He turned any organization into a better outfit. Just how he accomplished this, Dr. Hattaway says, makes worthwhile study for any student of military affairs or Civil War history.

Dr. Herman Hattaway was born and raised in Louisiana. He received his B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. from Louisiana State University where he studied under T. Harry Williams. For the past ten years, he has been teaching at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. Among his many published articles are a personality profile on S. D. Lee and "Via Confederate Post", both of which appeared in Civil War Times Illustrated.

379th REGULAR MEETING

Dr. Herman Hattaway

on

Stephen D. Lee

Friday, March 9, 1979

Chicago Bar Association
29 South LaSalle Street

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

AUTOGRAPHING PARTY AND RECEPTION

From 3:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M. on Friday, March 9, 1979 at the Abraham Lincoln Book Shop, 18 East Chestnut Street, Chicago, an autographing party and reception will be held in honor of Dr. Herman Hattaway, the featured speaker at that evening's meeting of The Round Table. In addition to the excellent refreshments and conversation, Dr. Hattaway will be on hand to autograph copies of his definitive biography of Stephen D. Lee. All members and their guests are cordially invited to attend.

Dr. Hattaway is also the author of General Stephen D. Lee, published in 1976, which won the Jefferson Davis Award as the best book of that year written upon an aspect of Confederate history. He is currently at work, in collaboration with Archer Jones, on a general military history of the War, as well as a history of the United Confederate Veterans and a biography of Jefferson Davis. He has spoken to 19 Round Tables around the country, but this is his first visit to our Round Table.
The Northern Virginia Relic Hunters Association and the Kena Shrine Temple Aaonms are co-sponsoring the Seventh Annual Civil War Memorabilia and Relic Show on April 7, 1979 in Fairfax, Virginia. The show will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on that date in the Kena Shrine Temple at 8901 Arlington Boulevard in Fairfax. For additional information, contact Lewis Leigh, Post Office Box 397, Fairfax, Virginia 22030.

The State of Virginia has announced that the Confederate Memorial Chapel, which is owned by the State, will now be utilized only for meetings of Confederate organizations. Therefore, weddings and other religious services will no longer be permitted to take place in the chapel. However, the building will remain open to the public for visitation from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on weekdays, as has been the custom in the past.

Grave markers are finally being installed over the graves of 1600 Confederate soldiers who died defending Vicksburg during the summer of 1863. The graves are located in a separate plot in the City Cemetery in Vicksburg. The markers had been authorized by the Federal government in 1906 but sufficient records could not be located until 1958.

Samuel T. Moore, Jr., a member of the Richmond Civil War Round Table, has announced that a revised edition of his “Civil War Guide to Richmond” has been published. It can be purchased at a price of $8.50, by addressing Mr. Moore at 2216 Park Avenue, Richmond, Virginia 23220.

The last known widow of a Kentucky Civil War veteran, Rachel Lunsford, died recently at the age of 85. Mrs. Lunsford was the widow of William B. Lunsford, who served as an ammunition wagon driver in the western theatre.

The University of Georgia has recently been presented with a gold broach, which contains a lock of hair of Confederate President Jefferson Davis. The broach, which is a gift of Dr. H. M. Heckman, also contains 24 matching pearls and is accompanied by a letter signed by Mrs. Davis attesting to its authenticity.

The Kentucky Historical Society recently erected a historical marker at the site of Camp Wickliff, which is located on Highway 470, four miles north of Buffalo, Kentucky in LaRue County. From December 14, 1861 until February 14, 1862, the camp was occupied by the Federal Division of General William “Bull” Nelson.

To commemorate the 100th anniversary of the birth of Carl Sandburg, the Civil War Round Table of New York presented the Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site of the National Park Service with a reproduction of an original bust of Abraham Lincoln prepared in 1860 in Chicago by the famed 19th Century sculptor Leonard Wells Volk. The Park Service has announced that the bust will be placed in the entrance room to the Sandburg house, directly opposite a Lincoln bust actually owned by the noted author.
Pictorial materials are not ordinarily considered tools of historical research, but, as Dr. Mark E. Neely so well demonstrated to the 79 members and guests who attended the meeting February 9, they can be valuable sources of information. In particular, he showed how the study of cartoons, prints and photographs of the 1860s can lead to more knowledge about Lincoln and his era.

Dr. Neely began his talk by noting that despite all that has been done in the field of Lincoln study, one thing that remains to be done is to expand research sources beyond those normally used. One such source, he said, is graphic images. Presently, if a historian uses graphics at all, it is only in the slick page section of a book. Although libraries collect them, they rarely know what to do with them.

There was a great deal of this and other image-making going on in the nineteenth century. The first photo of Lincoln, Dr. Neely said, was in 1846 when he was elected to Congress. The second, in 1857, still showed him not too concerned with his appearance. About 1860, in order to impress the public for campaign purposes, pictures of Lincoln began to portray idealist poses rather than the frontier image. The need for a better image, Dr. Neely pointed out, was indicated by the fact that a 1860 biography misspelled Lincoln’s first name because he was so little known in the East where it was published.

Turning his attention to cartoons, Dr. Neely noted that they were printed by Currier & Ives, and others, for political groups to distribute as campaign material. All of the 1860 cartoons of Lincoln made use of the rail-splitter theme, and many showed him in informal garb, befitting his frontier image. Many also showed him dancing to the tunes of Eastern bigshots as opponents thought Lincoln such a nobody that he would be easily controlled. Horace Greeley appeared in many Lincoln cartoons, thus identifying Lincoln with the Radical Republican fringe which Greeley represented. Cartoonists opposed to Lincoln used the specter of Greeley’s radicalism and black freedom to scare the voters. In these graphics, the Republicans were depicted as a one-issue party which would sink the ship of state while saving only the black man. The Civil War brought to anti-Lincoln cartooning references to Lincoln acting like a monarch. This theme, Dr. Neely explained, was always effective in a country which was founded by and thrown off monarchy. It was another fear tactic like using black freedom and Radical Republicanism.

One way to combat such tactics was with a family man image. Thus, the Lincoln and son picture which was widely distributed. Although Lincoln was never photographed with his wife or all the other members of his family, artists did combine Lincoln and his entire family in drawings with domestic scene backdrops. Many of these drawings of the family included a bust of Washington, combining the idea of statesmanship with the family theme.

Cartoons of the late Civil War period dealt with the New York City draft riots of 1863. The English had often used caricatures of Irish facial features to illustrate villains in cartoons, and American cartoonists, copying them, depicted the draft rioters as Irish thugs. Some of the cartoons also contained anti-Catholic themes. This approach carried over to the depiction of the Democratic voter in the 1864 campaign in pro-Republican cartoons. In addition, many of the biased views of the draft riots were not used as cartoons, but as alleged illustrations of actual events.

Another graphic device of the period was the broadside which, Dr. Neely explained, libraries wrongly include in print collections rather than with books and manuscripts. Thus, they are often overlooked by historians. To illustrate their usefulness, Dr. Neely pointed out that studying broadsides printed in foreign languages is a good way to determine the attitudes of foreign born Americans. Yet another source overlooked by historians are the vignettes

CIVIL WAR FILM AFTERNOON

On Sunday, March 18, 1979, The Round Table is planning a most unique afternoon of varied activities. It will begin with a buffet lunch at the French Quarter Restaurant in The Palmer House from noon to one o’clock. From there, those attending will move to the G. A. R. Memorial Hall of the Chicago Public Library’s Cultural Center for the program itself. The highlight will be the screening of several early twentieth century silent movies with Civil War themes. The background narration for the films will be provided by our own member, Jerry Warshaw. Also on the agenda will be a color guard presentation by the reactivated Chicago Light Artillery Battery, remarks by several of our members on the history of the G. A. R., and an encore performance by the renowned Schmellensinger Singers under the able direction of Past President Ward Small. The afternoon will be concluded with a viewing of the special “Mr. Lincoln of Illinois” exhibit, which is currently on display in the library, and our traditional Command Post. During the festivities the Research Center will be open. A special mailing containing further details and cost information should now be in the hands of the membership. Reservation forms were included and should be returned promptly, together with the appropriate remuneration.

ALLEN P. “NED” JULIAN

Our old and dear friend, and Honorary Award Life Member, Allen P. “Ned” Julian, died on January 17, 1979 in Veteran’s Hospital, Atlanta, Georgia, at the age of 77. A military funeral in his honor was held in the National Cemetery in Marietta. Ned, who retired from the Army with the rank of colonel, after service in World War II and Korea, led us on battlefield tours of Civil War sites in Georgia in 1959, 1966 and 1970. For many years, he served as Director of the Atlanta Historical Society, and was a member of the Georgia Historical Commission and one of the founders of the Atlanta Civil War Round Table. An eminent authority on Joe Johnston, at the time of his death he was working on a definitive history of the Civil War in Georgia.

It is with sincere regret that The Round Table announces the death on February 9, 1979 of Seymour Wasserman. Seymour, who was a certified public accountant with offices in Chicago, was a longtime member of The Round Table and a veteran campaigner on many battlefield tours. He was a devoted student of Lincoln and it is therefore ironic that Seymour’s funeral was held on the 170th anniversary of the sixteenth President’s birth. Our deepest condolences are extended to his family.

It on patriotic envelopes. Northern examples of these, used during the Civil War, criticized Southern ideas and leaders, such as Davis. Many even depicted Davis being hanged, beheaded, etc.

In concluding, Dr. Neely noted that print makers often changed their plates as heroes came and went. For example, in one series portraying a group of Federal leaders, Calhoun was replaced by Lincoln since no Calhoun image was worth anything in the North during and after the Civil War. But, Lincoln’s place now seems secure. Immediately after his death he ascended to number two in fame after George Washington; subsequently, about 1900, Dr. Neely said, he passed the first president in the eyes of the public and thus became the most famous person in American history.
THE NEW BOOKS

(Compiled by Dick Clark)


Thian, Raphael P. Register of the Confederate Debt. Lawrence, Mass.: Quarterman Publications, Inc., 1978. $35.00. Reprint from a 90-year old reference of which only five original copies are known to exist.


West, George Benjamin. When the Yankees Came: Civil War and Reconstruction on the Virginia Peninsula. Edited by Parks S. Rose, Jr. Richmond, Va.: The Dietz Press, 1977. $5.00

Forty-eight years after it had presumably been destroyed and carried off by souvenir hunters, fragments of the original sarcophagus in which Abraham Lincoln was first entombed, have been discovered in Springfield, Illinois. The State’s Department of Conservation has announced that at least 15% of the sarcophagus has been recovered. As a result of a reconstruction project at the tomb in 1930, the sarcophagus, minus the body, was moved onto the lawn, where it was soon broken into pieces by vandals. When the pieces disappeared, it was believed that workers had discarded them, thinking the sarcophagus irreparable. However, it is now apparent that the workers instead placed the remaining pieces into a recess in the underground burial area. This was unknown until December of 1978, when two department employees discovered the pieces while inspecting the area under the tomb. The marble sarcophagus was part of the original tomb dedicated in 1874. Following an attempted theft of the body in 1876, the coffin was removed and hidden elsewhere in the tomb while the sarcophagus was left to be viewed by the public. Department of Conservation officials plan to display some of the pieces in the tomb in the near future. Later this year, they will attempt to reassemble the pieces.

BULLETIN BOARD

FUTURE MEETINGS

Regular Meetings are held at the Chicago Bar Association, 29 South LaSalle, second Friday in each month except as noted.

March 9: Dr. Herman Hattaway on “Stephen D. Lee.”
March 16: An afternoon of Early Civil War Films, including luncheon and reception. G.A.R. Memorial Hall.
May 2-6: Annual Battlefield Tour—Shiloh and Northern Mississippi.

May 11: Chris Calkins on “Appomattox Campaign.”
June 8: Nevin’s-Feinstein Award Dinner and installation of officers. Recipient of Award: E.B. “Pete” Long.

September 14: William Mallory on “Actions North of the James River, September 29 and 30, 1864.”
October 12: Robert K. Krick on “E. P. Alexander, Peersless and Insightful Cannoneer.”
November 9: Dr. Daniel P. Jordan on “Richmond, First City of the Confederacy.”
December 7: Henry Pomerantz on “Alie, Middleburg, and Upperville, Prelude to Gettysburg and Aftermath of Brandy Station.”

January 11: Dr. John Y. Simon, topic to be announced.
February 8: Dr. James Lee McDonough, topic to be announced.

Every Monday: Informal noon luncheon meetings at Wieboldt’s Men’s Grill, 9th Floor, State and Madison; all members welcome.

Last Tuesday of each month: Informal noon luncheon meetings at Caravelle Motel, River Road and Bryn Mawr Avenue, Rosemont; all members welcome.

NEW MEMBERS

Jean Blissmer, 6328 Madison, Hammond, Indiana 46324.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

William C. Krone, 3002 Cross Timbers Lane, Garland, Texas 75042.

The battles of Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville and Lee’s 1862 invasion of Maryland are the subjects of three new sound and slide films now available for rental from Communication Design, Inc., 300 North Street, Meadville, PA. 16335. Each film combines original drawings and photographs with maps, views of modern terrain, and a narrative written by Dr. Jay Luvaas and Dr. J. Slater Crawford. The rental charge for the films, which range from thirty to fifty minutes in length, is $100.00 and includes use of the necessary projection and sound equipment.

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CIVIL WAR FILM DAY
SUNDAY, MARCH 18, 1979

A showing of early Civil War films will highlight a special gathering of the Civil War Round Table on Sunday, March 18, in the G. A. R. Memorial Hall of the Chicago Public Library Cultural Center.

You and your family are invited to cheer the heroes, boo the villains and 'follow the flag' through these vintage motion pictures, produced just fifty years after Appomattox.

Film enthusiast and fellow-member Jerry Warshaw will provide commentary for us. Among the great 'silents' we will see are the melodramatic "Battle" of 1911, the earliest film biography of Abraham Lincoln and the first re-creation of the Andrews raid, "Railroad Raiders of '62."

Activities begin with a buffet lunch at the French Quarter restaurant in The Palmer House from noon to 1:00 p.m. Our program continues in the G. A. R. Memorial Hall, a short three block's walk from The Palmer House.

The Chicago Light Artillery Battery opens the festivities with a special Civil War color guard and appropriate ruffles and flourishes.

Complementing Jerry's films will be remarks on the G. A. R. and the Research Center by Round Table members and the reappearance of the Schimmelfenning Singers under the able direction of "Commander" Ward Smidl.

The afternoon concludes with our traditional Command Post in the Library Rotunda, a reception for the "Mr. Lincoln of Illinois" exhibit and an opportunity to view the Research Center collections.

If street parking is not available, we recommend the Grant Park underground garage at Michigan Avenue and Randolph Street.

The total cost of the gathering, including lunch, printed literature and refreshments is $11.00 for adults; $5.50 for children under twelve years of age.

Make your checks payable to the Civil War Round Table and address them to Margaret H. April, Film Day Registrar, 18 East Chestnut Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611.