

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume XLIV, Number 2

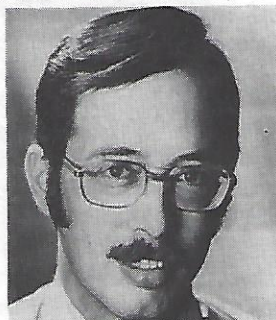
Chicago, Illinois

October, 1983

Robert K. Krick on The Battle of Cedar Mountain

For those members who are devotees of "Stonewall" Jackson, The Round Table meeting October 14 will hold special interest. That evening, Bob Krick, chief historian for the Federicksburg & Spotsylvania National Military Park, will share with us material on Jackson's last independent campaign (Cedar Mountain), material which is part of his forthcoming book on that battle.

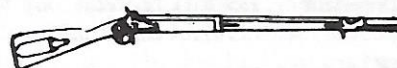
With McClellan's forces inactive at Harrison's Landing following the Peninsula Campaign, John Pope resolved to advance on Gordonsville. Aware of the certainty of ultimate defeat unless he seized the initiative, Lee sent Jackson northward towards Gordonsville with some 12,000 men. As Jackson's men kept up a brisk pace, the weather on August 9, 1862 turned hot and sultry. Sunstroke felled a number of the rapidly marching Rebels who were bothered by the choking dust and the oppressive heat of midday. Many of Jackson's men, unable to maintain the pace demanded by their aggressive corps commander, staggered off the road and sank down in the shade to regain their strength. This forced march demonstrated Jackson's preference for losing one man in marching rather than five in battle.



Robert K. Krick

Union forces under "Commissary" Banks, sent forward by Pope to delay Jackson while Pope concentrated his forces, attacked the Confederates a few miles south of Culpeper Court House on that hot August day. Shortly after noon the forward guns of Banks' artillery opened on the leading elements of Ewell's division as the Confederate advance guard came into view of the Federal batteries posted in front of their infantry on high ground south of Cedar Run, overlooking the highway.

When battle was joined, neither side had a clear idea of what the prospects were. Jackson became personally interested in the artillery duel that developed, and was nonchalant about his infantry dispositions. The seasoned Stonewall Brigade was led here by Charles S. Winder, a Maryland West Pointer for whom Jackson had high regard. When Winder pressed Jackson for an opinion as to whether a battle was in prospect, Jackson responded and Winder left a sick bed to join his troops. When Winder fell mortally wounded, William B. Taliaferro assumed command of his division as Crawford's Federal brigade struck the Confederate left wing in front and flank in a shattering attack. Although Jackson tried to personally lead a counterattack,



424th Regular Meeting

Robert K. Krick
on
The Battle of Cedar Mountain

Friday, October 14, 1983

Hotel Continental
505 N. Michigan
King Arthur Room, 3rd Floor
Cocktails at 5:30 p.m. Dinner at 6:30 p.m.
\$13.00 per person



he was dissuaded and allowed his reserves to move forward and blunt the Union advance. The arrival of A. P. Hill's division prevented a rout and enabled Jackson's counterattack to drive Banks, now outnumbered more than 2 to 1, back across Cedar Run. The fierce afternoon battle had cost Banks 2,353 casualties and Jackson 1,338.

The battle of Cedar Mountain represents the last time that Jackson was in complete control of an active Confederate campaign. In this battle he came perilously close to losing to the much smaller enemy force that faced him. Prior to the battle, Jackson's orders to his units had been unclear and had led to confusion and unwarranted delay in the advance from Gordonsville. The battle was fought across rolling farmland and foothills that have changed little since August, 1862.

Bob Krick, born in New Jersey, moved to California at the age of 11. He earned his B.A. in U.S. History from Pacific Union College and his Master's in military history from San Jose State University in 1967. He is the author or

(continued on page 2)

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



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 18 East Chestnut Street
 Chicago, Illinois 60611
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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.



Talks on tape

The following cassette tapes of previous talks to The Round Table are available for purchase:

1. Bruce Catton: "Politics and the Army of the Potomac" (9/26/63)
2. E. B. Long: "Ulysses S. Grant: The Man Behind the Memoirs" (4/11/52)
3. T. Harry Williams: "Beauregard, the Man" (5/6/55)
4. Allan Nevins: "The Dark Hour of the War in the Northwest" (9/11/59)
5. Shelby Foote: "Grant's Seven Failures Above Vicksburg" (11/15/63)
6. Otto Eisenschiml: "Gettysburg" (6/20/52)
7. Grady McWhiney: "Braxton Bragg: Misplaced General" (1/17/62)
8. Ralph G. Newman: "Benjamin F. Butler: Politician and Hero" (10/12/66)
9. Marshall Krolick: "Lee and Longstreet at Gettysburg" (3/8/74)
10. Shelby Foote: "Grant Comes to Washington" (3/8/68)
11. John Hope Franklin: "The Military Occupation of the South" (10/16/64)
12. Stephen B. Oates: "John Brown: Catalyst for the Civil War" (11/12/82)
13. Elmer Gertz: "The Assassinations of Presidents Lincoln and Kennedy As Seen by Jack Ruby's Lawyer" (10/27/67)
14. Ralph G. Newman: "Readin', Writin', and Roundtables" (11/10/67)
15. T. Harry Williams: "The Generalship of the North and the South" (5/27/60)
16. Harold Hyman: "Lincoln's Mars: Edwin M. Stanton" (10/12/60)
17. Frank Vandiver: "Rebel Brass: Jefferson Davis, Joseph E. Johnston, and Confederate Government" (5/17/56)

Tapes are \$5 each and may be ordered at meetings or by mail from Research Center Committee Chairman Leslie MacDonald, 2744 W. Rascher Avenue, Chicago 60625. When ordering by mail, please include \$2 per tape for postage and handling. Make checks payable to The Civil War Round Table. Tapes of other talks will be available in the future (pending permission of the speakers). Watch the newsletter for details.

(continued from page 1)

editor of a number of books relating to our favorite war, including *Parker's Virginia Battery, C.S.A.* (1975); *Lee's Colonels: A Biographical Register of the Field Officers of the Army of Northern Virginia* (1979); and a new edition of Robert Stiles, *Four Years Under Marse Robert* (1977). His most recent works have been issues in the Virginia regimental series, with the 1982 publication of the history of the 9th Virginia Cavalry, and a history of the 13th Virginia Infantry which should be in print this month. Bob last spoke to us in October, 1979, on "E.P. Alexander, Peerless and Insightful Cannoneer."

We report with sorrow the death of long-time member and frequent battlefield tour companion Bert Margeson. Our sincere condolences are extended to his sons Bill and Jack, and the other members of his family.

September meeting

A bit of nostalgia marked the return of Walter H. Hebert to address the first meeting of the year on September 9. Eighty-nine Round Table members and guests were on hand to mark the third appearance of Wally as a speaker at our meetings. His current talk was the life and times of Joseph "Fighting Joe" Hooker, the same subject he used when he spoke to the 20th meeting of the Chicago Round Table on February 16, 1943.

As our speaker describes him, Hooker was "one of the most colorful, controversial and cantankerous characters who rose to the leadership of an army in the Civil War." Hooker, in the eyes of our speaker, had tremendous military ability but had some serious faults as well. Hebert felt it unfortunate that he is remembered by many for two things: his defeat at Chancellorsville and also for the story that ladies who deviated from the path of virtue were called 'hookers' in his honor. Feeling he deserves a better fate, Hebert cited Hooker's virtues: he was undoubtedly a fighter; his division and corps commanderships were splendid; he knew how to handle men; his men followed him and cheered him almost as much as they did for McClellan; he had great administrative ability; morale was low after Fredericksburg and he brought the army back to the fighting strength it had prior to that battle. On the other side of the ledger, Hooker's reputation when he came to California in the 1850s was that he was unscrupulous in business deals, gambling when he was broke and drinking to excess.

Hooker was broke in California when the Civil War broke out. He raised a regiment of California volunteers but found that they were not welcome in the East, where Hooker knew the action would be. A friend loaned him \$1,000 for a trip to Washington. Due to difficulties with General Scott, things didn't go well but a friend from Mexican War days secured an interview with President Lincoln for him. Hooker wished him success in putting an end to the rebellion and told Lincoln that after visiting the Bull Run battlefield, he stated... 'I'm a damn sight better general than anyone you had on that field.' Lincoln was pleased and shortly thereafter Hooker had a brigade command. In the Peninsula campaign Hooker did his first fighting at Williamsburg where his three brigades attacked six brigades under Longstreet's command.

Hooker earned a promotion to major general after the Peninsula campaign and fought extremely well at 2nd Bull Run. McClellan returned to command for the Antietam campaign and in that bloody battle Hooker once again had the opportunity to strike the first blow. He took a bullet in the foot and went to recuperate in Washington. He returned to fight at Fredericksburg where he accomplished little. After the battle, Burnside charged Hooker and three other officers with undermining his influence with the army. However, this move backfired and Hooker was given command of the Army of the Potomac.

Hooker restructured the army, placing Henry Hunt in charge of the artillery, Stoneman the cavalry and Ban Dufferfield became chief of staff. In early 1863, Hooker had what he called 'the finest army on the planet.' While Burnside had attacked Lee head-on, Hooker planned to move around Lee to force him out of the strong rebel defenses at Fredericksburg. On April 30, 1863 Hooker moved three corps across the Rappahannock River and making good progress, reached Chancellorsville. There was heavy fog on May 1, but Hebert felt that there was a heavier fog in the

general's mind. He started to worry amid rumors of heavy Confederate reinforcements and began to think of his defensive positions. After some troops had moved out of the Wilderness, he called them back. This, Hebert stated, was the big mistake of the campaign. Hooker admitted to Abner Doubleday that for once, 'Hooker lost confidence in Hooker.' Late on May 1st, Hooker found the 11th Corps streaming toward Chancellorsville thoroughly routed by Jackson's fierce attack. Hooker then set up new defense positions as darkness fell. The following morning Hooker made another mistake when he withdrew Sickles from a strong position at Hazel Grove. This move permitted Lee to join with Stuart to hem Hooker in and enfilade his position from three sides.

Although the Congressional committee on the Conduct of the War favored Hooker and blamed the defeat mainly on the rout of the 11th Corps, Hebert felt that this was nonsense and that Hooker had lost the battle. Halleck, Stanton and most of Hooker's generals wanted to get rid of him, but Lincoln left him in command. While Lee moved northward toward Pennsylvania, Hooker screened him from Washington and did a very creditable job. Then Hooker made a mistake when he instructed General French to abandon Harpers Ferry and join him. He had no authority to do this and French notified Halleck of Hooker's instructions. Halleck told him to pay no attention to Hooker. This was too much for Hooker and he tendered his resignation, returning then to Washington.

The difficult straits for the Union cause in the Western theatre created the need for more troops. The 11th Corps under Howard and the 12th under Slocum were transported in a brilliant movement in six days to the Chata-nooga area where they were placed under Hooker's command. However, the presence of Grant and Sherman would prevent any glory coming to Hooker. During the Atlanta campaign, Sherman did everything he could to hamper Hooker and belittle his work. McPherson's death in the battle of Atlanta meant the end of Hooker. Although he was entitled to the command, the job went to Howard. This was too much for Hooker and he resigned. He was then sent to the Northern department based in Ohio and continued in the regular army until his retirement in 1868.

Webster grave marker restored

The tombstone of Civil War veteran Joseph Dana Webster in Rosehill Cemetery on Chicago's north side, which has been in disrepair for several years, has been restored. The cemetery and The Round Table split the \$250 cost of replacing the large cross atop the marker. A ceremony rededicating the grave is tentatively being scheduled for October 23 at 2:30 p.m.

Webster was a Mexican War veteran who settled in Chicago before the Civil War. In 1861 he supervised the construction of defenses in Cairo, and performed the duties of a chief of staff for Grant at Belmont, Forts Henry and Donelson, and Shiloh. During the battle of Shiloh he was largely responsible for putting into place the artillery on the bluff line overlooking Pittsburg Landing on April 6, 1862. Webster became chief of staff to Sherman during the Atlanta campaign and for Thomas at Nashville.

The repairs to his grave marker are the result of discussions between fellow member Merlin Sumner and Rosehill general manager James Kulavic. Further details regarding the ceremony will be announced.

THE NEW BOOKS



(compiled by Dick Clark)

National Archives. *Guide to Genealogical Research in the National Archives*. Revised edition. Washington, D.C.: National Archives. \$21.00. pbk \$17.00.

Petty, Elijah P. *Journey to Pleasant Hill: The Civil War Letters of Captain Elijah P. Petty, Walker's Texas Division, CSA*. Edited by Norman D. Brown. San Antonio: The University of Texas Institute of Culture, 1982. xxii, 471 p. illus. \$35.00. Collector's edition \$75.00.

Pittenger, William. *Daring and Suffering: A History of the Great Railroad Adventure*. Alexandria, Va.: Time-Life Books, 1982. \$26.50. Originally published 1863.

Scarborough, Ruth. *Belle Boyd, Siren of the South*. Macon, Georgia: Mercer University Press, 1983. 212 p., \$12.95.

Schenkman, David E. *Civil War Sutler Tokens and Card-board Scrip*. Bryans Road, Md.: Jade House Publications, 1983. illus. \$27.50.

Sears, Stephen W. *Landscape Turned Red: The Battle of Antietam*. New Haven, CT: Ticknor & Fields, 1983. 431 p., illus. \$17.95.

Shaver, Lewellyn A. *A History of the Sixtieth Alabama Regiment, Gracie's Alabama Brigade*. Montgomery, 1867. Gaithersburg, Md: Butternut Press, 1983. \$20.00.

Shoemaker, J. J. *Shoemaker's Battery, Stuart Horse Artillery, Pelham's Battalion, Afterwards Commanded by Col. R. P. Chew, Army of Northern Virginia*. Memphis, 1908. Gaithersburg, Md.: Butternut Press, 1983. \$22.00.

Smith, Stephen. *Hand-Book of Surgical Operations*. Fourth edition. New York: Bailliere Brothers, 1863. 274 p., illus. Reprinted for The Medical Purveyor, Baltimore, 1983. pbk \$35.00.

Snow, William Parker. *Lee and His Generals*. New York: Fairfax Press, 1982. First issued anonymously 1867.

Townsend, George Alfred. *Campaigns of a Non-Combatant, and his Romaunt Abroad during the War*. Alexandria, Va.: Time-Life Books, 1982. \$26.60. Originally published 1866.

Turner, William A. *Even More Confederate Faces*. Clinton, Md.: The Author, 1983. \$39.95.

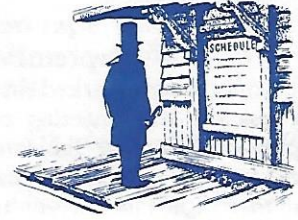
Wall, H. C. *Historical Sketch of the Pee Dee Guards. (Co. D., 23rd North Carolina Regiment) from 1861 to 1865*. Raleigh, 1876. Gaithersburg, Md.: Butternut Press, 1983. \$18.50.

Richard Harwell to receive Nevins-Freeman Award

The Executive Committee has selected Richard B. Harwell as the recipient of the 1984 Nevins-Freeman Award. Harwell is the author or editor of numerous books about the War, including *The Confederate Reader* and *The Union Reader*, *Cornerstones of Confederate Collecting*, *Billings Hardtack and Coffee*, and a one volume abridgement of Freeman's *R.E. Lee*. He served as the editor of *Civil War History* from 1954-69 and was on the staff of many libraries. Harwell was curator of rare books at the University of Georgia Library from 1975 until his retirement in 1980.

The award will be presented during the Second Annual Nevins-Freeman Award Assembly next September.

BULLETIN BOARD



Future meetings

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

October 14: Robert K. Krick on "The Battle of Cedar Mountain."

November 11: William M. Anderson on "Col. Lawler and the Lawless 18th Ill."

December 9: Karen Osborne on "Women in the Civil War."

January 13, 1984: Mike Cohn on "Civil War Telegraphy."

February 17: Marshall Krolick, Bill Sullivan, Jim Vlazny and Gordon Whitney in "Senate Confrontation, November-December, 1860" with Ralph Newman as Pres. Pro. Tem.

March 9: Col. Roy K. Flint on "Cold Harbor."

April 13: Richard McMurry on "John Bell Hood."

May 2-6: Battlefield Tour to Washington, D.C.

May 11: To be announced.

June 8: Dan Jordan on "John S. Mosby."

New member

Sidney S. Siegel, 1601 S. 57th Court, Cicero, Illinois 60650 (312) 780-6465.

Changes of address

Terrie McDonald, 690 Garland, Winnetka, Illinois 60093.

Hamilton Pitt, 300 N. State St., Apt. 5229, Chicago, Illinois 60610.

Karl Sundstrom, 2927 N. Lincoln, N. Riverside, Illinois 60546.

The 3rd Great American Civil War Book, Paper & Image Fair will be held Saturday, October 22, 1983 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Elks Lodge, 8421 Arlington Blvd. (U.S. 50), Fairfax, Virginia. Over 75 dealers, authors and publishers will be offering books, logs, letters, maps, music, documents, autographs, photographs, and periodicals. For further information, contact: C. Batson, Show Manager, 10453 Medina Road, Richmond, Virginia 23235 (804) 272-5558.

College and high school students interested in the Civil War need not be deterred from attending Round Table meetings for financial reasons. All students are welcome to come, free of charge, for the talk portion of the meeting only, which begins about 7:30 p.m.

The Michigan Civil War Collectors Show will be held Saturday, October 15 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Michigan Inn, 16400 Hudson Dr., Southfield (Detroit), Michigan. There will be 135 tables featuring Civil War memorabilia, books and relics. No flea market material will be permitted. For tables and further information, contact Dave Parks, 18387 Ash Creek Dr., Mt. Clemens, Michigan 48044 (313) 286-6462.