

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume XXXI, Number 1

Chicago, Illinois

September, 1970

Albert Castel on Lee and His Critics, September 11

The Civil War would be a dull subject, even for members of the Civil War Round Table, if there were nothing to argue about, so having heard Thomas L. Connelly downgrade Robert E. Lee at our March meeting it seemed not only fair to give equal time to an opposing point of view, but also enlightening, educational, and in all probability enjoyable.



Albert Castel

Our speaker, Albert Castel, professor of history at Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, has in fact written an article directly critical of Professor Connelly's criticism of Lee, which was published in "Civil War History." However, he promises to give a much more comprehensive discussion of the whole subject of criticism of Lee than appeared in his article. He says:

"As for my talk, I plan to do so extemporaneously, following this basic outline:

Lee and His Critics: The Western School

- A. The Western School of Critics of Lee: From D. H. Hill to Thomas L. Connelly
- B. The Western School's Main Criticisms of Lee:
 - 1. Lee's Personal Reputation Undeserved
 - 2. Lee's Ability as a Strategist and Tactician Exaggerated
 - 3. Lee Solely and Selfishly Concerned with Virginia, Blind to Needs and Importance of West
 - 4. Lee's Influence Caused Confederacy to Neglect West, Thus Causing or at Least Hastening Confederate Defeat
- C. Criticism of These Criticisms and of the Arguments and Evidence Offered in Their Support
- D. General Evaluation of Confederate Strategy and of Lee's Role In It, Potential as well as Actual

"Basically I intend to follow the same format as my article. However I hope to deal more broadly with the 'Western School' rather than specifically with Connelly per se, to make a few points not made in the article, and to consider overall Confederate strategy in a fuller and more positive fashion than I do in the article. I will reserve most of my more detailed and technical criticisms of Connelly for possible response to questions from the audience."

We are glad to include the last sentence so that we can always say "he asked for it." However, we suspect he will not mind being under fire, even when the heavy artillery is brought up.



293d REGULAR MEETING

Albert Castel
Professor of History,
Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo,
on

Lee and His Critics:
The Western School

Friday, September 11, 1970

Chicago Bar Association
29 South LaSalle Street

Cocktails at 5:30 p.m.

Dinner at 6:30 p.m.



Albert Castel was born in Wichita, Kansas, November 11, 1928. He is married and has two children. He received his B. A. at Wichita University in 1950 and M. A. there in 1951, followed by a Ph. D. at the University of Chicago in 1955. He served in the Counter Intelligence Corps, U. S. Army, 1955-57 and taught history at Kansas City University, UCLA, City College of New York, and Culver Military Academy, before going to Western Michigan University.

He is author of A FRONTIER STATE AT WAR: KANSAS, 1861-1865 (Cornell University Press, 1959); WILLIAM CLARKE QUANTRILL: HIS LIFE AND TIMES (Frederick Fell, 1962); and GENERAL STERLING PRICE AND THE CIVIL WAR IN THE WEST (Louisiana State University Press, 1968). He has written many articles, mainly on Civil War subjects, in AMERICAN HERITAGE, CIVIL WAR HISTORY, JOURNAL OF NEGRO HISTORY, CIVIL WAR TIMES ILLUSTRATED, and AMERICAN HISTORY ILLUSTRATED, plus various other publications. His most recent article, and the occasion for his talk to the Chicago Civil War Round Table, "The Historian and the General: Thomas L. Connelly versus Robert E. Lee," CIVIL WAR HISTORY, XVI (March, 1970), 50-63.

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



FOUNDED DECEMBER 3, 1940

18 East Chestnut Street,
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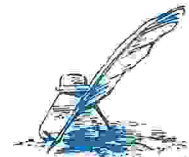
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APPOMATTOX MYSTERY

Col. John Bakeless seems to have unraveled "The Mystery of Appomattox" in an article so titled in the June, 1970, issue of "Civil War Illustrated." As late as 1935 Douglas Freeman devoted an appendix to the problem of why Lee's army did not get expected supplies at Amelia Court House. Bakeless finds that Maj. Harry Young, a Federal spy, intercepted Lee's order and that it was used to lure the supply trains to where they could be captured by Sheridan. In fact Maj. Young and Sergeant Joseph E. McCabe were able to foul up Lee's retreat from Richmond to Appomattox. Hal Hixon recalls that Bakeless knew the Petersburg area from away back. As second lieutenant at Fort Lee (then Camp Lee) in World War I Bakeless used to attend parties chaperoned by Ambler Johnston and his wife. An early, and standard Bakeless book was his life of Daniel Boone (1939) and Ambler dubbed the author Daniel Boone. Bakeless was an intelligence officer in World War II and his forthcoming book on Federal spies should be tops.

from the Editor's pen



Major General Earl Van Dorn was the subject at the June meeting, last before the summer vacation, and the speaker was A. P. (Al) Andrews, a founder and first president of the Jackson Civil War Round Table, editor of its newsletter, "The Rebel Yell," and a dedicated Mississippian.

A principal point that he made in his talk came in discussion of General Van Dorn's slaying in May 8, 1863, at Spring Hill, Tennessee, by a Dr. Peters who charged that Van Dorn "had violated the sanctity of his home." Andrews reported that Mrs. Van Dorn repeatedly denied this charge, and moreover, members of Van Dorn's staff, who were in best position to know, indignantly denied that the General had anything to do with Mrs. Peters. There is some evidence, although not entirely conclusive, that Peters was a Northern sympathizer who hoped to gain credit by killing a Confederate general.

Andrews also pointed out that Van Dorn had important commands in the early years of the war. Born in Port Gibson, Mississippi, Sept. 17, 1820, he went to West Point, was assigned to the 7th Infantry, and fought in the Seminole War. In the Mexican War he got brevet commissions for Cerro Gordo, Contreras, and Churubusco. He became captain, 2nd Cavalry, in 1855 and major in 1860. He resigned Jan. 31, 1861, and became second in command to Jefferson Davis as brigadier general of Mississippi troops, and colonel, C.S.A. March 16, 1861. Commissioned major general Sept. 19, 1861, he became ranking major general in Confederate forces. When President Davis sought an officer for the Western command, over the feuding Price and McCulloch, he first sent Heath, who failed to get along with them, and after Bragg refused to try it, Van Dorn took over and was quite successful until his death.

BRADY PHOTOGRAPHS

An exhibition of the photographs of Mathew B. Brady, "The Camera-Eye of History" opened August 4 at the Exchange National Bank of Chicago, LaSalle and Adams streets. The event marked the election of Brady to the Photography Hall of Fame.

STATE LIBRARY MOVES

The Illinois State Historical Library and the Illinois State Historical Society moved from the Centennial Building to new quarters beneath the reconstructed Old State Capitol, August 8 to September 8, during which period library services were suspended. All library and society office and field activities were to be suspended from Sept. 1 to Sept. 8. The new address for both will be: Old State Capitol, Springfield, Ill. 62706. The telephone number remains the same: 217/525-4836.

Kup's column in the Chicago Sun-Times noted that CWRT member Attorney Phil R. Davis was confined to St. Joseph Hospital in June and missed the "Henry Davis 400" dinner in his honor. He received the Big Heart of '70 Award in absentia.

The Confederate Memorial Literary Society at its annual Jefferson Davis birthday reception June 3 at the White House of the Confederacy, Richmond, Va., announced three awards for contributions in Confederate history, the categories being full-length book, scholarly article, and pure research. First awards are to be made at the 75th anniversary of the Museum, June 3, 1971, Mrs. Frank D. Williams, Jr., president of the society, said. Kurt Brandenburg, director of the Museum of the Confederacy, said the awards would feature the official seal of the Confederacy, and may be the first official documents to bear it, as the British-made press was trapped in

Bermuda by the blockade, and the seal never got to Richmond until the war was over.

* * *

Lloyd Miller gave his magnetized-map talk on "The Second Day at Gettysburg" at the May 25 meeting of the National Blues Peoria Civil War Round Table. He gave the same talk at the May meeting of the Springfield, Ill. CWRT. Springfield's June speaker was Alvin Roundtree of the State Archives on Negroes in the Civil War.

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Marshall Krolich's Civil War Quiz—No. 1 appeared in the June, 1970, issue of "Civil War Times Illustrated" and readers of that publication were no doubt as frustrated as members of Chicago CWRT during the many months as he has tried them out on us. For any really turned on their heads by the quiz, answers were available, printed upside down, at the bottom of the page. Apparently some readers survived the first onslaught, as Quiz No. 2 was printed in the July issue. In fact the editor promises that the feature will be continued for at least a year.

* * *

D. Alexander Brown writes on the "Battle at Chickasaw Bluffs" in the July, 1970, issue of "Civil War Times Illustrated." Other articles: "Conscription in the Confederacy," by Lowell H. Harrison; "Paying the Debt" (pensions and disability allowances) by Byron Stinson; "Life in Atlanta," by Philip Secrist; "The Search" (for a refugee's father) by Dr. R. A. Lewis; and a reprint of a letter by Gen. Robert E. Lee on conscripting slaves. In the June, 1970, issue: "Horsemen in Gray" by Allen C. Redwood; Gen. John W. Geary, by Paul Beers; and reprints of an interview with Grant on Appomattox, and of Jubal Early at Gettysburg by his nephew John Cabell Early. (Separate treatment has been given to "The Mystery of Appomattox," by John Bakeless, in the June issue and Marshall Krolich's Quiz June and July issues.)

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Morgan's Raid was Leland Glazebrook's subject at the June 11 meeting of the Decatur, Ill., Roundtable. Glazebrook, of Sullivan, Ill., is broadcaster over a Mattoon radio station. Decatur CWRT arranged a tour of the Old State Capitol, Springfield, for July 9.

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The First Brigade Band, which entertained Chicago CWRT at a Ladies Night program a couple of years ago, was featured at Milwaukee CWRT Ladies Night held at Pabst Blue Ribbon Hall June 11.

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Brooks Davis spoke on Perryville at the May meeting of Madison CWRT. The annual Jefferson Encampment was scheduled for June 11 at Meadow Springs Golf Club, Jefferson, Wisconsin.

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Michigan Regimental Roundtable had two for-real round table discussions on a busy summer schedule. "My Favorite Civil War Book" was June 17 subject, and might have been an awkward one, as Don Smith, author of "The 24th Michigan" was scheduled to be there. Civil War battle fields was the July 15 subject, with slides by Abbott Gibney, a quiz, and Marion Roberts as guest. These meetings were at Security Bank & Trust Company building at Telegraph. In August the annual outing was scheduled at Ray Russell's in Rochester. May speaker was Dr. Maerit Kallet on "Medicine in the Civil War."

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INDIANA AT GETTYSBURG

The Indiana Gettysburg Memorial Commission has announced October 1, 1970, as completion date for construction of the \$17,000 Indiana monument at Gettysburg. It is placed in Spangler Meadow at the base of Cupl's Hill where the 7th, 19th and 27th Indiana Volunteer Infantry fought.

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Indianapolis CWRT meets at the World War Memorial. Carl Zenor, president, used a projector to give a pictorial review of Antietam, Gettysburg, and Vicksburg, at the June 8 meeting.

TO THE LADIES —

The Speaker: The voice of Barbara (Mrs. E. B. "Pete") Long in an interview especially taped for this occasion only.

The Subject: How I Spent My Summer, in Laramie, Wyoming, in which there will be a thrilling account of the Western trek of the Long wagon train and of perils encountered on the journey; of the strenuous adjustments to frontier life; establishing our home in the wilderness. Thrill to this first hand account of an overland journey by covered wagon (covered with books, that is); our first meetings with the natives of this mountain domain. (Note by E. B. L.: Barbara is the only one of the faculty wives actually born in Wyoming); the only correct and authorized edition of our journal of travel into Our New West.

The Time: Friday, September 11, cocktails at 5:30 p.m.

The Place: (NEW) The Book and Bottle at 17 East Chestnut St., directly across the street from the Abraham Lincoln Bookshop.

And the Girl: to call for reservations is Joyce Warsaw, 1319 Crain St., Evanston, Ill. 60202; phone: 866-6667

Last Meeting: Margaret April gave the Camp Followers the inside story (no punches pulled) of the CWRT tour to Savannah.

Wayne Sanford presented a tape-slide show of "291 Days at Petersburg" at the May meeting.

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"Cassius Marcellus Clay" by William L. Sullivan of Henderson, Ky. was scheduled as the Sept. 29 talk for The Civil War Round Table of Vanderburgh Court House, Inc., Evansville, Indiana. A tour to Lexington and Perryville is planned for Oct. 23-25. At the July 16 meeting Dr. James E. Morlock, University of Evansville, spoke on Alvin Peterson Hovey, the general who became an Indiana governor. The June outing was at the Farm Bureau Picnic Grounds, Mount Vernon.

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Dr. R. Gerald McMurtry spoke on Commodore John L. Worden of the Monitor at the May 18 meeting of the Lexington, Ky., CWRT.

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Lt. Col. Leo E. Huff of Southwest Missouri State College spoke on "Naval Operations of the Civil War" at the June 10 meeting of the Civil War Round Table of the Ozarks, Springfield, Missouri.

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A Junior Jackson Civil War Round Table has been organized, with one of its objectives, "to relieve the senior officers of certain tasks" in the proceedings of the Jackson, Mississippi, CWRT. Sounds like a worthy idea. At the June 19 meeting of the senior citizens the speaker was Donald F. Garrett on the "Story of the Submarine Hunley." In May Charles L. "Pie" Dufour spoke on "The Civil War Revisited."

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A round table open discussion of the Civil War with no holds barred was the agenda for the June 17 meeting of the Civil War Round Table of New Orleans.

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Baton Rouge CWRT ended its seventh season May 21 with Dr. Cary Dougherty, past president, speaking on "Medicine in 1861."

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Hartford (Connecticut) CWRT held a cookout June 15 with Al Redway as speaker on "Custer Meets a Washita of His Own."

THE NEW BOOKS



(Compiled by Dick Clark)

Andrews, J. Cutler. *The South Reports The Civil War*. Princeton U. Press, 1970. \$15.

Andrews, Sidney. *The South Since The War: As Shown by Fourteen Weeks of Travel and Observation in Georgia and the Carolinas*. Intro. by David Donald. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1970. Paper, \$2.95. First issue 1866.

Bartlett, David V. G. *Life And Public Services Of Hon. Abraham Lincoln . . .* Freeport, N.Y.: Books for Libs., 1969. \$15. First pub. 1860.

Bartlett, John Russell. *The Literature Of The Rebellion*. A catalogue of books and pamphlets relating to the Civil War . . . Orig. Boston, 1866. Westport, Conn.: Negro Univ. Press, 1970. \$16.50

Blessington, Joseph P. *The Campaigns of Walker's Texas Division*. Austin, Texas: Pemberton Press, 1970. \$9.50. Orig. of 1875.

Cairnes, John E. *The Slave Power: Its character, career & probable designs*. Reprint 1863 ed. N.Y. Harper [1969]. Paper \$3.45.

Callahan, James M. *The Diplomatic History Of The Southern Confederacy*. N.Y.: Greenwood Press, 1968. \$11.25. Copyright 1901.

Chase, Salmon P. *Inside Lincoln's Cabinet: The Civil War Diaries of Salmon P. Chase*, ed. by David Donald. N.Y.: Kraus Reprint, 1970. \$14.

Clemenceau, Georges. *American Reconstruction, 1865-1870*. Ed., intro. by Fernand Baldensperger. N.Y.; Da Capo, 1969. \$10. Reprint 1928 ed.

Confed. States of Amer. War Dept. *Southern History Of The War*. Official reports of battles as published by order of the Confederate Congress at Richmond. N.Y.: Kraus Reprint, 1970. \$24. Reprint 1863 ed.

Curry, Richard O., ed. *Radicalism, Racism, and Party Realignment: The Border States During Reconstruction*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins, 1969. \$10.

DeWitt, David Miller. *The Judicial Murder Of Mary E. Surratt*. N.Y.: Reprint House Int'l. \$12. 1895 ed. Scholarly Press (St. Clair Shores, Mich.) has this at \$11.

Drake, Charles D. *Union And Anti-Slavery Speeches Delivered During The Rebellion*. N.Y.: Negro Univs. Pr. 1969. \$14. Reprint 1864 ed. (Mnemosyne Press in Miami has this at \$12.50)

Duke, Basil W. *Reminiscences Of General Basil W. Duke*. Freeport, N.Y.: Books for Libraries, 1969. \$18.50 Reprint 1911 ed.

Eggleston, George Cary. *A Rebel's Recollections*. Indiana U. Press edition reprinted. N.Y.: Kraus Reprint, 1970 \$8.

Ellinger, Esther Parker. *The Southern War Poetry Of The Civil War*. N.Y.: Burt Franklin, 1970. Reprint 1918 U. Penn. thesis. \$16.50

George, James Zachariah. *The Political History Of Slavery In The United States*. Reprint of the Neale pub. of 1915. Detroit, Mich.: Negro Hist. Pr., 1970 \$13.

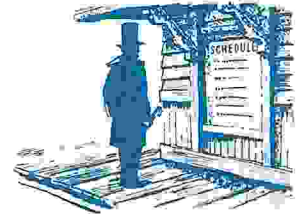
Greeley, Horace. *A Political Text-Book For 1860*. N.Y.: Negro Univs. Pr., 1969. Reprint 1886 ed. \$14.75

Herbert, Hilary A. *Why The Solid South? or, Reconstruction and its Results*. N.Y.: Negro Univs. Pr., 1969. Reprint 1890 ed. \$14.75

Holt, Michael F. *Forging A Majority: The Formation of the Republican Party in Pittsburgh, 1848-1860*. New Haven and London: Yale Univ. Press, 1969. \$10.

Howe, Daniel Wait. *Political History Of Secession In The Beginning Of The American Civil War*. N.Y.: Negro Univs. Pr., 1969. Copyright 1914. \$19.

BULLETIN BOARD



FUTURE MEETINGS

All regular meetings are scheduled for the second Friday in each month (except July and August) at the Chicago Bar Association, 29 South LaSalle Street, 11th floor.

September 11: Albert Castel on "Lee and His Critics"

October 9: To be announced

Change of Address: E. B. "Pete" Long, 607 South 15th Street, Laramie, Wyoming 82070

Johannsen, Robert W., comp. *Reconstruction, 1865-1877*. Paper, 2.45.

Johnson, Allen. *Stephen A. Douglas: A Study in American Politics*. N.Y.: Da Capo, 1970. Copyright 1908. \$17.50.

Johnston, Joseph E. *Narrative Of Military Operations Directed During the Late War Between the States*. Reprint of Indiana U. edition 1959. N.Y.: Kraus Reprint, 1970, 1970. \$30.

Kendrick, Benjamin B. *The Journal Of The Joint Committee Of Fifteen On Reconstruction, 39th Congress 1865-1867*. Westport, Conn.: Negro Univs. Pr., 1970. Reprint 1914 ed. \$13.50.

Klement, Frank L. *The Limits Of Dissent: Clement L. Vallandigham and the Civil War*. Lexington, Ky.: Univ. Kentucky Press, 1970. \$10.50.

Lewis, Charles Lee. *Matthew Fontaine Maury, The Pathfinder Of The Seas*. Reprint 1927 ed. N.Y.: AMS Press, 1969. \$7.50.

Logan, Mary. *Reminiscences Of The Civil War And Reconstruction*. Ed., intro. by George Worthington Adams. Carbondale: Southern Illinois Univ. Pr. 1970. \$10. Abridgment that lops off pre-1861 and post-1877 years.

McPherson, Edward. *The Political History Of The United States Of America During The Period Of Reconstruction*. N.Y.: Negro Univs. Pr., 1969. \$26.50.

Mahan, Alfred Thayer. *Admiral Farragut*. N.Y.: Greenwood Press, 1968. Orig. pub. 1895. \$13.50.

Marshall-Cornwall, Sir James H. *Grant As Military Commander*. N.Y.: Van Nostrand-Reinhold, 1970. \$9.95.

Miers, Earl Schneck. *Robert E. Lee*. N.Y.: Harper. Paper, \$1.25.

Nevins, Allan. *The Emergence Of Lincoln*. 2 vols. N.Y.: Scribner's, paper, each 2.95.

Old Abe's Jokes. Upper Saddle River, J.N.J.: Literature House, 1970. Facsimile reprint 1864 ed. \$9.

Pearce, Haywood J. *Benjamin H. Hill, Secession And Reconstruction*. N.Y.: Negro Univs. Pr., 1969. Reprint 1928 ed. \$11.50.

Perkins, George Hamilton. *Letters Of Capt. Geo. Hamilton Perkins, U.S.N.* Reprint 1886 ed. Freeport, N.Y.: Books for Libs. 1970. \$10.75

Pickett, William P. *The Negro Problem: Abraham Lincoln's Solution*. N.Y.: Negro Univs. Pr. 1969. Reprint 1909 ed. \$17.50.

Quarles, Benjamin. *Black Abolitionists*. N.Y.: Oxford, 1970. Paperback ed now available. \$2.15.

Ramsdell, Charles W. *Reconstruction In Texas*. First pub. as thesis Columbia U., 1910. Austin: Univ. Texas Press, 19700 Paper, \$2.45.

Reagan, John H. *The Memoirs Of John H. Reagan*, Postmaster General of the Confederacy and Early Texas Statesman. New intro. Originally pub. by Neale in 1906. Austin, Texas: Pemberton Press, 1970. \$9.50.