



The Signal Flag

BRANDYWINE VALLEY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



Campaign # 21

Skirmish # 6

February 2008

From the Rear Ranks:



The Gettysburg Address

**Gettysburg, Pennsylvania
November 19, 1863**

On June 1, 1865, Senator Charles Sumner commented on what is now considered the most famous speech by President Abraham Lincoln. In his eulogy on the slain president, he called it a "monumental act." He said Lincoln was mistaken that "the world will little note, nor long remember what we say here." Rather, the Bostonian remarked, "The world noted at once what he said, and will never cease to remember it. The battle itself was less important than the speech."

Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal. Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battle-field of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this. But, in a larger sense, we can not dedicate -- we can not consecrate -- we can not hallow -- this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us -- that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion -- that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain -- that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom -- and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

Source: *Collected Works of Abraham Lincoln*, edited by Roy P. Basler. The text above is from the so-called "Bliss Copy," one of several versions which Lincoln wrote, and believed to be the final version.

Submitted by Lynne Fulton for Mike Liddy, President BVCWRT



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? Questions ? Contact:

Mike Liddy
87 Rittenhouse Place, Apt A-1
Ardmore, PA 19003
609-602-0483
liddy41@aol.com

BVCWRT Web Site:

<http://bvcwrt.home.comcast.net>

Webmaster: Jim Lawler

dtownjim@comcast.net

Signal Flag Editor: Lynne Fulton

610-647-1039
fultonlm1949@aol.com

Unsolicited articles from our members are welcome.
Please contact Lynne!

* Our meetings are handicap accessible *



What is the BVCWRT all about???

We were founded in 1987. According to our by-laws, "the purpose of the Brandywine Valley Civil War Round Table shall be to provide a congenial medium through which persons having a common interest in the events of the American Civil War - its causes and effects, engagements, personages, units, armaments and other things pertaining thereto - may satisfy their interest and broaden individual knowledge through discussion, lectures, field trips and the exchange of books, paper and other data. The purposed is also to consider the preservation and protection of the battlefields, sites, landmarks, relics and collection of the period."

In plain English, we are an organization of diverse people brought together by our common interest in the American Civil War. This interest can range from the casual to the obsessive. We intend to tailor our activities and presentations to appeal to all our members, novice or expert.

Welcome New Members & Reenlistments

The Round Table welcomes our new members since our last meeting. Please welcome them and share your Civil War enthusiasm.

New Members:

*Richard Klein Patrick Cummins
Ken Tesh Marshall Hoffritz
Ted Mann Thomas Joyce
John McGuckin Hondrick Fisher
Brad and Stephanie Long*





Editor's Note

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It looks like there is trouble brewing again in Gettysburg. It seems that when we try to move towards something better there is always a cost related to that change. I compare change like working with plumbing. You have a leaking faucet so you look at the situation and you say to yourself that shouldn't be hard to fix. All I need is a new washer but as you begin to work on the faucet you see something else that should be fixed and in fixing that you break something and then before you know it you are heading to Home Depot for new tools and a new faucet. Well, that is what is happening in Gettysburg. They built this new visitor's center that we were all so excited about but now the changes begin. The old method of guided tours is the first item that is being changed. You can read about that in this edition of the newsletter. Next there is talk of charging for visiting the battlefield and how about a parking permit for all cars as they tour through the park. Not sure what rumors are true but that is what is coming out of Gettysburg these days. The truth is we need to pay and maintain that visitor center and how do you go about doing that. I have never been easy with change. I like the idea of touring Gettysburg on any day and at any time I like. The thought that I might have to get into all the confusion at the visitor's center every time I want to see the battlefield is not a happy thought for me now. I wonder what else will come out of this change.

Dues: If you have not paid your dues you will no longer receive your newsletter in the mail. Please make sure you pay your dues and fill out the membership form at the end of the newsletter so you can continue to receive your newsletter. Make out your membership checks to **BVCWRT** and give to Dave Walter, our Treasurer at the next meeting.

Website: Please make sure that you begin checking the website at the end of the fourth week of each month for the publication of the Signal Flag online. If you have problems with downloading the newsletter, please let us know and we will see if we can help.

Articles: General George Thomas , "Catching up with 'old slow trot' submitted my Chip Crowe, "Battlefield Guides Vote to Mover" by C. Heaney; "A Skirmish over new rules at Gettysburg" by A. Worden; "The Fight for Equal Rights: Black Soldiers in the Civil War " by B. Weidman; "Presidential Children: The Lincoln Boys" by John S. Cooper.

New Book: "Grant and Lee: Victorious American and Vanquished Virginian", by Ed Bonekemper

Banquets: Our banquet this year will be on May 13th, at the West Chester Elks, speaker will be Jean Edward Smith – topic U.S. Grant.

Lynne Fulton, Editor

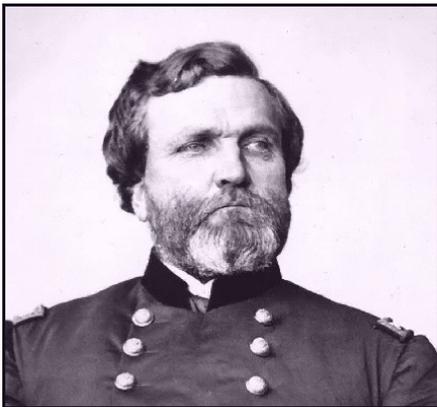


Brandywine Valley Civil War Round Table
Come to our next meeting
6 February 2008

Speaker: Chip Crowe
Topic: "General George Thomas"
Time: 7:00 PM
Place: West Chester Borough Hall, Gay Street

This month's program will be presented by Chip Crowe. Chip has been a Round Table member since 2004. This is his first presentation to the Round Table. Chip received his Bachelors degree from Loyola College in MD, majoring in history. His concentration was in medieval history specifically the Norman Conquest and the use of Medieval Fortifications. Chip also earned an MBA from Penn State, and is currently employed at Medco Health Solutions where he manages a team of Business Analysts.

The topic for this month will be General George Thomas otherwise known as the "The Roman" or "The Rock of Chickamauga". General Thomas was a pivotal figure in the Western Theatre although he is not as well known as he should be. However his deeds in many instances make him close to or just as important as Grant and Sherman. In fact it can be argued that Thomas' frosty relations with both Grant and Sherman lead to his fading to obscurity. We will explore his personality as well as his military career and address questions regarding his understated legacy. *Submitted by Chip Crowe*



Major General George H. Thomas. He commanded the Army of the Cumberland after the Battle of Chickamauga and he was one of the great generals of the American Civil War. However today, for a number of reasons, he is relatively unknown to the general public.

He was a southerner and a career soldier who, at great personal loss, stood by the Old Flag. He was a man of honor and courage in a time of great turmoil. His story deserves to be known by future generations of American children.

"There is nothing finer in history than Thomas at Chickamauga."

- Henry M. Cist, *The Army of the Cumberland*

Minutes of the January 2, 2008 Meeting
BVCWRT
Submitted by Ted Pawlik

The President's Report/Announcements (Presented by John Walls in the absence of Mike Liddy)

- There will be an Executive Board Meeting scheduled for February (date to be determined) at John Walls house.
- At the February 6, 2008 meeting, Mike Liddy will summarize the meeting held with Sharon Smith, Executive Director of the Civil War/Underground Railroad Museum. This meeting was held on December 15, 2007 to discuss the Museum's pending move to the historic area of Philadelphia on 3rd Street.
- Anyone interested in serving on the Executive Board or any Committee for the next campaign is asked to see any Executive Board member.

Treasurer's Report (Dave Walter)

- To date we have 88 members
- Financial Report: Balance as of 12/01/07 = \$3468.15. Total Receipts = \$724.00. Expenditures = \$791.78. (This included a \$500.00 donation to preservation as approved at the December 2007 meeting.) Net Revenue for the month = (-\$67.78). Balance as of 12/31/07 = \$3400.37.

Preservation Committee (Bob Sprague)

- Donations of books and magazines are being accepted for sale at the monthly meetings. All proceeds from these sales go to preservation.

Other Announcements and Items of Interest

- Mike Kochan suggested a weekend trip to the Mariner's Museum, the Museum of the Confederacy and the Confederate White House. The trip will be scheduled for March. The concept will be to rent a van that holds about 10 people with an overnight stay at a motel. Mike will bring up the suggestion at the February meeting to determine if there is any interest.
- Roger Arthur announced that CSPAN 2 will be offering programs that were presented at the 2007 Lincoln Forum.
- Garry Grove from the GAR Civil War Museum & Library was selling tickets for a print titled "Encounter at Plum Run." The raffle will benefit the museum and will be held on April 5, 2008.

Speaker for the evening was Dennis Kelly, a member of the Roundtable. His topic was First Manassas (a.k.a. Bull Run).

Excerpted from Kate Brownlee Sherwood's Poem – Thomas At Chickamauga

*It was that fierce contested field where Chickamauga lay
Beneath the wild tornado that swept her pride away;
Her dimpling dales and circling hills dyed crimson with the flood
That had its sources in the springs that throb with human blood.*

*“Go say to General Hooker to reinforce his right!”
Said Thomas to his aide-de-camp, when wildly went the flight;
In front the battle thundered, it roared both right and left,
But like a rock “Pap” Thomas stood upon the crested cleft.*

*“Where will I find you, General, when I return?” The aide
Leaned on his bridle-rein to wait the answer Thomas made;
The old chief like a lion turned his pale lips set and sere,
And shook his mane, and stamped his foot, and fiercely answered, “Here!”*

*The floodtide of fraternal strife rolled upward to his feet,
And like the breakers on the shore the thunderous clamors beat;
The sad earth rocked and reeled with woe, the woodland shrieked in pain, and
Hill and vale were groaning with the burden of the slain.*

*Who does not mind that sturdy form, that steady heart and hand,
That calm repose and gallant mien, that courage high and grand?
O God, who givest nations men to meet their lofty needs,
Vouchsafe another Thomas when our country prostrate bleeds!*

*They fought with all the fortitude of earnest men and true
The men who wore the rebel gray, the men who wore the blue;
And those, they fought most valiantly for petty state and clan,
And these, for truer Union and brotherhood of man.*

By Kate Brownlee Sherwood (1841-1914)

*Submitted by, Mike Liddy
President, Brandywine Valley Civil War Roundtable*

Catching Up With "Old Slow Trot"

Stubborn and deliberate, General George Henry Thomas was one of the Union's most brilliant strategists. So why was he cheated by history?
By Ernest B. Furgurson Smithsonian magazine, March 2007

Out of the august night, James Gurley came galloping past the massive oak before Elizabeth Thomas' white plantation house. Get out! he shouted. Take your family and run! Now! The renegade slave leader Nat Turner was coming with a band of vengeful slaves, rampaging from farm to farm, killing white men, women and children.

George Henry Thomas, 15, piled into a carriage with his mother and sisters and ricketed along dirt roads into the darkness. Before they had gone far, afraid the assassins would overtake them, they abandoned the carriage and took to the woods. In and out of gloomy Mill Swamp, across Cypress Bridge and the bottomlands of the Nottoway River, they escaped to the county seat of Jerusalem, some 12 zigzag miles from home.

Nat Turner's 1831 insurrection, in Southampton County, Virginia, was the bloodiest slave uprising in American history. Before it ended, 55 whites were killed. It stirred deep fears across the South, sweeping aside any talk of gradual emancipation, and hardened both sides in the long-running debate that ended in civil war. What it did to young George Thomas, who as a Union general became one of the most successful, most controversial, yet least recognized figures of that war, remains a question unsettled.

While Turner and his band, armed with guns, clubs, axes and swords, carried out their gruesome task, Thomas' mother led her family to safety, helped to do so by some of her own slaves, according to local tradition. George's father had died two years earlier. The boy's uncle, James Rochelle, who had mentored him since his father's death, was clerk of the court where Turner confessed and was hanged that November. Young George was immersed in the initial panic, the mobilization of militia and the fury of citizens demanding prompt justice. He heard talk that all the trouble would never have happened if Turner had not been taught to read and write.

Teaching slaves was illegal in Virginia and across the South, but George was among the many who had broken the law, teaching his own family's 15 slaves to read.

After attending the local academy, he became his uncle's deputy clerk and took up the study of law at the county courthouse. But he was restless, and gladly accepted an appointment from his congressman to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. He would long remember the parting advice he got from his brother John: "Having done what you conscientiously believe to be right, you may regret, but should never be annoyed by, a want of approbation on the part of others." It was advice that would prove prophetic.

Nearly six feet tall, solid in body and stubborn in temperament, George was almost 20 years old when he arrived at West Point. His roommate was a red-haired, impulsive Ohioan named William Tecumseh "Cump" Sherman. They became friendly rivals, and after four years Sherman had finished 6th, Thomas 12th, among the 42 members of the class of 1840. Along the way, Thomas put a halt to the hazing of some fellow cadets by threatening to throw a bullying upperclassman out a barracks window; after years helping supervise a sprawling plantation, he had learned to exert calm authority. Among the cadets, his gravitas earned him his first of many nicknames: Old Tom.

Five months after graduation, Thomas sailed for Florida and the long, ugly little war begun by Andrew Jackson to force the Seminole Indians onto reservations. Thomas' captain wrote an appraisal that would well describe his entire career: "I never knew him to be late or in a hurry. All his movements were deliberate, his self-possession was supreme, and he received and gave orders with equal serenity."

Real war lay ahead in Mexico, where as an artillery lieutenant under Gen. Zachary Taylor in 1846, Thomas won honorary promotion to captain for his conduct in the pitched battle of Monterrey. Then Thomas was breveted to major for the way he handled his guns at Buena Vista, when Taylor defeated Mexican general Santa Anna in the last major battle in northern Mexico.

Southampton County was proud of its son, and presented him a magnificent sword, its gold pommel clasp an amethyst, its silver scabbard engraved with the names of his battles. On its grip was the image of an elephant—among soldiers, to have been in combat was to have "seen the elephant." And Thomas was still devoted to home: disappointed that his brother had not picked a bride for him, George said, "I would prefer one from the old state to any other, and as I am now so much of a stranger there I am afraid I should not know where to look. ..." In his letters, he worried about his unmarried sisters, left lonely on the farm, saying "domestic differences are to me the most horrible of which I can conceive." He could not yet imagine the scope of the domestic differences that lay ahead.

In 1851 he headed to the prize assignment of artillery instructor at West Point. At every stop since his first arrival there, he had met and measured cadets and fellow officers who would figure in his future—Sherman, J.E.B. Stuart, John Schofield, William Rosecrans, Braxton Bragg, John Bell Hood, among dozens destined to become famous in Civil War history. None was more impressive than the superintendent of the academy, Lt. Col. Robert E. Lee, and no one there impressed Lee more positively than upright, conscientious George Thomas.

Under Lee, Thomas had the additional duty of cavalry instructor. In that role, Thomas won yet another nickname, Old Slow Trot, for restraining cadets from galloping their mounts. Since his brother had not found him a bride, Thomas found his own—tall, strong-minded Frances Kellogg, an upstate New Yorker, cousin of a cadet from Troy. He wore his ceremonial sword for the only time in his life when they were married in the academy chapel in November 1852.

Within six months, Thomas had to leave his bride for duty in the far Southwest; it would be three years before he saw her again. In a desert clash with a Comanche brave, he narrowly escaped death when an arrow glanced off his chin before lodging in his chest. Thomas pulled it out and, after a surgeon dressed the wound, went about his business. Then, in 1860, with the country in crisis after Abraham Lincoln was elected president, Thomas headed home on leave.

While there, he worried about his future as the Southern states began to secede. Governor John Letcher offered to make him Virginia's chief of ordnance. In turning that position down, Thomas wrote: "It is not my wish to leave the service of the United States as long as it is honorable for me to remain in it, and therefore as long as my native State Virginia remains in the Union it is my purpose to remain in the Army, unless required to perform duties alike repulsive to honor and humanity."

A month later, in April 1861, on the day Confederate guns opened against Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbor, Thomas sent telegrams to his wife and sisters, stating that he would remain loyal to the Union. We do not know exactly what he said then or what was going on inside him at other critical moments, because all his personal papers were destroyed. But his wife said that "whichever way he turned the matter over in his mind, his oath of allegiance to his Government always came uppermost." When Lincoln called for troops to put down the insurrection, Virginia joined the Confederacy, along with most of her professional soldiers. But Thomas stayed true to his oath, and to this day has been reviled by many Southerners for that decision.

Even his own sisters turned his picture to the wall and denied that they had any such brother. They returned his letters unopened and ignored his request to send him the ceremonial sword he had left with them for safekeeping. He also lost contact with his brothers. Some called him a turncoat.

The truth is that Thomas, like many other soldiers, was torn by the wrenching decision he was forced to make. So was his friend Lee, who opposed secession and agonized over resigning from the U.S. Army that he had served so faithfully. But Lee ultimately headed South, saying he could not bring himself to fight against his home, family and friends. It is also true that Lee had a much larger stake in Virginia, in its plantations and history, than Thomas did in his more modest place in Southampton. And besides his loyalty to the old flag, Thomas was committed to a Northern wife who was as strongly Unionist as his sisters were secessionist.

His memories of Nat Turner's insurrection might have hardened him into a determined defender of slavery, as it did for so many of the Southern officers who went with the Confederacy. Instead—perhaps remembering the eager blacks he had taught to read and write—he fought to overturn the "peculiar institution." Though he left no bold statements of how he felt, when his duty came to include ending slavery, he carried it out just as forcefully as when it stood for simply preserving the Union.

Those who protest Thomas' decision have made less of the fact that old Winfield Scott, general in chief of the Army in the early months of the war, was also a Virginian. He had been a national figure since the War of 1812, but by late 1861 he had retired and no longer mattered. Tens of thousands of Southerners fought for the Union, but Thomas has been the focus of resentment for one reason: he was a better general than the others.

As early as his cadet days, Thomas' contemporaries had seen a resemblance to George Washington in his classic profile, his integrity and his restrained power. In 48 months of war, as his brown hair and well-trimmed beard began to gray, he would attain a certain grandeur that only strengthened that comparison. He seldom showed his explosive temper, but when he did, it was remembered. He disdained theatrics and politics; to general and future president James A. Garfield, his whole life seemed "frank and guileless." Thus in character, if not in gambling instinct, he also closely resembled Lee, who was a role model for so many younger officers who served under him.

Thomas would earn the undying loyalty of soldiers like Henry Van Ness Boynton, who won the Congressional Medal of Honor fighting under him in 1863. Boynton wrote that Thomas "looked upon the lives of his soldiers as a sacred trust, not to be carelessly imperiled. Whenever he moved to battle, it was certain that everything had been done that prudence, deliberation, thought and cool judgment could do under surrounding circumstances to ensure success commensurate with the cost of the

lives of men. And so it came to pass that when the war ended it could be truthfully written of Thomas alone that he never lost a movement or a battle."

But for Thomas, every battlefield success seemed to stir controversy or the jealousy of ambitious rivals. Unlike other noted generals, he had no home-state politicians to lobby on his behalf in Washington. Ulysses S. Grant, for example, was championed by Illinois congressman Elihu Washburne, and Sherman by his brother, Ohio senator John Sherman. For Thomas, every step upward depended solely on his performance in the field.

In one of the war's first skirmishes, he led a brigade in the Shenandoah Valley that bested Confederates under Stonewall Jackson. When the dashing Rebel J.E.B. Stuart heard that Thomas was commanding Union cavalry, he wrote to his wife that "I would like to hang him as a traitor to his native state." Even after that, there was lingering doubt among some Unionists, including Lincoln. Unlike Grant, Sherman, George McClellan and some other ranking Union officers who had broken their military service with years as civilians, Thomas had been a soldier since the day he entered West Point. Yet when his name came up for promotion, the president, restrained by Northern radicals and surrounded in the Federal bureaucracy by Southerners, said, "let the Virginian wait." But Sherman among others vouched for Thomas, and soon the Virginian was elevated to brigadier general and ordered to organize troops away from Virginia, beyond the Appalachians.

There, in January 1862, he sent a bulletin of encouragement to a Union hungry for good news. After an 18-day march on muddy roads, his division confronted Rebels at Mill Springs, Kentucky. Amid cold rain and gun smoke, he led his outnumbered troops in repulsing Confederates under Maj. Gen. George Crittenden and then drove them across the Cumberland River. Though not a massive victory, it was the first notable Northern success of the war, turning back a Confederate move from eastern Tennessee into Kentucky. Thomas was promoted to major general, an advancement that would soon create friction with his old roommate "Cump" Sherman and Grant, who had become so close that an affront to either was resented by both.

After winning praise for capturing Forts Henry and Donelson in western Tennessee, Grant had fallen out of favor for mismanaging and very nearly losing the bloody Battle of Shiloh. He was criticized for taking 13,000 casualties and was suspected of drinking on the job. Sherman, whose excitability and wild overestimates of Rebel strength had caused some to question his sanity, had fought bravely after an initial mistake at Shiloh. When Union forces moved south toward Corinth, Mississippi, that spring, Union general Henry Halleck shunted Grant into a figurehead role and gave Thomas temporary command of the wing that included Grant's Army of the Tennessee. Grant, angered, was talked out of quitting by Sherman. Grant would not forget the incident.

Grant and Sherman would redeem themselves by grasping control of the Mississippi River in the costly, circuitous campaign that resulted in the capture of Vicksburg in mid-1863. While they were operating on the Mississippi, Thomas led a corps in Rosecrans' Army of the Cumberland, earning respect in fights like that at Stones River, where he declared, "This army does not retreat," and backed up his words with actions on the field. There and at Tullahoma, Rosecrans' force pressed the Confederates back into eastern Tennessee.

As Thomas rose, he proved to his men that his addiction to detail and his insistence on preparation saved lives and won battles. His generalship behind the front, before the battle, was generations ahead of his peers. He organized a professional headquarters that made other generals' staff work seem haphazard. His mess and hospital services, his maps and his scouting network were all models of efficiency; he was never surprised as Grant had been at Shiloh. He anticipated modern warfare with his emphasis on logistics, rapidly repairing his railroad supply lines and teaching his soldiers that a battle could turn on the broken linchpin of a cannon. He demanded by-the-book discipline, but taught it by example. He made no ringing pronouncements to the press. His troops came to understand his fatherly concern for their welfare, and when they met the enemy they had faith in his orders.

In late summer, Rosecrans moved against the Rebel stronghold of Chattanooga, a crucial gateway between the eastern and western theaters of war. Confederate general Bragg pulled out of the town onto the dominating nearby mountains, waiting for Maj. Gen. James Longstreet to bring reinforcements from Virginia. When they came, Bragg threw everything into an assault on Union lines along Chickamauga Creek, just inside Georgia. Thomas' corps was dug in on the Union left. On the second day of furious fighting, a misunderstood order opened a wide gap on his right. Longstreet's Rebels crashed through; with the always aggressive John Bell Hood's division leading, they bent the Union line into a horseshoe.

Rosecrans, certain the battle was lost, retreated into Chattanooga with five other generals and thousands of blue-uniformed soldiers. But Thomas inspired his men to stand fast, and only their determined resistance saved his army from destruction. They held all that afternoon against repeated Confederate assaults, withdrawing into Chattanooga after nightfall. It was the greatest of all battles in the West, and since that day, Thomas has been known to history as the Rock of Chickamauga.

For their actions, Rosecrans was fired and Thomas took command of the Army of the Cumberland. But the Union situation remained dire. Bragg, still holding those formidable mountains, laid siege to Chattanooga. Grant, commanding Union armies between the Mississippi and the mountains, ordered Thomas to hold the city "at all costs," and rushed troops east to help.

"I will hold the town till we starve," Thomas replied, and they almost did starve. Cut off from supplies, his army was living on half rations. Thousands of horses and mules died. Weeks passed before Grant assembled strength sufficient to lift the siege. The key terrain was towering Missionary Ridge. Grant ordered Sherman to drive onto the ridge from the left and Maj. Gen. Joseph Hooker from the right, with Thomas aimed at the center. Sherman tried and failed to carry his end, but Hooker's troops took Lookout Mountain on the far flank. Thomas waited for Grant's order to advance. When it came, Thomas took his time studying the crest with his binoculars, then sent his troops ahead with orders to occupy only the first line of the Confederate works. They did so in fine style—and then, seeing that they were exposed to fire from above, kept going. Thomas was surprised and Grant angry, demanding "Who ordered those men up the hill?" No one had. The troops plunged ahead, pressing on against heavy fire, struggling up the steep slope and jubilantly planting their flag on the heights for all to see.

Assistant Secretary of War Charles A. Dana, an eyewitness, called the assault "one of the greatest miracles in military history....as awful as a visible interposition of God." Thomas, moved by the sight, ordered that a cemetery be created for his soldiers on a beautiful slope of the battlefield. When a chaplain asked if the dead should be separated by state, Thomas did not hesitate. "No, no," he said. "Mix them up. Mix them up. I'm tired of states' rights." Once he had made up his mind to stay with the old flag, he never expressed misgivings; if he had them, they had long been erased by seeing so many men die to preserve the Union.

By late 1863, U.S. Colored Troops were filling some of the gaps opened in Federal forces by battle and disease. Although Sherman had resisted using black soldiers, Thomas gladly accepted them. In the drastic move from serfdom to freedom, he wrote, it was probably better for ex-slaves to be soldiers, and thus gradually learn to support themselves, than "to be thrown upon the cold charities of the world without sympathy or assistance."

As the Federals gathered strength to thrust into Georgia, this was not the only disagreement between the tightly strung Ohioan and the calm Virginian. In early March, Lincoln called Grant east to become general in chief of all Northern armies. No one was surprised that Grant's friend Sherman, rather than Thomas, replaced him as commander in the West, even though as a major general Thomas was senior to Sherman. Ex-colonel Donn Piatt, a 19th-century booster and biographer of Thomas, called it "the nakedest favoritism that ever disgraced a service."

At the start of his 1864 drive toward Atlanta, Sherman rejected Thomas' plan to take his command through Snake Creek Gap to cut off and smash Joseph Johnston's Confederate army. More than a month into Georgia, an impatient Sherman complained to Grant that Thomas' Army of the Cumberland was slowing his advance—"a fresh furrow in a plowed field will stop the whole column." He was still in this mood a few days later when he ignored Thomas' advice against attacking the strongly entrenched Rebels head-on at Kennesaw Mountain. The Federals lost more than 2,000 troops in trying to take what Thomas had warned was an impregnable position.

Thomas commanded about two-thirds of Sherman's infantry; his army was the center force, the sledgehammer in the four-month campaign, and led the way into Atlanta. But neither Sherman, Grant, Secretary of War Edwin Stanton nor Lincoln cited Thomas in their congratulations. As in the 1864 Virginia campaign, where all the official praise and headlines went to Grant, in Georgia it was all Sherman. In his special order announcing the victory, Sherman credited Maj. Gen. Henry W. Slocum's corps with entering the city first—although Slocum was under Thomas' command and had headed the corps for only six days.

When Atlanta's mayor protested Sherman's harsh military rule, the general replied, "War is cruelty and you cannot refine it...those who brought war into our country deserve all the curses and maledictions a people can pour out....You might as well appeal against the thunderstorm." Then he set out on his storied march to infamy and greatness, pillaging the countryside as he cut a great swath through the Confederacy.

Thomas took a different view. Stern though he was in combat, he posted a guard at the house of a citizen suspected of disloyalty because, he said, "We must remember that this is a civil war, fought to preserve the Union that is based on brotherly love and patriotic belief in the one nation....The thing becomes horribly grotesque...when we visit on helpless old men, women, and children the horrors of a barbarous war. We must be as considerate and kind as possible, or we will find that in destroying the rebels we have destroyed the Union."

Opposite in personality, tactics and philosophy, Thomas and Sherman were thereafter gratefully separated in geography as well. While Grant grappled with Lee in Virginia and Sherman gutted the eastern Confederacy, Thomas was sent back to Tennessee to reorganize the stripped-down Army of the Cumberland and deal with Hood. The Confederate general had got away from Atlanta with some 40,000 troops and evaded Sherman's effort to catch him. Now he was marching north through Tennessee. Thomas' Federals under John Schofield slowed and badly damaged the Rebels in the fierce battle of Franklin, but

by December Hood was dug in on the high ground facing Nashville. Thomas fortified the city while he gathered strength for a decisive blow, but to carry it out he needed more men, horses and supplies.

Grant, 500 miles away, grew impatient. He sent telegrams urging Thomas to move, then ordered him to "attack at once." Thomas said after the war that he was tempted—"grossly improper as it would have been"—to ask why Grant himself, who was entrenched around Petersburg, was not fighting. Defeat at Nashville "would have been a greater calamity than any which had befallen the Federal forces," he said. "It would have cleared the way for the triumphant march of Hood's army through Kentucky, and a successful invasion of Indiana and Illinois, in which there were no Federal troops. It was therefore of the last importance that the battle upon which so much depended should not be fought until I was ready for it." Thomas continued planning, training, stocking—equipping his horsemen with the new breech-loading Spencer carbines.

Then, just when he was ready, a sleet storm froze both armies in place for days. Grant, furious that Thomas had failed to engage the enemy, decided to relieve him from command, first with one general, then another. Finally he started to go west to fire him in person. But before he left Washington, the ice melted in middle Tennessee.

On December 15, Thomas, unaware that Grant intended to fire him, roared out of his works against Hood. In two days his troops crushed the Rebel army. His infantry, including two brigades of U.S. Colored Troops, smashed into Hood's troops while the Union cavalry, dismounted with its fast-firing Spencers, curled around and behind the Rebel left. Almost a century later, historian Bruce Catton summed up the battle in two words: "Everything worked."

Thomas "comes down in history...as the great defensive fighter, the man who could never be driven away but who was not much on the offensive. That may be a correct appraisal," wrote Catton, an admirer and biographer of Grant. "Yet it may also be worth making note that just twice in all the war was a major Confederate army driven away from a prepared position in complete rout—at Chattanooga and at Nashville. Each time the blow that finally routed it was launched by Thomas."

Nashville was the only engagement in which one army virtually annihilated another. Thomas B. Buell, a student of Civil War generalship, wrote that in Tennessee, Thomas performed the war's "unsurpassed masterpiece of theater command and control....So modern in concept, so sweeping in scope, it would become a model for strategic maneuver in 20th-century warfare." After it, there was no more large-scale fighting west of the Blue Ridge.

When the bloodshed was over at last, after Lincoln was assassinated and the nation was recovering from the shock, 150,000 soldiers of all the Union armies converged on Washington for the most memorable victory parade in the nation's history. All of them, that is, except the Army of the Cumberland. When Sherman proudly passed in review before Grant, President Andrew Johnson and multitudes of cheering onlookers, Thomas had already said goodbye to his few remaining troops. Back in Nashville, in a message that his innate reserve did not let him utter in person, he described his thoughts as he watched their last parade:

"The coldest heart must have warmed" at seeing the men who had endured "this great, modern tragedy," he wrote—men "who had stemmed with unyielding breasts the rebel tide threatening to engulf the landmarks of freedom, and who, bearing on their bronzed and furrowed brows the ennobling marks of the years of hardship, suffering and privation, undergone in defense of freedom and the integrity of the Union, could still preserve the light step and wear the cheerful expressions of youth."

Thomas' own youth was long behind him. In four years of hard service, he had taken not a single day of leave. During Reconstruction, he commanded troops in Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama and Georgia. He was considerate toward ragged defeated soldiers, but he was as strict as the angriest Northern Radical in opposing the Ku Klux Klan and defiant politicians. "Everywhere in the states lately in rebellion, treason is respectable and loyalty odious," he said. "This, the people of the United States, who ended the rebellion and saved the country, will not permit."

When President Johnson wanted to make him a full general, Thomas declined, understanding the move as Johnson's attempt to sidetrack Grant's progress toward the White House. He said he had done nothing since the war to deserve promotion, and if the honor was for wartime service, it had come too late. When he heard talk of nominating him for president, he staunchly refused. So Grant was duly elected, in 1868, and soon afterward transferred Thomas to San Francisco. There, in 1870 at the age of 53, the Rock of Chickamauga suffered a stroke and died.

The train bearing his body crossed the country to his wife's hometown of Troy, New York, with troops firing salutes along the way. President Grant and General in Chief Sherman, putting aside for the moment their criticism of Thomas, led the throng of mourners at the funeral. But no one was there from the Thomas family of Southampton County. Shortly after Lee's surrender, Union general John Gibbon had heard that the Thomas sisters were suffering, and sent them a wagonload of supplies as a token of his friendship for their brother. Judith Thomas would not accept, insisting she had no brother George, that he had died on the day Virginia seceded.

In 1879, veterans of the Army of the Cumberland dedicated an equestrian statue of Southampton's most distinguished son in Washington's Thomas Circle. He peers down 14th Street toward Virginia today, as dense traffic runs around him; perhaps one passerby in a thousand knows who he is and what he did for the nation.

After Thomas died, Grant was able to say that he was "one of the great names of our history, one of the greatest heroes of our war." Sherman relented so far as to write that "during the whole war his services were transcendent." Yet even then, the two generals seldom mentioned his name without repeating their assertions of his caution. When the two surviving Thomas sisters were nearing 90, they allowed the general's prize sword to go to the Virginia Historical Society in Richmond, where it remains. As a further gesture of reconciliation, they sent acorns from the great oak outside the home place to be planted around his statue in Washington. The acorns never sprouted.

Ernest B. "Pat" Furgurson *is the author of Freedom Rising and other Civil War books. He lives in Washington, D.C.*

Battlefield Guides Vote to Move

By Caitlin Heaney, Evening Sun Reporter, 1/21/2008

Hanover Evening Sun

http://www.eveningsun.com/localnews/ci_8033869

GETTYSBURG, PA - The Association of Licensed Battlefield Guides could start operating out of a downtown Gettysburg office as soon as March after agreeing Friday to relocate its headquarters. The group voted 78-32 to move to a building behind the Farnsworth House and off South Street that it plans to lease, said president Rick Hohmann. The group will use the building primarily for offices, a library and meeting space, he said. "We're hoping that this is going to enable us to expand the business and also to accommodate more visitors," Hohmann said.

But guides, currently operating out of the Gettysburg National Military Park Visitors Center, will still have space in the new park visitors center when it opens later this year. "There'll be a waiting room for guides waiting to go out on tours at the new visitors' center," Hohmann said.

The group mailed out ballots about two weeks ago to its entire membership, but anyone who was not a member and wanted to join was allowed to do so Friday night, Hohmann said. Those new members were allowed to vote, he said, and members were allowed to change votes they might have already sent in. "Anybody who was swayed by a debate during the meetings were able to reclaim their ballot," Hohmann said.

Hohmann said the building the group plans to lease is zoned for medical use but Gettysburg Hospital "has no interest in it." A hearing on a zoning variance for the property is scheduled for Jan. 23, he said, and a waiting period would follow. But Hohmann said he expects the group could move in by March 1. "There's a small amount of work that has to be done on this facility," he said. Hohmann said he would not comment on the group's reasoning for moving. He has said previously the group will offer tours starting at Gateway Gettysburg, the American Civil War Museum on Steinwehr Avenue and elsewhere, such as borough hotels.

The guides, created by Congress in 1915, and the National Park Service clashed recently after the group criticized a reservation and payment system the Gettysburg Foundation proposed for tours. The foundation, a private, nonprofit organization raising money for and overseeing the new \$125 million visitor center project. Katie Lawhon, public affairs specialist for Gettysburg National Military Park, said 1.7 million people visit the park every year. Of that number, about 16 percent hire licensed battlefield guides, she said. "It's an excellent service," she said.

In the summer, park rangers provide some free walking tours and programs, she said. The tours given by licensed guides are different in that they are "commercial and directly for the visitor," she said. The park found problems in the manner in which visitors could hire a tour guide, Lawhon said. "Generally, we did not allow reservations for individuals and families," she said. With no advance reservations, some faced a first-come, first-served situation, she said. To better serve visitors, the park created a reservation system that could be paid for in advance with a credit card, she said. The Gettysburg Foundation, which will operate the park's new museum, now manages ticket sales and reservations for licensed battlefield guides, she said. "We're improving our visitor service," she said. In the past, most guided tours were offered on a daily basis as visitors entered the park's visitor center.

Guides would put their names on a rotational list, and visitors chose from available battlefield tour times. That system matched visitors to guide availability and kept the guides' downtime to a minimum, association officials

say. But the park abolished that system. Starting this month, tickets are sold for guided tours and other park attractions.

Tours used to be limited to larger groups in vans and buses that paid a higher tour fee than smaller groups, but the new system takes reservations for groups of all sizes and allows visitors to choose their tour times. Under the new procedure, park visitors will miss out on tours, which means guides will lose income, and idle time will consume too much of the touring schedule, said Chris Rebmann. "We're forced to choose between efficiency and a fair distribution of bus reservations," he said. "Many of our members depend on bus reservations, especially in the spring."

Visitors paid guides in cash after tours since 1915, and Hohmann has said he opposes the proposed payment plan because it could hurt guides' ability to swap tours with each other and limit tips. Now, guide fees are paid in advance to the Gettysburg Foundation, a private, nonprofit educational organization working in partnership with the National Park Service. The foundation pays the guides every two weeks. For some guides, this change causes a financial hardship, Rebmann said. "For others, it's a matter of principle," he said. "This attempt to collect our earnings in advance and pay us later is an inappropriate intrusion in our financial relationship with our clients." Under a new system, visitors also would be able to reserve guides by credit card through a Web site, but the foundation would hold the guides' money until a twice-monthly pay period following the tour. Lawhon also said that despite the existence of the association, the park and the licensed guides have a "one-on-one relationship." "We are happy to work with the association," she said. However, Lawhon said park Supt. John A. Latschar received a letter from an attorney hired by the association. Last week Latschar responded with his own letter.

"First, the members of the (association) did not vote overwhelmingly to reject the new reservation system," Latschar's letter read. ". . . the guides were asked if they were willing to participate in a reservation system that does not work. Put that way, I probably would have voted in the negative myself . . . Since all our indications are that the system will work, I have largely discounted the validity of that particular question." The letter also states that more than 85 percent of the guides have already completed and returned availability forms indicating dates and times they are willing to guide in 2008. Latschar's letter also states that meetings were held in September and October to discuss how the new system would work. Guides, including association members and non-members, attended. "Every guide who attended that meeting received a 9-page handout detailing how the system will work," Latschar stated. "Not a single guide at that briefing asked a question or expressed an opinion that could remotely be considered a rejection of the new system." Dru Anne Neil, spokeswoman for the Gettysburg Foundation, said she didn't want to comment on the issues between the guides and the park.

The foundation works to preserve, honor and protect the natural and cultural resources associated with the park, the Gettysburg Campaign, and the Eisenhower National Historic Site, Neil said. It also partners with the national park system to "provide service to everyone," she said.

A skirmish over new rules at Gettysburg - Tour guides are wary .

By Amy Worden January 28, 2008 Inquirer Staff Writer

Members of an elite corps of Civil War historians who take visitors on in-depth tours of the Gettysburg battlefield claim new rules being imposed by the National Park Service will threaten their nearly century-old organization. The park service, as part of its reorganization ahead of the opening of the battlefield's new visitor center in April, established a new tour schedule and reservation system and changed how and when the licensed battlefield guides get paid.

The Association of Licensed Battlefield Guides says the new system effectively ends their ability to control their work schedules and will reduce the number of tours they give. It may also reduce their tips. "I am fearful that this will destroy the guiding the way it has existed since 1915," said Robert Hohmann, president of the association, which represents 125 of the 155 licensed guides. "I think the guides will see a loss in income and that could force some out of guiding."

The epic three-day clash at Gettysburg, July 1-3, 1863, involved 165,000 troops and was perhaps the pivotal battle of the Civil War. The rolling fields and stands of trees, 6,000 acres in total, may be the most visited Civil War battlefield in the nation.

Until now the guides, many of whom are retirees, were paid in cash (\$45 a carload and up to \$135 per bus) following the tour. About 20 percent of a guide's total income is generated in tips on top of the fee for their high-level, two-hour historical overviews of the 1863 battle. The park service says the new system to schedule and pay for tours in advance will better accommodate the 1.7 million people who visit the battlefield each year. "We're trying to improve visitor services," said Katie Lawhon, a park spokeswoman. "Right now, a family comes to Gettysburg and has no assurance they can get a licensed guide and they have to wait in line."

She said that with online reservations and computerized schedules, visitors will be able to plan in advance and be guaranteed a tour when they arrive. Paychecks will be issued bimonthly to guides. "As a self-employed contractor they are not only setting rates but they're holding my pay for two weeks and then telling me when I must come to work," said Mike Strong of York, a member of the association's executive committee and full-time guide since 1994. Guides are concerned that with payments made in advance, they will no longer receive tips after the tours. Other guides, though, contend the new system will make their work easier, and describe the dispute as a small disagreement that has been blown out of proportion. "It makes me more efficient and I can prepare better," said guide Joanne Lewis, of Hagerstown, Md. She said she does not think the payment plan is detrimental, "as long as we are paid and paid fairly."

The licensed battlefield guide organization, generally recognized as the oldest professional guide service in the nation, has a rich history. It was formed by Congress at the request of Civil War veterans who, seeing a proliferation of freelance tours of varying quality, wanted to ensure the story of the battle was told accurately to future generations. Guide candidates must complete a rigorous testing process including written and oral exams. There have been only 500 licensed battlefield guides since the program's inception.

The guides, who pay an annual \$360 license fee, escort about 290,000 park visitors each year generating a total of \$1.5 million in income, said Hohmann. Hohmann, a retired teacher who moved from Pittsburgh to Gettysburg to fulfill his dream of becoming a guide, said he conducts between 370 and 400 tours a year. He said he earns about \$30,000 that helps supplement his pension and investment income. Others, though, he said, rely solely on the tour fees for their income.

Strong, a former quality-control supervisor at Caterpillar, said battlefield guiding is the ideal retirement job. "It's my passion, like getting paid for playing golf." But he said if the new system becomes too onerous he'll find something else to do. "I'm not going to do something that aggravates me," he said. "I'll go usher at the ballpark."

Contact staff writer Amy Worden at 717-783-2584 or aworden@phillynews.com.
http://www.philly.com/inquirer/local/20071228_Tour_guides_are_wary_.html

The Fight for Equal Rights: Black Soldiers in the Civil War Background

January 3 2008

From: Temple website

"Once let the black man get upon his person the brass letter, U.S., let him get an eagle on his button, and a musket on his shoulder and bullets in his pocket, there is no power on earth that can deny that he has earned the right to citizenship." Frederick Douglass

The issues of emancipation and military service were intertwined from the onset of the Civil War. News from Fort Sumter set off a rush by free black men to enlist in U.S. military units. They were turned away, however, because a Federal law dating from 1792 barred Negroes from bearing arms for the U.S. army (although they had served in the American Revolution and in the War of 1812). In Boston disappointed would-be volunteers met and passed a resolution requesting that the Government modify its laws to permit their enlistment. The Lincoln administration wrestled with the idea of authorizing the recruitment of black troops, concerned that such a move would prompt the border states to secede. When Gen. John C. Frémont (photo citation: 111-B-3756) in Missouri and Gen. David Hunter (photo citation: 111-B-3580) in South Carolina issued proclamations that emancipated slaves in their military regions and permitted them to enlist, their superiors sternly revoked their orders. By mid-1862, however, the escalating number of former slaves (contrabands), the declining number of white volunteers, and the increasingly pressing personnel needs of the Union Army pushed the Government into reconsidering the ban. As a result, on July 17, 1862, Congress passed the Second Confiscation and Militia Act, freeing slaves who had masters in the Confederate Army. Two days later, slavery was abolished in the territories of the United States, and on July 22 President Lincoln (photo citation: 111-B-2323) presented the preliminary draft of the Emancipation Proclamation to his Cabinet. After the Union Army turned back Lee's first invasion of the North at Antietam, MD, and the Emancipation Proclamation was subsequently announced, black recruitment was pursued in earnest. Volunteers from South Carolina, Tennessee, and Massachusetts filled the first authorized black regiments. Recruitment was slow until black leaders such as Frederick Douglass (photo citation: 200-FL-22) encouraged black men to become soldiers to ensure eventual full citizenship. (Two of Douglass's own sons contributed to the war effort.) Volunteers began to respond, and in May 1863 the Government established the Bureau of Colored Troops to manage the burgeoning numbers of black soldiers. By the end of the Civil War, roughly 179,000 black men (10% of the Union Army) served as soldiers in the U.S. Army and another 19,000 served in the Navy. Nearly 40,000 black soldiers died over the course of the war—30,000 of infection or disease. Black soldiers served in artillery and infantry and performed all noncombat support functions that sustain an army, as well. Black carpenters, chaplains, cooks, guards, laborers, nurses, scouts, spies, steamboat pilots, surgeons, and teamsters also contributed to the war cause. There were nearly 80 black commissioned officers. Black women, who could not formally join the Army, nonetheless served as nurses, spies, and scouts, the most famous being Harriet Tubman (photo citation: 200-HN-PIO-1), who scouted for the 2d South Carolina Volunteers. Because of prejudice against them, black units were not used in combat as extensively as they might have been. Nevertheless, the soldiers served with distinction in a number of battles. Black infantrymen fought gallantly at Milliken's Bend, LA; Port Hudson, LA; Petersburg, VA; and Nashville, TN. The July 1863 assault on Fort Wagner, SC, in which the 54th Regiment of Massachusetts Volunteers lost two-thirds of their officers and half of their troops, was memorably dramatized in the film *Glory*. By war's end, 16 black soldiers had been awarded the Medal of Honor for their valor. In addition to the perils of war faced by all Civil War soldiers, black soldiers faced additional problems stemming from racial prejudice. Racial discrimination was prevalent even in the North, and discriminatory practices permeated the U.S. military. Segregated units were formed with black enlisted men and typically commanded by white officers and black noncommissioned officers. The 54th Massachusetts was commanded by Robert Shaw and the 1st South Carolina by Thomas Wentworth Higginson—both white. Black soldiers were initially paid \$10 per month from which \$3 was automatically deducted for clothing, resulting in a net pay of \$7. In contrast, white soldiers received \$13 per month from which no clothing allowance was drawn. In June 1864 Congress granted equal pay to the U.S. Colored Troops and made the action retroactive. Black soldiers received the same rations and supplies. In addition, they received comparable medical care. The black troops, however, faced greater peril than white troops when captured by the Confederate Army. In 1863 the Confederate Congress threatened to punish severely officers of black troops and to enslave black soldiers. As a result, President Lincoln issued General Order 233, threatening reprisal on Confederate prisoners of war (POWs) for any mistreatment of black troops. Although the threat generally restrained the Confederates, black captives were typically treated more harshly than white captives. In perhaps the most heinous known example of abuse, Confederate soldiers shot to death black Union soldiers captured at the Fort Pillow, TN, engagement of 1864. Confederate General Nathan B. Forrest witnessed the massacre and did nothing to stop it. The document featured with this article is a recruiting poster directed at black men during the Civil War. It refers to efforts by the Lincoln administration to provide equal pay for black soldiers and equal

protection for black POWs. The original poster is located in the Records of the Adjutant General's Office, 1780's–1917, Record Group 94. Article Citation Freeman, Elsie, Wynell Burroughs Schamel, and Jean West.

"The Fight for Equal Rights: A Recruiting Poster for Black Soldiers in the Civil War." Social Education 56, 2 (February 1992): 118-120. [Revised and updated in 1999 by Budge Weidman.]

PRESIDENTIAL CHILDREN: THE LINCOLN BOYS [© [John S. Cooper](#) Jul 28, 2000]

The children of Abraham Lincoln remain probably the best known of all Presidential children. They lived in the White House in what might have been the most exciting and dramatic years in our history. They are also some of the few who are remembered today, for whatever reasons.

Robert Todd Lincoln, 1843-1926. Robert was born in the Globe Tavern, in Springfield, Illinois on August 1, 1843. He was the only Lincoln child to live to full maturity. After failing to gain admission to Harvard, Robert attended Phillips Academy in Exeter, New Hampshire. He was admitted to Harvard on his second try just before the Civil War began. He graduated Harvard in 1864 and entered law school at Harvard, but dropped out to join the Union army. Captain Lincoln served as an assistant adjutant general of volunteers on the staff of Ulysses S. Grant during the last year of the war. As a member of Grant's staff, he was present at Appomattox when Lee surrendered to Grant. After the war, he returned to law school, and was admitted to the bar in 1867. In 1868, he married Mary Harlan, the daughter of James Harland who was Secretary of the Interior during the Lincoln and Johnson administrations. Robert became a successful corporation lawyer, representing mainly railroads. Although Robert avoided publicity and politics, he served as Secretary of War during the Garfield and Arthur administrations and as Minister to the Court of St. James (Great Britain) from 1889-1893. He then served as president of the Pullman Company from 1897-1911. In 1875, Robert had to ask the court to declare his mother insane and commit her to an asylum.

Robert had the unusual luck to be present or involved in three presidential assassinations. On April 14, 1865, Robert was invited to attend the theater with his parents. As he had just returned from the field that afternoon, he declined in order to get to sleep early. He was awakened after his father was shot, and spent the night beside his father's bed, still there when his father died. In 1881, President Garfield was supposedly bothered by dreams similar to those supposedly experienced by Abraham Lincoln shortly before his death. He wanted to talk to Robert Lincoln about the dreams, and asked Robert to meet him at Union Station in Washington where he was supposed to board a train for his college reunion. Robert was late, and arrived just in time to see Charles Guiteau shoot President Garfield in the back. In 1901, President William McKinley asked Robert Lincoln to meet with him in Buffalo during the Exposition of that year. Lincoln arrived late, and President McKinley was shaking hands with the crowd, and asked Lincoln to meet him at his hotel later that evening. McKinley was shot shortly after Lincoln left him. McKinley, according to some stories, was also bothered by the same dreams and wanted to speak with Robert about them.

Edward Baker Lincoln, 1846-1850. Born on March 10, 1846 in Springfield, Illinois, he died there on February 1, 1850. Not much is known about Edward.

William "Willie" Wallace Lincoln, 1850-1862. Willie was a quiet, bookish boy who was probably his father's favorite. The two were extremely close to each other, and many said that Willie was the only person who could cheer up the President when he seemed depressed. The President certainly doted on Willie. At the age of twelve, Willie died of fever in the White House, being the only child of a president to die in the White House. The President was inconsolable at his son's death, but the Civil War left him little time to mourn. In fact, after Willie's death, the President went downstairs and returned to work in his office.

Thomas "Tad" Lincoln, 1853-1871. Tad was born with a cleft palate and had a pronounced lisp. A quiet, pleasant boy, he was said to be a great comfort to his father after the death of his brother Willie. After Lincoln's assassination, Tad accompanied his mother to Europe. He attended schools in England and Germany. Always in frail health, he died in Germany at the age of 18.

The Lincoln children lived at the center of very exciting times. With the exception of Robert, they never had a chance to prove themselves. We remember them only because of who their father was, and the times in which they lived.



Grant and Lee: Victorious American and Vanquished Virginian

From Mr. Ed Bonekemper

12/28/2007

From Temple Website

Friends--My new hardcover book, *Grant and Lee: Victorious American and Vanquished Virginian*, has just been released by Praeger. It is summarized and pictured on the attachments. Its list price is \$49.95. However, you can obtain signed, personalized copies of it directly from me for \$37.00 each (plus \$3 shipping). My earlier books are available (also signed and personalized) for the following list or discount prices (plus \$3 shipping):

How Robert E. Lee Lost the Civil War Hardcover: \$29.95; Softcover: \$18.95

A Victor, Not a Butcher: Ulysses S. Grant's Overlooked Military Genius
Hardcover: \$27.95

McClellan and Failure: A Study of Civil War Fear, Incompetence and Worse
Hardcover: \$35.00--discounted to \$27.00.

Edward (Ed) H. Bonekemper, III
Civil War & Military History Author & Speaker
814 Willow Valley Lakes Drive, Willow Street, PA 17584
717-464-4936 (home & fax), 703-403-9345 (cell)

Grant and Lee: Victorious American and Vanquished Virginian is a riveting, comprehensive analysis of the Civil War that appeals to both experts and novices. It takes controversial, but substantiated, positions on many of the debatable issues of the war. Its documentation is exhaustive. It contains two extensive and complete analyses of the casualties incurred and imposed by the armies of Lee and Grant. Those appendices provide the basis for the startling conclusions that Lee's army suffered more than 208,000 casualties while those of Grant suffered "only" about 154,000.

Those numbers provide an objective basis for one of the book's core arguments that Lee was far too aggressive a general for the Confederacy, which did not have the burden of pro-actively winning the war and which could not afford to squander its manpower. The book also demonstrates that Lee was a Virginian first and a Confederate second - priorities that led him to a bloody stalemate in the East and disastrous impacts on Vicksburg, Chickamauga, Chattanooga, Atlanta, and other major battles and campaigns in other theaters.

In contrast, the book depicts Grant's doing what a Union general was supposed to do: aggressively taking the fight to the enemy, winning the Mississippi Valley and the East, and saving the critical union army in the Middle Theater (which set the stage for Sherman's 1864-65 successes). Perseverance, deception, alacrity, and appropriate aggressiveness were the hallmarks of Grant, the Civil War's greatest general.

This book is unique in constantly describing the inter-theater relationships and interplays between Grant and Lee's campaigns even before they fought head-to-head in 1864 and 1865. It details Lee's draining of the rest of the Confederacy to replace his intolerable losses, his resistance to sending needed reinforcements to other theaters, his undercutting the effectiveness of the one inter-theater movement forced upon him, and his role in facilitating Sherman's critical capture of Atlanta. Grant was the beneficiary of Lee's mistakes.

Lee started at the top as a four-star Confederate general and Grant had difficulty obtaining a colonel's commission in the Union army. But while Lee engaged in a counter-productive bloodbath in the East, Grant rose step-by-step and victory after victory to command of all Union forces, was a victor in three theaters of the war, and defeated Lee. This book explores why Grant won and Lee lost the Civil War.



Scheduled Speakers for 2006 - 2007:

- Sep 05, 2007:** Dan Cashin - "Ben Butler"
- Oct 03, 2007:** Ed Bonekemper - "McClellan: The Failed General"
- Nov 07, 2007:** Dave Kohler - "Whatever Happened to our Favorite Civil War Heroes"
- Dec 05, 2007:** Elizabeth Brown Pryor - "Reading the Man: A Portrait of Robert E. Lee Through His Private Letters", plus our Christmas Social
- Jan 02, 2008:** Dennis Kelly - Topic is to be announced
- Feb 06, 2008:** Chip Crowe - "General George Thomas"
- Mar 05, 2008:** BVCWRT Members - "Show and Tell", plus our Spring Social
- Apr 02, 2008:** Jean Baker - "Mary Todd Lincoln"
- May 07, 2008:** Roger Arthur - "The Importance of John Brown"
- May 13, 2008:** (Annual Banquet): Jean Edward Smith - "U. S. Grant"

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