



# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND-TABLE

P. O. BOX 5028, CLEVELAND, OHIO 44101

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MARCH 1969

Vol. 12 No. 6

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## 100th Meeting

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DATE: TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 1969

SPEAKER: James S. Hutchins

SUBJECT: DEVELOPMENT OF McCLELLAN SADDLE 1856-1942

PLACE: THE HERMIT CLUB, DODGE COURT

PRELIMINARIES: 6 PM DINNER 7 PM

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### JAMES S. HUTCHINS

Our speaker this month was born a Buckeye, in Columbus, 1923. Spending his formative years there he graduated from the U.S. Military Academy, in 1946. After serving with the infantry he did graduate work in history at the University of Arizona at Tuscon. He has also done work in the office of the Chief of Military History, Department of the Army. In 1963 he joined the staff of the Smithsonian Institution as an Assistant Director of the National Armed Forces Museum Advisory Board, a position he still holds.

Mr. Hutchins is married, and the father of three sons. He now resides in Vienna, Virginia. He takes broad interest in all of the United States Military History, and special interest in the role played by the Army in advancing the frontier, and in United States military equipage of the 19th century.

Mr. Hutchins is a fellow of The Company of Military Historians to whose Journal he has contributed numerous articles. After exhaustive research, he is now awaiting publication of his book on United States Cavalry Equipment.

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### FUTURE MEETINGS

April 8th - ALAN JULIAN - MARGARET MITCHELL 101st Meeting

May 13th - EDWIN BEARRS - VICKSBURG - 102nd Meeting

MANASSAS NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD PARK

Francis F. Wilshin, superintendent of Manassas National Battlefield Park, urgently called the attention of the Chicago CWRT and its sister organizations throughout the world to the introduction of two bills in Congress that threaten Manassas National Battlefield Park. They are:

HR 12556 authored by Rep. Robert O. Tiernan (D., R.I.) "to permit burial of qualified veterans in suitable and appropriate portions of the nation's memorial battlefield."

HR 18116 introduced by Rep. William Lloyd Scott (R., Va.) which would open the lands of Manassas National Battlefield Park to expand Arlington National Cemetery.

"Virtually unlimited expansion of Arlington into the Manassas Battlefield Park would be permitted under the Scott bill," Wilshin warned. "And it would set up an untenable dual jurisdiction over the area."

Wilshin recalled that more than 80 Civil War Roundtables came to the rescue of Manassas battlefield park once before when the Virginia highway department wanted a 660-foot right-of-way through the park. Response from CWRT groups was so overwhelming that the project was dropped within a week.

"Now we call upon Civil War Round Tables again to respond by writing their own Congressmen to protest the invasion of battlefield parks by veteran cemeteries," Wilshin said. "It is best to refer to the resolutions by number so that your representatives know what bills you oppose."

Rep. Scott's plan for an expansion of Arlington Cemetery, Wilshin warned, would keep Henry Hill and the picnic area and allow all else to be used as cemetery land. "Most of the Manassas battlefield area is actually unsuited for burial," he observed.

Wilshin suggested that there are many more suitable places "where we can find places to bury the veterans of today with the heroes of yesterday."

February 3, 1969

Congressman Wm. E. Minshall  
Rayburn Building  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Congressman Minshall:

I am a member of the Civil War Round Table of Cleveland, Ohio, that meets once a month, 75 strong.

I am told that two bills (HR 12556 and HR 18116) were introduced last session which could ultimately destroy Manassas as a battlefield memorial, and could do the same to other battlefield parks.

This is to express my hope that both will be defeated.

Kindest regards.

Sincerely,

GENTLEMEN: PLEASE COPY THE ABOVE LETTER AND SEND ANOTHER COPY TO:

Congressman J. William Stanton  
House Office Building  
Washington, D.C.

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It is with profound grief that we learned of the death of Gilbert G. Twiss, 61, editor of the Chicago Round Table Newsletter. He edited the newsletter for the past fourteen years and was a recognized Civil War historian. A former president of the Illinois State Historical Society, Mr. Twiss was a veteran member of the Chicago Civil War Round Table. We will sorely miss such a fine gentleman.

THE COURIER  
of  
THE CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE OF CLEVELAND, OHIO  
FOUNDED FEBRUARY 19, 1957

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EDITOR, GUY DI CARLO JR., P.O. Box 5028, CLEVELAND, OHIO

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LEE'S LESSONS  
IN LEADERSHIP

The study of the strategy and tactics used in the American Civil War has been basic to military education everywhere for years. Because this is the beginning of the Centennial observance of that four-year struggle, I thought it would be particularly as exemplified by leaders in the Confederate Army. In this I shall rely fairly heavily upon the writings and speeches of the late Dr. Douglas Southall Freeman, the South's greatest historian, whom I was privileged to know personally, and who was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for his definitive four volume study on General Robert E. Lee.

What can we learn from a brief look at General Lee, an individual worshipped by his troops and considered by all students of military history as one of the great leaders of all time? Dr. Freeman felt that his study of history had revealed to him three simple maxims which represented the whole duty of a soldier in terms of leadership.

The first of these was STUDY. It wasn't enough, he felt, for one to study only while in school. He felt that no military man could be a competent leader unless he dedicated himself to a whole life of study. General Lee had that peculiar quality of study which is one of the tests of the great soldier. He would take his battle plan; he would work it out carefully; he would labor over his supply problems; he would survey his map with the most critical care; and when he had developed his own plan, he had that almost unique mental gift of being able to lay his plan down and then go over, figuratively, to the other side of the hill and consider his plan critically in terms of what the enemy might do. These basic criticisms of his own strategy took time and energy, but I don't doubt they gave General Lee just as sound an evaluation of his plan as all the expensive computers and other gear which we rely on to come up with answers to what we call our "war games" today.

STUDY--one of the first duties of the military leader--means balanced study. Yesterday and today are the only two fixed points by which we can project tomorrow. But if you look always over your shoulder, you are apt to stumble. On the other hand, if you don't look over your shoulder, sometimes you are apt to lose your way. The balance between his technical and cultural study, between his military and sociological study, is something that a leader always must keep in mind.

CHARACTER

The second maxim which Dr. Freeman deduced from his studies was CHARACTER.

We assume that the character of the individual consists of certain positive attributes. It is easy to tick off such things as principle, dedication, integrity, judgments; but there is another side to it. Just as surely as a man of character avoids intrigue, so he cannot be indolent. I have seen very few able men of character who were indolent, and I have seen very, very few historical figures of any importance who were lazy. In this day and time, when there is a premium on military operations involving all three services, there is an equal premium on cooperation. Character eliminates selfishness, it eliminates false pride, and in their place it inspires cooperation. With General Lee, principle was a matter of the utmost importance. "Duty" he said, "is the sublimest word in the English language." There came a time in 1864 when the loss of Jackson and a succession of calamities, including the illness of A.P. Hill and the death of Jeb Stuart, put upon General Lee a burden of leadership he never had been compelled to carry before. During the latter phases of the withdrawal from the Rapidan to the James River, he got up at three o'clock in the morning and worked usually until ten at night. I think at that time he never had more than five hours sleep. Why did he do this? Because he felt the responsibility was his; because he was dedicated to principle; because he was a man of character.

He was critical, too, of the lack of these capabilities in lesser men. When asked why he didn't promote an individual who was magnificent in attack, but between operations was as likely as not drunk in quarters, General Lee said, "I cannot trust with higher command, with command of others, a man who cannot command himself. Discipline of self, as well as of others, is the soul of an army. Dr. Freeman records that when he was young, he had queried many an old soldier: "What was it about General Lee that you men appreciated most?" What was the greatness of Lee?" That was the equivalent of asking what was the secret of the morale of the Army of Northern Virginia. The answer was, with incredible frequency, and yet according to no pattern or design, "He always looked after his men."

And Lee's lieutenants followed his example. The story is told of General John R. Cooke who commanded a brigade consisting of a North Carolina regiment and an Arkansas regiment at the Battle of Sharpsburg (Antietam) in September 1862. He suddenly found himself with Jackson knocked down on his left, Longstreet forced back on his front, Hill in confusion on his right. And here he was, with two little regiments stuck out as a wedge in the Federal line of attack, faced by superior force on three sides. He put up such a fight that the corps commander sent him a message asking how he could hold his position without help. Cooke sent back a reply in language so sulphurous and picturesque that it stands unrivaled to this day. He did not want any help, he said, and by the eternal gods he was going to stay there until every damn Yankee who tried to take his position was burning in hell. That's the sum and substance--suitably sanitized.

Why were Cooke's men loyal to him? Why didn't they turn and run? The secret stemmed from Cooke's care of his men, well illustrated by an incident in the battle of Malvern Hill three months before. His troops were green. They had been out in front that day and were scared to death. They had been caught in a thunder shower. They had been subjected to enfilade from 12-inch shells from a gunboat in the river. That night when they withdrew through the rain to their bivouac they found that General Cooke--he was a colonel then--had ridden ahead and had fires built so they could warm themselves and cook their food. Now that seems trivial enough, doesn't it? But it built morale and loyalty and it paid dividends that day at Sharpsburg when the whole of Lee's line depended for an hour and a half on the resistance offered by Cooke's brigade.

#### STRATEGY AND TACTICS

The third maxim which Dr. Freeman deduced from his studies he called STRATEGY AND TACTICS. A more meaningful expression today would be professional know-how, because what he said was "You can't fight yesterday's battle over again tomorrow." What he meant was that you cannot rely on yesterday to solve tomorrow, that imagination and flexibility are as essential as dedication and historical study.

It is the disposition of man to approach new war in terms of old. This is inevitable. A man always brings to bear his own experience, but the danger is that the military leader approaching a new conflict generally will think of the first stages of that conflict in terms of the full equipment of the last stage of the war in which he previously had fought.

It used to be that tactics change every five years, and strategy changes never. That may be true enough, but there is always that border line of what the old writers used to call "grand tactics." We should never distain--i.e., discolor or tarnish--the border line between tactics and strategy, and yet we ought never to be so tied to the tactics we employed when we won that we think they are the tactics that are certain always to win. Look backward for strategical instruction and spiritual inspiration, Look forward and visualize new tactics for new situations.

Cadet Robert E. Lee, at West Point (he ranked second in the class of 1829) lived in the afterglow of the Napoleonic tradition. The military language, engineering books, every text that was used at West Point, was French in its origin. But mark this: In the 1840's the United States got into a scrap with Mexico. It didn't last very long, but it proved to astute students such as Lee--and Grant who was there too--that the tactics of Napoleon were no longer applicable. By 1861, Lee was convinced that the war he was about to fight could not be fought according to his West Point textbooks. He realized that in addition to some improvements in weapons, two incalculably valuable changes had occurred: This was the first war where commanders were to have railroads at their command; and it would be the first war in which commanders were to have telegraphic communications.

In this day of scientific and technological revolution, the changes which young men face and the evolving form of battle will require studious application. Time marches on; it never turns backward. You must keep your own professional education in step with the weapons and equipment of the times. In this process, awareness and application of the three principles of leadership as exemplified by Robert E. Lee and as deduced by a great historian from the study of American military history are indispensable--STUDY, CHARACTER, PROFESSIONAL KNOW-HOW.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The forgoing was an article by Lieutenant General Robert J. Wood, at that time (August, 1961) Commanding General, United States Army Air Defense Command, as reprinted in the ARMY INFORMATION DIGEST, AUGUST, 1961.

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#### ROBERT E. LEE AT FORT MONROE

A young lieutenant of Engineers reported for duty at Fort Monroe on May 7, 1831. His name was Robert E. Lee. A graduate of West Point in 1829, he had first been assigned to Cockspur Island near Savannah, Georgia, where Fort Pulaski was being built. Fort Monroe was, therefore, his second assignment in the United States Army. When Lee arrived at Fort Monroe the main part of the fort had been completed and garrisoned, but the outworks and approaches had not yet been constructed. Lee's superior officer at Fort Monroe was Captain Andrew Talcott, who was away much of the time. Consequently, the young lieutenant was virtual charge of the construction work.

Very soon after his arrival at Fort Monroe, Lee obtained leave to get married. His fiancée was Mary Anne Randolph Custis of Arlington, Virginia. Her father was George Washington Parke Custis, a gifted man, who had been raised by George Washington. The wedding took place at the Custis home in Arlington on June 30, 1831. Lieutenant Lee brought his wife to Fort Monroe in August, 1831. Their first child, George Washington Custis Lee, was born at Fort Monroe, September 16, 1832.

Lee like Fort Monroe. His tour of duty there was one of the happiest periods of his life. He admired and respected his chief, Captain Talcott. He enjoyed his domestic life. He admired and was pleased by the social life at Fort Monroe. The

Artillery School of Practice was located at the fort. It was an advanced course for coast artillery officers. Consequently, there was a constant coming and going of officers in training. The first Hygeia Hotel, which stood on Ingalls Road between Ruckman Road and the Postern Gate, was a fashionable resort attracting civilian guests from Philadelphia, Baltimore, Richmond, and the Deep South. In 1834, Lee wrote to a good friend, "Fort Monroe is a post by no means to be despised." Among Lee's friends and brother-officers at Fort Monroe were Joseph E. Johnston, Benjamin Huger, and James Barnes. In the great war to come thirty years later, the first two would be Confederate generals, the third would be a Union General.

Robert E. Lee was stationed at Fort Monroe for three and one-half years, from May, 1831 to November, 1834. Douglas S. Freeman states that these years were very important to Lee in mastering his profession. He came as an assistant of limited experience; he was to leave fully qualified to direct a large engineering project. Under Lee, the moat was excavated to its proper depth, the counterscarp was finished, the scarp was pointed and the Water Battery was completed. (This latter structure no longer exists, having been torn down early in the present century.) The young Lee also designed some buildings, wharves and fortifications. He so well acquired the art of handling men that when all hands were called out to build a barricade during a terrific storm in April, 1834, he could say, "I never saw men work better."

To government business Lee applied the same principles of economy he had been taught at home. He bargained closely for schooner hire, and was uneasy when he thought the vessels did not carry as much as they should. He made careful inspections of materials and sought the most favorable time for letting contracts. When additional stone was needed at Fort Monroe he figured he could take the rough hewings at Fort Calhoun and dress them for not much more than half what the material would cost elsewhere. Fort Calhoun was the name first given to the island fort on the south side of the channel, which is today called Fort Wool. The guns of that day were not very effective beyond 1500 yards. However, the channel off Old Point Comfort leading from Chesapeake Bay into Hampton Roads is about 1,800 yards wide. Hence the guns of Fort Monroe did not completely secure the channel. Fort Calhoun was designed to complete the defense of the channel by furnishing cross fire with the guns of Fort Monroe. It was located on an artificial island created by piling stone on a shoal known as the Rip Raps. Not long after Lee's arrival, work on the walls of Fort Calhoun had to be stopped because of a slow but steady sinking of the foundation of the island. Thereafter, and for the whole of Lee's stay at Fort Monroe, whenever any work was done at Fort Calhoun, it was to unload and distribute additional stone.

A glimpse of Lee the family man is afforded by a letter he wrote to his wife from Fort Monroe, November 27, 1833, while she and the baby were home on a visit to Arlington. This letter, which is in possession of the Huntington Library and Art Gallery, San Marino, California, was called to our attention by Dr. John E. Pomfret, Director of that institution and an Honorary Member of the Committee for the Fort Monroe Case-mate Museum. Lee writes, "My sweet little boy, what would I give to see him! The house is a perfect desert without him and his mother and there is no comfort in it. Take good care of him Molly, and don't let him be spoiled. Direct him in every thing and leave nothing to the guidance of his nurse. I am waking all night to hear his sweet little voice and if in the morning I could only feel his little arms around my neck and his dear little heart fluttering against my breast, I should be too happy."

In August, 1834, Lee, who was the only officer of Engineers left at Fort Monroe, was ordered to take up his quarters at Fort Calhoun. The island was intensely hot at this time of the year and all the water had to be carried over from Fort Monroe. Lee's task was simply that of supervising the piling up of stone on the foundations, which continued to sink just enough to delay the construction of the fort. This was no work for a young man of Lee's ability. In October he was offered a place in the office of Brigadier General Gratiot, Chief Engineer, in Washington. Although Lee had very little desire for office work, he accepted the position in order to get away from his dreary inactivity at Fort Calhoun on the Rip Raps. He was very shortly relieved by Captain W.A. Eliason and in November, 1834, he reported for duty in Washington.

After three years in Washington, Lee was sent to superintend work on the Mississippi River. He was made a captain in 1838. In 1841 he was put in charge of the defenses of New York, where he remained until the outbreak of the Mexican War. In Mexico Lee attracted notice by his brilliant scouting of the Mexicans. He was wounded at the Battle of Chapultepec. After the war he was put in charge of the defenses of Baltimore and later still, in 1852, he was made Superintendent of the United States Military Academy at West Point. In 1855 he was transferred from the Engineers to the Cavalry. Just before the Civil War began, Lee was a lieutenant colonel in Texas. Recalled to Washington by General Winfield Scott, on whose staff he had served in Mexico, Lee was offered command of the Union forces to be put into the field. However, he felt his first loyalty was to his native state of Virginia and he resigned from the United States Army on April 20, 1861, accepting the command of the military forces of Virginia on the 23rd. Here began his rise to fame as a great military leader.

The Fort Monroe Casemate Museum has an interesting Robert E. Lee exhibit, which includes facsimiles of letters written by Lee at Fort Monroe, also a photostat of an engineering drawing of Fort Monroe made by Lee in 1832. The most striking object in the exhibit is a large colored photograph of the William E. West portrait of the young Lee in the uniform of a lieutenant of U.S. Engineers. He is ruddy-complected dark-haired, with sideburns, but no beard or mustache. He is a strikingly handsome young man.

William Edward West was a well-known American portrait painter, who was born in Lexington, Kentucky, in 1788. He studied in Philadelphia under Thomas Sully. Then after a brief residence in Natchez, Mississippi, he left this country in 1819 to study art in Italy. He became well known in Europe through a portrait he made of Lord Byron at Leghorn in 1822. He also painted Byron's friend the Countess Guiccioli. West lived in Paris 1824-25 from where he went to London with a letter of introduction from his good friend Washington Irving, who was then living abroad. The artist made his home in London for about thirteen years. He painted many prominent people, including the poetess Felicia Hemans, Joseph Bonaparte, and Washington Irving. He exhibited at the Royal Academy.

West returned to the United States in early 1838, settling first in Baltimore (a letter from that city to a friend in London was dated March 13, 1838). He worked in Baltimore until 1840 when he removed to New York City, which was to be his home until 1855. In that year he went to live with a sister in Nashville, Tennessee, where he died in 1857, painting until a few days before his death (N.P. Dunn in PUTNAM'S MONTHLY, September, 1907). Both Robert E. Lee and Mrs. Lee sat for West in Baltimore in March, 1838, when they were on their way to St. Louis, Missouri, where Lee was stationed. Since this was only three and a quarter years after Lee left Fort Monroe, the West portrait gives us a very good idea of Lee as he was at Fort Monroe. In a joint letter written by the Lees from Baltimore to Mrs. Lee's mother, Mrs. Lee said, "Mr. West's name is William E. West. . . . his picture is a very admirable likeness and a fine painting. Robert has taken one sitting which I am going down to see today. He wishes me to sit also. . . I have determined to sit for my picture." Robert E. Lee added, "I have just left Mary, my dearest Mother, with Mr. West to take her first sitting. . . after seeing West's paintings, she appeared so anxious to have my portrait taken that I could not decline gratifying her, and as Mr. W. thought that by staying a day or two longer he could take hers, we have determined to do so." (De Butts Collection in The Library of Congress).

EDITOR'S NOTE: Again we are indebted to Dr. Chester D. Bradley, Curator of the Fort Monroe Casemate Museum for permitting us to use their "TALES OF OLD FORT MONROE" series. This one entitled "ROBERT E. LEE AT FORT MONROE



GENERAL LEE'S VIEWS  
ON  
ENLISTING THE NEGROES.

(The subjoined letters, which contain their own explanation, are sent to us through the Hon. W.L. Wilson, M.C., by the Hon. Andrew Hunter, of Charleston, West Virginia, who assures us that they have not before appeared in print.--Editor, Century Magazine, Vol. XXXVI, May-Oct 1888)

Richmond, January 7, 1865.

To General R.E. Lee

Dear General: I regret that in the succession of stirring events since the commencement of the present war I have had so little opportunity to renew our former, to me at least, exceedingly agreeable acquaintance, and particularly that I have so rarely, if ever, met with a suitable occasion to interchange views with you upon the important public questions which have been and are still pressing on us with such intense interest.

It would have demanded, indeed, in view of the scarcely less than awful weight of care and responsibility Providence and your country have thrown upon you, and which you will pardon me for saying has been grandly met, no ordinarily favorable opportunity to have induced me to intrude upon your over-burdened time and attention for such a purpose; and in approaching you now, in this form, upon a subject which I deem of vital importance, I offer no other apology than the momentous character of the issue fixed upon the hearts and minds of every Southern patriot.

I refer to the great question now stirring the public mind as to the expediency and propriety of bringing to bear against our relentless enemy the element of military strength supposed to be found in our negro population; in other words, and more precisely, the wisdom and sound policy, under existing circumstances, of converting such portions of this population as may be required into soldiers, to aid in maintaining our great struggle for independence and national existence.

The subject is one which recent events have forced upon our attention with intense interest, and in my judgement we ought not longer to defer its solution; and although the President in his late annual message has brought it to the attention of Congress, it is manifestly a subject in which the several States of the Confederacy must and ought to act the most prominent part, both in giving the question its proper solution and in carrying out any plans that he may devise on the subject. As a member of the Virginia Senate, having to act upon the subject, I have given it much earnest and anxious reflection, and I do not hesitate to say here, in advance of the full discussion which it will doubtless undergo, that the general objections to the proposition itself, as well as the practical difficulties in the way of carrying it out, have been greatly lessened as I have more thoroughly examined them. But it is not to be disguised that public sentiment is greatly divided on the subject; and besides many real objections, a mountain of prejudice growing out of our ancient modes of regarding the institution of Southern slavery will have to be met and overcome, before we can attain to anything like that degree of unanimity so extremely desirable in this and all else connected with our great struggle. In our former contest for liberty and independence, he who was then at the head of our armies, and who became the Father of his Country, did not hesitate to give his advice on all great subjects involving the success of that contest and the safety and welfare of his country, and in so doing perhaps rendered more essential service than he did in the field; nor do I perceive why, upon such a subject and in such a crisis as the present, we should not have the benefit of your sound judgment and matured wisdom. Pardon me therefore for asking, to be used not only for my own guidance, but publicly as the occasion may



require: Do you think that by a wisely devised plan and judicious selection negro soldiers can be made effective and reliable in maintaining this war in behalf of the Southern States? Do you think that the calling into service of such numbers of this population as the exigency may demand would affect injuriously, to any material extent, the institution of Southern slavery? Would not the introduction of this element of strength into our military operations justify in some degree a more liberal scale of exemptions or details, and by thus relieving from active service in the field a portion of the intelligent and directing labor of the country (as seems to be needed) have a beneficial bearing upon the question of subsistence and other supplies?

Would not, in your judgment, the introduction of such a policy increase in other regards, our power of defense against the relentless warfare the enemy is now waging against us?

These are but some of the leading inquiries which suggest themselves. But I beg, General, if from a sense of duty and the promptings of your elevated patriotism, overriding unwise and ill-timed delicacy, you consent to reply to these inquiries, for the purpose before frankly indicated, that you will give men your views, as fully as your engagements will allow, upon every other question that may occur to you as likely to conduce to a wise decision of this grave and, as deemed by many, vitally important subject. With highest esteem,

Your obedient servant,

ANDREW HUNTER.

Headquarters Army North Virginia,  
11th January, 1865.

Hon. Andrew Hunter, Richmond, Va.

Dear Sir: I have received your letter of the 7th inst., and, without confining myself to the order of your interrogatories, will endeavor to answer them by a statement of my views on the subject. I shall be most happy if I can contribute to the solution of a question in which I feel an interest commensurate with my desire for the welfare and happiness of our people. Considering the relation of master and slave, controlled by humane laws and influenced by Christianity and an enlightened public sentiment, as the best that can exist between the white and black races while intermingled as at present in this country, I would deprecate any sudden disturbance of that relation, unless it be necessary to avert a greater calamity to both. I should therefore prefer to rely upon our white population to preserve the ratio between our forces and those of the enemy which experience has shown to be safe. But in view of the preparations of our enemies it is our duty to provide for continued war, and not for a battle or campaign, and I fear that we cannot accomplish this without overtaxing the capacity of our white population. Should the war continue, under existing circumstances, the enemy may in course of time penetrate our country and get access to a large part of our negro population. It is his avowed policy to convert the able-bodied men into soldiers, and to emancipate all.

The success of the Federal arms in the South was followed by a proclamation of President Lincoln for two hundred and eighty thousand men, the effect of which will be to stimulate the Northern States to procure as substitutes for their own people the negroes thus brought within their reach. Many have already been obtained in Virginia, and should the fortune of war expose more of her territory, the enemy would gain a large accession to his strength.

His progress will thus add to his numbers and at the same time destroy slavery in a manner most pernicious to the welfare of our people. Their negroes will be used to hold them in subjection, leaving the remaining force of the enemy free to extend his conquest. Whatever may be

the effect of our employing negro troops, it cannot be as mischievous as this. If it end in subverting slavery, it will be accomplished by ourselves, and we can devise the means of alleviating the evil consequences to both races. I think therefore, we must decide whether slavery shall be extinguished by our enemies and the slaves be used against us, or use them ourselves at the risk of the effects which may be produced upon our social institutions. I believe that with proper regulations they can be made efficient soldiers. They possess the physical qualifications in an eminent degree. Long habits of obedience and subordination, coupled with the moral influence which in our country the white man possesses over the black, furnish an excellent foundation for that discipline which is the best guarantee of military efficiency. Our chief aim should be to secure their fidelity.

There have been formidable armies composed of men having no interest in the cause for which they fought beyond their pay or hope of plunder. But it is certain that the surest foundation upon which the fidelity of an army can rest, especially in a service which imposes peculiar hardships and privations, is the personal interest of the soldier in the issue of the contest. Such an interest we can give our negroes by giving immediate freedom to all who enlist, and freedom at the end of the war to the families of those who discharge their duties faithfully (Whether they survive or not), together with the privilege of residing at the South. To this might be added a bounty for faithful service.

We should not expect slaves to fight for prospective freedom when they can secure it by going to the enemy, in whose service they will incur no greater risk than in ours. The reasons that induce me to recommend the employment of negro troops at all render the effects of the measures I have suggested upon slavery immaterial, and in my opinion the best means of securing the efficiency and fidelity of this auxiliary force would be to accompany the measure with a well-digested plan of gradual and general emancipation. As that will be the result of the continuance of the war, and will certainly occur if the enemy succeed, it seems to me advisable to adopt it at once, and thereby secure all the benefits that will accrue to our cause.

The employment of negro troops under regulations similar in principle to those above indicated would, in my opinion, greatly increase our military strength, and enable us to relieve our white population to some extent. I think we could dispense with our reserve forces except in cases of necessity.

I would disappoint the hopes which our enemies base upon our exhaustion, deprive them in a great measure of the aid they now derive from black troops, and thus throw the burden of the war upon their own people. In addition to the great political advantages that would result to our cause from the adoption of a system of emancipation, it would exercise a salutary influence upon our whole negro population, by rendering more secure the fidelity of those who become soldiers and diminishing the inducements to the rest to abscond.

I can only say, in conclusion, that whatever measures are to be adopted should be adopted at once. Every day's delay increases the difficulty. Much time will be required to organize and discipline the men, and action may be deferred until it is too late.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R.E. Lee, General

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Robert E. Lee is still on record at the United States Military Academy as the cadet to borrow the most books from the West Point Library. Also to have the few demerits against his name while a cadet there.

## THE DAY GRANT SALUTED LEE

By

General Horace Porter

About one o'clock the little village of Appomattox Courthouse, with its half-dozen houses, came in sight, and soon we were entering its single street. The enemy was seen with his columns and wagon trains covering the low ground. Our cavalry were occupying the high ground to the south and west of the enemy, heading him off completely. We saw a group of Union officers who had dismounted and were standing at the edge of the town, and at their head we soon recognized General Sheridan. As our party came up Grant greeted the officers and asked, "Is Lee over there?" pointing up the road.

"yes, he is in that brick house, waiting to surrender to you," answered Sheridan. "Well, then, we'll go over," said Grant. The general-in-chief now rode on, accompanied by Sheridan, Ord and others. The house had a comfortable wooden porch with seven steps leading up to it. We entered the grounds and dismounted. In the yard was a fine, large gray horse, General Lee's favorite animal called "Traveler."

General Grant mounted the steps and entered the house. As he stepped into the hall, Colonel Babcock opened the door of the room on the left, in which he had been sitting with General Lee awaiting General Grant's arrival. The general passed in, and as Lee arose and stepped forward Grant extended his hand, saying, "General Lee," and the two shook hands cordially.

The contrast between the two commanders was singularly striking. General Grant, then nearly 43 years of age, was five feet eight inches in height with shoulders slightly stooped. His hair and full beard were nut-brown, without a trace of gray. He had on his single-breasted blouse of dark-blue flannel, unbuttoned in front and showing a waistcoat underneath. He had no sword or sash, and a pair of shoulder-strap was all there was to designate his rank.

Lee, on the other hand, was six feet and one inch in height and erect for one of his age, for he was Grant's senior by 16 years. His hair and full beard were a silver gray. He wore a new uniform of Confederate gray, and a handsome sword and sash.

Grant began the conversation by saying: "I met you once before, General Lee, while we were serving in Mexico." "Yes," replied General Lee, "I know I met you on that occasion and I have often thought of it."

After some further mention of Mexico, General Lee said, "I suppose, General Grant, that the object of our present meeting is fully understood. I asked to see you to ascertain upon what terms you would receive the surrender of my army. I presume we have both carefully considered the proper steps to be taken, and I would suggest that you commit to writing the terms you have proposed, so that they may be formally acted upon."

"Very well," replied Grant. "I will write them out." And calling for his manifold order book, he opened it, laid it on a small oval table and proceeded to write the terms. He wrote very rapidly, and did not pause until he had finished the sentence ending with "officers appointed by me to receive them."

Then he looked toward Lee, and his eyes seemed to be resting on the handsome sword that hung at that officer's side. He said afterward that this set him to thinking that it would be an unnecessary humiliation requiring the officers to surrender their swords, and a greater hardship to deprive them of their personal baggage and horses. After a short pause he wrote the sentence: "This will not embrace the side-arms of the officers, nor their horses or baggage."

When he had finished the letter he called Colonel Parker and looked it over with him, and directed him as they went along to interline six or seven words and to strike out the word "their," which had been repeated. When this had been done the general took the manifold writer in his right hand, extended his arm toward Lee, and started to rise from his chair to hand the book to him. As I was standing equally distant from them, I stepped forward, took the book and passed it to General Lee.

Lee pushed aside some books and two brass candlesticks which were on the table, then took the book and laid it down before him, while he drew from his pocket a pair of steel-rimmed spectacles, and wiped the glasses carefully with his handkerchief. He crossed his legs, adjusted the spectacles very slowly and deliberately, took up the

draft of the terms, and proceeded to read them attentively. They consisted of two pages. When Lee came to the sentence about the officers' side-arms, private horses and baggage, he showed for the first time during the reading of the letter a slight change of countenance, and was evidently touched by this act of generosity. It was doubtless the condition mentioned to which he particularly alluded when he looked toward General Grant, as he finished reading, and said with some degree of warmth in his manner, "This will have a very happy effect upon my army." General Grant then said: "Unless you have some suggestions to make in regard to the form in which I have stated the terms, I will have a copy of the letter made in ink and sign it."

"There is one thing I should like to mention," Lee replied, after a short pause. "The cavalrymen and artillerists own their own horses in our army. Its organization in this respect differs from that of the United States. I should like to understand whether these men will be permitted to retain their horses."

Grant said very promptly, "Well, the subject is quite new to me. I take it that most of the men in the ranks are small farmers and it is doubtful whether they will be able to put in a crop to carry themselves and their families through the next winter without the aid of the horses they are now riding, and I will arrange it in this way: I will instruct the officers I shall appoint to receive the paroles to let all men who claim to own a horse or a mule take the animals home with them to work their little farms." Lee now looked greatly relieved, and though anything but a demonstrative man he gave every evidence of his appreciation of this concession, and said; "This will have the best possible effect upon the men. It will be very gratifying, and will do much toward conciliating our people."

A little before four o'clock General Lee shook hands with General Grant, bowed to the other officers and left the room. One after another we followed and passed out to the porch. Lee signaled to his orderly to bring up his horse, and while the animal was being bridled the general stood on the lowest step, and gazed sadly in the direction of the valley beyond, where his army lay--now an army of prisoners. He thrice smote the palm of his left hand slowly with his right fist in an absent sort of way, seemed to not see the group of Union officers in the yard who rose respectfully at his approach, and appeared unaware of everything about him. All appreciated the sadness that overwhelmed him, and he had the personal sympathy of everyone who beheld him at this supreme moment of trial. The reverie, and he at once mounted. General Grant now stepped down from the porch, moving toward him, and saluted him by raising his hat. He was followed in this act of courtesy by all our officers present. Lee raised his hat respectfully, and rode off at a slow trot to break the sad news to the brave fellows whom he had so long commanded.

General Grant and his staff then started for the headquarters camp, which, in the meantime, had been pitched nearby. The news of the surrender had reached the Union lines, and the firing of salutes began at several points; but the general sent an order at once to have them stopped, using these words: "The war is over; the rebels are our countrymen again; and the best sign of rejoicing after the victory will be to abstain from all demonstrations in the field."

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#### LEE

Longstreet was the only general for whom Lee had a nickname--"My Old Warhorse", which underscored Lee's deep affection for Longstreet.

Mrs. Pete Long (Barbara) says in reading General Lee's letters she finds many requests to Mrs. Lee to knit socks for various of the General's friends - as many as 24 pairs at one time. He also wrote Mrs. Lee that he was having difficulty in writing because his tent was filled with pussy cats and puppy dogs.

From the Indianapolis newsletter "Hardtack": Many readers of Civil War History have often wondered why the final message of Lee was labeled as General Order No. 9. The re-alignment of command gave Lee broader authority, and from February, 1865 on, he had extended duties, and so began a new series of orders of which this was the last order.