



THE CIVIL WAR ROUND-TABLE

P. O. BOX 5028, CLEVELAND, OHIO 44101

NOVEMBER 1974

Vol. 18 No. 3

148th Meeting

DATE: TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 1974

SPEAKER: DR. WILLIAM W. HASSLER

SUBJECT: "A.P. HILL, LEE'S FORGOTTEN
GENERAL"

PLACE: THE HERMIT CLUB, DODGE COURT

PRELIMINARIES: 6:30 PM DINNER 7 PM

Dr. William W. Hassler

The members of the Cleveland Civil War Round Table will be privileged to greet and hear a new speaker before our group. He is Dr. William Wood Hassler, who will speak on "A. P. Hill, Lee's Forgotten General." Dr. Hassler is the President of Indiana University of Pennsylvania, and a noted Civil War Scholar and author.

Dr. Hassler earned his Bachelor of Science degree from Juniata College and his Masters and Ph. D. from the University of Pennsylvania. During World War II he worked as a research chemist for Rohm & Haas. In 1946 he became an assistant professor at Drexel Institute staying until 1951. While there he wrote two course manuals in "Applied Chemistry" used for ten years at Drexel. From 1951 to 1963 he was a professor at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. In 1963 he became Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences. In 1969 he rose to the presidency of the university.

Books by the speaker include A.P. HILL - LEE'S FORGOTTEN GENERAL and COLONEL JOHN PELHAM. Articles by the speaker include: "Battle of Philippi," New York Times, May 7, 1961; "How Lincoln Played a Trump Card to Save Union," National Observer, December 31, 1962; "The A.P. Hill-Stonewall Jackson Feud," Civil War Times Illustrated, May 1965; "The Literary Lincoln," Lincoln Herald, Summer 1965; "Harry Heth - Lee's Hard-Luck General," Civil War Times Illustrated, July 1966; "The Battle of Yellow Tavern," Civil War Times Illustrated, November, 1966; "Patrick Cleburne: Stonewall of the West," Civil War Times Illustrated, February 1972; "'Fighting Dick' Anderson," Civil War Times Illustrated, February 1974, and "'Willie' Pegram: General Lee's Brilliant Young Virginia Artillerist," Virginia Cavalcade, 1974. Another book by our speaker is THE GENERAL TO HIS LADY, all books are handled by University of North Carolina Press at Chapel Hill.

CLEVELAND CWRT BULLETIN BOARD

"THE BLUE-GRAY AFFAIR"

The splitting of a nation was traumatic for both north and south and the effect on the isolated borderland between the Tennessee and Cumberland rivers in western Kentucky and Tennessee provides a capsulated view of the personal and national conflict that existed. A two-day weekend symposium will be held November 22-24, 1974, to discuss the Civil War along these western rivers. Presentations by professional and lay Civil War historians of national prominence as well as field trips to fort sites sites promise to make the historical events live again in the imagination of the participants. For more lots more information write to: THE BLUE-GRAY AFFAIR, TVA-Land Between The Lakes, Golden Pond, Kentucky 42231.

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USS Harvest Moon

CHARLESTON, S.C. (UPI) --The sidewheels of the USS Harvest Moon, flagship of Rear Adm. John A. Dahlgren, slapped the waters of Winyah Bay early on the morning of March 1, 1865. Without warning the Harvest Moon struck a Confederate mine, and the 200-foot vessel went to the bottom in less than five minutes. Dahlgren, who directed the blockade of the vital Southern port of Charleston, and his crew only had time to jump into the water and get clear of the ship before it went down in about 20 feet of water.

Members of an expedition sponsored by the Confederate States Historical Foundation soon will attempt to bore through the mud which now covers the Harvest Moon and remove the personal belongings which Dahlgren and his crew left behind. Mark Newell of North Augusta, executive vice-president of the foundation, said the Harvest Moon sank in a shallow channel of the bay which silted up very quickly.

The mud, which varies in depth from three to 10 feet above the ship, has prevented anyone from getting to the vessel. But it also is believed to have kept the artifacts and the vessel itself in remarkably good condition. Newell said the mud contains tannin -- a chemical found in nearby marshes which preserves materials normally destroyed by water.

"We are drilling through the mud using special airlift pumps," Newell said. "We are pumping mud off the top of the wreck and depositing it about 100 feet away. "We are hoping to make a hole in the mud big enough so we can go down and get into the cabins."

THE DETROIT NEWS, Wednesday, August 28, 1974.

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FLEA MARKETERS TAKE NOTICE

In 1895 the Grand Army of the Republic held their 29th National Convention in Louisville, Kentucky. Since it was below the invisible Mason-Dixon line, it was decided to cement the North and South together by a rather novel means-- a bronze cannon from the North was melted down at the local foundry along with a bronze cannon from the South. Souvenirs were made and sold from these melted bronze cannons.

These souvenir spoons occassionally show up at flea markets. The "trick" of discovering them is to look for the "secret" mark on the back of the stem of the spoon. The mark consists of a stamp of two crossed cannon--this an only this mark makes it geniune.

Thanks to member Frank Gillen

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of
THE CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE OF CLEVELAND, OHIO

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MEMORIAL ADDRESS ON THE LIFE AND CHARACTER
of
LIEUTENANT GENERAL D.H. HILL
by
HON. A.C. AVERY
May 10, 1893

Ladies of the Memorial Association, Comrades, Gentlemen:

Measured by the average length of human life, almost a generation has passed away since the tocsin of war was sounded thirty years ago and aroused in conservative old North Carolina such a furor of excitement as no pen can portray and no tongue describe. As years have rolled by the reaper has gathered and the angels have garnered the ripened sheaves. One by one the spirits of our old heroes have passed over the river to again rally around their sainted leaders, Lee, Jackson and Hill, and join them in endless paeans to the Prince of Peace for achieving the most sublime of all great victories. Twenty years ago the space allotted to the soldiers at these annual gatherings was filled for the most part by comrades rejoicing in the exuberant vigor of young manhood. The eve of your orator searches in vain to-day among the silvered heads, that fill the space allotted to the old soldiers, for the manly forms of those friends of his boyhood and comrades of his young manhood, Basil Manly, Richard Badger, Phil Sasser and James McKimmon, true and tried soldiers, who were as conspicuous for their courage in the hour of danger as for their loyalty to the sacred memories of the past when our banner had been forever furled.

These object lessons constrain those of us who are now distinctively known as old veterans, to remember that the mention of the stirring days of sixty-one reminds the majority of this audience of no such vivid scenes as pass in review before the imaginations of the old soldier and the wives, sisters and daughters whose hands in all these years have trimmed the turf and whose tears have moistened the immortelles that cover the resting places of our loved and honored dead.

Seven States South of us had solemnly asserted their right under the Constitution to sever their connection with the Federal Union, and had, through their representatives in convention, established the provisional government of the new Confederacy, with Montgomery, Alabama, as its capital city. But North Carolina, with characteristic conservatism, still clung to the federative union of States, which was conceived in the patriotic resolves of Mecklenburg, and ultimately established by the timely strategy and heroic valor of her volunteer troops at Kings Mountain and Guilford Court House. In 1789 she had awaited further assurance and guaranty that her rights as a sovereign State would be respected and protected before she would agree to enter into the more

perfect union then formed. In 1861 she adhered to that union and stood under the aegis of the old flag till those in whose custody the political revolution of the previous year had placed it, had already broken the compact and attempted the subjugation of her sister States.

The defiant answer of Governor Ellis to Lincoln's demand for North Carolina's quota of Federal soldiers, and his prompt call for volunteer to support our kindred and man our forts, went to the people on the wings of the wind. Telegrams, trains, single engines, pony express and runners were effectually employed as to reach every precinct and every hamlet in three or four days. South Carolina had been invaded and every voice demanded that the invader should be resisted to the death. The response of the clan to the bearer of Vich Alpine's bloody crosslet was not more ready nor supported by a more determined courage than was that of the brave sons of our grand old State to the call of her chosen chief. In a little while drums were beating, bands were playing, girls were singing, boys were shouting, flags were flying, orators were appealing, and stalwart men were weeping. But behind all this the firm resolve of the volunteer to do or die found an echo even in the heart of the wife and mother. The widow without a murmur committed her only boy to the keeping of the orphan's God, as she proudly imprinted a parting kiss upon his brow, while the woe of the bride was tempered with that admiration which is the tribute of beauty to bravery, as she gave a last embrace to one to whom she had but yesterday plighted her faith. The stately Southern dames and the petted damsels, whose soft hands had seldom plied needle before, found their greatest pleasure then in deftly working upon caps, haversacks and knapsacks, as at a later day in cutting and stitching the coarse clothing intended for our brave boys.

The organized bodies of citizen soldiery from all parts of the State, such as the Rowan Rifles, the Wilmington Light Infantry and the Oak City Guards were sent hastily to the unoccupied forts on our coast. As the other companies thus hurriedly equipped rushed to the capital to tender their services all eyes were turned to an adopted son of the State, whose education at West Point and brilliant career in Mexico had placed him easily at the head of her citizen soldiery--and Daniel Harvey Hill was called to the command of her first camp of instruction.

BIRTH AND EDUCATION

He was born in York District in the State of South Carolina on the 21st of July, 1821. He traced his descent neither from the Cavaliers of England nor from the Huguenots of France, but from the sturdy sons of liberty-loving Scotland, who migrated to the north of Ireland and ultimately planted colonies in Pennsylvania, Virginia, North and South Carolina, where they educated, elevated and dominated the people with whom they came in contact. His paternal grandfather, William Hill, a native of Ireland, had landed in Pennsylvania and moving South with the stream of Scotch-Irish that populated the valley of Virginia and Western North Carolina, built, with Colonel Hayne as his partner, in 1770 an iron foundry in York District, which within the next decade was the only point south of Virginia where cannons were cast for the use of the colonial armies. He was colonel of a regiment in Sumpter's brigade and fought gallantly under him in many engagements. While Colonel Hill was confined to his home by a wound received in battle, a detachment was sent from the British force at Charleston to destroy his foundry, and he barely escaped with his life by hiding under a large log and covering himself with leaves. When the battle of Kings Mountain was fought, Colonel Hill's command had been disbanded, but he went to the field as a volunteer and was honored by being invited to the council held by Campbell, Sevier, McDowell, and other distinguished regimental commanders, to determine the plan of attack. He made a number of suggestions that were adopted and proved the value of his opinion as a soldier. For twenty years after the war Colonel Hill was the trusted representative

of his district in the State Senate of South Carolina and was the intimate friend of Patrick Calhoun, the father of the great statesman and orator, John C. Calhoun. General Hill's mother was Nancy Cabeen, the daughter of Thomas Cabeen, a native Scotchman, who was Sumpter's trusted scout and "the bravest man in his command," as the General himself often declared. Two uncles of General Hill were soldiers in the second war with England, and one of them was the Adjutant of Colonel Arthur P. Hayne's regiment. Solomon Hill, his father, died when his son Harvey was but four years old, leaving him with four other children to be reared by a mother who was noted for her piety, culture, common sense and devotion to her children. Like all Scotch and Scotch-Irish Presbyterians of the old school, she exacted of her sons the most rigid observance of the Sabbath. Dr. John Hill, a somewhat wayward brother of General Hill, often declared, after he had reached middle age, that during his boyhood he always "took the blues on Thursday morning because Sunday was coming." The boys were required, each in his turn, to select and read a morning prayer when the family assembled for breakfast. Some of General Hill's heartiest laughs were 'provoked by the recollection of the ludicrous mistakes made by this little brother in his efforts to find and read the shortest petition in the book without regard to its fitness for the occasion.

Sprung from a race of soldiers by the paternal as well as the maternal line, it is not strange that the earliest ambition of D.H. Hill led him to seek for a place at West Point and to look forward to a military career. Under the rigid physical examination now prescribed for an applicant, he would have been rejected without hesitation. He entered the institution in 1838, and but for feeble health, would have pressed to the very front of a class of which Generals Longstreet, A.P. Stewart, G.W. Smith, R.H. Anderson and Van Dorn of the Confederate, and Rosecranz, Pope, Sikes, Doubleday, Stone and Reynolds of the Federal army were members.

MEXICAN WAR.

Graduating in 1842, he was still a Second Lieutenant when he was ordered with his command into active service in Mexico in August, 1845. During the three succeeding years he participated in nearly every battle fought by our forces under the command of either Scott or Taylor, and always attracted the notice of his superior officers by his conspicuous courage. He soon rose to the rank of First Lieutenant, and for gallant conduct at Contreras and Churubusco, was breveted Captain. At Chapultepec he volunteered with the storming party, and so distinguished himself among the scores of brave men who participated with him in that desperate assault as to win for himself a second brevet as Major. He was one of the six officers in the whole force employed in Mexico who were twice breveted for meritorious service upon the field. Animosity, envy and a disposition to indulge in carping criticism have led to many unjust reflections upon General Hill, but the most unscrupulous of his detractors never questioned his courage or his integrity. When the legislature of his native State provided by law that three swords should be awarded to the three bravest of her soldiers who had survived the war with Mexico, many letters and testimonials from the officers of the old army were voluntarily sent to the Chief Executive, naming D.H. Hill as among the bravest soldiers in the army of the United States. Among the few of these testimonials still extant is the letter from the gallant Bee, who, in exclaiming a moment before he fell at Manassas, "There stands Jackson like a stonewall," gave to the great leader the pet name by which his soldiers called him and the world knows him, and thereby made himself immortal as its author.

From the scores of her surviving heroes of the Palmetto regiment and in the regular army the committee appointed by the State authorities selected Hill to receive one of the three swords awarded, and it is still preserved by his family.

After the close of the late war a Federal soldier wrote to Gen. Joseph E. Johnston, asking the name of a Confederate officer who, on the right of our army at Seven Pines, had made himself most conspicuous of his daring and indifference to danger. The only mark of distinction which he could give General Johnston was that he thought the officer rode a white horse. General Johnston replied that he supposed the officer referred to must have been General D.H. Hill. In writing to Gen. Hill about the matter, General Johnston said: "I drew my conclusion that your horse might very well have been taken for white and that no man was more likely to expose himself than you. Do you know that in Mexico the young officers called you the bravest man in the army?"

MARRIAGE AND LIFE AS TEACHER.

When the war with Mexico ended Major Hill resigned his place in the army to accept the professorship of Mathematics in Washington College at Lexington, Virginia. Before assuming duties of that place he was happily married, November 2nd, 1852, to Isabella, oldest daughter of Rev. Dr. R.H. Morrison, and granddaughter of General Joseph Graham, who was a distinguished soldier of the Revolution and the father of Governor William A. Graham. Six years later he was invited to take the same professorship at Davidson College, where for five years he was looked upon as the leading spirit amongst a corps of able and learned professors.

D.H. Hill was not a politician in the sense of aspiring to office or attempting to mould public opinion; but when he saw that the leaders of the North had determined that no Southerner should be allowed to take his slaves to the territory wrested from Mexico by the blood and treasure of the South as well as the North, he believed that the irrepressible conflict which Seward declared at a later day was being waged had then begun, and would be settled only upon the bloody field of battle and after a prolonged, sanguinary and doubtful struggle.

Fully persuaded that the inevitable conflict was near at hand, and that it was his solemn duty to prepare the rising generation of his adopted State to meet it, he in 1859, gave up his pleasant home and his congenial duties at Davidson College for those of commandant and manager of the Military Institute at Charlotte.

He harbored no unkind thought of the noble men and women of the North who held opinions different from his own. He respected even the honest fanatic, who fairly and openly contended for his convictions, but he hated cant and hypocrisy, despised duplicity and dishonesty, and leveled at them his most effective weapons, ridicule and sarcasm. For that portion of our Northern brethren who came to the South to drive hard bargains with our people and cheat them by false pretences, he felt and expressed the most sovereign contempt. For the men of the North who coveted the wealth of the Southern planter, and the women who envied their Southern sisters because of the ease and leisure incident to the ownership of slaves, he made no attempt to conceal his hatred and disgust.

; Major Hill brought with him to Raleigh his three professors, Lee, Lane and McKinney, two of whom fell later at the head of North Carolina regiments, and one of whom was the successor of the noble Branch as the commander of one of our best and bravest brigades. He also brought with him almost the whole corps of cadets, whose services proved invaluable as drill masters of the ten thousand volunteers then in the camp to instruction, General Hill was allowed to select twelve companies to compose the first regiment of volunteers. The officers of these companies were all leading and influential citizens, and the rank and file were among the first young men in the State in intelligence, wealth and social position. The service of six months proved a training school for that splendid body of volunteers, that ultimately placed them at the head of companies, regiments, brigades and divisions. Among its original officers were Major General Hoke, Brigadier Generals Lane

and Lewis, Colonels Avery, Bridgers, Hardy, W.W. McDowell, J.C.S. McDowell, Starr, Pemberton, Fuller, and a score of others, while a number from the rank and file fell at the head of both companies and regiments at later stages of the struggle.

In the outset of this discussion of the career of D.H. Hill as a Confederate soldier, I lay down and propose to maintain the proposition that from the time when he fought the first fight of the war with North Carolina soldiers on Virginia soil till the day he led the last attacking column of Confederates east of the Mississippi and checked Sherman's advance at Bentonville, whatever may have been the general result of any engagement, the command of General D.H. Hill was never found when the firing ceased at night in the rear of the position it occupied when the signal of attack sounded in the morning. Apparently reckless in the exposure of his own person, no officer in our armies was more anxious about the health, happiness and safety of his soldiers. His theory was that spades were instruments of defensive, bayonets of offensive warfare and whether the emergency demanded the use of the one or the other, it was to be done with "might and main." When his cadets had asked him whether they should join South Carolina regiments before their own State seceded, he had prophesied that the war would soon begin and would continue long enough to give every Southerner an opportunity to display his manhood. He rested his hope of success upon the belief that every son of the South would rush to the rescue; that our armies would be supplied by the labor of our slaves, and that we would thus be enabled to throw a force into the field sufficient to meet every Northern man, who would tender his services to the Federal government. Two important elements were wanting as a basis of his calculations--the Souther loyalist and the foreign substitute. When, therefore, General D.H. Hill reported to Colonel J.B. McGruder, then in charge of the Peninsula, and was assigned to the command of the defences of Yorktown, he realized, in a measure at least, the magnitude of the coming contest.

It has been said that a man who is himself born to command is quick to perceive in others the qualities that fit them for leadership. Colonel Hill seemed almost intuitively to descry in the ranks the coolness, courage, judgment and power of prompt decision which others recognized in his favorites after they had led brigades and divisions to victory. On assuming command at Yorktown he soon discovered that the cavalry, which he looked upon as the "eye and the ear of the army," was inefficient, because the force was composed of a number of detached companies without a trained or efficient commander. In this emergency an officer of the old army, who had been commissioned Lieutenant in the regular army of the Confederate States, reported for duty. Marking him as a man of promise, Colonel Hill at once caused an order to be issued placing "Major John B. Hood" in command of all the cavalry, and awaited for the War Department to ratify the promotion and thus protect him in practicing a pardonable ruse on the volunteers. That officer ultimately succeeded Lt. Gen. D.H. Hill as the commander of a corps, and was still later placed in charge of the army of Tennessee. The Providence that has provided homes for his orphan children will in its own good time bring to light all the facts, and then John B. Hood will stand vindicated before the world as one of the best and bravest of all our leaders. It was this same gift that enabled Gen. Hill to select from the lieutenants of his regiment Robert F. Hoke to be made Major of his regiment over ten competent captains. It was this intuitive perception of persistent pluck, dash and coolness that prompted him to love and honor George B. Anderson, William R. Cox, Bryan Grimes, Stephen D. Ramseur and led him later to urge the advancement of Gordon, Colquitt and Doles of Georgia. In June, 1861 (a few days after the fight at Bethel), in a letter to his wife he said of Stonewall Jackson, then a Colonel in command of a brigade, "I see that Jackson has had an engagement and taken many prisoners. I have predicted all along that Colonel Jackson would have a prominent place in the war."

BATTLE OF BETHEL.

On the 6th of June, 1861, Colonel Hill, then at Yorktown, was ordered to make a reconnoissance in force in the direction of Fortress Monroe, and moved down with his own regiment and four companies of Richmond Howitzers under the command of Major G.W. Randolph (afterwards Secretary of War), to Little Bethel church. Receiving information that Butler's forces were preparing to move up the Peninsula, Col. Hill fell back to Big Bethel church where, with a small branch of Black river on his front and right flank and an almost impenetrable forest on his left he used twenty-five spades and several hundreds of bayonets during the night in making an enclosed work. Ben Butler had started 5000 men in three columns, with the confident expectation that two of the detachments would travel by roads passing north and south of the position at Little Bethel and form a junction two or three miles in rear of it, where the roads traveled by the two came together, while Duryea's regiment of Zouaves would engage Hill in front till the other columns should unite and then press him in the rear in his expected retreat. Two of the detachments mistook each other in the night and engaged in a skirmish in which two men were killed and wounded. The Zouaves, instead of "following immediately upon the heels" of the fugitive rebels, as contemplated by Butler, turned back and fled precipitately on hearing the firing in front of their own reserve line.

On the next day they again moved forward and attacked the force at Big Bethel, Col McGruder having meantime arrived with Carey's battalion of infantry. The whole force engaged on the Confederate side was 800 North Carolinians and 400 Virginians; on the Federal, 3500 with 1500 to 2500 in reserve. After preliminary skirmishing for about two hours, and an attack that lasted two and a half hours longer, the enemy retreated in great confusion with a loss of probably 50 killed and 300 wounded, and were so hotly pursued by our cavalry that they scattered guns, haversacks and knapsacks till they crossed a bridge and stopped the pursuit by destroying it. The names of no soldiers of North Carolina should be inscribed in a more prominent place on the monument to be erected to her heroic dead than those of Henry L. Wyatt, the first offering of the South to the Lost Cause, and his three comrades, who rushed forward in a hail of shot and shell to destroy a house where the sharpshooters of the enemy had taken shelter. Judging of its importance by the numbers engaged and the losses on both sides the battle of Bethel scarcely rose above the dignity of a skirmish; yet few events in the early history of the war had a more important influence upon the contests of the following year. The splendid bearing of our soldiers sent a thrill of pride to every Southern heart, and when the first battle of Manassas was fought, less than a month later, our soldiers moved forward in the confidence that Southern pluck would again prevail over a foe that had shown so little dash and confidence in this encounter.

There was on the Federal side at least one stout leader, who displayed the spirit of a hero. When Major Theodore Winthrop fell within fifteen feet of our line bravely leading a regiment in the charge, even a generous foe felt that he was worthy to bear the name of the Winthrops by whose courage and judgment Americans had first gained a foothold in this country.

COMMITTED EVERYTHING TO GOD.

To know D.H. Hill as the soldiers of iron nerve, who rode unmoved in showers of shot and shell, or rebuked in scathing terms a laggard or a deserter, was to understand nothing of his true nature. When the battle of Bethel was over and others were feasting or carousing, Hill had fallen upon his knees and was returning thanks to Almighty God who he believed directed the course of every deadly missile hurled by the enemy with the same unerring certainty that ordered the movements of the multitudes of worlds in the universe, and into whose keeping he daily committed himself, his wife and little ones, his staff and his soldiers

with the calm reliance of a child, that as a kind father would provide what was best for him and them.

On the day after the fight at Bethel he wrote his wife; "I have to thank God for a great and decided victory and that I escaped with a slight contusion on the knee. It is a little singular that my first battle in this war should be at Bethel where I was baptized and worshipped till I was sixteen years old, the church of my mother. Was she not a guardian spirit in the battle, averting ball and shell? Oh, God, give me gratitude to Thee, and may we never dishonor Thee by weak faith!" Still later he wrote his wife: "I look for a battle about the first of October. Pray for me that I may be well. (He was then in delicate health) We are in the hands of God and as safe on the battlefield as anywhere else. We will be exposed to a heavy fire, but the arm of God is mightier than the artillery of the enemy."

After the battle Governor Ellis issued a commission of Brigadier General to him, as Governor Letcher had done at an earlier date in the case of Jackson, but President Davis delayed giving him the appointment till September, 1861. The response to a letter from his wife written during this interval in which she complained of the delay, shows how little the outer world understood his character or his motives. "You must not be concerned about my commission (he wrote). I feel too distrustful of my own skill, coolness and judgment. I have never coveted and always avoided positions of trust and responsibility. The offices that I have held have not been of my seeking.

ASSIGNED TO COMMAND IN NORTH CAROLINA.

Upon receiving his commission as a Brigadier in September, 1861, the first work assigned to him was the command of the coast of North Carolina with the duty, as far as possible, of constructing fortifications wherever necessary. Hopeless as was the task assigned Gen Hill, he brought all of his energies to bear upon it, and during the few months that he remained in North Carolina did so much to strengthen our forts and improve the discipline and spirit of the troops that the public men of the State asked for his return in every time of peril, until it became the custom of the General commanding to send him to his department south of the James when all was quiet on the Potomac, and recall him to the command of his division in the field when active operations were resumed.

ORDERED TO NORTHERN VIRGINIA--FRIENDSHIP FOR GENERAL STONE.

His first connection with the army of Northern Virginia was when early in December, 1861, he was ordered to report to General Johnston at Manassas, and was assigned to command at Leesburg on the left of the line. While he was stationed there an incident occurred which evinced the strength and warmth of Gen Hill's affection for his early friends, even in the Federal army. Gen Stone was in charge of the force on the opposite side of the river, and after writing an official letter sent under the flag of truce. Gen Hill appended a postscript to the effect that, if the fortunes of war should place his old academy chum in his custody, he should feel more inclined to take him into his own tent than to consign him to prison. This led to the interchange of several kind messages appended to similar communications. Unfortunately Stone was a pronounced Democrat and, like McClellan, was unwilling to recant or repent. Seizing upon this excuse Stanton arrested him on a charge of disloyalty and gave him no opportunity to vindicate himself till the close of war, when he resigned and spent his last days in command of the army of the Khedive of Egypt.

On the night of the battle of Gaines' Mill, Major Clitz and Gen Reynolds, old army comrades of Gen Hill, were brought as prisoners to his quarters. He received both very kindly and sent for a surgeon to dress Major Clitz's wound, while he comforted Reynolds, who was mortified at being caught asleep, by reminding him that his gallant conduct in Mexico and on the border would protect his good name from a

shade of suspicion. Both were placed in an ambulance, paroled to report to General Winder at Richmond, and furnished with the address of a friend of General Hill's who would honor their drafts for money. These incidents are reproduced because they bring to view traits of General Hill's character of which the world generally knows so little, his warm sympathy for suffering and his lasting and unswerving fidelity to his friends.

WILLIAMSBURG.

From the moment when Johnston placed Hill, then a Major General, at the head of a division in March, 1862, till the last shock of arms at Bentonville, Hill's position on every march and in every battle, with scarcely a single exception, was the post of danger and honor. His was the first division of Johnston's army to enter Yorktown and the last to leave it and pass with his command through the reserve line. When the vanguard of the enemy led by Hancock rushed upon our rear at Williamsburg, it was Basil C. Manly, of Ramseur's Battery, who seeing that a section of the enemy's light artillery might beat him in the race to occupy an earthwork midway between the two, unlimbered on the way and by a well directed shot disabled the enemy in transitu, and quick as thought limbered up again and ran into the fortifications. It was the regiment of Duncan K. McRae, of D.H. Hill's Division, that extorted from the generous and gallant Hancock that memorable declaration, "The Fifth North Carolina and Twenty-fourth Virginia deserve to have the word immortal inscribed on their banners." It was this charge which Early describes as "an attack upon the vastly superior forces of the enemy, which for its gallantry is unsurpassed in the annals of warfare."

SEVEN PINES.

When McClellan moved his army over Bottom's bridge, threw a heavy column across the Chickahominy and extended his line towards the north of Richmond, General R.E. Lee was then acting as advisory commander of all the armies of the Confederacy. He concurred with Mr. Davis in the opinion that McClellan should be attacked on the other side of the Chickahominy before he matured his preparations for a siege of Richmond. When General Lee communicated their views to Gen Johnston he told Gen Lee that his plan was to send A.P. Hill to the right and rear of the enemy and G.W. Smith to the left flank with orders to make simultaneous attacks for the purpose of doubling up the army, and sending Longstreet to cross at Mechanicsville bridge and attack him in front. Gen McClellan's line on his right was not then well fortified, and the general disposition of the Federal forces was more favorable for a Confederate advance than a month later, when General Lee concentrated a heavy force on the left and turned it. After McDowell's movement to Hanover Court House, when his vanguard was checked by Branch, the blows stricken by Jackson in such rapid succession in the valley had excited apprehension so grave in the mind of Mr. Lincoln that despite McClellan's protest, he ordered the withdrawal of that command to Fredericksburg for the protection of Washington City. For reasons that were unsatisfactory to the President, Gen Johnston after marching and countermarching G.W. Smith's and Longstreet's divisions, abandoned his first plan of operations and ordered the troops to assume substantially their original positions. President Davis in his work "The Rise and Fall of the Confederacy," takes the ground that after waiting a week and giving McClellan the opportunity to fortify, operations should have been delayed another day till the Chickahominy had risen high enough to sweep away the bridges and till Huger had had time to move up his artillery from his position near Richmond.

The popular impression that the bridges across the Chickahominy had already been swept away when the fight at Seven Pines began on the 30th of May, 1862, is totally unfounded. The corps of Heintzelman and Keyes were then south and that of Sumner north of the Chickahominy. The plan outlined by General Johnston was, briefly, that Huger should move

from his camp near Richmond early on that morning down the Charles City road and vigorously attack the enemy's right, and Longstreet and Hill moving on the same road should attack the center and left of the force south of the bridge, while G.W. Smith's corps should advance on the Nine mile road and turn the left of Heintzelman and Keyes if Sumner should not have arrived, or engaged and prevent the junction of his with the other corps, if he should cross. Longstreet and Hill were in position to attack at an early hour, but waited till ten o'clock for the arrival of Huger, whose division except two regiments of Rhodes (which created a diversion by a vigorous attack on the right) did not arrive in time to participate in the action. Our failure to destroy an enemy who, by a concerted movement in the forenoon, would have been utterly routed and driven from the field or captured, was, as is universally conceded, one of the most palpable blunders of the war, but the question, upon whose shoulders the blame rests, still confronts us. No engagement of the war has given rise to more acrimonious censure and crimination than Seven Pines. Mr. Davis, Gen Johnston, Gen Longstreet, Gen Smith and Gen Huger, have each in turn discussed the conduct of both the active and passive leaders of that memorable day.

The future historians who shall make up for posterity their verdict upon the controverted points as to the battle of Seven Pines will find one fact admitted by all of the disputants that D.H. Hill was the hero of the occasion, and with his own gallant division, aided by two of Longstreet's brigades, drove the enemy in confusion from the breastworks and turned their own guns upon them as they retreated. Longstreet, who was in command on the right, generously said in his report: "The conduct of the attack was left entirely to Maj Gen Hill. The success of the affair is sufficient evidence of his ability, courage and skill." Commenting upon the language of Longstreet, President Davis said: "This tribute to Gen Hill was no more than has been accorded to him by others who knew of his services on that day, and was in keeping with the determined courage, vigilance and daring exhibited by him on other fields."

General Johnston's language was not less unequivocal in according to Hill the credit of making a very gallant and the only successful attack upon the enemy's works, when he said in his report: "The principal attack was made by Maj Gen Longstreet with his own and Maj Gen D. H. Hill's division--the latter mostly in advance. Hill's brave troops, admirably commanded and most gallantly led, forced their way through the abattis which formed the enemy's external defences and stormed their entrenchments by a most determined and irresistible rush. Such was the manner in which the enemy's first line was carried. The operation was repeated with the same gallantry and success as our troops pursued their victorious career through the enemy's successive camps and entrenchments. At each new position they encountered fresh troops and reinforcements brought from the rear. Thus they had had to repel repeated efforts to retake works which they had carried, but their advance was never successfully resisted."

LEE ASSUMES COMMAND--SEVEN DAYS BATTLE.

On the 31st of May, 1862, Gen R.E. Lee was assigned to the command of the army in place of Gen Johnston, who had been painfully wounded on the previous day, and immediately addressed himself to the arduous task of preparing for the decisive encounter, which could not be long delayed. His "exhibition of grand administrative talent and indomitable energy in bringing up that army in so short a time to that state of discipline which maintained aggregation during those terrible seven days fight around Richmond" (says Colonel Chilton) was "his greatest achievement."

The order of battle in the memorable seven days fight required A.P. Hill, when Jackson should pass down in rear of Mechanicsville, to cross at Meadow's bridge and drive the enemy so as to enable D.H. Hill to pass over the bridge at that village.

In obedience to messages from Gen Lee and President Davis, General Hill, after crossing, went forward with the brigade of Brigadier General Ripley to co-operate with the Division of Gen A.P. Hill. At the request of Brig Gen Pender, Hill directed Ripley just at dark to act in concert with that dashing officer in the effort to turn the enemy's position at Ellison's Mill and drive him from it.

The desperate charge across an open field in the face of a murderous fire, in which that brave soldier and noble man, Colonel Montford S. Stokes of the First North Carolina Regiment, fell mortally wounded, was neither planned by Gen Hill nor executed under his directions. (The Official Records, Series 1, Vol. XI, Part 2, p. 623) The suggestion that Gen Hill deliberately and unnecessarily rushed those gallant men into danger is unfounded and unjust. The galling fire that had broken Pender's left called for immediate action, and in the hurry of the moment it became necessary to develop the strength of the enemy's position by assault instead of reconnoissance, but under the orders of Gen Lee and the President, not of Gen Hill.

GAINES' MILL

When, on the second day, Jackson, had effected a junction with Lee Hill was selected to relieve his tired troops by passing rapidly to his left and turning the extreme right of the enemy. A.P. Hill, Longstreet Whiting and Jackson had successively moved upon the double lines of infantry and artillery posted on a range of hills behind Powhite creek from the McGehee to the Gaines house. The approach of the attacking columns of A.P. Hill and Whiting was in part over a plain about 400 yards wide and was embarrassed by abattis and ditches in front of the first line. The struggle along the front of these divisions and that of Longstreet had become doubtful, and almost desperate, when the troop of Jackson and Hill created a diversion by engaging the extreme right of the enemy. The first of the lines of entrenchments had been taken, and Longstreet, Hood, Laws and other brave leaders, were moving on the last stronghold in the enemy's center, when the victorious shouts of Garland's and G.B. Anderson's brigade of Hill's division were followed by the rapid retreat of the enemy, and the surrender first of the ridge at the McGehee house and then of their whole line. Thus did it fall to the lot of Hill once more to strike a decisive blow at a critical moment. But claiming for him this distinction among a host of heroic commanders, it is proper that I should rely on the evidence of the lamented Garland, who sealed his devotion to the cause with his heart's blood at South Mountain, and the corroborating accounts of Hill's superiors from Jackson to President Davis, not upon my own assertion.

"The effect of our appearance at this opportune moment upon the enemy's flank, cheering and charging (said Garland in his report), decided the fate of the day. The enemy broke and retreated, made a second stand, which induced my immediate command to halt under cover of the roadside and return the fire, when charging forward again we broke and scattered them in every direction." This discomfiture uncovered the left of the fortified line and left no obstacle between Hill and the McGehee house. (Series 1, Vol. XI, Part 2, p. 626, of the O.R.)

General Jackson's language is not less unmistakable: "Again pressing forward the Federals again fell back, but only to select a position for more obstinate defence, when at dark--under the pressure of our batteries, which had then begun to play with marked effect upon the left, of other concurring events of the field and of the bold and dashing charge of General Hill's infantry, in which the troops of Gen C.S. Winder joined--the enemy yielded the field and fled in confusion." Of the part taken by Hill, Gen Lee said in his report (Series 1, Vol XI, part 2, p. 493, O.R.), "D.H. Hill charged across the open ground in his front, one of his regiments having first bravely carried a battery whose

fire enfiladed his advance. "Gallantly supported by the troops on his right," who pressed forward with unfaltering resolution, he reached the crest of the ridge (above the McGehee house), and after a sanguinary struggle broke the enemy's line, captured several of his batteries and drove him in confusion towards the Chickahominy until darkness rendered further pursuit impossible." As Mr. Davis adopts the exact language of Gen Lee, it is needless to reproduce it a second time. Gen McClellan refers to the report of Fitz John Porter, who was in command, for a detailed account of the affair at Gaines' Mill. Porter admits that the withdrawal of his line was caused by the retreat on his right, but insists that the demoralization was due entirely to the stampede of the Federal cavalry, who were mistaken as they fell back on the infantry line, for rebels. More candid or better informed than Gen Porter, the French Princes who served on his staff on that day, admit that the charge of Hill and the discomfiture of the enemy's right necessitated the abandonment of their line of entrenchments. It is double the right flank of an army suddenly back so as to expose to an enfilade the flank of his last and strongest line of entrenchments is to make his position untenable, then Hill's charge was indeed decisive of the struggle at Gaines' Mill.

Crossing the Chickahominy on the night of the 29th in the advance of Jackson's corps, D.H. Hill passed Savage Station where he took 1000 prisoners, exclusive of 3000 in and connected with the Federal hospital. The progress of Jackson was arrested by obstructions and the stubborn resistance at White Oak swamps, and he failed to effect a junction with Longstreet till after the fight at Frasier's farm.

MALVERN HILL.

D.H. Hill was again the first to reach and occupy position which he was ordered to assume preparatory to a general advance on Malvern Hill. The other parts of the line were not formed till a much later hour in the day, Gen Lee says in his report of the battle (Series 1, Vol. XI, part 2, p. 496, O.R.) "Orders were issued for a general advance at a given signal, but the cause referred to prevented a proper concert of action among troops. D.H. Hill pressed forward across the open field and engaged the enemy gallantly, breaking and driving back the first line; but a simultaneous advance of the other troops taking place he found himself unable to maintain the ground he had gained against the overwhelming numbers and numerous batteries of the enemy. Hill was therefore compelled to abandon a part of the ground he had gained after suffering severe loss and inflicting heavy damage upon the enemy."

Prompt, vigilant and obedient, he was always at his post at the appointed hour, and with the true conception of soldierly duty moved upon order or signal of his superiors without waiting to count the cost. At Malvern Hill, as at Seven Pines, he charged the enemy under orders from the commanding General. The persistent pluck of his brave men, developed to the highest degree by his own unequalled coolness and courage, enabled him again to take and hold much of the enemy's outer line till after the last gun was fired.

When Pope had twice been punished by Jackson and driven back upon the supposed stronghold at Manassas, the transfer of troops from the Federal army on the Peninsula made it necessary for Gen Lee to move with the bulk of his army to the support of his dashing Lieutenant, who had already twice defeated an enemy much stronger numerically than himself. D.H. Hill recalled from the command of his department south of the James, including his own State, and placed at the head of his old division, was ordered to watch and check the movements of McDowell's command, which was still occupying Fredericksburg and consequently took no part in the second battle of Manassas.

SOUTH MOUNTAIN.

Crossing over the Potomac with Longstreet to Fredericktown, Md., when our forces moved from that point south, Gen Hill was ordered to

occupy and hold a pass in the South Mountains, which, if gained by McClellan, would have enabled him to relieve Harper's Ferry and possibly to prevent the junction of our scattered army and destroy the divisions in detail or drive them precipitately south of the Potomac with great loss of artillery and transportation.

General Lee's object in crossing the Potomac east of the Blue Ridge, afterwards avowed (Series 1, Vol. XIX, part 1, p.145), was to induce the enemy, by threatening Washington and Baltimore, to evacuate Martinsburg and Harper's Ferry, to establish his own line of communication through the valley, and then by advancing towards Pennsylvania to draw the enemy away from his own base of supplies. Gen Lee had not contemplated making a stand at South Mountain--probably not at Sharpsburg or at any point north of the Potomac. But the continued occupation of Martinsburg and Harper's Ferry made it necessary to move directly upon the former place and to invest the latter, where both garrisons ultimately united. In consequence of the delay in reducing the garrison it became essential to the safety of Lee's army that McClellan's entire force should be held in check for a whole day at the pass in the South Mountains by Hill's depleted division, now number only 4000, as a glance at the map with a knowledge of the disposition of Lee's different divisions will show.

Longstreet with his whole force, estimated at 4000, was at Hagerstown, while Jackson had disposed his own command, including McLaws and A.P. Hill's divisions, either with a view to an attack on Harper's Ferry or to cutting off the retreat of the force occupying it. Three days later McClellan, according to his own report, advanced to the attack at Sharpsburg with 87000 men. Of this vast army probably 33000 were in the force actually engaged in the assault upon the little Spartan band of D.H. Hill for five hours without cessation before Longstreet's advance brigade arrived at 3:30 and was followed by others coming up from that time till dark. The late Justice Ruffin, the Colonel of the 13th North Carolina, standing by the side of the gallant Garland when he was instantly killed, discovered a moment later that the other regiments of the brigade had retired, leaving his command surrounded by the enemy. Facing to the rear in an instant he ordered his regiment to charge, and embarrassed by a painful wound, performed the desperate feat of cutting his way through the serried ranks of the enemy. A few moments later that gallant officer was astonished to hear his intrepid commander express his delight at the discovery that McClellan's whole army was approaching his front. The explanation afterwards given was one that could have been safely disclosed only to a kindred spirit, such as Ruffin had shown himself to be. Hill then said that he had at first feared the movement upon his front was a feint, and that the main body of the enemy had passed through another gap and might be thrown between Jackson and Lee. The situation was still further embarrassed by the fact that Gen Stuart had at daylight in the morning withdrawn his command, except the single regiment of Rosser, which afterwards did its duty so nobly, under the impression that but a small force was in Gen Hill's front.

It was "with the stern joy" of an intrepid warrior waiting for the coming contest, that from an elevated pinnacle of the mountain he saw the four advance corps of the grand army of the Potomac, one of which was forming at the foot of the mountain. The hour and the man had met when Lee entrusted to Hill the duty of holding the approach against that army with his little band of 4000. From Seven Pines to Malvern Hill they had never turned their backs upon the foe. They believed that their leader would require them to endure no sacrifice or face no danger that was not demanded by the inevitable exigencies of the situation. With God's help, Hill determined to save the army, as his chief ordered him to do at any sacrifice, and, if the emergency had demanded his own life, he would have met death, not as the decree of fate but as the Providence of God, who had brought him face to face with a desperate

duty. Captain Seaton Gales, the gallant Adjutant General of George B. Anderson on that memorable day, has summarized the important results of this battle so clearly that I prefer to reproduce his language rather than use an extract from report or history or to make a vain attempt to improve upon it myself.

Of this battle "it may be safely said that in its consequences, in the accomplishments of pre-determined objects, and in the skillful disposition of small numbers to oppose overwhelming odds, was without a parallel in the war. The division, unaided until a late hour in the afternoon, held in check the greater portion of McClellan's vast army, endeavoring with battering ram impetus to force his way through the narrow gap, and thereby afforded time for the concentration of our various corps dispersed in strategic directions in season for the bloody issue at Sharpsburg."

THE LOST ORDER.

Imbued with a great devotion to the cause, which rose on occasion to the height of enthusiasm, Hill did not hesitate to denounce in uncensored terms those who evaded duty in our armies when the conditions were such as to plainly demand the active service of every able-bodied son of the South. One of his random shots at the bomb-proofs of the Confederacy wounded a gentleman who, having done nothing in the war worthy to be written, determined to write something in the vain hope that it would be read by future generations. Prompted by petty revenge, he recklessly asserted that Gen D.H. Hill had thrown a copy of a general order upon the ground in his camp at Frederick City, which being afterwards picked up and handed to McClellan, gave him an idea of the movements and location of the different portions of Lee's army.

If this order had been literally carried out, it will appear from an inspection of its contents that on the day when McClellan attacked Hill at South Mountain, he had reasons to believe, and must have thought, that Longstreet was occupying the mountains, supported by Hill. But we are not left to conjecture on that subject. McClellan wrote General Franklin from Frederick City on the 14th just after he had read the "lost order" (Series 1, Vol. XIX, part 1, p.45 O.R.), that Longstreet was to move to Boonsborough and there halt with D.H. Hill, and directed Franklin to make his dispositions with an eye both to the relief of the garrison at Harper's Ferry and the capture of Longstreet and Hill. The plan outlined in the letter is predicated upon the supposition that Longstreet and Hill were together and constituted the main body of an army, which he estimated in another report to Gen Halleck at 120000. If it were not manifest from this letter that McClellan was misled by the order, and his opinion corroborated by the skillful disposition of Hill's troops, his report proves beyond all question that he thought the force in his front was 30000 strong, composed of Hill's division, 15000, with Longstreet's and a portion of Jackson's command. (Report of McClellan, Series 1, Vol XIX, part 1, p.55, of O.R.). The skill of Hill then, and the order combined to mislead McClellan by causing him to overestimate our strength, and the cautious and dilatory movement, which gave Longstreet time to come up in the afternoon, enabled Hill to escape with his little band, leaving the whole army of the Potomac deployed before him.

The order issued by Lee and sent out from army headquarters was as follows (Series 1, Vol XIX, part 2, p. 603):

Headquarters Army of Northern Virginia
September 9, 1862.

Special Orders, No 191.

I. The citizens of Fredericktown being unwilling, while overrun by members of this army, to open their stores, in order to give them confidence, and to secure to officers and men purchasing supplies for benefit of this command, all officers and men of this army are strictly

prohibited from visiting Fredericktown except on business, in which case they will bear evidence of this in writing from division commanders. The Provost Marshal in Fredericktown will see that his guard rigidly enforces this order.

II. Major Taylor will proceed to Leesburg, Va., and arrange for transportation of the sick and those unable to walk to Winchester, securing the transportation of the country for this purpose. The route between this and Culpepper Court House east of the mountains being unsafe will no longer be traveled. Those on the way to this army already across the river will move up promptly, all others will proceed to Winchester collectively and under command of officers, at which point, being the general depot of the army, its movements will be known and instructions given by commanding officers regulating further movements.

III. The army will resume its march to morrow, taking the Hagerstown road. General Jackson's command will form the advance, and, after passing Middletown, with such portion as he may select, take the route to Sharpsburg, cross the Potomac at the most convenient point, and by Friday morning take possession of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, capture such of them as may be at Martinsburg, and intercept such as may attempt to escape from Harper's Ferry.

IV. General Longstreet's command will pursue the main road as far as Boonsborough, where it will halt, with reserve, supply and baggage trains of the army.

V. General McLaws, with his own division and that of General R. H. Anderson, will follow General Longstreet. On reaching Middletown will take the route to Harper's Ferry, and by Friday morning possess himself of the Maryland Heights and endeavor to capture the enemy at Harper's Ferry and vicinity.

VI. General Walker, with his division, after accomplishing the object in which he is now engaged, will cross the Potomac at Cheek Ford, ascend its right bank to Lovettsville, take possession of the Loudoun Heights, if practicable, by Friday morning, Key's Ford on his left, and the road between the end of the mountain and the Potomac on his right. He will, as far as practicable, co-operate with General McLaws and Jackson and intercept retreat of the enemy.

VII. General D.H. Hill's division will form the rear guard of the army, pursuing the road taken by the main body. The reserve artillery, ordnance and supply trains, etc., will precede Gen Hill.

VIII. General Stuart will detach a squadron of cavalry to accompany the commands of Generals Longstreet, Jackson and McLaws, and with the main body of the cavalry, will cover the route of the army, bringing up all the stragglers that may have been left behind.

IX. The commands of General Jackson, McLaws and Walker, after accomplishing the objects for which they have been detached, will join the main body of the army at Boonsborough or Hagerstown.

X. Each regiment on the march will habitually carry its axes in the regimental ordnance wagons, for use of the men at their encampments, to procure wood, etc.

By command of General R.E. Lee

R.H. Chilton,
Assistant Adjutant General.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The balance of this Memorial Address will be given in the December newsletter.