BOOK REVIEW


A century soon will have passed since that fratricidal conflict which resulted in more American casualties than occurred in World War I and II combined. One writer has called the Civil War “a lapse into national schizophrenia.”

A fact—among many unknown about this conflict—is the amount of national introspection that has resulted since Appomattox. Few episodes in our history have had as much written and oral description as the War Between The States. Yearly the literary output amounts to a sizeable library. This past decade has witnessed the appearance of a Civil War Book Club, a periodical devoted entirely to articles on the Civil War period and a quarterly originated just to index the literature of the war.

_They Met At Gettysburg_ is one of the latest additions to the Civil War bookshelf. In his volume, General Stackpole has examined in minute detail the military movements of the two antagonists in the Gettysburg campaign. The author has not hesitated to make judgments and pronounce verdicts when he believes the evidence warrants an accurate assessment. While most historians have agreed that Lee’s military reputation was tarnished by his leadership at Gettysburg, Stackpole flatly states, “In retrospect, it is clear that at Gettysburg Lee fought his worst battle.” The author attributes the Southern General’s failure to: not formulating a concise plan of action; issuing ill defined and fragmentary orders; making little attempt to co-ordinate the operations of Hill, Ewell and Longstreet; failure to appreciate the quartermaster’s role and over-confidence in the ability of his army.

While shouldering Lee with his full share of culpability for the defeat, Stackpole does not ignore the inadequacies of his subordinates. Longstreet’s basic disagreement with Lee over the invasion in the beginning and his subsequent falterings at Gettysburg, writes General Stackpole, may have been the “decisive factor” in the outcome of the battle. J. E. B. Stuart, Confederate cavalry leader, is treated less severely in this book than in most accounts. The author agrees that Stuart exercised poor judgment in his cavalry movements prior to Gettysburg, but he maintains that Imboden and Jenkins cavalry brigades should have been of immense help to the Army of Northern Virginia, had Lee utilized them properly. As Stonewall Jackson’s replacement, Ewell performed miserably and by his vacillation lost a chance for victory on the first day of the battle.
Stackpole does not note many tactical errors on the part of the Union generals; however, he does point out that Northern leadership suffered from the defensive-minded Meade, who, as previous commander of the Army of the Potomac, consistently overestimated the strength of his opponents.

In summary, the author writes that, viewed strictly as a military operation, the battle could be termed a draw. Meade had won a tactical victory but by allowing Lee to escape lost the chance to end the war.

General Stackpole has written a readable tome, especially valuable for the layman. This reviewer conjectures that many will disagree with this interpretation of the roles of Lee, Ewell, Longstreet and Mead. They Met At Gettysburg will not be a definitive work, for Civil War historiography has now reached the stage where few authors can aspire to the final word. As each generation in turn becomes intrigued and then captivated by the conflict of the blue and gray, a successive series of “Historical ghosts” will be resurrected and buried—only to be again reincarnated in a different disguise twenty years later.

Gene M. Gressley
University of Wyoming

Laramie, Wyoming


The country extending along the Atlantic Coast from Savannah, Georgia, to Wilmington, North Carolina, and inland including what is now Northeastern Georgia and Southeastern North Carolina with all of South Carolina in between, was the Land called Chicora. Paul Quattlebaum in his study of this region has produced a fascinating book that narrates the story of the first expeditions sent out of Hispaniola along the eastern coast, referred to for many years as Florida, and the planting of the first colony on the American continent north of Mexico in 1526, called San Miguel de Gualdupe located on Waccamaw Neck, across from Winyah Bay from present Georgetown, South Carolina.

The author’s boyhood home on the Carolina coast was near an old rice plantation known as “Chicora Wood,” a name that fired his imagination and interest. Many years later when he found the stories about this place confused, he undertook the study of its history. His education and experience as an engineer was a great assistance in this study for though the instruments used by early navigators were few and crude yet they left nautical data that are understood and can be followed by the engineer of today. Much of
the data gathered by Mr. Quattlebaum in years or research had been passed by and never presented by historians in recent years for the earliest records and accounts relating to the Spanish, French and English activities and to Indian life in the region had lain away all but lost in the mist of antiquity. Peter Martyr's *Decades* (1455-1526) first published in Latin, later reprinted in English by M. Locke in *Hakluyt's Collections* (1812), and De Bry's works on Jacques Le Moyne, the French artist who visited the Province of Florida in 1564, are both cited in Mr. Quattlebaum's text. Some of Le Moyne's paintings and drawings appear as illustrations here, for these are the earliest made showing Indian life in the Province of Florida. The descriptions of Indian life are given in the chapter "The Chicora Indians & Their Way of Life," based largely on Peter Martyr's work and that of Oviedo, the Spanish historian, whose *The Natural History of the West Indies* was first published in Spain in 1526. Ethnologists have identified the Chicora (or Shakori) as a part of the ancient Cusabo which was made up of old tribal groups of the Muskogean and the Uchean linguistic families. Thus, the author's account of the discovery and of the ways of the Chicora Indians reveals the earliest history of a people whose descendants many generations later moved to Oklahoma.

The outstanding and more noble of the Spaniards who sent out exploring expeditions to the mainland of America not long after the discovery by Columbus was Lucas Vazquez de Ayllon, a native of Toledo, Spain, who came to Hispaniola in 1502, later attaining great wealth and high positions of trust in the Spanish colonial government of the islands. He sent out caravels to explore the mainland at his own expense, his captain, Gordillo, spending many months sailing along the seacoast and returning to Hispaniola with reports of all that he had seen and heard, besides bringing with him many Indian captives as slaves. Gordillo was condemned by Ayllon for the capture of these people was without license. The Indians were judged free, and until they could return to their homeland, they remained in the custody of Ayllon and another councilman in Hispaniola. Ayllon himself went to Spain taking with him one of the natives of the Land of Chicora, whom he had christianed by the name of "Francisco Chicora" in honor of his country. Francisco was a young Indian of ability who learned the Spanish language and told many stories and traditions about his country and his people. King Charles V of Spain pleased with Ayllon's accomplishments conferred upon him the habit of Santiago and granted him a patent on June 12, 1523, to return to the newly found land of Chicora as governor. In the summer of 1526, Ayllon and his associates set out on the great venture to the mainland, and succeeded in planting the colony of San Miguel de Gualdupe at the mouth of the Waccamaw River. The book-end map of the region shows the location of Francisco's tribal town of Chicora far west inland up the present Santee River in South Carolina. The story of the people
and their experiences at Gualdupe, told in the chapter "The First Settlement," makes the adventures of the De Soto Expedition in 1540 seem comparatively late. It is no wonder that De Soto found articles of European manufacture—iron axes, glass beads, a rosary and a cross—in Cofitachiqui, the town of the Indian "Queen" that he discovered in South Carolina.

Other chapters tell of how France and Spain eventually contended for the Land of Chicora. At last the English came and founded Jamestown in 1607. The author tells how Charles I granted the "Province of Carolina" on March 23, 1663, and quotes part of the notable charter, including the names of Englishmen who received this royal favor. The Land of Chicora was in the boundaries of this grant. It may be noted here in passing that what is now Oklahoma, also, was within boundaries of the land described, a broad strip clear across America between the 31st and the 36th parallels of North Latitude from the "Atlantic Ocean to the South Seas" (Pacific Ocean). It is also interesting to note that it was the land grant in this charter from Charles I of England that brought Oklahoma the 2nd national flag in its history, the original "Great Union" of the British Isles.

The University of Florida Press has presented an attractive format with illustrations and maps. These with additional notes in the Appendixes add materially to the documentary evidence given by the author. The Land Called Chicora is a real contribution to the great drama of American history.

_Oklahoma Historical Society_  
 Oklahoma City  
—Muriel H. Wright