

Rebels attack too often to win, says author

A new history book co-written by a former Farmington resident may ignite a powder keg of controversy in the South.

The reason? The authors' premise that the Confederates lost the Civil War because they recklessly insisted on taking the offensive, using tactics that worked in the age of the musket but were doomed with the dawn of the rifle.

One of the co-authors of the book, "Attack and Die," is Perry D. Jamieson, 35, a former Farmington resident. Jamieson now is working at Offutt Air Force Base near Omaha, Neb., writing the history of the Strategic Air Command.

His collaborator on "Attack and Die" is Grady McWhiney, Jamieson's former history instructor at Wayne State University. McWhiney is now director of the Center for the Study of Southern History and Culture at the University of Alabama.

Their book, which is being released this week, has been selected by the History Book Club as the book-of-the-month selection for June.

The authors admit there are nearly as many explanations for the South's defeat as there are Civil War historians. Some popular theories accounting for the heavy Confederate loss are excessive provincialism, mistreatment of blacks, financial problems, inadequate

resources and better northern leadership.

Jamieson and McWhiney blame the loss on outdated military tactics and Southerners' Celtic heritage.

"WE CONTENTED," the authors write in the preface, "that the Confederates bled themselves nearly to death in the first three years of the war by making costly attacks more often than did the Federals. Offensive tactics, which had been used so successfully by Americans in the Mexican War, were much less effective in the 1860s because an improved weapon — the rifle — had vastly increased the strength of defenders.

The Confederates could have offset their numerical disadvantage by remaining on the defensive and forcing the Federals to attack; one man in a trench was equal to several outside it. But Southerners, imprisoned in a culture that rejected careful calculation and patience, often refused to learn from their mistakes.

"They continued to fight, despite mounting casualties, with the same courageous and reckless abandon that had characterized their Celtic ancestors for two thousand years. The Confederates favored offensive warfare because the Celtic charge was an integral part of their heritage.

Celts are defined as persons of Welsh, Irish, Gaelic or Scottish background. Many parallels already have been drawn tracing the origin of American bluegrass to the reels played by Irish magicians. The 1863 diary of a Confederate soldier, T. Otis Baker, quoted in the book, likens the conflict to "one between Puritan and Cavalier."

The diarist was close to the mark, Jamieson said, "and so was the English traveler who observed that 'the slaveholding states appeared to stand in about the same relation to the free as Ireland does to England; every thing appears slovenly, ill-arranged, incomplete (in the South), windows do not shut, doors do not fasten; there is a superabundance of hands to do everything and little is thoroughly done.'"

IN THE AUTHORS' VIEW: The Civil War was a clash between an agrarian Southern culture that favored the spoken word, a world of romance, and the orderly commercialism of the North, which eventually triumphed.

While more Union soldiers became listed as war casualties — 140,414 in battle and 224,097 died from disease, injury or imprisonment compared to 74,524 Confederate battle deaths and 52,237 who died off the battlefield —

the North had the numbers on its side.

"The Confederates were much slower than the Federals to learn how self-destructive attacks could be," the book states.

In four Union assaults where the Federal attackers suffered more than 10 percent higher losses than the Confederates, there were five attacks where the Confederates suffered comparable casualties.

Only 75,392 Union troops were engaged and in the North's four worst battles, and "a mere" 8,312 were killed or wounded, the book states, while in the Confederate attacks 361,173 men fought and 51,917 fell.

"PUT ANOTHER WAY, in the five battles in which the Confederates had their most disproportionate losses, they sustained nearly six times as many casualties as the Federals did in the four battles in which their losses were the most incommensurate (unequal)," writes Jamieson and McWhiney.

"We're saying they (the South) didn't win because aggressiveness was ingrained in their social history," Jamieson said Tuesday. "They'd seen this kind of fighting work in the Mexican War. For a musket war that kind of fighting was all right. Once the rifle came in it was much more dangerous to bring troops out into the open."

"Muzzle-loaded rifles were very accurate. Almost as accurate as modern guns would be at a comparable range of 1,000 yards."

If the book becomes popular with Civil War buffs, Jamieson predicts it'll create quite a stir in the South, even though he maintains its tone isn't "anti-South" and its publisher is the University of Alabama Press.

Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee, particularly, is a favorite figure in American history, Jamieson said. He calls the Confederate leader "a great field commander, a great leader of men, a man who could ride to the front and his men would be greatly enthused."

BUT TACTICS and careful planning win wars, Jamieson contends, not romantic valor.

The history book is dedicated to Jamieson's father, Harold McWhiney of Farmington, who died last August of cancer. He's sent advance copies to his mother, Adelaide, and aunt Dorothy Smith, both of Farmington, who are both extremely proud of his literary achievement.

While his family always provided encouragement, Jamieson added the names of two Farmington teachers who whetted his appetite for history.

Civil War losses in battle

battles with the greatest percentage difference in losses suffered between the Confederates (CS) and the Federals (US)

battle	forces	losses	casualties	% loss
battles favorable for the Confederates				
Port Hudson (6/14)	US 6,000 CS 3,487	1,604 47	1,557	25.4
Cedar Mountain	US 8,030 CS 16,868	1,759 1,338	421	14.0
Fort Wagner (7/18)	US 5,264 CS 1,785	1,126 169	957	11.9
Kennesaw Mountain	US 16,225 CS 17,733	1,999 270	1,729	10.8
totals:	US 35,519 CS 39,873	6,488 1,824	4,664	13.7
battles favorable for the Federals				
Atlanta (7/28)	US 13,226 CS 18,450	559 4,100	3,541	18.0
Franklin	US 27,939 CS 26,897	1,222 5,550	4,328	16.2
Tupelo	US 14,000 CS 6,600	636 1,326	690	15.6
Atlanta (7/22)	US 30,477 CS 36,394	1,989 7,000	5,011	12.5
Seven Days	US 91,169 CS 95,481	9,796 19,739	9,943	10.0
totals:	US 176,811 CS 184,362	14,202 37,715	23,513	12.5

Even though the North had more money, it wasn't the main reason the Confederate states lost the war.

Trustee resigns: seat is open

Richard J. Pappas has formally resigned from the Oakland Community College Board of Trustees. The action follows Pappas' appointment to the position of dean of Community Services at Jackson Community College and his impending move away from Oakland County.

Pappas' resignation means that an additional seat on the OCC Board of Trustees must be filled in the upcoming June 14 election.

Up to now, two six-year terms and one two-year term were scheduled for balloting. As a result of Pappas' departure, an additional four-year term will be decided by the voters of Oakland County.

Registered voters residing within the college district interested in running for either of the two six-year terms, the two-year term, or the newly available four-year term may obtain petitions from the OCC Office of Community Relations, George A. Bee Administrative Center, 2480 Opdyke Road, Bloomfield Hills.

Completed petitions containing not less than 50 nor more than 200 signatures of qualified voters residing within the Oakland Community College District must be filed with Sylvia Pascouau, administrative assistant to the president, on or before 4 p.m. Tuesday, April 27, at the above address.

For further information, call 647-6200, ext. 231.

INSIDE ANGLES

MOST FOLKS have to wait until they retire before they get recognized by the companies for which they have labored. But Bruce Habermehl, owner of Center Tire in Farmington, didn't have to wait that long. Honoring his 20 years of service with Firestone, 14 as a dealer, company officials presented him with a 20-year lapel pin and gave his wife a watch and certificate in a presentation at the Farmington store recently. Habermehl started his career at the old Ned's Firestone store on John R and Nevada in Detroit. He went on to become commercial sales manager in Pontiac, Detroit district manager and then a dealer. Congratulations, Bruce.

JUDY ANTISHIN, the Farmington Hills woman who is making a statewide name for herself as a gourmet cook, has been invited to make some of her famous "easy and elegant" appetizers for a party in her honor in May. The party is the planning session for U-M's 20th reunion of the class of 1962. She's already hired to cater the reunion's dinner party, all gourmet. Wonder if she told the reunion committee that she graduated from Michigan State University? Meanwhile, she's working toward "Judy's Gourmet Luncheon," which begins at 10 a.m. Wednesday in the Farmington Community Center.

KUDOS GO OUT to the hardworking thespians over at the Farmington Players Barn. Their production of Rogers and Hammerstein's perennially popular musical "South Pacific" is being presented to a sold-out audience for four weekends in May after the opening night performance on April 30. The production triumphantly tops off the Players 30th anniversary as a community theater organization. Other stagings this season were Jack Sharkey's "Kiss or Make Up" and Lucile Fletcher's "Night Watch."

MIKE LIPSON, a Farmington Hills optometrist, has been named to the advisory council of the Michigan Association of the Elderly Deaf and Hearing Impaired. Lipson has been examining hearing-impaired patients in his practice through the use of sign language for the last three years.

HANDY CAPABLE fun day will be April 28 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Alameda School, 32400 Alameda, for Headstart children and families. It is sponsored by Headstart and the Oakland Livingston Human Service Agency. For more information, call Ruth Levy at 858-5165.

ELIZABETH FITZPATRICK of Harrison High School is one of the annual archdiocesan scholarship winners, one of 21 from around the country. The scholarship, one of the highest awards granted an incoming freshman student and recognizes outstanding academic achievement, extracurricular participation and service. Each student is awarded a four-year, full tuition scholarship.

APRIL ARABIAN has received a Beulah and Harold McKee scholarship at Western Michigan University. The scholarship is awarded to a senior music major who demonstrates major evidence of accomplishments in his or her field of music concentration. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Haig Arabian of Farmington Hills.

FRENCH, ANYONE? Hosts are needed for the 125 French teen-agers who will visit Michigan July 5 through Aug. 2 under the auspices of the North Atlantic Cultural Exchange League. Evelyn and Julian Prince of West Bloomfield, state coordinators, are looking for families who would act as ambassadors at home, welcoming a French teenager into their family for the ten weeks he or she is here. Families interested in hosting a French student or chaperone may write the Princes at 3452 Buckingham Trail, West Bloomfield 48033 or phone 626-6641. Families don't have to speak French to be host a French student since the teen-agers have had four to eight years of English language study. French students supply their own pocket money and pay their transportation and insurance. The organization also offers reciprocal program to host families. Teen-agers will be given the opportunity to spend four weeks with a French family next summer. In fact, more than 50 students from Michigan will be visiting France this July. Although this program is only in its third year in Michigan, it has been bringing students to America for 15 years, and this summer it will bring almost 5,000 French teen-agers to live with families in more than 40 states.

TIRED OF DEADBEATS skipping out when it comes time to pay for a service you rendered? The Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring a workshop that could help you solve that problem. Started for 8 p.m. May 6 at Botsford Inn, the seminar will cost you \$10. Featured speakers will be Steven Harms, a commercial collection attorney, and Gary Hutchinson, a collection manager for the National Association of Credit Management. For further information, call Ron Rice, chamber executive, at 474-3440.

3 chosen for class in trail development

Barbara Komp, Julie Robbins and Jackie Ciancio have been chosen to receive free enrollment in the new class that will begin development of a nature trail on the grounds of Farmington Community Center.

The class will be led by Hartley Thornton, a naturalist and environmentalist, through the spring. Betty Payne, executive director of the center, offered three free enrollments to persons who set down on paper their reasons for wanting to be involved in the new project.

Robbins is leader of Cadette Scout Troop 650.

WE'RE SETTING THE MOOD FOR NOSTALGIA

For conjuring up the lazy, friendly days you found down on the farm... or hoped you'd find. The trick's to surround yourself with reminders of a time when things were made to last. To be lived with comfortably. To be a part of a family tradition...yours! And the place to start is at Hudson's.

Now through May 8, celebrate Country Fare with demonstrations on cooking and on old-fashioned crafts. Like candle-making, creating pine cone birds and fixing fishing flies. Pick up your schedule of events at the Hudson's store nearest you.

HUDSON'S