BOOKS

Civil War historian discusses pivotal Wilderness campaign

BY HUGH GALLAGHER

STAT WAINSI

A hundred and thirty-three years age this month Gen. Robert E. Lee surrendered to Gen. Ulysses S. Grant at Appenantox Courthouse, Va., ending four years of bloody hattle unprecedented in the history of warfare to that time.

The fascination with every aspect of that conflict continues to this day. People north and south of the Mason-Dixon Line seem to have an insatiable appotite for every detail, every nuance of what happened and how.

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The Abraham Lincoln Civil War Round Table will welcome historian Gordon Rhea 8 p.m. Thursday, April 23, at the Botaford Inn in Farmington. The meeting is free and open to the width.

Rhen will discuss his two Rhea will discuss his two recent military histories, "The Battle of the Wilderness, May 5-6, 1864" and "The Battle for Spotsylvanna Court House and the Road to Yellow Tavern, May 7-12, 1864," both published by Louisiana State University Press.
Rhea, an attorney in South Carolina, has a master's in history from Harvard but began his interest in the war while growing up.

ry from Harvard but began his interest in the war while growing up.

"My father was born in 1901 and grew up in Middle Tonnessee with a lot of Givil Warveterans around, and I heard the stories he heard from them," Rhea said in a tolephone interview from the Caribbean where he was vacationing.

Rhea pursued his interest in the war while serving as an assistant U.S. Attorney in Washington, D.C. He would spend his free time walking the many battle fields of nearby Virginia, Maryland and Pennsylvania.

"I wanted to da a book about the first confrontation between Grant and Lee that had never been done before," he said.

Using primary sources from various archives, including letters, diaries and contemporary newspaper articles, Rhea has fashiened a minutely detailed account of both sides of the crucial battles of 1884 that began the war's endyame.

"I think it was the turning

the war's endgame.
"I think it was the turning

oint," Rhoa said. "As things stood in May of '64, the war in the east, Virginia, which was the most important theater in my mind, was pretty much the same as it had been at the start of the



war. Lee was as strong as over. The casualties he was able to inflict on the Union was worse than he had inflicted on Hooker the year before. If Hooker or Meade had continued in command, the Union might have lost the war."

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the war."

Instead, Grant was moved
from the war's western theater
along the Mississippi to become
leader of the Army of the
Petomac, Rhea's book is a study
of management styles of Grant,
Lee and their subordinates.
Rhea said historians tend to
emphasize the differences
between Grant and Lee, but he
said they were similar in their
aggressive styles.
"Grant and Leo were cut from
the same mold," he said. "Their
personal ities were different,
their personal styles were different.
But they fought war the
same way. That's what makes it
interesting. Lee had nover run
into anyone like that before."
The generals also had to deal
with staff officers who didn't
respond to what they wanted.

"Lee's management style was
to get his Army where it had to
be and defor to his subordinates," Rhea said.

In 1863, Stonewall Jackson
was tilled at the beginning of

nates, Rheasaid.
In 1863, Stonewall Jackson was killed. At the beginning of the Wilderness campaign, Lee lost the services of James Longstreet and A.P. Hill. He had to adjust his style and take

active charge.
"Grant found himself heading "Grant found himself reading an Army with generalish he'd never commanded before," Rhea said. "In the west, he was used to cutting loose, improvising, going his own way. ... The story of Grant is of a very aggressive general trying to find out how to get conservative generals to do



his bidding."

his bidding."
Grant became easily frustrated with Maade, whom he had replaced as commander, and other generals who tended to hold back and wait. He had to exert his will on them to get

exert his will on them to get them to act.

"The greatness of Grant was that he wouldn't give up, he wouldn't retreat," Rhea said.
"The talk among the Confederate leaders was that they were beat-ing Grant and he just didn't understand it."

Rhea will discuss the inities

engagements between Grant and Lee, centering around an "unsung hero" of the battle at

Leo, centering around ar unusum prore" of the battle at Bloody Angle.

"I find it's more exciting if you can see something through the eyes of someone who was there." Rhea said.

The lawyer-historian said he is not a partisan in his descriptions of the war. His books move back and forth between Union and Confederate armies and between the generals and that though he was born in Virginia and now lives in South Carolian, he was educated in the north (Indiana, Harvard and Stanford).

"You tried to put togother a presentation that is fair to both sides. I's the story of Americans fighting Americans. So many have ancestors that fought in the war," he said.

The Abraham Lincoln Round Table was started 45 years ago and to the effect of the count of the conduct of the country and he was started 45 years ago and to the other country are said.

The Abraham Lincoln Round Table was started 45 years ago and is the oldest civil war group in the state and the third oldest in the country. The group has 130 members from throughout metro Detroit.

Rhea's books will be available for purchase at the lecture.

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poetry workshop 3 p.m. Saturday,
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Ernest J. Gaines (euthor of Stressons Before Dying." The Autoblography of Miss Jane Pittman." and "A Gothering of Old Men") resids from his works 8 pm. Friday, April 21, Alumnee Hall in the Madame Cadillac Building on campus, 8425 W. McNichols Road, Detroit. The event is free and open to the pubFRIE KUD'S STREES HULDRIN 12 AND UNDER ARE FRIE Adults are 51:00 Househant (PC) MOUSEHUNT (PG) 1245, PSI AND 4:00 PM ONLY

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SPICES B (8) MY
12:15, 2:40, 4:50, 7:10, 10:00
PMARE (PG) MY
12:15, 2:50, 5:15, 7:20, 9:40
14:77, M 2017, PARTIE (PC) NY 1230, 250, 515 720, 940 1245, 150, 650, 945 1245, 150, 650, 945 1240, 250, 500, 730 WILD THERES (II) 950 PM ONLY

> 955 NP PRIMARY COLORS (II) 6000 MUT HINLING (II)

DEECT OF MAY AFFICTION (E) NY 1210, 245, 515,745, 1010 MAJOR LLAGUE BI (PG 13) 1220, 215, 440, 710, 930 FAULE (PG) MY 1215, 240, 459, 700, 910 CITY OF AMERIC (PG 13) MY 1240, 235, 565, 730, 1000 SPECIAS BI (T) MY 1240, 340, 3710, 740, 1003 1045 BI SPACE (PG 13) MY 1245, 340, 715, 950 Terrace Cinema 30400 Physicuth Rd 313-261-3330

LOST BUSINES (PCE)) NV 12-63, 3-50, 715, 9-50 and Cluster (PC) NV 11-50, 2-10, 4-40, 7-50, PRIMARY COURS (II) NV 9-00 TITLANC (PCE) 12-00, 4-50, 8-50 MERCURY RESINC (II) NV 7-20, 7-45 BALBERT'S GELAT ADVENTURE (C) All Shows \$1 Except shows after 6 p.m. on Friday is Saturday is 75¢ all shows Tuesday.

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OBSECT OF MY AFFECTION OF DRA 1200, 224 ACT 11, 213 INCL. THESE 215, 443, 643, 451, 451 INCL. THESE 215, 443, 643, 443, 443 INCL. THESE 215, 443, 743, 743 INCL. THESE 215, 443, 743 INCL. THESE 215, 745, 745 INCL. THESE 215, 745 INCL. THESE 215 INCL. THESE NP CHECT OF MY AFFECTION

NO MERCIET RESIGN (D)
SEN 1100 2-15, 455, 713, 915
MON-THUR 2-15, 500, 713, 9-25
SEN 11-00 (2-15, 10-2)
SEN 11-00 (1-15, 10-2)
SEN 11-00 COOD WILL HURTING (ID.
SUN 11:30 200, 430, 700, 935,
MON-THUIS. 200, 430, 700, 935
GREATS (PC)
SUN 230
MON-THUIS. 240

EXPPONDOR'S TRIBLE (PC13)
7.20, 9.20
LA COMPOSITALIA (II)
4.00 SPICE WORLD (PC)
5.00, 7.10
HARD BLIN (II)
9.30
5.10

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ARECUM RISHO (d)

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140 (420 9332) 730, 745

140 (537 H SPACE (PG13)

1200, 230, (5 00 9332) 730, 1000

CAEASE (PG)

100

HP WILD THING (B)

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12:15 (400 @ 53:25)800
AS GOOD AS IT CETS (PG13)
(415 @ 53:25)650

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473 REAL BLOND (B) (1:43) P.3C NO 1:43 SUN 4/19 THE APOSTLE (PC13) (400) E.3C; NO 400 SUN 4/19

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BOOK HAPPENINGS

Book Happenings features various happenings at suburban bookstores. Send news leads to Hugh Gallagher, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers Inc., 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150, or fax them to (313)591-729, or email him at hgallagher@oe.homecomm.net

BORDERS (BIRMINGHAM, SOUTH

Micholle Hunt signs "DreamMak-ers," 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 21; Thomas Sullivan signs "The Martyring," 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 22; Detroit Waldorf School puppe 22; Detroit Waldorf School pupper, show, 11 a.m. Saturday, April 25; Dan Butler signs "Unsinkable: The Full Story of the RMS Titanle," 1 p.m. Saturday, April 25 at the store 31150 Southfield Road, Birmingham (248)644-1515.

SOUTHFIELD LIBRARY

WARD)

SOUTHFIELD LIBRARY
Raynetta Manees, author of "All
for Love" and "Wishing on a
Stor," 2 p.m. Sunday, April 26, at
the library 26000 Evergreen
Road, Southfield, (248)948-0460,
IORDERS (BIRMINGHAM, WOOD-

WARD) Claudia Osborn discusses and signs "Over My Head," 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 21; Paul Pearsell signs "The Heart's Code," 2 p.m. Saturday, April 25 at the store. 34300 Woodward Ave., Birmingham (248)203-0005

BARNES & HOOLE (NORTHYKLE) Coliven Doct clecuses (8a, 7,30 p.m. Thursday, April 23; Jeffery Michael, composer said recording artist, 7 p.m. Pridey, April 24 at the store 17111 Heggerty Road et Str. Mile. Northrills. LARRESS & MORIE (BLOOMFREED

OLLS) Deniel Butler signs "Unolnkoble:

The Full Story of the RMS Titen-ic," 8 p.m. Friday, April 24; Cine-ma-lit club discusses Dumas' "Men in the Iron Mask," 7:30 "Man in the Iron Mask," 7:30 p.m. Friday, April 24; Evs Shaw discusses "For the Love of Chil-dren," 7:30 p.m. Saturday, April 25 at the store 6575 Telegraph Road, Bioomfield Hills (248)540-4209.

BARNES & NOBLE (WEST BLOOM Ribunda Gowler Greene reads from her children's books "Barryard Song" and "When a Line Bends... A Shape Begins" with puppet show, 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 21 at the store 6800 Orchard Lake Road, West Bloom-field (249)

BORDERS (FARMINGTON HILLS) Robin Carnes and Sally Craig dis-cuss and sign "Secred Circles: A cuss and sign "Socred Circles: A Guide to Creating Your Own Women's Spiritually Group."
7:30 p.m. Sundey, April 19; Nancy Washburne signs "Sporkeling Guide to Michigan Inland Lakes," 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 21 at the store 30995 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills (248)737-0110.

(248)737-0110.

PAPER BACKS N THINGS Romance writers Sharon Pisacrete and Anne Eames eign their books 5 p.m. Friday, April 24, at the store 8044 Wayne Road, Wostland (734)522-6019.

READ IT AGAIN BOOKS Emiss and Pisacrets sign their books 11 s.m. Friday, April 24, at the store 39733 Grand River, Novi (\$10)474-5086.

Novi (B10)4/4-000.

OstoErs (DEARMORN)

Wardell Montgomery algna "Politics-Religion-Sex." A p.m. Sundey,
April 19; Michaelle Hunt algns
"Oraen/Makkra." 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 22; Barbara Noely algna

*Blanche Cleans Up, * 7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 23 at the store 5601 Mercury Drive, Dearborn, (313)271-4441. BALDWIN PUBLIC LIBRARY (BIRM-

INGHAM) NOAHAM)
Annual Friends of the Beldwin
Public Library Meeting and Literary Even, open to the public. Cettures British poet Robin Robertson and Milliord poet/cessylst Thomas Lynch, 2 p.m. Sunday, April 19, at the library, 300 W. Merrill, Birmingham (248)647-1700.

HALFWAY DOWN THE STAIRS A literary feast featuring three Newberry Authors, Karen Cush-man, Suzanne Fisher Steples and Gall Carson Levine 12:30 p.m Tickets needed. At the store, 114 E. Fourth St., Rochaster,

(248)652-6066. MURDER, MYSTERY & MAYHEM MURDER, MYSTERY & MAYHEM The Mystery Mavens discuss Margaret Atwood's "Allas Graco," 7 p.m. Thursday, April 23 at the store 35187 Grand River, Farmington, (248)471-7210.

7407. MARYGROVE COLLEGE