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Review: Gray Cavalier: The Life and Wars of Gkeneral W.H.F. “Rooney” Lee

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Gould also maintained close ties to the New York African American abolitionist newspaper, *The Anglo-African*, and Gould IV's discussion of Gould's ties to that publication, even while at sea, provides more insights into African American awareness of and involvement with the abolitionist movement.

The work has two purposes—to highlight the experiences of a remarkable man and to shed light on how he shaped future generations of his family—and some readers may wish to see additional material on either or both goals. From Gould IV's introductory chapters and epilogue, a historian of the Reconstruction era might want to read more about the subsequent generations of Goulds who retained their dedication to public service despite Jim Crow laws and racist governmental policies. Historians of the antebellum period might wish to explore how Gould's experiences relate to current understandings of slave family life and the differing experiences and opportunities open to urban, skilled, and literate slaves.

Ultimately, however, this work will open new inquiries into African American familial, social, and political life before, during, and after the Civil War.

Sea Education Association MATTHEW MCKENZIE

Gray Cavalier: The Life and Wars of General W. H. F. "Rooney" Lee. By Mary Bandy Daughtry. (Cambridge, Mass.: Da Capo Press, 2002. Pp. viii, 376. $27.50, ISBN 0-306-81173-1.)

Gray Cavalier is a biography of one of the most capable Confederate cavalry leaders. William Henry Fitzhugh "Rooney" Lee was the second son of General Robert E. Lee and the grandson of George Washington Parke Custis of Arlington, Virginia. Never able to secure an appointment as a cadet at West Point, which was his heart's desire, Rooney attended Harvard for three years before receiving a commission in the Sixth Infantry from General Winfield Scott.

After deciding to go with his father and join with their native state at the beginning of the Civil War, Rooney was appointed a captain in the Confederate cavalry and moved up in rank, ultimately becoming a major general at the age of twenty-six. He was the youngest Confederate to hold this rank. He served as a division commander under General J. E. B. Stuart throughout the war and was present at most of the major battles in the East, from the Peninsula campaign to Appomattox.

Though he was a capable cavalry leader and received much praise for his dedication to the cause, Rooney also encountered personal tragedy. During the war he experienced the death of his wife and two infant children, was wounded at Brandy Station, spent nine months in a Federal prison after being captured in 1863, and saw the loss of his sister Annie Lee, as well as the destruction of his home, White House, which was burned by Union forces as they evacuated. But through all of this Rooney remained a steadfast person who suffered as a warrior bolstered by his religious faith.

This biography tells us just as much about the Lee family and the relationship between father and son as it does about the military exploits of Rooney Lee. Through letters between Robert E. Lee and his wife and son, we

see a devoted father who had great concern for the well-being of his family. Much about their religious belief comes out in these letters. For example, Robert E. Lee wrote to his son on the eve of the Battle of Wilderness, "My whole trust is in God, and I am ready for whatever He may ordain" (p. 167).

Author Mary Bandy Daughtry has been involved in teaching for over thirty years in North Carolina. She has done admirable work in her research into the Lee family papers, some of which were previously unavailable; her sources include family letters, diaries, and manuscripts. Daughtry occasionally fails to identify the specific archive in which the manuscript papers are located.

In addition, we have here another "bloodless" war. While we learn much about the movement of the Ninth Virginia Cavalry, Daughtry needs to place the unit in a broader context in relationship to the ongoing conflict. An occasional map would also have been helpful to follow the troop movements. Overall, however, *Gray Cavalier* is a biography that fills a void in Civil War history.

Liberty University CLINE E. HALL

"No Disgrace to My Country": The Life of John C. Tidball. By Eugene C. Tidball. (Kent, Ohio, and London: Kent State University Press, c. 2002. Pp. xviii, 564. $49.00, ISBN 0-87338-722-8.)

John C. Tidball led an eventful life. He graduated from West Point in 1848 and began a career as an artillerist that lasted more than four decades. His voluminous writings and memoirs are replete with candid observations and characterizations of the key military figures of the Civil War era. He notes, for example, that while a cadet Stonewall Jackson's "voice was thin and feminine—almost squeaky" and that he exhibited "nothing of that military élan about him . . ." (p. 30).

The antebellum regular army was a close-knit fraternity, and Tidball served with George H. Thomas, John Reynolds, Robert Anderson, and Abner Doubleday. While both were stationed at Newport, Rhode Island, Ambrose Burnside "managed to squeeze himself into [Tidball's] best suit" for one of Burnside's romantic endeavors (p. 72). Tidball subsequently participated in the transcontinental railroad surveys directed by Secretary of War Jefferson Davis. Although Tidball's battery arrived too late to aid Robert E. Lee in capturing John Brown at Harpers Ferry, Tidball was "deeply impressed" with Colonel Lee, who represented the "beaux ideal of the genuine soldier" (p. 162). In contrast, "Prince John" Magruder was imbued with "grandiose pretensions . . ." (p. 166).

At the start of the Civil War, Tidball participated in the Fort Pickens relief expedition. He soon returned north to command Battery A, 2nd Artillery, which formed part of the rear guard at the first battle of Bull Run. He reorganized that unit into the first "*horse* battery—differing from a mounted battery in having the cannoniers *[sic]* mounted on horseback . . ." (p. 218). During the Peninsula campaign he became devoted to General McClellan and, like McClellan, demonstrated a penchant for overestimating the Confederates, who he declared "were more than double our number . . ." (p. 233). Thirty years later, Tidball realized that McClellan's timidity after Malvern Hill was