

Perspectives in Military History lecture--McClellan, Lee and the War in the East, July 18

McClellan vs. Lee: A Civil War expert gives a fresh perspective

Come experience one of the most storied rivalries between titans of the American Civil War.

On July 18, the U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center (USAHEC) will feature a fresh and exciting look at the violent relationship between Gen. George McClellan and Gen. Robert E. Lee. Dr. Ethan Rafuse, an elite U.S. Army historian specializing in Civil War scholarship, will present a lecture entitled, "*We Always Understood Each Other so Well: McClellan, Lee, and the War in the East.*"

The Civil War in Northern Virginia in 1862 was the stage for a grand confrontation between the two very different generals' distinctly different armies. At the beginning, Robert E. Lee languished in relative obscurity, while George McClellan commanded the Union war effort like a colossus. By June, McClellan had led his Army of the Potomac to the proverbial gates of Richmond and ultimate victory for the Union seemed within sight. Lee, new commander of the Army of Northern Virginia turned the tables and struck back, confounding McClellan and his staff. By the middle of September, Lee carried the war to the outskirts of Washington and then across the Potomac River into Maryland before McClellan managed to turn back the Confederate tide at the bloodiest battle of the war, Antietam.

Dr. Rafuse will look at both of these commanders and explore the differences between their approaches to the war to explain how their bout colored the rest of 1862 and cast a long shadow over the entire war. Ethan S. Rafuse earned his Ph.D. in history and political science at the University of Missouri-Kansas City and served as a National Park Ranger at the Manassas National Battlefield and Harry S. Truman National Historic Site.

As one of America's foremost Civil War historians, he taught military history at the United States Military Academy at West Point and since 2004 has been a member of the faculty at the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, where he is a professor of military history. Dr. Rafuse has written and edited several books, including *McClellan's War: The Failure of Moderation in the Struggle for the Union*, *Robert E. Lee and the Fall of the Confederacy, 1863-1865*, and the forthcoming *Army War College Guide to the Richmond and Petersburg Campaign of 1864-65*.

The lecture will be presented, free of charge, on July 18 at the U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center in Carlisle, Pa. The doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the lecture, along with questions, answers, and book signing, will last until about 9 p.m.

The Army Heritage Center Foundation Museum Store will be open and will feature their popular used book sale as well as signed copies of Dr. Rafuse's book. Parking is free, and the Café Cumberland will open to serve coffee and snacks. For more information, call 717-245-3972 or visit www.usahec.org.