

Nicknames of American Civil War Generals

Ernest L. Abel
Wayne State University

This study examines the nicknames of American Civil War Generals. Beyond categorizing these names in terms of "external" physical or behavioral characteristics, and "internal" word play, this analysis offers a context and a semantic paradigm for understanding their referential and expressive aspects, and the prevailing cultural values associated with them. Few Generals were given nicknames. Those that did had to have had some characteristic or had to have done something that made them distinctive. A distinction is made between those nicknames that were given by men who had a personal relationship with the nickname and those who did not. Examples are given of the way these nicknames affected attitudes toward and the behavior of nicknames.

During the American Civil War (1861-1865) when men who prided themselves on their independence chafed at the humiliations and inequities associated with rank (Abel, 2000), the nicknames they gave their commanding generals provided a psychological safety valve for expressing their powerlessness, resentment, and even outright hostility against their oppressors, similar to the songs they sang about them (Abel, 2000). By the same token, even when they were subjected to hardship and rigid discipline, some of these nicknames reflect feelings of affection toward those generals whom they regarded as fair-minded and concerned about their welfare.

Names 52:4 (December 2004):243-285

ISSN:0027-7738

Copyright 2004 by The American Name Society

Although nicknames are commonplace in biographies of military leaders, especially American Civil War generals (e.g., Warner, 1959, 1964), these nicknames have attracted very little attention from historians or onomasticians. This study deals with the nicknames of American Civil War Generals and goes beyond the basic categorizing of data to assess their evaluation from the standpoint of the speaker/writer, using the meta-language model developed by Anna Wierzbicka (1992).

The semantic structure of this module distinguishes between two components of a nickname. One is referential: it provides information about some unusual characteristic or action of General X; the second is expressive: it reflects the emotions the speaker/writer has about General X and indicates the degree of familiarity and the boundary between them (subordinate or equal) (Gladkova, 2002). In this meta-language, when a nickname is used instead of a General's real name, the overall paradigm or explication is as follows: a) When I speak/write about General X, I am speaking/writing about someone with whom I am familiar, b) who is like (or not like) me, c) who did something good (or bad), d) that other people have not done, e) and because of this I feel something good (or bad) toward him¹, f) which is reflected in this nickname. While all of these attributes may not apply, most do.

Methodology

This study is focused on the nicknames of Generals who served in the Union (USA, USN) or Confederate (CSA, CSN) armed or naval services during the American Civil War (1861-1865)². The data were collected from a wide variety of sources, among them Eicher and Eicher (2001), Warner (1959, 1964), Shankle (1955) Allardice (1995) and the Internet.

Following Zaitzow et al. (1997: 84), a nickname is defined as a General's alternative name which others know is not his given name, but is used for purposes of identification.³

In most cases, Generals acquired their nicknames during or prior to the war. In some instances, they acquired nicknames after the war that referred to their exploits during the war, such as Union cavalry Major General Alfred Pleasonton's nickname, "Knight of Romance." In still other instances, Generals acquired nicknames after the war that referred to their post-war activities including many who later became President of the United States, e.g., Union Lieutenant General Ulysses S. Grant; those latter nicknames are not included in the present study since they have no relationship to the Civil War. In some cases, however, the time when a nickname was acquired is unknown. For instance, I was unable to determine when Union Brigadier General Charles Henry Grosvenor was tagged with his nickname, "Old Figgers." Grosvenor was an Ohio politician before and after the war and became known as "Old Figgers" after he whimsically reflected that "Figures won't lie, but liars will figure" (Anon, 2004).

The categorizing or arrangement of nicknames within categories has been somewhat arbitrary, especially since many nicknames could be included in several categories. For example, one of Confederate Lieutenant General James Ewell Brown (Jeb) Stuart's nicknames was "Beauty." Stuart was given this name when he was a cadet at West Point, not because he was handsome, but because he was anything but, including his noticeably unmanly receding chin which he later covered with a flamboyant beard. His nickname "Beauty" could have been put into the category of Student/West Point names, or as was done, in the category of Physical Characteristics/General Appearance, because a preference was made for placing names in categories that provide a descriptive context. Incidentally, this nickname was only used by other Generals and not by men in the ranks; although originating in irony, it was an affectionate nickname and his usual greeting when Stuart met his former classmates during the war (Pollard, 1867: 423).

While every nickname has its own genesis, Morgan et al.'s (1979) distinction between two main categories, stemming from what they refer to as "externally" and "internally" motivated factors has been followed. Externally motivated nicknames arise from a person's background, appearance, character or actions, whereas internally motivated names stem from variations or word play of a given name.

Although he does not use Morgan et al.'s (1979) terminology, Allen (1983) makes an important distinction within the category of externally motivated names that addresses the origins of the names. Those created by "Distant Others" do not have close contact with the nickname and typically originate in the media, which during the Civil War, was the newspaper. These "synthetic" or "store-bought" nicknames (Ducker, 1973:54) are titles or epithets like "Hero of ..." and were far more likely to occur in writing than in speech; rarely were they ever preceded by affectionate adjectives such as "Old" (see below). "Significant Other" nicknames, by contrast, are used by people in close contact with the nickname. These spontaneous "home-made" nicknames (Ducker, 1973:54) are much more interesting because they originated from situations in which men in the ranks or Generals themselves knew the nickname well, and used that nickname to express affection, exasperation, solidarity, ridicule, etc. "Internally motivated" nicknames only originate from "Significant Others." In most cases, Generals and the men they commanded, rarely referred to a General by a "synthetic" nickname even though it may have become widely used. The best example is Confederate Lieutenant General Thomas Johnathan Jackson, known to most people by his nickname "Stonewall." His own men, however, never used that nickname; instead they referred to him as "Old Jack" (Robertson, 1997). Likewise, one would be hard pressed to find anyone serving in Confederate Lieutenant Nathan Bedford Forrest's "critter companies," as he called his cavalry, who spoke of him as "wizard of the saddle" during the war.

Results

The nicknames of American Civil War Generals are listed in the Appendix and were placed into two main categories of "External" and "Internal" motivation described above. These were subdivided into secondary categories which in turn were subdivided into lesser categories. The numerical notation in the text corresponds to the notation used in the Table. Since a discussion of all the nicknames listed in the Table would be book length, only examples from each category are mentioned.

The total number of distinct nicknames was 317; in many cases, different Generals shared the same nickname, e.g., "Bull," "Little Napoleon;" several Generals had several nicknames, e.g., Confederate Lieutenant General Thomas Johnathan Jackson was tagged with "Blue Light," "The General," "Old Hickory," "Tom Fool," "Old Jack," and, of course, "Stonewall." Of the 317 names in Table 1, all but 12 were categorized in terms of origin.

1. **BIOGRAPHIC.** This category of nicknames was divided into four subcategories. The number of names in this category would have been higher had names that were placed in descriptive categories, but originated when Generals were student cadets at West Point or another military academy (see below), been placed here. The reason for placing them elsewhere is because they also have a referential aspect that reflects that General's appearance or character, and are therefore more revealing than is the fact that the name originated during school years. Among these, to mention only a few examples, are Confederate Lieutenant "Jeb" Stuart's nickname, "Beauty," and Confederate Lieutenant General Richard Stoddert Ewell's nickname, "Baldy." Omitting these and other names from the "Biographic" category leaves the impression that this category constitutes a very small percentage of the total names, which is not correct and represents an artifact associated with categorizing names.

Similarly, a number of the names placed in the category of "Unknown Origin" may also have originated during a General's student years. The alternative would have been to duplicate and in many cases triplicate the number of entries in various categories which would have increased the size of the Appendix considerably. In the interest of space, this has not been done.

a. **Student/West Point Nicknames.** Nicknames given in early childhood are usually terms of endearment; those given during student school years may also be endearing, but are often ridiculing (Morgan et al., 1979) and are usually "internally motivated." These nicknames are also often idiosyncratic but, in some instances, became so closely attached to a General, they were retained for the rest of his life. Internally motivated childhood and school nicknames are surveyed later on under the category of "Word Play."

Nicknames that originated when Generals were students that had not been placed in other categories include Confederate naval Lieutenant Charles William Read's "Savez." The French nickname came from his inability to learn any French words other than "savez" when he was a midshipman (Campbell, 1995: 5). Confederate Brigadier General Lewis Addison Armistead, who was thrown out of West Point for breaking a dinner plate over Confederate Lieutenant General Jubal Anderson Early's head when they were both cadets at West Point (Warner, 1959: 11), was known as "Lo" and "Lothario" at the academy, a nickname that originated in irony. Whereas the nickname implies a Don Juan-like quality with women, Armistead was instead very shy in their presence. The legendary Confederate "Stonewall" Jackson, had several nicknames when he was a cadet at West Point, including "Old Jack" and "Tom Fool" (Robertson, 1997). The "fool" was an allusion to his many eccentricities.

When Generals are referred to by their student nicknames, they are usually being spoken/written of by other high ranking officers. The emphasis in these nicknames is on

their expressive component. The inference is that the speaker/writer knew General X well and felt affection toward him and was likely a close friend and/or classmate (Wierzbicka, 2000: 230-231).

1b. **Ethnicity.** The most common nickname in this category was “Dutch” or “Dutchie/Dutchy,” referring not to Holland, but to Germany. “Dutch” was a shortened form of “Deutsch,” the German word for “German” which became a generic name for American Germans in the 19th century. By the time of the Civil War, there was a sizable German immigrant population in America, the majority of which was located in the North. About 200,000 German-born men fought for the Union (Editors, 1972). The 9th Wisconsin Regiment was entirely made up of immigrants from Germany or their children. German-born soldiers led by German-born Union Major General Franz Sigel, proudly boasted “I fights mit Sigel” (Warner, 1964: 448).

1c. **Placenames.** Place nicknames for Generals were not common in the Civil War. The only Generals nicknamed specifically after their home state were Confederate Brigadier General George Hume “Maryland” Steuart and Confederate Major General Robert Frederick “North Carolina Lee” Hoke. The only reason why Steuart was given his nickname was to distinguish him from Confederate Major General Jeb Stuart; although the names were spelled differently, they sounded the same. Other references to home states in nicknames were less direct. Confederate Lieutenant General Edmund Kirby Smith’s nickname “Seminole” (given to him when he was a West Point Cadet) referred to his Florida birthplace. Union Lieutenant General Ulysses S. Grant’s childhood nickname, “Buck,” alluded to his Ohio birthplace, the “Buckeye” state.

Ethnic and place nicknames are primarily referential and have the following semantic explication: When people spoke/wrote about General X, they recognized that he was not like them because he came from somewhere else than they

did, but despite that difference, they felt they knew this person and felt good toward him.

1d. **Past Profession.** Nicknames referring to a General's profession are typically extensions or metaphors derived from those activities and are primarily referential. Except for Union Major General Nathaniel Prentiss Banks's "Bobbin Boy" and Union Brigadier General John Aaron Rawlins's "Charcoal Boy," none of these nicknames is associated with manual labor. In some cases, nicknames in this category refer to involvement in an academic profession. Union Major General Henry Wager Halleck's nickname, "Old Brains," is perhaps the best known in this category. The nickname stemmed from Halleck's having written several books before the war on military service. The lesser known nicknames, "Star Mitchel" and "Old Stars," referred to erstwhile astronomy professor Union Major General Ormsby Macknight Mitchel. "Parlez," Confederate Brigadier General Raleigh Edward Colston's nickname, stemmed from his having taught French at the Virginia Military Institute.

The other well known nicknames relating to pre-war professions were Confederate Lieutenant General Leonidas Polk's sobriquets of "Fighting Bishop" and "Bishop Militant" which referred to his serving as an ordained Episcopalian Bishop before the war; Union Major General John Charles Fremont's sobriquet, "Pathfinder," which alluded to his pioneering explorations of the American west; and Confederate Brigadier General William Montague Browne's (CSA) nickname, "Constitution," which stemmed from his position as editor of the *Constitution*, a Washington newspaper, during the 1850s. Confederate Major General William Smith was tagged with the sobriquet, "Extra Billy," long before the war when he had a government contract to deliver mail. Since he was paid by the mile, Smith followed the longest route possible so he could charge more money for the "extra" miles.

When a General was referred to by an occupational nickname, it implied a positive feeling toward him in keeping with the esteem accorded to people who achieve success by virtue of hard work and accomplishment. In using this nickname, the speaker/writer implied a positive feeling toward General X of a kind that people show toward those they don't know very well, but who are known for their unusual accomplishments (Wierzbicka, 2002: 305-312).

2. **PHYSICAL APPEARANCE.** In any list of nicknames, a large percentage of them usually allude to physical features (Lewis, 1970; Morgan et al., 1979; Wilson and Skipper, 1985); this is likewise true for Civil War Generals. Nicknames in this category were further subdivided into subcategories referring to a particular physical feature such as the face (hair, eyes), legs/arms, height, clothing, and age.

2a. **Hair.** Hair color and abundance, or lack thereof, is a common source of nicknaming (Butkas, 1993; Lewis, 1970). Confederate Lieutenant General Richard Stoddert Ewell and Union Major General William Farrar Smith were both given their "Baldy" nicknames when they were cadets at West Point. Whereas Ewell's was appropriate, Smith's wasn't. The explanation was that when Smith was a cadet his hairline began to recede, but he managed to keep much of his hair as he aged. A photograph of Smith during the war (Warner, 1964: 463) shows his pate was amply covered. Interestingly, only Ewell had the preceding emotionally expressive, "Old," attached to his nickname (see below).

2b. **Eyes.** Seven Generals had nicknames that referred to their eyes; most of these had to do with peculiarities. Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson's other nickname of "Old Blue Light" referred to the luminosity of his eyes and their intense blue color.

2c. **Arms and Legs.** Seven Generals had nicknames referring to their legs or arms. Confederate Brigadier General Nathan George "Shanks" Evans and Major General Gustavus Woodson "Legs" Smith had very thin legs, while Confederate

Major General Edward "Old Clubby" Johnson and Brigadier General Roger Weightman "Bench Leg" Hanson, limped because of leg injuries and used thick wooden poles when they walked and occasionally as clubs in battle. Generals who had lost an arm were called "One Wing" (Confederate Brigadier General James Green Martin) or "One armed" (Union Major General Phillip Kearney).

2d. **Height.** Many generals had the nickname "Little" attached to one of their other names. Calling an adult "Little" usually has a negative connotation since it signifies childish behavior, especially when combined with the diminutive form of a person's name (Wierzbicka, 1992). However, army officers constitute a special category. In this instance, the primary connotation of the nickname referred to height, but the nickname also had an ironic secondary meaning of aggressiveness. Calling a General "Little" implied fighting ability opposite to the connotation implied by size, a connotation made clearer in that General's other nicknames. For example, 5'3" Union Major General "Little Phil" Sheridan was also called "Fighting Phil." The 5'5," 120 lb. Confederate Lieutenant General Joseph Wheeler was nicknamed "Point" when he was a cadet at West Point because he was neither tall or wide. The men who served under Wheeler had two nicknames for him: one was "Little Joe;" the other was "Fighting Joe." The tallest general on either side was 6'7" Union Brigadier General Solomon Meredith, appropriately called "Long Sol," as well as the ubiquitous and affectionate "Old" Sol.

2e. **Age.** Several Generals were relatively young when they received their appointments and were nicknamed "Boy General." The youngest "boy general," who incidentally wasn't given that nickname, was Union Brigadier General Galusha Pennypacker. Pennypacker received his appointment when he was only 21 years old and had not been old enough to vote in the 1860 election.

The most common nickname, "Old," was typically not a reference to a General's age, but instead a term of affection, especially when combined with a diminutive form of a first or last name. This category is examined below. Generals who were, in fact, older usually did not have an "Old" associated with diminutive forms of their first names. Included in this group are the 54-year-old Confederate commander of the Army of Virginia, Robert E. Lee and the 60-year-old Union Major General George Sears Greene, both of whom were called "Old man" but not "Old Bob," or "Old Robert" in Lee's case, or "Old George" in Greene's. The veneration of Lee's men was expressed by also attaching the article "the" to his nickname—meaning there was only one, "The Old Man." The ironic moniker "Dad" was given to Union Major General William Nelson when he was a very young 16-year-old cadet at the Norwich Naval Academy.

2e. Uniform and General Appearance/Uniform. Many Generals were tagged with nicknames that referred to their uniform or their overall appearance. The best known example in his category was Union Major General Winfield Scott, known as "Old Fuss and Feathers" because of his adherence to rigid military discipline and his sartorial uniform. His opposites in this regard were Union Major General Israel Bush "Greasy Dick" Richardson, Confederate Brigadier General William Read "Dirty Shirt" Scurry, and Union naval commander William David "Dirty Bill" Porter. Confederate Major General Dabney Herndon Maury's unusual nickname, "Puss-in-Boots," was bestowed on him because he was a short man and wore large cowboy boots.

Feminine nicknames like Confederate Brigadier General James Jay Archer's "Sally" and Confederate Lieutenant General Jeb Stuart's nickname "Beauty" were given to them when they were both students. Archer got his at Princeton because of his delicate features. Stuart received his at West Point as a sarcastic reference to his unmanly receding chin which he later concealed with a luxuriant beard.

Nicknames that refer to a General's physical characteristics or appearance reflect familiarity with the general. The implication is that the speaker/writer using this nickname knew General X personally and felt good toward him.

3. **AFFECTION.** In his memoirs, Colonel "Chester" S. Bassett, an aide-de-camp to both Confederate Generals Robert E. Lee and Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson, said that every officer with the rank of general was called "Old." While this may have been so, it was only the popular Generals who had an "old" attached to the diminutive forms of their Christian names or shortened forms of their surnames by the men serving under them and by other Generals, a practice that began when the latter were cadets in military school (Waugh, 1994). Expressions like "Good Old Boys" and "Good Old Summertime" indicate that "old" in these instances was not a literal descriptive adjective, but a positive term of affection, emphasizing the preceding adjective "good." Calling someone "old" was (and still is) a way men address friends they have known for many years. Similarly, nicknames combining "our" with a first name were also a sign of affection.

These nicknames are both externally and internally motivated. The external part ("old") reflects the attitude of others toward General X; the internal part stems from his personal name. Both are created by "Significant Others" who have a close relationship to him. When a speaker/writer referred to General X as "old" or "our," it was invariably an emotionally positive designation: He was stating that he was speaking/writing about someone he knew very well, who was not very different from him, and for whom he felt a strong affection. In no instance was a pejorative adjective combined with a diminutive form of a General's name.

The expressive aspect of "old" in a nickname is evident in the contrast between "Old Dick," a positive nickname, and "Tricky Dicky," President Richard Nixon's nickname, or President Bill Clinton's nickname, "Slick Willie." "Tricky" and

"Slick" are negative descriptors that precede their respective diminutives; neither in these nor any other instance is a negative descriptor combined with the affectionate "old" or "our." Nixon was never called "Old Tricky Dicky" and Clinton has never been called "Our Slick Willie."

Although diminutives (see below) do not fall into the "eke" names that describe the person being named, they nevertheless indicate the attitude of the speaker/writer toward the person being named, especially when combined with a preceding adjective. In nearly all instances, these are positive. The positive aspect is further indicated by Generals who were never known by their diminutives or by some nickname. The Civil War historian would be hard pressed to identify a General lacking a diminutive or nickname who was affectionately regarded by his men or colleagues.

4. **CHARACTER.** The way a General acted toward his men and fellow Generals was epitomized in many nicknames. These nicknames are succinct personality profiles and, as such, are much more heterogenous than those denoting physical features (Wilson and Skipper, 1985).

a) **Paternalism.** Paternalism on the part of a General to his men was reflected in nicknames referring to him as "Dad," "Pap," "Uncle," "Pops," and "Aunt." Robert E. Lee was sometimes called "Uncle Bob" and "Uncle Robert," but was much better known as "Marse" or "Mars" Robert. (Marse was how slaves supposedly said "Master.") These nicknames imply familiarity, respect, and good will toward General X.

b) **Disposition.** Several Generals were known for their sour disposition or ill temper. Those receiving nicknames as a result of those traits included Confederate Brigadier General William Edmondson "Grumble" Jones, Union Brigadier General David "Black Dave" Hunter, Union Brigadier General Robert "Grouchy" Patterson, and Union Major General George Gordon "Snappy Turtle" Meade. These nicknames imply familiarity and discontent toward General X.

Rigid disciplinarians were known as “Old Straight” (Confederate Lieutenant General Alexander Peter Stewart); “Regulations” (Union Brigadier General Israel Vogdes); “Make Laws” (Confederate Major General Lafayette McLaws); and both “Ramrod” and “Bombast” (the latter two both referring to Confederate Commander and Brigadier General Richard Lucian Page).

In these instances, with the exception of “Old Straight,” there is no inference of affection toward General X; instead, the speaker/writer is experiencing difficulty being associated with General X and has been for some time, and, because of this, feels something bad toward him. “Old Straight” was similarly regarded as a by-the-rules general, but, in this instance, the qualifying adjective suggests that despite his nonsense command, he was fair.

c) **Combativeness.** Since the subject of this article is military Generals, it is not surprising that many of their nicknames refer to their behavior on the battlefield.

The most common “aggressive” nicknames have the appellation “Fighting” attached to a General’s first name: “Fighting Dick,” “Fighting Joe,” etc. Aggressiveness was also metaphorically indicated by likening General X to an animal with a reputation for ferocity. Generals nicknamed “Tige(r)” are ferocious and fearless in battle; those called “Lion” are courageous and indifferent to personal danger. “Eagle” implies aggressiveness and bravery; “Game cock” implies simple aggressiveness.

Calling a General “Fighting” or “Tiger” implied that General X was brave and determined. However, even though the nickname has the connotation of admiration, it was not totally positive since it did not necessarily mean that the speaker/writer thought this was good (Wierzbicka, 1992: 210); there is some ambiguity in this nickname because “Fighting” may not be prudent in some situations. This ambiguity is evident when the “Fighting” nickname is compared to the next subcategory of nicknames (see below).

d) **Tenacity, Dependability.** It is one thing to be aggressive; it is another to be able to be counted on no matter what. The unsurpassed example in this category is Confederate Major General Thomas J. Jackson, known to every Civil War enthusiast as “Stonewall” Jackson. Even before he was given his famous sobriquet, Samuel McDonnell Moore, a delegate to the Virginian Convention in April, 1861, alluded to his tenacity when he said that Jackson was “. . . one who, if you order him to hold fast, will never leave it alive and be occupied by an enemy” (Moore, 1861).

Jackson was given his memorable nickname on July 21, 1861, at the First Battle of Bull Run (a.k.a. First Manassas) by Confederate Brigadier General Barnard Elliott Bee who, seeing Jackson’s men holding off a Union assault, reputedly shouted to his own men, “Look, men, there is Jackson standing like a stone wall! Let us determine to die here, and we will conquer! Follow me!” (Robertson, 1997).

Similar connotations of being steadfast and dependable are reflected in nicknames with “Rock” in them such as Confederate Brigadier General Henry Lewis Bennings’s “Old Rock,” and the nickname “Rock of Chickamauga,” given to both Union Major General George Henry Thomas and Confederate Clement Hoffman Stevens. Confederate Brigadier General John Bratton and Lieutenant General William Joseph Hardee’s “Old Reliable” nickname, likewise, expresses intrepidity and dependability even in the most difficult of situations. Reliability also has its metaphoric counterparts. Calling Confederate Lieutenant General (CSA) James Longstreet or other Generals “Bull” or “Bulldog” implied tenacity and determination whereas the nickname “Horse” implied power, bravery, and reliability—a horse trained so that it responds immediately and is fearless.

The explication of these nicknames here is slightly different from that for combativeness, since in this instance, the General was being praised not for carrying the fight to the enemy, but in resisting his advances—“Fighting” carries a

sense of risk and possibly of showing off; reliability and dependability are unambiguously positive. Calling General X "Rock," "Reliable," or "Bulldog" implied he was brave, steadfast, and had unwavering courage; he was rock solid. He knew what was expected of him and he did whatever it took to accomplish that task, without being reckless. In these instances, the speaker/writer was expressing admiration, but not necessarily familiarity, except when the nickname was preceded with the adjective "Old."

e) **Other Hero's Nicknames.** Another way of expressing admiration or disparagement for a General was to compare him with another General famed for his military accomplishments. Admiration led to a number of Generals being nicknamed "Napoleon" (Beauregard, McClellan), "Stonewall" (Confederate Major General Patrick Ronayne Cleburne, Brigadier General James Alexander Walker), or "Swamp Fox," American Revolutionary hero, Francis Marion's nickname. Referring to General X as "Napoleon," or some other hero, usually implied a positive attitude to General X, whose military exploits reminded the speaker/writer of their namesakes. However, the same nickname could also imply ridicule for bombastic and incompetent generals like Union Brigadier General Daniel Butterfield. By the same token, a less than favorable comparison with a prominent General, e.g. the legendary Thomas Johnathan "Stonewall" Jackson, with whom they shared the same last name, could lead to ridicule as when the far less illustrious Confederate Brigadier Generals Alfred Eugene Jackson and William L. Jackson were nicknamed, "Mudwall."

f) **Critical Incidents.** Many Generals were tagged with nicknames relating to a singular incident in their careers. Some of those nicknames (those with "Hero" in them) were usually coined by "Distant Others" and are self explanatory. Not all of them were positive ("Butcher of Palmyra," "Fort Pillow Butcher"). These names were placed in the category of Disparagement (4g) but are mentioned here as well to indicate

a specific event or place in their origination. Among those that are not obvious are "Rip," the nickname given to Confederate Brigadier General John Salmon Ford because of his penchant during the Mexican War, to say "rest in peace" after identifying dead American soldiers; "Old Blizzards" given to Confederate Major General William Wing Loring because he shouted "Give Them Blizzards" when urging his men on to attack in defending Vicksburg, and "Stovepipe," given to Confederate Brigadier General Adam Rankin Johnson after he disguised stovepipes as cannons and fooled Union defenders of Newburgh, Indiana, into thinking he would bombard them with cannon fire if they didn't surrender.

With the exception of "Critical Incident" nicknames that are disparaging, the semantics of this category is that General X did a good thing that no one else did before, and because of this, our side has triumphed, and therefore, I feel good toward this general.

g) **Disparagement.** These nicknames were coined because a general was incompetent, did something not widely approved of, or because of some eccentricity. The latter includes "Stonewall" Jackson's other nicknames; "Fool" and the more forceful "Crazy" given to Union Brigadier General James Clay Rice and Major General William Tecumseh Sherman.

Nicknames expressing disappointment include Robert E. Lee's nickname "Ace of Spades" because he had his men dig defensive fortifications around Richmond before he took the offensive. Those deemed too slow in moving their men into battle were dubbed "Tardy," "Slow," and "Forty-Eight Hours." Incompetent generals were called "Wooden Head" or "Uh oh" while those seemingly unconcerned about killing men who had surrendered were called "Butcher of ..." with the appropriate placename of the incident attached. Ulysses S. Grant was simply called "Butcher" because of the number of men he seemed willing to sacrifice to achieve victory. Union

Major General Hugh Judson Kilpatrick was called "Kill Cavalry" for the same reason.

5. INTERNAL MOTIVATION. This category stems from childhood pet names or a word play with a General's personal name. Some are simply based on phonetic associations or word play.

Diminutives belong in this category because they are phonological or morphological variations of first names, e.g., Dick for Richard, or last names, e.g., Kriz for Krzyzanowski, "Steady" for Steedman, but were placed in the External Motivation category when combined with the affectionate "old" which was common.

The best known childhood nicknames that continued to be used into adulthood were "Rooney" and "Cump." "Rooney" was Robert E. Lee's second son, Confederate Major General William Henry Fitzhugh Lee. Lee's reason for nicknaming him "Rooney" is unknown. "Cump," a shortened form of his given name, was one of Union Major General William Tecumseh Sherman's nicknames. Although a diminutive, it originated from his siblings' difficulty pronouncing the longer name when he was very young. This is likewise the explanation for Union Major General George Armstrong Custer's "Autie," his way of pronouncing "Armstrong."

At the lexical level, word play and punning created "Flea" out of Confederate Brigadier General Fitzhugh Lee's habit of signing his name "F. Lee" when he was a cadet at West Point and "Hug" for Ulysses S. Grant whose childhood name was Hiram Ulysses Grant. Grant's other childhood nicknames, "Lyss" and "Useless" were derived from his middle name. Grant's West Point nickname "Sam" came about through a combination of bureaucratic error and word play. When he entered West Point his name was listed as Ulysses S. Grant. Grant had to accept the name to enter, thinking he would be able to correct the error later on. When his name appeared on the list of new cadets, his initials, "U.S."

immediately brought to mind "Uncle Sam," which became "Sam," a nickname he continued to be known by among his fellow generals (Anderson and Anderson, 1988). Union Major General John Alexander Logan's nickname, "Jack of Spades," came from a transmutation of his other nickname, "Black Jack," (a reference to his hair) by his card-playing friends (Shanks, 1866: 307). Punning was responsible for the incompetent Union General Oliver O. Howard's disparaging "Uh oh," an obvious take off on his first two initials, "O" "O." Likewise, "Sookey" a girl's name, was given to Union Brigadier General William Sooy Smith by Confederate Lieutenant General Nathan Bedford Forrest's men.

Like Presidents known by their initials, e.g., Franklin Delano Roosevelt (FDR), John Fitzgerald Kennedy (JFK), and Lyndon Baines Johnson (LBJ), and the current American President, George Walker Bush, whose nickname "W" is taken from his middle initial and pronounced "Dubya," several Generals were referred to by their initials. Since in no instance were these shortened forms combined with a negative determiner, they reflect both familiarity and a positive disposition on behalf of the writer/speaker (Gladkova, 2000: 6).

When a writer/speaker referred to a General by his phonological, metaphoric, or lexical nickname, or his initials, he assumed that his audience knew who he was speaking about. He did not have to say anything more to identify him and he assumed that, like him, that audience had a favorable opinion of General X.

6. **UNKNOWN ORIGINS.** Many Generals had nicknames that were well known to their contemporaries such as Confederate Brigadier Generals William Polk Hardeman's "Gotch," Winfield Scott Featherston's "Old Swet," and William Henry Talbot Walker's "Shot pouch," but the origins of those names are unknown. Some of these were bestowed on them when they were cadets (Waugh, 1994) but the reasons for them remain to be discovered.

Discussion

Drawn together from many different social backgrounds, placed in a rigid institutionalized environment that totally dominated their lives, men who would become Civil War Generals gave one another nicknames when they were younger, and were subsequently given nicknames by the men they commanded, or subsequently by the media. In many instances, these names indicate characteristics which were approved or disapproved, thereby providing a unique insight into the prevailing cultural values of that time, place, and society (Morgan et al., 1979:69).

Although sources differ in terms of numbers, more than 1,000 officers served with that rank during the American Civil War (Eicher and Eicher, 2001; Warner, 1959, 1964). However, only about a hundred had a nickname. Generals with nicknames would therefore seem to have some special attribute that distinguished them from others, otherwise the nickname would have no relevance. In the armed forces, despite the rigid separation between officers and the men they command, men in the ranks invariably formulate opinions about those who order and often endanger their lives on a daily basis, and those "Significant Others" funnel those opinions into nicknames which they give those officers. Social distance notwithstanding, if soldiers interact directly with their officers, they cannot but notice their physical attributes, their demeanor, and their leadership, and they coin nicknames that reflect those attributes. Even if those nicknames are derogatory, they reflect some degree of familiarity, shared experience, and widely shared values with him (cf. Holland, 1990), otherwise they would have no purpose or meaning (Gladkova, 2002:6; Morgan et al., 1979: 143). Calling a General "Bricktop," or "Stonewall," for instance, would not mean anything unless the person being spoken to had some familiarity with that General. Equally important, the men who

nicknamed a General or referred to him by his nickname had to care about him in some way. Indifference does not give rise to nicknaming (Dukert, 1973: 153).

Commanding a large army did not necessarily mean that a General would be given a nickname, nor would his fighting ability or incompetence be recognized in that way. For example, Confederate General Braxton Bragg did not acquire a nickname other than the combination of his last name with the ubiquitous adjective "old." Bragg was simply not liked or, more importantly, respected, by most of the men he commanded, and especially by his Corps commanders. The *Chattanooga Daily Rebel* (January 11, 1863), said that "the army disliked Bragg, [and] had no confidence in him." One subordinate officer said of him that his "abrupt manner of dismissal, not granting a moment of time to thank him, puts you in ill humor with yourself. You feel when you rush out of his presence that it would be a relief if someone would fight you" (Stout, 1942:87). Generals like Bragg, in conjunction with their names, did not acquire nicknames because they isolated themselves, had few friends, and did not enjoy the loyalty of those they commanded (McWhiney, 1972). When the ubiquitous "old" was used, it lacked the affectionate connotation that went with its attachment to a diminutive first or last name.

The relationships that give rise to nicknaming in the military are not unlike those that do so in schools. Men in the ranks and students are both required to obey their generals and teachers, respectively, and failure to do so can result in punishment. Soldiers and students both have a sense of powerlessness, and the insights gained from studies of nicknaming of teachers (e.g., Morgan et al., 1979) should therefore apply, to some extent, to the military situation.

One of these similarities is that, in both situations, the creation and use of nicknames is a way for the otherwise powerless to reverse the power differential by reducing the psychological distance in a social situation. In keeping with

the well known belief that to know someone's name is to gain power over him (Morgan et al., 1979:6), by giving their Generals nicknames, soldiers are able, in an illusory sense, to reduce the difference in status between them (Morgan et al., 1979:143). The differential status is reduced because nicknames are more informal than first names or surnames, and create the illusion of reducing the social distance that otherwise exists between General and ordinary soldier. When a General is referred to by his nickname, the speaker/writer is implying that he is on intimate terms with that General, almost as if he were a member of his extended family. Those who create these nicknames are usually those within the rank and file who themselves have the greatest social status (Wilson and Skipper, 1985); the nickname refers to the General, but belongs to the person who uses it, and the General being named can do nothing about it—as long as he does not hear it. Of course if the nickname is affectionate or positive, he is likely not to react overtly at all.

An aspect of nicknames that, with few exceptions (e.g. Morgan et al., 1979; Wierzbecka, 1992), has received scant attention, concerns their meaning and significance beyond the role in reducing power in social situations (Holland, 1990; Leslie and Skipper, 1990). The present study was a foray into this aspect of nicknaming and examined their semantic referential and expressive components by focusing on the nicknames of American Civil War Generals. This analysis identified semantic components – a referential part, that refers to some salient characteristic or action on the part of a General and indicated which characteristics were noticed, and an expressive component which indicated how others felt about the person being nicknamed. Together, these two components of a nickname reflect the intimacy or contempt soldiers and the public felt toward their Generals. Beyond that, they also reveal the interests and cultural values of the on-going society and period in which they were used. Since these nicknames refer to ephemeral events, they also provide a contemporary

record of the culture and attitude toward the nickname at that time (Wierzbicka, 1992: 375).

One General who was aware of his nickname and believed it was doing him more harm than good because of the expectations that went with it, was Union Major General Joseph Hooker. Hooker did not shrink from battle, but his "Fighting Joe" moniker didn't stem from his aggressiveness. Instead, the name came from a transcription error. A typesetter misread a reporter's lead, "Fighting- - Joe Hooker," as a nickname, and the combination stuck. Hooker didn't like the nickname because he said it made him sound like a "Fighting Fool" (Shanks, 1866: 189), and he wrote to one newspaper specifically requesting that the nickname not be used. His request was ignored because, to the Northern public, his nickname signified someone who was vigorous in pursuing their interests and values (Herbert, 1999: 91, 318.)

Another noteworthy example is contained in an article describing how Union Generals William Tecumseh Sherman and Ulysses S. Grant used the nickname "Slow Trot" to downplay Union General George H. Thomas's military accomplishments and portray him instead as "slow of mind, word and deed" (Plezia, 2000). This unusual example shows that nicknames can also be used as weapons and that nicknaming was not confined to the men in ranks.

Nicknames like Hooker's that are typically created by newspapers and are oftentimes taken up by the public, are also taken up in the ranks, but many are not. For instance, a soldier would never refer to his commanding General as "Hero of such and such," unless it might be to denigrate him. "Stonewall," perhaps the best known of all the nicknames given to a General during the war, albeit by another General, was rarely used by "Stonewall" Jackson's men. To them he was always "Old Jack" (Robertson, 1997).

Two more points are worth mentioning in connection with these nicknames. One is that several Generals had many nicknames. As noted by Morgan et al. (1979), it is possible to

create “name autobiographies” for many Civil War generals from changes in their nicknames over time. This is especially so for Ulysses S. Grant, who later went on to become President of the United States and acquired a whole new set of nicknames in doing so (Shankle, 1955). To do so, however, would require a whole new article.

The second point is that there seems to be an ever-increasing tendency on the part of authors of American Civil War books to prefer a General’s nickname when writing about him to his formal name, or at the very least, to mention it. In this instance, the motivation is not a sense of powerlessness. Instead, it seems to be, in part, the previously mentioned sense of intimacy, an attempt on the writer’s part to convey an impression of intimate access to the social and personal world of that General.

Appendix

NICKNAMES OF AMERICAN CIVIL WAR GENERALS

NAME

NICKNAME

EXTERNAL MOTIVATION

1. BIOGRAPHICAL

a) Student

James Jay Archer (CSA)	Sally
George Armstrong Custer (USA)	Fanny
Ulysses S. Grant (USA)	Sam
John Bell Hood (CSA)	Sam
David Rumph Jones (CSA)	Neighbor
Dabney Herndon Maury (CSA)	Peri
Charles William Read (CSN)	Savez
Thomas John Wood (USA)	Susan

b) Ethnicity

Pierre G. T. Beauregard (CSA)	Little Frenchman
August Valentine Kautz (USA)	Dutch
Philippe Regis Denis Dekerendern De Trobriand (USA)	Froggy
James Longstreet (CSA)	Dutch
Charles Leopold Matthies (USA)	Old Dutchie
Joshua Thomas Owen (USA)	Paddy
William Starke Rosecrans (USA)	Wily Dutchman
Franz Siegel (USA)	Dutchy

c) Placenames

Ulysses S. Grant (USA)	Buck (born in Ohio)
Robert Frederick Hoke (CSA)	North Carolina Lee
Edmund Kirby Smith (CSA)	Seminole
George Hume Steuart (CSA)	Maryland

d) Pre-war Profession

Nathaniel Prentiss Banks (USA)	Bobbin Boy of Massachusetts
William Montague Browne (CSA)	Constitution
Raleigh Edward Colston (CSA)	Parlez
John Charles. Fremont (USA)	Pathfinder
Charles Henry Grosvenor (USA)	Old Figgers
Henry Wager Halleck (USA)	Old Brains
Andrew Atkinson Humphreys (USA)	Old Mathematics
Matthew F. Maury (CSN)	Pathfinder of the Seas
Ormsby Macknight Mitchel (USA)	Star Mitchel, Old Stars
Leonidas Polk (CSA)	Fighting Bishop Bishop Militant
John Aaron Rawlins (USA)	Charcoal Boy
William Smith (CSA)	Extra Billy

2. PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

a) Hair

Samuel Sprigg Carroll (USA)	Bricktop
George Armstrong Custer (USA)	Curly, Ringlets
Alexander Hays (USA)	Sandy
David Hunter (USA)	Black Dave
William Hicks Jackson (CSA)	Red
John Alexander Logan (USA)	Black Jack, Black Eagle
Richard Stoddert Ewell (CSA)	Old Baldy
William Farrar Smith (USA)	Baldy

b) Eyes/Ears

Benjamin Franklin Butler (USA)	Cockeye
Richard S. Ewell (CSA)	Popeye
Jubal Anderson Early (CSA)	Old Lop Ear
William Henry French (USA)	Old Blink Eye
Andrew Atkinson Humphreys (USA)	Old Goggle Eyes
Thomas "Stonewall" Johnathan Jackson (CSA)	Old Blue Light, Blue Light Elder
George Gordon Meade (USA)	Four Eyes

c) Legs and Arms

Edward Johnson (CSA)	Old Clubby, Old Club Foot, Fence Rail
Philip Kearney (USA)	One-armed Devil
George Nathan Evans (CSA)	Shanks
Thomas Johnathan "Stonewall" Jackson (CSA)	Square Box
James Green Martin (CSA)	Old One Wing

Gustavus Woodson Smith (CSA)	Legs
Roger Weightman Hanson Johnson (CSA)	Bench Leg, Fence Road

d) Height

Daniel Butterfield (USA)	Little Dan
James Ronald Chalmers (CSA)	Little Un
Ambrose Powell Hill (CSA)	Little Powell
Hugh Judson Kilpatrick (USA)	Little Kil
James Henry Lane (CSA)	Little Jim, Little General
William Mahone (CSA)	Little Billy
Dabney Herndon Maury (CSA)	Little Dab
George Brinton McClellan (USA)	Little Mac, Little Napoleon
Solomon Meredith (USA)	Long Sol
William Raine Peck (CSA)	Big Peck
Philip Sheridan (USA)	Little Phil
Joseph Wheeler (CSA)	Little Joe, Point
William Henry Chase Whiting (CSA)	Little Billy

e) General Appearance, Uniform

Alexander Cummings (USA)	Old Straw Hat
Hubert Dilger (USA)	Leatherbreeches
Ulysses S. Grant (USA)	Old Three Stars
Dabney Herndon Maury (CSA)	Puss-in-boots (small man in large boots)
Felix Huston Robertson (CSA)	Comanche (Indian- like features)
William Nelson (USA)	Bull (weighed more than 300 lbs)
William David Porter (USN)	Dirty Bill
Raphael Semmes (CSA)	Old Beeswax (beeswaxed mustache),

Winfield Scott (USA)	Marshal Pomp
Jeb Stuart (CSA)	Old Fuss and Feathers
William Read Scurry (CSA)	Beauty (receding chin)
Israel Bush Richardson (USA)	Dirty Shirt, Dirty Neck
James Webb Throckmorton (CSA)	Greasy Dick
	Old Leathercoat

f) Age, Other than Commonly Used Affectionate "Old"

Francis Channing Barlow (USA)	Boy General
George Armstrong Custer (USA)	Boy General
Jefferson Columbus Davis (USA)	Boy-sergeant of Buena Vista
George Sears Greene (USA)	Old Man Greene
Robert Edward Lee (CSA)	The Old Man
George Brinton McClellan (USA)	Young Napoleon
Wesley Merritt (USA)	Boy General
William Nelson (USA)	Dad (young age when cadet)

3. AFFECTION

Diminutives Combined With "Old"

a) First Names

Richard Heron Anderson (CSA)	Dick
Francis Channing Barlow (USA)	Frank
Hiram Gregory Berry (USA)	George
Jubal Anderson Early (CSA)	Jube, Jubilee
Richard Stoddert Ewell (CSA)	Dick
Nathan Bedford Forrest (CSA)	Nate
Martin Witherspoon Gary (CSA)	Mart
Winfield S. Hancock (USA)	Win
Henry Heth (CSA)	Harry
Benjamin Franklin Kelly (USA)	Ben

Edwin Gray Lee (CSA)	Ned
Fitzhugh Lee (CSA)	Fitz
Robert E. Lee (CSA)	Bob Lee, Bobby Lee
William Mahone (CSA)	Billy
Dabney Herndon Maury (CSA)	Willie
Thomas West Sherman (USA)	Tom
William Tecumseh Sherman (USA)	Billy
Edmund Kirby Smith (CSA)	Ted
William Smith (CSA)	Billy
David Emmanuel Twiggs (USA)	Davy
Reuben Lindsay Walker (CSA)	Rube
Lewis Wallace (USA)	Lew
Bariel Colvin Wharton (CSA)	Gabe

b) Middle Names

Daniel Harvey Hill (CSA)	Harvey
Stephen Dodson Ramseur (CSA)	Dod
Lawrence Sullivan Ross (USA)	Sul
Thomas Lafayette Rosser (CSA)	Tam
William Tecumseh Sherman (USA)	Old Tecumseh
Chatham Roberdeau Wheat (CSA)	Bob, Rob
Ambrose Ransom Wright (CSA)	Rans

c) Last Names

Pierre G. T. Beauregard (CSA)	Bory
Franklin Buchanan (USN)	Buck
Robert Christie Buchanan (USA)	Buck
Ambrose Burnside (USA)	Burn
Wladimir Bonawentura Krzyzanowski (USA)	Kriz
James Birdseye McPherson (USA)	Mac
William Nelson Pendelton (CSA)	Penn
Jerome Bonaparte Robertson (CSA)	Bob
William Starke Rosecrans (USA)	Rosy, Rosey

James Blair Steedman (USA)	Steady
Felix Kirk Zollicoffer (CSA)	Zollie

4. CHARACTER

a) Disposition, Demeanor

Lewis Addison Armistead (CSA)	Lo, Lothario
Simon Bolivar Buckner (CSA)	Simon the Poet
Daniel Butterfield (USA)	Little Napoleon
Roger Weightman Hanson (CSA)	Old Flintlock
Thomas Harrison (CSA)	Mark Time Major
Oliver Otis Howard (USA)	Christian General, Praying General
David Hunter (USA)	Black Dave (ill tempered)
Thomas Johnathan Jackson (CSA)	Old Hickory, The General
Joseph Eggleston Johnston (CSA)	The Colonel
John Marshall Jones (CSA)	Rum
William. Edmondson Jones (CSA)	Grumble
Lafayette McLaws (CSA)	Make Laws
Robert Edward Lee (CSA)	Marble Man, Marble Model
George Gordon Meade (USA)	Snapping turtle
Israel Vogdes (USA)	Regulations
Richard Lucian Page (CSN)	Bombast, Ramrod
Robert Patterson (USA)	Grouchy
Daniel Edgar Sickles (USA)	Devil Dan
Andrew Jackson Smith (USA)	Whiskey
Alexander P. Stewart (CSA)	Old Straight
James Ewell Brown Stuart (CSA)	Bible Class Man
James Barbour Terrill (CSA)	Major Terrible
Cadmus Marcellus Wilcox (CSA)	Old Billy Fixin'

b) Paternalism

Robert Anderson (USA)	Our Bob
James Barnes (USA)	Pap
Raleigh Edward Colston (CSA)	Polly
George Crook (USA)	Uncle George
George Sears Greene (USA)	Pop
Joseph Eggleston Johnston (CSA)	Uncle Joe
Robert Edward Lee (CSA)	Marse Robert, Mars' Robert, Uncle Bob, Uncle Robert
George Brinton McClellan (USA)	Our George
Richard James Oglesby (USA)	Uncle Dick
Sterling Price (CSA)	Dad, Pap, Old Tycoon
Jerome Bonaparte Robertson (CSA)	Aunt Polly, Polly.
John Sedgewick (USA)	Uncle John
William Tecumseh Sherman (USA)	Uncle Billy, Old Sugar Pills
George Henry Thomas (USA)	Pap Safety, Pap Thomas, Uncle George
Daniel Tyler (USA)	Uncle Dan
James Samuel Wadsworth (USA)	Daddy
Alpheus Starkey Williams (USA)	Pap, Pops

c) Combativeness: Aggressiveness

Turner Ashby (CSA)	Black (also White) Knight of the Valley
Richard Heron Anderson (CSA)	Fighting Dick
Hiram Berdan (USA)	Top Marksman
Josiah Culpepper (CSA)	Fighting Gator
Thomas Casimir Devan (USA)	Hard Hitter
David Farragut (USN)	Daring Dave
Nathan Bedford Forrest (CSA)	Devil
Louis Malesherbes Goldsborough (USN)	Guts

Ulysses S. Grant (USA)	Unconditional Surrender, United States Grant, United We Stand Grant
Winfield Scott Hancock (USA)	Paladin of the Northern Armies Thunderbolt of the Army of the Potomac
Thomas Harrison (CSA)	Old Ironsides
John Bell Hood (CSA)	Gallant
Joseph Hooker (USA)	Fighting Joe
McCook Family (USA)	Fighting McCooks
Thomas Jonathan Jackson (CSA)	Invincible Stonewall, Sword of the Confederacy
David Stockton McDougal (USN)	American Devil
John Hunt Morgan (CSA)	Thunderbolt
Joseph Anthony Mowrer (USA)	Fighting Joe
William Nelson Pendelton (CSA)	Old Artillery
Israel Bush Richardson (USA)	Fighting Dick
Robert Emmett Rodes (CSA)	Norse God of War
Philip Sheridan (USA)	Fighting Phil
James Ewell Brown Stuart (CSA)	Night of the Golden Spurs
John Basin Turchin (Ivan Vasilovity Turchinoff) (USA)	Russian Thunderbolt
William Henry Talbot Walker (CSA)	Fighting Billy
Joseph Wheeler (CSA)	Fighting Joe

i) Animal Metaphor

George Thomas Anderson (CSA)	Tige
William Lewis Cabell (CSA)	Tige
Thomas Carmichael Hindman (CSA)	Lion of the South
John McCausland (USA)	Tiger
George Henry Thomas (USA)	Lion-hearted Thomas
David Emmanuel Twiggs (CSA)	Tiger, Bengal Tiger

d) Tenaciousness, Dependability

Henry Lewis Benning (CSA)	Old Rock
John Bratton (CSA)	Old Reliable
John Buford Jr. (USA)	Steadfast
Patrick Ronayne Cleburne (CSA)	Stonewall of the West
Ulysses S. Grant (USA)	The Great Hammerer
William Joseph Hardee (CSA)	Old Reliable
John D. Imboden (CSA)	Defender of the Valley
Thomas Johnathan Jackson (CSA)	Stonewall
John Clifford Pemberton (CSA)	Defender of Vicksburg
Thomas Lafayette Rosser (CSA)	Savior of the Valley
George Henry Thomas (USA)	Old Reliable,
	Rock of Chickamauga
James Blair Steedman (USA)	Old Steady
Clement Hoffman Stevens (CSA)	Rock of Chickamauga
James Alexander Walker (CSA)	Stonewall Jim
Lewis (Lew) Wallace (USA)	Savior of Cincinnati

i) Animal Association

Benjamin Franklin Cheatham (CSA)	Bulldog
James Longstreet (CSA)	Bull,
	Bulldog,
	War Horse
Elisha Franklin Paxton	Bull, Bulldog
James Alexander Walker (CSA)	Bulldog
Thomas Casimir Devan (USA)	War Horse
David Emmanuel Twiggs (CSA)	Horse

ii) Other Animal Associations

James Jay Archer (CSA)	Little Game Cock
David Glasgow Farragut (USN)	Old Salamander
Martin Witherspoon Gary (CSA)	Bald Eagle
Robert E. Lee (CSA)	Gray Fox
John Alexander Logan (USA)	Black Eagle

George Gordon Meade (USA)	Snapping Turtle
Robert Huston Milroy (USA)	Gray Eagle
Edwin Vose Sumner (USA)	Bull Head
(musket ball bounced off his head)	

e) Another General's Name or Nickname

Joseph Reid Anderson (CSA)	Krupp of the Confederacy
Benjamin Franklin Cheatham (CSA)	Ney of the Confederacy
Pat Ronayne Cleburne (CSA)	Stonewall of the West
Nathan Bedford Forrest (CSA)	Swamp Fox of Mississippi
Oliver Otis Howard (USA)	Havelock of the War
Edward Johnson (CSA)	Old Blucher, Blucher of Bull Run
Evander McIvor Law (CSA)	Swamp Fox
John Alexander Logan (USA)	Murat of the Union Army
George Brinton McClelland (USA)	Young Napoleon,
John Hunt Morgan (CSA)	Francis Marion of the War
Camille de Polignac (CSA)	Southern Lafayette, Lafayette of the South
Raphael Semmes (CSA)	Paul Jones of the South
Jeb Stuart (CSA)	Prince Rupert of the Confederacy
George Henry Thomas (USA)	George Washington
Meriwether Jefferson Thompson (CSA)	Swamp Fox (Francis Marion's nickname)
James Alexander Walker (CSA)	Stonewall Jim
Stand Watie (CSA)	Indian Swamp Fox

f) Battle/Critical Incident

Robert Anderson (USA)	Hero of Sumter
Pierre G. T. Beauregard (CSA)	Hero of Sumter
Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain (USA)	Hero of Little Round Top
Alfred A. Colquitt (CSA)	Hero of Olustee
Abner Doubleday (USA)	Hero of Sumter
John S. Ford (CSA)	Rip (Mexican War)
Ulysses S. Grant (USA)	Hero of Appomattox, Hero of Fort Donelson, Unconditional Surrender (Fort Donelson)
Winfield Scott Hancock (USA)	Hero of Gettysburg, Superb
Daniel Harvey Hill (CSA)	Bethel Hill
Edward Johnson (CSA)	Old Allegheny, Allegheny Ed
Adam Rankin Johnson (CSA)	Stovepipe (Newburgh, Indiana)
William Wing Loring (CSA)	Old Blizzards (Yazoo Pass)
William Mahone (CSA)	Hero of the Crater (Petersburg)
Thomas West Sherman (USA)	Port Royal
George Henry Thomas (USA)	Rock of Chickamauga, Sledgehammer of Nashville
Alexander Welch Reynolds (CSA)	Old Gauley
Winfield Scott (USA)	Old Chapultepac
William Tecumseh Sherman (USA)	Great Marcher
James Wadsworth (USA)	Old Corduroy
John Stuart Williams (CSA)	Cerro Gordo (Mexican War)

g) Disparagement

Nathaniel Prentiss Banks (USA)	Commissary Banks
--------------------------------	------------------

Stephen Gano Burbridge (USA)	Butcher Burbridge
Benjamin F. Butler (USA)	Beast, Bethel Failure, Spoons, Spoon Stealer, Silver Spoon
Abner Doubleday (USA)	Forty-eight hours
Jubal Anderson Early (CSA)	Bad Old Man
Nathan Bedford Forrest (CSA)	Fort Pillow Butcher
John Charles Fremont (USA)	Gray Mustang, No Guts, WoollyHorse
Ulysses S. Grant (USA)	Butcher, Butcher from Galena
Henry Wager Halleck (USA)	Old Wooden Head
Daniel Harvey Hill (CSA)	Old Rawhides
Theophilus Hunter Holmes (CSA)	Granny
John Bell Hood (CSA)	Butcher Hood, Wooden Head
Oliver Otis Howard (USA)	Uh Oh
Alfred Eugene Jackson (CSA)	Mudwall
Thomas Johnathan Jackson (CSA)	Crazy Tom, Tom Fool, Fool Tom Jackson
William L. Jackson (CSA)	Mudwall
Hugh Judson Kilpatrick (USA)	Kill Cavalry
Robert E. Lee (CSA)	Ace of Spades, Evacuating Lee, Granny Lee, Kingof Spades Letcher's Pet, Spades Lee
George Brinton McClellan (USA)	General of the Mackerel Brigade, Little Corporal of Unsought fields, Mac the Unready,

	Tardy George, Virginia Creeper, Young McNapoleon
John McNeal (USA)	Butcher of Palmyra
Alfred Pleasonton (USA)	Knight of Romance
John Pope (USA)	Saddle-bag John
James Clay Rice (USA)	Old Crazy
William Tecumseh Sherman (USA)	Crazy, Mad Tom, Old Pills
Sterling Price (CSA)	Old Skedad
George Sykes (USA)	Tardy George
George Henry Thomas (USA)	Old Slow Trot, Slow as a Rock, Slow as a Sledge
Pierre G. T. Beauregard (CSA)	Peter
Ulysses S. Grant (USA)	Sam
John Bell Hood (CSA)	Sam
James Longstreet (CSA)	Pete, Peter

INTERNAL MOTIVATION

a) Childhood

George Armstrong Custer (USA)	Autie
George Washington Custis Lee (CSA)	Boo
William Henry Fitzhugh Lee (CSA)	Rooney
William Tecumseh Sherman (USA)	Cump
Stand Waitie (CSA)	Degata ("Stands on Two Feet")

b) Word Play

Pierre Gustave Toutant Beauregard (CSA)	Old Alphabet
---	--------------

Ulysses S. Grant (USA)	(because of his many names) Hug, Lyss, Useless, Sam, United States
Fitzhugh Lee (CSA)	Flea
John Alexander Logan (USA)	Jack of Spades Camille Armand Jules Marie,
Prince de Polignac(CSA)	Polecat
James Wolfe Ripley (CSA)	Rip Van Winkle
William Sooy Smith (USA)	Sookey (girl's name)

c) Initials

Benjamin Wesley Baker (CSA)	B.W.
Ambrose Powell Hill (CSA)	A.P.
Daniel Harvey Hill (CSA)	D.H.
Joseph Orville Shelby (CSA)	JO
Gustavus Woodson Smith (CSA)	G.W.
James Ewell Brown Stuart (CSA)	J.E.B.
George Henry Thomas (USA)	George H.
Orlando Bolivar Willcox (USA)	O.B.

UNKNOWN ORIGIN

Name	Nickname
Alfred Napoleon Alexander Duffie (USA)	Nattie
Jubal Anderson Early (CSA)	Crackers
Winfield Scott Featherston (CSA)	Swet
William Polk Hardeman (CSA)	Gotch
James Sheen Palmer (USN)	Pie Crust
Raphael Semmes (CSA)	Bim
William Richard Terry (CSA)	Buck

Earl Van Dorn (CSA)	Buck
Henry Harrison Walker (CSA)	Mud
William Henry Talbot Walker (CSA)	Shotpouch
William Stephen Walker (CSA)	Live Oak
Henry Alexander Wise (CSA)	Chinook

Endnotes

1. Since all Civil War generals were male, the masculine pronoun is used throughout.
2. The Union Army had two grades of General officer—Brigadier and Major General. Ulysses S. Grant was given the rank of Lieutenant General to indicate his supreme command over the Union forces. The Confederate Army recognized four grades of General in terms of increasing rank—Brigadier, Major, Lieutenant General, and General. Usually, the President appointed Generals with the confirmation of the Senate, but there were many exceptions, especially in the Confederate forces. Generals who were “Brevetted,” an honorary rank given to Generals in the Union Army, are included in this analysis.
3. One of the ongoing debates among onomatiicians is whether diminutives or derivatives of first or last names should be considered nicknames. In this regard I am persuaded by deKlerk and Bosch’s (1996: 527, n. 2) argument and data, that these forms often reveal significant relationships within a cultural group. They reported that 23% of all diminutives were regarded as genuine nicknames by their informants. “If the numbers of a group consider them to be nicknames,” the authors noted, “the researcher has an obligation to do likewise.” In the present study, there is an important distinction to be made between standardized abbreviated names and those that are not. For example, William Tecumseh Sherman was never called “Bill” by his men but they did refer

to him as "Billy." Although there are exceptions, nicknames ending in y/ie usually imply more affection than the standardized form (Wierzbicka, 1992: 230). The difference is indicated in the examples Wirzbicka (1992: 230) cites. For the standard male short form, "Bill," she has the following explication: "I want to speak to you the way people speak to men and boys whom they know well," as contrasted with the child-oriented "y" form of the name: "I want to speak to you the way people speak to children whom they know well and toward whom they feel something good." In the latter instance, the speaker is not saying that he thinks of Sherman as a child, but rather that he is speaking about him in a way that people speak to children. There is affection here, but there is also a sense that the speaker is patronizing Sherman (Wierzbicka, 1992: 233).

References

- Abel, E. Lawrence. 2000. *Singing The New Nation*. Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania: Stackpole Books.
- Allardice, Bruce S. 1995. *More Generals In Gray*. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press.
- Allen, Irving Lewis. 1983. *The Language of Ethnic Conflict: Social Organization and Lexical Culture*. New York: Columbia University Press.
- Anonymous. 2004. "Aphorisms, Quotations & Wisecracks." Littlecalamity.tripod.com/Quotes/F.html.
- Anderson, Nancy Scott and Anderson, Dwight. 1988. *The Generals*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf.
- Butkus, Alvydas. 1999. "An outline and classification of Lithuanian names." *Names* 47:125-38.
- Campbell, R. Thomas. 2000. *Sea Hawk Of The Confederacy. Lt. Charles W. Read And The Confederate Navy*. Shippensburg, Pennsylvania: Burd Street Press.

- Catton, Bruce. 1970. *Prefaces to History*. Garden City, New York: Doubleday.
- Cohen, Eugene, N. 1973. Nicknames, social boundaries, and community in an Italian village. *International Journal of Contemporary Society* 93:200-202.
- De Klerk, Vivian and Bosch, Barbara. 1996. "Nicknames as sex-role stereotypes." *Names* 35:525-541.
- Dukert, Aurdrey. R. 1973. "Place nicknames." *Names* 21:153-163.
- Eicher, John H. and Eicher, David J. 2001. *Civil War High Commands*. Stanford: University Press.
- Editors. 1972. "General Schimmelfenning's Headquarters." *Civil War Times Illustrated* 10:18-19.
- Freeman, Douglas Southall. 1942. *Lee's Lieutenants. A Study in Command*. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons.
- Frey, Albert R. 1888. *Sobriquets and Nicknames*. Boston: Ticknor and Co. Repr. Detroit: Gale Research Co., 1966.
- Gladkova, Anna. 2002. "The semantics of nicknames of the American Presidents." Proceedings of the 2002 Conference of the Australian Linguistic Society. www2.hu-berlin.de/angl/tappe_semantics.html.
- Harre, Rom. 1980. "What's in a nickname?" *Psychology Today*. January, 78-84.
- Herbert, Walter H. 1999. *Fighting Joe Hooker*. Lincoln: University of Nebraska.
- Holland, Theodore J. Jr. 1990. The many faces of nicknames. *Names* 38:255-273.
- Lewis, Margaret Jane. 1970. "Some nicknames and their derivations." *Mississippi Folklore Register* 4:52-57.
- McClure, Peter. 1981. "Nicknames and petnames: Linguistic forms and social contexts." *Nomina* 5:63-76.
- McWhiney, Grady C. 1972. "Braxton Bragg." *Civil War Times Illustrated* 11:5-7,44-47.
- Moore, Samuel McDowell. April 1861. "Military qualifications of Thomas Jackson." Quoted by Library of Congress

- Website. *Today in History*.
<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/today/jan21.html>.
- Plezia, Don. 2000. "'Slow Trot' and other Thomas nicknames!"
www.AotC.net.
- Pollard, Edward A. 1867. *Lee and His Lieutenants*. New York: E.B. Treat and Co.
- Robertson, James I. Jr. 1997. *Stonewall Jackson. The Man, The Soldier, The Legend*. New York: Macmillan Publishing.
- Shanks, William F. G. 1866. *Personal Recollections Of Distinguished Generals*. New York: Harper & Brothers.
- Sifakis, Carl. 1984. *The Dictionary of Historic Nicknames. A Treasury of More than 7,500 Famous and Infamous Nicknames from World History*. New York: Facts on File.
- Stankle, George Earlie. 1937. *American Nicknames. Their Origin and Significance*. New York: H.W. Wilson Company.
- Stout, L. H. 1942. *Reminiscences of General Braxton Bragg*. Hattiesburg, Mississippi: Boo Farm.
- Symonds, Craig L. 1992. *Joseph E. Johnston*. New York: W.W. Norton and Co.
- Tagg, Larry. 1988. *The Generals Of Gettysburg. The Leaders of America's Greatest Battle*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Da Capo Press.
- Warner, Ezra. J. 1964. *Generals in Blue*. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press.
- _____. 1959. *Generals in Gray*. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press.
- Waugh, John C. 1994. *The Class Of 1846. From West Point to Appomattox: Stonewall Jackson, George McClellan And Their Brothers*. New York: Time Warner.
- Wierzbicka, Anna. 1992. *Semantics, Culture, And Cognition. Human Concepts in Culture-Specific Configurations*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Wilson, Brenda S. and Skipper, James K. Jr. 1985. "Nicknames and women professional baseball players." *Names* 38:305-320.

Wright, John D. 2001. *The Language Of The Civil War*. Westport, Connecticut: Oryx Press.

Zaitzow, B. H., Skipper, J.K. Jr. and Bryant, B. 1997. "Nicknames of felons." *Names* 45:83-99.