THANKS: Thanks to our October Speaker Norman P. Bolotin. Mr. Bolotin’s talk on publishing history for children was highly informative and interesting. We would like to thank Mr. Bolotin for his donations to our raffle table.

NEXT MEETING THURSDAY NOVEMBER 14, 1991: 6 pm social hour, 7 pm dinner at Enlisted Mess, Sand Point Naval Station. Write your menu choice, name and the names of any guests on the enclosed card and mail it. We need an accurate count in advance in order to avoid delay in serving dinner. MENU: Baked Ham with raisin sauce or Chicken Kiev with Cheese sauce served with Peas and Mushrooms and baked potato with sour cream.

NOVEMBER 14, 1991 PROGRAM: Our speaker will be Warren Wilkinson, author of the highly regarded “Mother May You Never See the Sights I Have Seen: The Fifty-seventh Massachusetts Veteran Volunteers in the Army of the Potomac 1864-1865.” The noted historian Emary M. Thomas has called Mr. Wilkinson’s book simply the best Civil War regimental history ever written. Mr. Wilkinson, who is from Aoworth, Georgia, will talk about the book and the regiment. Again bring your friends and family so we can have as large a turn out for this noted writer as possible.

HELP! HELP! Our speaker for the December program has had to cancel, due to his securing employment overseas. The December program will now be devoted to short topics presented by members. If you are interested in presenting a short talk on your favorite Civil War topic please call Pat Brady during the day on 624-6242 or at night on 236-1134 asap.

VIDEO WATCH: Two excellent films on Abraham Lincoln are recommended this month. ABE LINCOLN IN ILLINOIS (1939) stars Raymond Massey & Ruth Gordon as the Lincolns. Robert Sherwood’s Pulitzer Prize winning play is the basis of this film. 110 minutes, black & white, a VHS tape is being sold for $19.95. The second film is YOUNG MR. LINCOLN (1940) Directed by John Ford, the film stars Henry Fonda, Alice Brady and Donald Meek. The film journeys back in time to the early years of the future President. From his humble Kentucky Cabin to his Springfield legal Practice. 100 minutes, black & White, available on VHS and laserdisk. $19.95 for VHS.

MEMBERSHIP DUES: A reminder to members that dues for the 1991-1992 year are still payable. $15.00 per individual, $20.00 per couple. For New members there is a $5.00 initiation fee which covers the cost of a name tag. Please mail your check (payable to Puget Sound CWRT) to Harold Hoyt, 7455 S. 127th, Seattle, WA 98178. Members who are current in their dues for the 1991-1992 year will see a P by their name on the enclosed roster.

FORTHCOMING BOOKS: The University of North Carolina Press is publishing BURNSIDE by William Marvel $29.95. This is the first major biography of the Union general in over 100 years and offers to present a revised viewpoint on the controversial general. If interested mail your check payable to University of North Carolina Press, P.O. Box 2288, Chapel Hill, NC 27515-2288.

MEMBERSHIP: We are always looking for new members. Please speak to friends who may be interested.

DISPLAY TABLE AND RAFFLE: Bring in your Civil War artifacts for all to see. Please bring books or other items for the raffle and buy raffle tickets.

BATTLEFIELD PRESERVATION: The Cedar Creek Battlefield Foundation is trying to raise $450,000 by September 1, 1994 in order to buy significance portions of the Cedar Creek Battlefield from developers. Almost half of this money has been raised. If you would like to contribute to this project (which is tax deductible) send your check to Cedar Creek Battlefield Foundation, Inc. PO Box 229, Middletown, VA 22645. More information can be obtained by calling 703-869-6600.

THIS MONTH IN THE CIVIL WAR: November 14, 1861 a Confederate camp near Point of Rocks, Maryland was broken up by a small Federal force. President Lincoln approved General Ambrose Burnside's plan of attack against Richmond, November 14, 1862. On November 14, 1863 General N. B. Forest was assigned to command of Confederate forces in Federally controlled West Tennessee. President Lincoln accepted the resignation of Major General George B. McClellan from the Army on November 14, 1864.

UPCOMING MEETINGS: Our schedule of meetings and topics for the rest of the year tentatively looks like this: For the December 12, 1991 meeting it will be "Short Topic Night". January 9, 1992 "Jiggs" Hoyt will present a talk on Civil War Railroads. February 13, 1992 Professor Archie McDonald of Stephen F. Austin University will discuss Civil War Music. Don Murray will talk about Mary Todd Lincoln at our March 12, 1992 meeting. For our April 9, 1992 meeting the noted Civil War writer Jeffrey Wert (whose latest book is Mosby's Rangers) will speak on events in the Shenandoah in 1864. And for our final meeting on May 14, 1992 Dr. James Morgan will talk on the Confederate Surgeon General.

CIVIL WAR SITES IN WASHINGTON: Fort Steinacoom in Pierce County is located west of I-5. The fort site is now on the grounds of Western State Hospital. Capt. George B. McClellan supervised the building of a military road from this point to Walla Walla. O.O. Howard and George Pickett were stationed here before the war. In the fort cemetery is a marker for William H. Wallace, governor of Washington Territory during the war.

CIVIL WAR BOOKNOTES: The month's topic is a guide to Basic Civil War Sources.

NECROLITHOGRAPHERS WANTED: GRAVE MATTERS, a newsletter for those in pursuit of Civil War burial places is being published by Steve Davis. If interested, for additional information write to Steve Davis, 1163 Warren Hall Lane, Atlanta GA 30319.

NOTICES: This is your bulletin and if you would like to have notices of meetings, questions, etc published in it just give Pat Brady or Jeff Rombauer a written copy of your notice at the meeting prior to the date of the bulletin you wish to have your announcement published.

FROM THE CIVIL WAR QUIZ BOOK BY Rod Gagg comes the following questions: Test your Civil War knowledge.

1. What Northern organization supplied thousands of products to Confederate soldiers?
2. What were the ironclad, Fort Sumter, Headquarters U.S.A. and the Blue Goose?
3. What was Pfaff's Cave?
4. Who was the youngest General in the Union Army?
5. What was "bully" soup?
6. What was Confederate "cush"?
7. Who were Wagon Dogs?
8. Where was the Confederate States Naval Academy?
9. What Confederate soldier later became a German Field Marshall in World War I?
10. How many pair of gloves were owned by Mrs. Lincoln when she was First Lady?

Answers will be given out at the November meeting.

A LINCOLN STORY: One day when Mr. (Attorney General) Edward Bates was demonstrating with Mr. Lincoln against the appointment of some indifferent lawyer to a place of judicial importance, the President interposed with, "Come now Bates, he's not half so bad as you think. Besides that I must tell you he did me a good turn long ago. When I took to the law, I was going to court one morning, with some ten or twelve miles of bad road before me. 'Hello, Lincoln, are you not going to the court house? Come in, and I'll give you a seat.' Well, I got in, and the Judge went on reading his papers. Presently the wagon struck a stump on one side of the road; then it hopped off to the other. I looked out, and I saw the driver was jerking from side to side in his seat, so, says I, 'Judge, I think your coachman has been taking a little drop too much this morning.' Well, I declare, Lincoln," said he, 'I should not much wonder if you are right, for he has nearly upset me half a dozen times since starting.' So, putting his head out of the window, he shouted, 'Why, you infernal scoundrel, you are drunk!' Upon which, pulling up his horses, and turning round with great gravity, the coachman said, 'By gorral that's the first rightful decision you have given for the last twelvemonth!'"
The American Civil War has been called by many historians the first of the modern wars, but a more appropriate name may be the "First Great Paper War." Perhaps at no other time in history had the combatants on both sides generated, preserved, and published official documents relating to a specific conflict in such great volume. From the reports of the Committee on the Conduct of War, to the Proceedings of the Confederate Congress, from U.S. Sanitary Commission Bulletins, to the Reports of Robert E. Lee, both sides kept the printing presses busy. At war's end, the U.S. Government had warehouses full of documents as did the individual northern states. While many Confederate documents were lost or scattered with the fall of Richmond, crates full of Rebel Records were shipped to Washington. The "Brothers War" became the best documented conflict up to that time. When you add to the official records the thousands of post-war recollections by combatants on both sides, it is no small wonder that so many thousands of books and articles have been written and continue to be written on the Civil War. Listed below are some of the Basic Sources published on the "Great Rebellion."


The superb companion to the "Official Records", the original edition of the atlas was issued over a period of 5 years with 5 plates to each part. Each map is keyed to its corresponding report in the OR. The atlas has been reprinted several times, but none of the later editions can match the 7 vivid colors used in the original. A useful guide index. Civil War Maps: A Graphic Index to Accompany the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies, was published in 1987 by the Newberry Library edited by Noel S. O'Reilly, David C. Bosse and Robert Karrow.

Proceedings of the Senate and House were published daily and later collected in bound volumes printed by the Congressional Globe Office. Anyone familiar with the modern Congressional Record is familiar with the fact that what is printed here may not be what was actually said in the debates.


The minutes of the Congress of the Confederate States was not published until 1904, under an act of Congress. Not as valuable as the Congressional Globe, these volumes contain only a sketchy outline of what occurred in the Confederate Congress. For those seeking more information Vols 44-52 of the Southern Historical Society Papers (1923-1959) published "proceedings" of the Congress as reported in Richmond Newspapers.

For anyone interested in further information on public documents issued by both the Union and Confederate governments, the following two books are recommended: GUIDE TO FEDERAL ARCHIVES RELATING TO THE CIVIL WAR by Kenneth W. Munden and Henry Putney Beers, published by the National Archives.


Established in December of 1861 to inquire into the conduct of the war, this committee's impact on the conduct of the war has been the subject of great controversy among historians. The committee had "little or no regard for secrecy, it did not hesitate to summon commanders from" the field to testify before it. Inquiries ranged from Ball's Bluff to trade in military districts. For one view of the committee's work see T. Harry Williams's Lincoln and the Radicals 1939.