PSCWRT

APRIL 28, 1992

THANKS: To Jeffry Wert for his enlighten review of the Shenandoah Campaign of 1864. Mr. Wert was able to achieve the impossible by condensing the heart of his 200 page book on the Shenandoah battles into an hours speech. We look forward to his new book on General Longstreet which will be published sometime in 1993.

NEXT MEETING THURSDAY May 14, 1992: 6 pm social hour, 7 pm dinner at Consolidated Mess, Sand Point Naval Station. Write your menu choice, name and the names of any guests on the enclosed card and mail it. IT IS NOT NECESSARY TO MAIL A CARD IN IF YOU ARE NOT ATTENDING THE MEETING. If you decide at a late hour to come to the meeting, please call Dio Richardson. We need an accurate count in advance in order to avoid any delay in serving dinner. MENU: Top Sirloin Steak or Chicken Kiev with Cheese Sauce served with Broccoli and Baked Potato.

MAY 14, 1992 PROGRAM: Our speaker will be our own Dr. James F. Morgan. Dr. Morgan has been a long time member of the PSCWRT and has spoken in the past on the Northwest and Civil War history. He received his Phd. from Oklahoma State and is the author of Graybacks and Gold: Confederate Monetary Policy [1985] as well as articles in Confederate Veteran and The Chronicles of Oklahoma. His topic for the May meeting will be on the Confederate Surgeon General's Office.

VIDEO WATCH: Our final film recommendation for the year is SHENANDOAH [1965]. Jams Stewart and Doug McClure star in the tale of a Virginia farmer who is forced to take a stand during the Civil War when his son is kidnapped and taken prisoner. 105 minutes, color, available on VHS for $19.95 and on laser disk.

FORTHCOMING BOOKS: Blue Acorn Press [P.O. Box 2684, Huntington, West Virginia 25726] is publishing YANKEE TIGERS: Through the Civil War with the 125th Ohio by Ralsa C. Rice: Edited by Richard A. Baumgartner & Larry M. Strayer for $20.00 & 2.50 shipping. Rice was a Lieutenant in the regiment and his narrative was first published in 1905. It is now being reissued with 5 maps and 67 wartime photographs added, also with a new bibliography and index. The 125th Ohio was one of the more famous Union regiments to serve in the Western theater of operations and saw action at Chickamauga, Missionary Ridge, and the Atlanta Campaign. Phone orders can be made by calling [304] 733-3917.

MEMORIAL DAY: Sons of Confederate Veterans and United Daughters of the Confederacy are holding a Memorial Day Service Monday May 25, 1992 at 3:00 P.M. [1500 hours] at the Confederate Monument, Lakeview Cemetery and Later at the G.A.R. Cemetery. If you are interested in attending call Jim Morgan for details and directions. 226-3541.

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 [we need to improve the quality of the raffle] and buy raffle tickets. Thanks to the members for their contributions to the last raffle, let's keep up the good work. Next year we will be holding a silent auction to support Battlefield Preservation, so if you have quality books, or other artifacts that you might wish to donate to the auction Please see Don Larson.

BATTLEFIELD PRESERVATION: New Market Battlefield Historical Park seeks to perpetuate the site of the Battle of New Market as a memorial and to preserve and interpret the military and social history of the Shenendoah Valley during the Civil War period. Its long term goals are to develop a long-range plan which will focus on battlefield preservation in the New Market area. Its most recent significant accomplishment is purchasing 20 acres around Shirley's Hill, the
site of the beginning of the Battle of New Market to add to the park. The Park is owned and operated by the Virginia Military Institute. For additional information write Ed Merrell, Director, New Market Battlefield Historical Park, P.O. Box 1864, New Market, Virginia 22844.

OFFICERS 1992-1993: As a result of the elections held at our April Meeting the following positions were filled for the 1992-1993 year.

President-Jeff Rombauer
Vice-President-Patrick S. Brady
Treasurer- Harold "Jiggs" Hoyt
Asst. Treasurers- Steve Beatty/George Hood
Circulation Chair. Richard Bennett
Secretary-Don Larson
Directors
Marc Duval
Loren Mann
Tate Mason
Don Mohr
Don Murray
Phyllis Ramsay
Dio Richardson

NEW MAGAZINE AVAILABLE: As if we needed another Civil War magazine, there is now being published THE CIVIL WAR LADY MAGAZINE which features fashion news, reenacting tips, etiquette, medical, and research information regarding the distaff side of the Civil War. If you might be interested $4.00 will secure you a sample issue, or $20.00 for a yearly subscription of 6 issues. Write to THE CIVIL WAR LADY, 622 Third Ave., SW, Dept., Pipestone, MN 56164 or call [507] 825-3182.

THIS MONTH IN THE CIVIL WAR: May 14, 1861 Thomas J. Jackson was securing some much needed rolling stock for the Confederacy by deverting a number of coal trains of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad to Winchester and Strasburg, VA. Forces under General George B. McClellan skirmished with rebel forces near Gaines' Cross Roads on the Peninsula on May 14, 1862. Union forces occupied Jackson, Mississippi May, 14, 1863 during the Vicksburg Campaign. May 14, 1864 saw fierce fighting around Spotsylvania, VA when 24 Federal brigades attacked Confederate lines along what became known as the "Bloody Angle". As the war slowly ended on May 14, 1865 only minor skirmishing occurred near Little Piney in Missouri.

UPCOMING MEETINGS: EARLY WARNING! Our guest speaker for our September meeting will be John Simon, editor of the Ulysses S. Grant Papers. Our entire program for 1992-1993 looks tentatively like this:

September 1992 John Y. Simon, Editor of the Ulysses S. Grant Papers; October 1992. Arthur Mokin, author of Ironclad. December 1992 Fred Wilmouth will discuss the Mexican War experiences of high-ranking Confederate generals; January 1993, Professor Tracy McKenzie from the University of Washington; March 1993 Professor Carol Reardon from Penn State University, author of Soldiers & Scholars: The U.S. Army and the Uses of Military History 1865-1900; Other speakers dates to be determined: Dr. William Trier on Civil War Music; Col. Richard Sinsel on the November 1863 capture of Fort Esperanza and Matagorda Island, Texas; Jim Hansen Civil War Prisons. Short topic speakers will include Jim Diamond on the Civil War experiences of the Banks family, Columbus, Georgia as well as Maynard Sanders.

CIVIL WAR BOOKNOTES: The month's Booknotes concerns the Alabama and her Captain Raphael Semmes.

NOTICES: If you wish to place a notice of an activity that you think the group would be interested, Please contact either Jeff Rombauer or Pat Brady.
Booknotes

The Alabama

This month's booknotes covers a topic which really doesn't need an introduction, Captain Ralph Semmes and the CSS Alabama. Almost single handedly the famous Confederate raider drove the American carrying trade from the seas. While the Alabama captured only 76 U.S. commercial ships during its career, hundred's of American ships were sold to neutral flags during the war. The U.S. Merchant fleet has never recovered. Listed below are recommend readings on this famous Confederate cruiser and her Captain.


The earliest book length account of the cruise of the Alabama, first published in London, it was based on Semmes and other officers logs.


Semmes wrote a flowery and legalistic account of his career on the Sumter and Alabama which went through many editions. The edition edited by Stern cuts out the lengthy justification of secession that Semmes began his book with.


Boykin considers the Alabama epic as "the best out and out adventure story of the Civil War." It should be noted that the author uses some sources that are considered fraudulent by other writers.


Three general histories of the Alabama as seen from a foreign perspective. The Bradlow book
from a South African perspective, the latter two are written by English Historians.


Yet another log by an officer on the Alabama. The editor describes these as "largely factual ... but maddenly abbreviated."


This popular reminiscences by the Fifth Lieutenant on the Alabama went through a number of printings. Sinclair admitted to having written his account from memory [although other Alabama officers claimed he "stole" much of his material from Semmes' book] It has been recently reprinted.


John McIntosh Kell was Lieutenant and executive officer of the Alabama. His autobiography is based partly on his Civil War letters.


A full length biography of Kell which tries to fill in the gaps about the Alabama’s executive office which he left out of his own autobiography.


Fullam was a 21 year old Englishman who served as acting masters mate and one of the Alabama’s boarding officers. His spare journal is excellently edited and annotated by Summersell.


A comprehensive history of the Alabama, her builder, and Semmes. A superb book which includes superior reproductions of the specs and plans for the ship.


The best modern history of the diplomacy covering U.S. claims against Great Britain for allowing the Alabama to be built in England.


A collection of valuable articles on the Alabama covering topics such as the 1984 discovery of her resting place and its cruise in Asian waters.