THANKS to our January speaker Professor Peter Byers of the University of Washington. He made a complex scientific topic understandable to laymen. It looks like it will be a few years before there are any Lincoln clones available. Most of those in attendance agreed that the January meeting was one of the better sessions we had in our history.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday February 11, 1993. 6 P.M. social hour, 7 P.M. dinner at Consolidated Club, 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 to avoid delay in serving dinner. MENU: Top Sirloin Steak or Chicken Cordon Bleu with Cheese Sauce with either Green Beans or Broccoli. All meals served with Rolls and Butter, Coffee or Tea and Ice Cream.

FEBRUARY 1993 PROGRAM: Col. Richard Sinsel will talk about the Capture of Fort Esperanza located on Matagorda Island off the coast of Texas. During the last week of November 1863, 2800 Union soldiers from the 13th U.S. Army Corps attacked 500 Confederate troops under the command of Col. W. R. Bradfute. This should be an interesting topic.
NEW BOOKS: Fairleigh Dickinson University Press is publishing The Long Road For Home: The Civil War Experiences of Four Farmboy Soldiers of the Twenty-seventh Massachusetts Regiment of Volunteer Infantry as Told by their Personal Correspondence 1861-1864: Edited by Henry C. Lind. Based on over 50 letters of William W. Lind as well as letters from 3 other members of the regiment, the book covers the history of the regiment from the capture of Roanoke Island through the Siege of Petersburg. If you are interested send $36.50 to Associated University Press, 440 Forsythe Drive, Cranberry, New Jersey 08512.

Board of Directors Meeting
The semi-annual meeting of the PSCWRT will be held at noon, February 15 at Ivars' Salmon House. RSVP

THIS MONTH IN THE CIVIL WAR: February 11, 1861 two new Presidents departed their homes to take up their new positions. Abraham Lincoln left Springfield, Illinois for the last time and Jefferson Davis departed his plantation Brierfield to travel to Montgomery, Alabama to assume the Presidency of the new Confederate States of America. One year later on February 11, 1862 forces under the command of Ulysses S. Grant started their march to Fort Donelson from Fort Henry. On February 11, 1863 the Confederate commissioner to Great Britain, James Mason addressed a banquet in London in his continuing attempt to secure British recognition of the Confederacy. Confederate raiders under Major H. W. Gilmor attacked the B&O railroad in West Virginia on February 11, 1864. Sherman's army was in South Carolina on February 11, 1865.

CIVIL WAR BOOKNOTES: This month's booknotes is a guide to the books on Women of the Confederacy.

UPCOMING MEETINGS: Our schedule of meetings and topics for the rest of the year is given below. In March our own Fred Wilmot will talk about the Mexican War Experiences of Confederate Generals. Dr. William Trier will talk on Civil War Music in April 1993 and for our final program in May 1993, members Jim Diamond, Marc Duvall and Maynard Sanders will present short topics.

THE VOLUNTEER

HARD by the porch of the village church
A dusty traveler halts awhile to rest;
His head droops tired down upon his breast
But the word of prayer wakes now life there.

"God bless the brave, who go to save
Our country, in her dark, dread hour of danger!
The good man's voice was comfort to the stranger
Duty wipes away a tear as he hurries to the war.

CIVIL WAR SITES IN THE WEST: 10 miles north of Chivington, Colorado is Sand Creek. Here on November 29, 1864 Colorado Volunteers under the command of Col. J. M. Chivington attacked a camp of Southern Cheyennes who had assumed that they were under the protection of nearby Fort Lyon. Over 300 Indians were slain, including more than 200 women and children. A marker is on the ridge over looking the site.

CIVIL WAR TRIVIA
1. How many blacks served in the U.S. Navy.
2. What was "Pop Skull"
3. What was the daily cost of the Civil War to the U.S. Government.

Answers to January's Trivia
1. "No, No. Let us pass over the river and rest under the shade of the trees."
2. The C.S.S. Tennessee was captured at the Battle of Mobile Bay.
This is one of the earliest anthologies of accounts on the war experiences written by Southern women. The book is composed of articles first published in The News and Courier newspaper of Charleston. The articles span such topics as poets of the south to war time fashions.


Another early anthology of women’s writings culled from published sources and arranged in chapters covering "Their Work", "Their Trials", and "Their Cause." A scarce book to find.


Another good anthology of stories on the role of Southern women during the war.

- The Women of the Confederacy. Francis Butler Simkins and James Welch Patton.

An excellent history of the role of Women of the Confederacy. Topics covered include "Relations with the Enemy", "Instances of Heroism" and "The Misery of Defeat." The book deserves to be reprinted.


The best modern anthology on Women of the Confederacy composed of selections from both published and manuscript sources. The text is arranged to present a chronological history of the Confederacy. The author Katherine M. Jones compiled two similar books Ladies of Richmond & When Sherman Came: Southern Women and the "Great March."


The best known and most quoted "diary" written by a
Southern women. This is a must read book. Originally published in 1905, and then in an expanded 1948 edition, this 1981 edition is the best. Not a true diary since Mary Chesnut polished and re-worked her war time journals in the 1880’s, this work still presents valuable insights into life during the Confederacy. For the full story of Mary Chesnut’s life see the biography by Elisabeth Muhlenfeld

Mary Boykin Chesnut: A Biography


Another must read book, this massive collection of letters written by members of the Charles C. Jones family of Georgia makes Gone with the Wind seem tame. The whole period of the 1850’s through reconstruction is viewed through the letters of this literate family.


"Long recognized as one of this most important personal records of the civil war, this diary of a young Louisiana women covers life in both Baton Rouge and in occupied New Orleans. This is the best and most complete of 3 published editions.


A vivid diary of plantation life in Louisiana and refugee life in Texas during the war. "quite without pretense this young girl presents a picture with almost photographic clarity of the daily life-the struggles-the dangers, the hopes, and the dreams of the South during its darkest hours."

♦ The War-Time Journal of a Georgia Girl 1864-1865: Edited by Spencer Bidwell


An enduring picture of life in War time Georgia during the last 9 months of the war by a young Georgia girl who later became a noted novelist and botanist in the post war South.


First published in 1866, this book gives a perceptive account of life in Richmond during the war. Written in the third person, this work is more a social history of Richmond than an autobiography.


Mrs McGuire was the wife of a High School principal in Alexandria, Virginia who was forced to flee when Union troops occupied the city. Freeman calls her diary "as interesting psychologically as it is historically."