THANKS to our February speaker Colonel Richard Sinsel. His talk shed light on a neglected area of Civil War history. It also demonstrated how personal the "War" remains to many of us due to the "mystic cords of memory" of our direct forefathers who fought in it.

NEXT MEETING: March 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: London Broil or Cornish Game Hen with baked potato and Peas and Mushrooms. All meals served with Rolls and Butter, Coffee or Tea and Ice Cream.

SPEAKERS WANTED
While our programs for 1993-94 are almost set, we are always looking for speakers. If you are interested in giving a talk please see Pat Brady.

MARCH 1993 PROGRAM: One of our own, Fred Wilmoth will talk about the Mexican War experiences of some notable Confederate generals. Robert E. Lee, P. T. G. Beauregard, Braxton Bragg were among some of the southern officers who gained valuable experience in that conflict. This could be an entertaining topic. Plan to bring your friends and neighbors.

DISPLAY TABLE AND RAFFLE: Bring in your Civil War artifacts for all to see. For our March meeting there will be a display of the best of recently published books on Lincoln and the Civil War. Please bring books or other items which you would like to donate to the raffle and BUY raffle tickets.

VIDEO WATCH: This month's film is SOUTH OF ST. LOUIS [1949] a Civil War western starring Joel McCrea, Alexis Smith, Zachary Scott and Dorthy Malone. A Texas rancher turns gunrunner when his cattle ranch is devastated during the explosive times of the Civil War. Available in VHS or Beta, Color, $14.95.

BATTLEFIELD TOURS: For those interested in touring Civil War Battlefields History America Tours offers 9 different packages during 1993 led by distinguished historians including Ed Bearss, Richard McMurry and Dennis Kelly. For additional information call 1-800-628-8542 for free brochures.

CIVIL WAR GROUPS: Our group this month is the well known United Daughters of the Confederacy. The U.D.C. seeks female descendants of Confederate soldiers or sailors for membership. For more information write to the U.D.C. Business Office, 328 North Bend, Richmond, VA 23220.

NEW BOOKS: Butternut and Blue, 3411 Northwind Road Baltimore, Maryland 21234 [410] 256-9220 has announced the publication of 3 new books by this summer. "Over a Wide Hot, ... Crimson Plain: The Struggle for the Bliss Farm at Gettysburg, July 2nd & 3rd 1863. $25.00. Letters of a Confederate Officer to His Family in Europe During the Last Year of the War. [Price not yet set] and Scott, Kate. History of the 105th Regt. of Pennsylvania Vol. [Price not yet set] For additional details write to Butternut and Blue at the address given above.
CIVIL WAR FICTION

"The Civil War and the years that followed it undoubtedly offer the most dramatic and powerful material available to the American novelist... and some day we shall probably get a really great novel out of it. But we haven't had it yet," W. J. Cash
1940

While no American War and Peace has appeared among the hundreds of novels published in this country since 1861 which treat of the "War", there are many worth reading. Robert A. Lively writing in Fiction Fights the Civil War [1957] recommended the following:
1. James L. Allen The Sword of Youth [1915]
2. G. W. Cable. Dr. Sevier [1885]
4. J. W. De Forest. Miss Ravenel's Conversion from Secession to Loyalty [1867]
5. William Faulkner. The Unvanquished [1938]
6. Ellen Glasgow. The Battle Ground [1902]
7. Caroline Gordon. None Shall Look Back [1937]
8. Dubose Heyward Peter Ashley [1932]
11. Andrew Lytle. The Long Night [1936]
15. Stark Young. So Red the Rose. [1934]

To Lively's list one can add these more modern novels:
18. Allan Gurganus. Oldest Living Confederate Widow Tells All. [1989]

THIS MONTH IN THE CIVIL WAR: On March 11, 1861 the Confederate Congress adopted the Constitution of the Confederate States of America. Gen. George B. McClellan was removed as General-in-Chief of the U.S. Army on March 11, 1862, but he remained in command of the Army of the Potomac. A year later, on March 11, 1863 the sale of pictures of Confederate generals and statesmen was prohibited in Baltimore by the Federal commander. On March 11, 1864, U.S. Grant departed Washington to visit Sherman in Nashville to go over strategy for the spring campaign. Finally on March 11, 1865 President Lincoln issued a proclamation that deserters who returned within sixty days would be pardoned, but if they did not return, their rights of citizenship would be forfeit.

CIVIL WAR BOOKNOTES:
This month's booknotes is a guide to soldier life in the Army of the Potomac.

UPCOMING MEETINGS: Our schedule of meetings and topics for the rest of the year is given below. 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.

CIVIL WAR SITES IN THE WEST: Fort C.F. Smith was located near Lodge Grass on the Big Horn River, Big Horn County, Montana. "It is said the fort was manned by the 27th Infantry in 1866, because the regiment's colonel had provoked Secretary of War Stanton by asking for an easy post. Stanton supposedly asked his clerk, "Which place next to hell is the worst place to send a regiment?" The reply was "To the Powder River Country." A historical marker marks the site on US 87 one mile south of Lodge Grass.

Civil War Trivia will return next month.
civil war
booknotes
campaigning with
the army of the
potomac

After the Union defeat at First Bull Run in July 1861, Maj. Gen. George B. McClellan was ordered to Washington, D.C. to reorganized the troops around the capital. Out of the ashes of defeat arose the Army of the Potomac, the major Union army in the East. Its mission was to defend Washington, capture Richmond and defeat the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia. Despite numerous setbacks, and incompetent commanders, the Army of the Potomac achieved its goals in April 1865. What was it like to live and fight in the Army of the Potomac? Listed below are books that illuminate what daily life was like in the Army of the Potomac.


Henry Livermore Abbott served as an officer in the famous 20th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry. His literate letters cover his service from Ball’s Bluff through the Battle of the Wilderness, where he was killed leading his regiment.


Bell Wiley called this memoir "one of the most interesting... which contrary to many works of this type records the evil as well as the good of camp life." Bardeen served in the 1st Massachusetts Vol... Infantry. The reader should be warned that Bardeen borrowed freely from other books.


A unique memoir by a Private in the 5th New Jersey Volunteer Infantry. "Through its combination of pictures and prose this memoir... gives an unparalleled firsthand account of what it was like to be a private soldier in the Union army."


A classic. Bell Wiley wrote that Billings' book was "among the most delightful of published memoirs on the Union side." Billings described army life in a series of chapters whose topics ranged from Army Rations to the Army Mule. The book as been reprinted many times.


Called "perhaps the best of the personal reminiscences, this volume comprising letters written
from the field by four Massachusetts brothers who served in the Army of the Potomac, provides a vivid picture of the life of a Union Soldier."


Wilbur Fisk was a private in the 2nd Vermont Infantry. His letters were originally published during the war in The Green Mountain Freeman. Fisk provides good descriptions of everyday soldier life. This book has recently been republished by University of Kansas Press under the title of Hard Marching Every Day.


Gerrish was a member of the famed 20th Maine. Nevin’s describes this work as "often quoted, these memoirs of service in the Army of the Potomac are nevertheless fraught with errors and relatively limited observation."


A day by day account of service with the 17th Maine Volunteer Infantry which saw service in the Army of the Potomac from Fredericksburg to Appomattox. Haley was a private in Company I, and used his wartime journals as the basis of this expanded account.


This work was made famous by Ken Burn’s Civil War Series on PBS. Rhodes enlisted as a private in the 2nd Rhode Island and was it’s colonel by war’s end. His unit participated in every major battle fought by the Army of the Potomac.


Nevin’s bibliography lists this work as "one of the justifiably basic sources for any study of the Army of the Potomac; fresh, reliable, accurate..."


This work has been called "one of the best primary sources uncovered and published in recent years; contains a reservoir of data on almost every aspect of the Army of the Potomac." Wainwright was Colonel of the 1st New York Light Artillery and Chief of Artillery for the 5th Army Corps.