PSCWRT

THE BULLETIN OF THE PUGET SOUND CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

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           Don Murray, Phyllis Ramsay, Dio Richardson [523-8969]

THANKS:  To Dr. William Trier for his talk on Civil War Music. As usual, Dr. Trier presented a well prepared, entertaining talk which was well received by the audience.

NEXT MEETING:  May 13, 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 Kiev with Cheese Sauce. All meals served with Rolls and Butter, Coffee or Tea and Ice Cream.

MAY 1993 PROGRAM:  Our annual short topic meeting will be held in May. Puget Sound Civil War Roundtable members Jim Diamond, Marc Duvall and Maynard Sanders will present short talks on various aspects of Civil War history.

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

NEW OFFICERS:  The PSCWRT nomination committee has announced the following slate of candidates for officers of the Puget Sound Civil War Round Table for the 1993-1994 year.

President:  Don Larson
Vice President:  Don Murray
V. P. - Programming:  Pat Brady
Treasurer:  George Hood
Asst. Treasurer:  Dio Richardson
Circulation:  Richard Bennett
Secretary:  Jeff Rombauer
Directors:  Skip Bennett
           "Jiggs" Hoyt
           Loren Mann
           Tate Mason
           Tom McCarthy
           Rick Solomon
           Fred Wilmot

A formal vote will be taken at the May meeting.

VIDEO WATCH:  Years before he made "Unforgiven" Clint Eastwood made an excellent movie which echoed the border warfare in Missouri. This month's video pick is THE OUTLAW JOSEPHY WALES which stars Clint Eastwood, Sandra Locke & Chief Dan George. A Civil War western with Eastwood as a Missouri farmer whose family is wiped out by Union "Red Legs". Color, 136 minutes, VHS, $19.95

BATTLEFIELD PRESERVATION:  A Kentucky organization is our recommended preservation group this month. The Perryville Battlefield Preservation Association, Inc. was incorporated in 1990 to promote the preservation, interpretation and maintenance of this historic 1862 battlefield. Annual dues are $15.00 and may be sent to Perryville Battlefield Preservation Association, Inc., 1114 First National Building, 167 West Main Street, Lexington, Kentucky 40507. Members will receive bulletins and newsletters of the association, & discounts at Perryville area shops, lodgings, restaurants, museums, etc. This group is a non-profit, tax-exempt corporation.

NEW BOOKS:  Two "old" regimental histories are now available in new reprint editions from Camp Pope Bookshop, P.O. Box 2232, Iowa City, Iowa 52244. [319] 351-2407. The first is Samuel C. Jones Reminiscences of the Twenty-Second Iowa Volunteer Infantry. This book was "among the best reminiscences of Iowa soldiers; Jones recounted in diary
experiences as a war prisoner." The other regimental reprint is Wales W. Wood A History of the 95th Regiment Illinois Infantry Volunteers. This unit saw service in the XVI Corps. Each book is $25.00 & shipping.

1993-1994 Meetings

Our tentative schedule of programs for next season promises to be both highly educational and entertaining for our members. Tentatively booked are Skip Bennett on Religion and the Civil War; Rick Solomon on the Battle of South Mountain; Tom McCarthy on the Battle of Pickett's Mill in the Atlanta Campaign; Don Nicholson on the radical interpretation of the Civil War; Alvin Kantor on Sanitary fairs and Civil War Benovolences; Professor Tracy McKenzie of the University of Washington on the War in East Tennessee; Dr. Shannon Van Meter, a forensic pathologist from Oakland, California on Civil War Wounds; Professor Emory M. Thomas of the University of Georgia [author of Bold Dragoon: The Life of JEB Stuart, & other works] on rethinking Robert E. Lee and Nat Brandt [author of The Man Who Tried to Burn New York, The Town The Started the Civil War and The Congressman who Got Away with Murder]

IN MEMORIAL

We have recently learned of the untimely death of Bob Gehring, a recent but most enthusiastic member. Our condolences to his wife Judy.

MY FRIENDS:

No one, not in my situation, can appreciate my feeling at this parting, to this place, and the kindness of these people, I owe everything. Here I have lived a quarter of a century, and have passed from a young to an old man. Here my children have been born, and one is buried. I now leave, not knowing when or whether ever I may return, with a task before me greater than that which rested upon Washington. Without the assistance of that Divine Being who ever attended him, I cannot succeed. With that assistance I cannot fail. Trusting in Him who can go with me, and remain with you, and be everywhere for good, let us confidently hope that all will yet be well. To His care commending you, as I hope in your prayers, you will commend me, I bid you an affectionate farewell.

Lincoln's Farewell Address Delivered At Springfield
February 11, 1861.
There were two conflicts going on during the Civil War. First there was the military conflict with the Confederacy as the North struggled to physically hold the Union together. But just as important was the political contest in the North to decide what sort of Union would arise out of the fighting. Would it be "The Union as it was, the Constitution as it is," or something new and different. Defeat for the Lincoln government in either conflict, militarily or politically might have spelled doom for the Union. This month's book notes is a guide to some of the more prominent books on politics in the North during the Civil War.


Belz's book explains how the Republican party transformed a series of expedient military steps into a civil rights policy guaranteeing American citizenship and equality before the law to the country's black population.


Long before Appomattox, the issue of how to reunite the nation was a source of conflict between Congress and Lincoln. In this excellent study, Belz reviews the struggle over how to rebuild the Union.


Bogue attempts to examine how the House of Representatives worked during the Civil War by studying it as an "institution." He examines its relationship with Lincoln, its investigative oversight function and who provided the internal leadership in the House of Representatives.


In his study of the Civil War Senate, Bogue uses an analysis of roll call votes to challenge the old idea that the Republicans of this period were essentially united on the issues of the day. Bogue illustrates instead that there were widespread and important differences between the various factions of Republican Senators.


An older history which has just two slim chapters on events during the Civil War years.


Military affairs were not the only concern of the 37th Congress. American society and politics was shaped for generations by the non-military legislation passed by that Congress. Among its many accomplishments detailed by Curry are the Land-Grant College Act, the Homestead Act, the Pacific Railroad Act and a national currency.


Dell's volume "concentrates on those Democrats of the Civil War years who broke
with the Democratic party tradition to cooperate in the suppression of Disunion and in behalf of President Lincoln."


An older study of the 1860 campaign which has been superseded by Luthin’s book listed below. Still it includes not only copies of the party platforms, but representative speeches by supporters of each of the four candidates.


The ideological struggle between the parties during the Civil War found an outlet in the numerous, inexpensive, and often virulent pamphlets of the period. These two volumes offer an excellent selection of the more important political pamphlets.


Still the best account of the pivotal election of 1860. Luthin used a wealth of unpublished material to write a complete portrait not only of Lincoln’s campaign but of his opponents as well.


David Donald called this slim little volume the “best general account of politics in the North.” Rawley looks on American nationalism, its nature and how it was altered by the war.


An important historical interpretation of the role of the Democratic party during the Civil War period. Silbey "shows that the Democrats did function effectively in this period," that the party was not the "stumbling, obsolete and anachronistic " treasonable organization depicted in many histories.


Trefousse has written a complete history of the "political realists" who fought for the cause of racial reform before, during and after the Civil War. According to the author Lincoln might not have succeeded in crushing the rebellion without their support.


A traditional interpretation of the conflict with in the Republican party during the Civil War in this, the first book by the noted Civil War Historian. "Williams emphasized the sordid factionalism" between the conservative Lincoln and the "Jacobin" radicals.


A thoroughly researched study of the 1864 election. Zornow details how Lincoln used his political acumen to "save his country, his program, and his party from defeat, rejection and division."