PSCWRT
THE BULLETIN OF THE PUGET SOUND CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
VOLUME 8 NUMBER III November 1993

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THANKS: To all 66 members who showed up for the October Meeting. It's hard to imagine the mild mannered Dr. Van Meter being engaged in such a gruesome occupation as forensic pathology. Her talk on Civil War Wounds was informative and highly interesting.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday November 11, 1993. 6PM Social Hour, 7PM Dinner at the Consolidated Club, Sand Point Naval Station. Write your menu choice, name and names of any guests on the enclosed card and mail it ASAP! We need an accurate count in advance to avoid delays in serving dinner. Menu: Swiss Steak jardiniere with whipped potatoes or Broiled filet of sole stuffed with shrimp and served with baked potatoes.

PROGRAM: Professor Thomas J. Pressly will discuss the Civil War in a comparative perspective, especially in comparison to Switzerland's experience. Dr. Pressly is the author of the highly regarded classic Americans Interpret Their Civil War and is a professor emeritus at the University of Washington. Professor Pressly is one of the founding members of the Puget Sound Civil War Round Table and has presented many interesting talks to our group in the past.

DUES: 1993-1994 membership dues are now payable. $15.00 per individual and $20.00 for couples. For new members there is a $5.00 initiation fee which covers the cost of a name tag. Mail you check [payable to PSCWRT] to George Hood, 7105 156th Place NE, Redmond, WA 98052. Members who are current will see a P by their name on the enclosed roster.

VIDEO WATCH: Drums in the Deep South [1951] is our recommendation for November. James Craig and Guy Madison star in this film about two West Point roommates who wind up on opposite sides during the Civil War and find themselves facing each other during the Atlanta Campaign. Craig Stevens, Barbara Peyton and Barton Maclane also star. The film was directed by William Cameron Menzies, best known for his art direction on Gone With The Wind. 87 min. Color VHS & Beta $19.95

The President and the Paymaster

One of the numerous paymasters at Washington sought an introduction to Mr. Lincoln. He arrived at the White House quite opportune, and was introduced to the President by the United States Marshal, with his blindest smile. While shaking hands with the President the paymaster remarked, "I only called to pay my compliments." "I understand," replied honest Abe, "and from the complaints of the soldiers, I think that is all you do pay."

BATTLEFIELD PRESERVATION: Our recommended preservation group this month is once again the APCWS, Inc. This outstanding group formed in 1987 to protect Civil War sites in the past year donated 134 acres of key ground at Mansfield Battlefield, in Louisiana, and is currently undertaking a campaign to save the important Malvern Hill - Glendale battlefield sites near Richmond. Annual
memberships are $25.00 for individuals, $35 for families. Additional information can be obtained by writing to APCWS, Inc. at P.O. Box 1862, Fredericksburg, VA 22402.

Silent Auction

Instead of our normal raffle, we will be holding our Second Annual Silent Auction to raise money for battlefield preservation. Last year we raised over $300 in the auction. Please bring those special contributions to donate for this worthy cause. For additional information please contact Richard Bennett 838-2071.

NEW BOOKS: In conjunction with the Lincoln exhibit at the Huntington Library, the distinguished Lincoln scholar Mark E. Neely, Jr. has written a new comprehensive history of Lincoln's presidency entitled The Last Best Hope of Earth: Abraham Lincoln and the Promise of America. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1993. $24.95. In a little over 200 pages, Neely presents a balanced, comprehensive portrait of the public Lincoln. Available now at the University Bookstore.

UPCOMING MEETINGS: For our December 1993 meeting, Alvin Kantor will talk about Sanitary Fairs. In January, Tom McCarthy will speak on the Battle of Pickett's Mill. In April the distinguished Civil War Scholar Emory Thomas will talk on Robert E. Lee.

AUTHENTIC REPRODUCTIONS OF CIVIL WAR PERIOD FOOTWEAR are now available in Seattle. David White has relocated his Black Dog Historical Footwear in downtown Seattle. For further information Mr. White can be contacted at [206] 441-6973.

MORE LINCOLN: The Civil War Round Table of Long Beach is offering a special symposium February 19, 1994 at the Huntington Library "A Day with Mr. Lincoln." Four Distinguished Lincoln Scholars will give lectures and a guided tour of the Lincoln Exhibit The Last Best Hope of Earth: Abraham Lincoln and the Promise of America will be given by the curator of the exhibit. Also included for the $50.00 fee will be a Buffet Lunch. If interested send your reservation to Bill Haley, 1510 Backbay Circle, Huntington Beach, CA 92648.

The Home Guard's Complaint.
At the Late Demand for Troops in the State of -----

"Tis the voice of the Home-Guard, I hear him Complain,
"You command me to go, when I hoped to Remain.
My Buttons are bright and my uniform is gay,
And I only desire at soldier's to play."

"If to fight horrid rebels my regiment goes,
We shall spoil our complexes and ruin our clothes;
And then think, the young ladies, oh! what will they do,
When there's no nice parade, and no lovely review?"

"Then reflect, and your barbarous order revolve:
Consider our corps in the light of a joke.
For if we had wanted to fight, Sir, you know,
We'd have entered some fighting corps,
long, long ago!"

Vanity Fair June 14, 1862
One of the key stories told in the new movie *Gettysburg* is that of Col. Joshua L. Chamberlain and his 20th Maine's defense of Little Round Top on July 2, 1863. Jeff Daniels portrayal of Chamberlain and the fight for Little Round Top to this writer are the highlights of this new movie, over shadowing the depiction of Pickett's Charge. For those interested in reading more on this mild mannered professor from Maine who earned the Congressional Medal of Honor for his actions on July 2 the following books are recommended.


Of the two modern biographies of Chamberlain, the more recent book by Truuck is the superior. Wallace's book covers more of Chamberlain's post war career.


*Civil War Books* calls this "an exhaustive evaluation of the fight for the key Union hill." Norton included excerpts from many reports and memoirs as well as unpublished letters.


This modern classic covers the fighting on the southern portion of the Gettysburg battlefield on July 2. Chapter 10 covers the action on Little Round Top. Pfanz study of the fighting around Cemetery Hill on July 2, will be issued in December.


One of the best of Confederate memoirs, Oates was Colonel of the 15th Alabama, one of Confederate units attacking Little Round Top on July 2nd. Needless to say, Oates view of the events differ considerably from Union reports.

*But at this moment the Fifteenth Alabama had infantry in front of them, to the right of them, dismounted cavalry in the rear of them. With a withering and deadly fire pouring in upon us from every direction, it seemed that the regiment was doomed to destruction. While one man was shot in the face, his right-hand or left-hand comrade was shot in the side or back. Some were struck simultaneously with two or three balls from different directions... My dead and wounded were then nearly as great in number as those still on duty. They literally covered the ground. The blood stood in puddles in some places on the rocks; the ground was soaked with the blood of as brave men as ever fell on the red field of battle.*

**The WAR** by William C. Oates.
DISPATCH FROM THE PRESIDENT

Someone once said the forgotten are the only truly dead. As we pause on Veterans Day this November 11, let's take time to reread Major Ballou's letter to his wife Sarah. If we do this as long as language endures, Major Ballou and his sacrifice and the sacrifice of other veterans will be remembered. DON LARSON

July 14, 1861
Camp Clark, Washington

My very dear Sarah:

The indications are very strong that we shall move in a few days—perhaps tomorrow. Lest I should not be able to write again, I feel impelled to write a few lines that may fall under your eye when I shall be no more . . .

I have no misgivings about, or lack of confidence in the cause in which I am engaged, and my courage does not halt or falter. I know how strongly American Civilization now leans on the triumph of the Government, and how great a debt we owe to those who went before us through the blood and sufferings of the Revolution. And I am willing—perfectly willing—to lay down all my joys in this life, to help maintain this Government, and to pay that debt . . .

Sarah my love for you is deathless, it seems to bind me with mighty cables that nothing but Omnipotence could break; and yet my love of Country comes over me like a strong wind and bears me irresistibly on with all these chains to the battlefield.

The memories of the blissful moments I have spent with you come creeping over me, and I feel most gratified to God and to you that I have enjoyed them so long. And hard it is for me to give them up and burn to ashes the hopes of future years, when, God willing, we might still have lived and loved together, and seen our sons grown up to honorable manhood, around us. I have, I know, but few and small claims upon Divine Providence, but something whispers to me—perhaps it is the wafted prayer of my little Edgar, that I shall return to my loved ones unharmed. If I do not my dear Sarah, never forget how much I love you, and when my last breath escapes me on the battlefield, it will whisper your name. Forgive my many faults, and the many pains I have caused you. How thoughtless and foolish I have often times been! How gladly would I wash out with my tears every little spot upon your happiness . . .

But, O Sarah! if the dead can come back to this earth and flit unseen around those they loved, I shall always be near you; in the gladdest days and in the darkest nights . . . always, always, and if there be a soft breeze upon your cheek, it shall be my breath, as the cool air fans your throbbing temple, it shall be my spirit passing by. Sarah do not mourn me dead; think I am gone and wait for thee, for we shall meet again . . . Major Sullivan Ballou of the 2nd Rhode Island died at Bull Run.