PSCWRT

THE BULLETIN OF THE PUGET SOUND CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

VOLUME 8 NUMBER V January 1994

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THANKS: To Alvin Kantor for his talk on Sanitary Fairs. The sixty members in attendance learned a great deal of how funds were raised to aid Union soldiers & their families.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday January 13, 1994. 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: Beef Stroganoff with mushrooms and buttered noodles or Coq Au Vin [chicken in wine sauce] with whipped potatoes and honey glazed carrots.

PROGRAM: PSCWRT member Tom McCarthy will speak about the battle of Pickett's Mill, an engagement which occurred during the Atlanta Campaign.

DUES: Last call for 1993-94 year dues. $15.00 for individuals and $20.00 for couples. This will be the last bulletin you receive if you have not paid your dues before the end of January. Please send your check, payable to PSCWRT, to George Hood, 7105 156th Place NE, Redmond, WA 98052.

VIDEO WATCH: Our January recommendation is The Littlest Rebel [1935] Shirley Temple, John Boles and Bill Robinson star in this Civil War story. When Shirley's Confederate father marches off to war, she is left minding the plantation and her ailing mother. Her father is eventually captured and it takes a visit to President Lincoln himself for Shirley to save the day. 70 min. B&W VHS $19.95.

BATTLEFIELD PRESERVATION: Civil War News in its latest issue reports that a group has organized in Greenbrier County, West Virginia as the Lee Headquarters Trust to raise $40,000 to restore and interpret a house used in 1861 as headquarters by Gen. Robert E. Lee. The group needs to raise the money to receive $160,000 in historic preservation funds. Yearly dues will be $10. If interested write Lee Headquarters Trust, P.O. Box 386, Ronceverte, WV 24970.

AN EVEN CHANCE
"Traveling in the County of Sevier, Arkansas," says an editor, "the stage was stopped on some trifling business at a house where lived one of the merriest and prettiest of the beautiful damsels of that highly favored country. She came out to the stage looking as fresh as Hebe, and we, having known her before, and presuming on the privileges of a paterfamilias, asked her if it were possible she had not married yet?

"'No, sir,' she answered; 'and what's more than that, I don't intend to, until the very last one of the volunteers gets back. I mean to wait, and let them have an even chance.'"

NEW BOOKS: Just published and in local bookstores is a new work by Howard Coffin Full Duty: Vermonters in the Civil War. In this
handsome book of 376 pages, the author recounts the complete history of Vermont’s participation in the Civil War from John Brown to Appomattox. Price is $30.00

DISPATCH FROM THE PRESIDENT
Leonidas Polk, who was killed at Pine Mountain in June 1864 during Sherman’s advance on Atlanta, was distinguished by being both a Confederate general and a bishop.

Polk’s loss was not a major military tragedy to the defending army. His fellow officers agreed that he was ‘more theoretical than practical’, and even the troops considered him a little ineffective. Yet they loved him withal, as even hardened troops can love a man for his humanity rather than his skill in combat. Perhaps the most eloquent tribute was found by Federal troops who occupied Pine Mountain two days later. Greeting them was a cruely lettered sign: YOU YANKEE SONS OF BITCHES HAVE KILLED OUR OLD GEN. POLK.
The Oxford Book of Military Anecdotes
Edited by Max Hastings.

DON LARSON

GOOD-BYE OLD ARM!
A Pathetic Song and Chorus 1865

They bore him gently from the field,
His bleeding wound they dressed,
And kindly gave a soothing draught
To lull his pain to rest
He knew the worst—that shattered arm
No skill could o’er restore;
He heard its doom—sleep came at last—
He felt, and heard no more.

He woke! ’Twas but a dream,” he said;
“and yet what do I see?
’Twas here—but no! ’tis severed now;
Go, bring it back to me.
Yes, bring it back; it served me well;
Its worth can ne’er be told;
and firmly in his grasp he held
Those rigid fingers cold.

‘O, native land! O, hallowed soil!
The birthplace of the free!
Had I a dozen arms like this,
I’d lose them all for thee.
I long to wave my glittering sword,
To meet the rebel foe;
But I’ve no arm to do it now;
Alas! why is it so?”

Goodby old arm—that strong right arm,
’T was once my pride to wield;
’T will never bear the sword again,
My country’s flag to shield.
My country’s flag to shield.
Civil War Booknotes

Atlanta

As part of a coordinated Union strategy to win the Civil War by maintaining constant pressure on the two major Confederate armies in the field [so that they would be unable to come to each other's aid], three Union armies under the command of Major-General William T. Sherman began in early May 1864 what has become known as "The Atlanta Campaign." For two and a half months, Union forces attempted to bring to bay the rebel Army of Tennessee under Gen. Joseph E. Johnston. Although driven to the outskirts of Atlanta, Johnston had managed to avoid Sherman's efforts to trap and destroy his army. But Johnston's efforts were not appreciated by Jefferson Davis, who saw only that the enemy was close to the vital supply center of Atlanta. Davis replaced Johnston on July 17th, 1864 with the Texan John B. Hood. True to his reputation, Hood conducted an aggressive series of desperate bloody battles to break the Union siege of Atlanta. All was for naught however, and on September 1, 1864 Atlanta fell to Sherman's forces. The fall of Atlanta, along with the capture of Mobile Bay and Sheridan's victories in the Shenandoah helped reelect Lincoln. This month's booknotes is a guide to books on this important campaign.

Hood as well as 5 other articles by various Union and Confederate officers.


Using diaries, newspaper accounts as well as extracts from letters and memoirs, Hoehling traces the impact of the campaign on the civilian population of Atlanta.


Similar in theme to Hoehling's work cited above, Carter's study has been characterized as "a slipshod affair, its sole redeeming quality being some of the firsthand accounts it presents."

- Photographic Views of Sherman's

George N. Barnard served as an official army photographer during the later stages of the war. This Dover book reprints his extremely scarce 1866 book of photos of the Atlanta campaign and the March to the Sea. Many of the important sites of the campaign are depicted with remarkable clarity.


Morningside Bookshop has reprinted 36 articles on all aspects of the Atlanta campaign written mainly from the viewpoint on Union veterans. The book also contains a good annotated bibliography with suggestions for further reading.


A popular history of the Atlanta campaign originally written as a series of newspaper articles in The Atlanta Journal Constitution.


While Scaife adds nothing new to the study of the Atlanta Campaign, the book is useful for the 23 detailed maps included in the book.


The first book length study of the campaign written by historians, includes a chapter on the writing of Gone with the Wind by Margaret Mitchell. Unfortunately the authors were charged with plagiarism and the book was withdrawn by the publishers.


A useful guide to touring the important battlefields of the Atlanta campaign. The author provides helpful driving instructions, maps, modern photos and historical background on each facet of the campaign.


Similar in format to the Miles book listed above, this is another guide to touring Civil War battlefields around the city of Atlanta. What makes this guide stand out is its excellent 14 page annotated bibliography of books and articles on the campaign.


This most recent study of the Atlanta campaign has been received with great critical acclaim. Massively researched, the book offers a sharply critical appraisal of Sherman's conduct of the campaign. However the decision of the author to write in the present tense makes the book almost unreadable.

September 1, 1864

The battle is raging at Atlanta--our fate hanging in the balance.

Atlanta gone. Well--that agony is over. Like David when the child was dead, I will get up from my knees, will wash my face and comb my hair. No hope. We will try to have no fear.

Mary Chestnut