Thanks to our February speaker Emiliee Waddell for his enlightening lecture on the U. S. Christian Commission. We look forward to hearing her speak again in the future. Thanks also to the eighty members who attended the meeting.

PLEASE NOTE!!!!!!!

OUR NEXT MEETING WILL BE MONDAY MARCH 6, 1995 AT THE YANKEE DINER THAT'S MONDAY, MARCH 6, 6 PM social hour with dinner at 7 PM. Menu: Stuffed Sole or Pistachio Chicken served with Caesar Salad, Biscuits, fresh vegetables, potatoes or rice with coffee or tea. $16.00 per person.

Please write your menu choice, name and the names of any guests on the enclosed postcard and mail it ASAP.

Program: William R. Brooksher of Richland, Washington will discuss the Battle of Wilson's Creek, August 10, 1861. Mr. Brooksher is the co-author of Glory at a Gallop: Tales of the Confederate Cavalry [1993]. Mr. Brooksher is a retired U.S. Air Force officer and has been writing on the American Civil War since 1973. Beck's Bookstore will be once again at our meeting to provide copies of Mr. Brooksher's book to those members who are interested in purchasing it.

New Books: Three new books have recently been published which might interest those whose interest is in the Civil War in the Trans-Mississippi. The University of Indiana has just published Black Flag: Guerrilla Warfare on the Western Border 1861-1865 by Thomas Goodrich $24.95. The Missouri Historical Society has issued The Civil War in St. Louis: A Guided Tour by William C. Winter $29.95 for hardback or $19.95 for the paperback edition. Finally, McFarland & Co. has published Westerners in Gray: The Men and Missions of the Elite Fifth Missouri Infantry Regiment by Phillip T. Tucker. $36.00. Each of the books may be ordered by calling the Camp Pope Bookshop 1-800-204-2407 or by ordering them from the University Book Store.

Civil War Booknotes: This month's booknotes is a guide to articles and books on Missouri in 1861 and the Battle of Wilson's Creek.

Display Table & Raffle: Please feel free to bring Civil War related items to share with our fellow members. Past displays of Civil War artifacts have spiced up our meetings in the past and we all appreciate your sharing them with us. Also plan on contributing to and supporting our raffle as this is an important source of funds for the round table.

LESSONS

A New York bookseller, moved, doubtless, by a laudable desire to provide for the wants of volunteers, for time and eternity, advertises a compendium of "Hardee's Tactics" and the New Testament, in one volume. His book ought to suit, for he advertises it as "a guide through this world and the next."

Historical Preservation: Michigan has joined with Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Maine in seeking to raise
funds to restore and preserve its Civil War battle flags. At
the Michigan State Capitol Archives are 160 Civil War
battle flags which are in fragile condition due to age, dirt
and damage to their materials. If you would like more
information about this program or would like to contribute
write or call Kerry K. Chartoff, P.O. Box 30036, Michigan
State Capitol, Lansing, MI 48909-7536 [517] 373-5527.

DISPATCH FROM THE PRESIDENT

In 1918 most surviving combat veterans of the
Civil War would be in their middle 70's. One
wonders what their reaction would have been
if they had known the following about the
fighting in World War I

"at 2 AM, September 26, 1918, General
Alexander was wakened. He mounted a little
knoll near his dugout to watch the
bombardment. A half hour later, 3,800 guns
ranging from 75mm to enormous
American-made 14 inch railroad guns opened
fire with a crash. More ammunition was
expended during this preparation fire then
was used by both sides during the entire
Civil War and at a cost estimated at a million
dollars a minute. The infantry, awed and
expectant, waited in their jumping-off trenches.
In three hours they would go over the top, an
exciting, terrifying, new experience for almost
all of them."

Source: No Man's Land by John Toland page 431.

DONALD LARSON

Music: For those who like guitar music Star Line Productions of Glendale, California offers Civil War
Guitar: Campfire Memories
[sldc-9002 $15.95] Kirk Browne, using a 1850 Martin
2 guitar, performs 16 popular Civil War songs on this
CD. Included are such
favorites as Aura Lea, The Vacant Chair, Tenting on the
Old Campground, The Yellow Rose of Texas, Lorena,
and Dixie. A rustic flavor is given to the music as the
album has been recorded without the use of
sophisticated sound filters, so that the songs might be
heard as if played around a campfire. This CD can be
special ordered from Barnes & Noble or by writing to
Star Line Productions, P.O. Box 1571, Glendale,
California, 91209.

SPEAKERS WANTED: Pat Brady is looking for
speakers for the 1996-97 program year. If you would be
interested in speaking on a Civil War related topic during
that year please speak to Pat.

This Month In the Civil War: March 6, 1862 saw the
deptature from New York of the new ironclad U.S.S.
Monitor sailing for Fort Monroe, VA where she was to
help protect Union shipping from the dreaded
Confederate ironclad Virginia. March 6, 1864 saw
Confederate torpedo boats launch an attack on the U.S.S.
Memphis in North Edisto River, SC. The attack failed. Finally
on March 6, 1865 Confederate General Joseph E. Johnston
assumed command of all Confederate forces in the
Department of North Carolina. He now commanded all
Confederate troops south of Petersburg, VA.

THE GIRL I LEFT BEHIND ME

The hour was sad I left the maid
A ling'ring farewell taking
Her sighs and tears my steps delayed,
I thought her heart was breaking;
In hurried words her name I blessed,
I breathed the vows that bind me
And to my Heart in anguish pressed
The girl I left behind me.

Then to the WEST we bore away,
To win a name in story,
And there, where sets the sun of day
There rose our sun of Glory,
Both blazed in noon on
VICKSBURG’S height,
Where in the post assigned me
I shared the glory of that fight
Sweet girl I left behind me.

Full many a name our banners bore
Of former deeds of daring
But they were in the days of yore
In which WE had no sharing
But now, our laurels freshly won
With the old ones shall entwined be
Still worthy of our sires each son
Sweet girl I left behind me.

The hope of final victory
Within my bosom burning,
Is mingled with sweet thoughts of thee,
And of my found returning.
But should I ne'er return again,
Still worth thy love thou'lt find me
Dishonor's breath shall never stain
The name I'll leave behind me.
Located 10 miles southwest of Springfield, Missouri is an area of rolling hills and deep ravines. Here on August 10, 1861 Union forces under the command of Gen. Nathaniel Lyon attacked a larger Confederate army under the command of Generals Ben McCulloch and Sterling Price. Splitting his army of 5400 men into two columns Lyon launched a surprise attack on the Confederate camp located on the banks of Wilson's Creek early on the morning of August 10th. At first the surprise flank attack of 1200 Union troops led by Col. Franz Sigel was successful, but rebel artillery checked Sigel's advance and his troops were routed from the field when they mistook Confederate troops as members of the gray clad 1st Iowa Infantry. On another portion of the battlefield called "Bloody Hill" the main portion of Lyon's army held off the Confederates for almost 5 hours, repulsing three charges by the rebel troops. By 11 o'clock in the morning, Lyon was dead, and with ammunition running low, Maj. Samuel Sturgis, who had assumed Union command ordered a retreat. "The Southerners, though victorious on the field, were not able to pursue the Northerners as they had also suffered heavy casualties. Losses for the Union totaled about 1,317 while the Confederates lost 1,222 in killed, wounded and missing. While Lyon may have lost both the battle and his life, his rash action of attacking an army twice his size may have helped save Missouri for the Union. This month's booknotes recommends the following books for additional information on this important battle.

**Background to Conflict:** The following books are recommended for a background to the Battle of Wilson's Creek.


- **The Fight for Missouri: From the Election of Lincoln to the Death of Lyon,** Thomas L. Snead. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1888. *Civil War Books* calls this "one of the nearly-indispensable contributions by a participant in the early struggle for Missouri."


- **The Leaders:** The following biographies are recommended for additional reading on Union and Confederate commanders at Wilson's Creek.

- **Damned Yankee: The Life of General Nathaniel Lyon,** Christopher Phillips. Columbia and London: University of Missouri Press, 1990. Phillips is highly critical of Lyon in this excellent biography of the Union General. While Lyon may have been the "Savior of Missouri", Phillips believes his actions were directly responsible for the 4 bloody years of fratricide in that state.

- **Yankee Dutchman: The Life of Franz Sigel,** Stephen D. Engle. Fayetteville: The University of Arkansas Press, 1993. The first modern biography of this German-American officer finds that his popularity had little basis when his actual combat record is examined. In most cases Sigel's military career was one of dismal failure.
- **John Charles Fremont: Character as Destiny.**
  While Fremont was not at the Battle of Wilson's Creek, his actions [or rather lack of action] as the Union commander of the Department of the West played an important role in bringing on the battle. Another excellent biography.

- **General Sterling Price and the Civil War in the West.**
  Castel's biography is limited solely to Price's Civil War career. Most of Price's war record did not match up to the promise shown in his early victories at Wilson's Creek and Lexington.

- **Ben McCulloch and the Frontier Military Tradition.**
  The first modern biography of McCulloch traces his extraordinary life as a frontiersman and soldier. McCulloch was the first civilian to receive a General's commission from the Confederacy based on his record in the Mexican War.

  The Battle: The following accounts are recommended for additional reading on the fighting at Wilson's Creek.

  Three accounts by participants in the noted series which appeared in The Century Magazine in the 1880's. Sigel's article defends his actions during the battle against "defamatory falsehoods" spread against him after the battle.

  This brief article is an excellent introduction to the struggle for Missouri in 1861 and the Battle of Wilson's Creek.

- **The Battle of Wilson's Creek.**
  The most recent study of the Battle of Wilson's Creek is this work by the noted National Park historian Ed Bearss. The work is heavily based on the Official Records and traditional sources.

  This early impartial history was published for the 22nd Anniversary of the battle, when a reunion of survivors was held to dedicate a monument on the battlefield.

- **Unit Histories:** Listed below are a few unit histories or letter collections which shed light on Wilson's Creek.

  An important collection of letters written by seven different correspondents who served in the two Kansas regiments that were at Wilson's Creek. Most of the letters were published in Leavenworth, KS newspapers during July and August 1861.

- **The Lyon Campaign in Missouri: Being a History of The First Iowa Infantry.**
  E. F. Ware. Topeka: Crane & Company, 1907.
  A standard source on Wilson's Creek. The 1st Iowa was a three month regiment that played an important role in repulsing the final Confederate attack on "Bloody Hill." A modern reprint is now available for this scarce volume.

- **With the Light Guns in '61-65: Reminiscences of Eleven Arkansas, Missouri and Texas Light Batteries in the Civil War.** W. E. Woodruff. Little Rock: Eagle Press of Little Rock, N.D.
  The Confederate artillery played an important role in rebuffing Sigel's flanking attack at the battle of Wilson's Creek. This older account, devotes about 15% of the book to the role of the rebel artillery in that battle.