Thanks to Esther Hall Mumford for her talk on Black Civil War Veterans in Washington. It was appropriate during Black History Month to learn of the important contributions these veterans played in this state’s history. We look forward to hearing from Mrs. Munford in the future.

NEXT MEETING

Thursday March 14, 1996 at the Yankee Diner. 6 PM Social Hour with dinner served at 7 PM. Choice of Havarti Chicken or Stuffed Rainbow Trout served with Caesar Salad, Biscuits, fresh vegetables, potatoes or rice along with coffee or tea. $16.00 per person. Please write your menu choice, name and the name of any guests on the enclosed postcard and mail it ASAP.

Program

Professor Randall C. Jimerson of Western Washington University in Bellingham, will discuss The Private Civil War: Popular Though During the Sectional Conflict. Dr. Jimerson is the author of a highly regarded study on this topic published by Louisiana State University in 1988 and this should be a very interesting meeting.

A STORY OF GENERAL LOGAN

It is well known that John A. Logan, who was a Member of Congress at the time the war began, left Washington when he saw there was going to be a fight, and seizing a musket, walked all the way to Bull Run, where he arrived just in time to take part in the battle. He had on a swallowtail coat, but he stood up to the rack as long as anybody did. He was back in Washington the next morning, a good deal out of breath, and was telling some of his fellow Congressmen all about it. "Who gave you this account of the fight?" asked a member from the north woods of New York. "Why I was there myself," replied Logan. The New Yorker evidently had not heard the news, for he seemed a little mystified and asked, as if wishing to solve the mystery of Logan's speedy reappearance: "Are the cars running?" "No," said Logan, "the cars ain't running but every other d-d thing in the State of Virginia is, as near as I could make out."

Civil War Book Notes this month contains a guide to books and articles on popular thought in America during the Civil War era.

NEW BOOKS

Years ago when our round table was new, our first prominent outside speaker was Robert K. Krick, noted historian and author of such works as Lee's Colonels and Stonewall Jackson at Cedar Mountain. Now Krick has turned his talented pen to a new study of Stonewall Jackson and the Valley Campaign of 1862. Available in local bookstores is Conquering the Valley: Stonewall Jackson at Port Republic. New York: William Morrow & Co., 1996 $30. Drawn from eyewitness accounts, private diaries and intimate letters this work offers a dramatic almost minute by minute account of the
COMING
Air -- "We Come with Songs to Greet You"

We are coming, Abraham Lincoln
From mountain, wood and glen;
We are coming, Abraham Lincoln
With the ghosts of murdered men.
Yes! We're coming, Abraham Lincoln,
With curses loud and deep,
That will haunt you in your waking,
And disturb you in your sleep.

There's blood upon your garments,
There's guilt upon your soul.
For the lust of ruthless soldiers
You let loose without control;
Your dark and wicked doings
A God of mercy sees,
And the wail of homeless children
Is heard on every breeze.

There's sadness in our dwellings,
And the cry of wild despair
From broken hearts and ruined homes,
Breaks on the midnight air.
While Sorrow spreads her funeral pall
O'er this once happy land;
For brother meets in deadly strife.
A Brother's battle brand.

With desolation all around,
Our dead lie on the plains,
You're coming, Abraham Lincoln
With manacles and chains.
To subjugate the white man
And let the negro free—
By the blood of all these murdered men
The curse can never be!

You may call your black battalions
To aid your sinking cause
And substitute your vulgar jokes
For liberty and laws.
No! by the memory of our fathers.
By those green unnumbered graves
We'll perish on ten thousand fields
Ere we become your slaves.

An anti-Lincoln poem from
The Vallandigham Song Book,
Songs for the Times. 1863

two battles of Port Republic and Cross Keys, June 8th and 9th 1862.

Speakers Wanted

Pat Brady is looking for speakers for next year. If you would like to present a talk next year, either a full program or a short topic, please give Pat a call at 689-8570 or 935-3648

School of the Soldier

If you are interested in Civil War reenactments than you may wish to make plans to attend the "School of the Soldier to be held March 23-24th at the Tacoma Sportsmen's Club near Puyallup. For additional information contact the Washington Civil War Association 1-800-260-5997

This Month in the Civil War

Lincoln's cabinet met in secession on March 14, 1861 to attempt to come up with a solution to the Fort Sumter crisis. On March 14, 1862 Federal forces under Gen. Ambrose Burnside captured New Berne, North Carolina. In a dramatic incident on March 14, 1863. Union Admiral Farragut attempted to run past the Confederate batteries at Port Hudson on the Mississippi. While two of his ships were successful, one the U.S.S. Mississippi ran aground and was set ablaze and abandoned while under heavy artillery fire. A year latter on March 14, 1864, President Lincoln issued a draft order for 200,000 men for the Navy and other military services.

"Other Voices"

If you are interested in civilian life during the Civil War, you may want to subscribe to Rebellion Constitution. This is a new journal devoted to homefront life. Its current issue is on printers and the printing trade during the Civil War. For a sample issue send $5 to Rebellion Constitution, P.O. Box 45, Dept. N, Guysville, OH 45735. A subscription of 4 issues is $22
A question of character

Looking back at the events of the Civil War from a distance of 135 years it seems difficult, if not downright impossible for Americans living today to fully understand how such a tragic conflict could have happened. While we can easily count off the events that led up to civil war, the Missouri Compromise, Nat Turner's slave rebellion, the Nullification crisis, the Mexican War, etc. how can we comprehend why the war came about.

As Rush Welter notes in his work The Mind of America a generation that had very little sense of where it was going and virtually no prior intention of carrying out the measures it finally adopted entered into a war that few men believed was desirable for ends that were only vaguely defined. Some historians have argued that the war came because during the ante bellum period, two cultures emerged in the United States with differing and conflicting values. Other historians refute such arguments and state that the free and slave states had more in common than they differed.

A third group of historians believes that only by examining the cultural, social, and political values and beliefs of the Civil War generation can we fully comprehend why one section of the country would engage in war to preserve their way of life while another would accept war to preserve the Union. For a better understanding of ante bellum society in America this month's book notes recommends the following books.


An illuminating examination of the basic ideas and attitudes of the Civil War generation. The author demonstrates that the war followed naturally, if not inevitably from the political and social concerns of the common American of the 1830's and 1840's.


A good attempt to portray the moods and beliefs of the ordinary American during the period 1830 to 1860 as reflected in their letters, diaries and other writings.

■ The idea of the Union was an important concept in the North's political culture.

By 1860 most Americans had come to look upon their society and culture as divided between a North and a South, a democratic and commercial civilization and one that was aristocratic and agrarian. Cavalier and Yankee examines this "myth" , how it arose and what purpose it served.


Using literary, political and anthropological analyses the author identifies and examines the radically different conceptions of national identity that developed in the North, South and West. Norton presents the Civil War as a struggle to determine the meaning of America.


Foner examines the ideology of the Republican party in the decade before the Civil War to find out why Republicans were willing to accept war to preserve the Union. According to this study it was
more than just opposition to slavery. Republicans believed in the right of all men to work where and how he wanted. An aggressive slave society perveted the constitution and threatened the North's free institutions.


Drawing on published and unpublished sources including letters, diaries and memoirs, Hess asserts that Northerners used ideology as a tool to retain their faith in their beliefs including self-government, democracy, individualism, egalitarianism and self-control. These shared values allowed Northern society to engage in and win a war large enough to demand the

THE LATEST IDEA FOR RIDING IN CROWDED CITY CARS.


The author examined more than 400 diaries and collections of letters of soldiers in order to determine if there were major cultural differences between the North and South.


Another excellent study based on primary sources which seeks to understand the experiences and perceptions of Civil War soldiers. Mitchell attempts to answer such questions as Why did they fight? What did they think about the enemy? How did they give meaning to the violence and destruction caused by the war?


Ms. Rose traces the impact of the Civil War on American culture through a collective biography of 75 men and women who lived before, during and after the Civil War. The book paints a picture of middle class attitudes toward work, leisure, family and politics and examines how the dilemmas and aspirations of the middle classes encouraged them to accept war as a solution to society's problems.


Rable's work "illuminates the complex reactions of women to life in the ante-bellum, Confederate and postwar south, revealing the ways in which the Civil War shaped women's attitudes toward their lives... their views on public issues, their spiritual pilgrimages or the dramatic events that shattered so many lives."