The main entree is served with Caesar Salad, Biscuits, fresh vegetables, potatoes or rice with the chicken along with coffee or tea. Price is $16.00 a person. Please write your menu choice, name and the name of any guests on the enclosed card and mail it ASAP or call Dio Richardson at [206] 524-8969.

Program

Thomas P. Lowry, M.D., author of the book The Story the Soldiers Wouldn't Tell: Sex in the Civil War, will talk about that subject. Dr. Lowry is a graduate of Stanford University, where he studied history and medicine. He has served in the U.S. Air Force and was on the staff of the Masters & Johnson Clinic in 1972 and 1973. Lowry is currently on the faculty of the University of California at San Francisco and is currently working on a study of Civil War court martials.

Due

Membership dues for the 1996-1997 year are now payable, $15.00 per individual or $20.00 for couples. For new members there is a $5.00 initiation fee which covers the cost of a name tag. Please mail your check [payable to PSCWRT] to George Hood, 7105 156th Place NE, Redmond, WA. 98052.

This Month in the Civil War

In a move to prevent the secession of Maryland, the Lincoln administration ordered the arrest of allegedly disloyal members of the Maryland legislature which was scheduled to meet at Frederick September 17, 1861. This controversial act insured that Maryland would remain in the Union for the duration of the war. A year later as Lee's Army of Northern Virginia was invading Maryland and Pennsylvania, the State of Pennsylvania was forced to remove its archives, bonds and treasure from Harrisburg and send them to New York. Because of the "existing state of rebellion" President Lincoln suspended the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus throughout the country on September 15, 1863. Maj. Gen. George B. McClellan by letter formally accepted the Democratic nomination for President on September 8, 1864. While accepting the nomination, McClellan disavowed the "peace plank" of the Democratic platform.

HUMORS OF THE CAMP FIRE

"Don't be uneasy," said an anxious mother to the conscript officer. "Sir, I'd rather see my son in his coffin than to see him go into the army." "Don't give yourself any uneasiness on that subject," said the officer; "I assure you that he will soon be there."

Confederate War Journal 1893

NEW BOOKS

In bookstores now is a new work that should revolutionize the writing of Civil War military history. After almost 37 years of study, Edwin C. Fishel has at last published The Secret War for the Union: The Untold Story of Military Intelligence in the Civil War. Boston - New York: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1996 $35.00. Based on long neglected primary sources, Mr. Fishel dispels old myths and tales of spies like Rose Greenhow and Allan Pinkerton and shows who, when, and how "military intelligence" was gathered by both sides during the conflict. More important the author ties in how this "intelligence" was used or misused during the major campaigns in the eastern theater of the war. As Stephen Sears states in the forward "this is the first authentic history of military intelligence in the Civil War." Any future military history of the war in the East will have to take into account the revelations of this fascinating new work.
In June of 1864, Confederate General Robert E. Lee sent about 10,000 troops under the command of Jubal A. Early on a two fold mission to the Shenandoah Valley. Early was first to clear the valley of Union troops and second to threatened Washington D. C. or Baltimore so that Federal pressure on Lee would be reduced. By July 7th, Early had accomplished his first task by chasing Union forces under generals Hunter and Sigel out of the valley. The Confederates then turned towards the Baltimore - Washington DC. area where they defeated a makeshift command of Union troops at the Battle of Monocacy on July 9, 1864. Over the next few days, Early slowly moved his forces towards the defenses of Washington with the intention to assault what he thought were poorly defended forts on July 12. However on the evening of the 11th, units from the VI and XIX Corps arrived in Washington and manned the defenses. After some heavy skirmishing on the 12th before Fort Stevens, Early decided that with the veteran Union forces manning the defenses it would not be possible to successfully carry out his assault. During the night of the 12th, Early withdrew his forces from before Washington, back to the Shenandoah Valley where they would continue to cause the Federal forces problems until October 1864.

Now there are a number of fine modern studies of "Jubal's Raid" as one author titled it. These include Season of Fire by Joseph Judge, Jubal Early's Raid on Washington 1864 by B. F. Cooling and Frank Vandiver's Jubal's Raid. But the most unusual study is one written in 1867 by a Union veteran, The Siege of Washington by F. Colburn Adams. Supposedly written for his "son", Adams' book is really a satirical and critical look at Union war policies in the East, illustrated with 26 drawings by the noted war illustrator A. W. Waud. It was Adams contention that Washington was saved because the rebels got drunk on a barrel of fine Southern bourbon found in the home of Montgomery Blair. Some of the flavor of the work can be seen in the examples given below.
Display Table, Raffle and Silent Auction

As always members are encouraged to bring Civil war related materials to share with fellow members. Please also remember to contribute to and participate in our monthly raffle as this is an important source of funds for this round table. The silent auction has been postponed until the October Meeting. If you have items to contribute please contact Tom McCarthy [206] 271-9518

Reenactments

The Northwest Civil War Council will be holding the weekend of September 28-29 a Civil War reenactment at Saragosa Reenactment/Living History Park near Eugene, Oregon. According to the NCWC site on the internet the Saragosa park has spent considerable effort in developing a battlefield of 10 or more acres. "In general, most reenactment/living history' events will include Confederate, Union, Civilian and refugee camps, two battles per day (11 AM and 3 PM) including artillery, infantry and both mounted and dismounted cavalry, demonstrations of an authentic battlefield hospital and a variety of sutlers from which to buy period wares. There is typically an admission fee per adult at the gate. For more information call 503-727-2679.

Preservation News

BATTLE EVE

Before the Battle of Athens, Mo.
August 5th, '61

Our tents gleam soft in the moonlighted mist,
The soldiers slumber as soldiers do
But, I lie awake and look up to the stars,
And remember my love for you

If the future is dark, yet the past is our own,
And fate cannot alter nor e'en subdue
That passionate dream, and this tender regret,
And the old fond love for you

Our guns are yet warm on the fortified Steep,
To-morrow the carnage we shall renew;
To-morrow night I shall wake to muse
On my old fond love for you?

God knows, God knows! Ere another eve
Yon fields must blush with ruddier dew:
If I never come back, then one heart hies
With an old fond love for you?

The Association for the Preservation of Historic Congressional Cemetery, 1801 E. ST. SE, Washington, D.C. 20003 is seeking funds to upgrade and restore sites, memorials and monuments on this 30 acre historic cemetery in the nation's capital. Formed in 1976 to administer the abandoned and bankrupted cemetery, the association has restored the chapel and upgraded the grounds. The cemetery is the burial site of many famous Civil War figures such as Matthew Brady and Generals Alfred Pleasonton, Andrew Humphries, Joseph Totten and William Emory as well as more than 40 persons involved in the Lincoln assassination story. For additional information write to the address given above or call John Hanley, administrator (202) 543-0539.

On the Net

There are lots of new Civil War sites on the Internet. One of the best is The Lincoln Museum at www.the lincoln museum.com. There is a wide variety of information and resources available at the site. Visitors to the site can view a virtual tour of the permanent exhibit at the museum, discover the answers to frequently asked questions about the 16th president, purchase items from the gift shop, read the complete text of six major Lincoln documents, or even volunteer to help do research over the net. Also available at this site are texts from the museum's Lincoln Lore and its volunteer news letter as well as a gallery of Lincoln images. Additional Lincoln sites on the net can also be accessed from the Lincoln Museum site. If you are now "wired" this is a good site to surf.

Collector's Corner

The Heritage Collection offers 4 times a year a 32 page full color comic book on the American Civil War. Subscription to the series range from $13 for four issues, $24 for eight issues or $33 for twelve issues. If you would like to find out more information or order this unique Civil War collectable then call 1-800-899-7233

Notices to be placed into the bulletin should be sent to Jeff Rombauer, 22306 255th Ave SE, Maple Valley, WA 98038
In Camp around Nashville
December 6, 1864

We left Florence at the time I informed you in my last letter from that time, and took up our line of march immediately for this place which we reached about four days ago. We are now about 2 or 3 miles from the City and have gone to digging ditches as if we were going to lay regular siege to Nashville. But I am too fast. I inform you of our arriving at and besieging the Capitol of Tenn without recounting any of the difficulties and the deadly struggle which our Army had to encounter to get here.

Genl Forrest preceded the Army with his Cavalry driving the enemy’s cavalry before him and scattering them in every encounter. Columbia was the first place the force of the enemy became too heavy for him and he had to hold back until the infantry came up. Her Genl Lee made a demonstration in front with two division of his Corps while the remainder of the army marched round to cross the river and get in the rear of the enemy. This was successfully accomplished and the enemy found the greater part of our army in his rear while he had to withdraw his whole force right in the face of what portion of our Army that crossed the river.

Here comes a mystery to the uninformed ones of the army. After undertaking and accomplishing this move we drew up in line of Battle near the road and watched the enemy pass his troops and train along the road within musket shot of our line of Battle. The troops were eager for battle and disappointed at not being suffered to fight. The reason for our not attacking them is a mystery to the troops and also to some of the Generals. I will not dwell on this point as I suppose you will see more of it in the papers.

As soon as we had seen the last of the column pass we pressed on after them making their way to Franklin. We arrived there soon after they did and found them drawn up ready for battle behind fortifications which they had constructed. We soon commenced the attack and here I consider it was fought the battle for Nashville and Tennessee and our Army not with a signal repulse. I will not attempt to enter into the details of the fight as I suppose they will furnished by the newspapers’ correspondents. It is sufficient to state that our officers and soldiers fought with gallantry but failed to dislodge the enemy from any material portions of his main line.

Our loss in Gens was greater than any other battle of the war while our loss of troops was also severe. Our loss in killed wounded and missing must have been at least 4,000. This was only one division of Lee’s Corps engaged, the other two being held in reserve. The loss of this division was small so that Stewart’s and Cheatham’s Corps sustained nearly all the loss. None of our boys were hurt in the battle though two have been captured since. The enemy retreated during the night but I suppose they only made a stand to save their train, they being hard pressed.

It is useless to disguise the fact that it was a disaster to our arms and I think a serious one to a further successful prosecution of this campaign. Nashville is one of the strongest fortified towns and it is useless to besiege it. I will not speculate as to farther movements but wait and see. None of our relatives were hurt that I have heard of. I have seen Robt Banks and Willie Harris and Robt informed me that he heard Tom Young came through unhurt.

We get no news from the South now so that our source of information is from the Yankee papers which we get pretty often. From them we learn Sherman is creating quite a stir in Ga and causing alarm to our high authorities. They predict for him a successful result in his campaign. May their predictions prove false. They make no mention of his going towards Columbus as I hope you all may escape the Invaders presence.

I have read but one short letter from home in over two months and am getting anxious to hear from you all again. We have recd no regular mail since we started into Tenn but I think I will have a mail before long. We are faring well since we have been in Tenn which I assure you is quite acceptable after out long fast, at least it seemed like a fast from the time we left Gadsil until we got into this state nothing but corn meal and the peanut bag and not enough of that. The people here we find very hospitable and welcome us cordially. It would be a great acquisition to us if we could hold Tenn. I was very hopeful when Sherman took off the main part of his army that we would be able to redeem Tenn and if Sherman should reach Savannah. But since the fight at Franklin I fear we will not be able to accomplish much more. Our loss there I think was twice as great as the enemy’s and has upset the order of our troops who before that time thought nothing could stop them. we lost five Gens killed and I reckon as many wounded. Our Gens all rode horseback into the fight and lead the troops. Genl Cleburne was killed while riding his horse upon the enemy’s fortifications as was Genl Adams. Our Gens seemed to court death and to vie with each other in setting the most heroic examples to the troops. Thus it was we lost so many.

Elbert Banks to John Banks

Thanks to member Jim Diamond for providing this letter of a Georgia soldier. If you have letters or diaries from soldiers who fought or served in the Civil War and would like to share it with the round table please submit a transcript to Jeff Rombauer, 22306 255th Ave SE, Maple Valley WA 98038