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Thanks!
A tip of the hat to Dr. Thomas Lowry for his amusing lecture on Sex in the Civil War at our September meeting. He kept the 80 members in attendance in stitches with his anecdotal tales on such controversial subjects as "trouser serpents" and "beastly drunks". We wish Dr. Lowry well with his next book which will be on "tarnished eagles" [court martial in the Civil War.]

Next Meeting
Thursday, October 10, 1996 at the Yankee Dinner. 6 PM Social Hour with dinner at 7 PM. Choice of Beef Stroganoff or Chicken Dijon. 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.

Program
Emilie Waddell, an experience reenactor and lively speaker from Portland, Oregon, will speak on "The Home Front During the Civil War". Ms. Waddell previously spoke to our group on The Sanitary Commission in a well received talk back in February 1995.

Dues
Membership dues for the 1996-97 year are now payable. $15 per individual or $20 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
On October 8, 1861 Brig. Gen. Robert Anderson, the "hero" of Fort Sumter was relieved of the command of the Union Department of the Cumberland by William T. Sherman. Anderson was suffering from nervous exhaustion and would never return to active service. Jeb Stuart's cavalry on October 12, 1862 completed yet another ride around the Army of the Potomac which seemed unable to stop the Confederate raiders. Mid October 1863 saw a campaign of maneuver between the Army of Northern Virginia and the Army of the Potomac as each commander sought an advantage for his own army. While there numerous skirmishes during what has been called the "Bristol Campaign", no major engagement took place. On October 12, 1864 Chief Justice of the Supreme Court Roger B. Taney died in Washington, D.C.

Silent Auction
At our October meeting we will be holding our annual silent auction to benefit Civil War preservation efforts. Up for bid already are a Confederate Bond, a dozen books, highlighted by a first edition of Grant's memoirs and some CDVs. If you have an item to contribute please contact Tom McCarthy at [206] 271-9518. Last

HUMORS OF THE CAMP FIRE

One of the best companies of the Stone-wall Brigade was composed of railroad men from Martinsburg, West Virginia. In a charge at Manassas, the story goes, the captain offered a barrel of whisky to the man who first reached the guns. When the captain got there one of his men, already astraddle of a cannon, cried out: "Don't forget that barrel, captain!" The next day an admirer of the hero asked him how war compared with railroading. "Well," said he, "the life of a soldier is pretty rough, but it has one advantage over railroading." "What is that?" was asked. "Tain't near so dangerous," said the man of the rail.

Confederate War Journal 1893.
year the bidding was spirited, so bring plenty of money for this good cause.

Preservation News

The state of Kansas is joining the list of states trying to raise funds to restore and preserve Civil War flags in the state Historical Society. The Save the Flags!, Kansas State Historical Society Inc., 6425 SW 6th St., Topeka, KS 66615-1099 is seeking donations for storage cabinets and conservation of approximately 75 flags. The majority of the flags are from Kansas union regiments, but there are some Confederate, Border War flags and Kansas Spanish-American War flags. If you would like to contribute to this worthy cause, send you donation to the address given above or contact Majorie Schnacke at (913) 272-8681 ext. 232 or Blair D. Tarr at extension 427.

On the Net

Keeping with our preservation theme, this month’s recommended site on the internet is The American Battlefield Protection Program [www.cr.nps.gov/bppp] part of The National Park Service. Visitors to the site can find the latest issue of Battlefield Update, a quarterly newsletter, where to write for free publications, Civil War Battle summaries, Civil War sites on the World Wide Web as well as the full text of the Civil War sites Advisory Commission study of endangered battlefield sites. If you don’t have access to the internet you can write to American Battlefield Protection Program, P.O. Box 37127, Suite 250, Washington, DC 20013-7127 or call [202] 343-3941, FAX [202] 343-1836

New Books

1996 might be called the year of the Confederate Navy. Three new studies on this neglected topic have recently been published. The most important new study is the result of over 30 years research by the noted Italian historian Raimondo Luraghi whose A History of the Confederate Navy: An Illustrated History. Jefferson: McFarland & Company, 1996 $28.50.

West Coast Conference

The annual West Coast Civil War Conference will be held November 8-10, 1996 at the Red Lion Hotel, San Jose, California. This year's topic will be on "Battles and Campaigns of the Civil War," and will include such speakers as John Hennessy, Charles P. Roland, Thomas P. Lowry, Thomas P. Savas and Jerry Russell. Full conference registration including all meals and meetings is $140, while room rates per night are $79 for two or $89 for four. For additional information call Don Pfeiffer at 408-378-4464 or David Land at 408-321-4976.

Travel Notes

Member Sue Crichton has forwarded a copy of an article from the Washington Post which tells of a new program that the State of Virginia has undertaken. The state is making it easier to follow Civil War campaigns in that state by setting up 4 new driving tours based on various campaigns. Special "Virginia Civil War Trail" signs will mark "Lee vs. Grant: The 1864 Campaign"; "Lee's Retreat"; The "1862 Peninsula Campaign"; and "Northern Virginia/Shenandoah Valley Campaign". A special map of the Lee vs Grant campaign can be obtained by calling 1-888-248-4592.

Master Jeff—and his Navy.

OUR BOYS ARE GONE.

By Col. Hamilton Washington

Our boys are gone 'till the war is o'er
In the ranks of death you'll find them;
With duty's path of blood before,
And with all they love behind them:
They bear our hearts to the tented field—
Each danger makes them dearer—
Their faithful hearts our only shield—
From the foe still drawing nearer.

With pride we hear of the perils braved
And the wreaths they win of glory;
With joy we hear of lov'd ones saved
From each field of battle gory;
And joy is mix'd with fleeting pain
As we look to Heaven o'er us,
And thing That there we'll meet again,
With the brave who've gone before us.

The Songs and Ballads of the Southern People
1861-1865
Civil War Book Notes

"the other side of war"

While historians have long debated the question of whether or not there were two totally different societies in antebellum America, there is little question about the impact of the Civil War on the states which made up the Confederacy. Even though both sides suffered terrible losses on the battlefield as deaths in the Union and Confederate armies combined for over 623,000, physical destruction in the Confederacy set that region back economically and for decades. As Stephen B. Oates has written "The South was not only defeated, she was annihilated. Half her men of military age were dead or wounded, two-fifths of her livestock wiped out, more than half her farm machinery demolished, her major cities in ruins, her railroads and industry desolated, her coastal and river ports out of commission, her commerce paralyzed, two-thirds of her assessed wealth, including billing of dollars in slaves destroyed." In the North few communities physically felt the hard hand of war, the economy boomed, and for some individuals life went on as if there were no conflict at all. For more information on life behind the lines during the Civil War the following books are recommended.


For a quick, easy to read summary of the impact of the war on life during the Civil War, these two books in the Time-Life Series are recommended.


Despite its age, this general survey of the Confederacy still remains useful for its coverage of all aspects of life during this turbulent period. Coulter provides a useful critical essay on older sources.


Although written in 1901, Civil War Books still believed that this was the "best treatment of financial and industrial developments in the wartime South."


A well received study of the North in a war and how "the North redefined itself as a modern nation through the war and the vast economic and social changes that accompanied it." Like Coulter's work, includes a useful critical essay on other sources.


Although dated, this work still remains a good survey on the topic.

"Notes of a Pianist"

Some of the best accounts of life in the United States on either side of the conflict come from foreign travelers. One such account of travel in the North is by the internationally famous pianist and composer Louis Moreau Gottschalk. Gottschalk kept a diary of his travels throughout the North between 1862 through 1865 while he was on concert tours. Here is one account from his diary of scenes at a railroad station in Pennsylvania.

"At the station we saw the local contingent of conscripts leave. A Sad sight! Some of these poor young men blustered and sang, while others found in their flask the necessary courage for separation. The greatest number, those who have sisters, a mother, children, a wife, whom they leave behind them with a vague and very distant hope of seeing again, betray, in spite of American stoicism their emotions by a "God bless you," "Do not cry," "One more kiss." Some veterans, bayonets on their guns, surround the detachment. A German conscript obtains leave to remain a few paces behind, and murmurs words of consolation in the ear of his poor wife, and his little daughter stretches herself up on tip-toe, while crying, to kiss him. He rejoins the detachment, and I see him smoking his pipe with a swagger, he seems thoughtless. The train starts; the poor man leans out the door to see his wife once more. Adieu to all bragging! Nature at the last moment has asserted her rights. "Dear Catherine," said he with broken voice, "God—God bless thee!" A large tear coursed down his cheek. He can laugh no more, nor these his companions. Wiff—wiff—wiff— the engine has started. The crowd gives three hurrars!"

Murfreesboro, Tenn. 21st Jan '63

Cousin Phil:

Once more in the "course of human events" it becomes necessary for one more letter. I read your favor of the 21st a few days since, but have had no opportunity of answering before on account of the great press of business. I suppose you had heard long ago that we have had a terrible time here and as a matter of course all stories have been very much exaggerated.

Well we have "smelt powder" and seen some real fighting. I will give you a brief account of our doings since we left Camp Hamilton [5 miles from Nashville]. On the 26th of Dec. we left camp and went out seven miles when we took a byc road across the country to Nolenville. Our artillery were skirmishing nearly all day with the enemy's rear guard.

We camped at night in a piece of woods without blankets or over coats. In the morning we were up betimes and across the country again accomplishing what is termed a flank movement, striking Murfreesboro Pike after dark about 12 miles from Murfreesboro & within two miles of the rebel pickets. Both of these days were rainy & the roads being regular dirt roads were terribly cut up by our artillery so that it was quite a difficult matter to find bottom. Our train did not get away from Nolenville but we had our overcoats so that we managed to get along quite well. We laid over here and I went back with a detail of men and wagons to help with our train. The next day [29th] "on to Murfreesboro". Our division left the pike and took a dirt road heading to the right and skirting the pike about 8 miles out. Our artillery had the satisfaction of throwing shells at the rebels as they retreated on the pike. The 30th our division went to the right again cutting our way through a dense cedar swamp. The day was spent in skirmishing. Quite a number were killed and wounded. We lost but one man in our regt. Lt. Wilson of Co. F was shot in the head and died instantly. That night our regt stood picket without fire and a cool night we had. Through the day the right wing under Maj. Gen. McCook had gained a good position & everything looked favorable. Early in the morning the enemy, under Harden made a furious assault on McCook's forces taking their batteries & turning their guns on us, they poured in a murderous storm of shot and shell under cover of which they made a charge on our division.

Our division occupied an open space on a slight rise of ground. In front of us was a strip of timber under cover of which they made their assault. In the rear was the cedar swamp through which we had cut our way. One regt. was in front of ours and were falling back under the murderous fire when Gen. Negley ordered us to charge. It was touching to see the tears roll down his cheek as he said "Eight Division: Forward." "Forward" with an earnestness that could not be withheld we charged to the edge of the woods and poured in a fire that checked the "Rebs". We held our position till McCook's corps had fallen back so that we were completely surrounded when we were ordered to fall back. After the 19th of Ill & our regt charged back on them again & then fell back in good fighting order, fighting as we went. They pressed us close as we returned through the swamp but we made every shot count. After we emerged from the swamp we charged back again but the place was getting too hot for us and we fell back under cover of our batteries. Here ended the work for the day and we occupied the same ground we did two days before.

Jany 2nd. Skirmishing was kept up along the line until about 3 PM when a feint was made on our center, under cover of which they made preparations for a desperate charge on our left. Gen. Rosencrans anticipating such a movement had caused our brigade to be moved from the center to the left to support his batteries. About 3 1/2 PM "the flower of the confederate army" made a fierce assault on our division that had crossed the river, drove them back and were advancing on our batteries with shouts, thinking they were easily taken.

All this time our brigade were lying down behind the bank while their shot and shells were picking off the men terribly. There was one regt. between us and the bank. As the rebels charged down to the stream all but one co. broke and ran through our ranks. At this we were ordered to "up and at em" which we did with a will. Our brigade charged down through the river, up the bank and into the woods, driving them from their batteries and taking their guns and colors. The dead and wounded lay around by scores. This battery was Bragg's famous "Washington Battery", the best he had in the army and it was well served. We silenced another battery, and had reinforcements followed, we might have taken it but we were too badly cut up to undertake it for we could not tell what we might run afoul of. Prisoners taken say they were sure of taking our batteries and had no idea we were there.

Had they taken it they could have swept the whole field occupied by our forces. Nothing more of importance occurred again until about 7 o'clock Saturday night [3rd] when Rosencrans division made a charge by moonlight. Gen. R. anticipating from appearances that the enemy under cover of the storm, mass his forces and make an attempt to break through his center, set a trap for them. Under cover of his infantry he massed his artillery, opened on them with "double shoted" canister and grape, which mowed them down by hundreds. They found out what kind of a chap loomis was to deal with. Our infantry then charged on them and carried their rifle pits & entrenchment's, but finally abandoned them and fell back on the old position. The next day being Sunday, it being previously understood that Rosencrans would not make an attack on that day and the enemy making no demonstration, everything was comparatively quiet and the day was spent in burying our dead. A detail was sent out to the field of our first days engagement and found that the rebels had literally stripped our dead, taking shoes, socks, coats, pants and in some cases even their shirts. This is "Civilized Warfare."

On Monday we investigated the place, the rebels having "skedaddled" on Saturday night and Sunday we went into camp [that is we camped out] in the woods just out of town on the Shelbyville Pike. In the afternoon Gen. Rosencrans and staff rode around the lines. We had been notified of his approach and were drawn up in line to receive him. His first words were "Well boys how do you like fighting?" His answer was three rousing cheers given with a will. He then congratulated us on the manner in which we had conducted ourselves and the success of our forces. He said from what he could learn that the enemy had left Saturday night in a very disorganized condition and very much hurt in their own estimation.

I notice that our Gen. Negley is highly spoken of by the Northern Press. Although I feel proud of our commander and "Our brigade" and division, yet I can say without prejudice that we prevented a total defeat the first day, and the last achieved a brilliant victory. Thus I will close the Chapter. Col. Stoughton has been appointed Provost Marshal of this place and our regt is provost guards. The companies are all comfortably quartered in good buildings. The health of the regt. is good. The wounded are doing well. There are several delegations here from the north [ladies] to attend the wounded and sick.

Give my respects to all, write soon and consider me the same old chip.

S. F. Squire, 11th Infantry.

From the collection of Jeff Rombauer. If you would like to share a document with the round table please submit a typed draft to Jeff Rombauer, 22306 255th Ave SE, maple Valley, WA 98038