Thanks!!

Another overflow crowd gathered at the Yankee Diner November 13th to hear an excellent presentation by UCLA Professor Joan Waugh on the Shaw family, the 54th Massachusetts and "a sacrifice we owed." Professor Waugh went into detail about the history of the Shaw family's involvement in the abolitionist movement, and how Robert Gould Shaw was picked to head the 54th Massachusetts. Members who missed this talk will have an opportunity to hear Professor Waugh speak again at the annual convention of the American Historical Association in Seattle in early January 1998. [More details below]

Next Meeting

Thursday December 11, 1997 at the Yankee Diner. 6 PM Social Hour with dinner at 7 PM. Choice of Pot Roast or Roast Turkey. The main entree is served with Caesar Salad, Biscuits, fresh vegetables, potatoes or rice 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. If you choose not to mail the card be sure to call Dio Richardson if you plan to attend. The staff at the Yankee Diner can accommodate our needs if we can provide them with an accurate count of the number of dinners that they can expect to serve.

Program

Retired Major General John A. Hemphill will talk on "Civil War Generals in Washington Territory." General Hemphill will focus on the 14 line officers who took part in the last Indian battles in Washington Territory at the battles of Four Lakes and Spokane Plains in August 1858 who later became Union or Confederate generals during the Civil War. John Hemphill is a 1951 graduate of West Point, and had a distinguished military career, seeing service in both Korea and Vietnam, rising to Major-General in 1980. General Hemphill is the holder of numerous service awards including three bronze stars and three purple hearts. He retired from the active duty in May 1985 and settled in Steilacoom, Washington.

Mr. Hemphill will bring copies of a book he co-authored with Robert C. Cumrown on "West Pointers and Early Washington" to sell to interested members.

Silent Auction

We will hold our annual silent auction at our January 1988 meeting. It's not too early to pick out those items which you wish to donate to the auction to raise funds for battlefield preservation. Last year we had our most successful auction ever raising over $700. For information contact Jeff Rombauer.

FROM THE EDITOR'S DRAWER

Lieutenant M---, in the fitness of his remarks, was not unlike Joe, who "played the cymbals" in our regimental band. During the period of the regiment's service Joe had made himself valuable to the other members of the band by his constant attention to their comfort--hauling wood, cooking, etc. Just after the regiment was mustered out, some one of the band proposed that Joe should receive a present, and accordingly a subscription was gotten up, and a costly ring purchased. The band assembled in the sitting-room of a Washington hotel, and one of the party, who was gifted with unusual powers of eloquence, delivered the presentation speech; paying a just tribute to the industry and disinterested kindness of the recipient; dwelling upon the many pleasant months they had passed together, and of their coming separation--perhaps forever. Joe received the ring without emotion; inspected it closely, placed it on his finger, and then responded, "Well, boys, it's a little too big, but I guess I can trade it off!"

Harper's New Monthly Magazine 4/65
NEW BOOKS

A new examination of all military prisons North & South has just been published. **Portals to Hell; Military Prisons of the Civil War** [Mechanicsburg: Stackpole Book, 1997 $34.95] by Lonnie R. Speer undertakes a comprehensive study "of all major prisons... analyze the many complexities of the relationships among prisoners, guards, commandants and government leaders." Readers will find this a well researched, and interesting written work on one of the ugliest aspects of the war.

---

JACKSON.

Not 'mid the lightning of the stormy fight,
Not in the rush upon the vandal foe,
Did kingly Death, with his resistless might
Lay the Great Leader low.

His warrior soul its earthly shackles broke
In the full sunshine of a peaceful town.
When all the storm was hushed, the trusty oak
That propped our cause went down.

Though his alone the blood that flecks the ground
Recording all his grand, heroic deeds.
Freedom herself is writhing with the wound
And all the country bleeds

He entered not the Nation's Promised Land,
At the red belching of the cannon's mouth;
But broke the House of Bondage with his hand
The Moses of the South!

O gracious God! not gainless is the loss;
A glorious sunbeam gilds they sternest frown.
And, while his country staggered with the Cross
He rises with the Crown!

---

**South Songs: From the Lays of Latter Days**

---

**American Historical Association Meeting**

The 112th Annual convention of the American Historical Association will be held in Seattle, January 8th to 11th, 1998 at the Convention Center. Thousands of scholars from around the country and from overseas will be attending. There will be 152 different sessions at which papers will be presented over the course of 3 1/2 days. In particular our members may wish to attend two sessions, the first Friday morning 9:30 to 11:30 in room 205 on "Unionism, Identity and Homefront During the Civil War" where three papers on unionism in Texas, Alabama and New Orleans will be presented. On Sunday morning 8:30 to 10:30 in room 304 the session will cover "The Civil War in the Gilded Age." with papers from our November speaker Joan Waugh on the Funeral of Ulysses S. Grant and my PSCWRT member Amy Kinsel on "History Cast in Stone: Union Regimental Monuments at Gettysburg." In addition there will be an exhibition of 98 publishers selling their current publications at discounted prices. There is a fee for non-members to attend the 3 day conference. For additional information contact Amy Kinsel [see roster] or on the internet go to http://chnm.gmu.edu/aha/annual/98mgt/seattle.

---

**On the Net**

This month and next "On the Net" will highlight two sites devoted to individual general officers from the North and South. Perhaps no general officer has garnered as much attention over the past few years as Union general Joshua L. Chamberlain and the Pejepscot Historical Society of Brunswick, Maine has set up an excellent site devoted to Chamberlain and his career at www.curtislibrary.com. This site is divided into ten different sections which include a brief biography of Chamberlain, a report on the restoration of his home in Brunswick, a calendar of Chamberlains' correspondence, a catalog of books and other gift items relating to Chamberlain which can be purchased from the society, as well as photos and a map of sites in Brunswick which relate to this Medal of Honor winner. Perhaps the most interesting section is a 14 page interview with Chamberlain's last personal secretary. If you are interested in this famous union general at all this is a site to visit.

Member Malcom Garber would like to inform members of a new drive by **The Lincoln Herald** [issued by Lincoln Memorial University] to increase its membership from 900 to 2000 this year. This fine publication devoted to Lincoln and the Civil War is issued 4 times a year at a cost of $20 or for two years at $37.50. To subscribe please mail a check to Lincoln Herald, Abraham Lincoln Museum, Book 2066, Cumberland Gap PKY, Harrogate, TN 37752-1901

---

**Final Call for Dues**

Members are reminded that dues for the 1997-98 year are now payable. This is the last call for dues payment. If your name does not have a "P" by it, than this issue of the bulletin will be the last you receive for this year. A single membership is $15 and $20 for a couple. Checks are to be made out to PSCWRT and can be mailed to H. E. Crain, 17126 68th Ave. W, Edmonds, WA 98026-5206 or paid at the door at our December meeting.

---

**Notices to be placed into the bulletin should be sent to Jeff Rombauer, 22306 255th Ave SE, Maple Valley, WA 98038 or by E-mail at jeff.rombauer@foxinternet.net**
After the War with Mexico, small regular army units were stationed in the new territories on the Pacific Coast. "Settlers had already arrived in the Pacific Northwest when the first US Army units arrived at Fort Vancouver in May of 1849. By March of 1853, when Washington became a territory, companies of the 4th Infantry and 3rd Artillery were stationed in the territory, soon to be followed by companies of the 1st Dragoons, the entire 9th Infantry Regiment and specialties such as engineers, topographic engineers, Ordnance and Quartermaster officers." The regular army was pressed into use when fighting between settlers and Indians broke out in two different areas in 1855-56, first in the Rogue River Valley in Southern Oregon and Northern California, than on both sides of the Cascades in Washington Territory. While the Rogue River War was mostly "fought" by volunteers, the conflict in Washington Territory was handled by the regular army. The Rogue River War resulted in the elimination of almost all native Americans from that area, while the fighting in Washington Territory came to an inconclusive end, with tensions between the Tribes and whites being unresolved. Fighting broke out again in 1858 when a column of three companies of the 1st Dragoons and 25 infantrymen under the command of Col. Edward J. Steptoe were attacked by a combined force of Spokane, Coeur d'Alenes and Palouse Indians on May 16, 1858, at a site about ten miles north of present day Colfax, Washington. While Steptoe and his command managed to escape after making a stand on a butte now named after the Colonel, it was not without loss for his command suffered 6 killed and 12 wounded. In August and September 1858, the last battles with Indians in what is now the State of Washington were fought at Four Lakes and Spokane Plains near Fairchild Air Force Base in eastern Washington where a column of about 600 regulars under the command of Colonel George R. Wright decisively defeated the Eastern Washington tribes.

For those members wishing to read more on the Indian wars in the Northwest before the Civil War the following books are recommended:

- **The Jesuits and the Indian Wars of the Northwest.** Robert I. Burns.


- **Fifty Years Observation of Men and Events.** E. D. Keyes. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1884.

- **Army Life on the Pacific: A Journal of the Expedition Against the Northern Indians: The Tribes of the Coeur d'Alenes, Spokans, Palouses in the Summer of 1858.** New York: Redfield, 1859.


LETTERS HOME: EYEWITNESS ACCOUNTS OF THE CIVIL WAR

An important contribution to home front morale both North and South was the soldier correspondent who would send frequent letters to his local newspapers. These letters helped the folks back home know what was going on with their "boys" in the military and helped preserve a link between the community and the soldiers at the front. Here is an example of such a letter written to the North Bridgeport Gazette of Bridgeport Massachusetts.

ARMY CORRESPONDENCE

FORTRESS MONROE, Va., June 1, '61

Mr. Editor--Believing that a word from your brothers in arms might be acceptable to your readers generally, I take the present opportunity to write you these few lines.

Our company which sailed in the Cambridge on the 18th of May, did not arrive here until the 22d, on account of experiencing rough weather. Nearly all our men were sick, and some have not even now recovered from the effects of it. Fortress Monroe and its surroundings are as beautiful as nature can make them. On the west is the pleasant town of Hampton, which together with the county, numbers about seventeen hundred white inhabitants, but since the occupation of the town by the New York troops, only a few remain. Hampton until recently has been the residence of several distinguished personages, viz: ex-President Tyler and Col. Mallory. Col. Mallory is known to be a prominent secessionist, and from the action of Mr. Tyler, we are left to infer that he also favors it, however lamentable the fact may be. It is barely possible for him to be a Union man, as many Union men have left the place for other parts of Virginia. He left no evidence of his loyalty, and on Tuesday Gen. Butler caused an American flag to be displayed from the tops of the houses of both.

The other day several of our company went through the town, and paid a visit to the New York Zouaves, who are encamped in a wheat field with the wheat about knee high. They received us kindly, and directed our attention to the booty taken by a scouting party the previous night, which consisted of several negro slaves, some of whom wished to become soldiers, and several mules. As our boys passed by the dwelling houses some of them were invited by the slaves, who are at present the only occupants, to come in, which they did. Had they felt disposed, they might have possessed themselves of much valuable property. The Zouaves have already committed such depredations, as to cause Gen. Butler to issue a special order prohibiting it.

From the great number of hen's feathers and pig's heads which lay scattered on the ground, I should judge that they had a plenty of fresh meat; if such is the case they find a great deal of fault with their fare. I do not know, however, as I can blame them; for if they fare no better than others, I think they have abundant reason for so doing; but nevertheless, we are patient, and believe that our country provides for our wants as well as the present state of affairs will admit.

On Monday one N.Y. regiment, the Vermont and the greater part of the Mass. 4th went up the James River to a small place called Newport News, and have erected batteries. The occupation of the town by the U.S. troops will probably serve as a base of operations against Yorktown, where the secessions are intending to make a stand. As the vessels conveying the troops proceeded up the river, the batteries on Sewall's Point fired at them; but the distance being too great, the balls did not take effect. We expect to join our regiment as soon as we receive rifles.

This morning I saw a Union man who had fled from Yorktown. He started early the previous morning and reached Newport News this morning in season to take the steamer which runs from that place to the Fortress. He is a native of Worcester County, Mass., has resided there fifteen year, and accumulated a property of fifty thousand dollars, all of which he was obliged to leave behind him. He offered to give the U.S. the whole amount, if they would protect it. Butler has had so many such offers and requests, that he finds it difficult to conform to them all. Many Union men and negroes arrive here daily. If negro slaves continue to arrive in such numbers as they have for two weeks past, Virginia will soon be stripped of her slave population.

June has been noted for centuries as a month of battles, and is not likely to lose its reputation in the year 1861.

Other duties call me away, and I must close thus abruptly. If the few lines thus carelessly and hurriedly written will be of any service to you and are worthy of publication, I shall be amply paid for the trouble of writing them.

E. WILLIAMS

Member of E. Bridgewater Volunteer Co.

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