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Thanks!!

To Captain Todd Creekman for his presentation on the commanders of the 106th NY Infantry. Drunkenness, disobedience, disease and death all took their toll on this regiment's Colonels. For those who did not attend, you missed an amusing and entertaining presentation.

Next Meeting

Thursday, April 9, 1998 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 with the chicken along with coffee or tea. Price is $17.00 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 in 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

For our April speaker, we are honored to once again the distinguished historian Emory M. Thomas. Professor Thomas is the Regent's Professor of History at the University of Georgia and for almost three decades has been an outstanding scholar in Civil War history. Among his works are The Confederacy as a Revolutionary Experience, The American War & Peace, The Confederate Nation, Bold Dragoon: The Life of J.E.B. Stuart and Robert E. Lee: A Biography. His topic for the evening will be "How the Civil War Happened." This is a meeting not to miss.

A Message from the President

There will be a brief meeting of the Officers and Board of the Puget Sound Civil War Round Table at 6:30 PM, just prior to the April 9th Meeting for the purpose of discussing a possible amendment to the constitution of the PSCWRT.

NEW BOOKS

For the third time in several years a new study has been published on Robert E. Lee's generalship. Now in local bookstores, Lee Moves North: Robert E. Lee on the Offensive: From Antietam to Gettysburg to Bristoe Station by Michael A. Palmer. [New York: John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 1998 $24.95] is sure to become controversial. Palmer examines the question of why Lee's style of generalship failed when his army was on the strategic

FROM THE EDITOR'S DRAWER

When the rebel General Wheeler's cavalry made their valorous attack upon Uncle Sam's gun-boats, while cruising on the Tennessee, a negro, who was rather more thoroughly imbued with "secession" principles than the majority of his race, importuned his master to allow him the use of a carbine for the purpose of "habin a pop at de gun-boats." Permission being accorded, he valorously crawled to the river bank and ensconced himself behind a huge stump. Not a shot had been fired on either side. Suddenly the boat in the lead opened with a huge Columbiad, whose concussion was so great that every thing fairly shivered. The ball plowed up the bank in close quarters to Sambo, throwing a liberal quantity of mother earth upon him. He was at once "demoralized," having never heard such a report before; and, with the wildest terror depicted in his countenance, immediately broke for the foot of the hill. Arriving there, he shouted, with eyes agog and ashen cheeks, "Good grasy, massa, she's busted!"

Harper's New Monthly Magazine March 1866
Lee and his gallant army take to the field to fight the Army of the Potomac. Numerous celebrations in the Army of the Potomac, as well as in the North marked the nearing of the end for the war.

Volunteers Needed!

It's time once again to pick officers and board members for the Round Table. If you would like to serve, then please call either Jeff Rombauer, Sue Crichton or Bill Trier before the April meeting. We especially need someone to mail out the bulletin each month. Our group only works because of the time volunteered by its members.

Civil War Music

Three new CD's of Civil War music are now available by mail order. Homespun Songs of the Confederacy Vol. 5 is available from Bobby Horton, 3430 Sagebrook Lane, Birmingham, AL 35243. $15 postage paid. Volume Two: The Civil War by The Camp Chase Fifes & Drums, P.O. Box 146, Dept CWT, Groveport, Ohio 43125-0146 also $15 ppd. Finally When the Gallop was the Race. Helen Beedle @ The Galop, 132 Cedar Road, Hellertown, PA 18055 $15 ppd.

On the Net

One of the oldest Confederate Memorial societies can now be found on the net at www.hsv.tlx.net. The United Daughters of the Confederacy was founded in 1894. If you are interested in this group's history as well as its objectives this is the site to visit. If you think you are eligible to join the UDC, then a guideline of what information is necessary to qualify for membership is provided. A list of all UDC chapters is provided including one for Seattle, Robert E Lee Chapter #885. [Does anyone know a member?]

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

This month in the Civil War

April 9th, 1865 is one of the most famous dates in Civil War history. After finding his retreat blocked by Union infantry, General Robert E. Lee surrendered the Army of Northern Appomattox Court House. It was a blow that the Confederacy would never recover from. While the war was not yet over, never again would
"And the war came"

Why did the Civil War happen? How could a political system which had functioned well for over seventy years break down leading to bloody internal strife? Was it because of a conspiracy by slave owners? Was it because the Federal government was violating "States Rights"? Was the war the natural outbreak of antagonisms between two differing economic systems? Was the conflict preventable, the result of extremists on both sides stirring up trouble? Or was slavery the cause. For over 130 years, politicians and historians have argued over what brought on the war. Listed below are some of the numerous works published since 1865 which seek to explain the causes of the Civil War.

  
  In this brief review of how historians viewed the causes of the Civil War, Beale concludes "Historians have found the causes of the Civil War bafflingly complex. No simple explanation is possible."

- **The War Between The States or Was Secession a Constitutional Right Previous to the War of 1861-65?** Albert T. Bledsoe. Lynchburg: J. P. Bell Company, Inc., 1915.
  
  A popular argument that secession was constitutional and slavery was sanctioned by the Bible by a former Confederate officer, War Department official & classmate of Jefferson Davis & Robert E. Lee at West Point. Bledsoe also taught mathematics at Miami University in Ohio, the University of Mississippi and Virginia. From 1838 to 1848 he practiced law in Springfield, Illinois and knew Abraham Lincoln quite well. This book was originally published in 1866 as Is Davis a Traitor? Or Was Secession a Constitutional Right?

  
  A superb collection of essays that examines "the actions and attitudes of women, of African Americans, on Northern, of Southerners, of politicians, and of ordinary citizens" and the coming of the Civil War.

  
  A series of essays given by this noted "revisionist" historian at Louisiana State University who concludes that "issues that might have yielded to the democratic process took on abstract values of right and wrong. A new breed of political spokesmen arose who were more interested in reform, propaganda and upholding a way of life than in making the democratic process work.

  
  Controversial in its time, Craven's study argued that the Civil War was "needless" and that "slavery played a minor part in the life of the South and of the Negro". Craven revised his work in 1957, conceding that slavery may have had more to do with the coming of the war than he had indicated in the first edition.

  
  A sweeping political and social history of the South from the revolution to the early 1850's which highlights the events which led to secession.

  
  Five essays on the secession crisis by distinguished historians who agree that "what tended to bring on the Civil War was not the mere existence of slavery, but the extreme fears, real or imagined which the issue created."

  
  Another collection of essays on the secession crisis by eight historians who "have no hesitancy in stating that the chief [issue] of these was slavery." in bringing on the Civil War.

  
  A brilliant summary of the differing arguments on why the Civil War happened. A good place to start for those who don't have the time or inclination to read the longer works listed.

  
  This standard work by one of our own members has been cited as "a classic in its survey of interpretive writings on the Civil War. An absolute must for anyone studying the historiography of the war."

  
  A "brilliant" work by an English historian who turns a fresh eye on why the Civil War came about.

  
  In an examination of the period from the election of Lincoln in November 1860 to the outbreak of civil war, Stampp comes to the conclusion that "this conflict was the product of deep and fundamental causes... no basis for sectional harmony as long as Negro slavery survived..."
During the last year of the war, one of the methods to raise money for the United States Sanitary Commission was in the publication of books, sold at the various Sanitary Fairs across the north. Among these books was one called **Soldiers' Letters From Camp, Battlefield and Prison**. Edited by Lydia Minturn Post, these letters covered the war chronologically and had never been published before. Here is a letter from Lieut. C. C. Cone of the 8th U.S. Cavalry on the Chicago Convention.

In the Field, Sept 20, 1864

I am happy to know that the wicked prosper not, and that the traitorous schemes of our political antagonists, the enemies of our country and our cause, are in a fair way to come to naught.

How sublimely ridiculous has been the performance of the whole farce—the terrific splutter and fizzle at Chicago—the high horse which they rode after "little Mac" was announced as the nominee of the party, and their subsequent great trepidation and disgust upon the receipt of the letter of acceptance of the little saint! I have always thought the true and loyal men of the North would prove sufficient in the contests between parties, where the questions at issue are of so great and vital importance, involving, as they do, the principles upon which our government is based, and we exist, as a free people, independent and united; besides the consideration of the great problem of humanity and morality which is now being solved, and which is to affect the whole human race, and influence the destiny of coming generations.

When I read the proceedings of the Chicago Convention, during its organization and continuance, crouching as I was behind a friendly heap of dirt, which only protected me from the balls of the sharp-shooters—amid the roar of cannon, the bursting of bombs, the screeching of shell, and hurting balls, and hissing of bullets—tons of iron and lead being pitched about in a most promiscuous and careless manner—my heart almost failed me. I was fain to give up in despair and disgust. Then, in a day or two we got more particular accounts—the speeches, platform and nominations—and my blood boiled in my fierce wrath and impotent rage!

I have no doubt but I made some wicked and foolish remarks and resolves, but I finally cooled off a little, and took a more extensive and reasonable view of the matter. I thought of the character of the men engaged, compared them with many others enlisted in the good cause and true party, compared platforms, &c., and came to the conclusion that the thing wouldn't work. The people wouldn't swallow it, and although the party might cause us much trouble and sorrow, yet the mass of the people would all in good time, show the true mettle and come to time.

"Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty." We must use every means of an honorable character to controvert and overthrow the designs of our enemies. Grant and Sherman are great generals; Farragut is king of his craft or art—yet would they make good presidents? It demands different qualities to constitute a soldier and a statesman and ruler of a nation; much besides scientific knowledge or the great qualities even of patriotism, determination and strong will.

Please excuse this hastily written letter; it is after tattoo, and I am sleepy.

I remain your affectionate cousin

C. C. Cone,
Lieut. 8th U.S. Cavalry.

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[When the rebellion broke out, Lieut. Cone was a student of law in the office of Hon. Albert Cone, Wessboro, Tioga county, Pa. He at once enlisted (June 1861) as a private in the Sixth Reg. Pa. Reserve corps, and fought in all the battles of the army of the Potomac to February, 1863, when he was promoted for bravery and good conduct, to a lieutenancy—raised his company and went to Florida, fought at the battle of Olustee, and was wounded and sent to the hospital. On his recovery, his regiment was assigned to the army of the James, under Gen. Butler. Lieut Cone fell mortally wounded at the battle of Chapin's Farm, Oct., 1864. A young man more beloved by a large circle of friends and relatives was not offered as a sacrifice to the demon of slavery.]