Thanks!!
A twenty-one gun salute to the more than 100 members and guests who turned out for Professor James Robertson's talk on Stonewall Jackson. Dr. Robertson's lively, entertaining talk was most likely the best presentation before our round table in its history. We hope that not too many years will pass before Professor Robertson can visit us again.

Next Meeting
Thursday October 8, 1998 at the Yankee Diner. 6 PM Social Hour with dinner at 7 PM. Choice of Meatballs or Teriyaki Chicken Breast. The main entrée 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 Rachel Roberts at 206 365-6295 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
Our program for October 1998 will feature Jerry Keenan of Boulder, Colorado who will talk on James Wilson's Cavalry Corps and the last year of the war. This topic is the subject of his new book to be published this month by McFarland Press entitled Wilson's Cavalry Corps: Union Campaigns in the Western Theater, October 1864 through Spring 1865. Copies of the book will be available for purchase at the meeting. For those members wishing to read additional works on Wilson the following are recommended. Yankee


Time for dues once again
If you have not done so already, please pay your membership dues for the 1998-99 year. Single membership costs $15 per year and couples $20. There is a $5.00 initiation fee which covers the cost of a name tag. Please mail your check [payable to PSCWRT] to H. E. Craine, 17126 68th Ave W., Edmonds, WA 98026-5206

FROM THE EDITORS TABLE

The Wrong Kind of a Band

Colonel X----- raised a regiment in the Rito-oolal Rural districts of New Jersey, including a by no means bad brass band. Arrived in Washington with his force he was unfortunate enough to meet with a wag, who at once told him he was afraid that the Colonel, would meet or rather come to grieve shortly.

'How so?' asked Colonel X----- excitedly "H'm! answered the wag, 'don't you see that those rural musicians of yours will be regarded as country-band of War?"

The Colonel saw it?

The Continental Monthly August 1862
My Maryland!

The September Raid

They took thy Boots, they took thy coats,
My Maryland!
And paid for them in 'Confed' notes,
My Maryland!
They gobbled down they corn like goats
And rooted up they truck like shoats,
But then--they didn't get they votes
or volunteers--my Maryland!

On the Net

At our last meeting one of our members asked what was available on the 20th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry. It turns out that there is an excellent web site on "The Harvard Regiment" at http://hsr.Virginia.EDU/ mmfd5f/t. On this site can be found an overview history of the regiment, information and links to other sites on each battle the regiment fought in; Poems inspired by the regiment; The 20th's monument at Gettysburg and a fine bibliography of the regiment. The best feature is a complete roster of the regiment compiled from a variety of sources. This roster by be searched by KEY Words. For example type in the name Holmes and the records for all three Holmes who served in the regiment will be displayed. This site is well worth the visit.

This Day in the Civil War

On October 8, 1861, General William T, Sherman superseded Gen. Robert Anderson, the "hero of Fort Sumter" as commander to the Union Department of the Cumberland. A year latter on October 8, 1862 the only major battle fought in Kentucky during the war, the Battle of Perryville was fought between Union forces commanded by Don Carlos Buell and Confederate forces under Braxton Bragg. This battle has been considered a partial Union victory as it help end the Confederate invasion of Kentucky. While Union casualties exceed Confederate casualties [4211 vs. 3405], the rebel losses represented almost 25% of Bragg's effective force.

New Books


Preservation News

The Virginia Military Institute is seeking to raise funds for the restoration of Stonewall Jackson's Frock Coat which has been on display at the VMI museum since 1926. This coat is one worn by Jackson as a VMI instructor and at the Battle of Bull Run. $6700 is need for the restoration, but only $1000 has been raised so far. If you would like to contribute mail a check to VMI Museum, citing the coat, and mail to Col. Keith Gibson, VMI Museum, Virginia Military Institute, Lexington, VA 24450

New in Stores

Appearing in stores this past month is a wonderful collection of 5 CD's sold under the label Total Civil War by CounterTop Software of Kirkland, WA for only $34.95. Disc 1 is on Ulysses S. Grant, which includes a sketch of Grant's life with commentary by James McPherson as well as a complete edition of Grant's Memoirs. Disc 2 is a documentary of Robert E. Lee's life, also with commentary by James McPherson, as well as a complete edition of The Life of Robert E. Lee by A. L. Long. Disc 3 is the complete Official Records for the Gettysburg Campaign, with a very good search feature. Disc 4 is a Civil War Encyclopedia keyed to issues, battles, and leaders. Hyperlinks take you from topic to topic. The text is illustrated by Mort Kunstler, and in the background civil war music is played. Disc 5 is Civil War II: Unconditional surrender, is a civil war game that allows you to enlist as a private, go through boot camp, face battle, and as you pass the various levels be promoted up to a general. The programs will play on either Mcintosh or Windows 95, but you need at least a 486 Intel chip and at least 5MB of available ram. This set would make a great gift.

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 jeffrombauer@foxtnter.net
This month the Washington Volunteer presents a new feature which we hope to run occasionally. Many of our members have one or more ancestors who served in the Civil War. Many of soldiers probably had interesting experiences. If you would like to share them with other members, write them down and send them to the editor Jeff Rombaugh. This month member Sylva Coppock has submitted the following account.

Determined to Serve: The story of one family's devotion to the Union.

Seven sons were born to Peter and Margaret Ferguson of Pleasantville in Pike County, Indiana. All were born between 1827 and 1843. The family also included two daughters, Mary and Mahala.

It was still early in the Civil War, when on the 20th day of August, 1861, Levi Ferguson, one of the younger sons, and his brother John, enlisted as privates in Captain Joel F. Sherwood's Company A of the 1st Regiment of Indiana Cavalry (28th Regiment of Volunteers), at Evansville in Vanderburgh County, Indiana. Levi was 20 years old, had been married scarcely a year, and made his living as a farmer. John, age 29, was a teacher and minister. He was married and already had four children with another due in September.

The very next day the two brothers left for St. Louis, and participated in operations around Ironton and Fredericktown, Missouri. Not long into his term of service, Levi Ferguson was experiencing fainting spells and regimental doctors confirmed an existing heart condition. In February 1862 he was discharged at Pilot Knob, Missouri and returned to Indiana to his young wife, Mary.

Levi's brother John was a hospital steward early in his term of service. In the fall, while the 1st Regiment of Indiana Cavalry was assigned to the Department of the Missouri operating on the Western front in and around Helena Arkansas, John Ferguson was promoted to chaplain of the regiment. A year later, in the summer and fall of 1862, John was felled by sunstroke on several occasions. In September of 1863 on a march from Helena to Little Rock, John was overcome with heat, fell from his horse and was unconscious for days. When he recovered, he continued to serve with his regiment throughout the war until mustered out at Indianapolis on the 12th of September 1864. After the war John and his wife Matilda Jane lived in and around Boonville, in Warrick County, Indiana. They had nine children. John, a United Methodist Minister, lived until 1908.

The following year, yet another brother, Thomas W. Ferguson, volunteered at Lynnville, Warrick County, Indiana on August 10, 1862 under Captain William Bogan, in the 91st Regiment of Indiana Volunteers. Less than a week later, brothers Jackson Ferguson and Joseph Y. Ferguson enlisted in the same unit. Thomas was serving in his chosen profession as a physician, assigned to the hospital at Smithland, Kentucky, when he contracted mumps. The disease resulted in bladder paralysis and other infirmities, and he was discharged at Henderson, Kentucky on the 29th of December 1862. He returned to Indiana, where he and his wife Mary Ann raised their family of five. Thomas lived until 1890 and is buried in Surgeon Cemetery, Pike County, Indiana.

Brother Jackson Ferguson continued to serve throughout the war. The 91st Indiana was attached to the District of Western Kentucky, Department of the Ohio and pulled duty at Henderson, Madisonville and Smithlands, Kentucky and was involved in the pursuit of John Hunt Morgan to Burkesville, Kentucky. Jackson served as a recruiter for the 1st Division, 23rd Army Corps; he was on duty at Nashville and the Cumberland Gap. He took part in the Atlanta Campaign with operations about Marietta, and against Kenesaw Mountain. He was at the Battle of Jonesboro, at Lovejoy Station and pursed Hood to the Tennessee River. Late in the war, Jackson Ferguson served in the Carolinas and was discharged with the rank of 2nd Lieutenant at Salisbury, North Carolina on the 26th of June 1865. After the war he lived in Pike County, Indiana, where he and his wife Margery raised a large family. He died in 1915.
Brother Joseph Y. Ferguson moved with his regiment throughout the course of the war. On the 26th of July 1864, during the Atlanta Campaign, Joseph was injured by the explosion of a shell from the enemy's guns. Unable to further perform his duties, he was honorably discharged on the 26th of May 1865 near Powder Springs, Georgia. After his service he as a farmer and served as a County Commissioner in Pike County, Indiana, until his death from consumption in 1918. He and his wife Mary Jane had ten children.

The youngest Ferguson son, Henry, enrolled as a private in Captain George F. Clark's Company B, 91st Regiment of Indiana Volunteer Infantry late in the war, February 15, 1864, and took part in the action at Kennesaw Mountain and the Atlanta campaign. By Christmas, Henry was ill and was hospitalized in Columbus, Tennessee and again in Louisville, Kentucky. He was transferred to City Hospital in Indianapolis to await discharge. Henry had three children by his first with Mariah, and nine by his second wife Lucy. He farmed in Pike County, Indiana until his death in 1900.

Meantime, Levi Ferguson did not let a bad heart deter his from serving in the Union cause! On the 22nd of August 1862, Levi rejoined Mr. Lincoln's army as a sergeant in Company B of the 91st Indiana Infantry. In the line of duty, at Henderson, Kentucky later that fall - September or October - Levi broke both bones in his left arm when he fell from a horse that he was breaking at the command of Major Charles H. Butterfield. A year later, in September 1863, Levi was honorably discharged at Russellville, Kentucky and again returned home to Indiana.

The Civil War wore on, and five of Levi's brothers continued to serve. On the 8th of February 1865, Levi again enlisted, this time as a private in Company K of the 146th Regiment of Indiana Volunteer Infantry. He was promoted to Captain in less than a month. The regiment was sent eastward to Harper's Ferry. In July the 146th was attached to the 1st Brigade, 2nd Provisional Division, Army of the Shenandoah and was on duty at Charleston, Winchester, Stevenson's Depot, Jordan's Springs and Summit Point. On the 31st of August, 1865, Levi was honorably discharged Baltimore, Maryland.

After the Civil War, Levi Ferguson lived in Pike County, Indiana until September of 1877, then in Martinsville, Morgan County, Indiana until 1887 when he moved to Wellington, Kansas. He lived in Kansas until his death on August 15, 1911, at the age of 70 years. Prior to his first enlistment, Levi was a farmer. By the time of his second enlistment, he listed his occupation as lawyer, an occupation he pursued after his military service. He later worked as a store clerk, and after moving to Kansas, Levi served as Postmaster in Wellington. Levi had two children by his first wife Mary, and two by his second wife Amelia. Levi lived until 1906.

The oldest son of Peter and Margaret Ferguson, James was 33 years old in 1861. A teacher and supply minister, James and his wife Caroline had seven children. As the oldest of the brothers, his duty was to look after the families of his brothers, all of whom were married and had children when they enlisted. James lived until 1913.

Amazing as it seems, despite disabilities, illness injury and the hardships of war, all of the Ferguson brothers survived the Civil War, and all with the exception of Thomas, lived to see the birth of the 20th century.

Sylva Coppock

The Impending Crisis.

If you have letters or diaries from soldiers who fought or served in the Civil War or stories on ancestors who served in the war and would like to share it with the round table please submit a transcript to Jeff Rombauer, 22306 255th Ave SE, Maple Valley, 98038