September is the traditional month to hear our own Howard C. Westwood. Per usual, he has spared us much detail in advance - obviously a device to entice old and new members out to the first meeting of the season. It is always a treat, for Mr. Westwood explores the by-ways of the Civil War. Last year he gave us Rufus Sexton, this year, it will be a broader examination of a Yankee regiment and the psychology of enlistment. For those of you who don't know much about Yankee psychology, or why the boys went off to see the elephant - and continued to do so after their initial taste of army life - Mr. Westwood's program is for you.

About Mr. Westwood - well, he gained an LLB degree from Columbia in the early Depression years. He clerked with Justice Harlan Fiske Stone of the Supreme Court, then went to work for the prestigious Washington law firm of Covington & Burling, with whom he has been associated ever since (excepting a momentary lapse with the US Marine Corps during World War II).
TENTATIVE 1986-1987 PROGRAM

Regular Meetings - Tuesdays - Fort McNair Officers Club

9 September 1986 "A Union Regiment's Pursuit of Reenlistment Furlough" - Howard Westwood, Attorney at Law


Saturday - October 25, 1986 - Fall Field Trip - Battlefield Crackpates Homer Davis Memorial - Kelly's Ford, Brandy Station, Vicinity of Clark's Mountain

Wednesday - November 12, 1986 - "1864 Nashville Campaign" Colonel Joseph Mitchell, USA Ret.

December 9, 1986 -"The National Archives and the Civil War" Michael Musick, National Archives and Records Administration

January 13, 1987 - "Guerrilla Activities in Northern Virginia" Dr. Charles Poland, Northern Virginia Community College.

February 10, 1987 - "The Vicksburg Campaign" Edwin C. Bearss, Chief Historian, National Park Service

March 10, 1987 - "The US Navy and the Civil War, " Captain Ned Beach, USN Ret.

April 14, 1987 - Annual Dinner - Program to Be Announced - Guest Speaker, representative of the United Kingdom Defense Establishment

Saturday - May 9, 1987 - Spring Field Trip - Battlefield Crackpates Col. Gay Seabourne Memorial - Lee's Strategic Withdrawl from Gettysburg - tour leaders, Ted Alexander (National Park Service) and Charles MacCarthy, Vice President, DC CWRT

May 12, 1987 - "Gettysburg Campaign," Ted Alexnader, National Park Service

(N.B. - also awaiting response from National Portrait Gallery re. possible program)
In-coming President Kim Holien convened the annual DCCWRT Executive Committee meeting in June and the group addressed the following topics; de-sexification of the Constitution changing all use of "man" and "men" to "persons," the need to develop an accurate and publishable list of "Gold Medal Winners" and "Bruce Catton Award Winners" as well as exploring the feasibility of an "Internal Award" for DCCWRT service; dropping the term "Ladies Night" and substituting "Annual Awards Banquet," and improving coordination between Field Trip and monthly speakers programs.

Despite a receipt of membership dues from 140 paid members this past year, Mr. Holien noted the 500-member roster during the late Centennial years and urged a renewed effort to look to the organization's health in the future. He particularly cited the readily available asset of military students at the Fort McNair facilities of National War, Industrial, and Inter-American Defense colleges as a pool to be tapped. In line with this general topic, Mr. Edwin H. Hunter reported the Treasury healthy with nearly $1,000 in unencumbered funds, but noted the rapidly escalating costs of newsletter production - further reason to look to improved membership.

Mr. Holien cited the Round Table's need to focus on the 125th Anniversary of the Civil War through greater awareness of commemorative activities of the American Civil War Commemorative Committee and the Friends of Virginia Civil War Parks. He particularly charged the Projects Committee with finding new ways to enhance both the recognition of the DC Civil War Round Table's role as educational, preservationist, and commemorative agent (we desperately need an informational brochure on the Round Table and its purpose), as well as additional and continuing support for national efforts to acquire, preserve, and interpret Civil War sites. Last year, the DC Civil War Round Table assisted a preservationist group at Antietam with a modest contribution for preservation of the historic Grove Farm.

DC CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE PROJECTS 1986-1987

During the coming year, the Projects Committee has been charged by President Holien with (1) developing a list of Round Table Founders, (2) providing suitable recognition of past Round Table Presidents, (3) developing a brochure on the history and activities of the Round Table, and (4) studying the feasibility of adding an office of Historian.

Largely at the instigation of Projects Chairman, B.F. Cooling, the Executive Committee approved a major effort to aid the National Park Service with preservation of the premier Civil War battle site in the District of Columbia - the Fort Stevens Park and Battleground National Cemetery complex - scene of the 1864 action during Early's Raid, and only location of Lincoln's presence under enemy fire while in office. Mrs. Georgia Ellard, Rock Creek Park Superintendent (whose duties include the Fort Stevens-Battleground National Cemetery area) has cited disintegrating retaining walls, markers, flagstaff base, and bandstand at the cemetery, and revetments, gun platforms, and
other facilities at the fort. She desperately needs aid and advice on preservation. A proper interpretive program is also needed. More on the "Help Preserve Fort Stevens - Battleground Cemetery" in October.

ON THE BOOKSHELF (in case you missed them)

GUIDE TO THE BATTLE OF GETTYSBURG. Edited by Jay Luvaas and Col. Harold W. Nelson. $19.95 hardcover. Billed (for some reason) as the US Army War College guide series, this first in a series can be obtained from South Mountain Press, Inc., 17 W. Pomfret St., Suite 7, Carlisle, Pa. 17013. Ostensibly, others to follow on other prominent campaigns/battles.


THE ROUGH SIDE OF WAR; THE CIVIL WAR JOURNAL OF CHESLEY A. MOSMAN, 1st LIEUTENANT, COMPANY D, 59th ILLINOIS VOLUNTEER INFANTRY REGIMENT. Edited by Arnold Gates, in limited edition at $25.00 from author at 168 Weyford Terrace, Garden City, NY 11530. Mr. Gates is a long time member of the New York Civil War Round table, who captures the measure of this delightful journal with quotes like:

"August 3, 1864 - A number of us were gathered about Col. Hale listening to the news when a man joined the crowd from some other regiment who took Hale to be a Rebel we had captured. 'Rebel officer, eh? Ornery looking cuss, ain't he?' All enjoyed it but the Colonel."


Both available from Longstreet House, P.O. Box 730, Hightstown, NH 08520.

STAND WAITIE; AN ANALYTICAL STUDY. By B. Narasingarajan. $4.00 plus $2.00 airmail postage from Mayflower Publications International, 93-E, 16th Main Road, Out House, Vijayanagar East, Bangalore - 560 040, South India.

WITNESS TO THE STORM; THE CIVIL WAR PHOTOGRAPHER. Narrated by Fary Merrill. This video is available at $49.95 plus $2.50 for shipping from Historical Videos International, Inc. Box 583, Edgemont, Pa. 19028.

DC CWRT BRUCE CATTON AWARD - 1986

Congratulations to former CWRT President Thomas Worsley (1978-79 Season) for being the 1986 recipient of the prestigious award for enhancing the study of the Civil War.
THE BALLAD OF THE BATTLE OF GETTYSBURG

Mr. Adams, a retired D.C. Policeman, is sponsoring programs in Black Military History at the Fort Dupont Visitors Center, and seeks support from everyone.

General Lee beat the Feds
At the Battle of Chancellorsville.
And it appeared that Negro slavery
Surely was God's will.

So up from the South
The Rebel Army came.
An Army of 85,000 and
A final victory was their aim.

General Lee told Jeb Stuart,
"Go out and find,
The position of the Union Army,
And victory will be mine."

So Jeb Stuart left
With all the Cavalry.
And Lee divided his army
Into mighty Corps of three.

The First Corps he gave
To General Longstreet
A stocky built Dutchman,
Who never had been beat.

The Second Corps went to Ewell
And the Third Corps to A.P. Hill.
And they invaded Pennsylvania
Because they felt it was God's will.

But the Union Army was ready
To prove that they were right,
And they would end slavery
With blood, iron, and might.

And so the Feds marched
North through Maryland,
A band of "Killer Angels"
Carrying out God's Plan.

Lee's plan was to
Sack Harrisburg.
But his men needed shoes
And complaints could be heard.

So Lee sent men to Gettysburg
To confiscate some shoes.
Here the men in grey
Ran into Union Blues.

The men in Union Blue
Were Buford's Cavalry.
They had to fight
So that Black men would be free.

The Rebs drove the Feds
To the hills south of town.
General Lee was ready
To cut the Federals down.

Hood attacked the Feds
Entrenched on Little Round Top.
Hood knew his Texans
Never had been stopped.

But the Feds on Little Round Top
Were good Maine men.
And they were fighting to free
Their brothers with darker skin.

They stopped Hood's attack -
"Oh praise the Lord!"
They made Hood's Texans feel
God's terrible swift sword.

The next day Lee prepared
For one final attack.
One crushing blow
To drive the Federals back.

George Pickett attacked
With 15,000 men.
One brilliant charge
To bring the battle to an end.

But Pickett had not planned
On the fierce Union artillery.
They blew his Rebs apart
To make Black children free.
Pickett's famous charge
Will go down in History.
Like the English Light Brigade
They charged straight into artillery.

At the end of his famous charge
Pickett's Division was destroyed.
It left Lee's once proud army
With a bleeding bloody void.

Lee had no choice but
To call a full retreat.
General Meade did not bother
To pursue the enemy he beat.

So the Civil War continued
For two more bloody years.
And the widows had to shed
Thousands more weeping tears.

The Civil War truly ended
On the hills of Gettysburg
For the Emancipation Proclamation
Truly now was heard!

* * *

MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

* Regretably, because of some rule infractions, the Maryland Correctional Training Center Antietam Civil War Round Table, out of Hagerstown, Maryland has suspended operations. Perhaps less sophisticated by many people's standards, this group seemingly provided a useful activity to those temporarily unable to roam the battlefields and visit the libraries like the rest of us. We hope they can return to operation in the future.

* If you missed the February 1986 issue of Civil War Times Illustrated, you missed member James O. Hall of McLean, Virginia who contributed an article, entitled "The Spy Harrison," a tale which might well merit a television series.

* September-October conclaves of merit include:


September 20, 1986 - Fourth Annual Midwest Civil War Collector's Show at Wheaton, Illinois (Dupage Co. Fairgrounds) - for all of you headed west.


October 18, 1986 - Sixth Annual Great American Civil War Book Fair, Elks Lodge, 8421 Arlington Blvd. (US 50), Fairfax, VA. Contact, C. Batson, Box 143 X, Centreville, VA 22020 (703) 631-0884 for details.
RESERVATION FORM

EITHER CALL THIS INFORMATION OR MAIL TO: Mr. George Hutchinson, by Sept. 5, please.

Mr. George Hutchinson
3863 North Tazewell St.
Arlington, VA  22207
Home Phone (after 7 p.m., please)  538-6212

_________ check made payable to CWRT of DC

_________ so state (I) (We) will attend Sept. 9 meeting/dinner

(I) (We) will have _________ guests. Check for _________
for _________ guests enclosed at $10.00 each.

____________________________________ guest(s) name(s)

____________________________________ Signature
SECOND REGULAR MEETING - NOTE CHANGE OF DATE - 7 October

DATE: TUESDAY, October 7, 1986
PLACE: Officers Club, Fort Lesley J. McNair
TIME: 6:00 PM Cash Bar
       7:00 PM Dinner
       8:00 PM Program

SUBJECT: Stephen R. Mallory, Secretary of the Navy
Confederate States of America

SPEAKER: Rev. Joseph T. Durkin, SJ

PRICE: $10.00 per person

RESERVATIONS: Mr. George Hutchinson
               3863 North Tazewell St.
               Arlington, VA 22207
               Phone (after 7:00 PM - 538-6212)

NOTE: CHANGE OF DATE - OCTOBER MEETING - 7 October - Fort McNair

OUR SPEAKER

Father Durkin is an old hand at this business - having been a friend of the late Douglas Southall Freeman, and author of numerous publications in the field of Civil War history. Best known, perhaps, for his biography of the Confederate Secretary of the Navy, Stephen R. Mallory, this book has been long out of date. It will be reprinted next year, incidentally, by the University of South Carolina Press. Father Durkin has been a priest since 1933, and took his doctorate in history at Fordham University in 1941. A native of Philadelphia and long-time resident of the Washington community, he is Emeritus Professor of History at Georgetown University, and remains active in intellectual circles.
FALL FIELD TRIP - October 18, 1986
(contact point - Charles McCarthy - 938-0669)

Vice President Charles McCarthy (938-0669) has put together a first-class fall field trip, resplendent with autumn foliage, good fellowship, wine and cheese, and, even a bus. Leaving at 8:45 a.m. from the Lady Bird Johnson Park area near the Pentagon marina off GW Parkway (check him for precise location), the venture will campaign all day, returning by 6:00 p.m. While you should bring your own picnic lunch, walking shoes, and outdoor dress (we ain't a Yankee commissary detachment), coffee and donuts in the morning, and a wine cheese/cracker foraging will be provided. Now, where else can you get that kind of a day's activity for $16.50. Moreover, the trip will be led by Dr. Charles Polland, from the history faculty of Northern Virginia Community College. Oh, yes, where will you be going? How is this for an outing - Brandy Station, Kelly's Ford, and Cedar Mountain.

NEW CIVIL WAR BOOKSTORE

There may be others, and everyone has their favorites, but try out this one in the area. Mr. Pete Seborg has opened Rock Creek Bookshop near the Uptown theater on upper Connecticut Avenue in the District. His strength lies with Civil War books - prices seem fair, selection good, and it cozy and upstairs beyond the noise of the street.
MISCELLANIA - CIVIL WAR-IANA

Thar's Gold in them thar Hills - A New York City ophthalmologist recently paid $20,000 in an upstate New York auction for a photographic album of a Civil War surgeon. The rare material was part of an estate of a descendant of Dr. Reed Brockway Bontecou, director of Harewood Hospital in Washington DC from 1863-1866. The auction was conducted by Gansz Auctions of Lyon, NY, in the small town of Clifton Springs, about 25 miles east of Rochester.

Dr. Stanley Burns, collector, author, and owner of over 12,000 original medical photographs from the Civil War particularly seized upon the album of about 600 photographs, mainly of Petersburg casualties, claiming this is the fourth (possibly a fifth exists) of Bontecou's historical records which he has acquired. He also secured additional Civil War photographs, the cane, nameplate, and some medical instruments of Bontecou.

NEW TOMBSTONE FOR GENERAL W.H.L. WALLACE

DCCWRT friend, Noble K. Wyatt, president of the West Virginia Historical Society writes about his escapades in helping secure a new grave marker for western Yankee general, W.H.L. Wallace. Prominent at Fort Donelson and Shiloh, Wallace was wounded in the latter fight, and died horribly from his wounds four days later. He was buried on the lawn of his home in the private Dickey-Wallace cemetery in Ottawa, Illinois. Over the years, the limestone tombstone became unbecoming to one of Ottawa's stalwart sons. This led to a campaign to get a new VA tombstone. The only trouble is the number of letters required. Originally, the tombstone spelled out Wallace's full name - William Hervey Lamme Wallace. But, bureaucracy triumphs as only 25 letters are now allowed on the stone markers (but 21 characters on the bronze version). So the new marker will simply bear the inscription "William H.L. Wallace" undoubtedly prompting future generations to wonder what his middle names actually were. Even more disturbing was the reaction of VA spokesman John Thomas when the requisition was first submitted last October. "Do you have Wallace's Social Security Number?" he asked. If this doesn't make a clear case for educating a younger generation in history ... Any fool knows that Social Security numbers are a product of the New Deal of the 1930s! Or, did the dead general get one retroactively?

BOOK REVIEW CORNER


Billed as a new story of Sibley - a romantic warrior lost and misplaced in the contemporary world, Vandiver thinks this will be the definitive work on this Confederate general. Had his New Mexico Campaign succeeded, the entire history of the Southern Confederacy might have been radically altered, suggests the author.


Billed as the first full-length biography of the dashing beau sabreur of the Bluegrass, Northern Kentucky University professor Ramage goes beyond the usual myth-making to portray John Hunt Morgan in the climate of modern guerrilla warfare. He concludes that Morgan better fits the earlier myth of cavalier knight, but the study will interest readers who seek something beyond the aging motif of Southern cavalry leaders only as glamorous horsemen.

Forty-Seventh Pennsylvania Regiment. By Lewis G. Schmidt. Privately printed by Author, 124 N. West St. Side, Allentown, Pa. 18102. Presubscription price,
$40.00 before 15 October. After that date while supply lasts, $30.00.

An obvious labor of love, author Schmidt has privately published this regimental account of an eastern Pennsylvania unit which spent 22 percent of its tour in Florida; 20 percent in South Carolina; 20 percent in Virginia; 14 percent in Louisiana; and the remainder in miscellaneous places. From the St. John's Expedition to Florida, and the Pocotaligo, SC battle to Opequon, Fisher's Hill, Cedar Creek, to the Gulf Coast, Schmidt has lavished 750,000 computerized words on this story. A "must" for regimental and unit history fans.

PRESERVATION NEWS - CITIZENRY HELPS THE FEDS OF THE NPS

Antietam National Battlefield was the site of a ceremony on September 17, whereby the Hoosier Blue & Gray Civil War Round Table of Cambridge, Indiana, presented the National Park Service with a check for the cleaning and restoration of Indiana markers at that site.

The Hoosier Blue & Gray undertook the grassroots effort toward the raising of $2,000 in April 1985. Contact with Superintendent Betty Otto had revealed the deteriorated condition of five Indiana regimental markers, illegible headstones in the Antietam National Cemetery, and the maintenance needed for the large Indiana monument on the field. The group was led by a committee headed by James A. Gibson, Jerry Cress, Reverend Mr. James Orr, Harry Smith, and Russell Brehm. The money came from private solicitation, veteran organizations, and Civil War Round Tables across the Hoosier state.

The funds were enough to complete the work needed only for the cleaning of the five regimental markers and several cemetery headstones. Unfortunately, the Hoosier Blue & Gray Round Table could not raise enough for the cleaning and repointing of the Indiana monument. Herein lies a project for the future, claims this group's spokesmen. They hope that other veteran organizations, historical groups, and Civil War Round Tables will respond with similar efforts across the nation.

UPCOMING EVENT - MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Over at Fort Ward - Oct. 11 - "Home Care of Heirlooms and Collectibles Lecture." 2:00 p.m. - "Identification and Care of Old Photographs," Will Stapp of the National Portrait Gallery.

- Oct. 18 - "Home Care of Heirlooms and Collectibles Lecture." 2:00 p.m."Care of Rare Prints and Documents," Christine Smith, private conservator.

- Oct. 25 - "Home Care of Heirlooms and Collectibles Lecture." 2:00 P.M. - "Framing and Display of Rare Prints and Documents," Christine Smith

Note - Seating Limited; $2.00 admission charged; Reservations - 838-4848

Friends of Fort Ward Fall Outing - DCWRT President Kim Holien, noted author and historian will lead the first fall outing of the Friends of Fort Ward on a bus tour to Leesburg and Balls Bluff battlefield. Tour will be 10:00 to 4:00, with catered lunch, at a cost of $30.00 per person. Reservations, accompanied by check or money order must be received by 15 OCTOBER at the following address - The Friends of Fort Ward, 4301 West Braddock Road, Alexandria, VA 22304-1008.
FORT STEVENS - BATTLEGROUND NATIONAL CEMETERY - HELP!

Problem: The site of the only Civil War battle in the District of Columbia, and location of the only time when an American president (Abraham Lincoln) was ever under actual hostile fire while in office faces serious preservation and maintenance problems. It further lacks appropriate interpretive and visitor contact facilities. Concerned citizens would like to help, but the NPS has primary responsibility, and the first step is identification of the issues.

Background: Fort Stevens - named for a Civil War general killed at the battle of Chantilly, was one of 68 forts, 93 unarmed batteries, miscellaneous blockhouses, rifle trenches, military roads, nearly 1,000 cannon, and from 10-20,000 troops protecting Washington during the Civil War. On 11-12 July 1864, it was the site of the Battle of Fort Stevens during Jubal Early's "raid" on the city - a battle which preserved the city for the Union, and saved the Lincoln administration from defeat at the polls the following November. Both President and Mrs. Lincoln, plus other dignitaries were present during the battle. The Union casualties were buried in the national cemetery now located on Georgia Avenue in NW, Washington, near the site of the battle and the fort.

Both sites are administered by the Superintendent, Rock Creek Park - Mrs. Georgia Ellard - whose staff have done a meticulous job of basic maintenance despite normal constructions in budget and staff. Recent conversations have indicated hurdles which now approach a crisis for public safety as well as continued preservation of site and structures at both locations.

Endangered areas - disintegrating gun platforms, embrasures (originally reconstructed in concrete during 1930s by WPA) at Fort Stevens. Disintegrating retaining walls, walkways, flagstaff base, bandstand at Battleground National Cemetery.

Inadequate visitor services - lack of interpretive devices, visitor contact station, exhibits, or proper identification of the importance of the battle, role in Lincoln's life, meaning to history and community today.

Solutions: Resolution of safety hazzards, preservation needs
- NPS funding, personnel, equipment devoted to crisis. NPS initiated
- Inter-agency sharing and cooperation - contact and cooperative programs with US Army Corps of Engineers (Active and Reserve) - NPS initiated
Involvement of private sector - community groups, neighbor cooperation, business sector (for example, involvement of a Washington area nursery in rehabilitation of plantings per original War Department plans). NPS and Private sector initiated Resolution of interpretive, visitor needs

- Development of interpretive exhibits. DCCWRT and NPS team
- Development of a Visitors Center or Contact Station - utilizing cemetery caretaker cottage at Battleground National Cemetery - now used by NPS in administrative functions - DCCWRT and NPS team

Goal: Four Year Restoration Project - Aim - 125th Anniversary 11-12 July 1989

- A Restored, stable physical plant at Fort Stevens and Battleground National Cemetery
- Balanced, responsive interpretive program including markers, visitor contact point, exhibits
- A publication - "Fort Stevens - the Battle that Saved the Capital."

Points of Contact: Dr. B.F. Cooling (202) 362-4356 or 767-5201 (office) Col. Joseph B. Mitchell (USA Ret) 836-2471

HELP WANTED COLUMN

For Washington Forts Tour Guidebook - B.F. Cooling and Wally Owen are writing and preparing for publication a comprehensive narrative and guidebook to the forts of Washington. They will emphasize those of the Civil War - any letters, diaries, and particularly pictorial material which anyone would care to make available through sale, gift, or loan - please contact them. All research materials and proceeds from this project will become the property of the Friends of Fort Ward - benefactor group for Fort Ward Museum and Park in Alexandria.

For Reenactment Unit of Berdan's Sharpshooters - Wanted, three-piece Cooking Kit as used by the original unit. Any condition, complete or incomplete will be appreciated. Contact Arthur R. Buker, 2114 Rockwell Ave., Catonsville, Maryland 21228. (301) 744-4173.

PERSONS DESIRING Help with projects - contact Newsletter Editor - with brief blurb concerning their needs.
EITHER CALL THIS INFORMATION OR MAIL TO: Mr. George Hutchinson, by October 7, please.

Mr. George Hutchinson
3863 North Tazewell St.
Arlington, VA 22207

Home Phone (after 7 p.m., please)
538-6212

__________________________ check made payable to CVRT of DC

__________________________ so state (I) (We) will attend October 7 meeting/dinner

(I) (We) will have_________ guests. Check for_________
for_________ guests enclosed at $10.00 each.

__________________________ guest(s) name(s)

__________________________ Signature
THIRD REGULAR MEETING - NOVEMBER - Note change of date

DATE: Wednesday, November 12, 1986
PLACE: Fort Leslie J. McNair Officer's Club
SUBJECT AND SPEAKER: "THE NASHVILLE CAMPAIGN OF 1864" Colonel (Ret) Joseph B. Mitchell
TIME: 6:00 PM Cash Bar
7:00 PM Dinner
8:00 PM Program
PRICE: $10.00 per person
RESERVATIONS: By November 7, 1986 to Mr. George Hutchinson
3863 N. Tazewell St.
Arlington, VA 22207
Phone (after 7:00 PM - 538-6212)

OUR SPEAKER

Just as September seems to be "Howard Westwood Month," so November has been given to our old friend and colleague, Joe Mitchell. Is there anyone that does not know him to be a talented, provocative, and thoroughly entertaining student and lecturer on "the war." Last year he talked to us about Grant's final year as strategist and tactician in the east. Now, Colonel Mitchell turns to the West, and examines not just what Stanley Horn once called the "decisive battle of Nashville," but also the commanders on both sides in this campaign - their strengths, weaknesses, and impact on the course of events. Obviously, you will want to bone up via Tom Connelly, Stanley Horn, Richard McMurrey, and other writers. With cooler nights coming on, it is time to turn to the library shelves and prepare yourself to sit back and listen, learn, and enjoy someone as entertaining as Joe Mitchell. November and December 1864 will be the setting, our club room the place, and our colleague — distinguished as soldier and scholar — will be the speaker. Don't miss him.
THE CIVIL WAR IN ARKANSAS

Feel a little unsure of yourself when it comes to the Civil War in the trans-Mississippi? Michael Hughes of Ada, Oklahoma (and a doctoral student in history at the University of Arkansas) has published an encapsulated introduction to major battles and campaigns in the newsletter of the Civil War Round Table of Arkansas (Little Rock). A teaser to most of us, perhaps sharing his contribution with DC Round Table members will stimulate some East Coast study of "The Land of Opportunity," as the state is nicknamed.

THE BATTLE OF PEA RIDGE OR ELKHORN TAVERN

Date: March 7-8, 1862 (with preliminary fighting near Bentonville on March 6)

Forces engaged: Earl Van Dorn's Confederate Army of the Trans-Mississippi with 14,000-16,000 (out of a force of 16,200-17,000). Samuel Curtis' Union Army of the Southwest with 10,500 men (out of an original force of 12,000)

Why: Van Dorn had been sent to the Boston Mountains by the Confederate government to unite the Confederate forces of Ben McCulloch with Sterling Price's Missouri State Guard, which had been driven out of the important border state of Missouri by Curtis' Union army. Van Dorn hoped to destroy two divided wings of the Union army, one west of Bentonville and the other east of Bentonville, then move into southwestern Missouri in hopes of regaining Missouri for the Confederacy. When Van Dorn's forces were unsuccessful in preventing the reuniting of Curtis' forces at a strong defensive position on Little Sugar Creek, Van Dorn decided to come around behind the Union army and attack it from the rear, cutting it off from its bases to the north.

Outcome: Van Dorn's forces, divided to come around Pea Ridge, were unable to unite on the first day. Three Confederate generals were killed or mortally wounded. The Confederates ran low on ammunition, with the Federal army between them and their supplies. Van Dorn retreated to Huntsville. As the Missouri State Guard had been defeated in its effort to recover its homeland, and as the Confederate forces were given only one try at victory before being sent to join forces east of the Mississippi River, the battle is considered to have saved Missouri for the Union and to have been the most important battle fought west of the Mississippi River.

Casualties: 1,384 Union troops (203 killed, 980 wounded, 201 missing or captured); an estimated 800 Confederate troops (600 killed or wounded, 200 captured)
THE BATTLE OF PRAIRIE GROVE

Date: December 7, 1862

Forces engaged: Thomas C. Hindman's Army of the Trans-Mississippi with 10,000-10,500 men (out of a force of 11,000). James G. Blunt's Army of the Frontier (officially under the absent John M. Schofield) with 6,500-7,000 (out of a force of 8,500 when Blunt's 3,500 were finally combined with Francis J. Herron's 5,000). (Blunt and Herron had at least 1,500-2,000 men guarding supplies or in transit during the battle. Contrary to the statement in many articles that the Union forces were equal or superior to the Confederate forces once Blunt and Herron combined forces, the Union army was always outnumbered. This common error may be due to the fact that Union cavalry forces which were transferred from Herron to Blunt during the battle may have been counted as being part of the forces of both Union generals.) This was the first battle in which both Arkansas Union and Arkansas Confederate regiments fought.

Why: Union forces in southwest Missouri were strengthening their hold on that area and expelling remaining Confederate forces from northwest Arkansas and the Indian Territory (modern Oklahoma). Hindman was losing recruiting territory and was under great pressure from his superiors to send his Arkansas forces eastward, to and beyond the Mississippi River. Apparently he hoped to gobble up Blunt's much smaller force, which was 120 miles apart from Herron's portion of the Army of the Frontier, then perhaps be in a position to invade Missouri and resist pressure to release his troops for service elsewhere.

Outcome: In what is perhaps the greatest march in American military history Herron marched his troops south around 110 miles, some in as little as 60 hours, and reinforced Blunt in northwest Arkansas. Hindman held a defensive position successfully but he had lost the initiative, was very low on ammunition, had had his artillery damaged, and was under pressure from his superiors to retreat. So, despite having a larger army, he retreated to the Arkansas River. Hindman lost some of the last available recruits and draftees, some even deserting to join Union forces, and had expended ammunition even harder to replace than the men. The Confederate resolve to hold western Arkansas was even further weakened.

Casualties: 1,251 Union troops (175 killed, 813 wounded, 263 captured and missing. 1,317 Confederate troops (164 killed, 817 wounded, 336 missing). Although more men were killed outright at Pea Ridge, in terms of total casualties this was the most costly battle in Arkansas. The nightmarish conditions following the battle make it difficult to tell how many "missing" were killed and how many deserted or defected.
THE BATTLE OF ARKANSAS POST OR FORT HINDMAN

Date: January 10-11, 1863

Forces engaged: Confederate garrison of T. C. Churchill with about 5,000 men. John A. McClernand's so-called Union "Army of the Mississippi" (McClernand's expeditionary force with the expeditionary force of William Tecumseh Sherman) with 28,955 men (out of perhaps 30,000) and thirteen gunboats.

Why: McClernand, a general appointed for political reasons, was given command of an independent operation against Vicksburg, unknown to Ulysses S. Grant, who had already been operating against Vicksburg with Sherman's troops. McClernand decided to move up the Arkansas River and take Arkansas Post, from which the Confederates could possibly send gunboats into the Mississippi River to disrupt Union moves against Vicksburg. He may also have hoped to enhance his reputation. He picked up Sherman's troops to reinforce him, perhaps hoping to use them before Grant could find out and recall them.

Outcome: The artillery in Fort Hindman was disabled and part of the fort wrecked and the Confederates in the line of entrenchments connected to the fort faced overwhelming odds. Under circumstances never successfully explained someone in the fort raised a surrender flag, although many of the Confederates in the entrenchments were not yet ready or willing to surrender. The victory had little direct impact on the Vicksburg campaign but was a real loss to the Confederates in arms and artillery if not in men. Grant became even more determined to outdo his rival, McClernand, in capturing Vicksburg.

Casualties: 1,061 Union troops (134 killed, 898 wounded, 29 missing. 4,800-4,900 Confederate troops, most captured.
THE ATTACK ON HELENA

Date: July 4, 1863

Forces engaged: Benjamin Prentiss' Union garrison of 4,129 troops. T. H. Holmes Confederate forces defending Arkansas with 7,646 troops. This was the first battle in Arkansas in which black Union troops (some from Arkansas) participated.

Why: Confederate commanders in the West wanted to force Union troops besieging Vicksburg, down the Mississippi River, to reduce pressure on Vicksburg and hoped an attack on Helena might accomplish this. Or, if Vicksburg fell, Helena might be used as a Confederate fortress to block Union navigation on the river the way Vicksburg had.

Outcome: Confederate scouting was poor, Holmes' orders were unclear, and there was little communication between attacking Confederate columns. The Confederate forces were repulsed, with especially heavy losses among the infantrymen, but Prentiss failed to take advantage of his victory and pursue the Confederates. Not only was pressure on Vicksburg not relieved (Vicksburg surrendered the very day of the battle), but Holmes was left less able to defend Little Rock and Arkansas.

Casualties: 239 Union troops (57 killed, 146 wounded, 36 captured or missing. 1,514 Confederate troops (169 killed, 659 wounded, 786 captured or missing (many captured)

HALLOWEEN IS PAST - BUT!

October is over, but the ghoulish side of the Civil War continues. Apparently, modern progress is busy digging up old graves and historic sites everywhere. Surely, members, your hackles were raised by the early October account in the Washington Post about the "rape" of the battlefield of Chantilly - a classic too little, too late. Surely this fairly begs for preservation of such spots as Arlington's endangered Fort C. F. Smith, and better preservation and interpretation of DC's Fort Stevens and Battleground National Cemetery (incidentally, we still await word from the National Park Service as to the Round Table's offer to help, and enjoiner to the National Capitol Region to take an interest in our proposals).

But, did you know, they are uncovering soldier graves in Indianapolis, and moving Confederates like Morgan raider, Cyrus G. Clark from Louisville to Gainesboro, Tennessee so that he might rest beside his wife. This was a big project last month, received regional media attention, and formed part of the well-staged hoopla of this year's slogan "Tennessee's Homecoming." But, more significantly, perhaps, it showed a strong interest in the Civil War and its meaning, brought out good representation from the Sons of Confederate Veterans and the Louisville Civil War Round Table - one of the truly first-rate groups in the country, with a large and erudite membership, superb dining facilities and meeting room, and publish a good newsletter.

What all this should tell us is - occasionally get out of your library and visit cemeteries, battlefields, and other round tables - its good for you!
RESERVATION FORM

EITHER CALL THIS INFORMATION OR MAIL TO: Mr. George Hutchinson, by November 7, please.

Mr. George Hutchinson
3863 North Tazewell St.
Arlington, VA 22207

Home Phone (after 7 pm, please)
538-6212

___________ check made payable to CWRT of DC

___________ so state (I) (We) will attend November 12 Dinner/Meeting

(I) (We) will have _________ guests. Check for _________
for _________ guests enclosed at $10.00 each.

______________________________ guest(s) name(s).

___________________________________

Signature
FOUR REGULAR MEETING - DECEMBER

DATE: Tuesday, December 9, 1986
PLACE: Officers Club, Port Leslie J. McNair, DC
SUBJECT: "The Civil War - A View from the National Archives"
SPEAKER: Mr. Michael P. Musick, Staff, National Archives
TIME: 6:00 PM Cash Bar
       7:00 PM Dinner
       8:00 PM Program
PRICE: $10.00 per person

RESERVATIONS - NOTE
No Later Than - 5 December (Friday) to George Hutchinson 538-6212 (after 7 pm)

OUR SPEAKER - MR. MICHAEL P. MUSICK

Some eighty of us turned out in November to hear a provocative Colonel Joseph Mitchell on Hood's Tennessee Campaign. Mention was made of the "hot" follow-on program in December. Here will be a chance to have an insider's view of that treasure-trove of material known as National Archives. You may bet that Mike has some "goodies" up his sleeve.

Michael P. Musick, although born a certified Yankee in Long Island City, N.Y., and raised in suburban Philadelphia, Pa., voluntarily experienced a southern education at Roanoke College in Salem, Va. and Emory University in Atlanta, Ga. Hearing Emory's Bell I. Wiley declare that he was neither pro-Union nor pro-Confederate, but simply an American, Musick decided to follow Wiley's example. He now lives in Harpers Ferry, West Va. - which was about evenly divided in sentiment during the "late unpleasantness."

Since 1969, Musick has been employed in the various incarnations of what
is now the Military Reference Branch of the National Archives. His talk will give us an overview of the holdings of the National Archives concerned with the Civil War. He will emphasize the best-known aspect of that subject, the famous service records of individual soldiers and sailors. His slide presentation will touch on what the records are, how you can get to them, and how they came to be in the National Archives. Those who are still awake after that will be encouraged to make a selection from among the numerous handouts and pamphlets he plans to bring with him. At the very least, y'all come on out and wish him a Merry Christmas!

HUMOR IN UNIFORM (from Confederate War Journal)

City Point, on the James River, was the landing for transports with soldiers released from Northern prisons on parole. One day a most woe-begone and emaciated "Johnny Reb" sat swinging his shoeless feet from a barrel, awaiting his turn, when a pompous Federal major remarked, to no one in particular: "It isn't far to Richmond?" "Rek'n et's near onto three thousin mile," drawled the Johnny, weakly. "Nonsense! you must be crazy!" replied the officer, staring. "jest thought so, kinder," came the rejoinder. "Oh, you did," countered the Yank, "and, why, pray?" "Cause it took'n youens nigh onto foore years to git thar from Washington," was the settled retort.

That's like just before the battle of the Wilderness Sergeant Billy Bass received a letter from his wife. She said she heard that there was to be a big battle, and she did so wish to see him before it was fought! When Billy read it he said he would like also to see her before the battle, but he would a great sight rather see her after it was over.

**********

And, speaking of the Wilderness, on the evening of May 6, 1864, JEB Stuart, finding it necessary near nightfall to scout the Yankee earthworks to see whether or not they had been evacuated, sent an orderly to the 11th Virginia Cavalry, in line nearby, with the request that the OIC send him a good man for the performance of a hazardous duty. Private Jim O'Meara, of Company F, was selected, and reported to the general. General Stuart, replying to his salutation, simply said: "You see that line of earthworks? I want to know if it is manned. Ride down within seventy-five or a hundred yards of it, and then turn to the left and gallop parallel with it. If the Yankss are there, you go fast, and they'll shoot behind you." "All right, general. I know it," said Jim with an appreciative wink. He rode to the line, started in the twilight on his run parallel with the line, which, being well manned, was immediately illumined. The fusillade did not cause Jim to swerve, however. When he had gone nearly half the length of the line his horse received a bullet through the nose, midway between the nostril and eye. Jim deliberately stopped, unslung his carbine, took as careful an aim as he would have done at a squirrel, fired, and resuming his parallel course, completed his run the entire length of the enemy line. Slowly riding back to where Stuart stood at the head of his command, O'Meara touched his hat and reported, "They're thar yit, general."

(Incidentally, the above shows the inaccuracy of most old soldiers tales after the war - it was probably Chancellorsville, not Wilderness referred to by the Journal editors).
THE FOURTH BATTLE OF MANASSAS

THE HAZEL-PETerson COMPANY OF FAIRFAX, VA., wants to build a mix of offices, stores, and up to 985 housing units on the 514-acre Marriott Corp tract between Interstate 66 and U.S. 29, west of Manassas National Battlefield.

The company has requested a rezoning which would allow it to build 2.29 million square feet of office space, 120,000 square feet of retail space, and 985 townhouses, garden apartments, and single family homes. Hazel-Peterson announced earlier this year that it had negotiated an agreement to buy the I-66 tract from Marriott, which had obtained the property in the 1970s, but dropped plans to build an amusement park similar to Kings Mountain, when a coalition of local residents and Civil War buffs throughout the country registered vigorous protests and were successful in blocking the federal funding of the necessary water and sewer facilities.

The Marriott tract includes Stuart's Hill which served as J.E.B. Stuart's and Robert E. Lee's headquarters during Second Manassas. Any high density housing or commercial development in this area will adversely affect the park in at least two ways:

A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN TRAFFIC THROUGH THE PARK; AND DESTRUCTION OF THE HISTORIC SCENE VISIBLE FROM THE BRAWNER FARM AND BATTERY HEIGHTS.

Word has been received that a shopping center is part of the plan for the retail space; this will be located on U.S. 29 just opposite the Brawner Farm, only recently added to the park after a long, hard battle.

The Prince William County Board of Supervisors, carrying on the tradition of their predecessors who so resented "outsiders" sticking their nose in Prince William County affairs during the Marriott battle, are "pro-development" all the way, and not likely to be swayed by any appeal to the "national" interest. (To give you an idea of where they are coming from, this county has not one professional historian on their staff, and the Board has a history of destruction and neglect of historic sites, which is pathetic.)

Just recently, this Board approved construction of office buildings up to 10 stories tall near the entrance to the battlefield, after being "assured" by the developers that the office towers would not be visible from the wooded national park. (Yeah, like you can't see the tower at Gettysburg either)

Manassas National Battlefield is in grave danger. It is only 28 miles from Washington, D.C., and the development sprawl is moving in that direction, aided by the fact that in June, the Washington subway system (METRO) got within 12 miles of the battlefield.

Letters to:

THE JOURNAL MESSENGER, 9009 Church St., Manassas, Va. 22210
THE POTOMAC NEWS, 14010 Smoketown Rd., Woodbridge, Va. 22192
THE WASHINGTON POST, 1150 15th St NW, Washington 20071
THE JOURNAL NEWSPAPERS, 475 School St. SW, Washington 20024
THE WASHINGTON TIMES, 3600 New York Ave, NE, Washington 20002
WASHINGTON USA TODAY, Box 500, Washington 20044
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, #1 County Complex Court,
Prince William, Va. 22191

and your U.S. Senators (c/o U.S.Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510), are urgently needed. (Write one letter (To Whom It May Concern), and send copies to all of the above.) We can block federal funding like we did before, if YOU will write.

Manassas Battlefield is a jewel in the National Park Service and deserves --NEEDS--our help now.
EIGHT DAYS IN A TENT

By Mary Phillips

In 1938 I was my father's attendant at the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg, at Gettysburg. It was the first and only time that the soldiers of the North and the soldiers of the South met after they met in the battle in 1863.

There were 2,000 tents set up in rows with accommodating wide board walks. Each tent was equipped with two army cots, two folding chairs, two tin wash basins, two tin cups, a water pitcher and a slop jar. A soldier and his attendant occupied each tent.

When we arrived, we were shown to our tent by Boy Scouts. My heart sank! Could I keep my 95 year-old father in a place like this for eight days? But I did. The first night it turned cold and I took all the covers off my cot and put them over Father—I even put the little rag rug that was between our cots over him, and I shivered through the night in a light coat, listening to—what seemed to me—my father and the man in the tent next to ours trying to see who could snore the louder.

Three times a day we each had to take our change to a big tent where meals were served. There were long board tables with board benches for seats. The tables were covered with white paper; all of the dishes were paper and after the meal the dishes were rolled up in the paper table covering and burned, so there wasn't much dishwashing—only the knives and forks. Even the spoons were paper. The soldiers were seated and the attendants stood in line waiting with heavy trays to carry the meals for the veterans and themselves. As we stood in line one woman turned and said to me, "I thought we were attendants, but I would say we are slaves."

Most of us went to the big tent early and waited until the door opened; so we had a chance to visit.

I enjoyed talking with the old soldiers and listening to them tell about themselves. One said, "I was in the Battle of Gettysburg and in prison 7 months." Another said he was in the Battle of Little Rock on the day the city was captured. He had his side ripped open, an artillery-wagon wheel ran over his arm, nearly severing it. The doctor wanted to take it off, but the injured man wouldn't let him, and the old soldier proudly showed me he still had the partial use of his hand. Another said he was 105 and the oldest veteran at the reunion and the oldest living Democrat. One Southern soldier in telling me about a certain battle said, "The ground was strewn with Northern soldiers and Southern gentlemen." Another said he was a guard at Lincoln's funeral.

As I talked with the dear old soldiers and they told me about themselves, they would say, "Why don't you write us old fellows up in a book or magazine?" I told them I was not a writer; and they would say, "But you could try." Whether this is ever published or not, I hope they know I have tried.

A granddaughter was her grandfather's attendant, and while she was making up the cots, he stepped outside the tent. When she had finished, she went out to get him, and he was gone. She spent an hour looking for him and then came to our tent crying. She stayed with my father while I went to get help for her. After a long search he was found asleep in an empty tent.

My father was hard of hearing, and so was the veteran across the walk. They often sat in front of our tent and visited. One day I heard the man tell my father a long story and they both laughed and laughed. I am sure my father heard only a few words, for he said, "That reminds me of a story," and he told the same long story the other man had just told him, and again there was hearty laughter by both.

One evening a veteran minister on our street began singing a hymn, and soon the veterans and attendants began to gather in front of his tent, the attendants carrying chairs for the veterans. We sang everything from hymns to the Iowa Corn Song and Way Down South in Dixie. We gathered there several evenings after that and sang the songs of long ago.

A highlight of our stay was when busses were sent from Washington to take the veterans and attendants to Oak Ridge where President Roosevelt and Governor Earl were to speak. Grandstands were provided for the veterans and their attendants, but thousands of persons
stood in the fields nearby. Some had gone there early and waited all day to hear Presid. Roosevelt dedicate the Eternal Light Peace Memorial on Oak Ridge, the scene of the first day's hard fighting in 1863. A soldier from the North and one from the South pulled the strings that lighted the Peace Memorial Light that is to burn forever, at a cost of $1,000 a year.

We were taken back to our tents, tired and ready to leave the next day for home and comfort.

I took a picture of a Southern soldier, and he asked me to send him one when they were finished. I did, and I think his reply expresses the feeling of most of the Southern soldiers there.

Dear Mrs. Phillips,

After a long delay I am trying to reply to your very kind letter with my photo enclosed that you took of me while in camp at Gettysburg.

Thank you for your kindness and loyalty to your promise. You can easily see that I am quite nervous. My general health is good, but my 93 years are heavy upon me. Sep. 3rd next is my birthday.

I enjoyed the Blue-Grey reunion supremely on account of the main fundamental purpose of it. One flag, one people in unity. UNION.

Sincerely yours,

Charles R. Long

The pinnacle of the greatest reunion in history was the turning on of the eternal light symbolizing, in fitting finality, the friendly termination of the fierce and titanic struggle between the Blue and the Gray.

AND A TIP OF THE HAT CREDIT TO Dot Kelly, newsletter editor, for the Knoxville, Tenn. Civil War Round Table for this gem!

CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS FOR THE BOOKSHELF

It is another banner year for Civil War stocking-stuffers - Emory Thomas's new biography of JEB Stuart; Bill Frassanito's Grant's Virginia Campaign "then and now" in paperback; the stimulating Historical Times Encyclopedia to name but a few. Listed below are some additional treasures you might lust for.

The Fiery Trail; A Union Officer's Account of Sherman's Last Campaigns. Edited by Richard Harwell and Philip N. Racine, with foreword by William S. McFeely. Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, $22.50. In a fiery red dust-jacket, this journal of Major Thomas Ward Osborn, chief of artillery for the Federal Army of the Tennessee provides a business-like view of Sherman's famous march.

Civil War Diaries and Letters of Bliss Morse. By Loren J. Morse. Privately printed by author/compiler out of P.O. Box 907, Wagoner, Okla. 74477-0907, at $29.00. Tells the story of Cpl. Bliss Morse, 105th Ohio, and the unit's campaigning for 3,000 miles through seven states west of the Alleghenies, and includes Sherman's march to the sea.

Fourteen Hundred and 91 Days in the Confederate Army. By W.W. Heartsill. Wilmington, NC: Broadfoot Publishing Co., reprint in limited edition - 150 copies. $300 until 15 December; $400 thereafter. No comment but its a classic!
FROM THE BOOKSHELF CORNER cont.

Hunter McGuire - Doctor in Gray, By John W. Schildt. Available at $13.50 from Antietam Publications, P.O. Box 37, Chewsville, Md. 21721. This is a new book on the beloved medical staff members of Stonewall Jackson's staff, written by John W. Schildt, well-known for other works on the Antietam and Gettysburg campaigns.

The Confederate First and Second Missouri Brigades and From Wakarusa to Appomattox, 1861-1865, By R.S. Bevier. A limited reprint edition available at $26.00 (incl. postage) from Inland Printer Ltd., 1120 St. Patrice, Florissant, MO 63031

Nelson A. Miles: A Documentary Biography of His Military Career, 1861-1903. Edited by Brian C. Pohanka, in collaboration with John M. Carroll, with foreword by Robert M. Utley. Available at $35.00 from The Arthur H. Clark Company, P.O. Box 230, Glendale, CA 91209. Part of the Frontier Military Series, this book is based on a manuscript found at West Point in 1980, and forms a compilation of Miles' own words and those of others he assembled, and portrays the Civil War Major General and Corps Commander as well as his postwar military service in the West and beyond.

Morgan, Morgan the Raider, and Morgan's Terrible Men. Booklet available at $2.25 from Home Towner Printing, P.O. Box 175, Quaker City, Ohio 43773. Purports to be compilation of newspaper accounts of Morgan's people rampaging through southern Ohio in the summer of 1863. Taken from period newspapers.

Official Records of Union and Confederate Navies. Reprint edition of the set now available at $400.00 prepublication price (through 1 Jul 1987) from Broadfoot Publishing Company, Route 4, Box 508 C, Wilmington, NC 28405. Obviously an invaluable tool for research in naval history of the Civil War, and worthy companion to the Army ORs.

"Mr. Lincoln of Illinois," A Video Documentary. Co-produced by the Sangamon State University and Office of Tourism, Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs, this 29-minute documentary is available in 3/4, VHS, or Beta for $40.00 from Bursar, Account # 2031146 Sangamon State University, Springfield, IL 62708

N.B. - We have another classified newspaper for Civil War researchers, buffs, and everyone else. The Regimental Observer is published by John L. Satterlee out of 6 Lambert Lane, Springfield, Ill. 62704, at $10.00 per year.

NEW EXHIBIT OVER AT FORT WARD MUSEUM

If you have not already done so, catch the new exhibit, "Keepers of the Coast; Jack Tars of the Union Navy," now showing at the Fort Ward Museum in Alexandria. Utilizing its own collections, and objects loaned by John A. Stacey, the staff has assembled a small but educational collection of objects, artwork, and has provided a welcome taste of what the navy did on blockade duty 1861-1865. Of course, Fort Ward was named for a Union naval hero, Commander James Harmon Ward of the Potomic Flotilla, who was the first Union naval officer to die in action during the Civil War. A handsome free brochure accompanies the exhibit.
RESERVATION FORM

EITHER CALL THIS INFORMATION OR MAIL TO: Mr. George Hutchinson, by December 5, please.

Mr. George Hutchinson
3863 North Tazewell St.
Arlington, VA 22207

Home Phone (after 7 pm, please) 538-6212

__________ check made payable to CWRT of DC

__________ So state (I)(We) will have _________ guests.

Check for ______ for ______ guests enclosed at $10.00 each.

________________________________________ guest(s) Name(s)

________________________________________

Signature
THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

VOL. 36 NUMBER 5 B.F. COOLING, EDITOR JANUARY 1987

FIFTH REGULAR MEETING - JANUARY

DATE: Tuesday, January 13, 1987
PLACE: Officers Club, Fort Leslie J. McNair, DC
SUBJECT: "Guerrilla Activities in Northern Virginia"
SPEAKER: Dr. Charles P. Poland, Jr.
Northern Virginia Community College, Annandale
TIME: 6:00 PM Cash Bar
7:00 PM Dinner
8:00 PM Program
PRICE: $10.00 per person
RESERVATIONS - AGAIN, please NOTE!
No Later Than - 9 January (Friday) to GEORGE ALLIN
578-3418

OUR PROGRAM - OUR SPEAKER

In doing a sequel to his book on Forts Henry and Donelson, your editor has once more discovered a Civil War out there which is overlooked by most students of the late unpleasantness. This is unfortunate, since it was a "civil war." Call it guerrilla warfare, partisan warfare, political re-education, whatever - and we certainly had enough terms applied to it in Southeast Asia - the history of modern warfare is replete with other than "main force actions." Our speaker this month will take a topic dear to those devotees of old CWRT member Virgil Carrington Jones, and ripe for reinvestigation by our group.

Dr. Poland is a Loudon county native, lives in Centreville, and holds degrees from American University and Western Colorado University. Extremely popular in the classroom, he has published widely, and his latest article on Balls Bluff appears in Northern Virginia Heritage magazine. Some members will remember him from the October field trip to Brandy Station.
Old friend, former CWRT member, and former law partner with Paul Sedgwick, Mr. Frederick Livingstone of Arlington recently placed copies of old DC CWRT newsletters in your editor's hands. It brought back memories, and so for the coming issues we shall try to recall the halcyon days of the "old club." Thirty years ago to the month, we had Major General (Ret.) U.S. Grant III speak to the group on the "Overall Strategy of the War." These were the days when the war's "centennial" was uppermost on everyone's minds with plans and personalities looking to commemorate the conflict. A book note called attention to Samuel E. Chamberlain's MY CONFESSION, a first-hand account of the Mexican War, selling by Harper at $6.00. There were accounts of Civil War groups meeting in Richmond, Baltimore, Lexington, Philadelphia, and New York (clubs still going strong), as well as Mayville, NY, and London, England. Ira and Richard Lykes, Herb Kahler, Major Joseph Mills Hanson, and Col. Robert S. Henry were all present to hear Grant - as was the venerable "Josh Billings." The editor thinks he was too - freshly graduated from Calvin Coolidge High School here in the city, and ready to go into the Army for six months (one of his youthful mistakes). Here is a synopsis of what Grant told the group. N.B. 212 people attended the meeting which was held at the National Press Club.

General U.S. Grant III, in summarizing the Civil War, said two features were developed, the new role of the Cavalry and the success of joint Army and Navy action.

"There were but a few old-fashioned cavalry charges, and they did not play as decisive a part as later in the Franco-Prussian War," said General Grant. "But great cavalry leaders, Sheridan, Wilson and Grierson (U.S.), J.E.B. Stuart, Forrest and Wheeler (Confederate), and many others, proved the effective use of independent cavalry as a fast-moving, hitting force capable of decisive tactical action while fighting on foot. Although the dramatic cavalry raids on both sides effectively preyed on the enemy's communications and gathered needed supplies or destroyed depots and railroads with unbelievable rapidity, there were only two that achieved important strategic objectives: Van Dorn's raid that captured Holly Springs and Grierson's raid that blinded Pemberton by taking away all the available Confederate cavalry, his feelers and means of keeping in touch with his enemy, both in the Vicksburg campaign."

The General then cited the Army and Navy actions on the rivers and in the capture of coastal harbors. In his conclusion he said there "were no Nuremberg trials after the Civil War."

"The strategic objective of President Lincoln and his Federal Administration was the re-establishment of a 'more perfect Union' under the Constitution. While the armed might of the Confederacy had been definitely defeated, it may be doubted that the Union would really have been re-established on a permanent basis had not the terms of surrender granted the Confederate armies been so wise and so magnanimous as to have proven conciliatory and prevented vengeance. There were no Nuremberg trials. At least as far as the armies were concerned the war was over..."

"I have always felt that General Lee was never greater than when he accepted those terms and set an example of returning to his role of good citizen without malice or evidence of resentment, thus preventing years of guerilla warfare and continued hatred and enmity. To be sure, the vengeful spirit was among the politicians and civilians in many cases, and President Johnson's quarrel with Congress put the Radicals in control of that body, so that the Reconstruction legislation was probably unnecessarily harsh and imposed undue burdens on a population already in distress... And yet, the South is more prosperous generally and more populous than it ever was. In spite of the unavoidable sectional feeling and conflicting interests, we are again a united nation, and the sons of both sides in that conflict have since fought side by side loyally in three foreign wars.

"I like to think that we Americans, after experimenting with the training of
citizen soldiers, showed the world how to fight a war and, better still, how to end a war.

FROM THE LOCAL PRESERVATION BATTLEFRONTS

The Battles and the Bulldozers

Development in Fairfax County has finally gone too far. The remains of American soldiers are now being churned up by bulldozers at the site of Fairfax's only Civil War battle, the Battle of Chantilly. Now comes word that there may be as many as 500 dead Americans buried under Milton's Fair Ridge Development and Centennial's Gateway project. No doubt the builders will name some streets after the two great union generals, Kearny and Stevens, who gave their lives in the bloody battle that convinced Robert E. Lee not to attack Washington, thereby changing the course of history.

When combined with John T. Hazel's assault on the Manassas Battlefield (he actually wants to put an office building on Gen. Lee's headquarters) and similar attacks on Antietam, Fredericksburg and other battlefields, it becomes obvious that so-called "civic-minded" developers are eager to destroy our national heritage for a few more bucks.

As a Realtor, I have sold Milton products, but will sell no more until construction is halted (by court order, if necessary, as there must be some

laws governing digging in graveyards) and thorough examinations are made to assure my clients that the houses they purchase will not have bodies under them.

It will soon be reelection time in Fairfax County, and the politicians would do well to remember not only our rising disgust with the effects of runaway development, but also our fascination with our past, as shown by widespread interest in the mini-series "North and South" and reenactments such as the 125th anniversary of First Manassas.

Perhaps our county supervisors, who rejected offers to set aside a small part of the actual battlefield and who are so eager to give valuable county land to developers in exchange for a huge new complex to further increase the size of the government, could trade some of that property for this patch of ground soaked with the blood of 1,500 valiant Americans.

Something must be done soon, or part of our local and national history will be forever plowed under.

JOSEPH L. WHITNEY
Vienna

Jerry Russell has declared that his outfit has received more letters concerning the Chantilly disaster than any other preservation issue. Well, apparently none of that had much effect. Mr. Whitney's comments graphically suggest the irate feelings of the citizenry. Once more, sights turn to the Third (maybe it is the Fourth) Battle of Manassas where local county supervisors (in this case Prince William County) have chosen to equate progress with more concrete roads, buildings, and human density. Are we fighting a losing battle? Russell thinks not and has asked CWRT Associates; (these are his words)

REMEMBER THE MARRIOTT CORPORATION??

We beat them. And we can beat Hazel-Peterson, too, if YOU will sign up to help.

While quite a few of you HAVE written letters, 20 times that many have NOT. Start today by writing about Manassas. Express your opposition to the Hazel-Peterson project, and tell why. Express your horror or whatever at the attitude of OUR "guardian" of the park, Superintendent Swain. Express your concern not only about the rape of our heritage, but about the future dipping into tax dollars to make this "dream" a reality.

We can beat this if YOU will help. Here's who to write:
*Your U.S. Senators (c/o U.S. Senate, Washington DC 20510);
*W. P. Mott, Jr., Director, NPS, Washington DC 20240;
*The Journal Messenger, 9009 Church St., Manassas VA 22210;
*The Potomac News, 14010 Smoketown Rd., Woodbridge VA 22192;
*Board of Supervisors, #1 County Complex Ct., Prince William VA 22191;
*The Washington Post, 1150 15th St. NW, Washington DC 20071;
*The Washington Times, 3600 New York Ave. NE, Washington 20002;
*Washington USA Today, Box 500, Washington 20044;
*The Journal Newspapers, 475 School St. SW, Washington 20024.

We CAN block federal funding for this project, and without federal tax dollars, the whole thing won't fly. Please write today. If YOU don't care, who does? If nobody cares, why fight it?

AND DON'T FORGET TO WRITE ABOUT CHANTILLY. Those letters should also be sent to your Senators, your Congressman, the Washington Post, the Washington Times, Washington USA Today, The Journal Newspapers (for all of which, see above), AND to Peter Scamardo, Pres., Centennial Development Corp., 8391 Old Courthouse Rd., Vienna VA 22180. Push for keeping the memorial stones to fallen generals Kearny and Stevens where they are, rather than moving them to a site not associated with the battle, AND for marking as many of the Confederate positions as possible. Please write TODAY!

The results are up to YOU. If not you, who??? If not now, when???

Oh, yes! Those members wondering what has transpired about Fort Stevens and the Battleground National Cemetery and DC CWRT offers of help to the National Park Service. Well, we are still waiting answers from the Rock Creek Park Superintendent, the National Capital Parks Regional Director, even the Director of the National Park Service himself. It is little wonder we of so little faith doubt government officials to answer their mail?
BOOK SHELF TIDBITS

The Man Who Tried to Burn New York, By Nat Brandt. Syracuse University Press, $19.95. A fascinating, fast-paced, true story of the obscure Confederate plot to burn down New York City. The central character is Robert Cobb Kennedy, a Louisianan who pays for the plot with his life. Billed as a good adventure and espionage story.

Manassas Reenactment Commemorative 1986, By North South Trader Staff. $10.95. Limited Edition coverage of the 125th anniversary commemoration this past July. Order from North South Trader, 725 Caroline Street, Fredericksburg, Va. 22401. Actually you can also subscribe to their invaluable magazine at $18.00 per annum - it contains good solid articles relating to the material culture of the war.

The South's Last Boys in Gray. By Jay S. Hoar. Bowling Green State University, Popular Press, $40.95 cloth, $20.95 paperback.

An epic elegy in American Studies, this collective biography warmly delineates some 170 centenarian lives among the nation's last remnant of Confederate veterans of the 1940s and after. Who, where, what order did they die, what were their values.

The Field at Antietam. Narration by John Schildt. Image Productions, $52.95. This is a two-hour documented VHS tape which supplements the kind of approach taken by Rev. Mr. Schildt in his various books about the area. Order from Image Productions, 819 Fourth Street, N. Charleroi, PA 15022

MISCELLANIA OF INTEREST

Col. (Ret.) Richard B. Smith, Executive Director of the Lee-Jackson Foundation, P.O. Box No. 8121, Charlottesville, VA 22906 writes that their group offers fifty $1,000 scholarships to Virginia high school seniors going to Virginia colleges who are winners of an essay contest about Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson. What about equal time for Winfield Scott and George H. Thomas? Incidentally, the Harrisburg, Pa. CWRT will sponsor a book sale in March with a similar aim in mind - scholarships - more on that in next newsletter.

Michael A. Hughes of Ada, Oklahoma, and whose piece on the war in the trans-Mississippi appeared in the pages of this newsletter in November writes to give credit where credit is due. All of it derived from a special project he did for the University of Arkansas Museum in secondary school curricular resources. They are quite active in the realm of public education and growing support of history out there. We may tap Mr. Hughes for more on the trans-Mississippi sometime.

American Military Institute, working closely with the CWRT of Richmond, will hold its annual meeting 10-12 April in that city. Friday night speaker will be Emory Thomas of the University of Georgia, and a Saturday of talks on the Civil War and Richmond may interest Round Tablers. For further details, write the editor of this newsletter.
RESERVATION FORM

EITHER CALL THIS INFORMATION OR MAIL TO: Mr. George Allin, by January 9, please.

Mr. George Allin
5300 Columbia Pike, #505
Arlington, VA 22204

Home Phone: 578-3418

__________________________ check made payable to CWRT of DC

__________________________ So state (I) (We) will have ____________ guests.

Check for _________________ for ____________ guests
enclosed at $10.00 each.

_________________________________________ guest(s) Name(s)

_________________________________________

Signature
SIXTH REGULAR MEETING - FEBRUARY

DATE: Tuesday, February 10, 1987

PLACE: Officers Club, Fort Leslie J. McNair, DC

SUBJECT: "The Vicksburg Campaign"

SPEAKER: Mr. Edwin C. Bearss
Chief Historian, National Park Service

TIME: 6:00 PM Cash Bar
5:00 PM Dinner
8:00 PM Program

PRICE: $10.00 per person

RESERVATIONS: NLT Friday, 6 February to
George Hutchinson 538-6212 (after 7 PM)

OUR SPEAKER - AN OLD FRIEND AND COLLEAGUE

Edwin C. Bearss was born in Billings, Montana, and grew up on his grandfather's ranch. Upon graduation from high school in 1941, Ed joined the Marine Corps. He saw action on Guadalcanal and was badly wounded by machine gun fire during the Battle of New Britain. It took 26 months in various hospitals to put him back together. Upon being discharged, Ed received his B.S. degree from Georgetown University in 1945. He worked for 3 years in the Navy Hydrographic Office, and then earned his M.A. degree in history from Indiana University with a thesis entitled, "Pat Cleburne, Stonewall Jackson of the West".

Ed began his National Park Service career in 1955 when he reported to the Vicksburg National Military Park as historian. If for no other reason, Ed Bearss will go down in the annals of military historians for his discovery of the Federal ironclad Cairo on November 12, 1956. The details of this momentous find, its salvage and restoration may be found in his book, Hardluck Ironclad. Although
reassigned a research historian in 1958, Ed's continued interest in the Vicksburg campaign showed in the publication of Decision in Mississippi and Rebel Victory at Vicksburg. In 1983 Ed was persuaded by Bob Younger of Morningside Press to combine his drafts, notes and research into a definitive history of the Vicksburg campaign. The second volume of this work has just been received, and the third and last should be out by Christmas. Also among his credits are Forrest at Brice's Cross Roads and in North Mississippi and The Battle of Five Forks. In addition to his books, Ed has had over 100 articles published on the Civil War.

Now serving as Chief Historian of the National Park Service based in Washington, D. C., Ed spends much of his leave time conducting tours of Civil War battlefields for various groups, including the U. S. Army's Command and General Staff College. To be along on one of his tours is an experience never to be forgotten. Recognition of his efforts have come in the form of the Jefferson Davis medal from the U.D.C., the Bell I. Wiley Award from the New York City CWRT, and the Frank Vandiver Award of Merit from the Houston CWRT.

Not to be left out in the recognition of the Bearss family, Margie Riddle Bearss, Ed's wife, is a military historian in her own right. This spring will see the publication of her book, The Meridian Expedition: Sherman's Forgotten Campaign.

Incidentally, Ed Bearss has collaborated on a video cassette, "Grant's March: The Vicksburg Campaign," $42.50 out of North-South Videos, Inc., Bolton, Ms. 39041

FEBRUARY - A MONTH OF BLEARNESS

February is usually a harsh month across the nation. In Washington, ice and snow usually confound the business of government and the citizenry. It was never a pleasant month during the Civil War either. In 1861, the much vaunted Peace Convention, composed of representatives of 21 states, meeting at Willard's, floundered through to a conclusion with no solution to the nation's problems. The election of Abraham Lincoln as president and Hannibal Hamlin as vice-president was formally declared in the Senate by serving vice-president John C. Breckinridge. Breckinridge soon went south - suggesting what both he and his future Confederate colleagues thought of the whole affair.

For the Confederacy, however, February 1862 proved the bleakest of months. On February 6, the joint army-navy expedition of Ulysses S. Grant and Andrew Hull Foote moved on and captured Fort Henry in Tennessee. A fortnight later, they similarly captured Fort Donelson - plus an army variously estimated at 15-21,000 Confederates. They literally ripped open the path to the Deep South, forced evacuation of both Albert Sidney Johnston's Kentucky bastion at Bowling Green, the Tennessee state capital at Nashville, and virtually all of Middle Tennessee. Halleck called it the decisive campaign of the Civil War; Bruce Catton termed it a "turning point" in the Civil War.

Ironically, one year later - in February 1863 - another Confederate force attempted to return to the Tennessee and Cumberland rivers and redeem the losses to Grant. Led by "Fightin' Joe" Wheeler and Nathan Bedford Forrest, it too floundered on the now-Federal bastion at Dover, Tennessee (near the old Confederate position of Fort Donelson). Not only were the vaunted Confederate cavalry leaders thoroughly beaten by a scratch Federal garrison led by citizen soldiers, but the Battle of Dover on February 3d, so badly battered the Rebel force that Forrest swore he would never again serve under Wheeler.

No, we Washingtonians have never liked February. But, we should ponder how bleak it must have been for some of our forbears 125 years ago.
Thirty years ago this month the Centennial had not yet come and gone. The DC CWRT listened to Dr. Roy G. Williams of the School of Medicine of the University of Pennsylvania. The National Press Club where we met was pleading for cooperation in giving more advanced notice of intention to attend (does that sound familiar). There were three surviving Confederates who had just been voted medals by the US (Yankee) Congress. The Aztec Club (comprising descendants of Mexican War participants) held its 110th anniversary meeting at the Army and Navy Club here in town. Rex B. Magee was editor of your newsletter, and he carried the note that Senator Homer Capehart of Indiana had introduced legislation to restore Robert E. Lee's citizenship posthumously. But, the best tidbit noted by Mr. Magee in the February 1957 newsletter was taken from New INDEX, the journal of the Confederate Research Club in Great Britain. Recounting one Dallas, Texas author's book, The Real Facts About Appomattox, Texan history had it that the end of the War Between the States took place this way ...

"After chasing the Yankee army all over the map, the exhausted Confederates pulled up at Appomattox Court House, planning to wipe out the Yankees the next day, march on into Washington, and raise the Stars and Bars over the White House.

"General Lee was resting at the town's Court House, when in walked General Grant, all ready to surrender. Lee took the unimpressive Union General to be an orderly, so he gave him as sword to clean. Astonished, Grant took the sword, thinking Lee had surrendered instead. He even thanked Lee for surrendering, and being a true Southern gentleman, Lee couldn't go back on his word."

March and April Meetings - Notice - In Case You Get No Farther Than This in Reading the Newsletter

Bill Jones wants us to note that the Fort McNair Officer's Club will be closed for renovation during March and April, so our meetings in those months will be held at the Fort Myer Officers' Club, known as Patton Hall.

(Most of us naturally know Fort Myer as Fort Whipple, but no difference).

Think About This One for a Moment, Please

Our dear friend, and correspondent down in Knoxville, Mrs. Dorothy Kelly, who does the newsletter for their Civil War Round Table, sent a sobering note at Christmas. As she so aptly phrased it;

"Is it my imagination or does it appear that almost every battlefield is under siege, if not downright attack at the moment? Perhaps it is just that I'm in a position to receive more information and therefore more aware now, but letters, reports, newspaper articles, etc. seem to indicate that the battle with urban sprawl, particularly in the East, is impossible to win. Chantilly gone; Antietam resisting, but for how long? High rises over Manassas; Condos overlooking the peaceful Spotsylvania Cemetery; the area where Jackson launched his Chancellorsville attack not owned by the NPS with building around Fredericksburg mushrooming; and on and on. I'm overwhelmed!"

Anyway want to ask Ed Bearss to tackle that issue and question?
A HISTORIC VIEW OF ROBERT E. LEE - by Alan T. Nolan

Author and lawyer, Alan T. Nolan of Indianapolis, Ind. (The Iron Brigade) raised some interesting points in his December 12, 1986 talk to the Chicago Civil War Round Table. Speaking to 114 members and guests at the 456th meeting of that group, Nolan suggested that Civil War scholarship has entered a new phase - objectivity. He pointed to the treatment of Lincoln - no longer portrayed as the folksy individual who defended friends charged with murder and who helped widows with their legal problems. Lincoln is now seen as a skilled lawyer in the employ of railroads and utility companies of the time. In the 1840s, noted Nolan, Lincoln even represented a client reclaiming a runaway slave. So much for Honest Abe as the small-town rube barrister.

Nolan used similar observations on Bobby Lee. Traditionally, Civil War mythology saw Lee as the tragic hero fighting for a lost cause. While the Confederacy fought to preserve its peculiar institution of slavery, Lee was exempt from criticism of that stand because of his battlefield accomplishments. Nolan pointed out that in Lee's will, written in 1846, he owned six slaves, which he probably inherited from his mother-in-law. Lee's personal opinion on slavery was expressed in a letter he wrote to his wife in 1856. He noted that slavery was both a moral and political evil for whites and blacks. But, immediate emancipation, Lee suggested, would cause more harm than good. Lee's opinion on slavery was shared by many Southern political leaders at the time. Personally, they abhorred slavery, but slavery was an institution that separated the South from the rest of the nation and underpinned its economy.

Nolan cited two wartime incidents that showed Lee's attitude on slavery. He noted that during the Gettysburg campaign, as the Confederates marched into Pennsylvania, free blacks were seized and returned south to be enslaved. Data remains sparse as to how many actually went south, but apparently some 50 were seized in Chambersburg by the Confederate Army. Tradition has it that Lee was unaware that these things took place. However, notes Nolan, as army commander, General Lee was responsible for the actions of his soldiers and seizing civilians was against the laws of war.

The second incident cited by Nolan dealt with exchange of prisoners. By 1864, thousands of black men had joined the Federal army. When captured, they were treated less humanely than whites. In October 1864, Lee wrote a letter to Grant proposing the exchange of prisoners on a man-for-man basis. Grant replied that his proposal was acceptable, but that black soldiers were to be included in the exchange. Lee replied that only free black soldiers would be included; former slaves would be returned to their former masters. Grant naturally rejected this proposition.

Lee actually proposed the idea of enlisting blacks in the Confederate army by early 1865. The idea was hardly new. Prospective recruits would be offered freedom for themselves and their families if they served honorably. The proposal was never implemented, said Nolan. In conclusion, Nolan said that Lee's views on slavery were the conventional ones of a nineteenth century Virginia aristocrat. Personally, Lee disliked the institution, but he did support it. Later generations have separated Lee from his viewpoints on slavery, and introduced the mythology of Marse Robert fighting only to serve his native state.

(from January newsletter of the Civil War Round Table of Chicago).
The AMI annual meeting will emphasize "Richmond and Military History." as its 1987 theme. 10-12 April 1987 will find members, guests, and other interested parties gathering at the Best Western - Marketplace Hotel in Richmond to listen and learn as well as enjoy good fellowship. A special reception is planned at the Museum of the Confederacy, and sessions will include the following:

Friday - 10 April - Opening Banquet and Guest Speaker - Dr. Emory Thomas, University of Georgia - "Richmond and the Confederacy"

Saturday - 11 April - Session - "Richmond and Operational Military History"

"How the Revolutionary War Went Through Richmond"
Mr. John E. Damerel - Richmond Civil War Round Table

"Richmond/Petersburg: Forerunner of Modern Trench Warfare:
Dr. William D. Henderson, Richard Bland College

"Five Forks to Appomattox; Breakout and Pursuit"
Mr. Christopher Calkins, National Park Service

- 11 April - Session - "Military History as Local History;
Richmond as a Case Study"

"The Richmond Bread Riots"
Mr. Douglas O. Tice, Jr., Richmond Civil War Round Table

"Drewry's Bluff - The Naval Perspective"
Mr. Roland Galvin, Richmond Civil War Round Table

"Richmond - A Southern City at War"
Dr. Louis Manarin, Virginia State Archives

Saturday - 11 April - Members/Guests Reception - Museum of the Confederacy

Sunday - 12 April - Session - "Pivotal New Books in Civil War History - a Colloquium"

Dr. Russell F. Weigley, Temple University

Dr. Peter Maslowski, University of Nebraska

Dr. Herman M. Hattaway, University of Missouri, Kansas City

For Further Details - Contact Executive Director, AMI, 3309 Chestnut St. NW
Washington DC 20015

HARRISBURG CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE BOOKSHOW - CANCELLED

Due to lack of dealer interest, this invaluable service to our field and the stimulation of young students in Civil War History through a scholarship fund has been set back. We can hope that the Harrisburg folks will re-schedule this wonderful activity sometime in the future.
RESERVATION FORM

EITHER CALL THIS INFORMATION OR MAIL TO: Mr. George Hutchinson, by February 6, please.

Mr. George Hutchinson
3863 North Tazewell St.
Arlington, VA 22207

Home Phone (after 7 pm, please)
538-6212

________ check made payable to CWRT of DC

________ So state (I)(We) will have ________ guests.

Check for ______ for ______ guests enclosed at $10.00 each.

________________________________________ guest(s) Name(s)

____________________________
Signature
SEVENTH REGULAR MEETING - MARCH

DATE: Tuesday, March 10, 1987
PLACE: Officers Club - Fort Myer, Va. (note change)
SUBJECT: "The U.S. Navy and the Civil War"
TIME: 6:00 PM Cash Bar
7:00 PM Dinner
8:00 PM Program
PRICE: $11.00 per person (note change)
RESERVATIONS: Please note the following arrangements as requested by Mr. Hutchinson
Mail checks for exact amount prior to Thursday, March 5,
to George Hutchinson, 3863 North Tazewell Street,
Arlington, Va. 22207. Reservations should be recorded in the same fashion via the form at back of newsletter.

SOME NASTY BUT NECESSARY MATTERS

We hate to be picky, but our patient reservations manager, Mr. George Hutchinson has noted that people are calling to make reservations and then not appearing for the meeting, causing much dislocation to his valiant efforts at crowd control. Will you please follow his request and mail checks, rather than call ahead. And, do use the form provided.

We will attempt to have our mailing service get the newsletters out on time so that the postal service can oblige in the procedure also.

Second, please note that as Colonel William P. Jones has noted, the March 10, and April 14 meetings of the DC CWRT will be held at the Officer's Club at Fort Myer instead of Fort McNair. Prices are higher at Fort Myer - $11.00 apiece - and the annual banquet price for the April meeting will be forthcoming in the next newsletter, says Bill Jones.
Fort Myer requires reservation information as a minimum to be furnished 72 hours ahead of time, instead of the 48 hours required at Fort Myer. Since the Fort Myer Club Catering Office is closed on Mondays, this means George Hutchinson has to phone in the proper number of reservations on the Friday before the meeting (March 6). This means that you must get your reservations to him by March 5, if you want to hear Ned Beach, and sample chicken Kiev!

Entrance to Fort Myer can be at the Henry Gate at Arlington Boulevard and Pershing Drive, or the Hatfield Gate at Washington Boulevard and 2d Street South. The Henry Gate is open until midnight on weekdays. The MP at the gate can tell folks how to get to the Officers’ Club, where the meeting will be on the second floor (the lovely receptionist on the ground floor can direct you).

Many thanks for indulgence, patience, and good faith – see you in March!

OUR MARCH PRESENTATION

You always thought of the American Civil War as a land war, didn’t you? Sure, there was something called a Blockade out there, and funny looking little turtle-like wooden boats prowling the backwaters of hinterland America. But, the war afloat - a minor affair, you say! Lest you were not listening last month when Ed Bearss indicated otherwise in his discussions of the Vicksburg campaign, the war afloat was anything but minor. Both North and South had navies, and the US Navy even had a small Potomac Flotilla outside the Capitol City to keep open lines of communication via the river. More on this from retired US Navy Captain and noted author, Ned Beach at the March meeting. Captain Beach is a widely respected author of naval history and we think you will enjoy his perspective and presentation.

CIVIL WAR TRIVIA QUIZ NO. 1

Speaking of our web-footed brethren, our own lovely member Mrs. Tamara Melia who works for the Center of Naval History, has volunteered a periodic tickling of the mental membranes via Civil War Trivial Pursuit. She uses these things to befuddle Georgetown University students in her classes there, and to lighten these pages of solemn prose, we are happy to take her up on her kind offer.

1. At which battle were more general officers killed or mortally wounded than in any other single battle of the war?

2. To what city was the U.S. Naval Academy moved during the Civil War?

3. What Civil War General was nicknamed "Old Skedad"?

4. Who said, "I propose to fight it out on this line if it takes all summer"?

5. Where was A.P. Hill killed?

(Answers on last page of newsletter) Oh yes, if you all get abit uppity with thinking you know all the answers, try this one on for size – who originated the Unconditional Surrender idea that brought so much fame to Ulysses S. Grant?
NEWS OF VARIOUS EVENTS

Fort Ward, Va.

Keeping with the naval spirit of this issue, don't forget to stop by Fort Ward Museum and Park to see their special exhibit, "Keepers of the Coast: Jack-Tars of the Union Navy." Featured are examples of naval instruments, equipment, uniforms, and weapons from the Fort Ward Collection and private collector John A. Stacey.

Also at Fort Ward - in March - featuring Women in Civil War America

March 7 - Women in Civil War Lecture Series,
2:00 pm "Steadfast in Duty: Nurses of the Civil War,"
Mrs. Wanda Dowell, Curator, as speaker.

March 14 - Women in Civil War Lecture Series,
2:00 pm "Mrs. Robert E. Lee," Agnes Mullins, as speaker

March 21 - Women in Civil War Lecture Series
2:00 pm "Corsets & Crinolines: Women's Fashions During the Civil War," Shelly Foote, as speaker.

March 28 - Annual Friends of Fort Ward Bus Tour of the Defences of Washington - East of the Anacostia, 9:15 am to 4:00 pm

Call 838-4848 for information on the above.

Portsmouth, Va.

The 125th Anniversary Commemorating the Battle Between the Monitor and the Merrimac, March 6 - 8, 1987, sponsored by the Portsmouth Area Civil War Roundtable. Features a full program including:

Friday, March 6 - welcoming wine and cheese reception at 6:30 pm at the 1846 Portsmouth courthouse, with first person living history impression by 9th Va. infantry.

Saturday, March 7 - Civil War Symposium at Portsmouth Elks Club, 300 Williamsburg Street, Portsmouth, Va. 10:30 am to 4:00 pm, featuring,
Mr. Michael L. Curtin, Curator, Hampton Roads Naval Museum
"USS Cumberland and USS Congress During First Day's Battle"

Mr. Robert Mason, former editor, Virginia-Pilot and historian
"USS Merrimack/CSS Virginia"

Dr. William Still, Professor of History, East Carolina University, and Co-Director of Program in Maritime History and Underwater Research
"USS Monitor"

Mr. Albert F. Harris, Museum Coordinator, Portsmouth Museums
"The First Day's Battle"

Saturday, March 7 - cash bar reception following symposium, and banquet at 7:45 pm at Portsmouth Holiday Inn featuring author of Duel Between the First Ironclads, Dr. William C. Davis. Cost for affair, $7.00 wine and cheese reception, no charge for symposium, $18.00 for banquet. For details, contact Don Finlay, 3015 Reese Drive, Portsmouth, Va. 23707 or by phone at (804) 484-8554.
Penn State University, Mont Alto Campus

Will sponsor a three-day conference, on "The Great Invasion" meaning of Pennsylvania, of course, 4-7 June 1987. Featured speakers will be Gary Gallagher of Penn State, Robert K. Krick of the National Park Service, Jay Luvaas of the Army War College, Bill Williams, Camp Hill, Pa., and Glenn Linden of Southern Methodist University. The registration fee of $295.00 includes lodging, all meals, local transportation, receptions, tour.

For further details contact: Penn State Penn State University Continuing Education, Mont Alto Campus, Mont Alto, PA 17237. (717) 749-3134, attn: Jack Lerner, Chair of the Conference or Mike Mianulli, Director of Continuing Education.

FROM THE BOOKSHELF

New Booksellers to look into:

Henry Deeks, 188 River Street, Cambridge, Mass 02139 (617) 576-2116 - long known for his work with Carte de visites and other photographs, he now has books for sale.

Rock Creek Bookshop, Peter Seborg proprietor, 3506 Connecticut Ave. NW between Porter and Ordway. (202) 966-2919.

Borderland Books, P.O. Box 90, Alvaton, Kentucky 42122 (502) 782-3560.

Bacon Race Books, Mike Morton proprietor, 3717 Pleasant Ridge Road, Annandale, Va. 22003 (703) 560-7376.

New Books to be cognizant of:

The Letters of John S. Mosby, $25.00 plus $2.00 shipping. By Adele H. Mitchell, available from Mrs. Robert Ralph in Falls Church, Va. (703) 533-0360. Limited edition of 500 copies - contains over 200 letters written to or by Mosby, many of which (with photographs) have never been published before. Object, according to Mrs. Mitchell - is to let Mosby and his friends speak for themselves instead of having historical writers take material out of context.

Inscriptions of the Monuments upon the Gettysburg Battlefield - mammoth study, circa 700 pages, offered in four volumes. Vol. I - 1st Days field, Culp's Hill, Cemetery Hill, and Ridge ($30.00); Vol. II - Southern part of Field, Seminary Ridge, S. Cavalry Field, E. Cavalry Field, Campaign Markers ($30.00); Vol. III - Index, ($15.00 approx.); Vol. IV, Photos, cost not determined. Add $2.50 for Vols I and II. For details, contact, Fellowship Ministries, Rev. Roy E. Frampton, 212 N. Stratton St., Gettysburg, PA. 17325, (717) 334-6086.

Cities Under the Gun; Images of Occupied Nashville and Chattanooga, by James Hoobler. (Nashville: Rutledge Hill Press, $39.95). One of the truly inspiring photographic histories to emerge, treating military, social, geographical subjects, including a shot of one of the assumed first houses of licensed prostitution. A "must" for architecture buffs, students of the occupied South, and collectors of never-seen photography of the Civil War.

(Answers to Trivia Quiz, p. 2). (1) Gettysburg - five generals on each side; (2) Newport, RI; (3) Sterling G. Price; (4) Ulysses S. Grant; (5) Petersburg, Va. How about old C.F. Smith for the "Unconditional Surrender" bit?
MAIL THIS FORM AND CHECK TO: Mr. George Hutchinson, 3863 North Tazewell St.
Arlington, VA 22207 by March 5, 1987, please

____________________ check made payable to CWRT of DC

____________________ so state (I) (We) will attend March 10 meeting/dinner

(I) (We) will have ______ guests. Check for

_______ guests enclosed at $11.00 each

____________________ guest(s) name(s)

____________________ signature

PLEASE NOTE AGAIN - March and April meetings will be at Officers Club,
Fort Myer, Va.

Thank you,
George Hutchinson
Home Phone (after 7 pm, please)
538-6212
ANNUAL BANQUET MEETING - Black Tie Optional

DATE: Tuesday, April 14, 1987
PLACE: Officers Club - Fort Myer, Va. (NB) Once Again
SUBJECT: "Great Britain and the Civil War"
SPEAKER: Dr. Patrick Griffith, Professor of History
Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst
TIME: 6:00 PM Cash Bar
7:00 PM Dinner
8:00 PM Program
* COST *
$16.00 per person
RESERVATIONS: Checks and Reservation Form at rear of newsletter by April 9 (Appomattox Day) to George Hutchinson, 3863 North Tazewell St.
Arlington, VA 22207.

HERE COME THE BRITISH!

April is a month of beginnings, and endings insofar as the American Civil War is concerned. At least, here in the East we believe so. Then too, we are referring to the military events - the civil stretch from 1820 until 1876 and perhaps beyond. At the time the struggle seemed an intermecine war between Americans. Yet, the conflict also attracted attention abroad, particularly in Europe. That will be the focus of our guest speaker - a noted British military historian from Sandhurst. It seems fitting that our cousin from across the Atlantic should also preside at the annual banquet, and we welcome him accordingly.

THE SPEAKER

While lengthier introductions can be made at the time of our meeting, suffice it to say that Dr. Griffith teaches military history at the British equivalent (roughly speaking) of our West Point. He is what is styled as "a war gamer," with his latest work appearing in 1986 as Battle in the Civil War; Generalship and Tactics, 1861-1865. Perhaps he will tell us from whom we may obtain copies.
KUDOS FOR OUR PRESIDENT

Few CWRT members probably knew it, but Kim Holien, our president orchestrated and managed a simply superb Army Historians Conference in late February over in Arlington. This is a biennial gathering of field and headquarters members of the Army's historical program, and it takes much patience and coordination to manipulate travel plans, session meetings, social events, and publications. Kim is good at this, and while he receives accolades within the Army firmament, let us give him a round of applause also from his friends in the Civil War round table field.

FOURTH ANNUAL BATTLEFIELD CRACKPATE'S FIELD TRIP

Vice President, Charles McCarthy announces the April 25th field trip following Lee's Strategic Withdrawl from Gettysburg for all interested parties. Assemble at 7:45 am with lunches at the usual place (Columbia Island Marina?). Cost $20.00. Please use bottom half of tear sheet at rear of the newsletter. The weather should be in good shape for this event. For further details call Charles McCarthy at 938-0669.

LOSS OF A MEMBER - Eugene S. Kilcullen

We regret to announce the death of Eugene S. Kilcullen on October 24, 1986. Expressions of our condolences go forth to his wife and family.

SYMPOSIUM - THE CIVIL WAR IN WASHINGTON D.C. AND NORTHERN VIRGINIA

The Civil War Symposium to be held in historic Aspinwall Hall of the Virginia Episcopal Theological Seminary on May 15-16, 1987 is sponsored by the Alexandria Civil War Round Table and the Fort Ward Museum and Park. A registration fee of $30.00 will be charged, and due to space limitations, only 75 persons will be able to attend this year. Perhaps it will become an annual event. The speaker's list is replete with friends and members of our round table and include; Joe Mitchell, Tammy Melia, Wally Owen, Ross Netherton, Samuel Cooper Dawson, Jr., with the incomparable Bud Robertson as the keynote speaker. Reservations must be received no later than 10 May 1987. Checks for $30.00 to Civil War Symposium, Fort Ward Museum, 4301 West Braddock Road, Alexandria, Va. 22304-1008.

TAMMY MELIA's
Civil War Trivia Quiz #2

1. What did William T. Sherman's friends call him?
2. Who was vice president of the Confederate States of America?
3. Where were the war's worst draft riots?
4. Which southern state was the Confederacy's industrial leader?
5. Who was the "Rock of Chickamauga"?

Now, play the rest of the game - who can find the answers in this newsletter?
A PRESERVATION VICTORY - COUNT 'EM ON ONE HAND - ONE OF THE FEW

Embattled Civil War sites extend across the Eastern Theater of the War. Antietam victory at the Grove Farm is now threatened by erection of a radio tower nearby. Gettysburg has a running battle with development, and Manassas seems destined to go the way of Chantilly. Therefore it is with some pleasure that we quote the letter below. Here is localism and accommodation at its best. Here is hard work by citizens, Civil War buffs, local government officials, and enlightened developers. Here is what Round Tables should be doing as a matter of course routinely. What are we doing to help at Manassas and elsewhere.


"Dear Friend:

Thank you for your recent correspondence concerning the proposed development of the Hendry tract. Each member of the County Board received a copy of your letter before the Board meeting of February 28, 1987.

As you may know by now, the developer has agreed to dedicate to the County Fort C. F. Smith and the immediately surrounding land. The County Board has agreed to purchase additional land to expand the open space around the Fort, to preserve more of the historic area, and to provide adequate access for those wishing to visit the Fort. As a result of these agreements, there now will be approximately 152,000 square feet of parkland associated with the Fort. As a further safeguard against intrusions on the historic area, the County has designated all of the land it will obtain and a small portion of the land which will remain in private hands as a historical district. A total of 39 single family detached homes will be built on the remaining land.

The Board members are pleased that we have been able to preserve the Fort and most of the surrounding area of historical interest while keeping the number of homes to be built to a minimum. We believe that this arrangement will maintain the character of the surrounding neighborhood while giving the entire County a most valuable historical resource.

Thank you again for taking the time to share your views with the members of the County Board.

Sincerely,

Albert C. Eisenberg
Chairman"

N.B. Your editor is particularly tickled since now he and Wally Owen can justifiably include Fort C.F. Smith in their new tour guide to Washington's Civil War forts - due in print by 1988 through the Friends of Fort Ward sponsorship.
Thirty years ago this month, the DC CWRT listened to T. Harry Williams speak, and presented its coveted Gold Medal to Virgil C. (Pat) Jones. In March, members heard Bruce Catton talk about "Union Politics Versus Union Strategy."

"The Civil War was politics, and only a skilled politician could win it," said Catton. He pointed out that one of Abraham Lincoln's greatest virtues was political ability.

"In one way the essence of Lincoln's problem was that regardless of what the opposing armies might do, the North could always lose the War at home," said Catton. "Above everything else, Lincoln had to have behind him more or less united people. He sought to attain his unity in the only way open to him -- namely, by that same sort of political maneuvering that is practiced day in and day out in the county courthouse, the city hall, the state capitol, and in Washington itself. To do it, he had to ignore straight military considerations on many occasions and do things which military men then and subsequently have condemned in unmeasured terms."

To raise the armies, Lincoln had to appoint political generals. Catton observed that the appointment of "unmilitary generals" was worth the cost. For example, Lincoln named some Democrats as generals who helped keep border states in the Union. From both parties Lincoln got "Fremont, Sigel, Banks, McClernand, Logan and Blair . . . and of course the one and only Ben Butler." Catton rated Logan and Blair "beyond price" and "first-rate soldiers to boot." Catton warned, however, that professional generals made the most costly mistakes in battles. He cited Fredericksburg and Cold Harbor as "useless butchery." He referred to Malvern Hill and Franklin as "dreadful examples."

Catton contrasted Lincoln with Jefferson Davis. Lincoln saw the war as a political problem but Davis did not.

"Davis was possibly the most tragic miscast of all the principal actors in the Civil War. He was a traditionalist operating in a situation where no tradition could be of any use to him. He believed that he was chief of state of a nation which, by any intelligent survey of things, had no right to exist; in sober fact he was leading a revolution -- riding the crest of a wave of smoke and flame and violent death, in which no nation could live except one that could weave a future out of the infinite violence and tragedy and sufferings of men and women who were prepared to swallow all formulas.

"Davis made a terrible error of thinking that he was president of a traditional nation . . . . What Lincoln saw clearly, Davis could never imagine; Lincoln saw the future coming, Davis could think only of the past."

More than 300 members and guests heard Catton speak.

The DC CWRT stood at the forefront of the movement to establish a Civil War Centennial Commission with a committee of Gen. U.S. Grant III, V.C. Jones, Col. Robert Selph Henry, William Ingles, and Col. J. Gay Seabourne drafting the proposed legislation, and help with defraying expenses coming from sister organizations the North Carolina CWRT and the Hagerstown CWRT.

Ironically, our predecessors were also locked in what was styled the "Third Battle of Manassas" as shown in this newsletter excerpt;
THIRD BATTLE OF MANASSAS

The Third Battle of Manassas is on. Member Frank E. Smith (D-Miss.) fired a new salvo. He protested the proposal to run a highway through the Manassas Park which includes the grounds of the two famous Civil War battles -- or Bull Run to you Yankees. Smith told the National Park it should not cede any land in the Park to the Virginia Highway Dept. for road purposes. "This would divide a great historic area and take away much of the attraction. Besides, the South won two great victories at Manassas and these Battlefields should be preserved. If they want to run a road through a Battlefield, let 'em find a place where the Yankees won."--Summarized from an AP dispatch.

Member Harrison Mann, a Virginia legislator, also protested against the invasion of the Manassas Battlefields: "The mutilation of the heart of the battlefield, probably the most historic spot of the Virginia battlefields in the War Between the States would be a sacrilege ... The State of Virginia must not be a part to the vandalism in this hallowed ground."

The DC CWRT adopted resolutions opposing the Virginia Highway Plan at the Bruce Catton meeting. Perhaps other sections of the country face similar highway problems. Copies of the Manassas resolutions are to be sent to all Civil War Round Tables throughout the country--with a request for similar action.

The Virginia Highway Commissioner pledged himself to restudy the plan. But the battle rages.

Cash Keller informs us that the press and local Radio-TV programs have played up the Third Battle of Manassas. On "Outlook," David Brinkley used the story on both narration and film over the NBC Network, March 24. Brinkley sketched the historical importance of the Battle of Manassas--giving a graphic description of "Old Stone Bridge" and the statue of Gen. "Stonewall" Jackson. Member Francis S. Wilshin, Park Supt., was interviewed by Commentator Brinkley.

VIRGINIA HIGH JUDGE WARNS AGAINST VANDALISM

Judge C. E. Nicol, member of the Supreme Court of Virginia, presided at the dedication ceremonies when the New York monument in the Manassas Battlefield Park was unveiled in 1907:

"In behalf of the state of Virginia, and as a member of her Judiciary, I pledge that the monuments erected by the great and imperial state of New York, in honor of heroic dead who fell on this field, and entrusted to the jurisdiction of the Commonwealth of Virginia, shall be so guarded and protected that no vandal or unworthy hands shall ever mar or deface them.

"The trust confided in Virginia by New York will be scrupulously observed and I invite the surviving members of these and their descendants to annually visit this hallowed and sacred spot to see how well this confidence has been fulfilled."

The displacing of the New York monument by a Virginia superhighway would violate the pledge made by a Virginia jurist fifty years ago at Manassas."

WHO SAYS THAT HISTORY DOESN'T REPEAT ITSELF -- THIRTY YEARS LATER SOME OF US ARE RE-ENGAGED IN WHAT MAY BE SEEN AS THE "FIFTH" BATTLE OF MANASSAS.
ANNOUNCING

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Civil War Trivia Quiz #2

Answers

1. Cump.
3. New York City.
4. Virginia.
5. George H. Thomas.

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- Each volume contains an index of organizations, listing pages where each regiment of cavalry, artillery and infantry can be found.
- Included in an index of battles, listing each battle and skirmish and the regiments that fought there.
- The new general index volume will contain 880 pages with running headings at the top of the pages for easy reference.
- The print in all eight volumes will be expanded from 6-point to 7-point type, and the typed Index volume will be set to match, for better legibility.
- This set will be printed on 50# Glafelter acid-free paper.
- Smythe sewn reinforced signatures.
- The set will be rounded and backed and bound in fine imitation leather.
- Headbands and footbands are sewn.
- Each volume will be individually shrink-wrapped and shipped in a specially constructed and tested carton to hold all nine volumes.
- The set will be available in April.

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ANNUAL BANQUET RESERVATION FORM - TO GEORGE HUTCHINSON

MAIL CHECK AND RESERVATION FORM TO: Mr. George Hutchinson, 3863 North Tazewell St., Arlington, VA 22207 by April 9, 1987. (Phone after 7 pm 538-6212)

Check made payable to CWRT of DC

So state (I) (We) will attend April 14 dinner

(I) (We) will have ______ guests. Check for ________ guests at $16.00 each.

Guests names

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Signature

PLEASE NOTE AGAIN - cost of this meal is $16.00 per person.

---cut along this line---

FOURTH ANNUAL BATTLEFIELD CRACKPATES FIELD TRIP

MAIL CHECK AND RESERVATION FORM TO: Mr. Charles McCarthy, 1409 Chopin Street, Vienna, VA 22180. Phone 938-0669 DEADLINE - 21 April 1987

Check made payable to CWRT of DC

So state (I) (We) will attend April 25, Field Trip

(I) (We) will have ______ guests. Check for ________ guests at $20.00 each.

Guests names

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Signature

PLEASE NOTE AGAIN - cost of field trip is $20.00 per person.
NINTH MEETING - BACK TO FORT MCNAIR

DATE: Tuesday, May 12, 1987
PLACE: Officers Club - Fort McNair, D.C.
        - note return
SUBJECT: "Grant: The Man and the Image;"
        An Illustrated Lecture
TIME: 6:00 PM Cash Bar
      7:00 PM Dinner  PRICE: $10.00 each
      8:00 PM Speaker
Reservations: Checks and Reservation Form to George Hutchinson by May 7.

GRANT - THE GREATEST CIVIL WAR GENERAL?

Elsewhere in this newsletter may be found conclusions of a prominent student of the Civil War, Jim Honnert, concerning appraisals of Civil War generals. He feels that the greatest Civil War general was Ulysses S. Grant. Why? He directed both eastern and western fronts of the war, while his last opponent never saw the overall picture of the conflict outside Virginia. Whatever your own persuasion, May is the month to study Grant. This was the time when the beautiful Wilderness, tiny Spotsylvania Court House, and the road to Richmond felt the tread of Grant's legions. What better way to test Honnert's appraisal than to come and enjoy dinner and listen to a local historian present an illustrated program about Grant and then form your own opinion. James G. Barber works for the National Portrait Gallery (if you have not discovered that delightful treasure-house then you better forget cherry trees and get out on foot to probe historic Washington), and comes ably equipped to handle the visual U.S. Grant.

After all this, get in your car and journey south to the area in which Grant and Lee struggled to end the war. Red bud and dogwood abound, the weather will be balmy, and you can learn a lot by on-the-sight inspection.
DO YOU AGREE - SOMETHING TO PONDER

At a recent presentation before the Cincinnati CWRT, speaker Jim Honnert offered the following appraisals of Civil War generals: What do you think?

Most Immoral - General Joe Hooker and General Ear Van Dorn
Most Cowardly - General Edward Ferraro, USA
Most Flamboyant - General JEB Stuart and General George Custer
Most Incompetent - General Benjamin Butler
Most Brilliant - General William T. Sherman - proponent of "modern warfare" against noncombatents
Most Romantic - General Dan Sickels - who took wife back after he killed her suitor, and later seduced the Queen of Spain
Most Unreconstructed - General Jubal Early
Most Waste of Talent and Greatest Soldier - General Nathan Bedford Forrest

AN EVENT OF NOTE

A lecture, lunch, and Civil War battlefield tour in commemoration of the 1862 Battle of McDowell are scheduled for Saturday, May 16, 1987 at the small Virginia hamlet where the action took place. The Battle of McDowell formed Stonewall Jackson's first victory in the famous Valley Campaign. The lecture and tour are sponsored by the Stonewall Jackson House of Lexington, Virginia and the Lee-Jackson Foundation of Charlottesville. It will be a splendid opportunity to see beautiful Highland County, Virginia, just over an hour's drive west of Staunton. The lecture will be provided by Dr. Gary W. Gallagher of Pennsylvania State University and author of Stephen Dodson Ramseur: Lee's Gallant General, followed by lunch at the McDowell Volunteer Fire Department, a battlefield tour (this is steep mountain country, so people with health problems beware) by local guides Doug Gutshall and G.W. O'Baugh. You will be able to ascend Sitlington's Hill on foot by much the same route as Jackson's men.


OUR TREASURE TRIUMPHS

The Alexandria CWRT presented its first Colonel Joseph Brady Mitchell award for furthering the study of the history of the American Civil War to DC's own Eddie Hunter. Long stalwart of the treasury (your editor knows - the costs of expanded newsletters are pointed out to him periodically), Eddie Hunter well deserves the accolades and the award. Good job and congratulations!
The Washington CWRT wound up its last meeting of the 1957 year on May 18 by running into a flock of firsts (according to Virgil C. (Pat) Jones in the June newsletter that year. The first Confederate battle flag, the first military railroad, the first battle of Bull Run (Manassas), and the first field trip over that ground. Two hundred people - a caravan of four large buses and countless cars - covered the 25 mile circuit led by Francis Wilshin, Manassas National Battlefield Park superintendent and CWRT member. In the group were several members of Congress, all either patrons of Civil War Centennial bills under study on Capitol Hill, or serving on the House Judiciary Committee to which they were referred. Of concern at that time to a number of participants was the question of preserving Wilmer McLean's barn at Yorkshire outside Manassas. Ha, should we have been so lucky today - what Prince William and Fairfax counties have done to battlefield areas would have the two hundred people mighty upset were they here today. Luckily, Fairfax County subsequently set up the Bull Run Regional Park which preserves the north bank of Bull Run, at least.

The May speaker at the DC CWRT's final monthly dinner in 1956-57, was Dr. Wood Gray, eminent political historian at George Washington University. Speaking to the topic of "Civil War Historians Make Peace," Dr. Gray told our members in 1957 that the objective approach is particularly needed because of bias, for "bias is as natural as fear in the face of danger." Author of The Hidden Civil War," Dr. Gray singled out two Southern historians as notable examples of academics rising above sectional prejudice in their interpretations of the Civil War - Charles E. Sydnor and William E. Dodd. Sydnor, a professor of history at Duke University wrote prominently in the late 1940s and the "author could have been a Southerner, a Northerner, or a man from Mars." Dodd, under whom Gray studied at the University of Chicago, later became Ambassador to Germany. Gray labeled Dodd as the first professor of the Civil War, and noted that his papers are in the Library of Congress. Gray praised Dodd's book on Jefferson Davis, and singled out another of his works, Lincoln or Lee. Who among our members in 1987 has ever heard or read either Sydnor or Dodd?

Just the month before, DC members were captivated by T. Harry Williams of LSU. Calling himself a "Vulcanized Southerner" (an obvious allusion to Galvanized Yankees), Williams labeled the CW as "The Gentlemen's War." It was not too big a war to comprehend - it was an experience of the American people. It rid the nation of the anachronism of slavery, it was the first modern war, and one of the costliest in history. The CW determined that the United States would be one nation and placed her on the way to becoming one of the world powers. Williams particularly stressed two aspects of the CW - fraternization and chivalry. With humorous human interest episodes, he illustrated those points. No war had anything like the visiting back and forth of the men in the line - they spoke a common language. Williams cited the fact that men in both gray and blue celebrated US Independence Day during the War of divided loyalties.

Williams, in that down country manner he made famous, regaled the DC audience with tales of Henry A. Wise, former Governor of Virginia and ardent secessionist who proclaimed - when he learned President Lincoln was going to blockade the ports of the South - "By God! He can't do that, its unconstitutional." Or, "Extra Billy Smith," another Virginia governor who upon leading his men into Pennsylvania halted them in a town square to deliver a speech. When Jubal Early rode up and inquired about what Smith was doing, said T. Harry Williams, "Extra Billy" answered, "having a little fun, General, which is good for all of us, and at the same time
teaching these people something that will be good for them and won't do us any harm." Williams noted that an oil portrait of Union General William T. Sherman still hung (in 1957) in the Memorial Tower of LSU in honor of its first president. The portrait was saved from a burning building by students under the second president, Confederate Major David French Boyd, after the war. Sherman's portrait "is still one of the prize possessions of LSU," claimed Williams. But, then, after all - Louisiana was not Georgia and South Carolina, and didn't feel the wrath of Sherman's boys.

**NEWSLETTER SEEKING NEW HOME**

Anyone having an ardent desire (or just a feeling of comrade affection for sharing time on behalf of the DC Civil War Round Table), who would like to assume the mantle of Newsletter Editor starting in September? Please make this known to the President or other official of the DC Civil War Round Table, A.S.A.P.

**THE SEMI-NAKED BOOKSHELF**

Spencer Township of Jennings County, Indiana was very involved in the Civil War and the details are explained in a new 229-page paperback book. *From The Hayfields to the Battlefields* by Rodger D. Ruddick includes regimental histories of the 6th, 12th, 22nd, 26th, 52nd, and 82nd Indiana Volunteers. Read about some of the adventures experienced by 191 men from the township through 81 original letters and 34 photographs. Contact with check payable to Rodger D. Ruddick, Route 4, Box 118, North Vernon, Indiana 47265. $12.75 plus $1.00 postage - total $13.75.

*Encyclopedia of Historic Forts.* By Robert B. Roberts, New York: Macmillan, $82.50 until 12/31/87 - due to be published in September 1987, this illustrated 480 page treatise will be organized first by state then alphabetically by fort. Descriptions of over 3,000 forts in all 50 states, many photos, line drawings, and diagrams, glossary of fortification terms, listing of state archives and libraries, selected bibliographies, indispensable as reference and will be $95.00 after next year.

**DEATH OF JIM MURFIN**

We note with sadness the passing of Jim Murfin, 57, who died of leukemia March 30th in Silver Spring. Most of us remember him for his award winning "The Gleam of Bayonets," arguably still the best rendition of the Antietam campaign. He also was a historical writer with the US Capitol Historical Society, joined the National Park Service in 1970, and retired in 1984 as director of cooperative association (charged with management and operation of National Park Service bookstores). Other books he wrote included Scenic Wonders of the National Parks of America, The National Parks of America, and The 50 States. More recently, Jim was involved with creation of two trivia games sold at the national parks - National Park Wit (350 questions), and Civil War Wit (210 questions).
MAIL CHECK AND RESERVATION FORM TO: Mr. George Hutchinson, 3863 North Tazewell St., Arlington, Va. 22207 for receipt by May 7, 1987. (Phone after 7 PM only 538-6212)

_______ check made payable to CWRT of DC
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(I) (We) will have ______ guests.

Check for guests ______ at $10.00 each.

Guest Names
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