

THE WASHINGTON VOLUNTEER

Vol. XI, #7 Bulletin of the Puget Sound Civil War Round Table March 1997



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Thanks!

Thanks to Amy Kinsel for her fine talk on Gettysburg in American Culture. We look forward to her book on the same topic which will be published next year by the University of North Carolina Press.

Next Meeting

Wednesday March 12, 1997 at the Yankee Dinner. 6 PM Social Hour with dinner at 7 PM. Choice of Barbecued Chicken or Beef Stroganoff. The main entree is served with Caesar Salad, Biscuits, fresh vegetables, potatoes or rice with the chicken along with coffee or tea. Price is \$16.00 a person. Please write your menu choice, name and the name of any guests on the enclosed card and mail it ASAP **REMEMBER WEDNESDAY MARCH 12TH**

Program

Richard Moe, author of The Last Full Measure: The Life and Death of the First Minnesota Volunteers, and President of the National Trust for Historic Preservation and a director of the Civil War Trust will speak on the 1st Minnesota Volunteer Infantry. A graduate of Williams College and the University of Minnesota Law School, Mr. Moe has had a lifelong interest in the Civil War.

Officers

If you would be interested in becoming an officer or a director of the Puget Sound Civil War Roundtable please contact Jeff Rombauer or Lin Russell before the April meeting. We are looking for people who are willing to do a lot of work for no pay. In particular we need someone with experience in publicity so we can expand our community contacts and someone to take over as full time treasurer next year.

This Month in the Civil War

March 12, 1864 Abraham Lincoln issues General Orders No. 98 appointing Ulysses S. Grant as commander of the Armies of the United States, replacing Gen. Halleck, who is assigned as Chief of Staff.

NEW BOOKS

Was an American arrested in the Lincoln Conspiracy really Jack the Ripper? That's the thesis of a new book just published in this country **Jack the Ripper: First American Serial Killer** by Stewart Evans & Paul Gainey. [New York: Kodansha International, 1996 \$24.00] Dr. Francis Tumblety, a self styled "doctor", who frequented Washington, DC during the early years of the Civil War and claimed to know Lincoln quite well is the subject of this well researched book by two officials of the Suffolk, England Constabulary. Tumblety was arrested in April 1865 after Lincoln's assassination as a potential conspirator when he was mistaken for another doctor who was a Confederate agent. Although he was released after a period of confinement in the Old Capitol Prison in DC, Tumblety was bitter about his experience. Evans and Gainey trace the history of the Ripper affair in England, and

HUMORS OF THE CAMP FIRE

In 1862 an order was issued that all seafaring men in the army could, on application be transferred to the Confederate Navy. Moses Williams, of the Manchester Artillery, applied. He was asked if he was a seafaring man and he replied, "Certainly. I can see as far as any other man, I don't care where he comes from."

Confederate War Journal 1893

show how Tumblety became the number one suspect of Scotland Yard and how he escaped punishment. See for yourself if they make their case.

Preservation News

The Third New Jersey Volunteer Infantry Inc., P.O. Box 416, Freehold, NJ 07728 is trying to raise at least \$8,000 for the documentation, preservation and restoration of Camp Vredenburg at Monmouth Battlefield Park. This Civil War training camp is the site of the annual reenactment and living history by this reenactment group every September. If you would like addition information write to the address given above or contact Edward Blaszczyk (908) 536-6324.

On the Net

The Civil War Society, publisher of the magazine Civil War has established its own web site on the internet [<http://www.uscivilwar.com/>] The site features a daily calendar of events, a Civil War trivia contest, a self-guided battle tour, presentation of original documents and live discussion groups on Civil War History.

THE SOLDIER'S MOTHER'S THOUGHTS

Skirmish at Bird's point, Mo.
July 8th, '61

He is twenty, I know; and boys younger than
he,

In the ranks gong by every day we can see;
And those stronger and prouder, by far, I have
met,

But I never have seen a young soldier yet,
With so gallant a mein or so lofty a brow--
How the sun and the wind must have darkened
it now!

How he will be chang'd when he comes from
the South

His beard shutting out the sweet smiles of his
mouth!

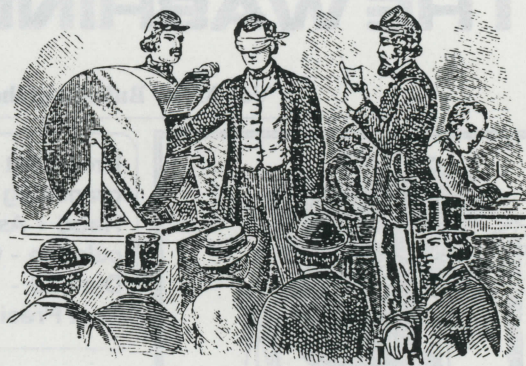
And the reemulous beauty, the womanly grace,
Will be bronzed from the delicate lines of his
face,

Where of late only childhood's soft beauty I
saw,

For he seemed like a child till he went to the
war!

John Boyd

Poetical Pen-Pictures of the War 1863



The Draft

Valuable Tools

It is amazing what modern technology can do. Now available on one CD-ROM disk from Guild Press of Indiana the complete *Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*, all 127 volumes for a bargain price of only \$69.95. If you have always wanted this important research tool but could never afford the thousands of dollars to buy a set, or have the shelf space then this may be the answer. A search engine allows easy access to topics or individuals, which as anyone knows from using the hard bound editions of the OR can be quite a struggle. Guild Press can be reached by calling 317-848-6421 or <http://www.guildpress.com>. Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc. of Baltimore has issued on one CD disk, the entire *Roll of Honor: Civil War Union Soldiers*. Originally published from 1866 to 1871 in 27 volumes, this reference contains the names of almost 191,000 Union soldiers who were buried in over 300 national cemeteries, garrison cemeteries, soldiers lots, and private cemeteries. Also included on this CD is a listing of an additional 8000 Union soldiers that were missed in the original compilation. For many individuals listed one can find out, name, rank company, regiment, date of death and final burial site. An easy search engine allows the typing in of a name, with quick search results. For only \$49.95 plus shipping you can have this valuable research tool, a savings of thousands of dollars from the original reprint edition of 1994.

"Duffer" needed.

The round table is looking for a member who would be interested in hosting our April speaker Richard Long to a round of golf during his visit to the Seattle area. If you would like to have a chance to go one on one with this historian please call Pat Brady.

Notices to be placed into the bulletin should be sent to Jeff Rombauer, 22306 255th Ave SE, Maple Valley, WA 98038 or by E-mail at jeff.rombauer@prostar.com

"There the brave fellows stood, a grand shadow of the regiment"

Civil War Book Notes



"We had no time to weep"

Minnesota had only been a state for a little less than 3 years when the crisis of civil war came upon the nation. The state's governor, Alexander Ramsey, was visiting Washington D.C. when the fighting broke out at Fort Sumter and was the first Northern governor to tender the offer of a regiment to the Federal Government.

Recruiting for what would be known as the First Minnesota Volunteer Infantry began April 14, 1861 and was completed two weeks later when it was mustered in as the first Union regiment to enlist for 3 years. As the only Minnesota regiment to serve in the Army of the Potomac, this unit saw heavy fighting from First Bull Run to Bristow Station. Out of a total of 1,242 men who served with the regiment during its three years of service 585 were killed and wounded [15% killed or died of wounds received in combat] and another 136 were captured or reported missing. At both First Bull Run and at Gettysburg the 1st Minnesota suffered the greatest loss of any Union regiment during those battles. At Gettysburg on July 2, 1863 in a charge at sunset near the Peach Orchard, out of 262 men, 215 were killed or wounded. For more information on this "fighting regiment" the following books are recommended.

- **Minnesota in the Civil and Indian Wars 1861-1865.** Prepared and Published under the Supervision of The Board of Commissioners. St. Paul: The Pioneer Press Co., 1891 2nd Edition.

The history of the 1st Minnesota in this basic reference work on Minnesota's contribution to the Civil War was written by one of the regiment's officers, Lieutenant William Lochren and

appears on pages 1 to 78 of the 1st volume.

- **History of the First Regiment Minnesota Volunteer Infantry 1861-1864.** R. I. Holcombe. Stillwater: Easton & Masterman, Printers, 1916.

As the regiment's history committee admitted "to prepare a history after the lapse of more than half a century is in many respects a hopeless task." Beside missing many of the personal accounts of survivors that would have been available if the history had been written earlier this volume is marred by the decision to avoid controversy i.e. "say nothing of the dead, unless it be good."

- **The First Volunteers: History of the First Minnesota Volunteer Regiment 1861-1865.** By John Quinn Imholte. Minneapolis: Ross & Haines, Inc., 1963.

This modern regimental history was undertaken to write the "true" story of the 1st Minnesota, with all the politics and blunders that were part of the "real story". Imholte did not intend this to be strictly a military history of the unit, but he does go into detail about its activities at 1st Bull Run and Gettysburg to show the contrast between the green

regiment and the veteran troops two years later.

- **The Last Full Measure: The Life and Death of the First Minnesota Volunteers.** Richard Moe. New York: Henry Holt and Company, 1993.

The third and best history of the 1st Minnesota is well deserving of the praise it has received. Well researched and written, Moe focuses on telling "the story of one of the war's best fighting regiments is told from the viewpoint of the men who did the fighting."

- **The First Minnesota Regiment at Gettysburg.** Robert & William Haiber. The Info Devel Press, 1991. This little booklet is valuable for the detailed charts of casualties for Gettysburg.

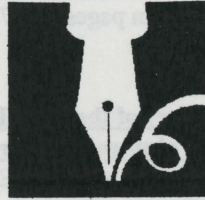
A SOLDIER'S PRAYER

Our father who art in Washington Abraham Lincoln be thy name We beseech the to forgive us our many sins as we forgive our Quarter Masters We pray the father Abraham raise our wages to eighteen dollars per month and give us fortitude & wisdom that we may procure an abundance of Rations from the Comm [commissary officer] while he sleepith lest the rain descendith & spoil them We ask the Father to send down a mighty huge dose of salts to thy many gasconading gaudy-tyromachl officials & dishonest contractors & finally when thy work shall have been accomplished & though reinith supreme over the land of the free pleas remember thy gallant Soldier & set apart a homested that he may inherit & take unto him a beautiful wife & multiply & replenish the earth like the tree on the river jordan which we ask for U S sake

From the Mathew Marvin papers, Minnesota Historical Society as reprinted in Imholte's The First Volunteers

LETTERS HOME: EYEWITNESS ACCOUNTS OF THE CIVIL WAR

Not all letters written home carried news of important battles or famous personalities. Sometimes a soldier would just write to let the folks back home know that he was alive and was thinking of them as in these fragments of letters submitted by round table member Sylva Coppock .



Francis M. Applegate enlisted in Captain Finley's Co., 81st Regiment of Indiana Volunteers on July 26, 1862 at Austin, Indiana and reported for service at New Albany, Harrison, County Indiana. He was an 18 year old farm boy who enrolled as a private and served as a musician, a bugler. Francis was born in Scott County, Indiana to Thomas J. and Elizabeth Applegate. According to his enlistment papers he was 5'6" tall, of light complexion, with grey eyes and light colored hair. He never married and was childless.

On February 24, 1863 the youthful soldier wrote to his mother from a camp near Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

"Dear Mother it is with much pleasure this morning that I embrace the opportunity of riting you a few lines to let you no that I am well hoping when these few lines cumes to hand they may find you all enjoying the same good blessing of health I haven't muck to rite to you but I will tel you that we have drawn our Money yesterday we drewed 54 Dollars and I will send you sum of it home I can express it home and it will cum I think me and ky hobbs and frank hobbs is a going to send 30 Dollars a piece and if you nede that money I Send home I want you to use it and if you can Do with out it I want you to levie ray or sum other good man have it on int ...[interest?] Maw I would like to see you all very well but as it is I can't the boys is all well Charley Sutton is well Dent Broady and Tom was well last weak I seen them both so I will close rite soon."

Francis M. Applegate

Another letter, addressed to his brother read:

"Winfield Scott Applegate

Dear Brother it is with this morning for the first time that I rite you a few lines to let you know that I am alive. Scott I thought I would rite a few lines and Send you and John Cochran and Boon a present you must take good care of them. FMA to WSA, Miss liza Applegate, well lide I will rite you a few lines and tel you to be a good girl and I will sent you a present and when maw rites to me you might send a sweet

The remainder of the letter was not legible.

Francis M. Applegate was captured at Chickamauga, Georgia in September 1863 and confined at Richmond, Virginia beginning on September 29, 1863. He was sent to Danville Prison on December 12, 1863 and died on December 18, 1863 of smallpox.

[Editorial note: I have tried to present the text of these letters without editing. Sylva Coppock.]

The 81st Indiana was mustered into service Aug. 20, 1862, 932 men strong. It was sent to Louisville, KY where it stayed until it joined Buell's army in pursuit of Bragg. Its first major battle was at Murfreesboro where it lost 4 killed, 44 wounded and 40 missing. It next took part in Rosecrans campaign of maneuver during the summer of 1863 which culminated at the Battle of Chickamauga, where it lost 8 killed, 59 wounded and 22 missing. In 1864 it participated in most of the major fighting during Sherman's Atlanta Campaign. In the fall of 1864 it took part in the battles of Franklin and Nashville. The 81st was mustered out June 13, 1865 after losing 236 members by death, 33 by desertion and 8 missing.



ARMY MAIL CARRIER.