

# THE WASHINGTON VOLUNTEER

Vol. XII, #2 Bulletin of the Puget Sound Civil War Round Table October 1997



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## Thanks!!

A tip of the hat to William McFeely for flying all the way across the country to present his talk on "Ulysses S. Grant, the Memoirs and Writing on War." Professor McFeely

presented an interesting and different perspective on how various American generations have viewed war. We thank Mr. McFeely for his entertaining talk and for his generosity in signing copies of his books.

## Next Meeting

Thursday October 9, 1997 at the Yankee Diner. 6 PM Social Hour with dinner at 7 PM. Choice of Swedish Meatballs or Herb Grilled Chicken. 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. If you choose not to mail the card in be sure to call Dio Richardson if you plan to attend. The staff at the Yankee Diner can accommodate our needs if we can provide them with an accurate count of the number of dinners that they can expect to serve.

## Program

Our October speaker will be Professor William L. Shea, from the University of Arkansas. Mr. Shea is the author of The Virginia Militia in the Seventeenth Century, War in the West: Pea Ridge and Prairie Grove and co-author of Pea Ridge: Civil War Campaign in the West. Professor Shea's topic will be "The Prairie Grove Campaign and the Nature of the Civil War on the Western Frontier".

## Dues now payable

Members are reminded that dues for 1996-98 are now payable. A single membership is \$15 and \$20 for a couple. If you need a new name tag, than there is an additional charge of \$5. Checks are to be made out to PSCWRT and can be mailed to H. E. Crain, 17126 68th Ave W, Edmonds, WA 98026-5206.

## FROM THE EDITOR'S DRAWER

While the United States transport ----, with troops on board, was lying at Cairo last spring, Captain C----'s wife visited him, and was of course greatly interested in what she observed going on.

She had noticed the sentinel passing to and fro at the shore-end of the stage-plank, and as a dark rainy night was setting in, she was observed to be more quiet, and thoughtful than usual.

At length, looking up at her husband, she asked, "Are you going to keep that poor soldier out there in the rain all night?" When it was understood who she meant it was explained to her that it was necessary to do so; but that he didn't have to remain there all the time, being relieved by two others in turn. But she didn't seem quite satisfied, and presently asked again, "Couldn't you let him come in on the boat and stand under shelter?" This proposition was promptly negatived, and her innocent solicitude on account of the imagined hardship to that "poor soldier" became so apparent as to cause a smile among the listeners. A short silence followed during which it was evident she was devising in her tender little heart some scheme for his relief, when suddenly a bright idea seemed to have struck her, and looking up into her husband's face with a countenance full of anxious hope, she said, "Dear, couldn't you lend him your umbrella?"

Harper's New Monthly Magazine 2/65



## NEW BOOKS

In a controversial new work, **The Confederate War** [Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1997 \$25] author Gary W. Gallagher argues that the Confederacy did not lose the Civil War by lack of popular will, nationalism or because of a failed military strategy. The question Gallagher asks is "not why the Confederacy collapsed so soon but rather how it lasted so long." Using newspapers, diaries and letters from the period, Gallagher argues that many southerners sustained an "unflagging belief in their way of life, which sustained them to the bitter end." It was the enormous cost of the war itself, which after a long struggle led southerners to the belief that they had lost the war. A must read for anyone interested in why the South lost the war.

### THE MARCH

Tramp, tramp, tramp, tramp!  
Go the Southern braves to battle  
How they shine, each gleaming line!  
Flashing sabers! how they rattle!  
Every lip is now compressed,  
Every heart now yearns for glory,  
Every eye with patriot fire  
Burns for battle fierce and gory!

Tramp, tramp, tramp, tramp!  
Death is in each hidden saber,  
Reaper of the fields of Time,  
Look ye for a giant's labor!  
How sublime! when patriots feel  
All the strength of self-reliance,  
Marching on to meet the foe,  
With a stern and grim defiance!

See how proudly floats our flag!  
White! our cause is pure and grand, man!  
Red! a living flood shall flow  
From every foe now in the land, man!  
Blue! aye, heaven's stars are there!  
Sparkling in their azure beauty!  
Tramp, Tramp, tramp, tramp!  
Go the messengers of duty!

By John W. Overall

**The Songs and Ballads of the Southern People**

## West Coast Conference

The 13th annual West Coast Civil War Conference will be held November 7-9, 1997 at the Barbara Worth Resort, Holtville, CA. This year's topic will be "California and the Civil War" and will include such historians as Alvin Josephy, Jr. and Charles Roland. Cost of the conference for CWRT members is \$130 before 10/8/97 and \$145 after. Cost of hotel rooms and banquets are separate. Space is limited and hotel reservations need to be made by October 10th. For additional information and registration call CWRT Associates 501-225-3996.

## Preservation News

Friends of the Siege and Battle of Corinth Inc, P.O. Box 45, Corinth, MS 38835-0035 is a non-profit group organized in 1993 to promote and preserve historic sites around this Mississippi town. The group was formed to assist the Siege and Battle of Corinth Commission in protecting Civil War sites in the area and promoting knowledge of the role the city played during the conflict. Memberships start at \$25. If interested contact the group at the address given above.

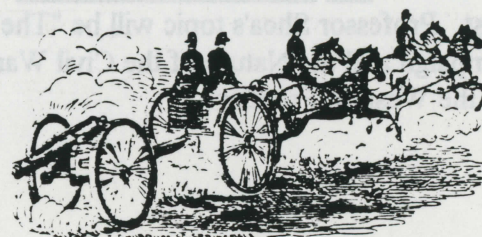
## This Month in the Civil War

**The first major battle on Kentucky soil was fought October 8, 1862 at Perryville. where elements of Union General Carlos Buell's army won a partial victory over Confederates commanded by Braxton Bragg. This battle put an end to Bragg's fall invasion of Kentucky. Union losses were 845 killed, 2851 wounded and 515 missing. Confederate losses were 519 killed, 2635 wounded and 2541 missing. Despite this "victory" and the end of the threat to Kentucky, Buell was replaced by William Starke Rosecrans as commander of the Department of the Cumberland October 24, 1862.**

## On the Net

Sometimes the information available on the internet comes from a surprising source. Once such case can be found at [www.sfmuseum.org](http://www.sfmuseum.org), the web site for the Museums of the City of San Francisco. At this site one can find an excellent, comprehensive bibliography of William Tecumseh Sherman. This ten page bibliography consists of 78 books and pamphlets on Sherman and his campaigns. From the well known biographies of Sherman by Lewis, Fellman, Liddell Hart to the various editions of Sherman's own memoirs, to obscure pamphlets, this list offers a good starting point for anyone interesting on reading this "great captain."

Notices to be placed into the bulletin should be sent to Jeff Rombauer, 22306 255th Ave SE, Maple Valley, WA 98038 or by E-mail at [jeff.rombauer@foxinternet.net](mailto:jeff.rombauer@foxinternet.net)





"from the chaos of excitement"

# Civil War Book Notes



For far too many years historians ignored Civil War events west of the Mississippi. Fortunately this situation has changed in recent years as new monographs and studies have been issued covering the Trans-Mississippi. One battle, Prairie Grove, which has long lacked a modern history, took place in Northwest Arkansas in December 1862. Here in this town, near Fayetteville, Arkansas, a desperate struggle was waged, with important consequences for it determined who would control Arkansas.

In December 1862 Confederate General Thomas C. Hindman hoped to block a Union invasion of Northwest Arkansas by forces under Union Generals Francis J. Herron and James G. Blunt. Moving his army northward from Van Buren, Arkansas on December 3, 1862, Hindman hope to defeat Federal forces under Blunt near Fayetteville. While his forces where on the March, Gen. Hindman learned that Blunt was being reinforced by about 6000 troops under Herron marching from Springfield, Missouri.

In a quick change of plans, the Confederate general decided to move between the two converging Union forces, defeat first Herron's column and then turn on Blunt's forces. Hindman's army was able to slip between the two union forces according to his plan, but instead of attacking Herron's troops, the Confederate general took up a defensive position along the Illinois River near Prairie Grove, where starting about 9:30 am on December 7th, he was attacked by Herron. The battle ragged until about 7 PM with both sides "alternately advancing and retreating along the Prairie Grove valley." Despite Blunt reinforcing Herron on the afternoon of the 7th, neither side gained control of the battlefield before darkness fell. Although a tactical draw, it was a strategic victory for the Union forces as Hindeman was forced to withdraw to Van Buran, and eventually to Little Rock, Arkansas.

For further information on Prairie Grove the recent studies are recommended.

- "1862: A Continual Thunder" in **Rugged and Sublime: The Civil War in Arkansas**: Edited by Mark K. Christ. Fayetteville: The University of Arkansas Press, 1994.

- **The Battle of Prairie Grove: Records with Mementos of December 7, 1862**. Fayetteville: Washington county Historical Society, 1992.
- **Embattled Arkansas: The Prairie Grove Campaign of 1862**. Wilmington: Broadfoot Publishing Co., 1996.

## Aftermath of the Battle of Prairie Grove

"A woman living in a dwelling on the battlefield but who escaped to a Safe distance during the engagement. In my visit to the battleground the morning after the battle I noticed this woman with two little children wandering over the field of dead scrutinizing every face of the butternuts who had fallen. There was the mein and dignity in her action that created a kind of interest in my breast to follow her, for every action indicated no ordinary woman such as I had met in my travels through Missouri and Arkansas I would not ask to know her feelings when I had caught a glimpse of her face when she was scanning the dead. On on she passed with a firm step and her skirts brushed over gaping bloody wounds.

At length a Smothered groan fell upon my ear & the exclamation - Oh my brother -- escaped her lips. She pushes back the gory locks and low words of grief murmured over him. She raises from her bended posture. Her emotion seemed gone --the lip no more compressed, the cheek more pale, but aside from this and the low words she uttered there was no display of agony - her cup was not yet full, for a few yards distance lay another brother who she was ignorant of being in the fight. . . She threw her arm over him and for a few moments seemed lifeless, but Seeming to collect her scattered senses She arose--her little children following not comprehending anything of the scenes going on around them.

The object of her mission on this bloody field was soon accomplished for only a few rods from where lay her brother she found her husband. His face was upturned & his eyes seemed not to have had the privilege of closing so instantaneous had been his death. . . A wild unearthly Shriek and the wife had encircled her arms around the form of her husband- - the cold unnatural touch seemed to recall her situation and starting up--her fragile form drawn up to its fullest height -- She gazes upon him who but yesterday was her friend and protector . The suffering of that woman none but God can know."

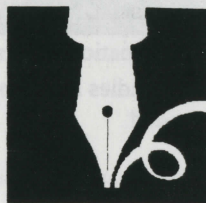
Benjamin F. McIntye.

**Federals on the Frontier: The Diary of Benjamin F. McIntyre, 1862-1864: Edited by Nannie M. Tilley** Austin: University of Texas Press, 1963

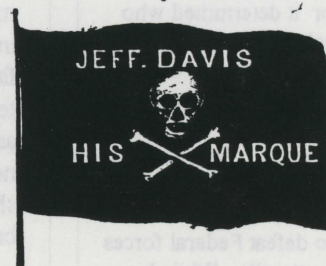


# LETTERS HOME: EYEWITNESS ACCOUNTS OF THE CIVIL WAR

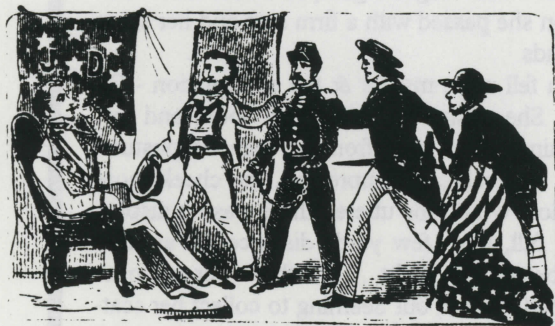
Highly popular during the Civil War, patriotic stationary and envelopes offer us a glimpse into the passions of the period. Designs ranged from simple groupings of flags, eagles and cannons to elaborate views of prominent personalities and campfire scenes. So well liked were these envelopes that millions were sold and collected in albums just like stamps. Perhaps the most interesting of these covers are the comic or caricature envelopes. Ranging in style from the crude to the sophisticated, these comic covers demonstrate the humorous side of the Civil War. As might be expected one of the more prominent targets of Union caricatures was Jefferson Davis and so this month we offer to our readers a collection of images focusing on the President of the Confederacy.



"Current events cast their shadows behind."



BLOOD MONEY; OR HOW SOUTHERN REBELS ENCOURAGE PIRACY.



"BOB LUKEN COUNTS."

FIRST PIRATE TO JEFF. DAVIS—"We want our \$25 for this live Northerner."  
SECOND PIRATE TO "—"Yes and I want \$20 for this dead one".

Zouave.—"Uncle Abe will be glad to see you."



Jeff's March on Washington.  
His courage kept up to the "sticking point."

Jeff in a tight place, he wont get off "SCOTT free."

D. Murphy's Son, Print. 68 Fulton & 313 Pearl stn. N. Y.



Gen. Scott on being asked "What he would do with Jeff Davis, if he caught him?" made no reply, but slowly closed his fist with a convulsive grasp.

D. Murphy's Son, Print. 68 Fulton & 313 Pearl Street. N. Y.



Jeff thought he could take Washington but he made a mistake and now he Nose it



JEFF. DAVIS on the March.

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