



SOC GRAB BAG

Southern Oregon Chapter ORSSAR

Editor Don Thomas

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MEETING SEPT 12, 2012

Our next monthly meeting will be at Elmer's Restaurant on Wednesday Sept 5th at high noon. That is on the right side of the Exit 55 in Grants Pass. Turn right at the FIRST stoplight and you will see it.

The speaker will be Jean Boling who will speak on cemeteries. She is a member of the Josephine County Historical Society and has written many articles on this subject.

MEETING PLACES

The meeting places for the coming fiscal year (Sept--Aug) is as follows:

September, November, February and May will be in Grants Pass at Elmer's-- directions shown above.

October, December, January, March, April and June will be at Elmer's on Biddle Road in Medford (we did meet there once but hopefully Stuart Long made sure that the partitions will be closed)

July and August we are dark.

Hopefully, these locations and restaurants will be satisfactory.

MY PARTNER

Most of you know that my other half, Barbara, had back surgery on August 7th in San Francisco. They "reconstructed" 17 vertebrae. The operation was successful and she is taking rehab as I write this on 8/20.

BRING A GUEST

Everyone is always entitled to bring guest to the luncheon and meeting as well as be able to listen to a guest speaker. Most of you know that our speakers cover a lot of subjects that are interesting and not boring.

The guest does not have to be a candidate for the SAR, but if he is--GOOD. Actually the more people hear about the SAR meetings and speakers, the better it will be for us. Called good PR.

PROGRAMS FOR THE COMING YEAR

One of the things we did at one time is for each of us to tell the other compatriots something about your patriot. We will do this if we are unable to get a speaker. In this manner we could learn something about the other compatriots and perhaps even relate it to your story. So beginning in our October meeting, if we don't have a speaker, I will assign someone to tell us about his patriot. We do have a speaker for September.

Her back is STRAIGHT which is something she hasn't been able to do for a long time.



HISTORIAN CHALLENGES CIVIL WAR DEATH COUNT

The deadliest war in American history might have been even deadlier than previously thought. For more than a century historians have generally accepted the consensus estimated Civil War death tolls of about 620,000 troops--360,222 from the Union and 258,000 from the Confederacy. That could be changing.

New research recently published in the journal CIVIL WAR HISTORY says historians are vastly underestimating the actual death toll. The study author, Binghamton University demographic historian J. David Hacker, said incomplete and missing battle records resulted in historians understating the actual death tolls by 20% or more. Troops most likely to have been overlooked were soldiers who perished from disease and who lacked identification, both of which were common in the Civil War.

About half of the men killed in battles were buried without identification, Hacker said. Most records were geared toward determining troop strength.

Hacker's thesis quickly found support from several other notable Civil War historians. Preeminent Civil War expert James McPherson said he was not surprised by Hacker's findings, saying he had long been

skeptical of the accepted totals, particularly the 258,000 figure for the South. "I have always been convinced that the consensus figure of 620,000 is too low," said McPherson, author of the Pulitzer Prize-winning Civil War history BATTLE CRY OF FREEDOM.

The following articles are from the July-August 2012 issue of HISTORY MAGAZINE

AUGUST 7, 1782

In his general orders, Gen. George Washington creates a Badge of Military Merit by directing that "whenever any singularly meritorious action is performed, the author of it shall be permitted to wear on his facings, over his left breast, the figure of a heart in purple cloth or silk edged with narrow lace or binding." During the waning days of the Revolutionary War, three soldiers, Elijah Churchill, William Brown and Daniel Bissel, are recognized with the award. It is not until the 20th century, however, that the award is resurrected "out of respect to Washington's memory and military achievements." At present, the purple heart is a combat decoration awarded to members of the US Armed Services who have been wounded or killed by an instrument of war in the hands of the enemy.