

# The Washington Volunteer -- PUGET SOUND CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE ... SEPT 2007

*Your PSCWRT membership dues for the 2007-2008 program year are now due. Please see Stephen Pierce or Anne Diemer at the September 13 meeting.*

## MEETING SEPTEMBER 13, 2007

China Harbor, 2040 Westlake Avenue North, Seattle, Washington

### MENU CHOICES

#### Mongolian Beef or Salmon

Dinners include: salad, vegetable delight, General Tso's chicken, fried rice and fresh fruit. Call Marty Wingate at 206-782-3941 or email her at [martywin@earthlink.net](mailto:martywin@earthlink.net) to make reservations.

Deadline for reservations is Tuesday, September 11.

## Les Eldridge to share publication experiences

PSCWRT member and novelist, Les Eldridge will discuss the historical aspects of his first two Civil-War-at-sea novels, *The Chesapeake Command* (2006) and *Gray Raiders, Green Seas* (2007).

The series opens in pre-war Puget Sound during the Pig War, after which the two fictional protagonists, best friends Rory Dunbrody and Tobias St. John, sea officers from the lowest social orders of the day, Irish and African-American, are separated by Civil War.

They interact throughout the series with historical characters such as George Pickett, Allan Pinkerton, John Mosby, Admiral DuPont, Raphael Simmes, and James Bulloch. The setting of the naval Civil War featured remarkable innovation, testing ironclads, torpedoes, revolving turrets, land-sea operations and submarines in combat for the first time. History has forgotten the contributions of thousand of Black Union sailors, and hundreds of Irish Confederate seamen. Rory and Tobias confront the enemy, the sea, and occasionally, one another against this backdrop in Chesapeake Bay, on the Carolina coasts, at the mouth of the Mississippi, and at Hampton Roads.

Eldridge will describe the challenges of inserting fictional characters in scenes such as Hampton Roads, cutting-out expeditions against Union ships on the Chesapeake, running the blockade, arming British-built raiders and riding with Mosby on Stuart's "Ride 'round McClellan" in 1862.

Look for him to throw in the challenges of dealing with publishers as well.

Les Eldridge is retired from careers as a college administrator, corporate executive, county commissioner, mediator, and administrative law hearings officer. He has held appointments from five Washington State governors, and from the chief justice of the state supreme court. ☺

## PSCWRT invited to participate in MOHAI event

The Museum of History & Industry (MOHAI) will be hosting an exhibit from the National Constitution Center called **Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War** (<http://www.constitutioncenter.org>). The exhibit is scheduled for February 19 to April 24, and will be supplemented by a local section: **Confederates in the Washington Territory**.

In addition to the potential for active participation by the PSCWRT in conjunction with the exhibit, the Pacific Northwest Historians Guild has issued a call for presentations for their 23rd Annual Conference, to be held at the Museum of History & Industry, on March 1, 2008. The conference theme will be **Blue vs Gray: The Civil War in the Pacific Northwest**.

Watch for more news about the MOHAI exhibit in upcoming newsletters. To learn more about the call for presentations, and how you can participate, see page three of this issue of the newsletter. ☺

## Report on Port Gamble event

The Port Gamble Civil War Reenactment took place in June. For the third time in three years, since the inception of this event, the Puget Sound Civil War Round Table participated by having an information booth on site during the event. We had a great turnout of members showing up to help! Thank you so much for being there!

The Washington Civil War Association (WCWA) (the reenacting club that sponsors the event) did not set up their usual information booth on site, so our booth became the official information source for the event! We held a key location and not only did we have our own flyers to give out, but we distributed WCWA information, along with handouts from various reenacting units, etc. To me this shows that we have become a key part of the Port Gamble Event and that the WCWA is glad that we are there. Les Eldridge generated some interest in his books, and the Dimonds (SUVCW), Diane Eagon (DUV) and Marjorie Reeves (UDC) were able to get the word out about their particular Civil War heritage organizations.

I would like to see us continue this tradition next year, and even expand to other events. One key to growth - it seems to me -- is to keep getting our name out to the public so that they know we exist.

Thanks to the Dimonds, Les Eldridge, Larry Jilbert, Clarke Harrison, Marjorie Reeves and Diane Eagon who helped at the booth. Thanks also go to Sylva Coppock, who put together the PSCWRT flyer and to Judy Gibson who made additional copies -- thanks, ladies! Judy also donated a table we used for our booth!

If I have inadvertently left anyone out -- I apologize. My thanks to ALL of you for your help!!!

Sincerely yours,

Mark R. Terry, Coordinator for Port Gamble ☺

## Restoration of Jefferson Davis home begun

BILOXI, Miss. (AP) - Officials hope to reopen Beauvoir in time for the 200th anniversary of Jefferson Davis' birth next year. The 1850s Creole cottage was Davis' retirement home and one of the few antebellum styles remaining on the Mississippi Gulf Coast in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. The roof was damaged, the front porch torn away, the back one somewhat collapsed, brick supports battered, and the interior partly flooded in the August 2005 storm.

"The skill and knowledge that goes into restoration work of historic buildings is unbelievable, as we've learned in interviewing craftsmen and specialists," said Richard Forte Sr. of Hattiesburg, Beauvoir's acting director and chairman of Beauvoir's boards of trustees and directors.

The Lathan Company of Mobile, Alabama is the contractor for the restoration, which is expected to cost \$3.9 million. The project was launched on May 3, with Governor Haley Barbour and other local and state officials on hand.

The reopening is planned for June 3, 2008, the bicentennial of Davis' birth. The Biloxi home, built in 1852 and purchased by Davis in 1879, was hit by a nine-foot wall of water when Katrina roared ashore. Beauvoir had survived 21 hurricanes before Katrina, but the August 29, 2005 storm nearly destroyed the popular beachfront tourist attraction. Katrina shredded Beauvoir's roof, front porch, chimneys and pillars and flooded the elevated interior with about a foot of water. The hurricane also damaged a library, museum and other structures on the 52-acre property and swept away about one third of Beauvoir's artifacts, including some of Davis' manuscripts and roughly \$250,000 worth of Confederate currency. The core of the home is largely intact, however.

Beauvoir House will be restored first, followed later by the rebuilding of the Davis Presidential Library. The Mississippi Sons of the Confederate Veterans operate the estate as a museum to the life and times of the Confederate president. ☺

## **Pacific Northwest Historian Guild Conference, 2008**

The 2008 Guild Conference will have as its theme the Civil War in the Pacific Northwest, and will take place on Saturday, March 1, 2008 at Seattle's Museum of History & Industry. Visit the Guild website at [www.pnwhistorians.org](http://www.pnwhistorians.org) for the general call for presentations.

The Program Committee is issuing a special call to genealogists and family historians for presentations on Civil War family history, with a link to the Pacific Northwest. It is difficult to stipulate what such links might be. The connection may be as simple as that shortly after an east coast Civil War experience, a veteran migrated to Oregon, Washington, Idaho or British Columbia. Or that an ancestor was assisted by the Freedman's Bureau. Or that the individual or family lived in the Pacific Northwest during the Civil War, in town, on a reservation, on a homestead or at the goldfields.

The Committee's hope is that there will be enough family history presentations to comprise a session, and that from now on, each Guild conference will feature such a session.

The Guild encourages submissions from a wide variety of presenters; Guild audiences include journalists, educators, historians, historical society members, students and people with a history interest. Proposals should include a title, presenter contact information, brief presenter biography, and a paragraph describing the presentation.

Submissions should be postmarked by October 1, 2007. Mail to Lorraine McConaghy, Museum of History & Industry, 2700 24th Avenue East, Seattle, WA 98112. For more information, contact Lorraine McConaghy, Program Chair, [lorraine.mcconaghy@seattlehistory.org](mailto:lorraine.mcconaghy@seattlehistory.org), or phone 206-324-1685, extension 23.

### **SPECIAL THANKS TO 2007-2008 OFFICERS**

President, Leighton Wingate; Vice-President/Successor, Mark Terry  
Immediate Past-President & Publicity Chairman, Clarke Harrison  
Vice-President, Programming, Pat Brady; Vice-President, Newsletter & Membership Chairman, Sylva Coppock; Secretary, To be determined; Treasurer, Stephen Pierce; Assistant Treasurer, Anne Diemer; Dinner Reservations Coordinator, Marty Wingate; Webmaster, Gary Larkin. Board of Directors: Andy Hoyal, Larry Jilbert, Don Larson, Paul Miller, Jeff Rombauer, Rick Solomon, Bill Trier, Rod Cameron.

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Puget Sound Civil War Round Table meets on the second Thursday of each month, September through May.

Membership Dues for the 2007-2008 program season are now due; please contact Stephen Pierce, at [horseless1@juno.com](mailto:horseless1@juno.com), or call him at 425-640-8808. You can also mail your dues to the PSCWRT, c/o Stephen Pierce, 8008 190th Street SW, Edmonds, WA 98026

Remember that the PSCWRT is a 501c3 organization, and as such, donations you make to the organization are tax deductible.

Send news items for the October issue of The Washington Volunteer to Sylva Coppock ([SylvaCop@comcast.net](mailto:SylvaCop@comcast.net)) by Sept. 21, 2007.