

The Washington Volunteer ... PUGET SOUND CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE ... DEC 2007

MEETING: December 13, 2007

China Harbor, 2040 Westlake Avenue North, Seattle, Washington

MENU CHOICES: Mongolian Beef or Salmon

Dinners include: salad, vegetable delight, General Tao's chicken, fried rice and fresh fruit. Cost is \$21, payable at the door. Social hour at 6 p.m.; dinner served at 7 p.m.; program at 8 p.m. Call Marty Wingate at 206-782-3941 or email her at martywin@earthlink.net to make reservations. Deadline for reservations is Tuesday, December 11.

Professor Tracy McKenzie to Speak

Professor Tracy McKenzie, of the University of Washington, Department of History, will discuss: ***Both Read the Same Bible: Thoughts on the Civil War's Religious Dimension***. He will consider why and how the war was fought.

When the University of Washington History Department hired McKenzie in 1988, he filled a position vacated by legendary Professor Tom Pressly, a Distinguished Teaching Award winner, and long-term member and founder of the PSCWRT. At the time, a faculty member predicted McKenzie would "honor the position held by Professor Pressly." Not only has McKenzie honored it, he has followed in Pressly's footsteps by winning a Distinguished Teacher Award himself in 1998.



Professor McKenzie has spoken to us twice before, and his latest book is a study of Knoxville, ***Lincolntonites and Rebels: A Divided Town in Civil War America***.



"Knoxville, Tennessee, in the 1860s was a deeply divided town in a deeply divided region, a place where the dictates of conscience collided repeatedly with the constraints of power. Tracy McKenzie has brilliantly illuminated the complex issues of loyalty and dissent in the Civil War South. This book is essential reading for anyone who seeks a richer understanding not only of the Civil War but also of the moral crisis faced by people of any time or place who find themselves living under enemy rule."-- Stephen V. Ash, University of Tennessee. 📖

NOTE: Remember to turn off cell phones before the meeting so there are no distractions for the speakers.

Changes in Program Schedule – Thursday, February 14, 2008

You may have noticed that our speaker for December is not Lorraine McConaghy, as originally announced. Because of the special events we are cooperatively planning with the Museum of History & Industry (MOHAI), Dr. Lorraine McConaghy will talk about the ***Civil War on Puget Sound***, covering fugitive slaves, the Pacific Republic, Copperhead sentiment, and fear of the Confederate Raider Shenandoah at the February meeting. The talk will relate to the ongoing exhibit at MOHAI, where Dr. McConaghy is an Historian, and where the February 14th meeting will be held. 📖

Civil War Living History Day -- Saturday, February 16, 2008

Don't forget to mark your calendars and plan to participate in the "Living History Day," planned in conjunction with the upcoming exhibit, ***Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War*** – open January 19 through April 20, 2008, at the Museum of History & Industry (MOHAI). The goal of this event is to provide visitors with an opportunity to witness a

normal day in the camp of a company of Federal troops stationed in the Pacific Northwest during the Civil War, 1861-1865. To support MOHAI, the Puget Sound Civil War Round Table has appointed Board Member Mark Terry to coordinate with the museum in organizing activities for this special public program. He is working with CHAPS, a Pacific Northwest Living History group, and also elements of the Washington Civil War Association to create an event that is of the highest quality and appropriate for a public audience of all ages. Mark could use your help with this activity and if you'd like to be a part of this special effort call him at 425-337-6246 or send him an email at Markimlor@comcast.net.

A Note from Our Friend John Hinds ...

This little item is from my research time in the North Carolina Archives. True or not I think it pretty amusing. John

The following is a direct quote from an unpublished manuscript by Walter Alexander Montgomery, in the D. T. Smithwick Collection, North Carolina Department of Archives and History, Raleigh:

“A gruesome custom and rule of conduct adopted by the Confederate Army in respect to the right of taking personal property from dead bodies of Union soldiers. As long as ‘breath was in the body’ it was sacrilegious to touch it, but at the moment of last breath the captor was free to begin his search. The Confederate who reached the body first had the right of first search.”

“A Confederate stood watch over a dying Union colonel; warning off all would-be robbers by stating his prior claim to the colonel’s visible pocket watch and pocket book. Several hours later the colonel stretched himself and gave a half sigh.

“The soldier thinking the colonel had died started to take the watch.

“The colonel said, ‘Friend can’t you wait a few minutes more? I am very near the end.’

“Confused and embarrassed the Confederate soldier took off his hat and made a low bow and said in his most polite and sympathetic manner, ‘I beg your pardon. I’m damned if I didn’t think you was dead.’ ”

Veteran’s Day at Saar Pioneer Cemetery

By Sylva Coppock

In 2005, the South King County Genealogical Society began working with members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Kent and Renton, with the United Methodist Church, the Greater Kent Historical Society, Boy Scout Troops, and community volunteers to initiate a Restoration and Beautification Project at the Saar Pioneer Cemetery. This cemetery is located on a neglected knoll of land just above SR-167 at South 212th Street, adjacent to the new Winco Foods parking lot. The original project included removal of many damaged and unstable trees, elimination of blackberry vines, ivy, vinca and other shrubs and brush, as well as a general cleanup of the grounds around the gravesites.

Since 2005 the scope of the project has broadened and the ranks of the volunteer base have grown in number and dedication. Many headstones have been cleaned, repaired, and in some cases replaced. The Department of Veterans Affairs recently replaced a military stone for Lewis Warren, one of the Civil War Veterans. Thanks to the untiring work of Project Coordinator, Karen Bouton, funding to help with the restoration work has been obtained from several sources, including The Muckleshoot Indian Tribe, 4Culture, AGHOST, several individuals; and descendants of some of the people buried at Saar have participated in events held at the site.

In addition to the taxing physical work being done to reclaim the old pioneer cemetery there is a team of genealogists from the Society who are researching the lives and family connections of the 140 people who are buried in Saar Pioneer Cemetery, many of whom who still have descendants living in the area. A book will be published by the Society next spring that will contain statistical and biographical materials on all the pioneers and Civil War soldiers.

The process of having the site designed as a historical landmark with the State of Washington has been begun. The Society recently received notice of a \$15,000 on-going maintenance grant that will go a long way to further the effort.



On Sunday, November 11, I attended a special ceremony honoring five Civil War soldiers buried at Saar Cemetery. Boy Scout Troop #402 of Kent read a history of each soldier and placed American flags on the five gravesites. Representing PSCWRT, I placed a red rose on each grave. A bugler from Tahoma National Cemetery played TAPS to close the ceremony. The Civil War soldiers buried in Saar Pioneer Cemetery came from as far away as Connecticut, New York and Virginia, all ending up in the Kent/Renton area prior to their deaths:

Elias Clark was born October 1832 in New York and died between 1910-1920 in Kent. He served the Union Army from two different states. He first enrolled August 11, 1862 in Winnebago County, Illinois, and mustered in on September 4, 1862 as a private to Company F of the 74th Illinois Infantry. He served from August 1862 to January 28, 1863, and he was mustered out on account of disability. On September 7, 1864 he again mustered in at Petersburg, Virginia, as a private in Company D of the 20th Michigan Infantry and served in that company until May 30, 1865, when he mustered out in Washington DC with an honorable discharge. On July 15, 1891, Elias applied for a pension in Iowa based on his Civil War service record. On the 1870 census Elias was a carpenter in Clay, Hardin County, Iowa; in 1880 was in Steamboat Rock; and between 1880 and 1900 was a practicing physician in rural areas of Iowa. In 1900 he appears in Algona, Kossuth County, Iowa; but by 1910 had moved to Meeker Precinct, King County, Washington.

William W. Button, born in approximately 1840, in Connecticut and died 1893 is also buried in Saar Pioneer Cemetery. He was mustered in to the Union Army as a private and served in Company M, 1st Connecticut Heavy Artillery from August 1864 to August 1865.

Lewis Warren was born approximately September 1824 (1828), in Connecticut and died between 1900-1910 in Kent. He initially mustered into the Union Army as a private in Company D the 15th Iowa Infantry Regiment, on November 2, 1861 and served until February 1, 1862. He then transferred to Company K where he served until mustered out in Keokuk, Iowa on February 26, 1863. Lewis was next enrolled as a private in Company B of the 13th Iowa Infantry, on November 14, 1864, at Pottawattomie, Iowa where he remained until mustered out July 25, 1865, in Louisville, Kentucky with a commendation for his distinguished service. Lewis Warren married four times and had a total of 13 children. In 1880, at the age of 52, Lewis was an attorney in Neligh, Antelope County, Nebraska. His occupation at age 72 was listed as gardener, in Kent, Washington. Census records between 1850 and 1880 indicate that Lewis and his family lived in Rural Putnam County, Illinois, moved to Walnut, Pottawattomie County, Illinois; Columbus, Platte County, Nebraska; Neligh, Antelope County, Nebraska; in 1885 he had moved to Ainsworth Precinct, Brown County, Nebraska prior to his move to Kent, Washington before 1890 where he lived the remainder of his life.

James D. Iddings, born in May 1842 in Floyd County, Virginia and died April 9, 1902 (1903) in Renton, Washington. He was one of the rare few who served first in the Confederate Army, and late in the Civil War he enlisted as a Union soldier. At the age of 19, James enlisted first on September 10, 1861 in Floyd County, Virginia as a private in Company A of the 54th Regiment Virginia Infantry. He was hospitalized in September 1863. On May 24, 1864 he was taken prisoner in Dallas, Georgia; and was listed as a prisoner of war (POW) between May 24 and October 17, 1864 at Rock Island, Illinois. When he was released from prison on October 17, 1864, James enlisted in Company E of the 3rd Regiment Infantry, Regular U.S. Army, at Rock Island, Illinois, and he was mustered out of Federal service on November 29, 1865 in Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. On November 9, 1894 in the state of Washington, James filed for a pension based on his Civil War service. He was listed as an invalid at that time. On February 1, 1866, in Floyd County, Virginia, James married Rebecca Sumner (1829-1930) and the couple had ten children. In 1880 James Idding's occupation was listed as farmer, on Alum Ridge, Floyd County, Virginia. In 1900 he lived in the Springbrook Precinct, near Renton, Washington.

Nathaniel P. Hoag was born January 22, 1815 in South Starksboro, Vermont and died November 24, 1897 in O'Brien (Kent), Washington. He enlisted in Company F of the 118th New York Infantry in July 1862 at Elizabethtown, New York. His rank was listed as Sergeant. On January 26, 1871 he was awarded a pension based on his Civil War service, from which he received an honorable discharge. On April 10, 1877 in Trivoli, Blue Earth County, Minnesota, at the age of 62, Nathaniel Hoag married Jane Betsy Carrington (born September 7, 1829 in Bristol, Ontario County, New York; died on February 14, 1898 in Machias, Snohomish County, Washington). On the 1880 Census they lived in Carson, Cottonwood County, Minnesota and migrated to King County Washington between 1880 and 1897. 🐼

Welcome New Members

Be sure to say hello to our newest members: Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Welles, 301 W. Kinnear Place, Seattle, WA 98119-3732.

Civil War Preservation Trust Appeals for Help

“America’s Civil War battlefields are in danger!” according to Michael Allen, speaking for the Civil War Preservation Trust (CWRT). In September an appeal went out to all Civil War Round Tables across the country urging them to contact their U.S. Senators and Representatives to encourage co-sponsorship of the Civil War Battlefield Preservation Act of 2007 (H.R. 2933 in the House and S. 1921 in the Senate). This bill would reauthorize the Civil War Battlefield Preservation Program, which has become the primary federal program for preserving battlefield land and calls for \$10 million a year for five years to preserve historic battlefields in the United States.

This bill, introduced in June 28, 2007 is in the first step in the legislative process. Introduced bills go first to committees that deliberate, investigate, and revise them before they go to general debate. The majority of bills never make it out of committee. There is still time for you to voice your opinion on this program. Sample letters and phone scripts, along with other information you might need on the Civil War Battlefield Preservation Act, can be found at www.battlefieldactivist.com. ☞

Warhorses of the U.S. Civil War

CREDIT: History Today, December 2005 ...

“Historians have often stressed the modernity of America’s Civil War. The rifled-musket, the iron-clad warship, telegraphs and railroads have been heralded as revolutionary developments in its conduct. Yet Gervase Phillips argues that the dependence on often weary, sickly horses on both sides in the war; and the failure to manage their use and welfare had a significant impact on the development, and final outcome of, the struggle between North and South.

“On September 17, 1862, the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia, under General Robert E. Lee, was fought to a bloody standstill by the Federal Army of the Potomac, at Antietam, Maryland. Over 20,000 men, more than a quarter of those engaged, fell, killed or wounded, on that fatal field. In the aftermath, Lee withdrew back into Virginia, his hopes of rallying Maryland to the South’s cause frustrated. Yet he escaped pursuit. The Federal commander, George B. McClellan, allowed his enemy to slip away. President Lincoln chided and cajoled his reluctant general to action, but “Little Mac” would not be hurried. Indeed, a month after the battle, he claimed he still could not move. His army’s horses were too exhausted. Notwithstanding McClellan’s reputation for over-caution, this was not an empty excuse. For, although largely unheralded in conventional accounts of the struggle, the conduct of the war was shaped at every level, tactical, operational and strategic, by the capabilities of the American warhorse.”

Thanks to Clarke Harrison for sharing this interesting article.

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Puget Sound Civil War Round Table meets on the second Thursday of each month, September through May. The PSCWRT is a 501c3 organization, and as such, donations you make to the organization are tax deductible.

Membership Dues

Dues are \$20 for an individual and \$25 for a couple. You can mail your dues to the PSCWRT, c/o Stephen Pierce, 8008 190th Street SW, Edmonds, WA 98026. **Questions?** Email is horseless1@juno.com, or call him at 425-640-8808.

Send news items for the January issue of The Washington Volunteer to Sylva Coppock (SylvaCop@comcast.net) by December 20, 2007.