

The Washington Volunteer ... PUGET SOUND CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE ... FEB 2008

MEETING: Thursday, February 14, 2008

Museum of History and Industry (MOHAI), 2700 24th Avenue East, Seattle, Washington

**MENU: BOXED SANDWICH MEAL FROM PORTAGE BAY CAFÉ
DEADLINE TO PAY FOR BOXED MEAL IS FEBRUARY 5!**

You are not required to buy a meal for the February meeting at MOHAI, but for those who do want to eat, we have arranged to buy boxed sandwich meals from the Portage Bay Cafe. No menu decision to make -- each box will contain: a grilled balsamic chicken sandwich, small salad, chocolate chip cookie and a bottle of water, and cost is \$17, which will cover the cost of the meal and go towards the room rental fee. (No cocktail service is available for this meeting.)

If you want a meal that night, you must pay for it no later than February 5; no late reservations/payments will be taken. Make your check payable to PSCWRT and mail it to Stephen Pierce, treasurer, 8008 190th St. SW, Edmonds, WA 98026. Those who don't want to buy a meal can pay \$5 (to go towards the room rental) at the February meeting.

Lorraine McConaghy to Speak at PSCWRT Meeting ... Thursday, February 14

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. The talk will relate to the ongoing exhibit *Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War* open January 19 through April 20, 2008 at the Museum of History and Industry, where Dr. McConaghy is an Historian. ☺

Here is the official timeline for our MOHAI visit Feb. 14, as specified by Helen Divjak, public programs coordinator:

- 6-7 p.m.: Round Table members arrive and view exhibit (no food or drink allowed in the exhibit hall).
- 7-7:45 p.m.: Lorraine McConaghy to present to the group over dinner.
- 7:45-8:30 p.m.: Guided tour of Lincoln exhibit with Lorraine McConaghy.
- 9 p.m.: Program closes; all guests must exit the building.

For directions to the museum, go to: www.seattlehistory.org/visit_map.cfm

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

Living History Day at MOHAI, an Update ... 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. Mark Terry, working with the museum, is 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. ☺

Blue vs. Gray, The Civil War in the Pacific Northwest

MOHAI will host the 2008 Pacific Northwest Historians Guild Conference on Saturday, March 1, from 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. This conference is presented in conjunction with the exhibit *Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War*, which is on loan from the National Constitution Center. For more information, go to www.pnwhistorians.org or call 206-937-9604. ☺

PSCWRT Receives Gift

The Puget Sound Civil War Round Table recently received a check from the estate of Dio Richardson, who passed away in October. Dio was one of the founders of the Round Table and he honored our organization with a \$1,000 bequest from his estate. Our sympathy, and our gratitude, go to Dio's family and friends. ☹

A Word of Caution

Be especially careful about leaving items visible in your cars when parking at The China Harbor. Lock valuables in your trunk or glove box; or take them with you. Stephen Pierce's car was broken into during the January meeting, and items taken. Stephen was lucky; after an unsuccessful search the following day, a good Samaritan found his briefcase in the parking lot and returned it to him the following week, without significant loss.

According to Stephen, "They (police) caught the guy Friday that broke in to my truck Thursday and I got my stolen property back on Monday. He's the worst car prowler they've ever had in Seattle. When they caught him he assaulted a police officer trying to get away, so I think they'll be able to lock him up this time. Last time they just ran him out of town. I was on Channel 7 last night, late news as one of the distraught victims (kidding)."

Apology ... from your newsletter editor

Apparently, there was a glitch in the miracle of modern-day technology, and some people did not get their electronic issue of the January newsletter. I am at a loss to explain why this happened and will do my best to remedy the problem for the February issue. ... *Sylva Coppock*

Lincoln as a Lawyer

A library patron recently asked an interesting question of the reference librarian: Did Lincoln, ever argue both for and against in the same case at different times?

John A. Lupton, Assistant Director/Assistant Editor, of The Papers of Abraham Lincoln, in Springfield, Illinois responded to the inquiry. He explains that in the case of Columbus Insurance Company v. Peoria Bridge Company, Lincoln argued on behalf of the insurance company, or for the river interest. In a second case, Hurd v. Rock Island Bridge Company, Lincoln argued on behalf of the Bridge Company, or against the river interest. Both cases occurred in the mid-1850s. Both cases were brought to resolve issues about the obstruction of navigable rivers by the construction of bridges.

The only example of Lincoln arguing opposite sides in the exact same issue was Perkins v. Hall. In the early 1840s Lincoln represented Elisha Perkins in trying to recover a debt from Samuel Hall. Lincoln won the case for Perkins, but Hall appealed the judgment to the Illinois Supreme Court, where Lincoln continued to represent Perkins. The Supreme Court overturned the lower court judgment. In the early 1850s Perkins sued Hall again to recover the exact same debt, but Lincoln represented Hall in this case. A jury found for Perkins, meaning that Lincoln lost the case twice, losing the case for each client!

In general, Lincoln argues both sides of many legal questions. He represented both men and women in divorce cases, and in the Illinois Supreme Court, even tried to overturn a precedent for which he originally argued. Finally, he opposed railroads as frequently as he represented them, busting the myth that he was a corporate railroad lawyer. ☹

Thanks to Clarke Harrison for sharing this interesting bit of history.

Confederate Spy Warfare in 1861

In a letter dated April 5, 1862, Lt. Col. Purviance, of the 85th Pennsylvania Infantry Regiment, reported to his hometown newspaper, the Washington, Pennsylvania *Reporter and Tribune*:

"Our route lay directly through what as once the beautiful and fashionable village of Hampton. It is now a mass of shapeless ruins. On a fair night in July last (1861) I believe the rebel marauder Magruder (Confederate General John Bankhead, aka Prince John) threatened by a Union force from Fortress Monroe, only three miles distant, set fire to the

village in many places, and then rapidly retiring to a place of security, published the act of wanton destruction as an outrage perpetrated by the Union troops!

“The most conclusive evidence that the incendiaries were rebels, even if they had not subsequently admitted it, is the fact that of all the houses that once constituted that romantic and elegant town, only one escaped conflagration and that one was the residence of ex-President and traitor, John Tyler. It still stands unharmed, although the tramp of armies has level its shrubbery and defaced its once beautiful and ornamental grounds.” (See: *Dickey, Luther, History of the 85th Pennsylvania Infantry Regiment, P. 26*)

President Tyler did have a residence in Hampton called *Villa Margaret*. It survived the fire. Eventually *Villa Margaret* became part of Hampton University. *Villa Margaret* was razed early in the last century to make room for a modern building on the campus. (See: *Stensvaat, James T., Hampton from the Sea to the Stars, 1985, pp 203-4*)

Another Tyler mansion further west on the Virginia Peninsula served as Major General Silas Casey’s headquarters during the Battle of Seven Pines.

This Tyler plantation, *Sherwood Forest*, near Charles City, Virginia, has been occupied continuously by members of the Tyler family since President John Tyler purchased it in 1842. Tyler was once of the most active politicians in American history.

The Sherwood Forest website reports, “John Tyler’s 1841-1845 presidential term was the pinnacle of an active political and legal career. He was twice Governor of Virginia, a U.S. Senator, a member of the U.S. House of Representatives, a Virginia State Senator and member of the Virginia House of Delegates. A graduate of The College of William and Mary, he later became Chancellor of that institution. As a supporter of state’s rights, he re-entered public service in 1861 as an elected member of the Confederate Congress. Tyler was also the most procreative president in history having sired 15 children with two wives. He died in January, 1862 at the age of 72.” (See: http://www.sherwoodforest.org/About_SF.html)

Notes from a work in progress, submitted by John Hinds.

Welcome New Member

Mike Caffrey joined the PSCWRT at the January 10 meeting. Mike can be reached by email: MCAFFREY@VERIZON.NET

DEADLINE FOR THE MARCH NEWSLETTER

Send any news items for the March issue of The Washington Volunteer sent to Sylva Coppock (SylvaCop@comcast.net) no later than February 20, 2008.

2007-2008 OFFICERS

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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.