

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

MEETING: Thursday, March 13, 2008

China Harbor, 2040 Westlake Avenue North, Seattle, Washington

MENU CHOICES: Mongolian Beef or Salmon

Dinner includes: 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, March 11.** ☞

Richard Miller to Speak ... Thursday, March 13

Congress created five national Civil War battlefield parks in the 1890s--Chickamauga-Chattanooga, Antietam, Shiloh, Gettysburg, and Vicksburg--and then waited another twenty years before it established another one.

Historians have seen the parks' creation as the expression of late nineteenth century reconciliation and remembrance. But, the parks may have also served to reinforce the nation's growing confidence in its military prowess on the world stage. Richard Miller will examine the role of reconciliation, memory, and militarism in the establishment of the first Civil War national parks.

Mr. Miller has a Bachelors' Degree in history from Carleton College and a Masters' Degree in history from Princeton University. His thesis work on industrialization and the nineteenth century English lunatic asylum led him to a career in health care. He came to Seattle twenty-seven years ago to get his Masters' Degree in health care administration from the University of Washington and has worked in a variety of health care management positions since then. His interest in the country's efforts at reconciliation after the Civil War led to this paper on the first five national battlefield parks. ☞

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

Annual Auction to be Held April 10

The Board of Directors is looking for a Head Honcho to take the reins to plan the annual fund-raising Auction, scheduled for April 10. The job is short-term and not too time-consuming, but we need someone who can organize all the volunteers who have agreed to help into an efficient set-up and take-down team. Many of these volunteers are experienced, having helped with the logistics of the auction in previous years. If you can take on this important task, please call Leighton Wingate at 206-782-3941 or email him at flwingate@earthlink.net

Stephen Pierce drafted up an initial plan in preparation for the event, and Judy Gibson, past auction master has agreed to counsel the new chairman if need be. Stephen has already signed on to provide the blank auction sheets, colored dots, pencils and pens, and an adding machine. Of course, our treasurer is always there to handle the financial transactions at the end of the evening, with help from his assistant Anne Diemer.

Ken Bertrand as agreed to be our auctioneer. There will be a live auction as well as a silent auction.

In addition to an overall coordinator, we need contributions from the members ... or anyone else who would like to donate auction items. If you know of a business that has a charitable bent, ask for donations. Remember that this event is our annual fund-raiser, and we need people to donate auction items, and to be on hand to BUY in order to make it a profitable event for the Round Table. Bring your spouse, a good friend or neighbor, or co-workers, and help make this a fun and successful evening! ☞

Nominating Committee Named

Leighton Wingate, Mark Terry, Clarke Harrison and Pat Brady have been asked to take on the assignment of "nominating committee," to recommend officers and members of the Board of Directors for the coming year. If you are interested in serving in any leadership capacity in the Round Table, be sure to contact one of the above listed members and toss your name in the hat.

The Board of Directors is also interested in hearing your ideas for projects, suggestions for speakers, or concerns about the Round Table. ☞

South King County Genealogical Society Sponsoring Heritage Fair

South King County has a rich, multifaceted heritage developed from the industry and dedication of its early pioneers and immigrants over the past 150 years. Today we have numerous historical societies, museums, Civil and Revolutionary War interest groups, family history centers, library and research facilities, and ethnic related organizations. Each has a mission of preserving a unique part of this heritage. To provide a venue for these groups to share information, South King County Genealogical Society is sponsoring a Heritage Fair, scheduled for **Saturday, April 12, 2008** from **10 a.m. to 4 p.m.** at the **Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 34815 Weyerhaeuser Way S., Federal Way, Washington.**

Dozens of non-profit historical, genealogical, heritage and ethnic-related organizations will exhibit during the Fair, distributing information about each unique cultural focus. This is an opportunity to gain an understanding of the past interaction of people and events, and to learn about the resources, specific programs and special events sponsored by organizations today.

In addition to the exhibits, the South King County Genealogical Society is programming special entertainment, demonstrations, and classes throughout the day. The Federal Way Family History Center will be open and staff will give tours and answer questions about research resources the FHC has to offer. You can ask questions and learn how to get started researching your family.

Pre-registration is not required. The public is invited to just drop in between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Invite your friends and family to attend. Admission is FREE!

For more information go to our website at www.skccgs.org or call Sylva Coppock, 425-235-8076 or email her at SylvaCop@comcast.net. ☺

MOHAI Living History Day ~ a report on February 16, 2008 Event

By Mark R. Terry

After months of preparation, Saturday, February 16 dawned clear with a few broken clouds after a night of rain. The previous July, under the direction of the PSCWRT, I met with Helen Divjak of MOHAI to plan a Living History Day in conjunction with the traveling exhibit *Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War*. Helen Divjak wanted to have reenactors working both inside and outside the museum portraying various aspects of the Civil War in this area. The Washington Civil War Association was given responsibility for the indoor programs, while my area would be the outdoor living history. After doing some research, we adopted the impression of Company K, 1st Washington Territory Infantry, and that is how we arrived that morning to set up camp on the lawn northwest of the museum.

Twenty-three reenactors lined up into one rank and “formed company.” As soon as that was accomplished, I addressed them with the scenario for the day--we were to portray Company K as they were marching to an Indian Reservation to quell a disturbance between them and some local settlers. We wanted to show visitors what a company would do at a bivouac on the way. A perimeter guard was set up and camp was organized; a firepit was dug and tent fly erected. Our goal was to do our best to stay in “first person” -- that is, to try to think and act as if it were February 16, 1865. This was not easy to do with so many of the public approaching us, firing questions about our uniforms, our equipment, and our roles. Meanwhile our field music played many “airs” and kept everyone entertained throughout the day. Every couple of hours, we were scheduled to perform a “drill and firing demonstration.” These proved to be very popular. A crowd would start to gather and I would herd them to a safe area where they could watch. We performed “fire by company,” “fire by rank,” and “fire by file,” to demonstrate the ways a commander could control rate and volume of fire of his company.

My wife (and Round Table member) Kim Terry worked at the information table just inside the entrance to the museum. She helped visitors obtain information on our group as well as other Civil War interest groups in the local area. As the focus of the exhibit was on Lincoln, Kim used a rubber stamp of a Lincoln head profile to stamp kid’s hands. They loved it!

Re-enactor Peter Jensen with Seattle Police Department Officer.



In the early afternoon, the crowd swelled and our 2 p.m. firing demonstration was ringed with spectators, who actually clapped each time our company fired! This was something we are not accustomed to! At 3 p.m. a Lincoln impersonator, Fritz Klein was supposed to make his entrance into the museum's front door. I volunteered to help escort "President Lincoln" in, so along with another reenactor, we lead Klein up and around the building amidst a rising tide of applause and cheering.

We walked between two ranks of soldiers at "present arms," while the fife and drums played "Hail to the Chief."



Klein's resemblance to our 16th President was remarkable, which must have accounted for the enthusiastic reception! We finally got President Lincoln into the McCurdy Gallery where a question and answer session was to take place.

Toward the very end of the event, Helen Divjak came out of the museum looking a bit harried but beaming from ear to ear. Apparently, they ran out of refreshments for the Lincoln "tea" because of all the visitors cramming into the museum to see "Lincoln." She said MOHAI had hoped for 500 visitors to show up. Instead, they were over 1,000! The final count ended up being 1,125, the highest one day total of visitors to MOHAI in the history of the museum!

Needless to say, although we were tired at the end of the day, we were gratified with such a turnout. It seems as though at least some Seattleites are hungry to learn more about Lincoln and the Civil War. ☺

Mark Terry captivates his audience with uniform and equipment. Both photos used in this story are from Clarke Harrison.

Editorial Note: *Prior to this event, Mark Terry created a research paper on Company K, First Washington Territory Infantry. We were able to email it to some of our members, but if there are those who did not get a copy, please call Mark Terry at 425-337-6246 before the March 13 meeting and he will bring you a copy.*

DEADLINE FOR THE APRIL NEWSLETTER

Send any news items for the April issue of The Washington Volunteer sent to Sylva Coppock (SylvaCop@comcast.net) no later than March 21, 2008.

2007-2008 OFFICERS

President, Leighton Wingate, 206-782-3941, flwingate@earthlink.net

Vice-President/Successor, Mark Terry, 425-337-6246, Markimlor@comcast.net

Immediate Past-President & Publicity Chairman, Clarke Harrison, 425-822-2267, clarkev@comcast.net

Vice-President, Programming, Pat Brady, 206-246-1603, patsbrady@comcast.net

Vice-President, Newsletter & Membership Chairman, Sylva Coppock, 425-235-8076, SylvaCop@comcast.net
Secretary, to be determined.

Treasurer, Stephen Pierce, 425-640-8808, horseless1@juno.com

Assistant Treasurer, Anne Diemer, 206-283-9469, Annecrag@yahoo.com

Dinner Reservations Coordinator, Marty Wingate, 206-782-3941, martywin@earthlink.net

Webmaster, Gary Larkin, 206-510-7033, gary.larkin@sound60.com

Board of Directors: Andy Hoyal, Larry Jilbert, Don Larson, Paul Miller, Jeff Rombauer, Rick Solomon, Bill Trier, Rod Cameron.

* * *

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.