

THE WASHINGTON VOLUNTEER

PUGET SOUND CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

SEPTEMBER, 2010

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, September 9, 2010

China Harbor, 2040 Westlake Avenue North, Seattle, Washington

MENU CHOICES: Mongolian Beef, Chicken or Salmon (note: 3 choices now!)

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 **Rod Cameron** at 206-524-4434 or email him at rodcam@comcast.net to make reservations. **Deadline for reservations is 12 NOON on Tuesday, September 7.** ☞

ANDREW WARD TO SPEAK ON HOW SLAVES SAW THE CIVIL WAR

Andrew Ward will talk about his latest book, *The Slaves' War*, based on 1200 slave accounts full of eloquence and urgency, found in interviews, obituaries, memoirs, letters, and military records, and ranging from Fort Sumter to Lincoln's assassination. His other works include *River Run Red: The Fort Pillow Massacre in the American Civil War*; *Dark Midnight when I Rise*, and *Our Bones Are Scattered: The Cawnpore Massacre in the Indian Mutiny of 1857*.

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

2010-2011 PSCWRT SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

Please take note of the dates of our upcoming meetings for the coming year. We will keep you apprised of any changes as the season progresses.

October 14, 2010. Clarke Harrison will compare the American Civil War to the English Civil War and the American Revolution, the Cousins' Wars, a 225-year war, three wars but one revolution. All three started with disputes that should have been subject to compromise, but spiraled out of control, and each represented a step in the development of democracy and equality. A Past President of our Round Table, Clarke read a lot of history while on the road in motels as a traveling salesman.

November 11, 2010. Patrick Schroeder will discuss Myths about Lee's Surrender, the subject of two of his books. An Historian at Appomattox Court House National Historical Park, his many other works include *We Came to Fight: A History of the 5th NY Veteran Vol Infantry*, *Duryee's Zouaves*.

December 9, 2010. Dick Miller will talk about the 1862 New Mexico campaign. Notions of Confederate Manifest Destiny led to the campaign by Henry Hopkins Sibley and his 3,000-strong Army of New Mexico, where they won tactical victories at Valverde and Glorieta, but the Federals eventually achieved strategic victory. The campaign featured colorful characters like William Dirty Shirt Scurry and his east Texas troops, and John Chivington and his Colorado Pikes Peakers. Dick is President of our Round Table.

January 13, 2011. Rick Solomon will talk about Jefferson Davis's three visits to the Army of Tennessee, the first in December 1862, shortly before the Battle of Stones River; the second in October 1863, weeks after Chickamauga; and the third in September 1864, weeks after the fall of Atlanta. Were there common trends in these visits? Rick is a Past President of the Round Table.

February 10, 2011. Ethan S Rafuse will discuss Lee, Gettysburg, and the Elements of Confederate Defeat. A Professor of Military History at the US Army Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Dr. Rafuse is the author of *Robert E. Lee and the Fall of the Confederacy*; *George Gordon Meade and the war in the East*; *McClellan's War: The Failure of Moderation in the War for the Union, A Single Grand Victory: The First Campaign and Battle of Manassas*; *Antietam, South Mountain, and Harpers Ferry: A Battlefield Guide* and other works.

March 10, 2011. Members will tell about Civil War ANCESTORS: **1) Dr. William Trier** on his grandfather, who deserted from a Georgia regiment, and on his granduncle, who fought with the 4th Georgia at Chancellorsville and Gettysburg (5-10 min.); **2) Janet Oakley** on her great-grandfather, Dr. W.F. Osborn, a surgeon with the 11th PA Inf and 13th PA Cav, who was captured briefly at Gettysburg (10 min.); **3) Ken Graybeal** on his grandfather John Graybeal, 45th Ohio, captured by N.B. Forrest, later released and served in Atlanta campaign, and on great-grandfather Frank W. Edgbert, 91st and 28th Illinois, who served in Honor Guard at Lincoln's Springfield funeral (15-20 min.); **4) Don Logan** on Dyer Pettyjohn, who made the suicidal stand with the 1st Minnesota at Gettysburg (15-20 min.).

April 14, 2011. Michael B. Ballard will describe Grant's time of trial, after Shiloh to the end of 1862. Accused of negligence at Shiloh, shelved by Halleck during the Corinth campaign, performing poorly at Iuka, and calling off pursuit after second Corinth, Grant seemed to be in a slump after Shiloh. By the end of 1862, his first thrust toward Vicksburg ended with the loss of his supply base and the defeat of Sherman's force. This low point in Grant's career is often overlooked. Coordinator of the Congressional and Political Research Center, University Archivist, and Associate Editor of the U.S. Grant Papers Projects at the Mississippi State University Library, Professor Ballard is author of *Vicksburg: The Campaign that Opened the Mississippi*; *U.S. Grant: The Making of a General, 1861-1863*; *Pemberton: A Biography*; *A Long Shadow: Jefferson Davis and the Final Days of the Confederacy*; *Maroon and White: Mississippi State University, 1873-2003* and other books and articles.

May 12, 2011. Donald Stoker will consider five strategic mistakes of the Civil War, from the Southern decisions to start the war and invade Kentucky in 1861, to Lincoln's removal of McClellan and Halleck's march on Corinth in 1862, to Lee's invasion of Pennsylvania in 1863. Professor of Strategy and Policy at the US Naval War College, Professor Stoker is the author of *The Grand Design: Strategy and the US Civil War* (a selection of the History Book Club, Military History Book Club, and Book of the Month Club), and many other works on strategy, the arms trade, insurgency, and naval history.

Somewhere in this mix should be our annual auction, most likely in the spring. More information will be forthcoming as it gets closer.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By President Dick Miller

I had hoped that something momentous had happened in August 1860 so that I could write about it in this article, but Google didn't yield any key events that occurred one hundred and fifty years ago. The country was midway between the political conventions in spring 1860 and the November election. Was the country already inexorably on the road to war? Had that occurred earlier at Harper's Ferry or with the Dred Scott Decision or even earlier, say with the Louisiana Purchase that would prove to upset the balance of power so carefully constructed by the framers of the Constitution? Or was it Lincoln's election that was the point of no return?

It strikes me that the Roundtable might use the Sesquicentennial as a turning point. If the 150th anniversary creates a fraction of the interest in the Civil War that the Centennial created, we will have the perfect opportunity to leverage that interest into growth for the Roundtable. But more than building membership, the Sesquicentennial affords us the opportunity to examine our role in the Pacific Northwest promoting interest and scholarship in the War.

Mike Movius got me thinking about this last spring when he mentioned that he and Lorraine McConaghy of MOHAI had been talking about the possibilities for the Roundtable during the Sesquicentennial. Mike graciously volunteered to facilitate a board discussion, examining how we might want to respond to the 150th anniversary.

At our August 12 meeting, your board began to grapple with the possibilities presented by the Sesquicentennial. Mike led our discussion and Lorraine McConaghy shared her vision of a Roundtable actively involved in a range of activities meant to promote and celebrate the Civil War. We talked about publicizing our meetings in new ways; Jeff Rombauer, for example, provided a list of internet sites we can tap to announce our meetings and Jim Dimond volunteered to create a Face Book page for the Roundtable that may well reach a new group of Civil War buffs. We also talked about reaching out to a variety of local and national associations with ties to the Civil War to learn about their Sesquicentennial plans and see if opportunities exist for joint programs.

Mike and Lorraine challenged us to think big—much bigger than we dared. For example, they suggested we might want to co-sponsor a Civil War symposium with the Pacific Northwest Historians Guild, or seek to get involved with public school classes through King County 4 Culture, or sponsor a Civil War trek with Exploritos (the old Elder Hostel). Who knows what we might undertake over the next four years of the Sesquicentennial?

So on the eve of the 2010-2011 season of speakers, I want to ask the Roundtable members, "How should the Roundtable take advantage of the Sesquicentennial? How can we best celebrate the 150th Anniversary?" I'd be interested in your thoughts...either email me at milomiller882@msn.com or see me at one of the meetings.

ARE YOU TAKING A CIVIL WAR TRIP BACK EAST?

If you are planning a trip to a Civil War site this or next year, please contact **Stephen Pierce** so he can compile a list. Whether your trip is organized or personal makes no difference. We seem

to always have people going back there and we're not using our club as a resource. We have all these deals, and inside knowledge that we're not sharing. Maybe we can put together a group thing. Stephen's contact information is at the end of the newsletter.

SPECIAL NOTE REGARDING THE NEWSLETTER

Rick Solomon will be helping new Newsletter Editor Mark Terry learn what needs to be done to produce our monthly missive. Please be patient during this time of transition as the newsletter may appear different from month to month, but we will always strive to make sure you have the information you need to be an active member! Our goal will continue to be to have the newsletter in your hands close to two weeks before each monthly meeting. If you have any input regarding the newsletter, please contact Mark.

LEADERSHIP CHANGES FOR THE ROUND TABLE

Welcome back to the 25th season of the Puget Sound Civil War Round Table! We hope you have enjoyed our annual summer hiatus. While you took a break from meetings, the officers and board were busy making transitions. Dick Miller is now our President, with Steve Bass moving up to Vice President Successor, while Mark Terry slid into Leighton Wingate's role as Immediate Past President. Additionally, Mark agreed to take over the duties of Newsletter Editor Rick Solomon. A long vacant position has finally been taken up as Larry Jilbert volunteered to be our Secretary.

There was some discussion of the fact that we haven't had elections for board members in quite awhile, and so we asked all our long standing board members who would want to return for a 1 or 2 year term, or retire from the board. Paul Miller, Dr. Bill Trier, Clarke Harrison, Rod Cameron and Andy Hoyal chose to step down and so we thank them for their long, faithful and dedicated service to our Round Table! Clarke and Rod are serving in other ways, however- see below. Jim Dimond, Jeff Rombauer and Larry Jilbert will be staying on as board members. Because of the fact that active membership in our Round Table has declined in the past few years, we've come to the conclusion that we may not need a 7-8 member board as is required by the PSCWRT Constitution. This still needs to be confirmed by a vote of the membership, as well as some of the new officers. There is a complete list of the Officers and Board Members of the PSCWRT at the end of the newsletter.

DUES & DONATIONS

Now that the new season is beginning, this is a reminder that membership dues are payable either at the meeting or by mail: \$20 per individual, \$25 for a couple. Also, donations are gratefully accepted. These will help secure speakers for our meetings. Please note that all donations are tax deductible as the PSCWRT is a 501(c)3 organization.

THE FOLLWING ARTICLE COMES COURTESY OF MEMBER JOHN HINDS, CURRENTLY RETIRED AND LIVING IN TEXAS. THANKS, JOHN!

If you would like to submit an article or your own research for the October, 2010 Washington Volunteer, please turn it into Mark Terry via email or snailmail no later than Wednesday, September 29, 2010.

A Renegade and His Regrets

A Confederate who refused to quit fighting but ended up a model citizen.

By STUART FERGUSON

In August 1865 the French military garrison at Matehuala, in central Mexico, fully expected to be slaughtered by the Mexican troops besieging the outpost. Napoleon III had imposed Emperor Maximilian I on the country the year before, supplanting Mexican President Benito Juarez. Now forces loyal to Juarez were fighting back, driving for Mexico City. Only Matehuala stood in their way.

Then word arrived that the French might have an unlikely savior: Jo Shelby, a renowned Confederate cavalry general who had refused to surrender when the Civil War ended in April. Having led a contingent of Southerners into Mexico, many of them soldiers, he now offered his help to the French. He was ready to attack the Mexican army, he declared—President Juarez, after all, enjoyed the U.S. government's support, and Shelby was not fond of the U.S. government.

As historian Anthony Arthur notes in "General Jo Shelby's March," Maximilian would ultimately refuse Shelby's broad offer of support. But the beleaguered French garrison at Matehuala welcomed him. Shelby's adjutant, Maj. John Newman Edwards, later described the cavalry attack on Juarez's forces: "Shelby's charge was like a thunder-cloud. Nothing could live before the storm of its revolver bullets. Lurid, canopied in smoke-wreathes, pitiless, riding right onward." The Mexicans fled "in hopeless and helpless flight." Shelby and his men were fêted by the grateful French for three days. The remarkable story of how Gen. Jo Shelby (1830-97)—his full name was Joseph Orville, shortened to J.O., or Jo—came to be fighting for France in Mexico is the focus of Mr. Arthur's work, a page-turner of a history that the author completed shortly before his death last year. Another volume or two would be needed to capture Shelby in full, but Mr. Arthur sketches in enough of Shelby's early life and Civil War exploits to give us a vivid sense of the unbowed, renegade commander who headed south of the border.

General Jo Shelby's March

By Anthony Arthur

Random House, 265 pages, \$26

Shelby grew up with a passion for horses and riding in Lexington, Ky., but when he turned 21 and inherited \$80,000 from the estate of his father (who had died when Shelby was 5 years old), he moved to Waverly, Mo., and started a rope-manufacturing business. There, on the Missouri River in the western part of the state, the wealthy, charismatic young man built a mansion and bought steamboats. He also took part during the 1850s in the bitter fighting between advocates of the Kansas Territory's entry into the Union as a slave-free state and "border ruffians," many of them pro-slavery Missourians. Shelby, a gifted horseman who counted himself among the proponents of slavery, emerged from the bloody campaign (in the end, Kansas was admitted as a free state in 1861) with a reputation as a fierce and wily fighter.

Shelby's legend only grew with the outbreak of war and his appointment as the commander of all Confederate cavalry forces between the Arkansas and Mississippi rivers. The soldiers he led directly were known as the Iron Brigade. In the fall of 1863, the brigade launched a wide-ranging

raid that covered more than 1,500 miles, destroyed 10 Union forts and, perhaps most important, bolstered morale throughout the South.

A grim note in Shelby's story occurred in April 1864 at Marks' Mills, Ark. Shelby led a technically brilliant capture of a Union supply train consisting of 240 wagons and five pieces of artillery, guarded by 1,500 men—all killed or captured by Shelby's raiders. But the Confederates also killed dozens of black teamsters, servants and escaped slaves. They were shot down, a Union witness said, like dogs.

Mr. Arthur says that Shelby's rampaging soldiers were beyond his control: "No orders, threats, or commands could restrain the men from vengeance on the negroes," according to Maj. Edwards, an eyewitness. (Revenge for what? Attempting to gain their freedom?) In any case, author doesn't present any evidence that the general regretted the shameful episode.

At war's end, Shelby led an embittered expedition of perhaps a thousand men to Mexico. Their number included about 200 of his former troopers, soldiers from other Confederate commands and what must have seemed like half the Confederate government, including the governors of Missouri, Louisiana, Tennessee and Texas.

Shelby and the others didn't enter Mexico with military action in mind; they were simply determined to make a new start far from the hated Yankees. But the ex-Confederates rode into the middle of another civil war. As Mr. Arthur relates, Shelby's ragtag group ran a gantlet of bandits, Apaches and Mexican rebel forces—including those at Matehuala—as it headed to Mexico City to offer the emperor military assistance. Maximilian received Shelby cordially but astutely judged that aligning himself with former Confederates would only inflame the U.S., which already resented France's incursion in Mexico.

But Maximilian invited the Southerners to stay on and granted them land where they could farm.

Shelby did take up farming in Mexico—briefly. When France withdrew its support of Maximilian in 1867, Shelby and the other Americans who had come to Mexico after the Civil War scrambled to escape the doomed regime.

Shelby—back in America barely two years after Appomattox—embarked on an astonishingly successful campaign to rehabilitate his reputation. He restarted his life in Missouri and renounced his support for slavery, becoming such a model citizen that in 1893 President Grover Cleveland appointed him U.S. marshal for western Missouri. One of Shelby's first acts as marshal was to name a black man as a deputy. Racists denounced the old rebel general, who responded with a written statement. He had "no patience with that sentiment that gropes always among the tombstones," Shelby said, "instead of coming out into the bright light of existing life and conditions." As Mr. Arthur concludes, Shelby was a "man who fought bravely for a doomed cause, and who ultimately reconciled himself not only to defeat, but to the fact that his cause had been fatally flawed by the greatest evil"—slavery.

Mr. Ferguson is a Rossetter House Foundation Scholar of the Florida Historical Society

EDITOR'S NOTE: Shelby's foray into Mexico reminded me much of the movie "The Undeclared" with John Wayne & Rock Hudson in the main roles plus then L.A. Rams football players Roman Gabriel & Merlin Olson in support. It was one of my favorite movies as a kid, but of course very much "Hollywood-ized" from what actually occurred...

2010-2011 OFFICERS

Elected*

President, Richard Miller, 425-201-3234 or 206-808-8506, Milomiller882@msn.com

Vice-President/Successor, Steve Bass,

Immediate Past-President Mark Terry, 425-337-6246, Markimlor@comcast.net

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

Vice-President, Newsletter, Mark Terry (info above)

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

Secretary, Larry Jilbert,

**Except for Immediate Past President, which is an automatic position.*

Appointed

Publicity Chairman, Clarke Harrison, 425-822-2267, clarkev@comcast.net

Assistant Treasurer, vacant

Dinner Reservations Coordinator, Rod Cameron, 206-524-4434, rodcam@comcast.net

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

Official Greeter, Larry Cenotto

Elected Board of Directors

Jeff Rombauer, Jim Dimond, Larry Jilbert

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.