

Celebrating our 25th Anniversary 1985-2010

**THE WASHINGTON VOLUNTEER
PUGET SOUND CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
HTTP://WWW.PSCWRT.ORG/
NOVEMBER, 2010**

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, November 11, 2010

China Harbor, 2040 Westlake Avenue North, Seattle, Washington

Time: Social hour at **6 p.m.**; Dinner served at **7 p.m.**; Program at **8 p.m.**

MENU CHOICES: Mongolian Beef, Chicken or Salmon

Dinner includes: salad, vegetable delight, General Tao's chicken, fried rice and fresh fruit. Cost is \$21, payable at the door, **but reservations and meal choices are required.**

To make reservations and meal choices, **Contact Rod Cameron at 206-524-4434** or email him at **rodcam@comcast.net**. **Deadline for reservations is 12 NOON on Tuesday, November 9.**

PATRICK SCHROEDER ON THE MYTHS OF LEE'S SURRENDER

Patrick Schroeder, our speaker for November, 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 *Thirty Myths About Lee's Surrender*; and *We Came to Fight: A History of the 5th NY Veteran Vol. Infantry, Duryee's Zouaves*. He and his wife Maria run Schroeder Publications, which specializes in books on the American Civil War. Check <http://www.civilwar-books.com/> on the Internet.

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

IMPORTANT DISPATCHES

The following is information concerning you and the PSCWRT. Please read and take notice.

MEMO FROM LARRY CENOTTO- WEAR YOUR NAME TAGS!

We have been advised to point out there is a new sheriff in town. That is our newly appointed round table greeter, Larry Cenotto. Larry is a self-described thug and previous ice-hockey enforcer, among many other slightly suspect roles, and wants all to know that (in that immortal Civil War phrase) "there will be hell to pay" for those who don't show up with their name tags – and wear them -- at the next meeting. If the tags have been forgotten at home, please bring them in. Those who forget, may ... uh ... "purchase" a temporary name tag, for 25 cents, or 50 cents if there are objections. There will be 100% compliance (or else). All proceeds go to the club's general fund. But original name tags are preferred. Purpose of this calling is for our members to learn each other's names, talk to each other, and join in welcoming newcomers and guests. Those caught sneaking into the comers to read prior to meetings instead of socializing, will be given a taste of the 'Cat-O-Nine-Tails' or memorialized as John Wilkes Booth accomplices.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Larry is our Official Greeter. Though his message is a bit "tongue-in-cheek", wearing our name tags is something we should all do at meetings. The most common reason given by people who have not returned to our meetings is that we were "not very friendly". One way to keep that from happening is to wear our name tags so we can all know each other's names, and then go out of our way to welcome and speak with those who we don't know. Thank you!

DUES & DONATIONS

A big THANK YOU to those who have renewed their dues. If you haven't, they are \$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. Tax information will be provided at your request.

NEEDED: VOLUNTEER FOR TREASURER

This is a reminder that we need your help. Stephen Pierce has been Treasurer of the Round Table for some years now. He has done an outstanding job, but like a good soldier who has been on the "front line" for far too long, he needs a rest. If any member would be interested in stepping up and taking over as Treasurer, please contact any board member or officer. Please know that Stephen will gladly help you in the transition. Thanks so much.

NEW MEMBERS!

Please note: If you are a new member and you have not been listed here, let me know. Thanks.

George Tamblyn, tamblyn3@comcast.net or 206-200-4119

Sam Brown, 1120 2nd Ave South, Edmonds WA 98020, geosam2@aol.com or 425-771-7304

How the Civil War Influenced Attitudes Regarding Death and Loss President's Corner, November 2010

By Dick Miller

Last October, just before Halloween, I had to attend corporate training back at headquarters in Franklin, Tennessee. The planning committee had the bright idea of holding a company Halloween costume party at the Carnton Plantation. The plantation house the night of the party was—to say the least—a perfect spot for a Halloween tour. We were admitted to the house well after dark. Only candles lit the inside, creating shadows in the corners and flickering images of the portraits on the walls. The house had been used as a field hospital after battle and the guide showed us in each room the bloodstains on the floor boards where wounded men had lain. Afterwards, we walked across the darkened yard in front of the house to the Confederate Cemetery where 1,481 Southern soldiers killed during the battle lay buried.

For me, the tour was more than a ghoulish exercise—although I did enjoy the chill it produced. Being there reminded me how intimate loss must have become for both Northern and Southern families. Six hundred, twenty thousand men, North and South, died. There is a scene in the movie Cold Mountain that captures that loss perfectly. Ada Monroe, the beloved of the Confederate soldier Inman, goes to the church and as she opens the door of the church, we see that the door is covered with black ribbons and photographs of all the dead and missing men of the little mountain town. The image encapsulates the pain so many families must have felt.

One of the best books I have read about the Civil War—a book anybody who is interested in the Civil War must read—is Drew Gilpen Faust’s [This Republic of Suffering: Death and the American Civil War](#). Dr. Faust published her book in 2008 and it amazes me that no one had studied so central a theme of the Civil War until then. She writes

Loss became commonplace; death was no longer encountered individually; death’s threat, its proximity and its actuality became the most widely shared of the war’s experiences. (p. xiii)

Because of death’s ubiquity, the nation had to redefine its attitudes about both killing and death and the government had to accept new responsibilities for identifying bodies, providing an appropriate resting place for the dead, and notifying relatives of their loved one’s place of burial. It was just one more way in which the War revolutionized life in America.

I recently bought two Thomas Nast drawings from [Harper’s Weekly](#). One drawing, published on September 20, 1862 and titled “A Gallant Color Bearer,” shows a Union officer grabbing the U.S. colors as the brave color bearer falls, shot in the chest. It is the type of sentimental and patriotic imagery that must have stirred Northern hearts. The other print, published on July 18, 1863 and titled “The Results of War,” depicts a forlorn landscape with buzzards in misshapen trees overlooking a ruined grist mill. The image is not pleasing to look at but probably closer to the truth than “A Gallant Color Bearer.” It seems to me that as we study the Civil War, we would do well to keep both images—both the brave and the desolate—in mind.

EDITOR’S NOTE: I visited Carnton Plantation in 2003. It truly is a remarkable place, where the reality of the war hits you. When a friend and I were given a tour, the tour guide stooped down next to a blood stain on the floor, and placed her right lower arm in the exact spot where a soldier’s amputated right lower arm had left a bloody imprint. You could even see where the right little finger had curled around. For me, at that moment, it was all real and I was back in 1864...

Civil War Quiz- The Election of 1860 *for answers, see the last page of this newsletter.*

1. When he was running for president in 1860, Abraham Lincoln was called-among other things- “Old Abe”. Within two years, how old was he at the time?
2. Lincoln’s vice president during his first term was Hannibal Hamlin of the state of: _____
3. Besides Lincoln, who were the other three candidates running for president in 1860?

150 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH: NOVEMBER 1860

Even as we prepare our ballots to mail in or vote in person at our local precinct places on Election Day November 2, one hundred and fifty years ago, our nation was gearing up for another election. Looking back, we can see that the Presidential Election of 1860 was the crucial event of this month- in fact one of the most crucial in American history as subsequent events would show...

November 6, Tuesday Election Day

Abraham Lincoln Elected President of the United States. Thanks to a split in the Democrat Party, Lincoln was elected by only a third of the popular vote, though he won the Electoral College handily. (See answers to the quiz for a breakdown of the returns)

November 10, Saturday

The legislature of South Carolina called for a convention on the question of secession to meet December 17, 1860. Meanwhile, both South Carolina senators resigned their seats in the U.S. Senate.

November 13, Tuesday

The legislature of South Carolina resolved to raise 10,000 volunteers for defense of the state

November 15, Thursday

Major Robert Anderson, First Artillery, received special orders to proceed to Fort Moultrie at Charleston Harbor and relieve Brevet Colonel John L. Gardner in command. It was felt that Anderson, a Southerner by birth, would be more acceptable to the local citizenry.

November 18, Sunday

The Georgia legislature voted a million dollars to arm the state.

November 20, Tuesday

Attorney General Jeremiah Black, in answer to questions submitted by President Buchanan, tells the president that the government could repel aggression but not wage an offensive war against a state. There was little leadership from the Buchanan Administration as the country drifted toward disunion.

November 21, Wednesday

President-elect Lincoln journeyed to Chicago to meet with the future Vice President Hannibal Hamlin. They discussed Cabinet posts during the next five days.

November 23, Friday

Sand dunes were piled so high around Fort Moultrie at the edge of Charleston Harbor that cows could walk right in. Nevertheless, Maj. Robert Anderson reported that the fort could be made defensible- but he needed more soldiers or it would "invite attack". He favored moving to Fort Sumter, though it too was incomplete. In regards to the local population, he wrote "The clouds are threatening, and the storm may break upon us at any moment."

These events are taken from the book *The Civil War Day by Day* by E.B. Long.

THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE IS SUBMITTED BY JOHN HINDS, MEMBER, RETIRED IN TEXAS...

In introducing the article to me, John wrote "The following is from the Richmond Daily Dispatch of October 9th 1863. I wonder if any of our members would know the present day whereabouts of this historic cannon? What a treasure."

An Eventful gun.

--The Memphis Argus gives the following account of a gun captured at Vicksburg:

In the year 1768, in La Belle France, it first came into existence. It was christened with the Royal Crown and Cypher of the kingdom. It is an iron gun, its make antique, looking like old- time cannon, moulded when the world was not as old by centuries as now. Its calibre is that of a 36-pounder.

On the 25th day of April, in the years of grace 1777, Lafayette landed in Charleston; with him landed the gun, cast in France, and bearing the imprint of royalty, which in future was to open its iron throat and bellow out, "Down with King and tyranny, and up with the star of a free people and a free Government." All through the war of the Revolution its voice resounded with those of our fathers in their shouts of battle and of victory. At the close of the Revolutionary war it was taken to New Orleans and kept there until the second war with Great Britain, when it took an active part under Gen. Jackson in the great battle of New Orleans, and helped to shout for victory there for freedom, and shriek defeat into the ears of Pakenham.

It rested until the commencement of the Texan war, when it was carried, by a regiment of volunteers from New Orleans to assist the Texans in gaining their independence from Mexico. In March, 1836, it was present and took part in the bloody siege and fight of Alamo, and would have heard, had it ears, the death of the brave David Crockett, James Bowie, and a host of kindred spirits whose blood was freely offered up for their country's cause, and whom fame has crowned with never-failing glory. The Alamo fell, but not until all of her defenders had suffered martyrs' deaths at the hands of cruel and treacherous Mexicans. The only souls left out of the one hundred and thirty-six to tell the tale of its slaughter was Mrs. Dickinson and a Negro. Our guns were captured there and taken by the conquerors to the City of Mexico.

In 1847, when Gen. Scott entered the City of Mexico, he espied the old gun among the trophies of war in the capital of the Montezuma, and caused it to be removed to the city of New Orleans, where it remained until the beginning of the present war, when it was put into the celebrated Washington battery and carried to Vicksburg and used against the United States, for whom it had done service for three-quarters of a century. On the 4th of July, when Vicksburg, the great stronghold of Mississippi, fell, this gun was noticed by Gen. Grant, and, being invested with so many and such old associations, was sent by him to Washington. It will occupy a prominent place in the capital, and, from its war-worn appearance, look of antiquity, and singular history, will be accounted one of the greatest of trophies as well as curiosities of the present age.

John also wrote "NOTE: The Richmond Daily Dispatch is available on line at <http://imls.richmond.edu/> The site is interactive. I have found it a richly rewarding view of daily life in Richmond and of the affairs of the Confederate government."

We welcome your article or research submissions for the newsletter, but they may be edited. The deadline for the December, 2010 Washington Volunteer is Tuesday, November 23, 2010. Please have it in Mark Terry's hands via email or snailmail by then. Yes, this deadline is early- because of the Thanksgiving Day holiday, when we will be out of town...Thank you!

2010-2011 OFFICERS

Elected*

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

Vice-President/Successor, Steve Bass, sbass@monsonandbass.com

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

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

Website: <http://www.pscwrt.org/>

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.

Answers to Civil War Quiz: The Election of 1860

1. 51
2. Maine
3. Candidates, with parties and election results:

<u>Candidate(Party)</u>	<u>Popular Vote</u>	<u>Electoral Vote</u>
Lincoln (Republican):	1,866,452	180
Douglas (N. Democrat):	1,376,957	12
Breckinridge (S. Democrat)	849,781	72
Bell (Constitution)	588,879	39 ¹

¹ Long, E.B. *The Civil War Day By Day*, pgs. 2-3.