

*Celebrating our 25th
Anniversary 1985-2010*

**THE WASHINGTON VOLUNTEER
PUGET SOUND CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
[HTTP://WWW.PSCWRT.ORG/](http://www.pscwrt.org/)
FEBRUARY, 2011**

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, February 10, 2011

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 for adults and \$10 for those under 18 (new student rate), 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, February 8.**

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, Kansas, 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* and *Antietam, South Mountain, and Harpers Ferry: A Battlefield Guide*, among other works.

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.

CIVIL WAR BOOK DISCUSSION

During next season, Sept 2011 thru May 2012, one meeting will feature our first Round Table book club discussion. Two books will be discussed, and everybody will be asked to choose one of those books, read it, and pitch into the fireworks at the meeting. Read both books if you want.

FOR NOW, PLEASE GIVE YOUR BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS TO PAT BRADY, patsbrady@comcast.net, 206 246 1603 (home), or 206 689 8570 (work). The best books for discussion tend to be those that argue a viewpoint, so please recommend books like that. We are always looking for more speakers on more topics. To volunteer, please contact Pat Brady. See email and phone above.

NEW MEMBER:

Please note: If you are a new member and you have not been listed here, let me know. Thanks.
Joe Wheeler, Home 360-790-707, joefredwheels@yahoo.com

PSCWRT MEMBER QUESTIONNAIRE

Please remember to fill out and return the questionnaire that you received in last month's newsletter to Larry Cenotto via e-mail at: cenottothe5th@yahoo.com, or it can be faxed to **(425)256-2367**. If you don't have a copy and want one, please let me know. Thanks!

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

March 10, 2011 Donald Stoker: Five strategic mistakes of the Civil War.

April 14, 2011 Michael B. Ballard: Grant's time of trial, after Shiloh to the end of 1862

April 15, 2011 Book Signing by Michael B. Ballard [**tentative**] Barnes & Noble, U. Village

May 12, 2011 A panel of members will share their research on their Civil War Ancestors. Our **ANNUAL AUCTION** will be held in conjunction with this meeting.

June 25-26, 2011 Port Gamble Civil War Reenactment. We usually have a booth there to publicize the Round Table.

Secession in 1857?

President's Corner, February 2011

By Dick Miller

Ten days after the start of the New Year 1861, Mississippi and Florida had followed South Carolina into secession. Their stated reason for leaving the Union echoed the Palmetto State's "Declaration of the Immediate Causes," issued shortly after South Carolina voted for secession. The South Carolina delegates asserted that Lincoln's election represented the culmination of "an increasing hostility on the part of the non-slaveholding states to the Institution of Slavery." The Mississippi delegates argued on January 9 that "we must either submit to the degradation, and to the loss of property worth four billions of money, or we must secede from the Union" while the Florida delegates claimed two days later that "all hopes of preservation of the Federal Union...has finally dissipated by the most recent indication of strength of the anti-slavery sentiment of the free States."

Although the slaveholding states had complained for decades that the free states' words and actions undermined their rights of property, it was Lincoln's election on November 6, 1860 that moved the South inexorably toward secession. Lincoln, as we all know, did not gain a single vote in ten slaveholding states where his name did not appear on the ballot, yet won the election by carrying all of the states in the North, the Midwest, and the far West. His election prompted South Carolina to call its secession convention, initiating the movement across the slaveholding South to disunion. This is the well-known story of the start of the Civil War.

Yet the 1860 election—characterized by the Southern threat of disunion if the Republican candidate was elected followed by a highly sectional contest—had been foreshadowed by the 1856 election. According to James McPherson in Battle Cry of Freedom, the Democrats, and their presidential candidate James Buchanan,

...presented an image of Union-saving conservatism as an alternative to Republican extremism. The old issues of banks, internal improvements, and the tariff seemed of little interest in this election...the salient issues were slavery, race, and above all Union. (pp. 157-158)

As they would four years later, Southern politicians warned of dire consequences if the Republican Fremont were elected. The Georgian Robert Toombs said that “The election of Fremont would be the end of the Union, and ought to be.” His colleague, Senator James Mason of Virginia, claimed “If Fremont is elected there will be a revolution” and added that the South “should not pause but proceed at once to ‘immediate, absolute, and eternal separation.’” (p.158)

Just as the 1860 election pitted Breckinridge against Bell in the South and Douglas against Lincoln in the North, the 1856 election essentially consisted of two races, Buchanan versus Fillmore (the American Party candidate) in the South and Buchanan versus Fremont in the North. Fremont did not appear on the ballot in the Deep South states and did poorly in the upper South. Like Lincoln, he carried the Upper North, including the New England states and Wisconsin and Michigan as well as Ohio and Iowa. But unlike Lincoln, Fremont yielded Pennsylvania, Indiana, Illinois, and California to Buchanan. Those states, plus New Jersey and 112 electoral votes in the South, gave Buchanan the victory.

Events during the next four years—continued discord in Kansas, the Dred Scott case, John Brown’s raid on Harper’s Ferry—have been considered the harbingers of the war to come. But it is interesting to consider that if Fremont had won the lower North states, secession may have occurred four years earlier in 1857. Would Fremont, the well-known “Pathfinder” but a politician with as little experience in office as Lincoln, have resisted secession? Or would he have let the “Southern sisters” go? Who knows? It would be fun counter-history to consider.

JANUARY 2011 NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION

Each month, about two weeks prior to the upcoming meeting, the email version of the Washington Volunteer is sent out as a “group email”. They have normally been sent out as a “blind cc”, so that each recipient does not have a header with everyone’s email address on it. Apparently last month half of the email addresses didn’t copy properly during composition and thus some of you did not receive your email version until about a week prior to the January meeting. Please accept my apologies for that error. I will do my best to make sure it will not happen again.

For future reference:

- Please note that both the email and snailmail versions of the newsletter are sent two weeks in advance of a monthly meeting. If you do not receive it close to that time, PLEASE CONTACT ME and let me know. My email address is: markimlor@comcast.net and my home phone is 425-337-6246.
- Those of you that receive the Volunteer via email will note that the newsletter is attached to the email as a Word document. The reason is so that you will print your own hard copy, as

that is what is intended. The only reason I copy/paste the newsletter in the body of the email is in case the attachment cannot be opened.

- Lastly, 24 copies of our newsletters are sent each month by regular mail. This is done as a service to those who do not have access to email or who prefer to get their newsletter in that format. Please note that it is expensive for the Round Table to prepare and send them out in this way. The January 2011 issue (8 pages) came out to \$1.22 per copy, whereas the emailed versions were virtually free. So please consider changing over to the email version if you can, since every dollar saved is one we can use for future speakers for our Round Table. Thank you!

CIVIL WAR TRAVEL WEBSITE

In almost every issue of the Volunteer, we publish a new and interesting website related to the Civil War. This came from member Mike Movius. It is called Civil War Traveler:

<http://www.civilwartraveler.com/events/index.html>

This amazing site has a host of information about civil war reenactments, living history, lectures, tours and much more by region, state and date. Check it out! And while you are at it, let us know what tours you will be going on this year so we can share that with others. It would be great to go on a CW battlefield tour as a group!

SEARCHING FOR YOUR CIVIL WAR ANCESTOR?

By Mark Terry & Stephen Pierce

Just recently some of our members have been discovering they have ancestors who served in the Civil War. President Dick Miller told us about his ancestor in last month's newsletter, and at the January meeting, Treasurer/Publicity Chairman **Stephen Pierce** related how he found some family connections to the War. Stephen asked if he could give you more details. Here is what he wrote:

Searching for Civil War relatives used to be a years worth of searching and dead ends. Now you can do it in hours on your own computer. First I signed up for one month at **Ancestry.com** for \$15, and with it came 2 weeks for free. I was done in my first 2 weeks. You just fill in the boxes of known relatives, dates and locations. The computer gives you death records and census sheets for your family as you go. You don't have to look through them- the computer goes to the entry you want and asks you if you want to add it to your resource file. In 2 weeks, I found people in my family and my wife's family back to the 1600's. But what I was really interested in finding was someone in the Civil War and Rev War relatives. I found a grandfather, Sgt. Oliver Beckwith, 1841-1932, in the 9th Iowa Regiment. I also found Capt James Disney, another grand father, 1755-1828, who was a US Marine in the Rev War. If I looked harder, and at cousins and uncles, I'd find more. I'll do that later, maybe. Now I can become a Son of the American Revolution, SAR, if I want. I can also delve into the 9th Iowa with a passion. But now, what I want to do is formalize this, make a frameable chart and give it to my family members. I think it would be a great gift for the future.

I want to reinforce what Stephen related. I used Ancestry.com during a recent visit to the regional National Archives near Sand Point and it was very helpful to me. It is free to use there, along with access to other Internet Genealogy sites. Of course, you may need to share time at the computer if they are busy. There are many members who have already done research on their

ancestors. If you would like to know how, please let us know. I am sure we could put you in contact with someone who could help you learn the ropes. Genealogy is a fun and satisfying hobby. Here is the location of the archives:

National Archives & Records Administration
6125 Sand Point Way Northeast
Seattle, WA 98115-7959
(206) 336-5115

CIVIL WAR QUIZ

Answers are on the last page of the newsletter

1. Abraham Lincoln and Jefferson Davis had some things in common- three of these four, in fact. Which statement is NOT true?
 - a. They were born in the same state
 - b. They assumed the presidency at the same age
 - c. Each suffered the death of a young son while in office
 - d. Each studied at West Point

 2. Allan Pinkerton served as head of a government spy agency charged with guarding the president. What was that early agency called?
 - a. Union Intelligence Service
 - b. Central Espionage Bureau
 - c. National Bureau of Secret and Preventative Measures
 - d. Homeland Protective Agency

 3. Who was pushed out as governor of the newly seceded state of Texas after he refused to profess loyalty to the Confederacy?
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150 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH: FEBRUARY 1861

If January 1861 was the month of Secession, February was the month of Confederation. Early in the month, the seceded states sent representatives to the Alabama capital of Montgomery to decide how they were to form a new nation. The North looked on in concern and astonishment as President-Elect Lincoln traveled to Washington D.C., making many speeches along the way, most of them encouraging citizens not to be overly concerned. Meanwhile, the opposing forces at Charleston Harbor continued to prepare for whatever was coming...

February 1, Friday

The secession convention in Texas voted 166-7 to leave the Union, making it the seventh state to do so. In Charleston, the steamer *Marion* took aboard 17 women and 18 children from Fort Sumter to take back home out of the way of potential harm.

February 4, Monday

Thirty seven representatives of six Southern states convened at Montgomery for the purpose of forming a unified government- what would become the Confederate States of America. In Washington D.C. 131 representatives from 21 states met as a "Peace Convention", called by the state of Virginia, to do what they could to stave off the coming crisis.

February 8, Friday

A Provisional Constitution was agreed upon by the Convention of seceded states late in the day.

February 9, Saturday

Jefferson Davis of Mississippi and Alexander Stephens of Georgia were unanimously elected by the convention to be Provisional President and Vice-President of the Confederacy. Meanwhile in Tennessee, a call to consider a secession convention was rejected by voters.

February 11, Monday

In an ironic twist that modern news organizations would love, both U.S. President-Elect Lincoln and C.S. President-to-be Jefferson Davis left their homes at Springfield, Illinois and Brierfield Plantation, Mississippi, respectively to travel to their national capitals to be inaugurated.

February 18, Monday

Jefferson Davis was inaugurated as the President of the Provisional Confederate States of America on the steps of the State capitol of Alabama in Montgomery. U.S. Brevet Maj. General David Twiggs surrendered all U.S. military posts in Texas to the state. He was branded a traitor in the North for this action.

February 23, Saturday

After a long trip by rail with many stops and speeches, President-Elect Abraham Lincoln arrived in Washington City at 6 A.M., the last leg of the trip made in secret as an assassination attempt was feared. Lincoln would be a very busy man as he worked to organize his cabinet and governmental leadership.

February 27, Wednesday

The Peace Convention sent six proposed amendments to the Constitution to be voted upon by the U.S. Congress. In the end, none of them passed and the members of the Peace Convention went their own way.

February 28, Thursday

The U.S. House passed and sent to the Senate an amendment approved by President Elect Lincoln that slavery could not be interfered with by the Federal Government in states where it already existed. This was thought to be a “harbinger of peace”. Meanwhile, North Carolina voters said “No” to a state convention on secession.

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, (info above)

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, cenottothe5th@yahoo.com

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: horseless1@juno.com, or call him at 425-640-8808.

Answers to February 2011 Civil War Quiz: 1. d. 2. a. 3. Sam Houston