

*Celebrating our 25th
Anniversary 1985-2010*

**THE WASHINGTON VOLUNTEER
PUGET SOUND CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
HTTP://WWW.PSCWRT.ORG/
MAY, 2011**

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, May 12, 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, May 10.**

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.).

The presentations will be preceded by and followed with **PSCWRT's Annual Auction**. Details below...

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

Clear Out Your Attic--ANNUAL AUCTION at May 12 Meeting

Even if you don't have a Civil War relic to donate to this year's auction, please bring an item or two to contribute to either the silent or live auctions. Mark Terry's mom Dana Thompson will be attending as guest of honor and she has promised to donate another one of her wonderful

watercolors. There will also be an original painting of a Civil War naval vessel, donated by Stephen Pierce's friend. And hopefully, lots of books and desserts and gift baskets and other items will be available. Be creative- anything you feel someone would like to purchase will likely sell. So mark your calendars!

And don't forget that two anonymous members have together made a contribution of \$250 each (\$500 total) to be matched by your cash contributions. There will be an opportunity during the auction when you can pledge your contribution. So be generous...it is your dollars that enable the Roundtable to bring you first-rate Civil War historians each year.

NOTE: When you bring your auction items, please come a little early. Volunteers will help you get them ready to be bid upon.

“Many Hands Made This Year Successful”

President's Corner, May 2011

By Dick Miller

Another successful PSCWRT season ends with our May meeting and I have enjoyed a great first year as your president. There are a number of people I want to thank for their hard work. First—and foremost in my mind—is a big shout-out to our inestimable program chair, Pat Brady. How Pat pulls together fabulous speakers year after year is a mystery, but it is clear to me that his dedication to the PSCWRT and connection to Civil War historians across the country have led to so many outstanding presentations year after year.

Second, many thanks to those members who have volunteered time and effort to organize and run our monthly meetings. To Rod Cameron, who takes our meal reservations for each meeting. To Stephen Pierce and Steve Olson, who collect our money and hand out meal and raffle tickets. And to Larry Cenotto, who has served as our official greeter for both old members and new visitors.

Speaking of visitors, we had many new faces at our meetings this year and 12 new memberships! A lot of the credit for our new members goes to Gary Larkin, who has been our webmaster for years; Stephen Pierce, who has done a great job getting the word out about our meetings; and Mark Terry, who has edited a very informative “The Washington Volunteer” this year. Thanks to you all.

I'd like to specially thank Mike Movius who has worked with the Board this year in discussing how the PSCWRT might take advantage of the Civil War's 150th anniversary to expand our activities and membership. The Board is considering a number of ideas, including sponsoring a Civil War essay in the Seattle school system. Mike has also assumed responsibility for our web site from Gary Larkin and has begun work planning for a revamp of the site.

A round of thanks to all the Board officers and members: Mark Terry (immediate past president and newsletter editor), Steve Bass (vice president and president elect), Stephen Pierce (treasurer), Larry Jilbert (secretary), Pat Brady (vice president programming), Rod Cameron (board member), Jeff Rombauer (board member and incoming treasurer), and Jim Dimond. You've been a great support during my first year as president.

Finally, I want to thank you, members of the PSCWRT, for your attendance at and participation in our meetings. I'm disappointed that I won't be able to attend the May meeting. Having discovered this year that my great grandfather fought with the 59th Ohio Infantry for three years, I really wanted to hear other members' stories about their ancestors' part in the Civil War. I'm also disappointed that I can't ham it up at the auction, but I know that Steve Bass will do a great job with its organization and Jim Dimond with running the live auction.

See you all in September!

IMPORTANT DISPATCHES

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

INPUT FOR THE "WASHINGTON VOLUNTEER"

By Mark Terry, Editor

This issue of the Washington Volunteer marks the completion of my first season publishing your newsletter. My thanks to many of you who have sent in articles, internet links and other items that I've been able to share with the rest of the membership. My goal is to always try to improve the product and make it relevant and interesting to you, our membership. Part of that is seeking input from you.

Whatever you have to share with me about the newsletter:

1. Please keep the topic to the newsletter- not what China Harbor feeds us, or what you don't like about the speakers, etc.
2. Be specific and constructive in your criticism. General criticism or praise is okay, but doesn't really get to details that I need to know and improve upon.

When I put an issue together I emphasize three areas in this order:

- A. Information on the coming meeting: Date, Time, Speaker, Topic, and meal choices.
- B. Important information concerning the PSCWRT and its members that you should know.
- C. What I term "Fun Stuff"- articles on topics concerning the Civil War, Internet links, the Civil War Quiz, Sesquicentennial happenings, etc.

It is the last part that is most interesting to me and which can be worked with. I look forward to articles and links sent in by you. The more that is sent in, the longer and more interesting a "Volunteer" will be. I may also be experimenting with the overall format of the newsletter in the future to improve the look and readability of the contents. Obviously, I will not be able to incorporate every bit of input that comes in, but with your help, my hope is that our newsletter will be something that you look forward to each month and that will be informative and interesting as well. Thanks!

150 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH: MAY 1861

Now that the war was on, it was time for both sides to plan and prepare. Others were still on the fence. The states of the upper South and the "border states" where sympathies were mixed were still "in play" and no one really knew what was to happen.

May 3, Friday

After asking the states for 75,000 volunteers in April, President Lincoln asked for a further 42,034 to enlist for 3 years. Along with additions to the regulars and the Navy, the total came to 156,861 for the Army and 25,000 for the Navy.

May 6, Monday

The legislatures of Arkansas (69-1) and Tennessee (66-25) passed ordinances of secession, with the decision of Tennessee to be voted on June 8, though secession was virtually assured. These were now the ninth and tenth states to join the Confederacy. In Montgomery, President Jeff Davis approved a bill that declared a state of war existed between the C.S.A. and the United States.

May 10, Friday

With tension building between Pro-Secession and Pro-Union militias in St. Louis, Capt. Nathaniel Lyons with a large contingent of Unionist troops (many of them of ethnic Germans) seized a smaller group of secessionist Missouri State Troops at Camp Jackson outside the city. While marching them to the arsenal in the city, citizens attacked Lyons' troops, who fired back into the crowds. Some 29 people were killed or mortally wounded. Mobs rioted through the streets and tension continued for several days before things quieted down.

May 13, Monday

Without orders, Brig. Gen. Benjamin Butler took troops into the city of Baltimore, Maryland (another border state) and seized it, claiming reports of rioting. In England, Queen Victoria declared Great Britain to be officially neutral in the conflict.

May 20, Monday

In Raleigh, N.C., the secession convention voted unanimously for the state to secede, making North Carolina the 11th and last full state to do so. Missouri and Kentucky both had pro-Southern Governors but Unionist legislatures, splitting the governments of those states. Both states eventually fielded both Confederate and Union volunteer units.

The Provisional Confederate Congress voted to move the capitol of the Confederacy from Montgomery, AL to Richmond, VA.

May 23, Thursday

The citizens of Virginia voted 3-1 in favor of secession. Virginia was officially in the Confederacy.

May 24, Friday

Federal troops cross the Potomac River and take Alexandria, Virginia. During this action, Col. Elmer Ellsworth of the 11th N.Y. Fire Zouaves took down a secession flag from the Marshall House. As he was coming down the steps, he was shot and killed by the hotel keeper James Jackson, who was in turn killed. Both became martyrs to their respective sides.

May 28, Tuesday

Brig. General Irvin McDowell assumed command of Federal troops in Northeastern Virginia, including Alexandria.

May 29, Wednesday

President Jefferson Davis arrived in Richmond, which would now become the Confederate capital. He was welcomed by a delegation led by Governor John Letcher.

May 31, Friday

Gen. Pierre Gustave Toutant Beauregard is named to command the Alexandria Line, or all Confederate troops in Northern Virginia.

The following article was submitted by member John Hinds in Texas.

EDITOR'S NOTE: I wasn't aware of this new research going on, but I welcome it. Having reenacted with a group from North Carolina- the 26th N.C.T., I am well aware of the long standing rivalry between N.C. and Virginia over the respective records of their fighting units. I too was curious about the apparent huge loss of N.C. troops compared to the other Southern states. The only reason I could come up with was that N.C. units were often sent into bad situations and had correspondingly high casualty rates. The 26th, for example ended up with large losses at Malvern Hill (it's first big battle), Gettysburg a year later, then Bristoe Station a few months after that- all from futile charges into prepared positions. I am glad someone is doing the research since in my opinion the truth is always preferable to a myth. I hope you will enjoy reading this article...

**The [Civil War] Numbers War Between the States—Wall Street Journal
March 26, 2011**

New Research Questions Who in the Confederacy Had the Most War Dead

By CAMERON MCWHIRTER

RALEIGH, N.C.—Josh Howard is playing with fire here in the heart of the old Confederacy, with a scholarly finding that could rewrite the history of the Civil War.

For more than a century, North Carolina has proudly claimed that it lost more soldiers than any other Southern state in the nation's bloodiest conflict. But after meticulously combing through military, hospital and cemetery records, the historian is finding the truth isn't so clear-cut.

Official military records compiled in 1866 counted 40,275 North Carolina soldiers who died in uniform. Though known to be faulty, those records have gone largely unchallenged. With most of his research done, Mr. Howard has confirmed only about 31,000 deaths. "It's a number we can defend with real documents," he says. He expects to confirm a few thousand more by the time he finishes this summer, but the final tally will most certainly fall short of the original count, he says.

Across the state border in Virginia, traditionally believed to have the fourth-highest number of war deaths in the Confederacy, librarian Edwin Ray has identified about 31,000 Virginia soldiers who died in the war—more than double the Old Dominion's once-accepted number of 14,794. And he still has more to add.

"It's going to be close," says Mr. Ray, a 55-year-old Air Force veteran who works at the Library of Virginia. "Josh and I are sure of that. It's going to come down to a very small number."

With the 150th anniversary of the Civil War beginning in mid-April, that small number could spark a big controversy between two states with rivalries that date back to the great conflict. Some Civil War buffs in North Carolina have already accused Mr. Howard of attempting to diminish the state's heroism and the hardship it suffered. "Records were a whole lot fresher 150 years ago," says Thomas Smith Jr., commander of the North Carolina Sons of Confederate Veterans, who is suspicious of Mr. Howard's new count.

"I don't care if Virginia has two people more who died, or a hundred more," says Michael

Chapman, a 55-year-old videographer from Polkton, N.C., who used to head up the local Sons of Confederate Veterans camp. He calls the recounts "irrelevant."

The research by Messrs. Howard and Ray has the potential to rewrite part of the history of the war that redefined America.

History books maintain that about 620,000 soldiers died in the war, when giant armies clashed in battles on a scale never seen before or since on the North American continent. Yet the 1866 counts, compiled by the federal government, were based on scattered and inconsistent Union and Confederate records.

The war was a chaotic affair, with armies that grew large and quickly, and rudimentary bureaucracies that were incapable of tallying the losses. Neither side had any reliable way to accurately record the overwhelming numbers of war deaths. Soldiers didn't wear dog tags for identification, as they do today. Record-keeping fell apart as the war progressed, especially in the South, say historians.

The new counts aren't likely to unseat the Civil War as this nation's most devastating conflict. The second-highest toll of American military losses came in World War II, with more than 405,000 deaths, according to a congressional research report. Still, historians say, the overall Civil War death toll could change by tens of thousands if every state were to conduct a count. It could also revise historians' understanding of which states suffered the heaviest losses.

To opponents of recounts, that's a slippery slope. "Some have had a mindset that you are just trying to downplay all that is Confederate," says Keith Hardison, co-chair of North Carolina's Civil War 150th anniversary committee, which ordered Mr. Howard's study. When the recount was announced, Mr. Howard received angry emails, letters and calls. "One hundred and fifty years later, there are people on both sides of the aisle who have made up their mind and don't want to be confused by the facts," Mr. Hardison says.

Others say getting an accurate number might be a lost cause. Harvard University president and Civil War scholar Drew Gilpin Faust commends "the impetus to count" as an act of paying homage to the fallen. But records were so poorly kept at the time and afterward that no one will ever really know how many people actually died, she says.

Messrs. Howard, Ray and other supporters of recounting say the digitization of service records, the creation of searchable databases and other technological innovations make it much easier—and enticing—for historians to produce more accurate counts. The two researchers are using electronic records, but also traditional sources like archives, diaries, church records and newspaper accounts, to figure out more precisely who died where, how and on which side.

Neither Mr. Howard nor Mr. Ray wants to start a war between the states. "I'm not interested in fighting it out over who lost the most," says Mr. Howard, a 31-year-old North Carolinian. "I'm interested in getting it as accurate as possible."

Still, the two men know they're stirring up trouble. "When you research the Civil War, you are going to have backlash, no matter what," Mr. Howard says.

Indeed, the new numbers add fuel to a long-simmering rivalry between Virginia, which was home to the Confederacy's capital in Richmond, and North Carolina, which claimed more losses for the Southern cause.

The two states often jostled over which units had fought harder, and the arguing continued after the war was over, says John Coski, chief historian for the Museum of the Confederacy in Richmond. He remembers arguing with boys at camp in the 1970s about which state lost more soldiers.

"It was just like sports teams today," says Henry Kidd, 60, a re-enactor from Colonial Heights, Va., who has ancestors who fought from both states.

In Virginia, troops often saw themselves as the Confederacy's crack fighters because they were led by its best strategists, including Gen. Robert E. Lee and Gen. Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson. In numerous publications and speeches during the war and after, North Carolinians prided themselves on fighting the hardest. For generations, North Carolinians claimed their soldiers were among the first to fight, got the farthest on the battlefield at Gettysburg, and were the last to fight near Appomattox Court House, where Gen. Lee's army surrendered.

John C. Inscoc, a history professor at the University of Georgia and an expert on the Civil War in North Carolina, says Tar Heels may have had a political motive in amplifying their numbers. The state had an inferiority complex after the war, because its units were known for high desertion rates, he says.

Not so, says Greg Mast, a 62-year-old re-enactor and retired postal worker from Timberlake, N.C. Mr. Mast says he has researched desertion among various units to explore that claim, and found Tar Heel rates weren't any higher than those of other units. "The more you study the war, the less true the received wisdom about the war seems to be," he says.

Mr. Howard says North Carolina troops did desert in large numbers toward the end of the war, but he says it made sense, since many soldiers wanted to get back to their families when they heard that Union forces under Gen. William T. Sherman had entered their state.

North Carolina and Virginia are the only two Southern states currently conducting official recounts. But a devoted handful of amateurs are doing their own counts. Bing Chambers, a 63-year-old retiree and amateur historian from Columbia, S.C., has spent at least 17 years researching his state's war dead. He thinks his new research will raise his state's toll to about 22,000 from an earlier estimate of 17,682. He has long wondered about North Carolina's claim. "Frankly, 40,000 always seemed like a lot," he says, adding that his research has proved a longstanding Palmetto State claim that not one white South Carolinian fought for the federal government during the war.

Civil War death tolls from more populous Northern states still surpass Southern losses, as the North fielded a larger army that suffered staggering casualties in a grueling war of attrition. New York reported the most deaths of any state—46,534, according to the 1866 federal report.

But in the South, the 1866 report established an interstate hierarchy of loss. North Carolina's death toll overwhelmed all other Confederate states; South Carolina trailed as a distant second.

Mississippi was third with 15,265, and Virginia fourth.

The war generally doesn't evoke the same public interest in the North, Midwest and the West as it does in the defeated South, where most of the battles were fought and the land was devastated. For generations, whites in the region also migrated less frequently than those in the North—where immigrants with no ties to the Civil War flooded industrialized cities—so more people retained a family connection to those who fought.

Mr. Howard, whose expertise is the American Revolution, had no intention of working on the Civil War when he joined the North Carolina Office of Archives & History in 2007. But when his boss went looking for someone to gather data for a book commemorating the 150th anniversary, Mr. Howard's experience with military records made him an obvious choice.

In an office amid a warren of cubicles, Mr. Howard has spent most days since last June poring over thousands of records. He checks military documents, hospital files, prisoner-of-war camp records, postwar pension applications, court martial proceedings, battle reports and other material to try to determine whether each soldier who served from North Carolina died in combat, or by execution or from disease, which count as a war-related death.

He often starts with a name off a muster roll—a monthly record kept by army clerks to figure out soldiers' pay—and tries to track what happened to each soldier. If it isn't immediately clear, he searches further, looking at census data, pension records, diaries, cemetery records, hospital records and other material.

Mr. Howard, his tie loosened, sat slumped at his desk in front of his computer on a recent day. An image of a Confederate hospital record was illuminated on the screen. He looked for a notation clarifying whether the patient was discharged or died. The soldier was discharged, but it wasn't clear from these records what happened to him, whether he went back into combat or left the army.

The work sometimes leads down fascinating paths that illuminate the war in ways he never expected. He found one man who fought for the Confederacy, was taken prisoner and then joined the Union army and commanded black troops. There were men taken prisoner who never returned to North Carolina. Their wives assumed they were dead, but census records showed they took up new families in other states. He found Confederate prisoners of war who agreed to fight Native Americans out West in exchange for being released.

Many cases are straightforward. If Mr. Howard finds a report that marks an individual "killed in action" at a particular battle, or one that shows a soldier died in a hospital or prison, he adds it to his list of men who died in uniform.

Many died in battle. Others died of illnesses like chronic diarrhea or typhoid. A few died from spider bites. One was shot by a fellow soldier after allegedly being mistaken for a bear. But for thousands of other soldiers, Mr. Howard can find no way to tell when, where or how they died. Many disappear along the paper trail.

Confederate Private Solomon Willis, Company F, 55th, North Carolina Infantry, enlisted at age

32 in 1862, and was captured by federal forces in April 1865, according to records Mr. Howard found. A report shows that Mr. Willis, in good health, was released from prison in June of that year. But Mr. Howard couldn't find a record showing that the soldier returned to his wife in North Carolina. She filed for a state veteran's pension in 1901, claiming Mr. Willis was killed in action. Without proof of death, Mr. Howard couldn't put Mr. Willis on his list.

Mr. Ray, a research librarian at the state Library of Virginia, started looking at Virginia military deaths from colonial times to the present about nine years ago. The result of his effort is an online database. The Civil War remains the largest and most difficult part of his database because of its size and the poor records, he says, and he expects a more complete tally will take several more years.

His database lists 27,520 Civil War military deaths from Virginia. But he has yet to check all of his records against National Archives data and census records. He has found roughly another 4,000 Union deaths from West Virginia, which was part of Virginia until 1863, and expects to find more war dead from cemetery records and county histories.

While Mr. Ray plays down the rivalry with North Carolina, he is confident Virginia eventually will be declared the leader in war deaths within the Confederacy. "The odds are, when we look at it it's going to make sense that Virginia would have the larger numbers," he says.

Responds Mr. Howard: "We'll see when we're done."

STAY INVOLVED DURING THE SUMMER AT THESE LOCAL CIVIL WAR RELATED EVENTS

With the PSCWRT season wrapping up for the summer, the question is what to do to scratch that "Civil War Itch"? See the events below for the answer. Summertime is the prime season for Civil War reenacting in Washington and Oregon. Check the websites listed below for details of these events. Also, the Veterans Memorial Museum in Chehalis is planning another 150th Anniversary Event, this one focusing on the Battle of First Bull Run (Manassas). Having gone to the Fort Sumter Event at the VMM last month, which was very enjoyable, this event should be a good one as well.

April 30-May 1: Fort Steilacoom Reenactment. We may have a booth set up to publicize our Round Table. See <http://www.wcwa.net/> for more information

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

May 28-30: Battle Reenactment, Spokane, WA.

June 25-26, 2011: Port Gamble Civil War Reenactment. We usually have a booth there to publicize the Round Table. See <http://www.wcwa.net/> for more information.

July 16, 2011: 150th Anniversary of the Battle of Bull Run; Veterans Memorial Museum, Chehalis, WA. www.veteransmuseum.org

August 6-7: Battle Reenactment, Ferndale, WA. <http://www.wcwa.net/>

October 1-2, 2011: Battle Reenactment, Plain, WA. <http://www.wcwa.net/>

SNEAK PEEK OF 2011-2012 ROUND TABLE SPEAKERS

Our VP of Programming, Pat Brady, has been busy getting us ready for the 2011-2012 Season. Here is a snapshot of PSCWRT meeting dates and the speakers. Please note that this calendar of speakers is subject to change, but are listed here to whet your appetite for things to come...

September 8, 2011. Daniel Weinberg, Abraham Lincoln historical artifacts, letters, etc.

October 13, 2011. Knute Berger Ante-Bellum strife in the Pacific Northwest

November 10, 2011. Larry Tagg on his book, The Unpopular Mr. Lincoln

December 8, 2011. Lorraine McConaghey will discuss "Free Boy: A Story of Slavery and Freedom on Puget Sound"

January 12, 2012. Book Club discussion of two books: 1) Stephen W. Sears, Controversies and Commanders: Dispatches from the Army of the Potomac; 2) TBA

February 9, 2012. Richard Roland the Battle of Franklin.

March 8, 2012. Larry Cenotto the Battle of Antietam.

April 12, 2012. Round Table members Civil War ancestor talks.

May 10, 2012. TBA

We welcome your article or research submissions for the newsletter, but they may be edited. The deadline for the September, 2011 Washington Volunteer is Wednesday, August 24, 2011. Please have it in Mark Terry's hands via email or snailmail by then. 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, Jeff Rombauer [pending approval of membership]

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, 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.