

THE WASHINGTON VOLUNTEER

PUGET SOUND CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

[HTTP://WWW.PSCWRT.ORG/](http://www.pscwrt.org/)
SEPTEMBER, 2011

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, September 8, 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 (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, September 6.

DANIEL WEINBERG WILL DISCUSS “TATTLINGS OF A COLLECTING VOYEUR: TREASURES OF THE ABRAHAM LINCOLN BOOKSHOP”.

In his talk, Weinberg, owner of Chicago's Abraham Lincoln Bookshop, will emphasize Lincoln letters and documents, lithographs, campaign badges, photographs, broadsides, mourning relics and other artifacts that have passed through the shop relating to Lincoln's early life, the 1860 presidential campaign, and the assassination. A director of the Lincoln Forum, the Abraham Lincoln Association, and the Manuscript Society, Mr. Weinberg is co-author of *Lincoln's Assassins*. This book will be available at the meeting, thanks to Carol Santoro of Santoro's Books.

ELECTIONS! Please note that we will be electing a new treasurer (Jeff Rombauer nominated) and two new board members (Mike Movius and Rick Solomon nominated).

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

NEW, EXPANDED PSCWRT WEBSITE!

Michael J. Movius, our new Webmaster, has been very busy this summer constructing the new PSCWRT website that was announced at the end of last season. The website has been expanded to include all kinds of information related to the Civil War, including documents, articles, links, photos, CW events and many other items that should make it a “must” for *anyone* looking for items of interest related to the War Between the States. Besides information on the War, the website will contain basic information on the Round Table, allow members to make reservations & dinner choices, plus order books through an Amazon.com link. Newcomers to our site can also join online. There is a link to download newsletters as well, which may become the primary way to access the newsletter. We want our membership to use the website as it may become the primary tool for communication between our board and you. Here is the URL:

[HTTP://WWW.PSCWRT.ORG/](http://www.pscwrt.org/)

“SNAILMAIL” NEWSLETTERS

If you are among the small number of members receiving this copy via the USPS, we would ask that you please consider using the Internet to access your monthly copies of the newsletter. We would like as many members as possible to do so to lower costs and make distribution to you easier. Please let me know your “druthers” either way at: 425-337-6246 or via email:

markimlor@comcast.net.

DECEMBER MEETING: BOOK CLUB DISCUSSION

You may be asking “why is the December meeting of the Round Table being highlighted in the September newsletter?” This is an excellent question! The answer is that there will be no speaker at that meeting- instead we’ll be relying on members to have read the material that we will be discussing *and* you will need time to read those books by then. “What are the titles and how can I get them?” I hear you ask. Thanks to Carol Santoro, our long-time and faithful book provider, she will have the following three titles available starting at the September Meeting:

Stephen W. Sears, *Controversies and Commanders: Dispatches from the Army of the Potomac*

James M. McPherson, *This Mighty Scourge: Perspectives on the Civil War*

David W. Blight, *Race and Reunion: The Civil War in American Memory*

As Pat Brady writes “*We want people to get their books now and actually read them before discussing them in December. It's so much better to discuss a book you have read than one you have not, even though as undergraduates some of us got pretty good at talking about books without wasting the time reading them.*”. Please also note that the books can be ordered through the Amazon.com link on our website, or directly from Santoro’s Books at carol@santorosbooks.com or (206) 784 2113. She can either ship books to your home address or send them to the next meeting for pickup there. If you are really strapped, you can always check them out of the library.

You won’t be required to have an encyclopedic knowledge of the books, but certain chapters and sections will be focused on. For more information on that, **find the December meeting information on the year’s schedule at the end of this newsletter**. If you have any more questions, please contact Pat Brady at the September meeting or through his contact information listed herein.

DUES & DONATIONS

Now that the new season is beginning, here is your first 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.

Lee as Emancipator

President’s Corner, September 2011

Dick Miller

While you all are enjoying Dan Weinberg’s talk on “Treasures from the Abraham Lincoln Bookstore” at our September 8 meeting, I’ll be at a site steeped in the Lincoln legend—Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. To prepare for my trip to the battlefield, I recently read parts from Glenn Tucker’s *Lee and Longstreet at Gettysburg*. Tucker examines the relationship between the two central Confederate generals at the battle, using the Lee-Longstreet controversy to discuss many of the popular legends as to why the South lost Gettysburg. (I also read Steven E. Woodworth’s *Beneath a Northern Sky: A Short History of the Gettysburg Campaign*, which is a quick and engaging read for someone wanting to brush up on their facts before visiting the battlefield.)

Tucker spends considerable pages discussing the Lost Cause, examining how Jubal Early and other Lost Cause apologists blamed Longstreet’s failures during July 2, 1863 in order to protect their vision of Lee as the invincible and peerless leader of the Army of Northern Virginia. (By

the way, Woodworth is less gentle than Tucker about Longstreet's performance at Gettysburg.) With Lee already revered by the Southern populace, the Lost Cause writers shaped Lee's myth so that he became the paragon of Southern civility, the perfect antebellum Southern gentleman whose honor and loyalty led to selfless duty to Virginia and the South.

The Lost Cause's depiction of chattel slavery as a benign institution—its protection hardly the reason for the Southern states' secession—was underscored by their hero's latent emancipationist beliefs. According to the myth that grew around the Confederate leader, Lee held private beliefs that slavery was evil and consequently had freed his slaves prior to the outbreak of the Civil War. As recently as ten years ago, the Richmond Times-Dispatch, in an editorial response to a threatened black boycott of the Richmond Historic Riverfront Foundation over a mural containing a picture of Lee, used the myth of Lee as anti-slavery and an emancipator to question the boycotters' motives.

Of course, anybody familiar with the Gettysburg campaign might question how Lee—the Southern gentleman who believed slavery to be evil—could have turned a blind eye to his army's efforts to return Pennsylvania blacks to slavery. Woodworth reports that Lee's soldiers began the "abductions" of free blacks as soon as they entered Pennsylvania and that several hundred were sent south into bondage during late June and early July. Woodworth claims that the Confederate high command did not condemn the practice; indeed Longstreet instructed Pickett to make sure that captured blacks were sent along. (Woodworth, Beneath a Northern Sky, pp 27-28)

Elizabeth Brown Pryor, in her Reading the Man: A Portrait of Robert E. Lee Through His Private Letters, explodes the myth of Lee as a hater of slavery. As virtually all Americans believed in the mid-nineteenth century, Lee considered blacks to be morally, socially, and physically inferior to whites and that however "painful" slavery might be, subjugation was necessary for "their instruction as a race." As a result, according to Pryor, Lee continued to participate in the system up to and through the Civil War. She characterizes him as an unsympathetic and demanding master, willing to break up families when it was convenient to trade away members to other slaveholders. As late as July 1860, he expressed a willingness to buy slaves and at about the same time, he was fighting a court case to keep slaves "indefinitely" under his control who had been promised freedom in his father-in-law's will. (Pryor, Reading the Man, pp. 144-151)

Perhaps myth is too strong a word. Lee's writings apparently have sufficient ambiguity about slavery that one might reasonably arrive at a different interpretation than Pryor and other contemporary historians. (See Alan T. Nolan's Lee Considered: General Robert E. Lee and Civil War History) That history yields different interpretations is the joy of the discipline, the reason why so many of us are enthralled with its study. At our December 8 meeting, we'll have the opportunity to argue for our own positions when we discuss three important and provocative studies, Sears' Controversies and Commanders, McPherson's The Mighty Scourge, and Blight's Race and Reunion. I hope everybody will read one of these books between now and then and come prepared for a lively discussion. In the meantime, if you think I have disparaged Lee's reputation too much, please let me know.

MORE CIVIL WAR RESOURCES ON THE WEB...

During the summer, people have sent me some interesting websites related to the Civil War for me to share with you- so here goes.

Lincolnarchives Digital Project Blog

The Lincolnarchives Digital Project is proud to announce their new blog located at www.lincolnarchivesdigitalproject.wordpress.com. Here you will find sample documents representing the records which are located at the National Archives and are currently being digitized and placed online.

The Lincolnarchives Digital Project was launched in 2002. The goal is to provide access to the over 14 million federal records, which are housed at the National Archives, online. After the Civil War, the Federal Government initiated the project which published the "Official Records of the War of the Rebellion". Documents were selected from the millions which were created, which were published in the multiple volumes for army, and navy.

When completed, the Lincolnarchives Digital Project will have updated the "Official Records", as well as providing Lincoln's administration: Executive, Legislative, and Judicial, online, transcribed and annotated, and fully searchable. In addition, newspapers of the time, including the Philadelphia Press, Springfield Republican, New York Tribune and Herald, New York Illustrated News, Frank Leslie's Illustrated, National Intelligencer, and others will provide rich secondary source material. Supplemental sources including Political cartoons, maps, photographs, and video podcasts will also provide resources for the Civil War scholar, student, and lifelong learner. Check out the website at www.lincolnarchives.us or call 240-462-9802.

Our thanks to Garry Schalliol of the Washington State Historical Society for passing this on to us. This certainly relates to our September Speaker's topic as well as speakers later in the year.

Special Collection of Civil War Maps and Nautical Charts

Believe it or not, this website is by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), not your typical outlet for information on the Civil War. This just goes to show how the Civil War can be found in many obscure places on the Internet if we look for them.

Here is the link: http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2010/20101007_civilwar.html

Enjoy going through their collection and make sure to thank member Jay Rusling, who relayed it on to me for you!

West Coast Civil War Conference- Sacramento, CA: November 11-13, 2011

Speakers: Craig Symonds, William C. (Jack) Davis, Brian Wills, Jim Stanbery and Larry Tagg.

We are hoping there will be enough interest in this event to perhaps have a delegation show up from the PSCWRT. Please let someone on the board know if you want to go! For more

information on speaker schedule, topics and how to register, see:

<http://www.sacramentocwrt.com/wccwconference2011.htm>

CIVIL WAR QUIZ (answers on the last page)

1. At the start of the war, Lincoln called for volunteer soldiers. At that stage, for how long were men expected to sign up?
a. 3 months b. 12 months c. 24 months d. 36 months

2. Early in the war, Lincoln negotiated with a European hero who offered his services to the Union but added some requirements- such as abolishing slavery- that the president declined to meet. Who was he?

3. What former explorer and anti-slavery candidate for president, while commander of the Union Army's Department of the West, issued a unilateral emancipation proclamation for slaves in Missouri? (Lincoln, waiting for the right time to issue his own proclamation, voided the order)

PUGET SOUND CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE 2011-2012 MEETING **SCHEDULE**

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 13, 2011. **Knute Berger** will talk about sectional politics and strife in the Pacific Northwest leading up to the Civil War, including struggles over blacks in the region and over slavery in the territories, issues he has discussed in his article "Slavery? Here?" Author of *Pugetopolis: A Mossback Takes on Growth Addicts, Weather Wimps and the Myth of Seattle Nice*, Mr. Berger writes a monthly column for *Seattle Magazine*, is a regular commentator for KUOW, and writes the Mossback column for Crosscut.com, a Pacific Northwest online daily.

NOVEMBER 10, 2011. **Larry Tagg** will talk about his latest book, *The Unpopular Mr. Lincoln: The Story of America's Most Reviled President*, focusing on the surprisingly low opinion many held of Lincoln, for reasons ranging from low regard for the institution of the presidency at the time, Lincoln's low electoral totals, his initial obscurity and personal idiosyncrasies, to the controversy over his proclamations. The author of *The Generals of Gettysburg*, Mr. Tagg teaches English and Drama in Sacramento, after an earlier career as a musician with the bands Uncle Rainbow and Bourgeois Tagg.

DECEMBER 8, 2011. **Book club discussion**, with each member choosing and reading one (or more) of three books, and showing up ready to argue, affirm, assert, dissent, differ, and dispute, all in the same spirit of civil and reasoned discourse that characterizes our national politics. The book choices:

1) Stephen W. Sears, Controversies and Commanders: Dispatches from the Army of the Potomac. Read Preface and Chapters 1, 4, 6, 7, and 10, covering McClellan and the historians, McClellan's return to command after 2nd Bull Run, the revolt of McClellanite generals that undermined Burnside and Hooker, a defense of Hooker at Chancellorsville, and Sheridan's removal of the McClellanite Warren at Five Forks.

2) James M. McPherson, This Mighty Scourge: Perspectives on the Civil War. Read Chapters 4, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, and 15, covering Confederate strategy, Lee's goals in the Gettysburg campaign, the Lost Cause textbook crusade, Grant and Sherman, Hard War, Lincoln and Grant on Vicksburg, Harvard at war, no peace without victory, and Lincoln and the historians.

3) David W. Blight, Race and Reunion: The Civil War in American Memory. Blight argues that postwar North and South achieved sectional reconciliation at the expense of the emancipationist vision and racial progress. Read the Prologue, Chapters 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 (pages 237-254 only), 8 (pages 264-266 and 292-299 only), 9, 10 (pages 338-345 only), and the Epilogue, covering the transformation of decoration day, soldiers' memory and faith emphasizing soldiers' passion, heroism and memory immunized from causes of the war, sentimentalism vs. realism in war memory, the Lost Cause transformed into national reunion, dissenters from the Lost Cause, black memory and progress of the race, and the bronze relief memorial to Robert Gould Shaw and the 54th Massachusetts.

JANUARY 12, 2012. Lorraine McConaghy will discuss A Slave and His Master in Washington Territory. When James Tilton, a Southern Democrat, came to Washington Territory as Surveyor General in 1855, he brought with him a young slave, Charles Mitchell. When he was 13 in 1860, Mitchell stowed away on the international mail steamer to Victoria, with the aid of the Puget Sound Underground Railroad. The controversy that followed hardened territorial attitudes about race, and the episode provides an early case study of race and slavery in the region. Public Historian of the Museum of History and Industry, Dr. McConaghy is the author of *Warship under Sail: The USS Decatur in the Pacific West*.

FEBRUARY 9, 2012. Retired Brigadier General Parker Hills will discuss the award-winning book he co-authored with Ed Bearss, *Receding Tide: Vicksburg and Gettysburg, the Campaigns that Changed the Civil War*, arguing that the outcome of the war was determined in the first seven months of 1863. The author of *A Study in Warfighting: Nathan Bedford Forrest and the Battle of Brice's Crossroads* and the co-author of *Vicksburg Campaign Driving Tour Guide*, General Hills operates Battle Focus, conducting military staff rides of battlefields for officers and men of US and British armed forces.

MARCH 8, 2012. Gerald Prokopowicz will discuss his book, *Did Lincoln Own Slaves? And Other Frequently Asked Questions about Abraham Lincoln*. No, Lincoln did not own slaves, but that does not stop people from asking about that and about Lincoln's personal life, politics, religion, health, and other topics. The questions asked about Lincoln reflect our society's changing concerns and our consistent interest in our best-known but most enigmatic president. Find out what people have asked, and ask your own questions for an enlightening and interactive evening with Dr. Prokopowicz, former resident historian at The Lincoln Museum in Fort Wayne, Indiana, and now Chair of the Department of History at East Carolina University, also the Host of Civil War Talk Radio and the author of All for the Regiment: The Army of the Ohio, 1861-1862.

APRIL 12, 2012. Members will tell about their Civil War ANCESTORS:

- 1) Don Larson on his great grandfather, Sergeant Jacob Huntsberger, 87th PA Inf. (15 min.).
- 2) Fred Wilmoth on his great-great grandfather, Captain Robert Hancock Walter, 65th Indiana Inf.; great grandfather, Private Phillip D. Prather, 120th Illinois Inf., fought at Brice's Crossroads; and great grand-uncle, Corporal Joseph A. Weir, 73rd Illinois Inf., died of wounds after Chickamauga (15 min.).
- 3) Dick Miller on great-great grandfather Perry Miller, steamboat mate before the war, then 59th Ohio Inf., served from Shiloh through Atlanta and Jonesboro, killed by a steamboat boiler explosion in 1868 (15 min.).

MAY 10, 2012. Richard Roland will discuss Hood's Tennessee Campaign through the Battle of Franklin, emphasizing disputes within the Union and Confederate high commands, Hood's lost opportunity at Spring Hill, Schofield's potentially costly mistakes at Franklin, and Hood's

fiasco there. An attorney, Rich has been studying and talking about these questions for a long time.

THE “LAST WORD”

By Mark R. Terry, Editor

Welcome back! I hope you all had a wonderful summer and some time to relax with your loved ones. I wanted to take this opportunity to make some comments on a couple topics.

Our New PSCWRT Website

At a recent board meeting, Mike Movius, PSCWRT Webmaster, presented the new website to us, showing us the many webpages and links he has put together the past few months. It was like peeling back an onion, pulling back layer after layer of detailed information on the Civil War. I can say without reservation that this is one of the most complete Civil War website I have seen. I encourage every one of you to access this site and spend some time going through it. You will be amazed and informed...

Lee as Emancipator

I enjoyed reading Dick Miller's interesting and provocative column on Robert E. Lee. Dick asked if we thought he was “disparaging” Marse Robert's reputation. I don't think so, since to me- in Dick's words- “*As virtually all Americans believed in the mid-nineteenth century, Lee considered blacks to be morally, socially, and physically inferior to whites...*” In other words, Lee was a product of his generation- the majority of the North and South- who believed in the superiority of the “white race” over all others. If we are to blame anyone for making a myth out of Lee, it would be those who worked to try and make him something he was not. After the war, Lee did his part to build up the South and didn't participate in the post-war “blame game” that many ex-Confederates indulged in. And since Lee died before he was able to write his memoirs, it is difficult to really know his mind.

Recently; I read a blog post by historian John Hennessy and he wrote the following which to me seems very wise and appropriate to this subject:

But, as we have often pointed out, the Civil War was a complicated mix of emotion, fact, imagination, policy, motivation, and acts innumerable. We are all tempted to shop the historical landscape for a story or passage that validates our notion of what the war was and what it was about. Such things help us to see things in simpler, often more comfortable terms. America has made a sport of this exercise over the decades, as we struggle to understand a political and human disaster whose intensity and nature seems to many to be entirely un-American in its nature. But the war defies simplicities. It was, for example, simultaneously a war for independence, a war for the Union, a war for emancipation, a war to sustain slavery and white supremacy, and a war that would define the extent and reach of the federal government. It was also a war of intense cruelty and expressions of great humanity. Contradictions and odd admixtures like these render the war both defiant of easy understanding and the object of intense interest. Thoughtful people struggle to reconcile and understand. The less thoughtful among us simply seize one and assert it over all others.

...thanks for your column, Dick!

2011-2012 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 [election pending]

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, Michael Movius

Official Greeter, Larry Cenotto, cenottothe5th@yahoo.com

Elected Board of Directors

Jim Dimond, Mike Movius [election pending], Rick Solomon [election pending]

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 CIVIL WAR QUIZ

1. a. 3 months
2. Italian Giuseppe Garibaldi
3. John C. Fremont