

THE WASHINGTON VOLUNTEER

PUGET SOUND CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

[HTTP://WWW.PSCWRT.ORG/](http://www.pscwrt.org/)
JANUARY, 2012

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, January 12, 2012

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.**

You have two choices to make reservations and meal choices:

1. Go to <http://www.pscwrt.org/> and click on "DINNER RESERVATIONS". Then follow the easy instructions to register your choices.

2. Call **Rod Cameron at 206-524-4434** and let him know.

Deadline for reservations is 12 NOON on Tuesday, January 10.

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

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*.

IMPORTANT DISPATCHES

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

Members to Vote on By-Laws at January Meeting

Steve Bass, the Roundtable's Vice-President Successor (i.e, incoming President) has had to resign from his position because of increasing job responsibilities. David Palmer has agreed to be nominated as the new Vice-President Successor. As it was announced at the December 2011 meeting, because the by-laws require the Vice-President Successor to be a board member for a year before becoming the President, the by-laws will need to be amended to enable David to become President for the 2012-2013 season. The Board will be requesting that the membership vote on the following two amendments at the January meeting:

- The sentence "No person shall be eligible to serve as President who has not served on the Board for Directors for the year immediately before his term of President begins" shall be stricken from Article II, "Officers and Duties," Section 2.

- A new section shall be added to Article IV, “Nominations and Elections” that states, “The President may call for a special election whenever there is a vacancy on the board.”

If the membership approves these changes to the by-laws, there will be a vote to elect David Palmer to the Board of Directors and to the office of Vice-President Successor. He will become President in September 2012.

Lecture/Discussion Series: “Let’s Talk About it: Making Sense of the American Civil War.”

Editor’s Note: *If this section looks familiar, it is because I felt it would be a good reminder. The first meeting isn’t until the 22nd of January- ten days following our January meeting. Thanks again to Mike Movius who sent it to me for inclusion in the “Volunteer”.*

Dear Puget Sound Civil War Roundtable:

I believe the following opportunity may be of great interest to your members. Starting in January, the Mercer Island Library will host a free five-part reading and discussion series called “Let’s Talk About it: Making Sense of the American Civil War.” In commemoration of the Civil War sesquicentennial, the series encourages participants to consider the legacy of the Civil War and Emancipation. The discussions will focus on three books: *March* by Geraldine Brooks, *Crossroads of Freedom: Antietam* by James McPherson, and *America’s War: Talking About the Civil War and Emancipation on Their 150th Anniversaries*, edited by Edward L. Ayers. If any PSCWRT members are interested in joining our discussion series we would be happy to reserve them a spot!

Sunday, January 22, 2012 – 2pm

Part One: Imagining War

Geraldine Brooks, *March* [2005]

Selection from the anthology *America’s War* [2011]: Louisa May Alcott, “Journal kept at the hospital, Georgetown, D.C.” [1862].

Sunday, February 12, 2012 – 2pm

Part Two: Choosing Sides

Selections from the anthology *America’s War*

Sunday, March 11, 2012 – 2pm

Part Three: Making Sense of Shiloh

Selections from the anthology *America’s War*

Sunday, April 15, 2012 – 2pm

Part Four: The Shape of War

James M. McPherson, *Crossroad of Freedom: Antietam* [2002]

Selections from the anthology *America’s War*

Sunday, May 13, 2012 – 2pm

Part Five: War and Freedom

Selections from the anthology *America’s War*

Each discussion will be led by our project scholar, Dr. Lorraine McConaghy, Public Historian from the Museum of History and Industry (MOHAI). Free copies of the books being discussed will be available for those who register, while supplies last.

In addition to the book discussion series, we have several other Civil War related events planned for spring, including a program on the music of the Civil War (presented by Vivian and Phil Williams), and a program on the Civil War in Washington Territory (presented by Dr. McConaghy) – I welcome your input regarding additional program ideas! Please let me know if you have any questions.

Best,
Jeff Kempe
Adult Services Coordinator
King County Library System
960 Newport Way, NW
Issaquah, WA 98027
jhkempe@kcls.org
425-369-3229

VALLANDIGHAM IN A DIFFERENT LIGHT

President's Corner, January 2012

By Dick Miller

In the “President’s Corner” this year, I have been writing about myth-making and Civil War heroes, including the proposition that Lee at heart was against slavery and the elevation of the incompetent Edward Dickinson Baker to martyrdom (and a day of recognition in Oregon) as a result of his death at Ball’s Bluff. In both cases, ideology and politics led to the mythology surrounding the two men. Lost Cause proponents shaped Lee’s memory as the saintly representation of Southern gentlemen, too honorable to mistreat his family’s slaves and too principled not to wish for their emancipation. Baker’s Republican colleagues in the Senate eulogized him as the battlefield hero necessary for the country’s morale during the period after Bull Run and Ball’s Bluff. Both men shine in the mythologized light of memory.

Ideology and politics can also sully a man’s reputation, causing him to be remembered as a villain rather than a hero. Clement Vallandigham, the Copperhead leader, is a case in point and a familiar story to students of the Civil War. Vallandigham was a United States Congressman representing Ohio’s Third District when the war broke out. A vigorous supporter of constitutional states’ rights, he believed that the Southern states had a right to secede and that the Federal government had no right to regulate the legal institution of slavery. Furthermore, he believed that the North could not conquer the South militarily and strongly opposed all military bills that came before Congress until he lost re-election in 1862. Vallandigham did not mince words in his opposition to the policies of the Lincoln administration.

In a speech at Mount Vernon, Ohio, on May 1, 1863, Vallandigham claimed that the war was being fought “for the purpose of crushing our liberty and erecting a despotism...a war for the

freedom of blacks and the enslavement of whites.” Vallandigham’s comments caused him to run afoul of General Ambrose Burnside’s newly issued General Order #38 which made it illegal to criticize the war effort within the Military District of Ohio. Burnside had him arrested for violating the order on May 5, 1863 and within two days of his arrest, a military court convicted him of “uttering disloyal sentiments” and attempting to hinder the prosecution of the war. The tribunal sentenced him to imprisonment for the duration of the war. Lincoln—the ever-consummate politician—determined that Vallandigham should instead be exiled to the South to avoid his becoming a martyr for the Peace Movement.

So Vallandigham is remembered as the traitorous United States Congressman, exiled to the South for his outspoken and unrepentant opposition to the effort to save the Union. Karen Abbott paints a different picture of Clement Vallandigham in her “Disunion” series article, “Rabbi-Chaplains of the Civil War” (New York Times, December 11, 2011). She recounts Vallandigham’s opposition to yet another bill, although this time based on the constitutional principle of separation of church and state. The July 1861 bill, drafted to provide \$400,000,000 for the prosecution of the war, had contained a provision for the inclusion of chaplains in the Volunteer Army. The bill, however, required chaplains to be a “regularly ordained clergyman of some Christian denomination.”

Vallandigham objected to the wording claiming that it should be changed to “regularly ordained clergymen of some religious society.” Defending both the principle of separation of church and state as well as the right of Jewish soldiers to be served by Jewish chaplains, he argued before the House,

There is a large body of men in this country, and one growing continually, of the Hebrew faith... whose adherents are as good citizens and as true patriots as any in the country... While we are in one sense a Christian people,... this is not yet a “Christian Government,” nor a government which has any connection with one form of religion in preference to another form.

Vallandigham’s words fell on deaf ears and the bill passed. For his part, Vallandigham has been remembered as the rabble rouser sent South for his treasonous opinions and not as the principled defender of religious liberty and constitutional rights.

The end of the Vallandigham saga? Not welcomed in the South, Vallandigham traveled to Bermuda via blockade runner and then to Canada. In 1864, while still in Canada, he ran for Ohio governor as a Peace Democrat but was soundly trounced by John Brough, the War Democrat candidate. Eventually, he returned to Ohio where he resumed his law practice. He died in 1871 by self-inflicted gun shot wound as he was attempting to prove how an alleged murder victim could have shot himself. Vallandigham’s client was acquitted.

(For more about Clement Vallandigham, see Frank Klement’s book, *The Limits of Dissent: Clement L. Vallandigham and the Civil War.*)

Members Reveal Their Favs

By Mike Movius

It was a dark and stormy night...

Well, at least we know that members of the Puget Sound Civil War Round Table love a great story. We asked the membership to tell us the titles of their most favorite Civil War-related books. And, they came through with flags-a-flyin', but no Lords a-leapin'.

Members overwhelming like *Battle Cry of Freedom* and *The Civil War: A Narrative* by James McPherson and Shelby Foote, respectively. In fact, they tied with the most responses. Next came Edwin Coddington's *The Gettysburg Campaign*. Fourth place was tied with *April 1865; Confederates in the Attic; The Killer Angels; Lee's Lieutenants; R.E. Lee; and Team of Rivals*. Tenth place was also tied with *A Stillness at Appomattox; Fighting For the Confederacy; Gettysburg – The Second Day; Landscape Turned Red; Negro President; Personal Memoires; and The Mind of the Master Class*.

This list has been published on our website along with links to Amazon.com for those of you wishing to read one or all of these wonderful titles. That page can be found at:

www.pscwrt.org/top-ten.html

Thank you to those who responded to the survey: Andrew Hoyal, Mark Terry, Jay Rusling, P. Swinehart, Phil Leduc, Larry Jilbert, H. Craig Miller, Pat Brady, Wendell Carlson, David Palmer, Rick R. Solomon, Garth Holmes, Jean Reges Burn, Barbara Bruff Hemmingsen, Joe Joiner, Larry Johnson, Pauline Morrison, Dick Miller and Larry Cenotto.

THE OFFICIAL TOP-TEN OF PSCWRT

RANK	TITLE
1	Battle Cry of Freedom: The Civil War Era by James M. McPherson
1	The Civil War: A Narrative (Volumes 1,2 & 3) by Shelby Foote
3	The Gettysburg Campaign: A Study in Command by Edwin B. Coddington
4	April 1865: The Month That Saved America by Jay Winik
4	Confederates in the Attic: Dispatches From The Unfinished Civil War by Tony Horwitz
4	The Killer Angels: A Novel of the Civil War by Michael Shaara
4	Lee's Lieutenants: A Study in Command (Volumes 1, 2 &3) by Douglas Southall Freeman
4	R. E. Lee: A Biography (Volumes 1, 2, 3 & 4) by Douglas Southall Freeman
4	Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln by Doris Kearns Goodwin
10	A Stillness At Appomattox (Army of the Potomac, Volume 3) by Bruce Catton
10	Fighting For the Confederacy: The Personal Recollections of General Edward Porter Alexander by Edward Porter Alexander (ed. Gary Gallagher)
10	Gettysburg - The Second Day by Harry W. Pfanz
10	Landscape Turned Red: The Battle of Antietam by Stephen W. Sears

RANK	TITLE
10	Negro President: Jefferson and the Slave Power by Gary Wills
10	Personal Memoires of U. S. Grant (Volumes 1 & 2) by Ulysses S. Grant
10	The Mind of the Master Class: History and Faith in the Southern Slaveholders' World View by Elizabeth Fox-Genovese and Eugene D. Genovese

WHAT'S NEW ON THE PSCWRT WEBSITE?

www.pscwrt.org

By Mike Movius, Webmaster

During the past several weeks, we have been developing the CIVIL WAR IN-DEPTH pages. This is an exciting way to explore the life and times of America in the 19th Century. The most recent additions have been to the POLITICS section. We now have members of the Lincoln and Davis Cabinets; the Governors of both Northern and Southern states; a discussion about the political parties; and the who, what, where, why and when of the several political conventions the led up to the Presidential election of 1860. Take a look! <http://www.pscwrt.org/in-depth/politics.html>

THE "LAST WORD"

By Mark R. Terry

January is an odd time in relation to our organization. Although it is the end of one year and the beginning of another, for us it is right in the middle of our "year". 2011 was a good year for us, I believe. Early on, we streamlined our board and leadership, and many new ideas have been and are being implemented by many of our members. We are ALWAYS looking for those who have the energy, enthusiasm and foresight to improve the Puget Sound Civil War Round Table. For those of you who have done this- THANK YOU!

I wanted to comment on the "Top Ten Books" list. When this came up, for the life of me I could only think of perhaps a half dozen books that really jumped out for me. Although Mike Movius hasn't asked for it, if you haven't participated, or if you did, but didn't put down 10 (as I didn't), you may want to let him know. This is far from all of our members' contributions to the list. Maybe this is something that could be done on an annual basis...

On a different note, I'd like us to remember Paul Miller, a long time PSCWRT member, who passed away on March 7, 2011. We are thankful for his time with us and the contributions he made.

Looking forward to 2012, the 150th Civil War Sesquicentennial continues. We hope that as more people find out about us, that they will come and be a part of what we do. The Annual Auction will be coming up this spring- TBA. That is always a fun time for all and helpful to our continued existence as an organization.

Finally...

*On behalf of the Officers
and Board Members of the
Puget Sound Civil War
Round Table, I wish all of
you a very HAPPY
NEW YEAR in 2012!*

DUES & DONATIONS

Now that the new season is beginning, here is your third 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. Contact Treasurer Jeff Rombauer, 425-432-1346, jeffrombauer@foxinternet.com

We welcome your article or research submissions for the newsletter, but they may be edited. The deadline for the February, 2012 Washington Volunteer is Wednesday, January 25, 2011. Please have it in Mark Terry's hands via email or snailmail by then. Thank you!

2011-2012 OFFICERS

Elected:*

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

Vice-President/Successor: **vacant**

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, 425-432-1346, jeffrombauer@foxinternet.com

Secretary, Larry Jilbert, 253-891-4022, ljjclj@comcast.net

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

Elected Board of Directors:

Jim Dimond, 253-277-3783, shinodad@gmail.com

Mike Movius, webmaster@pscwr.org

Rick Solomon, ricksolo@integraonline.com

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, webmaster@pscwr.org

Official Greeter, Larry Cenotto, cenottothe5th@yahoo.com