

THE WASHINGTON VOLUNTEER

PUGET SOUND CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

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

APRIL, 2012

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, April 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.**

To make reservations and meal choices:

Call **Rod Cameron at 206-524-4434** and let him know what entrée you would like and how many will be attending.

Deadline for reservations is 12 NOON on Tuesday, April 10, 2012.

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

MEMBERS TELL ABOUT THEIR CIVIL WAR ANCESTORS AND THE ANNUAL AUCTION.

Because of the extra room needed for the auction, the plans as of now are that we will be meeting upstairs for this month's meeting.

- 1) **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 (30 min.).
- 2) **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.).

PSCWRT ANNUAL AUCTION

The 2012 Annual Auction will be held during the April 12 meeting and we need your auction donations! Please bring whatever you can that might be of interest or value to potential bidders. The majority of funds generated by our auction allow us to bring in outstanding speakers for the coming year.

For the items that you'd like to donate to the auction please try to do the following before the meeting:

1. Make copies of the PSCWRT SILENT AUCTION BID SHEETS—one for each item. The bid sheets can be found in this month's Volunteer
2. On each form, fill out the top part- Item Description, Donated by, and the Minimum Bid.
3. Invite your friends to this meeting and come ready to bid!

On the 12th please bring your items beside the registration table. A volunteer will number your item and place it on the auction tables. Please do not be hindered from bringing items if you have not filled out the bid sheet. Volunteers will help you fill out your auction bid sheet, if needed.

Feel free to contact me Dick Miller, at milomiller882@msn.com or call him at (206) 236-5247 if you have items to donate or have questions.

Let the bidding begin!

IMPORTANT DISPATCHES

ELECTIONS AT MAY 2012 MEETING

It was brought to my attention by President Dick Miller that in May- **next month**- our bylaws require that an election be held. Two positions, **Vice-President Successor** and at least one **Board Member** position, will definitely need to be filled. Additionally, another board position *may* need to be filled.

All three of these positions are two year terms, although the post of VP Successor automatically leads into the role of President once the two years as VP are complete. The reasoning is that the VP has the opportunity in their two year term to learn and be mentored by the President to be ready once they start their own term as President...

PLEASE consider nominating someone (or yourself) for one of these posts. We need members who are willing to help the Round Table succeed and move forward- there will be no test on your knowledge of the War! Do not be intimidated if you have not been with the organization very long- everyone's contributions are welcome. So, if you know someone who would be a good candidate for either of these positions, please contact one of the current board members (contact list at the end of this newsletter) and give them the name(s).

THINKING BEYOND GETTYSBURG AND VICKSBURG: PEA RIDGE, ARKANSAS

President's Corner, April 2012

By Dick Miller

Pop quiz: How many times did Confederate forces invade a Federal state or territory? This question arose in the readers' posts to a recent New York Times "Disunion" piece. R. Blakeslee Gilpin concluded at the end of his article "A Fight to the Last Pike" (March 2, 2102) that the pikes bought by Georgia Governor Joseph E. Brown for citizen defense were never used when Federal troops invaded Georgia because "the population had been worn down by years of aggressive, but pointless, Southern campaigns into Union territory". One reader reacted with the post, "His closing paragraph is nonsensical. Two campaigns (Gettysburg and Antietam) hardly fit the above wording." To that claim, another reader responded,

Typical of fixation on the Virginia theatre. After the fall of Donelson and the capture of Nashville, Confederates launched a total of five campaigns intended to reclaim that city. In the trans-Mississippi, they launched three attempts to “reclaim” Missouri. In fact, the war in the Western theatre began with the Confederate invasion of Kentucky.

I would quibble with the reader’s including Rebel efforts to retake Nashville as an example of Southern campaigns in Union territory. But aside from Lee’s offensives in 1862 and 1863, how many times did the Confederates invade a state or territory that had not seceded from the Union? The Confederate invasions of Kentucky by Zollicoffer in 1861, leading to defeat and his death at Mill Springs on January 18, 1862, and by Bragg and Kirby Smith in 1862 culminating in the battle of Perryville. Sterling Price’s efforts to gain Missouri for the south during the summer of 1861. The New Mexico invasion in winter and spring of 1862. We could perhaps count John Bell Hood’s raid through Indiana and Ohio in 1863, or Quantrill’s raid leading to the sacking of Lawrence, Kansas on August 20, 1863, or the 1864 St. Alban’s raid but those aren’t really incursions by armies. I’m sure that the members of PSCWRT can come up with more examples than these.

The retort “Typical of fixation on the Virginia theatre” got me thinking how much my awareness of the Civil War stops at the east bank of the Mississippi River. That I know very little about the war in the trans-Mississippi was brought home by another recent “Disunion” article on Cherokee troops at the battle of Pea Ridge or Elkhorn Tavern. The northwestern Arkansas clash in March 1862 was a continuation of the struggle for Missouri. Earl Van Dorn had convinced Albert Sidney Johnston that given an army, he could capture Missouri for the southern cause. Van Dorn pieced together a force of 16,000 men composed of divisions under Sterling Price and Ben McCulloch plus three regiments from the Five Civilized Nations in Indian Territory. To get to Missouri, the Confederates had to push aside a Union force of 10,000 men under Samuel R. Curtis located just south of the Arkansas-Missouri border at Pea Ridge. Van Dorn’s efforts to channel Stonewall Jackson failed on March 7 when the Confederate effort to flank the Union force was detected, resulting in an attack on a well-prepared Yankee line. The following day, with the fight concentrated around Elkhorn Tavern, Franz Sigel’s division of German-Americans routed the Confederates with a picture-book charge.

In his article “John Ross’s Big Mistake” (“Disunion” March 9, 2012), historian Gregory D. Smithers discusses how the Confederate defeat at Pea Ridge was a disaster for the Cherokees who had sided with the Confederacy. Brigadier General Albert Pike, the Confederacy’s representative in Indian Territory, had promised to keep Cherokee troops within the territory. But in August 1861, Pike went back on his word and brought several thousand Cherokee soldiers into Arkansas. It would be these regiments that fought at Pea Ridge and were subsequently charged with scalping, torturing and desecrating the bodies of Union soldiers during the battle. John Ross, the principal chief of the Cherokee nation, realized that Northern revulsion at Indian depredations—whether fact or fiction—could easily result in a Federal invasion of Indian Territory and another forced relocation of his people. With Confederate generals quickly distancing themselves from their Indian troops, he also understood that he could not rely on his Southern allies to come to

Cherokee aid in the event of a Federal attack. Ross eventually back-pedaled, sending a letter to President Lincoln in September 1862 explaining that the Cherokee Nation had made a great mistake siding with the Rebels.

Pea Ridge and the part played there by Pike's Indian Brigade would be overshadowed a month later by the battle at Shiloh Church. But what a great story! Gerald Prokopowicz, at the end of his talk at the March PSCWRT meeting, mentioned a new history of Missouri during the Civil War with its thesis about the conflicts between North, South, and West. Smithers' article on John Ross suggests how much Westerners were embroiled in the war. The trans-Mississippi is a theater that demands more of the Roundtable's attention.

150 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

After a year of mobilization and dryer spring weather, armies were on the march in the East and the West. It was inevitable that at some point, they would collide and a bloodbath would result. The only question was where would it be? It would happen near a little church close to the Tennessee River by the name of "Shiloh" which in Hebrew means "peaceful". On April 6 and 7, 1862, the vicinity of that church was anything but peaceful. Confederate General Albert Sidney Johnston collected troops from as many places as he could and concentrated them in the path of a Federal column moving slowly south towards Corinth, Mississippi, a strategic rail junction. 39,000 Federals were under the command of General Ulysses S. Grant, camped nearby waiting for the arrival of another army under Gen. Don Carlos Buell- another 36,000 men. Johnston didn't wait, but unleashed his army of about 44,000 on the morning of April 6. The Rebs caught the Yankee soldiers by surprise and pushed them back, although the bluecoats fought stubbornly and slowed the advance, especially around the Hornet's Nest. It was near that location that Gen. A.S. Johnston was mortally wounded and command devolved on Gen. P.G.T. Beauregard. The Northerners were pushed back to Pittsburg Landing, where a line of artillery was concentrated. Helped by two gunboats firing from the river, the Rebel attack finally ground to a halt. Overnight, reinforcements from Buell were arriving and by the morning of the 7th, Grant had decided to go on the offensive. The Confederate defense was disorganized and shaky, but they fought hard. In the end, it was a reversal of the day before with Union troops forcing the graycoats back beyond their starting position. The Battle of Shiloh (or Pittsburg Landing as the South called it) proved to be the bloodiest battle to that time. The Union tally was 13,047 in killed, wounded and missing, while the Confederate loss was 10,694, for a grand total of 23,741! People on the home front, north and south were appalled at the long casualty lists. The glory of war faded as both sides realized the costs of war...

On a (somewhat) lighter note, if you can find a copy of the April 2012 "Trains" magazine, there is a great article about the Andrews Raid, which took place on April 12, 1862. I tried to download it from the Internet, but there is a fee. The article features what the route looks like now as compared to 150 years ago, as well as side features regarding the two principal locomotives- the *General*, commandeered by James Andrews and his men, chased by William Fuller, who took over the *Texas*. Both of these locomotives survived the war and are on display in the South. Good read!

THE LAST WORD

By Mark R. Terry

Get Involved!

We all have stories of how we heard about the Puget Sound Civil War Round Table and became members. My wife Kim and I were invited by Ken Morgan, a fellow Civil War Reenactor, to come and hear James McPherson back in 1994. We enjoyed ourselves so much that we paid our dues that night and have been members ever since. After a time, I was nominated to serve on the board. Later I became Vice-President Successor, then President.

I wanted to share this because it shows any member who wants to can get involved and help the Round Table. Be willing to work with others and bring your motivation to help our organization succeed. Even if you haven't been a member for long, I urge you to give it a shot. I have found it to be gratifying and rewarding!

The Auction

Speaking of getting involved, I hope all of you are gathering items to donate for the PSCWRT Annual Auction! I haven't talked to my mom Dana Thompson about it yet, but I'm hoping she will agree to create an original painting for the highest bidder. Please think "out of the box" regarding what you feel will bring in some cash for our Round Table. Keeping our treasury "in the black" will continue to help Pat Brady when it comes to bringing in top-notch speakers every month.

The Trans-Mississippi Theater

As usual, Dick's "President's Corner" column brings another interesting sidelight to our thinking on the Civil War. If the late Rodney Dangerfield were to describe the Trans-Mississippi Theater compared to the Western and especially the Eastern Theaters of the Civil War, he would quip that it gets "no respect"! By the very nature of its location far from the national capitals of Washington and Richmond, the Trans-Mississippi was way down the list of priorities of both governments. As Dick points out there are some incredible stories that come from that theater. One of my favorites is the defense of Sabine Pass in the fall of 1863.

On September 8, 1863, General Nathaniel Banks ordered a fleet of troopships carrying 4,000 soldiers to break through Sabine Pass- a waterway at the head of the Sabine River along the Texas coast at present day Port Arthur- and land those troops. Although there were only 6 guns defending the pass, their position high on a bluff and the fact their guns were "dialed in" gave them a great advantage. Every ship that came through the pass was pummeled by accurate and constant fire. By the end of the action, the fleet had retreated, with 300 men and two gunboats disabled and captured. The defenders suffered no casualties and received the thanks of the Confederate Congress! This would have to be the ultimate "underdog" story of the War...

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, or at: jeffrombauer@foxinternet.com

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

2011-2012 OFFICERS

Elected:*

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

Vice-President/Successor: David Palmer, davidpalmer7@comcast.net

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

**PUGET SOUND CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE
SILENT AUCTION BID SHEET**

ITEM DESCRIPTION:

Donated by: _____

Minimum Bid: _____

Bid \$	Bid By:	Bid \$	Bid By:
1	_____	32	_____
2	_____	34	_____
3	_____	36	_____
4	_____	38	_____
5	_____	40	_____
6	_____	42	_____
7	_____	44	_____
8	_____	46	_____
9	_____	48	_____
10	_____	50	_____
11	_____	55	_____
12	_____	60	_____
13	_____	65	_____
14	_____	70	_____
15	_____	75	_____
16	_____	80	_____
17	_____	85	_____
18	_____	90	_____
19	_____	95	_____
20	_____	100	_____
22	_____	105	_____
24	_____	110	_____
26	_____	115	_____
28	_____	120	_____
30	_____	125	_____

BIDDERS: PLEASE USE FIRST AND LAST NAME WHEN BIDDING