

**THE WASHINGTON VOLUNTEER**  
**PUGET SOUND CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE**  
**HTTP://WWW.PSCWRT.ORG/**  
**MAY 2012**

**NEXT MEETING: Thursday, May 10, 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, May 8, 2012.**

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

**THE RENOWN PAT BRADY WILL DISCUSS  
ABRAHAM LINCOLN, ANN RUTLEDGE AND THE  
USE/MISUSE OF HISTORICAL EVIDENCE.**

After Lincoln's death, his longtime law partner William Herndon interviewed and corresponded with many witnesses while compiling a biography of Lincoln. Herndon's writings told of young Abe's love for Ann Rutledge, whose death left him grief-stricken. For years leading Lincoln scholars discounted the Rutledge story and accused Herndon of distorting evidence to fit a preconceived bias. But lately students of Lincoln have gathered and reconsidered Herndon's source material, and have accused Herndon's critics of applying a double standard against Herndon and the Rutledge story. We will take our own close look at Herndon's sources and make our own inquiry into who was using or misusing historical evidence.

**ROUND TABLE ELECTIONS THIS MONTH!**

Our bylaws require that an election be held this month. Three positions, **Vice-President Successor** and two **Board Member** positions, will need to be filled. Rick Solomon has agreed to run for the VP-Successor position, and because he is a current board member, that spot is now open for nomination. Rod Cameron, board member, has opted not to run for the next two year term so his is the other open board position.

All of these positions are two year terms, although the post of VP Successor automatically leads into the role of President(another 2-year term) once the two years as VP are complete. This way 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).

### **Professor Thomas James PRESSLY (1919-2012)**

At the April 2012 PSCWRT meeting, Pat Brady announced the passing of Professor Thomas Pressly. Many, including myself, were shocked to hear the news, although Prof. Pressly has not been able to attend Round Table meetings since about 2005. According to Pat Brady, Professor Pressly was "A longtime member and supporter of the Round Table from its earliest days" and that he "spoke to us often, generously sharing his historical knowledge and insight and carrying more than his share of the programs. He was a beloved figure and is irreplaceable". Pat related how, if a speaker dropped out, Prof. Pressly could be counted upon to fill in even with late notice and still give an excellent presentation. Pressly could make even the mundane seem interesting. My wife Kim and I recall a time when Prof. Pressly was going to speak on "Catholics and the Civil War". On the way to the meeting, we wondered how this topic could be of any interest. However, Professor Tom held our attention throughout his entire talk and we found ourselves very much informed and entertained by a fascinating presentation on the topic. This seems to be Pressly's legacy- that he could not only make the Civil War interesting for generations of college students, but also for the more knowledgeable membership of the PSCWRT. In 2008, Professor Pressly was awarded a Lifetime Membership to the PSCWRT Board in recognition of his many contributions over the years to our Round Table. The Professor will be greatly missed...

#### *Obituary as printed by the Seattle Times*

Professor Thomas James Pressly, age 93, died in his sleep on April 3, 2012 at his residence at Merrill Gardens, Seattle, Washington. He was born in Troy, Tennessee on January 18, 1919, the son of James Wallace Pressly and Martha Belle (Bittick) Pressly. After graduating from Harvard University (AB 1940, MA 1941), he was drafted in the US Army in June 1941. He was commissioned 2nd Lieutenant in April 1942 after graduating from the Ordinance Officer Candidate School. He served with the Sixth Air Corp in the Panama Canal from July 1942 to March 1943 and was promoted to 1st Lieutenant. He graduated as a Navigator at Selman Field in October 1943 and was stationed at Davis-Monahan Field, Second Air Corp, teaching navigation in B-24s from October 1943 to December 1944. He was specially assigned to navigate a B-24 on a delivery flight from California to Australia, November 1944. He flew combat missions in B-24's from Foggia and Cerignola, Italy with the Fifteenth Air Corp, 459th Bomb Group, 759th Squadron, from February through May 1945. He was discharged as Captain in November 1945. After receiving a PhD from Harvard University in 1949, Tom embarked on what would become a distinguished academic career. He taught American History at Princeton (1946 - 1949) and the University of Washington (1949 - until retirement in 1988). He was a Ford Foundation Fellow (1951 - 1952) and a fellow of the Center for the Advanced Study of the Behavioral Sciences at Stanford (1955 - 1956). He taught as a visiting professor at Princeton (1953 -1954), Stanford (1963), New York University, Stony Brook (1967), University of London (1968), and the Johns Hopkins University (1969 - 1970). He was widely admired as a teacher, and the University of Washington Alumni Association in 1974 recognized him as an "Outstanding Teacher." While stationed at Selman Field, Jackson, Mississippi, he met and married the Commanding Officer's secretary, Lillian Cameron on April 30, 1943, who predeceased him on December 4, 2005. He was predeceased by his older sisters, Elizabeth Stevens Pressly Nichols and Belle Bonner Pressly

Dahlgren. He is survived by his son, Thomas J. Pressly, II, his wife, Katrina Carris, of Rutland, Vermont, his stepson Kenneth Truhan and his wife Heather of Denver, Colorado and his stepdaughter, Lindsay Smith of San Francisco, California, and by his daughter, Stephanie Pressly Suzuki, her husband, Kaoruhiko Suzuki, of Pasadena, California their two children, Misasha S. Graham and her husband T.J. Graham of San Carlos, California and Kentaro Suzuki, M.D., of San Diego, California. Tom Pressly was well respected and admired by his students, fellow faculty and departmental staff. He was a life-long tennis player and was active right up to his last illness. He was a true gentleman, respectful of all sincerely held opinions and beliefs, and had an easy going sense of humor and a gracious way in all social situations. He loved his family generously and without judgment or reserve. Tom will be greatly missed by his loving family and friends.

## **IMPORTANT DISPATCHES**

### **AUCTION REPORT**

The Annual PSCWRT Auction was held in conjunction with our April meeting last month. Those in attendance brought items for the silent auction as well as several “big” items for the live auction. John Hinds, our member in Texas, contributed probably the biggest- a full set of the 28 volume series of the Time-Life Civil War books. Dana Thompson again donated her time and effort to create a painting for the highest bidder- two members ended up bidding for them. Marty Wingate baked a pecan pie and Linda Patricelli brought a homemade cake and a plate of chocolate chip cookies. Those went very quickly, by the way. President Dick Miller was our auctioneer and he did an outstanding job of working the bids up and keeping it all moving. In the end, the auction raised \$952! Our thanks go to all of those who donated items, those who generously gave, and those who worked to make it happen. Remember that it all goes to help the Round Table bring in interesting speakers in the future. Thank you all!

### **What to do this summer?**

As you know, the upcoming May meeting will be the final one until this coming September when we begin the 2012-2013 season. What can you do to whet your appetite for Civil War history in the meanwhile? Well, the Washington Civil War Association will have some public events coming up during the warmer part of the year when they are active. Here is a list of events. Please note that the WCWA also schedules smaller events that are also open to the public. To see a list of all events, go to: <http://www.wcwa.net/events/>

- May 26-28** Battle of Deep Creek, Medical Lake WA (near Spokane), sponsored public battle. Contact Bob Davisson, [bob@14thvirginiacavalry.org](mailto:bob@14thvirginiacavalry.org), (509) 995-8619
- June 16-17** Battle at Fulbright Park, Union Gap, Washington, sponsored public battle. Contact Rich Bright, [brightnot66@yahoo.com](mailto:brightnot66@yahoo.com).
- July 21-22** Battle of Chehalis River, Chehalis WA, sponsored public battle. Contact Kevin Saville, [kevin@saville.net](mailto:kevin@saville.net), (360) 292-0966 or Rusty & Bonnie Starr, (425) 743-9851

**August 11-12** Battle at Hovander Farm, Ferndale WA (sponsored public battle). Contact Jerry Shiner, shiners10@msn.org.

**September 29-30** Plain Campaign, Plain, Washington (sponsored public battle). Contact Bruce Smith, babrsmith@peoplepc.com, (425) 483-0351

## **MORE ABOUT MYTH**

### **President's Corner, May 2012**

**By Dick Miller**

So far the Civil War sesquicentennial has not engendered either the excitement or the hoopla that the centennial did. New books about the war don't seem to be appearing weekly, or even monthly; newspapers and magazines don't run articles with Civil War themes the way I remember newspapers and magazines did fifty years ago; and television doesn't have a regular series about the Civil War like the 1961 series, "The Americans." But what the sesquicentennial does offer, thanks to recent scholarship, is a history unvarnished by the myths that unfortunately shaped the centennial's reflection of the war.

Timothy Smith, the National Park Service ranger and historian, has recently exposed six revered myths in his article "Battle of Shiloh: Shattering Myths" (reprinted on the Civil War Trust's web site from *America's Civil War Magazine*.) I won't go over all six myths—you should look up this excellent article for yourself—but will highlight the best-known myth of all about Shiloh, that the Confederates caught Grant's army totally unaware on April 6, 1862.

Smith argues that the Shiloh myths arose either from accounts of people who were not present at the battle or from veterans' recollections years after the war. In the case of the Confederate surprise attack, Smith claims that Whitelaw Reid, a correspondent for the *Cincinnati Gazette* who was miles away from Pittsburg Landing on April 6, made up the story about Union troops being bayoneted in their blankets as the grey columns rolled through the unsuspecting Federal camps. Reid maintained, and the years perpetuated, the myth that the Union forces were totally unaware that the Rebels were in their midst. To the contrary, according to Smith, Union and Confederate troops had been skirmishing for several days before the battle and the Federal commanders knew that Rebel forces were close at hand. They just didn't know how many.

According to Smith, Grant did not want a fight before his army was reinforced by the Army of the Ohio and ordered his commanders to avoid contact with the enemy. This order resulted in the Union skirmishers and pickets continually disengaging when they met the Rebels. Without any opportunity to gather solid information about the strength of the southern forces in front of them, the Army of the Tennessee had no inkling that Albert Sidney Johnston had brought up his entire army from Corinth, Mississippi. That lapse in intelligence would have fatal consequences the morning of April 6.

Recent scholarship has challenged another "fact" long-held by Civil War historians—that approximately 620,000 Northerners and Southerners died in the Civil War. Books and articles about the Civil War have repeated this number of wartime deaths since the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. In 1889, Union veteran William F. Fox published his treatise, "Regimental Losses in the American Civil War, 1861 – 1865." Fox had combed through a vast amount of muster lists, battlefield reports, and pension records to derive his estimate of losses in the war. Though as thorough as

could have been reasonably expected, Fox's work suffered from the lack of Confederate records. Eleven years later, in his book Numbers and Losses in the Civil War in America, 1861-1865, Thomas Leonard Livermore reasoned that Southern losses from disease had to be in the same proportion to the population as Northern losses. He reasoned that Fox had underestimated Southern deaths, pegged them at 258,000 and the total 620,000 wartime deaths became historical gospel.

J. David Hacker, a demographic historian from Binghamton University in New York, has questioned Livermore's assumption that Southern boys died from disease at the same rate as their Northern counterparts. He argued that the Union armies had much better medical care, food, and shelter contributing to a lower mortality rate from disease than Confederate armies.

Additionally, men from rural areas would have less resistance to disease than men from urban areas which would also account for a disproportionate loss for the South. Hacker used what demographers call the two census method on newly available digitized census data to recalculate Civil War mortality. He estimated that deaths fell between 650,000 to 850,000 men and chose the mid-point – 750,000 deaths – as a reasonable estimate of the number of men who died during the war.

This will be my last "President's Corner." Little did I realize, when I wrote my first "President's Corner" in August 2010, how writing this column each month would lead me to totally new and unexpected insights about the Civil War. I've thought about the myths surrounding the war's heroes and villains, reflected on its heavy toll in both men and horses, and briefly explored the roles played by Native Americans and immigrants during the struggle. I never considered myself to be particularly knowledgeable about the mid-nineteenth century in America and it has been a great pleasure to learn how true that is—that I don't know very much--as I have uncovered one fascinating aspect after another. Even though I will shortly end my term as the Roundtable's president, I won't be able to give up writing brief pieces about some aspect of the war that catches my fancy.

But before I sign off, I want to thank all the members who made this year such a success:

- Pat Brady, our program chair, for another series of programs featuring knowledgeable and thought-provoking speakers
- Jeff Rombauer and Stephen Pierce for arriving early to handle our dinner payments and raffle tickets; Stephen has also assumed responsibility for maintaining our roster
- Rod Cameron for tracking our dinner reservations for China Harbor
- Mike Movius, our webmaster extraordinaire, for the extraordinary revamp of our web site
- Mark Terry, our newsletter editor, for timely and informative issues of the *Washington Volunteer*

Also I want to express my appreciation for the support of the Board: Mark Terry (Immediate Past President), Larry Jilbert (Secretary), Jeff Rombauer (Treasurer), Pat Brady (Vice President, Programming), and board members Rod Cameron, Jim Dimond, Mike Movius, Stephen Pierce, and Rick Solomon. Finally, I want to extend congratulations and best wishes to David Palmer as he assumes the presidency of the Roundtable.

*The following article is from the NY Times internet column "Disunion". I thought it deserved inclusion here...*

**Home, Sweet Home**

By Susan J. Matt

In October 1861 Alfred Lewis Castleman, a surgeon in the Fifth Regiment of the Wisconsin Volunteers, described the first death in his regiment. It was not from battle. “The poor fellow died of Nostalgia (home-sickness), raving to the last breath about wife and children,” he wrote. “Deaths from this cause are very frequent in the army.”

While today “nostalgia” is used to describe the longing for a lost time, the word originally signified acute homesickness, a condition widely regarded as a dangerous and often deadly illness. Doctors maintained that it could kill, either by worsening existing maladies or by causing its own physical symptoms, which included heart palpitations, lesions, damage to internal organs, “hectic fever,” bowel problems and incontinence.

A Civil War veteran described nostalgia’s effects in 1866, noting how it “fastens upon the breast of its prey, and sucks, vampyre-like, the breath of his nostrils. Many a heroic spirit after braving death at the cannon’s mouth . . . has at length succumbed unresistingly to this vampyre, Nostalgia.” During the Civil War, with close to three million men away from home and therefore potential victim to its ravages, Americans both on the battlefield and on the home front worried about nostalgia.

Homesickness was widespread in both the Confederate and Union armies, as thousands of surviving journals and letters testify. Many men came from rural areas and were away from farm and family for the first time. Added to this sense of displacement was the fear that they might be killed in battle and never see their loved ones again.

An 1861 letter from Richard Simpson, a soldier in the Third South Carolina Volunteers, to his aunt was typical. “We are now in the land of danger, far, far from home,” he wrote. Simpson had been away from home before, but, he confided: “I never wished to be back as bad in my life. How memory recalls every little spot, and how vividly every little scene flashes before my mind. Oh! If there is one place dear to me it is home sweet home. How many joys cluster there. To join once more the family circle (I mean you all) and talk of times gone by would be more to me than all else besides.”

While Simpson’s homesickness was intense, it was not debilitating. For thousands of other men, the emotion sapped their strength and left them ill. When it became this serious, doctors deemed it nostalgia. Union records offer a good picture of its consequences: over the course of the war’s first year, the Surgeon General reported, there were 572 cases of nostalgia among troops. Those numbers rose in subsequent years, peaking in the year ending in June 1863, after the draft had begun. That year more than 2,000 men were listed as suffering from nostalgia; 12 succumbed to it. The year with the most fatalities was 1865, when 24 men died of the disease. In all, between 1861 and 1866, 5,537 Union soldiers suffered homesickness acutely enough to come to a doctor’s attention, and 74 died of it.

Given the deadly risks believed to accompany the condition, soldiers of all ranks monitored their own mental health as well as that of their comrades. Union Gen. Joseph Shields wrote in 1862 that soldiers, “if not allowed to go home and see their families . . . droop and die. . . I have watched this.” In August 1864, Gen. Benjamin Butler worried that this might happen to him, writing his wife, “You make me so homesick. I shall have *nostalgia* like a Swiss soldier.” Men lower in the ranks harbored the same fears. Cyrus Boyd of the 15th Iowa Infantry wrote in 1863, somewhat hyperbolically, “More men *die* of homesickness than all other diseases — and when a man gives up and lies down he is a *goner*. Keep the mind occupied with something new and keep *going all the time* except when asleep.”

In light of such fears, soldiers and physicians looked for possible causes of and cures for nostalgia. What sparked the emotion? And how could it be assuaged? Some pointed to the letters that soldiers received from home. If they didn't receive enough letters, they might grow lonely and sad and begin a descent into nostalgia. On the other hand, if they received too many letters, they also might dwell overmuch on the family scenes they were missing.

Doctors also theorized that music might carry a soldier's mind back to his family. As a result, some units took steps to prohibit particularly moving melodies. S. Millett Thompson, of the 13th New Hampshire Volunteer Infantry, reported that "the bands are forbidden to play pathetic or plaintive tunes, such as Home, Sweet Home... Auld Lang Syne, etc., lest they serve to dispirit, and unnerve our suffering men." Such a rule was not frivolous, as Numa Barned, a Union soldier forced to listen to new "homesick recruits" playing "Home, Sweet Home," confided. "I don't like to hear it for it makes me feel queer," he wrote.

If music could spark homesickness, so could holidays. Thanksgiving and Christmas were always difficult days for men far from home. The Sabbath likewise was a day for remembering other routines and identities that war had forced soldiers to abandon.

Doctors also contended that within the Army, homesickness was more visible among some populations than others, although they reached no consensus about which populations those actually were. Some pointed to young recruits, venturing far from home for the first time. Others claimed that middle-aged men, long accustomed to the comforts of domestic life, missed them most acutely. Some believed farm boys were more likely to be homesick than city dwellers, while others maintained that New Englanders were particularly tender-hearted and therefore vulnerable.

Doctors sometimes went beyond these demographic profiles and attributed homesickness to character flaws. J. Theodore Calhoun, the assistant surgeon of the Union Army, believed nostalgics needed to be rendered "more manly," while Dr. John Taylor of the Third Missouri Cavalry contended that they were indolent hypochondriacs who were probably prone to other vices as well. Taylor told nostalgic soldiers that their "disease was a moral turpitude," and "was looked upon with contempt – that gonorrhoea and syphilis were not more detestable."

The association of nostalgia with venereal disease was not accidental. Some doctors, like Roberts Bartholow, believed that a strong libido and the tendency to masturbate predisposed soldiers to homesickness, pointing the finger at "those given to solitary vice or the victims of spermatorrhea." Supposedly, soldiers who lived in a dream world and who fantasized about home or sex, or both, became disconnected from their actual surroundings, and wished for different circumstances. Other vices associated with nostalgia were drinking, gambling and tobacco use.

If the precise causes of nostalgia were open to debate, so too were its cures. Some suggested that vigorous physical exercise might cure men of their yearnings for the family hearth; others put faith in the idea that once they faced battle, men would feel more committed to the cause and less tied to home.

Many, however, worried about the risks of nostalgia and took extreme measures to treat it. Physicians sometimes suggested hospitalization, but if cases turned critical, they often sent men home to cure them. A medical manual suggested that in nostalgia's early stages, "a furlough ... will often suffice to restore the moral vigor of the young soldier. But when it has long resisted treatment, and gone so far as to produce sensible external lesions ... or structural changes in large organs, a discharge must unquestionably, be granted."

To modern Americans who are accustomed to leaving home and who harbor few fears of dying of nostalgia, such diagnoses and cures seem strange, even laughable. But they reveal much about 19th-century values. The widely shared conviction that homesickness could kill reflected the deep moral and emotional significance that these Americans attached to home. Even more, their concerns about homesickness and nostalgia remind us that while today we celebrate restless mobility and see it as a central part of our national identity, earlier generations did not, and instead found mobility to be profoundly painful and unnatural.

## WHAT'S NEW ON THE WEBSITE

By Mike Movius

One of the neat things about Internet technology is the ability to survey members about a host of issues that are relevant to the study of the Civil War. Our latest survey was about Civil War trekking. Nothing seems to satisfy the questions better than going to the places and finding out for oneself how the land lays. I know I'm not alone in that desire... And, by your responses, you share the excitement and enthusiasm for walking the very ground that they did.

Seventeen PSCWRT members responded to the 15-question survey:

Question 1 – On how many Civil War treks have you been a participant?

- 82.2% have been on at least one trek
- 35.3% have been on 7 to 10 treks
- 11.8% have been everywhere and done it all

Question 2 – What kind of trekking have you done?

- 94.1% have been to battlefields
- 70.6% have been to historic buildings and museums
- 52.9% have been to other roundtables
- 17.6% have been to battlefield re-enactments

Question 3 – What are your most memorable Civil War treks, and why?

- Most responded about Eastern theater battle sites (Gettysburg, Antietam, Manassas, Wilderness/Fredericksburg, Richmond and Petersburg)
- Some talked about Vicksburg, New Orleans and Port Hudson
- Many had deeply personal reasons why it was memorable.

Question 4 – Rank-order the importance of the theaters of war to you.

- Most ranked the Eastern theater as most important
- Western and Southern were fairly well tied
- Trans-Mississippi ranked last

Question 5 – How do you plan a Civil War trek?

- It was a tie between planning geographically and mixing treks with other interests
- 17.7% do very little planning
- No one plans to be at the same date and time that a battle was fought

Question 6 – Rank-order the factors that lead you to make a trek decision.

- The vast majority choose a destination to which they have never been
- Historians or tour guides and cost ranked second
- Availability of accommodations ranked third

Question 7 – Rank-order the most important features of a trek destination for you.

- Availability of interpretive staff and facilities ranked first
- Historically significant buildings ranked second
- Civil War museums ranked third



- Last on the list was re-enactments

Question 8 – What is the single-most important reason for you to go on a Civil War trek?

- 46.7% responded “To just be there and to soak it all in”
- 26.7% responded “As a culmination of my study and interest”
- 20% responded to try to put it all together
- No one wants to escape into the 19<sup>th</sup> century or consider logistics

Question 9 – When planning a trek, what is the order of the steps you take?

- Most begin by researching the area for historical sites
- Then, respondents get the map out and look at travel distances
- Many find out what is scheduled while they are there
- Many also study the battles, commanders, etc.
- Very few develop a daily itinerary or ask their travel companion about their interest(s)

Question 10 – What is your preferred mode of abode while trekking?

- 40% like multiple locations and go with the flow
- 26.7% like to use hub locations
- 20% use a single location

Question 11 – When choosing accommodations, which to you prefer?

- 42.9% like the predictable quality of a national motel
- 28.6% prefer 3+star hotels
- 21.4% go with independent motels

Question 12 – Who is your usual trekking companion?

- 42.9% say they trek with a spouse or significant other
- The rest are split between a friend, a roundtable friend, a tour group or some combination
- No one goes with a relative

Question 13 – Are you thinking of or planning a new trek in the near future (next 12 months)?

- 42.9% said yes
- 28.6% said no
- 28.6% are undecided

Question 14 – Would you like to receive input from members of the Roundtable?

- 71.4% value your input and answered yes
- One person said no
- Three don’t know

Question 15 – If you’d like Roundtable input, what form would best meet your needs?

- 38.9% said use the PSCWRT website for input and discussion
- 22.2% said a list of members y destinations and date of last visit
- 22.2% said a continuous online forum about trekking
- 11.1% said discussion of treks at a “special” Roundtable meeting

## THE LAST WORD

By Mark R. Terry

This issue of the “Washington Volunteer” completes my second season as newsletter editor. Since this gig is for two years, I was recently asked if I wanted to continue and I agreed to do so. Most of the time I enjoy editing our monthly newsletter, except for those occasions when I can’t find enough to put in, or those times when I make a mistake of commission or omission- believe me, it is easy enough to do!

**What I don't often get is feedback. I've heard members say "nice job on the newsletter" but they don't often say in what way it was "nice". So, what I'd like to know now is, what do you think about the newsletter? What would you keep in and what would you leave out? What should be the goal of the newsletter?**

For your information, here is what I have to work with: Due to the cost of postage I am limited to 10 pages (5 pages double-sided). Obviously, the most important pieces of information relate to the upcoming meeting and menu. That is why they are right up front on Page 1. After that, the most important information is "housekeeping" items- board minutes, election notices and results, etc., i.e. information that you need as a member of the PSCWRT.

Thirdly is what I would call the "fun stuff"- that is, editorials like the President's Corner by Dick Miller, or any other items of historical interest that might be sent to me or gleaned off the Internet. It is this last part that is the most flexible and often pushes the newsletter to the limit. Off and on, I've included Civil War quizzes, the Sesquicentennial column "150 Years Ago This Month" and items such as that. PLEASE NOTE that I gladly welcome your submissions and will publish them as soon as I can after they arrive. Anyway, please feel free to contact me with your ideas and I will do all I can to continue to make the "Volunteer" a journal that will be informational and useful but also fun and educational as well...

See you at the May meeting!

## **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](mailto:jeffrombauer@foxinternet.com)

**We welcome your article or research submissions for the newsletter, but they may be edited. The deadline for the September 2012 Washington Volunteer is Wednesday, August 22, 2012. 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](mailto:Milomiller882@msn.com)

Vice-President/Successor: David Palmer, [davidpalmer7@comcast.net](mailto:davidpalmer7@comcast.net)

Immediate Past-President Mark Terry, 425-337-6246, [markimlor@comcast.net](mailto:markimlor@comcast.net)

Vice-President, Programming, Pat Brady, 206-246-1603, [patsbrady@comcast.net](mailto:patsbrady@comcast.net)

Vice-President, Newsletter, Mark Terry (info above)

Treasurer, Jeff Rombauer, 425-432-1346, [jeffrombauer@foxinternet.com](mailto:jeffrombauer@foxinternet.com)

Secretary, Larry Jilbert, 253-891-4022, [ljjclj@comcast.net](mailto: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](mailto:shinodad@gmail.com)

Rod Cameron, 206-524-4434, [rodcam@comcast.net](mailto:rodcam@comcast.net)

Mike Movius, [webmaster@pscwr.org](mailto:webmaster@pscwr.org)

Rick Solomon, [ricksolo@integraonline.com](mailto:ricksolo@integraonline.com)

### **Appointed:**

Publicity Chairman, Stephen Pierce, 425-640-8808, [horseless1@juno.com](mailto:horseless1@juno.com)

Dinner Reservations Coordinator, Rod Cameron, 206-524-4434, [rodcam@comcast.net](mailto:rodcam@comcast.net)

Webmaster, Michael Movius, [webmaster@pscwr.org](mailto:webmaster@pscwr.org)  
Official Greeter, Larry Cenotto, [cenottothe5th@yahoo.com](mailto:cenottothe5th@yahoo.com)