

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

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, October 11, 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, October 9, 2012.

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

JANET OAKLEY WILL TALK ABOUT WILLIAM F OSBORN, ASSISTANT SURGEON, 11TH PENNSYLVANIA VOLUNTEER INFANTRY, AT

GETTYSBURG. On July 1, 1863, after, only two months in uniform, a country doctor found himself on a battlefield that would become sacred ground. Janet Oakley, great-granddaughter of Osborn, will tell what he did there, based on his pocket journals. An author and historian living in Bellingham, she has been the curator of education at the Skagit County Historical Museum. Her articles appear on Historylink.org, and she has published an award-winning historical novel about the CCC, *Tree Soldier*.

DUES! DUES! DUES!

I was greatly remiss not mentioning in last month's issue that dues for the PSCWRT are now payable. The season goes from September 2012 to May 2013. 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. Mail dues and donations to: Jeff Rombauer, Treasurer, 22306 255th Ave. SE, Maple Valley, WA 98038-7626. Call 425-432-1346, or email: jeffrombauer@foxinternet.com.

Editor's Note: Some may wonder about the cost of the meals and "doesn't that money also go into the treasury?" Actually, of the \$21 cost of the meal, only \$1 goes into our coffers, while China Harbor gets the rest. Additionally, the student rate is subsidized by the Round Table in order to encourage families to bring young people to our meetings. Personally, I would have loved to attend a CWRT when I was a boy...

IMPORTANT DISPATCHES

David Blight Keynote Speaker at 2012 PNW History Conference

There is still time to get your registration in for this event. Professor David Blight, author of Race and Reunion: The Civil War in American Memory and American Oracle: The Civil War in the Civil Rights Era, will speak Saturday, October 20, at the 2012 Pacific Northwest History Conference. Sponsored by the Washington State Historical Society, this year's conference theme is "From Civil War to Civil Rights" and will commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation and the 50th anniversary of the landmark Supreme Court decision ending segregation in transportation facilities. Puget Sound Civil War Roundtable members are invited to attend two days of sessions on Pacific Northwest Civil War and Civil Rights history. The conference will be held October 19 - 20 at the Washington State History Museum in Tacoma. **REGISTRATION DEADLINE: October 15, 2012**

For more information, contact Shannon Stevenson, Coordinator PNWHC email: sstevenson@whs.wa.gov. Phone: 360-586-0171

President's Corner, By David Palmer

David's Travelogue-Wilson's Creek

I will give a brief travelogue about Civil War battlefields that I have visited. I intend to do one per month, in the chronological order that the battles occurred. My travelogue is based on my travels, so I will miss significant battlefields.

When and where was the battle fought? August 10, 1861, near Springfield, Missouri.

When did I visit the battlefield? April 11, 2005.

Is the battlefield easy to get to from here? No. I flew to Kansas City. (I have family in that area.) I then drove to Springfield, Missouri, which is several hours by car.

Is there much for the family to do? Wilson's Creek is more of a Civil War buff's trip than a family vacation. Springfield was nicer than I expected, but it is no different than many small cities. Branson, Missouri is nearby and it has family activities, but I have never been there.

Is the Wilson's Creek battlefield worth a second trip? Probably not.

Did you enjoy your trip to the battlefield? Definitely.

What was unique about this battlefield? First, you can comfortably see the whole battlefield in one day. That is, you do not feel exhausted even after touring the entire battlefield. Second, the battlefield has not changed much since the battle. It only has one small monument. So, you can

look across the battlefield and imagine what it was like in 1861. Finally, most of the battlefield is within the National Park system and will never be developed.

Editor's Note: The following article is a blog post from the blog *Mysteries and Conundrums: Exploring the Civil War-era landscape in the Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania region*. The URL for it is: <http://npsfrsp.wordpress.com/2012/09/28/the-value-and-limits-of-online-research-a-quickie-case-study/#more-5688>. Because of some research I've been doing on Ancestry.com and other online sites, I've been pondering some of the same points that Hennessy brings up. Plus I thought you all might be interested...

The Value and Limits of Online Research—a quickie case study

By John Hennessy, September 28, 2012

As any of you who have the historical hound dog's desire to hunt know, the world of online research is expanding before our eyes. It's an exciting time in some ways, as the source material available to us grows every day. I confess I have reveled in the chance to plow through the dozens of now-online newspapers from the Civil War period—papers that I have never seen before. I have learned a few things along the way—most notably that it's not long before you strike a point of diminishing returns: the source material pours forth, but what it tells us that's new narrows (the entire field of military history as it relates to the Civil War suffers so). I have found thousands of wartime letters in the last few months, and while some are highly quotable, it's a rare day that I find something that really goes beyond the interesting to tell us something new or important. Still, I realize that sometimes the significant emerges from the assemblage of tiny pieces.

There have been some spirited debates about the limits of online research. We all know researchers and writers for whom the research world begins and ends at their keyboards. If something doesn't exist online, then they're not going to see it. Indeed, it's easy to imagine that we have a whole generation of historical thinkers who will be conditioned to find their material online, and largely only online. What does that mean to our historical work? I have been pondering a way to gauge just how important online resources have become, and I offer this little tidbit. Definitive? No. But maybe a useful reminder.

I went through the footnotes in seven of the 25 chapters of my book *Return to Bull Run*, which I finished writing in 1992 on the eve of the digital age. I looked at every citation in every footnote to calculate what percentage of them could be had online today. Going in, I guessed about 25% of the citations I included in the book would be available online today (by that I mean available on a permanent website; I did not include ebooks in the calculation, unless they were available for free use at Google Books or other archival site). I was wrong.

The seven chapters I reviewed included 663 citations. Of those, the material cited in 419 of them can today be found online. That's 63%.

Given the nature of the book—a battle book—it includes a goodly number of references to the *Official Records*, which of course are readily available online. Of the 663 citations, 191 were to

the *ORs*. If we back those out, we are left with 228 out of 472 citations available online—still 48%, a much higher number than I expected.

Swapping over to the bibliography, the percentages drop quickly. I didn't go through it item by item, but it's apparent that just a tiny share of the manuscript materials I used are available online today—probably less than 5%, if that. It's worth noting that the manuscript collections I used included some of the most critical material available—Fitz John Porter's Papers at the LOC, T.C.H. Smith Papers at the Ohio Historical Society, John Warwick Daniel's papers at UVA, or the unpublished US Army Generals Reports of Civil War Service at the National Archives are four examples among many. Without collections like those, little new would have emerged, and I daresay the book would hardly have been worth writing.

To me, the big news is this: The internet has done little to affect access to manuscript collections (beyond making catalogues and finding aids more readily available), and that's unlikely to change anytime soon.

Of the newspapers I used in 1992, about half are today available online. Of books, again, it's about half. All told, I estimate that about 20%-25% of the bibliography is available digitally.

What about the other side of the ledger: What's out there today that couldn't be had 25 years ago—that was too obscure, too restricted, or too far away for me to find in the early 1990s? The majority of material going online goes there because genealogists will buy or use it. Some of the material from the National Archives—widows pensions, Southern Claims—that's finding its way online is a great boon. But those sources don't begin to relieve anyone of the need to visit NARA. Mountains remain untouched by researchers and will remain so, largely because there's no commercial benefit to digitizing most of it.

By far the greatest bonanza of new online material is in the realm of newspapers—again, much of it being done on various genealogy sites. In the last six months alone, I have found an additional 30 relevant newspapers—probably 70 additional accounts of the campaign—that I did not have access to way back when (I cite about 90 newspapers in the book).

Where does all this leave us? I think it's a bit like one of those government reports that tells us eating too much sugar will make us fat. It's obvious, and it's clear too that digitization makes research easier. (And certainly we now have a legion of people doing research who would never have attempted it if not for co-axial cables.)

But the big question is, does the internet make research BETTER—does it ultimately improve the products historians are putting on the street? Based on my own work—then and now—my sense is that the answer is “no.” Writing *Return to Bull Run* in 2012 would surely have been easier, but I wonder if I would not have been snared by the ease of online research and missed much that was important elsewhere. And looking at the fabric of the research and the construction of the book, I can't say there's anything out there in today's digital universe that would have changed or improved the book markedly, while there is a great deal NOT online that would have spelled historiographical disaster had I missed it.

While it's astonishing how fast the mass of materials online is growing, we are still far from the day when new, credible, comprehensive, and definitive history can be written from the digital domain alone. Covet your iPad, but also hang on to those rolls of dimes for the copy machines, continue to make friends in your favorite repositories, and keep those laptops ready for transcription (barbaric though it may seem), because doing really good history requires all those things.

(A disclaimer: I'm not arguing here that there is nothing in *Return to Bull Run* I wouldn't change. I would—including some revised thinking on big issues and players, like McClellan—but these have little to do with the fineries of new source material and more to do with my own evolving understanding of the war. But that's a topic for another post on another blog.)

General Orders No. 100

Submitted by John Hinds, PSCWRT Life Member (I added this last part- Editor)

The following is from my manuscript "*Total Uncivil War*" One of my favorite Union generals is Major General Ethan Allan Hitchcock. I spent three days with a tape recorder in the Tulsa Museum that holds his war time diaries. (His prewar diaries are in Saint Louis) I had my tapes transcribed and have used his diary entries extensively in said my manuscript. As you read on you will see that Hitchcock chaired the committee that was charged with writing General Orders 100. My entries:

Major General William S. Rosecrans was commanding the Department of the Cumberland when his headquarters in Murfreesborough, Tennessee issued General Orders No. 16 on February 10th 1863. The order left no doubt about the Union bitterness over Confederate soldiers wearing Union blue in battle and in non-battle subterfuge. "It having been frequently reported to the general commanding that Confederate soldiers approach our lines dressed in our uniforms, and that they have appeared thus in battle, and have even, savage-like, carried our colors to deceive us, it is ordered that none so dressed shall receive when so captured the rights of prisoners of war and that in battle no quarter be given them. When captured singly or in squads, prowling about our lines, they shall be deemed spies, and treated accordingly. The general warns all officers and men under his command to be on their guard against these violators of the rules of civilized warfare. All foraging and scouting parties, all patrols, and all troops on the march are enjoined to arrest and examine all persons wearing our uniform, and, if found to be wearing it without lawful authority, to forward them at once to the provost-marshals of their commands for identification and investigation, and thence to the provost-marshal-general of the department, that they may be dealt with as they deserve." (20)

(20) O.R.A., Series 1, Vol. 23, Part 2, p. 53

Colonel J. J. Gravely, commander of the 8th Regiment Cavalry Missouri State Militia, wrote his headquarters on April 28th 1863 from Lebanon, Missouri, "I telegraphed to the colonel commanding Southwest District of Missouri on the 23rd that seven men were taken prisoners on

their return from Springfield as escort to paymaster. They were taken in Dallas County, carried about fifty miles into Cedar County, stripped, murdered and thrown into a heap like so many hogs. Three of the soldiers thus murdered belonged to Company D and four to Company E of this regiment. The rebels were dressed in Federal uniform, and the men rode up to them as friends, when they were captured and most cruelly murdered. The three men of Company D were as good soldiers as ever shouldered a musket, always obedient, but on this occasion had straggled behind the command. One of, if not the leading academic scholars of the day was Francis Lieber. I believe that he and Hitchcock wrote 100. The wearing of the blue Yankee uniform by Confederate was fairly common because the South simply did not have the where with all to clothe their troops in proper butternut.

100 is in the Official Records Army but, at least in my judgment, the best read of it is in the Yale University Law Library at: <http://avalon.law.yale.edu/19th_century/lieber.asp>

Major, I respectfully inquire of the colonel commanding district whether any rebel wearing the Federal uniform should be treated as a prisoner of war. *If I capture any rebel thus attired I will have him shot unless otherwise ordered.* (Emphasis added) (21)

(21) O. R. A., Series 2, vol. 5. pp. 531-2

Colonel Graveley's specific question about soldiers fighting in the enemy's uniform was formally answered on April 24th 1863 when the War Department in Washington published General Orders, No. 100.

"The following instructions for the government of armies of the United States in the field, prepared by Francis Lieber, LL. ID., and revised by a board of officers of which Maj. Gen. E. A. Hitchcock is president, having been approved by the President of the United States, he commands that they be published for the information of all concerned. By order of the Secretary of War: instructions for the government of armies of the United States in the field. ...

"Paragraph 63. Troops who fight in the uniform of their enemies without any plain, striking and uniform mark of distinction of their own can expect no quarter.

"64. If American troops capture a train containing uniforms of the enemy and the commander considers it advisable to distribute them for use among his men some striking mark or sign must be adopted to distinguish the American soldier from the enemy.

"65. The use of the enemy's national standard, flag or other emblem of nationality for the purpose of deceiving the enemy in battle is an act of perfidy by which they lose all claim to the protection of the laws of war." (22)

(22) O. R. A., Series 2, Vol. 5. p. 675.

General Lee took exception to the Union assertion that the wearing of the uniform was a violation of the rules of war. One June 2nd 1863 Brigadier General Micah Jenkins, (South Carolina Military Academy), forwarded Lee's message to Union Major General Robert H. Milroy, (Norwich, VT University) commanding the U. S. forces at Winchester Virginia by flag

of truce. "I am instructed by General Lee to send you the inclosed (sic) communication from General Lee: General Orders No. 67, Headquarters Army of Northern Virginia, May 26th, 1863.

"... It is hereby declared that articles of clothing and accouterments are legitimate objects of capture under the rules of war and may be used by the captors at their pleasure for the equipment of their troops and that steps will be taken to repress any attempt to treat as spies or punish in any manner officers or soldiers of the Confederacy who may be captured and condemned by the enemy solely on account of their possessing or wearing clothing or accouterments which formerly belonged to the officers, soldiers or Government of the United States. By command of General R. E. Lee, Winchester, Va., June 6, 1863. (23)

(23) O. R. A., Series 2, Vol. 5, pp. 732-3.

John summarizes: I believe one of the great misnomers in our history is to call our North-South conflict a Civil War. That conflict was total war and there was little about it that was civil. In my not so humble opinion the North "won" the war by attrition and superior, sheer manpower numbers and vastly superior logistics. But that is just one man's not so humble opinion. And that is why we continue to "fight" that great blood bath to this day!

"CIVIL WAR BUFF"

By Michael Movius

So, are you a Civil War buff? I'm decidedly NOT! There are some things in this world that are a crime, and this term is one of them. For me, it's a hate crime and someone should do something about it.

One of my well-schooled friends actually owns a dictionary. And, he tells me that the etymologists say buff comes from mid-16th century French, *buffle*...from Italian *bufalo*...from Latin *bufalus*. In other words, it comes from the word "buffalo". And, the English term actually refers to ox hide or the color of ox hide. Yes, that's it...a yellowish-beige color or stout, dull yellow leather with a velvety surface. Then, there's the way it becomes a velvety...by buffing it so it's polished or smooth.

No, I'm not an ox hide about the Civil War...and certainly NOT a Civil War buffalo. So, who on God's green earth thinks that I'm a "heavily built wild ox with backswept horns, found mainly in the Old World tropics"? Oh, and when it's used as a verb, to buffalo means, "to overawe or intimidate...to baffle." Now, we're getting somewhere!

So, how much did I have to learn before I became a bafflingly, heavily built beige? Am I really beige about the Civil War? Is that what life has driven me to become? No, it's got to be hate speech! We, you and I, need legal protection from this awful oral contrivance. The Beige Law! I'll start a petition...

THE LAST WORD

By Mark R. Terry

I was very encouraged to see so many interested visitors at our first meeting of the 2012-2013 PSCWRT Season! There were at least 7-8 first timers, and the most encouraging thing is that they seemed to be very enthused about the Round Table and wanted to be a part of our organization! One of them mentioned seeing a notice in the newspaper about our meeting, so it appears that is a helpful venue to get the word out. In my "Last Word" column in September I wrote "...in your regular course of life, at work or at play, when you converse with people, bring up something about the Civil War. You may be surprised at how interested an acquaintance may be and that they might want to come to a meeting. You never know until you ask..." Oftentimes it is those personal contacts that make the difference and bring new people in.

Another great resource in getting the "word" out about our Round Table has been our website (<http://www.pscwrt.org/>), administered by the indefatigable Mike Movius. For more and more people, the Internet is the primary method of getting information. One new member, Ed Malles, said that was how he found out about us. Mike is always seeking to improve the website to make it more useful and informative. Mike would like your feedback on the meetings. After a meeting, let him know your review. Email him at: webmaster@pscwrt.org

Speaking of resources, I am hoping that this newsletter can be a resource to you. In that vein, I'd like to share with you some of the **reference material** I have found useful when researching the War Between the States. These aren't books about a particular person, campaign or battle, but resources to help learn more about them- often primary sources.

1. **The Official Records of the War of the Rebellion- Armies (CD-ROM)**

Up until the last 20 years, the only way you could access the information in this 128 volume work was to go to the reference section of a major library, university or purchase them yourself- if you could afford it and have enough room in your home! Thankfully, you can get a CD-ROM version much more affordably. The "OR" as it is referred to is a treasure trove of letters, documents, orders, reports, that any serious researcher could not do without. There is also a smaller "Navy" OR. I have found this resource to be invaluable to me.

2. **The Civil War Day by Day: An Almanac 1861-1865 by E.B. Long**

To me it is the best and most accurate volume of its kind- a day by day look at the history of the Civil War. Professor Long was the prime researcher for the *Centennial History of the Civil War*, written by Bruce Catton. I bought the book by accident when it was a "featured item" for the Military Book Club, but I've been glad of it ever since. My edition was published in 1971. Here is the Amazon link to a more recent edition:

http://www.amazon.com/The-Civil-War-Day-1861-1865/dp/0306802554/ref=sr_tc_2_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1348605703&sr=1-2-ent

3. **Tracing Your Civil War Ancestor by Bertram W. Groene**

It may seem strange to list this book, but it was the one that got me started in Civil War research back in the mid '80s. Groene's main focus is on finding information for your ancestors, but by doing so he also shows how to find sources like the O.R. (mentioned

above). There are probably other more up to date books on the same subject, but this was the one that really helped me out.

Amazon link: http://www.amazon.com/The-Civil-War-Day-1861-1865/dp/0306802554/ref=sr_tc_2_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1348605703&sr=1-2-ent

Obviously, the Internet is a HUGE resource, though I hope you will read Historian John Hennessy's blog bringing out both sides of online research. I've recently subscribed to both **Ancestry.com** and **Fold3**- a military records archive and they have been helpful. For many years I've subscribed to <http://www.civilwardata.com/>, an online database for soldiers and sailors from the Civil War. Don't forget our own PSCWRT website (see above).

What are some reference books or material that has been helpful to you in your research? I hope you will share them with us, so that we can all benefit. Please let me know and I will list them in a future issue...

CIVIL WAR TRIVIA

Unlike other trivia questions we've had, you will NOT find the answers in the newsletter. Instead, we will ask these Civil War Trivia questions at the October meeting. One of the correct answers will allow you to have first pick of the door prize books!

1. The Battle of Chantilly on September 1, 1862 was a rearguard action by the Union Army of the Potomac following their defeat at Second Manassas (2nd Bull Run). What noted Pacific Northwest figure was killed in this battle?
2. On October 8, 1862, a battle was fought near the town of Perryville, Kentucky. What were the leading elements of both armies looking for that brought on the fight there?
3. A Confederate General wrote "A little before this I had seen...the vast army of McClellan spread out before me. The marching columns extended back as far as the eye could see in the distance...It was a grand and glorious spectacle, and it was impossible to look on it without admiration. I had never seen so tremendous an army before, and I did not see one like it afterward". Name the General. What battle was about to take place?

DUES & DONATIONS

The PSCWRT season goes from September to the following May. Dues should be paid in September. 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. Mail to: Jeff Rombauer, Treasurer, 22306 255th Ave. SE, Maple Valley, WA 98038-7626. Call 425-432-1346, or email: jeffrombauer@foxinternet.com.

We welcome your article or research submissions for the newsletter, but they may be edited. The deadline for the November, 2012 Washington Volunteer is Wednesday, October 24, 2012. Please have it in Mark Terry's hands via email or snailmail by then. Thank you!

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