

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

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, November 8, 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, November 6, 2012.

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

RICK SOLOMON WILL DISCUSS THE FEUD BETWEEN TWO OF THE BEST GENERALS IN THE ARMY OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA, STONEWALL JACKSON AND A. P. HILL.

He will describe their earlier history as classmates at West Point; their problems with others before Hill became Jackson's subordinate; the steps Robert E. Lee took to make peace between them; and, last, a deathbed peacemaking of sorts after Jackson was wounded at Chancellorsville. A longtime member and newsletter editor, Rick is a past and future president of the Round Table.

IMPORTANT DISPATCHES

DUES REMINDER DUES REMINDER DUES REMINDER

Just as a pastor doesn't like to get up in front of his/her congregation and ask for money, I am not crazy about placing a reminder in the Volunteer regarding dues. However, it was recently brought to my attention that almost three months into the 2012-2013 season, only 39.5% of our members have paid their dues. As newsletter editor, tasked with communicating important information about the organization to you all, I feel it is my responsibility and my obligation to pass this on to you. Obviously if you are already one of the 39.5%, this doesn't apply to you- and **THANK YOU** for your dues! If you are not sure about your status, please email Jeff Rombauer at jeffrombauer@foxinternet.com, or if you don't have Internet, call 425-432-1346. The easiest way to pay your dues is to come to a meeting and pay Jeff in person, but for more information regarding dues and paying otherwise, see the bordered item at the end of this newsletter...

The following was sent to us by a family member of Ed Donnelly. We mourn with the Donnelly family and send our condolences to them. Ed was a long time member of the PSCWRT...

Edward P. Donnelly Jr. 1919-2012



Edward P. Donnelly, Jr.

Born August 29, 1919

Died October 16, 2012

Edward P. Donnelly, Jr., known to his family as "Uncle Ed," passed away quietly at his home in Seattle on October 16, 2012, at the age of 93.

Born in Philadelphia, PA on August 29, 1919, to Edward P. and Emma V. Donnelly, he would become the eldest of 10 siblings: Virginia (Ginny), Elizabeth (Betty), Sarah (Pony), Mary, Ruth, Ann, Peter, Alice, and George. He was the big brother everyone wanted. Selfless and good, he helped Mother raise the children when Dad was out of town. Ed said, "The kids were important to me and I loved them all."

Ed went to St. John's Elementary School and then attended high school at Seattle Preparatory School. Following Seattle Prep Ed enlisted in the Navy. While on leave, he attended his sister Pony's high school graduation, and it was at this event that he met his future wife, Pat Graham. They married on June 14, 1943 in Seattle and lived happily together for over 69 years.

Ed and Pat's marriage, a long and happy one, included building the home in Seattle where Pat lives to this day, and many world travels. The couple was host to decades of family reunions and has been described as the glue that connected generations of family.

After the Navy, Ed and Pat returned to Seattle, and under the GI Bill, Ed was able to study geology and geography at the University of Washington. Always a history buff he passed his love of history, geology and geography of our region to the next generation. Later, he spent years in machinery sales, but eventually became a purchasing agent for various engineering companies throughout the Northwest.

Because of his interest in geography, Ed loved to travel. Pat and he made many trips across the globe, making it to 4 of the 7 continents. Another passion for Ed was his devotion to the genealogy of his extended family and their ancestors. Starting in the late 1960s, Ed compiled documents and photographs, which he was always keen to share with anyone who asked. To the delight of his whole family, his collection became simply too large for the suitcase he kept it in. Ed authored two volumes containing his knowledge entitled *The History of the Coryell and Donnelly Families* and *Historical Documents of the Coryell and Donnelly Families*. He was a true gentleman and scholar.

Ed was a man of faith and a proud long time member of Our Lady of the Lake parish. He was active in the **Puget Sound Civil War Round Table**. When Ed was not reading Civil War historical books he and Pat were at their cabin on Guemes Island or on their prized classic Tollycraft exploring the San Juan Islands.

Ed is survived by his wife Pat; his youngest brother George Donnelly and sister in law Kathleen Shaw Herrold as well as innumerable nieces and nephews. Remembrances in Ed Donnelly's

name can be made to the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary, 2911 West Fort Wright Drive, Spokane, WA 99224.

Published in the Seattle Times from October 25 to October 26, 2012

NEW & RECOMMENDED READING

Two newly published paperbacks are highly recommended to our members. This was passed on to us by PSCWRT member and Treasurer Jeff Rombauer. Thank you, Jeff!

For a link to order these books, see <http://www.pscwrt.org/member-recommended.html>

The Enemy Never Came: The Civil War in the Pacific Northwest by Scott McArthur, Caldwell: Caxton Press 2012. Pp. xviii, 268. With illustrations, notes, bibliography & index. McArthur, a retired attorney, who lives in Monmouth, Oregon, has written the first comprehensive history of the Pacific Northwest in over 50 years. In 18 short, well written chapters, the author relates everything you wanted to know about events in Oregon, Washington Territory & Idaho Territory during the period. Topics covered include politics during the period, soldier life, the militia, Indian wars, civilian life and the role of the Knight of the Golden Circle.

The second book is *Lincoln: A President for the Ages*. Karl Weber. New York: Public Affairs, 2012. Pp. ix, Illus, notes, index. This collection of essays from leading writers and scholars of Lincoln is a companion to the upcoming Steven Spielberg Film Lincoln, which will appear in theaters November 16th. Early reviews on the film have highly recommended it. In the film, our 16th President appears as a man, not an icon. The essays in this work, by such scholars as Henry Louis Gates, Jean Baker, Allen C. Guelzo, Douglas Wilson & Harold Holzer offer fresh insights into Lincoln's legacy.

NEW MUSEUM!

Jeff Rombauer met with the manager of this local museum. We need to support such museums and sites, passing along our information to them and vice-versa so we can help one another grow. Feel free to call them and ask for further information. Better still, visit their website at <http://www.buffalosoldierstacoma.org/>

Ninth & Tenth (Horse) Cavalry "The Buffalo Soldiers" Museum

1940 S. Wilkeson

Tacoma, WA 98405

252-272-4257

Or contact Jackie Jones-Cook 253-376-5743

IS THERE MORE?

By Mike Movius

Almost every time I engage someone in a discussion about the Civil War, we start talking about a battle or campaign...or a general. Rarely, if ever, do we talk about the contributions of Stephen Crane, Walt Whitman, Ambrose Bierce or Herman Melville. In fact, the only times that I have ever talked about *The Red Badge of Courage*, *The Leaves of Grass*, *An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge* or *Shiloh: A Requiem*, is when I bring them up. Why is that?

Surely, our understanding of the Civil War has been greatly influenced by historical fiction. For example, *The Killer Angels* written by Michael Shaara and portrayed on the big screen as *Gettysburg* has become an icon for Civil War historians and enthusiasts, alike. But, no matter the form they take, very few of us seem comfortable discussing a short story, a novel or a poem.

If you haven't noticed, there are plenty of references to historical fiction on our website. Take a moment and find David Blight's list of his Five Best Civil Novels at <http://www.pscwrt.org/documentation/written-word/reading-lists.html> Then, read *The Portent*, a poem by Herman Melville about John Brown at <http://www.pscwrt.org/in-depth/culture.html>

Or, watch the movie *The Colt* <http://www.pscwrt.org/documentation/movies/multisegment/the-colt.html>

Yes, there is much more to the Civil War than just battles and generals and their campaigns. And, if you haven't already responded to our 6-question survey on historical fiction, you can still do so at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/5RSZLPS>

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By David Palmer

DAVID'S TRAVELOGUE - FORT DONELSON

This month, I continue my Civil War battlefield travelogue. Last month, I described Wilson's Creek, near Springfield, Missouri. This month, we will visit Fort Donelson National Battlefield.

When and where was the battle fought? February 14 – 16, 1862, near Dover, Tennessee.

When did I visit the battlefield? April 2, 2007.



Is the battlefield easy to get to from here? No. I was taking a Civil War road trip through Tennessee and Mississippi. The closest airport is probably Nashville.

Is there much for the family to do? Nashville has many activities for the non-Civil War fans in your family. Fort Donelson is on the Cumberland River and is close to the Tennessee River, so there may be some recreation opportunities. However, Fort Donelson is best visited with

people interested in Civil War battlefields. (Nashville is close to Fort Donelson in the same way that Portland is close to Seattle.)

Is the Fort Donelson battlefield worth a second trip? I would visit it again if I was in the area, but I would not make a special trip to see it.

Did you enjoy your trip to the battlefield? Definitely.

What was unique about this battlefield? First, Fort Donelson was Grant's first great victory, so you can see where this history was made. Second, you can see two of the great rivers of the war, the Cumberland River and the Tennessee River. Third, this battlefield still has Confederate earthworks. Finally, this battlefield is a nice one to walk around.

THE LAST WORD

By Mark R. Terry

See you at the Movies

As you probably know, the movie "Lincoln" will be premiering this month on November 16th, with actor Daniel Day-Lewis in the title role. I am looking forward to this movie, but not getting my expectations too high. Hollywood is famous (or infamous) for getting history incorrect. Watching the trailer for "Lincoln", here's one example : Actress Sally Field, who plays Mary Todd Lincoln says to Abraham Lincoln "no one's loved as much as you by the people. Don't waste that power". From my understanding of Lincoln, he was not universally loved. In fact, as we learned from a couple of our recent speakers, in 1864 things were going so badly for Abraham Lincoln politically that he didn't even think he'd be re-elected. I'm also wondering what kind of political "bent" the movie will take. In an interview, Tony Kushner, the screenwriter for "Lincoln" stated "I'm very interested in the relationship of Lincoln to the Left-the Abolitionist Left, in Congress and out of Congress". Certainly Lincoln worked with Abolitionists in helping to craft legislation to abolish slavery, but I hope Kushner doesn't portray Lincoln as some sort of Socialist in the process. One thing that screenwriters and novelists often get wrong when trying to write history is to project modern ideas and mores on their characters. I'm sure the costumes, props and sets will be excellent. Let's hope the story will be accurate in portraying President Lincoln and his contemporaries just as much. Go and check it out- I guess we will all have to draw our own conclusions.

Looking at Little Mac

September 17th saw the 150th Anniversary of the Battle of Sharpsburg/Antietam. I wanted to read up on the battle and so pulled Stephen Sears' book *Landscape Turned Red* off the shelf. The saga of the Antietam/Sharpsburg Campaign makes for great reading, with many twists, turns and dramatic events. What jumped out of the book for me this time was the part General George B. McClellan, commander of the Army of the Potomac, played in the story. Given that most of what devolved was directly or indirectly due to decisions made by "Little Mac", it is instructive to look at his performance. On the plus side, once McClellan was given command of the demoralized "Army of Virginia" that had just been badly lead by General John Pope in the Second Manassas Campaign, McClellan re-organized and re-energized them, combining them

with the Army of the Potomac troops recently returned from the Peninsula. Unfortunately for McClellan, this was probably the high point of the campaign. Sears relates how the careful, cautious “Little Mac” moved at a glacial pace after Lee’s Army of Northern Virginia.

What prompted McClellan’s extreme caution? Sears points out that from the moment he took command following the First Battle of Manassas (Bull Run) in July 1861, he constantly overinflated the size of the Confederate forces against him. Although some have blamed Allen Pinkerton, McClellan’s Chief of Intelligence, it seems to have been something inherent in his psychological makeup. Even after Lee’s “Lost Order” was found prior to noon on September 13, 1862 McClellan- though reinvigorated- didn’t order his men to move in response to this until the following morning. Still, Lee’s forces were split up and when Lee heard from his cavalry commander “Jeb” Stuart, that the Union Army was moving, he had to react and gather his separated army on the fields and woods north and east of the little hamlet of Sharpsburg, Maryland.

Having inflated the number of Confederate troops to over three times what Lee actually had, McClellan’s battle plan was a study in methodical and deliberate attack, more concerned about having enough reserves in place than in getting more troops into the fight. Even though Lee was hit hard, McClellan’s plan of attack using one corps at a time allowed “Bobby Lee” to shift troops from one threatened point to another, barely holding his line. However, it was the furious defense of the Confederate forces that seemed to prove- at least in McClellan’s mind- that Lee must have more troops in reserve. At the end of the day, Confederate General A.P. Hill’s division arrived after a forced march from Harper’s Ferry and turned back the final Federal attack. Amazingly, with his army in shreds and the Potomac River at his back, Lee stood his ground and invited attack, gambling that McClellan wouldn’t take the bait. As it happened, he was right.

Sears points out that it was the battle between the psyches of the two commanding generals that made the outcome of the battle and campaign what it was. Given a second chance by Lincoln after his disaster on the Peninsula during the Seven Day’s Campaign, McClellan was sure he was the “Savior” of the North after the bloodbath in Maryland. When “Little Mac” failed follow up Lee’s retreat into Virginia- even after he had personally urged him to do so- Lincoln finally had enough and once Election Day was behind him, on November 7, 1862 General McClellan was relieved of command of the Army of the Potomac. In summing up Sears pointed out six separate times, starting with the finding of Order No. 191, that had Little Mac moved with speed and aggressiveness, the Army of Northern Virginia would probably have been cut up and destroyed piecemeal. He termed it “a lack of moral courage” on McClellan’s part that he could not trust in his troops to push them harder to win. Even after the war, when the number of troops the Army of Northern Virginia had in the fall of 1862 was there for all to see, George Brinton McClellan steadfastly maintained he was outnumbered.

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 November meeting. There will be an additional “bonus question” that with the correct answer will allow you to have first pick of the door prize books!

1. Which ex-president of the United States died in 1862 but was not officially mourned in Washington because he had supported the Confederacy?
2. President Lincoln had a nickname for the Army of the Potomac while it was under the command of Gen. George B. McClellan. What was it?
3. Because of the strain on the U.S. Treasury, the Lincoln administration decided to put the first income tax into effect- a simple flat tax. What was the percentage on the net income over \$800?

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 December, 2012 Washington Volunteer is Wednesday, November 28, 2012. Please have it in Mark Terry's hands via email or snailmail by then. Thank you!

2012-2013 OFFICERS

Elected:*

President, David Palmer, davidpalmer7@comcast.net

Vice-President/Successor: Rick Solomon, ricksolo@integraonline.com

Immediate Past-President, Richard Miller, 206-808-8506 or 206-236-5247, Milomiller882@msn.com

Vice-President, Programming, Pat Brady, 206-246-1603, patsbrady@comcast.net

Vice-President, Newsletter, Mark Terry, 425-337-6246, markimlor@comcast.net

Treasurer, Jeff Rombauer, 425-432-1346, jeffrombauer@foxinternet.com

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

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

Elected Board of Directors:

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

Mike Movius, webmaster@pscwr.org

Appointed:

Publicity Chairman, Stephen Pierce, 425-640-8808, horseless1@juno.com

Dinner Reservations Coordinator, Rod Cameron, 206-524-4434, rodcam@comcast.net

Webmaster, Michael Movius, webmaster@pscwr.org

Official Greeter, Larry Cenotto, cenottothe5th@yahoo.com