

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

**NEXT MEETING: Thursday, December 13, 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, December 11, 2012.**

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

**LT. COL. CLAY MOUNTCASTLE WILL DISCUSS CONFEDERATE GUERRILLAS, UNION REPRISALS, AND THE DESTRUCTIVENESS DEBATE**, about how the Union response to guerrilla warfare affected Southern civilians and the outcome of the Civil War. Lt. Col. Mountcastle, Ph.D., has served as an Army officer and historian for 18 years, has taught at West Point, led development of the Military History curriculum at the US Army Command and General Staff School, Fort Leavenworth, and is Professor of Military Science and Chair of Army ROTC at the University of Washington. He is the author of *Punitive War: Confederate Guerrillas and Union Reprisals*.

## **IMPORTANT DISPATCHES**

### **FACEBOOK COVER IMAGE: GIVE US YOUR BEST SHOT!**

By Mike Movius

Your photo could be the next cover image on Puget Sound Civil War Roundtable's Facebook page.

Periodically, we'll post a new image from a Civil War historian like you. Any horizontal image that would work well in the space will be considered, as long as it's your original work. Be sure to visit our Facebook page to get an idea of the dimensions and space.

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Puget-Sound-Civil-War-Roundtable/237302262964590?ref=hl>

Any photo you've taken, as long as it's cover-worthy and represents the history of the Civil War in some way, will be considered.

Here's how to get started:

- Find your favorite Civil War image shot by you. By sending it to us, you certify that it was your original photograph and belongs to you.
- Email us the high-resolution image with the subject line "Facebook Cover Image."
- We'll crop and reduce the photograph to the required dimensions, so make sure your photo is at least 850-by-315 pixels. (But don't worry about cropping it yourself!)
- Include these details:
  - Your first and last name.
  - Where and when the photo was shot.
  - Your hometown.
- The photo will remain your property.

Look for a new cover image as we pick up speed. We'll post the previous weeks' photos in an album for posterity.

## **LINCOLN: A TOUR DE FORCE**

By Mike Movius

The recently released movie Lincoln produced by DreamWorks and directed by Steven Spielberg has received widespread acclaim. Members of the Puget Sound Civil War Roundtable were asked to provide a review of the movie with special emphasis on accuracy and believability. The following were received:

### **MAKES YOU THINK**

by David Palmer

*We saw it last Sunday in Seattle. I enjoyed the movie and hope to see it again. The movie centers around the 13th Amendment, and its passage in the House. The movie makes you think about if and when the end justifies the means.*

*Two thumbs up from me.*

### **SUSPENDED DISBELIEF**

by Ed Malles

*I watched Lincoln with amazement. D. D. Lewis was incredible, seemed steeped in the literature about Lincoln to the point where he rivaled Meryl Streep in 'becoming' his role.*

*I was able to suspend disbelief for periods of time watching him be Lincoln. All I can say there is 'Wow'.*

*There were some inaccuracies.*

- *When Lincoln visited Richmond/Petersburg they showed him mounted with a cavalry guard riding through a corpse strewn battleground. (That) never happened. When Lincoln visited Richmond he arrived at the dock on the James River and walked to the Confederate White house and Davis's office protected by a guard of armed sailors and surrounded by adoring former slaves.*
- *They depicted Lincoln talking to Grant on the porch of Grant's cottage at City Point. That might have happened but the conversation they depicted happened aboard the River Queen at a meeting with Grant, Sherman, and Farragut.*
- *The room Lincoln died in at the Peterson house was shown 10-12 people but there were way too many people in the shot. The room was so tiny it could only hold 4-5 people at the most.*
- *At the surrender they depicted Grant in full dress uniform. Actually Grant was wearing a plain uniform blouse with no rank insignia and spattered with mud.*
- *There were other inaccuracies but to go further would be knit-picking.*

*Overall the film is a triumph of the best Hollywood can do when they put their minds to it.*

## **WELL DONE**

by Rick Solomon

*I saw "Lincoln" yesterday and really enjoyed it. The movie is based on the book "Team of Rivals" by Doris Kearns Goodwin. It covers the last 4 months of Lincoln's life which are chapters 25 & 26 of Goodwin's book. The main focus is on the passage of the Thirteenth Amendment which abolished slavery in the United States. I thought it was well done. Daniel Day Lewis gave, perhaps, the greatest acting performance of his career. I did not observe any historical inaccuracies. I recommend it highly.*

## **MASTERPIECE**

by Mike Movius

*DreamWorks's LINCOLN is a masterpiece. First of all, it captures the political predicament that President Lincoln found himself. While endeavoring to end slavery for all time, he simultaneously avoided both the appearance not seeking an end to the war through negotiations, negotiating with "traitors" and giving power to the Confederate commissioners who sought only to end the pain of war without giving up slavery or their economic base. Secondly, Lincoln was portrayed wonderfully by Daniel Day-Lewis. His compassion as the husband of a mercurial wife; as a loving, even doting father to a young son; as father to an older son who he both seeks to protect while understanding his need to contribute to the war effort; as a story-teller and man among men; and as one who had true and raw emotion. Finally, Spielberg was able to capture Lincoln as a*

*leader with an uncanny ability to get others to do what was "right" through maneuver and good old fashion bribery.*

*Sally Field depiction was impressive, as well. History has painted her an unkind portrait. Yet, Field's Mary Todd Lincoln, although manic-depressive in private, was accomplished as a Washington City operative beyond the broad-brush strokes given through interpretation. It would come as no great surprise if Ms. Field were to be nominated Best Supporting Actor for her performance.*

*Tommy Lee Jones' portrayal of Thaddeus Stevens was equally impressive. Steven's response to the taunting questions by his enemy Democrats was electric, especially after so many years of rhetoric that flew in the face of his testimony before the House. Finally, his relationship with S. Epatha Merkerson whose character was his common-law wife Lydia Smith was a stunning revelation. Her two scenes as servant and lover superbly represent the films underlying emotional depth and breadth.*

*There were some obvious inaccuracies. For instance, in that timeframe the weather was decidedly wet, cold and miserable. However, that was not part of the environment. Relatedly, the streets of the capital were easily maneuvered by throngs of people even though in truth it was a muddy, filth-strewn and slippery mess. But, all in all, this movie is a wonderfully conceived and rendered.*

## **QUESTIONS REMAIN**

By Mike Movius

Why do you read Civil War literature? If you're like me, you read because you are curious about what happened, how it happened and what the principles were thinking at the time. This is especially true when it comes to battle descriptions.

Most recently, I've been reading a memoir called Chancellorsville and Gettysburg by Major-General Abner Doubleday. No, it doesn't mention ANYTHING about baseball. But, what it does talk about are two of the most horrific battles of the Civil War. And, some interesting issues were discussed.

For example, the general claims that General O. O. Howard, who was recently promoted to Eleventh Corps Commander by General Joseph Hooker, failed to follow orders to fortify the flank that was "in the air" at Chancellorsville. When Stonewall Jackson's division attacked following their flank march, Howard Siegel and his "Dutch" soldiers even though they were the ones who stood their ground and fought the overwhelmingly larger Confederate force. And, Hooker, for his part, failed to set the record straight as his judgment in promoting Howard could come into play.

Another example comes from the accepted belief that General Robert E. Lee was left without his “eyes and ears” when J.E.B. Stuart took his cavalry force of 10,000 troopers around the Army of the Potomac as Lee moved north into Pennsylvania prior to Gettysburg. Yet, Doubleday claims that Stuart left Robertson’s and Jones’ cavalry brigades behind with orders to follow up the rear of the Union army until it crossed the Potomac and then to rejoin Lee’s main body. Abner states, “These two brigades, with Imboden’s brigade, and White’s battalion, made quite a large cavalry force: Imboden, however was also detached to break up the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad to prevent forces from the West from taking Lee in rear; all of which goes to show how sensitive the Confederate commander was in regard to any danger threatening his communications with Richmond.”

Are the claims about Howard true and factual? And, if they are, what roles did Lincoln and Stanton have in creating a culture wherein the senior command was afraid to admit their mistakes as it might damage their reputations? And, why wasn’t Howard demoted or sacked for insubordination? Wasn’t anyone concerned about the morale issues created by the spreading myth about the “Flying Dutchman”?

As to Lee, to most historians, he is rarely criticized nor suspected of obfuscations. But, if the assertions of Doubleday are true, Lee had complete and utter control over a large force of cavalry despite the tardiness of Stuart and his force as they rode around Hooker/Meade. What were his orders to Stuart and the attached cavalry? Why did he not have as complete knowledge of the enemy’s movements? Where were Lee’s spies? What were their priorities? It is no wonder that Lee spoke no reported recriminations when Stuart arrived after his defeat at the hands of Kilpatrick, Greg and Custer.

Inasmuch as there are many authentic sources and even more perspectives about the conduct of the war, it seems prudent to ask questions about these issues and others. So, in the near future, we will begin a dialog within the Civil War community using our social media channel, Facebook, to explore the questions that remain. Stay tuned.

## **THE LAST WORD**

By Mark R. Terry

I hope that the recent heavy rains have not affected your family. Unfortunately, they have affected ours. Water noticeably started soaking our downstairs living area on Monday the 18<sup>th</sup> – right before the Thanksgiving holiday. Without going into too much detail, suffice it to say that we have been very busy and I haven’t been able to spend much time getting this issue ready to publish. It may be a little on the “short” side...

Having said that I still plan to be at the upcoming December meeting of our Civil War Round Table; the topic by Col. Mountcastle on Confederate Guerrillas and Union reprisals is of interest to me. The ancestors on my mother’s father’s side- the Tharps and

Bosleys, who fought for the South - came from Hardy County, Virginia (West Virginia in 1863). Hardy County was the home of many Confederate guerrillas and partisans. The most famous were "McNeill's Rangers" commanded first by Captain John "Hanse" McNeill, and then by his son Jesse. Their farm/plantation was near Old Fields, just a little north of Moorefield, the Hardy County Courthouse. It would take too long to go through all the exploits of McNeill's Rangers, but to the best of my knowledge although Moorefield and the adjacent areas were raided by Union cavalry from time to time, there wasn't much in the way of reprisals. The antebellum records of courthouse in Moorefield survived the war, while those of adjacent Hampshire County in north of Hardy County did not. Romney, the county seat, traded hands over 70 times during the Civil War, the most of any town, North or South. Maybe that's why...

I had at least one ancestor who chose not to join either side. John Evans, brother-in-law to my great-great Grandfather William B. Tharp (who did fight for the South) dug a hole on the hill behind his home, constructed a wooden box and placed it inside. He lived in that box for the duration of the war with his family bringing his meals to him every night! After his death years later the box was dug up and sold at his estate auction...

My thanks to Mike Movius for contributing some material for this issue. I'd like to say I've seen the movie "Lincoln", but alas due to our troubles at home, we have not seen any of the recent movies. With all the positive reviews, I'm anxious to do so. Also, if you haven't been on Facebook to see what Mike has done with our Facebook page, it is impressive. It has gotten the attention of other CWRT's around the country, which has brought more interest to our website. By the way, take Mike up on his offer to post your Civil War related photos to our FB page. They may become the cover!

## 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!*

Inasmuch as this month marks the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Fredericksburg, the following questions commemorate that battle.

1. Who was the chief of artillery under Longstreet at Fredericksburg?
2. Why did Burnside wait nearly three weeks at Falmouth before attacking Fredericksburg?
3. How large was the "killing field" in front of Marye's Heights and the stonewall at Fredericksburg?

## **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 255<sup>th</sup> 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, December 26, 2012. Please have it in Mark Terry's hands via email or snailmail by then. Thank you!**

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