

THE WASHINGTON VOLUNTEER
PUGET SOUND CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
HTTP://WWW.PSCWRT.ORG/
FEBRUARY 2013

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, February 7, 2013

[NOTE: FIRST Thursday of February, not the second as usual]

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, February 5, 2013.

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

ETHAN RAFUSE WILL DISCUSS “FIGHTING JOE” HOOKER, “SNAPPING TURTLE” MEADE, AND THE CHALLENGE OF COMMANDING THE ARMY OF THE POTOMAC IN 1863.

Early that year Joseph Hooker took command of an army torn by discord in its higher ranks and demoralized by the loss of its beloved first commander and its bitter defeat at Fredericksburg. Although Hooker restored the army's morale, his reverse at Chancellorsville ushered in his removal by President Lincoln. Hooker's replacement, George Gordon Meade, gave the Union a needed victory at Gettysburg, but a few months later the war in the East seemed once more in stalemate. Dr. Rafuse will consider the difficulties, defeats, and achievements of those who commanded the Union's most publicized army during this turbulent year in the middle of the war. A Professor of Military History at the US Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, he is the author of many articles and books, including *Stonewall Jackson: A Biography*. Amazon link: http://www.amazon.com/Stonewall-Jackson-Biography-Greenwood-Biographies/dp/0313385831/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1357971581&sr=8-1&keywords=ethan+rafuse+stonewall+jackson%3A+a+biography

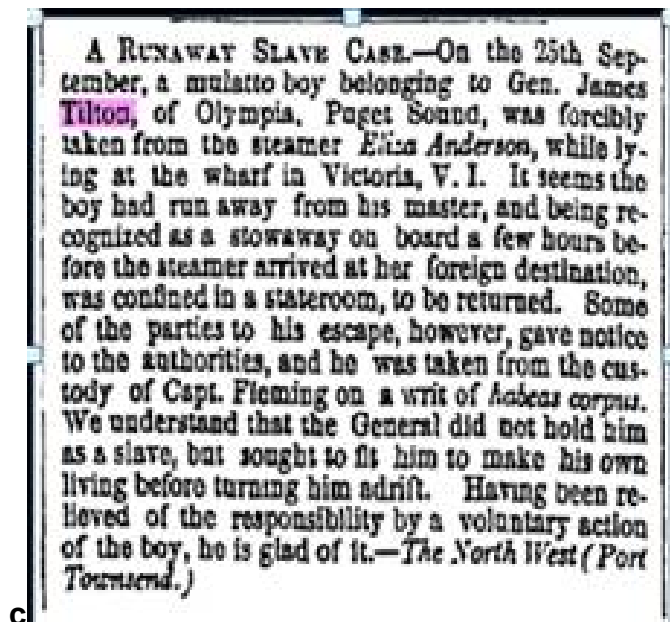
IMPORTANT DISPATCHES

Book Discussion on “The March” by E.L. Doctorow- February 12, 2013

On the 2nd Tuesday of every month, the **Northeast Branch of the Seattle Public Library, 6801 35th Ave. N.E.** hosts an adult book discussion. This month’s discussion focuses on E.L.

Doctorow’s novel of Sherman’s March to the Sea, seen through the eyes of real and fictional characters. Admittance is free. Seems fitting on the anniversary of Abraham Lincoln’s birth! For more information call 206-684-7539 or go online at: www.spl.org Submitted by Jeff Rombauer

Join Washington’s Civil War Read-In! The Civil War in Washington Territory



Democratic appointee James Tilton arrived in Olympia, Washington Territory in 1855, accompanied by his family and a young black slave, named Charles Mitchell. Mitchell fled to the Crown Colony of Victoria in September 1860, a fugitive on a tiny Puget Sound underground railroad. Here, the San Francisco Daily Evening Bulletin, October 18, 1860, reprinted an article on the flight from a Washington Territory newspaper.

In 2013, hundreds of researchers will fan out across Washington State, visiting archives, museums and libraries to read the primary documents of our history, 1857-1871. We invite you to attend a training and to join the Read-In. Participants will read an assignment in newspapers, classic published histories, and archival material of all sorts. Join us to discover the forgotten Civil War experience in Washington Territory, and report your discoveries to make a permanent record – an on-line searchable database of Civil War-era citations, hosted by the Washington State Historical Society.

During the 150th anniversary of the Civil War, we in Washington know little of our own experience of the war. However, the war is not only of significance in the battlefield states, but

also here in the far northwest, where settlers argued through the very same issues that tore the United States apart. As Washington State Historical Society prepares to launch a major exhibition, "Civil War Pathways," in February 2014, we seek your help in learning more about Washington Territory during the antebellum, wartime and early Reconstruction periods.

Get involved!

- Attend a training, January through May 2013
- Take a Read-In assignment, in newspapers or documents
- Spend a month of spare time, reading and gathering evidence
- Document your reading in the project templates
- Email your results to the Project

Here are the Civil War Read-In Trainings

Saturday, February 9, 10-4 Seattle
Saturday, February 16, 10-4 Vancouver
Saturday, February 23, 10-4 Olympia
Saturday, March 2, 10-4 Tacoma
SUNDAY, March 10, 12-6 Walla Walla
Saturday, March 23, 10-4 Yakima
Saturday, April 13, 10-4 Cheney
Saturday, April 20, 10-4 La Conner

We will build a searchable database from your work, which will be available to all researchers on the WSHS website. And we'll also get all the readers together at the conclusion of the Read-In, to meet one another and celebrate this great accomplishment.

Interested? Ready to sign up for a training? Have any questions?

Contact Lorraine McConaghy at Lorraine.mcconaghy@wshs.wa.gov or l.mcconaghy@comcast.net

ARTICLES OF INTEREST

*The article below was posted on the blog "Mysteries and Conundrums" at:
<http://web.mail.comcast.net/zimbra/mail?app=mail#2> The article appears to challenge some commonly held misconceptions...*

What's In a Name?

From Russ Smith:

A commonly held belief, one that has been challenged recently, is that newly freed slaves, having no surnames of their own, adopted the surnames of their final master. One explanation given in the classroom and elsewhere is that "Carter's William" easily became "William Carter."

luckily, there are now some local records easily accessible on-line to test whether slaves in one area actually did adopt their final master's name.

On March 19, 1866 Col. Orlando Brown, the assistant commissioner in Virginia of what is commonly called the Freedman's Bureau, ordered that a register be created of the names of freedmen "cohabitating together as man and wife." The register contains not only the surnames of each individual, but also the names of the former masters of each. There are some 1,756 freedmen's names (if I counted correctly.)

The results of reviewing the names in the register were revealing. Not only did freedmen not usually take the name of their former master, they almost never did. Of the 1,756 names reviewed, only 27 or 1.5% are the same as the final master. If some of the matches are only coincidental, that lowers the number further yet.

This raises the question that, if the names didn't come from the final master, where did they come from? A great number of the freemen's names are the same as those of local white residents. Did the freemen choose these names when they became free or are these surnames that they carried before freedom came? Although official records seem to have only recognized one name for slaves, did they actually have first and last names? This practice is not unknown and may have been more common than we assume. Only further research will tell.

Note: The volume relating to Caroline County survives in the archives of the Central Rappahannock Heritage Center at: <http://www.crharchives.org/> That part of the register relating to couples is entitled: *Register of Colored Persons of Caroline County, State of Virginia, cohabitating together and husband and wife on 27th February, 1866*. A transcription of the register is available on the University of Mary Washington's Department of Historic Preservation's excellent website at: <http://resources.umwhisp.org/freedmen/Registry1866.htm>.

Rediscovering the Civil War at Home

By Mike Movius

Every one of us Civil War aficionados know about the stone monuments at Gettysburg, Shiloh and Antietam. Most of them were paid for and erected by the actual surviving veterans and/or their ancestors. These are fitting ways to honor and celebrate their struggle for what they believed was right.

THE SITUATION

Many of those veterans migrated out West and some came to Washington Territory in the hope of starting over. Once here, they lived their lives out and perished as is the way of man. These officers and men were, by and large, proud of their service and many sought to erect tributes to themselves and their comrades.

So, where are they? Where are the monuments? And, where are those brave souls buried? Most of us know about the GAR cemetery on Capital Hill. But, there are many other places that honor Civil War veterans in our state.

THE PROPOSITION

I have sent out an email request to every county historical society in Washington asking about those monuments and grave markers. I must tell you that there is an Ephrata in Pennsylvania, a Pierce County in Wisconsin and a Lewis County in New York. (I really need a research assistant who can read.) I'm starting to receive some promising responses.

What I'm proposing is for us to take on photographing and documenting all of the monuments to Civil War veterans in Washington State. With summertime coming up, this could be a great way to explore the corners of Washington while bringing back the many surprises that are just waiting to be rediscovered.

THE DEAL

If this project fascinates you, and you'd like to be involved, please contact me. We can talk about the how's, what's and who's and make this our contribution to commemorating the Sesquicentennial.

Mike Movius, 360-481-3117 and movius@me.com

How AMAZON.COM is helping the PSCWRT

By Mark R. Terry

Like some of you, I received a gift card for Amazon.com for Christmas. I recalled reading in an email that Mike Movius, our intrepid webmaster, was discouraged because not many people were using the PSCWRT website to purchase items from Amazon. You see, for every purchase made in this manner, Amazon gives 5% of the item's cost back to our organization. This may not seem like much, but if a lot of you order from Amazon in this way, it adds up. Although the item I planned to purchase (a music CD set) was not a Civil War related item, I asked Mike if I could order it through the Round Table's website (<http://www.pscwrt.org/>). Mike said "of course!" and showed me how to do it:

1. It has to be "item specific", that is, you need to know exactly what the item is on Amazon.com that you want. For my item I simply copied the link for the page in Amazon that the item was on.
2. Email that link to Mike at: webmaster@pscwrt.org
3. Wait until Mike gives you the "okay" with the link to go to on our website.
4. Go to that link and order your item!

Although this may seem like a hassle, consider that for the little bit of extra effort you spend ordering through the PSCWRT website, it helps put money in our Round Table's treasury without taking a dime out of your pocket! You can't beat that!!! Note that there are already many Civil War books Mike has posted links to on the website. Perhaps that book you've been interested in purchasing is there. Check it out!

How Do You Do?

By Mike Movius

One of the fascinating things about humans is our differences. For instance, we conducted a survey a while back to determine just what kinds of Civil War-related books we are most likely to read. Answers varied, of course. But, there was a majority opinion that battles and battlefields dominated.

So, there is a question that goes unasked and it goes like this: How do you choose which battlefield book you're going to read next? Rather than put together another survey, I'll tell you my experience.

First, there's the WHAT A NEAT/PRETTY DUST COVER! Yes, I, too am such a miserable wretch as to fall for a marketing ploy by some imbecile publisher. But, some of them are actually worth reading.

Next, there's the I DON'T KNOW SQUAT ABOUT THAT ONE! Of course, I'm interested in finding out about as many battles as there are books about those battles. This approach, however, is much like the dust cover...you get whatever is on the shelf at the time.

Then, there's the I AM SO IMPRESSED! approach. I have only employed this approach on a few occasions. Most notably was when my buddy Wendell and I were at Guinea Station and were talking with a young NPS ranger. We were so impressed with his knowledge about the great Stonewall that we asked where he got his knowledge. He gave us the title and author of a couple books. Now, that was a great read!

And, then there's the I REALLY LIKE AND ADMIRE THAT AUTHOR! Recently, I've been reading a couple volumes written by Gary W. Gallagher. He's not only a fine writer, but a witty guy to talk with. (I also like to meet and talk with my authors.)

Next, and this is related to the like and admire approach, I MET THIS GUY AND HE SIGNED MY BOOK! Oh, sure...I have fallen into that one many times. And, some of those books I've actually read.

Finally, there's the IT'S RECOMMENDED BY SOMEONE I KNOW AND TRUST! You knew that this was coming didn't you? Your friends and associates have and continue to recommend Civil War books.

Two places to go are:

OUR TOP TEN: <http://www.pscwrt.org/top-ten.html> and

WRITTEN WORD: <http://www.pscwrt.org/documentation/written-word.html>

The Top Ten gives you the ranking of favorite books by PSCWRT members and the Written Word provides book reviews, reading lists and several direct sources...online books, journals and monographs.

I hope you were entertained and enlightened. HAPPY READING!

THE LAST WORD

By Mark R. Terry

A week or so ago, a co-worker approached me and asked an interesting question: "What is the best book about the Battle of Gettysburg?" In our conversation, it turns out something had piqued his interest in the battle and knowing I was a Civil War enthusiast he asked the question. I let him borrow my copy of Coddington's "Gettysburg: A Study in Command", often recognized as the best one-volume book on the battle. I haven't told him about our Civil War Round Table

yet, but you can bet I will bring it up and invite him. My point in sharing this is that you never know when someone will exhibit an interest in the Civil War and that we should be prepared to encourage that interest.

Looking for a Civil War project to get involved in? Look no further than this newsletter! Lorraine McConaghy of MOHAI is putting together a “Civil War Read In” where you can actually be a part of research to help document what was taking place in these parts from 1861-1865. Please read her article and see if you’d like to get involved. Mike Movius is also looking for people to get involved in finding and documenting all Civil War monuments in Washington State- see his article as well with details of this project. There is so much to see and do as we commemorate the 150th Anniversary of our Civil War...

How often have you read battle accounts where a certain maneuver or formation is described and wondered what it looked like or how it was done? If there is enough interest, I’d like to put on a “school of the soldier”. What would this entail? It would mean gathering at a park with lots of space and learning how the infantry of 1861-65 formed up, moved and fought. There would be no uniform or equipment requirement- just a willingness to spend time being a Civil War soldier for a day. As I said, this all depends on interest from you. If we can get at least 12 or more individuals- and this is open to anyone- men, women and children- who want to do this, it could be done... Please let me know. Thanks!

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 February meeting. There will be an additional “bonus question” that with the correct answer will allow you to have a special prize!

Mike Movius has been reading about the Battle of Spotsylvania Courthouse and his reading prompted the following questions...

1. The timing of the attack on the Bloody Angle on the morning of May 12, 1864 was especially fortuitous for the Federals. Why?
2. What was the weather like on during the attack on the Mule Shoe that morning?
3. Was it more deadly to stay or retreat from the Confederate front line at the Bloody Angle during the Battle of Spotsylvania Courthouse, or was it a toss-up?

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 March, 2013 Washington Volunteer is Wednesday, February 27, 2013. 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