

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

**NEXT MEETING: Thursday, March 14, 2013**

**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 minors and college students**, payable at the door, **but reservations and meal choices are required.**

To make reservations and meal choices: Go to our website at <http://www.pscwrt.org/about/dinner-reservations.php> and specify how many of you are coming and what each wants to eat. OR Call **Rod Cameron at 206-524-4434** and give him the same information.  
**Deadline for reservations is 12 NOON on Tuesday, March 12, 2013.**

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



**KEVIN WEDDLE WILL DISCUSS  
ADMIRAL SAMUEL FRANCIS DU  
PONT, U.S.N.**

At the start of the Civil War, Du Pont was considered one of the finest officers in the US Navy. Yet a little more than two years into the war, he was disgraced, having been relieved of his command after his failed naval effort to take Charleston, SC. Today Du Pont is little more than a footnote. Kevin Weddle, Ph.D., Colonel (Retired), US Army, and Professor of Military Theory and Strategy at the US Army War College, will talk about this all but forgotten officer who actually made a significant contribution to US Navy success before and during the war. Professor Weddle is the author of *Lincoln's Tragic Admiral: The Life of Samuel Francis Du Pont*.

**MARCH 2013: BATTLEFIELD PRESERVATION  
MONTH**

The Constitution of the Puget Sound Civil War Round Table states that our main mission is to educate the public about the American Civil War. But it is also "equally important" to "help preserve the monuments and battlefields" of that war. Toward that goal, the PSCWRT annually donates \$150 to the Civil War Trust (CWT), an organization whose goal is to purchase historically important property related to Civil War battlefields and sites. But we felt we should do more to emphasize preservation.

To that end, we have designated the month of March as “Battlefield Preservation Month”. You will have the opportunity to donate to the cause of battlefield preservation and also- if you haven’t done so- to become a member of the CWT. The CWT sent us some magazines that will be available for you to look at, which we will put on each table. We hope that if you have not joined the Civil War Trust that you will consider doing so.

## **APRIL 2013: PSCWRT ANNUAL AUCTION!**

During a recent board meeting it was confirmed that this year’s annual auction will take place at the April, 2013 PSCWRT meeting, set for **Thursday, April 14, 2013**. Please mark your calendar!!!

You will have a little over a month to decide what to donate to help the Round Table to bring in top-notch speakers for our monthly meetings. As you consider what to bring in, think about what you, your spouse or friend would enjoy purchasing and do likewise. Although it may help to have a Civil War theme, any item that gets someone to bid money on would be beneficial to our club. If you would like to donate items you feel should bring in more money, we will be having a live auction hosted by member and former President, Dick Miller. Items that have been donated for the live auction in the past have been sports tickets, rare book sets, pies (always a hit), Civil War photos & documents, paintings, and offers to have an original painting done for the donor by my Dana Thompson (my mother).

If you would like to donate items for the Silent Auction, you are encouraged to:

1. Make copies of the PSCWRT SILENT AUCTION BID SHEET **that is attached to this newsletter**—one sheet for each item.
2. On each form, fill out the top part- Item Description, Donated by, and the Minimum Bid.
3. Invite your friends to this meeting and come ready to bid!

On April 14<sup>th</sup> please try to arrive during the “social hour” before the meeting. A volunteer will number your item and place it on the auction tables. Even if you have not filled out a bid sheet for an item(s), bring them anyway and we will help you.

We have some volunteers, but if you want to volunteer to help out, please let us know!

This year’s auction is being organized by Blaine and Beverly Gunkel. A big “thank you” to them for helping to make this happen. If you have questions about donations or anything else related to the auction, please contact them at: [blainegunkel@hotmail.com](mailto:blainegunkel@hotmail.com). We could also use volunteer help to set up and take down.

### **WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!**

*When you have the opportunity, get to know these folks.*

Nick Adams

Drew Blazey

Richard Dickson

Don & Debbie McConnell

Paul Timmerman

## IMPORTANT DISPATCHES

*This month there are notices of upcoming local and national events, a book and a presentation of a famous general of the Civil War. Please take advantage of them if you can!*

Presentation by **Richard Etulain**, Professor Emeritus of History University of New Mexico, who will speak on his new book, ***Lincoln and Oregon Country Politics in the Civil War Era***. Book signing following the presentation.

**Noon, Monday April 8, 2013**

State Capital Museum Coach House, 211 21<sup>st</sup> Avenue SW, Olympia, WA 98501

\$2.00 Donation Requested.

Contact Shanna Stevenson, Washington State Historical Society, for further information at:

T: 360.586.0171, F: 360.586.8322, [shanna.stevenson@wshs.wa.gov](mailto:shanna.stevenson@wshs.wa.gov)

*Following submitted by Sylva Coppock:*

**General George Pickett, His Life and Times, by Mike Vouri**

**Saturday, April 27, 2013, 2:00 pm**

Tyee High School Cafetorium

The Highline Historical Society, as our contribution to commemorating the 150th anniversary of the Civil War, the Society has engaged Mike Vouri, National Park Interpretive Ranger, to tell us this engaging story. This is a good performance by an accomplished actor and history lover.

Museum members and students admitted free, non-members \$5 donation.

For more information, contact them at: <http://www.highlinehistory.org/Programs.html>

Editor's Note: Mike Vouri is an excellent presenter. He gave a talk to the PSCWRT about "The Pig War" some time back. He is the author and co-author of several books on that and the history of the San Juan Islands in general.

*Following submitted by Mike Movius:*

***Two Years Before the Paddlewheel, Mississippi River Confederate*** by Bruce S. Allardice and Wayne L. Wolf, is the edited diary of Chicago millionaire Charles F. Gunther. Charles F. Gunther is a Yankee ice peddler who is trapped in the South at the outbreak of the war. Presented here are two years of diaries of Gunther's experiences working on the steamboat *Rose Douglas*, ferrying Confederate troops and supplies. After the war, Gunther makes a fortune in the candy business across the street from Marshal Field's in Chicago, becomes a premier collector and preserver of Civil War artifacts and Lincoln memorabilia, endows the Chicago history Museum with its Civil War collection, and goes on to hold political office as an alderman and City Treasurer of Chicago. In *Two Years Before the Paddlewheel*, readers can follow the day-by-day survival of an ordinary ice merchant turned Confederate steamboat purser during the Civil War. Gunther's day-by-day account as a civilian in military service illuminates the economic, military, social, and personal side of America's Civil War.

*Following submitted by Mike Movius:*

## **8th Annual Members' Tour: September 28 - October 6, 2013**

Join A. Wilson Greene and a group of the nation's Gettysburg experts to explore the epic story of the Civil War's most famous campaign from its bold inception at Brandy Station to its fateful conclusion on the Maryland shore of the Potomac. Headquartered in Winchester and Gettysburg. Saturday evening through the next Sunday morning. Reservations Required. Sites and guest guides include:

**Brandy Station:** Joe McKinney  
President of Brandy Station Foundation

**Second Winchester:** Jonathan Noyalas  
Lord Fairfax Community College

**Aldie, Middleburg, & Upperville:** Robert O'Neill  
Noted author and expert on Virginia cavalry operations

**Ewell and Stuart in Pennsylvania:** Richard Sommers  
U.S. Army War College at Carlisle

**The Battle of Gettysburg:** Scott Hartwig Gettysburg National Military Park  
Garry Adelman, Civil War Trust  
Carol Reardon, Penn State University

**Lee's Retreat:** Kent Masterson Brown  
Award-winning author of Lee's Retreat from Gettysburg

For questions, email [memberservices@gmail.com](mailto:memberservices@gmail.com) or call 1- 877-726-7546.  
You do not need to be a Pamplin Historical Park member to take this tour,  
but members receive a 10% discount.

## **HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW ABOUT A SOLDIER'S LIFE?**

By Mike Movius

By reading regimental histories, military strategies and/or battle descriptions, the reader is left with a great deal of analysis of the actions of generals, the administration and the perceptions of the author. But, the guys with boots on the ground are not often considered.

One of the ways I have been able to satisfy my curiosity is by reading first-hand accounts. There are two books that every follower of the Civil War should read: *Company Aytch* by Sam R. Watkins and *Hardtack and Coffee* by John D. Billings. Sam Watkins was a

member of the 1<sup>st</sup> Tennessee Infantry. His recollections about life in the Confederate army are not only well-written, but also revealing. John Billings was a member of the Army of the Potomac. His narrative is laced with humor and is a great read. Both of these are available on our website at: <http://www.pscwrt.org/library.html>

Most recently, I've been intrigued by other accounts written by Civil War soldiers like Leander Stillwell. This author wrote *The Story of a Common Soldier of Army Life in the Civil War, 1861-1865* as a memoir. His style is enthralling. Leander Stillwell was a nineteen year old farm boy who joined the 61<sup>st</sup> Illinois Volunteer Infantry and experienced his first action at Shiloh. As he was a farmer's son, he had hunted extensively for game back home. And, as he had had to cast his own bullets, his idea before battle was to take careful aim and husband his ammunition. But, that thought immediately went out the window as the Rebels approached his company's line of battle and his whole line opened up, flooding the air with smoke and random, unaimed firings. After the battle, he observed the trees were bullet-pocked 100 to 150 feet above the ground. So much for green troops and husbanding.

He also tells several anecdotes about little incidents while the battle was raging. For example, as his company begrudgingly retreated, there came a large white tent to his immediate rear. A cannonball rent the air above Stillwell and struck the tent leaving a gaping hole on both sides of this less-than-adequate shelter. Through the hole, the much shaken figure of a sutler emerged. He took off like a shot for the Tennessee River, leaving his stores to the delight of Stillwell and his comrades.

Stillwell's book is in the public domain, and is very easily accessed. One way to get it is as an e-book. If you have a Kindle, Nook or iPad, this is the way to go. It is available on iTunes and Amazon.com for FREE. When you access iTunes, click on books and enter the author's name. For Amazon.com, just click on this link: [http://www.amazon.com/Story-Common-Soldier-1861-1865-ebook/dp/B004SQX51I/ref=sr\\_1\\_2?ie=UTF8&qid=1362260564&sr=8-2&keywords=Army+Life+in+the+Civil+War%2C+1861-1865](http://www.amazon.com/Story-Common-Soldier-1861-1865-ebook/dp/B004SQX51I/ref=sr_1_2?ie=UTF8&qid=1362260564&sr=8-2&keywords=Army+Life+in+the+Civil+War%2C+1861-1865)

Librivox has a free audio book collection that contains this volume. Their version makes "reading" simple. [http://archive.org/details/story\\_of\\_a\\_common\\_soldier\\_sa\\_librivox](http://archive.org/details/story_of_a_common_soldier_sa_librivox). You can either listen to it from the Internet page, or download the whole book in M4B format.

Enjoy yourselves...

## THE LAST WORD

By Mark R. Terry

This month's meeting of the Puget Sound Civil War Round Table is being called "Battlefield Preservation Month". It was Mike Movius who challenged our board that if this was a priority for our organization, we should be doing more to promote it. Mike is right. I had my own epiphany regarding the preservation of Civil War battlefields and sites back in the spring of 1991. I was reading my latest issue of "Blue & Gray" magazine when I came across an editorial entitled "Preserving Brandy Station" by Clark B. "Bud" Hall, who at that time was Secretary of the Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites (precursor to the CWT). Hall wrote that the land our forefathers fought over during the Civil War was a sacred heritage passed down to all Americans, no matter where we lived and that it was up to us to preserve them for the generations still to come. My excuse at the time for not joining was that I lived way out here on the west coast- not even close to anyplace the APCWS was working to preserve. But his words moved me to become more active in helping to preserve Civil War battlefields and sites. I've

been a member ever since. I've also been able to experience firsthand the good work that these organizations have done in working with local government and developers to find ways to purchase, preserve and interpret some of these places, such as Bristoe Station and the North Anna River in Virginia and others. When you think about it, the battlefields and sites of the Civil War are the only places we have left where we can still get a real understanding of what took place 150 years ago. Sadly, without the work of organizations like the CWT, these places are becoming fewer and fewer and of course many are long gone. So I hope you will be able to help at the coming meeting. We want to make this an annual emphasis, but perhaps earlier in 2013-2014.

See you there!

## 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 March 2013 meeting. There will be an additional "bonus question" that with the correct answer will allow you to have a special prize!*

1. What act of Congress did President Lincoln sign into law in March 1863?
2. True or False - President Lincoln requested that a standard gauge be adopted for American railroads. Congress adopted his suggested gauge.
3. What occurred at the Brown's Island Confederate Ordnance laboratory on March 13, 1863?

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

**We welcome your article or research submissions for the newsletter, but they may be edited. The deadline for the April, 2013 Washington Volunteer is Wednesday, March 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](mailto:davidpalmer7@comcast.net)

Vice-President/Successor: Rick Solomon, [ricksolo@integraonline.com](mailto:ricksolo@integraonline.com)

Immediate Past-President, Richard Miller, 206-808-8506 or 206-236-5247,

[Milomiller882@msn.com](mailto:Milomiller882@msn.com)

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

Vice-President, Newsletter, Mark Terry, 425-337-6246, [markimlor@comcast.net](mailto:markimlor@comcast.net)  
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, an automatic position.*

**Elected Board of Directors:**

Jim Dimond, 253-277-3783, [shinodad@gmail.com](mailto:shinodad@gmail.com)  
Mike Movius, [webmaster@pscwr.org](mailto:webmaster@pscwr.org)

**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)  
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