

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

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, April 11, 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.**

PLEASE NOTE: To make room for the Annual Auction, this month's meeting will be held upstairs at China Harbor. After you enter the outside front doors, take the stairs to the right of the restaurant entrance.

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:

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, April 9, 2013.

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

NICK K. ADAMS WILL DESCRIBE THE CIVIL WAR SERVICE OF DAVID BRAINARD GRIFFIN IN THE 2ND MINNESOTA.

In September 1861, Griffin left his wife and three young children to manage their Minnesota prairie homestead without him, while he answered Lincoln's call for volunteers by enlisting in the 2nd Minnesota, formed at Ft. Snelling. For the next two years he wrote home almost every week, 104 letters in all, describing in vivid detail his marching and fighting in the Western Theater, through Mill Springs, Perryville, and the Tullahoma Campaign, until he was killed in 1863 along the Reeds Bridge Road that crosses Chickamauga Creek. His great-great-grandson, Nick Adams, will relate the personal story told in Griffin's letters. A retired teacher in Tacoma who speaks often on the Civil War, Mr. Adams is the author of *The Uncivil War: Battle in the Classroom*, winner of the 2012 Pinnacle Book Award for Juvenile Fiction.

ANNUAL PSCWRT AUCTION

In conjunction with Nick Adams' presentation this month we will hold our annual auction to allow us to bring in top-notch speakers for our monthly meetings! As the instructions above state, please proceed upstairs to the upper meeting room, which is much larger than our normal room. There, tables will be set up for our silent auction items along with our usual setup.

What to donate?

Items that have been donated for the live auction in the past have been sports tickets, rare book sets, pies or other desserts (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). Basically, donate anything you feel will raise funds.

How to donate items:

1. Please try to arrive during the “Social Hour” (6 p.m.) and if possible have your PSCWRT SILENT AUCTION BID SHEET filled out and ready for each item you are placing in the Silent Auction. Each form should have an item description, whom it was donated by (you), and the minimum bid. Volunteers will help find places to put the items.
2. Please take Live Auction items to Dick Miller, who will be our auctioneer and discuss what the starting bid should be.

What should be the starting bid?

A good guideline might be how much you paid for the item originally. Don’t begin too low, since we want to make money for our Round Table, right?

Procedure

This year our plan is to have our Live Auction first, followed by Nick Adams’ presentation around 8 p.m., then finish with our Silent Auction. Everyone should have time to peruse the silent auction items on the tables before dinner is served. If there is an item you really want to win, make sure your bid is the highest when the silent auction is closed.

How to Pay

Immediately following the end of the silent auction, please take the item(s) you won, along with the accompanying Bid Sheet(s) to where Treasurer Jeff Rombauer and his assistants will be. They will verify the final price and add up your donations. Please pay with a **check or cash**. Please be patient, as there will probably be a line.

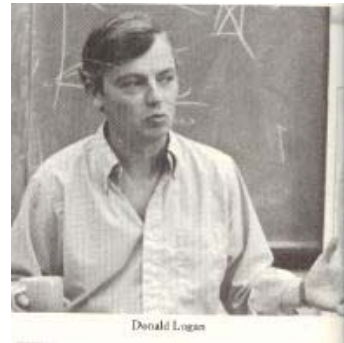
This year’s auction is being organized by Blaine and Beverly Gunkel. They are working hard to ensure that it will be a success. If you have questions about donations or anything else related to the auction, please contact them at: blainegunkel@hotmail.com. **We could also use volunteer help to set up and take down.** Let them know if you can help.

IMPORTANT DISPATCHES

Battlefield Preservation Month, March 2013 Recap

Last month was our first meeting emphasizing battlefield preservation by raising funds to give to the Civil War Trust. We passed around a huge “Hardee Hat” to each table to drop some dollars in. According to Jeff Rombauer, Treasurer, the total came to **\$69**. That amount combined with our annual donation as an organization of \$150 comes to a total of **\$219**. Thank you to all who contributed! Next season we may do this earlier in the year. Finally, we hope that if you have not joined the CWT that you will consider doing so. It is a great organization doing a very important job...

Don Logan (1933-2013)



We learned just prior to the March 14th Round Table meeting that PSCWRT member Don Logan had passed away a few days before. I was very saddened by the news. Some years back I ran into Don at a Round Table meeting and comparing notes realized he'd been teaching at Ballard High School when I was a student there in the mid-70's though I never had him as a teacher. The photo above right was taken from the 1976 BHS yearbook, the year I graduated. Don was always supportive and encouraging of me when I was president of the Round Table and also later when I became the editor of the newsletter. He was very kind and generous as well. A year ago at the Annual Auction he purchased the entire set of the Photographic History of the Civil War. Before he left that night, he gave them to me as a gift! The last time I saw Don, he was getting in his car after the February 7 Round Table meeting. I told him "see you at the next meeting". Sadly, he wasn't able to make that meeting...

-Mark Terry

Below is Don's Obituary, published in The Seattle Times from March 12 to March 13, 2013

Our father, Donald William Logan, passed away very suddenly and unexpectedly albeit peaceably with us on March 9, 2013 - his 80th year - in Seattle. Don was very well known in - and will be greatly missed by - many different communities primarily in the Capitol Hill area where he has been a resident and businessman since 1963.

"Donny" was born on a cold Chicago day on Dec 26, 1933 the first child of Donald Edward Logan and Alice Marie Briney. The Logan family moved to Muskegon, MI in 1943. Don graduated from Muskegon HS in 1952. The Logan family moved to Seattle the fall of 1952 due to his father's new job at Boeing. Don enrolled at the UW from which he graduated in 1956 with a degree in Education. Don's teaching career with the Seattle Public Schools began in 1960 teaching history at Blaine Junior High in Magnolia. He was called into the military in 1963 due to the Berlin Crisis. Don returned to the UW and received a graduate degree in History in 1968. The majority of Don's career was at Ballard High School teaching US History and a variety of other courses. He loved his work - especially working with young people - more than can be imagined. He evidently was a very beloved teacher as for years we would regularly encounter former students who would delightedly run up to greet "Mr. Logan" long after they had been students. Don retired from his teaching career in 1985.

Don also began investing in Real Estate very early due to his entrepreneurial spirit, love for tax deductions and the guidance of father-in-law Russell Jones, well known RE broker on Capitol

Hill.

He eventually purchased several buildings on Capitol Hill the management of which he thoroughly enjoyed and from which he provided endless stories. This effort allowed Don to exhibit his great generosity and sense of community by providing a sizeable donation to the University of Washington to sustain a chair in the UW History Dept.

Along with his children, Greg, Scott and Lisa, our dad's pride and joy was the magnificent restoration of an 1888 residential complex on the corner of East Olive Way and Bellevue on Capitol Hill. Our dad also took great pride in restoring and furnishing his Georgian colonial home.

Don is survived by his son, Greg, daughter, Lisa and her children Celina and Nick and his sister Jan and preceded by his beloved son Scott Logan. Service notice will be provided here as soon as available.

Submitted by Jan Olson, via Pat Brady:

NOTICE, ESPECIALLY FOR ALL YOU COLLECTORS OF MILITARIA OUT THERE WHO WANT TO SHOW THEM OFF:

The Federal Courthouse (the old one at 1010 5th Ave. in downtown Seattle, across from Seattle Public Library), is seeking interesting items for display in an exhibit on law, the military and veterans.

They are especially looking for military items which might relate to the law. Some examples of what they have is material from Army CID officer, Vietnam era court martial, and Social Security case relating to tunnel rat. Any item relating to the latter would be of particular interestand Vietnam items showing war courage...above and beyond.

They are hoping to include a section on war crimes relating to WWII. If anyone has anything relating to German camps including liberation, they will have Nuremberg info. (they have access to chilling pre-war Nazi material.)

Then there is always the "wow" exhibit material that deals with Civil War ...or military items never before displayed. So many people are pulled in by these. There has been much interest and thus have rounded up more locked display cabinets. There will be 24 hour camera security for all the items.

Jan Olson's number with private voice mail is 206/370-8981 and she will be at the display library on Tuesday at 1010 5th Ave. You can also contact her by email at: Jan_Olson@lb9.uscourts.gov.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

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

Drew & Sean Blazey

Marshall & Marilyn Moon

Richard & Vanessa Ness

The following was submitted by Jorgen Bader

The Whipping Man
By Matthew Lopez
March 27 - April 27
Taproot Theatre

"... wonderfully satisfying ... the action spools out elegantly as new revelations arise ..." – *The Village Voice*

As we mark the passage of 150 years since the days of the Civil War, Taproot Theatre performs Matthew Lopez's poignant and highly acclaimed drama, *The Whipping Man*.

The war has finally ended. A Jewish Confederate soldier returns home in time to celebrate Passover, only to learn that his family has departed but two former slaves still inhabit the house. As they prepare to share an unusual Passover, the pasts and secrets that hold them together also threaten the freedom of all three men. This provocative play, called "haunting, striking and powerful" by *The New York Times*, asks questions of faith, freedom and identity.

Note: This play is set within the reality of wartime suffering. The production itself does not depict scenes of violence between slaves and owners, however it does contain profane language and vivid descriptions of war and slavery. Recommended for ages 16+

Taproot Theatre's Seattle premiere of *The Whipping Man* is directed by Producing Artistic Director, Scott Nolte and features veteran Seattle actor, William Hall, Jr., as well as Ryan Childers and Tyler Trerise.

Buy your tickets online now at: <http://taproottheatre.org/buy-tickets/>
Or call the Box Office at 206.781.9707

Save with groups of 8 or more! 206.781.9708 or: groups@taproottheatre.org

Civil War Medal of Honor Winners Buried in Washington State?

By Mike Movius

Yes, Virginia there are 18 Civil War Congressional Medal of Honor (CMOH) winners buried in Washington State. That's decidedly a small percentage of all CMOH recipients, but for a state that was just a territory during that great conflict, it's not bad.

It is our intention, as part of the Washington Project, to develop profiles of each of our CMOH winners and to post them on the website. But, as a teaser, let me give you the 411 on them.

First off, twelve of the eighteen were enlisted men, while six were officers. They came from a variety of places: four (4) from New York, three (3) from Illinois, two (2) each from Missouri and Wisconsin; and one (1) each from Minnesota, Massachusetts, Maine, Michigan, West Virginia, Pennsylvania and Ohio. Thirteen (13) were in the army, and three (3) were in the navy.

Their ranks are varied. On the army side, there are three (3) privates; three (3) corporals; four (4) sergeants; two (2) lieutenants; one (1) provost marshal; one (1) captain; and one (1) major general. On the navy side, one (1) was a landsman and two (2) were quartermasters.

They received their decorations from actions in some well-known and some obscure battles. Army recipients won their medals at Duck River, Tennessee; five (5) at Vicksburg; two (2) at Sailor's Creek; two (2) at Gravelly Run, Virginia; and one each at New Orleans; Trevalian Station, Virginia; Elk River, Tennessee; 2nd Battle of Corinth, Mississippi; Spotsylvania Courthouse; 2nd Bull Run; Gettysburg; and Decatur, Georgia. Navy recipients won their awards aboard the USS Cincinnati; USS Varuna; and USS Petrel.

Finally, they are buried all across our great state, including: Tahoma National Cemetery in Kent; Bayview Cemetery in Bellingham; Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) Cemetery in Seattle; Greenwood Memorial Terrace in Spokane; Pomeroy City Cemetery in Pomeroy; Lakeview Cemetery in Seattle; five (5) are in the Washington Soldiers Home Cemetery in Orting; Fort Vancouver Military Cemetery; Riverton Crest Cemetery in Tukwila; Ivy Green Cemetery in Bremerton; the Odd Fellows Memorial Park & Mausoleum in Tumwater; Masonic Cemetery in Elma; Laurel Grove Cemetery in Port Townsend; and Tacoma Cemetery in Tacoma.

Watch for more about the Washington Project as we move forward.

Steve Olson, longtime member of the PSCWRT asked if he could share this with article he wrote with you via the newsletter. I am very happy to include it and hope that it will inspire other Round Table members to put their own Civil War related articles together and submit them to the newsletter. Thanks, Steve! Mark Terry, Editor.

From the Fjords to the Meadows

By Steve Olsen

Prepared with the permission of Susan Segelstrom from her book, *From the Mountains to the Meadows*

May 18, 1839 was a big day for the Branstad farm home near Moss, Norway. A second son Ole Christian was born. Ole remained at home until he was twelve when he decided to become a sailor. It was an easy choice in those days as a mariner's life was popular for many Norwegian boys. For the next ten years, Ole sailed to many exotic ports and experienced the imminent perils and joys of a mariner. He often bragged that he had visited most of the seaports north of the equator.

By the summer of 1862, the American Civil War was already one year old. Ole had become a sailor on the Great Lakes with Milwaukee as his homeport. Many Norwegians were sailing the Great Lakes as U.S. wages were higher and working conditions better than in Norway. Being young, adventurous and patriotic, Ole felt it was his duty to serve the Union cause in the war. On August 30, 1862, Ole Christian Branstad enlisted in the army for three years and found himself in Company A of the 15th Wisconsin Infantry Regiment. This regiment was intended to be manned by Scandinavian troops and Company A was known as "St. Olaf's Rifles".

The Fifteenth Wisconsin was mustered on February 14, 1862. After organization and training, the regiment departed in early March 1862 for St. Louis and from there to Union City, Kentucky and their first taste of combat. Apparently the Confederate force was not large and was quickly put to flight. As the summer and fall wore on the regiment participated in numerous skirmishes. Ole joined in time to participate in the Battle of Perryville on October 8, 1862, their first major engagement. Ole was also a part of the winter battle of Stone's River (Murfreesboro, Tennessee) and the summer 1863 Tullahoma Campaign. Thus far combat casualties for the regiment had been relatively light and disease was by far the soldier's greatest danger.

The two-day battle of Chickamauga began on September 19, 1863. This major battle was marked by savage combat, heavy losses to both sides and ended as a major defeat for the Union. The 15th was placed in a bad position and overrun by the assault of Longstreet's Corps. Casualties among the regimental officers were so high that the after action report was written by a captain! Ole suffered a minor scalp wound and became a prisoner of war. Combat was now over for him and his battle for survival had begun.

During the next nineteen months until the end of the war, Ole was confined in at least five different prisons. While imprisoned in a tobacco factory in Danville, Virginia, he participated in an escape attempt. The inmates had dug a 150 foot tunnel and on a night in February 1864 the men lined up and began to crawl out. Over 80 had successfully escaped before the attempt was discovered. Ole was in the midst of the tunnel when the discovery was made and he was compelled to retreat back to the prison. During the retreat the tunnel caved in and it took the efforts of his mates and some Reb guards to finally extricate him. It seems that his ears were filled with sand and he remained deaf for some time. All the escapees were subsequently recaptured.

In April 1864, Ole was sent to the worst of all southern prisons, the infamous Andersonville, near Sumter, Georgia. The prison was located in a swampy pine forest about 60 miles south of Macon. Although the town had only about twenty residents it was a main railroad line and had a depot.

Union prisoners had begun arriving at Andersonville in February 1864. Upon arriving the prisoners were marched a quarter of a mile to the sixteen and one half acre enclosure that served as the prison. During the next few months the number of prisoners swelled to 20,000 and the enclosure size was increased by some 10 acres. By August, Andersonville held over 33,000 men and conditions were atrocious. It was experiencing a death rate of over 100 inmates a day. Diseases of all types were prevalent. Poor sanitation alone in this overcrowded, filthy environment was a major infection threat. The food supply was appallingly poor and insufficient. The food was often rancid and spoiled. Inmate gangs preyed on their fellow prisoners and assaults and thievery were common.

There was little or no shelter provided from the weather. One night as Ole camped out under the stars he felt that his death was near. He was utterly miserable and starving, surely he would soon die. During the night someone had smuggled in some peaches and shared them with Ole. He quickly ate six of them and survived the night. Day after day, the living conditions were growing

worse. In August Ole was diagnosed with scurvy and spent four months in the prison hospital. This may have saved his life. In January 1865 he was returned to the Andersonville stockade.

In the spring of 1865 the war finally ended. Ole was among more than 45,000 men now held prisoner in the abhorrent confinement of Andersonville. Almost 30% of the prisoners held at this site had died. Through these atrocious conditions Ole had somehow managed to survive the hellish nightmare of Andersonville. The formerly healthy, robust, 160 lb. young man was now a mere 98 lb. walking skeleton. He was to suffer from the effects of his imprisonment through the rest of his life.

Ole was still sick and weak from his ordeals when paroled from the army at Vicksburg, Mississippi in April 1865. From there he was scheduled to sail north to Cairo, Illinois aboard the steam paddleboat *SS Sultana*. A fellow soldier wanted to return home quickly and since Ole was not feeling well and had no reason to rush north he agreed to exchange tickets and sail at a later date. Less than two days later the ill-fated boat's boilers blew up, killing an estimated 1600 passengers and crew. This is still considered the worst maritime disaster in U.S. history. The ticket exchange had no doubt saved Ole's life. Instead of being aboard the ill-fated boat his condition was reassessed and he was sent to a convalescent camp near St. Louis for two months.

Ole was honorably discharged June 16, 1865, at Madison, Wisconsin. He returned to Milwaukee intending to resume his career as a sailor on the Great Lakes. He had enough connections to hire on a vessel with the understanding that his health would not yet allow him to perform the duties of an able-bodied seaman but that he would do the best he could. Unfortunately, Ole was sicker than he thought and was confined to his bunk most of the cruise.

Upon returning to Milwaukee he sought treatment at a charity hospital for a few weeks. Feeling better or at least more desperate Ole signed on with the same captain for another short trip with the same result. He was unfit for his former career as a sailor. Ole was in serious trouble. He was broke and had no friends or family to take him in and care for him in the Milwaukee area. He knew that many Scandinavians had settled in northwestern Wisconsin so he slowly journeyed that way seeking the kinship of fellow Norwegian immigrants. When he arrived at the village of Grantsburg he found that times were booming in that area. Lumbering and farming were flourishing and Grantsburg was also the County Seat.

On one of his last ocean voyages Ole had met and become good friends with Andreas (Pete) Anderson and his family. Pete had told Ole that he was going to settle in this area and that Ole had a standing invitation to look them up. Anderson had become quite successful in business and politics and was as good as his word. At last Ole now had a place to call home. On February 3, 1870 Ole became one of the family when he married an Anderson daughter named Sophia.

Sophia was a remarkable young woman. She cared for her husband and nursed him to some semblance of health. She raised a large family, ran a farm as needed and was active in community and church affairs. Ole did get strong enough to do some physical labor and resume his career as a sailor on a part time basis. He brought beef cattle into the region, was active in business and held county political office. In 1905 Ole's health again failed and he became

seriously ill. He died February 10, 1906. He was remembered as being a Civil War hero, pioneer, public servant, a highly reputable citizen and a family man.

NOTE: THERE WILL NOT BE A “LAST WORD” COLUMN THIS MONTH. See you in next month’s issue!

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 May, 2013 Washington Volunteer is Wednesday, April 24, 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