

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

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, September 12, 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 Tso'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, use one of these options (most preferred first):

Click on <http://www.pscwrt.org/about/dinner-reservations.php>

Email **Rod Cameron** at: rodcam@comcast.net

Or lastly, call **Rod Cameron** at **206-524-4434**

Deadline for reservations is 12 NOON on Tuesday, September 10, 2013.

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

LANCE WELLER WILL TALK ABOUT THE LEGACY AND IMPACT OF THE CIVIL WAR ON THOSE WHO FOUGHT IT.

Weller's highly praised novel, *Wilderness*, tells of a Confederate who barely survives the Battle of the Wilderness, a battle the novel describes in vivid personal detail. Living on the coast of the Olympic Peninsula 36 years later, the veteran is still haunted by the past when he sets out on a trek across the Olympic Mountains. Weller will describe how he went from knowing very little about the American Civil War to discovering a passion for the period that led him through the writing of his novel.

DID YOU GET "THE LETTER"???

While most PSCWRT members pay their dues promptly within the first month or two of the season, at least 20% of our returning membership lags behind. This year we wanted to get a jump on this for 2013-2014. Treasurer Jeff Rombauer volunteered to send a letter via U.S. Mail to all of our members with a pre-paid return envelope in hopes that this would ignite the process. The board unanimously agreed to spend the funds to do this. You should have received your letter by now. **If you've already returned it with your dues, THANK YOU. If not, please do so ASAP- thanks!**

If this is the first time you've heard of this and you were a member last year, please contact Jeff Rombauer at: 425-432-1346 or via email at: jeffrombauer@foxinternet.com

WELCOME BACK! PLEASE ATTEND THE SEPTEMBER 2013 MEETING

We always want all of our members to attend our program meetings. But why would we make this unusual request? Because we have some decisions to be made that will affect our Constitution/bylaws and we need your input and vote. If you have any questions, go to this link: <http://www.pscwrt.org/members-only>

IMPORTANT DISPATCHES

What could be more important than the list of scheduled programs for this coming season???

PUGET SOUND CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE PROGRAMS **OCTOBER 2013-MAY 2014**

Please take note of the dates of our upcoming speakers/meetings for the coming year. We will keep you apprised of any changes as the season progresses. A big THANK YOU to Pat Brady for once again putting this together!

OCTOBER 10, 2013 **Ed Malles** will present a brief history of the 50th NY Volunteer Engineers, their recruitment, training, and service in the Army of the Potomac, with a description of pontoon bridge building. He will describe their journey to Fredericksburg in desperate conditions, the debacle that unfolded there, as well as command failures at Fredericksburg and alternate plans for crossing the Rappahannock. Ed Malles is the Editor of *Bridge Building in Wartime, Colonel Wesley Brainerd's Memoir of the 50th New York Engineers*.

NOVEMBER 14, 2013 **Professor Scott Sagan** will discuss Pickett's Other Charge: The Hidden History of a Confederate General's Indian Son. Jimmie Pickett was George Pickett's mixed-race son born near Fort Bellingham, whom George gave to settlers near Olympia when he left Washington Territory to join the Confederacy in 1861. An article by Professor Sagan and his son Samuel in the Wall Street Journal, June 22-23, 2013, <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887323893504578555281194469040.html> tells of Jimmie Pickett and of the efforts of LaSalle Corbell Pickett, his stepmother back east, to cover up his existence. A Professor of Political Science at Stanford University, Sagan is the author or editor of many works, including *Moving Targets: Nuclear Strategy and National Security* and *The Spread of Nuclear Weapons: A Debate Renewed*.

DECEMBER 12, 2013 **Rick Solomon** will discuss George Sears Greene, the oldest general in the Army of the Potomac in 1862. A Rhode Islander and an 1823 West Point graduate, Greene left the Army in 1836 for a successful career as a civil engineer. Greene's two great moments during the Civil War came at Antietam's Dunkard Church and Gettysburg's Culp's Hill, where his lone brigade turned back a critical Confederate attack on the Baltimore Pike. After the war Greene returned to his engineering practice and lived to be 97 years old. Let no one say that Rick Solomon, a past president and current vice-president of the Round Table, gives presentations only about Confederates!

JANUARY 9, 2014 **Walter Stahr** will discuss William Henry Seward and the Pacific Northwest. Most people know about Seward's purchase of Alaska as well as his earlier service as Lincoln's Secretary of State during the Civil War. Few, however, know about his longstanding interest in the Pacific Northwest: Oregon, Washington, British Columbia, and Alaska. Seward not only purchased Alaska, but he also came close to acquiring British Columbia. Author of the acclaimed new biography *Seward: Lincoln's Indispensable Man*, Walter Stahr will discuss these and other aspects of Seward's life.

FEBRUARY 13, 2014 **Steve Raymond** will describe the 78th Illinois Infantry's baptism of fire. After a year of service, the 78th Illinois had yet to "see the elephant," but in September 1863 the regiment faced its first combat on the second day at Chickamauga. The 78th drove a veteran Confederate unit from the crest of Horseshoe Ridge, and then held on against a furious series of counterattacks, losing nearly a hundred men and ending up under the temporary command of a young lieutenant. Its heroism helped General George Thomas earn his immortal nickname, the Rock of Chickamauga. Steve Raymond tells the full story of the 78th in his tenth book, *In the Very Thickest of the Fight*, published by Globe Pequot Press.

MARCH 13, 2014 **Dick Miller** will talk about the Cherokee warriors at the Battle of Pea Ridge, the defection of half the Confederate Cherokee forces after the battle, and the Watie-Ross dispute that practically destroyed the Cherokee Nation. No group demonstrated the brother-against-brother nature of the Civil War more than the Cherokee. Bitter rivalries, dating back to the loss of ancestral lands in the East during the 1830's, caused the Cherokee Nation to split between North and South and led to vicious intra-tribal fighting between 1861 and 1865. Dick Miller is a past president of the Round Table and silent auctioneer extraordinaire.

APRIL 10, 2014 **David Leroy** will discuss *The Book that Elected Lincoln*, the publication of the Lincoln-Douglas Debates, Lincoln's role in their publication, and the role of their publication in his election as president in 1860. A former prosecutor, attorney general, and lieutenant governor of Idaho, David Leroy has served as United States Nuclear Waste Negotiator and Chairman of the Governors Council of the U.S. Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission. The author of *Mr. Lincoln's Book: Publishing the Lincoln-Douglas Debates*, he has written and spoken about Lincoln for more than 30 years.

MAY 8, 2014 **Michael Burlingame** will discuss: What New Can Be Said about Abraham Lincoln? He will explore fresh sources of information he has found and the new light they shed on Lincoln, his inner life, and on race, with specific focus on the origins of Lincoln's hatred of slavery, his miserable marriage to Mary Todd, his relations with his parents and children, and his midlife crisis. Professor of Lincoln Studies at the University of Illinois Springfield, Michael Burlingame is the author or editor of a dozen books, including the multiple prizewinning *Abraham Lincoln: A Life* and *The Inner World of Abraham Lincoln*.

DONATION RECEIVED

By Mike Movius

I received an email from Kirby Wilbur telling me of his desire to donate books and Civil War memorabilia to the roundtable. Kirby is a long-time Civil War enthusiast who is a voracious reader. In addition to reading material, he has an exceptional collection of Civil War art most notably by Mort Kunstler.

The bottom-line is that Kirby donated well over 100 books, artifacts and other materials to the roundtable. You will have an opportunity to see them over the course of the year, culminating at our auction this Spring.

We owe Kirby a big THANK YOU for his kindness and generosity.

NOTICE: CIVIL WAR NEWS will feature an interview with Mike Movius, Webmaster and member of the Board of Directors in the September 2013 publication. Way to go, Mike!

ANECDOTES FROM MY QUEST OR: THE DEAD ARE THE SMARTEST PEOPLE

By Michael Movius

For those of you who haven't been paying much attention, we began the WASHINGTON PROJECT last year after being bombarded with questions like, "Why are you here? Nothing happened in Washington State. Why are you interested in the Civil War?"

There are three goals of the project: 1 - Document Civil War monuments in our state; 2 - Document Medal of Honor recipients and other notable figures buried here; and 3 - Document as many Civil War veterans, north and south, buried here. At the outset, we recognized that this would take a minimum of two years.

Actually, I have been around the dead for quite some time. While going to the University of Washington, I lived in a mortuary, made house calls at night, practiced a bit of embalming and directed funeral services. While with the State Patrol, I investigated traffic deaths exclusive to Thurston County. Yes, these are my PEEPS! And, I never realized how smart they are.

I started out in a local way to document the CMOH recipients. I went to a grave site in Tumwater that I've visited before and figured out the camera angle, the flag placements, etc. He was #1. Then, off to Elma. When there isn't anyone around to tell you where a specific grave is located, your only alternative is to "walk the graveyard". Have you ever done that? Were you ever successful? Its like trying to find a needle in a haystack. In some cases, it's a monster haystack. I finally located a worker who kindly placed a cell phone call to the office, was told its location and I followed him to the grave. That was #2.

I picked up a companion in Col. Garth Holmes on the second day, and we traveled to Orting. This was going to require more graveyard walking...not really. These guys had figured out how to make themselves stand out amongst the crowd. They (#3, #4, #5 & #6) had agreed to have the Medal of Honor Society place unique markers over their remains. But, alas, Garth and I walked this one, when we couldn't find the last one. (He was hiding in the city cemetery less than a mile away...obviously an officer.)

Then, we traveled to Tacoma to snap a photograph of a Major General's gravesite. He became #7. The office was closed, so we decided to drive the graveyard. That's a bigger waste of time, but less exhausting. We located a worker who pointed out the lead worker...named Kent ...who led us to the general. We'd driven past him, of course.

The next day, I went back to Orting to pick up #8, and then on to the Tahoma National Cemetery in Kent. This fellow #9, got himself moved from Pasco to a westside cemetery. Probably didn't like the variation in temperature. His office staff gave me a song and dance about the movie Glory having been produced about him...Nonsense! He was a private soldier when he received his medal...and he never even knew Matthew Broderick.

My most challenging dead guy was yet to come in Tukwila. Oh, they have an office, but this is a "corporation" cemetery. Their records suck! No, literally suck the knowledge right out of paper. I spent 3 hours in 85 degree heat walking the cemetery to no avail. I later learned that he was hiding in plain sight. (We were close to the airport.)

Next up...Lake View in Seattle. Oh My Gawd! There is a Confederate monument there with some dead rebels guarding it. My CMOH guy (#10) was very cooperative with the office staff, and we made short work of that. Next door is the GAR Cemetery and a great guy, my #11. He told the funniest stories.

The following week on a Monday, I went to Bremerton and the Ivy Green Cemetery owned and operated by the city of Bremerton. I quickly found a worker who gave me the number of his boss...who knew my MOH guy (#12). But, he didn't pick up. (Suspect conspiracy?) After walking 2/3 of the place...did you ever realize that cemeteries were built on hills?...Tom called me. He told me the location and I quickly scrambled to it. Aside from his medal, this guy was a Wobbly. You know, WOOD WORKERS OF THE WORLD (Unite!!!).

Next up...Port Townsend...my hometown. Upon entering the cemetery, I drove up the hill, made a left onto a rutted road and stopped. Got out and there he was. Welcome home, my son. Thanks #13. The next day, I drove to Bellingham, located #14 and we had a nice chat. Wow! What a cool marker. This guy has money! But, when I went to Blaine to see the Jefferson Davis Highway marker...it mysteriously had decamped to Ridgefield.

Then, on to the Fort Vancouver Post Cemetery where I quickly made friends with #15, snapped a couple quick ones and went on to Pomeroy, via Kennewick. Hey, #16 was cool! Did you know that the VFW and American Legion and GAR all have medal logos on rods for their members? That made it really easy to find my peeps. Now, if only the people who put together the "directory" could orient their maps properly...

Finally, it was off to Spokane and the Greenwood Memorial Terrace Cemetery. I'd actually ran (fast walked) past this place on many Bloomsday runs. It took an office staffer and three helpful graveyard workers to find #17. And, were we happy. On the way out, I spied a very tall GAR monument and over 100 CW veteran grave markers. I quickly got out and began to snap photos like a crazy guy...and they were watering the area with three circular sprinklers...I got soaked, but made plenty of friends.

Upon returning to King County and before returning home to Olympia, I finally found #18 at Riverton Crest in Tukwila.

I've gotten to the point that now, when I'm driving along, and see a cemetery...I pull in to pass the time away with my peeps. Take a look at our website... www.pscwrt.org/washington-project

Tidbits from the Washington Project

I have spent countless hours driving to and from and walking around graveyards looking for veterans. And, surprisingly, I have learned several things that I'd like to share with you.

- We all have become accustomed to calling it the USCT for United States Colored Troops. But, they are also known as United States Colored Infantry, or USCI and the USCA for United States Colored Artillery.
- There is a subtle difference between being discharged and mustered out. I'm not exactly sure what that difference may be, but perhaps a member will enlighten us.
- Artificer was a position in the Union army. He was the guy who fixed mechanical things when they became inoperative or broken.
- Muster rolls are large documents. In some cases they are over 500 pages long.
- During the Civil War, there was a 1st District of Columbia Infantry regiment.
- There are many unreadable headstones of Civil War veterans. There are even more that are deteriorating into unreadable status. The U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs will replace them when illegible. <http://www.cem.va.gov/cem/hmm/replacements.asp>
- For the markers that are unreadable due to growth on them, this could be a great Eagle Scout project.
- The most widely used first name of Union veterans buried in Washington State is William. John comes in second.
- You can tell the difference between veterans based on the style of their grave markers.
 - Civil War vets have their basic information in raised lettering inside a badge shaped area.
 - Spanish American vets have the same badge area, but it says Sp. Am. War at the bottom
 - All others have a cross or star of David at the top

FOLLOWING IN MY ANCESTOR'S FOOTSTEPS- STONE'S RIVER, TENNESSEE

By Dick Miller

My great-great grandfather, Perry Miller, fought with the 59th Ohio Volunteer Infantry in many of the great battles of the Western theater. Given that Civil War soldiers fought shoulder to shoulder so that firepower could be massed effectively, I decided that if I can locate the sites where the 59th Ohio stood in battle, I could be pretty sure to be within a couple hundred yards of where great-great grandfather fought –assuming that he didn't fall out as a straggler or sick that day. Last September, I visited both Chickamauga and Missionary Ridge, two well-marked battlefields with many regimental monuments and plaques. Stones River, which I toured this spring, is a different story.

The Battle of Stones River occurred just outside of Murfreesboro, Tennessee on December 31, 1862 – January 2, 1863. Murfreesboro is about twenty-five miles southeast of the Nashville airport. The National Battlefield is just off Interstate 24. Buffs wishing to follow the two day battle need to be aware that only a fraction of the battlefield lies within the park. The vast majority of the fighting took place on ground now built up with residential homes. Murfreesboro is also a bedroom community of Nashville with congested roads that can make touring the battlefield slow and frustrating.

The 59th Ohio began the morning of December 31 on the Union left, but was soon ordered to bolster the collapsing Union right. As the Confederate onslaught rolled up Brigadier General Richard Johnson's division and then Brigadier Jefferson G. Davis' division, the 59th Ohio found itself among three Union brigades charged with stopping troops from Cheatham's Division. The regiment acquitted itself well, going toe to toe with Tennesseans from Vaughan's Brigade, but in the end was flanked and had to retreat. Two days later, the 59th Ohio was back on the Union left and again was forced to retreat after the late afternoon attack by Confederate troops from Major General John C. Breckinridge's division.

I used Matt Spruill's and Lee Spruill's battlefield guide, Winter Lightning, to locate the spot where the 59th Ohio fought on December 31 and January 2. Although the Spruills' book has good maps and directions, making it easy to locate the vicinity of the 59th Ohio's fight, both sites lie within residential neighborhoods. I was fairly certain that I was within a few hundred yards of where the 59th Ohio stood on the first day's battle, but their ground during the January 2 fight was several hundred yards away from the closest residential street. Outside the park's boundaries, there are no roadside markers that denote where troops were deployed. Even within the park, there are few signs, all intended to portray a key event in the battle but with little explanation of which troops were involved.

Should you decide to tour the Stones River battlefield, you'll find that Winter Lightning is an adequate guide. The book and its directions are best for the initial phase of the December 31 battle, which occurred outside the park's boundaries. Once inside the park, the step by step directions can no longer be followed because the guide was written before the park service decided a few years ago to reserve almost half of the roads within the park for pedestrian and bicycle traffic. New road construction outside of the park can also make the book's directions confusing. I was always able to re-orient myself and get to the next stop but be prepared for some frustration in getting from Point A to Point B.

Aside from some of the book's directions being out of date, I have two major criticisms of Winter Lightning. The book desperately needs overall maps of the battle's stages. While it is easy to orient specific brigades and even regiments using the book's maps, it is difficult to follow exactly how the Union right collapsed on December 31 but eventually rallied on the Nashville Highway. Maps showing troop movements at the army level would help the reader make sense of the first day's events. Second, the Spruills rely almost exclusively on Union and Confederate official reports to explain what happened at each stop of the guide. Official reports tend to be stilted and self-serving; it would have been much better if the Spruills had described the action at each spot themselves.

There are lots of Civil War sites nearby to visit. Although most of the Battle of Nashville sites have been lost to development, buffs can visit the Franklin battlefield, the Carnton Plantation, Belle Mead Plantation, the Sam Davis home in Smyrna, Tennessee, Fort Rosecrans down the road from the Stones River battlefield, Travelers' Rest and other sites.

Collectors of Civil War memorabilia should not miss Larry Hicklen's store on the Old Nashville Pike right next to the park headquarters. The relics can be expensive, but Larry's shop has items ranging from bullets to tintypes of soldiers to rifles and pistols so a collector could find something to fit any wallet.

There are many hotels and restaurants in Murfreesboro. I stayed at the Baymont Inn and Suites, which was comfortable and inexpensive. If you like ribs in a down-home setting, try Slick Pig BBQ on East Main in town.

DAVID'S TRAVELOGUE - SHILOH

By David Palmer, PSCWRT President

I did a poor job of writing for the newsletter last year. I hope to do better this year.

In my last article for the newsletter, I described my trip to Fort Donelson National Battlefield. I had previously described my trip to Wilson's Creek. Now I am writing about one of my favorite battlefields' – Shiloh National Military Park in Tennessee.

When and where was the battle fought? April 6-7, 1862, near Pittsburg Landing, Tennessee.

When did I visit the battlefield? April 2002 and April 2007.

Is the battlefield easy to get to from here? No. The closest airports are Memphis (110 miles) and Nashville (150 miles). In 2002, I drove there from Jackson, Mississippi for a long day trip. In 2007, I was on a week-long Civil War vacation, and I was making my way from Nashville to Vicksburg.

Is there much for the family to do? Shiloh is best visited with people interested in Civil War battlefields.

Is the Shiloh battlefield worth a third trip? I would visit it every year if I could. The veterans selected it as one of the first five military parks for a reason.

Did you enjoy your trip to the battlefield? Definitely.

What was unique about this battlefield? First, the movements of the troops over the battlefield are well marked. The veterans placed signage showing the various locations of the engaged regiments so that visitors can follow the battle's hour-by-hour progress. Second, surviving members of state regiments returned and placed stone monuments recognizing their participation in the battle. All regiments from a state have the same style of monument, but each state is different. Third, David W. Reed, the original Secretary and Historian of Shiloh National Military Park, was from my father's hometown, Waukon, Iowa.

CIVIL WAR TRIVIA QUIZ

Questions to be asked at September meeting. Be ready!

1. On September 9, 1863, James Longstreet left Virginia with his corps to do what?
2. On September 19, 1863, what battle took place?

3. As a result of Chickamauga, on September 28, 1863, U. S. Generals Crittenden, McDowell and McCook were relieved of duty and ordered to Indianapolis for what purpose?

NOTE: Due to the amount of important information in this issue of the Washington Volunteer **THE LAST WORD** editorial is cancelled for this month.

EXCERPT

“I enlisted when I was young, but of legal age for the government. I realize now that I was too young for my own good--so young and green looking in the November election after the regiment was discharged that I was required to swear in my vote, when my brother two years younger being just of legal age could put in his vote without a question. This was at Mottville, Onondaga Co., N. Y. a very strong copperhead place. I was in every engagement that the regiment was in except the first battle of Fredericksburg and "Burnsides stick in the mud." I was standing by the side of the first man in our regiment, I think, who stopped a rebel ball; that was W. R. Hunn, when we were in line of battle with fixed bayonets near Williamsport, Maryland”

Alonzo Fradenburg - Co A
122nd New York Volunteer Infantry

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 October, 2013 Washington Volunteer is Thursday, September 19, 2013. Please have it in Mark Terry's hands via email or snailmail by then. Thank you!

2013-2014 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

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**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