

THE WASHINGTON VOLUNTEER

PUGET SOUND CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

[HTTP://WWW.PSCWRT.ORG/](http://www.pscwrt.org/)
OCTOBER 2013

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, October 10, 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, October 8, 2013.

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

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*.

IMPORTANT DISPATCHES

GIVE US YOUR TIRED, YOUR POOR...YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS

By Mike Movius

There's something compelling about Post-Civil War desire to get away and not be bothered. That's one of the main reasons why veterans moved out West. And, the last time I checked, we're in Century 21. That makes our concern with privacy even more compelling. What with identity theft such a big deal in our society, our need to protect ourselves is very important.

That brings me to the purpose of this missive. The PSCWRT board of directors has taken great pains to protect your identity and we thought it would be important for you to know and understand what those steps have been. First of all, we have established a policy of NEVER selling, trading or providing your contact information to others. Second, we have moved all

financial statements, board minutes, our constitution and bylaws as well as your contact information in an exclusively password-protected section of our website. Third, whenever we send out an email, we put your email address on the bcc line so no one else will see it. Fourth, we're so concerned with confidentiality, only the board of director contact information is available on the website...and they have the option of masking their real email addresses by using an @pscwr.org address, if they so choose. We take this issue very seriously.

Let me tell you why it is important for us to know your email address. The board sends out notices about upcoming events, board minutes, financial status, newsletters, etc. on at least a monthly basis. When members do not provide an email address, we have to expend more of our treasury on paper, copying, envelopes and postage...not to mention the time and effort it takes to operate two parallel work processes. That extra expense takes away from our ability to provide high-value programs, reduces the dollars available to help preserve battlefields and seems like an incredible waste of time and effort.

So, if you are one of the few who have yet to advise us of your email address...or have changed email addresses, but have forgotten to tell us about the change, please do so ASAP. Your board will greatly appreciate it.

VP-MEMBERSHIP - THE VITAL POSITION

By Mike Movius

Why are we enthralled with the American Civil War? For many of us, it's the call of the battlefield, the strategies, the generals and understanding the total dedication it took to win. For others, its the acknowledgement of the interplay between political and military authority, the development of resources to sustain the effort of war, the ability to make due and the fervency of the electorate. And, still others are interested in the individual, how he and she saw it, what their thoughts were and how they were sustained or gave into despair. These are all important to us as members of a Civil War roundtable. And, we know in our hearts that these are lessons for all Americans regardless of their age, race or gender. We need to help pass them along so others can learn from them.

But, one of the things that CWRTs around the world are faced with is a dwindling away of members. Yes, we're mostly 60 years or older, mostly white, mostly male and we're disappearing from the face of the earth. Puget Sound CWRT is not unlike all the rest. Just last season, three of our strongest supporters died leaving empty chairs around our table. Others have moved away from the area. And, still others have decided not to renew their memberships for a variety of reasons.

That brings me to ask for your support. We need you to volunteer to become our Vice President of Membership. It's not a daunting task. Several of us on the board have taken steps to extend our reach and to seek out new members. For example, our website is receiving national recognition. Our facebook page continues to grow with more and more followers in the Pacific Northwest. Our Twitter feed and Pinterest boards are growing despite a real effort to grow them. And, we have initiated a new member's survey to ascertain how and why our newest members have found out about us and why they have joined our ranks.

This post is THE VITAL LINK from our generation to the next. If you are even only slightly interested in being part of the membership team, please let someone know. We need to fill this position yesterday, but will settle for today. You'll be proud of your decision, and we'll be more than proud of you.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!



PSCWRT President David Palmer and wife Sally on the far left with five new members! This was taken at the September, 2013 meeting at China Harbor Restaurant. Welcome!!!

MAIL CALL FROM THE PAST

By Steve Raymond

While I was at work on my book, *In the Very Thickest of the Fight: The Civil War Service of the 78th Illinois Volunteer Infantry Regiment*, I gathered every scrap of information I could find—diaries, letters, newspaper articles, photographs, etc. But I always knew there was more out there somewhere and that after the book was published I would probably start hearing from people who had other materials related to the 78th.

Now that has begun to happen. From a woman in Minnesota, whose great-great grandfather was a captain in the 78th, I received a fine collection of color photos of her ancestor's embroidered regimental cap insignia, shoulder strap, belt buckle, sword and scabbard, along with other relics. A man in Maine, who has a collection of more than a hundred letters written by his great-great grandfather, a private in Company A of the 78th, confided the rather personal information that his

ancestor had one testicle shot off during the battle of Bentonville. It didn't slow him down very much; after the war he fathered six children with his remaining testicle.

Our very own Mike Movius, through his Washington Project, has discovered at least two veterans of the 78th Illinois are buried here in Washington State—one at the Old Soldiers' Home in Orting, the other near Pomeroy.

But the biggest prize came from a woman in Franklin, Tennessee. Her great-great grandfather, James T. DeHaven, a sergeant in Company G of the 78th, kept a diary throughout the Atlanta campaign. The diary ends September 10, 1864, when DeHaven was elected first lieutenant of Company G, replacing an officer who was killed at Jonesboro nine days earlier.

DeHaven was on detached duty guarding the divisional commissary train for the duration of the campaign, so he wasn't involved directly in the fighting. But his diary is lively and filled with colorful descriptions, and in a regiment with many phonetic spellers, he may be the champion. A sample entry:

“May the 8. Wee started from the Big apple tree a Bout 10 on the night of the 7 and got to Tunel Sity [a reference to the community near Tunnel Hill on the Western & Atlantic Railroad in northwest Georgia] about 4 in the morning. Wee had A very nise time on the march. I stood it fine But Did not haft to cary Eny Lode. My hed quarters is in a hous in Tunel Sity. I have Just got Back from the other Side of Tonesll [Tunnel] hill. I went thru the Tunel. It is a very nise place. No noos from the frunt.”

The diary is a treasure. How I wish I'd had it when I was writing the book!

And I wonder what the next mail call will bring?

DAVID'S TRAVELOGUE - BATTLE OF PEA RIDGE

Dick Miller will feature the Battle of Pea Ridge in his March presentation to our club. By way of preview, I will describe my trip to that battlefield.

When and where was the battle fought? March 7-8, 1862, in northwest Arkansas, near Garfield.

When did I visit the battlefield? April 2005.

Is the battlefield easy to get to from here? No. The closest airport is in Bentonville, Arkansas, which is 20 miles from the battlefield according to the park's website. I drove to the park from Kansas City while visiting several Civil War battlefields in Missouri and Arkansas.

Is there much for the family to do? Pea Ridge is located in the middle of the Ozarks, and there are numerous recreational activities. Branson, Missouri is also close and that community has many shows and family activities.

Is the Pea Ridge battlefield worth another trip? Yes. I enjoyed walking around the battlefield, which is not level. This early spring battle must have been exhausting for the participants.

Did you enjoy your trip to the battlefield? Yes.

What was unique about this battlefield? This battle is actually two engagements. The first engagement occurred at Leetown, a village that no longer exists. Leetown is where the Cherokee soldiers participated. The second engagement took place at Elkhorn Tavern. This engagement took place over both days of the battle and the Confederates nearly won on the first day.

CIVIL WAR TRIVIA QUIZ

Questions to be asked at October meeting. Be ready! Don't forget, there will be a bonus question that will be unveiled at the meeting. Hint: It's related to this campaign...

Lee's Army of Northern Virginia embarked upon its final offensive campaign of the war 150 years ago this month.

1. What was the name of that campaign?
2. What was the date of the battle?
3. Which side won the battle?

THE LAST WORD

By Mark R. Terry

There is a saying "It's a small world". A little over a year ago, on August 21, 2012, I received a routine email from Stephen Pierce, informing me about new members for the newsletter. It seems that over the summer an "Ed Malles" had joined the PSCWRT. Immediately upon reading the name, I knew it sounded familiar.

Twenty one years prior to this, I had just begun working on research for the diary of my uncle's great-grandfather, Sgt. Barnabas James Lay, a member of Company L, 50th New York Volunteer Engineers. At that time (1991), even though they were the most well-known engineer regiment in the war, finding published information on the 50th N.Y.V.E. was practically impossible. Reading through a Civil War magazine one day I spied an ad by someone who was researching the papers of an officer in the 50th, and he was soliciting funds to help in obtaining research materials. In return, he would send a facsimile of a recruiting poster for the regiment!

Well of course I sent some money but also asked him for more information about his research. He did respond with a letter, and though I can't recall all that transpired, as soon as **Ed Malles'** book *Bridge Building in Wartime, Colonel Wesley Brainerd's Memoir of the 50th New York Engineers* came out, I purchased it. Who knew 21 years after that first contact, Ed would move to Seattle and become a member of our Civil War Round Table? Ed is very knowledgeable about the 50th N.Y.V.E. and I'm looking forward very much to his presentation. I hope you will be there as well. By the way, I'm still working on that diary...

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 November 2013 Washington Volunteer is Thursday, October 17, 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

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-Editor: Mark Terry, 425-337-6246, markimlor@comcast.net

Vice-President- Membership: VACANT

Vice President-Social Media: Michael Movius, webmaster@pscwr.org

Vice President-Reservations: Rod Cameron, 206-524-4434, rodcam@comcast.net

Treasurer, Jeff Rombauer: 425-432-1346, jeffrombauer@foxinternet.com

Secretary, Larry Jilbert: 253-891-4022, ljjclj@comcast.net

Board of Directors: Jim Dimond: 253-277-3783, shinodad@gmail.com

**Except for Past President, an automatic position.*

Appointed:

Official Greeter, Larry Cenotto: cenottothe5th@yahoo.com