

THE WASHINGTON VOLUNTEER

PUGET SOUND CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

HTTP://WWW.PSCWRT.ORG/
DECEMBER 2013

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, December 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. See below.

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, December 10, 2013.

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

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!

IMPORTANT DISPATCHES

VISITORS, GUESTS AND THE FUTURE...

By Mark R. Terry

What is the best way to attract new members? Bring them to a meeting! If you were at the November meeting of the PSCWRT, you will note that we had a good number of guests attend. The problem we had is that we did not have a mechanism in place to record their names and contact information for follow up. In other words we are throwing away the best opportunity we have to increase our membership by not being prepared. Here is a solution, but it will take your cooperation:

1. When you bring a guest/visitor to a meeting, have them give us their name and some kind of contact information, i.e. an email address or phone number.

2. Make sure they have a name tag and also do your best to involve them in the meeting-introducing them to members, asking questions, etc.

You may ask “why is a guest’s name and contact info needed?” The answer is so visitors can have basic information on future meetings either via email, phone or regular mail. If in the future they choose not to receive that information they can ask to have their names removed from the contact list.

The reason for starting this is that persons who are most likely to join are those who have attended a meeting. If we somehow drop the ball and don’t pursue them, we are missing out on growing our membership. **Please note that this contact is separate from the sending of the newsletter.** We will send out notices for the newsletter to *dues paying members only*.

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING ON AMAZON.COM

By Mike Movius

Over the course of the last 15 years or so, I have done the vast majority of my Christmas shopping online. If you haven’t done much of that yet, you should consider saving the gas, the parking problems and general aggravation of being out among your fellow shoppers. For the last couple years, your PSCWRT has been an associate member of Amazon.com. That means that whenever you make a purchase from our website, you get the article and the roundtable gets about 15% of the purchase price. When I purchased a new 60 inch flat-screen TV, PSCWRT got the proceeds. When I recently bought a new point-n-shoot camera, PSCWRT got the proceeds.

The Board would like you to consider doing the same with some of your Christmas purchases. And, these are the steps to take to do it:

1. Identify exactly what you want to purchase on Amazon.com
2. Copy the link to your article on Amazon.com
3. Email the link to: webmaster@pscwr.org
4. I will create a PSCWRT link to the item, so we get the credit, and email it back to you
5. From my email, click on the new link and make your purchase

And, I’ll be a phone call away to walk you through the process, if need be. Ask David Palmer how slick it is. Now go out and spend big bucks!

BOOK WRITTEN BY PSCWRT MEMBER!

You may remember **Marjorie Ann Reeves**. Reeves was a long-time member of the PSCWRT, giving a presentation back in October, 2008. Marjorie moved to Arizona in July, 2011. Recently she has written a book entitled “*From Paradise to Hell*”, a historical novel based on her research of the lives of Southern civilians before, during and after the Civil War. To order this book, order online only at: <http://bookstore.iuniverse.com/> Once there, type the title into the search box to locate the book. Marjorie previously authored *A Chapter in Pacific Northwest History: United Daughters of the Confederacy, Robert E. Lee Chapter #885, Seattle, Washington* . Well done, Marjorie!

MY EXPERIENCE AT THE 150TH GETTYSBURG ADDRESS

By Mike Movius

We all knew it was coming. November 19, 2013 was the 150th anniversary of President Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address. But, it took me some time before I really caught the bug. I finally made my reservations on Sunday, October 27th. My biggest concern was the size of the crowd and the traffic problems they would bring and which lodging to choose.

I use TripAdvisor.com to tell me about hotel/motels. I don't just look at the ratings, but I also read the comments by those fellow travelers who have stayed in these places. I selected America's Best Value Inn. And, I was pleased. The rate was \$53+ per night, it is located a block from the cemetery AND the room was spotless. As a bonus, they also serve a continental breakfast...beat that!

As the President decided not to attend, the NPS was not plagued with Secret Service security protocols. I arose at 5:45 a.m., dressed and had breakfast...then made it to the line of folks like me. Before the 7:00 a.m. scheduled opening, we were allowed into the venue. It was cold...25 degrees by some counts...and the program began at 10:00. So, for 3 hours we huddled, shared our stories and awaited the commencement of the program. And, it was well worth waiting for. Three bands played...the local high school band, Lincoln's Own Band from Kentucky and the U. S. Marine Band. The program was dotted with dignitaries including the Secretary of the Interior, the head of the National Park Service and Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. Oh, and a gifted Lincoln impersonator delivered the address.



But, what I didn't know is that there are activities all week, culminating with an exciting weekend. The day before there was An Evening at the David Wills House, The Verbal Tapestry of the Gettysburg Address by Charles Teague. That day there was a Graveside Salute to the US Colored Troops, a Ken Burns Book Signing, a program called Gettysurg: The Enduring Shrine, Expanding Slaves, Soldiers, Citizens: African American Artifacts of the Civil War Era Exhibit, a Living Legacy Tree Planting Dedication, a Gettysburg Addresses Lincoln Lecture, In the Footsteps of Lincoln, Walking Tour, 52nd Annual Robert Fortenbaugh Memorial Lecture and Lincoln-The Movie.

In the days following the dedication, programs included the Gettysburg Story, Artshowing and Signing with Dean Morrissey, Author Appearance – Jeff Shaara, Miracles Amid the Firestorm Tour, Meet Author Peter Warren, An Evening with the Painting (cycolorama), Evening of Evergreen – Music and Remembrances, Remembrance Day Military Ball, President's 11th Annual Remembrance Day Dinner and Ball, Meet Victorian Hair Jeweler Lucy Cadwallader, Civil War Heritage Foundation; Living History Encampment, Meet Author – Lt Col. Ralph Peters, 150th Music Salute, Meet Victorian Jewelry Maker Rebecca Marie Schmehl, Meet Sculptor Andrew Chernack, Meet Artillerist George Funt, Meet Author Jim Rada, 57th Annual Remembrance Day Parade, 11th Annual Remembrance

Illumination, Georgia Your Sister is Dead, Songs and Stories of a Civil War Hospital...STOP ME!

And, yes it continues. This celebration happens every year starting the day before the dedication ceremony. You gotta consider going. The biggest hassle is dealing with the airlines...everything else is gravy!!!

Editor: The following article was submitted by PSCWRT Life Member John Hinds. It was taken from the AARP website, dated April 12, 2012. It was too lengthy to include all of it this month. It will be concluded in the January, 2014 Washington Volunteer. Great discussion piece...

HOW THE CIVIL WAR CHANGED YOUR LIFE (PART ONE)

By Betsy Towner

Some ring strong: of course the end of slavery, perhaps the worst disgrace in the nation's history. And the 620,000 ancestors lost. Other vestiges have weakened with the passage of time but are no less legacies of the four horrific, heroic years that shaped us as one nation.

Here are eight ways the Civil War indelibly changed us and how we live:

1. We have ambulances and hospitals.

The Civil War began during medieval medicine's last gasp and ended at the dawn of modern medicine. Each side entered the war with puny squads of physicians trained by textbook, if at all. Four years later, legions of field-tested doctors, well-versed in anatomy, anesthesia and surgical practice, were poised to make great medical leaps.

The nation's first ambulance corps, organized to rush wounded soldiers to battlefield hospitals and using wagons developed and deployed for that purpose, was created during the Civil War. The idea was to collect wounded soldiers from the field, take them to a dressing station and then transport them to the field hospital.

Doctors laid out the hospitals as camps divided into well-defined wards for specific activities such as surgery and convalescence. Women flocked to serve these hospitals as nurses.

Before the war, most people received health care at home. After the war, hospitals adapted from the battlefield model cropped up all over the country. The ambulance and nurses' corps became fixtures, with the Civil War's most famous nurse, Clara Barton, going on to establish the American Red Cross. Today's modern hospital is a direct descendant of these first medical centers.

2. We prize America as a land of opportunity.

The Civil War paved the way for Americans to live, learn and move about in ways that had seemed all but inconceivable just a few years earlier. With these doors of opportunity open, the United States experienced rapid economic growth. Immigrants also began seeing the fast-

growing nation as a land of opportunity and began coming here in record numbers.

For many years Southern lawmakers had blocked the passage of land-grant legislation. But they weren't around after secession, and in 1862 Congress passed a series of land-grant measures that would forever change America's political, economic and physical landscape:

The First Transcontinental Railroad. Also known as the "Pacific Railroad," the world's first transcontinental line, built between 1863 and 1869, was at least partly intended to bind California to the Union during the Civil War. To build the line, the Union Pacific and Central Pacific railroads were granted 400-foot rights-of-way plus 10 square miles of government-owned land for every mile of track built.

Homesteading in the West. The Homestead Act, enacted in 1862, provided that any adult citizen (or intended citizen who had never borne arms against the U.S. government) could be granted 160 acres of surveyed government land after living on it — and making improvements to it — for five years. After the Civil War, Union soldiers could deduct the time they had served from the residency requirement.

The land-grant college system. The Morrill Land Grant Act authorized the sale of public lands in every state to underwrite the establishment of colleges dedicated to the "agricultural and mechanical arts." It also required the teaching of military tactics. In time, the new law would give rise to such institutions of higher learning as Michigan State, Texas A&M and Virginia Tech.

The same year brought another innovation — a national paper currency — that would literally bankroll the rapidly expanding government and at the same time grease the wheels of commerce from coast to coast. In 1862, with the Union's expenses mounting, the government had no way to continue paying for the war. "Immediate action is of great importance," Treasury Secretary Salmon P. Chase told Congress. "The treasury is nearly empty." The solution: treasury notes bearing no interest and printed on the best banking paper, as proposed to President Abraham Lincoln by Col. Edmund D. Taylor, who would later become known as "the father of the greenback."

3. We begin summer with a tribute to fallen soldiers.

Ever wonder why we display flags and memorialize fallen soldiers just as summer gets under way? Flowers, that's why.

The first memorial days were group events organized in 1865 in both the South and North, by black and white, just a month after the war ended. Quickly evolving into an annual tradition, these "decoration days" were usually set for early summer, when the most flowers would be available to lay on headstones.

Decoration days helped the torn nation heal from its wounds. People told — and retold — their war stories, honored the feats of local heroes, reconciled with former foes.

After World War I, communities expanded the holiday to honor all who have died in military service, although the official national observance didn't begin until 1971.

This year Memorial Day falls on May 30.

No matter where you are on Memorial Day, a national moment of remembrance takes place at 3 p.m. local time.

4. We let technology guide how we communicate.

Abraham Lincoln was a techie. A product of the Industrial Revolution, Lincoln is the only president to have held a patent (for a device to buoy boats over shoals). He was fascinated with the idea of applying technology to war: In 1861, for example, after being impressed by a demonstration of ideas for balloon reconnaissance, he established the Balloon Corps, which would soon begin floating hot-air balloons above Confederate camps in acts of aerial espionage.

Lincoln also encouraged the development of rapid-fire weapons to modernize combat. Pulitzer Prize-winning historian James McPherson, the author of *Tried by War: Abraham Lincoln as Commander in Chief*, notes that Lincoln personally tested the "coffee-mill gun," an early version of a hand-cranked machine gun.

But above all, Lincoln loved the telegram. Invented just a few decades earlier, the telegraph system had gone national in 1844.

As Tom Wheeler recounts in his book, *Mr. Lincoln's T-Mails: The Untold Story of How Abraham Lincoln Used the Telegraph to Win the Civil War*, the White House had no telegraph connection. Twice daily throughout his presidency, Lincoln walked to the telegraph office of the War Department (on the site of today's Eisenhower Executive Office Building, just west of the White House) to receive updates and to send orders to his generals on the front. He sent this one to General Ulysses S. Grant on Aug. 17, 1864: "Hold on with a bull-dog grip, and chew & choke, as much as possible."

Before Lincoln's day, letters and speeches were often long-winded. With the telegraph came the need for concise communication. After all, every dot and dash of Morse Code carried a cost. Gone were the "wherefores," "herewith" and "hences." Flowery, formal speech was out.

Lincoln's Gettysburg and Second Inaugural addresses both demonstrate this new economy of phrase. "Events were moving too fast for the more languid phrases of the past," historian Garry Wills writes in his book *Lincoln at Gettysburg*. "The trick, of course, was not simply to be brief but to say a great deal in the fewest words. Lincoln justly boasted, of his Second Inaugural's six hundred words, 'Lots of wisdom in that document, I suspect.'"

Not only did Lincoln's wartime dependence on the telegraph eventually lead to a wave of investment in new communication devices, from the telephone to the Internet (the latter invented, not coincidentally, for military use), but it also signaled the evolution of a language that morphs as quickly as the devices that instantaneously tweet our words around the globe.

THE LAST WORD

“Where are the Young People?”

By Mark R. Terry

Recently, I met with a Civil War enthusiast and we had a good talk. One of the subjects that came up was the Puget Sound Civil War Round Table. I told him about our group with details about our meetings. He seemed interested in coming and I encouraged him to. As sometimes happens, he confused our group with those who do Civil War reenacting. I pointed out to him that most of our members are older and are not reenactors, who as a rule are younger. On the other hand most local reenactors are also not members of the Round Table. He wondered about that and why we don't have many who are younger, especially students studying history from some of our local colleges and universities. Unfortunately, I had no answer to his question- and that bothered me quite a bit. **Why don't we appeal to a younger audience? Is there a younger audience out there? If so, is there a way we can “market” ourselves to them?** When my wife and I joined almost 20 years ago, we were in our mid-30's. At that time we felt much younger than the average member, but not anymore. Our VP of Social Media Mike Movius has done a wonderful job of establishing us on such social media sites as Facebook, Pinterest and even a Twitter feed, but I know there must be other ways we can appeal to a younger age group out there.

It looks to me as though the foundation has been laid for a new VP of Membership who can look into this and find creative ways to “grow” the PSCWRT. Three years ago we celebrated our 25th Anniversary as an organization. I'm hoping we can get to 50 and beyond...let's work together to make that happen!

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

On behalf of the officers and board members of the Puget Sound Civil War Round Table, I wish you all a very MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR in 2014. May you and yours be blessed during this season and in the year to come.

God bless you,

Mark Terry

VP-Editor, Washington Volunteer

You may note there was no “Civil War Trivia Quiz” this month. It should resume in January.

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 January 2014 Washington Volunteer is Thursday, December 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@ricksolo.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