

**THE WASHINGTON VOLUNTEER**  
**PUGET SOUND CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE**  
**HTTP://WWW.PSCWRT.ORG/**  
**MAY 2014**

**SPECIAL BONUS: THERE ARE TWO MEETINGS THIS MONTH!**  
**Thursday, May 8 and Thursday, May 22, 2014**

**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](mailto:rodcam@comcast.net)

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

**Deadline for reservations is 12 NOON the Tuesday prior to each meeting (May 6<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>)**

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



**MAY 8: 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*.



**MAY 22: WAYNE MOTTS ON "FIGHTING THE CIVIL WAR": TREASURES FROM THE COLLECTION OF THE NATIONAL CIVIL WAR MUSEUM.**

Join Civil War Historian, Licensed Battlefield Guide, and CEO of The National Civil War Museum Wayne Motts as he presents a program highlighting some of the most significant and special items held in the collection of this world class educational facility. Opened in 2001, The National Civil War Museum, in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, is some 65,000 square feet in size with more than 21,000 square feet dedicated to exhibit and educational areas telling the complete story of America's most divisive conflict. The museum holds more than 24,000 artifacts, images, and paper materials related to the war. To learn more about the museum visit the website at <http://www.nationalcivilwarmuseum.org>.

## REPORT ON THE ANNUAL AUCTION!!!

In April we met upstairs and combined our regular meeting with the 2014 PSCWRT Annual Auction. The meeting was great, with David Leroy giving a fascinating talk about the “book that elected Lincoln”. But along with the speaker, we had a very lively live auction and silent auction as well. Our Treasurer, Jeff Rombauer sent the following tabulations of all the funds that were raised for the Round Table:

Donations	\$461.
Live Auction	\$995.
<u>Silent Auction</u>	<u>\$657.</u>
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$2,113</b>

As Jeff said in his email, “Not bad for only 41 people in attendance...” The Live Auction did especially well. **Dick Miller** once again was the live auctioneer and did a wonderful job of describing the items and making sure they went to the highest bidder. **Jim Dimond** helped Dick by showing off the items while they were being described.

Behind the scenes, **Geoff** and **Cheryl Nunn** worked hard, providing extra silent bid sheets, helping people set up their sheets and donations and also keeping track of who bid on what item during the live auction. And of course Treasurer **Jeff Rombauer** had the task of taking and counting the money that came in. Obviously the biggest thanks go to those of you who attended and participated by giving donations and by bidding on items. We had some pretty big spenders and the great thing is that we will all benefit from the auction when Pat Brady has the freedom to go out and continue to bring in even more great speakers! THANKS TO YOU ALL!!!!

## ELECTIONS

The final meeting of each season- usually in May- also doubles as our “business meeting” as the membership present decides on who will lead our organization in the next two years to come. As most of you know if you’ve been around, there are usually very few changes. This isn’t by design, but just how things work out. The biggest turnover is the job of president of the Round Table. As you know, **David Palmer** has served us well in that role for the past two years. Now, his successor (and past president) **Rick Solomon** will be leading us for the next two seasons starting in September.

As mentioned in the April Volunteer, really the only open spots will be **Vice-President Successor** and **Vice-President Membership**. So far, only Mike Movius, our current VP of Social Media has been nominated for the VP Successor post. However, Mike has stated that in that role, he wants to start a membership committee to do the job that a VP of Membership would have done, since it is vital to the growth of the Round Table. In any event, here are the remaining positions on the PSCWRT Board. Please feel free to nominate someone or yourself if you would like to do so!

Vice-President-Programming: Pat Brady  
Vice-President-Editor: Mark Terry  
Vice President-Social Media: Mike Movius  
Vice President-Reservations: Rod Cameron

Treasurer, Jeff Rombauer  
Secretary, Larry Jilbert  
Board of Directors: Jim Dimond

## IMPORTANT DISPATCHES

### CIVIL WAR “SHOW AND TELL”

I am bringing this up again at the request of Pat Brady. He wants it made clear that unless there is really good participation in a “Civil War Show and Tell” from our membership, then it won’t work. Please give some thought to what original items from the Civil War you would be willing to get up and talk about at a meeting? Memorabilia, artifacts, rare books, photos, artwork, you-name-it, would be eligible...

**If you have something to show, please let Pat Brady at [patsbrady@comcast.net](mailto:patsbrady@comcast.net) or 206 246 1603**

The “Show and Tell” should be scheduled some time during next season, Sept 2014 through May 2015. Before scheduling a show-and-tell meeting, we have to get an idea of how much showing and telling our members would come up with. If not, then it probably won’t happen. Thank You!

### NEW MEMBERS!



Recently, the PSCWRT welcomed two new members to the club: **Jon Echols** and **Marilyn Rexilius**. Here they are at the April 10, 2014 meeting, being welcomed by President David Palmer (right) and each given a Minie ball! Please welcome them at a future meeting. Good to have you aboard, Jon & Marilyn!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Carpool for “Civil War Pathways in the Northwest” Exhibit

We are still looking for more people to sign up for this opportunity to check out the Civil War exhibit at the Washington State Historical Museum in Tacoma. We have not set a date yet, but it will be set soon. If you are interested, be sure to contact Mark Terry at 425-337-6246 or email him at: [markimlor@comcast.net](mailto:markimlor@comcast.net) **Remember that this exhibit closes on July 6, 2014.** Make plans to see it, one way or another!

### Saturday, June 14

"GENEALOGY FOR EVERYONE" Seminar sponsored by the Skagit Valley Genealogical Society. From: <http://www.wasgs.org/eventListings.php?nm=76>

*This event is being highlighted because the PSCWRT will be represented there by Stephen Pierce and Mark Terry! We will be handing out brochures for the Round Table and helping participants uncover their Civil War ancestry. We hope that you can come too, but you will need to register-see below.*

### **First United Methodist Church at 1607 E. Division in Mount Vernon**

Please SAVE THE DATE on your calendars. This will be our 11th Annual Seminar. Our speakers have been scheduled. Donna Potter-Phillips from Spokane will be with us as will Dave Obee from Victoria, B.C. We will also have sessions that we hope will interest beginners. Two of our society members, Barbara Johnson and Rita Schulze will be having sessions as will Judy Bayless of Bellingham. Barbara and Judy have been active in the Roots project through the Burlington Library. Whatever your level of researching we hope you will join us and enjoy our upcoming seminar. We are planning early registration to begin in mid April. Watch for further information at: [www.skagitvalleygenealogy.org](http://www.skagitvalleygenealogy.org).

### **Local Civil War Reenactments: Summer, 2014**

Below is a list of reenacting events in Washington and Oregon. For more information on these events, go to: <http://www.wcwa.net/events/>

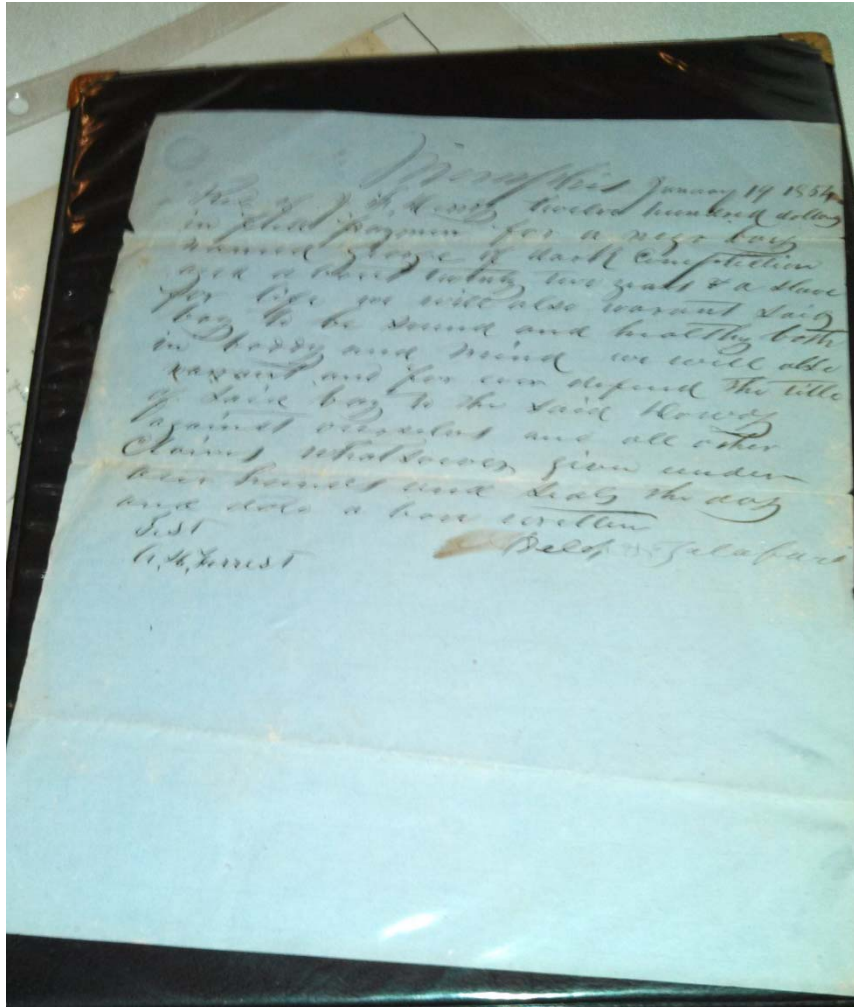
May 17 Fort Lewis Armed Forces Day (Skirmish)  
May 24-26 Battle Reenactment, Medical Lake, WA  
June 14-15 Battle Reenactment, Union Gap, WA  
July 4-6 Battle Reenactment, Willamette Mission, OR  
July 12-13 Battle Reenactment, Chehalis, WA  
August 9-10 Battle Reenactment, Roy, WA  
August 16 Echoes of the Blue & Gray, Everett, WA (Skirmish)  
Aug. 30-Sept. 1 Battle Reenactment, Fort Stevens, Astoria, OR  
Aug. 30-Sept. 1 Battle Reenactment, Fort Simcoe, WA  
September 20 Skirmish and Railroad Living History, Elbe, WA

### **SLAVE DEED RELATED TO NATHAN BEDFORD FORREST?**

By Mark R. Terry

Last month, in giving an example of the evil of slavery which Lincoln sought to abolish, David Leroy alluded to a document he had brought in which a slave named George was listed as "a slave for life". I could not recall ever seeing such a document, so after the meeting I asked Mr. Leroy if I could examine it. Here is the entire document, as transcribed by David Leroy:

Memphis January 19 1854  
Rcd of J. F. Dowdy Twelve hundred dollars  
in full payment for a negro boy named George  
of dark complexion aged about twenty two  
years & a slave for life. We will also  
warrant said boy to be sound and healthy  
both in boddy and mind we will also warrant  
and for ever defend the title of said boy to  
the said Dowdy against ourselves and all  
other claims whatsoever given under our  
hands and seals the day and date a bove  
written (A)(Delop)? & Talabard  
(T)est A H Forrest



Ed Malles and I were both perusing this document when we realized it might have even more significance. At the bottom of the document was the name "A.H. Forrest". This, along with the place where the deed was transacted- Memphis, Tennessee- made us wonder if there was a connection between this document and the more famous (or infamous) Nathan Bedford Forrest. It is well documented that Forrest was a slave trader by profession and that he worked out of Memphis. It is also known that he had some brothers. Was "A.H." one of them? It didn't take long to find this item on the Internet. It is taken from page 120 of the Memphis business directory of 1855-1856 (B= Business, R= Residence):

**Forrest, A.H. Clerk, 87 Adams, B 85 Adams**  
**Forrest, N.B. Slave Trader, 87 Adams, R 85 Adams**

[[http://www.forksoftheroads.net/ser\\_boxley/nb\\_forrest.htm](http://www.forksoftheroads.net/ser_boxley/nb_forrest.htm)]

As you can see, there is a definite connection between the two, who had the same place of business. A.H. Forrest, whose first name was Aaron worked as a clerk in Nathan B. Forrest's

slave trading business, and the deed was written out by Aaron in the sale of George to a man named “J.F. Dowdy” for the sum of \$1,200.

Aaron was one of Nathan’s five younger brothers, born in 1828, seven years Nathan’s junior. Nathan B. began dealing exclusively in slave trading in Memphis in 1852, and Aaron assisted him with it. Around 1858, Nathan left the slave trading profession and Aaron moved downriver to Vicksburg, Mississippi, where he began his own slave trading business but that ended in 1860. When the war began, Aaron joined the Confederate army with the rest of his brothers. He became a captain in the 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Mississippi Cavalry, and served until 1864 when he died of pneumonia at Dresden or Jackson, Tennessee. I could not verify his death date, but did find an interesting tidbit from the Official Records (OR, Ser. I, Vol. 32, pt. III, p. 374) that states “Col. Aaron Forrest, brother of the general, died at Jackson on Thursday night last.”\* Since this report was dated Friday, April 15, 1864, it seems to indicate he died on Thursday, April 7, 1864. The rank on his grave marker is Lieutenant Colonel.

\*<http://civilwartalk.com/threads/the-brothers-forrest.7475/>

What can we learn about J.F. Dowdy, the man who purchased George?

The best suspect appears to be Joseph F. Dowdy who lived near Pocahontas, Hardeman County, Tennessee. The 1860 Census describes Dowdy as a Merchant who seemed to be doing pretty well as he owned \$3,000 in real estate and \$30,000 valued in his personal estate, the latter most likely money invested in his slaves. He would have been about 36 years of age when he signed the deed for George. The Slave Schedule for 1860 shows that Dowdy owned 14 slaves at the time, three men, four women and seven children age 8 and under. By 1865, Dowdy appears to have moved to Memphis and become a “cotton factor”- an agent who specialized in selling the cotton that was grown and delivered by cotton planters. He also had a commercial mercantile in the city. It is difficult to know what happened to Dowdy, but it appears he lived at least into the 1890s in Memphis.

What became of George? Unfortunately, we don’t know much at all. The 1860 Slave Schedule mentioned above has no names associated with those being counted, and if the deed is correct and George was 22 years old in 1854, he isn’t included in that list because there was no male slave aged 28 years there in 1860. He may have been re-sold to someone else in that time or have run away- we’ll likely never know. We can take comfort in the fact that even though the slave deed decreed George would be a “slave for life”, there is a very good chance that he lived to be a free man!

## **CIVIL WAR TRIVIA QUIZ- 150 YEARS AGO**

### Quiz Questions for May 8 Meeting:

*This meeting’s quiz focuses on the events of April 1864. In many ways, this month was the “calm before the storm”.*

1. On April 8, the Senate ratified an amendment to the Constitution. What was the purpose of this amendment?

2. The Battle of Mansfield, on April 9, ended in the defeat of Union forces, effectively ending the Red River Campaign. The victorious Confederate commander was the son of what previous U.S. President?
3. What decision by Gen. Ulysses S. Grant on April 17 would have a dramatic effect on the prisoners of war on both sides?

Remember, there will be a “bonus question” revealed at the meeting!

### Quiz Questions for May 22 Meeting:

*This meeting's quiz focuses on the events of May 1864. With Lt. Gen. U.S. Grant in charge, the North goes on the offensive from Georgia to Virginia.*

1. Grant's plan was to hit the South from multiple points. What was the name of the Union army that landed at Bermuda Hundred, Virginia, on May 5, 1864?
2. What legislation, signed by President Lincoln on May 20, 1864 have Civil War historians been grateful for ever since?
3. On May 31, 1864, a group of Abolitionists, frustrated by Lincoln, nominated which ex-general for the Republican ticket?

Bonus question at the meeting...

## **THE LAST WORD**

### **Ending with a Bang!**

By Mark R. Terry

#### **Two Meetings in May- Attend both!**

What a way to end the year! A few months ago, the Round Table was contacted by Wayne Motts, head of the National Civil War Museum in Harrisburg, PA. It turns out he was going to be in Seattle for another engagement, and he offered to do a presentation for our Round Table! Pat Brady felt the opportunity to have Motts speak to us was too good to pass up and so that is why we have a meeting on **Thursday, 22 May 2014**. As for his presentation, as Motts describes it “I use PowerPoint and do the war in large brush strokes using actual rare items in our collection...I know we have rare items from officers who served there before and after the war. I can bet the Roundtable there has never had such a program and likely never will”. I hope you will take advantage of this rare opportunity and make plans to attend the second meeting of May- as well as the first one with Michael Burlingame on the 8<sup>th</sup>. Two wonderful speakers only two weeks apart- can you handle that?

#### **The Annual Auction**

Another “Bang” was the Annual Auction. You've already read the report, but I'll mention again that we gathered in \$2,113 in one evening for the coffers of the Round Table. It was a fun and very relaxed evening- unless you were in a bidding war! Again, many thanks to everyone

involved. One of the byproducts of the meeting was that most of us felt very comfortable upstairs. The acoustics were good, without all the ambient noise of the downstairs restaurant. It looks like we'll be meeting upstairs again this month and possibly permanently. Thanks to incoming president Rick Solomon for making this happen.

### **Command Decision**

Due to increased complaints of not being able to see PowerPoint presentations and noise from the outer restaurant, plus the ability to expand membership...not to mention the view, the Board has made the decision to move upstairs at China Harbor. Although we will be saying goodbye to the elegance of our former meeting room, this arrangement should be better for everyone.

### **Have a Great Summer!**

I have enjoyed being your newsletter editor this year. I hope you have been informed, challenged and entertained to a degree. We take a three month break now, but please check the "upcoming events" above for things you can do this summer and we'll be looking for you again at China Harbor come **Thursday, September 11, 2014**.

### **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 September 2014 Washington Volunteer is Tuesday, August 26, 2014. 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](mailto:davidpalmer7@comcast.net)

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

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-Editor: Mark Terry, 425-337-6246, [markimlor@comcast.net](mailto:markimlor@comcast.net)

Vice-President- Membership: VACANT

Vice President-Social Media: Mike Movius, [webmaster@pscwr.org](mailto:webmaster@pscwr.org)

Vice President-Reservations: Rod Cameron, 206-524-4434, [rodcam@comcast.net](mailto:rodcam@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)

Board of Directors: Jim Dimond: 253-277-3783, [shinodad@gmail.com](mailto:shinodad@gmail.com)

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