

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

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, September 11, 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

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

Deadline for reservations is 12 NOON on Tuesday, September 9, 2014.

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

**STEVE RAYMOND WILL DESCRIBE THE
BATTLE OF JONESBORO, GEORGIA**, August 31-

September 1, 1864, the final fight in Sherman's campaign to take Atlanta. The first day pitted the Union Army of the Tennessee against the two Confederate corps of William Hardee and Stephen D. Lee. The second day saw the XIV Corps of the Army of the Cumberland attack Hardee's entrenched corps. The 78th Illinois Volunteer Infantry Regiment led the attack, fought its way into the rebel works and captured a brigadier general and a six-gun battery, but paid a heavy price. Steve Raymond will give the battle a detailed description that it rarely receives, including a detailed account of the attack by the 78th Illinois. Raymond is the author of *In the Very Thickest the Fight*, a regimental history of the 78th Illinois.

IMPORTANT DISPATCHES

Welcome Back! Did you get 'The Letter'?

If you and/or your family were members last year, you should have received a letter within the past month regarding membership dues. As you know, the PSCWRT depends mainly on your dues as our main source of income. Treasurer Jeff Rombauer has made it easy for you, including a self-addressed stamped envelope so all you need to do is put your check in, seal it up and drop it into the nearest mailbox. Dues are still \$20 for an individual, \$25 for a couple.

To make it even easier than ever to pay your dues, this season we have set up a PayPal account! Simply go to our website and click on "Join PSCWRT Now!" There is a small fee for this, but you can do it quickly and be a member in good standing. Our goal is to have 100% of our members to have their dues paid by the end of September 2014. Thank you for doing this!

Round Table Changes

Along with changes in leadership- a new President, VP- Successor and VP of Membership, one of the biggest changes is that our meetings will now be held upstairs at the China Harbor Restaurant. While it may not be easy for some to get upstairs the Board recently voted to make this change ongoing, based on the fact that there is less ambient noise, but also because there is more room to grow and the proximity of the bar as well. It was felt that this move would benefit the largest number of members and also make it easier to hear the speaker's presentation each month with less distractions.

Request from a PSCWRT Member

"I have not been attending the meetings this past year as it is difficult to get transportation to and from the meetings.

I live in Kent. Do any of the members live in or near Kent? Perhaps I could get a ride home with them" Signed, **Richard West**

Editor's Note: To protect Richard West's privacy, please call or email a Round Table board member for West's contact information if you can help him out. See the last page for the list of officers.

New Members of the PSCWRT!

Please welcome the following new members at the next Round Table meeting they attend!

Matt Brown

Terry Cooper

Douglas Galuszka

John Hough

Alan Hovland

Judy Henriksen

What did you do on your Summer Vacation?

I bet many of you were given this assignment on the first day of school back when you were a child. No, we aren't going to make you write any essays, but we hope you were able to relax and take some time off. Some members of the Puget Sound Civil War Round Table chose to volunteer to help in the summer of 2014.



Members Stephen Pierce and Mark Terry went up to Mount Vernon for a genealogy conference on June 14. Stephen brought up a display he had put together showing on a map of the U.S. the movements of two of his ancestors who fought in the Union Army. Meanwhile, Mark brought up a replica Union uniform, accoutrements and a musket to display what a soldier back then might have used. He also had a laptop and if someone could give him a name and unit, he was able to look up their Civil War veteran ancestors using the Internet. Although

no one signed up for membership, many found out about our organization!

Here's what some other volunteers did:

WASHINGTON PROJECT: After Two Years

By Mike Movius

The Washington Project continues to roll along. With so many PSCWRT members involved, it's a challenge just to remember everyone who has contributed. But, here goes. Nick Adams has taken on a lion's share of the cemetery surveys. He has nearly completed visiting the cemeteries in Yakima County, and has reserved ALL of the cemeteries in Pierce County as his domain. Wow!

We held a cemetery walk at the Lake View Cemetery this summer and I was overwhelmed by the response, but also the number of Steves. Steve and Patty Clayton came with their friend Steve Kalma. And, the ever popular Stephen Pierce joined in. In only a couple hours, we nearly surveyed 2/3 of that huge facility. Steve and Patty have taken on completing Lake View AND Cavalry Cemetery in Seattle. That's dedication.

Geoff and Cheryl Nunn have surveyed several cemeteries in Snohomish County and prepared detailed notes about the veteran graves they found. Keith Clark and I went out several times and completed surveys of all the cemeteries in Mason and Thurston Counties. I also surveyed Mount Pleasant Cemetery, Forest Lawn, Crystal Lodge and Fort Lawton in Seattle and several in eastern Jefferson County.

Then, there is the irrepressible Bill Watson from the Cowlitz County History Museum, our mentor and primary researcher. Over the past 18 months, he has completely surveyed the cemeteries in Adams, Asotin, Clark, Cowlitz, Ferry, Garfield, Grays Harbor, Klickitat, Pacific, Pend Oreille, Stevens and Wahkiakum Counties.

Jan Olson has been most helpful in assisting in connecting the project to local genealogy societies, Sylva Coppock provided us with veteran information from the Saar Pioneer Cemetery as well as biographies of those interred there. Mark Terry connected us with some who have developed a list of Confederate veterans, as did Stephen Pierce. Stephen's list is currently being reviewed by Bill Watson to determine its accuracy and completeness. Garth Holmes attempted to contact the Myron Ranney family to ascertain his life after the war. Mr. Ranney was a Congressional Medal of Honor recipient and is buried in Tumwater.

Now for the statistical information you've all been waiting for. As of 8/18/14, we documented 3,771 Union veterans and 115 Confederate veterans (not including the 400+ in the documentation acquired by Stephen Pierce). We have also documented 9 monuments solely dedicated to veterans of the Civil War.

Finally, the Olympia Elks and the Olympia West Lions Club have requested briefings about the activities and findings of the project. We will be making those presentations in September and October. If your club or service organization would like a briefing, please contact Mike Movius at webmaster@pscwrt.org.

My sincere apologies to all those whom I neglected to mention. Project documentation is located at <http://www.pscwrt.org/washington-project.html>

PUGET SOUND CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE PROGRAMS, SEPT 2014-MAY 2015

Editor's Note: Below is the complete schedule of monthly programs for the Round Table year as planned by our VP of Programming, Pat Brady. We owe Pat a huge debt of thanks for bringing some very good speakers and presentations to our meetings! Write them on your calendars and keep those dates clear. ***Please note that changes may take place and that we will make every effort to communicate this if it happens.***

OCTOBER 9, 2014. Hampton Newsome will describe the October 1864 battles between Grant and Lee in Virginia. He will examine the Confederate attacks along the Darbytown Road on October 7 outside Richmond, one of Lee's last offensive operations of the war. He will also cover Grant's major offensive on October 27 to seize the South Side Railroad, the last open rail line into the Confederate stronghold at Petersburg. Finally, Newsome will discuss a collection of speeches and letters about the wartime experiences of Petersburg veterans in *Civil War Talks: Further Reminiscences of George S. Bernard and His Fellow Veterans*, a book which he co-edited. He is also the author of *Richmond Must Fall: The Richmond-Petersburg Campaign of 1864*.

NOVEMBER 13, 2014. PSCWRT member Nick K. Adams will relate the history of the 2nd Minnesota Regiment of Volunteers from its origin at Ft. Snelling, MN in September, 1861 through its significant involvement in the Battle of Chattanooga, in November, 1863. This talk is based on Adams' new book, *My Dear Wife and Children: Civil War Letters from a 2nd Minnesota Volunteer*. These annotated Civil War letters provide interesting insight into the daily activities, the fighting experiences, and the thoughts and emotions of a common Union soldier in the Western Theater. These letters also form the basis of Adams' first book, *The Uncivil War*, and of his forthcoming third book.

DECEMBER 11, 2014. Lance Rhoades will discuss *From Birth of a Nation to Ken Burns: The Civil War in Cinema*. Many veterans were still alive to see the first movies about the Civil War, less than fifty years after it ended. The Civil War in celluloid reflects our nation's endless attempt to understand this most traumatic period. Film scholar Lance Rhoades has received the Excellence in Teaching Award at the University of Washington, has taught at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and is director of film studies at the Seattle Film Institute. Film clips will be shown, bring your own popcorn.

JANUARY 8, 2015. Frank Williams will discuss Lincoln, McClellan, and Grant: War and Politics, 1864-65. These were difficult and complex years for these three main characters of the Civil War. Fear of defeat for re-election caused Lincoln to rethink emancipation and even consider restoring a command to McClellan. Newly appointed General-in-Chief Ulysses S. Grant was weary of the President and the War Department as he did not want to be "McClellanized," with military policy dictated by politics. This is that story. Retired Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Rhode Island, Frank Williams is a well-known Lincoln expert, scholar and collector, the founding chair of the Lincoln Forum, a board member of the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Foundation, the author of many articles, and the author or editor of more than a dozen books, including *Lincoln as Hero*,

Judging Lincoln, The Emancipation Proclamation: Three Views, and Lincoln Lessons: Reflections on America's Greatest Leader.

FEBRUARY 12, 2015. Terrence Winschel will describe the Union struggle to wrest control of the Mississippi River, so that it could flow “unvexed to the sea,” in Lincoln’s words. After discussing the economic and military significance of the river, he will describe the early operations stretching from Cairo, Illinois to the Gulf of Mexico, and then will focus on the climactic campaign that led to the fall of Vicksburg in July 1863. Mr. Winschel is a thirty-five-year veteran of the National Park Service who served at Gettysburg National Military Park, Fredericksburg National Military Park, Valley Forge National Historical Park, and recently retired as Historian at Vicksburg National Military Park. Terry has written 100 articles on the Civil War. He is author of Triumph & Defeat: The Vicksburg Campaign, Vol. II, Vicksburg is the Key: The Struggle for the Mississippi River, The Civil War Diary of a Common Soldier, Vicksburg: Fall of the Confederate Gibraltar, and Triumph & Defeat: The Vicksburg Campaign. His many awards include the 2013 Carrington Williams Battlefield Preservation of the Year Award by the Civil War Trust.

MARCH 12, 2015. Mike Movius, Stephen Pierce, Dick Miller, and Ed Malles will show and tell all about a wide range of Civil War items and artifacts, original or reproduction, including a Colt revolving rifle, Springfield musket with accoutrements, cavalry saber with scabbard, Confederate kepi, fired but unexploded shell (disarmed), promotion document for a sergeant, 13th Tennessee Cavalry (Union), a Harper’s Weekly cover after Antietam, a Harper’s Weekly print of a devastated warscape, and surveying instruments and the military.

APRIL 9, 2015 Ed Malles will discuss Photography in the Civil War, starting with a brief history of the invention of photography in 1839 and advancements in technology to 1861, followed by a look at Matthew Brady and his contributions to photography in America in the 1850s, his commitment to covering the war, and his life after the war. Ed will discuss several photographers, the problems they faced in the field, iconic images, and photography's impact on society. We all know the images but few know the men behind the cameras and the difficulties, both technical and personal, they overcame to bring those images to print. Ed Malles is the Editor of *Bridge Building in Wartime, Colonel Wesley Brainerd's Memoir of the 50th New York Engineers*.

MAY 14, 2015 Barbara Bruff Hemmingsen will tell of the Battles of Franklin and of Nashville, the last major battles in the Western Theater. The Union Army's capture of Atlanta on September 1, 1864 did not destroy General Hood’s Confederate Army of Tennessee, which remained a threat to central Tennessee. When General Sherman left Atlanta for the sea, he ordered the 4th Army Corps, Army of the Cumberland, to counter Confederate moves north towards Nashville. The armies fought at Franklin, TN, on November 30, 1864, and 14 days later outside Nashville. Barbara's great, great grandfather Joseph Bruff was at this time a field officer in the 125th Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and participated in both battles. Her presentation will be illustrated with quotes from his letters and her photographs from the battlefields. A retired Professor of Microbiology, she is editing Joseph Bruff’s letters for publication.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Rick Solomon

I have decided for the next year to write the President's Corner column about an event or person whose place in The American Civil War took occurred 150 years ago in the month of our PSCWRT Meeting. This month I will be writing about the Fall of Atlanta.

By the beginning of 1864 Atlanta's population had swollen to over 20,000 making it the second largest city in the Confederacy still under rebel control. In 1864 Atlanta had seven daily newspapers. Atlanta was originally named Terminus because four railroads passed through it. This transportation hub also had many munitions factories and supply plants in its immediate area. When Ulysses S. Grant was promoted to general-in-chief of all Union armies, he left his favorite lieutenant, William Tecumseh Sherman, in charge of the Western armies. While George G. Meade (accompanied by Grant), Benjamin Butler and Franz Sigel advanced against Robert E. Lee, and Nathaniel Banks attempted to capture Mobile, Sherman was assigned the mission of defeating Joseph E. Johnston's Army of Tennessee, capturing Atlanta, and striking through Georgia and the Confederate heartland.

"Atlanta is ours, and fairly won," Sherman wired Washington on September 3, 1864. Just a few days before the Democrats had nominated George B. McClellan as their Presidential candidate. This Union victory along with Admiral David Farragut's capture of Mobile Bay the previous month virtually assured the re-election of Abraham Lincoln.

In the Atlanta Campaign (May 7-Sept. 2, 1864) the Union suffered 31,687 in casualties out of about 112,000 troops while the Confederates lost 34,979 out of 65,000 soldiers. Notable generals killed were Leonidas Polk for the Confederates and James McPherson for the Union. Hood's army left the area with about 30,000 men while Sherman retained 81,000.

After Atlanta's fall, numerous northern journalists in the New York *Daily Tribune*, *Harper's Weekly*, and others proclaimed loudly that Lincoln's chances for reelection had been greatly enhanced. In his diary George Templeton Strong called the Fall of Atlanta "Glorious news this morning – it is the greatest event of the war." The *New York Times* repeated "Atlanta is ours. The foundries, furnaces, rolling-mills, machine shops, laboratories and railroad repair shops, the caps, of gun carriages, wagons, ambulances, harnesses, shoes and clothing, which have been accumulated in Atlanta, are ours now." In fact the Confederate losses were staggering. Twenty-eight car loads of ammunition were blown up – the Army of Tennessee's entire reserve supply. Eighty-one cars and five locomotives, thirteen siege guns, large quantities of quartermaster stores, and ordnance equipment were abandoned. These dramatic fire scenes were well depicted in the 1939 film *Gone With the Wind*.

In the Atlanta campaign the Army of Tennessee had lost 48 pieces of artillery and over 13,000 in small arms. Above all, there was the threatened dislocation of the entire Confederate munitions area by the Fall of Atlanta. Already those installations in Tennessee, Kentucky and North Georgia were gone. Now the capture of Atlanta threatened the axis from Augusta to Macon to Columbus. When Atlanta fell the Confederacy's largest powder mill and one of its finest arsenals at Augusta were open to invasion from the west. The huge complex at Macon was so

endangered that in September the Ordnance Bureau debated whether to dismantle the equipment there and ship it either to Columbia, Savannah, or some other safer place.

Sherman's armies had severed all four railways radiating out of Atlanta: the Western & Atlantic to the north, The Georgia Railroad to the west, the Atlanta & Westpoint to the southwest and the Macon and Western to the southeast. This last railroad was the route that Sherman's March to the Sea would follow to Savannah. This March would divide the Confederacy a second time, assuring its ultimate conquest.

From Sept. 25-28, 1864 Jefferson Davis met with the high command of the Army of Tennessee. Despite numerous outcries by the troops of "We want Joe Johnston", Davis stubbornly stuck with Hood in command of the Army of Tennessee and relieved William Hardee, the Army's most experienced Corps commander. The decision was made for Hood to lead the Army into Middle Tennessee. Meanwhile Sherman decided on his march to the Sea while sending George Thomas to Tennessee to try to defeat Hood's Army of Tennessee. The table was now set for the twin disasters of the battles of Franklin and Nashville and the complete destruction of the Army of Tennessee while Sherman's March to the Sea divided the Confederacy once more.

I look forward to seeing and talking with you at our September 11, 2014 meeting.

Rick Solomon, President

CIVIL WAR TRIVIA QUIZ- 150 YEARS AGO

This month's quiz focuses on the events of September 1864. Major events would take place this month that would affect the upcoming presidential election in November.

1. On September 2, 1864, what major city in Georgia was surrendered to Union forces?
2. What former Union General withdrew from the presidential race on September 17, 1864?
3. Confederate forces were driven from what Shenandoah Valley town on September 19, 1864, starting Sheridan's "Valley Campaign"?

Bonus Question: What was the nickname of the Union General from Question 2?

THE LAST WORD

By Mark R. Terry

The summer of 2014 was a very different one for me. For a year and a half, I had suffered pain and debility in my left hip. On June 24, I had hip replacement surgery done. The improvement has been startling, but it also left me with two months off from work. My wife Kim and daughter Lorena were very patient with me, especially the first 2-3 weeks or so. I ended up with quite a bit of free time which I was able to use to work on our family history and also get some reading done. I wanted to walk Lake View Cemetery and help our members with the Washington Project, but it was too close to my surgery date at that point.

I hope you all noticed the request from member Richard West earlier in the Volunteer. I very much hope someone coming up from the south or the eastside can help him with transportation.

Both of these examples serve to show us something- all of us are getting older and so is the membership of the Puget Sound Civil War Round Table. August was the 20th anniversary of our membership. We were in our mid-thirties then, our mid-fifties now. We need to help and look out for one another.

Why I'm bringing up all this is that most if not all of you have heard of our efforts at marketing our group to the general public. A marketing survey has been posted on the Internet. I hope you will participate as best you can and not just ignore it. There are simple things all of us can do to help pique interest in our group and also to help retain those who come. While this may be difficult and not always be crowned with success, the alternative is worse- to watch our membership shrink slowly year after year until the Round Table is no more...

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 2014 Washington Volunteer is Monday, September 22, 2014. Please have it in Mark Terry's hands via email or snailmail by then. Thank you!

2014-2015 OFFICERS

Elected:*

President: Rick Solomon, ricksolo@ricksolo.com

Vice-President-Successor: Mike Movius, webmaster@pscwr.org

Past-President: David Palmer: davidpalmer7@comcast.net

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

Vice President-Social Media: Mike 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

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