

THE WASHINGTON VOLUNTEER

PUGET SOUND CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

HTTP://WWW.PSCWRT.ORG/
OCTOBER 2014

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, October 9, 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 listed 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 7, 2014.

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



HAMPTON NEWSOME WILL DESCRIBE THE OCTOBER 1864 BATTLES BETWEEN GRANT AND LEE IN VIRGINIA.

Newsome 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*. Mr. Newsome lives in Arlington, Virginia.

IMPORTANT DISPATCHES

Improving the Round Table Experience

We made a big physical change to the PSCWRT this season- we moved our meetings upstairs at the China Harbor Restaurant. While this did alleviate the noise from other restaurant patrons and the music from the bar, we found out last month that it didn't fix everything. Immediately following the meeting, well-founded complaints were made regarding the sound. September speaker Steve Raymond did his best, but it was difficult to hear him because of an inadequate

sound system coupled with the acoustics of the room, table arrangement and noise being caused by the staff. To address these issues, member Dick Miller has been contacting audio experts regarding what sound systems would work best with the room within the practical limits and price range we can work with. Member Richard Kerr has also given very good advice.

We are totally dedicated to find a solution to the sound problems. To try and partially rectify the audio problems for the October meeting, we are planning to:

- change the table configuration so that the tables on average will be closer to the speaker,
- welcome those who need to be closer to the amplifiers to go ahead and sit at the front tables.
- Politely encouraging the staff to be silent during the speaker's presentation

Until we can finally find THE solution to the sound situation, let's work together to do what we can to make it better.

Editor's Note: Rather than simply listing the names of new members, we have asked them to tell us a little bit about themselves. We hope by doing this it will encourage you to meet our new members in person and get to know one another better...

Meet Douglas Galuszka- New member of the PSCWRT!



Hello! I am thrilled to be back in a Round table, was in the Michigan Regimental Round Table when I was in high school, but with all the moving around in my Army career, was never able to join one since then. A bit about myself:

I grew up in Grand Blanc, MI, near Flint. Graduated from Michigan State University in 1993 with a degree in History.

Enlisted in the Army Reserves as an Infantryman after high school and did ROTC at MSU, was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the Medical Service Corps upon graduation and came on Active Duty. I have been a medical platoon leader in the 1st Armored Division in Germany, medical company

commander in the 3d Infantry Division (Mechanized) in Ft Stewart, GA, the Deputy Commander for Operations of the U.S. Army Medical Materiel Center-Europe, and the battalion commander of the Warrior Transition Battalion-Europe. I have deployed as a UN Peacekeeper in the Balkans in 1995 and did two tours in Iraq, one with the Vth Corps Plans Section in Baghdad in 2006 and one as the Support Operations Officer of the 421st Multifunctional Medical Battalion in 2008-09 in Balad. Along the way I have earned master's degrees in health administration from Baylor University and in military history from the Command and General Staff College where my thesis was on logistics in the Department of the Cumberland during the Tullahoma and Chickamauga Campaigns in the Civil War.

Became interested in the Civil War in elementary school and started attending the Civil War Institute at Gettysburg College when I was 12. Was a re-enactor as a teenager during the 125th

Anniversary events. Have always had an interest in the Michigan regiments and participants in the war and while I have spent more time exploring the eastern theater, I a deepening interest in the western battles and the logistics of war in that era. There has not been a day in my life since I was 8 years old when I have not thought about the Civil War.

My wife Mandy and I just moved to Tacoma after eight years of duty in Germany. We have 10 month old twins, Benjamin and Gabriella. We live in Old Town Tacoma with a view of the Puget Sound and we can see Carr Street (named after Job Carr, a veteran wounded at Corinth and Chickamauga) and Maury Island (named for the future Confederate raider Captain William Lewis Maury) from the front window of my house, so even here in the Pacific Northwest I am surrounded by the Civil War!

WASHINGTON PROJECT – LIVE!

On Tuesday evening, September 9, 2014, Vice President Mike Movius made a presentation before the Olympia West Lions Club about the Washington Project. Mike described the origin of the project, how it has captured the interest and participation of many members of PSCWRT and others outside the round table and some details about the research process when verifying Civil War veterans.

Fellow PSCWRT member, Garth Holmes introduced Mike and took the photographs. Garth, also a member of the Lions, commented afterwards that he received some very positive feedback about the interest level of club members.



Editor: The following article is an introduction to the stories of five veterans buried in the Saar Pioneer Cemetery. Be on the lookout for the first veteran's story next month!

Histories of Civil War Veterans Buried in Saar Pioneer Cemetery

By Sylva Coppock

In 2004, dedicated members of the South King County Genealogical Society (SKCGS) took on the challenge of reclaiming and restoring the overgrown and derelict Peter Saar Pioneer Cemetery, and telling the stories of the people buried in the historic old graveyard. The cemetery is perched on a knoll on the north side of 212th Street, Kent, between Highway 167 and the Winco Foods Store.

For countless hours, member of the Society, as well as volunteers from the community, cut down and trimmed overgrown trees, cleared brush, and battled back the blackberry bushes. They mowed the grounds, pulled the weeds, excavated lost stones, repaired and replaced markers, and raised thousands of dollars from many funding sources to carry on the work. The organization hired a ground penetrating radar technician to explore where people were buried without benefit of a monument or headstone to mark their passing.

Genealogists and historians, committed to saving history for future generations, researched the families buried on Johann Peter Saar's old farm, starting in 1873. They spent long hours doing online research, accessing records in courthouses, museums and libraries, researching genealogical records, reading area newspaper archives, and contacting descendants of those pioneers buried in the cemetery. Only about 75 markers gave the clues researchers needed to begin the tedious work of combing through burial records and obituaries in order to identify the White River Valley settlers who rest in the Saar Pioneer Cemetery. However, by the time the research was done, those researchers had identified nearly 200 people believed to rest there. A book, "A History of Saar Pioneer Cemetery and Its Inhabitants," copyrighted in 2011 and published in 2012, was the result of eight years of work by members of the South King County Genealogical Society. The 400-page book sold over 100 copies and it is available in several local libraries, and at libraries and archives throughout the United States.

Of most interest to the Puget Sound Civil War Roundtable membership, will be the biographies of five Civil War veterans, who found their way to the Kent area from Connecticut, New York, Iowa and Virginia, after the war. Five were originally interred in Saar Pioneer Cemetery, however there is evidence that one of those veterans, James Iddings, a "galvanized Yankee," was later removed and reinterred along with other family members at Hillcrest Burial Park in Kent. The graves of these veterans have been tended and cared for since the restoration project began in 2004. Beginning in 2007, the South King County Genealogy Society, with the help of Kent American Legion Post #15, several Cub Scout and Boy Scout troops, have held Veterans Day ceremonies each November. As a self-appointed representative of the Puget Sound Civil War Roundtable, I have placed flowers on the grave of each Civil War soldier at these services. Several of the military stones provided for veterans were so weathered as to be unreadable and the Department of Veteran's Affairs provided new stones, which were installed by members and friends of the Saar Pioneer Cemetery Restoration Committee. William Button, of the 1st Connecticut Artillery; Elias Clark, who served in the 74th Illinois and the 20th Michigan infantries; Nathaniel Hoag, of the 118th Regiment, New York, the "Adirondack Regiment"; and Lewis Warren, of the 15th Regiment, Iowa Infantry; all got new stones. Since James Iddings had

been reinterred at Hillcrest, no new stone was provided, however the Iddings family monument still stands in the Saar Pioneer Cemetery.

It is my intention to provide the webmaster and The Washington Volunteer with detailed histories of those five Civil War veterans, over the course of the next several months. These men lived interesting lives and should be remembered for their service and for the impact they had on the community in which they lived. I hope you will enjoy reading about these pioneer soldiers.

Sylva Coppock, Certified Genealogist, member of South King County Genealogical Society and member of the Puget Sound Civil War Roundtable.

The Stone Wall at Marye's Heights Failure and Success

Prepared by Ronald and Constance Burke

for Round Table Member Thomas E. Allen who is Grandson of General Thomas S. Allen

The climax of this story took place on May 3, 1863, near Fredericksburg, Virginia during the Civil War. However, we will introduce it by going back to April 13, 1861, when President Abraham Lincoln called for 25,000 volunteers.

Thomas Allen was one of the first to enlist as a private at Mineral Point, Wisconsin. His potential leadership skills were immediately recognized and he was selected to command Company I of the 2nd Regiment of Wisconsin with the rank of Captain. Within a year, he was promoted to Major – and as the war went on, to Lieutenant Colonel; then in 1863, he was made Colonel and in command of the 5th Wisconsin Regiment. The 5th had quite a few men who were mostly descended from German immigrants, and many of them were already trained marksmen.

Thomas was born in 1825, at the town of Cuba, in southwest New York State. He was graduated in 1846 from Oberlin College in Ohio, and went to Chicago to learn the printing business. As time went on, he later took up surveying, school teaching, and became clerk of the County Board. In 1860, he served at the federal level, when he was appointed clerk in the United States Land office. However, the very next year, he joined many others in becoming a soldier in the Civil War.

General Ambrose E. Burnside had assumed command of the Union Army of the Potomac on November 9, 1862. He presented President Lincoln with an ambitious plan which involved a rapid movement towards Fredericksburg, Virginia; then continuing to march southward, through Chancellorsville, against the Confederate capital at Richmond. His army would be supplied by bases on the Potomac River. To accomplish this mission from Fredericksburg, it was necessary to control the area known as Marye's Heights, which commanded every road to Chancellorsville on the route to Richmond. The land at Marye's Heights sloped down to the Telegraph Road, which was supported, on the downhill side, by a wall of stone that rose above the road as a parapet. This road was later referred to as the "sunken road." The wall served as a barrier; behind which, defensive infantry and artillery could have continuous protection. It could cover with fire the whole lower slope, up-which the attacking Federal Forces would have to advance.

The first attack in the Heights area occurred on December 13, 1862. Confederate artillery and infantry behind the stone wall shattered wave after wave of Federal troops. By the end of the day, there were 1,200 killed, 9,000 wounded, and 2,145 missing – and the Federal Forces retreated. Confederate losses were 570 killed, 3,870 wounded, and 127 missing. General Robert

E. Lee, looking at the many bodies, remarked: "It is well that war is so terrible, or we should grow too fond of it."

The 1863 Spring offensive in General Burnside's plan again required control of the roads passing through Marye's Heights. In February, a "light division" had been organized from the Sixth Corps. It was intended to move quickly and independently without being encumbered by other command structures. A Colonel Burnham was placed in command to carry out General Burnside's plan. At 11 o'clock on the night of May 2nd, Colonel Burnside received an order from General Joseph Hooker to move up to Fredericksburg, and again push towards Chancellorsville. This meant that he would have to break the rebel line on Marye's Heights.

The following account is in Colonel Thomas Allen's words: "It was a beautiful Sunday morning on May 3rd. Between 7 and 8 o'clock, Colonel Burnham rode up to me and said: 'Colonel Allen, General Sedgwick orders that you deploy your regiment as skirmishers in front of the 6th Maine and the 31st New York, to storm the stone wall on Marye's Hill.' I said: 'Colonel Burnham, this is impossible. My regiment, as ordered, would cover the front of any two regiments.' He said: 'But this is the order.' I answered: 'Well, please tell General Sedgwick that this order is impossible; but allow me to suggest that I be allowed to deploy my right wing in single rank in the front line – placing the left wing in two ranks, in rear of the 31st New York, which is a small regiment.' "

Colonel Allen continued: "Colonel Burnham reported [my response] to General Sedgwick – and soon returned, giving me authority to form the order of battle to suit myself – so far as the direct attack in our front was concerned. I later went back to Colonel Burnham and apologized for some impertinent and hasty words I had used. I told him that no matter how many of us would fall, I believed we should certainly succeed in the charge, and then returned to my unit."

The attack proceeded as follows, as adapted from the *Military History of Wisconsin*, published in 1886: The right wing of the 5th Wisconsin, Companies A, B, F and H, were to lead the storming party under Colonel Thomas Allen; followed in their rear by the 6th Maine and the 31st New York. Then the left wing of the 5th Wisconsin was to be placed in the rear of the 31st New York. This plan and arrangement of the troops was made by Colonel Allen.

The enemy's arrangement consisted of a battery in front on the heights above; with a battery on the left and two batteries on the right, which could pour a terrible crossfire into the attacking force. In front of the 5th Wisconsin right wing, was a gentle slope – which on ascending, the force became fully exposed to the fire of the enemy; and at about 450 yards in front of their starting point was the stone wall. Behind the wall, was a regiment or two of sharpshooters. Beyond the wall, the hill rose very steep; on top of which was the battery and rifle-pits that the light division were ordered to take. Columns were to advance up a road to the right, in order to draw fire of the enemy while the charge was being made. The mood of the men of the 5th Wisconsin was very serious for they felt it an almost hopeless task, where so many had failed before. Colonel Allen addressed his men, saying: "Boys! You see those heights? You have got to take them! You think you cannot do it; but you can! You will do it! When the order 'Forward' is given, you will start at double quick – you will not fire a gun – you will not stop until you get the order to halt – and you will never get that order!"

The bugle call “Forward” was heard; every man advanced up the slope into the deadly fire which met them when they were about 100 yards from the stone wall. As instructed, they had advanced rapidly without firing a shot; then after surmounting the wall, they fought with bayonets and were soon in possession of the heights. The entire attack lasted about six minutes. During the attack, one of the Confederate soldiers, Lieutenant Edward Owen, of the 8th Louisiana battery, stepped out and said that he wished to surrender to an officer. He explained that he once lived in Connecticut, but was in New Orleans when the war started and was compelled to enter the service of the Confederacy. He handed his saber to Colonel Allen, along with a Masonic sign. Colonel Allen told him that was not necessary for his protection and guaranteed that he would be well taken care of. In all, they took 1,000 prisoners and captured 15 cannons. Nonetheless, there were some casualties in the 5th Wisconsin, amounting to 11 officers and 125 enlisted men.

General Sedgwick followed up by sending his force down the road towards Chancellorsville, but General Robert E. Lee’s army was able to stop them at Salem Church, half a dozen miles from their goal.

Colonel Allen served during the rest of the war and was personally wounded at both Gainesville and Antietam. He was promoted to the Brevet Rank of Brigadier General for gallantry in service.

After the war, General Thomas Allen was elected to be the Secretary of State of Wisconsin. He served in that position until 1870. At that time, General Allen and Colonel John Hicks formed a partnership and purchased the *Oshkosh Daily Northwestern* newspaper. In 1877, General Allen was elected to the state legislature, and he continued to publish his newspaper until June 1884, when he finally sold out his interest to Colonel Hicks. Thomas S. Allen passed away in 1905 at the age of 80.

On a personal note, Thomas Allen’s first marriage ended with his wife Sally’s death in 1854. They had a two-year-old daughter and she was raised by various family members. There were six children in Thomas’ second marriage to Natalia, of which the youngest was Edward Weber Allen, also known as “Ned.” As a young adult, Ned assisted his father in the journalism business for a while, but then moved west to study law at the University of Washington in Seattle. After passing the Washington State bar exam, he started work in the State Attorney General’s office – where he became interested in politics.

After World War I, Edward (Ned) helped found the law firm of Wright, Kellener and Allen. There he worked on many cases involving the timber and fisheries industries in Washington and Alaska. He became known as a World Trade expert, as well as being very involved in community endeavors. He and his wife Hazel had two children, a daughter named after her grandmother, Natalia Jane – and a son who was given the first name of his grandfather and his second name after his father, Thomas Edward Allen. It was Thomas E. Allen that recommended that this story should be written and published about his grandfather, Thomas S. Allen, and his documented exploits during the Civil War.

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Biography of Edward Weber Allen, by his son Thomas Edward Allen

PRESIDENT’S CORNER- THE BATTLE OF CEDAR CREEK

By Rick Solomon

This month I’m writing about the significance of the Battle of Cedar Creek which was fought on October 19, 1864. In the Summer of 1864 Robert E. Lee had sent the Second Corps , commanded by Lee’s “My Bad Old Man”, Jubal Early, to the Shenandoah Valley. In the course of that campaign Early threatened Washington DC and drew numerous Union troops, including the entire Sixth Corps, away from the Richmond-Petersburg Front. A Confederate cavalry raid burned two-thirds of Chambersburg, Pennsylvania to the ground. On August 1, 1864 Ulysses S. Grant asked that four military districts be placed under one command and telegraphed the War Department, “I want Sheridan put in command of all the troops in the field, with instructions to put himself south of the enemy and follow him to the death. Wherever the enemy goes, let our troops go also.”

After Union victories at Winchester on September 19 and Fisher’s Hill September 22, Sheridan conducted a scorched earth campaign that would foreshadow Sherman’s March to the Sea. This operation, conducted from September 26 to October 8 has been known as “the Burning” or “Red October”. After Early was reinforced by Kershaw’s infantry division and Rosser’s cavalry division, Sheridan retreated to just north of Cedar Creek. This left Lee with only five infantry divisions on the Richmond-Petersburg Front. In a letter of October 12, 1864, Lee told Early, “You had better move against him and endeavor to crush him. I do not think Sheridan’s infantry or cavalry numerically as large as you suppose.”

In a brilliant pre-dawn attack on October 19 Early’s men drove a large chunk of the Union army into a headlong retreat to the north. However three divisions of the Sixth Corps formed a good defensive position while Sheridan made his famous ride on his horse Rienzi. When “Little Phil” reached the Union defensive line he shouted, “Come on back. Boys! Give ‘em hell, God damn ‘em! We’ll make coffee out of Cedar Creek tonight!” Sheridan’s victory solidified his military reputation. Ulysses S. Grant ordered a 100-gun salute to be fired in Sheridan’s honor at Petersburg and he was rewarded with a promotion to major general in the regular army. This victory at Cedar Creek, along with victories at Mobile Bay, Atlanta, Winchester and Fisher’s Hill, greatly helped to reelection of Abraham Lincoln.

Towards the end of the battle Major General Stephen Dodson Ramseur was mortally wounded and was captured by the Federals. He died at Sheridan’s headquarters at Belle Grove the next day. Ramseur had had a brilliant career in the Army of Northern Virginia. He was a brigadier general in Rodes division fighting spectacularly at Chancellorsville, the Wilderness and Spotsylvania. In *Lee’s Lieutenants* Freeman called him “Ramseur the hard-hitting.” On June 1,

1864, the day after he turned 27, Ramseur was promoted to major general. The day before the Battle of Cedar Creek Ramseur learned that his wife had given birth to a daughter. Just as in the deaths of Jeb Stuart and Robert Rodes, Ramseur was a Confederate general who could not really be replaced.

A few words about Jubal Early. He had fought well for many years. Initially his Shenandoah Valley campaign was brilliant with Early out fighting and outmaneuvering Union troops many times the size of the men under his command. When Sheridan defeated him with overwhelming numbers at Winchester and Fisher's Hill, no one could question Early's efforts. After initial success at Cedar Creek, the Confederates lost their focus plundering the captured Union camps and fell to Sheridan's counterattack. Casualties for the Union totaled 5,665 (644 killed, 3,430 wounded, and 1,591 missing) out of about 31,610, while the Confederates lost 2,910 (320 killed, 1,540 wounded, and 1,050 missing) out of 21,102. Lee stripped Early of all but 3,000 men. The rebels were never again able to threaten the northern states through the Shenandoah Valley, nor protect the economic base in the Valley. When Early reported to Lee in March 1865, Lee told him to go home. The Sands of Time were rapidly running out for "Marse Robert" and the army of Northern Virginia.

I look forward to seeing and talking with you at our October 9, 2014 meeting.

Rick Solomon, President

CIVIL WAR TRIVIA QUIZ- 150 YEARS AGO

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

1. Name the battle which was the decisive Union victory in the Shenandoah Valley that took place on October 19, 1864.
2. The northernmost Confederate raid took place on that same day in what Northern town?
3. On October 31, 1864, a state was admitted to the Union which helped to finance the war. What state was it?

Bonus Question: What was the name of the horse of the general commanding Union forces at the battle from Question 1? [Read the "President's Corner" for the answer]

THE LAST WORD

By Mark R. Terry

As you may know, a planning meeting was held on September 23rd for those interested in the future of the PSCWRT, to go over the recent survey results and to use the data to "grow" our Round Table and make it better. The discussion was lively and I feel that many positive things came out of it. I am looking forward to the implementation of the items that were voted on because it will help the PSCWRT improve on what we do. As mentioned early on in this newsletter, other changes are coming to the meeting site which should help make our meetings more enjoyable for those who attend.

I've often encouraged member participation in the newsletter, so I'm excited that in this issue Member **Sylva Coppock** wrote an introduction to her upcoming series of five articles based on the Civil War veterans buried in the Saar Cemetery in Kent, Washington. Reading her introduction, I am very impressed by the physical work that members of the South King County Genealogical Society did to restore this cemetery and by their research to bring to life the stories of the forgotten veterans buried there. **Ronald and Constance Burke** also submitted an article on Union General Thomas S. Allen, especially his role in the attack on Marye's Heights during the Chancellorsville Campaign in May, 1863. Allen is the grandfather of member **Thomas E. Allen!** Lastly, we asked our new members to submit a short "bio" about themselves, and **Douglas Galuszka** was the first to respond. Thank you for your submissions and I hope other members will be encouraged to share their own research and Civil War interests with the rest of us. This is YOUR newsletter- take advantage of the opportunity you have...

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 2014 Washington Volunteer is Monday, October 27, 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

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