

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

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, December 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 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, December 9, 2014.

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

**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.

IMPORTANT DISPATCHES

BATTLEFIELD PRESERVATION UPDATE

As you know, November was Battlefield Preservation Month. Prior to the main meeting Mike Movius did an impromptu “preservation auction” for the Civil War Trust (CWT). The CWT has been around for some time and is the most effective Civil War preservation organization in the United States. Mike pulled out Civil War pins, bullets, CWT T-shirts, a CWT bag, CWT baseball cap- all manner of items that our membership might be interested in. Result? Those who donated together raised \$134! Although that doesn't seem like much, for a quick fund-raiser that no one

attending had planned for we did alright and I'm sure the Civil War Trust will be grateful for your support.

The following article is the second of a series of five stories about Civil War veterans buried in Saar Pioneer Cemetery in Kent, King County, Washington

Elias Clark, Private, Company F, 74th Illinois Infantry and Company D, 20th Michigan Infantry
By Sylva Coppock

Elias Clark, Jr., born 9 October 1831 at Bainbridge, Chenango County, New York, was the son of Elias Clark, Sr. and wife Lorena, both born in Connecticut. Early census records showed the elder Elias Clark living with his family in Waterbury, New Haven, Connecticut in 1820. On the 1850 census for Catherine, Chemung County, New York, Elias Clark, Jr. was 19 years old and living with his parents. Ten years later the parents had moved to Racine County, Wisconsin.

On 25 December 1854, Elias Clark, Jr., married Adaliza T. Hudson in Westfield Corners, Winnebago County, Illinois. Adaliza, born 31 October 1839, in Sardinia, Erie County, New York, was the daughter of Benoni and Lucy (Stephens) Hudson, originally from Rhode Island and Connecticut respectively. Throughout his lifetime Elias Clark, Jr. worked at a great number of different occupations. In 1851 he was issued a license to sell insurance in New York. Sometime between 1851 and 1853, Elias relocated from New York to Illinois. In Naperville, DuPage County, Illinois, on 5 February 1853, a Teacher's Certificate was issued to Mr. Elias Clark, certifying that "he sustains a good moral character, and that he is well qualified to teach the following branches, viz: Orthography, Arithmetic, Reading in English, English Grammar, Penmanship, Modern Geography, and the History of the United States."

On 25 April 1859, Elias Clark, Jr. bought from Edwin Clark, "all his interest in his rooms situated on the 3rd floor of the building known as No. 82, North 4th St., in St. Louis, Mo., consisting of sewing tables, needles, furniture, tools & fixtures & his Agency for Sewing Machines manufactured at Windsor, Vt., for the full amount of \$500."

On the 1860 census for the Southeastern Division of the Tenth Ward in the city of St. Louis, in the county of St. Louis, Missouri, Elias and his family were living with Gehele Clark, a sewing machine agent, his wife Adelia, and their daughter Fannie. Also living in the household with 29 year-old Elias was his wife Adaliza and two children: Jessy and Bertha.

Over a year after the Civil War began, Elias Clark enlisted in the Union Army even though he was a married man with two small children at home. He first enlisted as a private on 11 August 1862 in the 74th Regiment Illinois Infantry, formed at Winnebago, Winnebago County, Illinois. His enlistment papers described him as 5-foot, 10-inches tall, with auburn hair, dark eyes, and a light complexion. According to this document he had been making his living as a carpenter prior to his enlistment. He was officially mustered into the Union army on 4 September 1862 in Rockford, Illinois, and assigned to Company F.

A Brief History of the 74th Regiment of Illinois Volunteer Infantry

The 74th Regiment was organized in August of 1862, with ten companies from Winnebago County, Wisconsin and one company each from Ogle and Stephenson County, Illinois. By the end of September, the regiment reported for duty at Louisville, Kentucky where the Army of the Ohio was being reorganized under Union General Don Carlos Buell.

The regiment moved south from Louisville with Buell's army to meet the Army of the Mississippi commanded by Confederate General Braxton Bragg. In the Battle of Perryville, in Kentucky, on 8 October 1862, the regiment was held in reserve and did not see action. Bragg withdrew his army after only one day of fighting, moving southeast toward Knoxville, Tennessee.

In late October the Illinois men, with the Union forces under Buell, while in pursuit of the rebels, camped at Danville, Kentucky in three inches of snow. They then resumed their move south with the goal of protecting the railroads and supply center at Nashville, Tennessee.

On 5 November, the regiment marched across the Kentucky-Tennessee border and was soon encamped at the Union facilities at Nashville. Skirmishing enroute kept the men on alert until the opposing armies of General William S. Rosecrans (then in command of the Union forces) and General Bragg met again on a battlefield at Murfreesboro, Tennessee, on 31 December 1862 and the first and second days of January 1863. The three-day engagement became known as the Battle of Stones River. The Union army forced the Confederates to retreat even further south, to near Chattanooga, and the victors established a fortified camp around Murfreesboro.

During this engagement, the 74th Regiment suffered 8 killed, 35 wounded, and 42 missing or captured.

Elias Clark, suffering from poor health, was discharged in late January 1863, shortly after the Battle of Stones River. According to his "Certificate of Disability for Discharge" dated 11 December 1862, and signed by his commanding officer, Captain Henry C. Barker, Elias Clark had been unfit for duty due to chronic "Euterelis and Hemorrhoids, for a period of 60 days." The claim was verified by T. C. Fitzhugh, Assistant Surgeon. On 26 January 1863 Frederick Seymour, the surgeon in charge of the general hospital at Nashville, Tennessee, discharged Elias Clark after a diagnosis of hypertrophy of the heart and chronic diarrhea of long-standing. Elias went home to heal. He attributed his subsequent heart disease to exertion due to a debilitating march near Lowell, Kentucky during November of 1862.

The Civil War plodded on, and on 7 September 1864, Elias Clark again enlisted to serve in the Civil War. On 5 October 1864 he was mustered in as a private, under Captain Claudius B. Grant, in Company D, 20th Michigan Volunteer Infantry. According to early muster rolls from Jackson, Michigan, he was entitled to a bounty of \$33.33. At the time of his enlistment he was a resident of Sylvan, Washtenaw County, Michigan where he had been making his living as a carpenter. From October of 1864 through the first five months of 1865, he was present with his regimental company, assigned to work as a hospital attendant near Petersburg, Virginia until the end of the war.

A Brief History of the 20th Regiment of Michigan Volunteer Infantry

By the time Elias Clark joined the 20th Michigan in September 1864, the regiment had already been in service since August of 1862, and had participated in a great many engagements including operations in Maryland, Virginia, Kentucky, and Mississippi – most notably the Siege of Vicksburg and Jackson, Mississippi. It also participated in the Eastern Theater battles of the Wilderness, Spotsylvania, and Cold Harbor

By fall of 1864, when Elias Clark joined the Army of the Potomac, his regiment continued the fight at Poplar Springs Church, Boydton Plank Road, and Fort Stedman in the East. The regiment was vital to the Appomattox

Campaign in the spring of 1865; and to the assault on and capture of Petersburg on the second day of April. The Union Army pursued General Robert E. Lee from the third through the ninth of April and moved on to Alexandria.

After the surrender of General Lee to General Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox, the regiment was a part of the Grand Review in Washington D.C. on 23 May, and the soldiers of the 20th Michigan were mustered out on 30 May 1865.

Elias Clark was mustered out with his regiment at Delaney House, Washington D.C., with an honorable discharge. Elias continued to suffer from heart problems, rheumatism, piles, dyspepsia, catarrh, and general disability long after the Civil War was over. The details of his quest for an invalid pension is well-documented in his pension files.

No record has been found to indicate that Elias Clark was ever trained as a physician, beyond the notation in his pension files that he served as a hospital attendant during the last months of the Civil War. In the mid-nineteenth century there was little regulatory control over those who practiced medicine. However, on 18 June 1866, the Internal Revenue Bureau published the following: "... license is granted Elias Clark of the town of Union, in the County of Floyd, State of Iowa, to carry on business or occupation of physician, he having paid tax of ten dollars. Given under my hand and seal at Dubuque, Iowa ...". The document was signed by D.B. Henderson, Collector of the Third Collection District for the State of Iowa. This license was in force from 1 May 1866 to 1 May 1867.

On 1 December 1868, Elias Clark paid four dollars and 17 cents to the United States Internal Revenue, "for the tax upon the business or occupation of Physician, to be carried out at Steamboat Rock, Hardin County, Iowa, for the year ending May 1st, 1869." The receipt was signed by Albert Head, Collector of the Sixth District, State of Iowa. By the time of the 1870 census, Elias Clark had moved his family to Clay Township, El Dora, in Hardin County, Iowa. He was again making his living as a carpenter, and owned real estate valued at \$400, and personal property valued at \$150. His wife Adaliza was keeping house. Also listed were children: Jessie D., Harriett B., Willis H., Dolly, Myrtie E., and Idalet.

Elias and his family were living in Steamboat Rock, Hardin County, Iowa in 1880. And he was again making his living as a doctor. With him on the census was his wife Adaliza and children: Willis H., Myrtie E., and Garret S. Clark. The Iowa State Census of 1885 confirms Elias Clark's residence and occupation. On a questionnaire dated 5 July 1898, found in his pension files, Elias Clark listed his living children as: Harriet Bertha Avey, born 3 June 1858; Willis H. Clark, born 6 May 1863; Addie P. Van Note, born 3 April 1865; Myrtie Evelyn Hixson, born 2 June 1867; and Gerritt S. Clark, born 9 March 1875.

By the time of the 1900 census the Clark family was living in Algona, Kossuth County, Iowa. Elias Clark described himself as a retired doctor.

Elias Clark lived in Algona, Kossuth County, Iowa when he first filed for an Invalid Pension on 15 July 1890 under Application No. 885 354. The Pension was granted under Certificate No. 600 576. The family remained in Iowa until 1905, then moved to Stroud, Lincoln County, Oklahoma Territory. On 22 February 1907, Elias made a Declaration for Pension in Oklahoma, citing his existing Pension Certificate as No. 600 576. His son-in-law R. L. Hixson and his son Willis H. Clark, both residing in Stroud, witnessed the document.

About 1908 the family moved to the Pacific Northwest, settling, this time in Kent, King County, Washington. According to the 1910 census, Elias Clark was age 78, and lived in the Meeker Precinct, King County, Washington. His wife Adaliza T. was age 71, and the couple had been married for 54 years. They had had nine children of which four were still living. On 29 May

1912, Elias applied for his pension to be reissued to him in Washington. Witness to this Declaration for Pension included his son-in-law D. B. Avey, also residing in Kent, and Lot Davis of Tacoma, Washington.

In December of 1913 C.B. Hoffman, M.D., Elias Clark's personal physician, signed an affidavit that was filed with his pension records, indicating that Elias suffered from a severe form of hypertrophy of the heart.

However, sick as he seems to have been, Elias Clark's wife preceded him in death. The death certificate for Mrs. Ada (Adaliza) Clark indicated that she died on 3 March 1914 in King County, Washington at the age of 75 years, four months, and 24 days. According to this record, Mrs. Clark was born in New York on 9 November 1838. The place of burial or removal box is blank and the undertaker was C. G. Chittenden. The informant was D. B. Avey of Kent, King County, Washington. *The Kent Journal* published on Thursday, 5 March 1914, on the front page, column three, did not elaborate on her exact burial place however descendants have indicated that she was buried at O'Brien Cemetery, which is another name identified with the Saar Pioneer Cemetery. Her name appears on the Unmarked Graves Memorial installed in August of 2012 by the South King County Genealogical Society. Her obituary read: "Mrs. Adaliza Clark, mother of Mrs. Avey, of East Hill, died Tuesday evening, aged 75 years. Funeral services were held yesterday afternoon, Rev. Mr. Arney of the Episcopal Church preaching the funeral sermon. Deceased had lived here during the past five years."

Elias Clark died 18 August 1916 at the Washington Veterans' Home at Retsil, near Port Orchard in Kitsap County, Washington, and his status as a pensioner was dropped by the Bureau of Pensions. His death certificate indicated that he suffered from an organic heart lesion and had been ill for ten years. He was under the care of Dr. Hoffman from 4 January 1915 to 16 August 1916. The record confirmed that Elias died 18 August 1916. He was buried in the Methodist Cemetery (another name applied to the Saar Pioneer Cemetery) on 22 August 1916. The undertaker was C.G. Chittenden of Kent, Washington, and the informant on the death certificate was D.B. Avey, R.F.D., of Kent, Washington. Elias was 84 years, eight months, and 20 days at the time of his death. His birth date on this document was erroneously listed as 19 November 1831.

The Kent Journal published a notice of his death on 24 August 1916, on the front page, column five: "The funeral of Elias Clark, father of Mrs. Avey, who died last week, was held from the Avey home Friday morning at 10 o'clock. Interment was made in the cemetery at O'Brien."

Original Stone



Replacement Stone



SOURCES: The book “A History of Saar Pioneer Cemetery and Its Inhabitants,” Researched and Compiled by Members of the South King County Genealogical Society, and online resources and documents referenced in the text.

NOTE: Much of the history on the five Civil War veterans buried in this cemetery was researched and written by Sylva Jean Coppock. Permission was received from the owners of the copyright to reproduce sections of the book to share with the Puget Sound Civil War Roundtable, but should not be used for any other purpose.

PRESIDENT’S CORNER

“Sherman – Modern Warrior”

By Rick Solomon

I decided to write about William Tecumseh Sherman’s March to The Sea for my December 2014 President’s Column. I remembered that I had an *American Heritage* from August 1962 with an article in it entitled *Sherman –Modern Warrior*. This article was written by Captain B.H. Liddell Hart, an internationally recognized British authority on military tactics and strategy, and especially on mechanized warfare. I want to share with you an excellent quote on Sherman by Hart.

Sherman showed both the qualities and characteristics of genius. He was tall, lean, angular, loose-jointed, careless and unkempt in dress, with a restlessness of manner emphasized by his endless chain-smoking of cigars, and an insatiable curiosity, a raciness of language, and a fondness for picturesque phrases. But he was a blend of contrasting qualities. His dynamic energy went along with philosophical reflectiveness. He had faith in his own vision but a doubt of his own abilities that could only be dispelled gradually by actual achievement. He combined democratic tastes and manners with a deep and sardonic distrust of democracy. His rebelliousness was accompanied by a profound respect for law and order. His logical ruthlessness was coupled with compassion.

In generalship he was brilliant, yet what made him outstanding was the way he came to see and exploit the changing conditions of warfare produced by mechanical and scientific developments.

In Grant’s Vicksburg Campaign and Sherman’s Meridian Campaign the Federal commanders had their troops live off the land for relatively short periods of time. Sherman took the lessons of these campaigns and decided to have his men live off the land while marching from Atlanta to Savannah. By 1864 the difference between Grant and Sherman became apparent. While Grant’s primary objective was the Army of Northern Virginia, Sherman’s was the seizure of strategic points. Atlanta, the base of the Confederate’s Army of Tennessee, was not only the junction of four important railways but also the source of vital supplies. As Sherman pointed out, it was “full of foundries, arsenals, and machine shops,” as well as being of great importance psychologically as a symbol, and Sherman said “its capture would be the death knell of the Confederacy.”

In the march from Atlanta to Savannah, Sherman’s flexible organization of his army contributed almost as much as his variability of direction to his continuous progress. Marching

on a wide and irregular front – with four, five or six columns, each covered by a cloud of foragers known as “Bummers” – if one was blocked, others would be pushing on. The opposing forces became so jumpy that they repeatedly gave way to the psychological pressure and fell back before they felt any serious physical pressure. The mere shout, “We’re Bill Sherman’s raiders, you’d better git,” sometimes were enough to make rebel detachments retreat.

In World War II the German High command, especially General Heinz Guderian (the creator and leader of the panzer forces), developed their Blitzkriegs of 1939-41 which consisted of combined deep thrusting armored forces with air attack that were largely based upon Sherman’s tactics. In essence, in Sherman’s March to the Sea and the subsequent march through the Carolinas, Sherman and his men destroyed the railroads and factories while eating up the local foodstuffs as they moved. Or to put it another way Sherman and his troops were eviscerating the stomach and intestines of the Deep South to a fatal effect.

As Sherman once said, “War is Hell.”.

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

Rick Solomon, President

CIVIL WAR TRIVIA QUIZ- 150 YEARS AGO

...December, 1864 found the Confederacy literally on its last legs. It was a cold, cold winter with Union hopes riding high while Southerners wondered what the future would bring.

1. On December 2, Hood’s Army of Tennessee approached the capital of Tennessee, the city of Nashville in order to “besiege” it. Who was the Union commander of the Army of the Cumberland there?
2. As Sherman’s unstoppable army approached Savannah, Georgia- who was the Confederate general in charge of the city’s defenders? Here’s a hint- our current president Rick Solomon once did a presentation on him.
3. On December 23rd, the hulk of a ship holding 250 tons of gunpowder was beached near a Confederate fort and exploded. It was thought the blast would destroy the fort, but it was untouched. Subsequent assaults were repulsed. What was the name of the fort?

Bonus Question: On December 22, 1864, General Sherman wired President Lincoln. He said he had a Christmas gift for him. What was the gift?

THE LAST WORD

By Mark R. Terry

Rather than write anything lengthy, I would simply like to thank you all for supporting the PSCWRT and helping to contribute to the ongoing success of our organization! And...

The PSCWRT Board wishes you and your family all a very merry Christmas and a happy new year!!!

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 2015 Washington Volunteer is Monday, December 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

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

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