

THE WASHINGTON VOLUNTEER

PUGET SOUND CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

HTTP://WWW.PSCWRT.ORG/
DECEMBER 2015

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, December 10, 2015

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, Salmon or Vegetarian

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 8, 2015.

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



JOHN HOUGH WILL DISCUSS THE 1864 CONFEDERATE ATTACK ON THE UNION GUNBOAT USS

UNDERWRITER, anchored off New Bern, North Carolina. General George Pickett led the overall Confederate effort to retake the coastal town of New Bern, occupied by the Federals since 1862 and defended by stout earthworks. To support Pickett's attack,

naval Commander John Tayler Wood, a nephew of Jefferson Davis, led a Confederate small-boat raid meant to capture the *Underwriter* and use its guns to support Pickett's attack. Pickett failed to retake New Bern, but Wood's capture and destruction of the *Underwriter* cheered a war-weary South. A retired lawyer, former Marine Corps captain, and President of the Puget Sound Maritime Historical Society, Mr. Hough has published many articles on Pacific Northwest Maritime History, and is working on a biography of Jefferson Davis Howell, a West Coast steamer captain and brother-in-law of Jefferson Davis; Howell was a midshipman on the raid against the *Underwriter*. Mr. Hough's article on the Underwriter raid has been accepted for publication by *Sea History*, journal of the U.S. Naval Institute.

Preservation Month A Success

By Mike Movius

Civil War Battlefield preservation has been an important part of PSCWRT's mission since its inception. Several years ago we designated November as the month to emphasize donations for that goal, highlighted by a short auction of items discovered while on a Civil War trek or

two. November 2015 was no different, as you should recall. **This year, we raised \$215 for preservation of our American heritage.** The funds will be combined with the PSCWRT annual donation to the Civil War Trust. Thanks to everyone who provided pins, and other goodies and especially to those who bought them. We should all be proud of the effort.

IMPORTANT DISPATCHES

A Commemoration: The End of the Civil War and Advent of the 13th Amendment- Friday, December 18, 2015

By Mike Movius

Nearly a year ago, retired Pierce County Superior Court Judge John McCarthy contacted me about developing a public commemoration about the end of the Civil War. We met and talked about the possibilities several times, and had only a rough outline of a program. In October, John advised that he didn't want to give up the idea. I suggested that he talk with the folks at the Washington State History Museum about their venue.

Since that time, we have not only developed a really exciting program, but developed a great working relationship with the museum and especially with Susan Rohrer Manager of the State Capital Museum and Heritage Outreach Services. The program will be held at the WSHM located at 1911 Pacific Avenue, Tacoma (253) 272-3500 from 1:30 until 3:30 p.m. Admission is free.

The lineup will include the U. S. Army quintet and honor guard from Fort Lewis, public historian Lorraine McConaghy and the readers theater will discuss the war and how it affected those in Washington Territory, Eva Abram performer and storyteller will shed light on slavery in the territory, UW Law professor Hugh Spitzer will discuss the impact of the 13th Amendment, Karen Haas performer and interpreter will sing and talk about the war from a Southern perspective in the territory and UW historian Quintard Taylor will discuss the impact of the war on America.

In addition, our friends Nick K. Adams, Lance Weller, the Tacoma Historical Society, Historic Fort Steilacoom, the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, the Black Collective and others will be on hand...many in period clothing.

This will undoubtedly be a lot of fun and have special meaning for students of the Civil War and reconstruction. Please plan to be there to help in the celebration.

Field Trip to Fort Steilacoom- January 18, 2016

On Monday, January 18, 2016 (Martin Luther King Day), from 10 a.m. until noon the Puget Sound Civil War Roundtable will be having our Second Annual Field Trip. We will be going on a tour of Fort Steilacoom followed by a presentation about officers who served at Fort Steilacoom before the Civil War and became generals during the Civil War. Around noon we will have a Brown Bag Lunch together. For those interested in attending, there will be a signup

sheet at our December 10 Meeting in which you will be asked to give your name, phone number, email address and regular address. We will try to match up people for carpooling. Another way to register is by emailing ricksolo@ricksolo.com or calling me (206) 248-5559. There will be more details in the January Newsletter.

Thomas O’Connell, PSCWRT Speaker, Passes Away



Pat Brady forwarded this obituary for Dr. Thomas E. O’Connell. Pat wrote “Tom O’Connell spoke to our Round Table several years in a row in our late years at Yankee Diner and early years at China Harbor” Dr. O’Connell was a former Bellevue College President, who led the Eastside campus from 1977 – 1981, has died. He was 90.

O’Connell died at the Bayview Retirement Home in Seattle, Tuesday, October 20 after a long illness.

He was born on June 30, 1925, in Worcester, Massachusetts to Thomas, a real estate developer and Mary, an interior decorator.

O’Connell entered the Air Force after high school, serving as a bombardier-navigator in the Air Force’s 338th Bomb Squadron of

the 96th Bomb Group in Europe before being honorably discharged as a first lieutenant in 1946. He went on to attend Dartmouth College, and in 1950 O’Connell joined the Venezuelan Basic Economy Corporation, a Rockefeller family-sponsored organization in Puerto La Cruz, Venezuela where he met his wife Anne (née Ludlum).

He and his wife returned to the United States where O’Connell earned a master’s degree in public administration from Syracuse University and a doctorate in higher education from the University of Massachusetts.

In 1960 O’Connell was named the founding president of the first state-supported community college in Massachusetts: Berkshire College in Pittsfield. He led the college as it grew from a fledgling institution to a vibrant college serving a cosmopolitan student body in a multi-building campus.

O’Connell made the move to what was then Bellevue Community College in 1977. During his time as President, he established a solid instructional organization and successfully negotiated a new contract with faculty.

O’Connell left the Bellevue College presidency in 1981 to teach speech and Spanish at the college until 1988.

An ardent traveler, O’Connell lectured in Spain, Holland, Germany and the former Yugoslavia for the U.S. Information Service. He also traveled through Latin America, Europe and Asia as a bird watcher, compiling a list of birds he identified by sight and sound. He eventually switched to butterflies and still later to dragonflies.

He was also a life-long actor, performing throughout the years in Massachusetts, Philadelphia and the Seattle area.

O’Connell is survived by his wife Anne O’Connell, his sister, Jessalyn McNamara of Greenwich, Connecticut; his children: Deirdre O’Connell of New York; Mary O’Connell of Toronto, Canada; Thomas J. O’Connell of Seattle, Washington, and one grandson, Frank Cox-O’Connell of Toronto, Canada.

Don Troiani Civil War Print for Sale!

PSCWRT Member Malcolm Garber is downsizing and would like to sell one of his Civil War prints. It is a print of a painting by renowned Civil War artist Don Troiani entitled "First Minnesota at Gettysburg". The price is \$250.00. If you are interested, please see Malcolm at the December meeting or call him at 206-546-3998. First come, first served!



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Seminary Ridge Museum at Gettysburg

By Rick Solomon

I was back East for a family wedding and the unveiling of my parent's tombstones for a week in late October. I visited my best friend and his family between these two events for a few days. He lives less than two hours north of Gettysburg and was working on the Monday I was there. So a solo day trip to Gettysburg was in order. Malcolm Garber recommended that I visit the new Seminary Ridge Museum which opened on July 1, 2013. This was the exact to the day 150th anniversary of the First Day of the Battle of Gettysburg in which the Lutheran Seminary played a prominent role. It was a partly cloudy Fall Day with the temperature in the 60s. The trees were beautiful with their fall colors.



The building in which the Seminary Ridge Museum (Schmucker Hall) is located was built in 1832 under the leadership of the Rev. Samuel Simon Schmucker. The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg was founded in 1826 by Rev. Schmucker. Nearby Pennsylvania College, now known as Gettysburg College, was also founded in 1832 by Rev. Schmucker.

If you have seen the movie *Gettysburg* you will recall that Union Cavalry Division commander Major General John Buford used the cupola on top of the museum building as a command-observation post. This cupola gave General Buford a 360 degree view of the surroundings. In 1913 the original cupola burned down to the roof of the building, but the rest of the building was saved. An exact copy of the cupola has since been rebuilt.

There was some actual fighting late on the first day of the battle in the immediate vicinity of the Museum, mainly by Perrin's South Carolina Brigade against Reynolds, Stevens and Coopers batteries under the command of Col. Charles Wainwright. After the Union troops were swept from this area the Museum building was used as a hospital for over 600 wounded soldiers, both North and South.

As for the Museum itself there are over 20,000 square feet of interactive exhibit galleries ("Voices of duty and Devotion") and educational programming to interpret three major areas of emphasis: (1) the pivotal first day of the Battle of Gettysburg on Seminary Ridge; (2) the care of the wounded and human suffering within Schmucker Hall during its use as a Civil War field hospital; and (3) the moral, civic, and spiritual debates of the Civil War era. I learned something new in these exhibits. At the time of the battle Gettysburg had a population of about 2400. Of this amount about 250 were free blacks who were, in some cases, taken by the Confederates down South to serve as slaves even though they were born free. These exhibits are on four floors. The first floor has a Museum shop. I think the price of admission is \$9. One can easily spend one to two hours going through the exhibits.

The "cherry on top" of a visit to the Seminary Ridge Museum costs an extra \$20 – a guided tour of the cupola. One has to reserve a time to go on the tour of the cupola. Our guide, a recent graduate from Gettysburg College who majored in History, took two others and me from the Fourth Floor up several flights of stairs into the attic. From there we went up a narrow flight of stairs up to the cupola. We spent about a half hour in the cupola. The guide gave an excellent talk about the history of the building and what role the building played in the Battle of Gettysburg, especially on the First day. There was plenty of time for questions and answers. The view was fantastic. Thanks for the recommendation Malcolm!

See you December 10th!

Rick Solomon, President

EDITOR'S NOTE: Back in July of 1998, my wife Kim and I flew back east to participate in the 135th Anniversary Reenactment of the Battle of Gettysburg. I helped lead a group of Confederate reenactors from the WCWA to form up with a group from North Carolina reenacting the 26th North Carolina. While I stayed "in the field", Kim needed a place to go. It turns out that some members from Michigan who also went with the 26th had reserved some rooms in Schmucker Hall and had a spot for her! It was a unique, but very uncomfortable, situation since there was no air conditioning!

THE LAST WORD

Thanksgiving and the PSCWRT

By Mark R. Terry

As I write, we have just gotten done celebrating the holiday of Thanksgiving, a time that we look back and give thanks to God for His many blessings and also to our friends and family who we love and who make our lives richer. I have to say that I am also thankful for you, the members of

our Puget Sound Civil War Round Table. Every month, I look forward to interacting with you and finding out more about the most crucial period in our country's history. What I find exciting is that even though the PSCWRT has been going for 30 years, we are still finding ways to make things fresh and interesting.

For example, I am excited for the opportunity coming up on December 18th- the Commemoration of the End of the Civil War and the Advent of the 13th Amendment- at the Washington State History Museum in Tacoma. A month later, on January 18th, there will be a field trip to tour Fort Steilacoom, a fort that was active in the Ante-bellum period as well as during the War. I hope you will be able to attend these events and support what the Round Table is doing to go beyond our monthly meetings to tap into the history we have in our own back yard.

Another reason I am excited about the PSCWRT is that we are growing! I don't have an exact count, but it seems like we are bringing in new members almost every month, along with guests who seem interested in what we are doing. This is a direct outgrowth of our presence on Social Media as well as the efforts of certain members dedicated to welcoming new people at meetings and helping them feel at home. I hope all of you will do the same. THANKS SO MUCH!

Wishing you and yours a Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays 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@foxiinternet.com.

We welcome your article or research submissions for the newsletter, but they may be edited. The deadline for the January 2016 Washington Volunteer is Monday, December 28, 2015. Please have it in Mark Terry's hands via email or snailmail by then. Thank you!

2015-2016 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: Marilyn Rexilius, marilyn.rexilius@frontier.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@foxiinternet.com

Secretary: Larry Jilbert, 253-891-4022, LJilbert.CJilbert@comcast.net

**All, except for Past President, an automatic position.*