

**THE WASHINGTON VOLUNTEER**  
**PUGET SOUND CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE**  
**HTTP://WWW.PSCWRT.ORG/**  
**JANUARY 2016**

**NEXT MEETING: Thursday, January 14, 2016**

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

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

**Deadline for reservations is 12 NOON on Tuesday, January 12, 2016.**

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



**EVA ABRAM WILL DISCUSS  
“FROM JAMESTOWN TO  
NICODEMUS — THE MAKING  
OF AMERICAN RACISM”**

She will discuss America's race relations leading up to the Civil War and beyond, and how our past shapes our present. Why did a country that started with high ideals of freedom from tyranny

descend into Civil War that pitted brother against brother? What were the two sides fighting for? Against? Can we study the Civil War without taking into account the slavery that preceded it and the failed Reconstruction and the racial legacy that followed it? How can we come to terms with the past and move forward to work against the subtle and lasting practice of institutional racism that results in poverty and inequality? Abram is an actress and storyteller who graduated from the University of Washington. Most recently she dramatized the accounts of recently freed slaves at the Celebration of the Thirteenth Amendment last month at the Washington State History Museum in Tacoma.

**IMPORTANT DISPATCHES**

**Field Trip to Fort Steilacoom- January 18, 2016**

The second annual field trip of the Puget Sound Civil War Roundtable will take place on Monday, January 18, 2016 from 10 a.m. until 1 pm. Rick Solomon will try to line up participants for carpooling the day after our January 14 regular meeting either by email or

phone. We will be taken on a tour of Fort Steilacoom. Then we will have a presentation that discusses officers who served at Fort Steilacoom who later played a significant role in the Civil War. Finally, we will have a brown bag lunch from noon until 1 p.m. There will be a sign-up sheet at our meeting on January 14. Or you could let Rick know that you are interested in attending the field trip either by calling him at (206) 248-5559 or emailing him at [ricksolo@ricksolo.com](mailto:ricksolo@ricksolo.com). The deadline for signing up is the conclusion of the January 14 regular meeting.

## **Civil War Overview**

By Mike Movius

Thank you to the dozen or so members of the PSCWRT who attended the End of Civil War and 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment commemoration on December 18<sup>th</sup> at the Washington State History Museum. For those of you who were unable to be there, I am including my speech which was a five-minute overview of the war. I hope you enjoy it.

“By 1860, when the upstart Republican Party chose Lincoln to be their presidential candidate, Southern fire-eaters stoked the secession flames. When he was elected in November, South Carolina seceded the next month. It was said that South Carolina was too small to be a country, and too large to be an insane asylum. But not long thereafter, six other slaveholding states left the union.

On April 12, 1861 Confederates fired on Fort Sumter in Charleston harbor which surrendered after a day and a half of bombardment. When Lincoln called for 70,000 3-month volunteers to protect government property, four more slave states seceded.

Many of you have heard Southerners claim that the war was fought over States rights. But, I’ll assure you it was fought over slavery.

Abraham Lincoln told a story about a man who claimed he had a dog with 5 legs. The man said he named the dog’s tail a leg...so his dog had 5 legs. Lincoln said that “just because you call something something else doesn’t make it so”. And, that’s true of the Civil War.

“And the War Came...” at Balls Bluff on October 21, 1861 with the death of Colonel and U. S. Senator Edward Baker from Oregon...the namesake of Lincoln’s son Eddie and of our Mount Baker.

It came at Ox Hill with the death of General Isaac Ingalls Stevens, Washington Territory’s first governor.

It came at Bull Run, Mill Springs, Fredericksburg, Antietam, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Vicksburg, the Wilderness, Kennesaw Mountain, Franklin, Nashville and hundreds of unnamed skirmishes and thousands of incidents.

It came by rail, by telegraph and through spies, battles and raids. It came on boats, wooden ships and ironclads. It came on brown water, on blue water, in bayou’s and on rivers. It was fought by

black men, white men, red men, yellow men and brown men...and some women unbeknown to their comrades at the time.

The cost in human life was staggering. Hundreds of thousands of young boys and men became amputees, received debilitating wounds or were blinded and disfigured.

Then, there were the dead. It has been calculated that 750,000 were killed in action, by accident or died from disease. All were Americans, all were gone forever.

The fall of Atlanta signaled to many the success of Lincoln's war policies and he was re-elected in November 1864. The 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment was passed by Congress on January 31, 1865 at Lincoln's urging. He was inaugurated for the second time on March 4th.

On April 3<sup>rd</sup>, the Union cavalry entered Richmond. The very next day, Lincoln with his 12-year old son Tad walked through Richmond to the White House of the Confederacy receiving the adulation of thousands of freedmen in the process.

Lee surrendered to Grant at Appomattox Courthouse on April 9<sup>th</sup>. The North rejoiced. The South was stunned.

A short 5 days later, John Wilkes Booth shot the President at Ford's Theatre on April 14<sup>th</sup>. Lincoln was taken across the street to the Petersen boardinghouse where he died at 7:22 a.m. on April 15<sup>th</sup>. The South rejoiced. The North was stunned. The uncertainty was excruciating. Many wondered if they would have to be slaves again.

Other Confederate armies capitulated in the following weeks. The last to surrender was the CSS Shenandoah in Liverpool England on November 6, 1865 after running roughshod over the whaling fleet in the North Pacific.

We are here today because 150 years ago on this date, December 18, 1865, Secretary of State William Henry Seward declared the 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment to be in full force and effect."

***Editor's Note:** The following article was written by our own Pat Brady and is featured in the latest edition of **NW Lawyer**, the journal of the Washington State Bar Association. We decided to print it for the newsletter, but if you'd like to see what it looks like in the magazine, go online to: [http://nwlawyer.wsba.org/nwlawyer/december2015\\_january2016?pg=46#pg46](http://nwlawyer.wsba.org/nwlawyer/december2015_january2016?pg=46#pg46)*

## **What Would Lincoln Say? Using Lincoln's Logic in Your Own Arguments** Compiled by Patrick S. Brady

As a lawyer, legislator, and President, Abraham Lincoln practiced persuasion with logic and stories. Because "so few [words] contained the exact coloring, power, and shape of his ideas," explained his law partner William Herndon, Lincoln resorted to "stories, maxims, and jokes...to clothe his ideas, that they might be comprehended."<sup>1</sup> Twenty-four years of trying cases in the courthouses of central Illinois taught Lincoln how to shred specious arguments, the same old ones that still show up in the briefs of opposing counsel (never in your own, of course), as abundant in

the Land of Starbucks and Westlaw as in the Land of Lincoln and Blackstone. Here are some of Lincoln's plain yet pithy rejoinders to assorted advocacy misdeeds.

**1. Opponent Misrepresents Your Position.**

“When a man hears himself somewhat misrepresented, it provokes him—at least, I find it so with myself. But when the misrepresentation becomes very gross and palpable, it is more apt to amuse him.”<sup>ii</sup>

**2. Opponent Interprets Critical Text by Moving Words Around.**

[This amounts to] “a specious and fantastic arrangement of words, by which a man can prove a horse chestnut to be a chestnut horse.”<sup>iii</sup>

**3. Opposing Argument Based on Labels instead of Substance.**

Lincoln “likened the case to that of the boy, who, when asked how many legs his calf would have if he called the tail a leg, replied, ‘Five’; to which the prompt response was, ‘Calling the tail a leg would not make it a leg.’”<sup>iv</sup>

**4. Opposing Argument Is Weak.**

“Has it not got down as thin as the homeopathic soup that was made by boiling the shadow of a pigeon that had starved to death?”<sup>v</sup>

**5. Opposing Argument Lays Down a Barrage of Verbiage.**

[Opponent] “is playing cuttlefish, a small species of fish that has no mode of defending itself when pursued except by throwing out a black fluid, which makes the water so dark the enemy cannot see it and thus it escapes.”<sup>vi</sup>

**6. Opponent Makes Too Many Arguments.**

“Many silly reasons are given, as is usual in cases where a single good one is not to be found.”<sup>vii</sup>

**7. Opponent Stays only Technically within the Law.**

“That reminds me of an hotel-keeper... who boasted that he never had a death in his hotel...; for whenever a guest was dying in his house he carried him out to die in the street.”<sup>viii</sup>

**8. Opponent Adheres to Rigid Position Regardless of Changed Circumstances.**

When a boy who was plowing asked where to strike the next furrow, his father told him: “Steer for that yoke of oxen standing at the further end of the field.” The boy resumed plowing, the father left, and then the distant yoke of oxen started to wander. Following instructions and following the oxen, the boy ended up plowing a crooked circle.<sup>ix</sup>

Some of these may sound slightly smart-aleck, but how could a judge hold that against you when you are quoting Honest Abe? Whatever you do, be careful with the one Lincoln line known to all: “You can fool all the people some of the time; you can fool some of the people all the time; but you can't fool all the people all the time.” Like many of Lincoln's sayings, this may be one he never actually said.<sup>x</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> William H. Herndon and Jesse W. Weik. *Herndon's Lincoln* (2006). Edited By Douglas W. Wilson and Rodney O. Davis. Urbana, IL: Knox College Lincoln Studies Center and University of Illinois Press, 353-54

<sup>1</sup> Rodney O. Davis and Douglas L. Wilson, eds. *The Lincoln-Douglas Debates* (2008). Urbana, IL: Knox College Lincoln Studies Center and University of Illinois Press, 17.

<sup>1</sup> *Id.* at 20.

<sup>1</sup> Paul M. Zall, ed. *Abe Lincoln's Legacy of Laughter* (2007). Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 71.

<sup>1</sup> *Lincoln-Douglas Debates, supra* n. 2 at 245.

<sup>1</sup> *Id.* at 169.

<sup>1</sup> Michael Burlingame. *Abraham Lincoln: A Life* (2008). Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1: 215.

<sup>1</sup> Don E. and Virginia Fehrenbacher, eds. *Recollected Words of Abraham Lincoln* (1966). Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 139.

<sup>1</sup> *Abraham Lincoln: A Life, supra* n. 7 at 1: 575-76. Lincoln's words are paraphrased.

<sup>1</sup> *Recollected Words, supra* n. 8 at 277, 335-36, 533n271, 538n343.

## **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 January meeting or call him at 206-546-3998. First come, first served!



## **PRESIDENT'S CORNER**

### **James Seddon: Longest Serving Confederate Secretary of War**

By Rick Solomon

When I write these columns I try to select a topic that interest me, that I want to learn more about, and, hopefully, is of interest to our members. The Union and the Lincoln Administration was fortunate in that it had only two Secretaries of War (Simon Cameron and Edwin Stanton). In his cabinet Lincoln only relied on Seward for advice more than Stanton. On the other hand the Confederacy had five Secretaries of War. However, over half of the life of the Confederacy James Seddon was its Secretary of War. This is a short biography of his life.

James Alexander Seddon was born on July 13, 1815, in Falmouth, Stafford County, Virginia. He was a descendant of William Alexander, Earl of Stirling. Because of frail health, Seddon was educated mostly at home. At the age of twenty-one, he entered the law school of the University of Virginia. After graduation, Seddon settled in Richmond, where he established a successful law practice. He married Sarah Bruce on December 23, 1845, and for a time lived in what is now known as the White House of the Confederacy. In 1845 he was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives as a Democrat. Two years later, he was re-nominated, but declined due to platform differences with the party. In 1849, Seddon was reelected to Congress. Owing to poor health, he declined another nomination at the end of his term and retired to "Sabot Hill," his estate on the James River above Richmond. He was a delegate to the Democratic National Convention in 1856, and prior to the secession of Virginia, was a delegate to the failed Washington Peace Conference. During the Civil war, he was a delegate from Virginia to the Provisional Confederate Congress.

Seddon was appointed Secretary of War by Jefferson Davis on November 21, 1862, and served until February 5, 1865. It is interesting to note that the day after Seddon's resignation

Robert E. Lee was appointed commander-in-chief of all Confederate armed forces. Seddon's reportedly "malleable" nature as Secretary of War meshed perfectly with the micromanaging nature of Jefferson Davis' interactions with the war effort. However, Seddon once remarked that Davis was the most difficult man to get along with whom he had ever known.

Seddon clashed repeatedly with Confederate governors, but Seddon's concurrence with Davis on the demotion of General Joseph E. Johnston before Atlanta caused a strong backlash from Congress. Ironically, it was Seddon who advocated to Davis that Johnston be appointed to command of the confederate West. In December 1862, William C. Quantrill had visited Seddon in Richmond to secure his commission and press upon Seddon the need for a "no quarter" fight to the finish in the Confederate West. Seddon termed Quantrill's notions of war "barbarism" and denied him his commission. When Quantrill returned to Missouri, he claimed a colonelcy anyway and carried on guerilla warfare in precisely the manner he had outlined to Seddon. After the battle of Chancellorsville Longstreet proposed to Seddon that he take two divisions of his corps to relieve Vicksburg. However, at a cabinet meeting everyone, except Postmaster General Reagan, agreed that Longstreet and his men should go with Lee in an invasion of the North. Seddon felt that the loss of Vicksburg would doom the Confederacy. Seddon was greatly upset that Joseph E. Johnston did not act more aggressively in attempting to relieve Pemberton at Vicksburg. After Chickamauga when Longstreet lost his confidence in Bragg's leadership and asked for Lee to replace Bragg, Seddon, after consulting with Lee, rejected Longstreet's request.

When Jefferson Davis learned about Cleburne's memorial to emancipate slaves who fought for the South, he immediately decided against it totally. The next day Seddon wrote Joseph E. Johnston (Cleburne's commander) to order "suppression, not only of the memorial itself, but likewise all discussion and controversy respecting or growing out of it." Seddon and Davis had "no doubt...of the patriotic intents of its gallant author," but "the agitation and controversy which must spring from the presentation of such view by officers high in public confidence are to be deeply deprecated." After the fall of Atlanta, however, Seddon advocated not only employment of slaves as soldiers but emancipation as a reward for military service.

He was arrested on May 23, 1865 and imprisoned with John A. Campbell, R.M.T. Hunter, and George A. Trenholm at Fort Pulaski, near Savannah, Georgia. Following his release on November 23, 1865, he retired to his estate "Sabot Hill", where he died on August 19, 1880. Seddon is buried in Hollywood Cemetery in Richmond, Virginia. See you January 14<sup>th</sup>!

Rick Solomon, President

## **THE LAST WORD**

### **We Need YOU!**

By Mark R. Terry

Like the men who answered the call to go to war 150 years ago, the Puget Sound Civil War Round Table is also in need of your help. We are now in the middle of our 30<sup>th</sup> year of helping those with an interest in the American Civil War in the Puget Sound area to become engaged in learning even more about the War and American history.

Obviously, attending the monthly meetings supports the Round Table, but what we really need are more members willing to take on leadership roles within the board of directors. Although thirty years in any endeavor is impressive, unless there are members willing to step up and help, the PSCWRT could easily die out.

When my wife Kim and I joined up in the summer of 1994, we were content to pay our dues and participate in meetings. Then at some point that I cannot recall, someone suggested that I volunteer to be a board member. At that time there were at-large positions and so I became involved. I found it interesting to be a part of the board and it gave me a sense of ownership in an organization that I liked being a part of. In 2006 I was nominated to be VP-Successor, and then served as President for the normal two-year term from the fall of 2008 to 2010. After that I became the Newsletter Editor and have done that to the present time.

So I've probably been involved as a board member/officer for over a decade now. I would venture to say that most of the officers have also done the same. The past few years have seen some growth in the organization, having more of a presence on the Internet, getting involved in events outside of our meetings, such as recruiting booths at Civil War reenactments, heritage events such as last May's monument dedication in Spokane, working with other history groups such as American History Day a couple years back, the ongoing Washington Project to find the graves of all Civil War veterans in Washington State, the Field Trip to the Pickett House and so many others that I don't have the space to name. The common thread in all of the successes was that someone stepped up to lead, to organize, to prepare members to make them happen.

So, PLEASE think of what you could do or how you could help at the board level. There are no limitations when it comes to your length of membership. You just need to be an active member of the Round Table with a desire to see it move forward, improve on what we do and help us to grow. More will be said about this in the coming 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 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 February 2016 Washington Volunteer is Monday, January 25, 2016. Please have it in Mark Terry's hands via email or snailmail by then. Thank you!**

## **2015-2016 OFFICERS**

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