

THE WASHINGTON VOLUNTEER

PUGET SOUND CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

HTTP://WWW.PSCWRT.ORG/

MARCH 2016

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, March 10, 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):

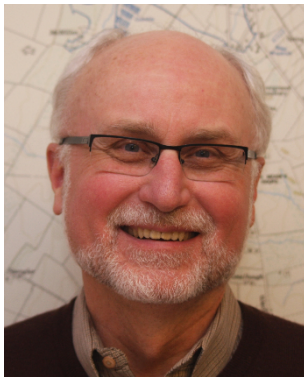
Click on <http://www.pscwrt.org/about/dinner-reservations.php>

Email **Rod Cameron** at: rodcam@comcast.net

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

Deadline for reservations is 12 NOON on Tuesday, March 8, 2016.

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



DICK MILLER WILL DISCUSS THE GENTLEMAN AND THE ROUGHS: COLONEL JOHN POTTS SLOUGH AND THE 1ST COLORADO VOLUNTEER INFANTRY.

Based on research for his biography of Slough, Colonel of the 1st Colorado Infantry, Dick will be talking about Slough's efforts to organize, train and lead the hard-drinking and free-spirited Colorado volunteers through their victory at Glorieta Pass in March 1862. Shortly after the battle, Slough abruptly resigned his command, claiming that he feared for his life from his own men. Dick will discuss Slough's disastrous relationship with his officers and men, why it was so strained (especially in the context of the qualities Civil War officers needed to exhibit to win the respect of their men), and whether his concern about being assassinated was his real reason for resigning. Dick is a Past-President of the Round Table.

IMPORTANT DISPATCHES

ANNUAL AUCTION APRIL 2016- NEXT MONTH!!!

One of the big differences between this year's auction and previous ones is that we are anticipating having one of our top speakers of the year, Historian Richard Sommers, at this meeting. It will be very important to keep our auction running smoothly and efficiently.

Therefore, Auction Coordinator Stephen Pierce and the PSCWRT board are proposing the following schedule:

6:30 Silent Auction Begins

7:30 Silent Auction Ends

7:30 Live Auction Begins- Auctioneer, Dick Miller

8:00 Live Auction Ends

8:00 Introduction of Speaker- Pat Brady

Please note that this means the silent auction will start during the “social hour”, so come early! Also note that dinner will be served in the middle of all this, so be prepared.

The live auction will be run once more by Dick Miller. Remember that the whole reason for these changes is to respect the time that our speaker will be presenting. Richard Sommers is a top-notch speaker and we don’t want to take any time away from him. On the other hand, we urge each of you to bring at least one item for the silent auction and if you have something you feel is worthy to place in the live auction please do so! Be sure to contact Stephen Pierce or Dick Miller in advance for live auction items.

The PSCWRT is a non-profit organization that relies on member dues, donations and the annual auction- that is it! That is how we can afford speakers like Richard Sommers, so please be generous in bringing items to donate as well as bidding on items. It is all for a good cause.

PLEASE NOTE: A SILENT AUCTION BID SHEET WILL BE INCLUDED WITH THIS NEWSLETTER. Please make as many copies as you need for the items you will be bringing!

Name Tags- Please Wear Them!

By Mark R. Terry

I don’t like to clutter up space in our newsletter for something that is really an “in house” matter, but I believe this needs to be addressed.

When you arrive at one of our meetings, as soon as you are done paying Jeff Rombauer for your dinner **PLEASE put on your name tag!** Why is this an issue? In the recent past, one of the main reasons visitors and guests did not return for another meeting was that they felt unwelcome. Too often, they felt excluded from conversation at a table because everyone seemed to know one another, but they did not. It is difficult to start a conversation when you have to address someone as “Hey, You”. I’m not sure of the reasons why some don’t wear their name tags. Do people feel it isn’t “cool”? Do they feel it might snag their shirt or sweater?

One of the reasons is that the name tags were simply unavailable when you arrived. Well, that has changed. At the February 2016 meeting I handed off the name tag box to member Judy Henrickson, who volunteered to bring them to meetings early. I’ve often not been able to arrive until almost dinner time.

Thank you, Judy, for taking this task on. Meanwhile, it simply shows good manners and respect for others to wear your name tag so all of us can know who you are. Rant complete!

The Civil War “Down Under”?

Did you know that Civil War Round Tables (CWRT) are international? Yes! Just recently, Mike Movius reported that he received a nice message from the secretary of the Melbourne, Australia CWRT:

Just saw the new website - congratulations for a job well done, looks very friendly - hope membership keeps on going after the 150th.

Cheers from Melbourne Australia

Barry Crompton

Secretary

So our website is reaching across oceans now and educating people about the Civil War on an international basis! Since Mr. Crompton sounded so friendly, we had a thought- if they are willing, why not set up a partnership with them? Exchange newsletters and even ask their members who are visiting Seattle to be our guests, or vice-versa in Melbourne. By the way, here is their website: <http://www.acwrta.com/>

Challenges Lincoln faced in His First Year in Office

By Marilyn “Rex” Rexilius

Note: I posted the response below to a question from my Civil War online class. Hundreds of students are enrolled in this class from all over the world. It took me just a few minutes to list just some of the challenges that I had been thinking about for years. I am part of his family. He and my siblings share common Virginia ancestors.

Even before newly elected President Lincoln arrived in Washington for his inauguration, seven states had seceded from the Union. He took the oath March 4, 1861 and tried in his first speech to reach out to the rebels that he was not interested in taking away their slaves. He felt personally threatened by his opponents in the city of Baltimore near to where he was taking up residence with his young family. As Doris Kearns Goodwin points out he had a “Team of Rivals” for a cabinet. Instead of picking his friends and campaign supporters, Lincoln chose who he thought were the best qualified to tackle the immense challenge of governing the nation with states who were in rebellion. He had to figure out a way to make the wheels of government run, despite having to work with men who openly showed disdain for him. The President was responsible for making hundreds and hundreds of appointments in government jobs. Hoards came to the White House in droves to ask for jobs. They would just show up and expect to be welcomed. Just getting organized would have been a challenge for a man who was not experienced in all the tasks to which he was responsible. He was challenged with the decision of what to do with Fort Sumter, whether to resupply them or have them desert the Union fort to the rabble of South Carolina. He had the challenges of dealing with the United States Military. The 18,000 personnel serving in 1861 were not sufficient to protect Federal property or the country. Lincoln had to deal with the reaction of both the north and south when he called for 75,000 volunteers to enlist from the remaining states and dealing with the problem of four more states joining the Confederacy because of his action. One of his biggest challenges was to find qualified and experienced men to lead the troops being gathered at local locations throughout

America. Men who had no skills or knowledge of war appointed themselves as Colonel of a regiment just because he paid for the uniforms, horses and equipment. An enormous challenge for Lincoln was to keep the Border States from seceding. He was a man of strength of spirit and character with a sharp political mind not matched by many from the pages of history. He was kind and considerate when faced with derision and hatred. He persevered under the most difficult of circumstances – he was a Statesman.

This week [Friday, February 12] to honor President Abraham Lincoln and his ancestors, a small group gathered at a well-groomed cemetery a few miles north of Harrisonburg Virginia. The setting is under an old but healthy tree that shades the resting spots which overlook a patchwork quilt of rolling hills with a panorama of the Shenandoah Valley as a backdrop. John Lincoln (known as Virginia John) and his wife Rebecca Flowers are buried in this small family plot with other Lincoln family members. John and Rebecca were Abe's great-grandparents who came to Virginia from New Jersey with their nine children. The eldest child Abraham was Abe's grandfather and namesake.

Especially after Virginia seceded from the Union, President Lincoln's two first cousins who still lived in the Valley, were vocal about their hatred for him. When Sheridan's soldiers showed up to burn Abigail Lincoln Coffman's barn she pleaded with them to spare her property and livestock because of her ties to Abe.

Editor's Note: Apparently, the barn was burned but their home was spared...

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Civil War Cards

By Rick Solomon

While I was giving my Lee to the Rear presentation in February I had as one of my slides a Civil War Card entitled "Ambushed" that showed Jeb Stuart being shot in his stomach at Yellow Tavern on May 11, 1864. The following Saturday I was at a Northwest Chapter meeting for the Society of American Baseball Research in Portland. At that meeting a presentation was given on Topps Baseball Cards. In the 1960s I collected hundreds of baseball cards. I also collected Topps Civil War Cards. The Topps Baseball Cards used to come five to a pack along with bubble gum. Willie Mays, Mickey Mantle, Yogi Berra, Eddie Matthews, and Sandy Koufax were all part of my collection. Then I went away to college and my baseball cards ended up in the trash.

I remember having some Civil War cards as well. Topps made the Civil War Cards in 1962 only. A complete set totals 88 cards with the 88th card being a checklist. The 88 card set features highly detailed artwork. I remember one card that had a soldier impaled on It was a collaborative effort that had contributions from several artists, most notably was Norman Saunders. The images hold back very little, portraying lots of blood and gore. Controversial even today, it took a similar tone to the equally popular 1938 Gum Inc. Horrors of War release.

1962 Topps Civil War News card fronts are dominated by the detailed painting. A caption is in a white rectangular box at the bottom of the card. Backs are designed like a newspaper, telling the story of the Civil War with detailed write-ups.

Packs also came with a replica piece of confederate money. There are 17 different bills with denominations ranging from \$1 to \$1,000. I remember the \$500 bill had Stonewall Jackson riding on horseback, presumably Little Sorrel. These bills were folded in half to fit inside packs.

The combination of compelling subject matter, memorable tone and classic artwork have helped make 1962 Topps Civil War News one of the most popular trading card sets ever.

See you in April when I return from Down Under.

Rick Solomon, President

THE LAST WORD

Well-Meaning Politicians Fail at Civil War History

By Mark R. Terry

If you haven't been watching television news or reading your newspaper, you might have missed that the Washington State Legislature is seeking to honor a USCT veteran- who may not deserve the honor he is getting.

House Joint Memorial 4010, to rename State Highway 99 as the "William P. Stewart Memorial Highway", has been going through the committees since last year and was recently voted on by the State House to pass, 97-0! Given the backlash from the killings in South Carolina and the fact that February is Black History Month, no one was about to stop it. In fact, by the time you read this, the bill will probably have passed in the State Senate.

This all sounds great! The problem is, the prime sponsor of this bill, Democrat Hans Dunshee of the 44th Legislative District, didn't do his homework. A friend of mine- and a former speaker at our Round Table- Attorney Mark B. Tackitt, provided a corrective to the narrative to the legislature in which he debunks the notion that Stewart actually was involved in fighting and that he was at Appomattox during Lee's surrender. In part, this is what Tackitt's message stated:

Per a webpage about Mr. Stewart, he was enlisted in Illinois on 1 February 1865. The Appomattox Campaign, which ends the war in Virginia, commenced sixty days after his date of enlistment. On or about 1 March 1865, he contracted a severe case of diarrhea and was excused from active service. He commenced duty as a mess cook's assistant. All the prisoners and cannons attributed in the legislation to the 29th USCT happened before he commenced his service.

It is also unlikely he participated in the Appomattox Campaign. The army corps to which he belonged participated in a foot race against time. Other Federal army corps followed

the direct path of Gen. R.E. Lee's army. While those other corps tangled with Lee, they slowed his army. Other army corps, including Mr. Stewart's, were free to march without fear of battle. The marches were brutal. These troops out paced their wagons and their rations. By the time they arrived ahead of Lee at Appomattox, their haversacks were empty. Many men in excellent shape when the campaign commenced were broken down at the end. A man like Mr. Stewart could not have made that march. He might have made it in a wagon, but he would not have participated in the final clash the day Lee surrendered because it took several days before wagons arrived.

I concur with Mark's assessment. While it was a mistake for the State to name Highway 99 after Jefferson Davis in 1940, it would be an equally bad mistake to do the same for a man whose military service was skimpy, at best.

Here's what I'd rather see- how about memorializing all the black troops that fought in the Civil War and naming Highway 99 "**The U.S.C.T. Memorial Highway**". This would honor ALL of the heroic African-American soldiers who fought for their freedom during the Civil War. I have a feeling that if he were still alive, Pvt. Stewart would probably agree...

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 April 2016 Washington Volunteer is Monday, March 28, 2016. Please have it in Mark Terry's hands via email or snail mail 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

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Treasurer: Jeff Rombauer, 425-432-1346, jeffrombauer@foxinternet.com

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