

THE WASHINGTON VOLUNTEER

PUGET SOUND CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
HTTP://WWW.PSCWRT.ORG/

OCTOBER 2016

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, October 13, 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: \$21 for adults; \$10 for minors and college students. **See below for reservations. Payable at the door.** Opting out of dinner? \$5 fee for non-members, \$1 fee for members.

To make reservations and meal choices, use one of these options (most preferred listed first):

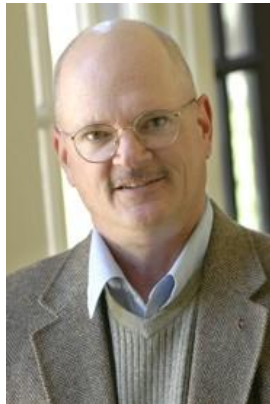
Click on <http://www.pscwrt.org/about/dinner-reservations.php>

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

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

Reservations are MANDATORY and be in by 12 NOON on Tuesday, October 11, 2016.

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



THOMAS D. MAYS WILL DISCUSS HIS BOOK, *CUMBERLAND BLOOD: CHAMP FERGUSON'S CIVIL WAR*.

A pro-Southern guerilla and vicious killer in the Appalachian Highlands of Kentucky, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia, Ferguson murdered Union prisoners captured at the Battle of Saltville, Virginia. A Professor of History at Humboldt State University and retired from the U.S. Army, Thomas Mays is also the author of *The Saltville Massacre* and the Editor of "*Let Us Meet in Heaven*": *The Civil War Letters of James Michael Barr, 5th South Carolina Cavalry*.

IMPORTANT DISPATCHES

Save These Dates This Month! See Details On Page Two!

Monday, October 10, 2016: Presentation by Chuck Veit at Ballard Library

Saturday, October 15, 2016: Online Presentation by Paul Kahan

Thursday, October 20, 2016: Monument Rededication, Evergreen-Washelli

This is a unique opportunity in the history of the Puget Sound Civil War Round Table! Besides our main meeting on October 13, we are hosting or sponsoring three public events related to Civil War history. We hope that you will take advantage by participating in them all or as many as you can. Here are the details:

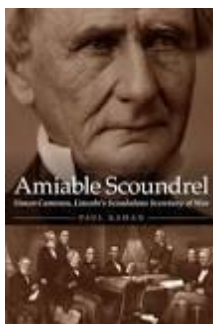


Monday, October 10, 2016 Topic: “Sea Miner: The U.S. Navy’s Top Secret Rocket Torpedo Program of 1863” by Historian Chuck Veit.

Location: Ballard Branch, Seattle Public Library, 5614 22nd Avenue NW, Seattle, WA 98107 Time: 6:00-7:45 P.M. Free Admission.

We are looking to promote Civil War educational topics in different venues and thereby to introduce a wider audience to the PSCWRT and what we do. We have already had interest from outside the Round Table from people wanting to see Veit’s lecture. Hope to see you there as well, representing the PSCWRT!

Saturday, October 15, 2016 Topic: “Amiable Scoundrel” by Historian Paul Kahan. Online presentation from 6-8 P.M.



For the first time, the PSCWRT is using the Internet as a venue! Author & Historian Paul Kahan will conduct an online presentation about Lincoln's first Secretary of War, Simon Cameron of Pennsylvania. Cameron is widely regarded as corrupt. Professor Kahan will paint a more complex picture of the political, economic and logistical challenges faced by the Secretary. It should be noted that *every CWRT in the country has been invited to participate in the*

Kahan talk. This may be a historical event, working with other CWRT’s nationally. For a password, register at: <http://www.pscwrt.org/pscwrt/paul-kahan.php>



Thursday, October 20, 2016 Rededication of GAR Monument for Hiram Randall Gale. 1 P.M.

Evergreen-Washelli Cemetery, 11220 Aurora Ave N, Seattle, WA 98133

The Puget Sound Civil War Round Table will be re-dedicating the newly refurbished memorial to Hiram Randall Gale, Washington State’s last Civil War Veteran, and celebrating 150 years of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) on **Thursday, October 20, 2016 at 1:00 p.m. at the Evergreen-Washelli Cemetery.** The monument is located in the Veterans Memorial Section on the east side of the cemetery on Aurora Avenue North. The ceremony will be followed by a reception. If you are planning to attend the reception, please RSVP to:

Shinodad@gmail.com

Who was Hiram R. Gale?



Hiram Randall Gale (1846-1951) was Washington's last resident Civil War veteran. He hadn't planned on being a celebrity, but the role suited him.

Gale was born 8 November 1846 in Waterbury, Vermont, the son of Hiram Gale and Sallie Bryant. His father died when he was eleven, but he still completed two years of high school while helping his mother manage the family farm.

His family moved to Galesville, Wisconsin in the 1860's. The Civil War caught up with him shortly after his eighteenth birthday; on 5 January 1865, he enlisted as a private in Company K, 46th Wisconsin Infantry, mustering in with the unit on 2 March 1865 at Camp Randall (Madison). His service in the Army of the Cumberland was undistinguished, and was spent in Louisville, Kentucky and Athens and Huntsville, Alabama guarding the lines of the Nashville and Decatur Railroad. The unit mustered out on 27

September 1865, having taken light casualties from disease and entering no combat. His older brother George also served in the Civil War, in the First Wisconsin Light Artillery.

Hiram returned to Galesville and rejoined business as a grocer. He married Laura Ann Perkins, his first of three wives on 10 August 1870. With her he had four children, three boys and a girl. Between 1874 and 1876 the family moved to Willmar, Minnesota, and he changed careers to newspaper editor. Laura died there on 25 August 1879 and his mother (1886) and one of the children (1888) not long after.

Perhaps to escape the memories, or perhaps because of the allure of the western territories made accessible by rail, Hiram was in Tacoma by the end of 1888. In 1892 he filed for a veteran's pension based on his service. He received an increase in 1908 based on his age. About the same time he joined the Grand Army of the Republic. With the GAR, he became a rising star. His first major office was commander of Navy Yard Post #110 in Charleston, near his home in Allyn, Washington. He was a newspaper editor in Bremerton at the time. His son Edgar was a realtor in Seattle and he moved there in 1914; at the same time he became department commander of the GAR for Washington and Alaska, with headquarters in Seattle. For the next thirty years he was active in the organization.

He married his second wife, Mrs. Ida Rose Burdick Brown, twice: once in Minnesota and again but in Bellingham in 1911. She died in 1923 at the Washington Veterans Home in Retsil. His third wife, Mrs. Catherine McCumber McCorkle, also predeceased him (22 February 1932). Three times a widower was enough for Hiram. Until the end of his life, he lived with his son Edgar, moving with him at one time to Clallam County, but finally settling down on the counterbalance on Queen Anne Hill in Seattle.

Hiram attended national encampments for the GAR and the 75th Anniversary encampment at Gettysburg in 1938, and as the ranks dwindled down, he found himself making speeches and

giving newspaper interviews. By 1945 the process of attrition left him in charge of the GAR for the entire nation. As Commander-in-Chief, he presided over the last major national encampment of the organization. He was the last Civil War veteran to march in the annual encampment parade and oversaw the bylaw revisions that made the last set of offices perpetual. The GAR only met three more times after his term.

His fame grew and every hospitalization for minor illnesses was watched closely. With the deaths of all the other Civil War Washingtonians, blue and gray alike, he became the last veteran in October, 1943. For seven and a half years he enjoyed the attention, the parades and the accolades that accompanied his inheritance. He was one of 68 surviving veterans featured in LIFE Magazine in May, 1949. He joined the Elks, the United States War Veterans and the American Legion as an honorary member.

Seven months before his death, Hiram was admitted to the Veterans Administration domicile at the new hospital in American Lake. There on 15 March 1951, Gale finally answered the last bugle call. He was buried at Evergreen-Washelli on 26 May 1951 in time for Memorial Day at a spot he had picked out with his son. His grave, Section N, Lot 1121, Grave 2, stands at the head of the white markers of the nearby Veterans Memorial Section. The symbolism is inescapable: the old commander, walking alone, is leading his troops over the hill into the rising sun.

In 1952, and again in 1953, Senator Warren G. Magnuson introduced a bill to name the Seattle VA Hospital in memory of Hiram Gale. While the bill passed in the Senate, it never came out of House committee.

The monument we are rededicating on 20 October 2016 was installed by the Women's Relief Corps, the Ladies of the GAR, the Daughters of Union Veterans and the Auxiliary to the Sons of Union Veterans in October 1953. It was dedicated on Veteran's Day that year.

The medallion on the face of the marker was originally installed at the Field Artillery Armory- we know it as the Center House- on 30 May 1948. They celebrated Hiram's 102nd birthday that day, and he jokingly thanked the attendees for coming to his funeral! At his actual death, the medallion was re-designed into his permanent memorial. The artist, James A. When, cast the bronze from life in 1946. The original mold and castings are in the collection of the Washington State Historical Society in Tacoma.



**REMINDER: BRING AND WEAR YOUR
NEW NAME TAGS!**



**REMINDER: BRING AND WEAR YOUR
NEW NAME TAGS!**

Civil War Ancestors Project

By Mark R. Terry

At the September 2016 meeting, when President Mike Movius asked for a show of hands of those who had done research on their Civil War ancestors, at least a dozen or more hands were raised. If you are interested in the history of the American Civil War, I believe it is a natural thing to desire to know what part your ancestors played in the War. That is what this project is all about.

To fulfill that desire, Mike Movius has created a webpage dedicated to showcasing the stories of your Civil War ancestors. Right now, it is empty. It needs to be filled by your stories, the accounts of your forebears.

We need three things to make this happen.:

1. **YOUR RESEARCH.** If you have already done research on your Civil War ancestor, whether they were a combatant or a civilian who played a role in the war, please submit their stories for publication on our website. Photos, documents and written accounts are all welcome.

2. **SEEK RESEARCH ASSISTANCE.** You've heard stories that someone in the family was involved in the Civil War, and you want to know how to find out more. Go to the PSCWRT website, click on "Projects", then click on "Civil War Ancestors". You will see a button to click to submit a request for help in doing the research. Here is the direct link:
<http://www.pscwrt.org/projects/ancestors.html>

3. **ASSIST OTHERS.** This is key: If you have done research on your Civil War ancestor, and/or have helped others find out more about their ancestors, then we NEED YOU. We would like to form a group of volunteers- a "Genealogy Committee" if you will- to help those who want to know more, but don't know how to go about it. Please contact Mark Terry, Stephen Pierce or Mike Movius (see contacts at the end of this publication) and let them know you are interested in being a part of the team. The idea behind it is to use the knowledge and expertise of our members to help others, while at the same time sharing the burden of doing the research among many so no individual person gets "burned out". If you have the desire, but not much experience, don't let that hinder you. *You will be able to get help and advice you need to help others.*

Lastly, this will be a work in progress. It will have fits and starts and will probably need to be modified as we go. However, it will be fun and exciting to see how our ancestor's stories fit into the "big picture" of the Civil War, *then* be able to share it with the world through the website!



**REMINDER: BRING AND WEAR YOUR
NEW NAME TAGS!**

Who are the people on the PSCWRT Board of Directors? What are their backgrounds, interests and passions? Over the course of the next several issues of the Washington Volunteer, we will be offering short biographies of your board.



Get to Know: Steve Clayton, Vice-President Partnerships

I grew up in Bremerton. During my childhood there I was involved in competitive swimming, hiking, fishing and the Boy Scouts. I earned Eagle Scout at the age of 14. While attending East High, I enjoyed competitive sports and lettered in football and wrestling.

After high school I attended college for several years before enlisting in the United States Navy during the Vietnam War. I served as a corpsman at

Balboa Naval Hospital in San Diego taking care of wounded soldiers.

Upon my discharge from the Navy I decided to go back to college to complete my education. I first earned my Associate Degree in Applied Science from Highline Community College. I then went on to graduate from Western Washington University with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Human Services Management.

I have worked in the health field for over 25 years with experience in patient care, home care, trauma and education (teaching respiratory applications and problem solving to all patients as well as health care professionals.) I have managed two respiratory departments within hospitals in the Greater Seattle area.

I have also managed two successful businesses in the Greater Seattle area gaining invaluable experience in managing people as well as all aspects of building and running successful organizations.

Having worked in both nonprofit and profit organizations I was able to gain an understanding of the differences and commonalities of how these organizations function.

I have been married to my wife Patty for thirty six years. She is a Registered Nurse at the University of Washington which is also her alma mater. We have lived in the Wedgwood section of Seattle for thirty five years. We have one son Christopher who is twenty seven. He is a 2012 graduate of the University of Washington and works at the corporate headquarters of K2 Sports in the field of international trade.

Patty suggested several years ago that we should go to a PSCWRT lecture/meeting since she has been very interested in the American Civil War and presidential history for many years, This first meeting triggered my interest in the American Civil War, especially the Puget Sound connections. Since that first meeting we have truly enjoyed this organization and the many activities it provides such as lectures and history field trips. I hope to be active in this organization for many years to come.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER INTERSTATE CIVIL WAR TREK

By Mike Movius

At the end of last season, the Board discussed conducting a Civil War battlefield trek. To that end, we distributed a survey to ascertain the interest among the members. One of the questions we asked was where you'd prefer to go. The Western theater just edged out the East. And, of course, the cost emerged as one of the deciding factors.

Since that time, I have looked at some of the possibilities and two of them bubbled to the surface: Franklin/Murfreesboro and Shiloh. The following sites are the possibilities for each:

Flight: Seattle to Memphis

- Holly Springs, MS - Grant's Vicksburg campaign was turned back after Van Dorn captured and burned his stores.
- Tupelo, MS - An uncoordinated attack on Smith (Federal) resulted in a defeat of CSA forces and wounding of Forest.
- Iuka, MS - Price escaped capture by Grant and Rosecrans.
- Corinth, MS - Two battles were fought here: Halleck bests Beauregard & Rosecrans defeats Van Dorn.
- Shiloh, TN - Grant and Buell defeats Johnston and Beauregard.

Flight: Memphis to Seattle

Initial fees for Alaska Airlines flights to and from Memphis, respectively are \$283 and \$348 for a roundtrip total of \$631.

Flight: Seattle to Nashville

- Franklin, TN - Schofield defeats Hood and killed six CSA generals.
- Spring Hill, TN - Hood defeats Schofield, but allows Schofield to escape annihilation.
- Columbia, TN - Co. Aytch author Sam Watkins is buried here.
- Tullahoma, TN - Rosecrans outmaneuvers Bragg out of Tennessee.
- Murfreesboro, TN - Rosecrans withstands near-defeat by Bragg.
- Nashville - Fort Negley ruins provides an interesting backdrop for the Hood defeat by Thomas.

Flight: Nashville to Seattle

Initial fees for Alaska Airlines flights to and from Nashville, respectively are \$232 and \$309 for a roundtrip total of \$541.

If you are still interested in one of these opportunities, please advise which is most attractive to you.

Mike Movius, President

THE LAST WORD

October, 2016- An Historical Month?

By Mark Terry

When we look back at the month of October, 2016, it may be a watershed in the history of the Puget Sound Civil War Round Table. To be hosting or involved in the planning of *four* separate Civil War-related events, all at different venues, all within ten days of one another is pretty incredible! I'd love to mention the names of all those who have made it happen, but I know someone would be left out. Let's just say that it has been a team effort, and I am very proud to be a part of it. Please make an effort to attend as many of these events as you can, listed earlier in this publication.

Even as I write this, another opportunity has come up. Our VPs of Marketing and Partnerships (Susan Martin & Steve Clayton) are proposing that the board approve the PSCWRT becoming affiliate members of the Washington State Historical Association. For a low annual fee, this would allow many history-minded people to be informed about our organization at the Washington State History Museum in Tacoma as well as the State Capitol Museum in Olympia. Additionally, we would be listed in their quarterly Columbia Magazine which has a distribution of 5,000 loyal, well-educated history lovers. So, if approved, we will be “flying our flag” more and more across the state, even as we continue to spread the word across social media on Facebook, Twitter and other internet venues.

Lastly, I’m looking forward to hearing our speaker Thomas D. Mays this month. Not too many people know about Champ Ferguson. However, many years ago I met a man who was a descendant of the notorious killer. He stated that the stories of his murderous exploits were overblown and that the only reason he killed helpless Yankee soldiers in cold blood was in retaliation for the fact his own family was killed by Union sympathizers or soldiers. Not sure about all that, but I’m hoping to hear the facts. The occupation of the South during the war was a very dangerous situation, both for the Union troops garrisoning towns and cities and the Southern civilians who lived there.

See you at the October meeting, and at the others as well!

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 for space. The deadline for the November 2016 Washington Volunteer is Monday, October 24, 2016. Please have it in Mark Terry’s hands via email or snailmail by then. Thank you!

2016-2017 OFFICERS

Elected:*

President: Mike Movius, president@pscwr.org

Vice-President-Successor: Nick K. Adams, carmodnick@comcast.net

Past-President: Rick Solomon, ricksolo@ricksolo.com

Treasurer: Jeff Rombauer, jeffrombauer@foxinternet.com

Vice-President-Programming: Pat Brady, patsbrady@comcast.net

Vice-President- Membership: Marilyn Rexilius, marilyn.rexilius@frontier.com

Vice-President- Marketing: Susan Martin, susanmartin@pacificwest.com

Vice-President- Partnerships: Steve Clayton, cpsclayton@msn.com

Vice President-Reservations: Rod Cameron, 206-524-4434, rodcam@comcast.net

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

Secretary: Larry Jilbert, LJilbert.CJilbert@comcast.net

Vice President-Social Media: Vacant *All, except for Past President, an automatic position.