

THE WASHINGTON VOLUNTEER

PUGET SOUND CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

[HTTP://WWW.PSCWRT.ORG/](http://www.pscwrt.org/)

NOVEMBER 2016

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, November 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: \$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, November 8, 2016.

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



CARVER GAYTON WILL DISCUSS HIS BOOK, *WHEN OWING A SHILLING COSTS A DOLLAR: THE SAGA OF LEWIS G. CLARKE, BORN A 'WHITE' SLAVE.*

Son of a white Scotsman and a black slave woman, Clarke escaped from slavery in Kentucky. Praised by Frederick Douglass, Clarke became a famous antislavery spokesman and a conductor of the Underground Railroad in Chautauqua, New York during the 1850s. Harriett Beecher Stowe based parts of *Uncle Tom's Cabin* on interviews

with Clarke. The great-grandson of Clarke, Mr. Gayton has been a halfback and Assistant Football Coach at the University of Washington, Professor of Public Administration at Florida State University, Director of the Northwest African American Museum, Seattle School Board member, State Employment Security Director, Boeing Executive, history teacher, and FBI agent. His grandfather was a founder of the First African Methodist Episcopal Church in Seattle.

REMINDER: BRING AND WEAR YOUR NEW NAME TAGS! THANK YOU!

IMPORTANT DISPATCHES

NOVEMBER IS PRESERVATION MONTH

By Mark R. Terry

You only have to look around your own town, city and neighborhood to see that changes are always taking place. In the same way, Civil War battlefields and historic sites are constantly under threat. A good local example is the historic Granville Haller House in Coupeville. The group wanting to preserve it couldn't get the funds they needed and now an historic site with a Civil War connection will probably be torn down. Back east, important historical landscapes and buildings are bulldozed or torn down to create parking lots, housing or shopping malls. While all of these things are necessary, it is up to us to support organizations that are fighting to preserve significant historic places from destruction. Because of that, the month of November is our annual time to emphasize preservation.

The most effective organization for preservation is the **Civil War Trust** or CWT. Each year the board authorizes a gift to the CWT, but we can do more than that, and so we are asking you, our membership to help support battlefield preservation through:

1. Becoming a member of the Civil War Trust if you haven't already.
2. Making a donation at this month's meeting. (Details below)

Mike Movius will be bringing some surprise items from his trip back east, and also the "Preservation Bucket" to pass around to each table. As above, remember that what you give is tax-deductible.

Remember to bring your checkbook & THANK YOU in advance for your generosity!

FYI: Roadwork on Denny Way

If you drive to China Harbor Restaurant from the South Lake Union area for the PSCWRT meetings, be aware that coming from this area may be difficult for the November meeting. According to this website at: <http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/constructionlookahead.htm> **"October 17 - November 18: Denny Way reduced to one lane in each direction between Stewart St. and Fairview Ave. N. during underground utility work."** Please take the necessary precautions and/or change your route.

Review of October PSCWRT Events

By Mark R. Terry

You may recall this past month was packed with events outside of our normal monthly meeting. It began on **Monday, October 10, 2016** when **Historian Chuck Veit** brought his power point presentation to the Ballard Branch of the Seattle Public Library and regaled us with the topic **"Sea Miner: The U.S. Navy's Top Secret Rocket Torpedo Program of 1863"**. This was the Round Table's first such presentation outside of our usual meeting place. Prior to the talk, an invitation was made to anyone who wanted to have dinner with Chuck and other members to meet at a local restaurant. I was able to attend both, and it was a fantastic evening. Veit had us on

the edge of our seats as he unwrapped the story of Major Edward B. Hunt and his fantastic invention of the “locomotive torpedo”. Veit’s description of how he learned about Hunt was just as fascinating as the subject itself. About 14 people attended, half of whom were not PSCWRT members! By the way did I mention that the admission was free?

At 6 p.m. on **Saturday, October 15, 2016**, another “first” was undertaken by the PSCWRT. This was an online presentation by **Historian Paul Kahan** on the subject of Lincoln's first Secretary of War, Simon Cameron of Pennsylvania, the main character in Kahan’s book “**Amiable Scoundrel**”. Speaking for myself, it was a little odd at first because I was not used to the format, but it soon felt natural as Kahan talked. It was obvious that Kahan knew Cameron inside and out and his enthusiasm for the subject was infectious. Mike Movius is hoping that we can set up more of these types of events, since using the Internet makes everything so much easier- and less expensive!

Please note that reviews of both of these speakers and their topics can be found on our website at: <http://www.pscwrt.org/pscwrt/speakers-reviewed.html>

Lastly, on **Thursday, October 20, 2016** at the Evergreen-Washelli Cemetery in Seattle, a ceremony for the **Rededication of the GAR Monument for Hiram Randall Gale** was undertaken, along with a celebration of the **150 Anniversary of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR)**. The newly refurbished memorial to Hiram Randall Gale, Washington State’s last Civil War Veteran was re-dedicated. The MCs were our own Jim and Loretta Dimond. The following leaders spoke- Mike Movius of our PSCWRT, Peggy Goldenman of the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War; Loran Bures of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War; Tricia Bures of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Auxiliary; Lynette Miller, Curator of the WSHS; Fred Poyner, who spoke about James A. Wehn, the sculptor of the medallion on the monument [**see article elsewhere in this issue**]; and finally Louise “Lou” Daly, who as a little girl of 9 helped to unveil the original Hiram Gale medallion in 1948! At least 30-40 persons were in attendance, including several from the Round Table. Channels King5 and KCPQ13 were on hand. Both channels showed the clips on their 5 p.m. Evening News. A reception followed at the Evergreen Washelli office across the street. A HUGE thank you must be given to Jim and Loretta Dimond, who planned and coordinated the event. It came off splendidly. Sorry if you missed it...

UPCOMING EVENTS

CWRT Congress Update

As has been reported, we are working to establish a CWRT Congress to determine some practices that other CWRTs have been using to increase membership, extend reach and to improve relationships within their local areas. Their experiences (both positive and negative) could help us to do the same in Puget Sound.

Thanks to Matthew Borowick of the *Civil War News*, we have taken another step to that end. You might be interested in reading Matt's article entitled, [Roundtable News](#). Our next video conference call has been scheduled for **November 5th at 1 p.m. PST**. If you are interested in sitting in via zoom.us, please advise and we will send you the authentication information.



Funeral for Union Civil War Veteran Pvt. James Powers

Save **Saturday, December 10, 2016** on your calendars. On that date at **12 noon** Pvt. James Powers and his wife will be buried at Tahoma National Cemetery. The ashes of Powers and his wife had been neglected and forgotten on the back shelf of a mortuary. Now, his remains will have the dignity of a proper burial and he will be remembered once more. More details to come!

WASHINGTON STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND THE PSCWRT

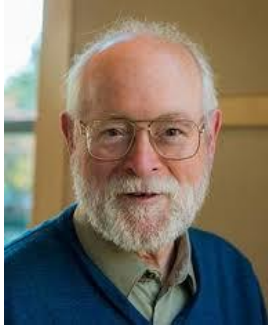
By Steve Clayton, VP Partnerships

In September Susan Martin (VP Marketing) and I proposed to the RT Board that we join the Washington State Historical Society (WSHS) as an Affiliate member. This low cost membership will give us a greater exposure to like-minded people and organizations in the Puget Sound area - exactly the kind of target audience who need to know about us and who already love history. The RT Board passed this proposal and we have now joined with the WSHS! I am looking forward to a fantastic and exciting year with the PCWRT.

The WSHS is a non-profit, private organization. This group was founded in 1891 for the purpose of collecting, presenting, preserving Washington State history. It is comprised of a number of museums and research centers. A wide variety of services are offered to researchers, historians, scholars and the public.

As an affiliate member we have a number of great benefits such as:

- 1: A listing of our organization's logo, website link, and a description paragraph on the WSHS website, on this page: <http://www.washingtonhistory.org/support/affiliates/>
- 2: Rack cards set up at the Washington State History Museum in Tacoma and the State Capitol Museum in Olympia.
- 3: A listing of the PSCWRT in Columbia Magazine (distributed 4 times a year with a circulation of more than 5,000 loyal, well-educated, history-lovers) and in the annual report as an affiliate member.



Get to Know: Nick Adams, Vice-President-Successor

I expected to be a fifth generation Minnesotan (a great-great-grandson of Brainard and Minerva Griffin, who homesteaded in Minnesota Territory in 1857), but post-Depression finances required my family to move to California not long before I was born. I grew up in Compton, CA, graduated from Pepperdine while it was still in downtown L.A., and headed for Texas. There I earned an M.A. in Church History at Abilene Christian and began what became 25 years of pastoral ministry. A doctoral program in Sociology of Religion at the University of Iowa filled the subsequent four years (including my first two years as a teacher - "Introduction to World Religions"), and also resulted in my discovery of my Mennonite heritage. A call to the Mennonite Church near Ritzville brought me to Washington in 1976.

Pastoral ministry transitioned into a variety of Peace and Justice activities in Spokane and then Seattle. Those experiences led to my return to teaching, though this time at an elementary school level. During this period I finally met and married my wife, Carolyn. After teaching for nineteen years, I retired from the classroom, and began a final career as an author, re-enactor, and speaker on Civil War issues.

My interest in the Civil War began because of some now forgotten incident as a fourth grader that initiated a life-long commitment to learning about America's pivotal conflict. I am not so much a gatherer of facts as interested in the personal stories of the period. My own Civil War heritage – 100 letters written during Grandfather Griffin's two years of service in the 2nd Minnesota prior to his death at the Battle of Chickamauga – was given to me about 30 years ago. After using them in my classroom my last dozen years of teaching to introduce my students to the war, they have become the inspiration and foundation for two books (with a third expected out next spring) as well as numerous presentations in classrooms, bookstores, libraries, and Round Tables across WA, OR, MN, and GA.

After meeting your Round Table representatives at a re-enactment in Lakewood, I am glad to have become a part of this group and to offer my service to our purpose of honoring the memory of the American Civil War.

NOVEMBER MEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Several members have birthdays in November and we'd like to acknowledge their special day. They include:

Keith Clark
Suzanne Hahn
John Hinds
James Kenney
David Palmer
Daniel Shields
Bruce Terrell
George Yocum

We hope your celebration is fun! If you would like to tell us your birthday month, please do so by email to webmaster@pscwr.org

**EXCERPTED FROM:
THE FIRST SCULPTOR OF SEATTLE: THE LIFE AND ART OF JAMES
A. WEHN**

By Fred Poyner IV

Chapter 19

Two new opportunities for sculpture commissions dominated James's attention between 1944 and 1949. These were the memorial plaque to Hiram Gale—the last surviving member of the GAR and its commander in chief—and a proposed new statue of Marcus Whitman to be placed in National Statuary Hall in Washington, DC. James successfully completed the new profile portrait of Hiram Gale in 1946, in celebration of the commander's one hundredth birthday. The figure, facing to the left, captures the advanced age of the subject in minute physical detail. Wrinkles line the cheeks, corners of the mouth, and forehead, with only wisps of hair outlined above the ear. In each left and right corner of the rectangular medallion is a single star, while the bottom corners are supported by shields with wings. As with many of his previous historical plaque memorials, text below the portrait serves to identify Gale as "honored comrade" and "last surviving member of the Grand Army of the Republic."

With the support of Hiram Gale's son Edgar and several other associates, two plaques were later cast into bronze, the first installed at the Seattle Field Artillery Armory Building in 1947 and the second placed on a stone plinth marking the Gale family gravesite at Evergreen-Washelli Memorial Park in 1953. Among the civic groups that sponsored the Washelli plaque were the Woman's Relief Corps, Department of Washington and Alaska; the Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic (LGAR), Department of Washington and Alaska; and the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Department of Washington and Alaska. All three had successfully petitioned Senator Victor Zednick's aid in an effort to have the legislature authorize the commissioning and funding of both a medallion plaque and a sculpture bust of Hiram Gale "for the purpose of preserving the patriotic inspiration of his life and service and the service of the Grand Army of the Republic of which he was Commander-in-Chief." [414]

Edgar Gale was especially outspoken in his advocacy efforts. In addition to Senator Zednick, Gale petitioned Howard Costigan, executive secretary of the Governor's Advisory Committee to support the project:

Nothing has ever been done in this State commemorative of the Boys in Blue, numbering in the State of Washington at one time about 15,000 of which there are now but four living. In addition to this recognition to which the Grand Army of the Republic is entitled, this life-sized medallion and bust would prove a lasting inspiration to future generations.[415]

Zednick authored Senate Bill No. 211, calling for an appropriation from the general fund in the amount of \$ 2,600 to complete both the plaque and the bust, but the measure did not gain approval. Zednick served on a committee that formed soon after, along with Milton Dix, Stephen Chadwick, Dr. Richard Fuller, and others who were supportive of the Gale memorial and familiar with James's sculptural work. The committee succeeded in raising the \$ 800 needed

from private parties for the plaque design to be cast into bronze. The sculpture bust of Hiram Gale, unfortunately, was not to be. For James, the project concerned a figure from local history as well as a personal friend. In a letter to Hiram Gale on the occasion of his centennial, Wehn wrote:

Dear Friend . . . The honor and distinction is mine, you are now the first friend in my life to have reached that grand age of one hundred years. With great respect for the years of your acquaintance, I sincerely congratulate you on this wonderful occasion. May health and happiness be yours for the start of the second hundred years.[416]

The bronze plaque bearing the portrait of the elderly commander was unveiled on Memorial Day, May 26, 1947, at the Field Artillery Armory in Seattle. Over one hundred veterans, friends, and family members attended the event with the guest of honor.

Hiram Gale passed away a year later. With his death came a renewed effort by local veterans groups to install a second plaque at the Veteran's Memorial Chapel at Evergreen-Washelli. As with the proposed sculpture bust, disappointment was initially encountered by James and other proponents of the new memorial. While the family grave plot at the cemetery would be an acceptable location for such a plaque, the chapel apparently was not. Speaking on behalf of the cemetery's board of trustees, C. Frederick Harley gave Edgar Gale the bad news:

The matter of placing the Hiram R. Gale bronze medallion in the Memorial Chapel and Chimes Tower to be erected in the Veterans' Memorial Cemetery was given thorough consideration. I advised the Trustees that I had suggested this possibility to you and Mr. Wehn, and that the architect for the Chapel had agreed it would be architecturally satisfactory . . . after a full and sympathetic discussion of the proposition the Trustees felt that they preferred to maintain the impersonal approach in every respect in the erection of the Memorial Chapel and Chimes Tower . . . they felt that the one way to avoid controversy in the future would be to refrain from the use of personal memorials in the Chapel.[417]

The cemetery's trustees supported the purchase of the bronze plaque for \$ 168 and covered the \$ 400 cost for the granite plinth on which the plaque was mounted. The memorial was finally installed in 1953 on the site of the Gale family lot adjacent to the Veterans' Memorial Cemetery grounds.

The rationale given for the decision marks a subtle shift in public perception and attitudes toward historical monuments and memorials to individuals, or at least those being installed in a public space. Modern Art as a movement was also gaining momentum as new ideas sprang up regarding what constituted desirable sculpture intended for public spaces. The combination of these forces resulted in changing attitudes about the perceived value of new sculptures devoted to individuals of historical merit; consequently, there was less demand for such work through new commissions. This was not the last time James encountered such resistance to his work.

The Hiram Gale plaques illustrate how, for the sculptor to achieve his studio work, it was important to have support from the local community and special interest groups. Another

prospect concurrently under way clearly demonstrates how the absence of such support could result in failure. This involved Wehn's effort to secure a commission for a proposed statue of Marcus Whitman in Washington, DC.

Poyner IV, Fred. The First Sculptor of Seattle: The Life and Art of James A. Wehn (Kindle Locations 4451-4453). Fred Poyner IV. Kindle Edition.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Great Events- What Role Could You Play?

By Mike Movius

October was a momentous month for PSCWRT. On Monday, the 10th, Chuck Veit came to Seattle, had dinner with three board members and then delivered an astounding presentation at the Ballard Library. He talked about a top-secret military project that has very little documentation, but for which he did an amazing amount of in-depth research to tell the story of the rocket torpedo and Major Hunt.

On Thursday, the 13th the weather intervened to make the attendance to Thomas Mays' presentation on Champ Ferguson less than was expected. But, by all reports it was thoroughly prepared, delivered and quite interesting.

On Saturday, the 15th, Paul Kahan delivered the first ever online presentation about Simon Cameron from his home in suburban Philadelphia. Paul's enthusiasm for his subject was electric! And, the ability of everyone to ask questions without a time limitation or a dreadful drive home was perfect. And, it was wonderful to see Geoff and Cheryl Nunn who continue their membership from Midland, Texas.

Then, on Thursday, the 20th Loretta and Jim Dimond hosted the rededication of the H. R. Gale monument at Evergreen-Washelli Memorial Park on Aurora. They did a fantastic job of putting the program together, inviting just the right people to present and had it on two television channels, to boot.

These events just don't happen. They take a significant amount of commitment, planning and involvement. I'd like more of you to take a significant role in the life of our CWRT. Consider your skills and interests and talk with a board member about how you can help.

THE LAST WORD

History and Political Correctness

By Mark Terry

Unfortunately, modern politics seem to have slipped into our study of history. If something is "politically correct", then some people think every person must advocate for it, or vice-versa. I've recently been reading "*Embattled Rebel: Jefferson Davis as Commander-in-Chief*" by James M. McPherson. I was startled to read the following passage in the Introduction on page 5:

*“Full disclosure is necessary. My sympathies lie with the Union side of the Civil War. The Confederacy fought to break up the United States and to sustain slavery. I consider those goals tragically wrong. **Yet I have sought to transcend my convictions and to understand Jefferson Davis as a product of his time and circumstances.**”*

My question is shouldn't we always seek to understand the past through the circumstances of that time? Do we judge a person or a people or even an historical era based solely on the present? If we do, then we will be doing the study of history a disservice. It almost seems as though McPherson was laying out an apology of sorts for writing about Jefferson Davis. Why should that be? Obviously it is difficult to separate our own viewpoints and prejudices when we look at the past. I just hope all of us, including myself, can be open-minded and less judgmental when we do so.



Albert Augustus Green III (1924-2016)
aka Albert A. Green, Jr.

After last month's newsletter was published we received word that one of the founders of the PSCWRT, Albert "Al" Green had passed away. Here is his obituary from the Seattle Times:

Albert was born May 17, 1924 in Jackson Mississippi and passed away on Wednesday, September 21, 2016 in Winthrop, Washington where he had resided for the past twenty-six years.

Albert retired in Winthrop after a 48-year career in banking in Seattle. He was an avid fly fisherman and a co-founder of the Methow Valley Fly Fishers.

He started fly fishing at the age of eleven, learning from his father in Mississippi. He caught his last fish near Winthrop at Moccasin Lake at age 92 in May, this year. His fly fishing equipment will be donated to the Methow Valley Fly Fishers. This will benefit their youth fly fishing classes and other projects supported by the club in the Methow Valley.

Albert is survived by his wife Susan Hinckel Green; daughter Susan Elizabeth Torngren, daughter Lena Karunamaya, son Albert Augustus Green IV, son Richard Stuart Green and three beloved grandsons. Remembrances may be made in his name to the Methow Valley Fishers.

Current Round Table members Pat Brady and Leighton Wingate remembered Al. Pat wrote that "Along with Dio Richardson, Loren Mann, and others, Al was a founder of the PSCWRT and was President from about 1987 to about 1989, when he retired from a banking career in Seattle and moved to Winthrop, for the fishing." Leighton said "Al had lived in Winthrop for the past 26 years...I remembered correctly, in reading the obituary that he had retired in Winthrop after a 48-year banking career in Seattle. I regret that I didn't really get to know him all that well back then, but I felt a certain kinship to him because he was a fellow Southerner and native Mississippian (born in Jackson)."



REMINDER: BRING AND WEAR YOUR NEW NAME TAGS!

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 December 2016 Washington Volunteer is Monday, November 21, 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.*