

# THE WASHINGTON VOLUNTEER

PUGET SOUND CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

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

DECEMBER 2016

**NEXT MEETING: Thursday, December 8, 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](mailto:rodcam@comcast.net)

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

**Reservations are MANDATORY and be in by 12 NOON on Tuesday, December 6, 2016.**

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



## **MICHAEL SCHEIN WILL DISCUSS HIS BOOK, *JOHN SURRATT: THE LINCOLN ASSASSIN WHO GOT***

***AWAY***, a Finalist for the Foreword Review Indiefab History Book of the Year. Surratt, a Confederate Secret Service agent, was Booth's closest associate for the four months before the assassination. His mother, Mary Surratt, was hanged, but John managed to escape justice in a thrilling run through Canada, England, and Italy. A former professor of American Legal History, Michael Schein has taught at Seattle University School of Law, is

known as a lively and engaging speaker, and is the author of two historical novels, *Bones beneath Our Feet* and *Just Deceits*.

## **INTERMENT FOR CIVIL WAR VETERAN JAMES POWERS, JR. OF THE 12<sup>TH</sup> MICHIGAN INFANTRY**

**Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, Noon, at Tahoma National Cemetery 18600 SE 240<sup>th</sup> St. Kent, WA 98042.** All PSCWRT members are encouraged to attend, as this will be a once in a lifetime event. For many, many years the remains of Powers and his wife Irene lay on a shelf at Lake View Cemetery in Seattle, forgotten and neglected. Recently, Jim & Loretta Dimond of our organization, plus the efforts of many others, has enabled this Civil War Veteran and his wife to

receive the honors and burial they deserve. Jim has said there will be television coverage of the interment and various veteran groups and a company of Union reenactors will be present. It will be an event not soon to be forgotten.

## **DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

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

James M. and Linda Landerdahl

Craig and Ruth Miller

*John W. Hinds is a Life Member of the Puget Sound Civil War Round Table. Though John and his wife Beverly are now retired and live in Texas, he continues to be active in the life of our Round Table by finding ways to help fund our organization. John's latest project has been an e-book he just finished and is generously helping the Round Table by contributing the royalties from it. Here is a synopsis of the book from the preface, partially edited for space by the Editor:*

### **SAVING THE UNION WITH WORDS AND PRISONS ©John W Hinds, 2016**

This history had its beginning during my search to learn what happened to my maternal Civil War Union Army ancestors: Great grandfather Captain Melvin Lewis Clark, commanding Company B, 101<sup>st</sup> Pennsylvania Infantry. Two brothers, an uncle and a close relation were also members of Company B. One of his brothers Hiram W. Clark (1<sup>st</sup>) died at Seven Pines, while Phineas was medically discharged. Unfortunately, Melvin, his uncle, Corp. Edwin B. Clark and Hiram W. Clark (2<sup>nd</sup>) were captured along with 2,300 other "Plymouth Pilgrims" at Plymouth North Carolina in 1864. Melvin survived prison because he was captain of Company B. Union and Confederate officers mostly survived their prison experience because they received far better food and shelter than the enlisted men and boys of both armies. Sadly, both Edwin and Hiram W. Clark (2<sup>nd</sup>) died in captivity.

Learning the fate of my soldier ancestors was only the beginning of my Civil War journey. By great good fortune my wife Beverly and I tracked down a significant collection of Civil War letters voluminous letters stored in a doll's trunk in suburban Washington. The letters were written to "My Darling Mama" by Confederate Navy Lieutenant James W. Cook. Cook was commander of the Confederate Ironclad *C. S. S. Albemarle*. Cook and he and his ship were instrumental in the capture of Plymouth by a Confederate brigade of North Carolina soldiers. My two histories, *Invasion and Conquest of North Carolina* and *The Hunt for the Albemarle*, publish in full James Cook's letters and narrate his role in the battle and surrender of the "Plymouth Pilgrims". My Plymouth experience was the beginning of a year's long exploration into the life and times of Confederate and Union prisoners. This search involved diaries, monographs, microfilmed records in the National Archives and a detailed search of the seven volumes of *The Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies* that contain the collected Union and Confederate wartime letters and orders relating to prisoners of war and their prisons. Along the way I detoured from the military prisoner search to investigate and write a narrative of the Maryland state political prisoners (secessionists) who were arrested and imprisoned on President Lincoln's authority. This research proved the Lincoln Administration assumption was

well founded that the Maryland's secessionist editors and politicians could have lead Maryland into the infant Confederacy.

Maryland, and especially Baltimore, was vital to the future of President Lincoln's Union. All railroad traffic bound for Washington had to pass through that historic port city. If Maryland joined the Confederacy Washington could be sacked and occupied. President Lincoln and his administration would flee north to Philadelphia or New York City. Jefferson Davis and his family would occupy the White House and the union of the Founding Fathers of 1790 might die in 1861 never to rise again as originally conceived.

In the end my research led me to five conclusions:

1. The seventy years of verbal fighting before the firing on Fort Sumter pre-conditioned most northern and southern citizens to hate one another with a crusader like ferocity.
2. Both Union and Confederate governments implicitly viewed prisoners of war as extensions of the battlefield war.
3. President Lincoln's senior War Department officers were influenced by an unspoken New England thrift ethic when they saved the Union a million dollars by reducing the Confederate prisoner's rations. And for good measure they almost totally ignored the need for clothes and shoes of the Confederate prisoners.
4. While the Confederate bureaucrats in Richmond doubtless were inclined to cut the rations for the Union prisoners of war they implicitly understood there was no need for such action. The Confederate Army was almost as hungry and shoeless as the malnourished Yankee prisoners in Andersonville and the other prisons.
5. The enlisted soldiers of both armies unfortunate enough to become prisoners of war were long suffering casualties as certainly as though they had been physically wounded in any of the hundreds of battles and skirmishes their comrades in arms fought to settle the question of the future of slavery in the United States of America.

## COMMENTS DRAW SPEAKER'S RESPONSE

Following the October 10, 2016 presentation by Chuck Veit, one attendee mentioned some disbelief when reviewing the event. She said,

“My dad and I really enjoyed Chuck's lecture. On the way home, I told my dad that I was prepared for everything from a guy mumbling as he read his lecture out loud, all the way up to a high-quality college lecture. Chuck exceeded my expectations in every way - it was fascinating information, well-presented, and I was so glad I went!

On the way out to the car, my dad mentioned something that I wanted to pass along to Chuck. My dad trained in college to repair airplanes, and then switched to working with modern submarines. With a background in both fields, my dad felt that the Civil War data on how fast the rocket-powered torpedoes were traveling is probably off kilter. He said that because water is so much thicker than air that it's highly unlikely the torpedoes were traveling as fast as claimed (compared to those modern Russian torpedoes that have a gas pocket around them). We speculated that the Civil War folks probably didn't have instruments set up to measure high speeds accurately.” - [Sarah Silvia](#)

Having read the review, Mr. Veit responded with the following letter:

Dear Ms. Silvia,

Thank you very much for the kind words you shared regarding my presentation; I truly appreciate them and am glad that you and your father enjoyed the talk. His comment about the data being "off kilter" is exactly right, and is something I want to address, as it quite rightly points up a flaw in the presentation that I am happy you reminded me of.

It is obvious that I make too much of what the Victorians (as late as 1884) expected of a rocket torpedo. Being oblivious of the effects of drag, their calculations were, as far as they were could know, spot on, and they fully expected speeds of over a thousand miles an hour. It is a wonderful attention-getter, and contrasting those numbers with the modern Russian torpedo makes them all the more impressive. But, while I'll keep this in the show, I need to focus more on the reality; I addressed this in the book, but somehow took a different tack in the show! I know that I mentioned later that Hunt had only to get the thing moving at about 130mph, but I need to emphasize this better.

In the absence of data, the actual speed of Hunt's torpedo can only be surmised logically. Although there is no mention of exactly what was done during the trials in June, it stands to reason that one thing that officer had to have done is puncture the side of a target. Models and theorizing aside, if he couldn't do this, then there was no point to the project. Given the success of those trials and the fact that weapon goes into production, I am comfortable believing he did just that. For a 300# torpedo to put a hole through 20" of oak (a standard hull), it has to be moving a minimum of 130mph. At that speed, its range would be about the length of a football field (100 yards).

Personally, I believe the helical grooves allowed the thing to move much faster and further, but this can only be proven by experimentation. I say this because, in a talk I've delivered since the one in Seattle, a theoretical physicist in the audience took up the challenge of doing some calculations. His findings are as impossible as the 1748mph expected by folks at the time, for he told me that the rocket could not possible go any faster than about 12mph. I told him that, while I wasn't faulting his science, there was obviously *something* about this torpedo that allowed it to go *much* faster. Had it only managed a dozen mph, it would not have even dented the side of a ship, let alone punctured anything more resistant than a wet paper bag! The officers charged with evaluating its performance may not have been scientists, but I am certain they could decide whether the projectile could sink a ship. He agreed that a physical experiment is the way to go. So, as soon as time and money allow, that's what I'll do.

Again, thank you for sharing your thoughts; I hope the foregoing helps resolve the issues your father recognized.

Best regards,  
Chuck

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

### “Mike’s Excellent Civil War Adventure- with Pictures!”

By Mike Movius

During the last month, I’ve spent some time on two fronts that I’d like to share with you. First, I visited several battlefields including Wilson’s Creek in Missouri, Pea Ridge in Arkansas, Ball’s Bluff in Virginia, South Mountain in Maryland and Gettysburg in Pennsylvania. Wilson’s Creek and Pea Ridge are marvelous! Both battlefields are nearly without monuments, but quite well preserved in their 1860s condition. I followed the auto tour of both, but walked a considerable portion of Wilson’s Creek much to my delight.

I also visited Fort McHenry, Arlington National Cemetery, Battlefield National Cemetery, and the Clara Barton House. Each of them had their own significance to the Civil War. The solemnity was best captured by the funeral procession I watched with the riderless horse with boots turned backward, military band and caisson with the flag-draped casket.



The photograph of this seal was taken at Arlington National.

I’ve been to Ball’s Bluff once before, where I met the author of *A Little Short of Boats*, James Morgan III. The battlefield itself is small, but nearly 90% of it has been preserved. My interest in going there this month was to take the trail down to the edge of the Potomac River to see just how steep the bluff looks from that vantage point. Although the foliage remained on the trees, it certainly looked formidable.



This photo is of the Potomac River with Harrison Island on the other side.

South Mountain was another story. The visitor center is in a state park. It is closed during the winter. That was a huge disappointment. However, I did hike to the top of the ridge and climbed the Washington Monument that was built in the 1820's as a memorial to George Washington. The view was spectacular! One could see the Antietam battlefield and a whole lot more. Aside from that, there wasn't much to see about the Civil War.

One of the very cool places I visited was Baptist Alley in Washington City. Ford's Theatre was previously a Baptist church. Did you know that? Well, you can still access the alley that John Wilkes Booth ran into after cowardly shooting President Lincoln. He exited the building through the doorway below. It was a second-story doorway leading to a wooden porch. He jumped onto his horse from the structure and made his getaway. Since that time, when water and sewers pipes were brought to this part of town, rather than trenching, they just covered everything with dirt. That left the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor as the first floor in the alley. The bricked-over windows were once filled with stained glass.



The doorway from which Booth exited the theatre.

Bricked-over windows of the Baptist church.

I went to Gettysburg to participate in the Lincoln Forum with Malcom Garber and Clarke and Pat Harrison. As always, it was an impressive event with a host of excellent historians. I renewed my acquaintance with Craig L. Symonds, Frank Williams and John Marzalek. I participated in a most interesting tour of the George Spangler Farm where Brigadier General Lewis A. Armistead died in an 11<sup>th</sup> Corps field hospital.



There were so many wounded and dying men that the barn was quickly overwhelmed. By way of triage, the dead and dying were placed in the far field; those to be saved were placed in the lower floor of the barn, then transferred to the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor for treatment; the recovering stayed in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor until they recovered from the anesthesia, then they were placed in the field to your left. The stone house was the residence of the George Spangler family.

In addition, I was witness to the 60<sup>th</sup> Annual Remembrance Day Parade. The weather was balmy and participants were quite enthusiastic. And, just as the parade concluded, the weather changed. The temperature dropped, the wind grew to 40 mph gusts and rained followed in about an hour.



Flags are an essential part of any Civil War event. The Remembrance Day Parade is no exception.

I was also able to visit the Harris/Cameron Mansion in Harrisburg. John Harris was the founder of the city. His luxurious mansion was later purchased by Simon Cameron, President Lincoln's first Secretary of War. It is situated on the Susquehanna River in old town Harrisburg among several medical facilities.



This is the Harris/Cameron Mansion in Harrisburg, PA.

The other area I want to share is the continuing development of CWRT Congress. I met with the president of the Baltimore CWRT who was quite enthusiastic about assisting with finding a venue for the first regional event. I also met with a board member of the Kernstown Battlefield Association who agreed to make a presentation on partnerships/fundraising.



The historic Pritchard House on the Kernstown battlefield near Winchester, VA.

In addition, we held our third teleconference concerned with the planning effort. We have tentatively scheduled April 29-30 in the greater Baltimore area for the first congress. We are now developing the program and list of details that need to be addressed when planning such an event. We're hopeful that attendees will want to visit the B&O Railroad Museum or other historical sites in the area.

Speaking of attendees, all of you who are interested in the continued growth and reach of the Puget Sound CWRT are invited to attend. This will NOT be restricted to officers in any way, shape or fashion. So, don't pack your bags just yet, but put April 29 & 30, 2017 on your calendars and plan to go to Baltimore to learn how we can increase the reach of our great organization.

Mike Movius  
President



## Get to Know: PSCWRT VP Editor – Mark Terry



cherished mementos.

Born in Japan, Mark grew up in Los Angeles. During the summer of 1966, just before Mark's 8<sup>th</sup> birthday, his mom was house sitting for a teacher colleague. In the man's library were a couple of large coffee table books on the Civil War. Mark became fascinated by them and became a Civil War enthusiast. For Christmas 1967, his mother gave him the *Golden Book of the Civil War* by Charles Flato. Inside she wrote "This book will never be 'due' at the library!". Later, Mark wrote to the only Civil War historian that he knew about- Bruce Catton- and asked him some questions. Mr. Catton wrote back, and Mark still has those

In high school, Mark lost some of his interest in history and started playing soccer. He played goalkeeper at Ballard High School, Skagit Valley College (State Title) and at Seattle Pacific University, where he graduated with a B.S. in Physical Education and a minor in History (big surprise!). It was at SPU that he met Kim Roberts, and two years after graduating, they were married in 1984. This year they celebrated their 32<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary in February.

While Mark and Kim were teaching at Fremont Christian School in Fremont, CA, he found a book titled *Tracing Your Civil War Ancestor*, which detailed how to do Civil War research. Naturally, he also started into genealogy to connect the dots. Since then he has found several ancestors on his and Kim's side who fought in the war.

Both Mark and Kim started reenacting in 1993. They became charter members of the Washington Civil War Association (WCWA) that fall. In March 1994, their daughter Lorena (named after a Civil War song) was born. Later that year, they were invited by a friend to hear James McPherson speak at the Puget Sound Civil War Round Table, and they became members that night!

In 1999, Mark wrote a research paper titled *The Mystery Flags of Bristoe Station*, regarding the identification of two North Carolina battle flags, and presented it to the Museum of the Confederacy. While waiting for its acceptance, two historians- Rod Gragg and Earl J. Hess- asked permission to use his paper as a source for their books on North Carolina troops. The Museum did accept his research in October, 2001.

Mark and Kim have enjoyed being members of the PSCWRT for 22 years. At some point, Mark became a board member, and was later elected President from 2008-2010. In September 2010, an opening for the Newsletter Editor position opened up, and Mark volunteered for it. He has been serving the Round Table in that capacity ever since.

Outside his Civil War interests, Mark and Kim are active in their church, Shoreline Free Methodist. They are among the original Seattle Sounders FC season ticket holders and attend as many matches as they can. Mark played soccer and did Civil War reenacting until hip surgery sidelined him in 2014. However, he still drives a transit bus for Community Transit, his work since 1989...

On behalf of the board members of the PSCWRT, we...

**Wish 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 255<sup>th</sup> 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 January 2017 Washington Volunteer is Monday, December 26, 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.*