

# THE WASHINGTON VOLUNTEER

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

JANUARY 2017

**NEXT MEETING: Thursday, January 12, 2017**

**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, January 10, 2017.**

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



**JAMES SHIPMAN WILL DISCUSS *GOING HOME*, HIS NOVEL BASED ON THE TRUE STORY OF HIS GREAT-GREAT GRANDFATHER JOSEPH FORSYTH**, an Irish indentured servant in Canada who escaped to the United States, met Abraham Lincoln, and served with the 186th New York at Petersburg, where he was wounded. An attorney in Snohomish County, Mr. Shipman is a lifelong student of history and the author of many short stories, poems, and the novel *Constantinopolis*.

## ***IMPORTANT DISPATCHES***

**FIELD TRIP TO THE WASHINGTON STATE  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25, 2017 @ 10:30 A.M.**

**By Rick Solomon**

I am pleased to announce that the third annual field trip of the Puget Sound Civil War Roundtable will take place on Wednesday, January 25, 2017 starting at 10:30 a.m. at the

Washington State Historical Society located at 315 N. Stadium Way, Tacoma, WA 98402. I understand parking is plentiful. Jim Dimond hooked me up with Lynette Miller, Head of collections, at WSHS. Lynette has graciously agreed to let our Roundtable have an exclusive viewing of some of the artifacts and paper materials in their collection. The emphasis will be on the Civil War. Our viewing will last 1 ½ to 2 hours. I believe we will be seeing a Union Flag, a Confederate Naval flag, some Civil War weapons, some paper materials connected to Isaac Stevens and other interesting items. There will be no charge, but I strongly encourage everyone who attends to donate at least \$5 to WSHS. Afterwards we will adjourn to the Harmon Brewery for lunch, drinks and good conversations with our Roundtable comrades.

If you are interested in attending the Field Trip there are 3 ways to register:

- (1) Mike Movius sent out an email last month you can respond to;
  - (2) You can e-mail Rick Solomon directly at [ricksolo@ricksolo.com](mailto:ricksolo@ricksolo.com) be sure to include your name, e-mail address, telephone number, and any artifacts or paper materials you would like to see or call Rick at (206) 248-5559, or
  - (3) You can register at our January 12 meeting by filling out your information on the sign-up sheet that I will have with me. Cutoff for registration is at the January 12 meeting. I will try to arrange carpooling so that we leave a green foot print.
- So far, as of December 19, 24 people have registered.

I am sure a good time will be had by all. Hope your Holidays were Happy!

### **January Birthdays**

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

Phillip Allen  
Harley Crain  
Jon Echols  
Bob Hazen  
Judy Henriksen  
Jack Seeley

## ***NEWS AND PROJECTS***

### **Report on the Interment of Pvt. James Powers, Co. D, 12<sup>th</sup> Michigan Infantry and his wife Irena Hannah Keyes Powers**

By Mark R. Terry

Saturday, December 10, 2016 was a very cold, somewhat blustery day. Despite the weather, a dedicated group of people- Veteran's groups, heritage groups, reenactors, family members, dignitaries and others, including members of our own Puget Sound Civil War Round Table- showed up at the Tahoma National Cemetery in Covington. The reason they all came was to honor the memory and military service of a forgotten veteran and his wife, James Powers and his wife Irena Keyes Powers. A long line of young ladies in track suits stood next to members of the Patriot Guard, a group of bikers dedicated to honoring deceased veterans, all holding American

flags. They formed a long semicircle adjacent to the driveway where the Powers' ashes would soon be brought. Under the sheltered area stood a table with photographs of James and Irena, recently come to light when their descendants found out about the event. Jim and Loretta Dimond, members of the PSCWRT, whose efforts made all of this possible, stood close by.

Around noon, the motorcade arrived, bearing the urns containing the Powers' ashes. As the various veteran's groups came to attention and everyone stood, the urns were brought forward and placed on the table. One by one, representatives from most of the groups assembled spoke, including Thomas Yokes, of the Tahoma National Cemetery, Rod Fleck of the Sons of Union Veterans, Mr. Raman Khanna who represented Senator Patty Murray, Mike Movius, President of our Round Table, Peggy Goldsmith of the Daughters of Union Veterans. Chaplain Phil DuFrene of the Washington Civil War Association spoke on "The Faith of the Civil War Soldier", while Jim Dimond gave a concise reflection on James Powers. Loretta-Marie Dimond read some poetry which was very moving, and several members of the family shared their thoughts and gratitude to all of those assembled. Several members of the SUVCW went through the actual GAR ritual performed when a member passed away. Finally, reenactors of the 4<sup>th</sup> U.S. Infantry fired a 21-gun salute, and Taps were played by bugler Bernie Moskowitz. About 100 people were there, including at least one local television crew.

All told, it was a fitting and solemn event for two people who should not have been forgotten, but were now finally being given the honor and resting place they deserved.

[SEE PHOTOS OF THE EVENT AT THE END OF THE NEWSLETTER]

## **Board Decisions**

At a recent board meeting, several items were discussed and voted upon.

The proposal to charge an extra fee to those having the newsletter mailed to them was voted down.

Several interesting ideas were put forth, including one to create audio recordings of our speakers and post them on the website so that those members who cannot make it to the meetings can at least hear the speaker.

Remember that as a member, you have access to the minutes of our board meetings. They are posted on the "Members Only" area of our website at: <http://www.pscwrt.org/>

## **VP Marketing Resigns**

It is with regret that we announce the resignation of Susan Martin, Vice-President- Marketing. Susan joined the PSCWRT Board earlier this year and was instrumental in making contact with several different groups and thinking of ideas that could spread the word about the Round Table. In her letter of resignation, Susan wrote "My priorities have changed and I really don't have the time, energy, or resources to devote to the PSCWRT. I will continue to be a member and attend meetings when I can. I'm so sorry! I have really enjoyed being a part of the PSCWRT and have learned so much. I love the passion and dedication that you all have and hope the PSCWRT continues for future generations." We as a board wish Susan all the best and look forward to seeing her at meetings in the future. Meanwhile, if you have an interest in helping the Round Table to seek out lovers of history and the American Civil War, please contact a member of the board!

## *FEATURED ARTICLE*



### **Get to Know: PSCWRT Immediate Past President – Rick Solomon**

I am the Immediate Past President of the Puget Sound Civil War Roundtable. I was born in Newark, New Jersey in 1953. I became a Civil War “Buff” during the Civil War Centennial celebration of 1961-1965. During that time I convinced my parents to take me to Civil War Battlefields including Gettysburg, Antietam, and all over Virginia. I was a History major at Lafayette College which has some interesting Civil War connections. Edwin Coddington, author of *The Gettysburg Campaign*, had just retired as the History department chairman. Lafayette College’s literary club called itself *The Stephen Crane Society*, named after the author of *The Red Badge of Courage* who had studied there for one semester. I went to Law School at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio. During the summer of 1976 I went backpacking with some friends on the Pacific Crest Trail in Washington with Volumes II and III of *Lee’s Lieutenants* in my backpack and fell in love with the Evergreen State.

I have belonged to three other Civil War Roundtables before PSCWRT. During my Law school years in Cleveland I was with the Western Reserve CWRT. During a year as a Legal Aid attorney in Carbon County Pennsylvania I belonged to the NE Pennsylvania CWRT. In the 1980s I was a member of the CWRT of Northern New Jersey which had author David Martin among its members.

I am divorced and have a 27-year old son, Derrick, who lives in Seattle. When I moved out here in 1989 I had two cats named *Antietam* and *Chickamauga*. I joined PSCWRT in 1990 and have been on the Board of Directors almost continuously since then serving as President in 2002-2004 and in 2014-2016. I was the Newsletter editor of *The Washington Volunteer* for several years in between. I have given seven presentations to our Roundtable through the years and was on a few panel presentations with my good friend Jim Dimond and others. I am a “battles and generals” buff with a liking of Confederates because I find them to be more colorful and interesting than their Yankee counterparts. I hope to give our Roundtable a talk on *Longstreet’s Winter of Discontent* in about a year.

I have been an attorney for 37 years and have had my own law office in Burien since 2000 specializing in personal injury. I have also been very active in the Northwest Chapter of American Baseball Research, serving as chapter president 2011-2014. I also enjoy music especially jazz, blues and rock & roll. I’ve enjoyed traveling to many countries in the past eight years, such as Israel, the Galapagos Islands, Kenya, Tanzania, Australia and New Zealand. In 2017 I’ll be heading off to Botswana, Zambia, Zimbabwe and South Africa.

## ***THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER***

### **The Civil War and New Year's Wishes**

By Michael Movius

You will recall the wonderful presentation last March about Colonel Slough and the Battle of Glorieta Pass by PSCWRT past president, Dick Miller. This month, I again visited Glorieta Pass and the impressive obelisk dedicated to the Federal soldiers located in the city plaza in Santa Fe.

I continue to be struck by the nature of the War; the unrealistic beliefs in 1861; the desire of the Confederates for a country that ran from coast to coast; the strategy to constrict the South through coastal blockades and dominance of the Mississippi; and the nature of McClellan's war versus that of Grant. I'm continue to be amazed about the many lives that were intertwined in seeking glory no matter the cost.

Yes, the Civil War was not only fought for the wrong reasons, but also the right ones no matter the pervasive bigotry on both sides of the Mason-Dixon line. It is my fervent hope that through our study, the various workshops, projects and conferences, plus presentations like Dick's that we are able to influence one another and our communities through associations and partnerships to treat each other with respect and forbearance.

May we all have a happy and safe new year!

Mike Movius

## ***THE LAST WORD***

### **What would you like to see in the "Volunteer"?**

By Mark Terry

Obviously, the main purpose of the "Washington Volunteer"- our newsletter- is to communicate when the next monthly meeting will be, the speaker and their topic. After that, we want you to know about any local upcoming events that the Round Table is organizing or endorsing. Third, notices about Round Table projects and other news that would be pertinent to you.

After all that comes what I like to call the "Fun Stuff". That is, historical articles and features related to the Civil War. Over the course of the seven years I've done the newsletter, I have published many different articles, most of which have been sent in by you, our membership! Some have been period newspaper articles, research on local cemeteries holding the remains of Civil War veterans, stories of a member's ancestor who fought in the war, biographies of veterans, historical timelines of periods of the war, etc. The list of possible topics and themes is virtually endless.

You may have already guessed it, but what this comes down to is YOU! What do YOU want to read about? What topics related to the war, whether military, civilian or something else would YOU like to see published? Some of you are budding researchers who have an interest in a very narrow topic. If so, write something up and I will make sure it gets published! This is YOUR

chance. There are many Civil War magazines and periodicals out there, but all of them have one thing in common- they are very picky about what they publish. The Washington Volunteer is a great place to get your feet wet as an author.

Some of you may be just as interested in a particular subject, but don't feel up to writing an article about it. In that case, let us know. Either we will find someone to write about it, or (if we have to) search around the until we find a piece that will fill the void.

My overall goal is to make the newsletter informative, useful and interesting to you. I want you to look forward to the monthly email announcing the next meeting, not just so you know about the speaker and the topic, but also because you can read the latest Washington Volunteer!

## Photographs from the James Powers Interment December 10, 2016



Waiting for the motorcade



Various honor guards and the 4<sup>th</sup> U.S. who fired the salute.



Members of the Powers family who spoke and thanked everyone for their efforts to honor their ancestors. Jim Dimond is to the left.



Performing the rites of the GAR. Note the urns containing the ashes of James & Irena and the 4<sup>th</sup> U.S. in the background waiting to fire the salute.

### **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 for space. The deadline for the February 2017 Washington Volunteer is Monday, January 23, 2017. Please have it in Mark Terry's hands via email or snailmail by then. Thank you!**

## **2016-2017 OFFICERS**

### **Elected:\***

President: Mike Movius, [president@pscwrt.org](mailto:president@pscwrt.org)

Vice-President-Successor: Nick K. Adams, [carmodnick@comcasst.net](mailto:carmodnick@comcasst.net)

Past-President: Rick Solomon, [ricksolo@ricksolo.com](mailto:ricksolo@ricksolo.com)

Treasurer: Jeff Rombauer, [jeffrombauer@foxinternet.com](mailto:jeffrombauer@foxinternet.com)

Vice-President-Programming: Pat Brady, [patsbrady@comcast.net](mailto:patsbrady@comcast.net)

Vice-President- Membership: Marilyn Rexilius, [marilyn.rexilius@frontier.com](mailto:marilyn.rexilius@frontier.com)

Vice-President- Marketing: Vacant

Vice-President- Partnerships: Steve Clayton, [cpsclayton@msn.com](mailto:cpsclayton@msn.com)

Vice President-Reservations: Rod Cameron, 206-524-4434, [rodcam@comcast.net](mailto:rodcam@comcast.net)

Vice-President-Editor: Mark Terry, [markimlor@comcast.net](mailto:markimlor@comcast.net)

Secretary: Larry Jilbert, [LJilbert.CJilbert@comcast.net](mailto:LJilbert.CJilbert@comcast.net)

Vice President-Social Media: Vacant

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