

THE WASHINGTON VOLUNTEER

PUGET SOUND CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

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

FEBRUARY 2017

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, February 9, 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.**

PLEASE NOTE: THIS MONTH ONLY, OUR MEETING WILL BE HELD IN THE BAR/DANCE ROOM TO THE RIGHT AS YOU ENTER THE MAIN DOORS, NOT UPSTAIRS. HAPPY CHINESE NEW YEARS!

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, February 7, 2017.

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



ETHAN S. RAFUSE WILL DISCUSS WILLIAM T. SHERMAN, HELMUTH VON MOLTKE, AND THE TRANSNATIONAL CHALLENGES OF COMMAND IN THE 19TH CENTURY.

Rafuse will compare Moltke's efforts in the Wars of German Unification of 1864-71, and Sherman's efforts during the American Civil War, as well as in both men's efforts to shape their armies in peacetime. Rafuse

received a Ph.D. in history and political science at the University of Missouri-Kansas City and worked as a park ranger at Manassas National Battlefield and the Harry S Truman National Historic Site. Since 2004, he has been a member of the faculty at the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, where he is a professor of military history. His published works include *McClellan's War*; *Stonewall Jackson: A Biography*; *Manassas: A Battlefield Guide*; *Robert E. Lee and the Fall of the Confederacy*; *George Gordon Meade and the War in the East*; *Corps Commanders in Blue*, and countless other works, articles, essays, and reviews.

IMPORTANT DISPATCHES

Review of our Third Annual PSCWRT Field Trip to the Washington State Historical Society Research Center!

By Mark R. Terry

On the morning of Wednesday, January 25th, I drove south to Tacoma to meet with 24 other members of the Round Table to visit the Washington State Historical Society Research Center. This trip was coordinated by VP Past President Rick Solomon, who gave all the credit to member Jim Dimond who has been in contact with Lynnette Miller, Head of Collections at WSHS and made this happen.

During the war, Washington Territory was as far removed from the main action as any area of the country could be. However, soldiers and politicians with connections to the conflict lived and worked here, bringing their history- and artifacts- with them. Thus, Lynnette was able to pull a good number of items out of their storage rooms related to the Civil War.



While I can't list everything that was on display, several jumped out at me, such as an ornate presentation sword, given to then Col. Isaac Stevens by the members of his own 79th N.Y. Highlanders. At the base of the blade you can make out "Tiffany & Co. of New York". There was a very large flag, said to be captured from a Confederate ship, that was furled up. Lynnette said that to her knowledge no one had ever spread it out completely! There are concerns of fragility, but until it is completely spread out and examined, no serious research can be done.



If any of the items could be named "Most Bizarre", it would have to be the birthday cake (!?) made for Hiram Randall Gale, the last National Commander of the G.A.R. who happened to live in this state. It was baked and decorated for his 104th birthday in 1950! Why would a cake be preserved for the last 66 years? Because it is decorated very well, almost a work of art. But as food? Uh, no. It should be noted that the PSCWRT were instrumental in having the Gale monument at Washelli Cemetery refurbished and rededicated last October.

After about an hour and a half, our stomachs started to beckon. Most of us made our way to the Hub Pizza Place not too far away and had a cordial lunch together. All in all, it was another successful historical field trip for the Round Table. Here are the members who attended: Stephen Pierce, Nick Adams, Lou Berquest, Bunny Berquest, Malcolm Garber, Ray Cardwell, Rod Cameron, Jim Dimond, Jeff Rombauer, Jay Secord, Greg Meldahl, Jorgen Bader, Mark Terry, Keith Clark, Mike Movius, Ken Bertrand, Pauline Morrison, Suzanne Hahn, Tracy Huntley, Ed Malles, Allen Suter, Louise Suter, Garth Holmes, John McCarthy & Rick Solomon. [See photo of our group below] More members had signed up to go, but needed to cancel due to sickness. We are sorry you couldn't attend...



If you are interested in history (and I'm sure all of you are), the WSHS Research Center is worth a trip to come, see, and do research! Lynnette Miller told us that if someone wants to look at certain artifacts or do some historical research, they need to contact the WSHS in advance and set up an appointment. She encourages research of their items by historians because their staff simply doesn't have the time to do it all themselves. Hey, another project we can do!

Here is the webpage with information about the research center:

<http://www.washingtonhistory.org/research/research-center/>

Location:

Washington State Historical Society Research Center
315 N. Stadium Way
Tacoma, WA 98402 Ph. (253) 798-5914

Call for Presenters in 2017-2018!

By Pat Brady, VP Programming

During *next* season, September 2017 thru May 2018, we would like to present an evening of short programs, with three or four members making presentations of 10 or 15 minutes each (or maybe more members with shorter presentations). Anything goes for the topics, including but by no means limited to what specifics you know about your Civil War ancestor(s).

Please let me (Pat Brady) know if you will present a short topic, email patsbrady@comcast.net or phone 206-246-1603.

Also let Pat know if you will volunteer to give a full-length topic (8 p.m. to 9 p.m.).

Need Feedback for Proposed Book Discussion Meeting

By Pat Brady, VP Programming

During the Sept 2017 thru May 2018 season, one meeting may feature a group discussion of two books. One will likely be James McPherson, *The War that Forged a Nation*. The other book is to be determined, so please make your suggestions to Pat Brady at patsbrady@comcast.net. Please suggest a relatively recent (last five years) book. A little homework and substance helps- we don't want people rambling on about something they half-read twenty years ago. Thank you for your suggestions.

February Birthdays

Several members have birthdays in February and we'd like to acknowledge their special day.
They are:
Dempsey Dydbal
Ken Esemann
Mike Movius
Alexander Welles

NEWS AND PROJECTS

The American Civil War Final Exam

By Ed Malles

In my last profession I taught fine arts in Florida at a private high school. After years of lobbying, they let me teach a class on the American Civil War. I had 16 students, mostly seniors, and concentrated on the military side of the war, hanging it on a political hook. We fought battles on large maps that I made for college classes I taught at Rollins College. The class was divided into two groups to fight the battles, using a detailed scenario to trace the progress of the battle as we discussed the decisions made by the generals.

At the February meeting I will make available 15 copies of the final exam for the course. I thought it might be fun to test your knowledge of the war. There's no need to time it, you won't be graded, and the answers will be in the March Volunteer. May I suggest you take the test without research and then perhaps look some things up. I will be glad to answer any questions about the test at the March meeting.

Thank You – Larry Jilbert!!

By Mike Movius

It is with regret that PSCWRT Secretary Larry Jilbert tendered his resignation from the Board of Directors. Larry cited health reasons for his departure from the board. Larry retired as lieutenant from the Kent Police Department following twenty-five years of public service.

Larry Jilbert has been the board secretary for as long as I've been associated with the CWRT. His loyalty and devotion to the PSCWRT is unmatched. We will miss his presence, but will rest assured that he remains an ardent supporter and member of the organization.



REMINDER: BRING AND WEAR YOUR NAME TAGS!

FEATURED ARTICLES



Get to Know: PSCWRT Vice-President Programming – Patrick S. Brady

Born in Muskogee, Oklahoma, and a Viet Nam veteran, Patrick S. Brady lived in two countries, six states and ten cities in 15 years, and taught U.S. History at Lycoming College, Williamsport, Pennsylvania (where he led students on battlefield tours), and the University of California, Riverside, before coming to Seattle in 1981. He cannot move again because he cannot face another bar exam. His law practice (part time) at Forsberg & Umlauf focuses on insurance coverage and bad faith issues. He has taught

Continuing Legal Education classes for lawyers on the Law Practice of Abraham Lincoln.

His articles and reviews have appeared in *Civil War History*, *The Journal of Southern History*, *The Journal of Military History*, *Indiana Law Journal*, *North Carolina Central Law Journal*, *The Broker*, *Western Forester*, *The V V A Veteran*, and other publications. He has long been working on a book on the Battle of Cold Harbor, May 27-June 12, 1864.

His great-grandfather, Irish immigrant Charles Brady, served with Tennessee infantry and artillery units at Shiloh and Vicksburg and in the campaigns of Nathan Bedford Forrest. After the surrender at Vicksburg, the garrison was paroled and was supposed to stay in confinement under Confederate control until each individual was exchanged. Tired of sitting in confinement in Mississippi, Charles Brady walked home to Jackson, Tennessee, earning himself a listing as a Confederate deserter. But he was not a true deserter, for he re-upped with Morton's Tennessee battery of Forrest's artillery, earning himself the status of parole violator for Yankee purposes. Several sources tell of Charles Brady's service as a sergeant (and gunner) with Morton's battery, but his obituary several decades later identified him as a lieutenant, having apparently promoted himself after the war.

As program chairman of the Puget Sound Civil War Round Table, Pat has been lining up speakers since 1987.

Book Review: “Braxton Bragg: The Most Hated Man of the Confederacy”, written by Prof. Earl J. Hess Reviewed by Rick Solomon

Way back in the December 2002 issue of the *Washington Volunteer* I wrote an article on Braxton Bragg. You can read this article by going into the online archives of the *Washington Volunteer* which can be found on the PSCWRT website. I was pretty negative in my assessment of Bragg as a general. Last September Earl J. Hess's book, *Braxton Bragg: The Most Hated Man of the Confederacy*, was published. I read Hess's book last month and am pleased to say it raised my opinion of Braxton Bragg, both the man and the general.

There were several surprises in Hess's book. I had been under the impression that Bragg and Jefferson Davis had been longtime friends. After all, Davis's Mississippi Rifles and Bragg's artillery battery had fought side by side at the Battle of Buena Vista in the Mexican War. The

reality is they did not become friends until about the last year of the Civil War when they were seeing one another on an almost daily basis while Bragg served as military adviser to President Davis. While Davis served as Secretary of War during the Pierce Administration, he and Bragg had clashed over Davis introduction of rifled artillery and phasing out light batteries. Bragg disagreed with this reform so much that he resigned from the U.S. Army. However, once the Civil War started Davis had an increasingly high opinion of Bragg. Davis recognized Bragg's ability to train soldiers and to keep them well supplied.

After Albert Sidney Johnston was killed at Shiloh and P.G. T. Beauregard was absent without permission Davis decided to promote Bragg to be the commander of the Army of Mississippi (which became known as the Army of Tennessee after Perryville). Bragg quickly lost the confidence of his three Corps commanders – Kirby Smith, William Hardee and Leonidas Polk. Smith refused to serve under Bragg anymore and was transferred to the Trans-Mississippi for the duration of the Civil War. Davis had a longstanding fault of sticking by his friends and stubbornly refusing to change bad decisions. Polk was a good friend of Davis, but a poor general who had a habit of disobeying Bragg's orders. Davis felt his best commander out West was Bragg. While Polk and Bragg continually clashed, Davis decided to "have his cake and eat it too." Davis stood by the disobedient Polk while stating his trust in Bragg as the commander of the Army of Tennessee. Davis thought that the Army was in good condition. However, this was an impossible situation. Davis either should have relieved Bragg from command of the Army or he should have removed Polk from corps command. When Davis visited the Army of Tennessee in December 1862 and refused to remove either Bragg or Davis from command, Davis allowed a cancer to grow for another year. If it was up to me Polk would have been transferred somewhere else.

After Stones River Bragg sent a circular to Polk and Hardee asking them whether or not they had confidence in him as the Army's commander. This was a fatal mistake by Bragg. A commanding general should not ask his subordinates whether they have confidence in him. Hardee and Polk got many of their subordinates to agree in writing that there was a want of confidence in Bragg and that Bragg should be removed from command. This is despite the fact that Bragg had fought well and acted aggressively both at Perryville and Stones River. In between Stones River and Chickamauga Bragg's health deteriorated greatly. After winning the Battle of Chickamauga Bragg failed to follow up the victory by not aggressively pushing the Union forces out of Chattanooga. Davis visited Bragg's Army of Tennessee again and reluctantly supported Bragg removing generals Polk, D.H. Hill, and Hindman, while forcing Buckner and Longstreet into lesser roles. Once again Davis felt the troops were in good condition. Davis asked all corps commander to report to Bragg's headquarters and state to him whether they had confidence in Bragg with Bragg present in the room. They all announced their lack of confidence in Bragg. Bragg's further command of the Army of Tennessee was doomed, but still Davis refused to remove him. By this time the cancer of morale in the Army of Tennessee had spread too far resulting in the disastrous defeat at Chattanooga. I have to place a lot of blame on Davis for this happening.

Hess makes the point in his book that Bragg had the support of many division and brigade commanders in the army, but that these generals were quiet in their support. Among these quiet generals were Joseph Wheeler, Patton Anderson, William Bate and Edward Walthall.

After the debacle at Chattanooga, Bragg resigned. A few months later, Davis appointed Bragg to be his military adviser where Bragg served well with one exception. While in command of the Army of Tennessee Bragg had been steadfastly supported by his immediate superior, Joseph E. Johnston. Bragg was instrumental in getting Davis to appoint John Bell Hood as a corps commander in the army of Tennessee. Hood skipped the chain of command many times by sending many letters directly to Bragg which undermined Johnston. Bragg played a role in the removal of Johnston and the appointment of Hood to the Army's command. This was after Johnston had done so much to support Bragg when Bragg was in command of the Army.

Anyhow, I recommend that anyone who is interested in the Army of Tennessee should read Hess's book. Hess frequently points out how his opinions of Bragg compare to Don Seitz, Stanley Horn, Grady McWhiney, Thomas Connelly, Judith Hallock, Steven Woodworth and Samuel Martin. All of these authors have written about Bragg and the Army of Tennessee.

I look forward to seeing you at our February 9 meeting!

EDITOR'S NOTE: Rick's article prompted me to look Hess' book up on Amazon.com. While I was perusing the reviews, I came across this one: *"In this skillful and balanced assessment of Confederate general Braxton Bragg, Earl J. Hess takes into account both sides' views of this controversial man and offers his own takes in ways that are informative, insightful, and persuasive. Sometimes surprising, always effective, this is the definitive study of the life and career of an unquestionably important but oft-maligned Civil War figure."* Who wrote this review? Why none other than our speaker for this month- Ethan S. Rafuse!

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

STAND UP FOR STANDING COMMITTEES

By Mike Movius

As you are undoubtedly aware, PSCWRT doesn't do a very good job of succession planning. So, when someone decides to vacate a critical board position, it may remain unfilled indefinitely. I am seeking to remedy those problems by establishing some standing committees. I've asked every member of the board to become active on two of them. The key word is ACTIVE. Board members will be chairing most committees. I've also asked each committee chairman to actively recruit committee members from the general membership.

The following is the charge for each committee:

Editorial Committee – This committee will seek and write stories for the Washington Volunteer, follow up to ensure that series articles are written and assist the VP Editor with resolving other publication issues, as they arise.

Finance Committee – This committee will manage the accounting of CWRT funds under the direction of the Treasurer, develop and manage an annual budget that gives the VP Program latitude in scheduling "airplane" speakers and develop fundraising initiatives that support our preservation efforts.

Greeter Committee – This committee is a resurrection of the Rangers instituted two years ago. It will ensure that every guest and visitor is warmly greeted, engaged in conversation and asked to return and become a member.

Membership Committee – This committee will seek to enhance the membership footprint of the CWRT through marketing, partnerships and social media. The committee will give and receive policy direction from all other committees, plus CWRT leadership.

Preservation Committee – This committee will develop initiatives to preserve and memorialize Civil War veterans who lived and were interred in the late Washington Territory and the State of Washington.

Program Committee – This committee will, under the direction of the VP Program, seek to develop credible speakers for regular and special meetings of the PSCWRT. It will also work closely with other standing committees to assist in outreach efforts.

Public Relations Committee – This committee will seek out and develop opportunities with the natural partners of the PSCWRT under the direction of the VP Partnerships. It will also develop and manage a speaker's bureau that enhances our public image.

Genealogy Committee – This committee will seek to assist PSCWRT members and others with the research and documentation of family members who were involved in the Civil War. It will also work closely with the other committees in developing rapport with local genealogical societies.

Social Media Committee – This committee will develop and maintain a website, enhance PSCWRT efforts on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Pinterest, Meetup and other social media channels and work closely with other standing committees on behalf of PSCWRT.

Please consider becoming part of one or more of these committee. We not only need your enthusiasm and expertise, but by sharing the workload, you will be serving in a great organization!

THE LAST WORD

Time to be Committed!

By Mark R. Terry

No, I don't mean you should be visited by the "men in the white coats". What I do mean is that if you aren't already helping the PSCWRT in some capacity outside of being a member, that you will consider doing so. As you can see from Mike Movius' column, the PSCWRT is taking a step toward securing our future as an organization by forming small committees to help in the running of the club. I won't regurgitate Mike's column, but a quick look at the roster of officers will show that there are currently three vacancies. If we want to survive as an organization, we need continuity. Besides that, there are many other ways to get involved, such as writing articles for the newsletter, working on one of our many Civil War-related projects, contacting outside

groups who may want a speaker, speaking about our Round Table to co-workers or friends who may be interested in history. Hopefully you saw VP-Programming Pat Brady's request for members interested in giving a short (or long) presentation in the coming 2017-2018 season. I had the opportunity to do one way back in 2001. It was good for me to do the research and really dig into my subject.

The list of things you can do to help the Round Table is really endless. All it takes is imagination and a little effort on your part. Reach out to us and we will help you! Thanks so much!

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 March 2017 Washington Volunteer is Monday, February 20, 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@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: Vacant

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: Vacant

Vice President-Social Media: Vacant

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