

THE WASHINGTON VOLUNTEER

PUGET SOUND CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

WWW.PSCWRT.ORG

MAY 2017

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, May 11, 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

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

Reservations are MANDATORY and be in by 12 NOON on Tuesday, May 9, 2017.

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



MAJOR GENERAL JOHN HEMPHILL WILL DISCUSS THE HONOR AND DISHONOR OF MAJOR GRANVILLE HALLER.

An Army "fair haired boy" in the Mexican War, Haller continued after the Mexican campaigns as a stellar officer in Washington Territory. In the Civil War, Haller was the Headquarters Commandant for Major General George McClellan and stayed on after McClellan was fired. Highly loyal to McClellan, Haller offered a toast to the General at a party. When this was reported, Haller was cashiered from the Army for sedition. Haller and his wife returned to Puget Sound. Ten years after the Civil War, he was exonerated by Congress, and returned to the Army as a colonel commanding a regiment. After Haller retired from the Army, he was known with his wife as Seattle's first couple of First Hill. **General Hemphill** graduated from West Point in 1951 and was commissioned in Infantry. His first assignment was in the 11th Airborne Division followed by the 7th Infantry Division in the Korean War. In the Vietnam War, General Hemphill commanded an Infantry battalion and brigade. He was the last parachute brigade commander in the 101st Airborne Division. His combat decorations include the Distinguished Service Cross, two Silver Star Medals, two Distinguished Flying Crosses, 3 Bronze Stars for Valor; 2 Bronze Stars, 3 Purple Heart Medals, 20 Air Medals, and two foreign decorations Silver Star equivalents. In addition, he has both the

Defense and Army Distinguished Service Medals, Defense Superior Service Medal, four Legion of Merits, Meritorious Service Medal and two Army Commendation Medals.

IMPORTANT DISPATCHES

ANNUAL AUCTION A GREAT SUCCESS!!!

By Mark R. Terry

Thanks to all of you who came to our April meeting and contributed to the Annual Auction! I don't have numbers from previous years, but I would venture to say that this was our most successful auction to date. Lifetime Member John Hinds who has retired to Texas jumpstarted the donations by sending us a check for \$500! In his letter, he wrote the following,

“Sent in memory of the Tioga, Pennsylvania “Mountaineers”- the men- mostly boys- of Company B, 101st Pa. Veteran Volunteer Infantry, AKA the Plymouth NC Pilgrims.”

Here are the results of the auction, per the report of Jeff Rombauer, Treasurer:

Donations	\$2,531.00
Live Auction	842.00
Silent Auction	<u>611.00</u>
	\$3,984.00

Credit must be given to Stephen Pierce, who gracefully volunteered to be the coordinator when no one else would. Also, our MC and Auctioneer Dick Miller, who came up with the idea to ask for donations during the live auction. He began by asking for \$200 donations, then \$100 and so on, so that everyone could contribute what they could afford. It was those donations, primed by John Hinds' and his \$500 that really pushed the total to almost \$4,000! Thank you all for your generosity and commitment to the Puget Sound Civil War Round Table!!!

May and Summer Birthdays

Happy Birthday to all of our members who celebrate theirs from May through August! Since we don't have any meetings during the summer, we didn't want you to be forgotten. By the way, if your birthday is not listed, be sure to contact the newsletter editor. Thanks!

May

Richard Dickson
Larry Johnson
Donald Larson
Mike Leopold
Steve Murphy
Bob Woolworth, Jr.
Ned Noel
Janice Olson

June

Sandra Crain
Patrick S. Henry
John Hough

July

Steve Olsen
Gary Preston
Anne Terrell
Paul Timmerman

August

Larry Jilbert
Greg Marshall
Dick Miller
Cynthia Wilson

NEWS AND PROJECTS

Schedule of Programs for 2017-2018 Released!

Another exciting year of speakers and topics has been put together by Pat Brady, Vice-President of Programming. Here is the schedule of speakers for the 2017-2018 Season of the Puget Sound Civil War Round Table. It will be our 33rd year as an organization. The list includes the date, the speaker(s) and the subject matter. The full description of each month's program will be released in the August 2017 Washington Volunteer. Thank you, Pat, for putting together another fine group of presentations once more!

SEPTEMBER 14, 2017 Richard W. Etulain, "**Abraham Lincoln and the American West**"

OCTOBER 12, 2017 Wayne Wei-Siang Hsieh, "**Civil War and the Origins of Modern Warfare**"

NOVEMBER 9, 2017 Richard A. Hanks "**Vermont's Proper Son: The Letters of Soldier and Scholar Edwin Hall Higley, 1861-1871**"

DECEMBER 14, 2017 Professor Lesley J. Gordon, "**A Broken Regiment: The 16th Connecticut's Civil War**"

JANUARY 11, 2018 John McKay, "**Civil War and Civil Liberties--A Painful Legacy?**"

FEBRUARY 8, 2018 Karen Meador, "**The Fort Steilacoom to Fort Bellingham Road**"

MARCH 8, 2018 **Short Topics:**

- 1) Jeff McLaughlin, "**Daniel Joseph McLaughlin, 17th Wisconsin Infantry**"
- 2) Nick Adams, "**Away at War: A Civil War Story of the Family Left Behind**"
- 3) Ed Malles, "**Jackson in the Shenandoah and McClellan on the Peninsula, 1862**"
- 4) Lou Berquest, "**Letters of Francis Bergqvist, 4th Minnesota Infantry**"

APRIL 12, 2018 Rick Solomon, "**Longstreet's Winter of Discontent, 1863-1864**"

MAY 10, 2018 Stephen Murphy, "**The Perfect Scout, the story of George Quimby, a scout for Sherman**"

Puget Sound Civil War Round Table Speakers Bureau

By Steve Clayton, VP-Partnerships

We are pleased to reintroduce/revitalize the PSCWRT Speakers Bureau! The goal of the Speakers Bureau is to have more public awareness of the PSCWRT thereby attracting more members to our organization. We hope to accomplish this goal by having PSCWRT authors/speakers go out to venues that we can find to speak on topics they know best.

Listed below are several of our talented members who have volunteered to participate in the PSCWRT Speakers Bureau so far: Pat Brady, Ed Malles, Richard “Dick” Miller, Jeff McLaughlin and Nick Adams. We know there are others of you out there who have a special interest in the Civil War- even some who have done presentations for us. Please contact me with your name and topics and we will see if we can get you on the list.

Meanwhile, I am working with and coordinating locations, dates and times with some of the local library systems in the Puget Sound area. Let me know if you have ideas for other venues which may be interested in having a presentation about the American Civil War.

Dues Schedule Simplified

By Mike Movius

The board voted online unanimously on February 9, 2017 to simplify the dues structure to \$25 per year for individuals. Currently, dues for individuals is \$20, and \$25 for couples. The board is interested in expanding meeting attendance to spouses. The dues increase will not affect 40% of the members who already are paying at the somewhat higher rate.

In addition, with the advent of the Behind the Lines initiative, there will be more opportunities for spouses to participate in areas that do not include strategy and tactics, order of battle and/or foolish military leaders.

Editor’s Note: That last paragraph will make my wife Kim happy!

FEATURED ARTICLE

Decoding the Civil War: Tech unlocks Union Telegrams

By Rob Verger

Published September 28, 2016 FoxNews.com

<http://www.foxnews.com/tech/2016/09/28/decoding-civil-war-tech-unlocks-union-telegrams.html>

Today we use our digital devices to text, tweet, and email, but during the Civil War, telegrams were deployed to do things like [request artillery](#) or even to say “[We have met with a serious disaster.](#)” Now, a new project is bringing thousands of telegrams that carried information between Union officers, Abraham Lincoln, and his cabinet into the digital age.

The work is being done by “citizen archivists” on the Zooniverse website, which is a place for the public to help with large projects that need crowdsourcing, like identifying animals captured by cameras on the [Serengeti](#).

The fascinating trove of documents came to the Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens in 2012, and contains almost 16,000 telegrams. Many were written in code, which remained unbroken by the Confederates throughout the war, according to the Huntington.

“The archive was thought to have been destroyed after the war and includes crucial correspondence that has never been published,” the Huntington explained in a [statement](#). “Among the materials are 35 manuscript ledger books of telegrams sent and received by the War Department, including more than 100 communiques from Lincoln himself.”

Volunteers who log onto Decoding the Civil War to help transcribe the archive might see a page from a codebook; one line, for example, contains the typed words “Republic” and “Refute” with the handwritten phrase “Secretary of State” written in between them. A volunteer could also see the contents of a telegram or the cover image of a book.

The project, launched on June 20, is 47 percent complete, according to a [statistics page](#) for the project, and nearly 45,000 classifications have been made.

Lucy Fortson, a founding member of Zooniverse and an associate professor at the University of Minnesota, said in an email to FoxNews.com that a third of the telegrams are "retired" because a consensus has formed on what they say.

Now, she said, the development team has moved on to "phase 2," which is "the actual decoding step in which we will ask the volunteers to assist in locating coded segments of the telegrams and identifying the codebook that may hold the key to the decryption."

"We are really looking forward to seeing many of these telegrams decoded for the first time ever and discovering any secrets they may contain about the Civil War," she added.

Feel like reading dispatches penned over 150 years ago? Head over to [Decoding the Civil War](#).

Here is the link: <https://www.zooniverse.org/projects/zooniverse/decoding-the-civil-war>

Follow Rob Verger on Twitter: [@robverger](#)

EDITOR’S NOTE: This online article was first sent to me by member Richard Kerr back in November 2016. PLEASE NOTE that the project is still going on. If you want to be in on it, go to the link above. Looks very interesting!



THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Behind the Lines – Coming to Life

By Mike Movius

Over the last year, we have struggled to take the first steps in creating a ladies' forum for PSCWRT. But now, we are nearly ready to begin marketing. On **Thursday, September 21st at 6:30 p.m. in the Bellevue Public Library**, we will be hosting Joanne Rajoppi who will be our first speaker. Joanne is the author of "Northern Women in the Aftermath of the Civil War: The Wives and Daughters of the Brunswick Boys.



Briefly, Northern Women tells the story of the perseverance and stamina of women facing an altered world, many of whom were confronted by widowhood, burdened with returning soldiers addicted to alcoholism or drugs, or strained by the care of men suffering from post-traumatic stress. The story of the Hamilton family relates the legacy as well as the dreams and hopes that these women left their children in the context of a rapidly evolving America – the new Federal pension system, the westward migration, industrialization and the start of the modern business culture – all of which opened new careers for women leading to their eventual emancipation at the start of the twentieth century.

Steve Clayton, VP of Partnerships, has developed a nice working relationship with the King County Library System and Jeff Kempe, Adult Services Coordinator. Jeff is working with his staff to develop marketing tools to assist in bringing interested women to Ms. Rajoppi's presentation.

If all goes well, we hope to hold the Behind the Lines forum at least twice a year. Although we will ask attendees to become members of the round table, we expect that their interests will be other than battlefield military strategy. We hope that you will all attend, and invite friends to do so as well.

BEHIND THE LINES **LADIES FORUM**

A Study of 19th Century America

THE LAST WORD

“When does one stop being a ‘Civil War buff’ and become a ‘Civil War nut’?”

By Mark R. Terry



Courtesy of Robert Caudle of The American Civil War Facebook Group.

The title is the caption for the cartoon above. Just thought I'd end the 2016-17 PSCWRT season in a lighthearted way. But it really is an interesting question to consider. Does our love of Civil War history ever go away? I was bitten by the “bug” at the age of seven and a half in a Los Angeles suburb in 1966. When did it happen to you? Yes, there was a time in my life when it was diminished by college and sports, but gradually it returned full bore a few years later. In 1993 I started participating in Civil War reenacting. You have to be a “nut” to do that. The following year, Kim and I were invited to a meeting of the Puget Sound Civil War Round Table. We've been members ever since. I guess that suffices as well. What's scary about the cartoon is that I have a room in our house that looks very much like that!

Thank you everyone for a very successful CWRT season in 2016-2017. It can't be said enough that without the support and participation of our members, the PSCWRT would not exist. Many of you have “gone the extra mile” to take the time, effort, energy and expense to do special projects. Others have volunteered to help with special events such as the Annual Auction. If we took the time to name everyone, it would fill several pages, and even then we'd probably miss someone.

Lastly, I want to thank the PSCWRT Board for all of the work they have done this year to promote the Round Table and to improve what we do. No group or organization succeeds without great leadership, and I believe we have that. Even so, YOU are invited to join the board or a standing committee if you want to make the PSCWRT even better going forward.

Have a wonderful summer and we will see you in September!!!

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 September 2017 Washington Volunteer is Monday, August 28, 2017. Please have it in Mark Terry's hands via email or USPS by then. Thank you!

2016-2017 OFFICERS

Elected:*

President: Mike Movius, president@pscwr.org

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

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

Treasurer: Jeff Rombauer, jeffrombauer@foxinternet.com

Secretary: Douglas Galuszka, dhgaluszka@aol.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

Vice President-Social Media: Mike Movius, webmaster@pscwr.org

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