

THE WASHINGTON VOLUNTEER

PUGET SOUND CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

WWW.PSCWRT.ORG

OCTOBER 2017
VOLUME 33, ISSUE 2

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, October 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

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

Reservations are MANDATORY and be in by 12 NOON on Tuesday, October 10, 2017.

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



WAYNE WEI-SIANG HSIEH, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF HISTORY, UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY, WILL DISCUSS THE CIVIL WAR AND THE ORIGINS OF MODERN WARFARE.

Professor Hsieh is the co-author of *A Savage War: A Military History of the Civil War* and author of *West Pointers and the Civil War*, and many articles and essays. Detailed to the State Department in 2008-09, he served as the senior civilian US Government official assigned to the Tuz district of Iraq, where he worked on ethnic political issues. *A Savage War* evaluates the strategies of the key leaders, the different cultures of the major

armies, the turn to “hard war” and attrition by 1864, and many other issues. Professor Hsieh’s talk will consider the connections between *A Savage War* and recent American wars.

IMPORTANT DISPATCHES

History Walk- Saturday, October 14, 2017

By Steve Clayton

PSCWRT is sponsoring our first History Walk at Calvary Catholic Cemetery, 5041 35th Ave. NE, Seattle, Washington 98105. It will begin at 10 a.m. and conclude around 11:30 a.m.

The walk will be led by Superintendent Martin Murphy. Mr. Murphy is a native Seattleite, and a UW graduate. He very knowledgeable concerning Seattle history and people interred at Calvary Cemetery and is eager to share his knowledge. He will talk about Civil War Veterans including one who served on the Monitor and other prominent Seattleites interred at this cemetery. Calvary Cemetery is one of the oldest cemeteries in Seattle having been established in 1889. This event is free and open to the public. Please bring a friend and join us for this special event.

EDITOR'S NOTE: For the past several years, field trips have been taken to local Civil War related sites. The History Walks may be a way of extending those trips, as there are many historical cemeteries in the Puget Sound area.

A CIVIL WAR CHRISTMAS: AN AMERICAN MUSICAL CELEBRATION

Written by Paula Vogel | Music by Daryl Waters

Taproot Theater Company presentation, November 22nd to December 30th.

Jewell Mainstage 204 N 85th St. Seattle, WA 98103

This event was shared with the PSCWRT by Jeff Rombauer. It is being mentioned in the newsletter now because tickets will go on sale starting on October 3rd. Here is the description from the website:

It's a bitterly cold Christmas Eve on the banks of the Potomac River where the lives of abolitionists, assassins, soldiers, enslaved and free are woven together in an American tapestry. In their darkest hour, when peace seems impossible, the promise of Christmas breaks through despair in this musical celebration of compassion and hope by Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Paula Vogel. More details at:

<http://taproottheatre.org/shows/2017/a-civil-war-christmas-an-american-musical-celebration/>

October Birthdays

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

Sallie Coats
Matthew Ford
Steve Garratt
Dennis Hess

Richard H. Kerr
Connie Pierce
Fred Wilmoth

NEWS AND PROJECTS

“Bring A Friend” Initiative

By Nick K. Adams

I think it would be fair to say that all of us want our Round Table to be a success. One important part of success is continued membership growth.

As a way to help accomplish that growth-goal, your Board has adopted a year-long process we've called “Bring A Friend.” It comes from our belief that marketing our message on a personal, individual, friend-based level may well enable that desired expansion of our membership and influence in our extended community.

The process – and expectation – is simple: we are asking every member to bring one friend to one meeting this year. That's it! And your friend can either be a totally new visitor, or a former active member. But let's increase our attendance just this little bit at every meeting!

We will encourage each guest to share his or her interest in the American Civil War as a way of drawing them in. And we'll reward each guest-bringer with a “Hero Ribbon” to attach to their name tag, declaring them a “VIP.” Two of those have already been awarded – to Malcom and Nick – and it will be great to see who else earns that honorific at our October meeting!

Remember: Each member, one guest, at one meeting! We can do this!

Nick K. Adams, V.P. and VIP

PSCWRT Resolution for a Monument to Honor African-Americans at Gettysburg

By Mark Terry

At the board meeting that took place on August 14th, VP Secretary Doug Galuszka brought forth a proposal *“that statues to African-American participants in the Battle of Gettysburg be erected on the battlefield to commemorate their significant contributions to the operational capabilities of the Army of the Potomac and the Army of Northern Virginia, and to the larger war efforts”*. The proposal was unanimously agreed to by the board members present. Here is the rest of the proposal:

WHEREAS, The Gettysburg National Military Park holds a unique place in American society as it commemorates a decisive battle and honors those soldiers who sacrificed to preserve the Union and the Constitution and the role the park played in the healing of the nation in the decades following Reconstruction. It is a shrine to the strength of our Republic and the diversity of its people.

Whereas, There are thousands of monuments and markers on the Gettysburg battlefield in remembrance of individuals, units, and events that involved the 160,000 white men who fought as soldiers. There is no monument to African-Americans and their efforts.

Whereas, African-Americans, and their social status in America, were at the very heart of the Civil War. African-Americans played a large and decisive role in the war, initially as teamsters, farriers, cooks, laborers, and servants in both armies, but by 1863, as Union Soldiers. Over 180,000 black men served as Union soldiers by wars end. Their heroics helped ensure the passage of the 13th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States abolishing slavery.

Whereas, While Gettysburg has approximately 1.2 million visitors a year, only a small fraction of them are African-Americans. It is probable that the African-American community does not feel the same connection to Gettysburg as do other Americans, since that role has largely been ignored. This was by design since the goal in the past was sectional reconciliation. Nonetheless, it is appropriate now to acknowledge and commemorate the contributions of African-Americans at Gettysburg.

Whereas, It is estimated that 6,000 to 10,000 enslaved black men served in the Army of Northern Virginia as teamsters, farriers, and laborers and another 6,000 to 10,000 were servants to individuals and units; the African-American contribution was vital to the logistical support of General Robert E. Lee's army as he could have never invaded Pennsylvania without their efforts. They freed white men to serve in the ranks by filling logistical roles.

Whereas, The Army of the Potomac had free black men working throughout its logistical trains and in camps as servants. It is estimated that 8,000 to 10,000 served as teamsters, alone.

Whereas, It is therefore possible that over 30,000 African-Americans participated in the Battle of Gettysburg. They were an integral part of both armies and their participation has been all but forgotten.

Whereas, Gettysburg should be a shrine for all Americans. The contribution of African-Americans at Gettysburg must be recognized. The proper way to recognize them is directly on the Gettysburg Battlefield with commemorative statues and monuments; to do it properly bronze and stone are required.

Whereas, It is now part of the National Park Services mission to include the African-American experience at Civil War sites, but at Gettysburg, this has not yet led to a monument for African-Americans. Statues would be a huge step forward in helping modern day African-Americans understand and feel connected to the war, the battle, the remarkable battlefield park, and its symbolism in America.

RESOLVED, By the Executive Board of Directors of the Puget Sound Civil War Roundtable that an effort shall be made to enlist the support of Civil War Preservation

Organizations, the National Park Service, Veterans Service Organizations, Civil Rights Associations, corporations, and political leaders, to gain permission to erect African-American commemorative statues on the Battlefield of Gettysburg and organize a committee to raise money for the creation of these statues and to develop a proper design for them.

RESOLVED, That there should be two statues: one on Cemetery Ridge in Zeigler's Grove to commemorate the free blacks Americans working on behalf of the Union army and one on Seminary Ridge north of the Virginia Memorial to commemorate enslaved blacks working for the Confederate army.

RESOLVED, That it is suggested that the subject for the Union army free black man statue could be a farrier holding a horse shoe and hammer who is standing and looking toward Seminary Ridge longing to join in the battle for freedom. It is further suggested that the subject for the Confederate enslaved black man statue could be a teamster holding a bridle and harness who is standing and looking toward Cemetery Ridge, and the Union Army, and freedom.

RESOLVED, That this endeavor should be completed and the statues in place in time for the 160th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg in July of 2023.

Needless to say, this proposal has a long way to go to make it a reality, but given the current climate regarding historical monuments and markers, the proposed statues would help to shine a much needed light on the contributions of African-Americans during the Civil War.

FEATURED ARTICLES

Recommendations for additional reading on the Speaker's Topic By Jeff Rombauer

The Civil War was not yet a year old when the first histories of the conflict were being written. Some authors worried the war would end before they could finish writing, others that it would last too long. Literary critics charged that authors should wait until more sources could be consulted. Some authors complained that there was too much information available. After 150 years and tens of thousands of books the problem that the current reader is faced with is what should he read. For beginners, there are dozens of one volume histories of the war to choose from. Beside the clear, well written study co-authored by this month's speaker, the following works [published since 2000] are recommended to our members.

WEIGLEY, RUSSELL F. *A Great Civil War: A Military and Political History 1861-1865*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2000. Pp. xxviii, 612.
A respected military historian, Weigley work analyzes the relation between the political and military spheres of the conflict.

EICHER, DAVID J. *The Longest Night: A Military History of the Civil War*. New York: Simon and Schuster, 2001. Pp. 990.

This massive study has been well praised by numerous reviewers as “engrossing”, “lucid and logical.”

WILLIAMS, DAVID. *A People’s History of the Civil War: Struggles for the Meaning of Freedom*. New York: The New Press, 2005. Pp. xii, 594.

An unusual civil war history, Williams offers “the first account” of the conflict through the eyes of common people.

OLSON, CHRISTOPHER J. *The American Civil War: A Hands-on History*. New York: Hill and Wang, 2006. Pp. xvi, 286.

A general history of the civil war era with each chapter followed by documents from the period.

STOUT, HARRY S. *Upon the Altar of the Nation: A Moral History of the Civil War*. New York: Viking, 2006. Pp. xxii, 552.

“Drawing from wartime letters, church sermons, newspapers, diaries and art,” the author tries to answer the question “Was the Civil War a just war?”

NELSON, SCOTT & SHERIFF, CAROL. *A People at War: Civilians and Soldiers in America’s Civil War*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2007. Pp. xii, 372.

A comprehensive social history of the Civil War and Reconstruction.

GUELZO, ALLEN C. *Fateful Lightning: A New History of the Civil War & Reconstruction*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2012. Pp. x, 575.

Noted Lincoln scholar Guelzo covers not only “the major figures and epic battles but also politics, religion, gender, race, diplomacy and technology”

THE PRESIDENT’S CORNER

The “Color Bearer” Initiative

By Mike Movius

Last month, I told you about the initiatives that came out of our planning retreat. This month, I’m providing an in-depth explanation of how we believe the Color Bearer program will work on behalf of PSCWRT and those interested in expanding their experiential horizons.

For the past five years in November, we have held a PRESERVATION MONTH. That typically has been when I auction off a variety of souvenirs that I have purchased during my visits to Civil War sites. The board of directors has more recently been adding in a couple hundred dollars to the funds generated through the auction. This year, we have \$400 to donate to the Civil War Trust (CWT).

This year we also have between \$100 and \$150 from the funds collected for the CWRT Congress, for a total just over \$500. That means that we only need to generate another \$500 to donate \$1,000 for PSCWRT to become a Brigade Color Bearer with the CWT. To learn more

about the Color Bearer program, click this link:
<https://www.civilwar.org/give/membership/color-bearer>

All that said, this is how we envision the way forward.

Color Bearers are the glue that holds the CWT together, so they are treated to exclusive activities. There are three Color Bearer events every year sponsored by the CWT:

- The Color Bearer Thank You Weekend in Greenville, SC February 9-11, 2018
- Annual Conference in Newport News, VA May 30-June 2, 2018
- The Grand Review in Franklin, TN October 12-14, 2018.

Since PSCWRT will become a Brigade Color Bearer, we will receive two tickets for each event. We intend to parley those tickets into a self-sustaining means of continuously donating \$1,000 to CWRT.

In November, we will ask who is interested in attending each of the conference opportunities. Those who are interested, will be asked to donate \$50 for each ticket (those wanting to go as a couple should donate \$100) to the preservation treasury. (Remember we are a 501(c)3, not-for-profit corporation and all donations are tax deductible.)

A drawing will then be made to determine the winner. Should the winner want to sell one or both tickets, there will be a requirement that the proceeds from that sale will be shared 50/50 with the preservation treasury.

So, for example, if three people are interested in going to the Color Bearer event, they will donate a total of \$300 to the preservation treasury. The winner is selected, and decides to auction off one ticket. If that ticket sells for \$100, the winner keeps \$50 and the preservation treasury gets \$50. Now, the preservation treasury has \$350. And, there are two more future events with tickets that year.

We will entertain questions at the upcoming and subsequent meetings.

THE LAST WORD

Initiatives & A Monument

By Mark R. Terry

Hopefully, if you've gotten this far in reading this month's edition of the Washington Volunteer, you've seen the word "initiative" several times. Although there are several definitions for the word, in this case it can best be described as an **action to make something happen**. That "something" is three-fold:

1. Find ways to increase membership in the PSCWRT
2. Retain current membership in the PSCWRT and
3. Increase fundraising for the PSCWRT so that it can fulfill the mission of the organization

It was through these goals that the board members and RT members who attended whittled down the initiatives that President Mike Movius described briefly in last month's newsletter. Now that the season

has begun we need to better describe what those initiatives are and how they can help reach the goals mentioned. I hope you will read through the ones communicated in this issue. Thank you!

Believe it or not, it has been only about six weeks since the events that took place at Charlottesville, Virginia catapulted the issue of Confederate Monuments and Memorials to the forefront of the national consciousness. Given the fact that our group is well educated about the history of the Civil War and that many of us have ancestors on one or both sides of the conflict, I am sure you all have an opinion about them.

My opinion is only one of many, but rather than just giving it, I'd like to show how one recent act of vandalism in a place far from Seattle has affected me. It took place within the Indian Mound Cemetery, a private cemetery in Romney, West Virginia. During the night/early morning of September 15/16, 2017, the monument was vandalized by unknown people, who spray painted the monument with black paint and the words "REPARATIONS NOW". It might have been timed to coincide with the commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the dedication.

The monument has an interesting history. In the early spring of 1866, very soon after the war, a group of citizens from Hampshire County, WV, formed an association to raise funds to erect a monument to honor the dead soldiers from their county- their relatives and friends- who had given their lives in defense of the South during the Civil War. Even though they feared retribution from Federal authorities, they nevertheless went forward with the project, and on September 26, 1867- almost exactly 150 years ago- the monument was dedicated. The monument may have been the first Confederate monument raised after the war, so in that way it is also historical.

I found a Hampshire County history which listed all the names inscribed on the memorial, including that of my 3rd Great Uncle, George W. Ruckman, who was a private in Co. I, 13th Virginia Infantry. During the Battle of Gaines Mill, June 27, 1862, George was KIA. To my knowledge, his body was not recovered. If he has a grave, it is not marked with his name.



So for me the whole matter hit home- I was sad and angry that vandals would do their "work" in a privately-owned cemetery where the monument was erected in remembrance of their loved ones.

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: \$25 per individual or 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 November 2017 Washington Volunteer is Monday, October 23, 2017. Please have it in Mark Terry's hands via email or snailmail by then. Thank you!

2017-2018 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

Secretary: Douglas Galuszka

Vice-President-Programming: Pat Brady, patsbrady@comcast.net

Vice-President- Membership: Vacant

Vice-President- Marketing: Vacant

Vice-President- Partnerships: Steve Clayton, cpscclayton@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.*