

THE WASHINGTON VOLUNTEER

PUGET SOUND CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

WWW.PSCWRT.ORG

NOVEMBER 2017

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NEXT MEETING: Thursday, November 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.

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, November 7, 2017.

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



RICHARD A. HANKS WILL DISCUSS THE BOOK HE EDITED, *VERMONT'S PROPER SON: THE LETTERS OF SOLDIER AND SCHOLAR EDWIN HALL HIGLEY, 1861-1871.*

Higley served as a lieutenant with the 1st Vermont Cavalry, Army of the Potomac, 1861-1865. Mr. Hanks has taught American History and Native American Studies at community colleges, and is the author of *This War Is for a Whole Life: The Culture of Resistance among Southern*

California Indians, 1850-1866.

IMPORTANT DISPATCHES

NOVEMBER IS PRESERVATION MONTH

By Mark R. Terry

Every year we focus on the preservation of Civil War battlefields and sites during the month of November. Why do we do this? Because we have a passion for the American Civil War, and we feel it is important to preserve the places where important battles and events relating to the war

took place. Overall, the most effective organization for preservation is the Civil War Trust, or CWT. Like any organization that seeks donations for their cause, the CWT reward those who give at a higher level. For years, the PSCWRT has given to the CWT, but only in small amounts. In August, the PSCWRT Board met and decided to increase our giving and thus our rewards by becoming a CWT “Color Bearer”. What does this mean?

1. It means the PSCWRT will get exposure in the Civil War preservation community at a national level. Our organization will be listed among other “Color Bearers” who give at the \$1,000 per year level.
2. Each Color Bearer gets two passes to three CWT events per year:
Color Bearer Thank You Weekend- Greenville, SC, Feb. 9-11, 2018
Annual Conference- Newport News, VA, May 30-June 2, 2018
Grand Review- Franklin, TN, October 12-14, 2018
Each one of these events will include battlefield or CW site tours.
3. At the November meeting, the Round Table will hold a drawing for these passes to those members who pay \$50 per pass to be in on the drawing. All monies collected will go towards the total payment to the CWT. Since the Round Table has already authorized \$300 to go towards the CWT, this shouldn’t be a problem if members are motivated.
4. Winners can also choose to sell their tickets with the proceeds then going 50/50 to them and the Round Table

Mike Movius will still have items to auction off for preservation as he always has.

Beyond that, if you aren’t a member of the CWT, you might consider joining. Personally, I have been a member since 1991- even before I joined the PSCWRT. I realized how much of a responsibility I have to help preserve those places we hold dear for those who will come after we are gone.

Remember to bring your checkbook & THANK YOU in advance for your generosity! Also remember that what you give is tax-deductible. That is another reason we do this in November.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Panel Discussion: “How Statues and Memorials Interpret Our Shared History” November 30, 2017, 7 p.m., Ames Library, SPU Campus

By Rick Solomon

On Thursday, November 30, 2017, at 7 pm with the program starting at 7:30 pm at Seminar Room 1, Ames Library, Seattle Pacific University, will be a four-person panel entitled “How Statues and Memorials Interpret Our Shared History”. Memorials and statues represent our greatest heroes but also memorialize great social failures. Join a panel of local historians for a conversation about the role of statues in both constructing our past, and engaging our

present. Together we will grapple with the challenge of memorializing painful pasts and look at the ways that people have responded to statues differently over time. On the panel are Robert Spaulding, author of a forthcoming book from WSU Press on statues and memorials in Seattle; Stephanie Toothman, recently retired as Associate Director for Cultural Resources, Partnerships and Science for the National Park Service; Felix Banel, writer and producer for KIRO Radio, where he hosts a weekly news feature focused on local history; and Rick Solomon, past president of the Puget Sound Civil War Roundtable, who has given numerous presentations especially on Confederate generals. Admission is free and open to the public.



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. 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/>

November Birthdays

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

Keith Clark

Doug Galuszka

Suzanne Hahn

John Hinds

Garth Holmes

Andrew Howard

James Kenney

David Palmer

Daniel Shields

Bruce Terrell

George Yokum

NEWS AND PROJECTS

Condolences to PSCWRT Member Clarke V. Harrison in the passing of his wife, Patricia Ann Harrison.

By Mark R. Terry

I regret having to pass along the news that Patricia Ann Harrison, wife of Clarke Harrison passed away on May 13, 2017. Clarke, a past president of the Round Table, had been active with the PSCWRT for many years. Some years back, Clarke and Pat decided to move back to Connecticut to be closer to family.

More recently, Mike Movius and Malcolm Garber teamed up with Clarke and Pat at the Lincoln Forum back east and spent quality time together and with other Lincoln scholars. Pat, a former Librarian in the King County Library System was instrumental in guiding our partnerships with the KCLS, and we are very grateful to her. Unfortunately, we didn't realize this had taken place until just recently. The board has sent Clarke a sympathy card, but if you would like to contact Clarke yourself, please let a board member know. Our condolences to Clarke and all of his extended family.

FEATURED ARTICLES

Recommendations for additional reading on the Speaker's Topic: Vermont and the Civil War

By Jeff Rombauer

At the start of the Civil War, Vermont ranked only 28th out of 32 states in size with a population of 315,098. Out of that population a total of 34,555 men served in the Union forces during the war, or about 25% of the male population of the state. 5,224 Vermont servicemen died while enlisted, almost half from disease. Vermont provided 17 regiments of infantry, 3 companies of sharpshooters, 3 light artillery batteries and 1 cavalry regiment. Vermont soldiers saw action in all major engagements in the Eastern Theater of operations, and also in Louisiana. Unlike World War 1 and World War 2, soldier's mail was not censored by federal authorities. Consequently numerous soldiers wrote to their home town newspapers, as well as family and friends about life in camp, campaigning and battles. Like *Vermont's Proper Son*, these primary sources provide key insight into the Civil War Era. Listed below are some additional primary sources from Vermont Soldiers.

Anti-Rebel: The Civil War Letters of Wilbur Fisk. Croton-on-Hudson: Emil Rosenblatt, 1983. Pp v, 361.

Almost 100 letters written by a private in Co. E, 2nd Vermont to the Green Mountain Freeman Covering his nearly 4 years of service in the Eastern Theater. Reprinted in 1992 by the University Press of Kansas under the title *Hard Marching Every Day*

Diary of a Christian Soldier: Rufus Kinsley and the Civil War. David C. Rankin. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2004. Pp. xxi, 281.

Kinsley was a member of the 8th Vermont Infantry which saw service in Louisiana. In 1863 He became an officer of a black regiment.

Letters to Vermont from Her Civil War Soldier Correspondents to the Home Press. Donald H. Wickman editor. Bennington: Images from the Past, 1998. Pp. 2 volumes.

Numerous letters to the Rutland Weekly Herald by 13 different soldier correspondents concerning their regiments' civil war service.

A Vermont Cavalryman in War and Love: The Civil War Letters of Brevet Major General William Wells and Anna Richardson. Edited by Elliott W. Hoffman. Schroeder Publications, 2007. Pp. xxxii, 543

These letters cover the career of William Wells who rose from a private to the command of a brigade.

Quite Ready to be Sent Somewhere: The Civil War Letters of Aldace Freeman Walker. Edited by Tom Ledoux. Victoria: Trafford, 2002. Pp. 400.

Walker, a young officer in the 11th Vermont, wrote hundreds of letters covering his service in the defenses of Washington and in the Army of the Potomac.

A War of the People: Vermont Civil War Letters. Edited by Jeffrey D. Marshall. Hanover: University Press of New England, 1999. Pp. xviii, 357.

Letters selected from the Vermont Historical Society collection of over 3,500 in their collection. Excellent letters cover all phases of the war.

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Puget Sound Civil War Round Table Member Award

By Mike Movius

One of the things that successful volunteer organizations do is to recognize the contributions of members. The PSCWRT occasionally does so informally, but to date (at least in the last 10 years) we have neglected this aspect of organizational life.

During the last online meeting of the Board of Directors, we voted to remedy that situation. The board decided to annually honor the contributions of one member at the May meeting. Contributions to be considered can consist of presentations, work to further the reputation of the Round Table preservation work or something else. Although the criteria hasn't been definitively defined at this point, I think we can all understand the purpose.

Here's a quick FAQ:

Who will make the determination?

It seems to make sense to have a core committee consisting of immediate past PSCWRT presidents (Rick Solomon, David Palmer, Dick Miller and Mark Terry) plus one member at-large.

Why one at-large member?

Usually, it is a good idea to have an odd number of Amy group tapped to make a decision. Five members should go a long way to avoid a deadlock. We are also interested in having more members become involved, not just the usually suspects.

What will the award be?

We will allow the selection committee to make that determination. Civil War organizations usually present a framed picture with the recipient's name, the name fo the award and the date engraved on an attached plate. Or, it could be something completely different. Either way, it should properly represent the recipient's contributions, those for which the award is named and the PSCWRT.

What will the name of the award?

The board thought it would be fitting to name the award after John Hinds and/or Thomas Pressly. So, it could become the Hinds-Pressly Award or the Pressly-Hinds Award. Either way, the committee will need to obtain permission before a name can be used for this purpose.

Will there be a dollar limit?

Frankly, that hasn't been addressed. However, I'm sure we can rely on the selection committee, based on their past performance, to make an appropriate decision about a fitting cost.

THE LAST WORD

Editor: As the editor of the Washington Volunteer, this is the space I reserve to share my thoughts about Civil War-related things. Given the fact that it is our annual Preservation Month, I thought it would be appropriate to allow Jim Lighthizer, President of the CWT to have the floor. This is an editorial he wrote for the Fall 2017 issue of the Hallowed Ground, the journal of the Civil War Trust, dated September 21, 2017

A message from Jim Lighthizer, Civil War Trust President

From the beginning of the modern battlefield preservation movement, it has been the charge of the Civil War Trust and its predecessors to preserve American battlefields to educate the public about what happened on these Hallowed Grounds and the ongoing significance of those events. Battlefields are outdoor classrooms, teaching young and old alike about the sacrifices made during our nation's turbulent first century to secure the precious freedoms we enjoy today.

Battlefields are where crucial chapters of the American story were written, where ordinary citizens — farmers, merchants and laborers — displayed extraordinary valor. The United States is the oldest and most successful democratic republic in the world, thanks to the sacrifices made by these citizen soldiers. We see the battlefields on which they fought as living memorials to all Americans who have honorably served in our armed forces.

It is, however, a different kind of memorial that has been in the news recently, as debate has intensified over the role of Confederate monuments in our modern society. Hate groups have attempted to utilize some of these statues as gathering places to promote despicable and long discredited ideologies, displaying violence and intolerance that have no place in this great nation.

It is vital for the future of our country that Americans understand the full scope of our nation's complex story. Our history — both good and bad, heroic and shameful — shaped who we are as Americans today. Thus, history education is a foundation of good citizenship and a key ingredient in developing the leaders of tomorrow. Professional historians frequently caution against the tendency to look at historical events solely through a contemporary prism — when judged against modernity and contemporary values, it is the rare historical personality or era that is not found wanting.

As students of history, you know that these monuments are not monolithic. They were commissioned at various times, by various individuals and groups, for a variety of reasons. Each was specifically designed for its community and context. While some were erected as political statements, many more were intended as a locus for collective grief as an entire community mourned its fallen sons — an instinct as common after the Civil War as it is today with veterans of World War II and other conflicts of the last 70 years.

Accordingly, we see monuments and memorials — especially those on America's battlefields— as educational tools for teaching valuable lessons about national, and local, history. Given that perspectives on history can and do shift, rather than move or remove monuments, we encourage communities to augment these memorials with thorough interpretation to help the public reflect on the many layers of their history. We also recognize that such decisions will ultimately be made at the local level.

Since the events in Charlottesville, I have received many calls for the Trust to “do something” about the situation. The question may be slightly different, but the answer is one I have become familiar with giving, thanks to countless pleas for assistance saving a cemetery or museum or historic home: We save battlefields. And it is the strict adherence to that mission that has driven our success.

I am also aware of suggestions to move monuments from public parks to battlefields, museums, cemeteries and other locations. As a general rule, we believe monuments should remain where they were erected. Taking a historic resource out of its proper, historic context is rarely an advisable course of action. But in the case of moving monuments to battlefields, our imperative is to ensure their integrity in perpetuity – so future visitors can fully experience the landscapes the soldiers once saw. Aside from the immense costs in moving and maintaining such monuments, the Civil War Trust would not want to facilitate the loss of pristine battlefield landscapes by placing monuments where they were never intended.

In the coming weeks, we will be sending a survey to our membership, asking you to weigh in on this controversy. Tell us what you think! And as this debate continues to sweep across the country, please remember — and remind others of — the words of Abraham Lincoln in his first inaugural address: “We are not enemies, but friends.... Though passion may have strained, it must not break our bonds of affection.”

Sincerely,

O. James Lighthizer, President
Civil War Trust

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 December 2017 Washington Volunteer is Monday, November 27, 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.*