

# THE WASHINGTON VOLUNTEER

PUGET SOUND CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

WWW.PSCWRT.ORG

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**NEXT MEETING: Thursday, December 14, 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, December 12, 2017.**

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



## PROFESSOR LESLEY J. GORDON WILL DISCUSS *A BROKEN REGIMENT: THE 16<sup>TH</sup>*

*CONNECTICUT'S CIVIL WAR.* The 16<sup>th</sup>

Connecticut was badly bloodied at Antietam in 1862 and surrendered en masse in North Carolina in 1864. *A Broken Regiment* focuses on this regiment of Union volunteers who struggled in many ways before, during and after their actual encounters on the battlefield. Over time competing stories emerged of who they were, why they endured what they did, and how they should be remembered. Uncovering the fascinating tale of this imperfect group of Northern soldiers, *A Broken Regiment* examines the dynamic interpretive process that emerges when competing perspectives and disparate memories are put in the service of commemorating a powerful civic legacy. Lesley J. Gordon is the Charles G. Summersell Chair of Southern History at the University of Alabama. Her publications include *General George E. Pickett in Life and Legend* (1998), *Intimate Strategies: Military Commanders and their Wives* (2001), and *This Terrible War: The Civil War and its Aftermath*. She served as editor of the academic journal *Civil War History* from 2010-2015.

## *IMPORTANT DISPATCHES*

### **Color Bearer Drawing a Success**

By Mike Movius

For those of you who are unable to attend our Preservation Month meeting in November, I'm happy to report that that drawing was an overwhelming success. As a refresher, by donating \$1,000 to the Civil War Trust (CWT), PSCWRT will be invited to attend three exclusive events in 2018: The Color Bearer Thank You Weekend February 9-11 in Greenville, South Carolina; tours and a dinner during the annual meeting May 30 – June 2 in Newport News, Virginia; and The Grand Review October 12-14 in Franklin, Tennessee.

Unlike other fundraising events, we asked members to donate \$50 per ticket for the events they were interested in attending. I donated \$200, Steve Clayton donated \$50, Suzanne Hahn donated \$100, Pat Ford donated \$50 and Lew Berquest donated \$50 at the meeting. In addition, Mark Terry promised \$50, Mike Leopold promised \$150 and Philip Leduc promised an unspecified amount. If my math is correct, that means we collected a \$650+. We retained approximately \$600 from 2016 that was not sent to CWT. So, it was a great evening for battlefield preservation, the participants and PSCWRT.

Those who won were as follows:

Thank You Weekend – Steve Clayton and Suzanne Hahn

Annual Meeting – Mike Movius and Mike Leopold

Grand Review – Suzanne Hahn and Will Sullivan (Pat Ford)

If any of the winners decide that they are unable to attend, they can “sell” their tickets with a 50/50 split between themselves and PSCWRT.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **Panel Discussion: “How Statues and Memorials Interpret Our Shared History” Thursday, 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.

## **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

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/>

## **December Birthdays**

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

Rod Cameron  
James Landerdahl  
Craig Miller  
Allen Suter  
Meg Wilkinson

## ***NEWS AND PROJECTS***

### **A "Call to Arms"**

By Nick K. Adams, Vice President Successor

Our Round Table offers both us and the public excellent presentations about the American Civil War. Many of us work hard to enable that to be true, month after month, every year.

That being true, we have the potential to experience significant growth in our attenders and membership. All that's lacking is getting new people here to discover what we have to offer.

It was this problem that your Board was trying to address when it set as a goal that every active member bring at least one guest (a new person or a long-inactive member) to just one meeting during our '17-'18 season.

To date - three meetings in - only four of our members have earned a VIP ribbon for their membership badge in recognition for having done so. There are undoubtedly many reasons we all haven't been bringing our friends and acquaintances...and some may even be good reasons. But the truth is, if we really cared about our organization's purpose and growth, the number of visitors ought to be more than four by now... Please, show you care by bringing somebody with you to our December meeting!

## *FEATURED ARTICLE*

### **Recommendations for additional reading on the Speaker's Topic: Recent Union Regimental Histories- A Recommended List.**

**By Jeff Rombauer**

During the Civil War the regiment was the basic military unit for both the Union and the Confederacy. Raised, organized and staffed by state governments, these units were often composed of men from the same communities, counties and even ethnic groups. Over 2000 regiments served in the Federal armies, with periods of service from three months to three years. While some units earned reputations as "fighting regiments" in combat, others saw only guard duty in remote locations or posts. After the civil war, many veterans wanted to preserve and memorialize their service in saving the Union. Annual reunions were held, and regimental veterans sought to have their unit's history preserved. In the decades after the war, numerous regimental histories were published, authored by a committee of the regiment or individual authors. [One author, Alfred S. Roe, was hired to write 6 different regimental histories] It was the noted civil war historian, Bruce Catton in the 1950's who extensively researched the information in these regimental histories to bring forth the voices of the union veterans in his history of the Army of the Potomac. Since the Civil War Centennial, a veritable cottage industry has arisen in the publishing of new histories of individual regiments in extensively researched volumes. Listed below are only a few of the better new regimental histories published in the past several decades.

Dunkelman, Mark H. & Winey, Michael J. *The Hardtack Regiment: An Illustrated History of the 154<sup>th</sup> Regiment New York State Infantry Volunteers*. Rutherford: Fairleigh Dickinson University Press, 1981. Pp. 211.

The first of three volumes by Dunkelman on the 154<sup>th</sup>, a unit which saw service in both theaters of the war.

Gibbs, Joseph. *Three Years in the Bloody Eleventh: The Campaigns of a Pennsylvania Reserves Regiment*. University Park: The Pennsylvania University Press, 2002. Pp. xxi, 378.

The 11<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania saw hard service in the Army of the Potomac from Gaines Mill to the Overland campaign.

Hoffman, Mark. *"My Brave Mechanics": The First Michigan Engineers and Their Civil War*. Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 2007. Pp. xviii, 470.

Made up of skilled engineers, railroad men and craftsman, the 1<sup>st</sup> Michigan was key in maintaining the Union supply line in the west

Miller, Richard R. *Harvard's Civil War: A History of the Twentieth Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry*. Hanover and London: University Press of New England, 2005. Pp. xiii, 540.

Noted for its officer corps of New England's elite, such as Oliver Wendell Holmes, the Lowell's' and Reverses', the regiment was first blooded at Ball's Bluff and served until the end of the war.

Moe, Richard. *The Last Full Measure: The Life and Death of the First Minnesota Volunteers*.

New York: Henry Holt and Company, 1993. Pp. xvii, 345.

The first regiment offered into Federal service at the outbreak of the war, saw combat from 1<sup>st</sup> Bull Run to Bristol Station.

Wickman, Don. "*We are Coming Father Abra'am*": *The History of the 9<sup>th</sup> Vermont Volunteer Infantry 1862-1865*. Lynchburg: Schroeder Publications, 2005. Pp. xvii, 525. Captured at Harper's Ferry in September 1862, the 9<sup>th</sup> Vermont went on to see service in North Carolina and in 1864 with the Army of the Potomac.

Wilkinson, Warren. *Mother, May You Never See the Sights I Have Seen: The Fifty-seventh Massachusetts Veteran Volunteers in the Last Year of the Civil War*. New York: Harper & Row, Publishers, 1990.

Wilkinson's volume on the 57<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts is now considered a modern classic.

*The Union Army: A History of Military Affairs in the Loyal States 1861-65*. Madison: Federal Publishing Company, 1908. Pp. 8 volumes.

Not a new study, but important in the fact that a brief history of every regiment that saw Federal service is included. Many union regiments had no histories published.

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

### **CWRT Community: The Best Friends You Haven't Met**

By Mike Movius

As you have probably learned, I have an extensive travel schedule every year that is split between the Boy Scouts of America and my devoted interest in the Civil War. Most recently, I traveled to Albany, New York the first part of November for a regional BSA meeting in which I made an award presentation and met some very devoted Scouters in the Northeast.

While I attended the CWRT Congress in Centreville, Virginia, I met the president and program chairman of the Capital District CWRT from Albany. Rosemary Nichols, the president of CDCWRT, attended the University of Washington decades ago as did I and our time there overlapped although we only discovered that at the Congress. Rosemary and Matt George, the program chairman and long-time educator, invited me to connect with them if I ever planned to be in upstate New York.

Inasmuch as the sun, the moon and all the satellites aligned, I spent two glorious days with Matt visiting Civil War and Revolutionary War sites around Saratoga Springs, Troy, Waterviet, Ballston Spa and other communities. Matt arranged for us to have a guided tour of the New York State Military Museum and Veterans Research Center an hour before they opened to the public. At the museum, I saw the uniform that Colonel Elmer Ellsworth wore that fateful day in May 1861 when he was fatally wounded. There were countless other items on display in this truly magnificent museum.

We visited Abner Doubleday's birthplace and boyhood home; toured the Saratoga battlefield where we met an NPS Ranger from Puyallup and visited the "boot monument" to famed traitor Benedict Arnold; visited the gravesite of Colonel Elmer Ellsworth; found the gravesite of Medal of Honor recipient William E. Hart and learned of his sad life story after the CW; went to the Waterviet Arsenal and was told of its significance during the CW; spent time at Major General George Thomas' grave; visited General James Rice's grave and learned his last words, "Turn me over. Let me die with my face to the foe."; went to the Stephen and Harriet Myers residence, part of the Underground Railroad; visited the Albany Rural Soldiers' Lot where several hundred CW veterans were buried; found President Chester A. Arthur's grave and memorial; and walked through Union College where William Seward and Chester Arthur both went to school.

I must say that Matt George is an extraordinary man. After a long career in a variety of schools teaching students and coaching baseball teams, he continues to teach young people about the history that surrounds them as a living history representative of the Civil War. His first-person accounts of his experience as a CW soldier stimulates their interest in history in ways that are both uncommon and profound.

The evening of the first day, I was invited to Rosemary's home for dinner. I met with the board of CDCWRT and discussed many of the things we discussed at the Congress. They were especially interested in using technology to market their organization.

The same type of experience can be yours. Whenever you are planning to visit a Civil War battlefield or museum or historic site, you can contact the local CWRT and inquire about other relevant places of interest. In most cases, a member will welcome you into their community and help you to understand the historic significance of that location that they treasure.

## ***THE LAST WORD***

### **Random Musings**

By Mark R. Terry

Writing a column is not always easy. I really don't envy those who must editorialize every day of the week in print or doing a daily Internet blog. For me it really should be easy, only having to write once a month, and then only nine times out of the year. Especially considering the focus of the subject is really one thing- the American Civil War. This month, being the last of the calendar year, I have some random musings and thoughts. I hope you will bear with me.

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

I cannot think of a more tumultuous year in terms of the Civil War being back on the front burner, thanks to the debacle at Charlottesville Virginia last summer. Who knew how this event would literally change the landscape of historical remembrance in regards to the Civil War? We all have our own thoughts and feelings about how it should play out in our modern society. Regardless, there will be a panel discussion of this very topic here in Seattle!

Our own Rick Solomon, long-time PSCWRT Member and past President, will be one of the four panelists.

I would urge as many members of the PSCWRT who can attend to do so. Rick would really appreciate your support. I have no idea what angle each of the other panelists will take, but I can assure you that Rick’s will be grounded in history. Whatever you feel about the subject, I hope you can be there.

### **Jeff Rombauer’s Book Reviews**

I hope that you have been taking advantage of the monthly “Recommendations for additional reading on the Speaker’s Topic” that Jeff Rombauer has been writing in each issue of the Washington Volunteer this season. If you read Jeff’s bio from the September 2017 issue, you will recall that he has been collecting books and other literature on the Civil War since he was a young boy, almost 60 years ago! Over the years, Jeff has added to his collection and has a vast knowledge of the writings pertaining to the War. It is for this reason I hope you are following his articles each month and taking note of the books he mentions. We are very fortunate to have Jeff as part of our CWRT and I look forward to what he writes each month.

### **“Get to Know- You!”**

During the 2016-2017 season, we began a monthly column devoted to a short biography of each Board Member of the PSCWRT. Our purpose was to let our members know who was on the board and what made them “tick” in regards to our mutual interest in the Civil War. Now, we want to get to know YOU! We are proud to have such a dedicated core of members who are knowledgeable and have led interesting lives. We want to showcase at least one member each month, eventually contacting all of you for your story. We hope all of you will answer in the affirmative when a board member contacts you to ask for your story. Thank you in advance!

### **"Behind the Lines"**

As you should know, there is a newly formed women's group of the Puget Sound Civil War Round Table. We’ve already had our first meeting over at the Bellevue King County Library, but there will be more meetings to come in 2018. Please note on your calendars the evening of April 19 of next year. Member Nick Adams will be describing the story of his new book, *Away at War: A Civil War Story of the Family Left Behind*, at King County's Bellevue Library. It is the story of separation, hardship, and loss suffered by Adams' great-great-grandmother and her three young children after the letter writer of *My Dear Wife and Children: Civil War Letters from a 2nd Minnesota Volunteer* left them at their MN prairie homestead to fight for the preservation of the Union.

On behalf of the board members of the PSCWRT, we...

**Wish you and yours a Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays  
and a Happy New Year!!!**

### **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 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 January 2018 Washington Volunteer is Monday, December 25, 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](mailto:president@pscwr.org)

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

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

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

Secretary: Douglas Galuszka

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

Vice-President- Membership: Vacant

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)

Vice President-Social Media: Mike Movius, [webmaster@pscwr.org](mailto:webmaster@pscwr.org)

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