

# THE WASHINGTON VOLUNTEER

PUGET SOUND CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

WWW.PSCWRT.ORG

FEBRUARY 2018

VOLUME 33, ISSUE 6

**NEXT MEETING: Thursday, February 8, 2018**

**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 **Richard Kerr** at: [kerrrichardh@comcast.net](mailto:kerrrichardh@comcast.net)

Or lastly, call **Richard Kerr** at **425-698-1311**

**Reservations are MANDATORY and be in by 12 NOON on Tuesday, February 6, 2018.**

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



## KAREN MEADOR WILL DISCUSS THE FORT STEILACOOM TO FORT BELLINGHAM ROAD

(still known as Military Road in South King County), a road linked to Jefferson Davis, Ulysses S. Grant, George Pickett, George McClellan, Joseph Hooker, and other Civil War figures. Ms. Meador has lectured throughout the Pacific Northwest and her articles have appeared in numerous publications, including *Columbia: The Magazine of Northwest History*. She was the recipient of the 2015 Association of King County Historical Organizations Long-Term Project Award for the brochure, *Military Road: A Lasting Legacy*. This brochure is the first comprehensive examination of the

Fort Steilacoom to Fort Bellingham Road, built in the late 1850s on the eve of the Civil War. Long active in the heritage community, she has served on several boards and was a member of the Citizen's Advisory Committee for the King County Historic Preservation Program Strategic Plan. She is currently the Activities and Administrative Coordinator at the Historical Society of Federal Way.



**REMINDER: IF YOU HAVEN'T BROUGHT A FRIEND, CO-WORKER, OR SOMEONE YOU JUST DRAGGED OFF THE STREET TO A CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE MEETING, MAKE A "RESOLUTION" TO DO IT THIS MONTH!!! THANK YOU!**

## ***IMPORTANT DISPATCHES***

### **Harley Earl Crain- In Memoriam**

Born: January 27, 1926

Died: August 27, 2017

Tacoma, Washington

Lynnwood, Washington

We learned very late last month, just as the January edition of the Washington Volunteer had already gone to print, that long-time member Harley Crain had passed away at the age of 91. Sadly, he passed away in August of 2017 and we didn't know about it. There was no online obituary that I could find, but I do want to say that Harley was a good man to know and I am glad he was a part of the PSCWRT. Stephen Pierce said he donated his Civil War book collection to the Round Table, so he is helping us still through sales of them.

### **Thank You –Rod Cameron!!**

By Mark Terry



It is with regret that PSCWRT Vice-President- Reservations Rod Cameron tendered his resignation from the Board of Directors recently. Rod has done a superb job taking meal reservations for many years, but said he is ready for someone else to take over. When you see Rod at the next meeting, be sure to shake his hand and thank him for his long-time service to our group!

We will miss Rod's dedication to doing the meal reservations, but rest assured that he remains an ardent supporter and member of the organization. In his place, Richard Kerr has volunteered to step in and take the reins. Please note the new contact information on Page 1. Thanks again, Rod!!!

### **February Birthdays**

Several members have birthdays in February and we'd like to acknowledge their special day.

They are:

Dempsey Dybdal

Ken Esemann

Gary Martin

Alexander Welles

### **PSCWRT Attendance Survey Status**

Past President Rick Solomon took this on and with the help of Mike Movius it was put online last month for members to complete. The purpose was to get feedback from those who don't attend to let us know why they aren't coming to the monthly meetings. Rick went over the results and it looks like the vast majority of responses are those of members who already faithfully attend! Despite this, Rick will put forth the results. Our apologies to those who were not able to take the survey for whatever reasons. Please speak with Rick Solomon at the meeting if you have questions.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

*Here are a couple of events that are coming up very quickly, especially the one below. Make plans!*



### **“Guarding Fort Nisqually” Living History Event Saturday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> at Fort Nisqually, 11:00 AM to 4 PM**

5400 N Pearl St., #11

Tacoma, WA 98407

Cost \$0-\$8 (I've been told this is for the museum)

Between September 1855 and April 1856, soldiers from Fort Steilacoom were called on to provide a sense of security at Fort Nisqually. Established as an outpost for the Hudson's Bay Company and operated as the headquarters of the Puget Sound Agricultural Company, Fort Nisqually required steady trade in the Sale Shop. The Puget Sound Treaty Wars left everyone in the region with a feeling of insecurity. Dr. William F. Tolmie requested that US soldiers be posted at Nisqually during the conflict to allow trade to continue. Aside from being good customers, US soldiers were seen here every day for several months while the conflict continued.

This event will host a detachment from the 4<sup>th</sup> U.S. Infantry as would have been assigned to guard Fort Nisqually. They will be joined by a detachment of the Washington Territorial Volunteers, which frequented Fort Nisqually during the conflict. Visit their encampment to learn about the day to day life of a soldier during the 1850s, hear more about the Puget Sound Treaty Wars and experience military drill first hand. For further information, go to: [fortnisqually.org](http://fortnisqually.org).



### **Richard Hanks: “Looking for Lincoln”**

**Monday, February 12, 2018, 6-7:30 p.m.**

**Location: Everett Public Library, 2702 Hoyt Avenue, Everett, WA 98201**

**Admission: Free**

Speaker is Historian and Author Richard Hanks. Professor Hanks' has a direct family connection to Abraham Lincoln.

It looks at Richard's personal journey with Lincoln and the stories of his involvement with his family in Illinois and Hanks' generally. Lincoln was a constant presence in his household.

As an example, his father's courtroom in Beardstown was the site of the famous Almanac Trial where Lincoln successfully defended Duff Armstrong on murder charges in 1858. Beardstown was also where Lincoln was chosen captain of the New Salem militia during the 1832 Black Hawk War.

## ***NEWS AND PROJECTS***

### **Annual PSCWRT Auction Coming Soon!**

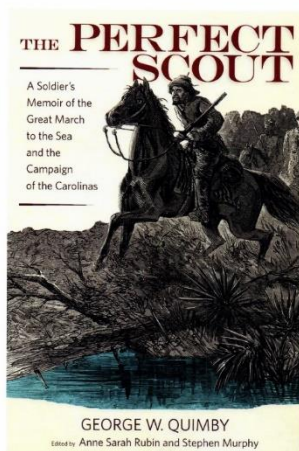
By Mark R. Terry

April 12<sup>th</sup> may seem like a long way off, but as you and I know, "time flies"! That is the meeting date that we will be having our Annual Auction. In this post-holiday time, it would be a good idea to take inventory of what items you want to donate to the PSCWRT. As you know, the money raised helps to pay for out of town, or "airplane speakers" as Pat Brady refers to them.

If you go to our website (<http://www.pscwrt.org/>) and click the tab for "Activities", you will see a link to the "Annual Auction". On that page you will find all the information and links to forms you will need to participate in the auction. If you have further questions regarding not covered there, please contact anyone on the board- see contact list at the end of the newsletter.

### **New Civil War memoir edited by member Steve Murphy**

By Mark R. Terry



Steve Murphy shared with us that he is one of the editors of a new book, a soldier's memoir of his service in the Union Army under Sherman. We like to publicize the works of our members, such as John Hinds, Nick Adams and now Stephen Murphy!

Steve wrote the following synopsis of the book:

Quimby writes of his adventures as a scout from the beginning of Sherman's March in Atlanta, Georgia to the conclusion in Goldsboro, North Carolina in a book titled "THE PERFECT SCOUT". Quimby, and his fellow scouts, were charged with observing, not fighting, and therefore did not take part in the destruction that Sherman's March is best known for. Behind enemy lines and in Rebel uniform Quimby has an opportunity to witness the Southern view, as well as meet the people, plantation owners, returned soldiers to slaves. Quimby

receives assistance from many of these southerners and even meets his future wife. The book was released in January. Copies are \$25 and Steve said he will bring a box of them to the February meeting. Books can also be obtained through Alabama Press- [www.uapress.ua.edu](http://www.uapress.ua.edu).

## *FEATURED ARTICLE*

Editor's Note: *This article was emailed to Mike Movius who passed it on to me. Unfortunately, we don't know the genesis of it, other than it was written by historian Gary Gallagher. Very interesting and thoughtful piece.*

BY GARY W. GALLAGHER

### **Were confederate deserters really losing the will to fight?**

Historians examining Confederate defeat often describe desertion as both a symptom and a cause. As conditions behind the lines worsened, loved ones begged soldiers to return home. Thousands of men did so, a fact that many scholars use to portray eroding morale across the Confederacy. At least 105,000 out of a total of perhaps 850,000 soldiers eventually deserted, enough to hasten Confederate defeat. Historians have accorded far more attention to Confederate than to Union desertion, and they often treat it as an indicator of weak national sentiment in the incipient slaveholding republic.

By way of comparison, approximately 210,000 of 2.2 million U.S. soldiers deserted, and another 120,000 evaded conscription. Estimates of the number of Northerners who fled to Canada during the war to escape enrollment officers, dodge the draft, or desert from their units run as high as 85,000–90,000. Thousands more fled to areas such as mountainous central and western Pennsylvania, where they hoped to place themselves beyond the reach of the federal government.

It is important to remember that the presence of Union armies on Confederate soil generated a type of desertion in Rebel forces largely unknown among Federals—one not necessarily indicative of weak will or unhappiness with the Confederacy. A soldier in the Army of Tennessee informed his wife in mid-July 1864 that “a great many Tennesseans and up[country] Georgians are leaving the army and say they are going back home. . . . They know that their families are left behind at the mercy of the Yankees, and it is hard to bear.” If the Confederate army retreated beyond his home county, admitted this man, “I could not say that I would not desert and try to get to you.” Thousands of Confederates left the ranks when they marched close to the areas where their families lived but later returned to their units.

Should these men be reckoned deserters who cared nothing about which side prevailed in the war? Many Confederate officers acknowledged different types of deserters. Jubal A. Early, a tough disciplinarian, professed no toleration for desertion during the war “and never failed to sanction and order the execution of sentences for the extreme penalty for that offence. . . . but some palliation was to be found for the conduct of many of those who did desert, in the fact that they did so to go to the aid of their families, who they knew were suffering for the necessities of life.”

At the least, historians should avoid portraying Confederate desertion as a linear problem of constantly increasing gravity. One careful study of Virginia describes a swell of desertions in 1862 that probably represented, at least in part, anger at implementation of the conscription act, which extended the service of thousands of men who originally had signed on for one year. After this initial wave, rates dropped off until the final eight months of the war. This pattern should



caution against the use of desertion to demonstrate a deep-seated and pervasive absence of identification with the Confederate cause.

Dealing with desertion illuminates the challenge of pinning down statistics and comprehending exactly what they indicate. Surviving Confederate records contain many vexing gaps, a problem compounded by uncertainty in fathoming how best to read surviving documents. For example, one scholar has observed: “Had it not been for the two-thirds of soldiers who were absent by September 1864, the Confederacy might well have been able to offset the North’s population advantage....” This passage doubtless would leave most readers with an impression of catastrophic desertion by the early autumn of 1864.

Were two-thirds of the men absent in the fall of 1864? Desertion unquestionably grew in severity as the war headed into its final eight months, but a closer look at the critical evidence—inspection returns—muddies the picture. The “consolidated abstract from returns of the Confederate Army on or about December 31, 1864” gives these numbers: Present for Duty, 154,910; Aggregate Present, 196,016; Aggregate Present & Absent, 400,787. These totals might seem to suggest that only 38.7 percent of the men were ready for duty and that the rest must have gone off somewhere. In fact, the first two categories (roughly one-half of the whole) include those literally present as well as all men detailed for duty elsewhere, under arrest in camp, sick in field hospitals, and in other categories. In the third category, the absent would include prisoners of war, men on furlough, and those in general hospitals due to illness or battlefield wounds—categories that do not necessarily support a portrait of armies experiencing crises of morale.

### *Confederate officers acknowledged different types of deserters*

The inspection report dated August 19, 1864, for the 10th South Carolina Infantry, a unit in the Army of Tennessee, pinpoints the difficulty of extracting unequivocal numbers from manuscript sources. The report lists 208 men present for duty; 255 as the aggregate present, with 39 of them on special, extra, or daily duty and 8 sick; and 529 as aggregate present and absent, with 14 on detached service, 2 on leave, 156 absent sick, and 7 absent without authority. The sum of  $255 + 14 + 2 + 156 + 7$  equals only 434—95 short of 529. The report also has a column for prisoners of war listing another 96 men, producing a grand total of 530, one more than the aggregate present and absent (perhaps the clerk was tired or not very good at arithmetic). Some of those on detached service, on leave, or absent sick could have deserted and the regimental officers not yet known it; some of the 96 prisoners also could have taken the oath or joined the U.S. Army to fight Indians on the frontier. But without doubt most of the 274 or 275 soldiers not among the “present” or “aggregate present” should be considered loyal soldiers.

Confederate military and civilian leaders, newspaper editors, and citizens in their private diaries and letters left ample testimony about the problem of desertion. There is no question it weakened the war effort and, in many cases, reflected an indifference toward the Confederate nation. But a careful look at patterns, numbers, and circumstances reveals that, as is almost always the case with history, the phenomenon was far more complex, and its impact less certain, than often assumed. ☆

## *THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER*

### **Why I like Civil War Conferences**

By Mike Movius

I don't really know how much you read about the Late Unpleasantness, but I actually read two or three books at any one time. And, like most, I have my hero historians. So, when I am at a conference, be it the Lincoln Forum, a Civil War Trust event, West Coast Civil War Conference, etc., I especially like to buy their latest history and chat with them a bit.

The other thing that I find enticing is going on a battlefield tour with someone who is super knowledgeable. For example, I've been on tours with Ed Beares, Gary Gallagher, Robert K. Krick, Garry Adelman and others. Their insights can make the whole experience a great pleasure.

This summer, we are convening another CWRT Congress on Saturday, August 17th. This congress will be held in Harrisburg, PA at the National Civil War Museum. I'd encourage you to attend. Although our CWRT is holding its own in terms of membership, it's not growing like it should. I'm hoping you will be inspired and bring a brilliant idea back to Seattle to enable us to grow exponentially.

But, back to the theme of this article, we will be getting a behind the scenes tour of this wonderful museum, without additional charge. Those items you'll be able to hold in your hands includes the military Commission of Union General John Buford; the Tactical Manual of Union Captain Henry F. Fuller (64th NY) - Killed at Gettysburg; the sword used by Confederate General Joseph B. Kershaw; the flag of the "Cape Fear Guards" of 3rd North Carolina Carried on Culp's Hill at Gettysburg; the coat worn by Union General George Sears Greene at Gettysburg ; the sword used by Union General Alexander S. Webb (Medal of Honor at Gettysburg); the belt belonging to Medal of Honor Receipt Union Lieutenant Alonzo H. Cushing- Killed at Gettysburg; and personal items and papers of Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain.

The day after the congress, Wayne Motts, the CEO of the museum and licensed battlefield guide, will be giving an exclusive tour of the Gettysburg battlefield. Please consider taking this opportunity to enjoy history up-front and personal...while helping to shape the future of PSCWRT.

## *THE LAST WORD*

### **What Makes a Civil War Round Table?**

By Mark R. Terry

If you are like me, you come to the meetings to enjoy a social time with others who are also interested in the same things you are. You eat a meal with those same friends and then as your food digests you get to watch and listen to what is usually a great presentation on some aspect of the Civil War.

#### **But what does it take to make that meeting happen?**

It starts with the **VP of Programming Pat Brady**, who through his contacts across the country, finds and invites historians and authors to give a presentation. Pat has to do this months in advance, because everything needs to be planned out beforehand. Even in the middle of the season, he is working on who to bring in for next season.

Working closely with Pat is our **Treasurer Jeff Rombauer**, because those speakers who come from out of state are not cheap. Pat lets Jeff know how much the expense will be and Jeff pays the bills (and this of course is why the PSCWRT holds an auction every year- but I digress).

All the while, Pat coordinates with **President Mike Movius**, who also happens to be our **VP of Social Media**. Mike puts his energy into communicating through the Internet both with our members through group emails, but also on all the various social media sites, such as Facebook, Twitter, and other venues I don't even know about! He also runs our website, which is our "face to the World"- literally!

As each meeting approaches, **VP Editor Mark Terry** communicates with the membership through editing and publishing our monthly newsletter, the Washington Volunteer. Information about the speaker, upcoming events, organization information, articles and columns of interest are all part of the "Volunteer" which is posted on the website by Mike Movius and also sent out to those who don't have Internet access.

Connections are crucial. This is done through our Official Roster. This is kept updated by **Board Adviser Stephen Pierce**. Without an accurate list of members and their contact information, people will fall through the cracks. Just prior to each meeting, **VP Reservations**, formerly **Rod Cameron**, but now **Richard Kerr**, goes into action. As reservations come in- who is coming and what menu item they want- they create the list. This list is coordinated through Jeff to Lo Sun, owner of China Harbor Restaurant, preferably two days before the meeting. That is why we need your feedback- so that Lo Sun's people can most efficiently prepare what you want to eat.

At the meeting itself, Jeff is hard at work taking your money, while Stephen assists, but also brings books for sale to help our speaker fund. Pat meets with the speaker, getting to know them better so he can introduce him or her to us. Mike gets the program started and going as we eat our dinners.

Over the past several years, the PSCWRT has grown to include other meetings and events.

**VP Partnerships Steve Clayton** has had meetings to contact, develop and establish partnerships with libraries and other organizations. Then, developing speakers who contact us via the website and email to deliver top-rated programs in communities not served by regular PSCWRT monthly meetings.

**Past President Rick Solomon** is coordinating date, time and locations of interest, transportation considerations and documenting our participation for our next annual PSCWRT Trek

While not an official "VP of Membership", **VP Successor Nick Adams** has been concerned with membership growth and is leading the "**Bring-A-Friend**" initiative and being an active speaker for our "**Behind the Lines**" meetings.

Then, there are periodic **board of director meetings** (thankfully online!) requiring agenda development, online subscriptions and support, taking of minutes by **Secretary Doug Galuszka** and publicizing decisions on the website.



So, as you can see, the Puget Sound Civil War Round Table doesn't happen by accident. All of these are geared to recruitment, public outreach and member support. We are doing much more than just holding a monthly meeting! However, it takes effort and dedication for the Round Table to fulfill the purpose it was intended for- to educate our members and the public regarding our American Civil War and to protect and preserve our collective heritage.

**This brings us right back to you- What can YOU do to help? Most of our board members have served over a decade, and we would like to see our members, especially those of you who are younger, step forward and take our place on the Board. How about you???**

## **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@foxiinternet.com](mailto:jeffrombauer@foxiinternet.com).

**We welcome your article or research submissions for the newsletter, but they may be edited for space. The deadline for the March 2018 Washington Volunteer is Monday, February 19, 2018. 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@foxiinternet.com](mailto:jeffrombauer@foxiinternet.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: Richard Kerr, 425-698-1311, [kerrrichardh@comcast.net](mailto:kerrrichardh@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.*