NEXT MEETING: Thursday, April 12, 2018
China Harbor, 2040 Westlake Avenue North, Seattle, Washington
Time: Social hour at 6 p.m.; Dinner served at 6:45 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: $24 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 Steve Murphy at: steve@adaptech.us
Or lastly, call Steve Murphy at (206) 522-2268
Reservations are MANDATORY and be in by 12 NOON on Tuesday, April 10, 2018.

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

RICK SOLOMON, ROUND TABLE PAST PRESIDENT, WILL DISCUSS LONGSTREET’S WINTER OF DISCONTENT, 1863-1864, including the Knoxville Campaign and evaluating Longstreet’s clashes with three longtime subordinate generals: his childhood friend and First Corps Division Commander, Lafayette McLaws; Evander Law, the excellent brigade commander in Hood’s Division; and Jerome Robertson, the commander of the Texas Brigade. Why did “old Pete” have a falling out with these generals, how did the three disputes end, and how did they damage Longstreet’s reputation?

ANNUAL AUCTION THIS MONTH!!!
By Mark R. Terry

To say that the Annual Auction is important to the functioning of the PSCWRT would be an understatement. As Treasurer Jeff Rombauer recently told our board, our Round Table would not exist without the funds generated by this event. Given this fact, we hope that many of you will attend this month’s meeting and will be full participants in the auction- both donating items AND donating funds!
Here is the tentative auction schedule for the evening:

6:30 p.m. - Silent Auction Begins
7:30 - Silent Auction Ends
7:30 - Live Auction Begins - Auctioneer - Dick Miller
8:00 - Live Auction Ends
8:00 - Speaker Introduction - VP Program Pat Brady

As you can see, it is important to arrive early so that you can get your items in place with the proper paperwork. Each silent auction item or group of items MUST have a silent auction bid sheet to accompany them. If they are filled out before the meeting, it will make your job and those of the volunteers that much easier.

**What to donate?**
Anything you feel someone else will want to bid for. If everyone who attends brings at least one item for the silent auction, that would be great (although the more the merrier!). Additionally, if you have some major items for the Live Auction, those would be welcome as well. Sports tickets, paintings, rare books & documents. Even baked goods, such as pies and cakes are popular to bid on. Be creative and be generous!

George Yocum has volunteered to coordinate the auction. Please give him your full support and make his job easy. Live Auction MC Dick Miller will be here to do it again. Dick did a great job of inspiring giving last year, and I’m sure he will do the same again. In the meantime, collect those items to donate and then be ready to bid.

**How and when to pay for items**
When the Silent Auction is over, collect the items you have won, including the bid sheets. Live Auction winners should be given a receipt for their items. After the speaker’s presentation, all winners pay up at the Treasurer’s table. **Be prepared to pay with a check or cash only.**

**Some reminders:**
- Plan ahead to bring items for the auctions. Have the bid sheets filled out before you arrive. Bid sheets can be downloaded on the website. Make as many copies as you need.
- Donated items do not have to be Civil War related! Donate what people will want to bid on. Sports tickets do well, as do baked goods such as pies, cookies, etc.
- For live auction items, try to communicate with Dick Miller in advance. If you cannot, that is okay. You can contact him via email at: Milomiller882@msn.com
- Arrive EARLY to China Harbor. The sooner we can set up, the better.
- **Think generous in donations and bidding!!!**

Here is a link on the website for all things Auction, including the forms you will need: [http://www.pscwrt.org/activities/annual-auction.html](http://www.pscwrt.org/activities/annual-auction.html)

**REMINDER: BRING A FRIEND TO ONE OF OUR MEETINGS.** The best way to get someone to attend is to ask them in person!
IMPORTANT DISPATCHES

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, April 19, 2018. PSCWRT Member Nick K. Adams will be describing the story of his new book, *Away at War: A Civil War Story of the Family Left Behind*. 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. at the King County Library Bellevue Branch.

Our next Round Table sponsored "Behind the Lines" event will be April 19, 7-8:30 PM, at the downtown Bellevue Library. Nick Adams will be sharing the story of the family his letter-writing grandfather left behind while he fought with the 2nd Minnesota Volunteer Infantry. He refers to it as "the other side of the story," for their struggle to survive on the Minnesota prairie vividly demonstrates the home front cost faced by those who offered up husbands/fathers/sons for the preservation of the Union. Adams' novel, *Away at War: A Civil War Story of the Family Left Behind*, was created directly from the letters he previously published as *My Dear Wife and Children: Civil War Letters from a 2nd Minnesota Volunteer*.

Please come to support this outreach effort of our club – and if you can, bring family, neighbors or friends.

Wednesday, April 25, 2018 Field Trip to Lakeview Cemetery, Seattle
By Rick Solomon

PSCWRT’s Fourth Annual Field Trip will be a tour of some of the soldiers, both Confederate & Union, buried in the Lakeview Cemetery in Seattle on Wednesday, April 25, 2018 from 10 a.m. until noon. If the weather is bad it will be rescheduled for May 2. This field trip will be led by Jim Dimond. After the tour we will have lunch at a restaurant or tavern near the Lakeview Cemetery. Anyone who is able to give a short biographical history of a particular Civil War soldier interred in Lakeview is encouraged to tell other tour participants about that soldier. Rick Solomon will have a sign-up sheet at the April 12 meeting of PSCWRT. If you have any questions, please contact Rick.

April Birthdays
Several members have birthdays in April and we’d like to acknowledge their special day. They are:

- Eric Dybdal
- Ed Malles
- Stephen Pierce
- Jay Rusling
- Jay Secord
- Kim Terry

There are quite a few members who don’t have a birth month on the official roster. Please let the Round Table know so you too can be honored on your birth month!
In late summer of 1863, the Confederate States of America faced a critical decision. After the twin defeats of Gettysburg and Vicksburg along with the fall of Port Hudson, the Confederacy was split in two, cut off from the resources of the Trans-Mississippi region. In Tennessee, the Army of Tennessee under the command of Gen. Braxton Bragg was being forced out of central Tennessee with the potential loss of the key city of Chattanooga. One solution proposed was to send Robert E. Lee to command in the west, but he declined the suggestion. Then with the fall of Knoxville to Union forces under Ambrose Burnside in early September, President Davis agreed to send Gen. James Longstreet and two division of the First Corps from the Army of Northern Virginia to help Braxton Bragg. After a 755-mile trip by railroad, Longstreet and his two divisions arrived in time to participate in the decisive 2nd day of the battle of Chickamauga, where they helped rout the Union army. But with a few days of the Confederate victory, acrimony and division among the senior Confederate officers sowed the seeds of future failure. What followed was a tumultuous month of command changes and missed opportunities, Braxton Bragg desired to separate Longstreet from his command. In early November Bragg ordered Longstreet and his troops to retake Knoxville from Union forces. The resulting attack was a failure and for the next few months Longstreet and his troops remained in Eastern Tennessee until recalled to the Army of Northern Virginia in the spring of 1864. For those seeking additional information regarding this topic the following books are recommended.

Freeman, Douglas Southall. *Lee’s Lieutenants: A Study in Command.* New York: Charles Scribner’s Sons, 1944. Pp. 3 volumes. Cloth. Illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. Chapters 16 & 17 cover Longstreet’s sojourn in the west. According to Piston’s work listed below, Freeman was highly critical of Longstreet to protect Lee’s reputation.


LEE AND LONGSTREET TOGETHER ...OR NOT
By Rick Solomon

Numerous authors of the Civil War have stated that during his command of the Army of Northern Virginia Robert E. Lee stayed close to his second in command, James Longstreet. I decided to take a look at exactly how much of the time that Lee was in command of the Army of Northern Virginia was Longstreet close by Lee.

Lee took over command of the Army of Northern Virginia on June 1, 1862 after the wounding of Joseph E. Johnston during the Battle of Fair Oaks aka Seven Pines. Lee remained in command of that army through the surrender at Appomattox on April 9, 1865. This is a total of 1,044 days. For the purposes of this article I am not going to count days when Lee travelled to Richmond to consult with Confederate President Jefferson Davis. There were four periods of time that the man Lee called “My Warhorse”, Longstreet, was absent from the Army of Northern Virginia.

The first period of time was during the Suffolk Campaign in which Longstreet was sent with two of his divisions, Hood’s and Pickett’s, to the area around the Virginia-North Carolina State Line to defend that area and gather supplies. Longstreet left the Army and Lee on February 19, 1863 and didn’t return until May 8, 1863, four days after the end of the Battle of Chancellorsville. This was a total of 74 days.

The next period of time that Longstreet was gone from Lee’s side was the longest, which was September 10, 1863 until March 7, 1864, a total of 188 days. After consultations with President Davis, Secretary of War James Seddon and Lee, Longstreet was sent with two of his divisions, Hood’s and McLaw’s, to reinforce Braxton Bragg’s Army of Tennessee in an operation dubbed “Westward Ho.”. This time period will be the topic of my presentation to PSCWRT on April 12.

After a long train ride, on March 8, 1864 Longstreet arrived at Orange Courthouse and the Army of Northern Virginia where “Old Pete” (Longstreet) was reunited with his chief, “Marse Robert” (Lee). After conferences with Davis, Seddon, Lee and Bragg (new Military Adviser to the President) and a visit to his wife and children in Petersburg, Longstreet returned to his troops in Greenville, Tennessee on March 18, 1864. The last of Longstreet’s men returned to the Army of Northern Virginia on April 22, 1864. This was another 35 days absence by Longstreet from Lee.
Finally, Longstreet was accidently wounded by his own men on the second day of the Battle of the Wilderness, May 6, 1864. Lee’s Warhorse was leading a “Sledgehammer” attack (Peter Gabriel playing a song by that name in the background) that was every bit as strong as the attacks that Longstreet led at Second Manassas, Second Day of Gettysburg and Chickamauga. Old Pete was struck in the throat by a bullet that passed through his right shoulder and severed nerves. Longstreet was out of action until he returned to the Army of Northern Virginia on October 19, 1864. This was another 165 days absent.

Longstreet’s total absence from the Army of Northern Virginia was 467 days which is 44.7% of the time that Lee was in command of said Army. During the second and third periods of Longstreet’s absence Richard Ewell was second in command to Lee. This was the case during the Battle of Spotsylvania which was unacceptable to Lee due to Ewell’s deteriorating physical condition. Therefore, shortly after the Battle of Spotsylvania, Lee relieved “Old Bald Head” (Ewell) from command of the Second Corps. From then until Longstreet’s return A.P. Hill was second in command.

I look forward to seeing you at our April 12 meeting where I will discuss the second period of time that Longstreet was separated from Lee.

Rick Solomon

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Member Recruitment
By Mike Movius

As you all know, we have been without a VP Membership for most of the season. Although it is important to have a lead in the VP position to keep our roster up-to-date, it is equally important that all of us support the recruitment effort. Nick Adams’ BRING A FRIEND initiative met with some success. And, we salute him for the effort and his innovation.

I’m proposing that we establish an actual recruitment effort that other CWRTs have found to be very effective. That effort would be for every member to adopt a library, senior center, community center, historical society, museum, genealogical society, gated community, etc. for which they are either a member or is near their home. With that adoption, they would ensure that our brochures are visible and available to patrons.

Obviously, there would need to be some conversation with the leadership of the organization such that they understand we are a non-profit interested in public education. Other than that, it should be a relatively simple task to visit once every few weeks.

Who will be the first to volunteer? Send me an email: president@pscwrt.org
THE LAST WORD

What April 12th Means to Me

By Mark R. Terry

This month’s meeting takes place on April 12th. April was a significant month in Civil War history. In fact, April 12th was the date Southern forces fired on Fort Sumter, sparking the conflict. Four years later, on April 12th, Lee’s Army of Northern Virginia formally laid down their arms and battle flags to Grant’s Army of the Potomac.

Personally, April 12th is significant for another reason. Back in 1986 I discovered a book, "Tracing Your Civil War Ancestor" by Bertram Groen. I was instantly transfixed by the promise of the title and purchased it. This was the book that kick-started my passion for learning about my genealogy. Years earlier, my great aunt Marian Marble Thomas had self-published a family history on my dad’s side of the family. She found a soldier on the Union side, Pvt. Benjamin W. Simmons of Co. C, 146th New York Infantry. While that was cool, I wanted to go further and do my own research.

So methodically I began digging back through my past. I came across the name of my 2x Great Grandfather, William B. Tharp, from Hardy County, Virginia. His age was right, but I saw that he had a daughter who was born in 1863, so my first thought was that he didn’t serve in the war. However, while reading through the "History of Grant and Hardy Counties, West Virginia", by E.L. Judy, I came across a “W.B. Tharp” on the roster of the “Hardy Grays”, which became Company F, 33rd Virginia Infantry! I immediately sent for his service records from the National Archives and confirmed that it was him. I still recall opening the envelope even before I got back to our apartment because I was so excited. The mystery of why he had a child in 1863 was solved. Although Tharp had enlisted in May of 1861, he was discharged from the army on July 22, 1861, thereby allowing him to return home to be a husband to Susan and father to their newborn son, John Samuel Tharp, who would be my great-grandfather.

So what’s the big deal about April 12th? It was William’s birthday in 1830! But the story doesn’t end there. “W.B.” and his wife had ten children and he died on April 18, 1908. They lived in McCoole, MD, right across the river from Keyser, WV. With the help of several locals I was able to locate the cemetery where Tharp had been laid to rest. Because his grave was unmarked, I ordered a marker from the VA and a distant relative who lived in Keyser, Mr. Carroll Cain, became my contact person. Rather than Carroll just placing the marker, I felt we needed to do something more, so I took a week off work, flew to the east coast, helped mount the stone and dedicate it, along with a small group of relatives which lived nearby. We did this on April 18, 1991, 83 years after his death.

Is it possible another relative of mine might have done all this? Perhaps, but I know for certain that if I hadn’t found that book, I would not have been able to do what I did.

What about you? Do you have an ancestor who fought in the Civil War? Are you interested in finding out? Please let me or others know, like members Verlin Judd, Stephen Pierce
and others who have made these discoveries. You never know what you can find until you try!!!

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 May 2018 Washington Volunteer is Monday, April 23, 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@pscwrt.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, cpsclayton@msn.com
Vice President-Reservations: Steve Murphy, steve@adaptech.us
Vice-President-Editor: Mark Terry, markimlor@comcast.net
Vice President-Social Media: Mike Movius, webmaster@pscwrt.org

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