The Washington Volunteer
Puget Sound Civil War Round Table
www.pscwrt.org
October 2018
Volume 34, Issue 2

Next Meeting: Thursday, October 11, 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. Students-no cost

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, October 9, 2018.

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

Walter Stahr will discuss his latest book, Stanton: Lincoln’s War Secretary. He is also the author of Seward: Lincoln’s Indispensable Man and John Jay: Founding Father. Mr. Stahr practiced international law for 25 years, including seven in Hong Kong and five with the SEC. Mr. Stahr previously spoke to the Puget Sound Civil War Round Table at the January, 2014 meeting on the subject of Secretary of State William Henry Seward.

Important Dispatches

Proposed Change to the PSCWRT Constitution
By Mark R. Terry

It is vitally important to the Puget Sound Civil War Round Table that we maintain our status as a 501(c)3 Non-profit organization. Earlier this year we learned from the IRS that the PSCWRT had lost that status because we had overlooked our annual resubmission to the IRS for several
years. While the board is working to restore our non-profit status, we realized a change in the job description was needed in the Constitution regarding this. Therefore, the board proposed that the following wording be added under the following board positions:

Under “President”

**The President and treasurer will be responsible to prepare annual tax returns to insure compliance with IRS regulations regarding 501C-3 status**

Under “Treasurer”

**The Treasurer and President will be responsible to prepare annual tax returns to insure compliance with IRS regulations regarding 501C-3 status**

Under “Secretary”

**The Secretary will maintain a file of all corporate documents excluding financial records maintained by the treasurer**

The PSCWRT Constitution states that any change of the Constitution needs to be ratified by a vote of the membership present at a membership meeting. **We will vote on this amendment at the October meeting.** Jeff mentioned this at the last meeting, and hopefully we will have some copies of the above for each table. Make sure you are there if you want a say.

**October Birthdays**

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

- Sallie Coats
- Dennis Hess
- Connie Pierce
- Matthew Ford
- Richard H. Kerr
- Kent Questad
- Steve Garratt
- Aleta Malles
- Fred Wilmoth

**NEWS AND PROJECTS**

**Civil War Book Club & Discussion Group**

At the September Round Table, Board Member Arthur Banner announced his intention to start a Civil War Book Club and Discussion Group. The Book Club will meet bimonthly at China Harbor at 6PM during the social hour prior to the regular meeting. An organizational meeting will be held on October 11. **If interested contact Arthur Banner at: banneras@comcast.net**

The intention is to discuss books from the point of view of their meaning. In so doing, the intention is to deal with the current popular issue of memory, particularly how memory pertains
to the present and points to the future. We also intend to review books written by the speakers. Book reviews will be written by the book club members if they so wish. The reviews will be submitted for publication in the newsletter and website.

Upcoming Events

Grave Marker Unveiling for Pvt. Ole Christopherson, Saturday, October 6, 2018. Gig Harbor, WA, 1:00 p.m.
This one is coming up VERY quickly—before our October meeting! Christopherson was a member of the 2nd Minnesota Cavalry. If you would like to attend and need details, go to this website: https://www.gigharborchamber.net/events/details/civil-war-tombstone-unveiling-for-ole-christopherson-3062

Nick Adams’ Presentation “Two Sides of One Story”, Monday, November 5, 2018
PSCWRT member and VP-Partnerships Nick K. Adams will be presenting the story of his ancestor David Brainerd Griffin of the 2nd Minnesota Infantry at Room #1, Bellevue Library, 1111 110th Ave. NE, Bellevue from 7:00-8:30 p.m. Contact Nick at carmodnick@comcast.net or the sponsors at: info@bellevuewakiwanis.org

Looking Ahead: American Battlefield Trust “Color Bearer” Events in 2019
PSCWRT Webmaster Mike Movius has the dates for three American Battlefield Trust “Color Bearer” events coming up in 2019. Please contact Mike for information and more details on these events!

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Donor Thank You Weekend</th>
<th>American Battlefield Trust Annual Conference</th>
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<tr>
<td>February 8-10, 2019</td>
<td>May 29 – June 2, 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hotel Monteleone</td>
<td>Griffin Gate Marriott Resort &amp; Spa</td>
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<td>New Orleans, LA</td>
<td>Lexington, KY</td>
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Grand Review
October 18 – 20, 2019
Boston, MA

Sale of American Civil War Reproduction Arms and Equipment at October Meeting
Ed Malles, PSCWRT member and speaker, has announced that he is divesting himself of a collection of items related to the Civil War. Among them are a reproduction musket and accouterments, saber, kepi, some books and even an original dug Confederate artillery projectile! Ed will have flyers detailing the collection for those who are interested at the October meeting. There is a pretty good discount for these items, and Ed wants to sell them as a lot. Bring money if you are interested!
Greetings, members of the Puget Sound Civil War Round Table. PSCWRT President Jeff Rombauer has asked me to write a monthly column about discoveries, discrepancies, and details of the men and women associated with the American Civil War who are buried right here in Washington State. But first, a brief account of some of my most memorable moments.

I've been cruising cemeteries for a half century now, starting here in Seattle and branching out based on where my own immediate family members were buried. My first field trip was to Colfax, Washington in September 1975. I started dating my husband Jim in January 1977, and rapidly got him “hooked” on the family history bandwagon. In early 1994, we visited Crown Hill Cemetery in Ballard in search of an obscure cousin. We found him. But we also found something else: a large monument to Civil War veterans, and thirty-one grave markers around it, mostly temporary.

Who are these guys? And why, I asked, didn't they have permanent markers?

As it happened, I needed a research project for a class I was taking in college, and we were off and running. Over the course of the next year we compiled a tremendous amount of data on those thirty-one veterans. It was the beginning of a personal database that now contains over 47,000 records on Northwest Civil War veterans and their families. It's still growing.

In the course of our travels, we made connections with Lee Corbin of the Sons of Union Veterans, and independent genealogical researcher Denise Ottoson. Both of them provided us with crucial data. Denise's compulsion for the veterans is greater even than mine—her databases contain over 300,000 records on veterans and their families. We share a lot of information. It's rare that I find a veteran she doesn't already have.

We've found cremated veterans abandoned in funeral homes and community storage. We've found many, many veterans without permanent markers, and countless others whose markers have been weathered by time and the elements to illegibility. We've pored through manuscript records at the University of Washington, we've walked the turf in search of markers, we've correlated our information with that of veteran families, we've argued and conjectured about proof of service. It's been four decades of entertainment and challenge, and we're not done yet.

Here are some of my favorite anomalies.

Charles Lord, one of the Crown Hill veterans, has a temporary marker. But at the Washington State Soldiers Home at Orting, he has a nice permanent one. Lord died at the Soldiers Home in 1905 and was buried the same day. Several days later, his widow contacted the Home and wondered why his body hadn't been shipped back to Seattle. Oops. He was promptly disinterred and reinterred under the auspices of Cushing Post 56, Grand Army of the Republic. His grave
marker had already been ordered, however, and was duly installed over the now-empty grave at Orting.

John Coulter Garvin shares a grave marker with his wife at the Cowlitz View Memorial Gardens in Kelso. He was born in 1835, but no ending date was ever cut into the stone. Apparently, they had planned to be buried together. But that didn't happen. Garvin died in Red Oak, Iowa in 1919 and was interred there. A name may show up on a grave stone, but interment records of the cemetery should always be checked.

George Butler Adams has a recently issued marker at the Wenatchee City Cemetery. It declares he was a member of the 12th Michigan Infantry. Yes, a George Adams served in that unit; he received a pension, and is buried at the Michigan State Veterans Home. To be certain, the pension file was ordered. Many such supposed veterans with “name's the same” problems are associated with a pair of researchers from eastern Washington. Mis-identification of veterans happened all the time in early records too. The Bureau of Pensions had a detailed vetting process that required both “buddy” letters and documentary evidence before a contested veteran, or his widow, was allowed a declaration of honorable service, a pension, or a grave stone. Yet even the Department of Veterans Affairs has been fooled.

Occasionally the Grand Army of the Republic was fooled too. Jacob Amic Covington came to the Pacific Northwest in the late 19th century, and was enumerated in 1900 in Fremont by the census. In 1910 he had attained civic responsibility, having used GAR connections to secure a position as a bookkeeper in the Seattle City Treasurer's Office. His funeral in 1917 was a grand affair. He was buried with full honors befitting a late Lieutenant of the conflict, at the Capitol Hill GAR Cemetery. His widow Sarah and the gravestone registrar, Fred Hurd, ordered a government marker for him. Twice. The orders came back rejected. Covington, it turns out, had resigned in lieu of court-martial and had been cashiered without honor in one of the most scandalous adventures of the 40th New York Infantry. Under Ben Butler, there was a smuggling ring involving contraband cotton and seized property. Covington and other officers were implicated. His widow did not know the correct unit of service; she believed it was the 4th New York, and so it appears now, in error, on the civilian marker she ordered for him.

Perhaps the most unjust cases of non-recognition of service involve the “galvanized” Yankees, the Confederate prisoners coerced into changing sides in exchange for nominal freedom and a promised pardon. Many of these soldiers were shipped to the American West, far from the front lines of battle. James David Iddings was born in Floyd County, Virginia, and enlisted with the 54th Virginia Infantry for the Confederacy. He was captured and taken POW to Rock Island, Illinois in May 1864. He languished there until October, when he accepted the offer to join the 3rd US Volunteers at Fort Leavenworth. After his year of service, he returned to Virginia, but removed to Washington Territory before 1894. The promises were broken. He applied for pension and was denied, having “borne arms against the Federal troops” before his “galvanized” enlistment. No other gratuitous benefits were available to him, or to his widow, not even a grave marker. He was buried first at the Saar Pioneer Cemetery in Kent, and later relocated to the Hillcrest Burial Park. His first civilian marker was thrown into the brush, and later remounted by cemetery restorationists. His second grave site also has a civilian marker. There is no indication of his service on either marker. For every veteran, there's a story. I have 10,000 more to tell.
Recommendations for additional reading on the Speaker’s Topic: Lincoln’s Secretary of War, Edwin M. Stanton
By Jeff Rombauer

“Mr. Stanton was fond of power and of its exercise. It was more precious to him than pecuniary gain to dominate over his fellow man. He took pleasure in being ungracious and rough towards those who were under his control, & when he thought his bearish manner would terrify or humiliate those who were subject to him.” Gideon Welles, Secretary of the Navy

“.his reputation of honor as Lincoln’s right-hand man during nearly the whole period of the war entitles him to an exalted place in our history, whatever the New York World may say. These three, Lincoln, Stanton, and Grant, did more than any other three men to save the country. Good and evil were strangely blended in the great War Minister. He was honest, patriotic, able indefatigable, warm-heated, unselfish, incorruptible, arbitrary, capricious, tyrannical, vindictive, hateful and cruel. Robespierre had certain traits in common with Stanton”

George Templeton Strong.

Hero or villain? For over 150 years, historians have debated the merits and contributions of Lincoln’s second Secretary of War, Edwin McMaster Stanton. Born in Steubenville, Ohio in 1814, the son of a doctor. Young Edwin prepared to go to college but when he was 13, his father died and he was apprenticed to a bookseller. Although he was able to attend several years at Kenyon College in the early 1830’s he again had to go to work in a bookstore to support his mother. By 1835 after serving two years as an apprentice in a law office, he passed the bar and became a lawyer. By 1847 he moved to Pittsburg, Pennsylvania and became a corporate lawyer. His marriage to his second wife, member of a prominent family gave him access to national clients and he moved to Washington DC to practice. During the administration of President James Buchanan, he was appointed an assistant attorney general. During the secession crisis, when President Buchanan reshuffled his cabinet, Stanton was appointed Attorney General. Lincoln appointed Stanton Secretary of War in January 1862 to replace the corrupt Simon Cameron. Stanton was an effective secretary of war, working long hours and bringing order and efficiency to the department according to historian William E. Gienapp. After Lincoln’s assassination, it was Stanton, who took control of the government for the first critical few hours to organize the hunt for the conspirators. While Stanton’s relations with the new President Andrew Johnson were cordial the first year under Johnson’s administration, it was his collaboration with the radical republicans in congress and Stanton’s refusal to resign from his position, which brought about the impeachment of Andrew Johnson. With Johnson’s acquittal in May 1868, Stanton resigned as Secretary of War. III, and broke the last 18 months of his life, Stanton was appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court, but died before serving in December 1869.

For those seeking additional information about Edwin M. Stanton, the following biographies are recommended.

The first major biography of Stanton was written by a Republican politician from California. Gorham was the secretary of the U.S. Senate from 1868 to 1879 and Stanton’s son, Lewis Stanton requested him to
write the biography. The majority of the work covers the last 10 years of his life when he was in Buchanan’s, Lincoln’s and Johnson’s cabinets. To Gorham Stanton was “a character of unspotted integrity and sublime self-abnegation.” While not a balanced study of Stanton, it is still important for the documents which it reprints, which have since disappeared.


Pratt, Fletcher. Stanton: Lincoln’s Secretary of War. New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 1953. Pp. xiii, 529. Fletcher Pratt was an author, book reviewer, historian and one of the founding members of the New York Civil War Round Table. He wrote this book primarily a work of correction. Pratt sets out to dispel the image of a kind of monster, a malignant Radical who betrayed Lincoln’s and Johnson’s confidence.


Marvel, William. Lincoln’s Autocrat: The Life of Edwin Stanton. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina. Press, 2015. Pp. xvii, 611. Marvel is the writer of numerous books on the Civil War including Ambrose Burnside, Andersonville and this work. The author takes a highly critical view of Stanton calling him duplicitous, vindictive, authoritarian, and manipulative. Well researched and written, Marvel does give Stanton credit for his actions after Chickamauga to shift troops from the Army of the Potomac to Chattanooga and his role in the hours after Lincoln’s assassination to calm the nation.

Stahr, Walter. Stanton: Lincoln’s War Secretary. New York: Simon and Schuster, 2017. Pp. xix, 743. Our speaker’s book is another well researched and written biography of Stanton. Stanton may have been a great man, but he was not a good man.

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

The Cost of War
By Jeff Rombauer

Often times we forget the cost of war. We lose sight of the individual, lost in the bigger picture of battles and commanders. The letter below tells the story of Thomas Hart Benton Kelley, who enlisted in the Second Wisconsin Infantry from Dunkirk, Wisconsin on May, 19, 1861 and was wounded at Gettysburg.

Jarvis U.S. Army General Hospital
Baltimore, Md. March 2, 1864.

Dear Madam
The sad news of the death of your esteemed son Corp. Kelly at the Marine Hospital must have been a terrible blow to you. I simply desire to write to you concerning the manner of his death which resulted from an fluent of small pox contracted while outside this hospital on a pass. He was in the habit of visiting acquaintances in this city and no doubt this exposed himself for the disease has raged fearfully in the city during the past winter. Your noble son was badly wounded at Gettysburg and afterwards suffered from gangrene which came near costing him his life As soon as he was able to go about the Hospital he asked permission to act as a nurse, until well enough to return to the field and sought the care of our gangrene soldiers. In this capacity he became so expert that by his faithful attention to his trust he was instrumental in saving many valuable lives. He was truly beloved by his companions and officers and this large Hospital his untimely demise cast a gloom not easily dispelled. We did not know which to admire most, his brave and soldier like conduct, or his moral worth free from the follies and vices of a soldier. He was looked upon and trusted as a most excellent young man. His last words to me was “Doctor can I return here after I recover from the small pox. I know I must go and not expose my comrades.” I promised he should return. He had been recently vaccinated & if taken one all had hoped his case would prove a simple viriloid. The government and the country can ill afford to lose such gallant men although they die in a just and holy cause but it remains for us to venerate and perpetuate his memory. I can assure you our most deeply symphonies both you and your family in this heart fell sorrow you all must experience.

The God of battle has in this gathered your son [ ] home to its resting place, where there is no strife and where the men are at rest. Let us emulate his example of what a good man can do and if may be that we will soon join him in Heaven. May the Heavenly Father be with you, watch over you and keep you in his protection in our prayers.

Mrs. S. S. Kelly
Stoughton
Davis Co.
Wisconsin

The property belonging to your son has been expressed home to you.

@copyright Jeff Rombauer
EDITOR’S NOTE: Wisconsin Volunteers in the War of the Rebellion show that Corp. Thomas H.B. Kelley, Co H, 2nd Wisconsin Volunteers died of disease on February 21, 1864 at Baltimore, Maryland. Thomas’ mother, Susannah S. Kelley, applied for a pension which was granted in 1866, paying her $8 a month dating from February, 1864.
Sources: Historical Data Systems, civilwardata.com and Fold3.com

THE LAST WORD

The Washington Volunteer: What’s up with the newsletter in 2018-2019?
By Mark R Terry

The first and more important purpose of our newsletter, the Washington Volunteer, is to communicate important information. The most important, of course, is when the next meeting is coming up, who the speaker will be and their topic.
After that comes other news such as each month’s member birthdays, upcoming events, projects, etc. Thirdly is what I call “the fun stuff” - articles written by members about their research, Jeff’s topical book reviews, Mike’s latest trips to Civil War battlefields and sites, etc.

Along these lines, Jim and Loretta Dimond will be writing a monthly article about the many Civil War veterans that are buried in the Pacific Northwest, focusing on what they did and how they ended up here. Mike Movius has also been steadily building up a list of Union soldier biographies that I am hoping to include this year. To give equal time, I recently contacted Larry Jones, the man responsible for the “Confederate Calendar”. Jones is a researcher of antique photographic images. For many years, he published rare portraits of Confederate soldiers and civilians, along with their biographies. He stopped publication of the calendar in 2008, but gave me permission to reproduce his work in the Volunteer. Hopefully, you will find them of interest.

Personally, I’ve been thinking about starting a column about Civil War infantry drill. It might sound a bit dull - like it became to the men in the ranks. However, for historians it is vital to know about drill - how the men marched, the formations they used, etc. It all ties into what took place on the battlefield during the Civil War. With about 15 years of experience in Civil War reenacting, from Private to Major, I hopefully can pass a few things on…

Other than that, I will be working closely with Mike Movius, our Webmaster, who is doing incredible work on our website, so that the newsletter can be accessible to everyone.

Reminders Going Forward
Did you know that just about every meeting we have visitors? One young man who just recently moved here from Washington D.C. found out about us via our website, came to our September meeting, had a great time and now wants to join! He is a success story. On the other hand, sometimes we get visitors who may not have a good time and never return. We need to discourage that. Therefore:

- If you see someone at your table (or even another table) who isn’t familiar to you, go and introduce yourself and make them comfortable. Don’t be shy! The idea is to be FRIENDLY so that they will feel welcome and want to come back.
Along with that WEAR YOUR NAME TAG! I’m not sure what it is, but some of us have a “thing” about not wearing a name tag. Maybe they think it isn’t “cool”, but who cares? Name tags are necessary to break the ice with people and spark questions and conversations. You never know but that the person you smiled at and engaged with will likely want to come again. If you don’t have an official name tag, then PLEASE contact Mike Movius at the next meeting and he will help you get one. Leave then in your car or in something you know you will take to the meeting so you will have it with you.

BRING A FRIEND. As far as I know, Nick Adams will still be rewarding members who bring a friend, family member, co-worker or interested acquaintance with a “VIP” sticker to add to their name tag. It has been found that the vast majority of members of an organization joined because they were invited to a meeting personally by a friend and they came. That’s exactly how and why Kim and I joined!

See you at the meeting on October 11!

**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: Stephen Pierce, Treasurer, 8008 190 Street SW, Edmonds WA 98026-6028. Call 425-773-0097 or email: horseless8@hotmail.com

We welcome your article or research submissions for the newsletter, but they may be edited for space. The deadline for the November 2018 Washington Volunteer is Monday, October 22, 2018. Please have it in Mark Terry’s hands via email or snailmail by then. Thank you!

**2018-2019 OFFICERS**
**Elected:**
President: Jeff Rombauer; jeffrombauer@foxinternet.com
Vice President Successor: Rick Solomon; ricksolo@ricksolo.com
Past President: Mike Movius; webmaster@pscwrt.org
Vice President Program: Pat Brady; patsbrady@comcast.net
Vice President Editor: Mark Terry; markimlor@comcast.net
Vice President Marketing: Dave Otis; jhood81@aol.com
Vice President Membership: Arthur Banner; banners@comcast.net
Vice President Partnerships: Nick K. Adams; carmodnick@comcast.net
Vice President Reservations: Steve Murphy; steve@adaptech.us
Vice President Social Media: Mike Movius; webmaster@pscwrt.org
Treasurer: Stephen Pierce; horseless8@hotmail.com
Secretary: Doug Galuszka; dhgaluszka@aol.com

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