NEXT MEETING: Thursday, January 10, 2019
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, January 8, 2019.

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

MICHAEL KIRSCHERNER WILL DISCUSS THE 2ND WISCONSIN INFANTRY, a regiment formed in the chaos immediately following Fort Sumter and which suffered the highest percentage of battlefield deaths of any regiment that fought on behalf of the Union. The leading regiment of the Iron Brigade, its actions at Gettysburg may have prevented that battle from being lost in the opening moments of infantry combat on July 1, 1863. A patent attorney, Mr. Kirschner is writing a book on the 2nd Wisconsin following the discovery that his wife’s and daughter’s ancestor fought for the Union in the Second Wisconsin and was the color bearer for the 2nd Wisconsin at Gettysburg.

IMPORTANT DISPATCHES

Call for Volunteers for Board and Officer positions for the PSCWRT
President Jeff Rombauer has put out a call for volunteers who are interested in serving as a board member, officer or advisor for the PSCWRT. If you want to do a certain task within the board, we would be glad to train you. None of us are getting any younger, so unless members step forward, in time this Round Table will cease to exist. Please contact Jeff using the contact information at the back of this newsletter if you are interested.
January Birthdays

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

| Phillip Allen | Jon Echols | Mitch Robinson |
| Pat Brady    | Bob Hazen  | Jack H. Seeley |
| Sally Coats  | Judy Henriksen | Donald Spenard |
| Harley Crain | Mike Karbowski | Marty Wingate |
| Deborah Dickson | Greg Meldahl |

Chuck Veit Returns to The Pacific Northwest January 9th!
By Mike Movius

As many of you know, historian and author, Chuck Veit’s daughter lives in Tacoma. Since she is due with her second child in January, Chuck and his wife will be traveling from their home in the Boston area to be part of the birth.

Chuck has offered to make a presentation exclusively for PSCWRT. VP Partnerships, Nick K. Adams has secured the Kobetich Branch of the Tacoma Public Library, 212 Brown’s Point Blvd. NE, Tacoma (253-248-7265) for January 9th at 6:30 p.m.

Chuck describes his presentation as follows: “Received wisdom tells us that the Navy played a minor role in the War of the Rebellion--occasionally spectacular but ultimately moot. Using period data and quotes, this talk questions that assumption, and demonstrates how devastatingly effective were the contributions of "Lincoln's webbed feet." The blockade, the many tactical and major strategic battles fought by the fleet, and the fact that Union conquests were maintained from the gunboats all point to a very different conclusion at odds with what we believe we know.”

This will be a great opportunity to learn more about the U. S. Navy role in the Civil War and to understand its importance.

FEATURED ARTICLES

Duties of the Color Guard
By Mark R. Terry

Since Michael Kirschner will be speaking at this month’s meeting about a family member who was a Color Bearer, I thought it would be appropriate to write a short piece regarding the Color Guard and Color Bearer.

During the Civil War, regimental flags were both a unit symbol AND a tool to keep regiments together on the march and in battle. These flags were so important, a special detachment of NCOs was chosen to
guard them, called the Color Guard. In a regimental or battalion formation, the Guard was attached to the
left end of the Color Company, the right-center company of a regiment. This was done to place the colors
in the center of the regiment. It was a special honor to be in the Color Guard.

The Color Guard was made up of a Color Bearer, usually a sergeant, to carry the colors, and the rest
corporals, who were armed. They lined up in three ranks, the front rank with the Color Bearer in the
center, the second rank even with the rear rank and the third rank who lined up with the file closer rank.

Why three ranks? Because when the regiment was commanded to march forward in line of
battle, at the command Forward, the front rank of the Color Guard would move six paces
forward and halt, with the second rank replacing them and the third rank replacing the
rear rank. This was so that the regiment could
dress to the center without displacing the Color rank. At the command “March”, the entire unit would
literally be following their colors. It was a great incentive to move forward.

When the formation was halted, the Color rank would resume their position. When the Colonel would
begin the commands for firing, the Color Guard would shift one rank to the rear, so that the Color rank
would be even with the rear rank of the Color Company [see diagram below]. Why? So that there would
be less of a chance for the colors to flap in front of the muzzles of the muskets being fired and become
damaged. The Color Guard itself did not fire
their weapons with the regiment. They were
only to be fired to defend the colors if it was
directly threatened. Naturally, in battle, the
Color Bearer and the Color Guard would be
subjected to a more intense fire, and when
confronted in close quarter combat, the colors of an enemy regiment were a highly prized trophy. For
those reasons, members of the Color Guard had to be brave and highly motivated to protect their colors
from danger and capture.

Diagrams from “Parade, Inspection and basic Evolutions of the Infantry Battalion”, 3rd Ed. By Dominic
Dal Bello. Pages 35 and 46b.

**Uncle Tom’s Cabin, A Novel for the Ages**
By Arthur Banner

On December 13, *Uncle Tom’s Cabin* was discussed at the Civil War book discussion group. Louise
Suter who read the book previously, reported that a re-reading of the book provided her with new insights
about the meaning of slavery and specifically about Uncle Tom. It is timely for others to read this
profound book, which was written in Maine and published in 1852.

On Federal Street, in Brunswick, Maine is an imposing house with an inscription above the door
identifying the structure as *The Harriet Beecher Stowe House*. Although Henry Wadsworth Longfellow
was a previous occupant, Harriet Beecher Stowe is remembered as its most noted resident. Stowe was the
famed author of *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*, a book about slavery and its damaging effects on the souls of both
the slaves and the owners. The book was one of the most notable and memorable American novels of the
19th century. Although it was directed at a northern audience, those in the south who read the book
denounced it as “a pack of lies.” It has been argued that the book paved the way for the Civil War.
Subsequent to the Civil War, both Northerners and Southerners derided an Uncle Tom as a mark of
derision, referring to an individual who groveled before the white man. Yet the Uncle Tom of the novel was a man of great integrity who bowed before no one but God and was buoyed and redeemed by his belief in Jesus Christ.

Harriett and her minister husband, Calvin, left Ohio to settle in Brunswick, Maine in 1850. Calvin had obtained a faculty position at Bowdoin College, his alma mater. He assumed the position of Professor of Natural and Revealed Religion and served for just 2 years at which time he resigned due to poor health. Joshua Chamberlain, a Civil War hero, replaced him at the College.

Upon arriving in Brunswick, Harriett Stowe began writing her book, *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*, in a sitting room in the old Federal street house. It was initially serialized in the National Era, a moderate abolitionist publication based in Washington, DC. It was then published as a book in 1852.

The novel became a bestseller almost immediately, selling 30,000 copies in the first year. When the author was asked to explain the popularity of her book, her response was that God was the author of the novel. Aside from this theological theory, a more secular explanation was that the book’s themes and characters resonated with the northern audience who viewed slavery as both a financial necessity and at the same time a national disgrace. This cognitive dissonance imposed on people caused them a great discomfort living with the “necessary evil.”

The story is told through an elaboration of themes and through the voices and experiences of individual characters. The themes are the fundamentals of the story and paint slavery with a broad brush, finding that slavery was a complex institution, practiced mostly by good people, who were financially dependent on the institution, but morally compromised by its attendant evils. The characters, on the other hand, describe slavery more completely, as both as observers and victims and hence provide nuance to the story in a memorable fashion.

**Editor’s Note:** This is NOT the complete article! Arthur Banner’s Review of Uncle Tom’s Cabin will be continued on the PSCWRT Website at: [http://www.pscwrt.org/washington-volunteer/page-4.html](http://www.pscwrt.org/washington-volunteer/page-4.html)

**Veterans in Our Back Yard: All in The Family**
by Loretta-Marie Dimond

Acacia Mausoleum #1, the original building, has an interesting family group in the Violet Corridor, Columbarium #1, Niche #88. It's just below eye level. In matching books [see photo below] can be found the cremains of a Mexican War veteran, a Civil War veteran, their respective spouses, two children who married each other, and a first wife. How they all got there, however, is a study in family decision-making that confusticates and bebothers the documentary researcher (apologies to J R R. Tolkien) and reminds us to be thorough in our work. The search isn't over until all necessary sources are used. Start with the Mexican War veteran. Levi Frank Compton (not “Lewis”, urn engraver's error) was born in May 1825 in Pittsylvania County, Virginia. He married Caroline F Merrill before the Civil War, but the date is uncertain.

They lived in San Francisco, California. His Mexican War service is attested by an old wars survivor's pension claimed in 1885. No unit was provided, but both he and his widow were in receipt. He died in Seattle on 16 September 1894 and was supposedly buried first at the Seattle GAR Cemetery. Plans for this burial might have fallen through, however, or he might have been relocated soon after, as later records indicate he was at the “Seattle Odd Fellows Cemetery,” now a part of Mount Pleasant. His wife followed, on 28 January 1898, and she too was buried at Odd Fellows. Levi and Caroline had a son, Horace. Horace's first wife, Robena Merrifield, died in Seattle on 6 February 1899. She was buried at an unknown location. His second wife, Anna Lauretta Berray, may have made most of the decisions that
followed. Horace died in 1923 and was buried at Mount Pleasant. Anna's father, George Ellsworth Berray, was born 11 May 1848 in Franklin, New York. His parents were both New York natives. He enlisted at Berlin, Wisconsin, and served from 3 February to 1 November 1865 in Company B, 49th Wisconsin Infantry. The unit was organized at Camp Randall near Madison, Wisconsin. He was a fairly late recruit to the outfit. On 8 March the unit left for Saint Louis, and moved to headquarters at Rolla, Missouri for garrison and guard duty, specifically at Fort Dodge near the Colorado border. The mission was to protect Army supply trains. The regiment lost 54 men, all from disease. He saw no combat. At least a dozen and a half other veterans from this regiment are known to have come to Washington and are buried all across the state.

In 1891 George was a member of Stevens Post #1, GAR, and was a founding member of Green Lake Post #112, possibly as post commander. He was also active with the Odd Fellows. In 1897 he went to the Klondike to seek gold, but returned busted. He died 1 April 1914 in Seattle, and following what must have been some debate in the family was buried at Mount Pleasant on the 12th. Anna's mother, Kate Berray (formerly Ruth Kathryn Lefevre), was diagnosed with cancer about this same time, and followed her husband in death a little more than a year later. She too was buried at Mount Pleasant. The other three children of the couple resided in Montana, Oregon, and Iowa.

The initial clue to what happened next is provided by an easily-missed note in the City of Seattle death records. On 12 December 1937, Levi and Caroline were disinterred by Johnson and Sons Funeral Home, and taken to their new crematory. Forty years after their initial burial, the remains were cremated and placed in their present urns. Sometime in the ensuing decade, the same process took Horace, Robena, George and Kate from their burial sites and reduced them to urns as well.

Finally, Anna joined them shortly after her death, on 14 August 1948 at a now-defunct Shoreline rest home on Aurora Avenue. She managed her own affairs. Her remains were cremated by Arthur A Wright on Queen Anne Hill (coincidentally, next door to Mount Pleasant) and returned directly to Acacia. The informant on her death certificate was “family records.” Her stepson predeceased her and is also inurned at Acacia, Azalea Corridor. Her three children are presently unaccounted for. Someone requested Anna's death certificate in 1987, in the hopes of finding her. Perhaps they did, and the rest of the family as well—because, according to the most easily-available records, they're all still at Mount Pleasant. Check field work with documents, check documents with field work.

Recommmendations for additional reading on the Speaker’s Topic: The “Ragged Ass” Second Wisconsin

By Jeff Rombauer

During the Civil War over 91,000 troops served in the Union Army from the State of Wisconsin. Among the most famous of the regiments from that state was the 2nd Wisconsin, which went on to become part of the famous “Iron Brigade” under the command of General John Gibbon. Organized in the spring of 1861, the 2nd Wisconsin and mustered into U.S. service in June 1861 with 1051 members. It departed the state in late June and was dispatched to Washington D.C. where it fought under Colonel William T Sherman at the Battle of Bull Run where it suffered 10% casualties. In August of 1861 it was assigned to the brigade which later became known as the Iron Brigade. The 2nd Wisconsin suffered heavy losses during the 2nd Manassas, Antietam and Gettysburg campaigns. At Gettysburg, it lost 77% of those present during the battle in killed, wounded and missing. After the battles of the Wilderness and Spotsylvania, with the
regiment reduced to less than 100 men, the 2nd was detailed to provost-guard duty. In June, 1864 the regiment was ordered home for muster-out. The 2nd Wisconsin according to Fox’s Regimental Losses in the Civil War, “This regiment sustained the greatest percentage of loss of any in the entire Union Army.” For additional reading on this regiment see the list below.


Editor Gaff has provided a valuable service by gathering together in one volume, obscure accounts by various members of the 2nd Wisconsin. The history by Otis appeared in a Milwaukee newspaper in the 1880’s. Most of the other accounts were from speeches by officers before the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States. Gaff has also attached a complete roster of the regiment.


Based on almost entirely contemporary documents Gaff’s book focuses on the history of the 2nd Wisconsin from enlistment through the Battle of Bull Run.


A collection of letters from two Wisconsin brothers, one who served in the 2nd Wisconsin.


Beecham’s memoirs were originally published in the veteran’s newspaper The National Tribune. He was a member of Co. H. of the 2nd Wisconsin and was captured at Gettysburg. After being exchanged he became an officer in a USCT regiment. In 1894 he moved to Everett, Washington where he died in 1920.

For additional on the Iron Brigade see the following:


Iron Brigade Trivia

A. In what battle did the “Iron Brigade” earn their nickname?

B. Who gave the nickname to the brigade?

C. Besides the 2nd Wisconsin, what other regiments did the Iron Brigade consist of in 1863? (Answers on the last page)
Drill, Part Three- The Firings
By Mark R. Terry

There is a scene in the movie “Glory” which illustrates infantry firing. A group of recruits of the 54th Massachusetts are standing around admiring the marksmanship of Pvt. Jupiter Sharts (actor Jihmi Kennedy), as he leisurely and deliberately takes aim to hit his targets. Observing this, Col. Robert Gould Shaw (actor Matthew Broderick) creates a teachable moment. After explaining that they are expected to fire three shots per minute, he tells Sharts to re-load. As the private does so, Shaw increasingly urges him to hurry. “FASTER! FASTER!” he yells, eventually borrowing an officer’s pistol and firing it into the air until Sharts becomes so flustered that he drops his ramrod and stands open mouthed in shock.

In other words, it wasn’t marksmanship that counted, but how quickly you could fire your weapon in the same direction as the rest of your unit. Two ranks, standing shoulder to shoulder, allowed for very little aiming.

A question that gets asked is “Wouldn’t there be problems for the rear rank firing safely past the front rank?” This is where the proper alignment of the formation is crucial. The rear rank soldier must be directly behind his file partner at the proper distance (13 inches) and their stance must be in line. For instance, at the command “ready”, the feet of both ranks form a “T” with the left foot pointing towards the enemy. At the command “aim”, both ranks bring their muskets up, but the rear rank men also move their right foot eight inches to the right. This allows them to place their weapon safely between the right shoulder of his file partner and the next front rank soldier. [See illustration to the left, copied from page 30 of the “U.S. Infantry Tactics Manual” of 1861 (Hardee’s) Illustrated. Edited by James R. Dunn]

Commands and methods:

At the command, “Fire by Company”, the First Sergeant moves two paces to the file closer rank directly behind him, while the Captain moves to the center rear of the company, four paces behind the file closers, where he will give the commands, “Ready”; “Aim”; “FIRE!”

- At the third command, both ranks fire simultaneously. This is what is always shown in movies and TV, but the drawback of this was that for at least the next 20 seconds, there was no firing, since the entire company would be loading.

- Then, “Fire by Rank”: Front and Rear ranks alternating fire. Firing roughly every 10 seconds, because the delay was halved. Note that the rear rank always fired first, so that the loading process in one rank wouldn’t interfere with the firing of the other.
“Fire by File”, “Ready”; “Commence firing”. At this command, the first file on the right of the company would aim and fire together. As their muskets were brought down to load, the next file on the left would aim and fire, and so forth down the ranks. However, as soon as each file fired, they would immediately load and continue firing on their own (“at will”). According to the manuals, this method was to be given priority, since it brought about the highest rate of fire.

“Right (or Left) Oblique”: This command was given when there was an enemy to one side of the unit or the other, but not directly in front. The “oblique” command would be given prior to the command “aim”. At that point, each front rank soldier would twist his body 45 degrees in the direction commanded and bring their weapon up. Each rear rank soldier would have to lean forward in the direction of the command and change their foot positioning even more in order not to put the front rank men in danger of a muzzle blast- or worse!

Battle reports from the O.R. often do not detail the type of firing done, but there are exceptions. Major Henry Abbott of the 20th Massachusetts at Bristoe Station wrote “The fire was the fire by rank until it degenerated into file firing.” Major S.W. Curtis, commanding the 7th Michigan Infantry told “The enemy were advancing with an evident determination to obtain possession of the line of railroad and soon exposed their right flank. At this time we opened upon them with a right-oblique fire...”

**Battalion Firing**

In the larger battalion/regiment formation, comprising at least 2-10 companies, the same firings as above would be used, but now the firing would be coordinated by the Colonel.

1. **“Fire by Battalion”:** Entire battalion firing a volley or fire by rank on command.

2. **“Fire by wing”:** A battalion consisted of two “wings”. Each wing would volley fire or fire by rank on command, alternating with one another.

3. **“Fire by company”, “commence firing”:** At the battalion level, each two adjacent companies (called “divisions”) would alternately fire, first the odd-numbered company, then the even-numbered company. This would be done by all the “divisions” within the battalion simultaneously.

4. **“Fire by file”, “commence firing”:** Each company fires by file simultaneously and then the men continue to fire at will.

At the command “Cease-fire”, the soldiers cease firing, load and shoulder arms. Note that especially at the battalion level, the commands would often be given by drum or bugle, since it would be difficult to hear voice commands.

Source: “Parade, Inspection and basic Evolutions of the Infantry Battalion”, 3rd Ed. By Dominic Dal Bello
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 February 2019 Washington Volunteer is Monday, January 24, 2019. 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
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Treasurer: Stephen Pierce; horseless8@hotmail.com
Secretary: Doug Galuszka; dhgaluszka@aol.com

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

Answers to Iron Brigade Trivia from Page 6:

A. The Battle of South Mountain, Maryland, September 14, 1862
B. Major General George B. McClellan
C. 6th Wisconsin, 7th Wisconsin, 19th Indiana, 24th Michigan

Even though we are right in the middle of our Round Table season, we are also on the brink of another year. On behalf of the officers and board members of the Puget Sound Civil War Round Table, may you and yours be blessed in the year 2019! God bless you and have a…

Happy New Year!!!