THE WASHINGTON VOLUNTEER
PUGET SOUND CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
WWW.PSCWRT.ORG
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NEXT MEETING: Thursday, September 12, 2019
China Harbor, 2040 Westlake Avenue North, Seattle, Washington
Time: Social hour at 6 p.m.; Dinner served at 6:30 p.m.; Program at 7:45 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, September 10, 2019.

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

JOHN REEVES WILL DISCUSS HIS BOOK, THE LOST INDICTMENT OF ROBERT E. LEE: THE FORGOTTEN CASE AGAINST AN AMERICAN ICON, about a June 1865 Norfolk grand jury indictment of Lee for treason, and about the moral and legal case against Lee after the Civil War. The indictment went missing for 70 years, emblematic of how we erased this story from our national memory for so long. Recently we have begun to reevaluate Lee’s legacy. Mr. Reeves has taught history at three colleges and was an editor and writer at The Motley Fool. He is currently writing a book about the Battle of the Wilderness.

WELCOME BACK TO THE PUGET SOUND CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE, 2019-2020!!! ANNUAL DUES PLEASE!
By Mark R. Terry

To all of our returning members and new members, WELCOME! This is our 35th year as an organization. Thank you for being a part of the PSCWRT, since we are only as active and strong a group when each of us gets involved and to move us forward. One of the first duties we must all perform in this regard is paying our annual DUES. Please be prompt and do so as soon as you can. Dues can be paid by mail, in person at our meeting this month OR online through the PSCWRT website: www.pscwrt.org THANK YOU for your prompt attention in this matter.
“I didn’t even know you existed!”
By Mark R. Terry

From my experience, the vast majority of the time when I have told someone interested in Civil War history about the Puget Sound Civil War Round Table, this has been the response! We have filled positions on the board for marketing and partnerships (working with other local historical organizations), but what we still need are members willing to do things. For instance, we use “rack cards” to get the word out about upcoming meetings. So far, it has been “hit or miss” in terms of canvassing the Puget Sound area. At the last board meeting, it was proposed that we find a way to be more thorough and accountable. If, for example, each member distributes rack cards to senior centers, libraries, grocery stores, book stores, etc. in their own areas and then reports to the VP-Marketing Dave Otis, we could eventually target areas not being covered and get the word out better.

That is just one example.
Remember, the PSCWRT is a volunteer organization. None of us are professionals at what we do, so just because you may be a new member, don’t hesitate to get involved. While we want members to attend the meetings, it would be excellent if members also used their talents, resources and expertise to help the organization at large. We can’t do it without you!

**IMPORTANT DISPATCHES**

**JOHN W. HINDS 1923-2019**
By Mark R. Terry

It is with sadness we announce that long-time member and former PSCWRT President John W. Hinds passed away in San Antonio, Texas on April 23, 2019 at the age of 95.

John Hinds was born in Williamsport, Pennsylvania on November 25, 1923. After graduating from Williamsport High School in 1942, he joined the U.S. Army Air Corps and flew B-17s in the 8th Air Force, where he was awarded an Air Medal. He received his degree from Syracuse University, with an MA from George Washington University. When the Korean War began, he re-enlisted and was assigned to training bases in the United States, flying B-29s and B-50s. Later, he also flew B-47s, training with the SAC. He was trained in psychological warfare and intelligence operations and served as a public affairs officer in the Pentagon. In 1966-1967 he was the senior air liaison officer and FAC with a Vietnamese army division in III Corps. John was also awarded a Distinguished Flying Cross, although the citation is not known. And these are only a part of his accomplishments.

John was a member of the PSCWRT for many years, and served on the board and as President. His interest in the Civil War was sparked by an ancestor who became a POW of the Confederate army during the battle for Plymouth, NC in 1864. John wrote two published books, *Invasion and Conquest of North Carolina: Anatomy of a Gunboat War* in 1998 and *The Hunt for the Albemarle: Anatomy of a Gunboat War* in 2002, related to that campaign. He later authored an e-book on Civil War POWs and the prisoner exchange system titled *Saving the Union with Words and Prisons* in 2016. John was still working on Civil War research when he died. Even after John and his wife Beverly moved to Texas in 2006, he continued his membership and stayed involved with the PSCWRT, giving large donations and encouraging members to give with “challenge” grants. He also desired to help by donating the proceeds from his books. We will miss you, John- and Thank You!!!

Mr. Geoffrey Stevenson and Mr. Pat Brady contributed information for John’s obituary.
Newsletter Editor Needed
By Mark R. Terry

In the May 2019 Washington Volunteer, I announced that this season of the Round Table would be my last as newsletter editor. This will be my tenth season, and I feel it is time for me to step down and allow someone else to take the reins.
I announced it early so that we could find someone who really desires to do the job and give them time to work into it over the course of the season. Communication is vital to any organization, so this is an important position. You will be working closely with the rest of the board, especially Mike Movius, VP-Social Media, since each issue is distributed mainly through the website as well as some mailed out for those with no internet access.
Please contact me as soon as possible and we can get the ball rolling!

September Birthdays
Here are members who have birthdays in September. Let’s acknowledge their special day!

Barbara Banner  Rick Bonk  Micheal Boohmhower
Wendell Carlson  Patrick Eakin  Patricia Ford
Malcolm Garber  Henry Grenley  Andrew Hoyal
Verlin Judd  Denny Luithle  John F. “Jeff” McLaughlin
Cheryl Nunn  Mark Terry

NEWS AND PROJECTS

Upcoming Events

CWRT Congress and Sustainability
By Mike Movius

The number of Civil War Round Tables has drastically declined over the past several years. The tally is at 70 and mounting. The reasons for that are many and include a light dusting of Civil War history in public schools, an emphasis on STEM in colleges, fewer and fewer careers in history, the social stigma and backlash against slavery and the Confederacy and CWRTs that are mired in outmoded ways of doing business.

There a few things in the above list that CWRTs can overcome, and that’s where the CWRT Congress comes in. Those areas are public education (our raison d’etre) and discovering what has worked well in other CWRTs. Having a strong program for members is at the heart of a sustainable CWRT. To that end, the Congress has developed a list of nearly seventy-five 5-Star speakers nominated by CWRTs around the country. You can find it at https://www.cwrtcongress.org/speaker-registry.php

For the last two years, CWRTs have come together to learn how the more successful organizations have adjusted to modern society. For example, the Brunswick CWRT has nearly 1,200 members in a community of 5,000. The Scottsdale CWRT has 450 members in a state with only one battlefield (read “skirmish” as only 23 soldiers were involved for an hour). Their stories are not only important, but inspirational. And, that’s why the CWRT Congress’ motto is “Improvement through Education and Networking”.

This year, the Congress will be held September 20-22 at the Missouri Civil War Museum at Jefferson Barracks just south of St. Louis. An excellent program has been developed in which CWRT
members will be discussing the issues vital to the success of their organizations. Consider attending as registration is open at https://www.cwrtcongress.org/upcoming-events.html

SEE YOU IN ST. LOUIS!

Puget Sound Civil War Round Table Programs 2019-2020
By Mark R. Terry

Here is the full list of descriptions of PSCWRT Programs for 2019-2020 as written by Pat Brady, VP-Programming. Please note the following disclaimer: Speakers, topics and even meeting dates may be changed on a moment’s notice. We will do our best to communicate any changes. Thank you, and we’ll see you at China Harbor for the next nine months!

OCTOBER 10, 2019 Ted Savas will discuss the publisher’s perspective and the story behind the bestselling book, *The War Outside My Window: The Civil War Diary of LeRoy Wiley Gresham, 1861-1865*. Mr. Savas is an attorney, an author or editor of 14 books (published in seven languages), and the Managing Director and co-owner of Savas Beatie Publishing Company, one of the country’s leading independent presses of military and general history titles. For fun, he plays bass and keyboards in a Nor Cal hard/classic rock band.

NOVEMBER 14, 2019 Amy Kinsel will discuss the national movement to remove Confederate monuments by considering how their removal restores as well as erases history. She won the 1993 Allan Nevins Prize for the best-written doctoral dissertation in American History for her study, “From These Honored Dead: Gettysburg in American Culture, 1863-1938.” A Professor of History at Shoreline Community College who earned her Ph.D. at Cornell University, Dr. Kinsel has spoken to the Round Table before.

DECEMBER 12, 2019 Michael Kirschner will discuss the mobilization of the Union Army by President Abraham Lincoln, Secretary of War Edwin Stanton, and the Governors of the states in 1861. Because President Buchanan and his cabinet had done very little to prepare the Union for war, the Lincoln administration had to scramble under pressure immediately after Fort Sumter to field effective forces to defend Washington, the border states, and the Union. A patent attorney, Mr. Kirschner is writing a book on the 2nd Wisconsin Infantry, following the discovery that his wife and daughter’s ancestor fought for the Union in that regiment and carried its colors at Gettysburg.

JANUARY 9, 2020 Rick Solomon will discuss the 1862 fatal shooting of one Union General, William Nelson, by another, Jefferson C. Davis, in Louisville, Kentucky, in response to alleged insults by Nelson. A Past President of the Round Table, Rick will also discuss the poor performance at the Battle of Perryville by Nelson’s replacement, General Charles Gilbert.

FEBRUARY 13, 2020 Ethan S. Rafuse will discuss General George B. McClellan and the Problems of Civil-Military Relations. Professor Rafuse is a professor of military history at the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, and served as the Charles Boal Ewing Distinguished Visiting Professor at the U.S. Military Academy, West Point, in 2018-2019. His published works include *McClellan’s War, Robert E. Lee and the Fall of the Confederacy, and Corps Commanders in Blue*, as well as guides to the Antietam, Manassas, and Petersburg battlefields.

MARCH 12, 2020 Arthur Banner will discuss Joshua Chamberlain, hero of Little Round Top, Medal of Honor recipient, Governor of Maine, President of Bowdoin College, and designee to receive the formal surrender of Lee’s army at Appomattox Court House. Arthur Banner was an academic pulmonary physician, with appointments at the University of Chicago, University of Pittsburgh and Harvard University. When he retired, he moved to Brunswick, Maine, where the memory of Chamberlain is...
celebrated. Chamberlain’s home is preserved as a museum where Dr. Banner guided tours for many years.

Chamberlain was nearly forgotten after his death, only to be granted an encore by Michael Shaara’s *Killer Angels* (1974) and the following movie *Gettysburg*, which made Chamberlain not merely a man but a legend. Dr. Banner’s talk will separate the man from the legend and will show that the man is as compelling as the myth.

APRIL 9, 2020  Brian Burton will discuss General Fitz John Porter, the debacle at Second Manassas, his court martial and his subsequent efforts to clear his name. Professor Burton is working on a study of Porter, is editing the letters of Captain John W. Ames, U.S. Regular Infantry and U.S. Colored Troops, for publication, and is the author of *Extraordinary Circumstances: The Seven Days Battles*. Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs of Western Washington University at Bellingham, Professor Burton has spoken to the Round Table before.

MAY 14, 2020  Caroline Janney will discuss the ways in which the Civil War generation *hoped* we would remember the war. She is the Director of The John L. Nau III Center for Civil War History and John L. Nau III Professor in the History of the American Civil War at the University of Virginia. Professor Janney is the author of *Burying the Dead but Not the Past: Ladies’ Memorial Associations and the Lost Cause* and *Remembering the Civil War: Reunion and the Limits of Reconciliation*, the editor of two volumes of essays, the author of many scholarly articles, and is completing a study of the demobilization of the Army of Northern Virginia.

**Taproot Theater September 20-October 26, 2019 “Necessary Sacrifices”**

“Five words were meant to change a young country divided by civil war when abolitionist and Union recruiter Frederick Douglass challenged his president to act on the statement that “all men are created equal.” As these two brilliant Americans wage a battle for the future of the Union, their arguments affect not only their sons but the nation we live in today. Originally commissioned for Washington, DC’s Ford’s Theatre, Taproot Theatre produces the West Coast Premiere of Richard Hellesen’s drama.”

For tickets: taproottheatre.org

**FEATURED ARTICLES**

**Recommendations for additional reading on the Speaker’s Topic: Robert E. Lee- A Man’s Reputation**

**By Jeff Rombauer**

When I was a young boy in the late 1950’s and 60’s there was a quiz show on CBS called “To Tell the Truth”, where panelists would try to guess the true identity of one of three individuals each claiming to be the same person with an unusual occupation. That is somewhat like we have with the image of the “real” Robert E. Lee. Was Lee the saintly Virginia Gentleman, the undefeated warrior, who had no flaws, and lost to U.S. Grant, only because of overwhelming numbers on the Union side? This is the image of Lee built up former rebel General Jubal Early along with the Southern Historical Society, and by such scholars as Douglas S. Freeman and Clifford Dowdey. Or was Lee, the short-sighted commander of the Army of Northern Virginia, who supported slavery, was a traitor to the country who educated him, and wasted his men by aggressive tactics, as more recently claimed by Alan T. Nolan and others. Or is there a more “sensitive” Lee as represented by Elizabeth Brown Pryor in her book listed below. In line with our speaker this month John Reeves and his excellent work *The Lost Indictment of Robert E. Lee: The Forgotten Case Against An American Icon*, the following works are recommended.

This is the work that caused quite a stir in the 1970’s, especially among “Virginia-centric” worshipers of Lee. In his first six chapters [which make up the majority of the work] Connelly traces the development of Lee’s image. During the Civil War, Connelly argues that Lee was not the most popular Confederate General, but that it was “Stonewall” Jackson. It was during the 1870’s, after his death, that Jubal Early and the Virginia dominated Southern Historical Society made a concerted effort to protect and promote Lee’s image as the greatest General on either side of the Civil War, to enshrine him as the noble, perfect southern gentlemen with no flaws. At the beginning of the 20th century, Lee became a national icon, voted into the National Hall of Fame because of a desire for national reconciliation between the two sections. The final chapter and most controversial section of this work, is where Connelly tries to present a “psychoanalytical portrait of Lee” with all the warts presented.


This able anthology is a must read for anyone interested in Robert E. Lee. Divided into four sections it presents both sides of the “Noble” or “Flawed” Lee. Section one presents three brief memorandum, written by three individuals, regarding conversations with Lee after the war when he was President of Washington University in Lexington. Since Lee did not write any post war memoirs, these three memorandum are all we have on the general’s post-war thoughts on the conflict. Section two offers articles by both Lee supporters and critics of Lee’s overall generalship. Section three contains articles on specific “great campaigns from the Seven Days to the 1864 Overland campaign also written by critics and supporters. The last section is a valuable annotated bibliography of 200 works on Robert E. Lee and his campaigns.


Using numerous unpublished Robert E. Lee letters, the author presents a more complex and vulnerable image of Lee. Pryor examines less know “aspects of character, such as his pioneering role in engineering science, the fluctuation in his religious beliefs, and the way he shaped his leadership style.” The author concludes that while Lee had greatness in him he failed to rise “above the questionable mores of his society”.


In this just published work, Icenhauer-Ramirez traces the history of how Northern leaders thought about how to treat Southern rebel leaders after the war ended and how their attempt to try Jefferson Davis for treason. It is believed that Abraham Lincoln would have preferred to “let them escape the country” But after his assassination, Andrew Johnson threatened to punish all rebel leaders. In 1865 29 rebel leaders were indicted for treason. Yet four years after the end of the war, all indictments were dismissed. Only Jefferson Davis spent time in confinement at Fort Monroe for several years, until he was released on Bond. A well-researched and written work.

Off the Beaten Path

Not all Civil War sites are famous, or located in the South or are battlefields. Some are obscure, and not visited by large crowds of tourists, but they are worth a visit. One such site is Sleepy Hollow Cemetery.

Located just one block off Monument Square in Concord, Massachusetts, Sleepy Hollow Cemetery contains one of the most impressive Civil War memorials, the Melvin Memorial. Designed by Daniel Chester French. [Whose grave is also in the cemetery?] The monument, “Mourning Victory” is dedicated to three brothers from the Melvin family of Concord, who went off to fight in the civil war and never returned. A fourth brother commissioned French to design the monument. The cemetery is also worth a visit for “Author’s Hill”. Here one can find the graves of Louisa May Alcott, Henry David Thoreau, Ralph Waldo Emerson and Nathaniel Hawthorne.
Has America Lost Interest in the Civil War?
By Jeff Rombauer

How Civil War Round Tables Began
By Mark R. Terry

What is a “Civil War Round Table”? A Civil War Round Table (CWRT) is an independent organization, with the objective of promoting and expanding interest in the study of the military, political and sociological history of the American Civil War.

The original Civil War Round Table came about almost by accident. In the mid-late 1930s in the city of Chicago, a group of Civil War enthusiasts—businessmen for the most part—met periodically at a tea room in downtown Chicago for an informal time of discussion about their favorite pastime—the Civil War era. One of the members was Ralph G. Newman. Newman owned a bookstore, so of course he sold books on the war. Eventually, he came to specialize in books about the Civil War and Abraham Lincoln. Whenever a new shipment of books came in, he would tell his friends, who would show up to “help” him unpack—and get first crack at them! Dinners at one another’s home soon followed until in late 1940, the group—sixteen in all—decided to meet and open their club to the public. They met at the Bismarck Hotel on December 3, 1940. They had dinner, then enjoyed a talk by Percival G. Hart on “Stonewall Jackson’s Valley
Campaign- *With Maps!*. Alexander J. Isaacs, one of the founders, coined the name “Civil War Round Table” based upon a local radio show called “The University of Chicago Round Table”. For five years there was no constitution and no elected officers. Newman acted as the Secretary of the group while another member collected dinner fees for each meeting.

Gradually, as the Chicago Civil War Round Table grew, it attracted leading Civil War historians and authors who, along with the members gave presentations to the group. Eventually, the concept of the CWRT started to grow and expanded to other cities. According to Wikipedia, the second CWRT was formed in Milwaukee, WI in 1947, followed by the District of Columbia CWRT in 1951.

With the approach of the American Civil War Centennial in the late 1950’s and early 60’s, interest in the Civil War exploded. As interest grew, so did Civil War Round Tables. Our own Puget Sound Civil War Round Table had its first meeting in October, 1985. Today, there are CWRTs in at least 39 states and the District of Columbia, Canada, the United Kingdom and Australia, as interest in the American Civil War has become international.

Outside of the monthly meetings, many CWRTs organize other activities such as field trips to Civil War sites and battlefields, preservation fund raisers and events, activities to promote interest in history among young people, etc. Because each Round Table is independent, they function as they see fit.

While independent, in recent times Civil War Round Tables have had some challenges. The effect of the Internet and the general insularity of modern society as membership in many social organizations have dropped. Because of that, there is now an effort to unite CWRTs across the country to work together to be successful. To that end, the Civil War Round Table Congress will be convening this month back in St. Louis, Missouri. The goal is that through working together each CWRT can promote interest in the history of the Civil War as well as increasing their own membership and participation. CWRTs can reach out to many through websites and social media, but nothing can take the place of meeting with friends who are interested in Civil War history, listen to top-notch historians and speakers and participate in discussions with them.

So, as you can see, CWRTs have a long and rich history, dating back almost 80 years. In this, the 35th year of existence for the Puget Sound Civil War Round Table, ask yourself what you can do to make our own Round Table better!

Source: *The Civil War Round Table: Fifty Years of Scholarship and Fellowship* by Barbara Hughett. 1990.
**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: Chris McDonald, Treasurer, 34705 NE 14th Avenue, LaCenter, WA 98629 Call (503) 930-4940 or email: alpacamomchris@gmail.com

*We welcome your article or research submissions for the newsletter, but they may be edited for space. Note that the contents of each newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views of the PSCWRT. The deadline for the October 2019 Washington Volunteer is Monday, September 23, 2019. Please have it in Mark Terry’s hands via email or snailmail by then. Thank you!*

**2019-2020 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 Programs: Pat Brady; patsbrady@comcast.net  
Vice President Editor: Mark Terry; markimlor@comcast.net  
Vice President Marketing: Dave Otis; jbhoo81@aol.com  
Vice President Membership: Arthur Banner; banneras@comcast.net  
Vice President Partnerships: Jim Dimond; shinodad@gmail.com  
Vice President Reservations: Steve Murphy; steve@adaptech.us  
Vice President Social Media: Mike Movius; webmaster@pscwrt.org  
Treasurer: Chris McDonald; alpacamomchris@gmail.com  
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*All, except for Past President, an automatic position.*