NEXT MEETING: Thursday, December 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 Jeff Rombauer at: jeffrombauer@foxinternet.com
Or lastly, call Jeff Rombauer at 425-432-1346
Reservations are MANDATORY and be in by 12 NOON on Tuesday, December 10, 2019.

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

MICHAEL KIRSCHNER WILL DISCUSS THE MOBILIZATION OF THE UNION ARMY by President Abraham Lincoln, Secretary of War Simon Cameron, and the Governors of the states in 1861. Because President Buchanan and his cabinet had done very little to prepare the Union for war, and, in fact, took actions that helped arm the Southern states and hindered the Union, 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.

IMPORTANT DISPATCHES

FROM THE PRESIDENT’S DESK
By Jeff Rombauer

I and the board of directors would like to wish all members of the Puget Sound Civil War Round Table best wishes for the holiday season and encourage you to attend the December 2019 meeting. Not only will the talk be an interesting one, but there will be a special event with chances to win one of a dozen prizes, so make your reservations early.
Critical Need: Sound System Assistant
At every meeting, Richard “Dick” Miller carries in the audio equipment and sets it up for that meeting’s speaker. The situation is that Dick can’t always make it to every meeting. We need someone reliable who can be there monthly to help Dick, and on those occasions when he is absent to bring it in and set it up. Dick will train you for the position, but we need someone to step forward this month to start the process. Thank you!

WE NEED FIVE VOLUNTEERS FOR THE CAUSE!!!
Life is full of change. Recently, changes have been taking place within our CWRT. There are five important positions to be filled going forward:

GREETERS
We need motivated people who are outgoing who would be willing to meet and help visitors and new members, to answer questions and help them feel welcome to our group. This is currently a non-board position.

SECRETARY
The main job of the Secretary is to take minutes at board meetings and to publish them for the board, the advisors and the general membership.

VICE-PRESIDENT MEMBERSHIP
The main responsibility of VP-Membership is to maintain an accurate and up-to-date roster. That person is also involved in helping other board members in developing ways to encourage and promote membership in the PSCWRT.

VICE-PRESIDENT RESERVATIONS
This is the person that records the meal choices and reservations for each month’s meeting as they come in. With two-thirds of the meetings still to go, we need someone regular in that position. President Rombauer has stepped in temporarily.

VICE-PRESIDENT EDITOR
The newsletter you are reading now is edited and put together by the VP-Editor. This opening will need to be filled by the end of the season, but my hope as editor is to train and equip the new editor now so that the transition can be made by the fall of 2020, when they will take over.

Please note that anyone who volunteers will be given help and instruction for their role. For the most efficient and smooth operation of the PSCWRT, we need YOUR HELP to make it happen!

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

Steve Clayton     Christopher Miller     Susan Shelby
Rod Cameron       Craig Miller          Allen Suter
James M. Landerdahl Ron Mochizuki      Meg Wilkinson
EDITOR’S NOTE: We do not reveal member’s actual birthdates, but we would love to acknowledge every member’s birth month, but out of a roster of 153 members, 49 do not have any birth month listed. Please check and see if you are one of the 49. Thanks!

NEWS AND PROJECTS

Civil War Book Club: *The Red Badge of Courage* by Stephen Crane
Arthur Banner will be facilitating the next meeting on **December 12, 2019 at 5 p.m.**, just prior to the December member meeting at China Harbor. If you have any questions, contact Arthur at: banneras@comcast.net Thank you!

FEATURED ARTICLES

Off the Beaten Path: Congressional Cemetery, Washington, D.C.

While tens of thousands of tourists and students visit Washington DC each year, few take the time to visit the Congressional Cemetery located 1.5 miles southeast of the U.S. Capitol. In 1807 the cemetery was established on a 4.5-acre plot by private citizens. A decade later sites were set aside by Christ Church for government officials. For a period of 50 years [1826-1876] the U.S. Congress funded expansion, enhancement and upkeep of the cemetery. Now consisting of over 35 acres, some 65,000 persons are buried at this cemetery, including 600 Union and 100 Confederate Soldiers. Among the notable Civil War figures buried there are

Matthew Brady, the noted photographer
Alfred Pleasonton, the Union Army cavalry officer
Alexander Dallas Bache, Superintendent of the Coast Guard during the Civil War
Lemuel Jackson Bowden, West Virginia’s Civil War Senator;
General Alfred Humphreys commander of the 2nd Corps, Army of the Potomac
Colonel Edward Baker, Senator from Oregon, killed at Ball’s Bluff
David Herold, one of the Lincoln conspirators

One of the most impressive monuments at the cemetery [see photo] is the Washington Arsenal Explosion Monument dedicated to 22 women killed June 17, 1864 in an explosion and fire at the Washington Arsenal, 16 of the victims are buried here. President Lincoln and Secretary of War Edwin Stanton led the funeral procession.
For additional see the Website of the Association for the Preservation of Historic Congressional Cemetery listed below.

https://congressionalcemetery.org/product/a-guide-to-civil-war-washington-dc/
At the start of the Civil War in April 1861 the Federal army consisted of less than 16,000 men and officers in 10 infantry regiments, 5 cavalry regiments and 3 artillery regiments, scattered in 79 outposts in the west, 23 Federal arsenals and fifteen Atlantic coastal posts. Many officers resigned their commissions to follow their seceded states and joined the Confederate army. After the attack on Fort Sumter in April 1861, four more Southern states joined the Confederacy after President Lincoln, using the Militia Act of 1795, called for 75,000 volunteers to put down the insurrection. Deprived of the human resources from 1/3rd of the states, how did the Union army grow so that at the end over 2.5 million men had served with 2100 regiments raised? That is the topic of tonight’s speaker. For additional reading on this subject the following books are recommended.

Winner of the Pulitzer Prize for history in 1929, this two volume study attempts to show “how the Union changed from a peace to war basis.” Shannon examines in detail how at the outbreak of the war the Federal Government depended on the Militia Act and the states to raise troops. The author goes on to describe in detail, feeding and clothing troops, arming the troops, the daily life of soldiers, the evolution of national recruiting and the problem of conscientious objectors. David Eicher in his *The Civil War in Books* finds Shannon’s work as “uninspired and based in some cases on thin source material, this work retains some usefulness”.

The author examines the reason for the military weakness of the U.S. at the outbreak of the Civil War, laying the blame on the Jeffersonian concept of a fear of a large standing army, and its dependence on state militia’s during the War of 1812, and the Mexican War. Meneely’s study looks expressly at the first year of the war as the War Department went from a small “clumsy organization to one which had raised 500,000 men and built an establishment to sustain them. This according to the author “not due to the efforts of Secretary of War Simon Cameron, but in spite of them.

This is a study of how the Enrollment Act of 1863 impacted one northern state, New York. By the time of Gettysburg, the number of volunteers who enlisted for patriotic reason has reached its limits, and the Enrollment Act was meant to encourage enlistment, by establishing a national draft for those states who did not meet their allotted quotas. Since the “Empire State” held 20% of the North’s population, Murdock shows how the system of bounties for enlistment, enlistment brokers, and bounty jumpers caused abuses in the system. Out of over 776,000 men drafted in the north, only 46,000 were drafted, while another 73,000 provided substitutes.

An expanded review of the Civil War draft in the north, compared with his book listed above. As the blurb on the dust jacket states this is “the story of bounty jumpers, bounty brokers, substitution, and commutation; of draft resistance and the kidnapping of innocent aliens; of artificial hemorrhoids, and fabricated hernias; of riot, arson and assault”

David Eicher in his *The Civil War in Books* calls this “the best comprehensive treatment of the Federal draft and its significance to the war effort.” While the draft raised few troops, its significance was in the power shift of responsibility from the states to the Federal government.

Miller, Richard S. *States at War: A Reference Guide*. Hanover and London: University Press of New England, 2013 to Present. Pp. 6 volumes to date. This massive ongoing reference series examines in detail, the geographic, political, economic and military efforts of the various states during the Civil War. Five volumes [covering 11 states] have been published on Northern states [one on Michigan will be published soon] and one on South Carolina. These volumes provide detailed information on the population and distribution of the population in each state, the number of enlistments from each state, and the regiments raised. With excellent notes and bibliographies for each state.

**Faces from the War**
By Mark R. Terry

As I was skimming through Facebook, I found a photograph of this young Confederate soldier. It was the intensity in his eyes and his look of determination that caught my eye and made me want to share this with you all. The following information is from the Facebook page of the North Carolina Civil War & Reconstruction History Center in Fayetteville, NC.

Private Ephraim Kale, Company I (the “Catawba Marksmen”), 49th Regiment N.C. Troops
Ephraim Kale resided with his parents and seven siblings in Catawba County. He mistakenly claimed that he was sixteen years old when he enlisted on March 19, 1862, in the “Catawba Marksmen,” subsequently Company I, 49th Regiment N.C. Troops. Ephraim, born in October 1846, was in fact just fifteen years old.

A provision of the Confederate Conscription Act of April 16, 1862, mandated that soldiers younger than eighteen be released for service. It is likely in many cases that provision was not rigorously enforced, and Ephraim was not discharged until more than six months later, on September 27, 1862. He apparently was hospitalized at the time, and it is possible that medical staff, upon discovering his true age, brought about the discharge. Two days later Ephraim collected the $32.03 back pay owed him by the Confederate government.

He is presumably the same Ephraim Kale who enlisted as a private in Company K (“Wharton’s Partisan Rangers”), 63rd Regiment N.C. Troops (5th Regiment N.C. Cavalry), on March 1, 1864. He is reported present but with no horse on two muster rolls between March and August 1864 and his name appears on a clothing receipt roll of September 25, 1864, following which there are no further military records for him. Kale’s arm rests on a large trunk, a prop seen in other photographs from the 49th North Carolina.

**EDITOR’S NOTE:** After the war, Kale married Mary Ann Cook and had three children. He died in Catawba County in 1895 at the age of 52.
As the Civil War’s first Christmas neared, a pair of young lovers, Nathaniel Dawson and Elodie Todd, a Confederate soldier and his eventual bride, wrote to one another with increasing melancholy. They were separated by hundreds of miles, and their communication was often interrupted by delays in the mail and the desperation of the Civil War.

“I wish I could be with you at Christmas, the festal season, where age is rejuvenated and lives again in the merry carols of youth,” Dawson wrote to Todd (sister of Mary Todd Lincoln) on December 22, 1861. On the holiday itself, he wrote to describe his regiment’s rowdy celebrations. “Bad whiskey is abundant and pleasure and sorrow drowned in large potations,” he said.

Dawson and Todd’s lives changed dramatically during the war, as the Confederacy crumbled and their personal lives stretched to their limits. But they weren’t alone in wishing they could celebrate Christmas together. As the fractured United States fought, the holiday took on new meaning.

By the end of the war in 1865, Christmas had gone from a relatively unimportant holiday to the opposite—a day rooted in an idealized vision of home. The way Americans observed the holiday changed too, setting the stage for the more modern Christmas holiday we know today.

Before the Civil War, Christmas was not an official holiday in the United States. Nor was it celebrated uniformly across the country. In early New England, Christmas was looked down upon by Puritans and Calvinists, who felt the day should be observed for strict fasts and rituals, if it was observed at all. During the 17th century, Massachusetts imposed a fine on colonists who celebrated the holiday, and after it became a state, its businesses and schools did not observe the holiday at all.
Elsewhere, Christmas was celebrated in a variety of ways, most depending on the country of origin of the immigrants who celebrated it. But by the mid-19th century, the holiday’s importance—and distance from religious tradition—was already starting to grow. Songs and carols like “Jingle Bells” (1857) and poems like “A Visit from St. Nicholas” (1823) set the stage for a fun, secular holiday that revolved around gift-giving and celebration with food and drink.

In the antebellum South, plantation owners used the holiday as a way to show off their paternalism toward the people they enslaved, write historians Shauna Bigham and Robert E. May. During lengthy Christmas celebrations, they gave enslaved people passes to marry, provided food and alcohol, and gave gifts.

Though enslaved people managed to create some of their own Christmas traditions, many of which incorporated traditions from Africa, they were also expected to help absolve slaveowners’ guilt over the holidays by enthusiastically opening gifts and showing their gratitude. “So far as their owners could tell,” Bigham and May write, “most slaves played their prescribed role to the hilt throughout the holiday.”

But the Civil War disrupted not just the relations between plantation owners and the people they enslaved, but those within families and communities. As both sides shifted their resources to war, the ability to give gifts and celebrate was dramatically curtailed. People cast their decision to have more modest Christmas celebrations as a patriotic one, and children got in on the act, too. Instead of giving and receiving store-bought gifts, they made more humble gifts like popcorn balls or crude homemade toys. And they learned to temper their expectations of Santa.

“A crotchety slave told the Howell-Cobb children not to expect a visit from St. Nick because the Yankees had shot him,” writes historian James Alan Marten, “while other parents offered more sensitive explanations. As a Yankee, Santa would be held up by Confederate pickets or perhaps Union blockading vessels had interrupted his journey.”

Meanwhile, those children’s mothers, aunts and sisters experienced Christmas as an agonizing reminder of the danger faced by men who had gone to war. Civil War-era diaries and letters document how many women felt anxiety, grief and depression around Christmas. In 1861, Margaret Cahill wrote to her husband, Thomas, a Union officer, that she felt so “nervous and lonely” that she could not write to him on Christmas. “Will you say? Why did you not write to me on Christmass [sic] Day” she wrote. “Well to tell you the truth I was not able.” “Never before had so sad a Christmas dawned upon us,” wrote Sallie A. Brook, a Confederate woman from Richmond, of Christmas 1861.

On the battlefield, men on both sides tried to celebrate Christmas by giving gifts, eating and drinking, and taking time off. In his memoir, James A. Wright, a sergeant in the First Minnesota Volunteer Infantry Regiment, recalls eating beef soup and greeting his fellow soldiers on Christmas in camp. “The men had been allowed as much liberty as consistent with discipline and were ‘circulating around’ among their acquaintances in other regiments,” he recalled. “I was frequently invited to ‘smile,’” or take a drink. In 1863, a Confederate soldier from North Carolina wrote to his mother asking for a bottle of brandy and some sugar so he could make eggnog for his fellow soldiers.
Popular media did its best to increase the morale of both soldiers and their families at home around Christmas. *Harper’s Weekly*, the most popular periodical at the time, published a variety of Christmas stories and illustrations during the war. The most famous were drawn by illustrator Thomas Nast, who portrayed not just sad wives and husbands but happy Christmas Day traditions. He is credited with solidifying how the nation imagined Santa Claus with illustrations of a jolly, bearded St. Nick who handed out good cheer to soldiers and families alike.

Though individual traditions still varied, the upheaval of the Civil War made the holiday seem more and more important to separated families. “The Christmas season [reminded] mid-19th century Americans of the importance of home and its associations, of invented traditions,” writes historian David Anderson.

When the war ended, the magazines and newspapers that had underlined the importance of the holiday kept promoting it, and reunited families, devastated by the losses of the war, kept cherishing it. In 1870, in the aftermath of the war, Congress passed the first federal holiday law and made Christmas an official holiday. Four years of war had changed the holiday from a loose celebration to an essential one.