NEXT MEETING: Thursday, February 13, 2020
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, February 11, 2020.

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

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.

Civil War Book Club: This month- February 2020
The next book club meeting will be February 13, 2020 at 5 p.m., just prior to the February member meeting at China Harbor. The book title will be David Blight’s Race and Reunion, which addresses the issues of how remembering and forgetting the Civil War determined social progress in our country. If you have any questions, contact Arthur Banner at: banneras@comcast.net

Jim Dimond has volunteered to set up the Sound System this month, but we still need someone to help assist Dick Miller on a regular basis. Can you please help??? You do not need to be a “tech wizard”. Thank you, Jim, for stepping forward this month.
IMPORTANT DISPATCHES

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

- Tray Cardwell
- Patricia Clayton
- Gary Martin
- Mike Movius
- Lois D. Trickey
- Alexander Welles

If you have a February birthday, but don’t see your name here, please contact the editor.

FIRST CALL: ANNUAL AUCTION, APRIL 2020!

At the recent meeting, the PSCWRT Board voted to have our annual auction held at the April 2020 meeting of the Puget Sound Civil War Round Table. More details will be shared once they become available. Meanwhile, please begin thinking of what you could contribute to help the cause and start planning! Our Annual Auction funds much of the cost for obtaining out of state speakers.

January Challenges- And Beyond
By Mark R. Terry

I thought everyone should know that we owe Rick Solomon- our speaker for the January meeting- a big thanks for overcoming a flat tire on a very soggy night to make it to the meeting and despite problems that didn’t allow him to use Power Point for his presentation still gave a very good talk. Also to Stephen Pierce who stepped in after Treasurer Chris McDonald couldn’t make it so that we could get dinners coordinated with the staff and all. Thanks so much to both of you!

To me, this highlights the needs of our Round Table. Every month certain members make our events happen. But we shouldn’t have to go to the same few members month after month, year after year. Most of our board members have served multiple years, if not decades. We may be coming to a point where, unless other members step forward to take up responsibilities, it will affect the quality of our meetings and perhaps even whether the PSCWRT continues as an organization.

As I highlighted two months ago, we need GREETERS, those willing to meet and help visitors and new members, to answer questions and help them feel welcome to our group. We need a SECRETARY to take minutes at board meetings and to publish them. We need a VICE-PRESIDENT MEMBERSHIP to maintain an accurate and up-to-date roster and to encourage and promote membership. VICE-PRESIDENT RESERVATIONS records the meal choices and reservations for each month’s meeting as they come in. VICE-PRESIDENT EDITOR, who puts the monthly newsletter together.
None of these jobs are difficult, but they are vital. PLEASE consider how you can help by volunteering to make our Civil War Round Table successful!

NEWS AND PROJECTS

Speakers wanted for future Fort Steilacoom programs

President Jeff Rombauer is seeking members interested in speaking on topics related to the Civil War. The Historic Fort Steilacoom Association in Tacoma is looking to put on some programs and they would like the help of the PSCWRT. Please contact Jeff or any member of the board if you want to participate.

“Our Correspondent in Washington City”
By Mark R. Terry

Last October, Doug Galuszka, PSCWRT member and former Board Secretary, informed the board that he was selected for a Veterans Affairs Congressional Fellowship in Washington, D.C. The Galuszka Family moved there this past month, living in an apartment in the Mt Pleasant neighborhood by the National Zoo and just a couple miles north of Lafayette Park and a couple west of the Lincoln Cottage. Doug will be embedded on a Senators staff for a year and do whatever is needed, from writing constituent letters to researching proposed policy. Of course, he is excited to be in D.C. and surrounded by Civil War history. Doug recently took his wife Mandy and their 6-year old twins, Benny and Ella, to Gettysburg. It was their children’s first visit to the battlefield. Doug confessed he got “a bit misty eyed finally being able to share this with them” [see photo]

But Doug is doing more than just visiting Civil War battlefields and sites. He recently wrote: “Hello from Washington, DC! Remember our resolution from a couple years ago that proposed putting having statues commemorating the approximately 15,000 free African Americans who worked for wages in The Army of the Potomac at Gettysburg and the roughly same number of enslaved African Americans working in the Army of Northern Virginia? Well, during my year here in DC as a Congressional Fellow I am pushing it with members of Congress, NPS, committees, etc. You never know, it could get some traction and come to fruition someday. More to follow.”

Yes, all of us are looking forward to hearing more from “Our Man in D.C.” Doug did promise that it’s just for a year and then he and his family will be returning to Tacoma and the PSCWRT. Keep up the good work, Doug!

FEATURED ARTICLES

Recommendations for additional reading on the Speaker’s Topic: Civilian Control of the Military during the Civil War
By Jeff Rombauer

"War is too serious a matter to entrust to military men” Georges Clemenceau
The idea of civilian control of the military in the United States predates the revolution, when the “founding fathers” believed that ceding control of the military to the military would lead to despotism. When George Washington was appointed to command of the Continental Army in 1775, his commission was approved by the Continental Congress, subject to its commands and orders. The principle of civilian control was reinforced in the U.S. Constitution, where in Article Two, section two states “The President shall be Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy of the United States, and of the Militia of the several States, when called into the actual Service of the United States “When the Constitution of the Confederate States of America, was adopted in 1861, this section was copied word by word except for the use of Confederate States of America. The idea of civilian control of the military tied together with the fear of a large standing army has a long history in this country. For the first 150 years of the nation, after wars were ended, the army and militia of the U.S. were quickly demobilized. It was during the Civil War era, that civilian control of the military faced it greatest test. The following books, published in the last several decades are recommended for additional information on civilian control in both the Union and Confederacy.

**UNION**

Five essays by five noted civil war historians discuss Lincoln’s relationship with McClellan, Hooker, Meade, Sherman and Grant. The most interesting essay is that by John Y. Simon who believes that there was a lot more tension between Grant and Lincoln then was generally believed. A useful annotated bibliography points to additional readings.

According to McPherson, “in all five functions as commander in chief – policy, national strategy, military strategy, operations. And tactics Lincoln’s conception and performance were dynamic.” Lincoln made mistakes, especial in several of his commanders, but his aggressive use of his war powers as commander in chief allowed the United States to survive the worst crisis in its history.

Marszalek does not see Lincoln as the perfect war leader, he made mistakes. But unlike Jefferson Davis, who was a graduate of West Point, fought in the Mexican War, and served as Secretary of War, Lincoln was “willing to learn, grow and develop. His determination and political skill and growth helped the Union win the Civil War.

**CONFEDERATE**

Five essays by five noted civil war historians discuss Jefferson Davis’ relationship with 5 of his generals: Joseph Johnston, Robert E. Lee, Beauregard, Bragg, and Hood. The most pertinent essay to tonight’s topic is T. Michael Parrish’s on “Jeff Davis Rules: General Beauregard and the Sanctity of Civil Authority in the Confederacy.” A useful annotated bibliography points to additional readings.

In this slim volume of essays by noted Davis biographer William J. Cooper, there are 4 which cover Davis as commander in Chief. Cooper sees Davis as seeing himself an expert on military matters, but he really was a “Micromanager.” He did not delegate authority, and often got lost in minutiae. As a military commander, he exhibited series flaws.


Jefferson Davis should not be seen through the lens of defeat. Because the Confederacy lost the Civil War, does not mean that he was a failure as commander in Chief. McPherson relates how Davis used his authority to shape a centralized state that held off Union forces for 4 years, despite its economic and population deficiencies. McPherson believes that there 3 periods during the war when the Confederacy has a chance to win the conflict. Davis biggest flaw were in his relationships with his generals, holding on to some way too long, while giving commands to others who did not deserve it.

**Off the Beaten Path: Lecompton, Kansas**

In this quite small town in Eastern Kansas [population today of 625] one of the events that would eventually lead to the Civil War took place. Selected in 1855 to be the territorial capital of Kansas, a pro slavery constitutional convention met there in 1857 [in a building now known as “Constitutional Hall”] and wrote a state constitution that would have made Kansas a slave state. The draft constitution was submitted to the U.S. Congress and supported by President James Buchanan. The controversy over the attempt to make Kansas a slave state, was a key issue in the 1858 Lincoln-Douglas debates in Illinois, the feud between Senator Stephen A. Douglas and President Buchanan and the splintering of the Democratic party, in the election of 1860, resulting in the election of Lincoln as President. Visitors to the town today can visit the original Constitution Hall, and see an exhibit on its history, when it was used for the territorial legislation, a court room, and the constitutional convention. Across the road is the old stone territorial capital with its own museum, as well as a small wood building, which was the office of the State Democratic Party from 1855 to 1861 [when the capital was moved to Topeka]

**THE LAST WORD**

Anatomy of a Civil War Research Project
By Mark R. Terry

For many years, I’ve been working on researching the wartime diary of Sgt. Barnabas James Lay (1817-1883), Company L, 50th New York Volunteer Engineer Regiment. Lay is the great-grandfather of my uncle, Henry “Hank” Lay, who gave me permission to do so. One of Lay’s oddest passages was written on Friday, June 16th 1865:

“Still on our Way to Almira Very Hungray a regler fight between our officers and Men a Capt of the 15th named Burk Shot one of our Men. The Men Rallard [Rallied?] and left him for dead.”
Some facts were easy to discern. There was only one officer from the 15th N.Y.V.E. named “Burk”- Captain Ricard O’Sullivan Burke, commanding Company C. So, who did Captain Burke shoot and why did he shoot him?

For a long time, this is where I was stuck, since I had no idea how I could comb through the entire roster of the 3,309 men who served in the 50th over the course of the war. Would it even show up, since it wasn’t a battlefield wound?

One of the resources I have used for many years to research soldiers and sailors from the Civil War is the American Civil War Research Database at www.civilwardata.com. In the ACWRD, regimental information is broken down into various areas including: regimental assignments, casualty analysis, experience, personnel, photos (if any), and history. In the “regimental casualty analysis” database, casualties are broken down by engagement and/or by date. Because the 50th was not a fighting unit, there were only 15 rows. Some casualties did not have a date or battle listed, but they had their own row. I decided to concentrate there.

No deaths were listed, but three were wounded and three taken prisoner. I ignored the POW list since it didn’t apply. Looking at the three who were wounded, two of them died of wounds before 1865. That left one person: Artificer John C. VanCampen.

All it said about VanCampen is that he was “wounded (date and place not stated)” and “shot through side”. So, this started me on an Internet search, far and wide to see what I could find about him.

Eventually, I came across a story on “Rootsweb” that was obviously handed down through the VanCampen family, by a descendant, Bonnie VanCampen. Here was the part that jumped out at me: “John, my grandfather, farmer, Civil War Veteran--served out his first enlistment and re-enlisted and re-enlisted and served till the end of the war--was shot during an argument between an officer and a Negro on a troop train enroute to Washington, D.C. to be discharged--The bullet passed through his stomach and lodged in his back. He asked the Dr. what chance he had to ever see his wife & children again and the Dr. said about I chance in 1000. Grandpa said I'll take that chance. He was that sort of a man. He carried the bullet to his grave.”

To me, this looked like I was on the right track, though it didn’t completely square with Lay’s diary. Still, this was so close, I finally, reluctantly, decided to purchase John Van Campen’s pension records from the National Archives.

When the pension records came and I was able to go through them, I was completely blown away! The affidavits of two men, Joseph Burdin and Samuel Jacoby, both of whom were officers over John VanCampen in Company K of the 50th confirmed the family story, but gave more information that helped to locate where this took place.

Burdin’s affidavit, written on May 15, 1875, stated “That on or about the 16th day of June, AD 1865 the said John C. Van Campen while in the service and in the line of duty received a pistol-shot wound through the upper front of the abdomen under the following circumstances to-wit One Capt. Burk [sic] of the 15th NY Regt. in attempting to quell a disturbance among some soldiers and punish them for insubordination fired his revolver at them. The ball from said revolver missing the persons for whom it was intended passed by and struck John C. Van Campen who with a number of other soldiers were on a car being transported home to be mustered out. I his affiant further states that he was present when said wound was received, that
it was unintentional on the part of the officer and through no fault of this applicant the said John C. Van Campen. That the wound was a very dangerous one, the ball passing through the front of the abdomen to back-bone and that said soldier has not yet recovered from the same. This affiant believes from the nature of the wound that said Van Campen will never entirely recover from said wound and that it occurred while on their way home to be mustered out at a place called little Troy, Pennsylvania and what he believes on that account there is no record of it on the company records or at the departments.” So, it can be seen that this took place while the train was at a stop at Troy, Pennsylvania, about 25 miles south of Elmira, NY, the eventual destination.

More details were added by Samuel Jacoby, who testified in 1897 “That while the Engineers consisting of the 15th and 50th NY Volunteer Regts. were being transported in cars from Washington D.C. to Elmira, NY to be discharged from service, the trains were halted near Troy, Pa., for some purpose, a difficulty arose occurred between some of the men of the 50th Reg., and a Colored servant belonging to an officer of the 15th Reg. That the officer drew a revolver pistol, and fired into the group of men, the bullet striking said J.C. Van Campen in the abdomen and inflicting what was thought at the time to be a mortal wound. That I saw the injury myself while the surgeon was dressing the wound. That Van Campen, the said soldier, was brought into the officers car and cared for until we reached Elmira, NY, when he was transferred to the hospital. And I did not see him again for a number of years.” More remarkable details, such as the fact that the “Negro” in the family story was the servant of Captain Burke!

A third document in the pension record that sheds light on VanCampen’s wound comes from the “Examining Surgeon’s Certificate” [see left]. On October 20, 1879, VanCampen was examined by a Dr. C. Langshore[?]. The surgeon describes the location of the entry wound, and shows in a diagram where he was able to feel the bullet in his back. The odd thing is that unlike the affidavits, it appears the entry wound was lower than where the bullet ended up, so that it appears the bullet was in an upward trajectory when it hit VanCampen. The only conclusion seems to be that Burke may have fired his pistol down towards the floor of the train at an angle, probably not expecting a ricochet to take place. That might be why Burdin said the wound was “unintentional” on Burke’s part.

What happened after the war? VanCampen and his wife went on having children, and even though he was disabled, he survived until November 19, 1919, where he died in an Old Soldier’s Home in South Dakota. Burke, a pre-war Irish revolutionary, moved between the UK and the U.S., always working toward Irish independence. He died May 11, 1922 in Chicago.
**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

Modal text

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 March 2020 Washington Volunteer is Monday, February 24, 2020. 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
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*All, except for Past President, an automatic position.