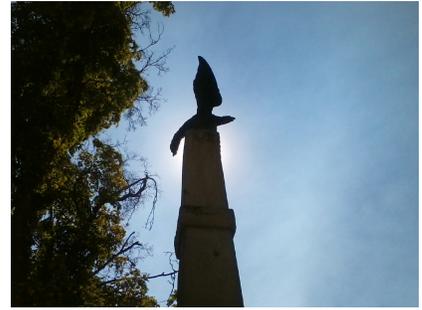


The Washington Volunteer

The Newsletter of the
Puget Sound Civil War Round Table

Volume 39, Number 6 February 2021



Our Next Meeting

Again this month, we are proud to feature one of our own! On 11 February 2021, Arthur Banner will discuss Joshua Chamberlain, hero of Little Round Top, Medal of Honor recipient, and Governor of Maine. A retired academic pulmonary physician, Dr. Banner served as a tour guide for years at Chamberlain's home, which is preserved as a museum in Brunswick, Maine. Meeting start time is 7:00 p.m. SHARP, with the door open at 6:45.

An Important Message About ZOOM Meetings

To prevent "ZOOM bombing," ZOOM requires that the host admit each participant to the meeting. From 6:45 to 7:00 p.m., I admit participants, but once the talk begins at 7:00, the speaker becomes the host and it becomes difficult for them to monitor the room so that latecomers can be admitted. I am sorry for members who were not able to join Bill Woodward's talk, but request that if you want to attend the meeting, please join by 7:00 p.m. Thanks! (P.S. I'm open to suggestions on how we can solve this problem as I realize that sometimes folks cannot join by 7:00.) -- Dick Miller

Our Last Meeting

The Civil War in the Pacific Northwest has been an infrequent subject for the Puget Sound Civil War Round Table, so Bill Woodward's 14 January talk, "The Governors, the Gold, the

Guard, and the Guns: The Civil War in Washington Territory," afforded PSCWRT members an enjoyable and informative review of local events before and during the war. After summarizing the Federal government's solution to defending Washington Territory as "you're on your own," Bill told the story of the Civil War in Washington Territory by referring to six "G's": the American and English "garrisons" erected on San Juan Island during the Pig War; "Governors" Isaac Stevens and Richard Gholson who both died in Civil War battles back east; the 1860 "gold" strike in Nez Perce lands that increased tensions with the Nez Perce people; the militia "guard" that sought to defend immigrants traveling along the Oregon Trail; the possible existence of the pro-southern subversive organization, the Knights of the "Golden" Circle; and the "guns" that were installed in 1865 as part of the country's coastal batteries. Two dozen of our members enjoyed the talk and the spirited discussion that followed. Thanks again, Bill!

Upcoming Events

Chris Mackowski has confirmed that he will speak to the Round Table on 8 April. Here's a summary of the topic, just in time for the roll-out of the paperback edition of his books. You don't want to miss this. Thank you for this too, Dick Miller!

Second-Guessing Richard Ewell: The First Day at Gettysburg. It might be the most second-guessed decision of the war. On 1 July 1863, Confederate Lt. Gen. Richard Ewell decided it was not "practicable" to storm the Union position at Gettysburg after a hard day of fighting. As a result, history has scapegoated Ewell for the Confederate loss there, and critics have loudly wondered, "If Stonewall Jackson had been there...." But Ewell made a militarily sound decision—as a look at the facts will show.

Chris is the editor-in chief and co-founder of *Emerging Civil War*. He teaches writing at the Jandoli School of Communication at St. Bonaventure University and has worked as an historian for the National Park Service. Among his many books on the Civil War are *Fight Like the Devil: The First Day at Gettysburg* and *Stay and Fight It Out: The Second Day at Gettysburg* -- to be published in paperback on 15 April.

We've almost completed the programming for our 2021-2022 season. Several well-known Civil War historians will be presenting talks, including long-time favorite Ethan Rafuse; Larry J. Daniel who has written books on the Army of Tennessee and the Army of the Cumberland; and University of Virginia Professor Caroline Janney who has written on reunion and reconciliation in the post war years.

We are looking for one more speaker for 14 October 2021. If you would like to present to the Round Table or could recommend a local speaker, please contact Dick Miller at milomiller882@msn.com.

President's Message

The Impeachment and Trial of Andrew Johnson

I was trying to figure out what topic I could write about in this month's column. Recent events led me to decide in writing about the above topic. Before Andrew Johnson ran for Vice President in 1864 he had served as Congressman, two terms as governor, and the Senate in 1857, all for the State of Tennessee. He came from Eastern Tennessee where there were few slaves. However, Johnson, a Jacksonian Democrat, had no liking for abolitionists. When Tennessee seceded shortly after Fort Sumter Johnson refused to give up his seat in the U.S. Senate and remained loyal to the Union. In March 1862 Johnson was appointed military governor of Tennessee by Lincoln. He was elected Vice President while running with Lincoln on the Union-Republican ticket. After Lincoln was assassinated Johnson became President. He had an extremely stormy relationship with both Houses of Congress. Johnson was a Southern Democrat while most of both Houses of Congress were overwhelmingly Radical Republicans.

Johnson tried carrying through Lincoln's plan for Reconstruction by extending amnesty as widely and quickly as possible, turning the former Confederate states back to their own civilian governments in an attempt to return a united nation back to normalcy. This rubbed the Radical Republicans the wrong way. The confrontation between Johnson and Congress came to a head over the Tenure Act of 1867, which denied the President the right to fire his appointments. Johnson tried firing Secretary of War Edwin Stanton, a former Democrat who had become a Radical Republican. Johnson replaced Stanton on an interim basis with U.S. Grant, but Grant soon resigned. Meanwhile Stanton had barricaded himself in his office at the War Department. When Johnson attempted to appoint Lorenzo Thomas as Secretary of War, Congress brought eleven articles of impeachment against Johnson for violating the Tenure Act. The vote was 126 to 47 with all Democrats and two Republicans voting not to impeach. Seventeen Congressmen abstained from voting. The articles of impeachment were sent to the Senate in February 1868.

Chief Justice Salmon P. Chase presided over the trial. The Congressmen prosecuting the case were John Bingham, George Boutwell, Benjamin Butler, John Logan, Thaddeus Stevens, James Wilson and Thomas Williams. The President's defense team was composed of Henry Sternberg, William Evarts, Benjamin Curtis, Thomas Nelson, and William Groesbeck. On the advice of counsel, the President didn't appear at the trial. The trial was conducted mostly in open session, and the Senate chamber galleries were filled to capacity throughout. Public

interest was so great that the Senate issued admission passes for the first time in its history. For each day of the trial one thousand color coded tickets were printed, granting admittance for a single day. The trial lasted from 13 March until the first vote was taken on 16 May 1868.



Image 27 of Andrew Johnson Papers: Series 19, Calling Cards, Impeachment Tickets, and Photographs, circa 1854-circa 1875, Library of Congress

The vote was 35-19 in favor of conviction. However, two-thirds were required for a conviction. The Radical Republicans had fallen one vote short to convict. All nine Democrats voted not guilty. Ten Republican Senators joined the Democrats in voting not guilty. The deciding vote was cast by Edmund Ross. John F. Kennedy wrote about Ross's vote in his book *Profiles in Courage*. It is interesting to note that all 19 who voted for acquittal never served in an elected office again. Senator Lyman Trumbull of Illinois, one of the ten Republicans whose refusal to vote for conviction prevented Johnson's removal from office, noted, in a speech he gave explaining his vote for acquittal, that had Johnson been convicted, the main source of a president's political power -- the freedom to disagree with Congress without consequences -- would have been destroyed, and the Constitution's system of checks and balances along with it. Trumbull stated, "One set the example of impeaching a President for what, when the excitement of the hour shall have subsided, will be regarded as insufficient cases, as several of those now aligned against the President were decided to be by the House only a few months since, and no future President will be safe who happens to differ with a majority of the House and two-thirds of the Senate on any measure deemed by them important, particularly if of a political character. Blinded by partisan zeal, with such an example before them, they will not scruple to remove out of the way any obstacle to the

accomplishment of their purposes, and what then becomes of the checks and balances of the Constitution, so carefully devised and so vital to its perpetuity. They are all gone."

Johnson served the remainder of his term. He was elected to the U.S. Senate in March 1875, but died that very July.

Note to the Membership of PSCWRT

We are continuing to have presentations via ZOOM every second Thursday of the month at 6:45 p.m. These presentations have been excellent. They are free and you should take advantage of them. Also we continue with our Newsletter every month thanks to our Newsletter Editor, Loretta-Marie Dimond, and those contributing articles. Now that vaccines are being distributed it is my hope that we can have an in-person meeting at the China Harbor perhaps in April or May. Stay posted, and, above all, stay safe.

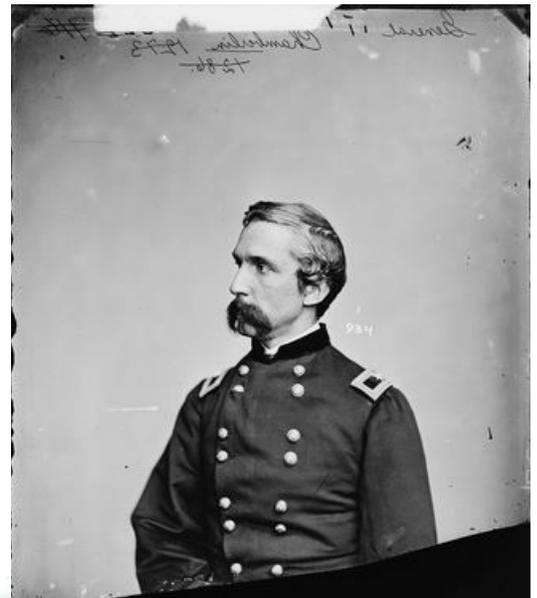
Rick Solomon

Additional Reading

Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain

by Jeff Rombauer

During the last quarter of the 20th century, Joshua L. Chamberlain, the mild-mannered professor from Bowdoin College of Maine, became a Civil War icon, as popular among the public as such major Civil War figures as Lee, Grant, or Sherman. Chamberlain was appointed an officer in the 20th Maine Infantry in 1862. Through the 1976 novel *The Killer Angels*, the movie *Gettysburg*, and the Ken Burns documentary *The Civil War*, Chamberlain's actions on Little Round Top on 2 July 1863 have become immortalized to modern audiences. Chamberlain was wounded six times during the war, once so severely at Petersburg that it was thought his wounds were fatal. After the war Chamberlain was elected four times as Governor of Maine and returned to Bowdoin College as its President. In his twilight years he never approached the national reputation which he has today.



For additional reading on Joshua L. Chamberlain and his life the following are recommended.

Bibliography

Parke, R. Barrett and Sylvia J Sherman. *In Commemoration of Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain: A Guide – Bibliography*. Augusta: Maine State Archives, 1978. Pp. 39. Wraps.

This little pamphlet, published upon the occasion of the 150th anniversary of Chamberlain's birth, lists all his writings from newspapers, magazines, speeches, and books.

Chamberlain's Writings

Chamberlain, Joshua Lawrence. *Through Blood & Fire: Selected Civil War Papers of Major General Joshua Chamberlain*. Edited by Mark Nesbitt. Mechanicsburg: Stackpole Books, 1996. Pp. xiii, 226.

Nesbit arranges Chamberlain's war time writings, personal letters, official letters, battle reports and private notebook in chronological order through the war period.

Chamberlain, Joshua Lawrence. *Joshua L. Chamberlain: A Life in Letters: The Previously Unpublished Letters of a Great War Leader*. Edited by Thomas Desjardin. Harrisburg: The National Civil War Museum, 2012. Pp. iv, 312. Cloth.

More than 300 letters written by and to Chamberlain from before the Civil War to 1914 from the collection of Joshua Chamberlain donated to the National Civil War Museum. Many of the letters are to or from his wife Frances.

Chamberlain, Joshua Lawrence. *The Grand Old Man of Maine: Selected Letters of Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain 1865-1914*. Edited by Jeremiah E. Goulka. Chapel Hill and London: The University of North Carolina Press, 2004. Pp. xlvii, 335. Cloth.

Another edition of Chamberlain's letters, restricted to the post war period, focused "on politics, race relations, education and military service.

Chamberlain, Joshua Lawrence. *"Bayonet! Forward": My Civil War Reminiscences*. Gettysburg: Stan Clark Military Books, 1994. Pp. xi, 289. Cloth.

A collection of articles and speeches by Chamberlain which focused on his military service during the war and were used as the basis of *The Passing of the Armies*.

Chamberlain, Joshua Lawrence. *The Passing of the Armies: An Account of the Final Campaign of the Army of the Potomac, Based upon Personal Reminiscences of the Fifth Army Corps*. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1915. Pp. xxxv, 405. Cloth.

Published after his death in 1914, Chamberlain's memoir covers the final week of the Appomattox campaign through the Grand Review in Washington D.C. As the historian Brooks

Simpson notes in his introduction to the 1998 edition of this work published by the University of Nebraska Press, "Readers of *The Passing of the Armies* must keep in mind that Chamberlain was on a mission to tell his story, to right wrongs, and to vindicate the generals, the officers, and the men of the Army of the Potomac."

Chamberlain Biographies

Wallace, Willard M. *Soul of the Lion: A Biography of General Joshua L. Chamberlain*. New York: Thomas Nelson and Sons, 1960. Pp. 357. Cloth.

The first biography of Chamberlain by a professional historian, Professor Edward G. Longacre views this work yet another "determined to extend the legend [of Chamberlain] to our own era."

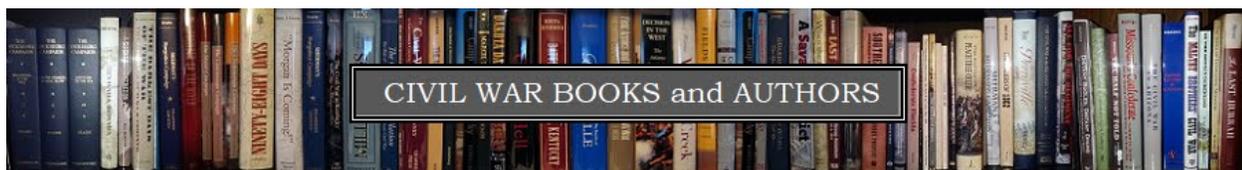
Trulock, Alice Rains. *In the Hands of Providence: Joshua L. Chamberlain & the American Civil War*. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1992. Pp. xxii, 569. Cloth. While David J. Eicher in his *The Civil War in Books: An Analytical Bibliography* believes that this is a "solid, comprehensive work," other reviewers believe that it is not critical enough. Concentrates only on the war years.

Pullen, John J. *Joshua Chamberlain: A Hero's Life & Legacy*. Mechanicsburg: Stackpole Books, 1999. Pp. viii, 216. Cloth.

Pullen, the author of the standard work on the 20th Maine, covers the entirety of Chamberlain's post war life.

On the Internet – Civil War Books and Authors

For readers of Civil War history the site Civil War Books and Authors [[Civil War Books and Authors: Links \(cwba.blogspot.com\)](http://CivilWarBooksandAuthors:Links(cwba.blogspot.com))] is worth a look. The site provides "book reviews, publishing news, interviews, profiles and commentary. Emphasis is placed on smaller publishers, university presses, and local history." According to the site's information "Subject matter includes all aspects of the American Civil War, but also antebellum politics, the U.S.-Mexican War, and various Indian Wars and conflicts. All geographical areas are covered, but heavy focus is placed on the West and Trans-Mississippi theaters." Links to the sites twitter and a facebook page are provided. Links to other similar sites are also provided, for example a link to the historian Eric Wittenberg's site on Civil War Cavalry. Reviews of older books can be found under a section entitled Classic Snapshoots. -- Jeff Rombauer



Features

Veterans In Our Back Yard: Arlington by Loretta-Marie Dimond



American Views stereo card showing wooden markers at Arlington, prior to 1876, collection of James L Dimond

Jim and I spent most of January watching news events on television. One of those news events took us to the Tomb of the Unknowns, a place we visited years ago. I was reminded that a few Civil War Washingtonians are buried at Arlington National Cemetery. Some were natives. Others can be claimed as Washingtonians by adoption. Hence, here are two Arlington Civil War connections for our state.

Deville P Ballard, born in Smyrna, New York, traveled from his East Coast origins to Washington Territory by way of Iowa and quite a few other places. Appointed a First Lieutenant of Company A, 23rd Iowa Infantry, on 20 July 1862, he rose to the rank of Captain about a year later. His unit revolved through the western departments: Missouri, Tennessee, the Gulf, and the Mississippi, in that order. He received a gunshot wound to his left hip at Port Gibson. He recovered from that to lead his troops in Grant's army in Alabama and Mississippi, including battle at Vicksburg and Jackson. Following the surrender at Vicksburg his troops were deployed to occupation duty in Louisiana, Texas and Arkansas. They became embroiled in the Red River campaign and Duvalls Bluff, and had a small role in the Battle of Fort Blakeley, the last major battle of the war (2-9 April 1865).

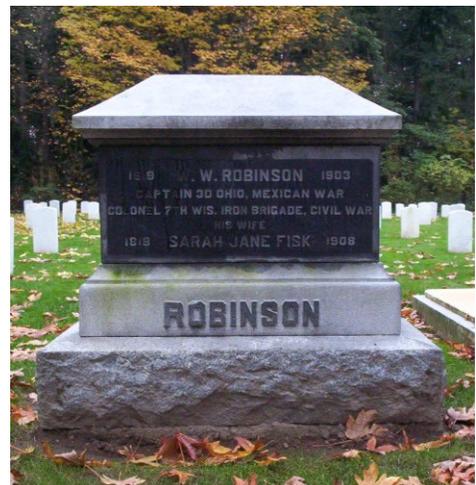
Between January and July 1865 the Iowans rotated through New Orleans, obscure posts in Florida, Mobile, and unnamed bivouacs, then went upriver to Columbus, Ohio, where their travels finally ended on 26 July 1865. They walked home, citing the explosion of the *Sultana* as the reason why. Ballard's journey ended the same day as his unit's muster-out, except he was on detached duty at Harrisburg, Occupied Texas.

Subsequent to service, he became a miner in Prescott, Arizona Territory. He also had a daughter born in 1874 in Montana Territory. So he had already seen much of the country before he made his way to Yakima in 1883, Vancouver in 1890, and Olympia in 1891. He affiliated with Thomas Post #5, GAR. He claimed in 1885 to be a member of the bar, and he maintained residences in both King and Thurston Counties. One wonders if he ever made it to the Klondike, to keep the grand tour of 19th century America going.

He also left a colorful legal history. He declared bankruptcy in the face of mortgage foreclosure and multiple liens in Thurston County in 1885. At some point around 1868, he had married, but his wife Mary did not survive him. Case file 2335 in King County, indexed by the Frontier Justice Project of the Washington State Archives, suggests that she divorced him before statehood anyway.

In 1902, his infirmities began to catch up with him. He never applied to Orting or Retsil. In 1910 he was a member of the Mountain Branch, National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, at Johnson City, Washington County, Tennessee; he had also been a member of the National Home in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and Dayton, Ohio, and an inmate of the Iowa state soldiers' home at Marshalltown. He was transferred to Saint Elizabeth's Hospital in Washington, DC because of dementia on 8 September 1916. His death, 20 January 1917, occurred there. His grave at Arlington in the Officers Section is marked "D P Ballard, Capt, IA"--no other inscription. He left a daughter Emma in Vancouver, Washington; she disowned him. His few personal effects were sold at public auction in Johnson City.

William Wallace Robinson, Jr, on the other hand, earned his spot at Arlington by virtue of promotion to Brigadier General in the Quartermaster Corps, Spanish-American War era. He is the son of the Civil War Iron Brigade colonel of the same name who is buried at Fort Lawton. Robinson Junior was born in Cleveland in 1846. He enlisted as a lowly private in Company E, 17th Wisconsin Infantry, and served from 17 March to 3 July 1865. In this outfit he saw no combat. He made his real mark on the military during the Indian Wars era, commissioned as Lieutenant and promoted to Colonel of the storied Seventh US Cavalry. Both he and his father were members of Miller Post #31, GAR at Seattle. It is unclear how long he actually resided here.



Grave of W W Robinson
Senior at Fort Lawton

Ye Olde Editor's Close

Dick Miller: "The University of New Mexico Press will release my book, *John P. Slough: The Forgotten Civil War General*, on 1 April 2021. Amazon is accepting pre-publication orders now." Jim Dimond: "The Military Baseball Calendar is available from the 9th/10th Cavalry Buffalo Soldier Museum of Tacoma, <https://www.buffalosoldierstacoma.org>."

Photo credits this issue: Library of Congress (Chamberlain is LC-DIG-cwpbh-03163 Img 2018667306, US Civil War collection) and the Dimonds. Please visit our reconstructed Web site at www.pugetsoundcwr.org for the latest in news, events, and announcements. Please consider contributing an article or two! (This month was an embarrassment of riches -- more than we could use! See the Web site!) Until next time, please stay safe and healthy.

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