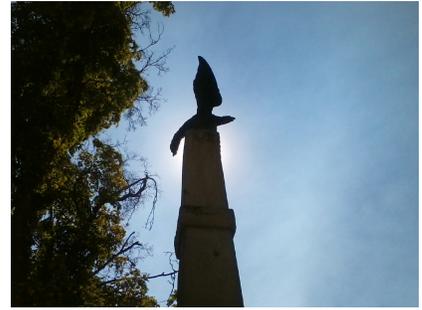


# The Washington Volunteer

The Newsletter of the  
Puget Sound Civil War Round Table

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## Our Next Meeting

On Thursday, 11 March 2021, promptly at 7:00 pm, Christian B. Keller will discuss his latest book, *The Great Partnership: Robert E. Lee, Stonewall Jackson, and the Fate of the Confederacy*. The unique friendship between Lee and Jackson, two leaders who chiseled a strategic path forward against the odds and almost triumphed, is the theme of this book. Don't miss this one! You may order the book here: <http://www.christianbkeller.com/>

Since 2011, Dr. Keller has been Professor of History in the Department of National Security and Strategy at the United States Army War College, Carlisle, PA, where he teaches courses for senior leaders on the theory of war and strategy, national security policy and strategy, and the American Civil War. In 2017 he was named the General Dwight D. Eisenhower Chair of National Security. He is the author, co-author, or editor of five other books on the Civil War.



## Our Last Meeting

The Round Table had a very enjoyable discussion on the life of Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain, hero of the Twentieth Maine at Gettysburg. Art Banner barely scratched the surface of this man's contributions to the Civil War. Through Art's many years of work at the Chamberlain home in Maine, we gained unique perspectives. Chamberlain will always be an enduring legend in the lives of the people of the state of Maine: soldier, statesman, educator, and now a familiar self-connection! We had 21 participants at this meeting.

# President's Message

## William Walker: Filibustering with the Grey-Eyed Man of Destiny by Rick Solomon

In the course of researching the Civil War numerous times I have come across the name of William Walker and that he was a "filibuster." In modern times we think of "filibuster" as a legislative delaying tactic of "talking a bill to death." However, in the mid-nineteenth century filibuster meant "someone who engages in an unauthorized military expedition into a foreign country or territory to foment or support a revolution." William Walker is sometimes referred to as "The King of Filibusters" or "the Grey-Eyed Man of Destiny." His life story is like that of Harry Flashman of the Flashman Papers, that series of novels written by George McDonald Fraser. In the case of William Walker the old saying applies: truth is stranger than fiction.



William Walker was born on 8 May 1824 in Nashville, Tennessee. Walker studied law and graduated summa cum laude from the University of Nashville at the age of 14. He studied medicine at the University of Edinburgh and the University of Heidelberg before receiving his medical degree from the University of Pennsylvania at the age of 19. He practiced medicine in Philadelphia before moving to New Orleans to study law. Walker practiced law for a short time, then quit to become co-owner and editor of the *New Orleans Crescent* newspaper. In 1849 he moved to San Francisco where he became editor of the *San Francisco Herald* and he fought three duels. He was wounded in two of them. Walker then conceived the idea of conquering vast areas of Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean and creating new slave states to the United States. In a sense he was a precursor to the Knights of the Golden Circle.

On 15 October 1853 Walker set out from San Francisco with 45 volunteers and quickly conquered all of Baja California. He named it "The Republic of Lower California" and appointed himself as its president. After trying to take over Sonora as well, he and his men quickly retreated back to the United States when Mexico sent in its army. Back in California, Walker was put on trial for conducting an illegal war in violation of the Neutrality Acts of 1794 and 1817. Nevertheless, in an era of Manifest Destiny, his filibustering campaign was popular in the South and the West of the United States. The jury took 8 minutes to acquit him.

At this time there was no Panama Canal or transcontinental railroad to connect New York and San Francisco for the transportation of people and goods. However, there was a route ("the



of 1862. Wheat was killed instantly while leading a charge at the Battle of Gaines Mill on 27 June 1862. Hays's Louisiana Brigade was renamed the "Louisiana Tigers" in honor of Wheat.

The second subordinate to Walker, Robert C. Tyler, had served in Nicaragua in 1859. Tyler led the 15th Tennessee at Shiloh, Perryville and Chickamauga where he also led the 37th Tennessee. At Missionary Ridge he led Bate's brigade and was wounded. He was appointed Brigadier General on 23 February 1864. He was killed at West Point, Georgia on 16 April 1865.

The third subordinate to Walker was Birkhead Fry. After attending VMI and Washington College, Fry was dismissed from West Point for failing mathematics. Fry was a lawyer who served as a lieutenant in the Mexican War and went to California during the Gold Rush. He was a brigadier general under Walker during the first Nicaragua filibuster. Bragg called Fry "a man with a gunpowder reputation." Fry was wounded at Seven Pines, at Antietam (where his arm was shattered), and again at Chancellorsville. At Gettysburg he succeeded to the command of Archer's brigade, and was wounded a fourth time near "The Angle" during Pickett's Charge while leading that brigade. In that charge while suffering from a broken thigh bone and laying on the ground Fry shouted, "Go on - it will not last five minutes longer!" Fry was captured and exchanged nine months later. He was appointed a brigadier general on 24 May 1864 and commanded a brigade at Cold Harbor. Fry survived the war and went to cotton milling and manufacturing until he died in 1891.

Stay Safe!

Rick Solomon

## Additional Reading

Robert E. Lee and "Stonewall" Jackson  
by Jeff Rombauer

One of the most iconic images from the Civil War is E. B. D. Julio's "The Last Meeting of Lee and Jackson" which depicted the two Confederate generals meeting before Jackson's last attack at Chancellorsville. First published in 1869, this popular print was sold for decades. But while this iconic image of the relationship between the two generals was extremely popular, there have been few joint biographies written on their relationship. Our speaker this month, Christian B. Keller, has written the best and most recent study, *The Great Partnership: Robert E. Lee, Stonewall Jackson, and the Fate of the Confederacy* [New York: Pegasus Books, 2019] that explores the strategic and personal relationship between the two men. In fact, there are numerous more joint biographies of Ulysses S. Grant and Robert E. Lee than the few on Lee and Jackson. While Douglas S. Freeman's *Lee's Lieutenants* remains

a must-read to examine Lee's relationship with Jackson, these additional books about the two men are recommended.

Casdorph, Paul D. *Lee and Jackson: Confederate Chieftains*. New York: Paragon House, 1991. Pp. xii, 498.

Casdorph believes that although the two men had different personalities and backgrounds, their combination "almost won the war." It was Jackson's death after Chancellorsville which began the decline of the Confederacy.

Kegel, James A. *North with Lee and Jackson: The Lost Story of Gettysburg*. Mechanicsburg: Stackpole Books, 1996. Pp. xv, 459.

This work proposes that Southern strategy should be examined as a single campaign, not as separate campaigns during the period 1861-1863. Under Lee and Jackson's leadership, the idea was to take the war to the North and wage "maximum physical and psychological damage to the Union."

Harsh, Joseph L. *Confederate Tide Rising: Robert E Lee and the Making of Southern Strategy, 1861-1862*. Kent, Ohio: Kent State University Press, 1998.

Harsh, Joseph L. *Taken at the Flood: Robert E. Lee & Confederate Strategy in the Maryland Campaign of 1862*. Kent, Ohio: Kent State University Press, 1999.

In these two groundbreaking studies, Harsh examines the impact of Robert E. Lee on the strategic thought of the Confederacy, and his use of Stonewall Jackson's forces to achieve his goals during the spring and summer of 1862.

Hettle, Wallace. *Inventing Stonewall Jackson: A Civil War Hero in History and Memory*. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 2011. Pp. xi, 200.

Hettle investigates the "myth" of Stonewall Jackson by describing how his early biographers shaped his historical image by inserting their own personal values "into their stories" of the General. What modern audiences believe they really know is not who Jackson was.



# On The Web

The Center for Civil War Research -  
<https://www.civilwarcenter.olemiss.edu>

Established in 2009 at the University of Mississippi, The Center for Civil War Research studies all aspects of Civil War History, but with special emphasis on the memory of the Civil War. One of the best features of this site is a comprehensive bibliography of books and articles on memory and history. This bibliography is broken down into 6 sections; the first and second list general works on history and memory and a listing of texts on the theory of memory and history. The final four sections specifically cover the Civil War, veterans and commemorative societies, monuments and works on the lost cause. The center awards an annual prize for the best historical work of the year, named after the historians Bell Irvin Wiley and James W. Silver. An annual conference is held at the University of Mississippi on various aspects of Civil War history.

And...

A perennial favorite of Ye Olde Editor is HistoryLink, the on-line encyclopedia of Washington State. Given our recent Arctic incursion, a pop quiz: what was the weather like in Seattle during the first winter of the Civil War? Click on <https://historylink.org/File/164> to find the answer.

While we were otherwise engaged, the Department of Veterans Affairs has assumed the care and keeping of three 19th century military cemeteries in Washington State from the Department of the Army. Fort Lawton, Fort Worden, and the Vancouver Barracks post cemeteries can now be visited at the VA web site, <https://www.cem.va.gov/cems/state.asp?STATE=WA>.

## Off the Beaten Path

Ship Island and "Fort Massachusetts"

Ship Island is a barrier island located 12 miles in the Gulf of Mexico south of Gulfport Mississippi. As part of the Coastal Defense system conceived after the War of 1812 construction of "the fort on Ship Island" was started in June 1859 and was only partially completed when Mississippi seceded from the Union in January 1861. For a brief time, it was occupied by Mississippi militia. In June 1861 Confederate troops occupied the fort and in July 1861 a brief action between the Confederates and the USS Massachusetts took place.

Abandoned by the rebels in September 1861, the island and Fort Massachusetts were occupied by Union troops in December 1861 as a supply depot for the blockade of Confederate ports as well as a staging area for the invasion of New Orleans. As many as 18,000 troops saw service on Ship Island. After the fall of New Orleans, it served as a prison for "malcontents" exiled from the captured city, as well as a repair station and supply depot for USN vessels. After the Civil War, the only personnel stationed at the fort were a caretaker, and later an ordnance-sergeant. The masonry fort was abandoned in 1903. To reach the island today there is [in normal times] a tourist boat [\$\$\$] which leaves daily from the Gulfport Marina for a one-hour trip to Ship Island and there is a small fee to enter the fort. But if you plan to visit beware the sand fleas which attack furiously without mercy.

## Features

### Veterans In Our Back Yard: Deserters and Dishonorables by Loretta-Marie Dimond

When is a veteran not a veteran? According to the Department of Veterans Affairs, the title "veteran" is reserved for those who served with honor. Not everyone in the Civil War did.

Francis Ely is perhaps the most notorious local case of military justice. He was a member of Company A, First Oregon Cavalry (and, as we know, the First Oregon Infantry shared an identity with this outfit). He was born in Ireland about 1840. He enlisted as a private in the winter of 1861-1862 at Jacksonville, Oregon. By 1863 he had gotten himself into trouble. Posted at Walla Walla, he decided to skeedaddle and get rich. He didn't get far. He was apprehended on the road to the gold mines in Lewiston, and was brought back to face court-martial for desertion and horse theft. He was found guilty and executed on 11 March 1864. His grave, somewhere near Fort Walla Walla, was never marked. Nor will it be, I estimate. He is the only Oregon soldier known to have been executed during the war.

Clark Nathan Fifield had a much more common story. He was born 1 February 1844 in Michigan. He enlisted, probably for the bounty, in Company G, 1<sup>st</sup> Michigan Cavalry, at a time that the unit was replacing their losses (22 August 1864). He remained with his unit until the end of the war, but walked away in Saint Louis between May and June of 1865 without benefit of discharge or muster-out. The unit had been ordered to Utah Territory to assist in "Indian control." He apparently did not want to go. He was not alone. Mutiny was rampant in the regiment because many of the members felt the western deployment was unjust. In his absence, he was charged with desertion from camp on the final muster roll. He was in Ritzville in 1890 and reported himself to the census enumerator for the special veterans' schedule. In the clear, the census sheet reads, "says he was never discharged." He did not apply for pension or other gratuitous benefit. His widow Sarah didn't apply either. He died 6 July 1926 at Ralston, Adams County, and is buried at Washtucna under a civilian marker.

James Harvey Bryant was able to reboot his military career, and even garnered a promotion. The Kentucky native (born 16 October 1837) enlisted on 6 September 1861 at McLean, Calhoun County, Kentucky, and was finally assigned to Company A, 17<sup>th</sup> Kentucky Infantry, on 3 January 1862. On 5 March 1863 he deserted at Clarksville, occupied Tennessee. A few months later he regretted his decision and turned himself in, re-enlisting at Princeton, Caldwell County, Kentucky. He was probably incarcerated for a time, but the army was desperate enough for manpower that on 26 October 1863 he was not only released but also promoted to Sergeant of Company E, 48<sup>th</sup> Kentucky Infantry. He mustered out with his unit on 15 December 1864 at Bowling Green. Because his second period of service redeemed the first, dishonorable, period, he was granted pension in August 1890; he was then living in Colorado. His death occurred at Goldendale on 11 February 1920 and he is buried at the Mountain View Cemetery under a civilian marker.

Another sterling example is Patrick B Callanan, born 10 August 1848 in Tipperary, County Galway, Ireland. He came to America as a child. He enlisted in Company F, 10<sup>th</sup> Infantry (Regulars) on 5 April 1865, just as the shooting was ending on the Virginia peninsula. One day in wartime qualified him as a Civil War soldier. His initial enlistment was for three years, and he served it with honor. After a short break in service, he re-enlisted on 5 September 1869 in Company B, 20<sup>th</sup> Infantry (Regulars) and headed west. He deserted on 6 May 1871. He married in Mantorville, Dodge County, Minnesota on 29 April 1875. He attempted to secure a pension on 1 May 1895, and was turned down flat. By 1910 his travels about the American West had taken him to Havre, Montana. There his wife, the former Rosina Pfund, died on 1 November 1920. He lived an incredibly long time afterward, to age 99; he died in Seattle on 16 February 1948 and was buried at the Forest Lawn Cemetery in Bremerton. He does not, however, receive any recognition as a Kitsap County "last veteran" because the character of his second period of service negated the first. He has a civilian marker.

Confederate records are scarce, so benefit of the doubt is often given to the Southern soldiers on whether or not service was honorable. Not so for Robert Glennon. He was born in March 1830 in New Orleans, and when war came he was soon in uniform. He was commissioned a first lieutenant of Company I, 14<sup>th</sup> Louisiana Infantry, in June 1861. He was even breveted to major. He served a month. In July 1861 he deserted from camp in Louisiana, and was not seen again for nearly thirty years. He may have adopted an alias. During that time he married twice, but had no identified descendants. In 1891 he was in Seattle as a bookkeeper. In 1892 he was at Sunnydale (near Sea-Tac Airport). Between 1900 and 1910 he raised poultry at Orillia. He died in nearby Kent on 11 February 1914, and was buried at the Hillcrest Burial Park. To this day he has a temporary marker which reads, "veteran of the Confederacy." It's unlikely he'll have a permanent marker any time soon.

George Madison Pease is, in my opinion, the most reprehensible of the lot. He was a discipline case in the military from the get-go. Pease was a transplanted Canadian, born in 1835 in Ontario (some sources fallaciously suggest Wisconsin). He enlisted 8 July 1861 under the alias "Charles Price" in the 7<sup>th</sup> Iowa Infantry as a corporal, and was mustered in two

weeks later, but it didn't take long for him to be reduced to ranks. Apparently he was of some service at Forts Henry and Donelson, and maybe at Shiloh. On 21 June 1862, while his unit was under fire near Corinth, Mississippi, he deserted outright. He went upriver and disappeared back into Iowa, used his birth name, and was out of sight for quite awhile. But on 20 October 1882, he had the gall to apply for pension and used both names so his service could be found. The match was made. The Army considered apprehending him. He disappeared into the fabric of the nation for a second time, had a son in Iowa, may have lived in Eugene, and eventually came to Washington.

Let the article from the Yakima Herald, 30 October 1907, tell the next phase of the story: *"George Pease, a veteran of the Civil War who conducts a popcorn stand at the corner of Front and Chestnut Streets, was the victim of a pickpocket Friday evening while in the line up at the general delivery window in the post office. In his hip pocket was a savings bank containing about \$10 in dimes. The bank is one of the flat styles, issued by the Yakima Valley bank."* Local sympathy was generated for him. He received oodles of city charity. He remained in Yakima until his death, 14 March 1922. No one ever checked the character of his service or whether he was receiving pension before he was hailed as a hero by the newspapers. He had a nice obituary. His Find-a-Grave page shows no marker.

Very very rarely, one slipped through the cracks. James Gamble was admitted to Retsil in 1916 based on partial documentation. He had been found eligible for pension in 1879 in error, despite his desertion from camp 1 September 1863 when a wagoner with Company F of the 25<sup>th</sup> Missouri Infantry. He was mistaken for a veteran with honorable service in the 1<sup>st</sup> Engineers and Mechanics, also of Missouri, a man of the same name who enlisted at the same time. Why the Bureau of Pensions let the award stand for nearly forty years is a mystery. The mistake was corrected only at his death; he has a civilian marker.

The character of service matters as much to Civil War veterans as it does to modern Armed Forces members. When oaths of service are taken, they mean something. Comrades in arms are only comrades insofar as fraternity, charity, and loyalty prevail. And veterans are only veterans if they are veterans—all the others served otherwise.

## Miscellanea

The back issues of the *Washington Volunteer* are now Googleable! If you see the word "echidnapistaciopluto" in the address, don't be alarmed. That's our Web site's secret identity!

Denise R Ottoson has recently retired from her long-standing database work on Civil War soldiers related to the Pacific Northwest. This has brought 12,648 Union and postwar veterans, and 155 mb of data, to Ye Olde Editor's attention. Denise also shared the data with several repositories. Thank you, Denise, for all you have done. You are a faithful friend to the Round Table and to genealogists everywhere.

# Ye Olde Editor's Close

Photo Credits this issue: Army War College; Rick Solomon collection; Library of Congress (Thomas J Jackson, stereo view, "The War For The Union" Exhibition, Hartford, CT: The War Photograph & Exhibition Co., No. 21 Linden Place, between 1861 and 1865, and Robert E Lee, Currier & Ives lithograph, New York: Published by Currier & Ives, between 1860 and 1870), and the Dimonds.

Please visit our reconstructed Web site at [www.pugetsoundcwrt.org](http://www.pugetsoundcwrt.org) for the latest in news, events, and announcements. It's Civil War season! Consider contributing an article or two! Until next time, please stay safe and healthy.

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