

THE WASHINGTON VOLUNTEER

PUGET SOUND CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

www.pscwrt.org

JANUARY 2022

Volume 37, Issue 5

**NEXT MEETING: Thursday,
JANUARY 13, 2022**

ZOOM MEETING ONLY

Time: Social hour at **6:45 p.m.**; Program at **7:00 p.m.**

BILL WOODWARD WILL SPEAK ON LINCOLN'S GETTYSBURG SERMON: CLUE TO HIS CONSTITUTIONAL VISION

Bill Woodward, Professor of History Emeritus of Seattle Pacific University, will give the January Zoom presentation. His collegiate role extended over four decades. His advanced degrees are from Georgetown University and he specializes in the American West, Pacific Northwest, Nineteenth Century History/diplomacy and the History of Baseball. Bill is an official speaker under the auspices of Humanities Washington, giving presentations around Washington State on the 1920s. Each September Bill writes a historical essay on the Constitution many times on Lincoln's constitutional views. His essay last September discussed the Constitution and Indian Tribe Lands.

Abraham Lincoln had a profound respect for the Constitution. And yet it seemed (at least to some of his critics) that he bent it to the breaking point to advance his goals. But Lincoln based his Constitutional and moral vision on the Declaration of Independence, as revealed in the few short sentences of the storied Gettysburg Address. Bill Woodward surveys Lincoln's statements on the Constitution as a prelude to a close reading of Preacher Lincoln's "Gettysburg Gospel."

CURATOR'S FELLOWSHIP AT MOHAI AVAILABLE

The Curator's Fellow conducts research in MOHAI's collections and prepares a public presentation offering new insights on MOHAI materials and Puget Sound area history. This work takes place over six months, including up to 20 hours of research in the collection. A portion of on-site research hours may be accommodated during evenings and weekends. The Fellow will receive a stipend of \$5000. MOHAI prioritizes research that includes stories of historically marginalized or excluded communities, particularly Black, Indigenous, People of Color. The museum invites applications from community and academic researchers and historians whose work focuses on the history of the Pacific Northwest. Research on topics that bring new interpretations to MOHAI's content is particularly welcome. You can read more about MOHAI Collections and potential research topics [here](#). [Applications](#) are now open! The deadline is January 31, 2022. Contact CuratorsFellowship@mohai.org with questions.

NICOLE ROBERT, PHD | Community Engagement Officer

she, her, hers

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THE GETTYSBURG ADDRESS

November 19, 1863

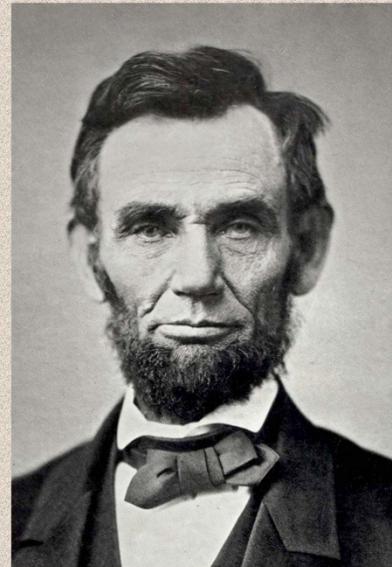
At the Dedication of the Soldiers' National Cemetery in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania:

Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battle-field of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

But, in a larger sense, we can not dedicate – we can not consecrate – we can not hallow – this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us – that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion – that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain – that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom – and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

Abraham Lincoln



ADDITIONAL READING ON THIS MONTH'S PRESENTATION

Additional Reading -- Lincoln, The Address, the Declaration and the Constitution.

"Four Score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal."

The opening sentence of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address represent one of the most famous speeches in the English language. For generations school children memorized the short 10 sentences of Lincoln's address. But how many of them realized the meaning behind the words they recited, or how that address reflected Lincoln's philosophy on equality, democracy and the "right to rise." From the dozens of books on the Gettysburg Address and on Lincoln's political philosophy the following books are recommended.

On Lincoln's Political Philosophy

GUELZO, ALLEN C. Abraham Lincoln as a Man of Ideals. Carbondale: Southern Illinois University Press, 2009. Pp. ix, 216.

In this collection of essays by a noted Lincoln scholar, one should read "Apples of Gold in a Picture of Siler: Lincoln, the Constitution and Liberty." Guelzo addresses the tension between Lincoln's belief in the equality promised in the Declaration of Independence with his belief in the framework of the constitution. It is the author's view Lincoln did not revolutionize our fundamental governing document by his linking it with the Declaration of Independence.

DIRCK, BRIAN R. Lincoln and the Constitution. Carbondale: Southern Illinois University Press, 2012. Pp. 168.

In this small volume, part of the Concise Lincoln Library series, while historian Brian R. Dirck examines a number of constitutional issues [civil rights during wartime, or the role of congress] the purpose of his book is to present "an overview of Lincoln's constitutional thought, spanning his entire lifetime."

KATER, GEORGE. Lincoln's Political Thought. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2015. Pp. xiii, 236.

Kater examines Lincoln's belief in equality contrasted with his support for the constitution. Lincoln believed in holding the union together more than ending slavery, but in the end, he achieved both by his wartime actions and his support of the 13th amendment ending slavery.

On the Address

BORITT, GABOR. The Gettysburg Gospel: The Lincoln Speech that Nobody Knows. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2006. Pp. 415.

Boritt, an author of sixteen books on Lincoln offers a history of the events leading to the creation and dedication of the National Soldiers Cemetery, Lincoln's invitation to the event and the reputation of the speech in the generations that followed. An appendix also reprints Edward Everett's main speech from the event.

WILLS, GARRY. Lincoln at Gettysburg: The Words that Remade America. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1992. 317.

The conservative writer argues that Lincoln changed the way Americans think of our constitution from its original intent as a framework of governing, to one with a national commitment to equality by linking the U.S. Constitution with the Declaration of Independence's "all men are created equal" in the Gettysburg address.

KLEMENT, FRANK L. The Gettysburg Soldiers' Cemetery and Lincoln's Address. Shippensburg: White Mane Publishing Co., 1993. Xv, 276.

The historian Frank L. Klement, better known for his works on dissent during the civil war and Copperheads, collects in this book 12 essays on various topics on the Gettysburg address. From

tracing the history of how the military cemetery came about, to debunking myths regarding the origins of the address, to who sat on the speaker's platform with Lincoln.

GRAMM, KENT. November: Lincoln's Elegy at Gettysburg. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2001. Pp. xii, 323.

In this very personal work, Gramm traces the history of the Gettysburg address, across many Novembers through out history from the 1637 and the death of an English sailor, to 1863 Gettysburg, to the death of John F. Kennedy in 1963.

PUGET SOUND CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE AND COVID 19

When I became President of PSCWRT for the third time in May 2020 my number one concern was for PSCWRT to continue as a viable place where the American Civil War could be studied and discussed in a safe manner by our membership until the Pandemic ended. Thanks to our past president, Dick Miller, we started having Zoom Meetings instead of scheduled live in person meetings. This proved to work well and was getting about half of the amount of attendance before the Pandemic. If you attended some of these Zoom Meetings, you know that the presentations were excellent. On behalf of the Board of Directors and the Membership of PSCWRT I wish to express our eternal gratitude to Dick Miller for helping to keep our Roundtable alive and vibrant.

With the rise of the highly contagious Omicron Variant the Board still feels that at present it is still too early to have in person Live meetings at the China Harbor. Covid rates are at an all-time high. Fortunately the effects of the Omicron Variant seem to be much less severe than other Covid Variants. Hospitalizations have gone up slightly while death rates have actually dropped. Rates for the unvaccinated continue to be significantly higher for cases, hospitalizations and death. It was decided that only who are fully vaccinated could attend our meetings. Also, it was decided that attendees of these in person meetings would be required to wear masks except when eating or drinking. In a recent vote the Board of directors has unanimously decided that members can attend live meeting if they are unvaccinated and provide a Covid 19 negative test result that is less than 72 hours before our meeting. At this point in time it is logistically impossible for there to be a simultaneous in person and Zoom meeting. In addition the China Harbor has been closed after the discovery of structural damage to it's building. The Board will vote again around the end of January as to whether or not to have a live in person meeting starting on February 10 when Ethan Refuse is to be our presenter. Ethan was our last live presenter in February 2020 before the Pandemic. It would be wonderful if Ethan were our first live speaker since the start of the Covid Pandemic.

The Pandemic will be monitored by the Board of Directors. It is our sincere hope that we will be able to hold our in person meeting at the China Harbor on February 10. Stay tuned! Rick Solomon

SPEAKER SCHEDULE FOR 2021-2022

February 10, 2022 – Long-time PSCWRT favorite, Ethan Rafuse, author of numerous books on the Civil War and Professor of Military History at the US Army Command & General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, will again delight roundtable members with his incisive analysis of Civil War battles and leaders in Missouri.

March 10, 2022 – Ryan Booth will talk about James Sanks Brisbin, a lawyer who enlisted as a private in April 1861 and ended the war as a brevet brigadier general. In the course of seeing significant action, Brisbin was wounded five times.

April 7, 2022 – Gordon Chang, author of *Ghosts of Gold Mountain: The Epic Story of the Chinese Who Built the Transcontinental Railroad*, is the Olive H. Palmer Professor in Humanities at Stanford University.

May 12, 2022 – Caroline Janney is the John L. Nau III Professor in the History of the American Civil War and the Director of the John L. Nau III Center for Civil War History at the University of Virginia. Professor Janney's latest book, *Ends of War: The Unfinished Fight of Lee's Army after Appomattox*, will be released by the University of North Carolina Press on September 21, 2021.

JANUARY Birthdays

Several members have birthdays in January and we'd like to acknowledge their special day! They are:

Phillip Allen
Pat Brady
Deb Dickson
Jon Echols
Bob Hazen
Mike Karbowski
Greg Meldahl
Donald Spenard
Leighton Wingate

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN: THE UNSUCCESSFUL SEARCH FOR A COMMANDER OF THE ARMY OF TENNESSEE PART FOUR

Last month I discussed the High Command of the Army of Tennessee from right after the Battle of Stones River through the period shortly before the Battle of Chickamauga. In this column I shall cover the Army of Tennessee through the period just before the Battle of Chattanooga.

After Chickamauga Bragg tried to place the blame on 3 victims – Polk (delayed attack on 9-20-63), DH Hill & Hindman (McLemore Cove debacle). Polk & Hindman were suspended from command on 9-28-63. They were instructed to leave the army & go to Atlanta. Bragg's chief of staff, Will Mackall, commented that he did not know of a single contented general in the army. G. Moxley Sorrel, Longstreet's Chief of Staff wrote, "The tone of the army among its highest officers toward the commander was the worst conceivable. Bragg was the subject of hatred & contempt, & it was almost so openly expressed. His great officers gave him no confidence as a general-in-chief." By 9-25-63 Polk, Longstreet, Buckner & DH Hill had met secretly planning to oust Bragg.

Almost universally the generals supported Polk. Longstreet wrote Sec. of War Seddon on 9-26, "To express my convictions in a few words, our chief has done but one thing that he ought to have done since I joined this army. That was to order the attack upon the 20th. I am convinced that nothing but the hand of God can save us or help us as long as we have our present commander. Now to our wants. Can't you send us General Lee?" At the same time both Polk & Longstreet wrote Lee about taking command of the Army of Tennessee, but Lee declined. Polk wrote his friend, Davis, blaming Bragg for not pursuing Rosecrans into Chattanooga, "The troops at the close of the fight were in the very highest spirits, ready for any service. Gen. Bragg did not know what had happened. He let us down as usual, & allowed the fruits of the great but sanguinary victory to pass from him by the most criminal negligence, or rather incapacity...By that victory, & its heavy expenditure of the life-blood of the Confederacy, we bought & paid for the whole of the state of Tennessee. To the Mississippi River at the very least." Then Polk suggested to Davis that Beauregard replace Bragg. However Beauregard was in the deepest part of Jeff Davis's doghouse.

About a week after Chickamauga Forrest was ordered by Bragg to give up most of his division to Wheeler. Forrest went to Bragg's headquarters to complain. Although Bragg extended his hand, Forrest refused to shake it. He heatedly accused Bragg of persecuting him ever since Shiloh, compelled him to give up his command in Kentucky, and sent his second brigade to West Tennessee with inadequate arms. Now Forrest was being forced to give up his second brigade to Wheeler. Forrest told the stunned Bragg. "You have played the part of a damn scoundrel, and are a coward, and if you were any part of a man, I would slap your jaws and force you to resent it. You may as well not issue any more orders to me, for I will not obey them, and I will hold you personally responsible for any further indignities you endeavor to inflict upon me. If you ever again try to interfere with me or cross my path it will be at the peril of your life." Forrest never served under Bragg again.

Mary Chesnut lamented in her diary, "Bragg, thanks to Longstreet & Hood, had won Chickamauga; so we looked for results that would pay for our losses in battle. Surely they would capture Rosecrans. But no! There sat Bragg like a good dog, howling on his hind legs before Chattanooga, and some Yankee Holdfast grinning at him from his impregnable heights. Bragg always stops to quarrel with his generals."

Davis, upon learning of the suspensions tried to get Bragg to back down. Bragg proposed a swap of Polk for Hardee, but Davis said no. On 10-3-63 Davis wrote Bragg, "When I sent you a dispatch recommending that Lt. General Polk should not be placed in arrest, it was with the view of avoiding a controversy which could not heal the injury sustained, & which I feared would entail further evil. Believing that he possessed the confidence & affection of his corps, it seemed to be better that his influence in your favor should be preserved by a lenient course....The opposition to you both in the army & out of it has been a public calamity, & I had hoped the great victory which you have recently achieved would tend to harmonize the army & bring to you a more just appreciation of the country.... It must be a rare occurrence if a battle is fought without many errors & failures... & the public exposure of these diminishes the credit due, impairs the public confidence, undermines the morale of the Army, & works evil to the cause for which brave men have died."

On Oct. 4 the corps commanders secretly met to consider an alternate commander for the army & to prepare a petition to Davis for Bragg's removal. The Petition read, "Two weeks ago this army, elated by a great victory which promised to prove the most fruitful of the war, was in readiness to pursue its defeated enemy. That enemy, driven in confusion from the field, was fleeing in disorder and panic-stricken across the Tennessee River. Today, after having been twelve days in line of battle in that enemy's front, within cannon range of his position, the Army of Tennessee has seen a new Sebastopol rise steadily before its view....Whatever may have been accomplished heretofore, it is certain that the fruits of the victory of the Chickamauga have now escaped our grasp. The Army of Tennessee, stricken with a complete paralysis, will in a few days' time be thrown strictly on the defensive, and may deem itself fortunate if it escapes from its present position without disaster." The petition avoiding mentioning Bragg's military failings but instead argued for removal on the sole ground that "the condition of his health unfits him for the command of an army in the field." 12 generals signed it. They were Buckner, DH Hill, Longstreet, John C. Brown, William Preston, Cleburne, Archibald Gracie, James A. Smith, Marcellus Stovall, Lucious Polk, Bushrod Johnson, & Randall Gibson. Strangely, two of Bragg's biggest opponents, Breckenridge & Cheatham did not sign. Nor did Polk or Hindman. Nor did Forest who had already been transferred. Buckner is probably the author of it. Bragg learned of the meeting & the petition later that night, causing him "much distress and mortification." Mackall said the next day "I do believe he thought himself popular...Bragg has the misfortune of not knowing a friend from a foe, & taking subserviency as evidence of friendship." On Oct. 5 Bragg telegraphed Davis asking for his help. Davis sent his aide, James Chesnut who upon arrival was overwhelmed by the intensity of the feeling against Bragg and urged Davis to hasten to the army.

On Oct. 8 Davis conferred with Polk in Atlanta. Polk refused to serve further under Bragg, but was willing to accept a transfer. Davis arrived on 10-9-63 & had brought Pemberton and staff and meant to put Pemberton at the head of Polk's corps. Bragg approved of this. When the announcement was made that Pemberton would replace Polk there was such an outcry from

generals and rank and file that the promotion was withdrawn. Mackall told Pemberton that there was not a division in the army that was willing to serve under him.

With all the finesse of a surgeon performing a brain operation with a meat ax & handsaw, Davis called Longstreet, Buckner, DH Hill & Cheatham to meet him in Bragg's HQ & there, in Bragg's presence, he required them to give their personal views of Bragg's fitness to command. All were negative to Bragg. However Davis sustained Bragg as commander. Mackall had predicted, "If Mr. D sustains him, Bragg will be too elated to listen to reason. Two days later D.H. Hill was relieved from command. Bragg stated that Hill had "greatly demoralized the troops..., & sacrificed thousands at Chickamauga." Hill saw little service other than a brief stint in Petersburg.

For a few the hypocrisy was unbearable. Bragg's own chief of staff, the loyal & talented Brigadier General WW Mackall, quit rather than compromise himself further. Bragg's "whole soul is in it," he wrote his wife of Bragg's dedication to the Southern Cause, but "he is as much influenced by his enemies as by friends - & does not know how to control the one or preserve the other." He "is as blind as a bat to the circumstances surrounding him." Mackall's departure was a serious blow. Enjoying good relations with both Bragg & his lieutenants, Mackall had been able to smooth over many a misunderstanding & clarify the general's orders. Joe Johnston always believed Mackall "absolutely necessary" to the stability of the army's command structure, particularly during Bragg's frequent bouts of ill health.

Longstreet was sent off to East Tennessee with his corps to retake Knoxville from Burnside. Buckner was reduced to a division commander as divisions and brigades were stripped away from him. Polk & Hardee ended up being swapped. On Oct. 18, Davis met with Hardee at Demopolis, Alabama, and offered him Polk's corps which Hardee immediately accepted. Cheatham tried to resign and went on leave of absence ultimately missing the battle of Chattanooga. Four of his five brigades had been made up entirely of Tennessee regiments. These brigades, with the exception of one, were broken up & transferred out of Cheatham's division. Morale was so bad that over 2,000 Confederates deserted between Chickamauga and Chattanooga.

Who could've replaced Bragg? At this point of the war there were only four other full generals in the Confederacy. Samuel Cooper was strictly an administrative general. Lee refused to leave Virginia. Joseph Johnston and Davis were enemies. Davis got along even worse with Beauregard than Joseph Johnston. Davis didn't trust Longstreet with an independent command. St. John Liddell wouldn't sign the petition for Bragg's removal because he thought there was no realistic alternative to Bragg. Kirby Smith? My opinion is Joseph Johnston would have been Davis's best choice.

OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS POSITIONS NEED TO BE FILLED

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, but for this position “the more, the merrier”. Everyone here was new at some point. Didn’t you like being welcomed rather than ignored?

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 RESERVATIONS

This is the person that records the meal choices and reservations for each month’s meeting as they come in. Once live in person meetings resume at the China Harbor we need someone regular in that position. Vice President-Successor Jim Dimond has stepped in temporarily.

VICE-PRESIDENT EDITOR

This monthly newsletter, the Washington Volunteer, is edited and put together by the VP-Editor. The opening is immediate with Rick Solomon filling this position temporarily. Right now I have my plate overflowing with serving as President and trying to find speakers for 2022-2023. This is one of the most important positions in PSCWRT. If you volunteer, you can call on past Newsletter Editors Jeff Rombauer, Mark Terry and Rick Solomon for advise.

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!

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 February 2022 Washington Volunteer is Monday, January 31, 2022. Please have it in Rick Solomon's hands via email or snailmail by then. Thank you!

2021-2022 OFFICERS

Elected:*

President: Rick Solomon; ricksolomon192@gmail.com

Vice President Successor: Jim Dimond; shinodad@gmail.com

Past President: Jeff Rombauer; jeffrombauer@foxinternet.org

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Vice President Membership: Arthur Banner; banneras@comcast.net

Acting Vice President Reservations: Jim Dimond; shinoded@gmail.com

Acting Vice President Social Media: Jim Dimond; shinodad@gmail.com

Treasurer: Chris McDonald: alpacamomchris@gmail.com

Secretary: VACANT

Board Member: George Yocum;

**All, except for Past President, an automatic position.*