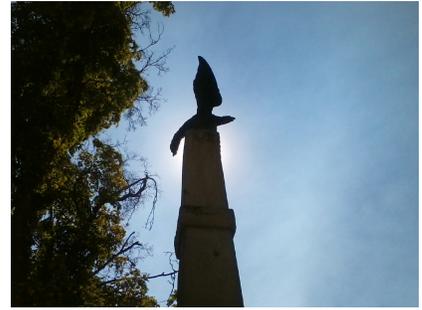


The Washington Volunteer

The Newsletter of the
Puget Sound Civil War Round Table

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Our Next Meeting

Along with Dick Miller I am the Co-Program Coordinator for the Puget Sound Civil War Round Table. Dick and I took over for Pat Brady in that position. Pat ably served for over 36 years, bringing us wonderful presentations and taking care of logistics for our "Airplane" speakers.

I'm very excited that our speaker for our October 13, 2022, meeting is Chris Mackowski. Some of you may have seen Chris's Zoom presentation to our Round Table on Dick Ewell at the First Day of Gettysburg. Here is Chris' biography:



“Chris Mackowski, Ph.D., is the editor-in-chief and co-founder of Emerging Civil War and the series editor of the award-winning [Emerging Civil War Series](#), published by Savas Beatie. Chris is a writing professor in the Jandoli School of Communication at St. Bonaventure University in Allegany, NY, where he also serves as associate dean for undergraduate programs. Chris is also historian-in-residence at [Stevenson Ridge](#), a historic property on the Spotsylvania

battlefield in central Virginia. He has worked as a historian for the National Park Service at Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park, where he gives tours at four major Civil War battlefields (Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Wilderness, and Spotsylvania), as well as at the building where Stonewall Jackson died. Chris has authored or co-authored nearly two dozen books and edited a half-dozen essay collections on the Civil War, and his articles have appeared in all the major Civil War magazines. Chris serves as vice president on the board of directors for the [Central Virginia Battlefields Trust](#), he serves on the advisory board of the [Civil War Round Table Congress](#) and the Brunswick (NC) Civil War Round Table—the largest in the country—and is a member of the Antietam Institute.”
[emergingcivilwar.com]

During the Pandemic I stumbled across a seemingly countless series of videos by Chris Mackowski for *Emerging Civil War*. These videos are anywhere from a couple of minutes to over an hour apiece in length. In these videos Chris went to various Civil War historical sites and talked about what happened at these locations. In addition he has recorded 44 (and counting!) *Emerging Civil War* podcasts on various topics on the Civil War with great historians such as Gary Gallagher, Steve Davis, David Powell, Brian Gottfried, Kent Masterson Brown and others joining him in some podcasts.

Chris is married with some young children. With all these activities one wonders when Chris sleeps. He is "The Energizer Bunny of Civil War Historians." I am thrilled that Chris Mackowski will be presenting to our Round Table on October 13. Make your reservations through the web site (www.pugetsoundcwr.org) by October 11, please. Or call Jim Dimond before Tuesday night if there's a problem.

Rick Solomon

Our Last Meeting

We had a truly outstanding gathering. Please be mindful of your own health and do NOT come to meetings if you are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19.

Our Remaining 2024 Speakers

- November 12 – Arthur Banner on Johnathan Letterman and Civil War medicine
- December 8 – Larry Daniel on why the Army of Tennessee failed
- January 12 – Richard Heisler on the 1913 Gettysburg reunion and the Seattle vets who attended
- February 9 – Bill Woodward, topic TBA!
- March 9 – Rick Solomon on August Willich (although there is a possibility that Curt Fields will be in town and able to do his talk as U.S. Grant)
- April 13 – Eric Wittenberg
- May 11 – Carol Whipple on Roger Sherman Greene

President's Message: Old Man River

The river. You know which one. The Mississippi. It provides the drainage of half the continent. Its flow is dirty, violent, irresistible, inexorable, ever-changing. The people of its delta trust it to do the unexpected, even today. Oxbow lakes testify to the thousands of times it has changed its course on a whim. It's been at flood stage for several years now, and the locals just learn to live with it.

Hurricane Orlene may be about to feed it some more. The river goes where it wants to go.

Levees exist to be breached. Floodgates will not contain it. Engineers with the Army Corps have spent many lifetimes trying to tame it. Or him. This river is not a fair maiden. It is a stubborn old man.

Mark Twain wrote of the river: "One who knows the Mississippi will promptly aver—not aloud, but to himself—that ten thousand River Commissions, with the mines of the world at their back, cannot tame that lawless stream, cannot curb it or confine it, cannot say to it, Go here, or Go there, and make it obey; cannot save a shore which it has sentenced; cannot bar its path with an obstruction which it will not tear down, dance over, and laugh at."

You enter its delta before you have left Arkansas. The roads are signed with the inevitable warnings of hurricane country, directions to the uninformed about contraflow and evacuation routes. Because, when the weather combines with the river, lives are lost.

The night of March 2, 1865, was one such night. The storm came up. The packet steamer overturned. Lives were lost.

It hadn't been an easy war for the men of the 33rd Illinois Infantry. Replacements had to be recruited to fill the unit, yet again. The raw recruits, most lured by sizable bounties, were on their way to occupation duty in Louisiana. Many of them never made it. The river swallowed some in the squall, and the bodies that could be found were taken to the shore, just above Lake Providence. A temporary cemetery was established. Before the temporary cemetery could be consolidated with the burying ground that would become Vicksburg National, the river flooded again. More remains were washed out to sea, and identification for the others was lost.

It was known who was aboard, of course, from the muster rolls.

Fast forward to a few years ago. An intrepid researcher found family members for some of the deceased soldiers of the regiment. His efforts enabled the National Cemetery Administration to memorialize them. Five "in memory of" markers have been placed at, of all places, our own Tahoma National Cemetery. They are in Section Nine. I have their names and their site numbers if anyone would care to look them up for Veterans Day.

We still have some vacant positions on the Round Table board. Let's talk about that at our next meeting.

James L Dimond

The Material Civil War – Electoral Tickets

One of the most elusive, fragile collectibles of the Civil War era is the electoral ticket. As Alicia Y. Cheng notes in her study of the history of the electoral ticket in America [*This Is What Democracy Looked Like: A Visual History of the Printed Ballot*, New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 2020], as the population and franchise expanded in the United States, states turned to the use of printed ballots in elections. For most of the 19th century it was the political parties who printed and distributed these tickets for voters to use on election day.

While we hear a lot today about "rigged" elections, nothing compares with the schemes used in the 1800's, where repeated voting was practiced with men going from one polling place to another, or ballot boxes with hidden compartments with pre-marked ballots, or tissue ballots with paper so thin that multiple ballots could be "hidden" on what appeared to be one ballot. Political parties would sometime replicate the appearance of their opponents' ballots but with their own candidates to confuse voters. As a result of these frauds, states

began in the 1880's to take control from the political parties over the ballot which has led to the total control by the states of elections today. Because many of these ballots were destroyed after elections those available for sale today run from \$50 to hundreds of dollars.

Jeff Rombauer

Ye Olde Editor's Close

Please visit our reconstructed Web site at www.pugetsoundcwrt.org for the latest in news, events, and announcements. Please consider contributing an article or two! Until next time, please stay safe and healthy.

Officers 2022-2023:

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Richard Miller, Vice-President Programs (milomiller882@msn.com)

VACANT, Vice-President Editor (James Dimond is pinch hitting)

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