

The Washington Volunteer

The Newsletter of the
Puget Sound Civil War Round Table

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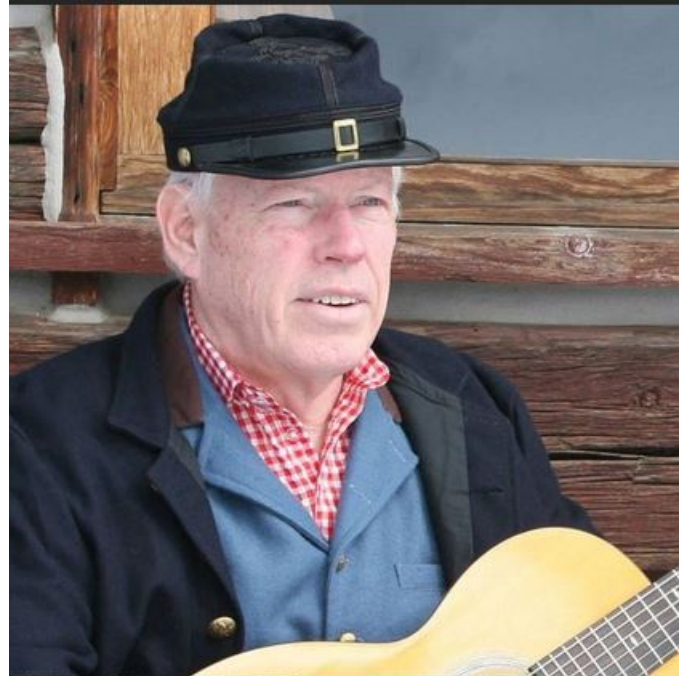
Our Next Meeting

**IN PERSON MEETING AT THE CHINA HARBOR - RESERVATIONS REQUIRED
USE THE "RESERVATIONS" LINK ON THE WEB SITE**

<https://echidnapistachiopluto45072.wordpress.com/reservations/>

Hank Cramer will perform a concert of 19th century soldier songs and folk ballads on Thursday evening, March 9 at the China Harbor Restaurant in Seattle. Accompanying himself on a vintage guitar from that era, he will perform songs popular around the soldiers' campfires.

Hank is one of the most popular folk singers in the Pacific Northwest. His trademarks are a booming bass voice, a wry sense of humor, and smooth picking on a vintage flat-top guitar. He has recorded 24 CDs and three movie soundtracks, and he has performed at historic sites and music festivals across the nation.



In addition to being a talented musician, Cramer is an historian, educator, and retired military officer. Hank blends history and music into educational

programs. His subjects are as varied as the Oregon Trail, life in the frontier army, sea shanties from the days of sail, and the Celtic influence in American cowboy music.

Cramer resides in Washington's Methow Valley with his cowgirl wife Kit and their many critters. He is retired from the US Army and took a second career in Emergency Management. His music has earned him many citations, including the prestigious Humanities Washington Award presented to one performer each year for outstanding cultural contribution. Hank currently holds a Gold Star Fellowship from Congress, advocating on behalf of those families who have lost loved ones in service to America.

For more information, contact Hank at hankcramer@hotmail.com; phone 509 429-2848; or visit his website at www.hankcramer.com

Our Last Meeting

Bill Woodward's dynamic presentation on ZOOM was attended by two dozen viewers and invited guests. Four divergent views of the origins of the war were acted out. All told, the discussion goes on!

President's Message: Yet Another Antique James L Dimond

For my wife's birthday we went antiquing last month. We visited a mall we hadn't been to since before the pandemic. Stock had changed, and after several hours we left with some new treasures. One of them was a document of a type I'd never seen before.

It was a letter, dated 26 May 1893, from the War Department. The letterhead was cheap and rubber-stamped. The paper was high acid. It wasn't supposed to survive, but it did. It was addressed to Mrs H H Judd in Edgerton, Wisconsin. In typical Federal prose, the letter responded to her request for the remains of her father to be relocated from a national cemetery to a cemetery near her home. Permission for the removal was granted, "provided it be done without expense to the United States."

The soldier in question was J H Saunders, Sergeant, Company H, 1st Wisconsin Cavalry. He had been buried in grave 3932 at the national cemetery at Jefferson Barracks, Missouri. The Quartermaster General controlled all such graves at that time. The letter was given a register number and a filing location, #56224 QMGC Cemeterial. My archives-oriented sense suggests there may be many, many clues to the burial locations of Civil War veterans and others in the QM's serial files. This is an untapped resource of which I was not aware. It bears further investigation.

Sergeant Joseph Henry Saunders hailed from Pine Grove, Wisconsin. He was born at Alfred, Allegany County, New York on 20 October 1824. He enlisted 12 October 1861, and served in the company cited above until his death of disease at Cape Girardeau, Missouri on 6 October 1862. He is no longer listed on the VA's Nationwide Gravesite Locator. The relocation may indeed have taken place in or about 1893, but the Wisconsin marker was never changed. A marker is presently located in the family lot at the Evergreen Cemetery of Albion, Dane County, Wisconsin. Two other family casualties of the war are listed on the marker. Visit the memorial at

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/75928932/joseph-henry-saunders>

Additional Reading - Singing The Civil War

Jeff Rombauer

Music played an important cultural role during the American Civil War. Unlike today, when one can sit in front of a radio or CD player, 19th century music was a communal experience, heard in churches, ministerial shows, concerts, or political rallies. Civil War songs inspired patriotism in both North and South, connected troops to their home communities, and reflected the emotional mindset of the population during the conflict.

The importance of music was recognized by a committee of "gentlemen" in New York and Philadelphia in the summer of 1861, who offered a prize of \$500 to the composer of a new national anthem. [The Star Spangled Banner was considered too lowbrow and hard to sing.] Unfortunately for these "gentlemen" they could find no song which met their criteria out of the 1200 submitted.

This committee of “gentlemen” did not have to worry. There was an outpouring of songs during this period, with the first of them published only three days after Fort Sumter. So many songs were issued that the noted song writer Stephen C Foster parodied them in a tune called “The Song of All Songs” [1863] which consisted only of song titles. One musicologist estimated that almost ten thousand songs were written during the Civil War. (*Editor’s note: that’s one for each battle!*) Out of this torrent of tunes several become iconic in American culture. In the past three decades, a few fine studies on Civil War music have been published. The following are recommended.

Heaps, Willard A, and Porter W Heaps. *The Singing Sixties: The Spirit of Civil War Days Drawn from the Music of the Times*. Norman: The University of Oklahoma Press, 1960. Pp. xiv, 423.

The authors cover all aspects of “civilian and military life” as reflected in the tunes of the period. From the initial surge of patriotism to the end of the war, hundreds of songs are examined for how they reflected life during the period.

Abel, E Lawrence. *Singing the New Nation: How Music Shaped the Confederacy, 1861-1865*. Mechanicsburg: Stackpole Books, 2000. Pp. xviii, 398.

Abel breaks his study into three parts, first examining “how songs helped create a sense of Southern nationalism.” The second part examines the lives of soldiers, while the third part addresses how songs were disseminated through the South.

Kelley, Bruce C, and Mark A Snell. *Bugle Resounding: Music and the Musicians of the Civil War Era*. Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 2004. Pp. x, 260.

An anthology of ten essays on Civil War music covering such topics as New Hampshire’s Third Regimental Band, Confederate songsters, and Northern song writer Henry Clay Work. As with any collection, the value of individual essays varies.

Stauffer, John and Bebjamin Soskis. *The Battle Hymn of the Republic: A Biography of the Song That Marches On*. Oxford University Press, 2013. Pp. x, 380.

The author examines the origins of the most famous song to come out of the Civil War and how it was used in America as “one of the most effective instruments of religious nationalism.” Since the war it has been used by Civil Rights activities and conservatives alike.

Davis, James A. *Music Along the Rapidan: Civil War Soldiers, Music, and Community during Winter Quarters, Virginia*. Lincoln: The University of Nebraska Press, 2014. Pp. xiii, 346.

He writes, “Music was important to the emotional stability of the soldiers but it helped them to relate to those around them and to provide structure.”

Davis, James A. *Maryland, My Maryland: Music and Patriotism during the American Civil War*. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2019. Pp. xxvi, 358.

Like Stauffer’s study of “The Battle Hymn of the Republic,” Davis examines the history and influence of the second most popular Southern song after “Dixie,” “Maryland, My Maryland,” and its impact during the war.

Features

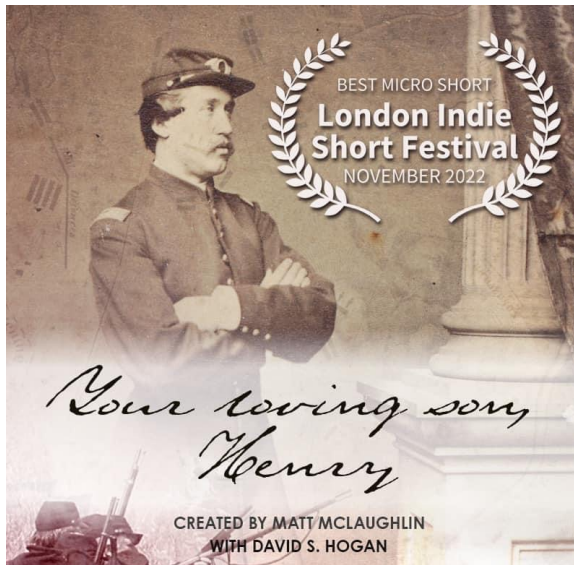
Henry Augustus Sand

Jeff McLaughlin

My son, Matthew McLaughlin, has recently created a “micro-short” video titled “Your Loving Son, Henry.” It is about his Civil War ancestor, Captain Henry Sand. I gave a talk about Henry at one of our meetings about seven years ago based on the book *Crossing Antietam, The Civil War Letters of Captain Henry Augustus Sand, Company A, 103rd New York Volunteers* that Peter Sand and I edited and published in 2016. His video has won awards in five film festivals, including the London Indie Short Film Festival where he earned Best Micro-Short. The film will be shown at the Oregon Documentary Film Festival in Portland on March 12. The url is

<https://migglesiend.com/portfolio-item/your-loving-son-henry/>

Matthew does 3-D computer animation and lives with his family in Astoria, NY. Cheers!



A Letter To The Editor Mark Terry

Thank you for the articles in this month's "Washington Volunteer!"

When I came across the reference to *Tracing Your Civil War Ancestor* by Bertram H Groene, I knew I had to respond. In many ways, Groene's book had a huge effect on my life.

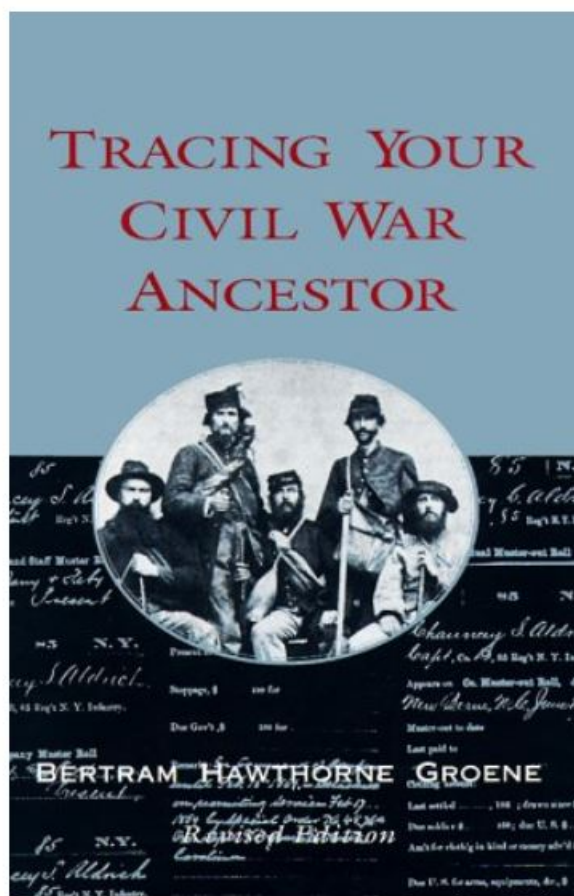
In the spring of 1986, Kim and I had only been married two years. We were living in Fremont, California, both of us teaching at Fremont Christian School. One weekend, we decided to visit San Francisco and play tourist. We went to Golden Gate Park and ended up visiting Fort Point. The fort was built in 1860 and is practically the same design as Fort Sumter. The book shop therefore was very Civil War oriented, so of course I had to check it out. As I was perusing the shelves, I came across Groene's book. Now, mind you, I was interested in the War since about age seven. In that time, I often wondered if any of my forbears were involved in the war, but I never took the step of actually finding

out. And here was a book that might help make that happen! Kim tells the story best. She remembers sitting in a chair and watching me stop and literally rip the book off the shelf. She said to herself, "he's going to buy that book."

It was from that moment on that my interest in genealogy began, since of course to find anyone in your family who was in the Civil War, you have to trace your family line back to that time. While Groene does give advice on ordering pension files and compiled service records from the NARA, he also delved into researching the Official Records and using bibliographies to find regimental histories, things I had never really heard of before. I had read *Lee's Lieutenants* and recalled many footnotes ending with "O.R." and now I knew what that was all about!

Yes, Groene's book is now hopelessly out of date, but I will always thank him for writing that book, as it opened a whole new world that I have been able to enjoy (and sometimes get frustrated with) ever since.

Regarding ordering pension files, yes, they are very expensive now! The other problem is that they take FOREVER to be delivered. In the fall of 2019, I ran into someone at the CWRT Congress Meeting in St. Louis who knew a guy who would actually do the research for you, then send you the files for less than the asking price from the NARA. Not only that (depending on how busy he was) he could get them to you in a fraction of the time the government could. Although COVID hampered his service, he has since been able to access the records once more and has helped me several times.



<https://www.amazon.com/Tracing-Your-Civil-War-Ancestors/dp/0895871238>

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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