

# The Washington Volunteer

The Newsletter of the  
Puget Sound Civil War Round Table

Volume 41, Number 9 May 2023



## Our Next Meeting

Look out, Seattle, here come the Cougars! But seriously. Our May meeting will feature our very own treasure, Jeff Rombauer, taking us on a Magical Mystery tour of a small portion of his massive collection of Civil War memorabilia. He will discuss "The End of the Civil War from the Fall of Richmond to the Capture of Jefferson Davis," using items from his extensive collection of Civil War images, handbills, military orders, and other ephemera.

The May meeting will also feature our first auction in several years.

Auction proceeds enable us to invite out-of-town Civil War scholars to meet with us. This year, we enjoyed talks by Chris Mackowski on Grant's final days, Larry Daniel on the failures of the Army of Tennessee, and Eric Wittenberg on Johnson



and Sherman at Bennett Place. Next year, David Powell will talk on Chickamauga, Caroline Janney on her book *Ends of War*, and prolific author and frequent PSWRT presenter, Ethan Rafuse, on a topic to be determined.

We need a good auction to continue our practice of inviting out-of-town historians to our meetings! We need members to donate auction items as well as to attend the auction. Auction items do not have to be Civil War related; tickets to events, baked goods, and goodie baskets have been good fund-raisers in the past. **Please put May 11 on your calendar and join us at the PSCWRT auction! And please donate items to the auction.** Reservations are required and will close at midnight on Monday, May 8. Social hour is at 6:00 p.m. and dinner at 7:00 p.m. The reservations page is now open.

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

## Our Last Meeting

Eric Wittenberg took us on a brief exploration of the final days of the war at Bennett Place. Johnston, surrendering to Sherman, is the "second Appomattox" and is often neglected by historians. We appreciated his insights.

## President's Message - Follow the Sources

James L Dimond

We recently revisited an intriguing but puzzling veteran, Peter J Panchot. He served with his brother in Company F, 3rd Minnesota Infantry, and saw heavy combat. He rose in rank from private to

corporal. That much is clear. After the war he, his wife, and their seven children made Hastings, Minnesota their home. Around the turn of the century, the family gravitated to Washington. Peter affiliated with Stevens Post #1, GAR, in 1899. The story became more complex. Peter and his wife Harriet separated, but did not divorce. Peter boarded in both Seattle and Auburn as a common laborer.

Peter is the only local vet I know of that rose to that certain level of popular culture, appearing on a tobacco card. He earned this singular honor for helping to invent the sport of pedestrianism, or race walking. For this he was known in New York and elsewhere.

Like so many other Civil War vets, Peter's sunset years were filled with service-connected disabilities. He was awarded pension from November 1873. Rheumatism, bronchitis, and cardiac hypertrophy afflicted him. He entered a parade of veterans' homes, ending with the Pacific Branch, National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers in 1914. California seemed to agree with him; his conditions improved, and he discharged himself.

But by September 1917 he was again worsening. He sought and was granted readmission.

Peter may have been en route back to Sawtelle aboard the steamer Tolo on the night of 5 October 1917. It was foggy off Bainbridge Island. The shipping lane passed Alki. Suddenly, mid-sound, a tugboat appeared in the steamer's path. The collision threw passengers overboard. Some were never recovered. Others jumped off or found their way to lifeboats. I can imagine Peter in the water, helping women and children into the boats and safety. He died of hypothermia, whether at South Beach (as his death certificate says) or on the dock in Bremerton (as the newspapers say). His arrangements were begun by a Bremerton undertaker and his body



was removed to Seattle. His son Ben, who lived on West 85th on Crown Hill, was the informant on the death certificate.

From there, legend takes hold.

There's no Seattle or Auburn obituary to make it easy. If he was buried at Mountain View Cemetery, Auburn, the cemetery knows nothing of it--but some records were lost to fire in 1917, so it could be as Find-a-Grave says. His name is not on the plot list for the Seattle GAR cemetery. A mystery lot at Mount Pleasant in Seattle holds markers, but no remains (they're now at Acacia) of some of the descendants and their spouses. Peter's parents in Minnesota have a large family lot. He could have been cremated and sent back. As to cremation, other possibilities: he could have been scattered on Puget Sound, or he could be in community storage. Both the Home and Bonney-Watson records can be checked. Harriet, certainly, is buried with son George in Auburn, both unmarked.

Follow the sources. It's the easiest way.

Harriet not only claimed (and received) a widow's pension, but also was granted an accrued benefit of her late husband's uncashed third quarter 1917 pension voucher. This means she was the responsible party for paying for the funeral arrangements. Peter's pension file, presently at NARA DC downtown, will hold the funeral receipts and the answers. It's going to have to wait for a field trip to the nation's capital.

Please contribute according to your means to our great auction this month.

Because Jeff Rombauer is doing the talk this month, he was excused from his usual Book Notes feature. Be sure to quiz him about his sources and strategies for collecting.

# Features - She Married Three Veterans

Loretta-Marie Dimond

I'm not sure what the record is for the number of veteran husbands among the women of the American Civil War era, but recently I stumbled on a thrice-widowed lady of some interest.

Katherine Elizabeth Clark was born on 6 August 1846 at Sault Ste-Marie, Chippewa County, Michigan. Her father, Thomas Clark, emigrated from England to Canada. There he married Julia Prior in Montreal. It's likely they came across the border to benefit from the services of a midwife, because they're not easily found in the 1850 census. By the time of the American Civil War they left for New York.

Katherine's first Civil War husband was Arthur Furlonge. He used the alias Robert Baker in service. He was born in 1844 and was a resident of Troy, New York at the time of his enlistment on 20 May 1864 as an infantry replacement. Again, likely scenarios have to be considered: the marriage must have been in haste; he mustered the same day as his enlistment in Company A, 115th Infantry, New York, the "Iron Hearted Regiment." They left almost immediately for Grant's Wilderness Campaign. They were thrown into the works at Petersburg in time for the mine explosion and counter-offensive against the Ninth Corps.

After days of marching and counter-marching in which several members of the unit were lost to sunstroke, Arthur was taken prisoner of war at Deep Bottom Run, Virginia on 18 August. At the time his unit was providing cover for retreating soldiers from the engagement at Charles City Court House. His unit of greenhorn replacement troops lost 84 killed, wounded, missing, and captured that evening. He subsequently died of disease in a prisoner of war camp at

Salisbury, North Carolina. The place of his burial is not presently identified.

She claimed a widow's benefit in January 1866. After being childless and widowed, Katherine married a second time to Ansel Lee Booth, a non-veteran, and with him had two children. Following his 1885 death she was again free to marry on 4 January 1886, probably in Minnesota, and took as her third husband Harrison Arthur Irish.

Harrison hailed from Colden, Erie County, New York, born there on 8 December 1840. He was widowed or separated from his first wife, Lottie Smith, with whom he had fathered three children in Goodhue County, Minnesota. It is uncertain whether the Irish children stayed in the nuclear family, but the two Booth children remained in Katherine's household until their maturity. Only the daughter, Leoline Booth Babcock, came with Harrison and Katherine when they moved west to Yakima County, Washington shortly after 1900.

Harrison's Civil War adventures began at enlistment on 16 August 1862 at Buffalo, New York. He joined Company D, 116th New York Infantry by muster on 3 September 1862, and remained with that unit in the Middle Department and the Shenandoah throughout its service. He no doubt saw action at Port Hudson, western Louisiana, the Red River campaign, Winchester, and Cedar Creek. For a time he was stationed at Fortress Monroe. He participated in the Grand Review and separated on 8 Jun 1865 in Washington City, District of Columbia.

After more than a decade in the county, Harrison died in Yakima (now Union Gap) on 27 March 1913 and was buried at Yakima's Tahoma Cemetery. He has a marked grave citing his service.

Katherine remained a widow for seven years, then united with Thomas H Taylor. Like her father, Thomas emigrated from England. He was born 8 May 1837 and was recently widowed. His first wife,

Mary Magdaline Richardson (1846-1914) died in Colville and was buried in Tacoma. Their marriage lasted 49 years.

Thomas also served in the Civil War, thereby earning his citizenship. He enlisted at Saratoga, Illinois on 15 August 1862 and mustered two weeks later into Company B, 86th Illinois Infantry. His regiment was involved at Perryville, Stone's River, Chickamauga-Chattanooga, and on to the Atlanta campaign. He advanced in rank to corporal. He also participated in the Grand Review and left service in Washington City. He arrived in Washington State by way of Iowa and Dakota Territory in September 1890, but the marriage with Katherine was contracted at Buckingham, Virginia in 1920. Again, speculation, but it appears she was living in Richmond with her son George at the time.

Thomas and Katherine sold his land in Colville (along Narcisse Creek) and bought property at Grandview, a house and acreage. Most of Thomas's seven children moved to California, but two of them remained in Washington State (one in Tacoma, one in Seattle). Thomas's health (loss of both sight and hearing, heart trouble, stomach trouble, and other infirmities) led him to belong to both the Orting and Retsil soldiers' homes, and Katherine joined him briefly at Retsil in the late 1920s. They both had left in May of 1932. Thomas died later that year as part of the Orting home's colony.

Katherine apparently returned to the house in Grandview. She retained the surname Taylor, but her pension benefit was reconsidered against Harrison's service. She was cared for by her daughter until her death at home on 19 June 1939. She was buried alongside her third husband at Tahoma Cemetery, because her fourth husband had been buried alongside his first wife in Tacoma. She had been a Civil War widow, off and on, for 75 years.

Confused? Take a look at the coordination of benefits information on the T288 and M850 index cards from the Bureau of Pensions. Each

and every file had to be pulled whenever an adjudication change occurred.

(2-25-4)

**NAME OF SOLDIER:** Irish, Harrison A.

**NAME OF DEPENDENT:** Widow, Irish, Katherine E  
Minor,

**SERVICE:** D. 116 NY Inf

DATE OF FILING.	CLASS.	APPLICATION NO.	CERTIFICATE NO.	STATE FROM WHICH FILED.
1899 Aug 9	Invalid.	860 449	686 849.	Missouri
1913 May 1	Widow, Minor.	1006, 923	771, 134.	Wash
		Rt. 13000 Supt. 77528 affd. Enlarge a. 115 NY Inf.		

**ATTORNEY:** W. Morris Lee 62 359 175 - Thomas

**REMARKS:** 83 Taylor B 86 See Inf  
Date: Mar. 27, 1963 No Yakima Wash

NAME: Katherine E Irish ACT OF MAY 1, 1920 Certificate No. 771134

Last paid to: Rate: 12 30 30 Remarks:

Yr.	Qr.	Day.	Amount.	Yr.	Qr.	Day.	Amount.	Yr.	Qr.	Day.	Amount.	Yr.	Qr.	Day.	Amount.	Yr.	Qr.	Day.	Amount.
1907.	1			1911.	1			1915.	1	4	38	1919.	1	4	75				
	2				2				2	4	36		2		75	1923.	2		
	3				3				3	4	36		3		76				1927.
	4				4				4	4	36		4		75				
1908.	1			1912.	1			1916.	1	4	36	1920.	1	4	75	1924.	1		
	2				2				2	4	36		2		75				1928.
	3				3				3	4	36		3		65.50				
	4				4				4	4	36		4	7/14 21 67	to date of re-marriage ✓				
1909.	1			1913.	1			1917.	1	4	36 <sup>0.93</sup>	1921.	1		GROUP I				
	2				2				2	4	60		2		None				1929.
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1910.	1			1914.	1	3/10	97.20	1918.	1	4	76.67	1922.	1						
	2				2	7/6	36		2	4	75		2						
	3				3		36		3	4	75		3						
	4				4		36		4	4	75		4						
					4		38		4	4	75		4						

4/30

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/66722323/katherine-elizabeth-clark>



# The Vacant Chair

Eric Running has reported the passing of his father in law, Stephen Olson. Steve was a long-time member of the Round Table. A consummate Seattle sports fan, Steve was always filled with optimism and a great outlook even in those "losing" seasons we'd rather forget. No doubt, the Kraken have him as their number one fan right now. His full memorial can be found here:

<https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/lynnwood-wa/stephen-olsen-11242468>



In memory of Steve Olson



In memory of Peter Jensen

# Ye Olde Editor's Close

It's our last issue for 2023. Watch your e-mail for summer announcements.

Please visit our reconstructed Web site at [www.pugetsoundcwrt.org](http://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.

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