MINUTES OF THE GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR THE
CIVIL WAR CENTENNIAL

The first meeting of the Governor's Advisory Council for the Washington State observance of the Civil War Centennial was called to order at the Museum of the Washington State Historical Society in Tacoma at 11:00 A. M. May 8, 1961. Bruce Le Roy, Chairman of the Council presided. Present were: Messrs. Hurley, Johnson, Prouty, Field, Mohler, Relander, Pressly and Pope.

Mr. Reno Odlin, President of the Washington State Historical Society, extended greetings on behalf of the Board of Curators of the Society. Mr. Odlin sketched the importance of the Civil War in American history with particular relevance to the part played by Washington State. As a descendant of General Reno of Civil War fame Mr. Odlin stated that he had strong personal sympathy with the objectives of the Centennial, providing that the Centennial was not to be confused with a celebration. The Civil War, he stated, was a tragic experience for America, but out of it came a truly federal union of the States.

Following a short tour of the Civil War special exhibits at the Museum the meeting was recessed for a luncheon tendered to Council members by Mr. Edward Stevens, manager of the Country Store at Lakewood which was featuring an outstanding Civil War exhibit arranged in cooperation with the State Historical Society.

The meeting returned to the Museum at 2:00 P. M. and the business session resumed. The Chairman pointed out that an obvious theme for the forthcoming Centennial lay in the fact that Washington Territory and its military posts served as a training ground for officers and men who later attained fame in the Civil War—such men as Pickett, McClellan, Sheridan, Grant and others.

The Chairman suggested that, inasmuch as the mailings for the Council would be handled from the Washington State Historical Society, Mrs. Grace Frederick of the Historical Society staff would be asked to serve as secretary for the Council. There being no objections the appointment was made.

Mr. Johnson pointed out the need for some basic theme or slogan for the Centennial. He suggested that Washington State was, in itself, the product of the Civil War inasmuch as land settlement was greatly stimulated from all sections of the country. Mr. Relander mentioned that his researches indicated some 400 engagements indirectly related to the Civil War (mostly Indian troubles) occurred in Washington, that the Homestead Laws and regional gold rushes were all part of the picture.

The Chairman pointed out that each member of the Council should serve, in effect, as a kind of regional sub-chairman, coordinating Civil War observances at the local levels. He suggested that special programs would be available for local use citing the film THE TRUE STORY OF THE CIVIL WAR which employs Matthew Brady photographs. Dr. Pressly suggested that a list of dates and events of the Civil War period might be a useful research project. Col. Field offered to circulate among Council members such a chronological list related to the Washington Territorial infantry in the period following the Indian Wars of the 1850's.
Mr. Hurley suggested that wide-spread publicity should be given to the work of the Council. He mentioned the importance of supplying such things as a half-hour radio script on Washington in the Civil War and facts related to the Civil War and Washington, a small booklet, and a list of suggested historic tours within the state might be prepared as a substantial contribution from the Council. Mr. Le Roy mentioned that the University of Puget Sound, as part of its Brown and Haley lectures next year, would have a prominent Civil War authority as a speaker, this being something which other State educational institutions might consider.

Mr. Pope pointed out that one real contribution to Civil War history might be made through better marking of such places as the Old Military Road between Steilacoom and Seattle; that Fort Worden and Port Townsend had their connections with Civil War history.

Mr. Hurley suggested that a personal report, small in length, incorporating the ideas of each Council member for use in working out suitable themes and programs be sent to Mr. Le Roy at the Society headquarters in Tacoma.

The Council agreed that other interested groups, such as Sons of the G.A.R., Daughters of the Pioneers, etc. should be encouraged to cooperate in promoting a genuine statewide Civil War Centennial observance.

Dr. Mohler recommended that the Society publication, The Pacific Northwest Quarterly, should be employed to list regular notices of Council-planned activities. He also suggested that the group employ the help of the Pacific Northwest History Conference and its affiliate, the Council on Regional Research to assist in publicizing and promoting the work of the Civil War Council.

Mr. Le Roy suggested that the Council consider the establishment of a "Civil War Round Table" in the State, modeled after such groups in other states which are serving to draw in to study groups the great number of "Civil War buffs". These people are generally eager to engage in research projects and papers which would supplement the research projects initiated through state colleges.

It was pointed out that the Council would prepare a report to the Governor periodically, outlining its objectives and accomplishments. Mr. Le Roy expressed the hope that the group might be able to meet in Olympia soon with the Governor acting as host.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned, to meet again on the call of the Chairman.

Bruce Le Roy
Chairman

6/1/61