



The Battle Cry

August 2001

Newsletter of the Sacramento Civil War Round Table
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President's Message:

Earlier in the year at a meeting, I mentioned a place and time in history in which I would have liked to have taken part! That was driving the "golden spike" in the transcontinental railroad. Wouldn't you have liked to have been part of "Grierson's Raid?" Talk about day-after-day of full adrenaline! Let's saddle up! Thank you Bill Head for taking us on this trip from LaGrange, Tennessee to Baton Rouge, Louisiana! This master story teller seemed to have us all smelling the dust of the trail!

As I watch the year unfold, I keep re-learning things that I have known for years. There is strength and synergy in our associations with other Round Tables. The enthusiasm inspired by conferences tells the same story, but on a smaller scale, one can sense the energy that is created by visits of members from other Round Tables. My sense is that in recent months we have received more than we have given – I will contact the Elk Grove Club and suggest a joint meeting.

Several guests joined us at our July encampment. Arthur and Kit Knight have recently moved to Citrus Heights – Kit is a former Vice-President of the North Bay CWRT. Mike Montague visited to hear about Grierson's Raid – Mike attended most of our Shiloh Conference. Bob and Judy Hubbs visited us from the South Bay CWRT and enjoyed hearing of Grierson's exploits. Ken Kitchen brought out his father-in-law to join in the festivities! Welcome to one and all – we stand at attention for both Yankee Doodle and Dixie, so if you have sympathies, that's OK!

Our by-laws call for the election of next year's officers to be held at our October meeting. Accordingly, I have appointed a two-person nominating committee that will be introduced at our upcoming meeting. They will announce their slate of candidates at the September meeting and in October we will accept other nominations from the membership and hold the election. Please obtain the approval of a potential nominee before placing his/her name on the ballot.

Circle **Wednesday, August 29th** on your calendar for the next encampment at the Sudwerk Grill and Brewery. **I encourage everyone to check the raffle prizes as you enter the meeting room and make your ticket purchases from the greeters at that time.** The program will be special – Bob Blair from the Peninsula Civil War Round Table will be here to talk to us about "**Thomas at Nashville!**" The order of the evening will be a welcome followed immediately by the program and then a brief business meeting. Adjournment will give way to our raffle and individual discussions.

Sincerely..... **Paul Ruud**

Next SCWRT Meeting:

The next SCWRT meeting will be on **Wednesday, August 29, 2001**, at the Sudwerk Brewery and Grill, 1375 Exposition Blvd. (Exposition Blvd and Response Way) at **7:00 p.m.** The meeting is open to the public. Members and honored guests are invited to gather for dinner and discussion at **6:00 p.m.**

The featured presentation will be on **"Thoma at Nashville!"** by the Peninsula Civil War Round Table Bob Blair. The evening's presentation will immediately follow brief opening remarks. The evening will end with a business meeting and raffle.

SCWRT Speaker Schedule for 2001:

- Aug 29 "General George Thomas" by Bob Blair
- Sep 26 "Civil War Railroads, Strategic Aspects" by Lee Meredith
- Oct 24 "Should the Other Guy Have Gotten the Job?" by Jim Stanbery
- Nov 28 "Twenty-seven days of Terror" by Ted Savas.

Jerry L. Russell, Civil War Round Table Associates, Reports:

From "Parade's Special Intelligence Report" of Sunday, August 19: ***Civil War Past Endangered***

Every 10 minutes, an acre of land that once belonged to a Civil War battlefield is lost to expansion and development. Jim Lighthizer of the Civil War Preservation Trust calls it "a race against time." Of the nearly 400 principal battlefield sites in the U.S., less than 100 have any state or federal protection status. At least 70 no longer exist, and most of the others are threatened by urban sprawl. Stones River, Tenn., is considered the most endangered Civil War site, but even Gettysburg is threatened by strip-mall development.

To learn more, visit <www.civilwar.org> on the Web.

Sacramento Civil War Round Table Meeting Agenda August 29, 2001

Raffle Reminder – get your tickets early

1. **Call to Order**
 - this day during the Civil War
 - introduction of guests and new members
2. **Program** – "Thomas at Nashville" by Bob Blair, Peninsula CWRT
3. **Reports**
 - approval of minutes
 - president
 - introduction of nominating committee
 - treasurer - George Foxworth
 - media - Dudley Albrecht
 - veterans' affairs - Ken Kitchen
 - others
4. **Business**
5. **News**
 - November Program, "Twenty-seven Days of Terror," the role of the ironclad, USS Arkansas, during the War on the Mississippi, by Ted Savas
 - **Grant and Lee** to appear on Saturday, February 23rd, here at the Sudwerk. This will be our February meeting – no meeting on Wednesday, February 27th
6. **Upcoming meetings:**
 - next regular meeting: September 26, 2001, here at Sudwerk – program: **Civil War Railroads, Strategic Aspects by Lee Meredith**
 - next board meeting: Wednesday, **September 12 @ 1130 hrs**, Carrows at 28th and J Streets in Sacramento - members are encouraged to attend
 - Saturday breakfast: **September 15 @ 9:30 AM**; location will be available from Bernie Buenrostro
7. **Raffle** - John Zasso



MINUTES
SACRAMENTO CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
WEDNESDAY, JULY 25, 2001
Sudwerk Restaurant, 1375 Exposition Boulevard, Sacramento

ATTENDANCE

MEMBERS – 28

Paul Ruud, President	Mike Dobbins
Ardith Cnota, Vice Pres.	Bill Donaldson
George Foxworth, Treas.	Lydia Donaldson
Walt Bittle, Secretary	Alan Geiken
Dudley Albrecht	Jim Harper
Jim Armstrong	Don Hayden
Roy Bishop	Robert Junell
Fred Bohmfalk	Ken Kitchen
Bernie Buenrostro	Dennis Kohlmann
Mitch Cnota	Albert McKim

Jim Middleton
Betty Mitchell
Maurice Mitchell
Keith Roberts
Don Ryan
Earlene Ward
Robert Williams
John Zasso

GUESTS – 10

Ted Hansen
Betty Head
Bill Head
Bob Hubbs
Judy Hubbs
Arthur Knight
Kit Knight
Michael Montague
Jim Shaidell
Edwin Sims

1. The meeting was called to order by President Ruud, who reviewed this day in history. New members and guests were introduced and welcomed. The June minutes were approved as printed, with the exception of moving Mike Dobbins from guest to member. Treasurer Foxworth reported a balance of \$1656.19, with a near record \$70 being raised in the last raffle.

2. Program – Bill Head, of the San Joaquin Valley CWRT, presented an excellent talk about Grierson’s Raid through Mississippi in April of 1863. [Grierson, a cavalry commander, had been a music teacher before the war, and he absolutely hated horses.] Working without a script, Mr. Head basically told us a story. It was obvious that Mr. Head both knew and enjoyed his subject. Our sincere thanks go out to Bill Head for his research, preparation, and presentation.

3. Committee/Activity Reports
 - a. President Ruud thanked George Foxworth for his efforts in obtaining a cordless microphone system. He then presented George with a Certificate of Community Service from the Veteran’s Affiliated Council. Good work all around, George!
 - b. Dudley Albrecht recommended an upcoming movie titled *Windtalkers*, about the participation of the Navajo speakers in World War II. He also recommended *Gangs of New York*, about the 1863 draft riots in New York City.
 - c. President Ruud announced that the program to include the gentlemen who represent Generals Lee and Grant will have to be postponed to January or February.
 - d. Ken Kitchen commented on the Merchant Marine display currently at the California Military Museum. He announced that Purple Heart Day will be celebrated on August 11 on the West steps of the Capitol, and that August 20 will be Veteran’s Day at the California State Fair.
 - e. President Ruud reminded members about the West Coast Conference to be held in Buena Park in November. The 2002 Conference, featuring the Atlanta Campaign, will return to Fresno.
 - f. After complimenting the Round Table for its recent CW conference, Don Ryan announced that he had taken employment elsewhere and that he would be leaving the area. We will miss Don.

4. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 8:45, followed by a spirited raffle.

Walt Bittle
Secretary

WPA Slave Narratives

For those of you who have access to the internet and are interested in how slavery affected people the site below is fascinating. To get there go to: <http://lcweb2.loc.gov/ammem/snhtml/>

“Born in Slavery: Slave Narratives from the Federal Writers’ Project, 1936-1938 contains more than 2,300 first-person accounts of slavery and 500 black-and-white photographs of former slaves. These narratives were collected in the 1930s as part of the Federal Writers' Project of the Works Progress Administration (WPA) and assembled and microfilmed in 1941 as the seven-volume ***Slave Narratives: A Folk History of Slavery in the United States from Interviews with Former Slaves***. This online collection is a joint presentation of the Manuscript and Prints and Photographs Divisions of the Library of Congress and includes more than 200 photographs from the Prints and Photographs Division that are now made available to the public for the first time. ***Born in Slavery*** was made possible by a major gift from the Citigroup Foundation.”

American Memory Collection

This collection covers many different subjects, some of which are Civil War related. Both the above Slave Narratives and the American Memory Collection are part of the Library of Congress. The Web site follows:

<http://lcweb2.loc.gov/ammem/mdbquery.html>

Examples of Civil War Sites from this collection are:

- Civil War Era~Band Music~Multiformat
Title: Band Music from the Civil War Era
- Civil War Images~Multiformat~1861-1865
Title: Civil War Treasures from the NY Historical Society
- Civil War Maps~1861-1865~
Civil War~Brady Studio and Others~ Photographs~1861-1865
Title: Selected Civil War Photographs

Second Battle of Manassas or Bull Run, VA. August 29, 1862 Friday

“A portion of Pope's command attacked Jackson's Confederates near Groveton, Va., in order to prevent their escape, though of course the Confederates “A had no desire to escape. Pope's Federals were dispersed over northern Virginia and worn from constant marching. He attempted to concentrate his army against Jackson, posted in a railroad cut near Sudley Springs north of Groveton and the Warrenton Turnpike. The drive against Jackson was piecemeal and failed, but Second Bull Run or Manassas had begun. Maj. Gen. Fitz John Porter was ordered to strike Jackson, but failed to do so. Later Pope and others accused him of disobeying orders and of dragging his feet. Porter said it was because Longstreet had come up and outnumbered him. The argument has not been stilled to this day. Longstreet did come up around noon. Pope handled his army badly, and at nightfall the Confederates of Lee were strongly posted on their original line of battle. Meanwhile, Halleck, in Washington, urged McClellan to send the bulk of his forces from Alexandria. McClellan claimed he did all possible to comply, but many felt that his opposition to Pope was such that his effort was at best only half-hearted. This day's action, that of the following day, and the entire campaign of Second Manassas were to bring discredit to many Federal leaders, including Halleck, McClellan, Pope, Porter, and McDowell. On the Confederate side it was one of Jackson's brightest hours and one of Lee's greatest achievements. In Washington, three times this day, Mr. Lincoln telegraphed his generals, "What news?"”

Long E.B.& Barbara. [The Civil War Day by Day](#) page 257.

Mary Walker, MD
Physician, (1832 - 1919)

<http://www.astr.ua.edu/4000WS/WALKER.html>

She was a physician in the Civil War. The Congressional Medal of Honor was given to her in 1865 and then rescinded in 1917, possibly in her case because she became a suffragette but at the same time some 1000 Medals of Honor were rescinded in an effort to "increase the prestige of the grant." She refused to actually return the medal and wore it all her life.

In 1977 the U.S. Congress reinstated the medal (posthumously, of course). She is the only woman from the Civil War (and still possibly the only woman) to receive the Congressional Medal of Honor. Her name appears on a plaque in the Pentagon.

Her commendation for the medal reads

Whereas it appears from official reports that Dr. Mary E. Walker, a graduate of medicine, "has rendered valuable service to the government, and her efforts have been earnest and untiring in a variety of ways," and that she was assigned to duty and served as an assistant surgeon in charge of female prisoners at Louisville, KY., under the recommendation of Major-Generals Sherman and Thomas, and faithfully served as contract surgeon in the service of the United States, and has devoted herself with much patriotic zeal to the sick and wounded soldiers, both in the field and hospitals, to the detriment of her own health, and has endured hardships as a prisoner of war four months in a southern prison while acting as contract surgeon; and Whereas by reason of her not being a commissioned officer in the military service a brevet or honorary rank can not, under existing laws, be conferred upon her; and

Whereas in the opinion of the President an honorable recognition of her services and suffers should be made;

It is Ordered. That a testimonial thereof shall be hereby made and given to the said Dr. Mary E. Walker, and that the usual medal of honor for meritorious services be given her.

Given under my hand in the city of Washington, D. C. this 11th day of November, A.D. 1865. Andrew Johnson, President

By the President: Edwin M. Stanton, Secretary of War

She lived a life of determined unconventionality; being a *bloomerite* from her younger years, she preferred to dress in pants. Later on in life, still practicing medicine, she could be seen wearing men's top hats and topcoats as well as pants.

A biography on her can be found in "Dr. Mary Walker - The Little Lady in Pants" by Charles M. Snyder, 1974, New York: Arno Press.

The Union Army Ambulance Corp

<http://www.civilwarhome.com/civilwarmedicineintro.htm>

In time for Antietam, the Army of the Potomac, under its medical director Jonathan Letterman, developed the Letterman Ambulance Plan. In this system the ambulances of a division moved together, under a mounted line sergeant, with two stretcher-bearers and one driver per ambulance, to collect the wounded from the field, bring them to the dressing stations, and then take them to the field hospital.

It was a vast improvement over the earlier "system," wherein bandsmen in the Union command, and men randomly specified in the Confederacy, were simply appointed to drive the ambulances and carry the litters. This plan was implemented in August 1862 when McClellan issued General Orders No. 147 creating the Ambulance Corps for the Army of the Potomac under the control of the Medical Director.

Frequently, prior to the Ambulance Corps, the most unfit soldiers were detailed, which often meant that, not being good fighters, they were little better as medical assistants. Often in the first year of the war they got drunk on medicinal liquor and ignored their wounded comrades in order to hide themselves from enemy fire.

Such improved organization was copied or approximated in the other field armies despite loud opposition from the Quartermaster Corps, which wanted to keep control of ambulances and drivers, and from some field commanders, of whom Major General Don Carlos Buell of the Army of the Ohio was notable for noncooperation.

Despite the vast improvement in the evacuation of the wounded from the battle field, it was not until March 1864 that Congress published the act (Public 22) to create an Ambulance Corps for all the Union Armies.

Civil War Skirmish Association (http://www.calweb.com/~arline/Events.html)			
Date	Event	Hosted By	Location
September 29-30	Regional Skirmish	6 th Penn	Angeles Shooting Rnge
October 20-21	Regional Skirmish	Palmetto SS 5 th Texas	Camp Sixbits
November 17-18	Regional Skirmish	2 nd Texas & F. Troop	Camp Murphy
December 2001	Range Clean-Up	--	--
American Civil War Association Schedule Http://www.angelfire.com/ca5/acwa/sched.html			
Date	Location	Description	
Sept. 15-16	Ione, CA	Weekend event and encampment	
Oct. 20-21	Los Banos, CA	Weekend event and encampment	
November	Benicia, CA	ACWA Ball & Banquet at Clock Tower	
Reenactors of the American Civil War Http://www.home.inreach.com/mavgw/racwschedule.htm			
Date	Event	Location	
Sep. 8-9	Civil War Days Event	Fortuna, CA	
Oct. 20-21	Civil War Days Event	Butte Community College, Pentz, CA	
National Civil War Association http://www.ncwa.org			
Date	Event	Location	
October 6-7	Reenactment	Fresno, Kearney Park	
November 3-4	Reenactment	Vacaville, Lagoon Valley Park	

The Battle Cry Editor – This publication is a monthly newsletter (except November/December) of the Sacramento CWRT. Please submit items to me for publication by the 12th of each month at the address listed below. I can receive submissions over the phone at: (916) 362-9837 or through e-mail: bernxbb@ix.netcom.com . Check web site <http://www.sacramentocwrt.org/> for past newsletter editions.

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