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The Battle Cry

Newsletter of the Sacramento Civil War Round Table
 Founded 1961, <http://sacramentocwrt.com/>



President's Message:

The tinsel has been put away for another year and our stomachs are gradually returning to normal. That's the signal we've been waiting for to get us back to the Civil War.

First, a few general results from the recent survey. It turns out that we are happy with Sudwerk as a meeting location; that we appreciate programs given by our members; that there is support for a discussion group; and that there is interest in local or regional "round table organized" tours.

The following is a business item that will be covered at our January 31st meeting. Please look elsewhere in the Battle Cry for a brief explanation of proposed changes to the Round Table Bylaws. The Board has hashed them over thoroughly and my hope is to spend very little time on them on Wednesday night. We will also vote for a Member-at-Large (MAL) for the 2001 board of Directors. Bernie Buenrostro, the outgoing MAL, is already on the Board as Newsletter Editor, so a vacancy exists. Mitch Cnota was nominated at the December meeting, but other nominations will be entertained on Wednesday and then one will be chosen by membership vote. If the membership approves the Board recommendation to have a second MAL, nominations for that position will be received and the election held at the February meeting.

A second business issue for our January meeting is to seek approval of the membership to raise our annual dues to \$20 effective with year 2002 memberships. Round Table operational expenses are minimal, but costs have increased over the past years and dues have not. The Board unanimously supports this recommendation and I urge you to support it as well.

I will be spearheading a membership drive as a high priority this year, but in the main, my goal is to just have more "hustle and bustle" around the Round Table at the end of the year than we have now. I invite you to call me with comment or suggestions at any time. See you on **Wednesday, January 31st at 7:00 p.m.** at the **Sudwerk Bar and Grill**.

Unfortunately, our scheduled speaker, Eric Ericson, will not be able to join us so Carol Breiter will step in and broaden our understanding and knowledge of General Hooker. It is wonderful to have so much talent waiting in the wings, and if anything, I'm even more excited to hear the good words from Carol. Carol, did he really have special camp followers?

Sincerely,

Paul Ruud

Next Meeting:

The **January 2001 meeting** --The next SCWRT meeting will be on **Wednesday, January 31, 2001**, at 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.**

After opening remarks, the introduction of guests and new members, and a brief business meeting, Carol Breiter will give a presentation on "**General Hooker**". A raffle will follow the program.

Shiloh Conference Expenses:

The last day to submit receipts for Conference expenses will be at our next meeting night, Wednesday, **January 31, 2001**. Please give your receipts to George Foxworth for reimbursement.

Vicksburg Tour:

A tour is planned to the Vicksburg Battlefield between **April 22 and 30th**. The tour schedule starts in New Orleans and includes visits to historical Ship Island and the Jefferson Davis Home near Gulfport, Mississippi. The tour then visits historical Jackson and the many Civil War Battlefield sites in and around Vicksburg.

The tour returns to New Orleans via Port Gibson, the Grand Military Park, Natchez, Windsor Ruins, many plantations and historical Baton Rouge. Information will be available at the next meeting. For information call Mary James (916) 723-9646 or Fred Bohmfalk (916) 965-4776).

Membership Dues for 2001:

SCWRT Treasurer, George Foxworth, is now collecting membership dues for year 2001. Please make your check for \$15 payable to the "Sacramento Civil War Round Table."

From the Newsletter Editor:

I'm back! I'll be your newsletter editor for at least a year. Hope I can continue to produce a quality newsletter that you are use to receiving from Paul Ruud.

As you will notice, I have redesigned ***The Battle Cry***. Your feedback and suggestions on how the newsletter can be improved are welcome. Also, let me remind you that, as always, I am dependent upon the contributions from the SCWRT membership for the content of the newsletter. Keep those articles coming in!

The Battle Cry, which is prepared in MS Word, will be available next month through e-mail. This will be totally voluntary and you can indicate your preference for either postal mail or e-mail (or both) at the next meeting when you initial the attendance sheet. The purpose behind offering the newsletter through e-mail is convenience (both in preparing and receiving the newsletter). There is also the issue of receiving the newsletter more timely (two to three days earlier) and at less expense to the SCWRT. The e-mailed version will utilize color to the fullest extent for text, graphics and photographs.

My apology for not coordinating the cartoon for this month's issue with Carol Breiter. I would like to continue this fine tradition and include it in future issues.

The Webmaster:

It's me again. If you haven't done so already, check out the SCWRT web site at <http://www.sacramentocwrt.com/> and add it to your "Favorites" listing in your web browser. The web site is undergoing a major overhaul now that the Shiloh Conference is over. The redesign should be completed by the February meeting.

Starting with this issue, ***The Battle Cry*** will be available for viewing on the web site. It is hoped that this newsletter archive will become a valuable research resource for the membership on Civil War topics. The newsletters will be posted on the web site after each monthly meeting.

Minutes of the Sacramento Civil War Round Table
Wednesday, December 6, 2000
Carrows Restaurant, 2800 J Street, Sacramento

Attendance

Members –19

Carol Breiter, President	Steve Breiter	Mary James	Don Ryan
George Foxworth, Treasurer	Bernie Buenrostro	Jim Middleton	Earlene Ward
Walt Bittle, Secretary	Ardith Cnota	Herb Milikien	Robert Williams
Dudley Albrecht	Mitch Cnota	Patty Ruud	John Zasso
Jim Armstrong	Gordon Coleman	Paul Ruud	

1. The Special November/December dinner meeting was called to order by President Breiter, who reviewed some events on this day in history. The October minutes were approved as printed. Treasurer Foxworth reported a treasury of \$752.72. He reminded members that dues for 2001 (\$15) are due and payable at any time.
2. Committee/Activity Reports
 - a. Dudley Albrecht commented on *Enemy At The Gates, Thirteen Days, Attila The Hun and Men of Honor* – which he highly recommended.
 - b. Paul Ruud announced that the CMM entry (featuring Steve Breiter) had taken the Grand Sweepstakes Award in the Veterans Day Parade.
 - c. Members were reminded about Dr. James I. Robertson’s presentation on “The Stonewall Nobody Knows” to be held in San Francisco on February 15.
 - d. There was some discussion of filling incoming Newsletter Editor, Bernie Buenrostro’s seat on the Executive Board with another Member-At-Large.
 - e. Mitch Cnota was nominated, but a final decision was postponed to a future meeting. The Secretary will review the ByLaws for proper procedures to amend the document to add a second Member-At-Large.
3. Program – Each person in attendance introduced themselves with some explanation of their particular interest in or connection to the Civil War. There were many memories and anecdotes, as well as favorite events, persons and books.
4. Adjournment – Following adjournment, members were treated to cake and special camaraderie.

Walt Bittle
Secretary

Attention

“**The Stonewall Jackson Nobody Knows**” will be the topic of Dr. James I. Robertson, Jr. at the Old Officers’ Club at Fort Mason, Building One (1), Bay and Franklin Streets, San Francisco. The date is **Thursday, February 15, 2001**, dinner will be served at 7:00 p.m. followed by Dr. Robertson at **8:00 p.m.**



This is an outstanding opportunity to hear this great author and speaker, which occurs once in a decade. He is the guest of the Peninsula Civil War Round Table in conjunction with the San Francisco Civil War Round Table who have made this event Possible to all interested Civil War enthusiasts.

The building for the Fort Mason Officers’ Club was built in 1853 as a luxury hotel and took its present identity in 1855 when General Irvin McDowell became commandant of the Presidio and Fort Mason. It remains today with but very few changes from its original form and décor. To visit is to walk back into our elegant past as it sets the mood of the evening to hear Dr. Robertson speak on such a distinguished person as Stonewall Jackson.

Inquiries should be directed to Ormond Eckley, 925-447-6792 or Jack Leathers, 408-358-0112.

Dinner choices **MUST** be in by February 1, 2001 and be paid at the time reservations are made.

Entrees are: Baked Half Chicken with herb and wine sauce
No. of orders: _____ at \$25.50 each = Total \$ _____

Beef Burgandy No. of orders _____ at \$25.00 each = Total \$ _____

Dinner includes salad with house dressing, potatoes or rice, vegetable du jour, bread and butter, hot tea or coffee followed by a dessert. A no-host in-room bar will be available for your convenience.

Please send your order and money to:

San Francisco Civil War Round Table
c/o Mrs. Joan R. Keller, 515 42nd Avenue,
San Francisco, CA 94121-2530

A Tempest at Tea-time

By Blaine Lamb

It is commonly assumed that the batteries on Alcatraz Island never fired a shot in anger during the Civil War, but like most assumptions, it is not quite true. The canon on Alcatraz did lob a shot across the bow of a warship, thereby precipitating a minor diplomatic flap – a tempest at tea-time, as it were.

The incident began about noon on the first of October 1863. Her Majesty's Ship *Sutlej*, the flagship of Rear Admiral John Kingcome, commanding British naval forces in the Pacific, sailed into San Francisco Bay and made ready to anchor off Sausalito. The arrival of this vessel aroused the suspicions of Captain William Winder, Third Artillery, commandant at Alcatraz. Usually the revenue cutter *Shubrick* guarded the Golden Gate, ascertaining the business of visiting warships. This particular day, however, she was at Point Reyes assisting a Russian corvette that had gone aground.

Port regulations required that in such an event the land commander make the determination, but there being no wind, Captain Winder could not readily identify the flag being flown by the H.M.S. *Sutlej*. The boats available to him for calling on ships entering the bay had departed to meet other vessels. Furthermore, Captain Winder knew Sausalito to be an unusual anchorage for visiting ships and had heard the rumors of Confederate privateers operating along the Pacific Coast. He, therefore, decided to compel the unknown visitor to heave to and identify herself by firing a blank round in her direction. When this failed to produce the desired effect, he ordered a shotted round sent across the mystery ship's bow.

The local press reported that the ball skipped across the water about 200 to 300 yards from the H.M.S. *Sutlej*, splashing her with spray. Whether or not this dampened Admiral Kingcome's uniform is not known, but it did prompt him to begin firing what Captain Winder presumed to be a salute to the American flag. From his vantagepoint, though, he could not tell how many guns were being fired. When Captain Winder at last learned that an American flag, indeed, was flying from the ship's mast-head, he hastily ordered the firing of a 21-gun salute in return, followed by a similar salute from Fort Point.

This should have ended the matter, but that afternoon, Admiral Kingcome penned a letter to Brigadier General George Wright, commanding the Military Department of the Pacific, and California's governor Jon G. Downey. Piqued at the fact that a round had been fired in the direction of his ship, he protested the incident and called for an inquiry. General Wright responded two days later that he had asked Captain Winder for a report, but "beg[ed] to inform" the admiral of the port regulations that required land officers to stop and examine vessels entering the bay before they passed the forts. In an equally civil reply, Admiral Kingcome asserted that he had not been aware of the port regulations and expressed his indignation that, "no acknowledgement has been offered for this disregard of the courtesies usually extended toward the ships of war of all friendly nations."

By this time, General Wright was beginning to lose patience with the admiral, but he did not wish to ruffle further the feathers of the representative of neutral power, particularly one that could damage the Union's war effort if it chose to recognize the Confederacy. He wrote yet another letter expressing regret that a formal exchange of salutes had not occurred. Since, "this pleasant interchange of official courtesies between the high officers of friendly nations has a tendency to strengthen the bonds of friendship and the maintenance of a good understanding between their respective Governments."

By the time General Wright drafted this letter, however, the H.M.S. *Sutlej* had departed San Francisco Bay so he sent it in care of the British consul. No reply was forthcoming from Admiral Kingcome. In his report to the Adjutant General, General Wright defended his actions and those of his subordinate, stating, "It has always been a pleasure for me to treat foreign officers visiting our country with the greatest courtesy and respect." He placed blame for the incident on the British, whose unusual actions and disregard for port regulations had made Captain Winder suspicious in the first place.

It had been a tempest at teatime, indeed, but one that illustrated the tensions present on the West Coast and the strained relations between the United States and Great Britain at the height of the Civil War.

Civil War Skirmish Association (http://www.calweb.com/~arline/Events.html)			
Date	Event	Hosted By	Location
January 13, 2001	NCR Dinner Social	NCR	Lodi, CA
February 17-18, 2001	Regional Skirmish	3 rd Mo.	Camp Murphy
March 17-18, 2001	Regional Skirmish	2 nd Texas	Camp Murphy
April 21-22, 2001	Regional Skirmish	F troop	Camp Sixbits
May 19-20, 2001	Regional Skirmish	3 rd Mo.	Camp Murphy
June 25-30, 2001	Nationals	CWSA	Bloomfield, Iowa
July 2001	No Skirmish	--	--
August 18-19, 2001	Regional Skirmish	22 nd Tenn/Cherokee	Camp Murphy
September 29-30, 2001	Regional Skirmish	6 th Penn	Angeles Shooting Rnge
October 20-21, 2001	Regional Skirmish	Palmetto SS 5 th Texas	Camp Sixbits
November 17-18, 2001	Regional Skirmish	2 nd Texas & F. Troop	Camp Murphy
December 2001	Range Clean-Up	--	--

American Civil War Association Schedule for 2001 http://www.angelfire.com/ca5/acwa/sched.html		
Date	Location	Description
January 6 th	Fort Point, San Francisco	Drill and living history
March 24-25	Knights Ferry, CA	Weekend event and encampment
April 21-22	Healdsburg, CA	Weekend event and encampment
May 24-25	Roaring Camp, Felton CA	Living History to school children
June	Pollock Pines	TBD
July 21-22	Duncan Mill, Gurneville	CHAS event featuring ACWA, RACW & NCWA
August 25-26	Casa De Fruta, Gilroy	Weekend event and encampment
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

Summary of Proposed Changes To the Bylaws

In order to reduce the amount of time that we spend on business matters at our upcoming Wednesday night meeting, I ask you to review this summary of proposed changes to the SCWRT bylaws. Should you desire to look at the complete current bylaws and compare to the complete proposed bylaws, copies of both will be available in the meeting room on Wednesday night. I will be asking the membership for a motion and second to accept the proposed changes. Your Board of Directors unanimously recommends these changes and urges their acceptance.

The proposed changes are minor and are essentially of three types: (1) one change is proposed to make the bylaws consistent with current operating procedures (2) one change has been previously approved by membership vote and the change merely updates the written document, and (3) the new issue is to add a second Member-at-Large to the Board of Directors. A brief discussion of these changes follows:

- (1) The current bylaws state that announcements of meetings must be at least seven days prior to the meeting time. For at least the last three years, the Battle Cry has been mailed to arrive four or five days ahead of the meeting rather than "at least seven days." This practice gives a reminder of the upcoming meeting closer to the meeting time and that timing has proven to be more effective. It also gives slightly more time between the monthly board meeting and the mailing for the Battle Cry Editor.
- (2) The membership voted last fall to hold the "annual meeting" that elects the incoming slate of officers in October rather than in January as the bylaws had specified. This added planning time for the new officers provides a smoother and more effective transition. This change to the written document merely reflects current policy.
- (3) A second member-at large would give the opportunity for more of the membership to be directly involved in board activities. This seems like prudent action in a growing organization. A practice of nominating relatively "new" members to this position would be encouraged. This would improve the balance of the board membership by providing new oversight and fresh ideas. The change would also call for giving the members-at-large primary consideration when selecting round table members to chair committees. The second member-at-large would be a voting member of the Board of Directors. No member may simultaneously hold more than one board position.

I view these proposed changes as important in a technical way, but of minimal practical significance. I welcome your thoughts and comments (530-886-8806) and request your support of these changes. See you on Wednesday night! Thanks.

Paul Ruud

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

Bernardo Buenrostro, Editor, ***“The Battle Cry”***



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