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The Battle Cry

January 2002

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



President's Message:

Happy New Year to each of you! I can't say I have made many resolutions, but I am mindful of Will Rogers' advice when he said, "Even if you are on the right track, you'll get run over if you just sit there!" Our Round Table does seem to be on the right track so we will continue with what has worked for us in the past, throwing in a little spice here and there for added excitement. The Board of Directors has been nicely beefed up with new talent and energy – both of which are critical to sustaining a high level operation. Our program year kicks off on January 30th with Fred Bohmfalk giving us a personal look at U.S. Grant.

As you know, we will have a different format for our February program. Jim Marsh (Gen Lee) and Jay Dolan (Gen Grant) will be with us throughout the evening. First in the dining area with those of us who arrive early to eat dinner and later in the meeting room when they will be front and center on stage. They will reenact well researched conversations between the generals as well as converse on other subjects that might have come up had the generals sat down for conversation at the Sudwerk. They will come out of character at the end of the evening so that we can meet these talented actors. Remember that this program is on Saturday, February 23rd, at the regular time and place. I suggest that this is a great opportunity to bring out your non-Civil War interested spouse for an evening's entertainment – I hope the house is packed!

I will be filling out the rest of the year's programs very soon, so let me know if you want to make a presentation. I hope to give one myself – if there are too many of us for the year, we'll have a lottery to decide who gets to make the presentation. I prefer a balance of about half members and half non-members as far as speakers go. This provides us the chance to both showcase the talents of our members and import new ideas from our other Civil War colleagues.

The start of a new year is always the time to assess what is and resolve to more positively influence the world around us. This applies to your Civil War Round Table as well. A couple of ideas for your consideration:

- (1) bring your friends and neighbors into the SCWRT as members
- (2) make known your willingness to serve on the SCWRT Board next year
- (3) make a presentation or otherwise volunteer your help
- (4) attend a CW conference, read more CW books, etc. – i.e., get better educated

As you read this Battle Cry, Fred is busy shaping his talk for Wednesday night, January 30, 7:00 PM at the Sudwerk! See you there!

Sincerely,

Paul Ruud

MINUTES
SACRAMENTO CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2001
Sudwerk Restaurant, 1375 Exposition Boulevard, Sacramento

ATTENDANCE – 25

MEMBERS – 22

Paul Ruud, President
Ardith Cnota, Vice President
George Foxworth, Treasurer
Walt Bittle, Secretary
Dudley Albrecht
Jim Armstrong
Mitch Cnota
Mike Dobbins

Bob Junell
Ken Kitchen
Dennis Kohlmann
Earl Martin
Virginia Martin
Al McKim
Jim Middleton
Betty Mitchell

Maurice Mitchell
Elvin Roach
Keith Roberts
Clayton Williams
Bob Williams
John Zasso

GUESTS – 3

Ted Hansen
Ted Savas
Randy Wright

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 October minutes were approved as printed, with the addition of Mike Dobbins to the roll of attendees. Treasurer Foxworth reported a balance of \$1213.41, and announced that the October raffle had raised \$76 – a new record. Our special thanks again to John Zasso for his untiring efforts and ongoing contributions that make our raffle so successful.
2. Program – Ted Savas, a recovering attorney and semi-successful publisher, presented an excellent talk titled “Twenty-Two Days of Terror – the Saga of the *CSS Arkansas*”. In her short twenty-two days, the *Arkansas* probably created more havoc in the Federal fleet than any other vessel. Using a detailed map and his own indomitable presentation style, Mr. Savas traced the short life of the Confederate steam ram. We are thankful that Mr. Savas finally gave up on Iowa and returned to the Sacramento area so we can feel free to call on him again – and perhaps again. Thanks, Ted – and welcome back to civilization.
3. Committee/Activity Reports
 - a. Dudley Albrecht reported that Gangs of New York would be released in late December in order to be eligible for the 2001 Oscars. There is a documentary on the *CSS Hunley* in preparation.
 - b. Ken Kitchen reported that the Military Museum had received sufficient funds from the state to operate for at least one more year. Guaranteed annual funding is still the long-term goal.
4. New Business – George Foxworth, as he is prone to do, again went way beyond the call of duty in researching the history of the Sacramento CWRT. Through visits to the Secretary of State’s office, George was able to trace the “founding fathers” of the group back to June of 1961. The Articles of Incorporation were filed by Chester Gannon, Sheril Halbert, Charles Leavenworth, J. T. McMenamin, and James Oakley. Then in 1976, the official papers were amended to renew and upgrade the CWRT by President Bill Donaldson (current member) and Secretary John McClymond. If you know, or know of, any of these people, please help George trace their whereabouts.
5. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 8:45, followed by a spirited raffle.

Walt Bittle
Secretary

NEXT REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, January 30 at the Sudwerk Restaurant
Dinner (optional) at 6 pm – Meeting at 7 pm
Speaker: Fred Bohmfalk with “Appomattox Revisited”

Member Profiles

Our new Board of Directors has four new members and four old members. Obviously, a mix showing an organization in good health. Since our four new members may not be known to everyone we are running a new column of member profiles so the membership can become better acquainted with them. Jim Armstrong was featured in the Nov. Battle Cry and below is Bob Williams another of our members-at-large. Elsewhere in this issue will be our new Vice President, Kit Knight.

Who is Robert A. Williams

Bob Williams is a native of Illinois and a graduate from the University of Illinois with BS and MS degrees in Civil Engineering. He is a retired water resources planning engineer, previously employed by the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation and the State of California; and a veteran of World War II (drafted) and the Korean War (recalled). His military service awards include the Combat Infantry Badge, Purple Heart Medal, and Bronze Star Medal with oak leaf cluster. Bob's interest in military history stems perhaps from his family history as "citizen soldiers". His grandfather was in the Civil War (118th Illinois Infantry) and his father served in World War I.

Williams and his wife, Mearline, have three children: Eric, a civil engineer in private practice; Lynne, an administrative librarian; and Brian, executive director of the Sacramento Transportation Authority. Since retiring, Bob has had the good fortune of visiting a large number of Civil War and Indian War related sites throughout the country. His wife accompanies him on some rare occasions, at which time he finds it diffi-

cult to sustain his policy that a visit to six Civil War battlegrounds is equivalent to one quilt museum.

Bob's other history interest is in early water-powered industrial facilities and navigation canals. He is a docent at the Folsom Powerhouse State Historical Park, and invites SCWRT members to call him should they be interested in a personalized tour of that historic 1890's hydroelectric power plant.

Kit Knight

Our new vice president is a recent transplant from the Bay Area. Kit Knight lived in Petaluma, Calif. With her husband and daughter from 1993 till they moved to Citrus Heights in 2000.

Before '93 the family lived in Pennsylvania where Kit's husband, Arthur Knight taught at a college. Their daughter, Tiffany, is currently living in Los Angeles, working on her Ph.D. at USC.

Kit's a "navy brat." She was born at Quonset Point Naval Station in North Kingston, RI in 1952. She attended seven different schools, coast-to-coast, before she graduated from a high school in Pennsylvania.

Kit is a writer. She's had more than 600 poems published (about a third of them deal with The Civil War), several short stories, and she's written numerous feature articles for various newspapers. She's been writing movie reviews since the early 90's. Currently, Kit writes film reviews and feature articles for a newspaper in Napa County.

For close to five years—while she was living in Pennsylvania—Kit wrote a weekly poem column for a paper in Guerneville, California.

When Kit lived in Petaluma, she was vice president of the North Bay

CWRT. The Newsletter editor for that group published some of Kit's Civil War poems, and we've decided to continue that tradition.

Kit is working on a book of poems about women who lived and grieved though The War Between The States. In each poem Kit "takes on" the voice of a particular woman and tells her story. Some are famous—Mary Lincoln, Zee and Annie James, who were the wives of Jesse and Frank James—but most aren't. (Who ever thinks about the mother of John Wilkes Booth?)

Interestingly, the first poem in her manuscript is written from a man's point of view. But the Walt Whitman poem is the only one written from a man's perspective.

WALT WHITMAN SEES THE FIRST WOMEN OF WAR 1861

Yankees say the Civil War began with the 33 hour cannon duel over Fort Sumter. But no one died then. Southerners call it The War Between the States or The War of Northern Aggression. All Dixie wants is to be left alone with their fierce allegiance to states' rights and their belief in slavery. The *Brooklyn Standard* sent me to Washington to report on this first battle. We called it Bull Run and rebels called it The Battle of Manassas. And because of our industrial might—New York alone has more factories than all of the South—we expected a Union victory. Both armies were shockingly unprepared. Soldiers go into battle, but not till blood is spilled

do they understand wounds and death. Manassas Junction is on Virginia soil and the defenders of home won. I watched the beaten and bewildered men in blue limp into this soggy silent city; cheering crowds watched these soldiers leave. Now, we have over 1,000 men bleeding. More than 400 dead. As the tattered remains Stagger in, two aged ladies --beautiful—stand by a plank table handing out bread and making kettles of soup. The rain continues, all day, and the ladies continue, all day, silent, white-haired, giving food as tears stream down their cheeks.

--Kit Knight

Winslow Homer, considered one of the finest American artists of the Nineteenth Century, is most well known for his objective paintings of rural American life, the tropics, and the life and struggles of fishermen at sea. Homer was born in Boston in 1836. Unlike most of his contemporaries such as John Singer Sargent, Mary Cassatt, and James McNeill Whistler, he was not academically trained in Europe and painted his works in the United States. He was mostly self-taught; apprenticed to a lithographic firm at age 19. In 1858 he began his professional career in New York as a free-lance illustrator for Harper's Weekly. Homer's reputation was built responding to a new relish by the reading public for visual material to accompany printed text.

He specialized in wood engravings, designs etched onto wood blocks which were then printed. Newly established weeklies as Ballou's Pictorial, Leslie's Weekly, and the most popular of all - Harper's, created an unprecedented demand for illustrators. Simplified forms, crisp outlines and objectivity characterized Homer's work and set him apart from other artists.

After the outbreak of the Civil War, Harper's assigned the youthful Homer as a pictorial war correspondent. In October 1861 he made his first trip to the front lines. At that point, the Union Army's power extended not much further than Washington. Winslow drew pictures of drills, inspections, and reconnaissance exercises of the Army of the Potomac. There was very little combat because under the leadership of the timid General George McClellan the army hardly moved at all. With little to do Winslow returned to New York having spent less than a month with the Army.

In April 1862 Union General George McClellan finally began to move the Army of the Potomac. His plan was to march his army up the Virginia Peninsula and capture Richmond, the capital of the Confederacy. Anticipating a great decisive battle, leading illustrators such as Alfred and William Waud, Thomas Nast, and Winslow Homer traveled with the army, hoping to record the drama of a major military engagement. McClellan had not changed, however. Nearly always erring on the side of caution, he brought a whole new meaning to the word prudence. Once he overestimated the strength of the Confederate forces facing him and moved very slowly. As

McClellan spent a wasted month besieging tiny Yorktown, Winslow Homer got busy. He began to send a stream of brilliant war illustrations back to Harper's Weekly in New York. He did sketches and drawings of camp life, skirmishes, and sharpshooters at work.

After he returned to New York in late May, he created his first oil painting entitled Sharpshooter. Homer made his reputation painting war scenes, twenty major works between 1862 and 1866 but his work was different, unconventional. Instead of attempting to record the actual event, he created an impression, a glimpse of the everyday domestic and emotional life of the average soldier in camp. Homer's work depicted the universal feelings of loneliness and homesickness.

Winslow Homer was a dominant force in the realist style of painting. He settled permanently on the coast of Maine until his death in 1910.

The SCWRT Raffle

By George W. Foxworth

On October 24, 2001, Steve Breiter wanted to know the highest amount for the SCWRT Raffle had been over the years. This was in response to the \$76 collected on October 24, 2001. As a result, I did some research and reported the following at the November 28, 2001 meeting.

In November 1994, Steve and Carol Breiter attended the Annual West Coast Civil War Conference that was hosted by the San Joaquin Valley Civil War Round Table (SJCWRT). Carol Breiter (SCWRT President at that time) met Mr. Bill Head (SJCWRT) and he told her about their

monthly raffle. As a result, the SCWRT Raffle began on February 22, 1995 and the members and guests donated \$45 on that date. Following are the highest donations by month and year:

1995 - \$75 in August (\$74 in July)
1996 - \$55 in June
1997 - \$61 in April
1998 - \$65 in December
1999 - \$57 in January and March
2000 - \$63 in January
2001 - \$76 in October (highest ever)

In addition, almost \$3,300 has been donated over the years:

1995	\$ 487
1996	436
1997	329
1998	575
1999	490
2000	472
2001	<u>502</u>
Total	\$3,291

Thanks to members and guests for the additional proceeds.

Old Baldy

No discussion of beloved Philadelphia animals (now stuffed) would be complete without inclusion of General George G. Meade's favorite mount. Meade was Philadelphia's greatest Civil War hero. As the commander of northern forces at the Battle of Gettysburg, he may have saved the Union. Meade's favorite horse was the imperturbable Baldy. It was important to have a mount that was relaxed and reliable during the noise of battle. Baldy was absolutely cool in combat and apparently indestructible. Research shows that Baldy was wounded 14 times but always made a complete recovery and heroically returned to the battlefield. He saw action at the First and Second Battles of Bull Run, Antietam, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Weldon Railroad and Gettysburg, where he took a shot in the ribs that missed Meade by an inch. Meade often rode Baldy after the war.

When the famous soldier died in 1872, Baldy was the riderless horse at Meade's elaborate funeral. The beloved Baldy now became known as "Old Baldy." He lived another 10 years after Meade's demise. He was retired to a farm near Jenkintown and passed away on Christmas Day 1882. According to legend, Old Baldy was buried on the farm, but a couple of Meade's veterans quickly dug up the carcass and had his head mounted. You'll find Old Baldy's noble noggin at the Civil War Library and Museum, 1805 Pine Street. Baldy was retrieved by members of the Meade Post #1, G.A.R. of Philadelphia, who stuffed the head, mounted on a plaque, and hung many years in sacred glory in the Post halls of the Meade Post. Originally owned by the G.A.R. Civil War Museum in Philadelphia, the head of "Old Baldy" was removed years ago to the War Library (CWLM) on Pine St. in Philadelphia. Its present ownership is now in litigation.

The Little Maiden

The historical setting of this popular recitation is the close of the first day's battle at Antietam, or Sharpsburg, Sept. 16, 1862. To locate it more accurately is impossible, for it is in no sense a military record.

South Mountain towered on our right,
Far off the river lay,
And over on the wooded height
We held their lines at bay.

At last the mutt'ring guns were stilled,
The day died slow and wan.

At last their pipes the gunners filled,
The Sergeant's yarns began.

When,- as the wind a moment blew
Aside the fragrant flood

Our brierwoods raised,- within our view
A little maiden stood.

A tiny tot of six or seven,
From fireside fresh she seemed.
(Of such a little one in heaven
One soldier often dreamed.)

And as we started, her little hand
Went to her curly head
In grave salute; "And who are you?"
At length the Sergeant said.

"And where's your home?" he growled again.
She lisped out, "Who is me?
Why, don't you know? I'm little Jane,
The pride of Battery B.

"My home? Why, that was burned away,
And pa and ma are dead,
And so I ride the guns all day
Along with Sergeant Ned.

"And I've a drum that's not a toy,
A cap with feathers too,
And I march beside the drummer-boy
On Sundays at review.

"But now our bacca's all give out,
The men can't have their smoke,
And so they're cross,- why, even Ned
Won't play with me and joke.

"And the big Colonel said to-day -
I hate to hear him swear -
He'd give a leg for a good pipe
Like the Yanks have over there.

"And so I thought, when beat the drum,
And the big guns were still,
I'd creep beneath the tent and come
Out here across the hill.

"And beg, good Mister Yankee men,
You'd give me some Lone Jack.
Please do - when we get some again
I'll surely bring it back.

"Indeed I will, for Ned, says he,
If I do what I say
I'll be a general yet, maybe,
And ride a prancing bay."

We brimmed her tiny apron o'er;
You should have heard her laugh
As each man from his scanty store
Shook out a generous half.

To kiss that little mouth stooped down
A score of grimy men,
Until the Sergeant's husky voice
Said "'Tention, squad."- and then

We gave her escort, till good-night
The pretty waif we bid,
And watched her toddle out of sight -
Or else 'twas tears that hid

Her tiny form - nor turned about
A man, nor spoke a word,
Till after while a far, hoarse shout
Upon the wind we heard.

We sent it back, then cast sad eye
Upon the scene around.
A baby's hand had touched the tie
That brothers once had bound.

That's all - save when the dawn awoke
Again the work of hell,
And through the sullen clouds of smoke
The screaming missiles fell,

Our Gen'ral often rubbed his glass,
And marvelled much to see
Not a single shell that whole day fell
In the camp of Battery B.

Frank H. Gassway

The Battle Cry Editor—This publication is a monthly newsletter (except December) of the Sacramento CWRT. Please submit items to me for publication at the Board of Directors meeting of each month or e-mail <BattleCryEditor@aol.com> Check the web site <http://www.sacramentocwrt.org/> for past newsletter editions.

Reenactors & Skirmisher WEB SITES

Reenactors of the American Civil War

[Http://www.home.inreach.com/mavgw/racwschedule.htm](http://www.home.inreach.com/mavgw/racwschedule.htm)

American Civil War Association

http://www.angelfire.com/sys/popup_source.shtml?Category=

Civil War Skirmish Association

<http://www.calweb.com/~arline/Events.html>

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William Conway
THE MAN WHO REFUSED
TO HAUL DOWN THE UNION
FLAG AT THE PENSACOLA
NAVY YARD. FROM A SKETCH
FROM LIFE BY WILLIAM WAUD.