

The Battle Cry

May 2002

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

Volume 42, No. 5
May, 2002

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President's Message

Isn't this Civil War business that we are in wonderful? Just when you think you've explored the details of the most interesting aspects of the war, another looms just as exciting and interesting! Thank you Walt Bittle for making it so! The trials of the Confederate Presidential entourage after evacuating Richmond made for a wonderful story. We often hear of the "chaos" on the battlefield and it appears to me there is corollary chaos in the Executive suite! Little communication, little support staff, personal safety a big question, and that just starts the list of problems! Walt, you forgot to give us the test! You had prepared us well! Thank you so much.

You will recall I started a paragraph in my message last month with these words. "Your focus for a moment on the July meeting is required! It will most likely be on Saturday, July 27th, with Generals Grant and Lee." I regret to inform everyone that the Grant – Lee program has not come together as expected. So mark your calendars with the changes that follow. **The July meeting will be on Wednesday, July 31st.** I know that the Grant-Lee appearance would make for an interesting evening and it is my hope that they will be able to come to our Round Table in the future. It is axiomatic that when one loses an excellent prospect, it pays to replace it with a known quality. That is the very reason that I hustled out to get a return visit from Dan Defoe of Sierra College. Dan will speak to us again in September. Please check the program listing for all the upcoming action.

A big "thank you" to Carol Breiter for organizing and leading the tour to the aircraft carrier, the Hornet. Our friend, Lee Meredith, provided a very interesting and personalized tour for those members in attendance. This tour sounds worthy of repeating down stream some where.

Summer invariably brings about travel which is good news unless it interferes with other commitments. I will be in Colorado on June 26th and thus will be turning the gavel over to Kit for the evening. I will be back for the July meeting – remember, scratch Saturday the 27th and mark in Wednesday the 31st. Indeed, my presentation that evening will introduce you to Maj Gen Jesse Reno. But for an accurate Confederate marksman at South Mountain, I believe he would have been a Union hero of the war.

The next muster is on Wednesday, June 26th, at the usual time and place. Our own Jim Harper will provide the excitement by discussing none other than General George McClellan. Jim has completed considerable research on McClellan and his views on this controversial personality will be of great interest! Please be seated, ready to roll at 7:00 P.M. Don't forget the raffle! Take that book you just finished off the shelf and donate it to your Round Table! Thank you!

Paul Ruud, President

MINUTES
SACRAMENTO CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
WEDNESDAY, MAY 29, 2002
 Sudwerk Restaurant, 1375 Exposition Boulevard, Sacramento

Attendance – 35

Members – 33

Paul Ruud, President	Ardith Cnota	Ken Kitchen	Keith Roberts
Kit Knight, Vice President	Mitch Cnota	Russ Knauer	Rudy Schafer
George Foxworth, Treasurer	Jon Courtway	Arthur Knight	Richard Spizzirri
Walt Bittle, Secretary	Michael Dobbins	Gatha Lee	Roxanne Spizzirri
Dudley Albrecht	Alan Geiken	Ken Lentz	Clayton Williams
Jim Armstrong	Ted Hansen	Mary Lou Lentz	Bob Williams
Roy Bishop	Jim Harper	Al McKim	<u>Guests – 2</u>
Fred Bohmfalk	Don Hayden	Jim Middleton	Mary Muttera
Carol Breiter	Mary James	Genevieve Mooney	Andrew Sneeringer

1. The meeting was called to order by President Ruud, who reviewed this day in Civil War history. New members and guests were introduced and welcomed. The minutes of the April meeting were approved as printed. Members were reminded about the raffle, dues, “Show and Tell”, placing Classified Ads in the *Battle Cry*, and the Fresno Conference in November.
2. Program – Walt Bittle, Sacramento CWRT member, presented a program titled “The Flight of the Confederate Government”. Using selected photographs of Confederate leaders, Walt introduced the characters involved. Then following a map of the Southeastern states, he chronicled the flight of the Confederate Government from the fall of Richmond through the imprisonment – and eventual release – of the leaders. A questions and answer session followed.
3. Activity Reports
 - a. Bob Williams and Dudley Albrecht have donated large collections of bound Civil War magazines. Bob is investigating likely recipients, such as local libraries.
 - b. Ken Kitchen reminded the membership that he and Fred Bohmfalk are working on fund-raising for the Veteran’s Hospital at Mather Field. He went on to encourage Korean War veterans to sign up to receive belated recognition from the Korean-American Friendship Society. All veterans were reminded to take their DD 214 and register for service at the Mather Hospital, regardless of immediate need.
 - c. Carol Breiter reviewed the successful outing to the USS Hornet in Alameda.
 - d. Dudley Albrecht announced that *Gangs of New York* is scheduled for release on December 19.
 - e. President Ruud confirmed that Jay Dolan and Jim Marsh have been scheduled to appear in character as Generals Lee and Grant – on Saturday, July 27 instead of the normal meeting night of Wednesday, July 31.
4. Adjournment – Following the monthly raffle, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Walt Bittle, Secretary

Sacramento Civil War Round Table
 P.O. Box 254702
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SCWRT PROGRAMS

Remainder - 2002

Jun 26: “General George McClellan,” by Jim Harper

Jul 31: “Maj Gen Jesse L. Reno” by Paul Ruud

Aug 28: “Gettysburg II” by Ray Bisio

Sep 25: “Images of Slavery,” by Dan Defoe

Oct 30: Two parts: (1) Poetry Reading by Kit Knight
(2) Mini - Presentaton – “The East Bank,” by Russell Knauer. The title refers to the Mississippi River at Vicksburg

Dec 4: SCWRT Panel discussing aspects of “the Atlanta Campaign.”

Speakers: Fred Bohmfalk
Russell Knauer
Dennis Kohlmann
Bob Williams

Moderator: Walt Bittle

A GROWING DETACHMENT

On the second day at Gettysburg, Union Major General Daniel E. Sickles took a direct hit from a Confederate shell. Within thirty minutes, a surgeon had finished amputating his mangled leg.

Sickles loudly demanded that it be preserved in alcohol, but he soon tired of it and donated it to the U.S. Army Medical Museum. Tradition says he visited his leg several times during the postwar years, but never remained with it more than a few minutes.

Clara's Mother, 1894:

Explaining Grief By Kit Knight

It's been 29 years
and over a thousand nights
since President Lincoln
was shot. My daughter
—who always held me
gently
in the palm of her hand—
and her beau were sharing
the Presidential box
that night as theater guests
of the President. When Booth
shot Lincoln in the head
Clara's beau lunged
forward and Booth slashed
Henry's left arm to the bone.
And forever after
he was filled with remorse
over his failure
to protect
the President. Always sad,
Henry would say, "I should
have been more alert,"
and then add
—sadly— "been faster,
been better." Henry never
wanted children
—it didn't matter
that my Clara did—
because he felt he wasn't
good enough. Clara said,
"His shame was greater
than my forgiveness." As
years passed, Henry became
a haunted soul
waiting. His anguish
drove him mad and he murdered
my Clara. People tell me
I don't need to explain
why he did what he did,
and I say, "I'm not explaining,
I'm grieving."

MOTHER OF NECESSITY

Many profound long-range changes were brought about as the result of the Civil War, with one such belonging to the field of medicine. For generations, it had been taken for granted that military nurses would be male members of fighting forces. This was about to change -- forever.

Dorothea Dix arrived at the White House with a plan and a mission. Presidential secretaries John G. Nicolay and John Hay recorded their satisfaction at "the arrival of Miss Dix, who comes to offer herself and an army of nurses to the government gratuitously for hospital service." On June 10, 1861, she received a parchment unlike any ever before issued; for the first time the nation had a superintendent of U.S. Army nurses who was female. Most veterans of military medicine reacted indignantly to Mother Dix's appointment. There were no general hospitals, but some of the larger installations had post hospitals. At Leavenworth, Kansas, there were accommodations for only twenty men. Even after twenty-four members of the medical corps resigned to join the Confederacy, the U.S. Army still boasted a complement of twenty-seven surgeons and sixty-two assistant surgeons. With military units due to serve only ninety days, many could not understand what had influenced U.S. Secretary of War Simon Cameron to establish a corps of female nurses. That question became moot as the first Federal casualties reached Washington from the Manassas battlefield. Before the terrible carnage of the war ended, changing attitudes guaranteed that women would be welcomed to the nursing vocation.

Shortages of manpower opened other doors for women as well. A few bold spirits with good penmanship won early appointments as clerks in the U.S. Treasury Department. Soon women began to appear in the Patent Office and even in the U.S. War Department. By early 1865, tens of thousands of women were government employees. Large corporations were beginning, grudgingly, to open their doors to a few women considered to be exceptionally capable. More than all other factors combined, the Civil War served as the foundation upon which the modern women's movement was erected. e-history



Eight Inch Rodman Cannons on Barbette Carriages Fort Moultrie, SC

Dec 26, 1860-United States troops, under command of Major R. Anderson, transferred from Fort Moultrie to Fort Sumter.

Dec 27, 1860-Castle Pinckney and Fort Moultrie seized by the State troops.

This afternoon an armed steamer, one of two which have been watching these two forts, between which they have been passing to and fro or anchored for the last ten nights, took possession by escalade of Castle Pinckney. Lieutenant Meade made no resistance. He is with us to-night. They also (Page4) took possession to-night of Fort Moultrie, from which I withdrew the remainder of my men this afternoon, leaving the fort in charge of the overseer of the men employed by the Engineer Department. **Report # 1 by Robert Anderson Fort Sumter**

Kennesaw Mountain, GA **June 27, 1864**

Sherman decided on an attack on June 27th. He had ordered US Major General Schofield to extend his right to induce Johnston to lengthen his lines. US Major General McPherson was to make a cavalry and infantry feint on his extreme left attacking southwest of Kennesaw Mt., while US Major General Thomas assaulted the Confederate works near the center and Schofield exploited the toehold his troops had gained south of Olley's Creek on June 20th.

At 8:00AM following a cannonade, the Federal soldiers advanced. At Pigeon Hill near the Burnt Hickory Road three brigades of Logan's XV Corps moved forward. They knew nothing of the terrain and little of the Confederate position as they struggled through dense thickets and a swampy creek. On the right US Brig.Gen. Lightburn's brigade attacked south of the hill and was stopped short of the Confederate breastworks by enfilading fire. US Brig. Gen. G.A. Smith, commanding the center brigade, moved in two lines against Pigeon Hill. The terrain was rugged and the works were formidable. Farther to the left, US Colonel C.C. Walcutt's brigadeworked its way into a deep gorge between Little Kennesaw and Pigeon Hill. Although Lightburn's attacking troops overran the rifle pits fronting them, they failed to dent the main Confederate line.

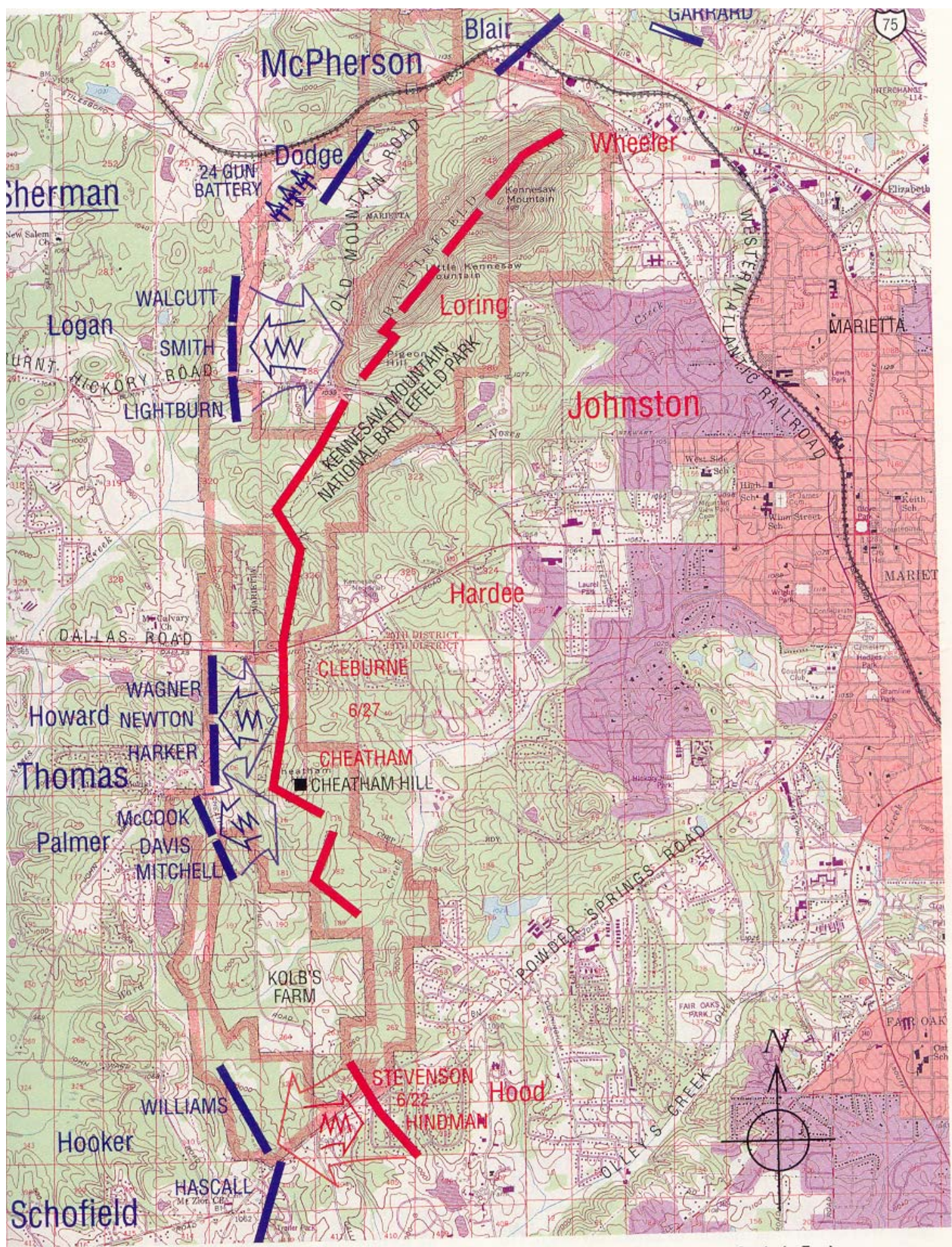
An hour later, behind schedule, and two miles to the south, two divisions from the Army of the Cumberland(9000 men) assaulted entrenchments held by CS Major Generals Cheatham and Cleburne. At the report of two signal guns, US Brig. Gen.

Newton's division of the IV Corps and US Brig. Gen. J.C. Davis's division of the XIV Corps advanced. The Federals were unable to break through. On the right the Confederates repulsed the first charge of US Brig. Gen. Harker's brigade. He was mortally wounded leading a second attempt. Davis's division on Newton's right suffered a similar experience. The ground sloped down toward the marshy bed of a creek, beyond which the ground rose sharply to the crest, where it jutted outward to form an angle on Cheatham Hill. Crossing the stream and the wheatfield beyond, US Colonel McCook's brigade advanced to the top of the hill. When they came within 10-15 feet of the Confederate works, "with one accord the line halted, crouched and began firing." The brigade lost its momentum, as well as two commanders, nearly all of its field officers and one third of its men. US Colonel J.G. Mitchell's brigade, advancing on McCook's right, suffered a similar fate. After brutal hand-to-hand fighting, the Federals dug in. Both sides recalled this place as the "Dead Angle." By 10:45AM the Federal assaults were over.

The assaults of June 27th cost Sherman about 3,000 casualties; Johnston lost about 1,000. At Kennesaw Sherman learned again the cost of assaulting an enemy behind earthworks. For Johnston the lesson learned had been evident since the beginning of the campaign: earthworks can delay but not defeat a determined enemy who can maneuver.

As the campaign moved on toward Atlanta, it became evident that it was a masterpiece of offensive and defensive maneuver.

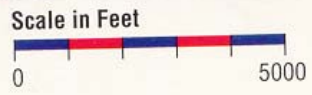
Source: *The Civil War Battlefield Guide*



KENNESAW MOUNTAIN

17 June 1864

Combat Strength	Casualties
110,000	3,000
65,000	1,000



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.racw.org/>

Civil War Skirmish Association
<http://www.calweb.com/~arline/>

American Civil War Association
<http://www.angelfire.com/ca5/acwa/>

National Civil War Association
<http://ncwa.org/>

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Major Gen O.O. Howard