



# Battle Cry

Founded 1961,  
Newsletter of the Sacramento Civil War Round Table  
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Battle Cry deadline is  
1:00PM Wed. two weeks  
before the regular  
meeting. Items can be  
given the editor by hand,  
mail or e-mail.

## President's Message:

I hope those who attended Professor "Bud" Robertson's talk were as moved and impressed as I was. To learn what life events went into the make-up of Stonewall Jackson and what strength of character he had to achieve his greatness was indeed a revelation. I am highly motivated to read "Bud's" monumental biography.

To occasionally meet and hear a speaker as famed and respected as Dr. Robertson is indeed a pleasure. I trust he enjoyed his stay as we tried to show him the local attractions in which we discovered he had an interest. I was honored to share his company and thank Fred Bohmfalk for bringing him here. His students are to be envied. Those of you who have read his books or seen him on A&E and the History Channel have no doubt appreciated him as well.

Ray Bisio returns November 9<sup>th</sup> to share his intimate knowledge of Gettysburg. Ray was a guide there for years. Those of us who have had the privilege of attending any or all of his three presentations on Gettysburg are happy to have him back. This time his subject is Meade at Gettysburg: Making Friends into Foes. None of us should miss this one. See you there!

**NEXT MEETING!!! November 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00PM at the Hofbrau on the northeast corner of El Camino & Watt Ave. Come early for dinner and conversation.**

**SEE UPCOMING PROGRAMS ON PAGE 3.**

The cash balance following the October 18, 2005 meeting was \$1,281.75. Thanks to members and guests, the raffle brought in \$123.00.

George W. Foxworth, Treasurer

**MINUTES**  
SACRAMENTO CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE  
OCTOBER 18, 2005  
STUDIO THEATER 1028 R STREET, SACRAMENTO

Attendance-67

Members-30

Don Hayden-President  
George Foxworth-Treasurer  
Edie Keister-Secretary  
Dudley Albrecht  
Roy Bishop  
Fred Bohmfalk  
Julie Bohmfalk  
Bernie Buenrostro  
Mitchell Cnota  
Ardith Cnota

Kyle Glasson  
H. James Hapher  
Claire Hayden  
Russell Knaver  
Marjorie Knaver  
Dennis Kohlmann  
Ken Lentz  
Mary Lou Lentz  
Grace Long  
Sharon McGaughey

Leslie Michaels  
Maurice Mitchell  
Betty Mitchell  
Ruben Orozco  
Brad Schall  
Richard Sickert  
Ed Sims  
Drew Van Winkle  
Bob Williams  
John Zasso

Guest-37

Ronricki Adams  
Andy Anderson  
Philip Avila  
Dr. Arnold Baker  
Charles Christian  
Mary Lou Christian  
Brian Clague  
Susan Coher  
Harry Harland  
Christopher Hayden

Guest cont.

Sean Hayden  
Mark Hayden  
Scott Hayden  
Don Hayden Jr.  
Nisa Hayden  
Chuck Hubbard  
Pam Hubbard  
Bob Hubbs  
Judy Hubbs  
Jim Lane

Jack Leathers  
Bob Maerdian  
Bill McCallum  
Bev McCallum  
Vivian Miller  
Joseph Monasta  
Michael Montague  
Michael O'Hara  
Horst Penning  
Bud Robertson

Glenn Savidge  
Michael Spencer  
Patti Spencer  
Maxine Terner  
John Thawley  
Elizabeth Joy Bohmfalk Thawley  
Donald Van Auker

1. Meeting started at 7:05. President Hayden welcomed guest, and told us of his activities during the week with Dr. James Robertson- our guest speaker. Brian Clague, President of the SJVCWRT, spoke on the Conference to be held in Clovis, November 4-6.
2. What an honor and privilege to listen to Bud Robertson on "The Life and Times of Stonewall Jackson." His superb presentation was filled with much insight on Jackson, the man and General. It was entirely too short though -I could've listened for hours. Dr. Robertson generously brought two of his books to auction off. He also autographed them for the winners along with other members' books they brought. Thank you so much Bud- it was so special.
3. Raffle was held and our meeting ended at 9:05.

Edie Keister  
Secretary

## COMING PROGRAMS

Month	Speaker	Topic
November	Ray Bisio	Meade at Gettysburg: Making Friends into Foes
December	Maurice Mitchell	Reconstruction: 1867, 1870, 1965, 2007?
January 2006	pending	
February 2006	Brian Wills	Life & Times of Nathan Bedford Forrest

### **Dr. James I Robertson, Jr. Visits Northern California**

By George W. Foxworth

A few years ago, Dr. James I. "Bud" Robertson was hosted by Mr. Jack Leathers, a member of the Peninsula Civil War Round Table (CWRT) in San Mateo, California. Later, Mr. Leathers suggested to Fred Bohmfalk, a member of the Sacramento CWRT, to host Dr. Robertson someday. Earlier this year, Mr. Bohmfalk invited Dr. Robertson to the October 2005 meeting of the Sacramento CWRT.

Dr. Robertson is the grandson of a Confederate soldier and has had a lifelong interest in the Civil War. He is a native of Danville, Virginia, and has received every major award given in the field of Civil War History. Dr. Robertson contributes on a regular basis in Civil War programs on public television, the Arts and Entertainment Network, and History Channel. He was the technical director on the movie "Gods and Generals." Dr. Robertson is currently the technical director on the movie "The Last Full Measure." He is the author of several award-winning Civil War books. Dr. Robertson's latest book, "Stonewall Jackson: The Man, The Soldier, The Legend," was a main selection of two major book clubs and has won eight national awards. In addition, the movie rights for the book has been sold. Dr. Robertson's next book "Robert E. Lee" will be released in November 2005.

Dr. Robertson is presently an Alumni Distinguished Professor at

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in Blacksburg, Virginia. His Civil War Era class of approximately 250 students per semester, is the largest of its kind in the United States.

Dr. Robertson flew from the East to San Francisco, California, on Sunday, October 16, 2005. He was met by Mr. Bohmfalk and Dr. Don Hayden, President of the Sacramento CWRT. Dr. Robertson spent the evening with Dr. Hayden in Sacramento.

On Monday, Dr. Robertson was taken to Sutter's Mill in Coloma for a tour. Sacramento CWRT Members Fred Bohmfalk, Dr. Don Hayden, and Jim Middleton accompanied him. In January 1848, James W. Marshall, an employee of John A. Sutter, discovered gold while constructing a lumber mill on the South Fork of the American River. When the news broke, it caused one of the largest migrations that the world had ever seen. William T. Sherman, also a future Civil War Major General who was in California during the Gold Rush, knew about Sutter's Mill. The State of California acquired the area (15 acres initially and the cabin of James Marshall) in 1890 and it was named Marshall Monument. Per the Information Officer, Department of Parks and Recreation, this was the first Park to enter the State Park System. Acquiring more land was an on-going process over the years and the Mill Site was obtained in 1941. The Park was officially designated a California State Park in 1942 and was opened to the public at that time.

Today, Sutter's Mill and Area are known as Marshall Discovery State Historic Park. He enjoyed the tour.

On Monday evening, Dr. Robertson spoke to the Stanislaus Civil War Association in Modesto on The Life and Times of Stonewall Jackson. Also in attendance were Fred Bohmfalk and Dr. Don Hayden. For Monday night, Dr. Robertson resided again with the Hayden Family in Sacramento.

On Tuesday, Dr. Robertson toured the California State Railroad Museum. Peninsula CWRT Member Jack Leathers and Sacramento CWRT Members Fred Bohmfalk and Dr. Don Hayden accompanied him.

The California State Railroad Museum in Old Sacramento is the world-class tribute to the role of the "iron horse" in connecting California to the rest of the nation. The Museum features 21 restored locomotives and cars, some dating back to 1862. There is a full-scale diorama of an 1860s construction site high in the Sierra Nevada as well as a bridge elevated 24 feet above the Museum floor. One block from the Museum is a reconstructed passenger station and freight depot circa 1867. During the summer months, a steam train takes visitors from the depot to Miller Park and back along the Sacramento River.

The California State Railroad Museum has its origins in 1937, when a group of railroad enthusiasts in the San Francisco Bay Area formed the Pacific Coast Chapter of the Railway and Locomotive Historical Society. This organization worked for years to promote the idea of a railroad museum, donating 30 historic locomotives and cars to the California Department of Parks and Recreation to be the nucleus

of a State-operated Museum in Sacramento. The Museum's first facility, the Central Pacific Railroad Passenger Station, opened in 1976. The Railroad History Museum was completed in 1981. Steam-powered passenger train service on the Sacramento Southern Railroad began in 1984, with the Central Pacific Railroad Freight Depot opening three years later. Railtown 1897 State Historic Park in Jamestown, California, was added to the Museum complex in 1992. Dr. Robertson enjoyed the tour.

On Tuesday evening, Dr. Robertson spoke to the Elk Grove CWRT and Sacramento CWRT on The Life and Times of Stonewall Jackson. Also in attendance were members of the Peninsula CWRT, North Bay CWRT, San Joaquin Valley CWRT, Sons of Confederate Veterans, Sons of Union Veterans, and the public at large. A few notables from these organizations were Jack Leathers, Susan Cohn, Phil Avila, Dr. Brian Clague, Patty Spencer, and others. The meeting place was the Studio Theater, an excellent venue provided through the courtesy and generosity of Jacqueline Schultz and Nisa Davis Harper. A medium crowd of 67 (30 Sacramento CWRT members and 37 guests) were lively, energetic, and appreciated the speech and the informative question and answer period that followed. The glorious evening officially closed with the monthly raffle. However, many participants continued the discussions long after the meeting was concluded.

For Tuesday night, Dr. Robertson returned to San Francisco with the Cohn Family. He departed for the East on Wednesday.

Dr. Robertson enjoyed Northern California, the tours, talking with the

Round Tables, and the warm reception that he received. It was wonderful to have him here again. Thank you Dr. James I. "Bud" Robertson, Jr. Northern California awaits your return. Finally, I give special thanks to Dr. Don Hayden whose contributions made this article possible.

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## **A Report on The 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Civil War Reenactment at Kearney Park**

By George W. Foxworth

In conjunction with the Fresno Historical Society, The National Civil War Association (NCWA) ended its 2005 reenactment season on October 7-9 at Historic Kearney Park in Fresno, California. The theme was the "First Battle of Bull Run," to honor the soldiers on the occasion of the 144<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle.

The NCWA is a private non-profit organization that uses "living history" to help the public to better understand the American Civil War. By portraying the manner in which the soldiers and civilians lived, worked, fought, and died during the Civil War era, the NCWA hopes to keep alive the spirit and sacrifice made by the men, women, and children of that time. On October 7th (Friday), the NCWA and Fresno Historical Society hosted hundreds of students from Fresno area schools for a living history demonstration. The reenactment was Saturday and Sunday. The highlight of the weekend was the Fresno Historical Society tents that obstructed the battlefield at Kearney Park. In past years, the tents were in another location. However, the expanded battlefield was three times larger and several battles happened on the field at the same time. You could see and hear the battle near you.

However, the tents blocked your view of other places on the Battlefield.

Attending were Ken and Barbara Moats, Dr. Brian Clague, Patty Spencer, and other members of the San Joaquin Valley Civil War Round Table. From the Sacramento Civil War Round Table (SCWRT), the attendees were John Zasso, John Nevin, Ed Sims, and George W. Foxworth. A former SCWRT member that attended was Gene Morrow.

The 2005 NCWA end-of-the-season event was a complete success and the NCWA and Fresno Historical Society are commended for their great work. We look ahead to the 2006 season that begins in early spring and the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Reenactment at Kearney Park.

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## **Round Table Meeting in Pacific Grove, California**

By George W. Foxworth

I attended the inaugural meeting of a new Civil War Round Table in Pacific Grove, California. The meeting was open to the public and was held at the Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History (PGMNH) on October 1, 2005.

The meeting was facilitated by Thomas Brown, the great grand nephew of Civil War Union General George Thomas. Mr. Brown has entertained audiences in numerous presentations as General Thomas and Confederate General John B. Hood at private and public events throughout Northern California and Nevada, where he shares first-person recollections of the Civil War. He is an active participant of the American Civil War Association (ACWA) and the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW), Abraham Lincoln

Camp 10 of Santa Cruz, and frequently appears at Civil War reenactments, parades, and other historical events. Mr. Brown is a successful painting contractor in Carmel and a graduate of Monterey Peninsula College. He is currently a master's degree candidate in history at San Jose State University.

Jim Marsh, a Civil War re-enactor who has been portraying General Robert E. Lee for several years, was the main speaker. Mr. Marsh is a retired engineer, and lives in Alameda.

Mr. Marsh began with a coonskin cap as he discussed his interest in history. As a boy, he watched the Walt Disney television program "Davy Crockett" (Fess Parker) and that sparked his life-long interest in History. This introduction captured the audience. Then Mr. Marsh shared insights into General Lee's life, personality, and particularly medical problems (heart) which may have influenced some of his decisions at Gettysburg. Through research with various Virginia Historical Societies, Mr. Marsh learned that General Lee suffered a heart attack at Chancellorsville. In addition, General Lee suffered from diarrhea and dysentery during the Wilderness Campaign. General Lee had heart problems as early as 1844. Finally, General Lee's suspected cause of death in 1870 was hardening of the arteries, which eventually caused a stroke.

The one-hour speech was followed by a 45-minutes' question and answer period. The 70 plus attendees were very appreciative of Mr. Marsh's talk. In attendance from the Sacramento Civil War Round table were Sharon S. McGaughey and George W. Foxworth.

A talk by **David Wear**, a member

of the SUVCW was also scheduled. However, Mr. Wear was not able to attend. His topic would have been "The Evolution of Infantry Tactics during the American Civil War: Evolution or Revolution."

Since this was the first meeting, a name has not been adopted by the Round Table. However, one name under consideration is Monterey Peninsula Civil War Round Table. The Round Table is sponsored by the SUVCW, Abraham Lincoln Camp 10 of Santa Cruz, and will meet bi-monthly at the PGMNH. The December 17, 2005 meeting will be Ray Bisio on General George Meade. The February 11, 2006 meeting will be Sam Hood from West Virginia, the great great grandson of General John B. Hood. We applaud the new Round Table.

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#### **U.S. Grant's Comments Regarding Thomas J. Jackson**

I question whether his campaigns in Virginia justify his reputation as a great commander. He was killed too soon, and before his rank allowed him a great command. It would have been a test of generalship if Jackson had met Sheridan in the Valley, instead of some of the men he did meet. If Jackson had attempted on Sheridan the tactics he attempted so successfully on others he not only would have been beaten, but destroyed. Sudden daring raids, under a fine general like Jackson, might do against raw troops and inexperienced commanders, such as we had at the beginning of the war, but not against drilled troop and a commander like Sheridan. The tactics for which Jackson is famous, and which achieved such remarkable results, belonged entirely to the beginning of the war and to the peculiar conditions under which the earlier battles were fought. They would have insured destruction to any commander who tried them upon Sherman, Thomas, Sheridan, Meade, or, in fact, any of our great generals.

From "Personal Memoirs" by U. S. Grant, 1885