



Battle Cry



Vol. 43 No.1 January 2003 Newsletter of Sacramento Civil War Round Table

Presidents Message:

Welcome to the New Year for the Sacramento Civil War Round Table. First off, I want to thank Paul Ruud for the outstanding job he did the last two years as president of our organization. Talking with members of other Civil War Roundtables around the state while I was in Fresno, gave me a real appreciation for what a great job Paul did and how healthy our round table is.

Often nonmembers ask me what can there possible be to study after 140 plus years? Well, it turns out quite a lot. New books are constantly coming out giving new perspectives on all aspects of the U.S. Civil War.

The Fresno conference on the Atlanta Campaign gave me a totally new aspect on the year 1864. By comparing the Atlanta Campaign with the march to Richmond, we can compare Grant vs Lee and Sherman vs Johnson.

One of my goals for this new year is to bring in some new ideas. Hopefully some controversial speakers will get us out of our usual mindsets.

Last month's problems for Senator Trent Lott of Mississippi brought up the fact that some aspects of the Civil War are still not resolved. The southerners bolted the Democratic National Convention in 1948 just as surely as they did in 1864. Strom Thurman was the last third party presidential candidate to actually win electoral votes. Had Thomas Dewey gotten just a few more states, this

election would have gone to the House of Representatives ala the election of 1876.

One thing I will be counting on you, the members, to do is to come up with presentations. Any topic you feel passionate about will be of interest to all of us. Think about this and let a board member know. It is so important for the health of any organization that its members be active.

We have settled on a place to meet this year. It is the Sizzler at 2030 Fulton Ave. I want to thank Bob Williams and George Foxworth for doing the leg work.

Another goal for this year is to get as many new members as possible. While we are a very active group, we are getting a little "long in the tooth."

Dennis Kohlmann

Dues are due!!

The annual \$20.00 dues are payable to George Foxworth, Treasurer for 2003. Either give them to him at the meeting or mail to the Round Table address given on page 3.

SCWRT Has New Home.

See Page 3

MINUTES
SACRAMENTO CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
Wednesday, December 4, 2002
Double Tree Hotel, 2001 Point West Way, Sacramento

Attendance – 27

Members – 25

Paul Ruud, President
George Foxworth, Treasurer
Walt Bittle, Secretary
Dudley Albrecht
George Beitzel
Joan Beitzel
Roy Bishop
Glyen Brown
Bernie Buenrostro

Ardith Cnota
Mitch Cnota
Michael Dobbins
Alan Geiken
Don Hayden
Janet Junell
Robert Junell
Marjorie Knauer
Russ Knauer

Dennis Kohlmann
Bev Passerello
John Passerello
Keith Roberts
Bob Williams
Susan Williams
John Zasso

Guests – 2

Al Alegria
Buck Honaker

1. The meeting was called to order by President Ruud, who reviewed this day in Civil War history. Guests and new members were introduced and welcomed. The minutes of October 30 were approved as printed.
2. Program – In a departure from the regular format, three members presented each presented a “mini-program”, loosely centered around the Atlanta campaign. Dennis Kohlmann covered the most crucial election of 1864, including the effect of Sherman’s successful campaign on that election. Russ Knauer talked about the geography and topography of the region, from the formation of the continent through the day-to-day decisions that had to be made based on the “lay of the land”. Bob Williams finished the trifecta by discussing the logistics of such an overland campaign, with emphasis on the railroads that supplied both armies. Walt Bittle served as moderator. There was some discussion of using this format for another program at some time in the future.
3. Committee/Activity Reports
 - a. President Ruud announced that we are again searching for a suitable location to hold our meetings, as the Double Tree has raised our rent from \$0 to \$400. When a location for the January 29 meeting is established, the Board will publish a notice in the *Battle Cry* and notify members via the Phone Tree.
 - b. Some time in the near future, Jim Harper and Don Hayden will discuss the various ideas being discussed for inclusion in the information disseminated at the National Battlefield Parks. There is a new directive from Congress to widen the scope of the information presented.
 - c. Walt Bittle passed around a Civil War Activity Calendar, listing activities throughout the United States over the next year. This calendar will be updated each month, and members can request a copy by mail or by e-mail.
 - d. Dudley Albrecht urged members to watch for the December openings of the upcoming movies *Gangs of New York* and *Gods and Generals*.
4. Adjournment – Following a successful raffle, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35.

Walt Bittle
Secretary

Treasurer’s Report

The cash balance after the meeting of December 4, 2002 was \$1249.48. Thanks to members and guests, the December raffle brought in \$34.00.

George Foxworth, Treasurer

NEW MEETING PLACE

WE WILL MEET AT

SIZZLER

**2030 Fulton Ave.
Sacramento, CA**

Sizzler is located just south of the corner of Fulton and Cottage Way next to the Jaguar dealer on the southeast corner. Come for dinner and conversation at 6:00PM. The meeting will begin at the usual time of 7:00PM.

Topic

"Hannibal Hamlin, the man who was almost President." Given by Dennis Kohlmann.

Officers of the Sacramento Civil War Round Table for 2003

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Battle Cry Editor

The Battle Cry is the monthly newsletter of the Sacramento CWRT. Please submit items to me for publication no later than the meeting day of the Board of Directors, (next meeting is January 15, 2003) either at that meeting, by U.S. mail or by e-mail. BattleCryEditor@aol.com The official address of this organization is: Sacramento Civil War Round Table P.O. Box 254702 Sacramento, CA 95865-4702. <http://www.sacramentocwrt.org> is the web site address. Check it for past newsletter editions and information about the group.

Civil War Events at Tunnel Hill, Georgia

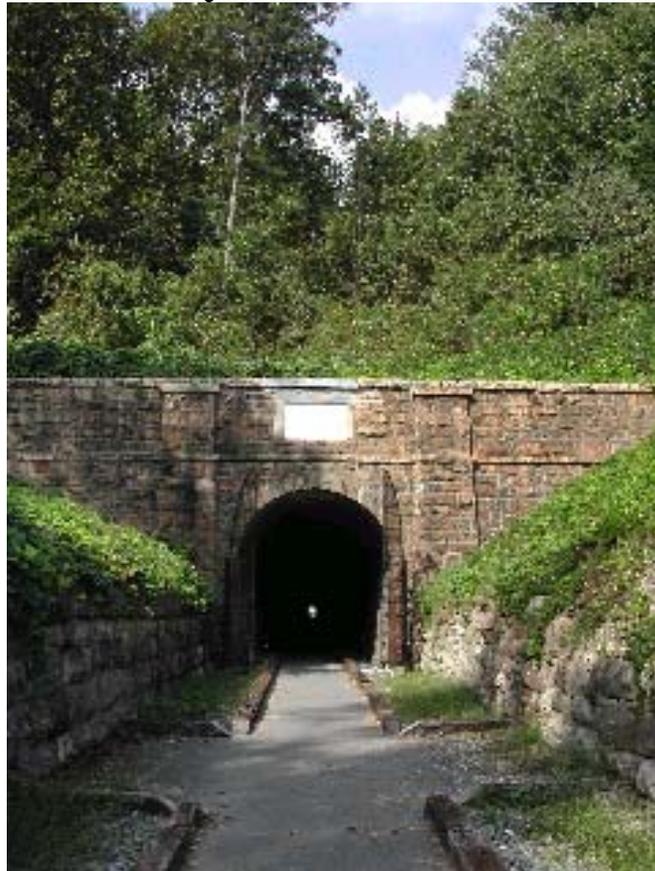
The 137 mile long Western and Atlantic Railroad from Chattanooga to Atlanta was the lifeline for both the Union and Confederate forces during the Civil War. As the two armies occupied various sections the structures, bridges, roadbed and tracks were successively destroyed and rebuilt. One major structure that miraculously survived was the 1447-foot long Chetoogeta Mountain (Rocky Face Ridge) Tunnel, completed in 1850. This horseshoe sectioned (12x16ft) brick-lined tunnel was used until 1928, when a new tunnel of larger size needed for modern RR engines and cars paralleled it. The historic tunnel has recently been renovated and reopened for walk-throughs. Appointments are needed from the Tunnel Hill Historical Association, and I suggest you wear your hard hats!

Not far from the western portal of the tunnel is the Clisby Austin House, built as a hotel in the 1850's. The house was the headquarters of Confederate General Bragg after his defeat at Chattanooga in November 1863. Subsequently, it was Union General Sherman's headquarters during the initial phase of the Atlanta Campaign. On a grim note, the rebel General Hood was brought to the Austin House in Sept. 1863 to recuperate after his wounding and leg amputation during the Battle of Chickamauga. Since it was not expected that he would survive, his leg was brought with him so that they could be buried together. He did survive, however (probably much to the later disappointment of the families of Patrick Cleburne and the four Brigadiers killed at the Battle of Franklin, *and* many others), and his leg was buried in the Austin family cemetery. The house and grounds are private property.

Bob Williams: 01-06-03



Clisby Austin House



Western and Atlantic Railroad Tunnel

ETHYL, THE SNOW BUNNY, 1939

I've tried, many times,
to tell my grandmother
how important
air conditioning will be.
Why, even Congress was
air-cooled in 1928. Granny
said it only allowed
politicians to make mischief
all year long. Granny
lives in Virginia and her
first husband marched with
General Lee. Every time
I visited, she'd drag out
old pictures. Granny
remembered the ruined
homes and crops, the lost
lives. She said the Yankees
only left the want. It was
everywhere and showed
in the way people moved,
their eyes, their shoeless
feet. Granny wanted
all Yankees to go to hell
and be fried black. Wearing
red shorts trimmed
with 'rabbit fur and strapless
red halters also trimmed
with white fur, I was
one of 10 "snow bunnies"
helping to advertise
air conditioners. Someone
sent my grandmother
a newspaper photo from
the New York World's Fair.
I expected a lecture
about my clothes, and
I was ready to explain
how scarce
any job was in these
Depression Years. I could
almost touch her grief
as I read the penny
postcard she sent me:
"My heart knocked agin
the backs o my eyes; you
workin' for Yankees."

-- Kit Knight

Book Review

I just finished a novel called *Banished Children of Eve* by Peter Quinn published by Penguin Books in 1995. A novel of Civil War New York focusing on the April to July 1863 period. The New York City Draft Riots were the canvas the author used to depict the lives of people in lower Manhattan. He traces a half dozen folks for the three months leading up to and including the riots. Although 612 pages long, reading it was a pleasure and while fiction the author stayed close to the facts of the period. I only wish the *Gangs of New York* movie had been based on this book instead of the one it used. I would recommend it for the flavor of the period and area.

Book Review by Walt Bittle

Do not, as in never, buy or read *Civil War A to Z* edited by Clifford L. Linedecker (2002). (\$14.95 at Barnes and Noble)

Mr. Linedecker had a great idea: Expand upon some Civil War terms and names in dictionary form. From Abatis through Zouaves (of course), the author set out to provide a fresh look at some interesting information. Then he forgot to have his information double-checked and proofread.

I tried to overlook (on page 10) that Stonewall Jackson died in a Richmond hospital. But the author continued to make mistakes – from simple typos (Brand rather than Brandy Station) through even more gross errors (putting Lee at 1st Bull Run and Sherman at Five Forks – and giving the *CSS Virginia* a revolving turret). Frankly, this book just wasted my time. Some of his information is truly fascinating, but how does one believe a word of it?

What a shame to spoil a good concept with sloppiness and misinformation. I want my money back!

The Association of Licensed Battlefield Guides (ALBG)

of Gettysburg wishes to announce the duplication of two important Gettysburg maps.

The S. G. Elliot "Burial Map," which was originally published in 1864, lists locations of mass graves on the battlefield. The Library of Congress holds an original copy of this work. The size of this map is 24" x 36."

The "Cope" Map, circa 1903, illustrates the crops grown on the battlefield during those fateful days in July 1863. The size of this map is 32" X 48." The Association's copy of the Cope Map is unique for it includes hand written additions made by Chief Historian Kathy George Harrison. The ALBG is asking for a donation of \$10.00 per each map or \$15.00 for the set of two to help defray reproduction costs, as well as shipping and handling. These two maps are indispensable primary resources for any student of Gettysburg. Checks made payable to the ALBG should be sent to: ALBG, P. O. Box 4152, Gettysburg, PA 17325, ATTN: Wayne Motts. All maps will be shipped via regular US mail, folded flat. US mailing addresses only please.

Storm of War

There in the valley swept a
tornado wild
Into that stormy maelstrom the
soldiers filed
Driven by powder, fuse, shot and
shell
The whirling dervish clashes of a
twisted hell
The ground flowed red the air
was ablaze
Clouds of sulfur swirled in
frenzied haze

The volcano erupted shrapnel
with hail and rain
Of a million death messengers
howling in refrain
And shell and balls and bullets
biting flesh
Finding their marks in the deadly
crash
The storm kept up its fiendish
deadly race
Until man could not longer
endure the pace
The skybolts of cannon and the
blades of steel
The screams of horses fading to a
squeal
Succumbing to death, innocent
of fatal cause
The victim of man's violent
mortal dressage
The banners torn and rent lay
in the crimson pool
The color guard always
expended, killed early, the rule
As the storm subsided and fog of
smoke lay in repent
Faceless men lay in piles, torn
and ripped and bent
As if a thousand reptiles and a
hundred lions came;
Had ripped and torn their bodies
in endless shame
A few limped away, all bleeding
and torn
Or crawling or laying in agony
that was born
From this battle conceived in
hate and the human game
What battle is this? It matters
not; all battles are the same
The multitudes of men are lost, a
daily ritual to slay
The violence of man is an endless
suffering humanity must pay
R.J. McGill



Rioters and militia exchange gunfire on First Avenue during the draft riots. Note the participation of women and the involvement of the entire neighborhood in the battle, from the roofs and windows of the surrounding tenements. The liquor store in the foreground served as the rioters' base of operations (*Courtesy of The New-York Historical Society, New York City*).



A mob lynching a black man on Clarkson Street. Black men, who some rioters feared would compete for their jobs, bore the brunt of much of the bloody violence (*Courtesy of The New-York Historical Society, New York City*).

New York City Draft Riots July 13-17, 1863