



# 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

<b>Vol. 43 No. 1 January 2003 Newsletter of Sacramento Civil War Round Table</b>			
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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](mailto: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.

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### 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

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### ***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**

New York City Draft Riots July 13-17, 1863