



**Volume 45, No. 1  
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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.

# Battle Cry

Founded 1961,  
Newsletter of the Sacramento Civil War Round Table  
P.O. BOX 254702  
Sacramento, CA 95865-4702  
<http://sacramentocwrt.com/>



## President's Message

A new year is upon us and I find myself in the unenviable position of attempting to fill the shoes of our excellent previous presidents Fred Bohmfalk, Carol Breiter, Paul Ruud, and Dennis Kohlmann. With their help, along with the board and faithful members, I hope to meet the challenge.

Kudos to Paul Wagstaffe for another of his thorough, superb presentations. As a student of history and a legal scholar, he brought a painful period of our nation's past into bright illumination.

We hope to provide some outstanding programs in 2005. As in the past we shall attempt to mix outside speakers with members from within our group. Next year it will be our privilege to present the annual west coast meeting. A committee consisting of Dennis Kohlmann (chair), Fred Bohmfalk, Carol Breiter, Paul Ruud, Bob Williams and Yours truly has already started work. Our goal is to compete favorably with the hugely successful Shiloh Conference of 2000 held locally.

The 2005 schedule is as follows:

January 12	Don Hayden	<i>Those Amazing MacArthurs</i>
February 9	John Martini	<i>Fort Alcatraz</i>
March 9	Fred Bohmfalk	<i>John Bell Hood--A Personal Look</i>
April 13	Phil Avila	<i>Kershaw--From First to Last</i>
May 11	Walt Bittle	<i>Events Leading to Fort Sumter</i>
June 8	Paul Ruud	<i>The Lincoln Assassination</i>

Any member who would like to give a talk or suggest a speaker is invited to speak to me.

Please remember we now have a regular meeting every second Wednesday twelve times a year at the Hof Brau Plaza at Watt and El Camino in Sacramento. Come early to enjoy dinner and conversation with fellow members and guests. See you there!

Sincerely,  
*Don Hayden*

**Note!! New Meeting day, the 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
**Wed. of the month(Jan. 12<sup>th</sup>),**  
**7:00PM at the Hof Brau.**

Treasurer's Report

The cash balance following the December 6, 2004 meeting was \$1,438.58. Thanks to members and guests, the raffle brought in \$46.00.  
George W. Foxworth,  
Treasurer

**MINUTES**  
**SACRAMENTO CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE**  
**MONDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2004**  
**HOF BRAU RESTAURANT 2500 WATT AVE, SACRAMENTO**

**ATTENDENCE 32**

Members – 30

Dennis Kohlmann, President  
George Foxworth, Treasurer  
Edie Keister, Secretary  
Dudley Albrecht  
Bob Baskerville  
Ray Bishop  
Fred Bohmfalk  
Carol Breiter  
Ardith Cnota  
Mitchell Cnota

Kirk Fujikawa  
Alan Geiken  
Kyle Glasson  
Don Hayden  
Kenneth Kitchen  
Marjorie Knaver  
Russell Knaver  
Donald Long  
Grace Long  
Leslie Michaels

Betty Mitchell  
Maurice Mitchell  
John Nevins  
Paul Ruud  
Natalie Schafer  
Rudy Schafer  
Brad Schall  
Bob Williams  
Susan Williams  
Maxine Wollen

Guest-2

Paul Wagsaffe  
Richard Sickeht

1. Meeting started at 7:03. Hand count for members having dinner. Guest were welcomed. "This Day in Civil War History" read.
2. Conference Committee held its first meeting to discuss where it's to be held.
3. President Kohlmann thanked his fellow officers for their help during this past year. This was Dennis's last meeting as our President. Thanks Dennis for all your fine work and leadership.
4. Another great presentation by the knowlegible Paul Wagstaffe, on "Reconstruction" from the political viewpoint, how fellow countrymen worked to try to join our nation together – sometimes meeting with less enthusiasm by some, but with fairness for new citizens. Thanks Paul, you are always welcome to help us learn about our history.
5. We had a great raffle – so many fine items. Some members left before we had it. It's great to win! Keep up the good work, donating gifts, to help our club. Meeting ended at 8:55.

Edie Keister  
Secretary

Have a happy and healthy 2005 everyone!

## **Ed Bearss speaking in SF**

Edwin C. Bearss will speak on Wed. Jan 19<sup>th</sup> on the topic of The Second Day of The Battle of Gettysburg. This will take place at the Irish Cultural Center in San Francisco. The address is 2700 45th Boulevard (Sloat Ave. and 45th Ave.). This is near the San Francisco Zoo.

Agenda:

Assembly: 6:00 PM

Dinner: 7:15 PM

Presentation: 8:00 PM

Cost-\$25 per person

Please send your checks to George Foxworth, 9463 Salishan Court, Sacramento, CA 95826-5233 on or before Jan. 10<sup>th</sup>.

He will send a group check to the organizers on Jan 10<sup>th</sup>

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## **William C. (Jack) Davis speaking in San Mateo**

Jack Davis will speak on Tuesday Feb. 15<sup>th</sup> at Dominic's Restaurant at Poplar Creek. The address is 1700 Coyote Point Dr. San Mateo, CA

Assembly 11:00 AM

Lunch at Noon

Presentation 12:45PM

Cost \$25 per person. Send check before Feb. 7<sup>th</sup> to:

Peninsula Civil War Round Table

P.O. Box 1464

San Carlos, CA 94070

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## **Book Review**

by Walt Bittle, Midwest Correspondent

*Orphans Preferred – The Twisted Truth and Lasting Legend of the Pony Express*

by Christopher Corbett (Broadway Books, New York, 2003).

Although not strictly about the Civil War, this book is very pertinent to the period – April 1860 through October 1861. And it contains material that should interest any resident of the Sacramento area. Remember that statue at 2<sup>nd</sup> and J in Old Sacramento?

“Pony Express” was a fanciful nickname – it was never the official name of anything. And there was a “pony express” connecting lots of places besides Saint Joseph and Sacramento – long before and long after the really famous one. (Besides, they didn't use ponies; they used full-sized horses, just like everyone else.)

So . . . what do we know for sure about the “real” Pony Express? Almost nothing that can be verified. The private company was not government subsidized, so records are non-existent. And almost all the books and memoirs about the time were written long after the event. From this point in history, it is almost impossible to sort fact from fiction. This author lets you know what is verifiably true, what is probably not true, and what seems like it might be true.

Actually, the legends that grew out of that short eighteen months are in many cases as interesting as the reality. Of course, Hollywood got into the act with a succession of movies of almost non-existent historical accuracy, but that's what they do best.

I highly recommend this book, especially if you think you know something about the Pony Express. (For instance, I've known for years that “Buffalo Bill” Cody was one of the riders. Most likely not true, and the author tells you why.)

**(continued from Nov. Battle Cry)**

A cannonade had opened up back on Cemetery Hill which sounded like it deserved his attention, and Hunt rode away, making a point to go by headquarters and tell Meade of the line Sickles proposed. Later, Hunt rode back out to Sickles' line, which Sickles had by that time advanced without permission, and readied the artillery for the attack



**Brigadier General Henry J. Hunt 1819-89**

which was about to be made against that front. When the Confederate attack commenced, Hunt went to the end of Sickles' line at Devil's Den, where one of his batteries was posted. After conferring with the officer there, Hunt, who had dismounted, was nearly trampled in a bizarre stampede of terror-stricken cattle when he tried to make his way back to his horse. He remained to direct his guns in the desperate fighting on Sickles' sector for the rest of the afternoon.

That night, Hunt worked with General Tyler of the Artillery Reserve and their assistants repairing damage, refilling ammunition chests, and reorganizing decimated batteries, getting the guns ready for service by the next morning. At dawn on July 3, when the Twelfth Corps batteries opened the battle on Culp's Hill, Hunt was there to help direct their fire. When the fighting on the hill eased in late morning, he went to Cemetery Hill to inspect the batteries there, and observed the Confederate artillery buildup in plain view on the ridges to the west, which he allowed to proceed while he accepted what amounted to an "artillery truce." He knew that his carefully deployed batteries would prove very punishing enfilading fire on the rebels should they initiate an infantry charge.

At 1:00 that afternoon, when Hunt was on Little Round Top resting from his morning's inspection, the 150-gun Confederate cannonade commenced, aimed at the Union defenders on Cemetery Hill and Ridge, the target for "Pickett's Charge" scheduled for later in the afternoon. Hunt rode back to the Artillery Reserve to see about fresh batteries and ammunition, then forward to Cemetery Ridge. While the shells hissed and exploded among his batteries, Hunt moved up and down the line, checking the condition of his guns and crews and making sure they fired slowly and deliberately.

After an hour or so, in spite of his efforts at conservation, ammunition began to run low. It occurred to Hunt that if the Union batteries ceased firing, the Rebels might be fooled into thinking the time had come for the infantry assault, so he rode along the ridge

ordering his guns to go silent. Soon, about 3:00 P.M., the Confederate batteries stopped firing and the mile-long lines of Pickett's Charge appeared. Hunt did not react quickly, but his batteries which had fired slowly during the artillery duel and still had long-range ammunition in their chests, punished the attackers' flanks mercilessly.

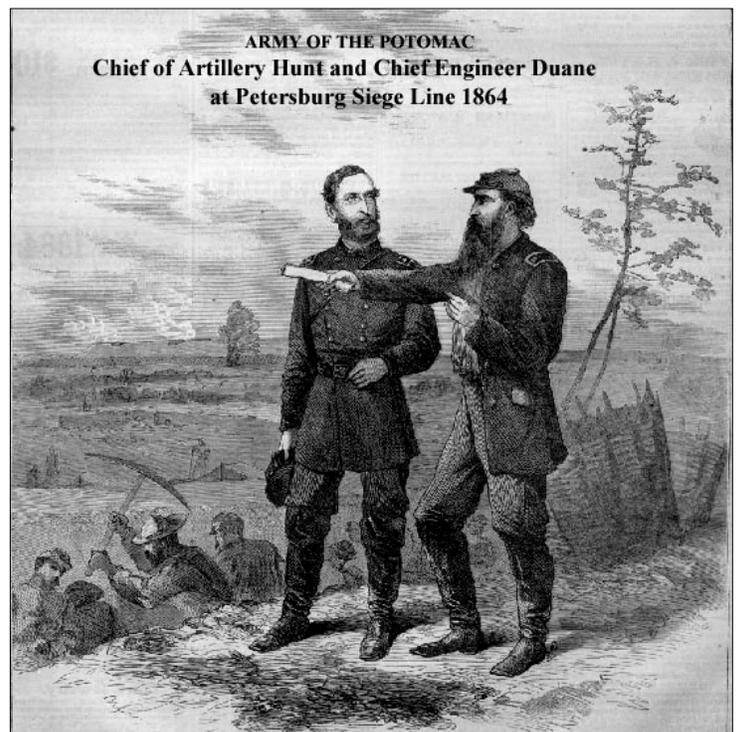
In the middle of the line, where Second Corps Maj. Gen. Hancock's batteries were facing the attackers head-on, the Confederates were relatively safer, because Hancock had ordered the guns under his command to keep blasting away during the earlier cannonade to inspire the infantry. They were now at this moment of crisis out of ammunition. Hunt was very critical of this action. He later wrote: "Had my instructions been followed here, as they were (elsewhere), I do not believe Pickett's Division would have reached our line. We lost not only the fire of one-third of our guns, but the resulting cross-fire that would have doubled its value" \*

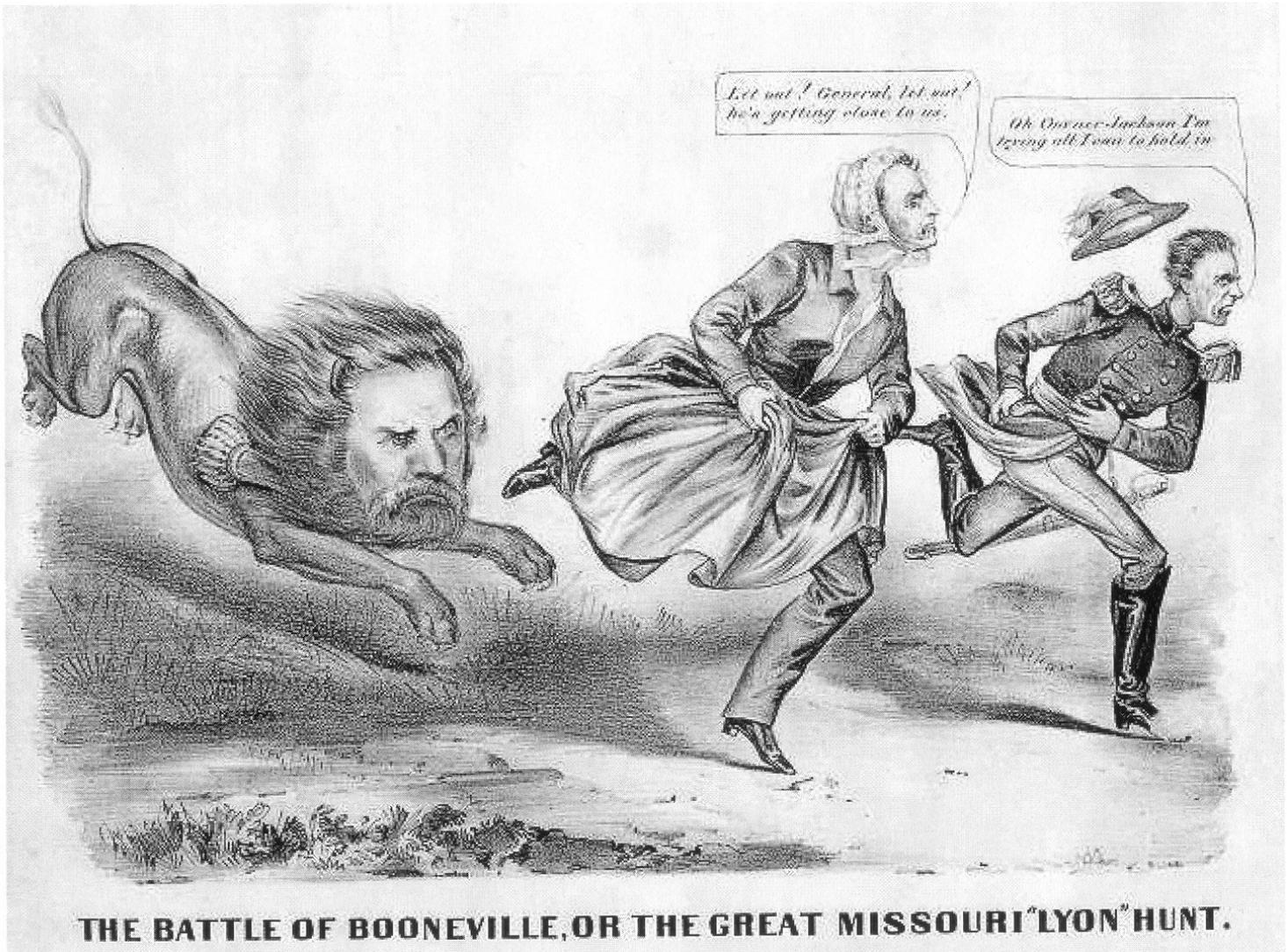
At the climax of the attack, as the enemy clambered over the wall and closed in on one of his batteries, Hunt appeared among the guns on horseback, firing his revolver into the Rebels until he went down, pinned beneath his dead horse. Pulled free, he mounted his sergeant's horse and spurred off. The battle was over soon afterward. Hunt continued as the indispensable chief of artillery for the rest of the war, but the last two years of the conflict offered few opportunities for spectacular employment of artillery. Hunt got along well with General Grant, who put him in charge of the Petersburg siege artillery operations starting in June 1864. He cooperated closely with the army's Chief

Engineer James C. Duane in this endeavor.

Hunt was breveted Major General in the volunteer and regular armies. Mustered out of the volunteers in May 1866, he remained in the regulars as Colonel until retirement in 1883. In retirement, until his death in 1889, he was governor of the Washington, D. C. Soldier's Home. Hunt was active in veteran's affairs and maintained life long friendships with his former colleagues, except Winfield Hancock and Joe Hooker.

\* For full text and rebuttal see B & L pages 375 and 385-87  
References: "The Man Behind the Guns", by Edward G. Longacre, 2003  
"Battles and Leaders", Vol. 3 Parts 1 & 2  
Bob Williams: 11-19-04





A jubilant Northern portrayal of the rout of Missouri secessionist governor Claiborne F. Jackson and Gen. Sterling Price at Booneville on June 17, 1861.

Here a lion with the head of Union commander Nathaniel Lyon chases Jackson (center) and Price toward the right. Jackson, wearing a woman's skirt and bonnet, cries to Price, "Let out! General, Let out! He's getting close to us." "Oh Govner Jackson I'm trying all I can to hold in," responds Price, as he clutches his stomach and rump.

Source: HarpWeek. Originally published by Currier and Ives.