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Deadline is 1:00PM, last
Wed. of the month 2 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:

Many thanks to long time member and former president Fred Bohmfalk for another of his splendid presentations. After over a year of planning last November's conference, he found the time to prepare an interesting talk summarizing the life and career of Confederate President Jefferson Davis and the elaborate funeral train which followed his death. Among several of our members, Fred travels to other round tables to share his knowledge. This tradition is important in keeping our west coast groups active. New speakers are also greatly appreciated, so we encourage those interested in giving a talk to come forward and let us know you're available.

Our board met January 26th and discussed recent events as Walmart's abandoning their Wilderness store plan, no Gettysburg casino decision and opening date at Gibson Ranch, but no information on Civil War activities. Paul Ruud discussed plans for the 2011 West Coast Conference which we will host, George Foxworth presented the annual treasury report, and Dennis Kohlmann announced newly acquired speakers. All members were very pleased with Brent ten Pas' recent issues and the highlighting of **Crossroads**, U. of Arizona History Professor Brooks Simpson's blog covering the Civil War. The information therein is voluminous and I highly recommend your attention to it. Thank you, Brent, for coming forward to edit *The Battle Cry*. It's reassuring that after years of enjoying Jim Middleton's excellent editorial performance we have been fortunate to have you succeed.

I hope our members look at our website on frequent occasions. Our webmaster, Kim Knighton, has done a magnificent job designing it and keeping it current. The meeting schedule is posted and an effort is made to provide a bit more information on each presentation. Archives of the newsletters go back at least ten years and there are links to the by-laws, annual conferences, other round tables, photographs, and much more. Suggestions for improvements or additions are appreciated. The site is found at sacramentocwrt.com.

Our next meeting will be at Sam's Hof Brau February 9th, 2011. Bob Bundy from Elk Grove's Round Table will speak on **Sacramento Remembers the Civil War**. We will also officially elect Brent ten Pas as Battle Cry editor. I would also like to welcome new members Roxanne Spizzeri, Scott Dmytrow, and James Cress. Please be sure to introduce yourselves to all of us. We are delighted to have you aboard. Come early for dinner and camaraderie.

Don Hayden, President

MINUTES

SACRAMENTO CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
Wednesday, January 12, 2011
HOF BRAU RESTAURANT, 2500 WATT AVENUE, SACRAMENTO

Attendance-44

Members-35

Don Hayden, President	Jerry Cress	Anne Peasley	Maxine Wollen
Silver Williams, Vice President	Scott Dmytrow	Rick Peasley	John Zasso
George Foxworth, Treasurer	Alan Geiken	Horst Penning	<u>Guest-9</u>
Eddie Keister, Secretary	Bob Hanley, MAL	Paul Ruud, IPP	Cathrina Barros
Joan Beitzel	Scottie Hayden	Nancy Samuelson	Gail Cretcher
George Beitzel	Nancy Hayden	Brad Schall	Keith Cretcher
Fred Bohmfalk	Nina Henley	Nicholas Scivoletto	Garrett Johnston
Rose Browne	Wayne Henley	Richard Sickert, MAL	Robert Schroder
Ardith Cnota	Dennis Kohlmann, PD	James Taff	Roxanne Spizzirri
Mitchell Cnota	Lowell Lardie	Brent Ten Pas	Richard Spizzirri
James Cress	Grace Long	Bob Williams	Larry Spizzirri
			Wayne Wash

1. The meeting started at 7:05 p.m. Before the pledge of Allegiance, member John Zasso passed out the correct wordage with proper punctuation. Members and guest welcomed and introduced.
2. It was announced that former congressman Doug Ose was given approval to operate Gibson Ranch. A reenactment at the ranch may or may not occur this year, but we are still looking for volunteers to serve as guides for student visitors.
3. President Hayden shared that 21 members from our club attended the 26th Annual West Coast Civil War Round Table Conference in San Francisco. The SCWRT displayed a poster regarding its hosting the 2011 conference in Sacramento.
4. The Renaissance Society, on February 11 at Sacramento State University, will host author Larry Tagg discuss his book; "The Unpopular Mr. Lincoln."
5. Member Fred Bohmfalk's presentation, entitled "Jefferson Davis' Last Train Ride" chronicled his career and the events that, ultimately, brought the former president of the Confederate States of America to his final resting place in Virginia. Slides also accompanied the presentation. Thank you Fred!
6. A raffle was held prior to the meeting's adjournment at 8:15 p.m.

Eddie Keister
Secretary

Treasurer's Report

The cash balance following the January 12, 2011 meeting was \$2,060.46. Thanks to John Zasso, other members, and guests, the raffle brought in \$79.00.

George W. Foxworth, Treasurer

THE BEAR WARS

By Adam Goodheart

(Originally published online at The New York Times, January 14th 2011, as part of a series entitled Disunion.)

Three thousand miles distant from the palmetto secession flags of Charleston and the “Don’t Tread on Me” banners of Savannah, another ensign of disunion flew – briefly – over American soil. This one appeared on an ordinary Wednesday above the town of Stockton, Calif., in the gold-mining district east of San Francisco.

Historical accounts are strangely silent about who raised it. But at some point during that day – Jan. 16, 1861 – citizens looked up to see it waving from the masthead of a surveying schooner moored in the Mormon Slough, a small body of water in the heart of the town. According to the next morning’s edition of the Stockton Argus, the silk banner depicted a “huge grizzly bear” standing amid a “wild mountain scene.” In one corner was a single white star on a blue background – similar to many of the secession flags back east. And across the top were the words “PACIFIC REPUBLIC.”



Library of Congress

Another version of the Bear Flag was adopted as California’s state emblem in 1911, after secession fever had safely dwindled.

This was not the first time that such a flag had been raised in the Golden State. Indeed, the original Bear Flag had appeared in 1846, when Anglo-American settlers in the then-Mexican state of California declared their independence, just prior to occupation by American forces. Four years later, the territory

was admitted to the Union as a free state – despite the efforts of Southern leaders like Jefferson Davis, who argued in the Senate that slavery was part of California’s natural destiny: “It was to work the gold mines on this continent that the Spaniards first brought Africans to the country. The European races now engaged in working the mines of California sink under the burning heat and sudden changes of climate, to which the African race are altogether better adapted.”

Slavery’s supporters on the Pacific Coast had never wholly conceded defeat. More than a few Southern gold prospectors took advantage of murky federal and state law and brought slaves with them – including to the area around Stockton. And California’s political leadership on the eve of the Civil War was still dominated by Southern sympathizers – voters called them the Chivalry faction, or the Chivs. No Northern state had more draconian laws restricting the lives and rights of its black inhabitants.

Little more than a year earlier, the enmity between Northern and Southern factions had erupted in an awful act of violence. In September 1859, one of the state’s senators, David Broderick (who had come to California from New York) was slain in a pistol duel by state Supreme Court Justice David Terry (a Kentucky-born Texan). Broderick’s dying words were reputed to have been, “They killed me because I was opposed to the extension of slavery and the corruption of justice.”

Yet even among Californians with little fondness for the South, it often seemed that only the most tenuous threads bound their state to the Union. California lay as far from the old Eastern states as could be; the quickest route from one American coast to the other was via a perilous sea voyage of four thousand nautical miles aboard a cramped steamer, with an overland trek across the Isthmus of Panama midway. The transcontinental telegraph line was still a year from completion; news from the East took two weeks to arrive via Pony Express.

Many of the Gold Rush settlers were rootless adventurers who felt no particular loyalty to any piece of land except those on which they’d staked their mining claims up in the hills. Thousands upon

thousands of foreigners had been drawn to the region, too: Europeans, East Asians and Latin Americans, many of whom had simply come to scoop up Yankee dollars before heading home, and whose allegiances were still with Prussia, or China, or Chile. Two other significant populations – the Mormons and the Mexicans – had every reason to hate the United States, a nation that had quite recently defeated them on the battlefield.

“We don’t care a straw whether you dissolve the Union or not,” a gold miner from Maine named Frank Buck wrote in 1860 to his sister back home. “We just wish that the Republicans and Democrats in the Capital would get into a fight and kill each other all off like the Kilkenny cats. Perhaps that would settle the hash.”

In short, California felt like a place wholly new. Why, then – a great many Californians reasoned – should it not be its own nation? Let the old states fight their old battles; this distant shore would turn its face away, toward its own destiny. In early 1861 – with the word “pacific” taking on a newly ironic double meaning – the moment for a Pacific Republic seemed to have arrived.

On the same day the Bear Flag appeared above Stockton, Jan. 16, a letter from one of California’s congressmen in Washington was published in the San Francisco Bulletin. “Our Union is gone without a doubt,” declared Rep. Charles L. Scott, a Virginia-born Democrat. If Lincoln attempted to subdue the South by force, he continued, the president would no doubt demand that Californians contribute men and money to the war – leading to probable civil war on the Pacific coast, too: “Sir, let such taxation be once attempted, and the beautiful valleys, hills, and gulches of California will flow with blood.”

Rather than accede, the congressman argued, Californians should secede – taking the opportunity to seize for themselves “our vast agricultural and mineral resources, and our geographical position with China, Japan, and the East Indies, and the trade generally with the East, which is now in its infancy.” Scott closed with this stirring peroration: “Let us set

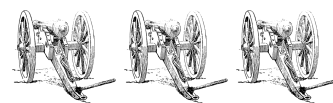
up for ourselves, and in a half century we will indeed have a grand, glorious, and mighty Republic, founded upon the sad experience of the past, but which will endure until time is no more.”

Whether Scott’s mighty new republic would come to pass remained to be seen. But the flag in Stockton, at least, did not endure for long. Local Unionists managed to cut its halyards, then sent a small boy shimmying up the schooner’s mast to pull down the offending emblem.

And the next day, another flag mysteriously appeared above the town, this one hanging over Stockton’s main intersection, the corner of Main Street and El Dorado. It, too, showed a bear against a backdrop of California mountains. But this time, an enormous eagle was hovering above, with talons outstretched – and the terrified bruin was scampering toward a nearby patch of chaparral.

Sources: Delmar M. McComb, Jr., “Beat! Beat! Drums! A History of Stockton During the Civil War”; San Francisco Bulletin, Jan. 16, Jan. 18 and 19, 1861; James Miller Guinn, “A History of California”; H.H. Bancroft, “History of California”; Leonard L. Richards, “The California Gold Rush and the Coming of the Civil War”; Katherine A. White, ed., “A Yankee Trader in the Gold Rush; The Letters of Franklin A. Buck”; Robert J. Chandler, “Friends in Time of Need: Republicans and Black Civil Rights in California During the Civil War” (Arizona and the West, Winter 1982); Imogene Spaulding, “The Attitude of California to the Civil War” (Historical Society of Southern California Publications, 1912-13); Joseph Ellison, “Designs for a Pacific Republic, 1843-62” (Oregon Historical Quarterly, December 1930).

Adam Goodheart is the author of the forthcoming book “1861: The Civil War Awakening.” He lives in Washington, D.C., and on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, where he is the Hodson Trust-Griswold Director of Washington College’s C.V. Starr Center for the Study of the American Experience.



IN THE NEWS...

Walmart Abandons Plans to Build Supercenter on Wilderness Battlefield *(Civil War Trust, Press Release, January 26, 2011)*

Preservation community pleased with decision by retail giant to drop plans to build a supercenter within historic boundaries of Wilderness battlefield.

(Orange, Va.) – In an unexpected development, Walmart announced this morning that it has abandoned plans to pursue a special use permit previously awarded to the retail giant for construction of a supercenter on the Wilderness Battlefield. The decision came as the trial in a legal challenge seeking to overturn the special use permit was scheduled to begin in Orange County circuit court.

“We are pleased with Walmart’s decision to abandon plans to build a supercenter on the Wilderness battlefield,” remarked James Lighthizer, president of the Civil War Trust. “We have long believed that Walmart would ultimately recognize that it is in the best interests of all concerned to move their intended store away from the battlefield. We applaud Walmart officials for putting the interests of historic preservation first. Sam Walton would be proud of this decision.”

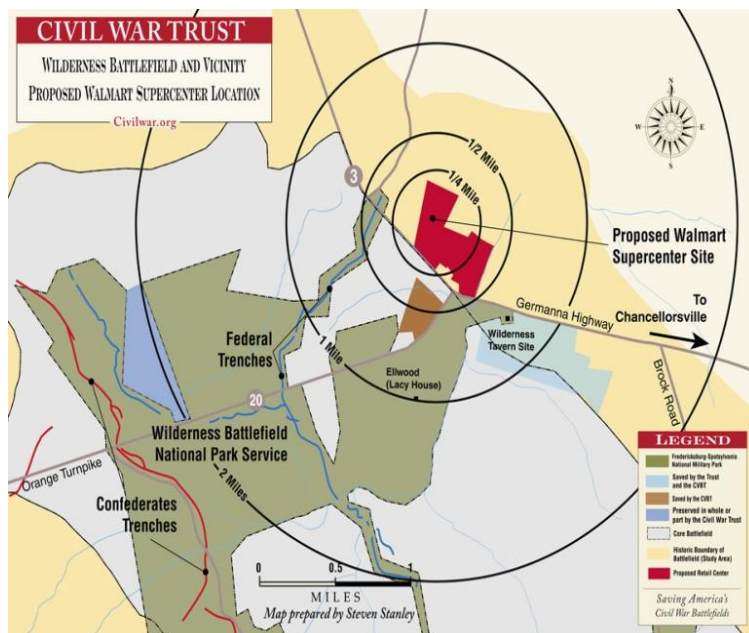
The Civil War Trust is part of the Wilderness Battlefield Coalition, an alliance of local residents and national groups seeking to protect the Wilderness battlefield. Lighthizer noted that the Wilderness Battlefield Coalition has sought from the very beginning to work with county officials and Walmart to find an alternative location for the proposed superstore away from the battlefield.

“We stand ready to work with Walmart to put this controversy behind us and protect the battlefield from further encroachment,” Lighthizer stated. “We firmly believe that preservation and progress need not be mutually exclusive, and welcome Walmart as

The Battle of the Wilderness, fought May 5–6, 1864, was one of the most significant engagements of the American Civil War. Of the 185,000 soldiers who entered combat amid the tangled mass of second-growth trees and scrub in Virginia’s Orange and Spotsylvania counties, some

30,000 became casualties. The Wilderness Battlefield Coalition, composed of Friends of Wilderness Battlefield, Piedmont Environmental Council, Preservation Virginia, National Trust for Historic Preservation, National Parks Conservation Association, and Civil War Trust, seeks to protect this irreplaceable local and national treasure.

The Civil War Trust is the largest nonprofit battlefield preservation organization in the United States. Its mission is to preserve our nation’s endangered Civil War battlefields and to promote appreciation of these hallowed grounds. To date, the Trust has preserved nearly 30,000 acres of battlefield land in 20 states. Learn more at www.civilwar.org.



FEBRUARY DURING THE CIVIL WAR

1861

1st Texas secedes

9th Jefferson Davis elected President of Confederacy

11th As President-elect Abraham Lincoln begins his journey to Washington D. C. from Springfield, Illinois, President-elect Jefferson Davis journeys from Vicksburg, Mississippi to Montgomery, Alabama to accept the Presidency of the Confederate States.

1862

13th Battle of Fort Donelson

25th "Bull" Nelson enters Nashville, Tennessee, first Confederate state capital to fall into Union hands. Don Carlos Buell accepts the city's surrender. Nathan Bedford Forrest provides a rear guard for Hardee's Army of Central Kentucky as it withdraws to Alabama.

1863

3rd The French offer to mediate the Civil War

16th U. S. Senate passes the Conscription Act

1864

10th President Lincoln tries to rescue 6 horses from the White House stables during a fire.

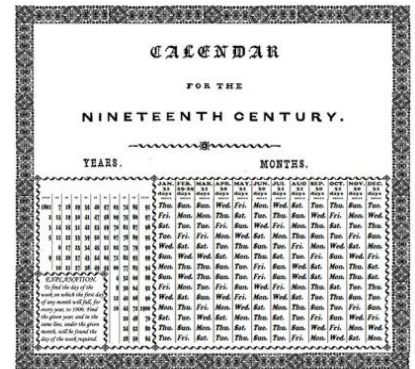
22nd Crisis in the Lincoln Administration over the Pomeroy

Circular backing Treasury Secretary Salmon P. Chase as Republican candidate for President in the 1864 elections

1865

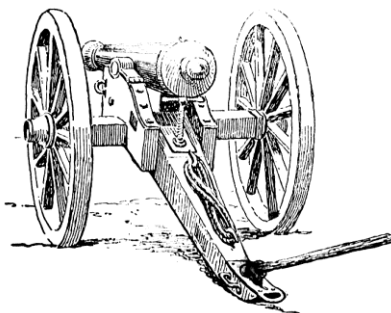
1st Gen. William T. Sherman begins Carolina Campaign

17th Columbia, South Carolina surrenders



DID YOU KNOW?

Seventy seven Confederate generals and forty-seven Union generals were killed or mortally wounded in action, meaning 18 percent of Confederate generals and 8 percent of Union generals died from battle wounds.



CIVIL WAR BLOG SPOTLIGHT

Gettysburg Daily

This blog daily provides an intimate encounter with the Gettysburg National Military Park. Licensed battlefield guides utilize photographs, videos, and maps to bring the battle and the park to your desktop. Whether it be stunning pictures of monuments and markers buried in snow drifts, vista panoramas, time sequential photos of key landmarks or terrain, maps detailing troop positions, or videos of guides expounding on personalities and events; there is something for anyone interested in one of the most significant battles to shape the Civil War.

You can find Gettysburg Daily at www.gettysburgdaily.com