



Battle Cry

Founded 1961,
Newsletter of the Sacramento Civil War Round Table
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

The Sacramento Civil War Round-table has committed ourselves to helping run the student portion of the Civil War events at Gibson Ranch Regional Park on Friday May 3rd. To the best of my knowledge this is the only public service task which our Civil War Round-table performs. We will also support public information at the event on Saturday and Sunday May 4th and 5th where club members will attend our Sacramento Civil War Roundtable booth. We will perform as we have in the past providing escort services to the groups of children from schools spread across a number of counties in the greater Sacramento area.

I spoke at length with Doug Ose, who is the manager of Gibson Ranch. I was looking to get an overview of how things were stacking up and what expectations he had for the event. At this point the student attendance is projected at between 1200 and 2000 which is consistent with the projections we had for 2011 and 2012. Doug simply needs to obtain final forecasts from the schools.

We will probably schedule as many as three groups that we will guide through the demonstration course. That is typically two groups in the morning and one group after lunch. We have required fifteen volunteers from our organization in recent years. I told Doug that should we fall short of guides, we would look to Gibson Ranch to provide the additional people, as we had in the past. We need to let him know how many participants we will have so that he can plan for the additional folks. George Foxworth will maintain the sign-up lists which will be available to sign at monthly meetings.

I told Doug that some of us had discussed the viability of the event. It seems that the re-enactor organizations were having limited success in replacing members who left their organizations. Re-enactor opinion was that young people were not coming forward as they had in the past.

The National Civil War Association (NCWA) is the reenacting entity that takes the lead on organizing the re-enactor participants. We will have re-enactors from throughout California and adjacent states. Last year we had Cavalry participants from Nevada as well as California.

Bob Hanley, President

MINUTES
SACRAMENTO CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
Wednesday, January 9, 2013
HOF BRAU RESTAURANT, 2500 WATT AVENUE, SACRAMENTO

ATTENDANCE – 34

MEMBERS - 22

Roy Bishop
Ardith Cnota
Mitch Cnota
James Cress
Jerry Cress
George Foxworth, Treasurer
Monica Foxworth
Alan Geiken
Bob Hanley, President
Don Hayden, IPP
Scottie Hayden
Nina Henley, MAL
Wayne Henley, MAL
Dennis Kohlman, PD

Anna Peasley, VP
Rick Peasley
Horst Penning
John Rice
Richard Sickert
Roxanne Spizziri
Maxine Wollen, SEC
John Zasso

Charles Johnson
Lee Kitchens
T.J. Meekins
Bill Petersen
Larry Spizzirri
Richard Spizzirri
Sharon Taillefer
Ray Valdez

GUESTS - 12

Skip Baker
Esther Boeck
Wade Chandler
Richard Hurley

1. The meeting was called to order by Pres. Bob Hanley at 7:00 pm.
2. Bob led the Pledge.
3. Next he welcomed guests.
4. He introduced the speakers, Richard Hurley and T.J. Meekins. They have co-authored the book “Queen of the Northern Mines”; this book has been recommended reading by Bob Hanley recently. At the start of the Civil War, the environment in CA was that of a pastoral nature, populated with Mexican settlements. They were virtually free of Mexican government, due to the difficulty of travel at that time. The Mexican War Treaty had been signed a few days before the discovery of gold. After the discovery of gold, Ca saw an influx of 250,000 immigrants, most of whom were from the U.S. CA wanted statehood, but the gov’t in Washington was concentrating on the slavery issue. The southern influence was very strong, but CA was admitted as a free state, as no one in the mines wanted to compete with free slave labor.
5. Bob thanked the speakers and presented them with a bottle of wine.
6. John Zasso conducted the raffle.
7. The meeting was adjourned, but the secretary did not note the time.
8. A board meeting was held immediately after.

Board Meeting

The topic of discussion center around Doug Ose. He has been in touch with the re-enactors and wants to know if we are committed to be there for the school kids on May 3. We will need 15 people. Doug is trying to get 3 rounds. Bob will call Ose to co-ordinate our involvement, if any. George stated that the Group should make a donation to the Civil War Trust, as we didn’t make any donation in 2012.

Treasurer’s Report

The cash balance at the end of the meeting on 1-9-13 was \$2,968.56. Thanks to John Zasso, members & guests, the raffle brought in \$49.00.

George W. Foxworth, Treasurer



BOOK REVIEW



Benjamin Franklin Cooling. *Fort Donelson's Legacy: War and Society in Kentucky and Tennessee, 1862-1863.* Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1997.

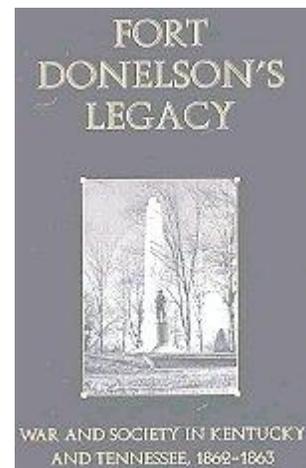
In recent years, Civil War scholars have departed from the traditional mold in which military is generally cast. Although the "New Military History" is much like the modern American South in that one does not really know what it is (or where it is), but one knows it when one sees it (or is in it), Benjamin Cooling has clearly given us a work that should be considered the "New Military History." *Fort Donelson's Legacy* has the essential markings of a keen social and military history of the war in Kentucky and Tennessee in 1862 and 1863. His work adds to those that seek to bring the war into proper political, social, and cultural context, among them Cooling's earlier book, *Fort Henry and Fort Donelson: The Key to the Confederate Heartland* (1987).

Cooling develops a conceptual framework around the relationship between people and place, or what he calls "the confluence of war and society" (p. xiv) in the context of the Civil War in the West. Within this broad context, he also develops themes of command relationships, political-military relationships, and, most importantly, the relationship between the home front and the battle front.

If, as the Prussian theorist of war Karl von Clausewitz contended, war is simply the extension of politics--or politics by other means as some contemporary scholars have phrased it--then Cooling finds in Kentucky and Tennessee perhaps the best case study of the elements that reflect the essence of Clausewitz's maxim. As Cooling argues, the war in Kentucky and Tennessee in 1862 and 1863 would have pleased Clausewitz because it mirrored his wisdom about the waging of war itself and the societies that wage it.

Cooling's work illustrates what he calls the "symbiosis of war and society as the principal legacy of spectacular Union victories at Forts Henry and

Donelson in February 1862" (p. xiii). These victories on the Tennessee and Cumberland rivers in Middle Tennessee might have ended the war, he contends, if the Union high command had exploited them properly. The Union's failure to do so produced a ruthless war that transcended armies and cut deep into the social foundations. According to Cooling, the war after Henry and Donelson bore the legacy of an amphibious conquest of the Mississippi Valley that ultimately produced the army-navy Union leadership combination that reclaimed the trans-Appalachia West for the nation. In the process, however, the Union's penetration into the southern heartland resulted in civilian defiance, guerrilla warfare, and destruction of property. This socially and culturally destructive legacy reflected the consequences of the war's transitional phase.



The war in the West was from the beginning a war of occupation involving distance, logistics, cavalry raids, and battles, but the Confederate loss of the twin river forts heightened the political and social consciousness of the devastating implications of military defeat. The battles of Shiloh, Perryville, Murfreesboro, Vicksburg, Chickamauga, and Chattanooga, as well as numerous bloody sideshows, demonstrated that heightened awareness of the perils of military occupation. Although the Union managed to re-open and regulate commercial and communicative intercourse on the western rivers, neither political nor social stability developed as a result. Instead, Cooling argues, in what he considers a little acknowledged legacy of the Fort Donelson loss, the loss of the fort initiated political reconstruction, suppression of civil

disobedience, and the restoration of cultural and economic institutions by outside authority.

Because the war in Kentucky and Tennessee in 1862 and 1863 was one of occupation after Donelson, it remained preeminently a river war. Henry Halleck, Ulysses S. Grant, William T. Sherman, and Don Carlos Buell considered rivers quite useful in campaigning during this period. Sherman and Grant had no doubt learned something about the usefulness of the river at the expense of Buell, whose Chattanooga campaign in the summer of 1862 demonstrated the inadequacy of campaigning by railroads. Nonetheless, Buell's Chattanooga campaign produced valuable lessons about the need to depart from limited war and embrace unlimited war. That war consisted of a persisting strategy of occupying the country in order to deprive the Confederates of agricultural and industrial resources, as well as manpower. These lessons led both sides, according to Cooling, to resort to a raiding strategy during the final year and one-third of the war that reflected an almost complete transition from soft to hard war.

Cooling argues that the confluence of war and society formed an important second legacy of the Fort Donelson campaign. Herein lies the major contribution of his work to Civil War scholarship. The fall of the river forts in February set in motion a process that fundamentally and irrevocably transformed the heartlander's way of life. Civil-military decisions were linked to social, political, and economic processes, and soon a people's war about defense of the homeland was also a contest about civil authority. The use of slaves in the Confederate effort prompted the Union to take action against property rights. Union commanders responded to the Confederate use of slaves by adopting emancipation measures that preceded political policy decisions by the Federal government. These measures provided the basis for considerable animosity between southern civilians and the Union's civil and military leaders who controlled occupation of the heartland during 1862-1863. When heartlanders hardened their attitudes and manifested their animosity by opposing such measures, Union leaders resorted to the suppression of civil liberties and to the confiscation of property.

Although these legacies unfolded slowly after Forts Henry and Donelson, the years 1862 and 1863 nonetheless became a transitional phase in the war in which failure taught both the Union and the Confederacy as much as success in moving into an unlimited societal conflict.

There is so much to recommend this book. The research is prodigious, the writing fluid, and the examination of the complex interplay of war and society in Kentucky and Tennessee through a transitional period is masterful. The result is a timely contribution that not only advances the scholarship of the war in the West, but that, by combining social and military history, also commendably serves as a model for what is both good and needed in Civil War studies.

Reviewed by Stephen D. Engle (Florida Atlantic University)

Published on H-CivWar (July, 1998)



Kendall D. Gott. *Where the South Lost the War, An Analysis of the Fort Henry-Fort Donelson Campaign, February 1862.*

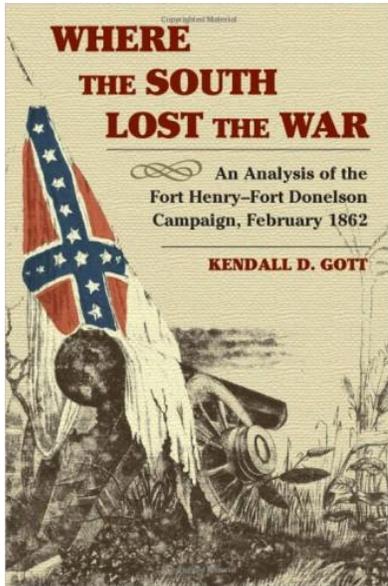
Many Civil War historians and enthusiasts seem to like nothing better than debating the “what ifs” of the conflict and, even more, insisting that this or that battle or campaign was the turning point of the war. Retired army officer and military historian in the Combat Studies Institute at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, Kendall Gott joins in the discussion by arguing that the South lost the Civil War in 1862 at Forts Henry and Donelson.

Others have written books and articles about these battles, but Gott’s careful research and straightforward writing has resulted in a book that is now the one to read.

He carefully sets the stage for the battle, geographically and politically, describes the military leaders on both sides and takes Jefferson Davis’s side in the argument over whether the Confederacy should

have traded space for time or defended the whole of its territory.

Gott argues that the Confederacy could ill-afford to give up any land and the natural resources, or factories, or food, or slavery that these various areas produced or supported. Davis, therefore, had no choice; he had to hold on to everything, and this meant a static defense anchored on forts guarding strategic points. (He does admit, however, that Davis gave most of his attention to the East, and “As history shows, the war was not lost in the eastern theater; it was decided in the West.”)



Gott provides a detailed tactical history of the battles that resulted in Union Gen. U.S. Grant’s and Adm. Andrew H. Foote’s victories at Forts Henry and Donelson. While giving credit to these and other Union leaders (even James B. Eads for building the ironclad river boats), Gott particularly emphasizes the incompetency of Confederate leaders in explaining the outcome of the battles.

“In the course of the war, there was no other parallel of such incompetence and incapacity. The campaign was lost not by the defeat of the Confederate army, but through its mismanagement and surrender by blundering leaders while it still had the will and the means to fight.”

In his criticism, Gott spares no Confederate leader. Officers made a gigantic blunder in the placement of Fort Henry in flood-prone ground, he writes, and then compounded it by not fortifying anything else beyond

it and Fort Donelson. Generals on site, namely John B. Floyd, Gideon Pillow and Simon B. Buckner, could not get along and were completely inadequate.

“Of all the Confederate commanders involved, [however] it is Albert Sidney Johnston who deserves the harshest criticism,” Gott concludes. Johnston failed as a leader and then in trying to make up for his failure by attacking Union troops at Shiloh, he lost again and died in the effort. “What if,” Gott ends his book by asking, what if the 21,000 Confederate soldiers captured at Fort Donelson had been available at Shiloh? What would the effect have been “upon the outcome of that battle, and indeed the war?”

John F. Marszalek

John F. Marszalek is Giles Distinguished Professor Emeritus of History, Mississippi State University. He is the author of numerous books including Sherman, As Soldier’s Passion for Order.



"His Terrible Swift Sword: February 1862

Julia Ward Howe: The Battle Hymn of the Republic;
from Reminiscences, 1819-1899

February 1862

Julia Ward Howe, a poet and the coeditor of the Boston abolitionist newspaper *The Commonwealth*, published "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" in the *Atlantic Monthly* for February 1862. The Poem was written during a visit she made to Washington, D.C., in late 1861 with her husband, the social reformer Samuel Gridley Howe, and the Republican governor of Massachusetts, John A. Andrew. Howe later recalled the circumstances of its composition in her 1899 memoir. The music of the song "John Brown's Body" was that of the hymn "Say, brothers, will you meet us?," while its words were collectively composed by the members of a Massachusetts militia

battalion in the spring of 1861. Despite its stirring sentiments, the "Battle Hymn" did not replace the singing of the "John Brown" lyrics among all Union soldiers, many of whom were partial to its line "They will hang Jeff Davis to a tree!"

BATTLE HYMN OF THE REPUBLIC

MINE eyes have seen the glory of the coming of
the Lord:
He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes
of wrath are stored;
He hath loosed the fateful lightning of His terrible
swift sword:

His truth is marching on.

I have seen Him in the watch-fires of a hundred
circling camps;
They have builded Him an altar in the evening
dews and damps;
I can read His righteous sentence by the dim and
flaring lamps:

His truth is marching on.

I have read a fiery gospel writ in burnished rows of
steel:
"As ye deal with my contemners, so with you my
grace shall deal;
Let the Hero, born of woman, crush the serpent with
his heel,

Since God is marching on."

He has sounded forth the trumpet that shall never call
retreat;
He is sifting out the hearts of men before His
judgment-seat:
Oh, be swift, my soul, to answer Him! be jubilant, my
feet!

Our God is marching on.

In the beauty of the lilies Christ was born across the
sea,

With a glory in his bosom that transfigures you and
me:

As he died to make men holy, let us die to make men
free,

While God is marching on.

Stephen W. Sears, editor. *The Civil War; The Second
Year Told By Those Who Lived It* (pps 24-25) New
York: Library of America.



DID YOU KNOW?

That Holt Collier had an unusual and renown Civil War career, but that he is most famous for the Teddy Bear. Born a slave in Mississippi in 1846 (the year varies in several accounts). His experiences included being a Confederate cavalry scout (when he accompanied his master and joined the Confederate Army at age 12), involvement in wild-west gunfights, and hunting trips to Mexico and Alaska. But Collier was best known as a bear hunter.

When President Theodore Roosevelt went to Mississippi in 1902 to hunt bear, Collier was selected to guide the party. Collier assured the President that he would bag a bear, "if I have to one up and bring it to you." Well, he practically did. Collier found a bear, but the President was elsewhere during the hunt. Collier tied it to a tree, brought Roosevelt to it, and everyone waited for the shot to be fired.

Although considered a conservationist, Roosevelt had recently been criticized for his cruelty in killing big game animals for sport. Roosevelt declined to shoot the tied-up bear. Among the reporters in the hunting party was cartoonist Clifford Berryman who satirized the scene for the Washington Post. A toy maker saw the cartoon and hit upon the idea of turning the bear into a stuffed toy. The rest, as we at the Smithsonian say, is history, which you can find at www.americaslibrary.gov.

(<http://civilwarstudies.org/trivia.shtm#08>)

