



Volume 51, No. 3
March, 2011
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Battle Cry

Founded 1961,
Newsletter of the Sacramento Civil War Round Table
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President's Message:

It was a delight to have Jacque and Bob Bundy visit us at our February meeting and hear Bob recount the stories of those bygone days in River City when the passions aroused by the War stirred up many of the residents and brought about those interesting incidents. I enjoyed learning that Sherman laid out the streets and that Edwin Booth cut his acting teeth in this community. The Bundys along with others in Elk Grove's Round Table have made monumental contributions to preserving the heritage of those valiant warriors in the Civil War, and we owe them a debt of gratitude for their efforts. Those of you who have participated in the annual observances at the Cemetery on Memorial Day are well aware of all the Elk Grove members have done over the years. I am happy that I picked up a copy of Chuck Davis and Bob's book on the Civil War Memorial Grove and I am planning on a visit to Capitol Park and the City Cemetery to see their handiwork. Thank you Jacque and Bob. Hope we'll see you again soon.

It seems we'll be returning to Gibson Ranch the weekend of May 20-22 so once again we'll be seeking volunteers on Friday to guide the school children around and to spend a half day at our table to greet passers-by on Saturday and Sunday. For those who have never joined us in these enterprises please consider doing so. You will find both activities interesting and educational.

The planning committee for the November Conference met this month. The speakers have been selected for several months and have confirmed and approved their topics. In future issues I plan to include a bio each month. The dates are November 11 through the 13th at the Doubletree on Arden Way. Registration forms will be distributed in the near future and we encourage all to attend. The announcement is on the website.

The board also met and discussed conference plans, Gibson Ranch, scheduled monthly speakers, and other issues. These meetings are held at Carrow's Restaurant at Sunrise and E. Douglas, Roseville, on the last Wednesday of each month at 9:30 AM. Members are welcome at any time and encouraged to attend.

March 9th we will welcome U.C. Davis Professor Tad Smith who will discuss *Financing the Confederacy*. Dr. Smith's avocation is history and his family was located in the Shenandoah Valley during the war. He was educated at Virginia Tech. We eagerly await meeting him and I'm sure we can anticipate an interesting and informative evening. Please be sure to join us.

Don Hayden, President

MINUTES

SACRAMENTO CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
Wednesday, February 9, 2011
Hof Brau Restaurant, 2500 Watt Ave, Sacramento

Attendance-40

Members-32

Don Hayden, President
George Foxworth, Treasurer
Edie Keister, Secretary
James Armstrong
Roy Bishop
Rose Browne
James Cress
Jerry Cress
Alan Geiken
Robert Hanley
Scottie Hayden

Nancy Hayden
Nina Henley
Wayne Henley
Pam Hubbard
Chuck Hubbard
James Juanitas
Dennis Kohlmann, PD
Lowell Lardie
Victor Le
Grace Long
Jim Middleton

Anne Peasley
Rick Peasley
Paul Ruud, IPP
Nancy Samuelson
Nicholas Scivoletto
Richard Sickert, MAL
Roxanne Spizzirri
Brent Ten Pas
Bob Williams
John Zasso

Guest-8

Shawn Brown
David Brown
Bob Bundy
Jacque Bundy
Capt. Bob Davis
Raoul Kleven
Bob Moore
Robert Schroeder

1. Meeting started at 7:00. Guest were welcomed and introduced.
2. Guest Robert Schroeder brought his collection of hand-painted miniature Civil War soldiers to share with the club.
3. Gibson Ranch will be open to have the May 20-22 re-enactment. We will need signups for volunteers to distribute to students around the camps.
4. Member Brent Ten Pas was elected editor of "Battle Cry." The vote was unanimous.
5. Member Paul Ruud spoke on our West Coast Conference to be held Nov. 11-13 at the Doubletree. All the speakers are confirmed.
6. Bob Bundy, a founding member of the Elk Grove CWRT, presented "Sacramento Remembering the Civil War." He shared the personalities and conflicts between supporters on both sides. He also discussed the trees in Capital Park, brought from Civil War battlefields, and his club's efforts to continue the upkeep. Bob brought two books he had written on both subjects, to sell and autograph. Thanks Bob.
7. Raffle was held and meeting adjourned at 8:37.

Edie Keister
Secretary

Treasurer's Report

The cash balance following the February 9, 2011 meeting was \$1,924.89. Thanks to John Zasso, other members, and guests, the raffle brought in \$82.00.

George W. Foxworth, Treasurer

A GREAT BRONZE TARNISHED BY NEGLECT

By Michael F. Bishop

(Originally published in The Wall Street Journal, on January 8th 2011, and is reprinted here with author's permission.)

Washington

The most artistically accomplished memorial in Washington, D.C.—as well as the most overlooked—is that of Gen. Ulysses S. Grant. It celebrates not just its namesake but the brave men who carried out his orders in the face of danger and death. Shorn of the allegory and sentiment common to so much commemorative art, it vividly and unsparingly depicts what Kathryn Allamong Jacob calls, in "Testament to Union: Civil War Monuments in Washington, D.C.," "the harsh face of war in the awful beauty of richly detailed men and horses rushing to battle."

The genesis of the memorial was a 1901 act of Congress which appropriated \$250,000 for the effort and established a commission to select a sculptor. A year later a jury that included Augustus Saint-Gaudens and Daniel Chester French—sculptor of the monumental statue of the 16th president in the Lincoln Memorial—chose Henry Merwin Shrady. Mr. Shrady (1871-1922) was an unlikely recipient of the largest art commission ever awarded by Congress. He had earlier withdrawn from a business career due to ill health, and during his convalescence had discovered latent artistic abilities. Only 31 years old at the time of his selection, he had but a scant record of artistic achievement. The decision sparked an uproar by the rejected applicants. Detractors complained that family prominence and connections had influenced the choice. But after a review, the committee again selected Mr. Shrady.

The artist's devotion to the task was absolute. Laboring ceaselessly for two decades, he examined Civil War relics, dissected horses to study their anatomical structure and even joined the New York National Guard for four years to gain an understanding of the military.



The Grant Statue with the Cavalry Group

The memorial Mr. Shrady produced was unlike any other in the U.S. up to that time. It is vast, with a base 252 feet wide by 71 feet deep, and was the largest bronze-casting project ever undertaken. At its center stands an equestrian statue of Grant. Flanking him, albeit some distance away, are clusters of warriors: a Cavalry Group to the north and an Artillery Group to the south.

The Grant statue, together with its pedestal, stand nearly 40 feet tall and is one of the largest of its kind in the world. The general sits astride his favorite horse, Cincinnati; he is slouched, right arm akimbo, hat pulled low, gazing off in the distance with the cool dispassion for which he was famous. Cincinnati stands tense, head turned slightly to the left, nostrils flared, alert to the sound of battle. Around the statue's Vermont marble pedestal are four smaller plinths topped by bronze lions, each guarding the flags of the U.S. and of the Army.

But the true genius of the memorial lies in the flanking sculptures. They endow the memorial with a powerful immediacy by reminding us that great causes are not won without sacrifice and suffering. The Cavalry Group portrays seven men and their horses in the full chaos of battle. A horse and rider at the front have fallen, and the man behind them has covered his face, bracing for disaster. The fallen soldier appears to accept his fate with grim resignation. (The sculptor used mirrors to model the unfortunate man after himself.) The officer at the front shouts an order, sword aloft, oblivious to his fallen comrade. In his "Washington Sculpture: A Cultural History of Outdoor Sculpture in the Nation's Capital," James M. Goode justly deems the Cavalry Group to possess "more dramatic interest and

suspense than any sculpture in the city, and, indeed, in the nation."



The Artillery Group

The Artillery Group depicts six men and five horses shepherding a caisson and cannon through the battlefield. Beneath them is a roiling sea of mud and debris. An abandoned musket lies nearby, so realistically rendered that the viewer might try to pick it up. One of the men has given the signal to pivot right; his guidon, seemingly flying against the wind, has in fact just been flung backward. The horses are all restrained power, digging their hooves in the mud for purchase as they prepare to turn—save for one, whose continued forward movement seems strange until one notices his broken bridle strap. This horse's hooves are flung out far beyond the pedestal beneath; to stand beneath them is unsettling. The expressions of the men vary from stoic resolve to fearful exhilaration. The danger and fury of battle are rendered without glamour or pretense.

Two low-relief bronze panels on either side of Grant's pedestal represent the infantry. Completed by another sculptor working from Mr. Shrady's sketches, they were installed two years after the memorial's dedication. More conventional and less dramatic than the two sculpture groups, they nonetheless depict relentless forward movement. It is ironic, however, that the infantry, hurled by Grant against the works of Cold Harbor and so many other deadly entrenchments, should be somewhat overshadowed here.

The memorial was dedicated on April 27, 1922, the centenary of Grant's birth. Sadly, Mr. Shrady wasn't

there to see it. He had died two weeks previously, at age 50, overwork and exhaustion having destroyed his already precarious health.

Today the memorial is difficult to see to advantage because the Capitol Reflecting Pool, installed in 1970, blocks a direct approach from the front. This pointless water feature should be removed immediately and "Union Square," as the area is officially known, relandscaped to permit a proper viewing and appreciation of Mr. Shrady's masterpiece. And the memorial is tarnished by years of exposure and neglect. Perhaps the new Congress that recently convened behind the memorial will notice and take action. Both the artist and the man who helped Lincoln save the union deserve no less.

Mr. Bishop has held several government posts and is the former executive director of the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission.



UPCOMING SCWR T SPEAKER SCHEDULE

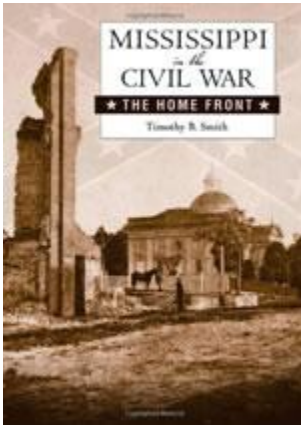
March 9	Tad Smith; "Financing the Confederacy"
April 13	Sheri Patton; "Women in the South"
May 11	John McKinsey; "To be determined"
June 8	Jim Lane; "The Sultana"
July 13	Ron Pershio; "To be determined"
Aug. 10	Jim Stanberry; "Union Amphibious Operations During the Civil War."
Sep. 14	Don Stoker; "Grand Strategy During the Civil War."
Oct. 12	Nancy Samuelson; "Sanitary Commission."
Nov.	No meeting
Dec. 14	Paul Ruud; "What Did They Do After the Civil War."



BOOK REVIEW



Mississippi in the Civil War: The Home Front. By Timothy B. Smith (December 2010 *Civil War News*)



Illustrated, maps, notes, index, 260 pp., 2010, Mississippi Historical Society, www.upres.state.ms.us \$40.

This book examines the social, economic and political fabric of Mississippi from the heady days of secession through the loss of Jackson and

Vicksburg, and then the occupation of the state by Federal troops.

Those who are familiar with John K. Betterworth's *Confederate Mississippi: The People and Policies of a Cotton State in Wartime* will be delighted to find that the author has used this study as the foundation for his research.

Timothy Smith, descendant of a long-time Mississippi family, probes the question "Why did the Confederacy Lose the War?". His thesis is that while one needs an army to defeat a foe, the army needs home-front logistical support to remain effective. The author uses the metaphor of a wagon wheel to explain his examination of the Mississippi home front. The hub is made of the politicians who took Mississippi out of the Union and established the policies and procedures by which they thought Mississippi would survive and flourish under the Confederacy.

Radiating out from the hub are four spokes: government, military affairs, infrastructure and economy. These spokes are held to the hub by the wheel's rim that encompasses the state's population:

male and female, white and slave, pro-Union and pro-Confederate.

As long as all these elements of the wheel work as one, the wheel functions as designed. However, if these parts cease to work in tandem they put a strain on the wheel that leads to its collapse. In his 10 chapters the author examines how the slow deterioration of Mississippi's social, political and economic elements during the period 1861-1865 resulted in the collapse of Mississippi's will to continue the struggle.

The author sets the stage for his discussion of Mississippi during the Civil War by examining the state's secession convention. He points out that it was dominated by slave owners whose concern was to protect the institution of slavery. He describes as false later reports of unanimity among all the delegates for secession.

In chapter two Mississippi's wartime state government is examined and found wanting. The author's premise is that in order for a government to be a government it must govern, i.e. it must provide essential services to its people.

Smith details the wartime decline in the ability of the state's legislative, executive and judicial branches to function. By 1864, the state could not collect taxes, provide relief to the destitute, or defend its people.

Chapters three to five examine Mississippi's military structure to see how it functioned and how it failed to function. The author recounts the recruiting and arming of an army by the state and its destruction on various battlefields.

Then he studies the effects of both the Federal and Confederate hard-war policies concerning private property; both sides burned it. Smith is even-handed in his discussion of the destruction of Mississippi's infrastructure by noting that the Confederates destroyed as much of Mississippi's rail and water transportation system as did the Federals.

Next he delves into the state's tax and financial matters. Mississippi's economy was based on credit to plant cotton. The war cut off this

financing, and there was no influx of hard money to pay debts.

Chapters six to ten look at Mississippi's society and how the war affected it. The author considers the interplay of its diverse people as the war moved into 1863 and beyond.

The initial burst of patriotism was crushed under the relentless demands placed on Mississippi by both the Confederate and Federal governments. Smith provides a nice overview of the collapse of the Mississippi through actions and reactions within its social and political framework.

I have one minor quibble concerning what I perceive as an unfair portrayal of the pro-Union population. They are often pictured as being pro-Union only for economic gain. I would counter that this same "vice" can be attributed to many of the pro-Confederates because they were primarily protecting their right to hold African-Americans as property.

Those interested in why the Confederate military logistical system collapsed will find much of interest in this well-written book. Hopefully the author will expand some of the book's chapters into a much broader discussion of these intriguing issues.

Reviewer: Charles H. Bogart

Charles H. Bogart has a BA in history from Thomas More College and an MA in urban planning from Ohio State University. He is the historian for Frankfort, Kentucky's Fort Boone Civil War Battle Site.



DID YOU KNOW?

Vicksburg National Cemetery, established by an act of Congress in 1866, has the distinction of having the largest number of Civil War internments of any national cemetery in the United States. After the establishment of the cemetery, extensive efforts were made to locate the remains of the Union soldiers throughout the Southeast and move them to Vicksburg, Mississippi, for re-internment. Of the approximate 17,000 Union veterans buried there, only 5,000 are identified. Vicksburg is also the final resting place for veterans buried there, only 5,000 are identified. Vicksburg is also the final resting place for veterans of the Mexican and Spanish American Wars, World Wars I and II, and the Korean Conflict. The cemetery is closed and no longer accepts burials; the last reservation was made in 1963.



CIVIL WAR BLOG SPOTLIGHT

Civil War Books and Authors

With the plethora of books churned out on America's Civil War, keeping up with new releases can prove daunting. The blog Civil War Books and Authors can make that task easier as Andrew Wagenhoffer, a book reviewer published in *North & South*, *Blue and Gray*, and *On Point*, keeps his reader frequently apprised of new releases accompanied with brief reviews.

You can find Civil War Books and Authors at <http://cwba.blogspot.com/>