



# Battle Cry

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



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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.

## President's Message:

I don't think we had even made it to "baggage claim" after our return on Saturday night when it became clear that the word on the street was-Wednesday night's meeting was wonderful. Joan Beitzel dazzled a large crowd with a marvelous combination of history and passion that was even sprinkled with genealogy. I'm sure that Dennis expressed the gratitude of those present, but permit me to add my own. Joan, I hope that there is another opportunity for me to hear your presentation.

About six or seven years ago, the SCWRT was meeting at the Hofbrau. Then, as now, you folks were generally content, but there was a problem. We were victims of our own success—crowds were becoming larger than what our meeting room could accommodate. We made the decision to move—after two or three switches around town; we were of a size where we once again fitted into the Hofbrau. When Sizzlers on Fulton closed, we were quite pleased to return. Well, it is "déjà vu" all over again as Yogi would say—new members are lining up to join and we once again need to evaluate the situation. Your board is very willing to get to work, but we need as much data as we can possibly find. **If you have a thought on a good meeting place, please let one of us know.** Here are some ballpark criteria:

- (1) The new place should comfortably seat 60 or more. The 60 is a soft number, but if we are going to take ourselves through the turbulence of a move, the improvement should be maximized.
- (2) We have always insisted that the membership be able to come to the meeting place early, and enjoy dinner or a glass of wine before the meeting. We have avoided situations where eating is required, meal counts must be turned in in advance, etc. The administrative headaches in those situations are disproportionate to the benefit.
- (3) The meeting night is not totally sacred, but people have adjusted their calendars to enable attendance on the second Wednesday, so we'll start from there.

A couple of thoughts in closing—remember **Friday, May 18<sup>th</sup>**, bright and early at Gibson Ranch to escort students. Check out the web site [www.sacramentocwrt.com](http://www.sacramentocwrt.com) The major changes will take a few months, but early changes are noticeable. Thanks to Don Hayden.

**As you read this Battle Cry, Bob Hanley is busy shaping his talk for Wednesday night, April 11<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 PM at the Plaza Hofbrau! He will tell us everything we need to know about the Evolution of the Railroad during the Civil War. Bring your neighbor! I look forward to seeing you at the Hofbrau.**

**Paul Ruud, President**

## Treasurer's Report

The cash balance following the March 14, 2007 meeting was \$1,789.12.  
Thanks to members and guests, the raffle brought in \$113.00.

**George W. Foxworth, Treasurer**

**MINUTES**  
**SACRAMENTO CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE**  
**MARCH 14, 2007**  
**HOF BRAU RESTAURANT, WATT AVE, SACRAMENTO**

Attendance-53

Members-46

Dennis Kohlmann, Vice President  
George Foxworth, Treasurer  
Edie Keister, Secretary  
Dudley Albrecht  
Joan Beitzel  
George Beitzel  
Ken Berna  
Roy Bishop  
Fred Bohmfalk  
Terry Bowen  
Ardith Cnota  
Mitchell Cnota  
Irene Cole

Evan Cole  
Lydia Donaldson  
William Donaldson  
Brad Friedman  
Alan Geiken  
Kyle Glasson  
Robert Hanley  
Scottie Hayden  
Don Hayden  
Pam Hubbard  
Chuck Hubbard  
Shelly Jones  
James Juanitas

Fred LaDeane  
Lowell Lardie  
Victor Le  
Mary Lou Lentz  
Ken Lentz  
Phil Mendes  
Susan Katt  
Leslie Michaels  
Jim Middleton  
Vivian Miller  
Betty Mitchell  
Maurice Mitchell  
John Nevins

Brad Schall  
Richard Sickert  
Drew Van Winkle  
Robert Williams  
Susan Williams  
Maxine Wollen  
John Zasso  
Guest-7  
Earl Dekoker  
Susan Evans  
Laurel Hayden  
Nancy Hayden  
Stu Howe  
Horst Penning  
Nicholas Sciroletto

1. Meeting started at 7:00. Vice President Dennis Kohlmann stood in for absent President Paul Ruud. IPP Don Hayden read a letter from the Civil War Preservation Trust thanking us for our donation. Member John Nevin told of a writing contest for children unable to attend the re-enactment at Gibson Ranch. A few volunteers will be needed to help judge the entries.
2. The Las Vegas 2007 conference was mentioned. Guest and members were welcomed. Member Richard Sickert, back from Charleston, shared a photograph of the graves of the members of the C.S.S. Hunley in Magnolia Cemetery. Don Hayden told members about our new website, and suggested we take a look.
3. Member Joan Beitzel presented her talk- "Chimborazo Hospital." A fascinating presentation on the building, personalities, and hardships at this hospital during the war. Photographs by member Bob Williams accompanied the presentation from his trip there. Thanks Joan!
4. Raffle was held meeting adjourned at 8:40.

Welcome new member Sterling Bowen (Terry)!

Edie Keister  
Secretary

<b>Coming Programs 2007</b>		
<b>Month</b>	<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Topic</b>
April 11 <sup>th</sup>	Bob Hanley	Evolutionary Role of Railroads in the American CW
May 9 <sup>th</sup>	Phil Avila	Wade Hampton, Confederate Cavalry General
June 13 <sup>th</sup>	Walt Bittle	In the Footsteps of Lincoln

### **Trivia Questions for the upcoming meeting.**

1. **What was the name of the Confederate engine stolen in a Yankee raid into Georgia? Was it: A. Grant, B. General, C. Ulysses.**
2. **How many railroads were in existence at the beginning of the Civil War? Was it: A. 200, B 300, C. 50.**
3. **Appomattox Courthouse was closest to:**
  - A. **The Virginia and Tennessee Railroad**
  - B. **The Southside Railroad**
  - C. **The Manassas Gap Railroad**

**Come to the meeting and Bob Hanley will answer the questions.**

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### **Book Review: Submitted by "Terry" Bowen**

**"Friends in Peace and War": The Russian Navy's Landmark Visit to Civil War San Francisco (Military Controversies) By: C. Douglas Kroll  
ISBN: 1597970549 – Publisher Potomac Books 1-15-2007**

Great friendship existed between the United States and Imperial Russia during the nineteenth century. The Old World Russian autocracy supported the young New World democracy because of the emerging U.S. role as a bulwark against Great Britain's ambitions, in Asia and in the North Pacific Ocean region especially. In fact, when the American Civil War threatened to divide the United States, Russia alone among the European great powers gave no aid or comfort to the seceding states. The surprise 1863 arrival of squadrons of Russian warships and thousands of Russian sailors in New York and San Francisco proved fortuitous, coming when the Union feared British and French intervention on the Confederacy's behalf. C. Douglas Kroll, using both Russian and U.S. documents, investigates why the Russian Pacific Squadron came to San Francisco, a port of departure for California and Nevada gold headed east; what happened during its nearly year-long visit; and how its presence influenced events. With the units of the U.S. Navy's small Pacific Squadron widely dispersed and Confederate commerce raiders on the loose, the Russians' arrival suggested to on-lookers that they intended to defend the Union against interference. Whether actively supporting the Union or training and refitting or both, the Russian officers and sailors endeared themselves to San Francisco's citizens. Parades and balls, as well as dinners hosted by both sides, helped San Franciscans overlook the various differences they had with their Russian visitors. Kroll gives us a thorough examination of the Russians' visit and its social, diplomatic, and military impact.

# Civil War Preservation Trust

January 28, 2007

Dr. Donald J. Hayden  
President  
Sacramento Civil War Round Table  
PO Box 254702  
Sacramento, CA 95865-4702

Dear Donald and Friends of Preservation,

Incredible! I am overwhelmed and so appreciative of your support of the Civil War Preservation Trust through your recent unrestricted gifts of \$1,100 from the Sacramento CWRT, which was issued on 12/27/06. I would also like to specifically acknowledge Mr. Jeffrey L. Wissot for his \$300 gift and Mr. Thomas Keesee for his \$100.00 gift.

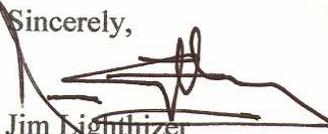
I am so grateful that you and friends are willing to help support and continue our efforts to preserve Civil War battlefields from runaway development.

Your donation will go far in helping CWPT in a crucial current project. It is my pleasure to acknowledge the part that you have played in this historic preservation effort.

I so appreciate your ongoing support of our land purchase projects. If you will allow me to take off my "official" hat for a moment, I would like to thank you personally as a fellow individual who cares about our history and the War. You are helping to ensure that these lands will still be there into the future so that my children and grandchildren may use them as outdoor classrooms; I appreciate it. You are doing a great thing.

So, thank you once again and please remember that you are the backbone of CWPT. Without you and your generosity, we could not be nearly as successful and these historic lands would succumb to the bulldozer's pitiless blade – lost forever under shopping malls, housing developments, highways and other sprawl. Thank you for holding the line with us. You are truly making a difference!

Sincerely,

  
Jim Dighthizer  
President

*Donald, Thank you!!*

*No goods or services were provided in return for this contribution*

## **A Short Summary of The Atlanta Campaign May-Sept. 1864**

After the Chattanooga Campaign (See *Battle Cry* 2-07 article) Bragg retreated 25 miles south to Dalton, Ga., and entrenched. Grant had not pursued, since he was concerned with going to Burnside's relief at Knoxville. As a result of public clamor, Bragg (who nobody liked except J. F. Davis) was relieved and was succeeded by Joseph E. Johnston (who everybody liked except J. F. Davis). The Confederates planned a new offensive into Tennessee and, during the winter of 1863-64, reinforced Johnston to about 62,000, including 2,000 cavalry under Joseph Wheeler. His corps commanders were Hardee, Hood, and (soon after the campaign started) Polk. After Grant was promoted to general-in-chief of all Union armies, he left his favorite subordinate, Major General William T. Sherman, in charge of the Western armies. Grant's strategy was to apply pressure against the Confederacy in several coordinated offensives.

Sherman had 106,000 men in seven infantry corps and a cavalry corps. George Thomas's Army of the Cumberland consisted of the following corps: Howard's IV, J. M. Palmer's XIV, Hooker's XX, and W. L. Elliott's Cavalry Corps. McPherson's Army of the Tenn. consisted of John A. Logan's XV, G. M. Dodge's XVI, and Francis P. Blair's XVII. Schofield's Army of the Ohio consisted of his XXIII Corps and Stoneman's cavalry. J. E. Smith's (3d) division of XV Corps, XVII Corps, and three cavalry brigades were designated to guard the lines of communications.

Sherman's orders from Grant were "to move against Johnston's army, to break it up, and to get into the interior of the enemy's country as far as you can, inflicting all the damage you can against their war resources." Since Atlanta was a vital supply, manufacturing, and communications center, (Early 1864 population was 18,000±, dropping to 6,000± by voluntary exodus and after Sherman's civilian

evacuation order. The latter, not rigorously enforced, resulted in only 1,650 removals.) Sherman advanced toward that City while Johnston was pressed back some 125 miles toward it. Key to Sherman's success, logistically, would be his rebuilding and maintaining the Western and Atlantic Railroad.

Sherman's advance started 7 May, about the same time as Grant, with Meade's Army of the Potomac, started the offensive in the east. Since Johnston's position at Dalton was too strong to attack, Sherman sent McPherson, preceded by Kilpatrick's cavalry division, to turn it from the west while Thomas advanced frontally along the railroad. Schofield threatened the Confederate right. This resulted in the actions around Rocky Face Ridge, 5-9 May '64. Johnston withdrew without becoming decisively engaged.

Johnston, now reinforced by Polk's corps, took up a strong defensive position. The actions around Resaca, 13-16 May, were followed by another withdrawal when Sherman threatened another envelopment from the west. Thomas had recommended that his army outflank the Rebels via the little known Snake Creek Gap road, but Sherman gave the assignment to McPherson instead. McPherson got "cold feet" on that lonesome road, and failed to attack; missing the "opportunity of a lifetime" according to Sherman.

Not finding favorable defensive positions either at Calhoun or Adairsville, as he had hoped, Johnston continued his retrograde. Sherman now advanced on a broad front, since the country had become more open. Garrard's cavalry, supported by Jeff C. Davis's division, captured Rome, Ga., an important manufacturing and supply point. Johnston planned to take advantage of his own relatively concentrated position around Cassville and Sherman's separated corps to strike a counterblow. While Hardee and Wheeler's cavalry checked the advance of McPherson and Thomas from the west and north, Hood on the right (east) was to attack Schofield as the latter moved with his smaller corps to attack Polk in

the Confederate center. Hood, however, was faked out of position by the advance of McCook's cavalry on his own right; instead of preparing to attack west, he faced east to meet what he thought to be a threat to his own right. The delay caused by this error spoiled the timing of Johnston's plan, and the Confederates withdrew to a strong defensive position south of Cassville.

On 19 May, Thomas closed in from the west and Schofield from the north. There was skirmishing until dark. Although Johnston had intended to defend here, Hood and Polk convinced him that their part of the line was too vulnerable to enfilade fire. Johnston, therefore, retired during the night of 19-20 May to Allatoona Pass.

Sherman found this position too strong to assault. After giving his army three days' rest, he undertook another turning movement. McPherson's Army moved on a wide envelopment through Van Wert and approached Dallas from due west. Schofield on the left and Thomas in the center approached from the north. This brought on the action at Dallas (New Hope Church), 25-27 May. Sherman then moved east again and forced Johnston to abandon his position to take up another one to protect the railroad. This led to the battle of Kennesaw Mountain, 27 June. Here Sherman deviated from his former strategy of turning, rather than assaulting, Confederate defenses; the result was a bloody repulse. Sherman's massive frontal assault against the well-entrenched Rebels was a bad mistake, in which he lost 3,000 men. And nothing was gained! In Thomas' words, "One or two more assaults like that will use up this army." The Rebel loss was 800. Polk was killed 14 June at Pine Mountain.

Johnston's next stand was on the Chattahoochee River, 4-9 July. Sherman again turned his position and Johnston withdrew to Peach Tree Creek. The evening of the 17th Johnston was relieved by Hood, who was known for his aggressiveness. Johnston's Fabian tactics had exasperated the Confederates, as they had the Romans. Hood had been a fairly

successful leader at brigade and division levels, but was flat-out unqualified to become an army commanding general. (Within the first 10 days his casualties were 15,000, 30% of his new command, and five months later he totally ruined his Army at Nashville on 16 Dec.) Truly and simply Hood was an extreme example of the modern day "*Peter Principle*". Sherman wrote later that by his appointment "the Confederates rendered us a most valuable service." (Some have reasoned that Hood's stupidity was an asset in that he did such dumb things opposing commanders had difficulty anticipating him.)

Sherman closed in on Atlanta from the north and east. McPherson executed the wide envelopment through Decatur. Thomas crossed Peach Tree Creek from the north. Schofield was between these wings. In the battle of Peach Tree Creek, 20 July, Hood suffered heavy casualties and failed to defeat Thomas's army while it was astride the creek. When Hood withdrew into the defenses of Atlanta, Sherman erroneously concluded that he was abandoning the city. As McPherson issued orders to move "in pursuit to the south and east of Atlanta," Hood sent Wheeler and Hardee on a 15-mile night march against McPherson's exposed south flank. This action, in which McPherson was killed, is known as the Battle of Atlanta, 22 July. The Confederates, however, were finally checked with a loss of about 8,500 as compared with a Union loss of 3,700.

McPherson's death precipitated a reorganization of command. Howard became C.G., Army of the Tennessee. Hooker, who ranked Howard and felt himself entitled to McPherson's post, resigned command of XX Corps and was succeeded by Slocum. Palmer, a little later, resigned command of XIV Corps because he did not want to serve under Schofield, whom he claimed was junior. Jeff C. Davis became C.G. of XIV Corps.

By 25 July, Sherman had invested Atlanta on the north and east. Hood's line of communications via the railroad to the south was still open, and Sherman now directed

operations to cut it. This resulted in two failures: Stoneman's and McCook's Raids, 26-31 July, and the battle of Ezra Church, 28 July.

July ended with Hood's holding Atlanta with 37,000 infantry reinforced by 5,000 Georgia State Militia under G. W. Smith. Sherman had 85,000 infantry. The only cavalry he had fit for field service was Garrard's division and a brigade that had joined Schofield after Stoneman's departure. Stoneman's division had been all but wiped out. (McCook's division had been dispersed and its fractions were seeking safety at various points on the Chattahoochee below the railroad.) Kilpatrick's cavalry division, which had been guarding communications to the rear, was ordered to relieve McCook's division in protecting Sherman's right flank.

In another effort to extend his lines west and cut Hood's rail lines to the, south, the XXIII Corps was moved from Sherman's left to the right and reinforced two days later by the XIV Corps. Positions thus evacuated were filled by Garrard's dismounted troopers in the former XXIII Corps sector, and by thinning the lines of the XX and IV Corps. This movement led to frustration on Utoy Creek.

Before Sherman could carry out his next plan, to move his entire force west of the Atlanta-Marietta R.R. and turn Hood's position by an advance south, he was diverted by Wheeler's Raid, 10 Aug.-10 Sept. On 16 August, Sherman learned that the bulk of Hood's cavalry was near Dalton. He decided to take advantage of this situation to raid Hood's line of communications and force him to retreat. Kilpatrick's Raid to Jonesboro, 18-22 Aug., was a failure.

Sherman then prepared to employ his infantry. The night of 25 Aug., he started regrouping his forces to turn Hood's west flank. On 27 Aug., his forces were on line along the Sandtown Road with Howard, Thomas, and Schofield from right to left. The next day Howard and Thomas reached the Montgomery and Atlanta R.R. at Fairburn and Red Oak Station, respectively. By midnight of 31 Aug.,

Schofield had cut the railroad at Rough and Ready; Thomas had cut it about halfway between that place and Jonesboro. Howard had closed up to the latter place from the west.

The night of 30 Aug. Hood, knowing of Howard's location but not that of the other two commanders, had sent the corps of Hardee and S. D. Lee to defend Jonesboro. The next day they made an unsuccessful attack. S. D. Lee was then ordered back toward Atlanta. Sherman then failed to destroy Hardee's isolated force. These actions are known as the battle of Jonesboro, Ga., 31 Aug.-1 Sept. '64.

Hood evacuated Atlanta at 5p.m., 1 Sept., and the XX Corps took possession the next morning. Sherman pursued Hood to Lovejoy but found him concentrated with his entire command in a position that was too strong to be assaulted. Union forces returned to Atlanta 4-8 Sept. Thomas' command occupied the town, Howard's was located at East Point, and Schofield's was at Decatur. Unable to advance farther, but determined to hold his gains, Sherman evacuated the Southern civilians from the City and converted it into an armed camp that could be held with the smallest possible force.

In Sept. Hood moved north to attack Sherman's 140 mile line of communications to Chattanooga, with the hope that this would force him to abandon Atlanta. This operation was the beginning of the Franklin--Nashville Campaign (See *Battle Cry* articles of 7-03 & 5-06). After frustrating Hood's threat to his line of communications and then leaving Thomas to take care of Hood's subsequent invasion of Tennessee, Sherman in Nov. 1864 cut loose from the new Union base in Atlanta and undertook his March to the Sea.

#### **References:**

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"Atlanta 1864" by Richard McMurry, 2000  
"Atlanta Will Fall" by Stephen Davis, 2001  
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"Official Records": S1V38P1-5, 1888

**Bob Williams:** 3-20-07

# Summary of the Atlanta Campaign Photo Page

## Principal Commanders



Sherman



Thomas



McPherson



Schofield



Slocum



Howard



Logan



Blaire



Dodge



J. C. Davis



Poe



Johnston



Hardee



Polk



S. D. Lee



Hood

## Atlanta and Vicinity, 1864

Photographs Courtesy of George Barnard

