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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  
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<http://sacramentocwrt.com/>



## President's Message:

Most of the diners at the Hofbrau back a couple of Wednesday nights ago didn't fully realize why spring was in the air! What they didn't know was that baseball had taken over in the back meeting room. Fred Bohmfalk said, "Play ball," and the rest of the evening was filled with memories and information. Who "invented baseball" seems to be shrouded with some of the same uncertainty as who "wrote taps!" A little mystery now and then adds intrigue! Thanks so much Fred for responding on such short notice! Our advertised speaker, George Beitzel, had an unanticipated encounter with a neighborhood bug, so his presentation on "the Rubber Room" will be re-scheduled. We trust that he is back to his fighting weight by now!

Don't forget - if you are one of the Gibson Ranch volunteers for Friday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, be prepared to saddle up and ride next month! Before that happens I will send some info with more details to the volunteers. If you want to be a player and didn't get signed up, don't worry! Just let me know, or in the worst case, just show up at the Gibson Ranch House at 8:15 AM on the 16<sup>th</sup>.

If you are looking for a little intensive Civil War therapy, consider going to a conference. The plum of the year for Californians appears to be the West Coast CW Conference sponsored by the San Joaquin CWRT on November 7, 8 and 9<sup>th</sup>. It will be held in Clovis (suburban Fresno) and the speeches will cover the campaigns in the Shenandoah Valley. A relatively large contingent from our Roundtable typically attends these events. If you have never attended one, give it a try and my guess is that you won't be disappointed.

In a few short months we will be looking for Roundtable officers for 2009. The positions of Secretary, Treasurer, and Battle Cry Editor are quasi-permanent in that we don't seek new applicants for them until the incumbents are unable to continue their service. That leaves the president, the vice president, and the two members at large to be elected for 2009. A factor to consider is that current practice has the Vice President also serving as the Program Chairperson. If you are willing to serve in any of these positions, just notify a current board member. Likewise, if you have someone else in mind, get their blessings so that if they were elected, they would serve, and then pass their name on to a board member.

Gettysburg is in our news for a couple of reasons: (1) It is the theme of the upcoming Gibson Ranch re-enactment and in that spirit, Don Hayden will make a Gettysburg related presentation out there on Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup>. Stand by for more details. Don will surely listen carefully on April 9<sup>th</sup> when Ray Bisio talks to us about "The Retreat from Gettysburg." Ray has spoken to us before - he is a former Gettysburg Battlefield guide loaded with both the facts and the myths of Gettysburg. Don't miss it - see you at the Hofbrau!

**Paul Ruud, President**

## Treasurer's Report

The cash balance following the March 12, 2008 meeting was \$2,197.55. Thanks to John Zasso, other members, and guests, the raffle brought in \$71.00.

**George W. Foxworth, Treasurer**

## MINUTES

SACRAMENTO CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE  
MARCH 12, 2008  
HOF BRAU RESTAURANT, WATT AVE, SACRAMENTO

Attendance-30

### Members-28

Paul Ruud, President	Brad Friedman	Betty Mitchell
George Foxworth, Treasurer	Alan Geiken	Maurice Mitchell
Eddie Keister, Secretary	Scottie Hayden	Horst Penning
Roy Bishop	Don Hayden	Nicholas Scivoletto
Fred Bohmfalk	Scott Hayden	James Taft
Terry Bowen	Grace Long	Robert Williams
Marsha Cain	Cressie Mendes	Susan Williams
Harvey Cain	Phil Mendes	John Zasso
Ardith Cnota	Jim Middleton	<u>Guest-2</u>
Mitchell Cnota	Vivian Miller	Capt. R.L. Davis
		Alex Stehl

1. Meeting started at 7:00. President Ruud welcomed members and guest. List for volunteers for Gibson Ranch in May sent around again still need a few more reinforcements. Info concerning "A Portrait of Lincoln" by the Stockton symphony was shared- Now 13 and 15. THIS DAY IN HISTORY read, and President Ruud filled us in on the 1903 World Series.
2. Our scheduled speaker member George Beitzel couldn't make it, so member Fred Bohmfalk spoke on "Baseball in the Civil War." He really shared the whole history from 1846 on. He had many photos to accompany his fun and fascinating presentation. Thank you Fred!
3. Raffle was held and our meeting adjourned at 8:30.

**Eddie Keister**  
**Secretary**

<b>Coming Programs 2008</b>		
<b>Date</b>	<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Topic</b>
April 9th	Ray Bisio	"Retreat from Gettysburg"
May 14 <sup>th</sup>	Silver Willams	"Civil War Spies"
June 11 <sup>th</sup>	Bob Hanley	"General Barlow"
July 9 <sup>th</sup>	Don McCue	"Abraham Lincoln"
August 13th	Harvey Cain	"Bicycling the Underground Railway"
Sept. 10th	"Ted Savas"	"Lincoln and Davis at War"

### **Brief Biography of Ray Bisio, our Next Program Speaker**

Ray Bisio is a civil War buff and has been one since 1963 when as part of the centennial of the Civil War he was introduced to the works of Bruce Catton and has been hooked ever since.

In 1990 he joined the ranks of the Civil War reneactor and since then his interest and knowledge of the American Civil War has grown. He has reenacted in most of the large eastern events and Europe as well.

In 1992, on his return from a reenactment in Europe he visited the National Park at Gettysburg for the first time. He was so taken with the park that he offered his services to the National Park Service as a VIP (Volunteer in Parks). He spent the next summers at Gettysburg as a program interpreter and battlefield guide. Ray also spent a few summers as a guide at the military park at Yorktown where he made presentations on aspects of the Revolutionary War and also led tours of the battlefield.

After forty-six years as a teacher and school administrator he retired in 1997 and spends some of his time traveling about the country as the invited speaker to various roundtables. In June of last year he again returned to Pennsylvania where he not only made a presentation the George Gordon Meade Society but also conducted a six day tour of the battlefield at Gettysburg for a group from California.

Ray has developed various programs on the Civil War but has concentrated in three areas: Medical aspects, Gettysburg and Music of the Civil War Soldier. He has presented his programs at many schools in California and also at Barstow College where he is guest lecturer on the Civil War.

Ray, a former marine, is a veteran of WWII and Korea.

He is currently involved in writing a book entitled "To The Edge of Greatness" which deals with General George Gordon Meade and his victory at Gettysburg.

# Mystic Chords of Memory: Lincoln Re-minds Us

By Diana Schaub

Posted January 31, 2007

*This article appeared in the Fall 2006 issue of the Claremont Review of Books published as "Mystic Chords of Memory."*

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The cornerstone of the Lincoln Memorial was laid in 1915 on Lincoln's birthday. Above the seated president runs the inscription: "In this temple, as in the hearts of the people for whom he saved the Union, the memory of Abraham Lincoln is enshrined forever." The opening lines of Lord Charnwood's biography, published the next year, confirm that Lincoln's memory was indeed fixed in American hearts:

[Lincoln] is revered by multitudes of his countrymen as the preserver of their commonwealth. This reverence has grown with the lapse of time and the accumulation of evidence. It is blended with a peculiar affection, seldom bestowed upon the memory of statesmen. It is shared today by many who remember with no less affection how their own fathers fought against him. He died with every circumstance of tragedy, yet it is not the accident of his death but the purpose of his life that is remembered.

Is this still so? While Americans could never forget Lincoln, there is a real danger of misunderstanding him. **If memory is falsified long and thoroughly enough, the results can be worse than mere forgetting.**

Lincoln was very interested in the phenomenon of memory, and especially its unreliability. It is a theme in his writing from the Lyceum Address in 1838 to the Gettysburg Address in 1863. The former closes with a meditation upon "the silent artillery of time" and the need for pillars of Union more enduring than the crumbling memories of the Revolutionary War. To supply the place of memory, Lincoln recommends pillars "hewn from the solid quarry of sober reason." Similarly, the Gettysburg Address states that commemoration is insufficient: "The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here." It is customary to remark the irony of these lines, occurring in the most famous and memorized of speeches. Nonetheless, if Lincoln had not succeeded in redirecting the energies of the living away from lamentation and toward the "unfinished work" and "great task remaining," his self-deprecating prediction would have come true. His words are remembered not for what they said but what they did. Lincoln declined to dedicate the cemetery ground, instead rededicating the nation to its founding thought or "proposition." Even in the First Inaugural, which appeals to the "mystic chords of memory, stretching from every battlefield, and patriot grave, to every living heart and hearthstone, all over this broad land," we learn that those chords require something else in order to be sounded. The "mystic chords of memory" must be "touched...by the better angels of our nature." The better angels are those that dispose us to "think calmly and well."

Another Lincoln text in which memory figures is a poem, written in 1846, entitled "My Childhood-Home I See Again." There, Lincoln begins in an elegiac verse:

O memory! Thou mid-way world  
'Twi't Earth and Paradise,  
Where things decayed, and loved ones lost  
In dreamy shadows, rise.

And freed from all that's gross or vile,  
Seem hallowed, pure, and bright,  
Like scenes in some enchanted isle,  
All bathed in liquid light.

But we soon learn memory's limits. Memory cannot "hallow" all personages and events. . .

In many of his references to memory, Lincoln suggests that **a faded or false view of the past can harm the future**. For instance, in the Cooper Union Address (1860), Lincoln complains of "invocations to Washington, imploring men to unsay what Washington said, and undo what Washington did." **Being misty-eyed or bleary-eyed about the past leaves us vulnerable to sophistry. Our acquaintance with the past must be fully mindful.**

If Lincoln is right, then the popular Lincoln-memory cannot be sustained by memorials and museums—fine though they may be. A true re-minding requires that we think again the thoughts of Lincoln. The Lincoln Memorial goes about as far as stone and mortar can to facilitate that encounter; it contains on facing walls the full texts of the Gettysburg Address and the Second Inaugural. I don't know of another civic monument that presents unabridged speeches. The Washington is silent and soaring; the Jefferson offers orotund sound-bites; the Roosevelt is more pictorial. I have always been struck by how many visitors to the Lincoln Memorial stand and read both speeches, and how hushed the atmosphere is within those engraved walls (an architectural expression of Lincoln's "political religion" of "reverence for the laws"). . .

One hopes that Americans will revere Lincoln, if not "forever," then, as Lincoln said of Washington, "to the last."

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Excerpt from the introduction to a review of  
*Lincoln's American Dream: Clashing Political Perspectives*,  
edited by Kenneth L. Deutsch and Joseph R. Fornieri

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Diana Schaub is chairman of the  
department of political science  
at Loyola College in Maryland.

Submitted by "Terry" Bowen

## Addendum on Civil War Artillery

The following two pages contain one or more pictures of each of the various types of artillery used during the Civil War. An exception is the English-made Armstrong Rifled Cannon which is shown below. This material was discussed briefly in the March 2008 edition of the *Battle Cry*. The photos are of recent vintage taken over the past 10± years. They are presented in color on the SCWRT web-site.

Also pictured below is the Firing Table for a 20-PDR Parrott, and an 1860's vintage Library of Congress photo (#cwpb00636) of superb quality showing two heavy artillery pieces at Battery Rodgers (8 inch Parrott and 10 inch Rodman). Battery Rodgers was located in Alexandria directly across the Potomac River from Fort Foote, and was one of the 29 forts which comprised the defense system for Washington, D.C.



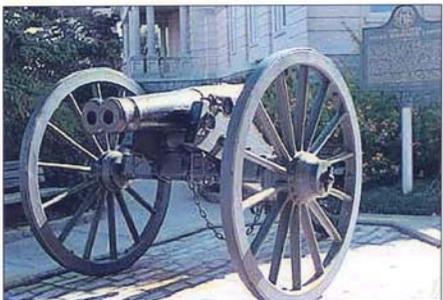
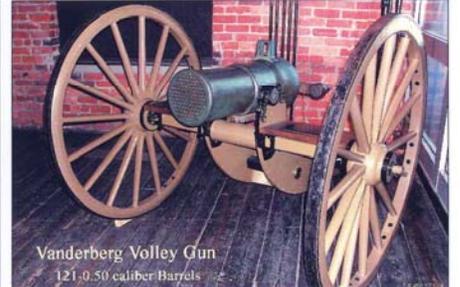
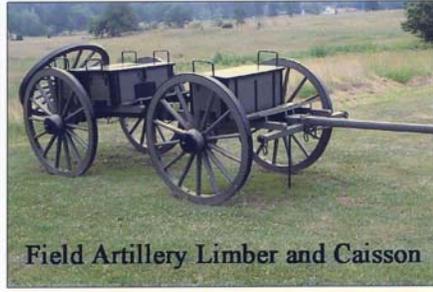
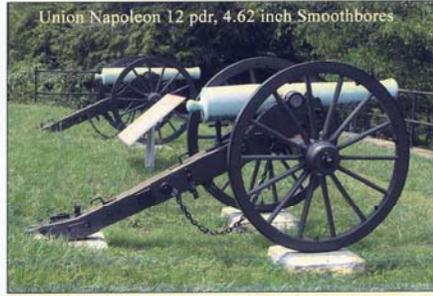
<b>TABLE OF FIRE</b>			
<b>20-PDR. PARROTT GUN</b>			
<b>Charge, 2 lbs. of Mortar Powder</b>			
ELEVATION <small>in Degrees</small>	PROJECTILE	RANGE <small>in Yards</small>	TIME OF FLIGHT <small>in Seconds</small>
1	Case Shot, 19½ lbs.	620	1⅞
2	Case Shot, 19½ lbs.	950	3¼
3¾	Shell, 18¾ lbs.	1500	4¾
5	Shell, 18¾ lbs.	2100	6½
10	Shell, 18¾ lbs.	3350	11¼
15	Shell, 18¾ lbs.	4400	17¼
<b>CARE OF AMMUNITION CHEST</b>			
<small>1st. Keep everything out that does not belong in them, except a bunch of dust or wire for breaking; levers of loose tanks, nails, bolts, or screws. 2nd. Keep lid down closed in their proper, flat up. The crutch containing them to guard against them being closed, and so placed as to be secure. Take every precaution that prevents dust and rain from getting in, a single one may cause an explosion. For plenty of use in packing. (This chest is to be placed in the inside of Lumber Chest Frame.)</small>			



**Heavy Artillery at Battery Rodgers, Alexandria Virginia, 1863**

RAW: 3-08

# Civil War Artillery Photo Page One – Field Artillery



# Civil War Artillery Photo Page Two – Heavy Artillery

