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Battle Cry

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Once again the Gibson Ranch event was a great success. Over 3,300 students were present for the event. I want to thank everyone involved. A special thanks to Walt Bittle. His coordination with the planners made our part very easy.

One of the most important events leading up to the U. S. Civil War was the Dred Scott of Feb. 14 1857. Instead of just ruling on whether Scot's prolonged residence in a free state and territory made Scott free, this decision includes whether Scott had the right to sue in federal court and whether Congress had the right to ban slavery in in the Louisiana Purchase north of 36 degrees 30 minutes.

I recently read an article on the Cooper Union speech of Abraham Lincoln. At this time he was an obscure western politician. This was his first visit to the east. The date of this speech is Feb. 27, 1860.

Like today, Mr. Lincoln went back to discover what the 'founding fathers' intended. His main reference was a one volume abridged version of John Saunderson's, "Biography of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence." He learned that 23 of the 39 signers of the Constitution had opposed the extension of slavery and believed the federal government had the power to regulate slavery.

The first territory to be administered by the United States was the Northwestern Territory. In the Ordinance of 1787, before the Constitution, there was no opposition to the idea that the federal government had control of slavery in a territory. In 1789, the first Congress under the Constitution passed an act to enforce the Ordinance of '87, including the prohibition of slavery in the

(Continued on page 3)

MINUTES
SACRAMENTO CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28, 2004
Sizzler Restaurant, 2030 Fulton Avenue, Sacramento

Attendance – 35

Members – 32

Dennis Kohlmann, President
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Walt Bittle, Secretary
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Bob Baskerville
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Fred Bohmfalk
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Jim Middleton
Betty Mitchell
Maurice Mitchell
Bev Passerello
John Passerello
Paul Ruud

Natalie Schafer
Rudy Schafer
Brad Schall
Ed Sims
Bob Williams
Susan Williams
Maxine Wollen
John Zasso
Guests – 3
Craig Gaines
Kyle Glasson
B. Scherr

1. President Kohlmann welcomed new members and guests, and reviewed this day in Civil War history. Members were reminded about the May 1st and 2nd event at Gibson Ranch. Dennis read a letter from Thomas Cartwright of the Carter House of Franklin, Tennessee, thanking us for our hospitality and donation.
2. Don Hayden spoke for groups dedicated to battlefield preservation, and he distributed a petition for signatures by those interested.
3. Dennis distributed a list of topics covered at the West Coast CW Conference since 1991. He reminded members that the time has come to start considering a topic and possible speakers for the 2006 conference.
4. Edie Keister volunteered to take over as Secretary when Walt Bittle moves in July.
5. Program: Craig Gaines presented an excellent program about the Cherokee Indians in the Civil War. He traced their history from their homeland in the Southeastern United States through their forced removal to "Indian Territory" and their eventual involvement in the Civil War. He distributed nine pages of photos, lists of Cherokee units, and a bibliography. Craig also donated copies of his book for the raffle, which he personally autographed for the winner. Our special thanks to Craig for his outstanding efforts.
6. Following the raffle, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15pm.

Walt Bittle
Secretary

Treasurer's Report

The cash balance following the meeting of April 28 was \$1518.59. Thanks to members and guests, the raffle brought in \$46.

George Foxworth
Treasurer

(continued from page 1)

Northwest Territory. It went through the stages without a word of opposition, and finally passed both branches without yeas or nays, which is the equivalent to a unanimous passage. President Washington, also a signer of the Constitution, signed this bill into law.

Lincoln had built a strong case for the idea that the federal government could regulate slavery in the territories.

This month's speaker will be Ray Bisio. He will deliver his long awaited presentation on, "Day 3 of Gettysburg."

**A Report On The 6th Annual
Gibson Ranch Re-Enactment
By George W. Foxworth**

The National Civil War Association (NCWA) kicked off their 2004 re-enactment season on May 1-2 at historic Gibson Ranch in Elverta, California. The theme was "Days of Cold Mountain—The War and the Homefront." The NCWA is a private non-profit organization that uses "living history" to help the public to better understand the American Civil War. By portraying the manner in which the soldiers and civilians lived, worked, fought, and died during the Civil War era, the NCWA hopes to keep alive the spirit and sacrifice made by the men, women, and children of that time.

On April 30th, Friday, the NCWA and Gibson Ranch hosted 3,500 students from Sacramento area schools. The Sacramento Civil War Round Table (SCWRT) served as tour guides for the school children. On May 1st and 2nd, the SCWRT hosted an event booth.

The following SCWRT members participated with the school children: George Beitzel, Joan Beitzel, Roy Bishop, Walt Bittle, Carol Breiter, George W. Foxworth, Al Geiken, Don Hayden, Dennis Kohlmann, Paul Ruud, Brad Schall, Bob Williams, and Susan Williams. In addition, the following SCWRT members worked in the event booth: Walt Bittle, George W. Foxworth, Don Hayden, and Kit Knight. Dennis Kohlmann presented a lecture on the Crater at Petersburg on May 1-2. Finally, Edie Keister, John Nevins, and John and Bev Passerello attended. Many thanks to the volunteers and attendees, especially under the perfect weather conditions.

Gibson Ranch is a Sacramento County Park with rolling and grassy hills that allow excellent views of the battlefield and camps. The site accommodated the camps, horses, cannons, soldiers, civilians, and other attendees. In addition, the slight slope of the hillside gave an excellent view of the entire battlefield.

The 2004 NCWA kick-off event was a complete success and the NCWA and Gibson Ranch are commended for their great work. We look ahead to the 2005 event.

Coming Programs

26 May Ray Bisio
"Day 3 at Gettysburg"

30 June Ted Stahr
"The Myths and Misconceptions of the Civil War."

28 July Stephen Beck
"C.W. Thompson & the Civil War"

25 Aug. George Martin
"43rd Tenn. Regiment (CSA)"

29 Sept. Paul Wagstaffe
"Reconstruction"

27 Oct. Dennis Kohlmann
"Election of 1864"

1 Dec. Bill Webb
"Mark Twain's Civil War"

SCWRT Board Meeting

May 12, 2004

Carrow's Restaurant

Attendees:

Susan Williams, Dennis Kohlmann, Don Hayden, Paul Ruud, Kit Knight, George Foxworth, Jim Middleton, Arthur Knight, and Walt Bittle.

1. Plans were finalized to pay the Sizzler for using their meeting room, beginning in June.

2. Kit Knight announced that she had scheduled Bill Webb, as Mark Twain, to speak at the November/December meeting.

3. Dennis reminded members that the May speaker will be Ray Bisio.

4. There was discussion about our three-day, high profile participation at Gibson Ranch. We will most likely be invited to participate in, and possibly to have a speaker at, future events.

5. There was discussion about the November CW Conference in Modesto. Most of the members are planning to attend. Dennis will try to organize the local presidents to improve inter-group communication.

6. Don Hayden volunteered to be the caretaker of the flags for each meeting.

7. In discussions of the June 16 board meeting, it was discovered that the majority of the board members will be out of town. It was decided to move the meeting to Wednesday, June 23 at Carrow's.

8. It was moved, seconded, and failed to have Walt Bittle shot for desertion. It was moved, seconded, and carried to grant him an honorary membership upon his departure for St. Louis.

Walt Bittle
Secretary

The Shadow of War

From the beginning of discussions about how to form an independent country from “whole cloth”, there has been a difference of opinion about the perpetuity of just such an institution. Strangely enough, the Articles of Confederation did include the phrase that “*the union shall be perpetual*”, but the Constitution did not. Abraham Lincoln, of course, maintained that perpetuity “*is implied, if not expressed, in the fundamental law of all national governments. It is safe to assert that no government proper ever had a provision in its organic law for its own termination.*”

These are some selected comments about armed rebellion, nullification, and secession:

1770’s – Congressman John Witherspoon: Without a strong union, he said, liberty might mean only “. . . *a more lasting war, a more unnatural, more bloody, and much more hopeless war among the colonies themselves.*”

1780’s – Alexander Hamilton in the Federalist Papers: If the states parted company, he wrote, “. . . *a man must be far gone in Utopian speculations, who can seriously doubt that the subdivisions into which they might be thrown, would have frequent and violent contests with each other.*” [Just as they had in Europe for centuries.]

1787 – Elbridge Gerry refused to sign the Constitution because he feared the compromises “. . . *will lay the foundation of a civil war.*”

1790 – Senator William Maclay didn’t like South Carolina’s instructions to its delegates “. . . *which would go to the dissolution of the Union.*”

1794 – The Whiskey Rebellion was the largest single instance of armed resistance to Federal authority before the Civil War. The anti-tax uprising affected at least 29 counties

in four states, as well as the Northwest Territory. President Washington called out 13,000 troops – more than he had ever commanded during the Revolution.

1798 – Kentucky adopted resolutions, authored by Thomas Jefferson himself, characterizing the Constitution as a mere voluntary agreement between sovereign states, which might therefore rightfully nullify any federal laws they deemed in violation of it. James Madison wrote essentially the same kind of resolution for Virginia. (John Randolph said later that Virginia was already arming its militia for the purpose of meeting any attack by federal troops.)

1800 – Daniel Webster on political bickerings following the death of George Washington: “*I already see in my imagination, the time when the banners of civil war shall be unfurled; . . . and when American blood shall be made to flow in rivers by American swords.*”

1802 – Gouverneur Morris loved the Constitution “. . . *because I consider it the bond of our union; because in my soul, I believe, . . . that without it, we should soon be plunged in all the horrors of civil war; that this country would be deluged with the blood of its inhabitants, and a brother’s hand raised against the bosom of a brother.*”

1815 – The New England states threatened secession over damage being done to their economy by the War of 1812. The Hartford Convention reported no current grounds for “*direct and open resistance*” and rejected disunion unless the conflict were “*radical and permanent*”. [The issue of slavery proved to be just that: both radical and permanent.]

1819 – The Missouri Compromise. Northerners found it more and more necessary to appease the Southerner’s fears of their “*peculiar institution*” being restricted and/or outlawed. The North had a slight edge in the House, and with the

admission of Alabama, the sections were even in the Senate. After almost constant Southern threats, Missouri and Maine were admitted to the Union (with other limitations), and the balance was maintained. A Georgian charged the North with having “*kindled a fire which . . . seas of blood can only extinguish.*” An Ohioan declared “*the horrors of war*” preferable to the spread of slavery. John Quincy Adams stated privately, “. . . *a dissolution of the Union for the cause of slavery would be followed by a servile war . . . combined with the war between the two severed parts of the Union . . . I dare not say that it is not to be desired.*”

1820 – Thomas Jefferson reacted to the Compromise: “*This momentous question, like a fire-bell in the night, awakened and filled me with terror. I considered it at once as the knell of the Union. It is hushed, indeed, for the moment. But this is a reprieve only, not a final sentence. A geographical line, coinciding with a marked principle, moral and political, once conceived and held up to the angry passions of men, will never be obliterated; and every new irritation will mark it deeper and deeper.*”

1833 – South Carolina attempted to “nullify” the Tariffs of 1828 and 1832, announcing that the state would secede if force were used to collect duties. It was said, “*War, immediate or ultimate, must be the result of disunion. Civil wars are the most bloody, relentless, and revengeful that ever shook the earth . . . domestic slavery, as it exists with us, might cause a war between these states which would stand alone in history.*” John Quincy Adams warned that if one or more states challenged acts of Congress and commanded “*the resistance of their citizens against them . . . what else can be the result but war – civil war?*” President Jackson wrote that “*nullification leads directly to civil war and bloodshed*” and he warned the nullifiers that “*on your unhappy State will inevitably fall all the evils of the conflict you force upon the Government of*

your country.” Robert Rhett ranted that if “*in the madness of tyranny . . . the fire and sword of war are to be brought to our dwellings, why then, Sir, I say, let them come!*” Henry Clay brokered a compromise, saying “*We want no war, above all, no civil war, no family strife. We want no sacked cities, no desolated fields, no smoking ruins, no streams of American blood shed by American arms!*”

1842 – Henry Clay accused the abolitionists of moving “*through blood, devastation, and conflagration forward to emancipation.*”

1847 – John Calhoun told the Senate that “*the day the balance between the two sections of the country . . . is destroyed, is a day that will not be far removed from . . . civil war.*”

1850 – Speaking of expanding slavery into the territories, Henry Clay again used fear as a lever: “*War and dissolution of the Union are identical and inevitable,*” and of the wars of history “*none raged with such violence . . . as will that war.*” Daniel Webster replied, “*There can be no such thing as a peaceable secession*”. Disunion “*must produce war, and such a war as I will not describe . . . No, Sir! No, Sir! There will be no secession!*” The *Southern Republic* newspaper predicted that “*we will secede . . . The first assault will be made upon us by the Federal government by the act of retaining the forts about Charleston. This will be war.*”

1856 – Yankee diary: “*Can civil war between North and South be postponed twenty years longer? The struggle will be fierce when it comes.*” Leaders in several Southern states threatened secession if the “Black Republican” candidates were elected. Abraham Lincoln spoke of secession: “*The Union . . . won’t be dissolved. We don’t want to dissolve it, and if you attempt it, we won’t let you. With the purse and the sword, the army and the navy and treasury in our hands and at our command, you couldn’t do it!*”

... it is a shameful thing that the subject is talked of so much."

1858 – Abraham Lincoln said, "I do not expect the Union to be dissolved . . . there will be no war, no violence." (A newspaperman recalled later that "Mr. Lincoln did not believe, could not be made to believe, that the South meant secession and war.")

1859 – *Richmond Enquirer* declared "military collision between the North and the South inevitable."

1860 – *Richmond Dispatch* printed "A dissolution of the Union . . . would be war from the start, war to the knife and knife to the hilt. . . . But the horrors of ordinary war would be far transcended by the barbarities of this cruel strife."

(A year later, the paper supported and encouraged secession.)

1861 – *New York Times*, speaking of proposed Confederate independence: "Questions of commerce, of the rights of navigation, of extradition . . . a thousand sources of hostility would be created by the very fact of separation . . . It would be impossible . . . to avoid hostilities for any considerable length of time."

March 4, 1865 – Abraham Lincoln reiterated in his Second Inaugural address (the briefest inaugural address of any President) that one side "would make war rather than let the nation survive; and the other would accept war rather than let it perish."

Compiled and edited by Walt Bittle –
January 2004

Most quotes taken from *Lincoln, The War President* by Gabor S. Boritt.

LUCY HALE, APRIL 1865:
THE GIRL IN HIS POCKET

The day I fell in love with John Wilkes Booth my gown had 12 yards of silk. The dashing actor's dueling scenes were so startlingly realistic, other--lesser--actors sometimes fled the stage convinced Booth really was going to draw blood. My father, a senator, introduced us and I was thrilled when Booth bowed to me and drawled, "You are lovely enough to stop a heartbeat." All of spring was in that voice. I wore my gown to Lincoln's second Inauguration. His words were merciful and kind to the all-but-defeated South: "With malice toward none; with charity for all...." Five weeks later, the inevitable happened and Lee surrendered. Lincoln had received hundreds of death threats while the War lasted. But now, on the fifth day after Appomattox--after the truce had been signed--John shot the President whose wallet contained a five dollar Confederate bill. Poignancy in a pocket. Lincoln died and daddy says the South will pay; it'll be a hundred years before that region recovers. Spurred by \$200,000 in rewards, the army hunted John down. He died with my picture in his pocket. My gown was of varying and deeper shades of blue.

-- Kit Knight

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Contact:

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Phillip Blake, Event Chairman
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