



# Battle Cry

Founded 1961,  
Newsletter of the Sacramento Civil War Round Table  
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Battle Cry deadline is  
1:00PM Wed. two weeks  
before the regular meeting.  
Items can be given the  
editor by mail or e-mail.

**President's Message:** I saw convincing evidence that the railroads played a significant role on both sides during the Civil War. Thanks to Bob Hanley for putting the fuel on the fire – there doesn't appear to be much difference of opinion that the railroads had impact. If there is any debate, it appears to be over the factors that kept their significance from being even greater! The Rebs took advantage in moving Jackson to Bull Run and Longstreet to Tennessee – it's OK if their action was out of necessity, I give them the nod for strategic utilization. Another full house crowd immensely enjoyed Bob's presentation!

There is no immediate plan to move the Roundtable from the Hofbrau. We will continue to gather attendance data and only if we note sustained "overcrowding" will action be taken. Nonetheless, having knowledge of alternative locations puts us in a good position, so continue to provide me with suggestions for other possible meeting places.

This year's re-enactment at Gibson Ranch starts on Friday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, with the school program. If you have volunteered to be a student escorting docent for that day, you will receive a letter from me indicating meeting times and places. If you are available and haven't already signed up, please contact me – we never have too many volunteers!!! The main advertised program continues on Saturday and Sunday when the battles will be re-enacted! Either day is a great time to bring the family out for a glimpse into the lives of the Civil War period soldier and his supporters.

I find myself feeling about a generation behind the pace of the "technology revolution." Email, internet, web sites, digital cameras, digital projectors, cell phones, blackberries, etc. In spite of that, I recognize that these devices add tremendously to our ability to understand, communicate, stay informed, and the like. So I struggle on – let me suggest two ways that you can join me. (1) Check all the information on the SCWRT web site at [www.sacramentocwrt.com](http://www.sacramentocwrt.com) and (2) you can begin to receive your Battle Cry each month electronically. The necessary software is Adobe Reader – email Editor Jim Middleton when you are ready to give it a try!

**As you read this Battle Cry, Phil Avila from North Bay CWRT is busy shaping his talk for Wednesday night, May 9<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 PM at the Plaza Hofbrau! He will give us the reasons why his presentation is called, "Wade Hampton, the Savior of the South." Let's fill all the seats! See you at the Hofbrau.**  
**Paul Ruud, President**

**Treasurer's Report:**

The cash balance following the April 11, 2007 meeting was \$1,848.93. Thanks to members and guests, the raffle brought in \$78.00.

**George Foxworth, Treasurer**

**MINUTES**  
**SACRAMENTO CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE**  
**APRIL 11, 2007**  
**HOF BRAU RESTAURANT, WATT AVENUE, SACRAMENTO**

Attendance-43

Member-37

- |                                 |                   |                  |                     |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| Paul Ruud, President            | Ardith Cnota      | Lowell Lardie    | Guest-6             |
| Dennis Kohlmann, Vice President | Mitchell Cnota    | Victor Le        | Robert Dreckman     |
| George Foxworth, Treasurer      | Lydia Donaldson   | Jim Middleton    | Mark Penning        |
| Eddie Keister, Secretary        | William Donaldson | Betty Mitchell   | Kris Scivoletto     |
| Dudley Albrecht                 | Brad Friedman     | Maurice Mitchell | Nicholas Scivoletto |
| Ken Berna                       | Bob Hanley        | John Nevins      | Wendy Sutherland    |
| Roy Bishop                      | Scottie Hayden    | Horst Penning    | Steven Thale        |
| Walt Bittle                     | Don Hayden        | Richard Sickert  |                     |
| Sharon Bogart                   | Nancy Hayden      | Drew Van Winkle  |                     |
| Steve Bogart                    | Pam Hubbard       | Robert Williams  |                     |
| Fred Bohmfalk                   | Janet Junell      | Susan Williams   |                     |
| Terry Brown                     | Robert Junell     | Maxine Wollen    |                     |
|                                 |                   | John Zasso       |                     |

1. Meeting started at 7:05. Guest and members welcomed by President Paul Ruud. Members were asked to receive "The Battle Cry" electronically to save on postage. Our next meeting on May 9<sup>th</sup> will be the last before the re-enactment at Gibson Ranch. Last chance to sign up for volunteers. Member Sharon Bogart shared her participation with husband Steve in the re-enactment at Knight's Landing on March 30-31. Past secretary, Walt Bittle visited from St. Louis -good to see you Walt!
2. Member Bob Hanley spoke on the "Evolution of the Railroad in the American Civil War." A well researched program which included slides. The program covered the men who built them and the engines that traveled them, and the effects, both North and South. Thanks Bob for a great program.
3. Raffle was held, and meeting adjourned at an early 8:10.

Welcome new members Nancy Hayden and Horst Penning!

Edie Keister  
Secretary

Coming Programs 2007		
Month	Speaker	Topic
May 9 <sup>th</sup>	Phil Avila	Wade Hampton, Confederate Cavalry General
June 13 <sup>th</sup>	Walt Bittle	In the Footsteps of Lincoln
July 11 <sup>th</sup>	TBA	TBA
August 8 <sup>th</sup>	TBA	TBA

## **Ken Kitchen passed away**

Long time member Ken Kitchen passed away April 25, 2007. When I became Battle Cry editor of the SCWRT, Ken was very encouraging to me. He said the newsletter of an organization was the glue that held it together. To a nervous beginning editor, his words were a help.

He hasn't been able to attend meetings lately since his health has been declining. New members may not remember him but his activity is part of the reason we have such a healthy group today.

I am told his funeral will be held at the Fair Oaks Presbyterian Church on Thursday May 10<sup>th</sup> at 10:00AM with burial at the new Veterans Cemetery in Dixon, CA. Any changes will be announced at the May 9<sup>th</sup> SCWRT meeting. I understand an obituary will be published between Sunday and Tuesday this coming week in the Sacramento Bee.

## **A Report On the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Knight's Ferry Re-Enactment**

by George W. Foxworth

The American Civil War Association (ACWA) 2007 re-enactment season began on March 31 – April 1 in historic Knight's Ferry, California in association with the Army Corps of Engineers (ACE).

Also attending were Bob Orr and various members of The Stanislaus Civil War Association. From the Sacramento Civil War Round Table, the attendees were John Zasso, Sharon Bogart, Steve Bogart, and George W. Foxworth.

Knight's Ferry is administered by the ACE and includes an 1860's mill, a covered bridge, hills, and the Stanislaus River. The site accommodated the camps, cannons, soldiers, civilians, and other attendees. In addition, the theater-type hillside gave a bird's eye view of the entire battlefield. In addition, for the first time in a few years, the rain god was absent. The conditions were dry and hot, in other words, excellent.

The 2007 kick-off event was a complete success and the ACWA and ACE are commended for their great work. We look ahead to the 2008 event, sometime in early Spring.

# From *The Story of the Confederacy* by Robert Selph Henry

[Referring to a camp paper printed in The Army of Northern Virginia during the Winter encampment of 1863/1864:]

“Neither battles that had been fought nor disasters to come, dampened the humor of *The Rapid Ann*. It revised Hardee’s Tactics, and widened its application, by the publication of the:

*TACTICS OF KISSING – Recruit is placed in front of the piece. First motion – bend the right knee; straighten the left; bring the head on a level with the face of the piece; at the same time extend the arms, and clasp the cheeks of the piece firmly in both hands. Second motion – bend the body slightly forward; pucker the mouth; and apply the lips smartly to the muzzle mouldings. Third motion – break off promptly on both legs, to escape the jarring or injury should the piece recoil.”*

**Submitted by Walt Bittle**

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**Below is the first paragraph of a longer article.**

## **Opinion Journal**

**From The Wall Street Journal *Editorial Page Leisure and Arts***

## **The Monitor Center**

It’s an ironclad must-see for naval history buffs

**BY STUART FERGUSON** *Tuesday, April 3, 2007 12:01 a.m .*

*. . . "First duty, duty next, and duty last;  
Ay, Turret, rivet me here to duty fast!--"  
So nerved, you fought wisely and well;  
And live, twice live in life and story;  
But over your Monitor dirges swell,  
In wind and wave that keep the rites of glory.*

NEWPORT NEWS, Va.--Herman Melville's "In the Turret" should be updated: Wind and wave no longer have sole possession of the ironclad's glory. Now they must share it with the new USS Monitor Center, which opened here at the Mariner's Museum on March 9, the 145th anniversary of the Monitor's "duel" with the CSS Virginia (better known to history as the Merrimack). The dutybound "you" of the poem is Lt. John L. Worden, who commanded the vessel until he was badly wounded during the battle of Hampton Roads. Lucky for him. He wasn't on board on Dec. 31, 1862, when the Monitor foundered off Cape Hatteras in 230 feet of water, with the loss of 16 men.

## **Battle of South Mountain**

### **A Prelude to Antietam**

South Mountain begins at the Potomac River four miles East of Harpers Ferry and extends NNE across Maryland some 45 miles, terminating about 15 miles West of Gettysburg, PA. It is a low, narrow ridge, about one mile wide and averaging 1,600 feet above sea level. Crest elevations vary up to about 2,000 feet maximum. Gaps in the Mountain from South to North are: Crampton's (930'), between Burkittsville and Gapland; Fox's (1070'); Turner's (1075'), traversed by the Old National Highway (US 40), between Middletown and Boonsboro; "Unnamed" (1250'), traversed by I-70; and Harman's (1570') east of Cavetown. (See location map) Adjacent valley lands vary in elevation roughly between 400 and 600 feet.

The Battle of South Mountain on 14 Sept. 62 is often given short shrift by some historians because it was overshadowed by the events of the Battle of Antietam, which took place three days later (and seven miles West near Sharpsburg), and resulted in a loss of 23,000 men. As battles go, South Mountain was not one of the larger ones, with approximately 13,000 Confederates and 36,000 Federals involved. Nor was it one of the costliest, with about 2,900 casualties for the South versus 2,340 for the North, roughly the same number as the Battle of First Manassas. The battle's significance is in the fact that the Army of Northern Virginia's first campaign North was stopped *not* at Antietam, but here in the rugged mountain gaps of this mountain.

In summer of 1862, following the Union defeat at Second Manassas, General R. E. Lee felt the time was right to carry the war into the North, hoping to take advantage of the region's waning sentiment toward the war and possibly influencing Northerners to pressure their government to sue for peace. Virginia had been ravaged by the conflict and Lee, desperate to feed and outfit his poorly supplied army, found the ripening crops in neighboring Maryland a strong lure. Further, he knew that if he was able to sustain a campaign in the North, perhaps even gaining a major victory there, the foreign powers of England and France might finally recognize

the Confederacy as an independent nation, rather than its current legal status with them as a belligerent

The stakes were high on 4 Sept. 62, as Lee and his army crossed the Potomac into Maryland, proceeding north, eventually camping near the village of Frederick. Here Lee prepared and issued his Special Order 191 detailing a plan to divide the Rebel army into five parts.

LG T. J. Jackson and MG Lafayette McLaws, along with BG John Walker, were to surround and contain a 12,000 man Union garrison at Harper's Ferry, preventing any interference to Lee's supply and communication lines. At the same time, LG James Longstreet would lead a supply mission through Boonsboro and Hagerstown, while MG D. Harvey Hill's command was left to guard the rear of the army along the South Mountain passes.

As the Confederate plan went into effect, the Army of the Potomac, under the command of MG George B. McClellan, moved into the area around Frederick that the Rebel army had just vacated. In one of the war's more memorable twists, Union soldiers stumbled upon a copy of Lee's Special Order 191 wrapped around a bundle of cigars in a farm field. This discovery allowed McClellan to move with uncharacteristic speed to catch Lee while the Confederate army was still divided.

The Battle of South Mountain (which was actually three separate battles), broke out on 14 September in the Fox's Gap and Turner's Gap areas after Confederate gunners opened fire on Union forces moving toward the base of the mountain

Union MG Jesse Reno, commanding IX Corps, and Confederate BG Samuel Garland both received mortal wounds during the heavy fighting near Fox's Gap. BG Jacob Cox, a superb citizen-soldier, took temporary command of IX Corps. Jesse Reno (not to be confused with Marcus Reno) was highly thought of, and, had he survived might well have become CG of the Army of the Potomac. Here also two future presidents, Rutherford B. Hayes and William McKinley, participated in the battle. Hayes, LTC of the 23rd Ohio, was severely wounded. Left on the field until after the battle, he was then taken to a house in Middletown to recover. McKinley,

a supply sergeant, did not actually take part in the combat; however, it is interesting to note that he was assassinated in office on 14 Sept. 1901, 39 years to the day of the battle.

The fighting in these areas continued most of the day as charges and counter charges were made by both sides. By evening, the ends of the Confederate line had been turned and were in danger of being flanked. Recognizing this, Lee ordered his forces to withdraw during the night.

Further south at Crampton's Gap, MG William B. Franklin's Union VI Corps moved into the area from its camp in nearby Jefferson. The fighting didn't begin until around noon, as Franklin procrastinated for four crucial hours while devising a battle plan against a thin Confederate line that he outnumbered by as much as ten to one.

As the Union assault began, the Confederate troops broke and retreated back up the mountain and through the gap. Just as these troops reached the gap, Confederate BG Howell Cobb's brigade arrived, and in a heroic attempt to stem the flight, his 1,300 men held their ground, bravely firing on the Federal charge. In a mere 15 minutes Cobb's legion was nearly decimated. When roll was called the following day only 300 men answered.

After Crampton's Gap had been cleared of Confederate forces, Franklin ordered his troops into camp for the night. Had his attack not been delayed earlier in the day, he could have continued his pursuit of the Confederates into the valley beyond, driving a wedge between the two parts of Lee's divided and disorganized army, thereby allowing McClellan the opportunity to attack each section separately. The result could have been an early end to the war, as McClellan's troops would likely have overwhelmed each half. However, the attack was not renewed and Harper's Ferry fell to the Confederates on 15 Sept. Franklin, first in his USMA Class of 1843, had been an adept engineering officer in various staff assignments, but he turned out to be an inept combat commanding general (See *Battle Cry* article of 7-04).

At the more northern Turner's Gap, Rebel BG Robert Rodes under Hill's command held the heights around Mountain House for an extended period, but ultimately was flanked out

of position by BG Gordon Meade's Division. Rodes, a VMI graduate and one of the South's finest general officers was killed almost exactly two years later at Winchester, 19 Sept. 64.

Once the Union army had cleared the gaps and taken up a position on the same side of the mountain as the Confederates, Lee realized his campaign could not possibly continue. He relayed word to his generals to proceed on the most expedient routes to Sharpsburg, a very defensible position should the federal army follow and attack. The army would then continue its withdrawal back into Virginia. But the following day, after pulling his army back behind the Antietam Creek, Lee learned that the Union stronghold at Harper's Ferry had fallen. With those units now available and able to partially reorganize, he decided to hold his ground. It was there that McClellan found him waiting when the Federal army attacked on the morning of 17 Sept. The horrific conflict that resulted would go down as the single bloodiest day in American history.

The Battle of South Mountain was significant in several respects. For the Confederate forces, it marked the end at least temporarily of Lee's hopes of a sustained campaign in the North. A near disaster averted, the battle resulted in a costly stand of the Southern army three days later at Antietam, a disheartening retreat back into Virginia, and several more years of war. And for the Union army, it marked another missed opportunity where, with better coordination and conviction, the Southern army could have been divided and defeated, possibly bringing about an early end to the war. This was neither the first nor the last mistake to be made by MG George McClellan and his engineer colleague MG William Franklin.

On the heels of the federal success at Antietam, albeit limited, President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, thereby elevating the destruction of slavery to preservation of the Union as official Northern war aims. Moreover, perhaps the worst result for the Confederacy was that the probability of their gaining international recognition had then essentially dropped to nil.

## **Journalist George Alfred Townsend and the War Correspondents Memorial Arch**

Astride South Mountain, near Burkittsville at Crampton's Gap, lies Gathland State Park. The home of an unusual man, Gathland was an architecturally unique estate made up of as many as 20 structures, many of them built of rugged stone, individual in purpose and design. A number of buildings still stand, and the remains of others may be seen by visitors to the park.

Born on 30 Jan 1841, George Alfred Townsend became the youngest war correspondent of the Civil War, belonging to a group called the "Bohemians", whom Sherman called "the buzzards of the press". He served both at home and abroad and later became one of America's most important journalists and novelists of the Reconstruction Era. His pen name, GATH, from which the park derives its name, was formed by adding an H to his initials and was inspired by a biblical passage: (II Samuel 1:20) "Tell it not in Gath, publish it not in the streets of Askalon."

In 1884, Townsend purchased a tract of land on South Mountain, an area particularly attractive to him because of its proximity to Antietam and other historical sites of the Civil War. Gathland State Park was the scene of a little known yet quite noteworthy conflict, the Battle of South Mountain. Closely associated with this historical aspect, the natural beauty of the site and the imposing views of the valleys appealed to him

Probably Townsend's most unique and certainly his most lasting architectural endeavor at Gathland is an unusual monument erected in 1896 as a memorial to his fellow war correspondents, featuring tablets inscribed with the names of 157 correspondents and war artists who saw and described in narrative and picture almost all the events of the four years of the war. The unusual monument was dedicated by Maryland Governor Lowndes on 16 Oct. 1896, and in 1904 was turned over to the U.S. War Department and later transferred to the National Park Service.

The planning, design and construction of buildings was a hobby with Townsend, and he

pressed forward with plans to convert his mountainside into a retreat from the pressures of his strenuous writing schedule. Among his first efforts was Gathland Hall, built in 1885, soon after Townsend acquired the land, and enlarged at one time to include 11 rooms. Probably occupied by his wife, Bessie, this building was partially restored in 1958. The Den and Library Building was erected in 1890; it contained a large library, a study and writing room, and 10 upstairs bedrooms. The foundations of this building are still intact, but the walls have long since crumbled and only fragments of the original building remain.

Gathland Lodge, built in 1885, was a stone building thought to have been used as servants' quarters. West of Gathland Hall is the remains of a mausoleum, built in 1895. A large bronzed dog graced the top of the tomb, and a white marble slab over the door bears the inscription "Good Night Gath." This building was perhaps intended to become Gath's final resting place but the dog was stolen. The mausoleum still stands. Townsend himself died in New York in 1914 and was buried in Philadelphia.

After Townsend's death on 15 April 1914, his daughter sold Gathland. In 1943, the property was purchased by a church group and used as a summer conference site. Later it was acquired by members of the Frederick Chamber of Commerce and the Historical Society of Frederick County, Inc. On 13 May 1949, it was deeded to the State of Maryland to be administered as a State Historic Park by the Department of Forests and Parks. The Battle of South Mountain has finally receive the recognition it deserves as a critical part of the 1862 Maryland Campaign and ultimately, in the history of the Civil War.

### **References:**

"Fire on the Mountain", by Central Maryland Heritage League, 1998; "Battles and Leaders" Vol.2 Pt.2, 1887: "The Antietam Campaign" by John Cannan, 1967; OR's S1V19P1; "A Bohemian Brigade", by J. M. Perry, 2000.

Bob Williams: 4-15-07

# Battle of South Mountain Graphics Page

## Principal Commanders



McClelland    Reno (KIA)    Cox    Franklin    Meade    Lee    D.H. Hill    Rodes    Garland (KIA)

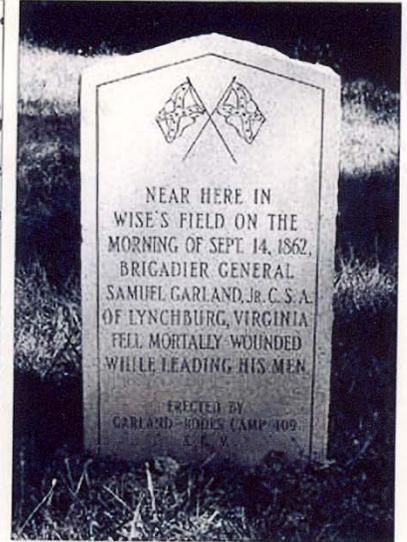
**Reno Memorial**



**South Mountain Location Map**



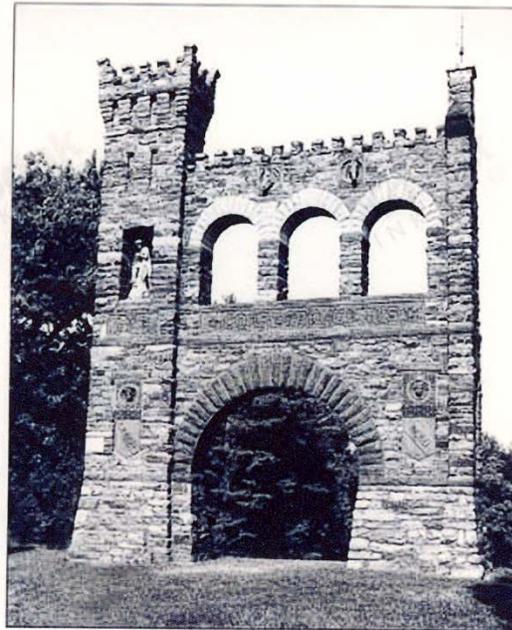
**Garland Memorial**



**Townsend Office and Library**



**War Correspondent's Memorial Arch**



**George Alfred Townsend  
"GATH"**

President Lincoln said:

"I determined as soon as it [the Rebel army] should be driven out of Maryland, to issue a proclamation of emancipation . . . God has decided this question in favor of the slaves."

He issued the Emancipation Proclamation six days after the battle:

"That on the first day of January in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, all persons held as slaves within any State . . . in rebellion against the United States, shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free . . ."



**Lincoln's Emancipation Intent**

RAW: 4-15-07