



# Battle Cry

Founded 1961,  
Newsletter of the Sacramento Civil War Round Table  
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**Wed. of the month before**  
**the regular meeting. Items**  
**can be given the editor by**  
**hand, mail or e-mail.**

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## President's Message:

Stu Howe researched widely and deeply to present us with a thorough and comprehensive look at the immense volunteer activity in the early years of California Statehood. It is apparent that proper maintenance of law and order required significant effort then as it does now. Thank you, Stu for the immense amount of hard work which you put into this discussion.

Gibson Ranch weekend is once again soon upon us and I deeply appreciate all the volunteers who make our group's contribution work so well. Generally it is mostly the same stalwarts who show up but this year we will again see a few new faces and they are most welcome. For those who may wish to join us please do so because we have no reserve and occasionally people can't make it. You can call me at (916) 485-1246 or email me at [djhbooklover@yahoo.com](mailto:djhbooklover@yahoo.com) the date is Friday, May 15<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 AM till 1 or 2 PM depending on whether or not you stay for the provided lunch. We also have a booth and several of us commit to spending a half day Saturday or Sunday, the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. We have been asked to provide a thirty minute talk on Lincoln and volunteer(s) are welcome. Two battle reenactments are scheduled each day. Schedules will be available at the next meeting.

Our next meeting will feature Professor David Davenport whose topic is *The Second Battle of Winchester*. Dave is a long time key member of the San Joaquin Valley Round Table and the organizer of the past few Fresno/Clovis West Coast Annual Conferences. Dave has a Ph.D. in history from University of Illinois (Urbana) and taught at California State University and Fresno City College. Those of us who have attended Fresno and Clovis conferences have enjoyed his presentations and are happy to welcome him to our community. Come early to share company and enjoy dinner. Looking forward to seeing you there.

**Don Hayden, President**

**MINUTES**  
**SACRAMENTO CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE**  
**Wednesday, April 8, 2009**  
**HOF BRAU RESTAURANT, 2500 WATT AVENUE, SACRAMENTO**

**ATTENDANCE – 37**

**MEMBERS – 34**

Don Hayden, President  
Silver Williams, Vice-Pres.  
George Foxworth, Treasurer  
George Beitzel  
Joan Beitzel  
Walt Bittle  
Harvey Cain  
Marsha Cain  
Ardith Cnota  
Mitchell Cnota  
Evan Cole

Irene Cole  
Bill Donaldson  
Lydia Donaldson  
Fred Elenbaas  
Alan Geiken  
Robert Hanley  
Nancy Hayden  
Scottie Hayden  
Stu Howe  
Dennis Kohlmann  
Ken Lentz

Mary Lentz  
Cressie Mendes  
Phil Mendes  
Betty Mitchell  
Maurice Mitchell  
Horst Penning  
Mark Penning  
Ron Perisho  
Paul Ruud  
Richard Sickert  
Robert Williams  
John Zasso

**GUESTS – 3**

Flo Crawford  
Aleathea Simmons  
Don Zajic

1. Meeting started at 7:01 PM. Guests and members welcomed by President Hayden. Three guests were announced with the return on Walt Bittle from Missouri. Mr. Bittle was a long-time Secretary and current Honorary Member of the Sacramento Civil War Round Table (SCWRT).
2. At 7:05 PM, President Hayden requested a few volunteers for the Gibson Ranch Civil War event on May 15-17 with special emphasis for the Schools' Program on Friday, May 15. Stu Howe explained to the group the purpose of the School's Program.
3. At 7:08 PM, President Hayden gave a short synopsis of The Huntington Civil War Conference in San Marino, California on April 3-4, 2009. The topic was "A Lincoln for the Twenty-First Century." Over 300 participants registered for the Conference and thirteen members of the SCWRT attended.
4. At 7:15 PM, President Hayden introduced the speaker, Stu Howe. Mr. Howe's topic was "California Volunteers in the West." Mr. Howe spoke on many items: The population of California was about 300,000 in 1860; Southern California was partial to the Confederacy; the California regiments in company sizes served in various places in the west such as Texas, Utah, New Mexico Territory (included Arizona), Washington Territory, Idaho, Kansas, etc. including California; most of their fighting was against Indians; and their main duty was to keep the Overland Trail open for gold and silver shipments to the east. The last California troops were released from service as late as 1866 and 1867.
5. At 8:35 PM, the presentation ended. A GREAT SUCCESS!!!
6. The raffle was held at 8:35 PM.
7. The next meeting on May 14, 2009, 7:00 PM, at the Hof Brau. The speaker will be Dr. Dave Davenport from the San Joaquin Valley CWRT and the topic will be the "2<sup>nd</sup> Battle of Winchester."
8. The meeting adjourned at 8:43 PM.

**George W. Foxworth, Acting Secretary**

**Treasurer's Report**

The cash balance following the April 8, 2009 meeting was \$2,403.80. Thanks to John Zasso, other members, and guests, the raffle brought in \$64.00.

**George W. Foxworth, Treasurer**

<b>Coming Programs 2009</b>		
May 13 <sup>th</sup>	Dave Davenport	2 <sup>nd</sup> Battle of Winchester
June 10 <sup>th</sup>	Larry Tagg	The Unpopular Mr. Lincoln
July 8 <sup>th</sup>	Ray Bisio	Lee, the Trader
Aug. 12 <sup>th</sup>	Jim Stanberry	The Importance of the Shenandoah Valley

David Davenport is the current President of the San Joaquin Valley Civil War Round Table of which he has been a member since 1992. He was program chair for the West Coast Conferences in 2005 and 2008. In January, 1983, he received his Ph.D. in American Historical Geography from the University of Illinois, where he studies under O. Vernon Burton who recently authored "The Age of Lincoln", a History Book Club editor's choice. He has also been an avid re-enactor since 1993, almost always fighting with the 6th Iowa Infantry or the 79th New York Infantry.

### **The Second Battle of Winchester,**

In June of 1863, soon after his victory at Chancellorsville, General Lee began to move his troops toward his "rendezvous with destiny" at Gettysburg. Sitting squarely astride his line of march was 2nd Division of the Eighth Corps of the Union Army entrenched at Winchester, Virginia, in the Lower Shenandoah Valley. With 7,000 effectives Maj. Gen. Robert Milroy planned to halt whatever Confederates might engage him, but he knew not that he faced the whole of Lee's army. Any other Union commander would have retreated, not Milroy, confident of victory, did not waffle. He was crushed. The Second Battle of Winchester should never have taken place as General Ewell with 35,000 effectives overran all of Milroy's defenses and captured almost all who survived.

### **A Report on The 4th Huntington Civil War Conference by George W. Foxworth**

The 4th Huntington Civil War Conference was held on April 3-4, 2009, at The Huntington in San Marino, California. The Huntington is a private non-profit institution and was founded by Henry E. Huntington in 1919. In 1902, he moved to Los Angeles and purchased the San Marino Ranch and began the process of transforming the Ranch into what is now The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens which are visited by 500,000 people each year. The Comfort Inn in Pasadena was the recommended hotel.

The Conference was hosted by The Huntington and funded by The William French Smith Endowment. "A Lincoln for the Twenty-First Century" was the theme and

many enlightening presentations by the distinguished speakers filled the weekend. The speakers were Daniel Walker Howe, University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) and University of Oxford in England; Harold Holzer, Metropolitan Museum of Art; Elizabeth Leonard, Colby College in Waterville, Maine; Richard Carwardine, University of Oxford in England; Stephen B. Cushman, University of Virginia, Charlottesville (UVA); David Blight, Yale University; Richard Wightman Fox, University of Southern California; James M. McPherson, Princeton University; Jennifer L. Weber, University of Kansas, and Catherine Clinton, Queen's University Belfast, Northern Ireland.

The conference was moderated by Gary W. Gallagher (UVA) and Joan Baugh (UCLA) and over three hundred participants were registered for the conference.

The Elk Grove Civil War Round Table (CWRT) was represented by George and Joan Beitzel, and Susan Williams. The Sacramento CWRT was represented by George and Joan Beitzel, Roy Bishop, George W. Foxworth, Bob Hanley, Don Hayden, Susan Katt, Dennis Kohlmann, Leslie Michaels, Ron Perisho, Richard Sickert, Bob Williams, and Susan Williams.

All presentations were excellent. Daniel Walker Howe spoke on "Abraham Lincoln's Opposition to the Mexican War." Harold Holzer spoke on "The Image of the Great Succession Winter: The Evolution of a President-Elect." Elizabeth Leonard spoke on "Lincoln the Teacher: Lessons Learned." Richard Carwardine spoke on "Just Laughter: The Moral Springs of Lincoln's Humor." Stephen B. Cushman spoke on "When Lincoln Met Emerson." David Blight spoke on "Lincoln and the American South." Richard Wightman Fox spoke on "Striding Toward Assassination: Lincoln's Walk Through Richmond, April 4, 1865." James McPherson spoke on "Lincoln and the West." Jennifer L. Weber spoke on "Abraham Lincoln and Executive Power." Finally, Catherine Clinton spoke on "The Immortal Lincoln." Sadly, Ronald C. White (UCLA) was not able to attend the conference due to a family emergency. Mr. White's topic would have been "Let Us Think Anew: A. Lincoln and the Future Tense of America."

One of the things that came out was that a Civil War book is written each day. In addition, in the English language, Lincoln is the second most written topic after Jesus. The speaker Elizabeth Leonard did not like President Andrew Johnson. The speaker Jennifer L. Weber felt that in the final analysis that Lincoln's executive power (habeas corpus) was justified. Finally, Richard Wightman Fox ended his talk with a sing-along of The Battle Hymn of the Republic. The conference was a complete success and the Huntington is commended for their excellent work. Looking ahead to the next conference, there may be a Civil War conference in two years. However, no subject or topic was discussed.



# SCWRT Members at the Huntington 2009



## A CONFERENCE REMEMBERED

The two day conference at the Huntington Library in San Marino which concluded on Saturday, April 4, 2009, was entitled, **A Lincoln for the Twenty-First Century**. It was quite a tour de force, presentations being made by professors from universities in all parts of the United States, one from Oxford in England and another from Queen's University in Belfast.

Their topics ranged from an effort to describe the times in which Lincoln was reared, the influences on him as he matured and became active in the practice of law and later a leading politician from the West in Whig and then Republican politics. Trying to describe the man proved a bit more difficult.. without newsreels, television, radio or even recorded messages. Historians have to rely on written accounts of others, newspapers of the day, artist renderings, speeches and personal letters. But an image did emerge of a man born into poor circumstances on the western edges of an evolving civilization who was of impressive stature, largely self-taught but well-read, thoughtful and concerned about others and the nation. He dared to venture into first local and then national politics as a Congressman, then retreated back to Illinois for reflection (there had been a political deal among his party to not have the same man serve consecutive terms).

As the dissolution of the Union approached he chose to remain largely silent about the issues of the day, even when crowds demonstrated outside his home in Springfield urging him to say what they suspected was on his mind. His response was to plead with them to let him be, saying, "My policy is to have no policy." His concern was focused on how to preserve the Union and once he became president he described his mission as similar to a river boat captain who might be able to see only from one bend in the river to another, and who had to navigate safe passage along the stretch which was in view.

Three topics covered in the presentations either completely surprised me or moved me deeply. The first was the existence of something called The Nasby Papers which was credited by one Union General at the end of the Civil War as being only slightly behind the Army and the Navy in its importance in preserving the Union. It was a satirical and occasional "newsletter" produced by an imaginary paper and fictional author, really all the creation of David Ross Locke, living at the time in Ohio. Apparently, EVERYONE in the North read or was aware to those often hillbilly like and humorous observations of all that was going on, often from a bigoted Southern point of view. Lincoln delighted in reading The Nasby Papers and kept copies of the more humorous sections in the drawer of his desk, pulling them out to share bits and pieces

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# A Few Notables at the 2009 Huntington Conference on Lincoln

Gary Gallagher

Evan Jones

Don Hayden



Pat and Jim McPherson



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with his Cabinet and even the Military commanders, who really wanted to talk about something they considered more urgent and serious.

The second was something the historians referred to as a letter to Mrs. Bixby, which the president allegedly wrote and sent to a woman after he had been told she had several sons lost in combat. The letter was published in at least one Northern newspaper and helped solidify the sentiment to continue to support the war at a time when there was substantial sympathy for just trying to end it. The letter not only showed the president's sympathy for her loss but the value of it as "a sacrifice upon the altar of freedom."

The third, and perhaps most moving to me, was a description of Lincoln and his son walking, without military escort, from a landing spot in downtown Richmond, Virginia to the Confederate "White House", encountering hundreds of local black residents who had apparently been alerted that his boat was steaming upriver. They surrounded him as if he were the Savior himself, seeking to bow at his feet, shouting his praises and humbling themselves before him. He enjoined them to not do that, such homage was due to God alone. He doffed his top hat and bowed to them. Then, he continued his walk along the ravaged streets of Richmond to his destination. Once there, he roamed the building, sitting in the same chair Jefferson Davis had sat in before he fled the city and his Army set fire to their supplies (which spread into the city proper and largely destroyed it).

The sessions concluded with a sometimes humorous review of how Lincoln has been portrayed in the media, both North and South, up to the present. He is now ranked well ahead of all other presidents, including Washington, in importance by Americans who are occasionally surveyed on the topic. He is even in an episode of the television series, Star Trek, in which an alien civilization, seeking to communicate with Captain Kirk and his crew who are on the starship Enterprise, in space near their home planet. The aliens can decipher some of the data aboard Kirk's ship and decide to send an emissary, via the ship's transporter, and decide the best way to communicate would be via someone the earthlings will know and trust. So they send a spitting image of Abraham Lincoln, Ole Honest Abe, top hat, black suit and all.

**ROY BISHOP April 7, 2009**