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Battle Cry

Founded 1961,
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President's Message

Greetings One and All,

Tra la! It's May!... May is statistically the second most popular month of the year, edged out by October in a close heat. We love the weather, the flowers, baseball. But if we look back 150 years in America, we find our nation impossibly absorbed in Civil War. Ulysses Grant is the Union Commander in Chief and this month finds him facing his Confederate counterpart, the redoubtable, Robert E. Lee, for the first time. The battlefield is known as The Wilderness, a shrubby, rough terrain which reduced visibility and maneuverability for both sides. The battle, possibly the most deadly and violent of the war, raged for three days, May 5-7, and was essentially fought to a draw with the Union sustaining many more casualties. Nothing new for Robert E. Lee. The difference was that the Army of the Potomac did not retreat to the safety of the City of Washington. They disengaged and headed southeast. Both sides are now committed to the end.

Our Round Table begins this month with our yearly docent activities at the Gibson Ranch re-enactment. Our volunteers are meeting on Friday May 2, and we will be escorting bus loads of students through the various exhibits performed by the re-enactors. The festivities go on throughout the weekend, so if you miss Friday, please try to attend Saturday or Sunday. It's great fun, informative, and we have a booth there for hanging out. We must thank our George Foxworth who has once again taken responsibility for corralling us and coordinating our efforts. And thanks to Bob Hanley for attending meetings and getting the information back to the Board.

Let's move on to a little less far back in history. Didn't you love it when you were a kid and walked into a classroom and saw the audio visual equipment set up? This month, we have that treat. John Greer is presenting a DVD on the "150th Gettysburg Re-Enactment." John Greer was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, and graduated with a degree in History and English from the University there. He worked for the Department of Defense and was sent to England and Germany where he taught in military schools for them. He came to Sacramento and taught History until retirement in 1994. His career teaching History sparked an interest in the American Civil War. He's been a member of our Round Table for three years and helps each year docenting at Gibson Ranch. John is multi-lingual: says he speaks German, Spanish, and a little English. He is a world traveler who was able to attend the 150th Anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg and will be sharing that experience with us. He lives in Sacramento and winters in Mexico.

One last word on our West Coast Conference coming up in November, more good news: Dennis Kohlman will be sponsoring Thomas Cartwright as a speaker for our Conference. Thank you!!

A gentle reminder to enroll early in our Conference. We like to have an estimate (and it also gives us a chance to invite more people).

Please keep your donations for the raffle coming. I was overwhelmed by the generosity of our members at the April meeting.

Anne Peasley, President

MINUTES
SACRAMENTO CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
Wednesday, April 9, 2014
HOF BRAU RESTAURANT, 2500 WATT AVENUE, SACRAMENTO

ATTENDANCE – 47

MEMBERS – 34: Anne M. Peasley, President, Donald J. Hayden, Vice President, George W. Foxworth, Treasurer, Paul Ruud, Secretary, Silver Williams, Program Director, James M. Armstrong, George Beitzel, Joan Beitzel, Roy Bishop, Harvey Cain, Marsha Jutovsky Cain, Ardith Cnota, Mitch Cnota, Alice Corley, Alan Geiken, John Greer, Irene Grenier, Robert E. Hanley, IPP, Jim Harper, Scottie Hayden, Nina Henley, MAL, Wayne Henley, MAL, Dennis Kohlmann, Arnold Kunst, Barbara Leone, Rick A. Peasley, John Rice, Nancy Samuelson, Richard Sickert, Roxanne E. Spizzirri, Bob Williams, Susan Williams, John V. Zasso, Vivian Zasso.

GUESTS – 13: Ester Boeck, Gail Cretcher, Keith Cretcher, George Costenbader, Martha Hanley, Don Hansen, Chris Highsmith, Rebecca Highsmith, Larry Spizzirri, Richard Spizzirri, Milo Turaylich, Ray Valdez, Don A. Zajic

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by President Anne Peasley.
2. President Peasley led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. President Peasley sought support from the audience for Gibson Ranch; particularly to recruit for Friday student docents, but she also encouraged attendance on Saturday and Sunday.
4. Dennis Kohlmann reported on his Civil War tour that started in Tennessee and ended in Resaca, Georgia. Dennis reported on the Battle of Sacramento during the War. Ah yes, it was Sacramento, Kentucky. November conference speaker, Thomas Cartwright, was a tour leader.
5. President Peasley urged the audience to contribute raffle prizes for the November conference. Indeed she held up a \$5 Confederate bill that she had received from a generous donor. Paul Ruud displayed two typical prizes, slightly above the book level. These were nicely framed documents – Gettysburg address and Grant – Lee in 1865.
6. Silver Williams gave a health update on our friend, former secretary, and current honorary member, Walt Bittle. Walt is out of the hospital – now getting re-strengthened at a rehab facility for the long run.
7. George Beitzel was introduced – his family arrived in the Elk Grove area at the time of the Gold Rush – his father was a butcher – made a living because of gold, but not by actually digging for gold! George spoke to us about Robert E Lee, before and after the war.
 - A. Lee’s ancestors were news headliners from the U.S. colonial and revolutionary period. Lee was the son of Light Horse Harry Lee.
 - B. Lee graduated from West Point in 1829, second in his class and totally free of demerits.
 - C. Lee married Mary Custis, great granddaughter of Martha Washington at the Arlington Custis House on June 30, 1831.
 - D. They had seven children, three boys and four girls.
 - E. The government seized the Custis Arlington House in 1863 – the family was somewhat compensated in 1883. The actual house remains as a tourist attraction – I actually visited it several years ago.
 - F. Lee was offered the presidency of Washington College in October of 1865 – as president he totally revived the college - financially, academically, and drastically increased enrollments. He remained president until his death on October 12, 1870. His son succeeded him as president.
8. President Peasley thanked George Beitzel for his excellent presentation.
9. John Zasso sold additional raffle tickets and read the lucky numbers.
10. The meeting was adjourned at 8:22 PM. The May board meeting will be Wednesday, May 14, 2014, 10 AM, at Brookfield’s Restaurant. Come one, come all!

Paul Ruud, Secretary

Treasurer’s Report

The cash balance following the April 9, 2014 meeting was \$4,191.13. Thanks to John Zasso, other members, and guests, the raffle brought in \$61.00.

George W. Foxworth, Treasurer

Coming Programs for 2014 and 2015		
Date	Speaker	Topic
May 14 th	John Greer	“150 th Gettysburg Re-Enactment”
June 11 th	Don Hayden	“Battlefield Medicine”
July 9 th	Ted Savas	To Be Determined
August 13 th	Nicholas Scivoletto	“General Joseph E. Johnston”
September 10 th	Dennis Kohlmann	To Be Determined
October 8 th	Tad Smith	“The Coins and Currency of the Confederacy”
November 12 th	Tom Lubas	“Chicago, That Toddlin Civil War Town”
December 10 th	Tim & Ginny Karlberg	“Captain John Groetsch”
January 14 th	To Be Determined	To Be Determined
February 11 th	To Be Determined	To Be Determined
March 11 th	To Be Determined	To Be Determined
April 8 th	To Be Determined	To Be Determined

2014 Membership

The 2014 membership renewal is due as of January 1, 2014. The dues are \$20.00 and you can renew at a monthly meeting or send to the Treasurer through the mail. For all checks, make them payable to the “**Sacramento Civil War Round Table**” and send them to

George W. Foxworth
 9463 Salishan Court
 Sacramento, CA 95826-5233

Remember, you can also pay at a monthly meeting.

NEWSLETTER CIVIL WAR ARTICLES

Civil War articles/book reviews are welcome. The submission deadline is the 1st of each month for that month’s Battle Cry. Submit your items in Microsoft Word or regular email to:

gwofforth@sbcglobal.net

The Battle Cry is the monthly newsletter of the Sacramento CWRT. Submissions are subject to availability of space and size limitations. Submissions do not necessarily reflect the views of the organization or the Editor. The official address of this organization is: Sacramento Civil War Round Table, Post Office Box 254702, Sacramento, CA 95865-4702.

<http://www.sacramentocwrt.org> is the web site address. Check the web for past newsletter editions and information about the group.

A Report on the 16th Annual Gibson Ranch Re-Enactment

By George W. Foxworth

The National Civil War Association (NCWA) continued its 2014 re-enactment season on May 2-4 at historic Gibson Ranch in Elverta, California. The theme was "The Battle of the Wilderness: May 1864." 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.

Gibson Ranch is a Sacramento County Park with rolling and grassy hills that allows 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.

On May 2nd, Friday, the NCWA and Gibson Ranch hosted 2,042 students from Sacramento area schools. The Sacramento Civil War Round Table (SCWRT) served as docents for the school children. On May 3rd and 4th, the SCWRT hosted an event booth.

The following SCWRT members participated with the school children: Jim Armstrong, Harvey and Marsha Cain, George and Monica Foxworth, John Greer, Bob Hanley, H. Jim Harper, Don Hayden, Wayne Henley, Arnold Kunst, Anne and Rick Peasley, and John Zasso. In addition, the following SCWRT members worked in the SCWRT booth: George W. Foxworth, John Greer, Bob Hanley, Wayne and Nina Henley, Arnold Kunst, Rick and Anne Peasley, and Vivian Zasso. SCWRT member John Zasso was a re-enactor on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. SCWRT members H. Jim Harper, Barbara Leone, and Paul Ruud attended the re-enactment. We thank the volunteers, participants, and attendees.

On Saturday and Sunday, President Abraham Lincoln (Don Ancell) gave presentations with questions from the audience on Gettysburg and the life and times of Mr. Lincoln. Also on Saturday and Sunday, General Robert E. Lee (Lynn Wheeler) gave presentations with questions from the audience on The Wilderness and the life and times of the Civil War. The public was actively involved. The presentations were excellent and well-received by the attendees.

The conditions were dry, warm, and windy.

The 2014 Gibson Ranch event was a complete success and the NCWA and Gibson Ranch are commended for their great work. A special thank you to Mr. Doug Ose for his part in keeping the Ranch open. We also thank Delrae Pope and Stephanie La Fazia for managing the event and Scott Lee Spence (NCWA) for coordinating the event. We look ahead to 2015. The theme will be "Appomattox."



Civil War Events near Tunnel Hill, Georgia

The 137 mile long Western and Atlantic

Railroad from Chattanooga to Atlanta was the lifeline alternatively for both the Union and Confederate forces during the Civil War. As the two Armies occupied various sections; the structures, bridges, roadbed, and tracks were successively destroyed and rebuilt.

The most major structure that miraculously survived was the 1,447-foot long Chetogeta Mountain (Rocky Face Ridge) Tunnel, completed in 1850. Several tons of black powder (although only one fourth the power of dynamite) properly exploded could well have collapsed central portions of the tunnel, requiring a year or more to re-excavate, re-support and reline the Tunnel. Major and smaller bridges were, however, periodically damaged or destroyed but could much more readily be rebuilt using the prefabricated trusses designed by BG Herman Haupt, the Union's railroad engineering expert. Sherman's Armies carried a few of the repair trusses with them; and one wag suggested that he should also carry a spare tunnel!

This horseshoe sectioned (12 x 18 feet) brick-lined Tunnel was used until 1928, when a new tunnel of larger size needed for modern RR engines and cars paralleled it. The historic Tunnel has recently been renovated and reopened for walk-throughs. Appointments are needed from the Tunnel Hill Historical Association, and I suggest you wear your hard hats!

Not far from the western portal of the Tunnel is the Clisby Austin House, built as a hotel in the 1850's. The house was the headquarters of Confederate General Bragg after his defeat at Chattanooga in November 1863. Subsequently, it was Union General Sherman's headquarters during the initial phase of the Atlanta Campaign. On a grim note, the rebel General Hood was brought to the Austin House in Sept 1863 to recuperate after his wounding and leg amputation during the Battle of Chickamaqua. Since it was not expected that he would survive, his leg was

brought with him so that they could be buried together. He did survive, however (probably much to the later disappointment of the families of Patrick Cleburne and the four Brigadiers killed at the Battle of Franklin, and many others), and his leg was buried in the Austin family cemetery. The house and grounds are private property.

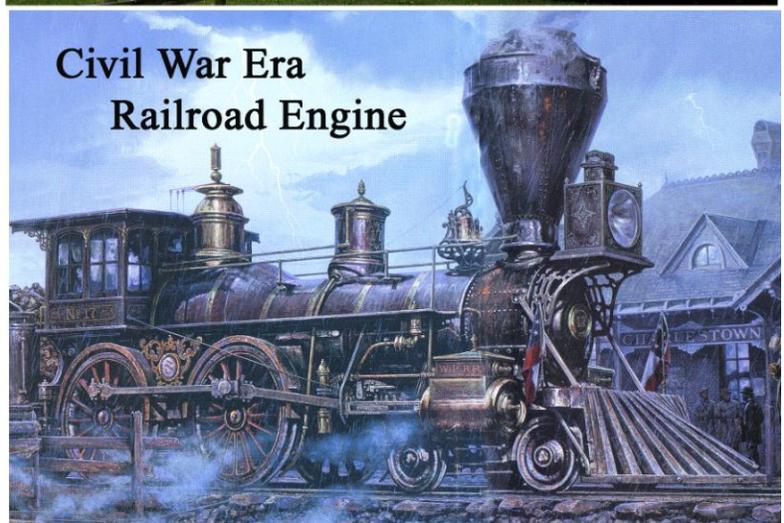
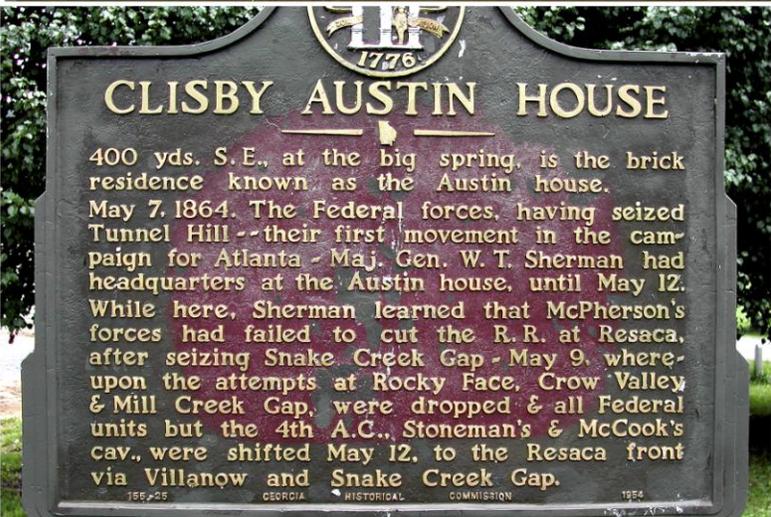
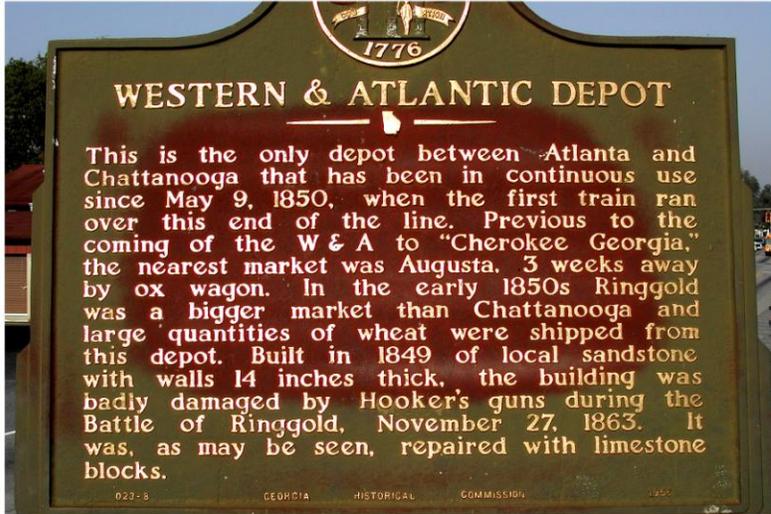
North of Tunnel Hill some 5 miles is the historic train depot at Ringgold, also shown on the graphics pages; and just south a short distance was the Battle of Rocky Face Ridge and the community of Dalton. Further south along the railroad was its intersection with the Snake Creek Gap Road where McPherson's Army had flanked, and could have captured, Johnston's entire rebel army had he not lost his nerve; much to Sherman's disappointment of course.

MG Sherman was an ideal choice to lead the Atlanta Campaign because he well understood the importance of effective supply lines; and the W&A RR was made to order for that purpose. In all probability that Campaign would not have been possible by using animal-powered wagon trains alone. (Please see *Battle Cry* article of July 2007 on "Railroads in the Civil War.") Only problem was that after arriving in Atlanta he discovered that it took an entire Corps of his Armies just to keep the railroad open and free from rebel attacks back to Chattanooga, and thence along the 160-mile Cumberland RR to Nashville. Such was the main reason he chose to depart Atlanta for Savannah (mainly living off the land), and leaving George Thomas's Army to mop up the sad situation with the rebel Hood in Tennessee, and send him into oblivion.

A motor trip along the old highway adjacent to the W&A RR in Georgia, with stops at the very large number of Civil War historical sites nearby, is a rewarding experience; and a scenic one also with fall colors in late November. But please schedule to do so after attending the November 07-09, 2014 West Coast Conference in Sacramento, of course!

Bob Williams: 01-06-03 rev. 04-19-14

Western and Atlantic Railroad at Tunnel Hill Vicinity Graphics Page One





2014 West Coast Civil War Conference

Sponsored by Sacramento Civil War Round Table

1864

November 7 - 9, 2014, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Sacramento

Our Speakers are:

Craig L. Symonds: Joined the United States Naval Academy faculty in 1976. He served as chairman of the history department in 1988-1992 and was appointed professor emeritus on his retirement.

Harold Holzer: Is a leading national authority on Abraham Lincoln and the political culture of the Civil War. A writer, lecturer, frequent television guest, and chairman of The Lincoln Bicentennial Foundation.

Thomas Cartwright: Is a leading authority and author on the Battle of Franklin who conducted tours of Western Theater battlefields for 20 years. Appeared on many TV shows and is a frequent CWRT speaker.

Jim Stanbery: Professor of Political Science and History at Los Angeles Harbor College, speaker at The West Coast Civil War Conference for more than twenty years.

Theodore Savas: Is an attorney, adjunct college instructor, award-winning author, partner and managing director of Savas Beatie LLC. He specializes in military history and the American Civil War.

The conference cost is \$195 per person which includes Friday dinner, Saturday lunch and dinner, as well as all sessions. A full breakfast buffet is included for guests staying at the hotel.

Partial day attendance: Friday only \$50, Saturday only \$95, Saturday dinner only \$50, Sunday only \$50. There will be a no-host bar set-up Friday and Saturday evenings for your enjoyment before dinner.

For more information, contact Paul Ruud at 530-886-8806 or by contacting www.sacramentocwrt.com where information and registration forms will be available.

Room reservations are available by calling Crowne Plaza directly 877-270-1393 or www.crowneplaza.com Crowne Plaza Hotel has rooms set aside for us at \$99 per night, plus tax. Please mention the conference.

Please print this page, fill it out, and return the form with your check for your registration. Make checks payable to:

Sacramento CWRT and mail to: George W. Foxworth, 9463 Salishan Court, Sacramento, CA 95826-5233.

Name / Organization as you want it on your badge

Organization: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Day phone () _____ Other phone _____

Email _____