



# 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:

A Yankee salute to Phil Avila for his informative presentation on the Hampton family and the role of Wade Hampton, before, during, and after the Civil War. I teasingly say Yankee salute because Phil appears to have adopted, at least for that night, South Carolina and the southern cause. Phil may hold the record for the number of presentations to our Roundtable. I haven't tried to verify the data – my only reservation about Phil's claim is our own Fred Boehmalk – in either case we're talking in the range of six presentations. Thanks so much to Phil for making the trek up from Sebastopol!

The Gibson Ranch re-enactment happened on schedule. I was told that 3,000 children participated in the Friday program. Our faithful members turned docents were there to lead their student groups from one station to the next. Shucks, by the end of the day, we even knew what we were doing. SCWRT participants are listed in George's report elsewhere in this issue. Great job everyone! Thanks so much!

The SCWRT presence at the re-enactment continued on Saturday and Sunday. Our booth was staffed where we dispensed information about the Roundtable to interested passers-by and generally enjoyed discussing the Civil War. None of this would happen without members generously donating their time – thanks to Don Hayden, Brad Schall, Bob Hanley, George Foxworth, Silver Williams, and Walt Bittle. Brad and Bob also made a presentation each day at the Main Street Stage explaining the strategy of the Seven Days Campaign.

**Have you paid your 2007 SCWRT dues?** It is easy to forget as the days and months move on so quickly! George Foxworth will accept your \$20 by cash or check, by mail or in person. If you should stop receiving the Battle Cry, the reason for some of you will be that you haven't paid your 2007 dues.

As you read this Battle Cry, Walt Bittle, former SCWRT secretary, and current honorary member, is busy shaping his talk for Wednesday night, June 13<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 PM at the Plaza Hofbrau! He will take us for a trip "In the Footsteps of Lincoln!" Get there early, expect "standing room only!" Walt will return to Missouri a few days after his presentation – we'll see him again next year when he returns for his tour leader season. See you at the Hofbrau.

**Paul Ruud, President**

**MINUTES**  
**SACRAMENTO CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE**  
**MAY 9, 2007**  
**HOF BRAU RESTAURANT, WATT AVENUE, SACRAMENTO**

Attendance – 29

Members-29

Paul Ruud, President	Nancy Hayden	Horst Penning
Dudley Albrecht	Chuck Hubbard	Ron Perisho
Walt Bittle	Pam Hubbard	Brad Schall
Mitch Cnota	Lowell Lardie	Drew Van Winkle
Ardith Cnota	Victor Le	Robert Williams
Brad Friedman	Leslie Michaels	Silver Williams
Alan Geiken	Jim Middleton (Editor)	Susan Williams
Kyle Glasson	Vivian Miller	Maxine Wollen
Don Hayden	Maurice Mitchell	John Zasso
Scottie Hayden	Betty Mitchell	

1. Meeting started at 7:00 PM. Members welcomed by President Paul Ruud. The memorial service for member, Ken Kitchen, was to be held on May 10<sup>th</sup> at Fair Oaks Presbyterian Church.
2. Members were asked to review their dues standing and to pay their 2007 dues if they had not done so. A volunteer list for staffing the SCWRT booth at Gibson Ranch was circulated.
3. The President reminded members who have signed up to volunteer for School Day, Friday, May 18, 2007 at the Gibson Ranch Civil War Reenactment of the day's schedule and encouraged everyone to join him at breakfast.
4. On this day, May 9, 1859, John Brown was hanged.
5. Phil Avila from the North Bay Civil War Roundtable presented "Wade Hampton, Savior of the South!" Phil covered the Hampton family who had first arrived in the US in 1620. They had become wealthy South Carolinian land owners and Wade personally funded the unit he started out leading in the war. Wade Hampton later served as the South Carolina governor and as a US senator. A remarkable career! Our thanks to Phil for again speaking to our roundtable – an estimated fifth time over the past two decades.
6. The raffle was held and the meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Paul Ruud filling in for Secretary, Edie Keister with assistance from Susan Williams.

**Treasurer's Report**

The cash balance following the May 9, 2007 meeting was \$2,210.59. Thanks to members and guests, the raffle brought in \$72.00.  
George W. Foxworth, Treasurer

## **A Report On The 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Gibson Ranch Re-Enactment**

By George W. Foxworth

The National Civil War Association (NCWA) continued its 2007 re-enactment season on May 18-20 at historic Gibson Ranch in Elverta, California. The theme was “The Virginia Campaign” or “The Seven Days Campaign.” 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 18th, Friday, the NCWA and Gibson Ranch hosted over 2,700 students from Sacramento area schools. The Sacramento Civil War Round Table (SCWRT) served as tour guides for the school children. On May 19th and 20th, the SCWRT hosted an event booth.

The following SCWRT members participated with the school children: George Beitzel, Joan Beitzel, Ken Berna, Courtne Braziel, George W. Foxworth, Ted Hansen, Don Hayden, Chuck Hubbard, Edie Keister, Dennis Kohlmann, Paul Ruud, Brad Schall, Silver Williams, and Maxine Wollen. Bob Orr from the Stanislaus Civil War Association and Bob Maerdian and Lee Wolary from the Sons of Union Veterans helped with the children. In addition, the following SCWRT members worked in the event booth: Don Hayden, George W. Foxworth, Bob Hanley, Brad Schall, Paul Ruud, Walt Bittle, Silver Williams, and John Zasso. Finally, Sharon and Steve Bogart, Evan Cole, Victor Le, Phil Mendes, John Nevins, and Ed Sims attended. Many thanks to the volunteers and attendees.

In April 1862, General McClellan began the Peninsular Campaign (Virginia Campaign) but the Seven Days’ battles began on June 25, 1862. General McClellan's forces advanced to within 15 miles of Richmond and General Lee decided to go on the offensive.

The First Day: On June 25<sup>th</sup>, the Union army attacked Oak Grove.

The Second Day: On June 26<sup>th</sup>, General Lee attacked at Mechanicsville, the far flank of the Union line. The brunt of this attack was made by the forces of General A.P. Hill. It was a lopsided fight. The Confederates sustained 1,500 casualties while the Union sustained 400. General McClellan felt that with overwhelming Confederate forces liable to attack he should withdraw the forces to a more defensible position at Gaines Mill.

On June 27th and 28<sup>th</sup> at Gaines’ Mill, General Lee attacked again. The battle went on for the whole day, and by the end of June 28, Confederate forces succeeded in breaking through Union lines at Turkey Hill. When the results of the battle became known, General McClellan made the decision to give up his base of supply at the White House and move it to Harrison's Landing. He gave orders for all his forces to retreat to the James River. General McClellan, even though his losses had been lower than the Confederate losses to date, was convinced he had lost. General McClellan had over 60,000 troops that were not engaged during this battle.

June 29<sup>th</sup>: As the Army of the Potomac withdrew across the Peninsula, General Lee attempted to destroy it at Savage Station. The Confederates used an armored train car at the front of a train which was armored with bales of cotton and hay. The armored car had a large cannon facing forward which was expected to do good work for the South.

June 30: At Glendale, or Frayser’s Farm located at White Oak Swamp, Generals Huger's, Longstreet's, and A.P. Hill's divisions converged on the retreating Union army. Generals Longstreet's and Hill's attacks penetrated the Union defense near Willis Church, routing General McCall's division resulting in the capture of McCall.

July 1: General Lee made a final effort at Malvern Hill to destroy the Union army. The Hill was well defended and 5,590 Confederates died while trying to scale it. The Union army lost about a third as many.

The Confederates started the Campaign with fewer men than the Union and lost more than the Union. However, when the battle opened, Union forces threatened Richmond. When the Seven Days Campaign came to an end, General McClellan's Army of the Potomac was bottled up in Harrison Landing, and no longer a threat to Richmond.

On Saturday and Sunday, SCWRT members Bob Hanley and Brad Schall gave an educational talk on The Virginia Campaign. The speakers were introduced by Don Hayden on Saturday and Paul Ruud on Sunday. The talks were excellent and well-received by the attendees

For the first time in a few years, the rain god was absent. The conditions were dry and hot, in other words, excellent. The re-enactors were excellent. Unfortunately, there were not many public attendees for the two days as in the past.

The 2007 Gibson Ranch event was a complete success and the NCWA and Gibson Ranch are commended for their great work. We look ahead to the 2008 event.

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## Abraham Lincoln Trivia

1. True or False? Robert Todd Lincoln was born in a saloon.
2. True or False? Abraham Lincoln was elected to the Illinois Legislature five times and served a total of eight years.
3. Lincoln had three law partners. Name them.
4. Lincoln was “romantically involved” with three women. Name them.
5. Abraham and Mary had four children. Name them in order of birth.
6. Lincoln had at least five secretaries during his time in the White House. Name the first three.
7. If Booth’s plan had succeeded, Lincoln, Johnson, and Seward would have all been assassinated. Who would have become President in that case?  
Job Title \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_
8. When he was challenged to a duel by James Shields, what was Lincoln’s choice of weapons? To what state did they travel to hold the duel?
9. Lincoln is the only President to hold a patent. Describe in general terms the purpose of that invention.
10. Lincoln said he had just enough education so he could “*read and write and cipher to the rule of three.*” What does that mean in layman’s terms? (I really don’t know! Walt)

**Answers on page 7**

## **From Atlanta to Savannah Sherman's March to the Sea**

The genesis of Sherman's thinking regarding a march to the sea is not precisely known, but there is some indication that it occurred early-on. According to a staff member who asked him somewhat jokingly while at Chattanooga what his plans were after he took Atlanta, his response was; "Salt Water". Five months later Sherman rode into downtown Atlanta. CSA General Hood left town 1 Sept. with a "bang" after blowing up his own 80 car ordinance and ammunition trains, four engines, and the adjacent Rolling Mill and Depot. (Had Hood withdrawn 36 hours earlier, before the last RR was cut, he could have saved the trains but he didn't think in such terms.) Ten weeks later, Sherman, on 15 Nov. 1864 also departed Atlanta, heading east to a then undisclosed location.

Events during this two and one-half month interlude were many. Sherman ordered Chief Engineer Orlando Poe to develop a compact defense system to protect the heart of the City only (3 miles in perimeter, versus an earlier 12 mile system) which would require a minimum garrison, by leaving out much of the residential area. Many houses would thereby have to be destroyed to provide lines of fire. He also issued a controversial order to depopulate the city, but rigorous enforcement was not needed due to the large voluntary exodus.

In a reply to one of his many detractors, the Atlanta mayor, Sherman wrote, "You cannot qualify war in harsher terms than I will. War is cruelty and you cannot refine it; and those who brought war into our country deserve all the curses and maledictions a people can pour out. I had no hand in making this war, and I know I will make more sacrifice today than any of you to secure peace. But you cannot have peace and a division too. If the United States submits to a division now, it will not stop until we reap the fate of Mexico which is eternal war".

Sherman accumulated a large supply reserve via the W&A Railroad then made plans for removing the rails and burning the bridges back to the Etowah River. Rails were to be stored at Dalton. The railroad, which was the Federals only supply line to Atlanta, had been attacked many times by the Rebels during this interim period after the capture of Atlanta, each time being unsuccessful,

but Sherman estimated that to keep the road open would cost the Union an excessive casualty rate. He had been planning to leave Atlanta all along and had never really intended to permanently garrison the City.

Writing to Grant on Oct. 9, Sherman said, "I propose we break up the railroad from Chattanooga, and strike out with wagons to Milledgeville, Millen, and Savannah. Until we can repopulate Georgia, it is useless to occupy it, but the utter destruction of its roads, houses, and people will cripple their military resources. By attempting to hold the railroad we will lose 1,000 men monthly, and will gain no result, I can make the march and make Georgia howl". After further correspondence, he obtained approval (with some reservation) from Grant and Lincoln for the march, and his planning continued.

Generals Thomas and Schofield with their armies were ordered back to their headquarters (with the exception of XX Corps) at Nashville and Knoxville, respectively. For good measure, he later sent General Schofield and the Army of the Ohio to join Thomas' Army of the Cumberland. This would ensure the destruction of Hood. Then, Sherman sent all disabled troops and numerous baggage trains, tents, and other equipment to the rear. For the march, he created a veteran army of 62,000 men; made up largely from his old Army of the Tennessee. He brought 600 ambulances, 20 days rations, five days forage, 5,000 head of beef cattle and minimal personal luggage. There would be no supply train. Sherman gave Hood two equally bad options: follow him to the sea and risk battle against a superior force, or fight Thomas in heavily fortified positions in Tennessee.

On Nov. 14, the majority of the army stepped out, marching briskly to the "The Battle Hymn of the Republic." Never in history, had so large an army divided itself in the midst of battle, nor had one section of that army marched directly into enemy territory without a supply train or communication line to a home base.

General Sherman, his Chief Engineer, and a single Corps, stayed back to oversee the destruction of all crucial military installations in Atlanta that might be of some use to the Confederacy. They burned arsenals, the armory, the railroad roundhouse, train-car shed, warehouses, machine shops, a laboratory and other industrial

and business facilities, and every species of machinery that was not destroyed by fire was broken up and made worthless in original form.

After sending all of the rolling stock north, they then removed the railroad rails and burned all bridges on the W&A RR back to Dalton. This burning of Atlanta, coupled with the earlier evacuation order, left their terrible mark on the horrified citizens of Georgia as Sherman set out to "make the state howl." Outlandish charges have been made against Sherman for his action. That one-third of the City which possessed military targets was deliberately razed is indeed true; but the remainder of any complaint, then or now is Lost Cause fiction. (An interesting Barnard picture highlights the point, the Feds burned a Bank building, but they left the Billiards Parlor-Pool Hall next door intact!)

Sherman's well equipped force of 55,000 Infantry, 5,000 Cavalry, and 2,000 Artillerymen (64 guns) was organized into two wings. The Right Wing under O. O. Howard consisted of Osterhaus' XV Corps and Blaire's XVII Corps. The Left Wing under Slocum was composed of J.C. Davis' XIV Corps and A.S. Williams' XX Corps. The Cavalry which did most of the limited fighting was Judson ("Kill Cavalry") Kilpatrick's Division. The only rebel forces in the area to stop Sherman were Hood's 13,000 troops centered on Lovejoy, but Hood with Davis' blessing decided to move North into Tennessee and everyone now knows what happened to him then. Sherman's new opponent in Georgia was P.G.T. Beauregard, and Sherman was familiar with his thinking from West Point and ultimately outguessed him. Hardee now also commanded limited rebel forces in eastern Georgia.

The two wings marched out of Atlanta, 50 to 60 miles apart, feinting assaults toward Macon on the south, and Augusta on the north. This flexibility kept Generals Hardee and Beauregard of the Confederate command totally confused. They were outmanned to be sure; but they could never mount any defensive posture that could halt Sherman. After Sherman's initial moves, Beauregard rushed to have Macon covered first, and then Augusta; but Sherman moved too quickly for the rebel generals, as he swung his Wings into the center and converged up on the Georgia State Capitol then at Milledgeville, his original target.

A few days prior to his arrival in the capitol city on 23 Nov., the legislature had passed a resolution calling on citizenry to "...die as freemen rather than live as slaves", but then they and Governor Brown left town in a hurry. Sherman spent the night in the Governor's mansion; but slept in his bedroll on the floor since the Governor had taken all of the furniture. The next day the younger members of his staff held a mock session of the legislature at the capitol building and voted Georgia back into the Union. Sherman occupied Milledgeville but briefly before moving on. He swung his cavalry from right to left, to the outskirts of Augusta, reined them in, and separated his two flanks again. He used the left wing to destroy 100 miles of the Central Georgia Railroad, and then converged on Millen, Georgia. These rapid maneuvers and the continuous rampage completely confused and terrified the enemy.

However, the soldiers were not merely marching. They were living quite handsomely off the land. Each brigade sent a foraging party of 50 to 100 men, "Sherman's bummers" as they became known, off every morning to pick the countryside clean. They gathered food of all sorts; the harvest was sitting freshly picked in bins at every farm; they took horses, cattle, and supplies in addition. Wealthy plantations were picked clean; poor farmers were left virtually untouched, a Robin Hood principle of sorts. Any town that showed resistance, faced retribution; large plantations were burned, as were cotton gins, powder factories and other mills. It is estimated that some 90,000 bales of cotton were destroyed.

Despite rumors to the contrary, the foraging process was tightly controlled. The wholesale appropriation of supplies was the policy, and it shocked the population, who felt the hard hand of war directly. On the issue of random burnings, rapes, or robbery, Union officers were empowered to prosecute any offenders to the limit, and generally did. That there were incidents of burnings and personal acts of violence is undeniable, but the army's treatment of people in Georgia was remarkably civil.

During the march from Atlanta the Union army destroyed some 320 miles of railroad track, and put the South's only east-west rail systems entirely out of commission. Sherman and his engineering units (He often traveled with the engineers) always left their signature when they

had finished with a particular area. His men had developed an ingenious method of lifting, heating, and melting the iron rails over a fire of the wooden ties, and then wrapping them around trees to cool. A bent rail could be straightened in the field and reused, but a twisted rail was useless. The results were called "Sherman neckties".

The federal forces reached the outskirts of Savannah (1864 population about 24,000) on 10 Dec. but found that Hardee had entrenched 10,000 men in good positions, and had flooded the surrounding rice fields, leaving only narrow causeways available to approach the city. Sherman was blocked from linking up with the U.S. Navy as he had planned, so he dispatched cavalry 12 miles south to Fort McAllister, guarding the Ogeechee River, in hopes of unblocking his route and obtaining supplies awaiting him on the navy ships. On 13 Dec., W. B. Hazen's division of Howard's Wing stormed the Fort and captured it within 15 minutes. Many of the 134 Union casualties were caused by torpedoes, a name for crude land mines used during the Civil War (Such mines are today called IED's, Improvised Explosive Devices. After the war, General Henry Slocum wrote: "Planting torpedoes for the defense of a position is legitimate warfare, but the act of planting them in a highway where no contest was anticipated is something like poisoning a stream of water; it is not recognized as fair or legitimate warfare." (*Tell it to the Islamic Extremists*)) Rebel casualties were 48. Sherman made the Fort's POW's locate, dig up and disarm the mines. No further casualties were reported.

Now that Sherman had connected to the navy's South Atlantic Blockading Squadron, then under RAdm. John Dahlgren, he was able to obtain the supplies and siege artillery required to invest Savannah. He sent a message on 17 Dec. to Hardee demanding surrender. Hardee decided not to surrender, but to escape. On 20 Dec., the rebels crossed the Savannah River on a pontoon bridge hastily constructed of rice flats. Sherman's forces, led by Geary's division of XX Corps occupied Savannah the next day. Hardee, the fine general that he was, made a wise decision for he prevented war damage from occurring to one of the most beautiful cities of the country.

Sherman telegraphed to President Lincoln, "I beg to present you as a Christmas gift the City of Savannah, with one hundred and fifty guns and plenty of ammunition, also about 25,000

bales of cotton". Sherman's march to the sea brought the Civil War home to Southern civilians. Few became casualties, but many lost property and were demoralized. In Virginia, desertions in R. E. Lee's army increased. Sherman's psychological warfare of destruction had a major effect on the outcome of the war. It also made Sherman a mean brute to many Southerners, but he became a hero to Union supporters. By the present century, the purpose for the march may be largely forgotten, but Sherman's methods still remain the subject of oftentimes spirited discussion.

#### References:

"The March to the Sea and Beyond", by J. T. Glatthaar, 1985: "The Longest Night" by D. J. Eicher, 2001; "Sherman's March" by D. Nevin.1986: "Official Records" S1V44Sr92; "Battles and Leaders" V4 Pt1&2

Bob Williams: 5-15-07

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## Answers to Trivia on page

### 4.

1. True
2. True
3. Stuart, Logan, Herndon
4. Anne Rutledge, Mary Owens, Mary Ann Todd
5. Robert, Edward, William, Thomas
6. Nicolay, Hay, Stoddard
7. President Pro-Tem of the Senate, Lafayette S. Foster
8. Broad Sword, Missouri
9. Lifting boats over shoals in a river
10. ????

Walt Bittle June  
2007

# Atlanta to Savannah, Sherman's March Graphics Page

## Principal Union Commanders



Sherman



Slocum



Howard



Kilpatrick



Davis



Osterhaus



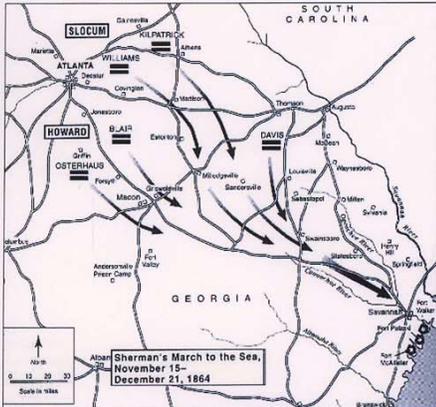
Blaire



Williams



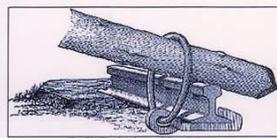
Painting Depicting Various March to the Sea Events



Location Map



Railroad Destruction Technique



Rail Twisting Clamp



Burning RR Ties and Rails



Savannah's Defender



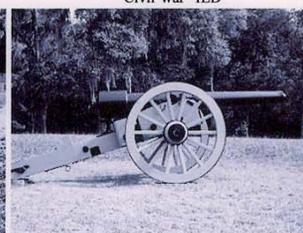
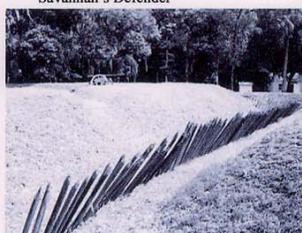
Fuse



Civil War "IED"



Sherman's Savannah Headquarters



Fort McAllister



RAW: 5-15-07