



Battle Cry

Founded 1961,
Newsletter of the Sacramento Civil War Round Table
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President's Message:

The Sacramento Civil War Round-Table supported the May 2012 event at Gibson Ranch Regional County Park in the community of Elverta. The National Civil War Association (NCWA) is an organization whose charter is to provide educational events to the public pertaining specifically to the American Civil War. The NCWA folks are an organization of Civil War re-enactors who come from through-out California and Nevada.

We have been involved in supporting this three day event for many years and I continue to see the same people. I am amazed that the three day event goes so smoothly, as it clearly has some fine folks providing the operating nucleus year after year.

Friday of each event is dedicated to bussing in middle-school children to observe how the re-enactors perform their tasks. This year there were over 2000 students from schools as far east as Foresthill and as far West as Woodland. That represents quite a few busses since there were three different times the students arrived. Saturday and Sunday the event is open to the public and there are battle reenactments, guest speakers and the Confederate, Union and civilian camps are open to the public as well. We intend to support this event for many years. For now, please see George Foxworth's write-up on the 14th Annual Gibson Ranch Re-enactment in this edition.

I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting on Wednesday, June 13th to hear Tim Karlberg's presentation, "Footsteps of the Cal 100; A Pictorial Journey."

Bob Hanley, President

MINUTES
SACRAMENTO CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
Wednesday, May 9, 2012
HOF BRAU RESTAURANT, 2500 WATT AVENUE, SACRAMENTO

ATTENDANCE – 40

MEMBERS – 31

Robert E. Hanley, President
Anne E. Peasley, Vice President
George W. Foxworth, Treasurer
George D. Beitze
Joan M. Beitzel
Roy Bishop
Evan H. Cole
Irene Cole
Alan Geiken
John W. Greer
Donald J. Hayden, IPP
Scottie Hayden
Nancy Hayden
Dennis Kohlmann, PD
Lowell L. Lardie
Ken M. Lentz

Mary Lou Lentz
Kim Grace Long
Rick A. Peasley
Horst Penning
Mark Penning
John Rice
Paul G. Ruud
Nicholas Scivoletto
Richard Sickert
Roxanne E. Spizzirri
Robert A. Williams
Silver N. Williams
Maxine Wollen
Don A. Zajic
John V. Zasso

GUESTS – 9

Esther Boeck
Ed Derkum
Leslie Derkum
Don Hayden, Jr.
Nisa Davis Hayden
Jim Lane
Larry Spizzirri
Richard Spizzirri
Ray Valdez

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM. by President Bob Hanley.
2. President Hanley led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Guests and a returning member (Don Zajic) were introduced.
4. President Hanley announced that the Gibson Ranch Civil War event is May 18 – 20, 2012 and the Schools' Day Program is Friday, May 18. Volunteers were requested to lead the children and staff the Round Table booth on Saturday and Sunday.
5. Paul Ruud announced that some members are meeting for breakfast on May 18 (Friday) at Brookfields near Greenback and I-80. The time is 07:00 AM.
6. Program Director Dennis Kohlmann recommended a book he has read, "America's Great Debate" by Fergus M. Bordewick.
7. Immediate Past President Don Hayden then introduced the speaker, Jim Lane. His topic was: "SS Sultana" which exploded on April 27, 1865. Mr. Lane's lecture showed that the Sultana disaster is the greatest maritime disaster in United States' history. Of the approximate 2,307 souls on board, 1,721 perished, more than the SS Titanic in 1912. Lively questions and answers followed the presentation.
8. President Hanley thanked Mr. Lane for the talk and gave him a bottle of wine.
9. President asked for a volunteer to assume the Secretary position. There were no responses.
10. John Zasso sold additional raffle tickets and read the numbers.
11. The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

12. President Hanley talked about the vacant Secretary position. No action was taken.
13. For Gibson Ranch, we need fifteen volunteers to lead the approximate 2,200 students.
14. The Board of Directors' meeting was adjourned at 8:57 PM.

George W. Foxworth, Acting Secretary

Treasurer's Report

The cash balance following the May 9, 2012 meeting was \$2,531.80. Thanks to John Zasso, other members, and guests, the raffle brought in \$57.00.

George W. Foxworth, Treasurer

A Report on the 14th Annual Gibson Ranch Re-Enactment By George W. Foxworth

The National Civil War Association (NCWA) continued its 2012 re-enactment season on May 18-20 at historic Gibson Ranch in Elverta, California. The theme was “Sesquicentennial Anniversary 1862 – The Road to Antietam.” 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 approximately 2,400 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: Roy Bishop, George W. Foxworth, John Greer, Bob Hanley, Casey Hatfield, Don Hayden, Eric Henderson, Elizabeth Henley, Katharine Henley, Dennis Kohlmann, Kim Grace Long, Anne and Rick Peasley, Paul Ruud, Silver Williams, Maxine Wollen, and John Zasso. In addition, the following SCWRT members worked in the SCWRT booth: George W. Foxworth, John Greer, Bob Hanley, Rick and Anne Peasley, Richard Sickert, and Silver Williams. The re-enactors were Eric Henderson, Rob Schroeder, Ed Sims, and John Zasso. From the Elk Grove CWRT, Tim and Ginny Karlberg attended. We thank the volunteers, participants, and attendees.

On Saturday and Sunday, President Abraham Lincoln (Don Ancell) conducted impromptu interview-type presentations with questions from the audience on the life and times of Mr. Lincoln. In addition, the public was actively involved in the interviews. On Saturday, President Bob Hanley gave a talk on Antietam. The presentations were excellent and well-received by the attendees.

The conditions were dry and warm.

The 2012 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 L & M Concession Management for managing the event and Keith W. Bowles (NCWA) for coordinating the event. We look ahead to 2013.



Child raises \$10K to save battlefields Civil War Trust to honor 12-year-old Austinite

AUSTIN (KXAN) - Early next month, the Civil War Trust, an organization dedicated to the preservation of historic battlefields from the War between the States, will hand out its first ever award to a child.

That child is Andrew Druart, 12, from South Austin. "They're giving me an award for junior preservation," said Andrew. "I'm the first one to get this award for protecting battlefields at such a young age."

Believe it or not, Andrew's trip to the Richmond, Va., Civil War Trust Annual Conference, started with baseball.

When he was 10, the boy and his father, Tad Druart, took a trip to the East coast to check out some baseball games. Such trips are a regular father-son activity in the Druart family and they almost always include visits along the way to historic sites and museums.

Two years ago, they made room for a visit to the Gettysburg National Battlefield. Andrew insisted on arriving at the site before dawn and he and his dad spent the day checking out every nook and cranny.

"I just got a feeling," Andrew remembered, "and when I could close my eyes, I could actually picture seeing a line of gray soldiers in butternut a mile long coming towards us."

"Walking on the battlefield," the father recalled, "learning about the soldiers who fought there, seeing where soldiers from Texas and Minnesota, where his mom's from, and Kansas, where I'm from, hearing all those stories and hearing about the soldiers, he just became enamored with the Civil War and learning more about it and asking all sorts of questions."

"The rangers who have kept in touch with him through Facebook and online, they tell me how it's very rare for a kid his age to be that engaged."

"For instance," Druart continued, "at the Battle of Cold Harbor where 6,000 men laid for two to three days in the hot Virginia sun, you could tell that he was almost in tears as the park ranger talked about it."



Andrew Druart

"That empathy is really neat and I think that's what led him to the next level of, 'We have to protect this ground.' He's kind of an old soul."

"So we started an odyssey for him to learn."

Back in Austin, Andrew took things to the next level. He got wind of the trust and decided to join its effort to save the war's fighting grounds.

"At first, I raised \$100 and gave it to the Civil War Trust," he said. "Then we became very connected with them and we added a link to their Web site that said, 'Donate for Andrew's cause.' You could just click that and go there and donate in my name."

The Druarts say that effort has raised \$10,000 so far.

But Andrew didn't stop there. He arranged to give presentations to school and Boy Scout groups, presentations that often include a demonstration of the firing of a Civil War musket.

When he first caught the Civil War bug, re-enactors would not let him fire the weapon.

"The rule was you have to be taller than the top of the musket," Tad Druart said, "and so now he's taller than the top of the musket, so we've taught him how to do it."

The shooting, of course, thrills the young people in Andrew's audiences, but he and his dad do it for another reason, as well.

"It's also understanding," Tad Druart said, "that when you hold that weapon and see how the bullets would have come out and the power, I think it gives you a little more understanding when you see the smoke,

what the battlefield must have been like, where you might not be able to see 20 feet in front of you.’

A typical presentation also includes a discussion of the size of Civil War soldiers. They were much smaller than present day Americans.

“When you think about it, they didn't have hamburgers or hotdogs or macaroni and cheese,” Andrew explained.

Instead, Civil War fighters often made do with whatever they could scrounge on the ground. At his presentations, Andrew passes around plates of samples of salt port and hardtack, foods that comprised much of a soldier’s diet.

The pair also pulls out a heavy bayonet used in the war, but now outlawed by international convention, because wounds caused by the three-sided weapon resisted healing.

It turns out, the bayonet didn’t get that much use in the American conflict either.

“When you are marching 12 miles a day,” Andrew said, “this kind of thing got a little tiring to carry, so most soldiers just threw them out.”

Tad Druart tells audience members about something else that got thrown away during the long and bloody war: the arms and legs that were amputated from wide-awake soldiers without benefit of any kind of anesthesia beyond perhaps a shot of whiskey.

Such images surely roamed through Andrew’s mind when he was asked about the two sisters he has at home. Could he imagine going to war against an army that included his own siblings? He shook his head.

“I can’t imagine that,” he said, “but I know that’s what happened.

“I don’t really take sides. Because I’m a Texan, I kind of like my state, which is in the South. But then again, I have at least 20 relatives who fought in the Civil War and more than half of them were Yankees.”

The food, the bayonet, the musket demonstration: These things bring the conflict between the states to life, but Tad Druart is quick to remind the audience that the war killed more Americans than all other U.S. wars combined.

“We’re not here glorifying the Civil War,” he told a large audience of Boy Scouts Monday night. “We don’t want people to think it was a great fun thing to play; it was very deadly.”

And, says the father, Andrew understands that completely.

“It’s not enough just to go to the battlefield for him,” Tad Druart said. “We visit the national cemeteries. He learns about the soldiers that died there and can tell me those stories.”

“Every time we go there,” Andrew said, “we play Taps and take off our hats and just sit for a moment and recognize that these men did fight for their country and die here.”

The two have spent time at battlefields and cemeteries all over the conflict zone. They shoot video segments that Andrew posts on his [website](#) , on [YouTube](#) and on his [Facebook page](#) .

They lobby everyone they meet to stand up against the development of battleground sites for things like Wal-mart stores and apartment complexes.

Yet, might this prove to be only a passing fancy for a 12 year-old child? Andrew thinks not.

“I’m actually planning to keep this going for as long as I can,” he said, “to keep it running until I have kids and can take them to the battlefields. Then they can take over.

“I want to go Vanderbilt and get a Ph.D. in history so I can become a head historian at one of the battlefields.

“What I like to say,” Andrew said, “is when you destroy battlefields, you’re just basically erasing history.”

By Jim Swift, KXAN

Updated: Thursday, 10 May 2012, 6:45 PM CDT

Published : Wednesday, 09 May 2012, 9:06 PM CDT

Link to story found here:

<http://www.kxan.com/dpp/news/local/austin/child-raises-10k-to-save-battlefields>

Andrew’s website; <http://www.civilwarkids.com/>;





BOOK REVIEW



Guerillas in Civil War Missouri

By James W. Erwin

Illustrated, photos, bibliography, index, 128 pp., 2012, History Press, www.historypress.net, \$19.99 softcover.

Published in June Civil War News;

<http://www.civilwarnews.com/reviews/2012br/june/guerillas-erwin-br061203.html>

By all accounts the guerilla war in Civil War Missouri was worse than the guerilla wars in East Tennessee and in West (or western) Virginia. One reason for its ferocity is the antebellum hostilities along the Kansas-Missouri border brought about by the Kansas-Nebraska Act and the debate about whether Kansas would join the Union as a slave state.

Actually, as shown by this volume, the depredations committed by both sides in Missouri were not limited to the areas contiguous to the Kansas-Missouri border. They occurred in most of Missouri south of the Missouri River and in northeast Missouri.

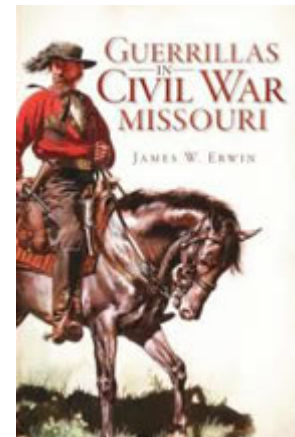
In addition, the end of the Civil War did not stop all the violence, as “justice” was still meted out by those who carried grudges.

Guerillas in Civil War Missouri introduces the reader to William Quantrill and Quantrill’s Raiders; “Bloody Bill” Anderson; Frank and Jesse James; the destruction of Lawrence, Kan.; the Centralia (Mo.) Massacre; Federal General Order #11, which basically required all Confederate sympathizers in several counties to leave their homes; and other depredations carried out by both sides.

The book demonstrates convincingly that whether they are seen as bandits or true Confederate patriots, the small number of rebel guerillas tied down an incredible number of Union troops in Missouri and Kansas, troops that were therefore not available for

duty with the armies attacking the Confederacy directly.

What is surprising is that after the war, despite their notoriety, many Confederate guerillas were able to hang up their guns, return to their homes and get on with their lives.



Most became respected citizens, and some were elected to public office. Indeed former members of Quantrill’s Raiders held reunions, just like any other Union and Confederate unit, from 1898 to 1930.

In the end their service was summed up by a contemporary historian, ex-Confederate Maj. Edward Steele: “They did what they did, but it was war.”

Guerillas in Civil War Missouri is well written, well illustrated and interesting. It is highly recommended for those who want an introduction to the war on the Kansas-Missouri border before the Civil War as well as the guerilla war in Missouri during the war.

Reviewer: Joseph A. Derie

Joseph A. Derie is a VMI graduate and a long time Civil War buff and military book reviewer. A retired Coast Guard officer and licensed officer of the Merchant Marine, he is a Certified Marine Investigator and marine surveyor.

