



**Volume 54, No 7  
July, 2014**

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# Battle Cry

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

Happy Independence Day to All!

Nothing says summer like fireworks and a barbeque. I hope you are enjoying the season as much as I am.

This month, we are fortunate to have Ted Savas as our featured speaker. Ted has travelled scores of Civil War battlefields on foot and made discoveries of bullets and other Civil War related artifacts still lying in the ground in lesser known locations. That said, I thought it would be fun to point out that his talk this month regards events taking place on water. (I wonder if he swam the area.) He will discuss the CSS Arkansas and the thrilling and unforgettable history of this warship's story. And Ted Savas is a remarkable speaker. Besides informative, he is passionate, funny, and thoroughly immersed in his topic. If you haven't visited [www.savasbeatie.com](http://www.savasbeatie.com) yet, please do. You are in for a whole other level in Civil War study. Ted will be contributing to our Conference this November both with a presentation and with his incredible collection of books.

Once more, I would like to thank all those who are contributing fine raffle prizes for our Conference. I can't help but be amazed at the thoughtfulness and generosity of all of you who are helping. Please continue to book your reservations and persuade your friends and families to participate in what I consider an extraordinary History Conference right here in our hometown.

The Board Members and Conference Committee are all reaching out to other groups in California and the country. I hope that all our members pass the word as well. The easiest way is to direct people to our superb web site. I tell folks to just Google SCWRT, and it pops right up.

That's all for now. See you next week!

**Anne Peasley, President**

**MINUTES**  
**SACRAMENTO CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE**  
**Wednesday, June 11, 2014**  
**HOF BRAU RESTAURANT, 2500 WATT AVENUE, SACRAMENTO**

**ATTENDANCE – 48**

**MEMBERS – 34:** Anne M. Peasley, President, Donald J. Hayden, Vice President, Paul Ruud, Secretary, George W. Foxworth, Treasurer, Silver Williams, Program Director, Steve Andrews, George Beitzel, Joan Beitzel, Roy Bishop, Harvey Cain, Marsha Jutovsky Cain, Gordon Coleman, Charles Collins, Alice Corley, Monica Foxworth, John Greer, Irene Grenier, Robert E. Hanley, IPP, Scottie Hayden, Nina Henley, MAL, Wayne Henley, MAL, Jim Juanitas, Arnold Kunst, Barbara Leone, Rick A. Peasley, Horst Penning, John Nevins, John Rice, Nancy Samuelson, Richard Sickert, Roxanne E. Spizzirri, Bob Williams, John V. Zasso, Vivian Zasso.

**GUESTS – 14:** Esther Boeck, Sam Clemens, Alan Geiken, Chris Hayden, Mark Hayden, Max Hayden, Nancy Hayden, Scott Hayden, John Hofman, Chris Osborn, Larry Spizzirri, Richard Spizzirri, Ray Valdez, Don Zajic

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by President Anne Peasley.
2. President Peasley led the Pledge of Allegiance and introduced guests.
3. President Peasley thanked John Nevins and John Zasso for their generous Conference raffle donations.
4. President Peasley reminded members of the upcoming Duncan Mills Re-enactment
5. Long time member, two time Past President Dr. Don Hayden was introduced to enlighten and entertain us on the subject of “Civil War Battlefield Medicine.”
6. Don confessed that Killer Angels played a role in his Civil War interest. Don’s medical studies also had him meeting a descendant of the famous McLeans who had moved from their home on the 1<sup>st</sup> Bull Run Battlefield to a peaceful place at Appomattox Court House – the truce was signed in their living room.
7. The practice of medicine in the United States leading up to and during the Civil War was well behind that of our friends in Western Europe. Learning from the wounded and the re-structuring of requirements for education and training led to vast improvements late in the War and rapid changes after the War.
  - A. Much of the Civil War medical story involves amputations, sanitation, and contagion.
  - B It is now believed that there were 750,000 deaths during the War – the vast majority from disease rather than battlefield wounds.
  - C. The mini-ball was the cause of most amputations – Don passed around the room a sample from his mini-ball collection. A picture of Gen Sickles’ amputated leg also made the rounds.
  - D There was no national authority that specified qualifications to be a doctor – thus many quacks surfaced during the War. Nurses were rare – mothers of patients had played that role leading up to the War.
  - E Don credited several individuals with long lasting impact on the medical profession: (1) Surgeon General Hammond in improved education and training, (2) Major Letterman with the battlefield ambulance service, (3) Florence Nightingale as a hospital design pioneer, and (4) Early nurses Clara Barton, Louisa May Alcott, Dorothea Dix, and Walt Whitman made lasting contributions.
  - F. Stonewall Jackson relieved the Union of 15,000 cases of chloroform during the 1862 Battle of Winchester.
7. President Peasley thanked Don with words and wine for informing, entertaining, and inspiring his audience.
8. John Zasso sold additional raffle tickets and read the lucky numbers.
9. The meeting was adjourned at 8:27 PM. The July board meeting will be Wednesday, July 9, 2014, 10 AM, at Brookfield’s Restaurant. Come one, come all!

**Paul Ruud, Secretary**

**Treasurer’s Report**

The cash balance following the June 11, 2014 meeting was \$4,515.86 Thanks to John Zasso, other members, and guests, the raffle brought in \$60.00.

**George W. Foxworth, Treasurer**

<b>Coming Programs for 2014 and 2015</b>		
<b>Date</b>	<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Topic</b>
July 9th	Ted Savas	"22 Days of Terror: CSS Arkansas on the Mississippi River"
August 13th	Sherri Patton	Charleston, South Carolina
September 10th	Dennis Kohlmann	"The Blockade"
October 8th	Tad Smith	"The Coins and Currency of the Confederacy"
November 12th	Tom Lubas	"Chicago, That Toddlin Civil War Town"
December 10th	Tim & Ginny Karlberg	"Captain John Groetsch"
January 14 <sup>th</sup>	Erin McCabe	"Women Who Fought in the Civil War"
February 11th	Nancy Samuelson	"Nathan Bedford Forrest"
March 11th	George Beitzel	"Flight To Oblivion"
April 8th	Richard Sickert	To Be Determined
May 13th	To Be Determined	To Be Determined
June 10th	To Be Determined	To Be Determined

### **NEWSLETTER CIVIL WAR ARTICLES**

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

[gwfoxworth@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gwfoxworth@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.



## How John Bell Hood Destroyed the Rebel Army of Tennessee Part One Battle of Franklin

The demise of the Confederate Army of Tennessee (A of T) was brought about in two phases, the Battle of Franklin (30 Nov 64) and the Battle of Nashville (15-16 Dec 64). However, some consider it to have been a continuing process beginning when John Bell Hood was first appointed that Army's Commanding General by Jefferson Davis on 17 July 64, replacing Joseph Johnston.

Hood had been a commendable brigade commander, a successful division commander, and mediocre corps commander; but as an army commander, he was a failure. Robert E. Lee had said of him, "He is a bold fighter, very industrious on the battlefield, careless off, (but) I am uncertain that he possesses some of the qualities necessary for a commanding general." His West Point classmate, O. O. Howard said more succinctly, "He is a stupid fellow but a hard fighter, and does very unexpected things." (Did Howard possibly mean "irrational things?")

Hood's severe wounds from Gettysburg and Chickamauga did not dampen his desire for combat, strapped to the saddle, he led the A of T at Atlanta and into Tennessee in a series of gallant albeit disastrous offenses. But as an administrator and strategist, he did not measure up to the task of commanding a corps or an army. Evidence that he was not overburdened with brains and good judgement can be found in many places other than his low academic standing at West Point. On a positive side, Hood had a generally pleasant personality, but two ugly features significantly detracted; these were his tendency to blame subordinates for his own failures and to lie when such action proved to be in his self-serving interest.

Others who undoubtedly would have performed much better as commanding general were W. J. Hardee (recommended by Lee), J. Longstreet, D. H. Hill, S. B. Buckner, P. R. Cleburne, and Richard Taylor. They were excluded from consideration, however, due to strong mutually felt hatreds of Braxton Bragg, then serving as military adviser to Jefferson Davis. Bragg was also a failed commander of the A of T. His contribution to the Confederacy as an "adviser" and his relationship with Jefferson Davis defy a rational explanation.

Pat Cleburne, known as the "Stonewall of the West" was further excluded from consideration because he had submitted a proposal earlier that would have permitted slaves to enlist in the Confederate Army in return for their freedom. Jeff Davis was appalled by this idea, which ran fully counter to his philosophies of a "Southern Slavocracy."

An extreme example of Hood's inept abilities was his command and control collapse at Spring Hill, Tenn. on 29 Nov 64, and the vindictive frontal attacks he ordered the next day against strong Union field fortifications in Franklin, Tenn. MG John Scofield's Union forces and supply trains (his 23<sup>rd</sup> Corps & MG David Stanley's 4<sup>th</sup> Corps) were moving northward on the Columbia-Franklin Turnpike (now US 31). The A of T was trailing on converging routes, but near Spring Hill rebel units actually pulled abreast and ahead. It was nearly dark. Rather than making certain that the pike was blocked thus cutting off the Union escape route, Hood called it a day, and the A of T bivouacked adjacent to the road on each side, at a distance of ¼ to ½ mile. They apparently slept soundly.

Scofield, after finding the road to be open, marched his 23,000 infantrymen, 50 artillery pieces, and 800 supply wagons the 12-mile distance into Franklin, the last units arriving just before dawn. The Union forces immediately occupied and extended the well-prepared field fortifications that had been built in 1862 by Union MG Gordon Granger after the fall of Nashville. The Union initial intent was not to fight a battle, but to gain time for improving the Harpeth River bridges for the wagon train and artillery.

Hood's reaction to this communication breakdown was typical. He blamed everyone except himself. Cheatham and Cleburne bore the brunt of his rage. After a council at the Harrison House just south of Winstead Hill (see map), Hood ordered a frontal attack. There was command discord. Forrest said that with his cavalry and a good infantry division he could flank Scofield. Others agreed, but the frontal assault order held. Moreover, Hood refused to do things that might have improved an assault's remote chance for success. He was lacking one of his three infantry corps, and all but two of 10 artillery batteries, which had not yet arrived. He would not wait for them to come up. The attack began at 4:00 p.m. and the tragedy lasted 5 hours.

Of the A of T's 23,000 infantrymen present for the assault, 20,000 participated with over 7,000 casualties and nearly 2,000 deaths. Fifteen of the rebel army's 28 general officers were wounded and 6 were

killed. The casualties included 65 division, brigade, and regimental commanders.

Of the approximately 17,000 Union soldiers within the 2½-mile defense perimeter, there were 2,400 casualties reported, and only 200 killed; but the latter figure must be increased to include a portion of the 1,100 reported missing. One Federal general (Stanley) was wounded.

In the five-hour Battle of Franklin, John Bell Hood had lost one-third of the army's effective fighting force and over one-half of its key leadership. With the apparent continuing blessing of his superiors in Richmond, he moved north toward Nashville to complete the final phase of the destruction of the Army of Tennessee three weeks later.

The Battle of Franklin will live in history as a monument to southern valor, and to southern leadership obtuseness. Wiley Sword summed up very well (ref.1, p.263) when he wrote: "John Bell Hood was a sad anachronism, a disabled personality prone to miscalculation and misperception. Unfortunately, he was also a fool with a license to kill his own men."

#### **Index to Photos:**

Group 1 pictures are of MG John Scofield, Commanding, Union Forces; BG Jacob D. Cox, de facto Union Combat Commander; John B. Hood, CG Rebel Army of Tennessee; and MG Pat Cleburne killed while leading his Division near the cotton gin SW of the Carter House. Also pictured are the five Confederate Brigadier Generals John Adams, John C. Carter, Hiram Granbury, States Rights Gist, and Otho F. Strahl who were killed-in-action while leading their brigades. The location map shows the Federal fortifications extending about 2.5 miles from the Harpeth River NW of town to the River SE, and other features of the battlefield.

The country was open and Federal artillery at Fort Granger effectively covered most of the field. Heaviest fighting occurred along the Columbia Pike near the Carter house and cotton gin. The John McGavock house ("Carnton") served as a rebel hospital and temporary morgue (the bodies of four of the dead generals were brought here for transfer to Columbia for burial). Winstead Hill was the rebel command center. It is now a memorial park, which includes "Brigadier's Walk" and a battle orientation map model. Harrison house was Hood's Headquarters. It is now a private residence. The Carter and McGavock houses are open to the public. Each has a visitor center and small museum. On the latter property is a two-acre cemetery containing 1,481 Confederate graves.

Group 2 pictures are recent ones, taken June 2003 at many of the locations discussed above. A particularly touching story is that of Captain Tod Carter wounded within yards of his home. He was taken there the next morning, but not alive.

#### **References:**

1. "The Confederacy's Last Hurrah" or "Embrace an Angry Wind," by Wiley Sword, 1992
2. "Five Tragic Hours, The Battle of Franklin," T. L. Connelly, 1983
3. "Franklin and Nashville," by Jacob D. Cox, 1882
4. OR's Volume XLV (Series 93, 94)

**R. A. Williams:** 7-15-03; Rev. 6-30-14

**Addendum:** *The Rise, Fall, and Resurrection of J. B. Hood* is a recent book by Stephen Hood (A distant relative). Author Hood's book is readable, and makes a few reasonable points to rebut some, but certainly not all, of the criticism of J. B. Hood as CG, Army of Tennessee. Author Hood is particularly critical of Historians Wiley Sword and Craig Symonds' writings.

Hood had just lost the Battle for Atlanta and 25% of the A of T force; thence the Battle of Franklin, where he decimated his officer corps with loss of six general officers killed, plus 21 colonels; and roughly another 25 percent of the fighting force through death, wounds, capture, and desertions. Next event was Nashville, where Hood "parked" the remaining A of T three plus miles south of that most heavily fortified city in the Country, next to Washington, D.C. He was viciously attacked by George Thomas' reinforced Union forces suffering another serious defeat and was driven back several further miles. But he decided to stay another day, suffering another massacre; before a full scale retreat of the remaining ragged mass of humanity all the way to Tupelo, Mississippi, no longer a viable fighting force, and only less than one fourth the size of the Army which Joe Johnston left at Atlanta. Hood then resigned. Some say a full two years too late!

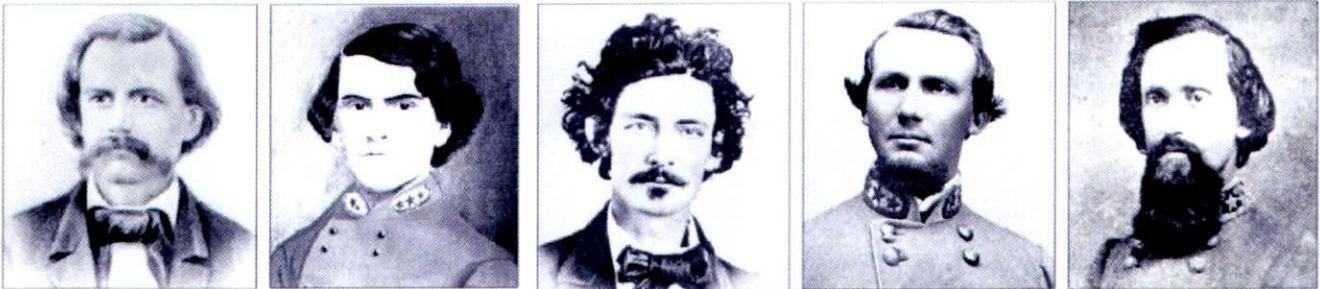
Professor Symonds and Author Tom Cartwright, also a leading expert on the Tennessee Campaign, are scheduled key speakers at the upcoming Nov. 2014 West Coast Civil War Conference; and I am sure will be most pleased and willing to answer any questions those of you attending may have on this subject *with authority*. My own views remain, however, that John Bell Hood was the best *Confederate* General the *Union* ever had; so much so that the Feds named a Fort in Texas in his honor?

**Bob W.**

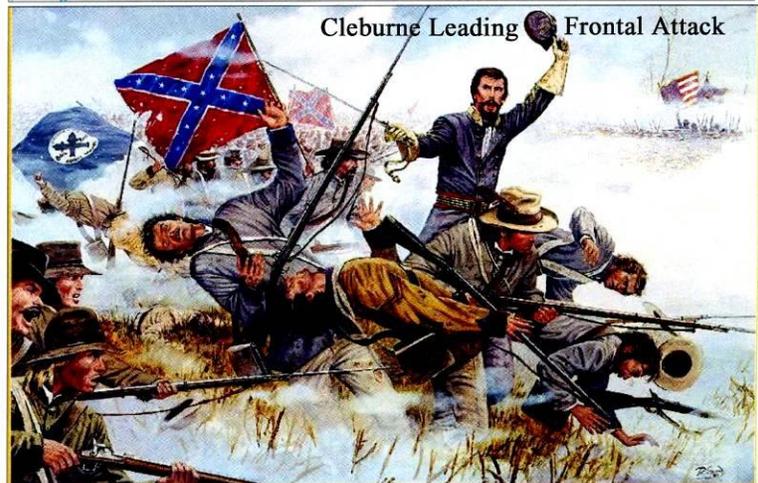
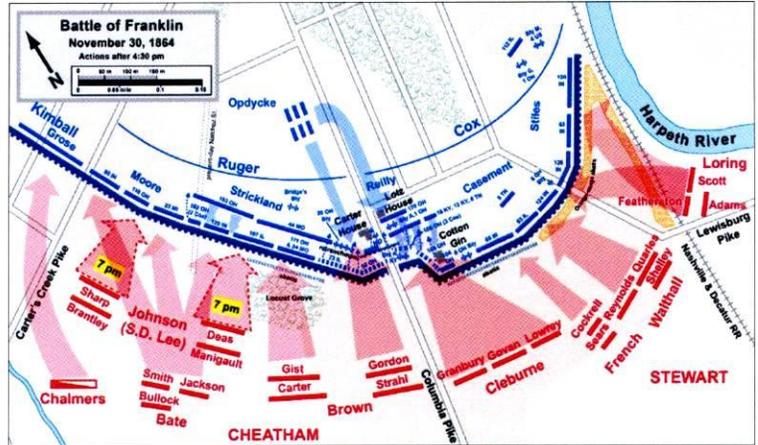
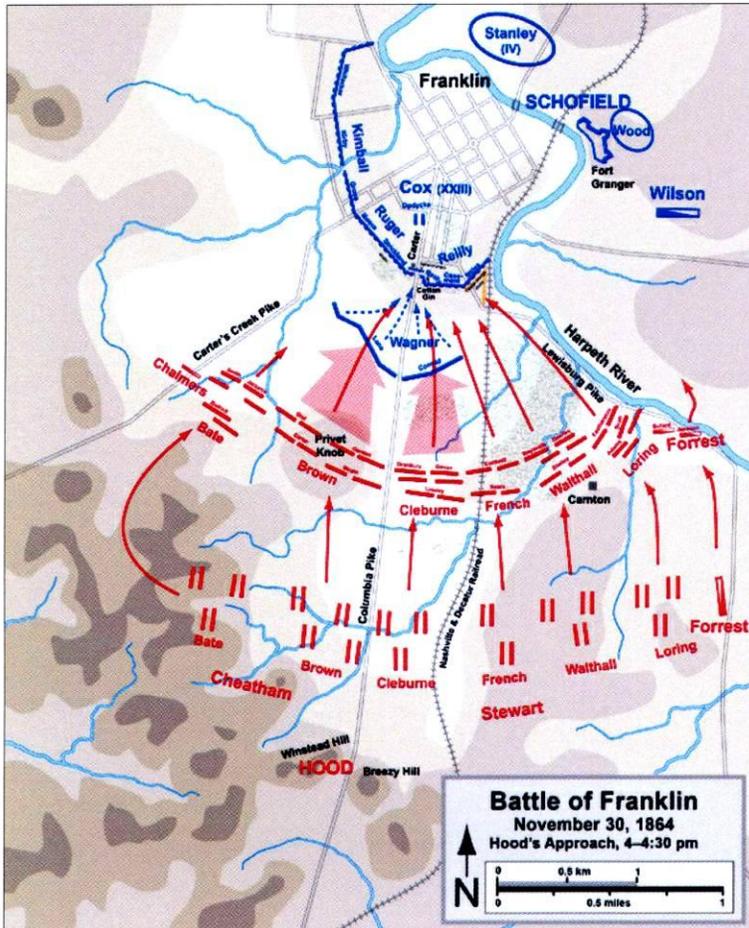
# Battle of Franklin Graphics Page One



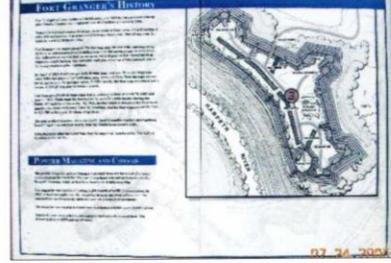
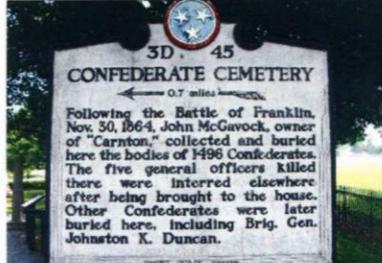
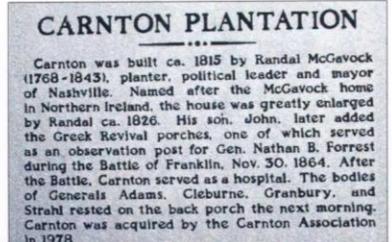
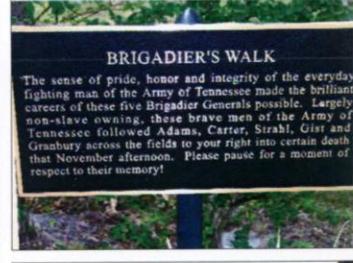
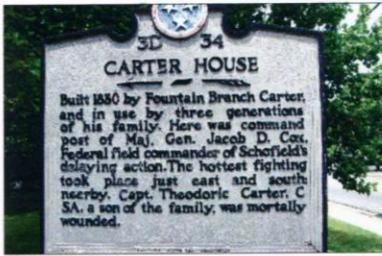
**MG John Schofield** Union Corps Commander   
 **BG Jacob Cox** Union Field Commander at Franklin   
 **Gen. John Hood** Rebel Army Commander   
 **MG Patrick Cleburne (KIA)** Rebel Division Commander



**BG John Adams (KIA)**    **BG John Carter (KIA)**    **BG H. Granbury (KIA)**    **BG S. R. Gist (KIA)**    **BG Otho Strahl (KIA)**  
 Five Confederate Brigadier Generals Killed During Franklin Frontal Attacks



# Battle of Franklin Graphics Page Two





# 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, and 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.

**Ron Perisho:** A member of the Sacramento CWRT, Secretary-Treasurer of the Center for Civil War Photography (CCWP), and a Soils and Foundation Engineer specializing in repair of distressed structures.

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](http://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](http://www.crowneplaza.com) Crowne Plaza Hotel has rooms set aside for us at \$99 per night, plus tax. Please mention the Conference.

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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

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