



**Volume 48, No 8  
August, 2008**

**2008 Officers:**

**Paul Ruud**, President  
(530) 886-8806  
[ruud@starband.net](mailto:ruud@starband.net)

**Dennis Kohlmann**, Vice-  
President  
(916) 726-4432  
[dkohlma@aol.com](mailto:dkohlma@aol.com)

**Eddie Keister**, Secretary  
(916) 725-1852

**George Foxworth**, Treasurer  
(916) 362-0178  
[gwfoxworth@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gwfoxworth@sbcglobal.net)

**Bob Hanley**, MAL  
(805) 796-5895 cell  
[acivilwar@aol.com](mailto:acivilwar@aol.com)

**Bob Williams**, MAL  
(916) 487-8144  
[rmwilms@mindspring.com](mailto:rmwilms@mindspring.com)

**Don Hayden**, IPP  
Website Coordinator  
(916) 485-1246  
[djhbooklover@yahoo.com](mailto:djhbooklover@yahoo.com)

**SCWRT Website**  
[www.sacramentocwrt.com](http://www.sacramentocwrt.com)

**Kim Knighton**, Webmaster  
[webmaster@digitalthumbprint.com](mailto:webmaster@digitalthumbprint.com)

**Editor, Battle Cry**  
**P.O. Box 254702**  
Sacramento, CA 95865-4702  
(916) 628-8197  
[battlecryeditor@sbcglobal.net](mailto:battlecryeditor@sbcglobal.net)

**Battle Cry deadline is  
1:00PM Wed. two weeks  
before the regular meeting.  
Items can be given the editor  
by hand, mail or e-mail.**

# Battle Cry

Founded 1961,  
Newsletter of the Sacramento Civil War Round Table  
P.O. BOX 254702  
Sacramento, CA 95865-4702  
<http://sacramentocwrt.com/>



## President's Message:

Now I want to go to Redlands! The Lincoln Memorial Shrine sounds like an interesting place where one could learn a whole bunch about our 15<sup>th</sup> president. Don McCue's presentation about the Center and President Lincoln was extremely well received. I especially admired how adept he is at using "power point!" Power Point totally served him rather than the frequent model of the speaker serving the slide presentation. A special thank you to Don who flew up here, spent the night afterward, and then flew home on Thursday. That's a significant donation of time and talent for which we were the beneficiaries. Also thanks to his SCWRT host, Dennis Kohlmann.

A moment's pause to pat the backs of some quiet SCWRT volunteers. **George Foxworth** arrives early each Wednesday meeting night and arranges the room to create that warm reception we feel as we arrive. Whenever the speaker wants to include slides in the presentation, **Fred (I used to have a projector) Bohmfalk** and now **Jim "I have a projector" Middleton** bring an overhead projector. **Don Hayden** always has his screen along even though the big wall has been stealing his thunder as of late. Many anonymous members bring raffle prizes for **John Zasso** to raffle off for the benefit of our treasury. Each one of you contributes by attending the Wednesday night meetings – without the audience, the show does not go on! My congratulations and thanks to everyone and please don't change a thing!

The November Conference in Clovis (Fresno) will soon be here – believe it or not, it's August! The Shenandoah Campaign will be featured starting Friday evening, November 7<sup>th</sup> through Sunday noon, November 9<sup>th</sup>. There are two motels listed for our convenience – the SCWRT members who I know of have reservations at the Best Western Clovis Cole (559-299-1547). Conference handouts will be available at our August 13<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Another treat awaits us at our August meeting – Dr and Mrs. Harvey Cain have ridden the Underground Railroad on their bicycles. Harvey will deliver some first hand experiences to us on the 13<sup>th</sup>. This trip must have required considerable operational and logistical planning – me thinks the doctor has talents outside the operating room! Don't miss it! Come early and stay late.

Paul Ruud, President

<b>Coming Programs 2008</b>		
<b>Date</b>	<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Topic</b>
August 13th	Harvey Cain	"Bicycling the Underground Railway"
Sept. 10th	"Ted Savas"	"Lincoln and Davis at War"
Oct. 8 <sup>th</sup>	George Beitzel	"The Rubber Room"
Nov. 12 <sup>th</sup>	Tim Carlsberg	"Acting as Capt. of CA 100"
Dec. 10 <sup>th</sup>	Brad Schall	"Political Climate in 1860 California"

### **Treasurer's Report**

The cash balance following the July 9, 2008 meeting was \$2,589.66. Thanks to John Zasso, other members, and guests, the raffle brought in \$76.00.

**George Foxworth, Treasurer**

### **MINUTES**

#### **SACRAMENTO CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE**

**JULY 9, 2008**

**HOF BRAU RESTAURANT, WATT AVE, SACRAMENTO, CA**

Attendance-35

#### Members-29

Paul Ruud, President

Dennis Kohlmann, Vice President

Eddie Keister, Secretary

Joan Beitzel

George Beitzel

Ken Berna

Roy Bishop

Fred Bohmfalk

Marsha Cain

Harvey Cain

Ardith Cnota

Mitchell Cnota

Kyle Glasson

Robert Hanley

Scottie Hayden

Don Hayden

Nancy Hayden

Scott Hayden

Pam Hubbard

Lowell Lardie

Victor Le

Vivian Miller

Betty Mitchell

Maurice Mitchell

John Passerello

Horst Penning

James Taff

Drew Van Winkle

Robert Williams

#### Guest-6

Fred Elenbaas

Ann Heatlie

Sean Keister

Don McQue

Kim Zurawski

Brett Zurawski

1. Meeting started at 7:00. Members and guest welcomed. President Ruud read from a book on Westpoint, his alma mater.
2. Our guest speaker was Don McQue, the curator at the Lincoln Memorial Shrine in Redlands, Ca. He presented many slides of the artifacts in the museum. He also shared the history of the shrine and facts on Lincoln. A question and answer session followed. Books on the shrine were sold and autographed. Thank you Don, and congratulations on your work and dedication.
3. The raffle was held and meeting adjourned at 8:45

Eddie Keister  
Secretary

## A Summary Outline of the Civil War in the Shenandoah Valley

Thanks to its unique geography and agricultural abundance, the Shenandoah Valley was critical to both sides during the Civil War—indeed; numerous military campaigns were waged up and down the Valley over the course of the War. Today, because much of the landscape remains essentially unchanged, modern visitors can retrace the steps of Stonewall Jackson's 1862 Valley Campaign, Lee's invasion north in what would be the Gettysburg Campaign, and the campaigns of 1864 including Philip Sheridan's Shenandoah Campaign. There were 325 military engagements, 14 major battles over the 3 years of bloody campaigning; and almost 4000 killed or mortally wounded in this beautiful Valley.

The great Valley of Virginia, the Shenandoah, was second only to the Mississippi Valley in its strategic importance to the Confederacy. Flanked on the west by the Alleghany Mountains and to the East by the Blue Ridge, the valley stretched for nearly 160 miles from its confluence with the Potomac River in the North at Harper's Ferry to its headwaters adjacent to those of the James River in the South. Average Valley width is  $25 \pm$  miles. Major Valley towns, then and now moving upstream, are Charlestown, Winchester, Strasburg, Front Royal, Mt. Jackson, New Market, Harrisonburg, Staunton, Waynesboro and Lexington (across the James River Divide)

The Valley was served by the Manassas Gap, Winchester and Potomac, and Virginia Central Railroads: and significant lengths of the Valley Pike were macadamized. The Valley's fertile fields and abundant mills made it the granary, and a major meat and produce provider for the Rebel Army of Northern Virginia. Angling from southwest to northeast it was likened to a giant arrow and a natural evasion route toward the North.

## 1862 Events

At the eastern end of Virginia, about 150 miles from the Shenandoah Valley, a Federal army of some 100,000 men under Gen. George McClellan advanced northwest on the peninsula between the James and York Rivers from Ft. Monroe toward Richmond, hoping to take the Confederate capital and end the war. Understanding this and having received orders for a "diversionary" operation from the Confederate leadership in Richmond, Gen. Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson saw that a bold and swift campaign in his beloved Shenandoah Valley might offset the many disadvantages that the Confederacy faced that spring.

So in a feat of swift marching, deception, counter-marching and sheer boldness, Jackson conducted one of the most audacious and brilliant diversionary campaigns in military history. With only 18,000 men, he tied up elements of three distinct Union armies—over 60,000 men—and was able to prevent these separate Federal commands from combining against his smaller Rebel army.

Despite an initial tactical setback in March at Kernstown near Winchester, Jackson quickly recovered, then moved south, paused at Conrad's Store (present-day Elkton) east of Harrisonburg and developed the vision for what would come to be known as his 1862 Valley Campaign. To deceive Federal forces, Jackson's army marched out of the Valley toward Charlottesville and returned by train to Staunton, planning to close the Valley's western "back door". In early May at McDowell, he turned back Union troops from Gen. John C. Fremont's army. Learning that another Union army was approaching the Valley from the north, he then quickly moved in that direction and, with reinforcements, defeated Federal forces under Gen. Nathaniel Banks at Front Royal (23 May) and Winchester 1st (25 May).

A portion of Jackson's army pursued Banks north as far as Harper's Ferry. When forces from three Federal armies tried to

cut him off at Strasburg, he quickly moved south again, eluding the trap. Pursued by two Union commands—one in the main Valley and one in the Luray Valley—Jackson turned upon his foes east of Harrisonburg and defeated them separately at Cross Keys (8 Jun) and Port Republic (9 June), preventing them from uniting against him. Jackson had thus accomplished his mission—he had distracted Union leadership and diverted Union forces away from McClellan at Richmond. He was now free to join Lee’s effort to defend the Confederate capital.

In 30 days Jackson had achieved immortal fame with his classic Valley offensive. His “foot cavalry” had marched 350 miles, defeated three separate Union armies, numbering twice his strength, in five battles. He had become a legend, and the Confederate’s foremost hero. But Grant suggested later in his memoirs that Jackson was fortunate in being up against some of the Union’s more mediocre generals; and the results may have been quite different, if he had had the opportunity to have battled the likes of a Sheridan or a Thomas.

## 1863 Events

In the summer of 1863, Gen. R. E. Lee made the Shenandoah Valley an “avenue of advance” for his invasion of the north. He selected the Valley due to its obvious advantages. The Shenandoah Valley’s bounteous farms and ample goods were a welcome respite for Lee’s long-suffering Army of Northern Virginia. The Valley supplied his army with vital food stuffs, horses and animal stock.

But more importantly, Lee used the Blue Ridge—the mountain range on the eastern side of the Valley—to screen his army from Federal eyes thus avoiding a general engagement until he and his troops were ready. The Valley was a natural avenue of advance that led perfectly to the Cumberland Valley in Pennsylvania where Lee hoped to draw the Federal army away from war-weary Virginia. During the advance, Confederate Gen. Richard

Ewell defeated a small Federal force at the Battle of Winchester 2nd in mid-June, clearing the way for Lee to move north.

After the stinging defeat at Gettysburg, the Confederates crossed the Potomac at Williamsport and once again found safety and provisions in the Shenandoah Valley as the Army of Northern Virginia regrouped and amassed vital supplies. It has been stated that a main reason why Lee ran a huge risk by taking his Army into Pennsylvania was because supplies were unavailable in Virginia. That is mythology. Ample supplies were indeed available at that time from the Shenandoah and from the Carolinas via the Weldon and Southside Railroads. It was true that Lee’s Army was indeed short of supplies on numerous occasions; but this was almost entirely the fault of the very inept and corrupt rebel Commissary General Lucius Northrop. The absurdly incompetent Northrop was another member of the “Friends of Jeff”. Jefferson F. Davis, that is, whose other incompetent buddies included Braxton Bragg and John Bell Hood.

What then were the true reasons for the provincial Lee’s northerly excursions into Union territory? Historians cite three probabilities. (1) Lee thought the invasions would damage the Union’s will to fight. Actually the reverse occurred; they strengthened that will. (2) He believed such aggressive action would indicate Confederate viability to France and England towards their recognition and military assistance. Certainly the Gettysburg defeat had just the opposite effect. And (3) Lee did so to counter J. F. Davis’ proposal to send ANV units to the Western Theatre to bolster Joseph Johnston’s forces in Mississippi. In this case Lee was quite successful, but many believe very wrong? A fourth reason may be advanced that Lee just liked to fight, a “War Monger”, so to speak; but political correctness forbids many from speaking of R. E. Lee in such unsaintly terms!

## 1864 Events

The year 1864 saw the turning point in the Civil War for the Valley. It was a complex year of multiple military operations that ended Confederate control of the Valley and wrought the near total destruction of its agricultural economy.

In May, a Federal army under Gen. George Crook advanced south through West Virginia with orders to cut railroad links from Virginia to the west. To support Crook, Union Gen. Franz Sigel was to move south through the Shenandoah Valley almost to Harrisonburg. This would also prevent any Confederate movement out of the Shenandoah Valley to assault Grant's flank as it advanced south toward Richmond. Sigel met defeat at New Market (15 May) in a battle with Confederate forces reinforced by cadets from the Virginia Military Institute. Sigel was relieved and replaced by Gen. David Hunter. In June, Hunter gained a victory in the rolling landscape at Piedmont east of Staunton. With most Confederate resistance checked, Hunter moved south and burned the Virginia Military Institute in Lexington. He was defeated ultimately by Gen. Jubal Early at Lynchburg, outside the Valley.

In an effort to divert Federal troops from Gen. U. S. Grant's Overland Campaign north of Richmond, Gen. R. E. Lee sent Early north through the Valley with instructions to strike all the way to Washington D.C., if possible. His assaults near the Federal capital in early July caused the Lincoln Administration great consternation. After withdrawing to the Valley and delivering more Federal defeats at Cool Spring (17-18 July) and at the Battle of Kernstown 2nd (24 July), Early's cavalry moved north and burned Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, in retaliation for the burning of Lexington. The July battles would be the Confederacy's last major victories in the Shenandoah Valley. Federal leaders turned to a new commander, Gen. Philip H. Sheridan with instructions to defeat Jubal Early and to bring a

new level of war to the Valley: "Do all the damage to railroads and crops you can. Carry off stock of all descriptions... so as to prevent further planting. If the war is to last another year, we want the Shenandoah Valley to remain a barren waste." Union forces included H. G. Wright's VI Corps, Crook's VIII Corps and W. H. Emory's XIX Corps for a total of 48,000. Rebel forces numbered 42,000 ±.

In the early fall, Sheridan delivered shattering defeats at the Battles of Winchester 3rd (19 September), and Fisher's Hill (22 September), dashing Confederate hopes. Federal cavalry then embarked on a 13-day campaign of destruction to neutralize the Shenandoah Valley's agricultural base, this "breadbasket of the Confederacy". Early's cavalry pestered the Union raiders from Staunton north until Sheridan routed the Confederates at Tom's Brook and pursued them 20 miles south to Woodstock. In a final attempt to destroy Sheridan's full army, then encamped between Strasburg and Middletown, Jubal Early met a smashing defeat at the Battle of Cedar Creek on 19 October. This campaign was one of the most decisive in the War. Thereafter, the Confeds, for all purposes, had lost control of the Shenandoah Valley. Six months later on 9 April 1865 the War in Virginia ended, 50 miles away in the little town of Appomattox Court House.

**Bob Williams: 7-30-08**

### References:

"Times Illustrated Civil War Encyclopedia" by P. L Faust, 1986; "Civil War Dictionary" by M. Boatner III, 1987; "Maps and Descriptions" by Shenandoah Valley Battlefields National Historical District, 2006; "Battles and Leaders", Century Magazine, 1888.

### Note:

For an in-depth discussion of the "Valley War" attend the 7-9 Nov 08 West Coast Civil War Round Table Conference in Fresno/Clovis, CA. For information see: [www.sjvcwrt.org/](http://www.sjvcwrt.org/)

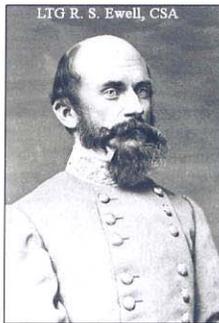
# The Shenandoah Valley Campaigns from 1862 to 1865

## Union and Confederate Commanding Generals

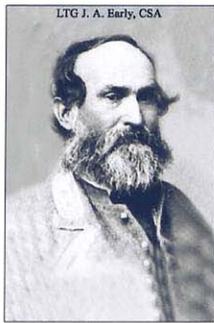
### And Present Day Valley Photographs



General T. J. Jackson, CSA



LTJG R. S. Ewell, CSA



LTJG J. A. Early, CSA



MG P. H. Sheridan, USA



MG H. G. Wright, USA



MG George Crook, USA



MG N. P. Banks, USA



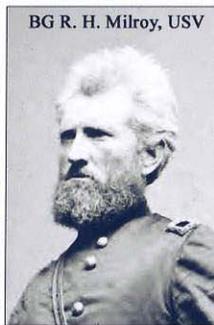
MG Franz Sigel, USA



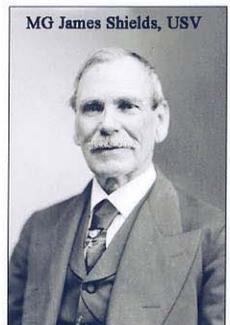
MG J. C. Fremont, USA



MG David Hunter, USA



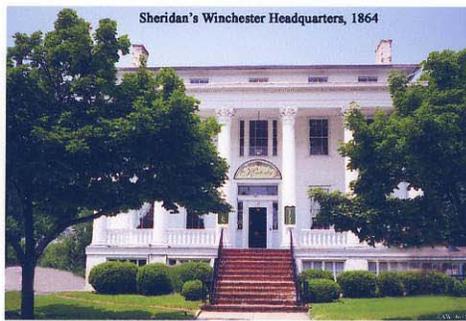
BG R. H. Milroy, USV



MG James Shields, USV



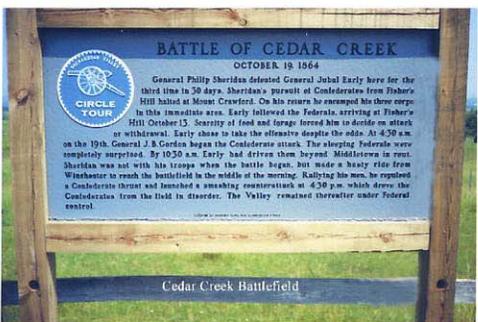
Jackson's Winchester Headquarters, 1862



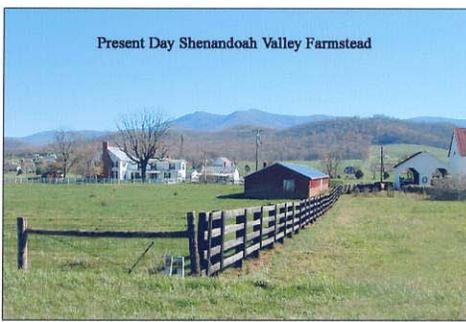
Sheridan's Winchester Headquarters, 1864



Fisher's Hill Battlefield  
Civil War Site



Cedar Creek Battlefield



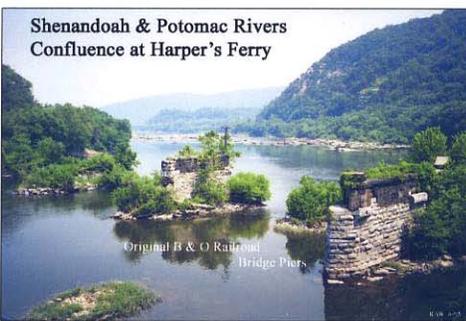
Present Day Shenandoah Valley Farmstead



Belle Grove Plantation House, 1797 near Cedar Creek

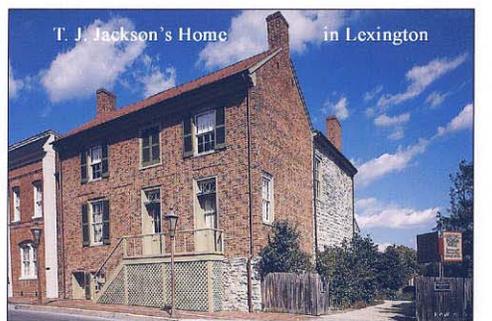


Old Mill near Fisher's Hill Battleground



Shenandoah & Potomac Rivers  
Confluence at Harper's Ferry

Original B & O Railroad  
Bridge Piers



T. J. Jackson's Home in Lexington



## **Nevada City**

**At Pioneer Park**

**13 & 14 September**

The CSS Hunley, replicated to scale model, will be on display  
Friday and Saturday 9-5; Sunday 9-12

The Public is Invited to Meet the Soldiers in the Field and Experience Camp Life First Hand! There will be on Going Living History Demonstrations Depicting the Daily Life of the Soldiers, Women, and Children of the American Civil War and Victorian Era.

**~ BATTLE TIMES ~**

**SATURDAY: 1:00 pm & 4:00 pm**

**SUNDAY: 11:00 am**

Battlefield presentation begins 30 minutes before each battle

**Downtown Parade: Sunday 2 pm**

Camps are open during non-battle times between 9:00 a.m. & 5:00 p.m.  
American Civil War Association is a nonprofit organization 501 (c) (3)  
dedicated to preserving our American Heritage and sharing with the general public.

[www.acwa.org](http://www.acwa.org)

The San Joaquin Valley Civil War Round Table, American Legion Post 147 of Clovis, the Central California Chapter of the Association of the United States Army, and Civil War Round Table Associates of Little Rock, Arkansas, in memory of Jerry Russell, invite you to the

**24th Annual West Coast  
Civil War Round Table Conference  
November 7-9, 2008**

**Clovis, California**

(adjacent to and northeast of Fresno)

**"Civil War in the Shenandoah  
Valley"**

**Featuring:**

Robert K. Krick, Jeffrey Wert, Jim Stanbery, Peter Cozzens, Evan Jones, Don and Bill Bennett, David Paul Davenport, and Emily and Olivia Moats, in a one-act play based on the Civil War diaries of Laura Lee, Secessionist, and Julia Chase, a Unionist, residents of Winchester, Virginia.

The Brass Band of the Central California Chapter of the Association of the United States Army will regale registrants with music of the period on Friday the 7<sup>th</sup> before dinner.

*A special showing of Shenandoah with Jimmy Stewart will be presented in the barely a year old theater/auditorium of the Veterans Memorial Building on Friday the 7<sup>th</sup> at 9 pm.*

An optional tour on Saturday the 8<sup>th</sup> from 9 am to noon features a tour of the Fresno home of Dr. Meux (portrayed by Charles Baley), an assistant surgeon in the 9<sup>th</sup> Tennessee Vol. Inf. (C.S.A.) who moved to Fresno after losing his slaves and other valuables as a result of the war, and a tour to the Grand Army of the Republic Memorial and internments of Union Veterans of the War at Fresno's Mountain View Cemetery, led by G.A.R. historian Fred Bohmfalk of Elk Grove.

omfort Suites (143 Clovis Ave, 559-299-9992) and Best Western Clovis Cole (415 Clovis Ave, 559-299-1547) hotels in Old Town Clovis have reserved blocks of rooms for us at only \$109.00 for a double room. Ask for the Civil War Conference Rate. The meeting will be held at the Veteran's Memorial Building at Hughes and 6th less than two blocks from the two hotels. The registration fee of \$175.00, includes six meals (Dinner Friday the 7<sup>th</sup>, breakfast, lunch, and dinner on Saturday the 8<sup>th</sup>, and breakfast and lunch on Sunday the 9<sup>th</sup>).

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Make checks for \$175.00 to SNCWRT P.O. Box 5695 Fresno, CA 93755