



# Battle Cry

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

Due to scheduled surgery I regret missing Jim Stanbery's discussion on "Union Amphibious Operations of the Civil War" but Vice-President Silver Williams assures me that his talk was well received by twenty-five of our members including former secretary Walt Biddle and ten welcome guests. I am sorry to have missed seeing you, Walt, but I understand you are coming to the November Conference and I look forward to that visit. As usual I am told Jim provided an exciting program and look forward to his presence in November as well. This edition includes his biography elsewhere so please take a look.

This past year has brought us the blessing of close to a dozen new members, the most recent James Rathlesberger, who joined us in August. Welcome Jim. I hope you will feel comfortable with our group and I encourage you to introduce yourself and get to know the rest of us. As the year draws to a close we are approaching a turnover in our officers and board members. In October we will elect a new president, possibly one or two other officers and members at large. Members wishing to serve are encouraged to come forth as the survival of the organization depends on "new blood" and we are all volunteers. Those interested are encouraged to contact any of the officers or board members listed in the Battle Cry. The by-laws are published on our website, [sacramentocwrt.com](http://sacramentocwrt.com). Usual terms of office are two years but we do have occasional members who serve longer.

Another issue of importance is the survival of a tradition that has been extant for close to thirty years and that is the Annual West Coast Civil War Conference. This year we are sponsors for the third time since 2006 and last year's San Francisco meeting was spearheaded by two of our long-term members. Our members have always been the top attendees of any round table and have found these events consistently informative and enjoyable. The subject this year is "1861: The First Year", the location the local Doubletree, the dates November 11-13, the cost \$185 for all the seminars and meals. We are pleased to have several of the top speakers and writers in the nation and

I guarantee you will have a marvelous time. We also offer partial fees for less than the complete weekend. Please check the details at the website or we can mail information and/or registration forms to those without computers.

The board met August 31st. Issues discussed included the Huntington Conference in San Marino (Pasadena) October 21-22 featuring James McPherson, Gary Gallagher, Joan Waugh, Brooks Simpson et al; Col Knudsen meeting with several members at Travis AFB and discussing Longstreet; multiple available DVDs on Civil War subjects; and I received a phone call from a gentleman who has an 1864 musket he wishes to sell. If interested I can put you in touch with him or you can call Jim Rodenbaugh at 916-334-3332.

I am quite certain next meeting will be of great interest. I have heard from several sources that this speaker has been well received elsewhere, has written a remarkably excellent book on Civil War Strategy called "The Grand Alliance", and that this is one Not to be missed. He will be bringing copies of his book and the reviews I have checked are superb. See you at Sam's Hof Brau 14 September. Come early for dinner and company.

**Don Hayden, President**

**MINUTES**  
**SACRAMENTO CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE**  
Wednesday August 10th, 2011  
Hof Brau Restaurant, 2500 Watt Ave, Sacramento

**ATTENDANCE - 35**

**Members-25**

Silver Williams, Vice President	Dennis Kohlmann, PD
Eddie Keister, Secretary	Lowell Lardie
Steve Andrews	Bob Moore
Roy Bishop	Anne Peasley
Walt Bittle	Horst Penning
Harvey Cain	James Rathlesberger
Ardith Cnota	Paul Rudd
Mitchell Cnota	Nancy Samuelson
Jerry Cress	Nicholas Scivoletto
Bob Hanley, MAL	Brent Ten Pas, Editor
Nancy Hayden	Bob Williams
James Juanitas	Susan Williams
	John Zasso

**Guest-10**

Flo Crawford  
Cynthia Davis  
Elizabeth Fortune  
Megan Gibson  
Garrett Johnston  
Angie Pappax  
Sheron Schneider  
Walt Schneider  
Jim Stanberry  
Doug Van Der Weyde  
Michael Webber

1. Meeting started at 7:00. Vice President Silver Williams stood in for President Hayden.
2. Taking sign-ups for our conference in November at the Doubletree Hotel on Arden Way.
3. Guest Garret Johnson produced a DVD on "Ft. Sumter: 150 years later," featuring James McPherson. He brought along copies for sale.
4. Member Walt Bittle, visiting from St. Louis, brought a book for sale, "Political Cartoons of the Civil War collections of a Civil War Junkie" These too were for sale.
5. PD Dennis Kohlmann is looking for speakers for 2012.
6. "The Civil War in Four Minutes" was presented by guest Doug Van Der Weyde. The film showed every battle casualties, North and South per battle. Thanks Doug!
7. Professor Jim Stanberry spoke on "Union Amphibious Operations during the Civil War." He presented the joint offense operations between Army and Navy to deliver troops and artillery to land battles. The Navy continued to support the troops along the Southern ports. Thank you, Jim.
8. Our raffle was held and meeting concluded at 8:20.

**Eddie Keister, Secretary**

**Treasurer's Report**

The cash balance following the August 10, 2011 meeting was \$2,487.61. Thanks to John Zasso, other members, and guests, the raffle brought in \$53.00.

**George W. Foxworth, Treasurer**

# 2011 West Coast Civil War Conference

## 1861: The First Year

November 11 - 13, 2011, Doubletree Hotel,  
Sacramento

### Speaker Profile: James Stanbery

*(This is the fourth installment of biographical profiles of speakers confirmed for the 2011 West Coast Civil War Conference)*



Professor James Stanbery studied at the University of California, Berkeley and California State Long Beach, and also served two years in the Peace Corps. During his forty years teaching at Los Angeles Harbor College, he has served as faculty president and won many outstanding teaching awards. James is past assistant editor of *Civil War Regiments* and remains active in CWRT's of San Gabriel Valley and Orange County, the Drum Barracks Civil War Museum and the San Pedro Bay Historical Society. He is the author of *The California 2000 campaign; the Populist movement with a meaning for all America* and several student workbooks on American Institutions. Jim is no stranger to annual West Coast Conferences having attended all but one. He has been a frequent speaker and is particularly effective in explaining the strategic picture, as well as moderating panels. Professor Stanbery is a fast friend and strong supporter of continuing the tradition of this splendid conference.

**Don Hayden**

## FORT SUMTER NATIONAL MONUMENT



Garrett Johnston has produced a fine DVD from his visit to Fort Sumter on the anniversary of the firing that marked the opening of arms in the Civil War. A description of the events shown in the DVD is as follows:

*The American Civil War undoubtedly continues its influence on Americans today. On April 12, 2011, Fort Sumter provided America with the first commemoration of the Civil War's 150th Anniversary (Sesquicentennial). From a one hour program in the morning on Fort Sumter to living history programs at Liberty Square in the afternoon, the sesquicentennial of the Civil War's first shots and subsequent battle at Sumter was commemorated in the very same Charleston Harbor 150 years later. This DVD gives its viewers a small glimpse into the commemorations of April 12, 2011. But the main focus is on such distinguished guests as [Pulitzer Prize winning author] Historian James McPherson. Come and experience history with us .*

You may see a preview online on YouTube at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m6BsyURYBT8&feature=youtu.be>.

The cost of the DVD is \$20. To purchase, please email Garrett at [garrett@garrettjohnstonproductions.com](mailto:garrett@garrettjohnstonproductions.com), visit his website at <http://garrettjohnstonproductions.com/home>, or contact him at 916-420-3982.





# BOOK REVIEW



## THE CIVIL WAR:

### **The First Year Told by Those Who Lived It.**

*Edited by Brooks D. Simpson, Stephen W. Sears, and Aaron Sheehan-Dean. Library of America. 814 pp.*

(The following is an excerpt from a review written by Ronald C. White for the Los Angeles Time published on April 10, 2011. The full article includes a review of *"Hearts Touched by Fire: The Best of Battles and Leaders of the Civil War"* edited by Harold Holzer.)

"The Civil War: The First Year Told by Those Who Lived It" is the first of four volumes to be published by the Library of America to commemorate each of the four years of the war. It was edited by three eminent Civil War historians, Brooks D. Simpson, Sears and Aaron Sheehan-Dean, who together have woven a rich tapestry from the threads of diaries, letters, military reports, newspaper articles, memoirs and poems. If the essays in "Hearts Touched by Fire" were written by leaders, this anthology self-consciously expands the parameters to include so-called ordinary people whose diaries, letters and reminiscences shed light on the war.

What was their criterion for the inclusion of the 122 selections? "Selections have been chosen for their historical significance, their literary quality, and their narrative energy," the editors explain in an introduction.

Energy! The modern reader will be struck by the energy, power and literary expression in private letters and diaries written in 1861. Since the centennial of the Civil War in 1961, social historians have enlarged the range of voices we hear in remembering the past. Thus, in addition to the words of President Abraham Lincoln and Confederate President Jefferson Davis, and leading Union and Confederate generals, many readers will hear for the first time the voices of women, North and South, and African Americans, slave and free.



The firing upon and surrender of Ft. Sumter 150 years ago this month began the heroic but tragic epic war that would cost the lives of 620,000 people — as many as all of our other wars put together. The editors' selection of seven documents that allow us to hear the responses to Ft. Sumter are a microcosm of what the reader can expect in this anthology. We look over the shoulder of Mary Chestnut, who, from inside her Charleston hotel room, confides her Southern response to this momentous event in the pages of her diary. We hear Abner Doubleday, an officer in the Union garrison inside the fort, who writes about it in his reminiscence.

We read an entry from George Templeton Strong, a New York lawyer, whose remarkable diary begun in 1835 would not be discovered until the 1930s. Strong wrote daily for 40 years and his entry on the evening of April 13, the day of the surrender of Ft. Sumter, reads: "So Civil War is inaugurated at last. God defend the Right." He continued, "It is said the President will assume the right to call for volunteers, whether the law give it or not. If he does, there will soon be a new element in the fray; viz., the stern anti-slavery Puritanism that survives in New England and in the Northwest."

We can read April 15 editorials from the New York Times and the Pittsburgh Post, Republican and Democratic newspapers, which underscore the highly partisan press of the day. The New York Times editorialized, "The reverberations



from Charleston harbor have brought about what months of logic would have been impotent to effect — the rapid condensation of public sentiment in the Free States."

Be prepared to be surprised, amused, upset, enlightened, but most of all — engaged. It is always possible to quibble with selections in any anthology. Although there are four selections from free black leader Frederick Douglass, there are no selections from slaves. Because the first volume is confined to 1861, I am confident the contributions of slaves will be included in the next three. In the years ahead, 21st century historians, biographers and political commentators will offer many words about the meaning of the Civil War. I suggest beginning your appreciation of the meaning of the war by hearing it from its 19th century participants themselves.

*White is the author of "A. Lincoln: A Biography." He is writing a biography of Ulysses S. Grant, which will be published by Random House.*

If you have further interest in the **THE CIVIL WAR: The First Year Told by Those Who Lived It**, an interview conducted by Library of America with editor Brooks Simpson can be found here;

[http://www.loa.org/images/pdf/LOA\\_Simpson\\_on\\_Civil\\_War.pdf](http://www.loa.org/images/pdf/LOA_Simpson_on_Civil_War.pdf)



## DID YOU KNOW?

“Shebangs” were crude shelters that Civil War prisoners of war built to protect themselves from the sun and rain.



## UPCOMING SCWRT SPEAKER SCHEDULE

- |                |   |
|----------------|---|
| <b>Sep. 14</b> | Don Stoker; "Grand Strategy During the Civil War."                              |
| <b>Oct. 12</b> | Nancy Samuelson; "Sanitary Commission."   |
| <b>Nov.</b>    | No meeting due to Annual Conference to be held in Sacramento on November 11-13. |
| <b>Dec. 14</b> | Paul Ruud; "What Did They Do After the Civil War."                              |

# SEPTEMBER DURING THE CIVIL WAR

## 1861

11th Union Victory at Cheat Mountain

## 1862

15th Harper's Ferry fell to Confederate  
Stonewall Jackson

17th Battle of Antietam

22nd Preliminary Emancipation Proclamation  
freeing slaves issued by President Lincoln.

## 1863

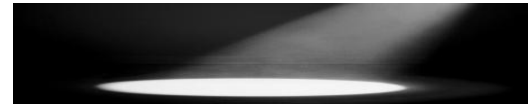
19th Battle of Chickamauga

## 1864

2nd Atlanta Surrenders

19th Battle of Winchester

24th Sheridan lays waste to the Shenandoah Valley



## Civil War Blog Spotlight

### Emerging Civil War

This blog was created to provide a voice for a diverse group of authors whose expertise varies from academic, military, public and social fields of history. Recent posts reflect this diversity with a book review on *Chancellorsville: Crossroads of Fire*, an introduction to the Trans-Mississippi Theatre, on myths related to Gettysburg, and a series on the Bombardment and Looting of Fredericksburg.

You can find Emerging Civil War at  
<http://emergingcivilwar.com/>.

