



Battle Cry

Founded 1961,
Newsletter of the Sacramento Civil War Round Table
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Volume 49, No 10
October, 2009
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Wed. of the month 2 weeks
before the regular meeting.
Items can be given the editor
by hand, mail or e-mail.

President's Message: Unfortunately I was out of town and missed Tim and Ginny Karlsburg's talk on "The South Was Right" but my sources assure me it was an outstanding presentation. This was their second program and we are grateful to the Beitzels for recommending them. It's good to know they are members of the Elk Grove Round Table so perhaps we will be seeing more of them in the future. I certainly hope so, and I'll plan not to miss the next one. Our thanks to them for once again enlightening us.

Our friends in Fresno are hosts October 23-25 for the 25th annual West Coast Conference which will be held in Clovis. They have put together what promises to be an outstanding program covering the Chattanooga Campaign. Program details and registration forms can be found at www.chattanooga2009.com. If you have never been to one of these conferences you're missing the best learning opportunities available on the West Coast. If you don't have internet access contact me and I'll get the forms to you.

Our own Fred Bohmfalk will present the October 14th program on Confederate General William J. Hardee. Come early for dinner and social hour. Looking forward to seeing you there.

Don Hayden, President

Book Review by M. Wolf—Lincoln President-Elect by Harold Holzer

Abraham Lincoln was the only president elected while facing an imminent threat of national dissolution, and he was inaugurated after the threat had been realized. The four months between November 6, 1860 and March 4, 1861 were filled with uncertainty and peril, more dangerous than that of November, 1932 to March, 1933. Harold Holzer, one of our outstanding Lincoln scholars and one of our best writers, tells the story of how Lincoln coped with a crisis that would bedevil any president but he wasn't president yet, and he was severely limited in what he could say and do.

Mr. Holzer notes that during this interregnum, "the country could more accurately be said to have had no president than to have had two. The incumbent was paralyzed, and his successor powerless." Lincoln had to pick his way through a political mine field: "Bound to loyalty to the Republican party platform on which he had run and won, he could yield little to the majority that had voted against him." Mr. Holzer further observes, "having never campaigned for the presidency, he needed to do so after his election." How Lincoln "manipulated individuals and factions, resisted flattery, faced down disloyalty, and endured criticism and hatred..." is the story that Mr. Holzer tells in fascinating detail. (continued on page 5)

MINUTES
Sacramento Civil War Round Table
Wednesday, September 9, 2009
Hof Brau Restaurant, 2500 Watt Ave, Sacramento

Attendance-43

Members-35

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| Silver Williams, Vice President | Brad Friedman | Bruce Nothmann | Susan Williams |
| George Foxworth, Treasurer | Alan Geiken | Anne Peasley | Maxine Wollen |
| Eddie Keister, Secretary | Bob Hanley, MAL | Rich Peasley | <u>Guests-8</u> |
| Joan Beitzel | James Juanitas | Paul Ruud | Ole Helleskor |
| George Beitzel | Garda Kohlmann | Nancy Samuelson | Nina Henley |
| Ken Berna | Dennis Kohlmann, PD | Kris Scivoletto | Wayne Henley |
| Roy Bishop | Grace Long | Nicholas Scivoletto | Ginny Karlberg |
| Rose Browne | Vivian Miller | Richard Sickert, MAL | Tim Karlberg |
| Marsha Cain | Betty Mitchell | Dick Thompson | Mary Meenan |
| Harvey Cain | Maurice Mitchell | Drew Van Winkle | K. Witztom |
| Fred Elanbaas | Donna Nothmann | Robert Williams | Don Zajic |

1. Meeting started at 7:00. Vice President Silver Williams welcomed guests and members. Paul Ruud spoke on upcoming conferences-
2009- Clovis
2010- San Francisco
2011- Our club will host, along with the Elk Grove CWRT. The theme will be "1861", and will present speakers Craig Simons, Jim Stanberry, and Larry Tag.
2. Dennis Kohlmann, our Program Director, will be taking names for persons wishing to give presentations for the upcoming year.
3. Our presentation for the evening was speaker Tim Karlberg- "The South is Right." Dressed in period costume, he gave the views of an 1860 Southern planter on the how and whys the South succeeded. It was an excellent performance and promoted a lively discussion afterwards. Ginny Karlberg accompanied her husband, and spoke at the end. Thank you both for an entertaining evening! Or, as we say in the South- "Y'all come back now, ya heah?"
4. The raffle was held, and meeting adjourned at 8:20.

Eddie Keister
Secretary

Treasurers Report

The cash balance following the September 9, 2009 meeting was \$2,530.31. Thanks to Vivian Miller, other members, and guests, the raffle brought in \$105.00.

George W. Foxworth, Treasurer

| Coming Programs 2009-2010 | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Oct. 14 th | Fred Bohmfalk | William Hardee |
| Nov. 11 th | Dennis Kohlmann | U. S. Grant |
| Dec. 9 th | Brad Schall | TBA |

A Report on the 120th Anniversary of the Grand Army Monument

by George W. Foxworth

The Elk Grove Civil War Round Table (EGCWRT) and the Union Veterans Union celebrated the 120th Anniversary of the Dedication of the Grand Army Monument on Sunday, September 13, 2009. The Monument is located in the northeastern section of the Sacramento City Cemetery. The 5th California Volunteer Infantry Band played selected Civil War songs before, during, and after the celebration. On October 8, 1861, the 5th California Infantry was organized at Camp Union by Brigadier General George W. Bowie for duty in Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas against Confederate forces. Camp Union was located in what is now William Land Park. Only a historic marker remains on or near the site.

George Beitzel, President of the EGCWRT, opened with a short speech on the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR). Bob Bundy followed with a history of the Monument. Chuck Davis concluded with "An Honored Memory" of the soldiers buried in the plot and other parts of the Cemetery. We also learned that the soldier on the Monument is called "Old Eli." Chuck also spoke briefly on Camp Union.

The Monument was dedicated on September 9, 1889. The Grand Marshall was Major Cyrus H. Hubbard of the 23rd Ohio Volunteer Infantry--the Regiment of Presidents--called this because Rutherford B. Hayes and William McKinley were both members of this Regiment. Major Hubbard was assisted by George W. Ficks of the 15th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry Regiment. Ficks was assigned to the Ninth Army Corps, Army of the Potomac. Major Hubbard later became Mayor of Sacramento and is buried in the City Cemetery. J. W. Reeves (rank and unit are unknown) was the senior post commander of the Grand Army and he accepted the Monument on behalf of the GAR from Superior Judge W. C. Van Fleet.

Per the Sacramento Daily Record-Union's (later known as Sacramento Union) September 10, 1889 edition, the procession proceeded at 3:00 PM on Monday, September 9, from 10th and K Streets (GAR Headquarters) to the City Cemetery via 10th Street. The procession included Sacramento Mayor W. D. Comstock, police, First Artillery Band, Sons of Veterans' Drum Corps, Society of Pioneers (headed by P. S. Lawson), Fair Oaks Relief Corps, Sumner Relief Corps, GAR contingents, and a host of local organizations and citizens.

There was initially a Grand Army Plot at New Helvetia Cemetery which was located at the corner of 31st and J Streets. This plot was donated by owner John Wesley Reeves. When Reeves died in 1867, the City of Sacramento donated a larger plot at the City Cemetery. Those veterans buried at New Helvetia were moved to this new plot, where the Monument now stands.

The GAR established the Grand Army Memorial Fund sometime in the 1870's-1880's. They couldn't raise enough money for the Monument. They were finally helped out by the Memorial Day Committee but still didn't have enough money. In 1888, the Ulysses S. Grant Memorial Fund, who wanted to build a monument to General Grant, threw their support-and finances-behind the Grand Army to build the Monument with the stipulation that General Grant somehow be honored on the Monument. The GAR agreed. When the monument was designed, a bronze plaque featuring a likeness of General Grant was placed on the north side of the Monument.

In 1954, the Sons of Union Veterans (the next generation) took over all property of the GAR due to the passing of the last veterans from the Civil War. The local Camp is General George Wright, Camp 22. This Camp was formed in 1995. From 1995-2000, Chuck Davis, Steve Von Bima, and Bob Bundy along with an occasional volunteer, from the Sons of Union Veterans, met to clean and repair the Monument. Since 2000, the Sons of Union Veterans have not been involved at the Cemetery and no longer care for the Monument. As a result, Steve and Bob formed the Union Veterans Union, Inc. (UVU) and along with Chuck, they continue to care for the Monument. They meet each President's Day to clean and repair the Monument. Hats off to Bob, Chuck, and Steve.

The following EGCWRT members attended: George and Joan Beitzel, Bob and Jacque Bundy, and Chuck Davis. The following SCWRT members attended: George and Joan Beitzel, Roy Bishop, George W. Foxworth, Bob Hanley, Dennis Kohlmann, Bob Williams, and Silver Williams.

Thank you EGCWRT and UVU for this moving celebration. Finally, I give special thanks to Bob Bundy and George Beitzel whose contributions made this article possible.

Announcement

From: Annette Stransky <annette022003@yahoo.com> September 14, 2009

For immediate release:

President Lincoln's Last Journey, a multi-media presentation will take place on Sunday, October 25 at 1:00 PM at the Saratoga History Museum by Historian Ray Cosyn. The presentation is free to the public. The presentation will cover the reaction of the crowds and the miracles that occurred as the Lincoln funeral train travelled for 10 days across the country. Join us for this insightful look into an event that took place when the country was attempting to recover from the Civil War. The Saratoga History Museum is located at 20450 Saratoga-Los Gatos Road in Saratoga. Don't miss the "War Between the States" exhibit which will close at the end of October and features items from the collection of Bill Cleary.

(continued from 1st page)

On November 29, 1860, Lincoln's friend (and soon to be U.S. Grant's sponsor) Illinois congressman Elihu Washburne wrote to the president-elect, "What we most want is a 'masterly inactivity.'" Many historians believe that is precisely how Lincoln spent these critical months, saying and doing practically nothing. Mr. Holzer shows how active and engaged Lincoln really was.

It is generally agreed, and Mr. Holzer doesn't dispute this, that Lincoln misjudged secession sentiment in the deep South. He writes, "Lincoln believed longer and more strongly than most of his fellow Republicans that secession agitation was limited to a radical fringe, and that good sense and patriotism might ultimately win back the hearts and minds of wavering Southerners." In late November, he told his dinner companions he believed the South would not leave the Union, much less initiate a war for independence. Ohio journalist Donn Piatt predicted "the land would be whitened by tents" in three months, but Lincoln replied, "Well, we won't jump that ditch until we come to it. I must run the machine as I find it." Piatt recalled in 1887 that he wondered why the "strangely gifted" Lincoln remained "so blind."

Piatt's memoir is just one of dozens of relatively obscure sources Mr. Holzer has used in his engrossing narrative. He tells us one of Lincoln's favorite sports was handball (called "fives" in those days), and a contemporary recalled "he was always the champion." He quotes a Springfield teen-ager's post-election diary entry, finding it in a 1929 publication of the Illinois Historical Society. He quotes from the many hate letters and death threats Lincoln received during these months; Lincoln seems to have saved every letter he ever got, and Mr. Holzer seems to have read all of them.

Lincoln carefully planned his pre-inaugural trip from Springfield to Washington. In eleven days, he traveled 1900 miles on eight different railroad lines through seven states, and gave 101 speeches. Twice he spoke 13 times in one day. "Lincoln probably appeared in the flesh before at least three-quarters of a million people surely more than had ever cast their eyes on any president of the United States in all of American history." The trip was physically exhausting, but it served its purpose of telling supporters, doubters, and opponents what to expect from him.

Mr. Holzer describes the very credible plot against Lincoln's life in Baltimore, and his decision not to stop for an afternoon reception in "Mobtown," but to speed secretly through town in the wee hours, abandoning his announced schedule. This turned out to be an embarrassing episode, as editorialists and cartoonists had a field day making fun of the president-elect.

It's all here: Mary, Robert, Nicolay and Hay, relatives, political friends, patronage-seekers, cabinet choices (including that scoundrel, Simon Cameron of Pennsylvania), citing hundreds of sources, with annotated end notes full of additional information.

"Lincoln President-Elect," is a valuable addition to our knowledge of Lincoln during a critical time which has not yet been explored this thoroughly and this well.

REGISTRATION

The registration fee of \$225.00 includes three meals, namely dinner Friday the 23rd, lunch and dinner on Saturday the 24th, as well as fifteen lectures. (The hotels offer complimentary breakfasts.)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City _____ **State** _____

Zip _____

Phone: Home: (____) _____ - _____ **Work:**(____) _____ - _____

Email: _____

Make checks for \$225.00 (or \$199.00) payable to
SJVCWRT

Individual Day Fees are as Follows:

Friday: \$75.00

Saturday: \$75.00

Sunday: \$75.00

Send registration form and fee to:

SJVCWRT

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