



Battle Cry

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

It was a delightful, informative evening Professor Don Stoker provided for us in discussing his book **The Grand Design**. I especially enjoyed his suggestion that the war might have ended earlier if McClellan's plans had been carried out, the contrasts between the political goals of Davis and Lincoln, the importance of the Kentucky campaign's failure in 1862, and how Lincoln's strategic grasp grew as the war progressed. Stoker's dynamism and enthusiastic approach was greatly appreciated as was his courtesy by remaining to join us in a lengthy stay after the meeting. Thank you Don for your visit and we look forward to seeing you in the future.

As fall approaches we have the opportunity to drop in on the Huntington Conference October 21 and 22 near Pasadena. Many of us have attended these over the Years and enjoyed the excellent speakers and beautiful facilities. This year the subject is **Civil War Lives**. Among the speakers are James McPherson, Gary Gallagher, Joan Waugh, Brooks Simpson and David Blight. For details feel free to contact me at 916-485-1246.

Our conference is the second weekend in November and our members are, as usual, responding enthusiastically. The details are on our website; www.sacramentocwrt.com. For those who have not attended one of these events, it is an opportunity to immerse yourself in a weekend of history under the tutelage of the finest scholars in America at a reasonable cost and at the same time enjoy good meals and a most pleasant learning experience. I hope to see you there. In this newsletter, we have our last installment of speakers' biographies with Larry Tagg, author of **The Unpopular Mr. Lincoln**.

At our October meeting we will elect new officers to replace those who are leaving their posts. Candidates are President: Robert Hanley; Vice-President Ann Peasley; Members-at-Large Nina and Wayne Henley. Present officers and directors who will remain serving are Secretary Edie Keister, Treasurer George Foxworth, Battle Cry Editor Brent ten Pas, Program Director Dennis Kohlmann, and I'll serve as Past-President. Approval of the general membership is required. Thanks go out to Paul Ruud, Silver Williams, and Richard Sickert for their many years of service. I'll miss them all.

The board met and approved the slate, considered some suggestions for the November Conference, and voted to move the monthly board meeting to be contiguous to the regular meeting in the interests of newer members who are still working. One of the reasons our round table has done well over the years is the willingness of many to offer their time and talent to the cause. I have appreciated working with them.

On October 12 our speaker is member Nancy Samuelson who will enlighten us on the humanitarian tasks undertaken in the war by the Sanitary Commission. This should prove of great interest since it was so vital a part of our history. Sam's Hof Brau at seven. See you there.

Don Hayden, President

MINUTES
SACRAMENTO CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
Wednesday September 14th, 2011
Hof Brau Restaurant, 2500 Watt Ave, Sacramento

Attendance-43

Members-37

Don Hayden, President	Bob Hanley, MAL	Mary Lou Lenz	Brent Ten Pas, Editor
George Foxworth, Treasurer	Scottie Hayden	Ken Lenz	Bob Williams
Eddie Keister, Secretary	Nancy Hayden	Grace Long	Susan Williams
Joan Beitzel	Scott Hayden	Bob Moore	John Zasso
George Beitzel	Nina Henley	Anne Peasley	<u>Guest-6</u>
Roy Bishop	Wayne Henley	Rick Peasley	Paul Cotter
Ardith Cnota	Pam Hubbard	Jim Rathlesberger	Carolyn Ewing
Mitchell Cnota	Chuck Hubbard	Paul Rudd, IPP	Garrett Johnston
James Cress	Dennis Kohlmann, PD	Nancy Samuelson	Eric Kurth
Jerry Cress	Lowell Lardie	Robert Schroeder	John McCroy
Alan Geiken	Victor Le	Nicholas Scivoletto	Donald Stoker

1. Meeting started at 7:00. Registration forms for our November conference were available including program speaker and schedules.
2. Pledge of Allegiance recited. Members and guest welcomed.
3. Prof. Don Stoker presented “Grand Strategy During the Civil War,” based on his book – “The Grand Strategy and the U.S. Civil War.” Policy, grand strategy and operations were explained. A question and answer session followed and his books were for sale. Thanks, Don.
4. Raffle was held and meeting ended at 8:25.

Eddie Keister, Secretary

Treasurer's Report

The cash balance following the September 14, 2011 meeting was \$2,274.34. Thanks to John Zasso, other members, and guests, the raffle brought in \$73.00.

George W. Foxworth, Treasurer

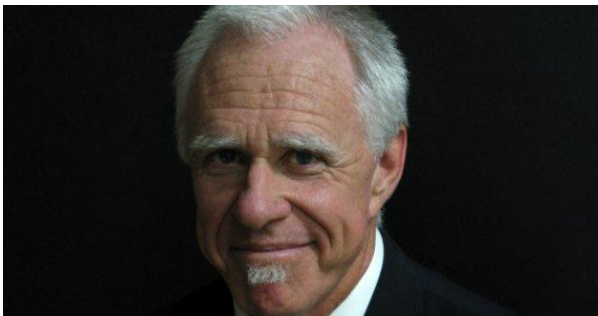
2011 West Coast Civil War Conference

1861: The First Year

November 11 - 13, 2011, Doubletree Hotel,
Sacramento

Speaker Profile: Larry Tagg

(This is the fifth and last installment of biographical profiles of speakers confirmed for the 2011 West Coast Civil War Conference)



Larry Tagg is our fifth speaker at the November Conference. Larry is a native of Lincoln, Illinois, the only town named for our 16th president before he became president. Larry presently teaches English and drama and is Lead Teacher of the Arts Academy at local Hiram Johnson High School. He graduated Cum Laude in Philosophy from the University of North Texas in two years and was awarded a Teaching Assistantship at the University of Texas.

After a semester academia, Larry acted on his love for music, emerged, and decidedly pursued his dream of singing, songwriting, and playing bass. After moving to California in 1978, he played with the band Uncle Rainbow and recorded under the aegis of Michael Hossack, one of the Doobie brothers. He and Brent Bourgeois formed the band Bourgeois Tagg, and they recorded albums and hit singles for Island Records and also toured with Robert Palmer, Heart, Belinda Carlisle, and others.

After Bourgeois Tagg broke up, Larry worked with Todd Rundgren and Hall and Oates. His audition gig with the latter group was in front of a million people at the Great Meadow in Central Park on the 20th

anniversary of Earth Day. During the 1990's he served as staff songwriter for Warner Chappell Music. His songs were recorded by Eddie Money, Kim Carnes, Cliff Richard, and others. He released two solo albums in Europe and America.

In the 1990's, family intervened and the road lost much of its allure. He started teaching in Sacramento and began writing about the Civil War. In 1998 he released *The Generals of Gettysburg* which is an excellent compendium and still in print. In subsequent years he researched his extremely successful work, *The Unpopular Mr. Lincoln*, published in 2009 by Savas Beatie. He has discussed this work with audiences from Washington, D.C. to California and our local roundtables where he has been enthusiastically received. This is why our committee asked him to speak at our November Conference.

Lest you think the title, **The Unpopular Mr. Lincoln**, suggests an unfavorable slant on one of our most admired presidents, I wish to quote from a wonderful interview with Larry which appeared in Civil War Trust's magazine, *Hallowed Ground*, Summer 2009:

"I am in awe of the man....There is greatness in it (his writing). His political acumen...was a thing to wonder at. That a man...with very little prestige or popularity, could overmaster the centripetal force of an entire nation of 30 million people and pull it back together again, and at the same time achieve emancipation, which most of the nation, even the North, was against, is a miracle of politics, politics in its very best sense."

Don Hayden





BOOK REVIEWS



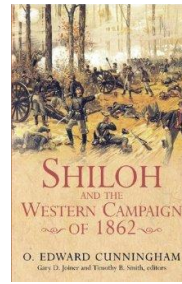
We are privileged in this issue to have book reviews related to the Battle of Shiloh submitted by Ken Hansgen. Ken has led more than 800 tours at Shiloh National Military Park and is an SCWRT Honorary Member. Learn more about Ken and his tours at <http://www.shilohguide.com/>



Shiloh and the Western Campaign of 1862 by O. Edward Cunningham, edited by Gary D. Joiner and Timothy R. Smith, Savas Beatie, 2007, 476 pp.

When I first visited Shiloh in 1993, intending to one day offer guided tours there, I asked the then-Historian at the Park, the late George Reeves, “What is the best book on the battle?” He unhesitatingly replied that the best book on the battle had never been published; it was a doctor’s dissertation presented at Louisiana State University in 1966. I quickly purchased a 2-volume copy from the University of Michigan (a service apparently no longer available) and was not disappointed. In 2007, long after the death of the author, Dr. O. Edward Cunningham, his heirs finally permitted the thesis to be edited and published.

Cunningham had diligently located many previously untapped sources, so his version is rich in personal anecdotes. He, unlike many historians, was not content with the standard version of events. He dug much deeper into his sources; in fact his version of events is only now coming to be accepted by modern historians. Some examples: the severity of the fighting and the ultimate importance of the Sunken Road and Hornet’s Nest versus The Crossroads area

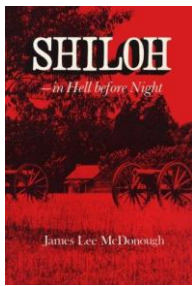


The editors have greatly enhanced the original thesis with the addition of a comprehensive index, as well as some much-needed maps (32 of them!) and other illustrations and some corrections to the text and insertion of informative footnotes (at bottom of pages). This book is available both in hardback, ISBN 978-1-932714-27-2, for \$29.95 (in my opinion, a steal!) and softcover, ISBN 978-1-932714-34-0, for \$24.95 at the Shiloh Bookstore, an arm of Eastern National, at 997 Pittsburg Landing Road, Shiloh, TN 38376-4329, or 731/689-3475, or KarenJaggars@EasternNational.org.

Blue & Gray magazine, Shiloh, the Civil War Sesquicentennial Edition, a reprint of both Volume XIV, Issues 3 and 4 by Stacy Allen, 1997, 74 pp., ISBN 1-891515-04-7, Price at Shiloh Bookstore: a mere \$7.95.

Ken’s recommendation for “best buy” in the Shiloh Bookstore is not a book, but a magazine. Stacy Allen is now the Park’s Chief Ranger and preeminent historian. The issue(s) he created contains the best, most recent thinking on the battle, and includes many photos, 10 great battle maps, directions and another map for several off-the-park tours, lists of units and their commanders (orders of battle), etc., etc. (An earlier version was sold as the “Visitors Guide” to Shiloh.)

Shiloh-in Hell before Night by James Lee McDonough, U. of Tennessee Press, 1977, 260 pp. Available at Shiloh Bookstore in softcover only, ISBN 0-870049-233-2 for \$17.95. Hardback edition is out of print, ISBN 0-87049-199-7.

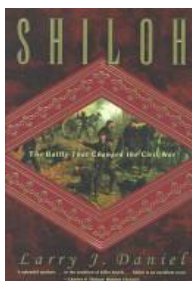


This book is by far the easiest to read of the full-book treatments about the Battle of Shiloh. It is very well-written and is full of anecdotes. Although shallow on tactical detail, it was the first modern academic study of the battle.

The author contends the critical part of the battle, where the heaviest fighting occurred, was the action in the Hornets' Nest and the so-called "Sunken Road." This perpetuates an idea (some say "the myth") first published by David W. Reed in his 1902 government publication, *The Battle of Shiloh and the Units Engaged*. (The most modern historians, starting with Cunningham, contend the most influential part of the battle was Gens. Sherman and McClernand's actions around "The Crossroads" nearer the Union right.) Reed was then the Secretary of the Shiloh Park Commission and became the first Superintendent of the new Park. It must be remembered, of course, that during the battle he was a private in the 12th Iowa Infantry Regiment which was right in the midst of the Hornets' Nest fight.

The book is nicely-indexed and contains many footnotes and attributions, a bibliography, an order of battle and many illustrations and maps (12 maps).

Shiloh—The Battle That Changed The Civil War by Larry J. Daniel, Simon & Schuster, 1997, 430 pp. Available at Shiloh Bookstore in softcover only, ISBN 978-0-684-83857-1 for \$16.00. Hardback edition is out of print, ISBN 0-684-80375-5.

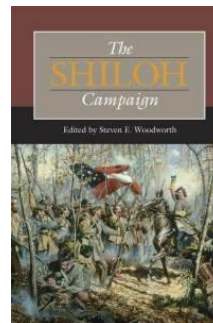


Here's another fine book dedicated to the great Battle of Shiloh. I like his one because of its organization and the fact that it presents so much background information related to the battle. It has a bibliography *par excellence*. As usual for this kind of book, it contains an excellent index, a notes section after the text, a section of illustrations, many maps (15), and appendices, including an order of battle and Union strengths and casualties by division.

Emphasis is placed on the Civil War in the Western Theater. This would be another fine book to add to your Civil War library, and, at \$16, the price is right!

I include here comments on the following 4 books, despite the fact that they are now OUT OF PRINT, because they are an important part of my library about Shiloh, and because they have been so important and influential for interpreting the battle:

The Shiloh Campaign, edited by Steven E. Woodworth, Southern Illinois Univ. Press, 2009, 167 pp. (Part of the "Civil War in the Heartland" series. Out of Print. ISBN 0-8093-2892-5 (Hardback), Recommended price new: \$24.95. ISBN 978-0-8093-2829-5 (Softcover).

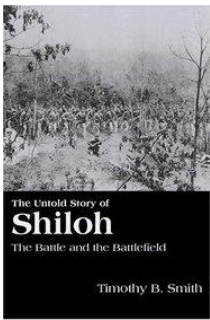


This book is well-indexed, with 8 chapters by 8 different noted contributors. Notes follow each chapter, but it has only 3 maps and no illustrations. The chapters, themselves, are very good but there is no extra information, such as the order of battle, losses, etc. Though small and the most slender of all the books reviewed, this volume is not suitable for the general reader, but it provides good analyses for the dedicated student of Shiloh and the western campaigns.

Shortly after I moved to Tennessee, I visited the Museum of Northern Mississippi in nearby Corinth

(the ultimate objective of Grant's army). When I explained what I intended to do, the then-curator there, a retired schoolteacher, commented, "Oh Shiloh, merely the largest battle in the Corinth Campaign!" When I thought about it, she was right (at least partly) for the Union army there really was no Shiloh Campaign at all. All along, the Union objective was Corinth, Mississippi, not Pittsburg Landing or Shiloh. Therefore the very title of the book seems to be a misnomer, incorrect.

The Untold Story of Shiloh—The Battle and the Battlefield by Timothy B. Smith, U. of Tennessee Press, 2006, 206 pp. Out of Print. ISBN 1-57233-466-5.

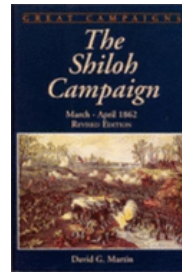


The author, who once worked on the staff at the Park, and who got to analyze the battle and its historiography thoroughly, did a great job in explaining how that evolved and was presented in the various publications about it. His book, although smaller than most of the others, contains a good index, notes following the text, etc. It also clears up many of the myths about Shiloh, and describes and explains some of the incidents and persons influential in the history of the battle and the early Park.

Shiloh: Bloody April, Newly Corrected Edition, by Wiley Sword, Morningside, 2001, 561 pp. Out of print. ISBN 0-89029-070-9 (Hardback). For a long time, the original version of this book, copyright 1974, (3 years before McDonough's book, *Shiloh—in Hell Before Night*) was considered "The Bible" on Shiloh. Rich in detail, almost to a fault, it answered most questions about the battle. The "Newly Corrected Edition" mainly added a couple of new appendices and a new chapter by which the author sought to prove his relocation, by several hundred yards, of the Albert Sidney Johnston death site. In both editions, he followed the lead of Charles

P. Roland in his 1967 biography entitled *Albert Sidney Johnston—Soldier of Three Republics*, by emphasizing that the most critical incident in the battle was Johnston's untimely death. Also, because it was such a wakeup call, he set the precedent for calling Shiloh "the Pearl Harbor of the Civil War." Both editions of this book, like most others, contain a comprehensive index, a bibliography and reference notes following the text, illustrations and many battle maps (18). Also included are a number of very interesting and informative appendices, including a detailed order of battle and detailed losses by divisions (union) and corps (Confederate).

The Shiloh Campaign, March-April 1862, Revised Edition by David G. Martin, Combined Books, 1996, 235 pp. (Part of the Great Campaigns series) Out of Print. ISBN 0-938289-69-1 (Hardback).



Despite a few inaccuracies in the text, (which I soon corrected in my copy) this has been my favorite book about Shiloh. Even in the original edition, in a larger-sized format, I think I liked it because it has so many boxes and sidebars that add a lot of vital bits of information. It is well-illustrated, and comes with an index, detailed order of battle with unit strengths and casualties by regiments and batteries, and many other interesting pieces of information, such as artillery used at Shiloh, lives of the commanders, etc. There are no bibliography or reference notes, however. Here is another book whose title may be a misnomer. I still like the book, though, and recommend it if one can find a used copy somewhere.



2011 West Coast Civil War Conference



"The Capture of Rickett's Battery" by Sidney King, 1964 (oil on plywood).

2011 is the 150th Anniversary of the beginning of the American Civil War.

1861: The First Year

November 11 - 13, 2011, Doubletree Hotel, Sacramento

Speakers:

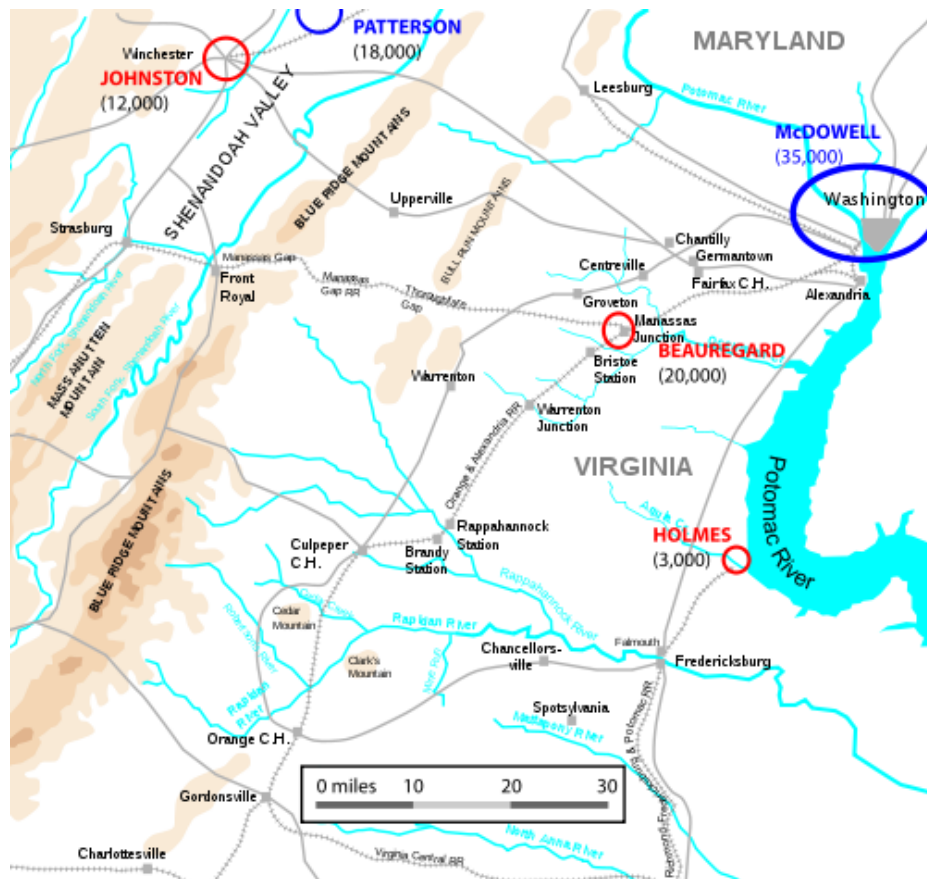
Prof. William C. (Jack) Davis: Is a Professor of History at Virginia Tech University, and an author of more than 40 books on the American Civil War.

Larry Tagg: Is a graduate of the University of North Texas, and the author of "The Unpopular Mr. Lincoln."

Prof. Jim Stanbery: Professor of Political Science and History at Los Angeles Harbor College, speaker at The West Coast Civil War Conference for more than twenty years.

Prof. Craig L. Symonds: Joined the United States Naval Academy in 1976. He served as chairman of the history department in 1988-1992 and was appointed professor emeritus on his retirement in 2005.

Dr. Brian S. Wills Director of the Center for the Study of the Civil War Era at Kennesaw State University. Mr. Wills is a nationally recognized Civil War historian and author of several books on Civil War topics.



Co-sponsored by Sacramento Civil War Round Table and Elk Grove Civil War Round Table. WWW.SacramentoCWRT.com

*2011 West Coast Civil War Conference
Sacramento, CA November 11, 12, & 13*

1861: The First Year

Friday, November 11, 2011 Schedule

- 3:00 - Registration, Doubletree Hotel
5:00 Lobby
- 4:30 - No host cocktails
5:30
- 5:30 - Opening welcome remarks by
5:45 President Don Hayden
- 5:45 - Dinner
6:45
- 6:45 - Break
7:00
- 7:00 - Ron Perisho - 1861 in 3D
7:45
- 7:45 - Craig Symonds – Causes, goals,
9:00 and readiness – North and South

Saturday, November 12, 2011 Schedule

- 8:00 - Jack Davis – 1860 election;
9:00 secession; Sumter
- 9:10 - Craig Symonds – Strategies North
10:10 and South
- 10:20 - Brian Wills – First Manassas
11:20
- 11:35 - Lunch
12:25

- 12:25 - Raffle drawings
12:45
- 1:00 - Jim Stanbery – Highlights of 1861
2:00 battles other than Manassas
- 2:10 - Larry Tagg – Abraham Lincoln
3:10
- 3:20 - Jack Davis – Jefferson Davis
4:20
- 5:30 - Social Hour (no host cocktails
6:30 available)
- 6:30 – Dinner
7:30
- 7:45 - Brian Wills – Competition for the
9:00 border states

Sunday, November 13, 2011 Schedule

- 8:00 - Jim Stanbery – Two New Nations
8:50
- 9:00 - Jack Davis – Looking back over
9:50 1861; ahead to 1862; what did they see?
- 10:00 - Brunch & Raffle
11:00
- 11:00 - Panel – Jim Stanbery, moderator;
12:30 members – Symonds, Davis, Wills, Tagg – questions in advance from planning staff and audience

