



# Battle Cry

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

I feel fortunate to have a group of people who are interested in the American Civil War when I enjoy studying the war as much as I do. I am just completing reading probably the fifth book I have read on "Antietam", and I find all of them entertaining, and each of them telling me something new. Further, many of us will be entertained in early November at the West Coast Conference in Orange County.

We will have some very entertaining speakers some of whom we have heard before, and a couple of new speakers who are local to Orange County. Many of us will be flying or driving down south the first week of November to attend the conference.

I have heard that a few of our members will carpool to the conference, and I hope that everyone enjoys the conference as much as I hope too.

Please join us this Wednesday for SCWRT member James Juanitas' presentation entitled "Admiral Farragut at Mobile Bay."

**Bob Hanley, President**

**MINUTES**  
**SACRAMENTO CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE**  
**Wednesday, September 12, 2012**  
**HOF BRAU RESTAURANT, 2500 WATT AVENUE, SACRAMENTO**

**ATTENDANCE – 34**

**MEMBERS**

Harvey Cain  
Marsha Cain  
James Cress  
Jerry Cress  
George Foxworth, Treasurer  
John Greer  
Bob Hanley, President  
Don Hayden, IPP  
Nina Henley, MAL  
Wayne Henley, MAL  
James Juanitas  
Dennis Kohlman  
Grace Long

Anne Peasley, VP  
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Horst Penning  
John Rice  
Paul Ruud  
Nancy Samuelson  
Richard Sickert  
Roxanne Spizzirri  
Brent Ten Pas  
Bob Williams  
Maxine Wollen, SEC  
John Zasso

**GUESTS - 5**

Esther Boeck  
Doug Ose  
Marcia Rogers  
Larry Spizzirri  
Richard Spizzirri

The meeting was called to order at 7:04pm by Bob Hanley

1. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Bob Hanley
2. Bob Hanley introduced the guests
3. Bob Hanley introduced the speaker, Rob Orr, whose topic was “The USS Monitor Exhibit”. The Exhibit is at the Mariner’s Museum in Newport News, VA. The topics he covered were the history, recovery, and preservation. The Monitor exhibit is in an on-going state of change, as the work of recovery and preservation still continues. The Monitor played a big part in the War, due to the fact that as soon as it was shown what it could do, there was a flurry to build more.
4. Bob Hanley thanked the speaker and presented him with a bottle of wine.
5. Other business included discussion of the 2012 West Coast Conference. Bob asked for any comments on our Web site. Dennis Kohlman asked for speakers for next year from the members. He also mentioned the book “Long Road to Antietam”, which he recommended.
6. John Zasso conducted the raffle.
7. The meeting was adjourned at 8:12; the Board meeting was held immediately after.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

Doug Ose was in attendance to discuss the future of Gibson Ranch, as there has been a change in the management of the equestrian operation as of 10-1-12. He stated that boarding of horses will still continue; all other operations remain the same. The new mgmt team will handle all operations of the park, including the Civil War Re-enactors. The decision of which weekend the event will be held is going to be made on 9-29-12. It was decided that the board will meet for breakfast once a month, on the last Wednesday of the month.

**TREASURER’S REPORT**

The cash balance at the end of the meeting was \$2,783.10. Thanks to John Zasso, members and guests, the raffle brought in \$67.00.

George W. Foxworth, Treasurer

## ‘Perryville’ shines light on forgotten battle in Civil War

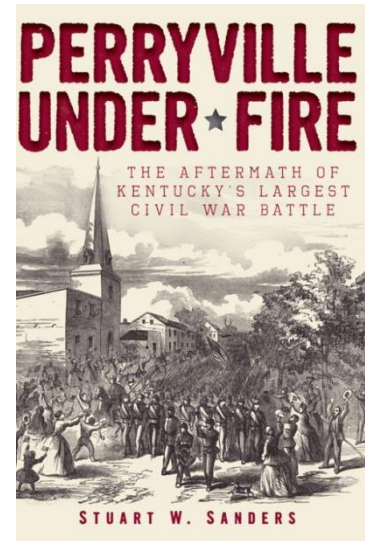
“On October 8, 1862, more than 7,500 Union and Confederate troops were killed and wounded outside of Perryville, Kentucky,” Stuart W. Sanders explains in his new book, “Perryville Under Fire: The Aftermath of Kentucky’s Largest Civil War Battle.” “This battle proved to be the Bluegrass State’s largest, and many veterans remarked that it was the most intense fight that they ever encountered.

“For many Union soldiers, Perryville was their baptism of fire,” Sanders continues. “It was also the first time that these troops saw mass suffering. The Confederates were similarly disillusioned at Bragg’s failures and with Kentuckians’ refusal to join the Confederate army.”

It is apparent from the introduction that the author knows his subject matter intimately. The masterful way Sanders weaves multiple accounts of events that transpired almost 150 years ago into a single narrative is one of the most appealing features of the book and serves to set it apart from similar efforts to capture the historical significance of the Battle of Perryville. There is a richness and depth to Sanders’ prose that gives readers the sense that they are vicariously reliving the drama as it plays out page after page. I often found it difficult to find a suitable “stopping place” when other priorities inevitably required my attention.

In addition to telling a story that a lot of people don’t know – including many Kentuckians – “Perryville” also serves as a stark reminder of the horrors of war that sometime elude us in the modern era. “In addition to the wounded and sick, Perryville residents contended with scores of dead soldiers who lay scattered over hundreds of acres,” Sanders notes. “The Union army buried its own dead in regimented plots, digging the graves near where the men had fallen. Rebel corpses remained on the field for days

after the battle. The Union soldiers refused to bury the dead Southerners because Confederate troops had stripped the Northern corpses.”



“Perryville has long been the ‘forgotten’ battle in Civil War history,” observes Ken Noe, author of “Perryville: This Grand Havoc of Battle.” “Perryville was in many ways a classic soldier’s battle. The battle began at two in the afternoon, which meant that the Confederates were desperate to achieve a breakthrough before dark even as Union soldiers hoped to just hang on until night. That desperation added to the intensity. The end result was a battle that many Shiloh veterans described as the more severe. Indeed Sam Watkins famously declared it his worst battle of the war.”

Sanders was obviously meticulous in researching “Perryville,” as evidenced by the 23 pages of chapter notes at the conclusion of the 11 chapters that make up the main text. As alluded to previously, the book has the feel of someone providing a firsthand account of events that transpired in a bygone era. Moreover, the numerous vintage photographs liberally scattered throughout the volume serve to bring the words to life in a way that would not have been possible otherwise. Although Sanders gives a concise yet surprisingly compelling account of the actual Battle of Perryville – also known as the Battle of Chaplin Hills – the book is really about its repercussions on the people who lived in the region. Indeed, Sanders seems driven to tell a story that desperately yearns to be told – to shed just a little light on the forgotten victims of an epic

conflict. Witness his depiction of the fate of one prominent citizen:

“While hundreds of residents suffered from the battle, perhaps no one lost more than Henry P. Bottom, a local cabinet maker and justice of the peace,” Sanders writes. “The forty-seven-year-old Bottom, who owned most of the land upon which the battle was fought, could never have foreseen the carnage that struck his farm ... Bottom never recovered, either economically or psychologically, from the horrors and destruction of the Battle of Perryville.”

Or his description of the battle’s impact on Lewis Warner Green, the president of Centre College:

“During the nineteenth century, Green was one of the Bluegrass State’s preeminent intellectuals,” Sanders explains. “While nursing sick Northern soldiers at the college, Green contracted an illness, suffered for five days and died on May 26, 1863, more than seven months after the battle. The civilian caregivers who died of illnesses contracted from the soldiers remain the forgotten casualties of the battle.”

For the record, Sanders has written for *Civil War Times Illustrated*, *America’s Civil War*, *Military History Quarterly*, *The Journal of America’s Military Past*, and *Blue and Gray*. He has contributed to several books on the American Civil War, including “Kentuckians in Gray: Confederate Generals and Field Officers of the Bluegrass State,” “Confederate Generals in the Western Theater” and “Confederate Generals of the Trans-Mississippi.” Sanders is also former executive director of the Perryville Battlefield Preservation Association.

As many of you know, this is not the kind of book I typically review; there are those who are infinitely more qualified to provide an informed opinion on military history than I am or will ever be. At the same time, I found “Perryville Under Fire” to be exceptionally interesting and even intriguing. I now know much more about an important chapter in our state’s history that I was almost completely oblivious to before reading this account.

My prediction is that you would feel the same after reading “Perryville Under Fire.” I recommend it highly.

— Reviewed by Aaron W. Hughey, Department of Counseling and Student Affairs, Western Kentucky University.

Bowling Green Daily News, May 27, 2012;  
[http://www.bgdailynews.com/features/sunday\\_reader/book-review-perryville-shines-light-on-forgotten-battle-in-civil/article\\_b6078ece-a6dd-11e1-8ad0-001a4bcf887a.html](http://www.bgdailynews.com/features/sunday_reader/book-review-perryville-shines-light-on-forgotten-battle-in-civil/article_b6078ece-a6dd-11e1-8ad0-001a4bcf887a.html)



## Danville author tells about his book on the Battle of Perryville

By Greg Kocher  
Herald Leader, Lexington, KY  
Published, June 17, 2012

It was perhaps inevitable that Stuart Sanders of Danville would write a book about the Civil War. He grew up in Lexington, Va., where Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee is buried. Sanders is distantly related to Mary Todd Lincoln, the Lexington, Ky.-born wife of Civil War President Abraham Lincoln. Sanders' great-great-grandfather was a Union surgeon at the Battle of Perryville on Oct. 8, 1862. Another distant relative fought with the Confederates at Perryville. And Sanders is former executive director of the Perryville Battlefield Preservation Association. Sanders, a 1995 graduate of Centre College, has written numerous articles about the Civil War and has contributed to books about the conflict. Now, as Perryville prepares to mark the 150th anniversary of the battle, he has written his own book, *Perryville Under Fire: The Aftermath of Kentucky's Largest Civil War Battle* (The History Press, \$19.99). It tells how Perryville residents and citizens of nearby communities dealt with wounded and sick soldiers who filled homes, churches, schools, barns and sheds. "Many residents never recovered — economically or psychologically — from the aftermath," Sanders writes.

The Herald-Leader sat down with Sanders at the Thomas D. Clark Center for Kentucky History in Frankfort to talk about the book. An edited version of the interview follows.



**Question:** The nightmarish scenes you depict in the book might be some of the most horrific non-fiction I've read since the opening chapter of *The Hot Zone*. For example, you write about the four soldiers who were killed simultaneously by one cannonball, and hogs eating bodies on the field after the battle. Were you aware of these terrors when you were director of the battlefield association, or did your research uncover new facts?

**Answer:** In terms of horrors of the battle, I think we knew that. When I was there (in Perryville), my office was down on Merchant's Row, the town's primary commercial district, and all those buildings were likely hospitals. So I had a daily connection to the aftermath of the fight, and it's something I became interested in quickly. So just going through soldiers' letters and diaries while I was there doing research for interpretive trails and things like that, the horrors of the aftermath of the battle jumped out pretty quickly. The Confederate dead lay on the field unburied for days and days after the battle. Just having 80,000 troops in this area wiped the region completely clean of food and forage. Those themes came through in the aftermath. But no one had pulled it together in a comprehensive form.

One interesting gem I did dig up that no one has talked about before is how huge the footprint of the aftermath actually was. People have talked about how Danville, Harrodsburg and Perryville were affected, but in here I talk about how there are hospitals as far away as New Albany, Ind., (that treated soldiers wounded at Perryville). And because of Perryville's location in a border state, that allowed northern civilians to travel to the battlefield to reclaim the bodies of their family members who had been slain, or to grab wounded relatives and try to haul them away from the battlefield and the squalid hospitals, to give them a better chance to survive.

**Q:** Yours is the only account I know of that concentrates on how a Civil War battle affected civilians. Are there others?

**A:** There have been several books that have gone into the aftermath of the fight after Gettysburg. And if you go to battlefields or read Civil War history, usually historians will at some point in the book talk about how the battle affected the community. But few have looked into specific battles in depth to see how a

battle affected a whole region. For the western theater of the war, west of the Allegheny Mountains, this covers a little bit of new ground, I like to think.

**Q:** If there's one thing that hit home in reading this book is the sense of shared sacrifice among soldiers and civilians. Today, unless you have a loved one in Afghanistan, it's too easy to ignore. But for the people of Perryville, Danville and Harrodsburg, it was hard to look away from the horrors of war when it's on your doorstep. Did the contrast between that war and war today strike you the same way?

**A:** I hadn't really thought about that, to be honest. It has more to do with, as you mention, the proximity of war to civilians. When it's a war across the ocean, we're not necessarily seeing the aftermath of what happens, unless you do have a loved one killed overseas. But for residents who had their homes and churches and courthouses and barns commandeered as hospitals, there was just no way of escaping the aftermath. And in Danville, for example, you had 3,500 sick Union soldiers left in Danville, which in 1862 had a population of a little bit over 4,000. In Harrodsburg you had 1,700 wounded Confederates left in a town that had 1,700 residents. So the population of these towns were literally doubling. Residents couldn't handle it in 1862, and 150 years later, the community couldn't handle it now if the numbers were proportionately similar. You can see why every building had to be used, how there was no medicine in town.

Another thing that compounded the suffering of the soldiers and also made it more difficult on the civilians, was the terrible drought in Kentucky. It hadn't rained for weeks, and most creeks and streams were completely dry. After the battle, one surgeon remarked that he couldn't find enough water to wash the blood from his hands for two days. So these surgeons worked on one patient after the other with their hands caked in dried blood. So because of that, it just increased the mortality rate among the wounded. And with that drought, soldiers were forced to drink out of stagnant pools of water, and ultimately illnesses were passed on to the civilian population as well. For example, Centre College's president died in May of 1863 after helping sick Union soldiers. He probably died of typhoid, and his funeral was the largest Danville had ever seen.

**Q:** There's a brief mention in the book of a Confederate woman disguised as a man — sort of a Civil War Mulan character — who fought with her husband at Perryville. Are you aware of any other instances in the Civil War of women disguising themselves as men so they could fight?

**A:** There have been a few books published on the subject. It's something I've never done a lot of research on personally, other than that one episode. It wasn't widespread by any means. One thing that struck me was the number of wives of soldiers who actually accompanied the army. I mention a few of those in there, and the fact that these women would march hundreds of miles and put themselves in danger with their husbands, and they would have a very harrowing time at these field hospitals either helping to bring wounded off the battlefield, which must have been horrific, or helping in the field hospitals after the fight. There were a lot of family members that actually traveled with these armies. Their experiences are really forgotten in the realm of Civil War history. And you have women like Harriet Karrick, who leaves town and comes back and finds that every piece of clothing she left behind has been shredded for bandages.

It was a mess for everybody. I felt sorry for everybody. You feel sorry for the soldiers who were stuck in it. You feel sorry for the civilians whose lives were overturned when their homes were forced to become field hospitals and their winter stores were taken away by the troops and eaten. There were instances where complete outbuildings were pulled down and burned for firewood. You feel sorry for the civilians in neighboring towns who got diseases and died. Those are really the forgotten casualties. The casualties didn't end on the battlefield but extended far beyond — not only soldiers dying of wounds but civilians who suffered psychological trauma as a result of the battle.

Greg Kocher: (859) 231-3305. Twitter: @HLpublicsafety



## Did You Know?

Double-Enders were a new type of gunboat that allowed the Union troops to manipulate shallow river waters much easier than the unwieldy Confederate ships. The double-ender could go backward as well as forward in the rivers, without having to turn about. The double-enders were made of wood, so they could be quickly constructed.



## USS Miami,

- **Nation:** Union
- **Type:** Double-ender Gunboat
- **Displacement:** 730 tons
- **Crew:** 134
- **Wartime Service Dates:** 1862-1865
- **Civil War Armament:** 1 x 80 pdr Parrott Rifle, 1 x 9-inch Dahlgren, 4 x 24-pdr guns
- **Notes:** Commissioned in January 1862, USS *Miami* was typical of the "double-ender" gunboats used by the US Navy for the blockade of the Southern coast. The type earned their name due the shape of their hull, which permitted them to travel at equal speeds in forward or reverse. This feature increased their maneuverability, which when coupled with their shallow draft, made them ideal for operating inshore amid the sounds and shoal waters of the Confederacy. *Miami* spent most of the war stationed in the North Carolina sounds and saw action against the Confederate ironclad *Albemarle* in April 1864.

