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Battle Cry

Founded 1961,
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President's Message

Greetings Fellow History Sleuths:

This month's meeting on the 14th has us enjoying the presentation "Who Burned Columbia" given by Robert Bundy. Normally, I give a much edited version of the background information I'm provided with, but this time I thought Robert Bundy's own words were so charming that I would share them with you.

"I am a retired Letter Carrier having spent 38 years with the United States' Postal Service. I've been married to my wife Jacque for 37 years. We have 3 children, 15 grandchildren, and 5 great granddaughters. And yes, Jacque has gone battlefield tramping with me to almost every major, and many obscure, Civil War battlefields.

I became interested in the Civil War when I was 10 years old, my father taking us to Gettysburg in the summer of 1962. I've been hooked ever since. I am a co-founder of the Elk Grove CWRT and was an original member of the Long Beach CWRT. I have worked closely with the Superintendent of Capitol Park to restore the Civil War Memorial Tree Grove and I continue to work with preserving the Civil War Tree Memorial at City Cemetery.

Several years ago, we spent a week in Tennessee and Georgia following in the footsteps of my grandfather who was a private in the 15th Ohio Voluntary Infantry. I have collected over 150 letters and 15 diaries from members of his regiment and hope to publish them. I have written four booklets—two on Sacramento and The Civil War and two on talks given to the Elk Grove CWRT. I am currently working on a history of "Old Eli." The Grand Army of the Republic's monument that stands in Sacramento's Historic City Cemetery. So far, I have tracked down over 45 monuments that used the same statue as the one in City Cemetery."

I certainly hope we get to have Robert's long-suffering wife, Jacque, with us on the 14th. Any of you who have dragged spouses and family members to battlefields know they deserve a standing ovation and a tribute to patience.

I've visited the Civil War Memorial Grove many times and am so appreciative of the devotion of the volunteers who keep it safe for all of us. Road trip anyone? Fine Fall viewing and of course we could do lunch.

We are edging closer to our West Coast Conference. I hope all are signed up and ready to go.

Have the most beautiful Autumn,

Anne Peasley, President

MINUTES
SACRAMENTO CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
Wednesday, September 9, 2015
HOF BRAU RESTAURANT, 2500 WATT AVENUE, SACRAMENTO

ATTENDANCE – 39

MEMBERS – 31: Anne Peasley, President, George W. Foxworth, Treasurer, Paul Ruud, Secretary, Silver Williams, Program Director, Jim Armstrong, George Beitzel, Joan Beitzel, Roy Bishop, Ardith Cnota, Mitch Cnota, Alan Geiken, Robert E. Hanley, IPP, Jim Harper, Don Hayden, Christopher Highsmith, Bill Jackson, Jane Jackson, James Juanitas, Dennis Kohlmann, Arnold Kunst, Rick A. Peasley, Horst Penning, John Rice, Ed Rill, Nancy Samuelson, Brad Schall, Nick Scivoletto, Richard Sickert, Roxanne E. Spizzirri, Susan Williams, John Zasso.

GUESTS – 8: Esther Boeck, Fred Bohmfalk, Seanna Curler, Bret Lonsway, Larry Spizzirri, Richard Spizzirri, Ray Valdez, Don Zajic.

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by President Anne Peasley.
2. President Peasley led the Pledge of Allegiance and reminded everyone of the immediately upcoming Conference at the Huntington Library (near Pasadena) and the West Coast Civil War Conference in Tulare in November.
3. John Zasso was back weaving his magic on raffle ticket sales and winners were rewarded with books and wine of their choice.
4. President Peasley announced that the Board's decision was to not change the Round Table logo. She further explained that the Round Table was an educational and historical organization with a mission to inform rather than influence opinion. She expressed appreciation for the involvement of the membership in discussing and deciding the issue.
5. Fred Bohmfalk, a long time past member of the Round Table treated us to a view of the personal lives of Generals Grant, Sherman, and Sheridan. All were graduates of West Point and were friends before, during, and after the War.
6. Grant entered West Point as a not physically imposing 17 year-old who stood 5' 1" tall and weighed 117 pounds. His personality was that of a loner who was an excellent horseman – his best subject was math and he had little interest in military strategy and basically graduation couldn't come too soon. He graduated in 1843 and ranked 21st out of 39. His first assignment was in Saint Louis where he met Julia Dent – they were married after the Mexican War in 1848 and their marriage was ended by Grant's death after 38 years. Grant's life was somewhat rescued by the Civil War in that he had not found success in the years he was a civilian after the Mexican War.
7. William Tecumseh Sherman graduated in 1840, 6th in his class – he was outgoing and somewhat of a maverick. He had 380 demerits by graduation which flirted with the limits for expulsion. Sherman and his wife Ellen had seven children who played significant roles in shaping their lives and priorities.
8. Ohioan Phil Sheridan graduated from West Point in 1853 – he entered with the Class of 1852, but was suspended a year for an altercation with another cadet. Sheridan met his wife-to-be Irene when she was 4 years-old. They were married 18 years later when he was 44 – Sheridan died in 1888.
9. All three served as the Chief General of the Army closing out their military careers.
10. The meeting was adjourned at 8:27 PM. The next Board Meeting will be Wednesday, October 14, 2015, 10:00 AM, at Brookfield's Restaurant. Come one, come all!

Paul Ruud, Secretary

Treasurer's Report

The cash balance following the September 9, 2015 meeting was \$4,813.37. Thanks to John Zasso, other members, and guests, the raffle brought in \$63.00.

George W. Foxworth, Treasurer

Coming Programs for 2015 and 2016		
Date	Speaker	Topic
October 14th	Robert Bundy	“Who Burned Columbia”
November 11th	Tad Smith	“The Failed Struggle to Obtain Recognition of the Confederacy by England and France”
December 9th	Nicholas Scivoletto	“General Joseph E. Johnston”
January 13th	Paul G. Ruud	“Jefferson Finis Davis”
February 10th	Jim Lane	“Free State of Jones”
March 9th	To Be Determined	To Be Determined
April 12th	To Be Determined	To Be Determined

NEWSLETTER CIVIL WAR ARTICLES

Civil War articles/book reviews are welcome. The submission deadline is the 1st of each month for that month’s **Battle Cry**. However, you can submit articles at anytime. Please submit your items in Microsoft Word or regular email to:

gwfoxworth@sbcglobal.net

Do not submit scanned files since I need to edit files to combine the **Battle Cry**.

The **Battle Cry** is the monthly newsletter of the Sacramento CWRT. Submissions are subject to availability of space and size limitations. Submissions do not necessarily reflect the views of the organization or the Editor. The official address of this organization is: Sacramento Civil War Round Table, Post Office Box 254702, Sacramento, CA 95865-4702. <http://www.sacramentocwrt.org> is the web site address. Check the web for past newsletter editions and information about the group.

ADDITIONAL HOTELS FOR THE 2015 WEST COAST CIVIL WAR CONFERENCE

Best Western Town & Country
 1051 North Blackstone Street
 Tulare, CA 93274-7376
 559-688-7537 (\$90 per night)

La Quinta Inn & Suites
 1500 North Cherry Street
 Tulare, CA 93274-2233
 559-685-8900 (\$84 per night)

Charter Inn & Suites
 1016 East Prosperity Avenue
 Tulare, CA 93274-2354
 559-685-9500 (\$86 per night)

Motel Six (6)
 1111 North Blackstone Street
 Tulare, CA 93274-2347
 559-686-1611 (\$52 per night)

Fairfield Inn & Suites
 1225 Hillman Street
 Tulare, CA 93274-8057
 559-686-4700 (\$103 per night)

Quality Inn
 1010 East Prosperity Avenue
 Tulare, CA 93274-2354
 559-686-3432 (\$80 per night)

WEST COAST CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE CONFERENCE

November 13 - 15, 2015

****TULARE HISTORICAL MUSEUM, 444 WEST TULARE AVENUE, TULARE, CA 93274-3831**

Note: Conference **Seating Limited to 107, so PLEASE REGISTER EARLY—1st come 1st served!**

Hampton Inn, Tulare offers a Conference rate for us of **\$85 per night**. Free Breakfast. 1100 North Cherry Street, (844) 814-1595 or (559) 686-8700. It is always full Saturday mornings so **book early!** (Highway 99—Use Prosperity Avenue off ramps.) The Hampton Inn is West of 99, behind Apple Annie's Restaurant (on Blackstone Street).

There are several other hotels in the immediate area, but all are near 99, while the Museum is in the West part of Tulare.

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION: Checks payable to San Joaquin Valley Civil War Round Table (SJVWCRT), \$150. (*See below for dinners for non-registered persons.) Send registration (<http://sjvcwrt.com>) to Ron Vaughan, 730 East Tulare Avenue, Tulare, CA 93274-4336. Questions: Ron Vaughan (559) 686-3633 ronvaughan@prodigy.net

TENATIVE SCHEDULE:

FRIDAY

4:00--5:30-- Registration and Social Hour

5:30--6:00—Civil War Jeopardy, Ted Savas

6:00—7:00 --Dinner

7:00—8:00—Looking Back at the Causes of the Civil War, Michael Oddinino

SATURDAY

8:30 --9:30— Forrest's Operations in 1865, Thomas Cartwright

9:30-- 10:30— CSS Shenandoah, Gary Joiner

10:30--11:30—Grant's Attempt to Take Petersburg, Edward Alexander

12:00—1:00-- Lunch

1:00—2:00— The Breakthrough at Petersburg, Edward Alexander

2:00—3:00--- Appomattox Surrender, Michael Oddinino

3:00--3:15-- Break

3:15-- 4:15—1865 Medicine, Dr. Brian Clague

4:15--5:15—Sherman's Carolina Campaign, Mike Green

5:15—6:00-- Break

6:00—7:00-- Dinner

7:00—8:00 -- 1865 Photos, Ron Perisho

8:00—9:00 – Battle of Palmito Ranch and Jo Shelby's Exodus, Ron Vaughan

SUNDAY

8:30-9:30— CSA Veterans, Evan Jones

9:45-10:45--- Early Reconstruction 1865, Jim Stanbery

10:45- 11:45— Panel Discussion

11:45—12:00-- Raffle

12:00--1:00 --- Museum Tour

*For non-registered dinner guests, the cost is \$20, but if Conference is sold out, there may not be a table space. We will do our best to accommodate you.

****Directions from hotel area to Museum:** Drive South on Highway 99, or Blackstone, or Cherry; go West on Tulare Avenue. The Parking Lot is North of the Museum, between "E" Street and "F" Street.



John Alexander Logan and John Alexander McClermand

U. S. Congressmen from Illinois and Major Generals, U. S. Volunteers

In 1861, at the beginning of the Civil War, the U. S. Regular Army numbered some 1,100 officers and 15,000 enlisted men. By the end of the War, nearly 2.7 million would serve as regulars and volunteers to preserve the Union. This rapid expansion required not only enlisted soldiers, but also additional officers to command the newly activated companies, regiments, brigades, and divisions. Company officers were usually elected by the men of those units. The governors of the states from which the regiments came normally commissioned the field grade officers. But the Commander-in-Chief did the commissioning of general officers. President Lincoln sought professional officers for promotion to generals where possible, but politics also played a major role in selecting men for generalships. Political support for the War was critical in the early stages and selecting a favorite son could go a long way in cementing a state's or ethnic group's loyalty. One of Lincoln's strategies was to appoint congressmen of the opposing parties; i.e. mainly Democrats, thereby eliminating possible "mischief" they might cause to the new administration.

Accordingly, John McClermand was one of 187 civilians with little or no military experience who were initially commissioned Brigadier Generals; and John Logan joined this group soon thereafter by promotion from Colonel. He had briefly commanded the 31st Illinois Infantry, a regiment that he had recruited. Respective dates of their ranks as Brigadiers were May 1861 and March 1862.

This group of "political" generals also included such names as: Jacob Cox, F. P. Blair Jr., Grenville Dodge, Franz Sigel, Stephen Hurlbut (also of Illinois), Carl Schurz, Lew Wallace, Dan Sickles,

Nathaniel Banks, and Ben Butler. They were a mixed bag to be sure. Some provided outstanding service, others very commendable, while a few were near disasters.

Logan and McClermand had many things in common. In addition to sharing the same given first and middle names, they were both Democratic congressmen representing districts in Southern Illinois in a region known as "Little Egypt." They were both strong Union men who were against slavery and secession; and they were sturdy supporters of Stephen Douglas. When Douglas placed his support firmly behind the new Lincoln Administration, they did likewise. There was an underlying Southern sentiment in their districts early on, and the fiery pro-Union speeches they and Senator Douglas gave against the rebellion were valuable to the Union cause. Logan and McClermand had served Lincoln well in Southern Illinois; "Egypt" did not turn out to be a problem. The two Congressmen did differ significantly in personal appearance and in personalities, however. Some of these traits will be discussed later. In regards to looks some said that a part of Logan's military success was due to the fact that he could scare the hell out of the enemy.

John A. McClermand

John McClermand was born in 1812. He became a lawyer through self-study, fought for three months as a private during the Black Hawk War, served in the Illinois State Legislature, and the U.S. Congress. Upon appointment as BG USV, as a brigade commander out of Cairo, IL, he provided good service at Belmont, and as a division commander at Forts Henry and Donelson, and at Shiloh. McClermand was promoted to MG USV March 1862. It was at Donelson where one of his serious faults first became apparent; i.e. the crediting to himself and his own troops with accomplishments that should have gone to others. Longing for an independent command, he convinced Lincoln in October 1862 to let him raise a force in Illinois and Iowa for a river campaign against Vicksburg. Halleck and Grant were not consulted. Mistake number 2. Troops recruited by McClermand in the Midwest and sent to Memphis for his independent operation were there diverted by Grant to make up a force for Sherman's unsuccessful Chickasaw Bluff operation. Before he could withdraw, McClermand arrived and took

command by virtue of seniority. Instead of attacking Vicksburg, McClernand decided to capture Arkansas Post (Fort Hindman) up the Arkansas River and of minor military significance. This was to be a combined operation with river gunboats under command of Flag Officer David D. Porter, but the Post effectively surrendered to Porter before the land forces arrived. McClernand took credit for the victory anyway, but when Grant learned of this through Porter he ordered the forces withdrawn immediately to form a new Corps structure within his Army of the Tennessee. Thus McClernand's independent command he called Army of the Mississippi ceased to exist. He reverted to Commander of the XIII Corps under Grant, but he put up quite a fuss in the process. The facts were that he was not getting along well with his peers and superiors. Notwithstanding, the XIII Corps performed well at the Battles of Port Gibson, Champion Hill, Big Black River, and the Vicksburg Siege.

John McClernand was becoming a liability, however. While he was personally courageous and in many respects became an effective combat leader, he was vain, selfish, pompous, untactful, and a glory seeker. He particularly disliked West Point graduates, namely Halleck, Grant, Sherman, and McPherson, and the feeling was mutual. Sherman referred to him as a "dirty dog with a burning desire for personal renown." Grant was not quite so colorful when he wrote: "It is evident to me that both the Army and Navy are so distrustful of McClernand's fitness to command that, while they would do all they could to insure success; it is an element of weakness." Grant considered him insubordinate. Finally after issuing a press release calling his men the "heroes of the campaign" and criticizing the other corps commanders after a disastrous attack on the Vicksburg lines, Grant relieved him on June 19, 1863. In Feb 1864, he was returned to duty with the XIII Corps in the Red River campaign under Nathaniel Banks, doing further damage to his reputation. He resigned Nov 30, 1864. His military career had been most productive on recruiting assignments but, despite battlefield abilities, he was a liability in the field. He continued in law practice and Democratic Party politics in Springfield, Illinois until his death in 1900.

Most military historians today consider that John McClernand's combat record of courage and success afforded no grounds for his relief from command. His personal and professional conduct, however, did.

An interesting irony is that although John McClernand hated West Pointers he saw to it that his son, Edward attended the Military Academy, graduating in 1871. Edward was awarded the Medal of Honor during the Indian Wars, and served in the Spanish-American War as a Brigadier General.

John A. Logan

John Logan was born in 1826. He served a short period as a second lieutenant in the Mexican War, obtained a "frontier" law degree from Louisville University in 1850, was elected a district attorney, and subsequently to the Illinois State Legislature and the U. S. Congress. He first met then Colonel U. S. Grant in 1861 when he gave a rousing patriotic speech to Grant's first Civil War command, the 21st Illinois Infantry to talk them into re-enlisting. They became long-term friends. Logan's military service extended from Regimental Commander at Cairo and Fort Donelson (wounded), to Brigade Commander at Corinth. He was promoted to MG USV, Nov 1862, advancing to Division command during the Vicksburg campaign and to Commander of the XV Corps, Army of the Tennessee (AOT) in the Chattanooga and Atlanta Campaigns (12-63). The AOT was commanded at that time by James B. McPherson; and the other Corps of that army by Grenville Dodge, XVI Corps, and F. P. Blair, Jr., XVII Corps. All three Corps Commanders were volunteer officers who had proven to be excellent combat leaders. McPherson was a very talented West Point graduate, but whose staff abilities had perhaps out shown his line leadership talents.

On 22 July 1864, during the Battle for Atlanta proper, General McPherson was killed instantly by enemy skirmishers as he and an aide were returning to his command from General Sherman's headquarters. Upon notification, Sherman directed Logan to assume AOT Command. Logan's assumption to army-level command almost immediately triggered the WPPA into action. After discussions with his fellow West Pointers George Thomas, Army of the Cumberland Commander and John Schofield, Commanding, Army of the Ohio,

and others, Sherman requested Lincoln to rescind General Logan's assignment to Army Command and to appoint General Oliver Otis Howard in his stead. This occurred on 27 July. Logan reverted back to XV Corps Command. Generals Blair and Dodge strongly objected to Sherman about this change. General Logan took it in stride at the time, but he didn't forget, as will be mentioned later. (Grant may not have been in the "loop" on this decision since later writings indicate his disapproval, although Halleck undoubtedly was.)

Logan's role in the Atlanta Campaign had been an active and significant one. He had been the most dashing Corps Commander in the three Union armies involved and his fame traveled throughout the country. With that campaign completed, he returned to Illinois on leave of absence to join another campaign, the re-election of Abraham Lincoln. Although Logan was still a Democrat, a transition was occurring.

In early December 1864, he was in Washington for meetings with Lincoln, then to City Point, VA to meet with Grant at his request. Grant's concern was General George Thomas. Rebel General Hood was outside Nashville besieging the city and Thomas with an army five times as large showed no inclination to attack the besiegers, according to Grant. (As it turned out, Thomas had valid reasons to delay the battle, frozen ground making cavalry and troop movement hazards.) Grant's orders to Logan were to go to Nashville and relieve Thomas. It is said that Logan purposely delayed in Cincinnati to permit the weather to improve. It did. Thomas attacked and won an overwhelming victory and Logan returned directly to Washington. The irony of all this is readily evident. Thomas was a key player in denying Logan a promotion; Grant was willing to give Logan an even greater promotion (the AOC was a much larger Army than the AOT); and Logan saved Thomas's hide by not rushing to Nashville to relieve him.

In January 1865, Logan retook command of the XV Corps in Savannah after Sherman's March across Georgia. He moved North through the Carolinas with the Corps arriving in Petersburg, VA 6 April 1865. On 12 April, Howard was named head of the Freedman's Bureau and Logan became permanent Commanding General of the Army of the Tennessee. He had the honor of

leading that Army in the Grand Review of the Western Armies on 24 April. After overseeing the mustering out of the AOT, he resigned his commission 17 August 1865, was offered a regular army BG commission but declined.

"Black Jack" Logan was, arguably, the finest of the non-professional general officers during the Civil War; and he certainly should be considered to rank among the top five.

John Logan returned to Southern Illinois, changed his political party affiliation to Republican, ran, and was re-elected to Congress. He served in the House for four years and in the Senate for fourteen. Logan was active in veteran affairs. He was one of the founders of the Society of the Army of the Tennessee and of the Grand Army of the Republic, serving as its second Commander 1868-70. His Illinois colleague Steven Hurlbut was the first GAR Commander 1866-67. During his tenure, Logan relocated the GAR headquarters from Springfield, Illinois to Washington, D. C., to better nationalize it. His most endearing act was his designation of 30 May to become Memorial Day.

Logan was not a supporter of President Johnson's reconstruction policies, considering them to be too lenient. He was one of the House floor managers for Johnson's impeachment. (He had earlier threatened to arm the GAR and use them as a militia, if the action of Stanton's removal got out of control.) Logan became a member of President Grant's inner circle of advisers and agreed with him on most matters. Logan, along with Sherman, Sheridan, and CSA General Joe Johnston, served as pallbearers at Grant's funeral in 1885.

In 1875, a bad thing occurred. W. T. Sherman published his *Memoirs*, in which he attempted to rationalize his 1864 selection of West Pointer O. O. Howard rather than Logan as AOT Commanding General. This opened up old wounds. Both his brother Senator John Sherman and Grant chastised him for this, but the damage was done. Senator John Logan was then serving as Chairman of the all-important Senate Military Affairs Committee and as a Member of the Appropriations Committee. There is no record that he corresponded with Sherman directly, but he took after the Military Academy directly. He accused the instructors of being incompetent, the cadets as elitists; and he said that since the lower ranking

graduates had proven to be the better combat leaders, the need for an overall change of emphasis in the course of study was needed. He further suggested that since so many volunteer officers had out performed their professional counterparts during the War, that perhaps West Point was not needed at all. Unquestionably the Academy's budget suffered as a result of Sherman's untimely remarks. (Sherman later revised his *Memoirs* omitting the objectionable material.)

Logan was a power broker in the Garfield and Arthur Administrations. He refused several cabinet appointment offers, preferring to remain in the Senate. In 1884, Logan was James G. Blaine's Vice Presidential running mate against Cleveland, and he was favored by many for the top spot on the 1888 ticket. But time expired for him before that date arrived. After a short illness, "Black Jack" Logan died unexpectedly on 23 Dec 1886.

One Eulogist said of John Logan; "He was the bravest of soldiers, an able statesman, and an honest man. He was classed as a political general. I do not know that it was an unfriendly remark----It was a political War and he was as strong in one field as the other; the political generals did double duty."

Bob Williams: 3 June 2004; rev. Oct 2, 2014

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