

Battle Cry



Vol. 42 No.1 November 2002 Newsletter of Sacramento Civil War Round Table

2002 SCWRT Officers:

Paul Ruud, President
(530) 886-8806
pruud1@quiknet.com

Kit Knight, Vice-President
(916) 721-1827

Walt Bittle, Secretary
(916) 722-2552
waltb50@surewest.net

George Foxworth, Treasurer
(916) 362-0178

Bob Williams, Member-at-Large
(916) 487-8144
rmwilms@mindspring.com

Jim Armstrong, Member-at-Large
(916) 457-7258

Bernardo Buenrostro, Webmaster,
(916) 362-9837
bernxbb@ix.netcom.com
<http://sacramentocwrt.com>

Jim Middleton, BATTLE CRY Editor
(916) 363-8112
BattleCryEditor@aol.com

Presidents Message:

Wow! Another year for our Round Table has almost passed us by. It is with both relief and regret that I realize the next message will have been written by Dennis Kohlmann. We in the Sacramento CWRT are truly blessed with a band of volunteers who tend to their Round Table tasks as if their lives depended upon it. Carol Breiter and Jim Armstrong will be leaving the board as Dennis and Don Hayden fill their vacated seats. I assured Carol and Jim that they were only going to the "bull pen" for a rest and surely would return in the future. Please thank them for their diligent service.

I know that you will give Dennis the same support that you have given me. I will enjoy watching from the sidelines as he leads us on the path to many of the same, but also many new places. The other familiar faces on the board will continue doing their masterful work. Thank you one and all!

Our last meeting for the year is on **Wednesday, December 4th, at the Doubletree.** The program features four of our members discussing different aspects of the Atlanta Campaign. Elsewhere in the Battle Cry you will find a report by George Foxworth on the Fresno Conference's version of the Atlanta Campaign.

The next meeting after December 4th will be held on January 29th. Keep an ear to the ground as to where the meeting will be held since there is some uncertainty as to how long we will be able to stay at the Doubletree. Have a great holiday season! See you on December 4th!

Paul Ruud, President

MINUTES

SACRAMENTO CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Wednesday, October 30, 2002

DoubleTree Hotel, 2001 Point West Way, Sacramento

ATTENDANCE – 36

MEMBERS – 30

Paul Ruud, President
Kit Knight, Vice President
George Foxworth, Treasurer
Walt Bittle, Secretary
Dudley Albrecht
Jim Armstrong
Mark Aulman
Mary Aulman
George Beitzel
Joan Beitzel

Roy Bishop
Fred Bohmfalk
Carol Breiter
Steve Breiter
Bernie Buenrostro
Mike Dobbins
Don Hayden
Russ Knauer
Arthur Knight
Dennis Kohlmann

Ken Lentz
Mary Lou Lentz
Earl Martin
Virginia Martin
Albert McKim
Jim Middleton
Keith Roberts
Patty Ruud
Bob Williams
John Zasso

GUESTS – 6

David Davenport
Stephen Davis
Dan Defoe
Janet Ladue
Jim Lane
Glenn Leake

1. The meeting was called to order by President Ruud, who reviewed this day in Civil War history. Guests and new members were introduced and welcomed. The minutes of September 25 were approved as printed.

2. Program – Dan Defoe, professor at Sierra College, presented a multi-media program titled “Images of Slavery”. Using slides of period paintings, Mr. Defoe contrasted the images of slavery from the viewpoint of southerners, of northerners, and of the slaves themselves – there being little in common among the three. He contrasted the actualities of a life of slavery with the versions popular at the time – and to some degree, for many years thereafter. We appreciate his efforts and look forward to Mr. Defoe’s return.

3. Committee/Activity Reports

- a. David Davenport of the San Joaquin Valley CWRT spoke about the Fresno conference and offered members the opportunity to buy raffle tickets for some CW prints he had on display.
- b. Dudley Albrecht recommended *Gangs of New York* and *Gods and Generals* – both due to be released in the near future.
- c. President Ruud reviewed the need and consequences of our move to the DoubleTree Hotel, with special thanks to Carol Breiter.
- d. The slate recommended by the Nominating Committee was elected without opposition. New officers will take office in January. List of new officers will be published in *The Battle Cry*.
- e. Members were reminded about the change in meeting schedule, with the November and December meetings being combined on Wednesday, December 4.

4. Adjournment – There was a spirited raffle, followed by adjournment at 8:35.

Walt Bittle

Secretary

Treasurer’s Report

The cash balance as of October 30, 2002 was \$1357.97. Thanks to members and guests, the October raffle brought in \$48.00.

George Foxworth, Treasurer

A Report On The 18th Annual West Coast Civil War Conference

by George W. Foxworth

The 18th Annual West Coast Civil War Conference was held on November 8-10, 2002, at the Ramada Inn University in Fresno, California.

The Conference was hosted by the San Joaquin Valley Civil War Round Table (CWRT) and CWRT Associates of Little Rock, Arkansas. "The Atlanta Campaign" was the theme and many enlightening presentations by the distinguished speakers filled the weekend. The speakers were Edwin C. Bearss, Craig L. Symonds, Richard M. McMurry, James Stanbery, and David Davenport. Andrew Quist was scheduled but did not attend due to a family illness. Also in attendance were Ted Savas, Lee Meredith, Shelley Jones, and other Civil War buffs throughout the West. The Elk Grove CWRT was represented by George and Joan Beitzel. Finally, the Sacramento CWRT was represented by Paul Ruud, Walt Bittle, Jim Middleton, Bob Williams, H. Jim Harper, Fred Bohmfalk, Russ Knauer, Dennis Kohlmann, Ted Hansen, George and Joan Beitzel, Don Hayden, James and Carol Dickson, Mike Dobbins, and George W. Foxworth.

All presentations were excellent. Edwin C. Bearss spoke on "Failure of Confederate Cavalry in The Atlanta Campaign," "Sherman and His Generals: Their Strengths and Weaknesses," and "Union Army High Points During The Atlanta Campaign." Craig L. Symonds

spoke on "Joe Johnston's Fabian Strategy: From Dalton to the Chattahoochee" and "Pat Cleburne and The Battle of Atlanta." Richard M. McMurry (sleeper of the Conference) spoke on "A New Framework For Civil War History" and "Thoughts About The Atlanta Campaign." James Stanbery spoke on "Could Robert E. Lee Have Held Atlanta?" David Davenport spoke on "The Atlanta Campaign and The Election of 1864." Andrew Quist would have spoken on "The Common Soldier of The Army of Tennessee."

The weekend highlight was the return of Jerry Russell, National Chairman, CWRT Associates of Little Rock, Arkansas. Mr. Russell did not attend the 2000 and 2001 Conferences due to his health. (He was missed.) His involvement and dedication to Battlefield Preservation allows the West Coast to continue this first class event.

Another highlight was Richard M. McMurry's new definition of "VD" (Virginia Disease). In his view, Mr. McMurry contends that the Union victories in The West won the Civil War, not the battles in Virginia. In Virginia, there was often no clear winner in the battles. This was an excellent alternative view of The War.

The third highlight was the "Gone With The Wind" music that James Stanbery played throughout his speech on "Could Robert E. Lee Have Held Atlanta?" The music and some scenes from the movie were entwined with the events of The Atlanta Campaign.

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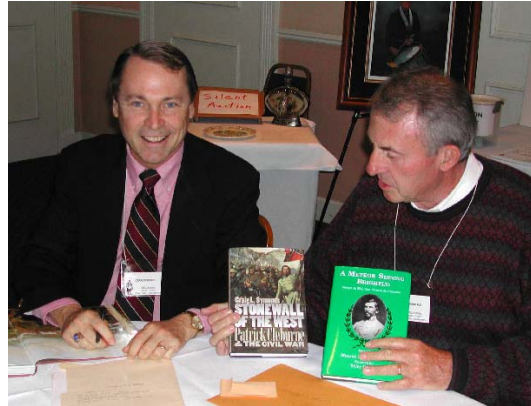
The final highlight was the San Joaquin Valley's Battlefield Preservation challenge to the other CWRTs to make a pledge. In turn, San Joaquin Valley would match those pledges up to \$400. During a break, the SCWRT had an impromptu Board Meeting and decided to take the challenge. When the meeting resumed in the evening, the San Diego CWRT and Stanislaus Civil War Association made pledges to the challenge. At the same time, the SCWRT met the challenge and presented a \$100 check to San Joaquin Valley. The three CWRTs received a rousing round of applause. For the remainder of the Conference, everyone wanted to know when the SCWRT could give them a check. The next day, the CWRT of Orange County and Long Beach CWRT made pledges.

The Conference was a complete success and the San Joaquin CWRT is to be commended for their excellent work, especially, in light of the change in hotels on such a short-notice. The Ramada Inn University is an excellent hotel. In addition, there was never any doubt that San Joaquin Valley could handle the change.

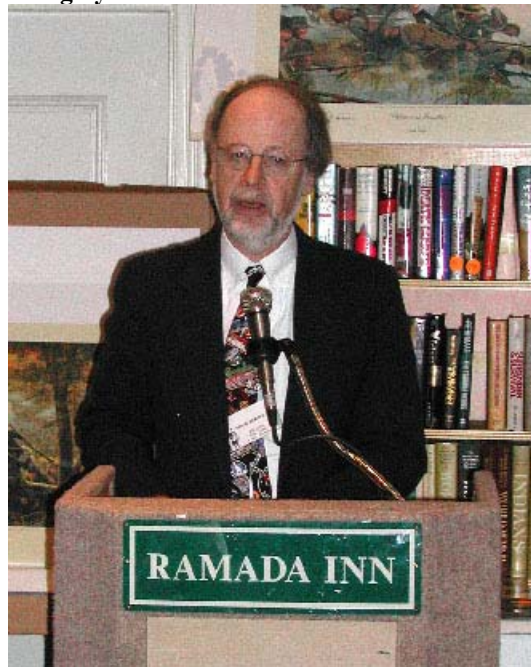
Looking ahead to 2003, the 19th Annual West Coast Civil War Conference is scheduled for Nov. 7-9, 2003. The venue will be the Warner Center Marriott in Woodland Hills, California. This Conference will be hosted by the San Gabriel Valley CWRT. The theme is "1863--The Year That Made America" and all are invited to attend.



Ed Bearss & Fred Bohmfalk at Conference



Craig Symonds & Fred at Conference



Richard McMurry at Atlanta Conference

The Firing on Fort Sumter – Why?

by Walt Bittle

Major Anderson moved his small garrison (seventy-five soldiers, forty-three civilians, and a brass band) from Fort Moultrie to Fort Sumter (12/26/60), thus effectively cutting himself off from communications with his own government. He understood his last instructions to mean generally, “Don’t start anything”. So he just sat there, not knowing what to do – or what not to do. He didn’t even know enough to protect the ships sent to provision him.

General Beauregard sent agents to seek the surrender of the fort (4/11/61). Anderson replied on paper that honor denied him that option. But orally, he confided to the agents that if the fort were not taken by force, his garrison would be starved out soon anyway. At that news, Beauregard decided that firing on the fort was absolutely necessary – not in a day or two, but NOW.

He knew that Federal ships, waiting just outside the harbor, could not reinforce or provision the fort. He suspected that in a day or two, Anderson would “honorably” surrender his starving men. At that point, Confederate ships could transport the paroled prisoners to the Federal ships, and the siege of Fort Sumter would be over – its propaganda value almost nil.

Why did Beauregard and Davis decide they needed to conquer Fort Sumter, when a (relatively) peaceful solution was dropped in their laps?

They must have known the attack would inflame the North into

some kind of retaliatory action – or that they would have to repeat the performance at other positions still held by the United States. Were they trying to foment a war and needed a rallying point? Were they afraid the will of the people was wavering? What did they expect to gain?

Why did they put themselves in the position of aggressors? How did they justify the claim of the Confederacy that “we just want to left alone”?

Why did Beauregard fire on Fort Sumter? What was he thinking?

Member’s obituary

Genevieve Lincoln Mooney

February 12, 1910- August 19, 2002 died peacefully in her sleep of heart failure, age 92, raised in southern California and moved often to fulfill her interest in history. Middle name was given to her by her grandfather who fought for the union as she was born on Lincoln’s birthday. We will miss her.

TERMS

Bully Soup, Panada: A cooked mixture of crushed hardtack, cornmeal, ginger and wine.

Hellfire Stew: Hardtack crushed into pieces, soaked in water to make it softer, then fried in bacon fat.

Indian Apple: A perennial American herb and its yellowish, egg-shaped fruit. Also called May apple

Red-eye Gravy: A reddish gravy made from ham drippings and hot water, typically served with ham and biscuits.

Treacle: A largely Southern term for molasses.

Written for my Veteran Friends
Veteran's Day 2002 "R. J." McGill

The Veteran's Call

An American can be a Hawk; an American
can be a Dove.
They can be full of anger, and they can be
full of love.
A prosperous life they seek controlled by
tranquil peace.
Attack it or take it away, great forces we will
quickly unleash
A rare blend of nations all, a mix of every
creed,
We have come to coexist and fill
everybody's need.
A product of many internal conflicts and sad
and tragic tales,
The nation emerged, bound by great strife
and by mother's wails.

We choose our leaders by choice and
maintain the voice,
To quickly recoil if in need to change the
lead, selecting new;
A true American no matter Sikh, Christian,
Muslim or Jew.
Or maybe a Buddhist or a Kurd or even a
non-believer will do.
The freedom to coexist depends on peace
and love, not hate.
Criticize, stir the pot or settle scores at
home, but never profess to berate.
The substance of our country proud, the
mission held so straight.
Our history of defeat of aggressors that have
come to fight;
To repel and defeat them in the end with the
struggle of our entire might.
The blood of our ancestors and neighbors
has flowed fast and free,
Both on this, our nations land and a
multitudes of places far across the sea.
To keep this nation whole and guard our
enamoured way of life,

Always ready to convert our peace and
prosperity of this precious life,
We assemble strong and build the tools of
war and the horrors of strife.
The attack on our nation or even one, is a
cue to Americans all,
To form up as one brigade and thrust to the
enemy and soon befall
The evil forces that attack our nation will
ultimately feel the wrath and tide
Of the melting pot of people bound as an
army of spirit and special pride.
And then we cause the aggressor to repent,
and rebuild his nation well,
To emulate the principals that has made
America swell.
For you see, it is not the President, the
General, or the Chairman of the board,
That keeps the nation free;
It's the citizen, plain folks, freedom's hoard
made up from the likes of you and me.
There's Adams and Smith, and Chan and
Ballungay, and Dunkinson and Callahan and
Granados, too.
There's Ashby, Ulmer, Crouch, Gregory,
Kempf and Donaldson; and another
thousand that
You knew.
These living Veterans that kept you free, left
their innocence and so disdained;
On fields of battle, fiery, bathed in blood;
tainted ground so dearly gained
They lost some comrades, brothers all in
painful sorrow and violent hell,
To come back home to the life so good, and
struggle with memories so pell-mell.
Never to be the same, it seems, with so
many wounds of mind and soul;
Endeavoring to be normal and fit in again, to
erase the horror and appall.
The ghosts of veteran's past, those that
survived and quietly passed, shroud them.
And the millions that died on the field, and in
the torture of anguishing mayhem;

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In portals unsuitable for heroes and in the
horrible odiferous halls, stark and cold.
The blood of Americans has flowed
profusely on every foreign soil and sea.
And fills the graves in an endless, growing
earthly display for all to see.
The timeless struggle for our cause has
marked, both here and afar
With the markers of our veterans in never
ending rolling fields so starkly bazaar.
In thousands of places around the world, in
hundreds of fields at home, in nameless
graves and those adorned, is the evidence
you seek;
For the price of freedom and the way of life
that we expound so to keep.
When does it stop, or when do we win; We
never do, we never stop.
The struggle continues as long as there are
those who lust and hate,

The country we have built and the model
democracy set for the world to imitate.
The recurring plotting and evil planning from
nations far and wide,
To destroy in every way the working society
that keeps building as a tide
And on our own lands, by our own hands,
and from the terror of the zealots.
Who attack us every cowardly way, as
fanatically narrow destructive bigots.
Veterans have won the prize, the right of
freedom and to idolize,
Those true values and visions grand that
others have chose to despise,
Until the world sees clearly the way that
peace and love will surely reprise.

Daisy Anderson, Pearls: 1998

In 1917 I be 21 and married
Bobby Ball Anderson,
A 79 year old veteran of
The Civil War. Bobby was
a slave on a Kentucky farm;

he cursed the whippin's
so run off when he was 22
and joined the Union Army.
Bobby, he rub onions
on his skin to ruin the scent
for the hounds. After
the War, Bobby, he go
to New Mexico and become a
Buffalo Soldier and fight
Indians. My family ask
how could I marry
such an old man? Bobby,
he own a home on a ranch
in Nebraska and Bobby,
he be kind. Bobby never
married no one before me
and he be more used to handlin'
a horse than a woman. But
his whole clean simple heart
lit in his eyes
when he look at me. I wanted
a home and didn't own but one
dress. My daddy, he be
a sharecropper and 10 of us
be standin' to eat because
we didn't have no
chairs. Me and Bobby
be married 13 years and
that man he put pearls
around my neck. More'n
60 years ago a big ol' Plymouth
killed my Bobby. I never
remarried and I'm gonna die
in this nursin' home. Every
time I touch my pearls,
I hear Bobby sayin', "Should be
and is are cousins, but don't share
a house." I see him gazin'
out the kitchen window,
lookin' farther than anyone
I ever knowed.

--Kit Knight--

Officers of the Sacramento Civil War Round Table for 2003

Vol. 43 No. 1 January 2003 Newsletter of Sacramento Civil War Round Table

Office	Name	Phone	E-mail
President	Dennis Kohlmann	(916) 726-4432	gkohlma@aol.com
Vice-President	Kit Knight	(916) 721-1827	none
Secretary	Walt Bittle	(916) 722-2552	waltb50@surewest.net
Treasurer	George Foxworth	(916) 362-0178	none
Member-at-large	Bob Williams	(916) 487-8144	rmwilms@mindspring.com
Member-at-large	Don Hayden	(916) 485-1246	none
Webmaster	Bernardo Buenrostro	(916) 362-9837	bernxbb@ix.netcom.com
Editor	Jim Middleton	(916) 363-8112	BattleCryEditor@aol.com

Battle Cry Editor

The Battle Cry is the monthly newsletter of the Sacramento CWRT. Please submit items to me for publication no later than the meeting day of the Board of Directors, (next meeting is January 15, 2003) either at that meeting, by mail or by e-mail. BattleCryEditor@aol.com The official address of this organization is: Sacramento Civil War Round Table P.O. Box 254702 Sacramento, CA 95865-4702. <http://www.sacramentocwrt.org> is the web site address. Check it for past newsletter editions and information about the group.

December 4th Meeting

Discussion of "Atlanta Campaign by Fred Bohmfalk, Russell Knauer, Dennis Kohlmann & Bob Williams with Walt Bittle as moderator.

This meeting will be held at 7:00PM at the Doubletree Hotel across Arden Way from Arden Fair Mall 2001 Point West Way (916) 929-8855. Look for notices of what room we have. We meet for dinner and conversation at 6:00PM in the dining room.