



Battle Cry

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

Nancy Solomon treated us to a splendid discussion of the Sanitary Commission which is not often discussed in the context of the Civil War but was of vital service to the troops. It was founded in April, 1861 by the Women's Central Association of Relief modeled on the British Crimean War commission and originally not taken seriously by the army or administration. Nonetheless it disbursed twenty-five million in money and supplies providing food, nursing care, medical inspections and numerous other services to the soldiers. She specifically mentioned many of the nurses who worked long hours and Elizabeth Blackwell, the first woman medical school graduate in America. Tying in to her talk was a demonstration of a quilt made by Garda Kohlmann with an explanation by husband Dennis of the provision of these in the hundreds of thousands to the army under the aegis of the Sanitary Commission. Garda's quilt has been donated to us and will be offered as the principal raffle prize at the November conference. Many thanks to Nancy for her most informative presentation and to the Kohlmanns for their contributions.

The board met in October and finalized plans for the 27th Annual West Coast Civil War Conference. I am happy to report that we expect to meet expenses due to close to one hundred registrants, a third of whom are our members. It delights me that our group has been the strongest supporters of these conferences every year I have been attending in over ten years. The committee has been headed by Paul Ruud who for two years has negotiated, organized details and provided the leadership necessary to make this a success. The able and hard-working committee members are George Foxworth, Bob Hanley, Silver Williams, Richard Sickert, George Beitzel, and Carol Breiter. Our round table and I owe them all a debt of gratitude.

Several of us had the good fortune of attending a fine Civil War Conference at The "Huntington" in San Marino the weekend of October twenty-first. The subject was *Civil War Lives* with notables James McPherson, Gary Gallagher, Joan Waugh, Brooks Simpson, Ronald White among others discussing Lincoln, Grant, Lee, Farrugut, DuPont, Barlow, Chamberlain, Louisa May Alcott, and George Pickett's widow. This is my third trip there and the experience is one not to be missed by anybody whether a Civil War buff or not. The talks cover a facet of the subject and are delightfully presented. The place is a treasure trove of horticulture, art, and great books. The conferences are about the Civil War approximately every other year and unbelievably inexpensive.

Remember we will have no meeting in November because of the conference. It is not too late to join us and we can take registrants any day of the meeting. It is not necessary to attend the whole program. I'll see most of you there and on December 14th Paul Ruud will tell you what they did after the war.

Don Hayden, President

MINUTES
SACRAMENTO CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
Wednesday, October 12, 2011
HOF BRAU RESTAURANT, 2500 WATT AVENUE, SACRAMENTO

ATTENDANCE – 33

MEMBERS – 27

Donald J. Hayden, President
Silver N. Williams, Vice President
George W. Foxworth, Treasurer
Steve Andrews
James M. Armstrong
James P. Cress
Jerry C. Cress
Alan Geiken
John W. Greer
Nina L. Henley
Wayne J. Henley
Dennis Kohlmann, PD
Garda J. Kohlmann
Lowell L. Lardie

Anne M. Peasley
Rick Peasley
Horst Penning
Mark Penning
James H. Rathlesberger
Paul G. Ruud, IPP
Nancy B. Samuelson
Robert Schroeder
Nicholas Scivoletto
Richard Sickert
Roxanne E. Spizzirri
Maxine Wollen
John V. Zasso

GUESTS – 6

Beth Handy
Garrett Johnston
John McCroy
Larry Spizzirri
Richard Spizzirri
Dan Willson

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM. by President Don Hayden with the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. President Don Hayden welcomed members and guests.
3. The first order of business was the election for officers' effective January 1, 2012 and ending December 31, 2013. The slate is as follows: President, Robert E. Hanley; Vice President, Anne M. Peasley; Secretary, Edie C. Keister; Treasurer, George W. Foxworth; Program Director, Dennis Kohlmann; Editor, Brent R. ten Pas; Member at Large, Nina L. Henley; Member at Large, Wayne J. Henley; and Immediate Past President, Donald J. Hayden. The floor was open for additional nominations. None were made. A motion was made to close the nominations and accept the slate as presented. It was seconded. President Hayden asked for a vote. All present said yes and there were no opposition votes.
4. Garrett Johnston (Guest) from the Sacramento Kings announced that he has a DVD of festivities and various interviews he conducted at Fort Sumter on April 12, 2011 for the 150th Anniversary. The DVD sells for \$20.00 and is thirty-six minutes long.
5. President Hayden introduced the speaker, Nancy B. Samuelson. Nancy spoke on the Civil War activities of the United States (US) Sanitary Commission, US Christian Commission, and Western Sanitary Commission. During the War, the organizations raised \$20 million, \$6 million, and \$4.5 million, respectively. It was an excellent presentation with questions at the end. Thank you Nancy.
6. Dennis and Garda Kohlmann showed a Sanitary Commission reproduction quilt that was common during the Civil War. It is estimated that Northern women made and donated between 250,000 and 400,000 quilts. Today, only seven are known to survive. The quilt will be a raffle item at the Annual West Coast Civil War Conference in November 2011. Thank you Dennis and Garda.
7. John Zasso sold additional raffle tickets and read the numbers.
8. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

George W. Foxworth, Acting for Secretary Edie Keister

Treasurer's Report: The cash balance following the October 12, 2011 meeting was \$2,316.44. Thanks to John Zasso, other members, and guests, the raffle brought in \$67.00. **George W. Foxworth, Treasurer**

2011 West Coast Civil War Conference

1861: The First Year

November 11 - 13, 2011, Doubletree Hotel,
Sacramento

Speaker Profile: Ron Perisho

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



Sacramento Civil War Round Table member Ron Perisho will present a slide accompanied talk on the City of Charleston and Fort Sumter at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, November 11th.

Ron Perisho is a Soils & Foundation Engineer, who has his own firm specializing in repair of distressed structures in San Ramon, California. Mr. Perisho started collecting photography in 1985 and collects the full history of landscape photography, including cameras, negatives, stereo cards, and prints. He has taken classes on early photographic processes and is very interested in viewing new photos, especially stereo-views of railroads and the civil war. He believes 3D photos are a great learning tool.

Mr. Perisho grew up near Springfield, Illinois, and became interested in Lincoln sites and history as a boy. He continues to study Lincoln and is a member

of the Lincoln Forum, attending annual Forums in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

Mr. Perisho's ancestors were enlisted Civil War soldiers in the 23rd Illinois. Mr. Perisho's wife, Kathy, also had family members who participated in the Civil War. One of her Great-grandfathers, of the 59th Indiana, was a Medal of Honor winner at Corinth, Mississippi. Another Great-grandfather was a member of the First Alabama Cavalry, a Union unit. Together, the Perishos have traveled to many battlefields and enjoy using photographs to make comparisons of sites today to the Civil War period.

Ron and Kathy are members of the Sacramento Civil War Round Table. Ron Perisho is a supporter of the Civil War (Preservation) Trust as a Color Bearer and is a board member of the Center for Civil War Photography.



DID YOU KNOW?

There was a "Cleopatra of the Confederacy" known as La Belle Rebelle, whose spying career began when she reportedly shot and killed a Union soldier who insulted her. Belle was acquitted and soon became a local celebrity in her hometown of Winchester, attracting the attention of Generals Beauregard and Jackson, for whom she acted as courier and spy. She was captured and imprisoned three times, once at the old Carroll Prison in Washington DC in a cell not far from another famous Confederate female spy, Mrs. Rose Greenhow. In 1864 she escaped to England on a mission for the Confederates, and soon after married the Union naval officer who helped her. She divorced him and remarried several times and had several children. When penniless, she hit the road in a stage show where she dressed in a Confederate uniform and recounted her Civil War adventures.



A Report On The 22nd Annual Civil War Reenactment At Kearney Park

by George W. Foxworth

The Fresno Historical Society (FHS) sponsored their 22nd Annual Re-Enactment on October 21-23 at Historic Kearney Park in Fresno, California. The theme was “The 150th Anniversary of the Beginning of The Civil War.”

The FHS was established in 1919 to collect, compile, and preserve all written or other records of historical value to California generally or Fresno County and the San Joaquin Valley in particular. Their beginnings are tied to pioneer families some of whom immigrated to the Valley prior to the Gold Rush in 1848, others who came after California became a State and helped establish the town of Millerton in the 1850s, and still others who came after the railroad was built in the early 1870s.

On October 21st (Friday), the FHS hosted hundreds of students from Fresno area schools for a living history demonstration. The re-enactments were Saturday and Sunday. The participants were the American Civil War Association (ACWA), American Civil War Society (ACWS), Civil War Re-Enactment Society (CWRS), Comstock Civil War Re-Enactors (CCWR), Fort Tejon Historical Association (FTHA), National Civil War Association (NCWA), and Re-Enactors of the American Civil War (RACW). William Entriken was the narrator for the battles each day. In addition, the weather was warm and pleasant Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

Attending from the San Joaquin Valley Civil War Round Table (CWRT) were Rob and Michelle Ashby; Dr. Brian Clague; Dr. David Davenport; Michael Green; Henry Howeson; Neil and Bev Kuykendall; Michelle Millicent; Lisa Peters; Dale Rhodes; Tom and Sharon Rosedahl; Jonathan Schulze, Jay, Celeste, and Sophia Smith; Pattie Spencer; and Ron Vaughn. From the Elk Grove CWRT, Tim and Ginny Karlberg attended. From the Sacramento CWRT, the attendees were Eric Henderson, Rob Schroeder, John Zasso, and George W. Foxworth.

One of the highlights was the presentations by Dr. Brian Clague and Dr. Robert Peters on “Medicine

During the Civil War Era.” Their presentations were well-received and attended by standing-room only crowds in a warm tent on both days.

Another highlight was Company “H” from the 10th Cavalry Regiment of Buffalo Soldiers from Southern California. The men, their horses, and the Black women with them in period dress were a big hit.

The second battle on Saturday began at 6:00 PM and by 6:30 PM, the black powder smoke settled over the battle with darkness and the re-enactors were not visible by the spectators. It was very difficult to breathe. However, the smoke did clear by 7:30 PM. This illustrated to the public that darkness ended many battles during the War.

The event was a complete success and the Fresno Historical Society and re-enactors are commended for their great work. In addition, special thanks and recognition is due to Mr. Charlie Henry (known to most as General Stonewall Jackson) for his excellent work in organizing and coordinating the event. We look ahead to the 23rd Annual Re-Enactment at Kearney Park.



Eric Paul Zomora / The Fresno Bee

Union and Confederate forces clash on the battlefield near twilight Saturday during this year's annual The Civil War Revisited, held at Kearney Park, October 22nd, 2011 in Fresno, Ca. See more at

<http://www.mercedsunstar.com/2011/10/24/2094098/twilight-civil-war-re-enactment.html>



A Nation Stirs, the Civil War Begins

By *DEBBY APPLGATE*

(published New York Times, April 21, 2011)

1861; The Civil War Awakening

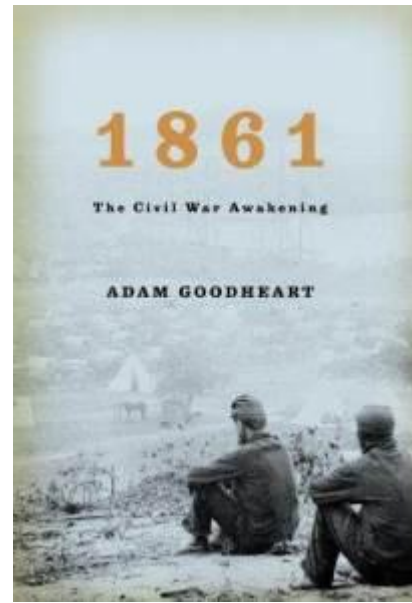
By Adam Goodheart,
Alfred A. Knopf, 481 pp.

On the morning of April 12, 1861, the newly formed Confederate States Army opened fire on the federal garrison of Fort Sumter in the harbor of Charleston, S.C. After 36 hours of shelling by Confederate cannons, United States Maj. Robert Anderson surrendered the battered fort to his former countrymen. The fall of Fort Sumter touched off four years of a civil war that would kill more than 620,000 soldiers and revolutionize American culture.

More prosaically, that fateful first shot unleashed a barrage of books about the War Between the States. In 1995 one bibliographer estimated that more than 50,000 had been published, exploring every aspect of the conflict on and off the battlefield. Thousands more have appeared since then.

Now, 150 years after the surrender of Fort Sumter, the journalist, travel writer and historian Adam Goodheart has let loose his own salvo in what will be a four-year firestorm of books commemorating the Civil War. Many good studies about the struggle will be published, but few will be as exhilarating as “1861: The Civil War Awakening.”

Like many of the best works of history, “1861” creates the uncanny illusion that the reader has stepped into a time machine. We are traveling, Goodheart writes in the prologue, to “a moment in our country’s history when almost everything hung in the balance.” Goodheart leads us on a journey through the frenzied, frightening months between Abraham Lincoln’s election to the presidency in 1860 — followed with breakneck speed by the secession of the Confederate States and the outbreak of war — and July 4, 1861, when President Lincoln delivered his



first message to Congress, laying out the case not only for the necessity of war, but for a more democratic vision of the United States.

The election of Lincoln and the secession crisis is, of course, familiar terrain. But Goodheart’s version is at once more panoramic and more intimate than most standard accounts, and more inspiring. This is fundamentally a history of hearts and minds, rather than of legislative bills and battles. He traces the process by which the states that did not secede evolved, in less than a year, from a deeply divided, intensely ambivalent and decidedly racist population into a genuine Union, united by the hope of creating a nation that would fulfill the promises of 1776. This is the story of the thousands of Americans who responded to the crisis, as Goodheart puts it, “not just with anger and panic but with hope and determination, people who, amid the ruins of the country they had grown up in, saw an opportunity to change history.”

So Goodheart turns the lens away from the usual stars of the story, the politicians, military officers, activists and editors who strove to direct the course of events. Instead, he explores the more obscure corners of antebellum America, introducing fascinating figures who loomed large at the time but have now been mostly forgotten.

Many of these are young men struggling to decide what manhood requires of them when the old models of patriotism, loyalty and self-interest were rapidly dissolving. In upstate Ohio, the irrepressible future president James Garfield was an idealistic state senator whose sense of Emersonian independence was increasingly affronted by the equivocation, self-censorship and unsavory compromises required to keep the slave states from seceding. In Chicago, Goodheart introduces young Elmer Ellsworth, whose boyhood dreams of glory led him to found the dashing Fire Zouaves, a military regiment composed of roughneck New York firemen but modeled on — and dressed in the exotic style of — the elite French forces in Algeria.

We glimpse the clerks and shopkeepers who organized themselves into secret political clubs called the Wide Awakes, who showed their support for candidate Lincoln by parading at night through the Northern cities in eerie silence, draped in makeshift capes of shiny black oilcloth that reflected the blaze of their flaming torches. Out in St. Louis, we visit the Forty-Eighters — reviled as the “Damned Dutch” by the Missouri secessionists — refugees from the failed revolution against the monarchs of the German Confederation, who discovered in the slaveholders “exactly what they had come here to escape: a swaggering clique of landed oligarchs, boorish aristocrats obstructing the forces of modernity and progress.”

And in the Union stronghold of Fortress Monroe outside Hampton, Va. (about as far south as Goodheart ventures), we witness the remarkable encounter between the Union general Benjamin Butler and three slaves — Frank Baker, Shepard Mallory, James Townsend — whose decision to liberate themselves ignited a sudden revolution in white attitudes toward emancipation.

Goodheart, the director of the C. V. Starr Center for the Study of the American Experience at Washington College and a regular contributor to - [NYTimes.com's Civil War blog, Disunion](#), combines a journalist's eye for telling detail with the rigorous research of a good historian. But he gives his far-flung journey narrative tension and suspense by religiously following two fundamental rules of the

novelist: first, make the reader care about your characters, then make the reader worry about them.

Goodheart excels at creating emotional empathy with his characters, encouraging us to experience the crisis as they did, in real time, without the benefit of historical hindsight. He lets the players speak for themselves and make the best case for their own motives and beliefs. Even more effective is his use of the technique of free indirect speech, subtly incorporating the distinctive language of the various characters into his own narration. For example: Maj. Anderson would be “damned if he was to surrender — even worse, perform a shabby pantomime of surrender — before a rabble of whiskey-soaked militiamen and canting politicians.”

This is a particularly useful sleight of hand for the Civil War historian, who must recreate the feelings and rationalizations of a wide variety of people whose beliefs we might find incomprehensible or reprehensible — without sounding anachronistic or censorious, or seeming to endorse them. That same technique allows Goodheart to suggest the characters' moral or intellectual blind spots, their failures of perception or their unpreparedness for the events to come. These moments are some of the most affecting in the book. They are also some of the funniest, as in Goodheart's depiction of the boisterous Fire Zouaves arriving in drowsy, bureaucratic Washington:

“Waiting may have been the locals' favorite pastime, but the New York firemen did not share their taste. After four days en route to the capital, cooped up on the steamer and then the train, they had expected and hoped to disembark straight into the thick of battle. (You could hardly blame them — it had been weeks since their last chance for even a good street brawl.) As they tumbled out of their train, a newspaperman had heard one Zouave ask: ‘Can you tell us where Jeff Davis is? We're lookin' for him.’ A comrade chimed in, ‘We're bound to hang his scalp in the White House before we go back.’ Others squinted in perplexity, looking around for secession flags to capture but failing to discover any.”

The Zouaves' situation turns tragic only a few weeks later, on the night of May 23, when their leader, the ebullient Ellsworth, impetuously decides to cut down a rebel flag that is flying over a Confederate

sympathizer's hotel, and is brutally killed. The young colonel was mourned as the first martyr of the war, inspiring over 200,000 men to join the Union Army. "Sumter's fall had loosed a flood of patriotic feeling," Goodheart observes, but "Ellsworth's death released a tide of hatred, of enmity and counterenmity, of sectional blood lust. . . . Indeed, it was Ellsworth's death that made Northerners ready not just to take up arms but actually to kill."

Throughout "1861," Goodheart shows how such small individual choices helped to decide momentous questions. A cascade of life-and-death decisions drives the book's momentum from the beginning: Will the North elect Abraham Lincoln despite the South's threats to secede? Once Lincoln is elected, will Congress be able to keep the South from leaving without committing the nation to slavery in perpetuity? Faced with the founding of the Confederacy, will the North let the slaveholders leave peacefully, capitulate to their demands, or embrace "the ideology of Freedom"? What will the West do, after years of being checked between Southern and Northern interests? Will the men of the North take up arms against their own people? What will happen to the slaves once war has come? Will the war become a fight to end slavery, or will it simply reunite the nation as it was?

The interplay of the intimate, the panoramic and the ironic reaches a heroic climax with these last two questions. The very day that Elmer Ellsworth died, General Butler encountered a dilemma in the form of the three fugitive slaves, who, before they escaped, had been helping build a Confederate artillery fortification across the harbor from Fortress Monroe. Butler's course should have been clear. Legally, he was required to return the slaves to their owner. Politically, the general was bound by Lincoln's vow that the federal government would not interfere with slavery — a position applauded by most Northerners.

But when the owner's emissary arrived, waving a white flag of truce, to reclaim his runaway properties, Butler refused to turn them over. Since Virginia was no longer part of the United States, the wily general declared, and since the slaves had been aiding the rebel army, he was confiscating the men as "contraband of war."

"Out of this incident seems to have grown one of the most sudden and important revolutions in popular thought which took place during the whole war," Lincoln's assistants John Hay and John Nicolay observed. The befuddling logic of the "contraband doctrine" had a clarifying effect on the North. Those who decried "emancipation" as an unconstitutional attack on property rights found no objection when it was called "confiscation." The impact among blacks was even more profound. Within weeks, slaves by the hundreds were flooding into "the freedom fort" and other Union bastions — without inciting a racial bloodbath, as many whites had long feared. It was the blow that sent slavery to its deathbed.

Not everyone will be enamored of "1861." Some will object that it concentrates too much on the white men of the North, giving short shrift to women, blacks and Southerners. Readers hoping for a conventional war story might be put off by the book's peripatetic structure. Skeptics may look askance at Goodheart's unabashed optimism and open admiration of the Union cause in spite of the many ways it would fall short of its most noble goals. But readers who take "1861" on its own passionate, forthright terms will find it irresistible. And for those who don't like this Civil War book, well, just wait — there are plenty more to come.

Debby Applegate is the author of "The Most Famous Man in America: The Biography of Henry Ward Beecher," which won a Pulitzer Prize in 2007. She is now writing a biography of the madam Polly Adler. This article has been revised to reflect the following correction:

Correction: May 8, 2011

A review on April 24 about "1861: The Civil War Awakening," by Adam Goodheart, misstated at one point the rank of Robert Anderson, the Union officer who surrendered Fort Sumter to the Confederates. As noted elsewhere in the review, he was a major at the surrender; he was promoted to general later.



NOVEMBER DURING THE CIVIL WAR

1861

1st - President Lincoln appoints George McClellan as general-in-chief of all Union forces after the resignation of the aged Winfield Scott.

8th - The beginning of an international diplomatic crisis for President Lincoln as two Confederate officials sailing toward England are seized by the U.S. Navy.

1862

7th - The president replaces McClellan with Gen. Ambrose E. Burnside as the new Commander of the Army of the Potomac.

1863

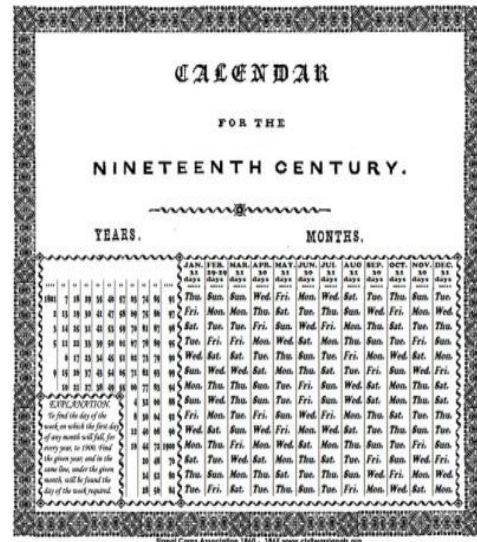
19th - President Lincoln delivers a two minute Gettysburg Address at a ceremony dedicating the Battlefield as a National Cemetery.

23rd - 25th - The Rebel siege of Chattanooga ends as Union forces under Grant defeat the siege army of Gen. Braxton Bragg.

1864

8th - Abraham Lincoln is re-elected president, defeating Democrat George B. McClellan. Lincoln carries all but three states with 55 percent of the popular vote and 212 of 233 electoral votes.

15th - After destroying Atlanta's warehouses and railroad facilities, Sherman, with 62,000 men begins a March to the Sea.



Civil War Blog Spotlight

A Publisher's Perspective

Many readers of this newsletter know Ted Savas, or are well acquainted with his independent publishing company Savas Beatie LLC responsible for publishing many quality books on the Civil War. You may not, however, be aware that Mr. Savas also has a blog where he discusses upcoming releases and also provides a unique and entertaining inside perspective on the publishing industry.

You can find A Publisher's Perspective at <http://savasbeatie.blogspot.com/>

