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Battle Cry

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

Happy Thanksgiving to One and All!

November is a month of great significance to Civil War historians of every stripe. We have the hotly contested and portentous election in 1860 of Abraham Lincoln which gave rise to secession of southern states. The next year, November of 1861, saw the election of Jefferson Davis as the President of the Confederacy for a 6-year term. The Battle of Belmont was November 7, and I mention it because it was an obscure general in the West's first battle, much muddled, but fought to a draw. It dawned on this inconspicuous general that the enemy "was just as afraid of us as we were of them." That was Ulysses Grant, and Belmont gave him the certainty to always push forward.

In November of 1862, the 5th to be exact, Lincoln removed General McClellan from command of the Army of the Potomac. McClellan ably built the army in the early stages, but was considered a sluggish and paranoid field commander seemingly unable, and certainly unwilling, to aggressively engage General Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia. General Burnside replaced McClellan and began gathering his troops ominously outside Fredericksburg, VA.

In 1863, we have two of the most enduring legacies of the Civil War. The first is The Gettysburg Address, delivered there in Pennsylvania by Abraham Lincoln on November 19th. So much has been written, rhapsodized, about this short speech, that I can never do it justice here. It's safe to say that many, many Americans believe the message to be the voice of our national identity, and our finest aspiration for our country.

Lincoln also declared that the fourth Thursday of every November would be the National Holiday of Thanksgiving. Who doesn't love this day? We get to gather with family and friends. We cook our most delectable meals, and give ourselves a pass to eat with pleasure. (Oh, and Rick asked me to mention football. Sigh.)

We come to the last November of the War. After so much agonizing and with the death tolls resounding, Lincoln is re-elected president. The majority of the nation wants to continue the War to completion and abolish slavery forever. Such momentous times.

We have as our speaker this month, H. James (Jim) Harper, and we are lucky indeed. He will be discussing Lincoln and his political response to slavery. James is a native of Sacramento, graduated high school here, and is also an Eagle Scout. (I'm ALWAYS impressed with Eagle Scouts.!) He educated himself at CSU, Sacramento, with a M.A. in Political Science from U.C. Davis. He continued his education concentrating in education and Labor Management Relations. He has taught middle school, high school, and university for 27 years!

His interest in the Civil War dates from his mother giving him a copy of Bruce Catton's *Gettysburg*. How many of us came to have our interest sparked by Bruce Catton? I know I did, through my father.

I'm giving especial thanks this month for our wonderful Sacramento Civil War Round Table. I came searching for entertainment and education. I stayed because of the warm-hearted friends I have found.

Don't forget: You still have time to attend the West Coast Civil War Conference. I look forward to seeing you there.

Have a great holiday!

Anne Peasley, President

MINUTES
SACRAMENTO CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
Wednesday, October 8, 2014
HOF BRAU RESTAURANT, 2500 WATT AVENUE, SACRAMENTO

ATTENDANCE – 37

MEMBERS – 30: Anne M. Peasley, President, Donald J. Hayden, Vice President, George W. Foxworth, Treasurer, Paul Ruud, Secretary, Silver Williams, Program Director, James M. Armstrong, Roy Bishop, Ardith Cnota, Mitch Cnota, Monica Foxworth, Robert E. Hanley, IPP, Jim Harper, Scottie Hayden, Nina Henley, MAL, Wayne Henley, MAL, James Juanitas, Arnold Kunst, Barbara Leone, Kim Grace Long, Rick A. Peasley, Horst Penning, John Rice, Nancy Samuelson, Nicholas Scivoletto, Richard Sickert, Roxanne E. Spizzirri, Michael Werner, Bob Williams, John V. Zasso, Vivian Zasso.

GUESTS – 7: Esther Boeck, George Costenbader, Chris Highsmith, Tad Smith, Larry Spizzirri, Richard Spizzirri, Ray Valdez

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by President Anne Peasley.
2. President Peasley led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. President Peasley urged members to sign up for the upcoming West Coast Civil War Conference.
4. Nina Henley displayed the Civil War quilt that will be raffled at the Conference. She kicked off ticket sales right then and there – only \$5 for a chance to own this perfect replica of a Civil War treasure.
5. President Peasley introduced Tad Smith who would be making his third presentation to the Round Table. His previous topics involved Confederate efforts for European financing and the story of Elmira Prison. Tad's subject this time was "Coins and Currency of the Confederacy." Tad's family lived in the Winchester area of Virginia so any southern sympathy would surely be understood.
6. A few highlights from Tad's informative and entertaining presentation follow:
 - A. The creation of the Confederacy was not accompanied by a bank roll – they started with several small projects such as taking over the \$26 million that northerners had in southern banks. The State of Alabama loaned \$500,000 to the cause – of course, the capitol was in Montgomery at the beginning.
 - B. Christopher Memminger from South Carolina became the Treasury Secretary – the decision was quickly made to print paper money. This permitted saving precious metals for buying war materials in Europe.
 - C. The New Orleans mint was seized by the Confederacy and it continued to produce US coins for a period of time. When the Confederate half dollar was introduced – four specimens were made. They now bring over \$1 million at auction. The mint mainly produced low value coins - \$5 and \$1 values.
 - D. The Charlotte mint produced only gold coins. The "cavalier" was struck looking similar to the English sovereign – an attempt to make Confederate coins attractive in Europe.
 - F. The first Confederate currency came off the press in April of 1861 – they were first issued in 50, 100, 500 and 1,000 dollar varieties. As the War ground on, Confederate currency became almost worthless because of inflation. Late in the War, the printing was so poor that counterfeit bills stood out as looking better!
7. President Peasley thanked Tad Smith with words and a bottle of wine.
8. John Zasso sold additional raffle tickets and read the lucky numbers.
9. The meeting was adjourned at 8:19 PM. The Board will next meet at the Crowne Plaza Hotel on Wednesday, November 5, 2014, at 10:00 AM for a pre-Conference walk through.

Paul Ruud, Secretary

Treasurer's Report

The cash balance following the October 8th meeting was \$4,489.24. Thanks to John Zasso, other members, and guests, the raffle brought in \$48.00.

George W. Foxworth, Treasurer

Coming Programs for 2014 and 2015		
Date	Speaker	Topic
November 12th	H. James Harper	“Abraham Lincoln”
December 10th	Tim & Ginny Karlberg	“Captain John Groetsch”
January 14 th	Erin McCabe	“Women Who Fought in the Civil War”
February 11th	Donald J. Hayden	“Oliver Wendell Holmes, Father and Son”
March 11th	George Beitzel	“Flight To Oblivion”
April 8th	Richard Sickert	To Be Determined
May 13th	Paul Ruud	To Be Determined
June 10th	Nancy Samuelson	“Nathan Bedford Forrest”
July 8th	Joe Maxwell	George Armstrong Custer, Part II
August 12th	Bob Hubbs	To Be Determined
September 9th	Fred Bohmfalk	“A Personal Look at the Lives of Grant, Sherman, and Sheridan”
October 14th	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**. 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.



**2014 West Coast Civil War Conference
Sponsored by Sacramento Civil War Round Table**

1864

November 7 - 9, 2014, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Sacramento

Our Speakers are:

Craig L. Symonds: Joined the United States Naval Academy faculty in 1976. He served as Chairman of the History Department in 1988-1992 and was appointed Professor Emeritus on his retirement.

Harold Holzer: Is a leading national authority on Abraham Lincoln and the political culture of the Civil War. A writer, lecturer, frequent television guest, and Chairman of The Lincoln Bicentennial Foundation.

Thomas Cartwright: Is a leading authority and author on the Battle of Franklin who conducted tours of Western Theater battlefields for 20 years. Appeared on many TV shows and is a frequent CWRT speaker.

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

Theodore Savas: Is an attorney, adjunct college instructor, award-winning author, Partner and Managing Director of Savas Beatie LLC. He specializes in military history and the American Civil War.

Ron Perisho: A member of the Sacramento CWRT, Secretary-Treasurer of the Center for Civil War Photography (CCWP), and a Soils and Foundation Engineer specializing in repair of distressed structures.

The Conference cost is \$195 per person which includes Friday dinner, Saturday lunch and dinner, as well as all sessions. A full breakfast buffet is included for guests staying at the hotel.

Partial day attendance: Friday only \$50, Saturday only \$95, Saturday dinner only \$50, Sunday only \$50. There will be a no-host bar set-up Friday and Saturday evenings for your enjoyment before dinner.

For more information, contact Paul Ruud at 530-886-8806 or by contacting www.sacramentocwrt.com where information and registration forms will be available.

Room reservations are available by calling Crowne Plaza directly 877-270-1393 or www.crowneplaza.com Crowne Plaza Hotel has rooms set aside for us at \$99 per night, plus tax. Please mention the Conference.

Please print this page, fill it out, and return the form with your check for your registration. Make checks payable to: **Sacramento CWRT** and mail to: George W. Foxworth, 9463 Salishan Court, Sacramento, CA 95826-5233.

Name / Organization as you want it on your badge

Organization: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Day phone: _____ Other phone _____

Email: _____

The Presidential Election of 1864



The United States presidential election of 1864 was the 20th quadrennial [presidential election](#), held on Tuesday, November 8, 1864. [Abraham Lincoln](#) ran as the [Republican](#) (National Union Party) nominee against

[Democratic](#) candidate [George B. McClellan](#), who ran as the "peace candidate" without personally believing in his party's platform.

Lincoln was re-elected [president](#). [Electoral College](#) votes were counted from 25 states. Since the [election of 1860](#), the Electoral College had expanded with the admission of [Kansas](#), [West Virginia](#), and [Nevada](#) as free-soil states. As the [American Civil War](#) was still raging, no electoral votes were counted from any of the eleven [Southern states](#).^[1] Lincoln won by more than 400,000 popular votes on the strength of the soldier vote and military successes such as the Battle for Atlanta.^[2] Lincoln was the first president to be re-elected since [Andrew Jackson](#) in [1832](#).

A group of Republican dissidents calling themselves [Radical Republicans](#) formed a party called the Radical Democracy Party and nominated [John C. Frémont](#) as their candidate for president. Frémont later withdrew and endorsed Lincoln. In the [Border States](#), [War Democrats](#) joined with Republicans as the [National Union Party](#), with Lincoln at the head of the ticket.^[4] The National Union Party was a temporary name used to attract War Democrats and Border State Unionists who would not vote for the Republican Party. It faced off against the regular Democratic Party, including [Peace Democrats](#).

As the Civil War progressed, political opinions within the Republican Party began to diverge. Senators [Charles Sumner](#) and [Henry Wilson](#) of Massachusetts wanted the Republican Party to advocate constitutional amendments to prohibit slavery and to guarantee racial equality before the law. These bills were not yet supported by all northern Republicans.

Democrat leaders hoped that the radical Republicans would put forth a ticket in the election.

The [New York World](#) was particularly interested in undermining the National Union Party and ran a series of articles predicting that the National Union Convention would be delayed until late in 1864 to allow Frémont time to collect delegates to win the nomination. Frémont supporters in New York City established a newspaper called the *New Nation*, which declared in one of its initial issues that the National Union Convention would be a "nonentity."

The Radical Democracy Convention assembled in Ohio with delegates arriving on May 29, 1864. [The New York Times](#) reported that the hall which the convention organizers had planned to use had been double-booked by an opera troupe. Almost all delegates were instructed to support Frémont, with a major exception being the New York delegation, which was composed of War Democrats who supported [Ulysses S. Grant](#). Various estimates of the number of delegates were reported in the press; the [New York Times](#) reported 156 delegates, but the number generally reported elsewhere was 350 delegates. The delegates came from 15 states and the District of Columbia. They adopted the name "Radical Democracy Party."¹

A supporter of Grant was appointed chairman. The platform was passed with little discussion, and a series of resolutions that bogged down the convention proceedings were voted down decisively. The convention nominated Frémont for president, and he accepted the nomination on June 4, 1864. In his letter, he stated that he would step aside if the National Union Convention would nominate someone other than Lincoln. [John Cochrane](#) was Before the election, some War Democrats joined the Republicans to form the National Union Party.^[7] With the outcome of the Civil War still in doubt, some political leaders, including [Salmon P. Chase](#), [Benjamin Wade](#), and [Horace Greeley](#), opposed Lincoln's re-nomination on the grounds that he could not win. Chase himself became the only candidate to actively contest Lincoln's re-nomination, but withdrew in March when a slew of Republican officials, including within the State of Ohio upon whom Chase's campaign depended, endorsed Lincoln's re-nomination. Lincoln was still popular with most members of the Republican Party, and the National Union Party nominated him for a second term as president at their convention in [Baltimore, Maryland](#), on June 7–8,

1864.^[8] The party platform:...called for pursuit of the War until the Confederacy surrendered unconditionally; a constitutional amendment for the abolition of slavery; aid to disabled Union veterans; continued European neutrality; enforcement of the Monroe Doctrine; encouragement of immigration; and construction of a transcontinental railroad. It also praised the use of black troops and Lincoln's management of the war.^[9]

[Andrew Johnson](#), the former Senator from and current Military Governor of [Tennessee](#), was named as Lincoln's running-mate. Others who were considered for the position, at one point or another, were former Senator [Daniel Dickinson](#), Major General [Benjamin Butler](#), Major General [William Rosecrans](#), [Joseph Holt](#), and former Treasury Secretary and Senator [John Dix](#) nominated for vice-president.^[6]

The Democratic Party was bitterly split between War Democrats and [Peace Democrats](#), who further divided among competing factions. Moderate Peace Democrats who supported the war against the Confederacy, such as [Horatio Seymour](#), were preaching the wisdom of a negotiated peace. After the [Battle of Gettysburg](#), when it was clear the South could no longer win the War, moderate Peace Democrats proposed a negotiated peace that would secure Union victory. They believed this was the best course of action, because an armistice could finish the War without devastating the South.^[10] Radical Peace Democrats known as [Copperheads](#), such as [Thomas H. Seymour](#), declared the War to be a failure and favored an immediate end to hostilities without securing Union victory.^[11]

[George B. McClellan](#) vied for the presidential nomination. Additionally, friends of Horatio Seymour insisted on placing his name before the convention, which was held in [Chicago](#), Illinois, on August 29–31, 1864. But on the day before the organization of that body, Horatio Seymour announced positively that he would not be a candidate.

Since the Democrats were divided by issues of war and peace, they sought a strong candidate who could unify the Party. The compromise was to nominate pro-war General George B. McClellan for president and anti-war Representative [George H. Pendleton](#) for vice-president. McClellan, a War

Democrat, was nominated over the Copperhead Thomas H. Seymour. Pendleton, a close associate of the Copperhead [Clement Vallandigham](#), balanced the ticket, since he was known for having strongly opposed the Union War effort.^[12] The convention then adopted a peace platform^[13] — a platform McClellan personally rejected.^[14] McClellan supported the continuation of the War and restoration of the Union, but the Party platform, written by Vallandigham, opposed this position.

The 1864 election was the first time since [1812](#) that a presidential election took place during a war. For much of 1864, Lincoln himself believed he had little chance of being re-elected. Confederate forces had triumphed at the [Battle of Mansfield](#), the [Battle of the Crater](#), and the [Battle of Cold Harbor](#). In addition, the War was continuing to take a very high toll in terms of casualties. The prospect of a long and bloody war started to make the idea of "peace at all cost" offered by the [Copperheads](#) look more desirable. Because of this, McClellan was thought to be a heavy favorite to win the election. Unfortunately for Lincoln, Frémont's campaign got off to a good start.

However, several political and military events made Lincoln's re-election inevitable. In the first place, the Democrats had to confront the severe internal strains within their party at the [Democratic National Convention](#). The political compromises made at the Democratic National Convention were contradictory and made McClellan's campaign inconsistent and difficult.

Secondly, the Democratic National Convention influenced Frémont's campaign. Frémont was appalled at the Democratic platform, which he described as "union with slavery." After three weeks of discussions with Cochrane and his supporters, Frémont withdrew from the race in September 1864. In his statement, Frémont declared that winning the Civil War was too important to divide the Republican vote. Although he still felt that Lincoln was not going far enough, the defeat of McClellan was of the greatest necessity. General Cochrane, who was a War Democrat, agreed and withdrew with Frémont. Frémont also brokered a political deal in which Lincoln removed U.S. Postmaster General [Montgomery Blair](#) from office. McClellan's chances

of victory faded after Frémont withdrew from the presidential race.

Results by county explicitly indicate the percentage of the winning candidate in each county. Shades of red are for Lincoln (National Union) and shades of blue are for McClellan (Democratic).

Lastly, with the fall of [Atlanta](#) on September 2, there no longer was any question that Union military victory was inevitable, and close at hand.

In the end, the Union Party mobilized the full strength of both the Republicans and the War Democrats under the its slogan "Don't change horses in the middle of a stream." It was energized as Lincoln made emancipation the central issue, and state Republican parties stressed the perfidy of the Copperheads.^[15]

Only 25 states participated in the election, since 11 Southern states had declared secession from the Union and formed the [Confederacy](#). Three new states participated for the first time: Kansas, West Virginia, and Nevada. The reconstructed portions of Tennessee and Louisiana chose presidential electors, although Congress did not count their votes. McClellan won just three states: Kentucky, Delaware, and his home state of New Jersey.

Lincoln was highly popular with soldiers and they in turn recommended him to their family back home.^{[16][17]} The following states allowed soldiers to cast ballots: California, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Michigan, Rhode Island, and Wisconsin. Out of the 40,247 army votes cast, Lincoln received 30,503 (75.8%), McClellan 9,201 (22.9%), and Scattering 543 (1.3%). Only soldiers from Kentucky gave McClellan a majority of their votes; and he carried the army vote in the state by a vote of 2,823 (70.3%) to 1,194 (29.7%).^[18]

Of the 1,129 counties making returns, Lincoln won in 728 (64.48%) while McClellan carried 400 (35.43%). One county (0.09%) in Iowa split evenly.

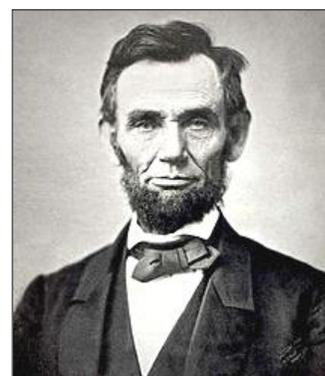
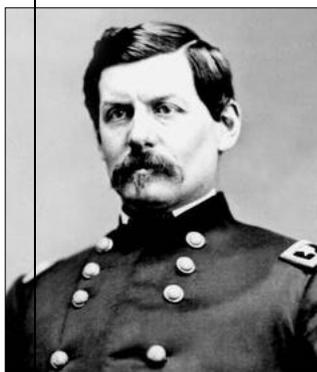
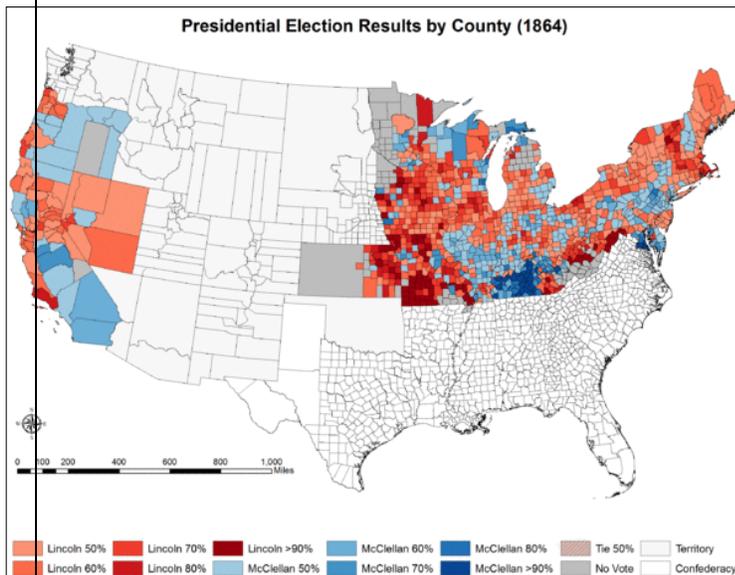
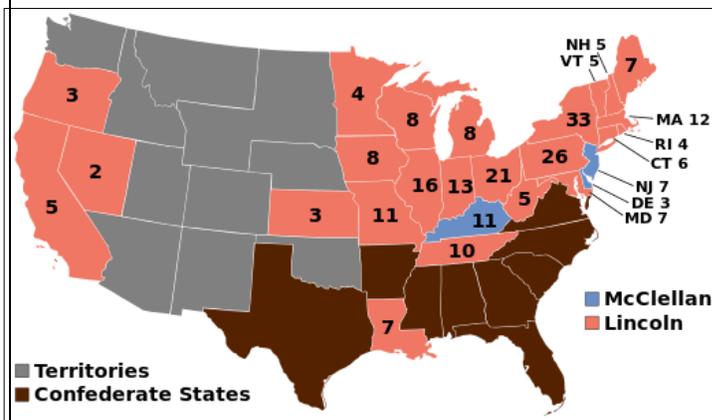
References: *Text developed almost entirely from Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia.* The 18 footnotes are indexed here, but not reproduced due to length.

To view Footnotes go to:
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_presidential_election,_1864

Other references are: Allan Nevins, *Ordeal of the Union: The War for the Union* Vol. 8 (1971).

James G. Randall and Richard N. Current: *Lincoln the President: Last Full Measure.* Vol. 4
Jack Waugh, *Reelecting Lincoln: The Battle for the 1864 Presidency* (1998).

Submitted by Bob Williams; 10-17-2014



The Presidential Election of 1864 Campaign Posters and Candidates

