



Volume 46, No. 6
June 2006

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**Battle Cry deadline is
1:00PM Wed. two weeks
before the regular meeting.
Items can be given the
editor by hand, mail or
e-mail.**

Battle Cry

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

Many thanks to Brad Schall for his splendid talk on "Black Jack" Logan. It's always a delight to learn about the making of the tremendous varieties of personalities involved in the Civil War. This man had a great influence on the society growing out of that conflagration, but who today has ever heard about him? Thanks to organizations like ours and people like Brad, such people are kept alive, if only for short moments.

Another year of Gibson Ranch events is past and I owe special thanks to all the Friday volunteers who escorted the school kids around. As always, there was the usual opening confusion but we all survived unscathed and the newer group assured me it was a pleasurable experience. I am informed this is a most popular program, and the demand from the local schools to participate cannot be fully met. The re-enactors deserve a great deal of credit for providing this information, as do we for moving these groups around.

The Saturday and Sunday events were less well attended but went smoothly despite rainy weather Sunday. The battles, as usual, went well but the evening show was a little disappointing since the cannon muzzle flashes were lessened by the lingering daylight.

Thanks to Bob Hanley and Brad Schall, our presentation each day on the theme of **The War, First and Last, Big Bethel and Memorial Day**, was well received. Bob spoke on the events and political climate leading to the war and Brad mostly covered the actual skirmish, which was the first land engagement. The Memorial Day information was most touching. The two of them worked very well together and I thank them both for making this a success. The club also owes a debt of gratitude to George Foxworth for always being there, setting up and manning the booth. I don't know how we would function without him. Many thanks, George.

Our North Bay friend, Phil Avila, has unfortunately broken his leg and will be unable to speak to us in August. I plan on talking that evening on **Hancock, the Superb**. We hope Phil will be able to substitute in December. Send him good wishes for a quick recovery.

Don't miss our next talk June 14th by George Beitzel on **John Brown**. Come early for dinner and conversation. See you there. We hope to be joined by old friend, Walt Bittle, who is sorely missed. **Don Hayden, President**

**NEXT MEETING: June 14th at 7:00PM at the
Hof Brau, El Camino & Watt Ave.
SEE UPCOMING PROGRAMS ON PAGE 3.**

Treasurer's Report

The cash balance following the May 10, 2006 meeting was \$1,491.92. Thanks to members and guests, the raffle brought in \$79.00.

George W. Foxworth, Treasurer

MINUTES
SACRAMENTO CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
MAY 10, 2006
HOF BRAU RESTAURANT, EL CAMINO AND WATT, SACRAMENTO, CA

Attendance-38

Members-30

Don Hayden, President
George Foxworth, Treasurer
Edie Keister, Secretary
Ken Berna
Fred Bohmfalk
Ardith Cnota
Mitchell Cnota
Ken Dalpe
Lydia Donaldson
William Donaldson

Alan Geiken
Kyle Glasson
Robert Hanley
Shelley Jones
Virginia Martin
Earl Martin
Sharon McGaughey
Leslie Michaels
Vivian Miller
Betty Mitchell

Maurice Mitchell
John Nevins
Ruben Orozco
Ron Perisho
Paul Ruud
Brad Schall
Bernard Scherr
Richard Sickert
Drew Van Winkle
Robert Williams
Maxine Wollen

Guest-8

Anita Dalpe
Brad Friedman
Mark Gallagher
Sara Orozco
Horst Penning
Jenny Yowell
Lydia Yowell
Tom Yowell

1. Meeting started at 7:00. President Hayden welcomed members and guest. Schedules for the re-enactment at Gibson Ranch were handed out, and volunteers confirmed.
2. George Foxworth gave a treasurer's report, welcomed questions and had copies for those who wanted them.
3. Member were asked to comment on the new by-laws. A motion was made to specify constitutional officers- President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer, Remaining officers- webmaster, editor of the newsletter, immediate past-President and two members at large, to be called non-constitutional officers.
4. Fred Bohmfalk made motion to elect new officers up to November or December rather than October. Brad Schall seconded the motion.
5. Member Brad Schall spoke on "Black Jack" Logan. His presentation was filled with many amusing antidotes, and was accompanied with pictures and an outline of Logan's orders to initiate Memorial Day. Thanks Brad for the insight, a fascinating person.
DA
6. Raffle was held. Meeting ended at 8:53.

Edie Keister
Secretary

Coming Programs 2006		
Month	Speaker	Topic
June 14 th	George Beitzel	John Brown
July 12 th	Ron Perisho	Civil War Photography
August 9 th	Don Hayden	Winfield Scott Hancock
September 13 th	Thomas Brown	2 nd Day at Chickamauga (as General Thomas)
October 11 th	Paul Wagstaffe	Franks & Brits : Rebels & Yankees
November 10-12 th	Conference	War on the Waters
December 13 th	open	

They Fought with John Brown

Newby was the first of Brown's men to be killed. This letter from his wife, dated August 16, 1859, was found in his pocket. After it was found, Harriet Newby was sold to a Louisiana slave dealer.

Dear Husband - It is said Master is in want of money. If so, I know not what time he may sell me, and then all my bright hopes of the future are blasted, for there has been one bright hope to cheer me in all my troubles, that is to be with you. If I thought I should never see you this earth would have no charms for me. Come this fall without fail money or no money. Do all you can for me, which I have no doubt you will. The children are all well. The baby cannot walk yet. You must write soon and say when you think you can come.

Your affectionate wife, Harriet Newby

“I, John Brown, am now quite certain that the crimes of this guilty land will never be purged away but with blood”

Horton, James Oliver and Lois E. Horton. “Slavery and the Making of America” page 165. Book was the basis for PBS show. DVD available from Ambrose Video. www.documentary-video.com

A Report On The 8th Annual Gibson Ranch Re-Enactment

The National Civil War Association (NCWA) kicked off their 2006 re-enactment season on May 19-21 at historic Gibson Ranch in Elverta, California. The theme was “The Battle of Big Bethel.” The

NCWA is a private non-profit organization that uses “living history” to help the public to better understand the American Civil War. By portraying the manner in which the soldiers and civilians lived, worked, fought, and died during the Civil War era, the NCWA hopes to keep alive the spirit and sacrifice

made by the men, women, and children of that time.

Gibson Ranch is a Sacramento County Park with rolling and grassy hills that allow excellent views of the battlefield and camps. The site accommodated the camps, horses, cannons, soldiers, civilians, and other attendees. In addition, the slight slope of the hillside gave an excellent view of the entire battlefield.

On May 19th, Friday, the NCWA and Gibson Ranch hosted over 3,300 students from Sacramento area schools. The Sacramento Civil War Round Table (SCWRT) served as tour guides for the school children. On May 20th and 21st, the SCWRT hosted an event booth.

The following SCWRT members participated with the school children: George Beitzel, Joan Beitzel, Roy Bishop, Courtnie Braziel, George W. Foxworth, Al Geiken, Bob Hanley, Don Hayden, Chuck Hubbard, Edie Keister, Grace Long, Jim Middleton, Brad Schall, and Maxine Wollen. Bob Orr from the Stanislaus Civil War Association also helped with the children. In addition, the following SCWRT members worked in the event booth: Ricki Adams, George W. Foxworth, Bob Hanley, Don Hayden, Edie Keister, and John Zasso. Finally, Ken Berna, Pam Hubbard, Sharon McGaughey, John Nevins, Don Schatzel, Ed Sims, Pam Hubbard, and Drew Van Winkle attended. Many thanks to the volunteers and attendees.

Big Bethel was the first land battle in Virginia. The land between the James and York Rivers southeast of Richmond is called the Virginia Peninsula. At the tip of this Peninsula is Fort Monroe, the oldest continuously United States' government-operated military post. In 1861, General Benjamin F. Butler sent 4,500 Federal troops from the Fort to engage 2,500 Confederate troops under Colonel John B. Magruder at Little Bethel, a church. The 1,400 Confederate troops in the battle were under the immediate command of Colonel Daniel H. Hill. As the Federal troops approached, the Confederates abandoned Little Bethel and fell back to their entrenchments near Big Bethel, another church. Under the immediate command of Brigadier General Ebenezer W. Pierce, the 2,500 involved Federal troops were repulsed on June 10 and retreated to Fort Monroe. Later that day, the Confederate forces abandoned their positions and returned to Yorktown.

Federal casualties were 18 killed, 53 wounded, and 5 missing. Confederate casualties were 1 killed and 7 wounded. One of the ironies is that the Confederate forces marched South to the battle and the Federal forces marched North to the battle.

On Saturday and Sunday, SCWRT members Don Hayden, Bob Hanley, and Brad Schall gave an educational talk on Big Bethel. The talk was excellent and well-received by the attendees. In closing, Brad

Schall introduced the audience to the history of the Memorial Day holiday.

Memorial Day, originally called Decoration Day, is a day of remembrance for those who have died in our nation's service. There are many stories as to its actual beginnings, with over two dozen cities and towns laying claim to being the birthplace of Memorial Day. There is also evidence that organized women's groups in the South were decorating graves before the end of the Civil War. Waterloo, New York was officially declared the birthplace of Memorial Day by President Lyndon Johnson in May 1966; it's difficult to prove conclusively the origins of the day. It is more likely that it had many separate beginnings; each of those towns and every planned or spontaneous gathering of people to honor the war dead in the 1860s' tapped into the general human need to honor our dead, each contributed honorably to the growing movement that culminated in General Logan giving his official proclamation in 1868. It is not important who was the very first, what is important is that Memorial Day was established. Memorial Day is not about division. It is about reconciliation; it is about coming together to honor those who gave their all.

Memorial Day was officially proclaimed on 5 May 1868 by Major General John Logan, National Commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, in his [General Order No. 11](#), and was first observed on 30 May 1868, when flowers were placed on the graves of Union and

Confederate soldiers at Arlington National Cemetery. The first State to officially recognize the holiday was New York in 1873. By 1890, it was recognized by all of the Northern states. The South refused to acknowledge the day, honoring their dead on separate days until after World War I (when the holiday changed from honoring just those who died fighting in the Civil War to honoring Americans who died fighting in any war). It is now celebrated in almost every state on the last Monday in May (passed by Congress with the National Holiday Act of 1971 ensure a three-day weekend for Federal holidays). However, several Southern states have an additional separate day for honoring the Confederate war dead: January 19 in Texas; April 26 in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, and Mississippi; May 10 in South Carolina; and June 3 (Jefferson Davis' birthday) in Louisiana and Tennessee.

After the Schools' event and late on May 19th, it rained for a few hours. However, the Saturday weather was sunny and windy. The rain returned on Sunday, drenching at times, and threatening to clear at other times. Both battles and other activities proceeded without a hitch. The re-enactors were excellent. Fortunately, there were many public attendees for the day.

The 2006 Gibson Ranch event was a complete success and the NCWA and Gibson Ranch are commended for their great work. We look ahead to the 2007 event.

By George W. Foxworth

Beginning this issue we will publish a brief biography of each of our guest speakers at the November, 2006 Annual West-Coast Conference which will be held at the Doubletree Hotel in Sacramento, November 10-12. We have assembled an outstanding faculty and hope to see a large turnout from all over the country. Please join us. The theme is The War on the Waters. Our guest of honor is Edwin Cole Bearss.

Edwin Cole Bearss

Ed Bearss is the nation's leading Civil War tour guide and has been seen on **Ken Burns Civil War, The History Channel, A&E**, and has led hundreds of battlefield tours involving sites as varied as Indian Wars, Civil War, WW II, and who knows what else. All who have marveled at the man's energy and thorough knowledge will testify that exposure to him is a never to be forgotten experience. We are privileged to host him as our keynote speaker.

Ed was noted for his deep interest in history at St. John's Military Academy in Wisconsin and Hardin high school in Montana and when World War II began there was no question where he would enlist since his father had been an U.S. Marine Officer in WW I and a cousin had won the Medal of Honor in the Philippines and was a Marine Brigadier General in WW I. Ed served in the New Guinea-Solomon Island Campaigns and joined the Marine Elite Raiders. As a corporal in 1944, on New Britain Island, Ed was severely wounded in four sites, the worst in his left arm. Twenty-six months of hospitalization later he was discharged.

Ed earned his B.S. at Georgetown in Washington, D.C. in 1949. In 1953 he decided to study history at Indiana University and write his Master's thesis on Pat Cleburne. In preparation he went to Shiloh and walked the ground for six hours with the park historian which convinced him that this should be his life's work. In 1955 he became a park historian at Vicksburg and the rest is history. Ed Bearss had found his calling.

In 1958 Ed married Margie Riddle, a school teacher who graduated Phi Theta Kappa from Blue Mountain College in Mississippi. She was also a Civil War enthusiast who met him while researching Sherman. She eventually wrote a book about his Meridian Expedition and was later to help Ed editing, indexing, and proof-reading his writings.

In 1956 Ed's research and curiosity led him to the discovery of the U.S.S. Cairo which was known to have been sunk in the Yazoo River. He decided to raise money to raise her, part of which he won on the quiz show **The \$64,000 Challenge**. In 1964 the massive gunboat was raised and is now on exhibit at Vicksburg National Park. Margie cleaned and catalogued 10,000 artifacts and edited his book, **Hardluck Ironclad**.

From 1981 to 1995 Ed Bearss served as chief historian of the National Park Service. He was influential in congressional dealings and in the establishment of new national historical sites. He has always conducted tours and since his retirement has been busier than ever. Those who have accompanied him relate amazing stories of his detailed knowledge, prodigious memory, dramatic oratory and boundless energy. We look forward to his company in November and highly recommend attending his presentations and meeting this giant of American history.

SACRAMENTO CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE PRESENTS:

ASPECTS OF THE WAR ON THE WATERS

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CRAIG SYMONDS

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"Aspects of the War on the Waters"

Nov. 10, 11, 12, 2006

2006 SCWRT Conference Application

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1.) Name: _____ Organization: _____

2.) Name: _____ Organization: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: ____ Zip: _____

Day Ph: () _____ Other Ph: () _____ E-mail: _____

Conference Registration Fees (per person/including meals):

\$160 until October 2, 2006 Postmark \$175 after October 2, 2006 Postmark

Meals desired for person(s) accompanying registrant but not registered for the conference:
(These meals to be paid at the conference)

Fri. dinner: ____ (\$25ea) Sat. lunch: ____ (\$20ea) Sat. Banquet: ____ (\$25ea) Sun. brunch: ____ (\$20ea)

Do you have any dietary needs or need special assistance? _____

Instructions:

Please print this page, fill out, and return this form with your check for registration fee only.

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