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November 2001

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@aol.com

George Foxworth, Treasurer
 (916) 362-0178

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

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

Bernardo Buenrostro, Web-
 master, (916) 362-9837
bernxbb@ix.netcom.com

Jim Middleton, Editor
 (916) 363-8112
jim@ns.net

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The Battle Cry

November 2001

Newsletter of the Sacramento Civil War Round Table
 Founded 1961, <http://sacramentocwrt.com/>



President's Message:

Should the other fellow have gotten the job? Evidence is hard to come by but the “what if’s” are fun to track. Jim Stanbery tracks them about as well as anyone! Thanks for an interesting evening! I wish I would have asked Jim “what if Lincoln would not have been re-elected in 1864?” Jim is scheduled to speak at the West Coast Conference in Fresno next year so we’ll see him then for sure – if you attend!

A reminder of what traditionally happens to our schedule this time of the year. The SCWRT has eleven meetings a year with December the down month in deference to the holiday commitments we all seem to have. Our last meeting for 2001 will be on November 28th – the next one on January 30th! There is no Battle Cry published in December so after reading this edition, the next one will appear in January. It is also traditional to have a cake and holiday festivities of some nature at our last meeting for the year – there are a couple reasons why we have decided to forego those pleasures this year. We just had a cake and coffee reception last month for Jim Stanbery and we have an excellent program scheduled for our 11th meeting. November 28th will look like the other ten meetings we have had in terms of the events of the evening.

I am just beginning the process of building our programs for the year 2002 – if you would like to present a program to the SCWRT, please let me know. Even if you have mentioned the thought to me before, please repeat it and give me an indication of which month you would be prepared to talk. I hope to give one myself – if there are too many of us for the year, we’ll have a lottery to decide who gets to make the presentation. I like a mixture of about half members and half non-members as far as speakers go – I will try to mix things a bit more this year than last when we had the home grown folks in the first half and the visitors in the second half. **Remember to let me know!**

Mark your calendars for the next encampment – Wednesday, November 28th (the week after Thanksgiving) when Ted Savas will tell us the exciting history of the USS Arkansas during the battle for the Mississippi. His presentation is entitled, “**The Twenty-seven Days of Terror.**” I have it on good faith that this is a presentation you don’t want to miss! Come early – stay late!

Meanwhile, I extend my best wishes to you and yours for a Happy Thanksgiving. Save some “tummy” room for the menu delights of the Sudwerk on the following Wednesday. See you there!

Sincerely,
Paul Ruud

MINUTES
SACRAMENTO CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2001
 Sudwerk Restaurant, 1375 Exposition Boulevard, Sacramento

ATTENDANCE – 50

MEMBERS – 38

Paul Ruud, President
 Ardith Cnota, Vice President
 George Foxworth, Treasurer
 Walt Bittle, Secretary
 Dudley Albrecht
 Claudia Andres
 James Armstrong
 Roy Bishop
 Fred Bohmfalk
 Carol Breiter
 Steve Breiter
 Bernie Buenrostro
 James Caldwell

Mitch Cnota
 Carol Dickson
 James Dickson
 Bill Donaldson
 Lydia Donaldson
 Kristopher Gibson
 Don Hayden
 Ken Kitchen
 Russ Knauer
 Arthur Knight
 Kit Knight
 Dennis Kohlman
 Earl Martin

Virginia Martin
 Al McKim
 Jim Middleton
 Betty Mitchell
 Maurice Mitchell
 Elvin Roach
 Keith Roberts
 Patty Ruud
 Natalie Schafer
 Rudy Schafer
 Robert Williams
 John Zasso

GUESTS – 12

George Beitzel
 Joan Beitzel
 Robert Flaherty
 Ted Hansen
 Mark Hayden
 Frank Higginson
 Bob Kosola
 Lawrence Spizzirri
 Richard Spizzirri
 Roxanne Spizzirri
 Jim Stanbery
 David Turner

1. The meeting was called to order by President Ruud, who reviewed this day In history. Guests were introduced and welcomed, with special notice of the guests from the Elk Grove CWRT. Members and guests were reminded about upcoming programs and activities.
2. Program – Jim Stanbery, Professor of Political Science at Harbor College in Los Angeles, presented an outstanding program about “Should the other fellow have gotten the job?” Listing various general officers from both sides in the Civil War, Mr. Stanbery traced their rise to leadership, comparing and contrasting them with others who might have been more (or less) suitable for the jobs assigned. There were lots of questions, which led to other comments, which led to other questions. The interactive aspect added a special dimension to the program, and the members were most appreciative of Mr. Stanbery’s expertise and commitment to the cause.
3. Committee/Activity Reports
 - a. The September minutes were approved as printed. Treasurer Foxworth reported a balance of \$1299.18, of which \$44 was raised by the raffle.
 - b. Dudley Albrecht reported that filming on *Gangs of New York* has been postponed until January of 2002.
 - c. The slate of officers for 2002, as nominated in September, was elected without opposition.
 President: *Paul Ruud* Vice President: *Kit Knight* Treasurer: *George Foxworth*
 Secretary: *Walt Bittle* Members-At- Large: *Robert Williams* and *James Armstrong*
 Newsletter Editor: *Jim Middleton* Web Master: *Bernardo Buenrostro*
4. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 9:00, followed by the monthly raffle. Cake and coffee were served in honor of the Elk Grove CWRT and in appreciation of our featured speaker, Jim Stanbery.

[Is it possible you did not sign in? Please see Walt Bittle
 to correct the record if you were overlooked.]

Walt Bittle
 Secretary

A Report On The 17th Annual West Coast Civil War Conference by George W. Foxworth

The 17th Annual West Coast Civil War Conference was held on November 9-11, 2001, at the Radisson Resort Knotts Berry Farm in Buena Park, California.

The Conference was hosted by the Civil War Round Table (CWRT) of Orange County. "Confederate Tide Rising: The 1862 Maryland Campaign, Harpers Ferry, South Mountain, and Antietam" was the theme and many enlightening presentations by the distinguished speakers filled the weekend. The speakers were Dr. Joseph Harsh, Dr. Richard Rollins, George Otott, Brian Pohanka, Doug Westfall, Don McCue, and Roy Heidicker. Also in attendance were Jim Stanbery, 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 Jim Middleton, Ardith and Mitch Cnota, Bob and Mearline Williams, H. Jim Harper, Ted Hansen, and George W. Foxworth.

All presentations were excellent. Dr. Harsh spoke on "Taken At The Flood: Robert E. Lee and Confederate Strategy for the 1862 Maryland Campaign," "Antietam," and "Sounding The Shallows." Dr. Rollins gave a slide presentation of the CWRT of Orange County's trip to Antietam for the purpose of this Conference. The trip was led by Dr. Harsh. In addition, Dr. Rollins spoke on "Understanding Lee's Audacity." George Otott spoke on "The First Texas In The Cornfield." Brian Pohanka spoke on "Letters from the Front: Jacob Duryee of the 2nd Maryland and Duryee's Zouaves" and "Battlefield Preservation." Doug Westfall spoke on "The Capitol Guard: The Dispatches of George Dauchy." Don McCue spoke on "Antietam and the Emancipation Proclamation." Roy Heidicker spoke on "Antietam: The Policy That Changed American History."

A highlight of the weekend was a Paul Gillette-led tour of Fairhaven Memorial Park. To date, Gillette and crew have identified 727 Civil War veterans interred in Orange County. 599 veterans are laid to rest in Fairhaven. In addition, 8 Union and 2 Confederate Antietam veterans are identified at Fairhaven.

The Conference was a complete success and the CWRT of Orange County is to be commended for their excellent work, especially, in light of a near cancellation due to September 11, 2001. The 100 participants proved to Osama Bin Laden that he and his cronies cannot interfere in their lives. Finally, we applaud the excellent Civil War music by the Cottonwood String Band. Their music was hailed by all.

Looking ahead to 2002, the 18th Annual West Coast Civil War Conference is scheduled for November 8-10, 2002. The venue will be the Fresno Plaza Hotel. This Conference will be hosted by the San Joaquin Valley CWRT. The theme is "The Atlanta Campaign" and all are invited to attend.

Member Profiles

Our new Board of Directors has four new members and four old members. Obviously, a mix showing an organization in good health. Since our four new members may not be known to everyone we are running a new column of member profiles so the membership can become better acquainted with them. The first to give me his profile was Jim Armstrong, one of our new members-at-Large.

James M. (Jim) Armstrong was born in Oakland in 1945 and moved to Sacramento with his parents a year later. A 1963 graduate of Hiram Johnson H.S., he spent the summer of '63 as a State Forest Firefighter in Butte Co. His 1964-68 enlistment in the Air Force included two brushes with American History. From March of 1964 through Jan. 1965, he was stationed in Biloxi, MS, a time that included what would be later referred to as "Mississippi Burning Summer." In 1967, he was stationed at Nakhon Phanom, Thailand and Bien Hoa, South Vietnam, where he was an Automatic Tracking Radar Operator, locating, tracking & guiding B-52s to their targets. From 1968 through 1971, he went to school on the GI Bill. He attended Sacramento City College, Sacramento State, and finally The University of Colorado, Boulder, where he received a BS in finance, Dec. 1971. From 1972-1989, he worked in the Federal Civil Service with the Department of the Army; 1 year Rock Island Arsenal, IL, 5 years Ft. Monmouth, NJ & 11 years at the Sacramento Army Depot. The last

six years at the Army Depot, 1983-89, he was chief of the Material Management Branch (Logistics Management Division, Television-Audio support activity).

Single, never married, and with no family to support, he "retired" in 1989 at 43. He has visited historical spots in all 48 lower states and currently keeps himself busy through membership in 29 organizations, mostly fraternal, service, or historical in nature. His loves are the Civil War, the Trans-Mississippi West, Old Highways, and the Emigrant Trail to Oregon and California and Chess.

Book Review by Walt Bittle

Slavery Defended: The View of the Old South – edited by Eric L. McKittrick.

My paperback copy, which sold for \$1.95 in 1963, cost me \$7.00 in 2001! But I'm glad I found it, as it is an excellent collection of ante-bellum Southern thinking. McKittrick has gathered various essays, newspaper articles, and letters by such notables as John C. Calhoun, Edmund Ruffin, and others – each expounding upon the "peculiar institution" and its place in Southern life. These people were truly convinced that slavery was not only a "positive good" in the lives of the slaves, but sanctioned and encouraged by their version of religion.

As McKittrick says, "Nothing is more susceptible to oblivion than an argument, however ingenious, that has been discredited by events; and such is the case with the body of writing which was produced in the ante-bellum South in defense of Negro slavery. In the one hundred years since emancipation, almost the whole of that work has remained superbly unread."

As amateur historians of the period, we need to study exactly these kinds of documents if we are to truly understand the thinking of the people involved. It was their thinking that produced their actions that still affect what we say and do today. Let us read the unread.



This cartoon, entitled "The Political Quadrille, music by Dred Scott," captures the complexity of the campaign and the degree to which race played a central role in the American political consciousness. The four candidates are pictured dancing with their respective allies or constituencies, while Dred Scott fiddles the tune. By tying the 1860 contest to the Supreme Court's notorious Dred Scott decision of 1857, the artist efficiently and insightfully reveals the extent to which the slavery dispute dominated the election.

LITTLE SORREL

In the spring of 1861, Thomas Jackson bought his wife a horse named Fancy. However, it was Jackson who was soon riding the horse. The horse, a sorrel-colored gelding, was rather thin and unimpressive. "Stonewall" Jackson was only a mediocre rider, but the small horse suited him well. He renamed the horse Little Sorrel and came to depend upon him. Little Sorrel was strong and almost tireless. He was not easily spooked, which was definitely an important trait in a battle mount.

General Jackson rode Little Sorrel throughout the war. He was in fact riding him when he was mortally injured by friendly fire in May of 1863.

After the war, Little Sorrel returned to Mrs. Jackson until she was no longer able to care for him. The horse ultimately wound up at the Virginia Military Institute, where General Jackson had been a professor of artillery tactics and philosophy. The horse was sent to VMI by train and many veterans stood along side the tracks to salute the horse as the train passed.

Little Sorrel was a sort of mascot to the cadets at VMI until his death in 1886, at age 36. His hide is on display at the VMI museum, but his bones were cremated in 1997. They were buried at VMI near a statue of General Jackson.--- Excerpt from "Horses of the Civil War" by Christine Porter.

THIS CONFEDERATE ARMY CAPTAIN WORE A SKIRT

Belle Boyd (1843-1900) served as a spy for the Confederate Army in the Shenandoah Valley.

Isabella 'Belle' Boyd was born in Martinsburg, in what is now West Virginia. Like many women, she participated in many fund-raising activities at the outbreak of the Civil War to support the Confederacy. After Union troops occupied Martinsburg in 1861, however, Boyd was able to aid the Confederacy in ways that most women did not.

Boyd operated as a Confederate spy, using her father's hotel in Front Royal as a cover. She was especially useful during the Spring campaign of 1862, providing Generals Stonewall Jackson and Turner Ashby with valuable information. She had overheard Union officers discussing their plans to withdraw and destroy the town's bridges Jackson rewarded her loyalty by making her a captain and an honorary aide-de-camp. She continued to spy openly for the Confederate Army.

She was arrested on July 29, 1862 and held in the Old Capitol Prison in Washington DC for a month. Part of a prisoner exchange program, she was sent into exile to live with relatives upon her release. She was again arrested in June of 1863. Suffering from typhoid, she was released. Six months later the Confederacy sent her to Europe as a courier. She was to deliver letters from Jefferson Davis. The union captured the blockade runner before she could complete her mission. Union officer Samuel Hardinge, placed aboard as prize master, fell in love with Boyd. Following his discharge from the Navy for allowing the captain of the blockade runner to escape, they married in England in August 1864. Hardinge died in 1865, and Boyd continued to live in England until 1866. In England, she published her memoirs and began a career as an actress and, later, a lecturer. She died in Wisconsin while touring on a speaking engagement.

A SOLDIER NAMED MALINDA

Malinda Blalock served as a Confederate soldier under the name Sam Blalock.

From Grandfather Mountain, North Carolina, Malinda could not bear to be separated from her husband, Keith when duty called him to enlist. Cutting her hair short, and disguising herself as Keith's sixteen-year-old brother, Malinda enlisted with him in the Twenty-Sixth North Carolina. When her husband fell ill and was discharged for disease, only then did Malinda reveal her true identity as a female.

Malinda was one of the few known women to have served in the Confederate army.

SACRAMENTO CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
Join Today

Founded in 1961, the Sacramento Civil War Round Table (SCWRT) offers a forum for programs and discussions on the American Civil War. Chartered during the Civil War Centennial, SCWRT is one of the oldest Round Tables in the United States.

The Sacramento Civil War Round Table meets at 6:00PM for a No-Host dinner/social hour on the last Wednesday of each month except December. The meetings are held at the Sudwerk Grill and Brewery, which is located at the intersection of Exposition Blvd. and Response Way. The membership includes teachers, students, amateur and professional military historians; collectors, genealogists, living history re-enactors and persons who wish to increase their knowledge of that time period. Membership in the SCWRT is open to anyone who is interested in the War or aspects of military history. Members receive **The Battle Cry**, the SCWRT monthly newsletter. The Round Table's web site provides current information at <http://www.sacramentocwrt.com/>

Dues are \$20.00 per year for an individual or family membership. Dues are payable at any regular meeting by cash or check and are prorated for new members. If you are interested in the Round Table, please complete the application below and either mail the form and money to George Foxworth or bring it to a monthly meeting.

For more information:

Paul Ruud-President	530-886-8806 pruud@quiknet.com
Kit Knight-Vice President	916-721-1827 none
George Foxworth-Treasurer	916-362-0178 none
Walt Bittle-Secretary	916-722-2552 waltb50@aol.com
Jim Armstrong	916-457-7258 none
Bob Williams	916-487-8144 rmwilms@mindspring.com
Bernie Buenrostro-Webmaster	916-362-9837 bernxbb@ix.netcom.com
Jim Middleton-Newsletter Ed.	916-363-8112 jim@ns.net

Enrollment Application
Sacramento Civil War Round Table

Name(s): _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail _____

Special Civil War Interests: _____

Enclose a check for \$20 made payable to SCWRT. Mail to George Foxworth, SCWRT, P.O. Box 254702., Sacramento, CA 95865-4702.

The Battle Cry Editor—This publication is a monthly newsletter (except December) of the Sacramento CWRT. Please submit items to me for publication at the Board of Directors meeting of each month [or e-mail <jim@ns.net>](mailto:jim@ns.net) Check the web site <http://www.sacramentocwrt.org/> for past newsletter editions.

Sacramento Civil War Round Table
P.O. Box 254702
Sacramento, CA 95865-4702



Falls Church, VA
The Church