



The Battle Cry

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



**Volume 42, No. 9
September 2002**

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President's Message:

I hope you were able to attend our last meeting and hear Ray Bisio continue his discussion on Gettysburg. Even if you earnestly follow the tactical action of Civil War battlefields, you no doubt learned a few more details of the second day. Ray makes a long drive from Barstow so a prolonged salute of SCWRT gratitude is in order. We look forward to more of his folksy dialog in the months ahead.

News Bulletin: the Sudwerk has again closed its doors! We expected that one lost deal might give birth to another, but were hopeful it would have taken longer. We will be meeting at the VFW, 2784 Stockton Blvd, for our next meeting on September 25th. There is a more detailed article elsewhere in the Battle Cry explaining how to find the VFW and what the eating and drinking options are at that location. The program will be as recently announced:

(1) Poetry Reading by Kit Knight

(2) Mini-presentation, "The East Bank," by Russell Knauer. The title refers to the Mississippi River and the Vicksburg Campaign

The Nominating Committee has completed its slate of officers for the year 2003. Again, look elsewhere in this edition for the details. The vote will be at our October meeting after additional nominations from the floor are entertained.

Patty and I will be traveling on the 25th of September so Kit Knight will again be swinging the gavel. Thank you to her for filling in while I am absent.

Don't forget the Fresno Civil War Conference on November 8-10th. If you need information, contact any SCWRT board member. If you need or want to carpool, that too may be possible.

The meeting on the 25th will be at the VFW as previously described. Mark your calendars and enjoy the evening – don't let the change of location ruin a fun evening.

Paul Ruud, President

MINUTES
SACRAMENTO CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
 Wednesday, August 28, 2002
 Sudwerk Restaurant, 1375 Exposition Boulevard, Sacramento

ATTENDANCE – 44

MEMBERS – 38

Paul Ruud, President
 Kit Knight, Vice Pres.
 George Foxworth, Treas.
 Walt Bittle, Sec.
 Dudley Albrecht
 Claudia Andres
 Jim Armstrong
 Mark Aulman
 Mary Aulman
 Bob Baskerville
 Roy Bishop
 Fred Bohmfalk
 Carol Breiter

Steve Breiter
 Bernie Buenrostro
 Lynn Buenrostro
 Ardith Cnota
 Mitch Cnota
 Carol Dickson
 James Dickson
 Michael Dobbins
 Alan Geiken
 Don Hayden
 Janet Junell
 Robert Junell
 Ken Kitchen

Russ Knauer
 Arthur Knight
 Dennis Kohlmann
 Ken Lentz
 Mary Lou Lentz
 Al McKim
 Jim Middleton
 Elvin Roach
 Keith Roberts
 Andrew Sneeringer
 Bob Williams
 John Zasso

GUESTS – 6

Ray Bisio
 Mark Hayden
 William Kitzero
 Janet Ludue
 Steve Moulis
 Brad Schall

1. The meeting was called to order by President Ruud, who reviewed this day in history and welcomed new members and guests. A special welcome was extended to Jim Middleton on his ongoing recovery from bypass surgery. The minutes of July 31 were approved as printed.
2. Program – Ray Bisio, volunteer guide at the Gettysburg Battlefield, presented a very detailed review of “...the entire Union line ablaze...” at Gettysburg, Day 2. Using maps and extensive knowledge of the battlefield, Ray walked us through the entire twenty-four hours of July 2, 1863. This knowledge, added to that gained from Ray’s last presentation, gave us all a special awareness of the event. With any luck, Ray can make it back from Barstow to give us Gettysburg, Day 3. Thanks, Ray!
3. Committee/Activity Reports
 - a. President Ruud reminded members about the West Coast Civil War Conference in Fresno. He also encouraged participation in the raffle, since one of the prizes was a book, “*Johnny D.*”, donated by the author, CWRT member Arthur Knight.
 - b. The Nomination Committee announced that it would announce its slate of officers for election at the October meeting. President Ruud announced that he is not a candidate for re-election.
 - c. The Sudwerk Restaurant decided that it was closing; then reversed that decision. Just in case they change their mind again, members should be on the lookout for other meeting locations.
 - d. Dudley Albrecht recommended *The Gangs of New York* (opening late September) and *Gods and Generals* (opening late December), and announced that *Cold Mountain* is in production.
4. Adjournment – Following the raffle, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Walt Bittle

Secretary

Treasurer’s Report

The cash balance as of August 28, 2002 was \$1,665.73 – George W. Foxworth, Treasurer

SUDWERK CLOSES

September 25, 2002—New Meeting Location:

Doubletree Hotel

**Across from Arden Fair Mall
2001 Point West Way
(916) 929-8855**

The September meeting will start in the dining room at 6:PM for anyone wanting dinner and conversation with the regular meeting starting at 7:PM at the Doubletree.



*General William T. Sherman (leaning on breach of gun) and staff at Federal Fort No. 7, Atlanta, Georgia
Photograph, 1864, by George N. Barnard*

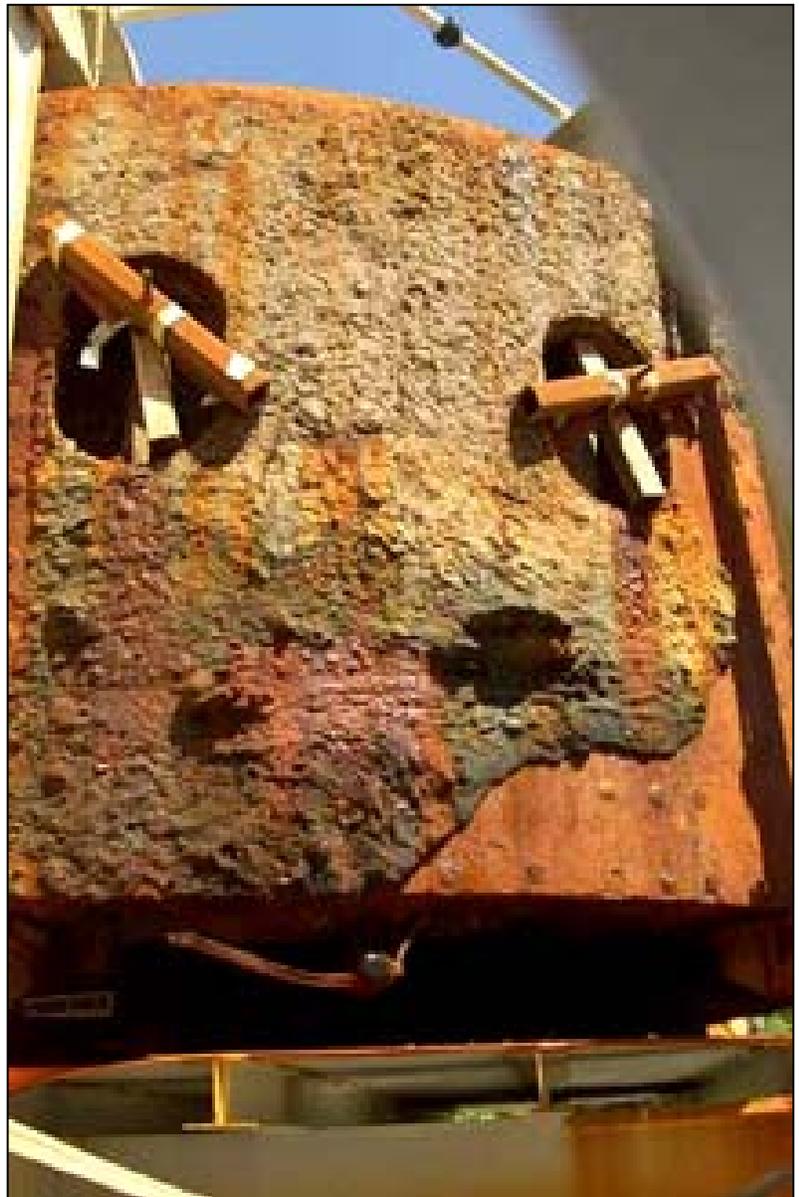
U. S. Navy's First Revolving Gun Turret Recovered

In early August, Navy divers, in cooperation with NOAA, recovered the turret from the USS Monitor from its 220-foot deep 140-year resting-place in the Atlantic Ocean near Cape Hatteras. The 20 foot diameter, 9 foot high turret, containing its two 11 inch Dahlgren cannons, weighed about 180 tons, including sediment, marine growth, etc. The turret is judged by conservators to be in relative good shape, all things considered. (The dents from its shelling by the CSS Virginia are clearly visible.)

As a result of its lengthy seawater (sodium chloride) bath, the turret will be immersed in a sodium hydroxide solution for the next 10-12 years, plus electrolysis treatment to further induce ion exchanges. In the absence of these conservation measures, the eight bands of iron plates, each one-inch thick, which form the turret will crystallize and “self-destruct” in the presence of oxygen.

The large tank holding the turret is located at the Mariner's Museum, Newport News, VA. Also, at this museum in smaller tanks, are the previously salvaged engine, propeller, drive shaft, steam drum, rudder parts, etc. They may be seen through viewing ports in the tanks, but the “view” is a murky one. The anchor and many smaller artifacts previously recovered, and for which conservation is completed, are on display in the museum. The present and future exhibits of the USS Monitor will be housed in a separate building, and the museum also plans to build a full-scale replica of the gun ship..

Submitted by Bob Williams



PROPOSED SLATE OF OFFICERS PRESENTED BY ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

The Elections Committee proposes the following slate of officers for the year 2003 to be voted on at the October 30, 2002 meeting. Nominations from the floor will be accepted at both the September 25, 2002 and the October 30, 2002 meetings. Anyone nominated from the floor must be asked if they will accept the nomination.

PRESIDENT:	<i>Dennis Kohlmann</i>
VICE-PRESIDENT:	<i>Kit Knight</i>
SECRETARY:	<i>Walt Bittle</i>
TREASURER:	<i>George Foxworth</i>
MEMBER-AT-LARGE:	<i>Bob Williams</i>
MEMBER-AT-LARGE:	<i>Don Hayden</i>
WEBMASTER:	<i>Bernardo Buenrostro</i>
BATTLE CRY EDITOR:	<i>Jim Middleton</i>

Submitted by Elections Committee:
Mitchell M. Cnota, chair
Fred Bohmfalk, member
Carol Breiter, member



PLATE NO. 139 Compromise with the South, Harper's Weekly, September 3, 1864

How to Speak to a Nation's Suffering

By GARRY WILLS (NY Times 8/18/2002)

EVANSTON, III.

It is said that the greatest works of art achieve universality through a paradoxical specificity — that Hamlet becomes more Everyman the more he is made the Prince of Denmark. However that applies to other works of art, it is certainly true of one masterpiece, the Gettysburg Address, which will be read aloud twice, by politicians of both parties, on the anniversary of the attack on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

Although the Gettysburg Address was criticized early on for dealing in "glittering generalities," it was what would be called today a site-specific artifact. "We are met on a great battlefield . . . to dedicate a portion of that field . . . as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives . . . who struggled here. . . . The world will little note nor long remember what we say here but it can never forget what they did here. . . . It is for us, the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work."

It is also time-specific: not only are we met "here," but the day is accurately placed in the flow of time that matters to the polity, coming as it does 87 years after the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

Though Lincoln referred reverentially to the Declaration of Independence, he did not think it adequate simply to read the document over the dead bodies at Gettysburg. He had to think its meaning into the new situation. He wanted to know everything he could about that new situation — to know ahead of time, for instance, what "that field" would look like when he got there. So he called to the White House the landscape architect — another great

artist, William Saunders — who had laid out the burial ground where Lincoln would be speaking.

Lincoln learned at this conference that Saunders had adapted the semicircular rows of identical graves to the curve of the land, making sure that no one state or regiment or officer was favored over any others. Literally "embodied" in the very earth that these men had made sacred was the truth that "all men are created equal." The pattern of these graves was not completed when Lincoln rose to speak above it, but he knew what Saunders's vision for the cemetery was, and he gave it even more precise focus and explication.

Those rows on rows of dead offered a potential indictment of the living. Why had they been sacrificed in such numbers? About 6,000 were left dead at battle's end, with many more to die very soon of wounds contracted there. The loss of men to both armies — killed, wounded, captured or missing — ran to 50,000, taking out of action a quarter of the Northern forces engaged there and a third of the Southern.

How was Lincoln to find meaning in such a cruel tally? He actually used the scale of payment in dead bodies to boost the value of the thing being purchased. His argument was that the Union would not be worth preserving at that price unless the battle vindicated the entire principle of self-rule ("that the government of the people, by the people, for the people shall not perish from the earth"). And self-rule was not worth this terrible expenditure unless it, in turn, was based on "the proposition that all men are created equal."

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By linking the deaths with the Declaration, issued 87 years earlier, Lincoln engaged in a kind of beneficent opportunism. He was redefining the nature of the Union in terms not used in the Constitution. He smuggled into that founding document the language of Jefferson, that "all men are created equal." Only if this truth were at stake could meaning be commensurate with the toll of deaths at Gettysburg. And later generations would have to honor this meaning if they were to keep faith with the dead, with "those who here gave their lives that that nation might live." The dead had set a task for the living — that we "take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion." Lincoln was creatively upping the ante of the whole American project.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. understood the nature of the commitment Lincoln made for "that nation." He would say that the 1963 march on Washington came to cash the check issued by the Declaration (which was reissued when Lincoln repeated Jefferson's words). And just as Lincoln did not merely read the Declaration of Independence over the dead, Dr. King did not just read the Gettysburg Address in the shadow of the Lincoln Memorial. He, too, thought the old document into his immediate situation. As Lincoln had begun "Four score and seven years ago," Dr. King began, "Five score years ago," adding links to the chain of meanings wrought from national suffering and trial. In this way does creativity give birth to further creativity, Jefferson's to Lincoln's, Lincoln's to King's.

Confederate Beef: In the first years of the war, a term used by Union soldiers to refer to the Confederate cows and horses that they took for food. Varhola, Michael J. *Everyday Life during the Civil War*. Page 94

Mary Jane Burns: July 4, 1863

Fifty years ago, John and I got married. America's birth and our love are both celebrated. John always says the fireworks are for me. This year, America's armies are camped in our front yard and our back. Gettysburg has 2,500 people and was invaded by 65,000 Confederates and 85,000 Union troops. I ducked whizzing bullets while picking beans. Fences were ripped up for barricades, firewood and to act as stretchers. We moved our bed to the floor so it would be lower than the windows. Then my 73 year old husband locked up his shoe business and picked up his musket from the War of 1812. He marched off to fight the rebels wearing a high silk hat and his brass buttons were bigger than silver dollars. The epic three day battle ended today and John returned, limping, but General Lee's men were retreating. The cobbler thumped around our house counting over 60 bullet scars and two gaping holes where shells had burst through brick. The explosions made the house shudder. Small broken branches would rise seven inches and hover, quiveringly, like birds about to drop. John said a direct hit blew horses and men into pieces too small to count. No one tried.

Kit Knight

Programs for the Rest of the Year

- September 25th (1) Poetry Reading by Kit Knight
 (2) "The East Bank" by Russell Knauer
- October 30th "Images of Slavery" by Dan Defoe
- December 4th Discussion of "Atlanta Campaign" by Fred
 Bohmfolk, Russell Knauer, Dennis Kohlmann,
 & Bob Williams with Walt Bittle as moderator.

WEB SITES

Reenactors of the American Civil War <http://www.racw.org/>

Civil War Skirmish Association <http://www.calweb.com/~arline/>

American Civil War Assoc. <http://www.angelfire.com/ca5/acwa/>

National Civil War Association <http://ncwa.org/>

Battle Cry Editor

This publication is a monthly newsletter (except December) of the Sacramento CWRT. Please submit items to me for publication no later than the meeting day of the Board of Directors, either at that meeting, my home address (on first page), or by e-mail.

<BattleCryEditor@aol.com>

Check the web site <http://www.sacramentocwrt.org/> for past newsletter editions. The official address of this organization is: Sacramento Civil War Round Table P.O. Box 254702 Sacramento, CA 95865-4702.