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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:

Happy New Year to each of you! I can't say I have made many resolutions, but I am mindful of Will Rogers' advice when he said, "Even if you are on the right track, you'll get run over if you just sit there!" Thanks to Don Hayden and a host of others, our Round Table does seem to be on the right track so I will basically be continuing with what has worked well for us in the past. The Board of Directors has been nicely beefed up and reshuffled to provide new ideas, yet still be guided by past experience. Our program year kicks off on January 10<sup>th</sup> with former member and past secretary, Ken Hansgen, telling us about "Lew Wallace's Bad Day." When Ken and Sharon moved to Tennessee, they operated a B&B near the Shiloh battlefield in Savannah. Sometime later, along came tourists Don and Scottie Hayden looking for a pleasant place to spend the night. They checked into the B&B and over a glass of wine learned of the Hansgen connection to Sacramento! That conversation led to Don joining the Sacramento CWRT. It is a small world! Ken continues to serve as a Shiloh tour guide so when you want to find out what really happened there, you now know what to do.

I am pleased that Dennis Kohlmann, as our new Vice President, has also agreed to assume the duties of Program Chairman. He will be filling out the rest of the year's programs very soon, so let him know if you want to make a presentation. I think a balance of half members and half non-members as far as speakers go makes for a healthy mix. This provides us the chance to both showcase the talents of our members and import new ideas from our other Civil War colleagues.

The start of a new year is always the time to assess what is and resolve to more positively influence the world around us. This applies to your Civil War Round Table as well. A couple of ideas for your consideration:

- (1) bring your friends and neighbors into the SCWRT as members
- (2) make known your willingness to serve on the SCWRT Board next year
- (3) make a presentation or otherwise volunteer your help
- (4) attend a CW conference, read more CW books, etc. – i.e., get better educated
- (5) donate a raffle prize at a monthly meeting
- (6) reserve Friday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, to be a docent escorting students at the Gibson Ranch Re-enactment.

**As you read this Battle Cry, Ken is busy shaping his talk for Wednesday night, January 10, 7:00 PM at the Plaza Hofbrau! Don't miss the start of another exciting year! See you there!**

**MINUTES**  
**SACRAMENTO CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE**  
**DECEMBER 13, 2006**  
**HOF BRAU RESTAURANT, WATT AVE, SACRAMENTO**

Attendance-28

Members-23

Don Hayden, President  
Susan Williams, Vice-President  
George Foxworth, Treasurer  
Eddie Keister, Secretary  
Roy Bishop  
Steve Bogart  
Sharon Bogart  
Fred Bohmfalk  
Mitchell Cnota

Ardith Cnota  
Robert Hanley  
Claire Hayden  
Shelley Jones  
Dennis Kohlmann  
Lowell Lardie  
Grace Long  
Jim Middleton  
John Nevins

Ron Perisho  
Paul Ruud  
Brad Schall  
Robert Williams  
John Zasso  
Guest-5  
Sterling Bowen  
Fred LaDeane  
Mark Penning  
Horst Penning  
Alexandra Stehl

1. Meeting started at 7:10. Cake and punch were served- thanks Mr. Foxworth, for bringing them. Guest were introduced and welcomed along with members.
2. Member Ron Perisho, making a show of the Civil War in stereo cards, asked for stereo cards or images from other members. Guest Sterling Bowen spoke on "The Diplomatic Extension to N.Y. State," a short insight. Dennis Kohlmann was announced as our speaker chairman- so anyone with a topic to share- call Dennis please. "This Day in Civil War History" was read.
3. Instead of a speaker, we discussed our 2006 conference held in November, and where the profits made should go- Civil War preservation. Everyone seemed to agree- the conference was a great success, due to the hard work and planning of the Conference Committee. President Hayden brought brochures on the Mariners Museum and read a letter from the organization, thanking us for our contribution for the brick walkway to the Monitor.
4. New President Paul Rudd presented outgoing President Don Hayden, with an engraved clock- thanks Don for all you've done.
5. Raffle was held- meeting adjourned 8:40.
6. I'd like to thank George Foxworth for taking the minutes at the conference. I hope you all have a happy and blessed 2007!

Eddie Keister  
Secretary

**Treasurer's Report**

The cash balance following the December 13, 2006 meeting was \$2,001.64. Thanks to members and guests, the raffle brought in \$73.00.

The final profit from the 2006 West Coast Conference was \$595. During the December 27, 2006 Board meeting, that profit was donated to the Civil War Preservation Trust.

**George W. Foxworth, Treasurer**

Coming Programs 2006		
Month	Speaker	Topic
January 10 <sup>th</sup>	Ken Hansgen	Lew Wallace's Bad Day
February 14 <sup>th</sup>	Jim Middleton	The Civil War Diary of George Templeton Strong
March 14 <sup>th</sup>	Joan Beitzel	Chimborazo Hospital
April 11 <sup>th</sup>	open	

The picture below shows Don Hayden, our outgoing president, receiving a clock personalized with his name and the years of his presidency. His two year achievements were many and my hope is that you will join me in telling Don and his wife, Scottie, "thank you" for a job well done.



### Lew Wallace Trivia

The topic of January's Talk is Lew Wallace's Bad Day. Here are a few trivia questions about this man. These are all true or false.

- Lew Wallace was a professional soldier whose first command was a Zouave Regiment.
- Wallace was the youngest major-general in the Civil War.
- Wallace early in his career was taken under the wing of General "Baldy" Smith.
- The only occasion the two Wallaces, W.H.L. and Lew, fought together was at Shiloh.
- Lew Wallace and Benjamin Harrison were the two Indianans selected for statues in the U.S. Capitol.
- Wallace is the only novelist so honored and his statue's copy stands in Paris.

## **Montgomery Meigs, U. S. Quartermaster General, 1861-82**

If you wish to make a list of the five military leaders who contributed the most towards the Union victory in the Civil War, you should seriously consider including Montgomery Meigs. If you expand your list to ten names and have not included Meigs, you have, in my opinion, erred.

Montgomery Cunningham Meigs was born in Augusta, Georgia, in 1816. During his childhood, the family moved from Georgia to Philadelphia, where he matriculated at the University of Pennsylvania in 1831. The following year he entered the United States Military Academy, graduating in 1836, fifth in his class. After a short assignment to the artillery, he was transferred to the Army Corps of Engineers, and thereafter, for a quarter of a century, his conspicuous ability was devoted to many important military and civil engineering projects.

His greatest early challenge was perhaps the design and construction of the Washington Aqueduct, which conveyed a large part of the water supply for the City of Washington 12 miles from the Great Falls of the Potomac River. That work, of which he was in charge from November 1852 to September 1860, involved not only the devising of ingenious methods of controlling the flow and distribution of the water, but also the design of the monumental bridge across Cabin John Creek which for some fifty years remained unsurpassed as the longest masonry arch structure in the world. To this task was added from 1853 to 1859 the supervision of the building of the new senate and house chamber wings plus the cast iron dome of the National Capitol; and from 1855 to 1859, the extension of the General Post Office building, as well as the construction of many other public works and military facilities, one of which was Fort Delaware near Wilmington.

In the fall of 1860, as a result of disagreements over contracting procedures,

Meigs incurred the ill will of the Secretary of War, John B. Floyd. Floyd was not one to adhere to honesty in contracting, whereas Meigs most definitely was; the result being that Meigs was "banished" to Dry Tortugas Islands in the Gulf of Mexico to construct Fort Jefferson at that place and Fort Taylor at Key West. When the corrupt Floyd resigned and "went south" a few months later, however, Meigs was recalled by Generals Scott and Totten (Chief of Engineers) to his previous engineering activities in Washington, D.C.

Here, in the critical days preceding the actual outbreak of the Civil War, Capt. Meigs and Lt. Col. E. D. Keyes were quietly charged by President Lincoln and Secretary Seward with developing a plan for the relief of Fort Pickens, Florida, by means of a secret expedition; and in April 1861, together with Navy Lieutenant David Porter, they carried out the expedition, embarking under orders from the President directly without the knowledge of either the Secretary of the Navy or the Secretary of War. The mission was generally a success, but it was later acknowledged by all parties that administratively this was not the way to proceed in the future.

On 14 May 1861, Meigs was appointed Colonel, 11th Infantry, and on the following day, promoted to Brigadier General, to become Quartermaster General of the Army, in which capacity he served throughout the War and until 1882. Meigs replaced former QMG Joe Johnston who resigned on 22 April to join the Rebellion. Early on Meigs traveled to St Louis to straighten out General Fremont's bookkeeping and accounting procedures, and to assist his brother-in-law, Navy Commander John Rodgers, in acquiring the first ships for the then new inland waterways navy. He later contracted with James Eads for construction of the "City Class" Ironclads. Under Meigs' leadership, massive quartermaster depots were established at St Louis, Cincinnati, and Louisville with an advanced depot at Cairo; and he designated his former West Point classmate, Robert Allen, to be Assistant QMG in charge of the western facilities. Large ordinance and

commissary depots were also located in the above cities, and as the war progressed further advanced depots were subsequently situated in Nashville, Memphis, and Chattanooga. Allen's counterpart in the East was Rufus Ingalls, who served as QM for the armies against Richmond, and later became QM General upon Meigs' retirement.

Of his quartermaster staff work, it has been stated that: "Montgomery C. Meigs, one of the ablest graduates of the Military Academy, was kept from the command of troops by the inestimably important services he performed as Quartermaster-General. . . . Perhaps in the military history of the world there was never so large an amount of money disbursed upon the order of a single man. . . . The aggregate sum could not have been less during the war than fifteen hundred millions of dollars, accurately vouched and accounted for to the last cent." (And \$1.5 billion was indeed a big deal in the 1860's!) William H. Seward had estimated that "without the services of this eminent soldier the national cause might well have been lost or deeply imperiled" (letter, 28 May 1867, from the Secretary of State, asking the good offices of diplomatic officers for General Meigs during his tour of Europe). Meigs had also become a confidant of President Lincoln, who called upon him frequently for personal advice and counsel during Lincoln's "painful" dealings with General George McClelland.

Meigs' brilliant services during the hostilities included direct on-the-ground assistance to Generals Thomas and W. F. "Baldy" Smith in getting supplies moving into Chattanooga after the siege of that City (Oct.-Nov. 1863), command of Grant's base of supplies at Fredericksburg and Belle Plain (1864), command of a division of War Department employees in the defenses of Washington at the time of Early's raid (11-14 July 1864), personally supervising the refitting and supplying of Sherman's army at Savannah (5-29 January 1865), and at Goldsboro and Raleigh, North Carolina, reopening Sherman's lines of supply (March-April 1865). He was brevetted Major General 5 July 1864. Meigs'

duties as Quartermaster General included oversight of government land use for military purposes, operation and maintenance of the telegraph system, and construction of all military railroads and other transportation facilities. This land use aspects included provisions for National Military Cemeteries.

Background for Meigs' involvement with Arlington Cemetery can be traced back to June 1837. Fresh out of the U. S. Military Academy, Second Lieutenant Meigs accompanied First Lieutenant Robert E. Lee on a mission to survey the Mississippi River. Meigs and Lee had several commonalities: they were both from the South, Lee a Virginian and Meigs a Georgian; they were both West Point graduates; army officers and engineers. Lee and Meigs surveyed the river from Keokuk to St. Louis. Together they devised a plan to render the Des Moines Rapids and the Rock River Rapids navigable. Their aim was to alter the flow of the river to save the harbor of St. Louis. The two young engineering officers worked well together from June to December 1837, and became close long-term friends. That ended when R. E. Lee resigned his commission from the United States Army and violated his oath by joining the Rebellion, leaving his wife Mary behind at Arlington House. Soon after, it became evident that the Union Army was going to cross the Potomac and Mary Lee vacated Arlington House. On 24 1861, Union troops occupied the house and military installations were built on the 1,100 acre estate.

Many historians over the years have believed that a primary reason for Meigs' selection of Arlington for a cemetery was a mode of revenge against his old colleague in arms R. E. Lee for his allegiance and service to the Confederacy. On 19 November 1863, Abraham Lincoln dedicated the first National Cemetery for the Union on the Gettysburg Battlefield. Casualties only increased as the war continued, and in 1864 the Federal government decreed that additional burial grounds must be found. Montgomery Meigs was tasked with finding suitable land. Meigs wrote to Secretary of War Edwin Stanton suggesting that the Lee's

Arlington estate, which had been confiscated by the Federal government, should be used for a military cemetery. "The grounds about the mansion are admirably adapted to such a use," he wrote on 15 June 1864. That same day, Stanton informed Meigs that he could allot the necessary acres of the estate as a burial ground.

In August 1864, twenty-six soldiers were buried around Mrs. Lee's rose garden. By the end of the war, 16,000 dead were buried near Arlington House, including 2,100 unknown. The Confederacy and Arlington House were both lost to R. E. Lee. With the grounds near the house used as a Union cemetery, there was no way the Lees would, or could, ever return to their former home to live, and it was only from a distance during separate visits to Washington after the war that the Lees saw their home for the last time. Shortly after R. E. Lee's death in 1870, his eldest son Custis filed suit claiming that the confiscation of the estate during the Civil War was unconstitutional. After years of complicated legal proceedings, Lee won and later, in 1883 ceded the title of the estate to the United States government for \$150,000. Arlington was then an official national cemetery. (Today more than 292,000 Americans are buried at Arlington.)

Another more personal factor may also have influenced Montgomery Meigs on this matter. In 1841, he had married Louisa Rodgers, daughter of Commodore John Rodgers, 1773-1838. Four of their seven children lived to maturity, but one of these, John Rodgers Meigs, a Lieutenant of Engineers, was killed during the Civil War. First Lieutenant John Rodgers Meigs, also a West Point graduate (1/63), was killed 3 October 1864 by Confederate partisans while on a surveying mission with Sheridan's forces in the Shenandoah Valley. His body was recovered and returned to Washington where it was interred in Section One of Arlington Cemetery, marked by a statue which vividly depicts his death. There was some evidence at the time that he had been murdered after capture but that was never fully substantiated.

As Quartermaster General after the Civil War, Meigs supervised plans for the new War Department building (1866-67), the National Museum (1876), the extension of the Washington Aqueduct (1876), and for a Hall of Records (1878). In 1867-68, he took extended leave to visit Europe, and in 1875-76 made another visit to study the organization of European armies.

After his retirement on 6 February 1882, Meigs became Architect of the Pension Office Building. (This massive ornate brick structure is now the National Buildings Museum. It is admired more today than when built; as some then called it "Meigs' Old Red Barn", others said that it looked like a prosperous machine shop or nuts and bolts factory, and that its major fault was that it was fire proof.) He was a regent of the Smithsonian Institution, a member of the American Philosophical Society, and one of the founding members of the National Academy of Sciences. In 1888, although he "was not an extensive writer except of official reports", at the request of the editors of *Battles and Leaders* he submitted an article on the relations of Lincoln and Seward to the military commanders during the war. This was as a reply to some of the statements in McClellan's "Own Story" (1887), but it was not published until 1921 when it appeared in the *American Historical Review*.

Meigs died in Washington on 2 January 1892 after a short illness, and his body was interred with high military honors in Arlington. The General Orders issued at the time of his death declared that: "The Army has rarely possessed an officer . . . who was entrusted by the government with a greater variety of weighty responsibilities, or who proved himself more worthy of confidence."

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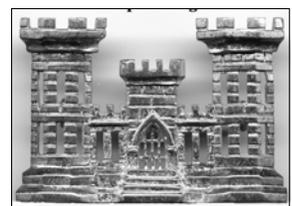
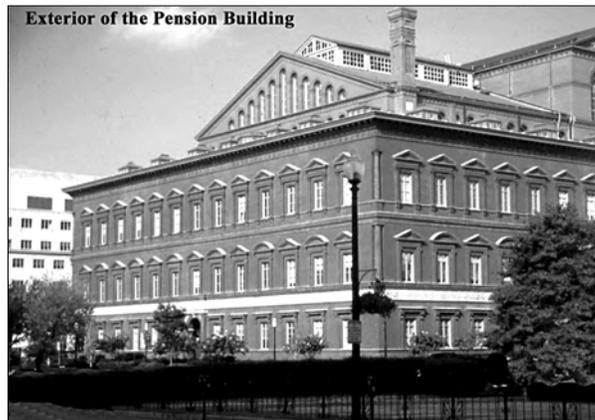
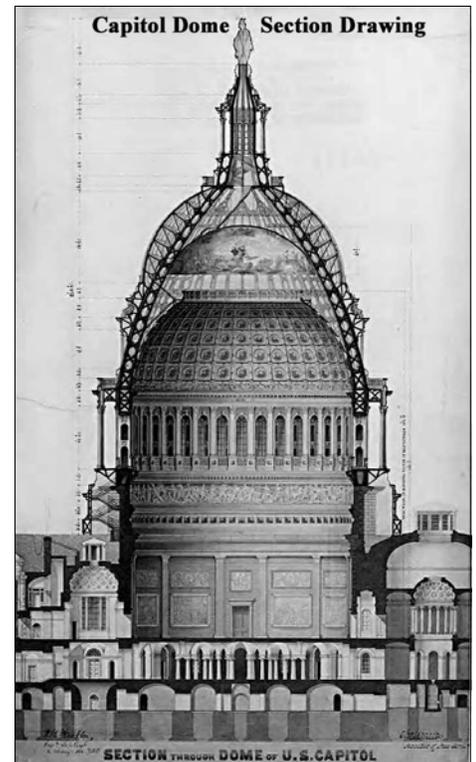
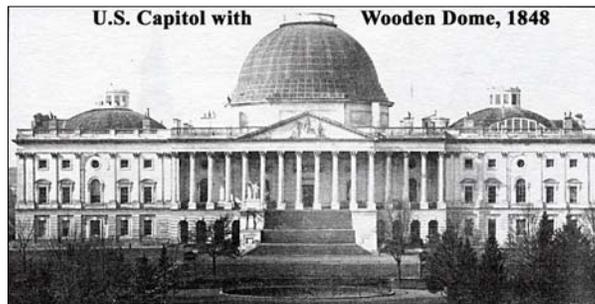
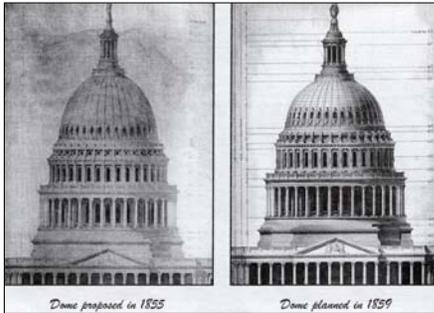
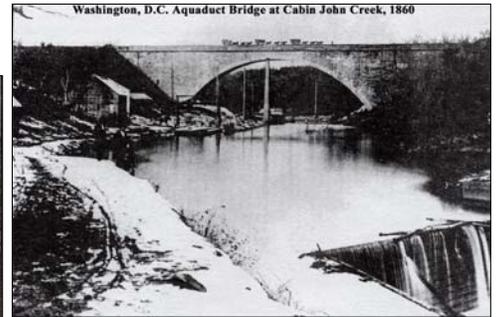
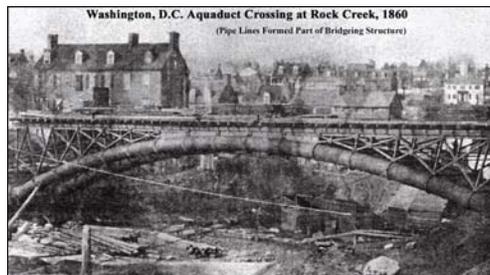
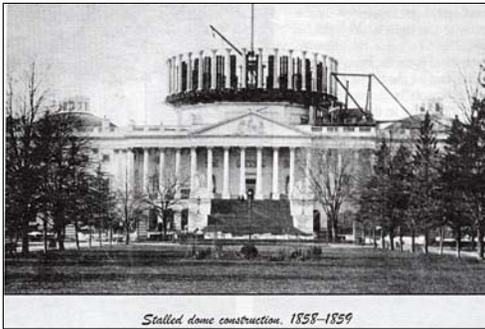
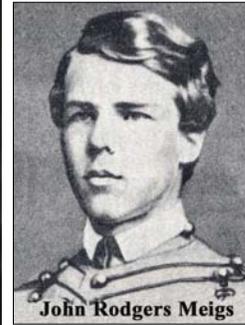
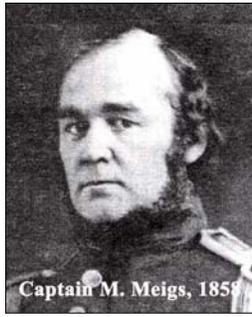
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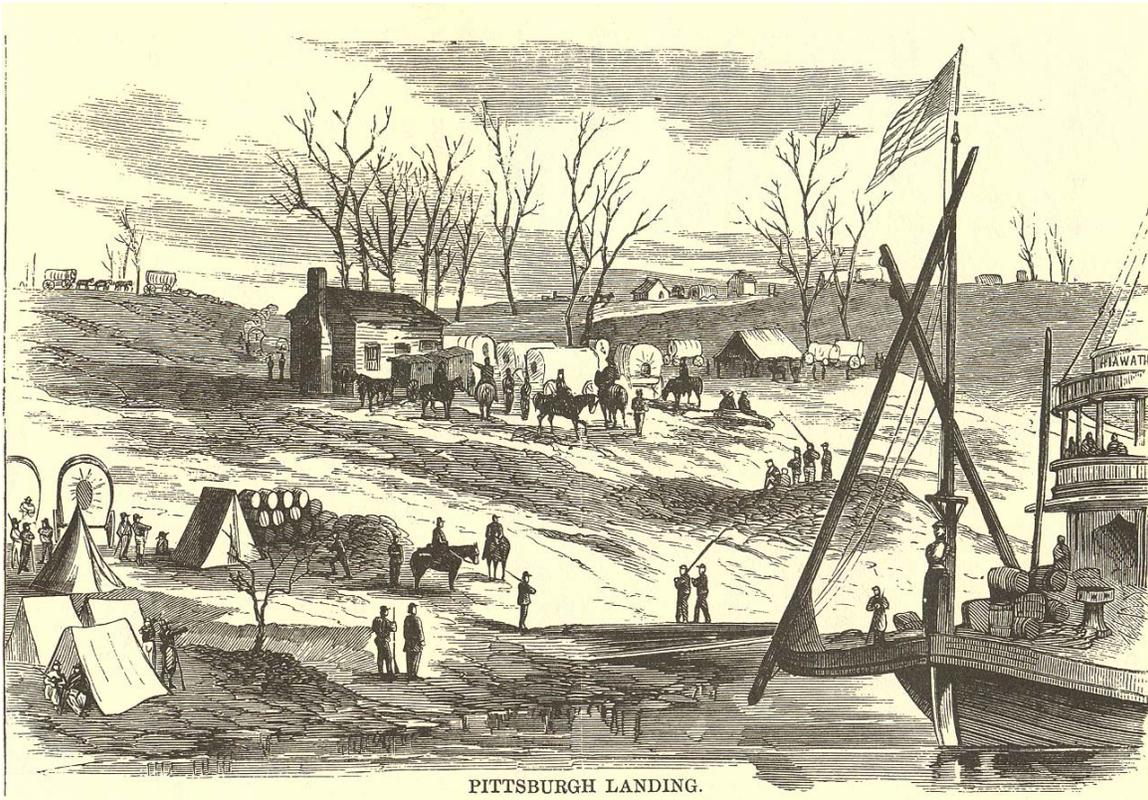
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**Bob Williams: 12-23-06**

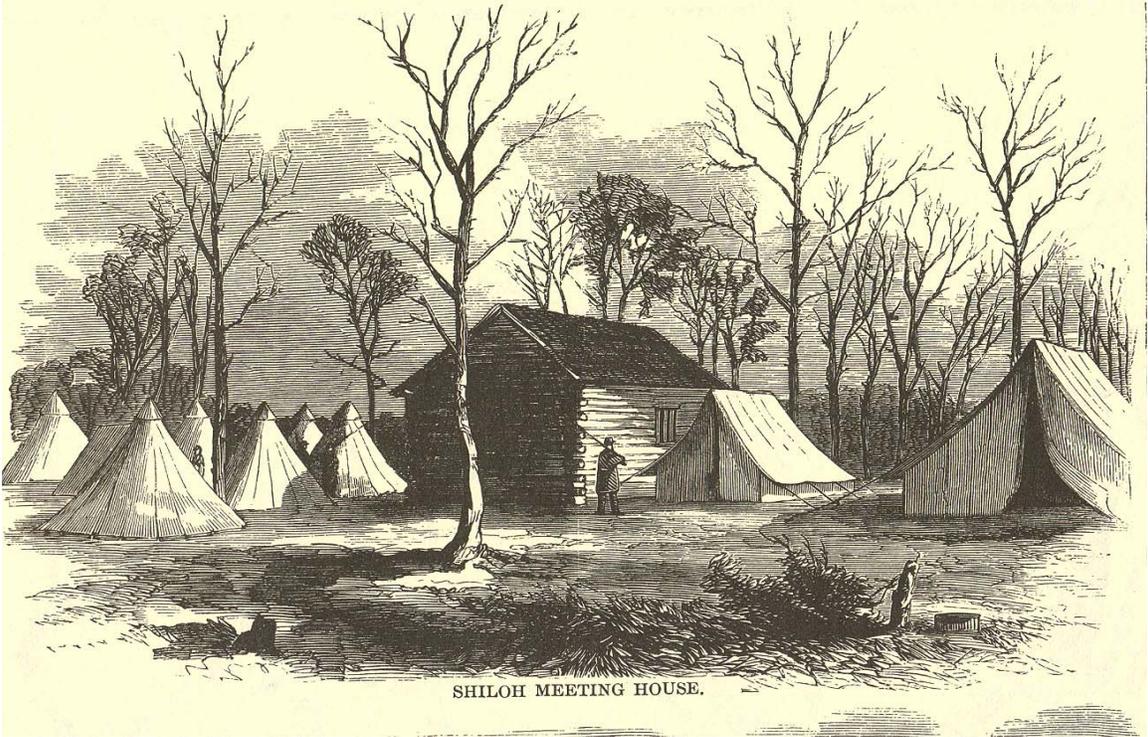
# Montgomery Meigs, U. S. Quartermaster General, 1861-82

## Graphics Page





PITTSBURGH LANDING.



SHILOH MEETING HOUSE.

From "Harper's Pictorial History of the Civil War" New York, May 1866 page 298.

### **Answers to trivia on page 3**

- F. They're all a little tricky. He was not a professional soldier but the 11<sup>th</sup> Indiana was a Zouave regiment with gray uniforms!
- F. He was in the Union but Confederates had younger later in the war.
- F. It was C. F. Smith
- F. Also at Donelson.
- F. Not Harrison but Gov. Oliver Morton. The rest is true.