



**Volume 47, No. 2**  
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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:

Did Lew Wallace really have a bad day or did he do the very best he could with the information and direction he had? Like many Civil War (or other) questions, it all depends upon whom you ask? It was great to have the Hansgens back in Sacramento – a big “thank you” to Ken for his informative and entertaining presentation.

One of the projects I plan to initiate this year is a SCWRT history project. Our web site says we were started in 1961 which I don't question, but that information is just a starting point. What has happened since? Who have been some of the key players through the years? Was SCWRT formerly a “black powder” organization? Was “show and tell” the prescription for earlier programs? It seems prudent to collect and record some of this information while we still can! I suspect that much of it is already lost? I know that Bill and Lydia Donaldson have been members and leaders going back several years. At any rate, George Foxworth has agreed to spearhead this project so should he ask you for information, please give him your best shot! If you have input or are willing to assist George, please let us know.

One of the pieces of information that your Roundtable president receives each month is a listing of current members. My current list reflects 66 dues paying members for 2006. An older listing from October, 2002, (slightly over 4 years ago) reflects 56 dues paying members. I compared the lists and found that 36 of those fifty-six 2002 members continued to be members in 2006. A little arithmetic reveals that the Roundtable lost 20 members in the past four years, but gained 30 new members. I believe that we can do better on that loss rate, but the new membership indicates a healthy organization. New members are critical – you bring new ideas, fresh points of view and renewed energy while keeping us up-to-date and in step with what is happening today. What say we have a goal of outgrowing our current meeting place by the end of this year?

In my years of teaching, I always liked to get a small indication if students were reading the exam instructions, particularly if they were long or detailed. Once a term I would insert a sentence in the instructions, asking students to circle their name on the exam (for five bonus points) if they had read the instructions to that point. You guessed it, the first person to email or call me after reading this far in this letter, gets a prize at the next meeting. My email and phone number are on the front page of the Battle Cry.

**As you read this Battle Cry, Jim Middleton is busy shaping his talk for Wednesday night, February 14<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 PM at the Plaza Hofbrau! Bring your valentine! See you there!**

**Treasurer's Report:**

The cash balance following the January 10, 2007 meeting was \$1,758.95.  
Thanks to members and guests, the raffle brought in \$116.00.

**George W. Foxworth, Treasurer**

**MINUTES**  
**SACRAMENTO CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE**  
**JANUARY 10, 2007**  
**HOF BRAU RESTAURANT, WATT AVE, SACRAMENTO**

Attendance-46

Members-40

Paul Ruud, President  
George Foxworth, Treasurer  
Edie Keister, Secretary  
Dudley Albrecht  
Roy Bishop  
Sharon Bogart  
Steve Bogart  
Fred Bohmfalk  
Ardith Cnota  
Mitch Cnota  
Lydia Donaldson  
Bill Donaldson  
Sharon Hansgen  
Ken Hansgen  
Scottie Hayden

Don Hayden  
Pam Hubbard  
Chuck Hubbard  
Shelley Jones  
Janet Junell  
Robert Junell  
Fred LaDeane  
Victor Le  
Grace Long  
Phil Mendes  
Jim Middleton  
Vivian Miller  
Betty Mitchell  
Maurice Mitchell  
John Nevins

Ron Perisho  
Natalie Schafer  
Rudy Schafer  
Brad Schall  
Richard Sickert  
James Taft  
Robert Williams  
Susan Williams  
Maxine Wollen  
John Zasso  
Guest-5  
Marianne Morrow  
Gene Morrow  
Gail Shinn  
Dale Shinn  
Alex Stehl  
Steven Thale

1. Meeting started at 7:00. Our new President, Paul Rudd, welcomed a very packed room of members and guests. Member John Nevins shared info on the National Civil War Association Winter Quarters at Benicia, February 10-11, \$20 for both days.
2. Member Ken Hansgen, all the way from Tennessee, spoke on Lew Wallace and his bad day at Shiloh. His excellent presentation was followed by color slides of the actual locations of the events. Ken answered questions from members and guest. Thank you Ken (and Sharon), for coming all that way to be with us.
3. The raffle was held and meeting adjourned at 8:30.

Welcome new member Fred La Deane!

Edie Keister  
Secretary

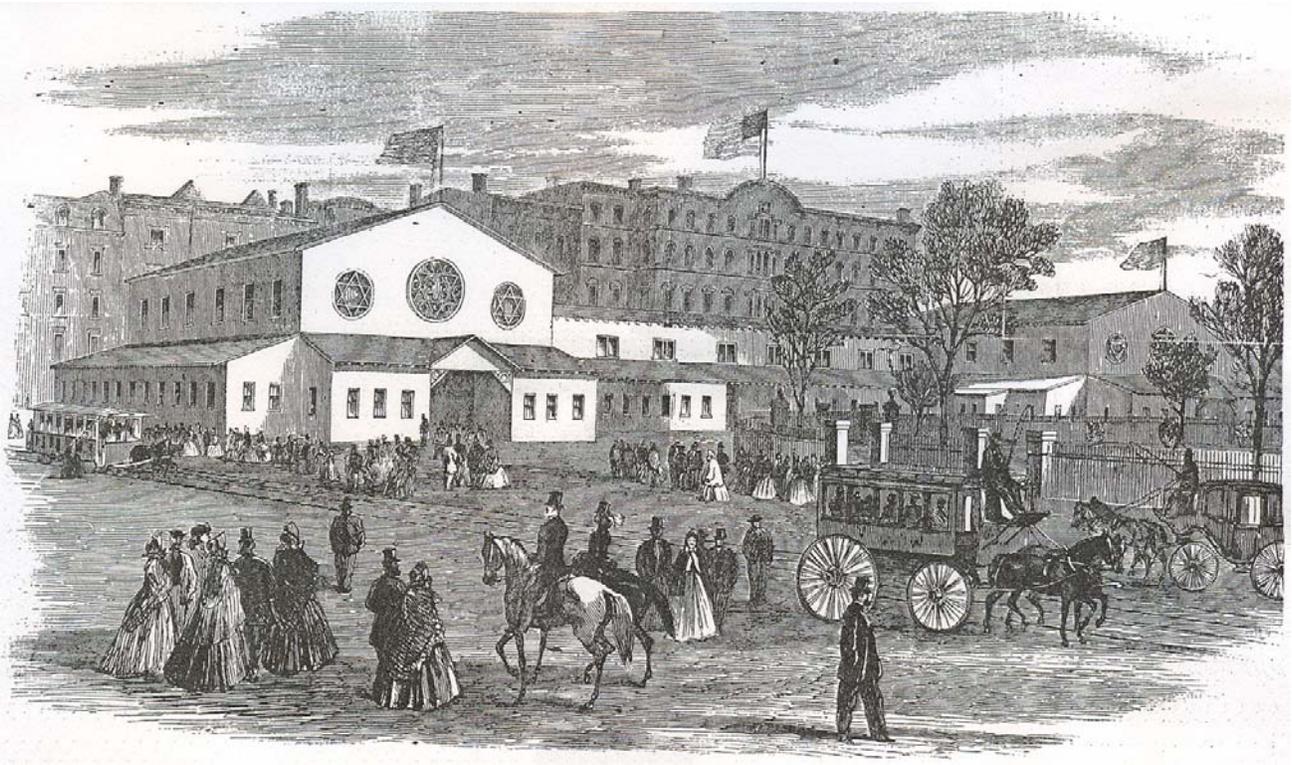


MEETING IN UNION SQUARE, APRIL 11, 1863 (Bottom) The second anniversary of the attack on Fort Sumter was the occasion for this rally, seen here at the juncture of 14th Street and Fourth Avenue at the square's southeast corner. The focal point of the meeting was the equestrian statue of George Washington by Henry K. Brown and J. Q. A. Ward, standing on the site where it had been installed in 1856. At the end of the century the statue was moved to its present location in the center of the square's park. (*Harper's Weekly*; April 25, 1863)

Coming Programs 2007		
Month	Speaker	Topic
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>	Walt Bittle	Civil War Trivia
May 9 <sup>th</sup>	Phil Avila	Wade Hampton
June 13 <sup>th</sup>	Open	Open

### Bring Civil War Books to next meeting

Dennis Kohlmann will be collecting books to send to an interested person in Australia who does not have access to any.



**CIVIL WAR: THE METROPOLITAN FAIR, 1864** Beside the thousands of soldiers—both volunteers and draftees—who came from New York to join the Union Army, the city's greatest contribution to the cause was the Metropolitan or Sanitary Fair, opened on April 4, 1864 for the benefit of the United States Sanitary Commission. The buildings, erected especially for the occasion, stood on Union Square and along West 14th Street. The Commission had been founded in 1861 to raise funds for medical supplies for the Union Army, to staff field hospitals, to care for sick and wounded soldiers and to oversee and improve the generally deplorable health conditions under which an unprepared nation sent its soldiers to fight and under which it cared for them when they were wounded or fell ill. Before the work of the Commission had effect, field treatment of soldiers was at a rudimentary level. Overcrowding, disease, poor provisions and a general lack of care marked military encampments early in the war. Under difficulties and against great odds, the Commission succeeded in improving these conditions better than anyone could have expected. New Yorkers dominated the Commission. Frederick Law Olmsted, designer of Central Park, served as its general secretary; Henry W. Bellows, pastor of All Souls Unitarian Church, was its president. One tireless worker for the Commission throughout the war was New York lawyer **George Templeton Strong**, whose lengthy and readable diary, discovered and published only in the middle of the twentieth century, is one of the major sources for details of New York life in the middle of the nineteenth century, especially during the war years. (*Harper's Weekly*; April 23, 1864.)

## The Battles for Chattanooga

In 1861, Chattanooga, Tennessee was a bustling commercial village of 2,500 people (population today is 155,000). It was a major railroad hub with large depots, warehouses, and two foundries, located on the east side of a horseshoe bend of the Tennessee River. About two miles southwest of town is Lookout Mountain, rising to an elevation of 2,150 feet, and ending in an abrupt point overlooking the river some 1,500 feet above the valley floor; and, three miles east of the town's fortifications was steep sloped Missionary Ridge with a vertical height of about 400 feet. Midway between these latter locations is Orchard Knob, an out-cropping some 75 feet high, which served as Grant's headquarters site the last day of the battle. During the 1850's the town had been criss-crossed with a compass-circling grid of railroads: to Memphis, Nashville, Knoxville, Atlanta, Richmond and Charleston. Hence, it possessed an extremely high strategic military value. The Union Army of the Cumberland (AOC) first occupied the town 9 Sept. 1863 after some well done flanking maneuvers, planned by its commander MG William Rosecrans, forced the Rebel Army of Tennessee (AOT) to withdraw some 15 miles south to the vicinity of Lafayette, Georgia.

But the fortunes of war abruptly and drastically turned. The AOC was disastrously defeated in the Battle of Chickamauga on 20 Sept. due to a stupid error in deployment made by Rosecrans, permitting an extended break in the lines forcing a rapid and very disorganized retreat of the 40,000 men Union Army back to Chattanooga. The forces under General Thomas command alone held (his Corps and some odds and ends} which prevented a complete disaster and destruction of the AOC. Thomas thereby gained the sobriquet "Rock of Chickamauga".

Confederate General Braxton Bragg's AOT besieged the town, threatening to starve the Union forces into surrender. His pursuit to the city outskirts had been leisurely<sup>ϕ</sup>, however, giving the Union army ample time to prepare defenses. Bragg's troops established themselves on Missionary Ridge and Lookout Mountain, both of which had excellent views of the city, the river, and the Union's supply lines. Confederate artillery atop Lookout Mountain controlled access by the river, and rebel cavalry launched raids on all supply wagons heading toward the town, which made it necessary for the Union to find another supply route. The nearest supply depots were at Bridgeport, Alabama, 28 miles west of Chattanooga. They could normally have been reached by four routes; the railroad, the river, a good wagon road; and the Walden Ridge route, a very poor 60 mile circuitous one-lane mountain-pass trail. Only the latter was open, which severely limited the rates of supply deliveries, and killed vast numbers of horses and mules by overexertion and lack of forage. The Army was on partial rations for an extended period.

The federal government, alarmed by the potential for defeat, sent reinforcements. On 17 October, MG Ulysses S. Grant received command of the Western armies, designated the Military Division of the Mississippi; he moved to reinforce Chattanooga and replaced Rosecrans with MG George H. Thomas. Devising a plan known as the "Cracker Line", Thomas' chief engineer, BG William F. "Baldy" Smith, launched a surprise amphibious landing at Brown's Ferry that opened the Tennessee River by linking up Thomas' Army of the Cumberland with a relief column of 20,000 troops from the Army of the Potomac led by MG Joseph Hooker, thus allowing supplies and reinforcements to flow into Chattanooga, greatly increasing the chances for Grant's forces. In response, Bragg ordered Confederate LG James Longstreet to force the Federals out of Lookout Valley, just west of that mountain.. The ensuing Battle of

Wauhatchie ( 28-29 October) was one of the war's few battles fought exclusively at night. Due possibly to his extreme hatred for Bragg, Longstreet approached his assignment rather half-heartedly. The Confederates were repulsed and the "Cracker Line" to Bridgeport was secured.

Bragg weakened his forces by sending Longstreet's corps against MG Ambrose Burnside near Knoxville. When MG William T. Sherman arrived with his four divisions (20,000 men) in mid-November, Grant began offensive operations. On 23 November, Union forces under Thomas struck out and advanced east to capture a line from Orchard Knob and Indian Hill to Bushy Knob, and including Bald Knob (now the site of the Chattanooga National Military Cemetery}, placing them halfway to the summit of Missionary Ridge. The advance was made in broad daylight and met little Confederate resistance. Bragg moved BG States Rights Gist's division from Lookout Mountain to strengthen his right flank, thereby weakening his position on the mountain.

Grant's plan for 24 November was a two-pronged attack, Hooker against the Confederate left, Sherman the right. Hooker's three divisions struck at dawn at Lookout Mountain and found that the defile between the mountain and the river had not been secured. They barreled right through this opening; the assault ended around 3:00 p.m. when ammunition ran low and fog had enveloped the mountain. This action has been called the "Battle above the Clouds" due to that fog. Bragg withdrew his forces from the southern end of the mountain to a line behind Chattanooga Creek, burning the bridges behind him.

Sherman crossed the Tennessee River successfully, then took what he thought was the north end of Missionary Ridge, but was actually a completely separate rise known as Billy Goat Hill, and Patrick Cleburne's division was rushed in to reinforce the Confederate right flank at Tunnel Hill on the north end of the ridge. No attack would occur

on this flank on the 24<sup>th</sup>. Grant's high hopes for Sherman were shaken.

On 25 November, Grant changed his plan and called for a double envelopment by Sherman and Hooker. Thomas was to advance after Sherman reached Missionary Ridge from the north. The Ridge was a formidable defensive position, manned in depth, and Grant thought that a frontal assault against it would be suicidal, unless it could be arranged in support of the flanking attacks by Sherman and Hooker. As the morning progressed, Sherman was unable to break Cleburne's line, and Hooker's advance was slowed by the burned bridges on the creek. At 3:30 p.m., Grant was concerned that Bragg was reinforcing his right flank at Sherman's expense. Hence, he ordered Thomas to move forward and try to seize the first of three lines of Confederate entrenchments to his front. The Union soldiers moved forward and captured the first line at the base of the ridge, but were subjected there to punishing fire from the two remaining Confederate lines up the ridge. Most of these units had been at the disastrous loss at Chickamauga and had suffered the taunts by Sherman's and Hooker's newly arrived forces. Now they were under fire from above with no apparent plan to advance or move back. Orders had been unclear and most company grade officers plus many regimental commanders knew only that they were in an untenable position at the base of the slope. A nearly spontaneous and unanimous decision was made to continue forward and upward.

Without orders, the Union soldiers continued the attack against the remaining lines. They advanced doggedly up the steep slope, averaging about 45°, shouting "Chickamauga, Chickamauga!" until they finally overwhelmed and captured the remaining Confederate lines. Bragg had wrongly placed his artillery and rifle trenches of the infantry along the *topographic* crest (i. e. at the very top) of the ridge, rather than the *military* crest (i. e. forward with a full down slope sight line}, and they were unable

to see well over the knuckle of the ridge and provide effective fire. Nonetheless, the Army of the Cumberland's ascent of Missionary Ridge was one of the war's most dramatic events. A Union officer remembered that "little regard to formation was observed. Each battalion assumed a triangular shape, the colors at the apex. ...A color-bearer dashes ahead of the line and falls. A comrade grasps the flag. ...He, too, falls. Then another picks it up ... waves it defiantly, and as if bearing a charmed life, he advances steadily towards the top..." Grant, Thomas and other senior officers observed this action with field glasses from the Orchard Knob Headquarters. (Others present were: Gordon Grainger, T. J. Wood, Baldy Smith, John Rawlins, Montgomery Meigs, and Assistant Secretary of War Charles Dana.)

Grant was initially furious that his orders had not been followed exactly. Thomas and the others were taken by surprise as well, knowing that all hell would break loose if the assault failed. But it succeeded. By 4:30 p.m., the center of Bragg's line broke and fled in panic, requiring his abandonment of Missionary Ridge and a headlong retreat eastward to South Chickamauga Creek. Sherman had screwed-up, and, other than keeping Cleburne's division occupied (which some might say *was* an accomplishment), had not otherwise contributed to the Battle for Missionary Ridge. It was an AOC only show, although Hooker's forces did participate on the southern flank subsequently.

During the night, Bragg ordered his army to withdraw toward Chickamauga Station (now site of Lovell AFB), and the following day began retreating from there toward Dalton, Georgia in two columns taking different routes. During the retreat, minor battles were fought at Chickamauga Station, at Shepherd's Run in Hickory Valley, at Cat Creek in old Concord community, and at Graysville, Georgia on 26 Nov. (By chance, the first official Thanksgiving Day).

The rather modest pursuit ordered by Grant was effectively thwarted at the Battle

of Ringgold Gap. Grant's priority at that moment was getting reinforcements to Burnside's at Knoxville. Overall Casualties for the Union amounted to 5,824 (753 killed, 4,722 wounded, and 349 missing) of about 56,000 engaged; Rebel casualties were 6,667 (361 killed, 2,160 wounded, and 4,146 missing, mostly prisoners) of 46,000. Later, General Thomas established the Military Cemetery at Chattanooga for internment of union dead. When a chaplain asked whether the dead should be sorted and buried by states, Thomas replied: "No, no! Mix 'em up. I'm tired of hearing about State's Rights".

Results were that one of the Rebel's two major armies had been completely routed. The incompetent Bragg was soon replaced by Gen. Joe Johnston; Bragg being "booted upstairs" by his mentor and one of few friends, J. F. Davis. (This overwhelming defeat of the AOT occurred almost a year to the day prior to the beginning of the destruction of that Army at the Battle of Franklin by another of J. F. Davis' loyal friends, John Bell Hood.) The Union held Chattanooga, the "Gateway to the Lower South" for the remainder of the War. It became the supply and logistics base for Sherman's 1864 Atlanta Campaign, as well as for future operations of Thomas' Army of the Cumberland; and Grant had won his final victory in the West prior to assuming command of all Union Armies in March 1864.

\* \* \* \* \*

ϕ. Bragg's "leisure" approach may have resulted from the fact that he had some rather distracting personnel problems to also deal with. Several of his subordinate general officers had petitioned Jefferson Davis to remove him from command due to his universal ineptness over a long time period. They included D. H. Hill, Buckner, Polk, Longstreet, Cheatham and Hindman. Among others who also favored such action were Breckenridge, Hardee, Forrest and Cleburne. Strong words, heated emotions, bitterness and fits of distemper rapidly permeated nearly the

entire “victorious” AOT’s high command. Upon reports from his aide, Col. James Chestnut, Davis recognized that he must get involved. Accordingly, he traveled to Bragg’s headquarters and met with the group on 10 October. Davis heard their many complaints, but in the end basically ignored them and renewed his strong support for his loyal good friend Braxton Bragg. This gave Bragg carte blanche to purge and/or otherwise punish his senior staff in any manner he desired and he did just that. (Refer to References 1 and 2, below). But after Chattanooga, Bragg had become one of the South’s greatest liabilities.

Acceding to political pressure, Davis did remove Bragg as AOT commanding general on 30 November 1863, *but* he was then on 24 Feb. 1864 appointed by Davis to be in effect his Chief of Staff, “charged with the conduct of military operations in all the armies of the Confederacy”.

Grant in his 1885 “Personal Memoirs” wrote of Davis, “He had an exalted opinion of his own military genius ..... and on several occasions during the war he came to the relief of the Union Army by means of his *superior military genius*”. Was not this one of those occasions? If you are still composing your list of military leaders who contributed the most to the Union Victory in the Civil War, you might just wish to also include consideration of J. F. Davis and B. Bragg, as well as J. B. Hood, of course?

**References:**

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2. “The Shipwreck of their Hopes” by Peter Cozzens, 1994
3. “The Longest Night” Chap.19, by David Eicher, 2001
4. “Battles and Leaders” vol.3 pt. 2, 1885
5. “Official Records” S1V31P2, 1890

**Bob Williams: 1-17-07**

