



**Volume 46, No. 2
February 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:

Brian Steel Wills certainly lived up to his reputation as a dynamic and entertaining speaker with his presentation on Nathan Bedford Forrest. It is a shame that he had to encapsulate his tremendous knowledge of this controversial larger than life figure in such a short period of time. His book is fair, thorough, well documented and fascinating to read and I highly recommend it. His visit was a joy for those of us who had the opportunity to spend a considerable amount of time in his company. We owe a debt of gratitude to Fred Bohmfalk and his extensive contacts to allow us to appreciate these experts from far afield and I am especially pleased and honored to have had the opportunity to host Drs. Robertson and Wills during their visits.

In April we will enjoy another expert from the East, this time through the good graces of the North Bay CWRT and the Peninsula group. Scott Hartwig, Chief Park Ranger at Gettysburg, will speak on *The Maryland Campaign* on April 19th. Since that is not our regular meeting date we cannot obtain the Plaza Hofbrau and are arranging an alternate site. Please be sure to attend and bring friends and family as I am assured he is an excellent speaker.

Jim Middleton recently underwent surgery and is recovering well but his editorship of the Battle Cry will be temporarily assumed by Paul Ruud. Thank you, Paul.

The March 8th meeting will be somewhat unique. *Ever True, One Couple's Journey Through the Civil War*, is a one-act play written by Lisa Saunders. The three roles will be read by Dennis Kohlmann, Edie Keister, and yours truly. Come early for dinner and conversation.

We have received a kind letter from Susan Williams who has served faithfully as Vice-President the past year wishing us all a Happy New Year and thanking us for our friendship. Susan retired last year from her local job and has returned to her Oakland home. She intends to remain a member but will be unable to commute regularly. As a result we are searching for a new Vice-President and any members willing to serve are welcome to contact us. We wish Susan well in her retirement and hope we will see her whenever she can come up here.

Don Hayden, President

MINUTES
SACRAMENTO CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
FEBRUARY 6, 2006
THE STUDIO THEATER, 1028 R STREET, SACRAMENTO, CA

Attendance-54

Members-34

Don Hayden, President	Dennis Kohlmann	Ed Derkum
George Foxworth, Treasurer	Grace Long	Leslie Derkum
Eddie Keister, Secretary	Leslie Michaels	Christopher Hayden
James Armstrong	Vivian Miller	Mark Hayden
George Beitzel	John Nevins	Scott Hayden
Joan Beitzel	Ron Perisho	Sean Hayden
Ken Berna	Paul Ruud	Jim Lane
Roy Bishop	Patty Ruud	Jack Leathers
Fred Bohmfalk	Brad Schall	Bob Maerdian
Mitchell Cnota	Richard Sickert	Michael Montague
Ardith Cnota	James Taff	Joseph Monasta
Evan Cole	Drew Van Winkle	Horst Penning
Charles Collins	Maxine Wollen	Tom Rosedahl
Alan Geiken	John Zasso	Professor Brian Steel Wills
Jim Harper	<u>Guest-20</u>	Virginia Wise
Robert Hanley	Andy Anderson	
Claire Hayden	Linda Anderson	
Warren Holloway	Courtinie Braziel	
Russell Knaver	Ralph Forrest Buel	
Marjorie Knaver	Brian Dass	

1. Meeting started at 7:00. Guest and members were welcomed by President Hayden. Member John Nevins asked for volunteers to speak at the Gibson Ranch Re-enactment- The Battle of Big Bethel and the Origins of Memorial Day are the topics.
2. Member Jim Harper introduced Professor Brian Steel Wills, our guest speaker. His outstanding presentation on Nathan Forrest was informative, humorous, and entertaining. Our members and guest were allowed questions at the end- and Professor Wills contributed two of his own novels to be raffled. a very enjoyable evening for all. Thank you Brian.
3. The Raffle was held and the meeting ended at 9:05.

Eddie Keister
Secretary

COMING PROGRAMS in 2006

March 8 th	Ever True	(A couple's Civil War letters)
April 19 th	Scott Hartwig	Gettysburg
May 10 th	Brad Schall	Black Jack Logan, Political Officers & Memorial Day
June 14 th	George Beitzel	John Brown
July 12 th	Open	
August 9 th	Phil Avila	Wade Hampton
September 13 th	Thomas Brown	2 nd Day at Chickamauga as Gen Thomas
October 11 th	Paul Wagstaffe	To Be Announced
November 10-12	West Coast Conference	
December 13 th	Don Hayden	Winfield Scott Hancock

March 8th Program

On this date the action returns to the Hofbrau with a change of pace that will delight the audience. Three of our members will share with us the actual letters written to each other by a Civil War soldier and his wife. Don Hayden will read the soldier's letters, Edie Keister will read the wife's letters, and Dennis Kohlmann will be the program narrator. Don't miss this excitement!

Battle Cry Readers

You may have already noticed that this newsletter can best be described as "Battle Cry Light" or "Battle Cry Decaf!" Our regular editor, Jim Middleton, is recovering from back surgery so I agreed to create a substitute for this month. Jim is well ahead of the healing curve and there is every reason to believe that he will return to the editor's chair next month.



The Civil War Battle Re-enactment is creeping up on us all!

May 19, 20, and 21st

Gibson Ranch

The Friday school program is where the Sacramento CWRT has the greatest opportunity to contribute. The Gibson Ranch web site describes the Friday program as follows:

“Friday, May 19th is our school program, which includes first person commentary from our NCWA volunteer re-enactors. Students rotate through five information stations that may include artillery, medical, infantry, generals, civilian or cavalry. Reservation times are 9:30, 11:00, or 12:30”

SCWRT members act as guides in leading the student groups to each of the stations. The re-enactors do the talking – our role is to get the students to the correct station at the right time. The system makes that easy – there is some walking involved and volunteers escort a group starting at each of the three times mentioned above. **We will need 15 volunteers and experience has shown that extra volunteers are almost always needed.** Plan now to be a volunteer – sign up lists will be circulated, but make your commitment to Don Hayden at any time.

Questionnaire for Sacramento Civil War Round Table Members

The following is a listing of topics which have been suggested for the November 10–12, 2006 West Coast CIVIL WAR Round Table Conference on “WAR ON THE WATERS” to be sponsored by our SCWRT Association. It is considerably more material than can be accommodated in the Friday evening to Sunday mid-day time period allotted.

Accordingly, the planning committee requests all interested SCWRT members to rate the items in accordance with your interests, number “1” being the highest and in descending order. Please note that several of the items are somewhat similar. In such cases, as you perceive them, please rank those items with the same number, but use letters (i.e. “a”, “b”, “c”) suffixed to designate your choice within the similar items (i.e. “1a”, “1b”, “1c”).

Your assistance in helping the committee cull the list down to a manageable number will be very much appreciated. Any additional comments you wish to make would also be welcomed.

Thanks,

Don Hayden, President

Possible Conference Topics

Your Ratings

- 1. “The Eads Ironclads, Recovery of the USS *Cairo* and the Status of other sunken Civil War ships
- 2. “Gideon Welles and the Union Naval Strategies”, and “Stephen Mallory and the Confederate Naval Strategies”
- 3. “Naval Technology of the 1860’s: Innovative Weaponry, Ironclads, Monitors, Submarines and Infernal Machines”
- 4. “The Blockading Squadrons and the Art of Blockade Running”
- 5. “Union and Confederate Diplomatic Relations with England and France”
- 6. “Raiders and Cruisers on the High Seas”
- 7. “Northern and Southern Admirals and Sailors”
- 8. “Specific Coastal Water Campaigns: Hampton Roads, New Orleans Charleston Harbor, Mobile Bay and Wilmington”
- 9. “Band Concert - Civil War Era Music on Period Instruments”

- 10. "The United States Naval Academy, Then and Now"
- 11. "War on the Upper Mississippi" (Forts Henry and Donelson, Island No. 10, Arkansas Post, Battle for Memphis, and the Yazoo Pass Expedition)
- 12. "War on the Lower Mississippi", (Battle for Grand Gulf, Siege of Vicksburg, Port Hudson, and the Red River Campaign)
- 13. "The James River Squadron"
- 14. Panel Discussion "The Civil War on Salt Water"
- 15. Panel Discussion "The Civil War on the Rivers"
- 16. "The Union Blockade: Key to Victory or Wasted Effort?"
- 17. "The Confederate Raiders"
- 18. "An Overview of the Civil War at Sea"
- 19. "Life in Mr. Lincoln's Navy"
- 20. "New Technology and the Battle of Hampton Roads"
- 21. "Fort Henry, Fort Donelson and Island No. 10"
- 22. "Enlisted Life in the River Navy"
- 23. "Naval Elements of the Vicksburg Campaign"

Your Additional Comments

Submitted by: _____
Name (Optional)

Round Table Meeting in Pacific Grove, California

By George W. Foxworth

I attended the February 11, 2006 bi-monthly meeting of the Monterey Peninsula Civil War Round Table in Pacific Grove, California. The meeting was open to the public and was held at the Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History (PGMNH).

The meeting was facilitated by Thomas Brown, the great grand nephew of Civil War Union General George Thomas. Mr. Brown has entertained audiences in numerous presentations as General George Thomas and Confederate General John B. Hood at private and public events throughout Northern California and Nevada, where he shares first-person recollections of the Civil War. He is an active participant of the American Civil War Association (ACWA) and the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW), Abraham Lincoln Camp 10 of Santa Cruz, and frequently appears at Civil War reenactments, parades, and other historical events. Mr. Brown is a successful painting contractor in Carmel and a graduate of Monterey Peninsula College. He is currently a master's degree candidate in history at San Jose State University.

The event featured speaker Sam (Steven) Hood, founder and president of the John Bell Hood Historical Society, and collateral descendent of General Hood. Sam Hood is a retired construction company owner, and resident of Huntington West Virginia. He graduated from both the Kentucky Military Institute and Marshall University, and is a veteran of the United States Marine Corps reserves. He is a member of the board of directors for the Confederate Hall Museum in New Orleans, and the Blue Grey Education Society of Danville, Virginia.

The meeting began with a 10-minute introduction by Mr. Brown on an event that happened at the 7 Days Battle on June 27, 1862. It was a conversation between Generals Lee and Hood at the Battle of Gaines Mill. At that time, General Hood commanded the Texas Brigade. General Hood had received the order to attack the Union Army on Turkey Hill where General Lee said something like "Can you take that hill?" The introduction was outstanding.

Mr. Hood began with a clarification of how he and John Bell Hood are related. There are no direct descendants of General Hood with the name Hood. Lucas Hood had a son named John W. Hood. John Hood a son John Bell Hood, the General that we know today. Lucas Hood had a brother named Andrew Hood. Andrew Hood had a son named Andrew Hood and that Andrew Hood is the 5th great grandfather to Sam Hood, the speaker.

Then Mr. Hood spoke to the debunking of General Hood after he left the Army of Northern Virginia and came to the Western Theater of the War. It dealt with various aspects including the revisionist historians of the latter part of the Twentieth Century. In the first half of the Century, authors portrayed General Hood as a great military leader. In the latter part of the Century, Mr. Hood said

that authors portrayed General Hood with "A license to kill his troops." The speech was excellent and was quite convincing. Only one person of the 23 attendees disagreed with Mr. Hood.

One highlight was a framed copy of letter that Mr. Hood obtained where General Hood was requesting wartime information from an unknown source as he was writing his memoirs. Incidentally, the letter's date was February 11, 1878, exactly 128 years to Mr. Hood's speech. The audience was thrilled.

The one-hour speech was followed by an hour of questions and answers. The attendees were very appreciative for Mr. Hood's talk. In attendance from the Sacramento Civil War Round Table were Sharon S. McGaughey and George W. Foxworth.

The Round Table is sponsored by the SUVCW, Abraham Lincoln Camp 10 of Santa Cruz and the PGMNH, and meets bi-monthly at the PGMNH. However, due to speaker availability, the next meeting on Civil War medicine, particularly surgery, will be March 25, 2006. Alonso Chattan will be the speaker.

Epilogue

It was a pleasure to meet Mr. Hood. During our talk, we discovered that both of us have history in North Carolina and South Carolina. In addition, I expressed a desire to stay in touch and he readily agreed. We exchanged business cards, addresses, and phone numbers. In fact, he emailed me as soon as he returned to the East.

Finally, Mr. Hood is an avid golfer and he attended the PGA Pebble Beach Tournament on Friday, February 10. He was very grateful to his hosts.

Professor Brian Steel Wills Visits Northern California

by George W. Foxworth

Fred Bohmfalk, a member of the Sacramento CWRT, invited Professor Brian S. Wills to the February 6, 2006 meeting of the Sacramento CWRT.

Professor Wills is the Chair, Department of History and Philosophy, University of Virginia, Wise. He is the author of the award-winning Civil War book "The Confederacy's Greatest Cavalryman: Nathan Bedford Forrest." Professor Wills also wrote "The War Hits Home: The Civil War in Southeastern Virginia." Professor Wills' latest book is "No Ordinary College: A History of the University of Virginia's College at Wise."

Professor Wills traveled from Atlanta, Georgia to Sacramento, California, on Sunday, February 5, 2006. He was met by Dr. Don Hayden, President of the Sacramento CWRT, and Fred Bohmfalk. Professor Wills spent the evening with Dr. Hayden in Sacramento.

On Monday, Professor Wills was taken to Sutter's Mill in Coloma for a tour. Sacramento CWRT Members Dr. Don Hayden, Fred Bohmfalk, and Brad Schall accompanied him. In January 1848, James W. Marshall, an employee of John A. Sutter, discovered gold while constructing a lumber mill on the South Fork of the American River. When the news broke, it caused one of the largest migrations that the world had ever seen. William T. Sherman, also a future Civil War Major General who was in California during the Gold Rush, knew about Sutter's Mill. The State of California acquired the area (15 acres initially and the cabin of James Marshall) in 1890 and it was named Marshall Monument. Per the Information Officer, Department of Parks and Recreation, this was the first Park to enter the State Park System. Acquiring more land was an on-going process over the years and the Mill Site was obtained in 1941. The Park was officially designated a California State Park in 1942 and was opened to the public at that time. Today, Sutter's Mill and Area are known as Marshall Discovery State Historic Park. Professor Wills enjoyed the tour.

On Monday evening, Professor Wills spoke to the Elk Grove CWRT and Sacramento CWRT on "The Life and Times of Nathan Bedford Forrest, Confederate Major General of Cavalry." Also in attendance were members of the Peninsula CWRT, San Joaquin Valley CWRT, Sons of Confederate Veterans, Sons of Union Veterans, and the public at large. A notable from these organizations was Jack Leathers. The meeting place was the Studio Theater, an excellent venue provided through the courtesy and generosity of Jacqueline Schultz and Nisa Davis Harper (daughter-in-law of Dr. Hayden). A medium crowd of 54 (34 Sacramento CWRT members and 20 guests) were lively, energetic, and appreciated the speech and the informative question and answer period that followed. The glorious evening officially closed with the monthly raffle. However, many participants continued the discussions long after the meeting was concluded. For Monday night, Professor Wills resided again with the Hayden Family in Sacramento.

On Tuesday, Professor Wills was given a special tour of the Civil War Fort under Alcatraz Prison by Dr. Don Hayden, Fred Bohmfalk, Brad Schall, and Phil Avila from the North Bay CWRT. The tour included the Fort's history and a walk-through that was conducted by a National Parks Service (NPS) Ranger. At the end of the War, the existing guardhouse with additional construction became a military prison and remained until 1933. At that time, the military left and the United States Department of Justice turned the Island into the Alcatraz that we know today. In 1963, the Federal Prison closed and Alcatraz was designated as Federal surplus. In 1972, it was acquired by the NPS and opened for tours in 1973. During the various uses of the Island, the Fort was either sealed off or built over. At an unknown date in the future, the NPS plans to open the Fort to the public for tours.

A tour was planned for the Presido of San Francisco and Fort Point. However, due to the lack of time, those tours were cancelled.

On Tuesday evening, Professor Wills spoke to the North Bay CWRT on Nathan Bedford Forrest. Also in attendance were Dr. Don Hayden, Fred Bohmfalk, and Brad Schall. 54 grateful Civil War participants attended. For Tuesday night, Professor Wills resided with the Cohn Family in San Francisco. He departed for the East on Wednesday.

Professor Wills enjoyed Northern California, the tours, talking with the Round Tables, and the warm reception that he received. It was wonderful to have him here again. Professor Wills was last here in November 2000 as a speaker for the 16th Annual West Coast Civil War Conference (Shiloh was the theme) in Sacramento. As Mr. Leathers said on previous occasions, "We are deeply indebted for your scholarship and warm camaraderie." Thank you again Professor Brian Steel Wills and Northern California awaits your return. Finally, I give special thanks to Dr. Don Hayden whose contributions made this article possible.

Program Reminder

March 8th – Plaza Hofbrau, regular night, see you there

April 19th – one week later than usual; the speaker will be a real winner – "Scott Hartwig," Chief Historian at Gettysburg, will speak to us about the Maryland Campaign. I bet he knows something about Antietam as well?? The Hofbrau is not available – the location of the April program will be announced – hopefully in the next Battle Cry, but before April 19th. Stay tuned, put the meeting on your calendar, and we'll see you there!
