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2011 Officers:

Don Hayden, President
(916) 485-1246
djhbooklover@yahoo.com

Silver Williams,
Vice President
(916) 408-4574
snw5678@aol.com

Dennis Kohlmann,
Program Director
(916) 726-4432
gkohlma@aol.com

Edie Keister, Secretary
(916) 725-1852

George Foxworth,
Treasurer
(916) 362-0178
gwfoxworth@sbcglobal.net

Bob Hanley, MAL
(805) 796-5895 cell
acivilwar@aol.com

Richard Sickert, MAL
(916) 564-4608
r.sickert@comcast.net

Paul Ruud, IPP
(530) 886-8806
ruud@starband.net

SCWRT Website
www.sacramentocwrt.com
Kim Knighton, Webmaster
webmaster@digitalthumbprint.com

Editor
brentrtp@gmail.com

Battle Cry

Founded 1961,
Newsletter of the Sacramento Civil War Round Table
P.O. BOX 254702
Sacramento, CA 95865-4702
http://sacramentocwrt.com/

President's Message:

I thoroughly enjoyed Tad Smith's presentation discussing how the Confederates financed their Civil War expenses. He brought out financial details which were of great interest. Who would have thought the bonds sold in Great Britain would have remained on the market all those years? The importance of the loss of the cotton market to them as a result of the blockade was a factor as was the difference in the quality of cotton from other parts of the world which were available to them. Dr. Smith is a relatively recent acquisition to our area and we hope to have him return again to our club since he has a lifelong interest in the war, his ancestors hailing from the Shenandoah Valley back then. Thanks for visiting us and providing an excellent program.

The Gibson Ranch issue is finally settled and we look forward to the opening day festivities on April 23rd at 2 PM. Watch for an announcement for the program. May 20th is the date we'll be escorting the school children and this year we will need ten volunteers rather than fifteen. At the meetings we will pass around a sign-up sheet and hope to see a few come out Saturday and Sunday to sit at our booth and inform the public of our interest. Our group has supported Doug Ose's offer to keep the park open and we wish him well in this enterprise. Please note Mr. Keith Weber's comments on the 150th anniversary of the Civil War printed in this issue. He has been a supporter for several years and has well summarized salient facts in a single page. Thank you Keith for allowing us to place it in the newsletter.

From time to time I receive requests asking if any of our members are willing to join in various research projects. One such arrived recently and involves working on the Western Sharpshooters Regiment, eventually the 66th Illinois. Generals Rosecrans and Sweeney were involved. Sweeney's papers are at the Huntington Library in San Marino, a valuable Civil War source. If any have interest please contact me and I can give much more detail to you and provide the contact information. I also receive many requests to spread their wares to you in the magazine, book and newspapers industries. Contact me if you wish me to pass this along.

The planning committee continues progress on the meeting in November which we are hosting for the third time. Registration forms will be released this month. Next month's Battle Cry will contain a biography of the first of our celebrated speakers and one will be included in each of the subsequent issues. We are excited about what we trust will be an exciting and informative weekend. The subject is 1861-The War Begins, the location the Doubletree on Arden Way, and the dates November 11-13.

Next meeting is April 13 and we will again host Prof. Sheri Patton who will discuss "Women in the South" at Sam's Hof Brau at 7PM. See you there.

Don Hayden, President

MINUTES
SACRAMENTO CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
Wednesday, March 9, 2011
Hof Brau Restaurant, 2500 Watt Ave, Sacramento

ATTENDANCE – 32

MEMBERS – 26

Don Hayden, President
Silver Williams, Vice President
George Foxworth, Treasurer
George Beitzel
Joan Beitzel
Rose Browne
Ardith Cnota
Mitch Cnota
James Cress
Jerry Cress
Alan Geiken
Robert Hanley, MAL
Scottie Hayden
Nancy Hayden
Eric Henderson
Nina Henley
Wayne Henley
Dennis Kohlmann, PD
Jim Middleton
Ron Perisho
Paul Ruud, IPP
Nancy Samuelson
Robert Schroeder
Nicholas Scivoletto
Richard Sickert, MAL
Robert Williams

GUESTS – 6

Albert De Leon
Alex De Leon
Michael Montague
Bob Moore
Tad Smith
Wayne Wash

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM. by President Don Hayden with the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. President Don Hayden welcomed members and guests.

3. President Hayden announced that Gibson Ranch will be open for Civil War Days on May 20-22, 2011. He also requested ten volunteers for the School Program on May 20 and twelve volunteers to staff the Sacramento Civil War Round Table booth, six on May 21 and six on May 22.

4. President Hayden introduced the speaker, Tad Smith PhD, a native Virginian. Both sides of his family were scattered up and down the Shenandoah Valley from Winchester to the Blacksburg area during the Civil War. Dr. Smith has lots of documentation of their history, and was always able to get "A's" in history classes during grade school. He received a PhD from Virginia Tech in 1990 in Plant Pathology, which is the study of diseases of agricultural crops. Currently, Dr. Smith is working at AgraQuest in Davis, California, developing environmentally-friendly crop pesticides derived from naturally occurring soil bacteria. He has been in California for three years. Dr. Smith is currently serving as Camp Adjutant for the Sons of Confederate Veterans (SCV), General George Blake Cosby Camp of Sacramento. He has been a member of the SCV since 1991.

   Dr. Smith's topic was "Financing the Confederacy." The talk was an outstanding discussion on cotton, King Cotton, the Union Blockade, junk bonds, and a world-wide recession due to the $600 million Confederate debt at the end of the Civil War. In 1860, Southern cotton exports were $150 million; the Southern gross products were $200 million. England was sympathetic to the South because of The Revolution and The War of 1812. Since England was not able to get as much Southern cotton, they eventually moved to inferior cotton from Egypt and India. For additional reading, Dr. Smith recommends "Guns for Cotton" by Thomas Boaz. Thank you very much Dr. Smith.

5. Rose Browne sold additional raffle tickets and read the numbers.

6. The meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM.

George W. Foxworth, Acting for Secretary Edie Keister

Treasurer's Report

The cash balance following the March 9, 2011 meeting was $2,071.91. Thanks to Rose Browne, other members, and guests, the raffle brought in $77.00.
George W. Foxworth, Treasurer

BATS, BALLS AND BULLETS

New York Times, March 30, 2011

In late March and early April 1861, ballplayers in dozens of American towns looked forward to another season of play. But they were not highly paid professionals whose teams traveled to Florida or Arizona for spring training. Rather, they were amateur members of private organizations founded by men whose social standing ranged from the working class through the upper-middle ranks of society. There were no formal leagues or fixed schedules of games, although there were regional associations of clubs that drew up and enforced rules for each type of bat and ball game. Contests between the best teams attracted large crowds (including many gamblers), and reporters from daily newspapers and weekly sporting magazines wrote detailed accounts of the games.

The English national game of cricket was the first modern team sport in the United States. During the 1850s, an estimated 10,000 English immigrants and native-born men and boys founded about 500 clubs in at least 22 states in the Union. By 1861, Philadelphia had become the cricketing capital of the nation, boasting the most organizations and the largest contingent of proficient, American-born players. But cricket also faced major challenges from two upstart versions of baseball that had recently exploded in popularity. "The Massachusetts game" reigned supreme in Boston and most of New England, while "the New York game" ruled Manhattan, Brooklyn and New Jersey.

The Massachusetts game matched sides of eight to 15 men on a square field with bases or tall stakes (up to five feet high) at each corner, generally 60 feet apart. The batsman stood midway between first and fourth base and tried to hit a ball thrown swiftly

overhand by a pitcher who stood in the middle of the square, often only about 30 feet away. The batter could strike the ball in any direction, since there was no foul territory. After swatting the ball, the batsman ran around the bases until he was put out or remained safely at a base. Generally he tallied a run each time he arrived safely at a base, but in some matches a run counted only when a runner arrived safely at home. The batter could be put out if he missed three pitched balls, or if a ball he hit was fielded on the fly, or if he was struck by a ball thrown at him by a fielder while he was between bases. One out usually ended an inning, and the first team to score a fixed number of runs (sometimes as many as 100) won the game.

The origins of the New York game dated back to the mid-1840s, when members of the New York Knickerbocker Base Ball Club experimented with new regulations to govern their play. During the late 1850s, several conventions of New York City ballplayers modified the original Knickerbocker rules. The newest code mandated a diamond instead of a square for the bases, which were placed 90 feet apart. The batsman stood at home plate, at the bottom point of the diamond. The pitcher delivered the ball to the batter underhand from a distance of 45 feet. A ball knocked outside lines drawn from home to first and third bases (and extending beyond each base) was declared foul and out of play. A striker was put out

when a fielder caught a hit ball on the fly or the first bounce, or if a fielder held the ball on a base before a runner arrived, or if a fielder touched a runner with the ball while he was between bases. Throwing the ball at base runners was prohibited, three outs retired the side and nine innings decided the outcome of the match, provided that the teams had an equal number of outs.

Cricket and the two types of baseball received a mixed reception south of the Mason-Dixon line. Southern plantation owners showed little interest in ballgames, which they dismissed as Yankee imports that were antithetical to their culture. Many southern towns were equally indifferent. Richmond, Va., is a prime example.

Henry Chadwick was a cricket enthusiast and pioneer sporting journalist who later earned fame as "the father of baseball." In 1848 he married a young lady from Richmond, and for the next dozen years he tried to stir up interest in both cricket and baseball in that city, especially because of its good fields and abundance of young men of leisure. In late March 1861, The New York Clipper published a notice that advised any interested young men of Richmond to contact "H.C." at the journal's office. Chadwick still hoped that a baseball nine might be organized by mid-April. But a few weeks later the firing on Fort Sumter and the ensuing war spoiled Chadwick's campaign to initiate baseball in the city that soon became the Confederate capital.

But in the upper and lower South cricket and both the New England and New York City versions of baseball gained followers, especially in those cities that had strong commercial ties with northern business and financial firms. Cricketers founded clubs in Baltimore, Savannah and New Orleans. A visit by the famed Brooklyn Excelsiors sparked the creation of several baseball clubs in Baltimore, while Washington, D.C., inaugurated the Potomac and National clubs. In 1859 a baseball boom in New Orleans produced seven teams, with two more added the following year. In the southwest. St. Louis had five baseball nines. Most teams initially observed the Massachusetts rules, but by 1860 all had switched to the New York version. Publicity provided by New York sporting magazines and active promotion by New York City-based merchants and bankers boosted the New York game over its New England rival.

As military action between the North and the South loomed, sportswriters highlighted the analogy between America's first team sports and warfare. Yet they were also aware of the crucial differences between play and mortal combat. In March 1861, The New York Clipper anticipated the impending crisis:

God forbid that any balls but those of the Cricket and Baseball field may be caught either on the fly or first bound, and we trust that no arms but those of the flesh may be used to impel them, or stumps, but those of the wickets, injured by them.

But three months later sober realism replaced wishful thinking. A Clipper editor remarked:

Cricket and Baseball clubs … are now enlisted in a different sort of exercise, the rifle or gun taking the place of the bat, while the play ball gives place to the leaden messenger of death. Men who have heretofore made their mark in friendly strife for superiority in various games, are now beating off the rebels who would dismember this glorious "Union of States."

Thousands of members of northern cricket and baseball clubs volunteered for service in the Union Army, while a handful chose the Confederate side. In

Cincinnati, Abraham G. Mills, a future president of the National League, packed a bat and ball with his Army gear before reporting for military duty. In late May Wilkes' Spirit of the Times reported that the pitcher of St. Louis' Union club planned to resign from his team to accept a commission in the Second Missouri Artillery after leading his team to victory in a city championship match. According to that paper, his fans hoped that "the balls he will pitch at the foes of his country's flag, may be as successful in putting down their insolent presumption, as were those pitched against his civil opponents yesterday," the former champions of St. Louis.

In New York City, where a stunning patriotic outburst reversed that metropolis' strong antebellum pro-southern sentiment, many sportsmen put ethnic and political divisions aside to rally to the flag. The Clipper enthusiastically backed Lincoln's call for troops, and published the names of enlistees, including ballplayers. It praised those who had signed up, and urged others who were slower to act to follow their example. "Better join in boys," it advised the slackers, "than be loafing the streets or hanging around bar-rooms, and thus show the people you have some noble traits that atone for whatever bad ones you get credit for." Otto W. Parisen, a member of the Knickerbockers, received a commission in July as Captain in Company C and Quartermaster of the Ninth Infantry Regiment, New York Volunteers. He survived the Battle of Antietam, was honorably discharged, and was commissioned again as first Lieutenant, Company F in the 122nd Infantry Regiment, New York Volunteers. He served for the duration of the war, mustering out in June 1865.

Over the course of the war a steady stream of members of northern baseball clubs joined the Union Army. But in one notorious case, midway in the war, the Brooklyn Excelsiors' star first baseman defected to the Confederate Army. While 91 members of the Excelsiors volunteered to fight to preserve the Union, A.T. ("Aleck") Pearsall, a successful physician, slipped out of Brooklyn sometime during the winter of 1862-63. He reappeared in Richmond as a brigade surgeon. There he treated a few Union prisoners, including some former teammates from the Excelsior Club. When word of his current position and whereabouts reached Brooklyn, the Excelsiors promptly expelled him.

Rural southerners who enjoyed playing informal forms of early baseball enlisted in the ranks of the Confederacy, as did a few members of baseball clubs in New Orleans. As Johnny Reb and Billy Yank prepared themselves for battle in army camps, they sought distraction and diversion on cricket or baseball grounds. Time and good luck would determine the outcome of the rebellion, and who would live to a ripe old age, and which form of ballplaying would defeat its rivals during four years of sectional strife and emerge as America's national pastime.

George B. Kirsch is professor of history at Manhattan College and the author of "Baseball and Cricket: The Creation of American Team Sports, 1838-72" and "Baseball in Blue and Gray: The National Pastime During the Civil War."

APRIL DURING THE CIVIL WAR

1861

12th Confederates fire on Fort Sumter

1862

6 & 7th Battle of Shilo

19th Battle of South Mills

29th New Orleans surrenders to Union

1862

3rd Richmond surrenders

9th Lee surrenders at Appomattox Court House

14th President Lincoln assassinated

CIVIL WAR BLOG SPOTLIGHT

To The Sound of Guns

Craig Swain shares his passion for Civil War "marker hunting" and chronicles his discoveries on *To the Sound of Guns.* In addition, he has and continues to crisscross numerous battle fields sites and shares these visits with this readers. The blog will also occasionally include a timely book review.

You can find To the Sound of Guns at http://markerhunter.wordpress.com/

DID YOU KNOW?

That Galusha Pennypacker was the youngest general in the Civil War. At the age of 16 he enlisted as a quartermaster sergeant in the 9th Pennsylvania Infantry Regiment. In October 1861, he was appointed a major in the 97th Pennsylvania, for which he had helped recruit a company of men. Pennypacker's greatest moment of the war came at the Second Battle of Fort Fisher, January 15, 1865, where he received what many thought a fatal wound. General Terry promised he would receive a brevet promotion for his conduct that day, and called him "the real hero of Fort Fisher." Pennypacker much later was awarded the Medal of Honor, with a citation reading: "He gallantly led the charge over a traverse and planted the colors of one of his regiments thereon; was severely wounded." He survived his wounds after 10 months in the hospital and on February 18, 1865, received a full promotion to brigadier general of volunteers at age 20, making him the youngest officer to hold the rank of general to this day in the United States Army. Pennypacker stayed in the Army after the Civil War, serving on the frontier as Colonel of the 34th U.S. Infantry, transferring in 1869 to the 16th U.S. Infantry, which he commanded until his retirement in July 1883.