

**Volume 44, No. 6
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Battle Cry

Founded 1961,
Newsletter of the Sacramento Civil War Round Table
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**Battle Cry deadline is
1:00PM Wed. two
weeks before the regu-
lar meeting. Items can
be given the editor by
hand, mail or e-mail.**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Once again, Ray Bisio did an outstanding job of explaining, "Day 3 of Gettysburg." Its nice to have a real expert speak to us.

I recently read a very interesting book on the Battle of Gettysburg. It is titled, Lee's Real Plan at Gettysburg by Troy D. Harman. Troy is a friend of Ray Bisio and a national Park Service Ranger at Gettysburg. They discussed Troy's ideas many times.

In his correspondences after the Battle of Gettysburg, Lee said, "The general plan never changed." Then what was Lee's plan through the three days? Mr. Harman contends it was to take Cemetery Hill. Lee saw this hill as a salient. It could be attacked from 3 sides, North, West and South. If he could take this hill and get artillery on it, he would control the roads to Gettysburg.

On Day 2, Longstreet's First Corps was to march up the Taneytown Road and attack the hill from the South. Ewell was to attack it from the North when he heard the guns of Longstreet's attack. Longstreet got started way late and then found Gen. Dan Sickles Third Corps right in the way. It was not there when Lee formulated his plan. Indeed, if Longstreet had gotten started when he was supposed to, Sickles would not have been in the way. The attack on Little Round Top was never in Lee's plan.

On Day 3, Longstreet didn't attack until 3 PM. By then Ewell's men had been driven off the North side of Cemetery Hill. Pickets charge went unsupported.

Many of the men who knew Lee's plan, died at Gettysburg. Remember, the North only lost one general, General Reynolds. The South lost many.

After the war, the story of Gen. Chamberlain and his heroic efforts brought attention to the left side of the Union line. Sickles became more and more unpopular, so he is viewed as a villain. Actually, for whatever reason, he spoiled Lee's plan. Lee wanted to put artillery in the Peach Orchard to support the attack on Cemetery Hill.

MINUTES
SACRAMENTO CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
WEDNESDAY, MAY 26, 2004
Sizzler Restaurant, 2030 Fulton Avenue, Sacramento

Attendance – 26

Members - 21

Dennis Kohlmann, President
Kit Knight, Vice President
George Foxworth, Treasurer
Walt Bittle, Secretary
Roy Bishop
Carol Breiter
Bernardo Buenrostro

Alan Geiken
Ted Hansen
Edie Keister
Arthur Knight
Earl Martin
Virginia Martin
Leslie Michaels

Betty Mitchell
Maurice Mitchell
Don Schatzel
Nancy Swanson
Ted Swanson
Bob Williams
Susan Williams

John Zasso

Guests – 4

Ray Bisio
Fynn Carroll
Kyle Glasson
Bernard Scherr

1. President Kohlmann called the meeting to order and welcomed new members and guests. After reviewing This Day in Civil War History, Dennis reviewed our recent participation in the very successful event at Gibson Ranch. Ted Starr will be speaking about “Myths and Misconceptions About the Civil War” at the June meeting.
2. Members were reminded about the ongoing search for topics for the 2006 conference.
3. Alan Geiken shared a Death Certificate he had found for a Civil War veteran.
4. Members were reminded of the discount being offered by publisher Ted Savas on the purchase of a new book about the battle of Champion Hill.
5. Program – Ray Bisio, a docent and guide at Gettysburg National Battlefield Park, had previously spoken about Days One and Two of the Battle of Gettysburg. This time, he finally got to Day Three. Using overhead maps and his extensive knowledge of the battle, Ray covered Day Three in minute detail. The members were very impressed, and Ray’s excellent presentation prompted lots of in-depth questions. Thanks, Ray!
6. Following the raffle, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50.

Walt Bittle
Secretary

Treasurer’s Report

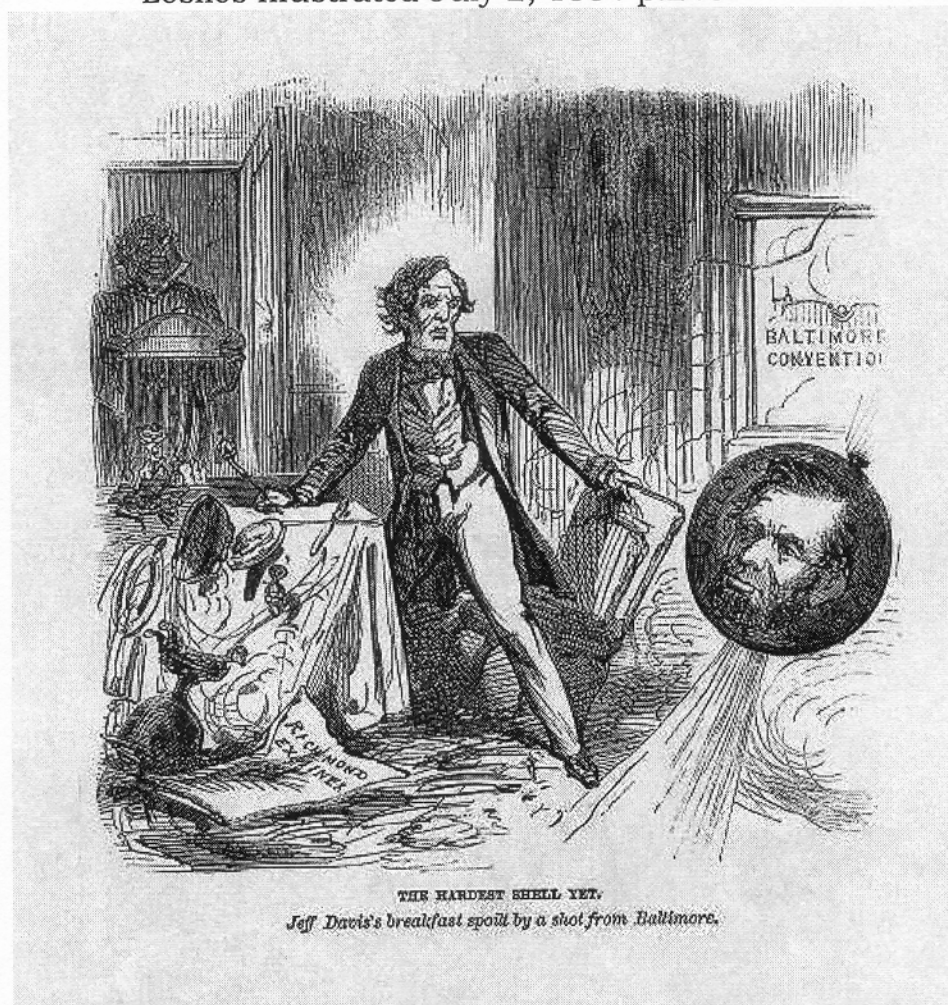
The cash balance following the meeting of May 26 was \$1753.15. Thanks to members and guests, the raffle brought in \$48.00.

George Foxworth
Treasurer

Upcoming Programs

Date	Speaker	Title
30 June	Ted Stahr	Myths & Misconceptions of the CW
28 July	Stephen Beck	C.W. Thompson & the Civil War
25 Aug	George Martin	43 rd Tenn. Regiment (CSA)
29 Sept	Paul Wagstaffe	Reconstruction
27 Oct	Dennis Kohlmann	Election of 1864
1 Dec	Bill Webb	Mark Twain's Civil War

Leslies Illustrated July 2, 1864 p.240



The cartoonist interprets the re-nomination of President Abraham Lincoln by the Republican National Convention in Baltimore as the Union's "Hardest Shell Yet" against the Confederacy. Jefferson Davis's breakfast is interrupted by the shell-imprinted with the face of Lincoln-shot through the window from the Baltimore convention. The Confederate president's domestic slave smiles in the doorway.

**John Alexander Logan and
John Alexander McClernand
U. S. Congressmen from Illinois
And
Major Generals, U. S. Volunteers**

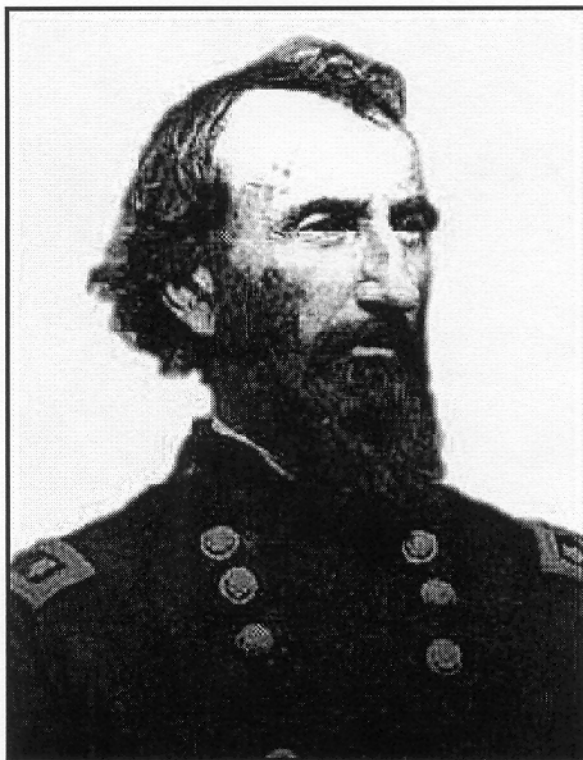
In 1861, at the beginning of the Civil War, the U. S. Regular Army numbered some 1100 officers and 15000 enlisted men. By the end of the war nearly 2.7 million would serve as regulars and volunteers to preserve the Union. This rapid expansion required not only enlisted soldiers, but also additional officers to command the newly activated companies, regiments, brigades and divisions. Company officers were usually elected by the men of those units. The governors of the states from which the regiments came normally commissioned the field grade officers. But the commander-in-chief did the commissioning of general officers. President Lincoln sought professional officers for promotion to generals where possible, but politics also played a major role in selecting men for generalships. Political support for the war was critical in the early stages and selecting a favorite son could go a long way in cementing a state's or ethnic group's loyalty. One of Lincoln's strategies was to appoint congressmen of the opposing parties; i.e. mainly democrats, thereby eliminating possible "mischief" they might cause to the new administration.

Accordingly, John McClernand was one of 187 civilians with little or no military experience who were initially commissioned Brigadier Generals; and John Logan joined this group soon thereafter by promotion from Colonel. He had briefly commanded the 31st Illinois Infantry, a regiment that he had recruited. Respective dates of their ranks as Brigadiers were 5-61 and 3-62.

This group of "political" generals also included such names as: Jacob Cox, F. P. Blair, Jr., Franz Sigel, Stephen Hurlbut (also of Illinois), Carl Schurz, Lew Wallace, Dan Sickles, Nathaniel Banks, and Ben Butler. They were a mixed bag to be sure. Some provided outstanding service, others very commendable, while a few were near disasters.

Logan and McClernand had many things in common. In addition to sharing the same given first and middle names, they were

both democratic congressmen representing districts in Southern Illinois in a region known as "Little Egypt". They were both strong union men who were against slavery and secession; and they were sturdy supporters of Stephen Douglas. When Douglas placed his support firmly behind the new Lincoln Administration they did likewise. There was an underlying southern sentiment in their districts early on, and the fiery pro union speeches they and Senator Douglas gave against the rebellion were valuable to the union cause. Logan and McClernand had served Lincoln well in southern Illinois; "Egypt" did not turn out to be a problem. The two Congressmen did differ significantly in personal appearance and in personalities, however. Some of these traits will be discussed later. In regards to looks some said that a part of Logan's military success was due to the fact that he could scare the hell out of the enemy.



John A. McClernand

John McClernand was born in 1812. He became a lawyer through self-study, fought three months as a private during the Black Hawk War, and served in the Illinois State legislature and the U.S. Congress. Upon appointment as BG USV, as a brigade commander out of Cairo, Ill. he provided good

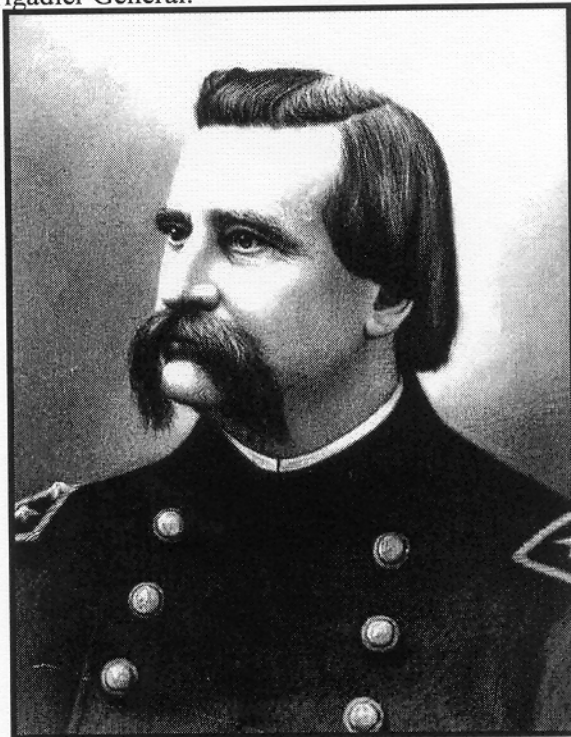
service at Belmont, and as a division commander at Forts Henry and Donelson, and at Shilo. McClelland was promoted to MG USV 3-62. It was at Donelson where one of his serious faults first became apparent; i.e. the crediting to himself and his own troops with accomplishments that should have gone to others. Longing for an independent command, he convinced Lincoln in 10-62 to let him raise a force in Illinois and Iowa for a river campaign against Vicksburg. Halleck and Grant were not consulted. Mistake no. 2. Troops recruited by McClelland in the Midwest and sent to Memphis for his independent operation were there diverted by Grant to make up a force for Sherman's unsuccessful Chickasaw Bluff operation. Before he could withdraw McClelland arrived and took command by virtue of seniority. Instead of attacking Vicksburg McClelland decided to capture Arkansas Post (Fort Hindman) up the Arkansas River, and of minor military significance. This was to be a combined operation with river gunboats under command of Flag Officer David D. Porter, but the Post effectively surrendered to Porter before the land forces arrived. McClelland took credit for the victory anyway, but when Grant learned of this through Porter he ordered the forces withdrawn immediately to form a new Corps structure within his Army of the Tennessee. Thus McClelland's independent forces he called Army of the Mississippi ceased to exist. He reverted to commander of the XIII Corps under Grant, but he put up quite a fuss in the process. The facts were that he was not getting along well with his peers and superiors. Notwithstanding, the XIII Corps performed well at the Battles of Port Gibson, Champion Hill, Big Black River, and the Vicksburg Siege.

John McClelland was becoming a liability, however. While he was personally courageous and in many respects becoming an effective combat leader, he was vain, selfish, pompous, untactful and a glory seeker. He particularly disliked West Point graduates, namely Halleck, Grant, Sherman and McPherson, and the feeling was mutual. Sherman referred to him as a "dirty dog with a burning desire for personal renown". Grant was not quite so colorful when he wrote: "It is evident to me that both the army and navy are

so distrustful of McClelland's fitness to command that, while they would do all they could to insure success, it is an element of weakness". Grant considered him insubordinate. Finally after issuing a press release calling his men the "heroes of the campaign" and criticizing the other corps commanders after a disastrous attack on the Vicksburg lines, Grant relieved him on 6-19-63. In 2-64 he was returned to duty with the XIII Corps in the Red River campaign under Nathaniel Banks, doing further damage to his reputation. He resigned 11-30-64. His military career had been most productive on recruiting assignments but, despite battlefield abilities, he was a liability in the field. He continued in law practice and Democratic Party politics in Springfield, Illinois until his death in 1900.

Most military historians today consider that John McClelland's combat record of courage and success afforded no grounds for his relief from command. His personal and professional conduct, however, did.

An interesting irony is that although John McClelland hated West Pointers he saw to it that his son, Edward attended the Military Academy, graduating in 1871. Edward was awarded the MOH during the Indian Wars, and served in the Spanish American War as a Brigadier General.



John A. Logan

John Logan was born in 1826. He served a short period as a second lieutenant in the Mexican War, obtained a "frontier" law degree from Louisville University in 1850, was elected a district attorney, and subsequently to the Illinois State Legislature and the U. S. Congress. He first met then Colonel U. S. Grant in 1861 when he gave a rousing patriotic speech to Grant's first Civil War command the 21st Illinois Infantry to talk them into re-enlisting. They became long-term friends. Logan's military service extended from regimental commander at Cairo and Fort Donelson (wounded), to brigade commander at Corinth. He was promoted to MG USV, 11-62, advancing to Division command during the Vicksburg campaign and to commander of the XV Corps, Army of the Tennessee (AOT) in the Chattanooga and Atlanta Campaigns (12-63). The AOT was commanded at that time by James B. McPherson; and the other Corps of that army by Grenville Dodge, XVI Corps and F. P. Blair, Jr., XVII Corps. All three Corps commanders were volunteer officers who had proven to be excellent combat leaders. McPherson was a very talented West Point graduate; however his staff abilities had perhaps out shown his line leadership talents.

On 22 July 64, during the Battle for Atlanta proper, General McPherson was killed instantly by enemy skirmishers as he and an aid were returning to his command from General Sherman's headquarters. Upon notification Sherman directed Logan to assume AOT command. Logan's assumption to army-level command almost immediately triggered the WPPA into action. After discussions with his fellow West Pointers George Thomas, Army of the Cumberland Commander and John Schofield, Commanding, Army of the Ohio, and others, Sherman requested Lincoln to rescind General Logan's assignment to army command and to appoint General Oliver Otis Howard in his stead. This occurred on 27 July. Logan reverted back to XV Corps command. Generals Blair and Dodge strongly objected to Sherman about this change. General Logan took it in stride at the time, but he didn't forget, as will be mentioned later. (Grant may not have been in the "loop" on this decision

since later writings indicate his disapproval, although Halleck undoubtedly was)

Logan's role in the Atlanta campaign had been an active and significant one. He had been the most dashing corps commander in the three union armies involved and his fame traveled throughout the country. With that campaign completed he returned to Illinois on leave of absence to join another campaign, the reelection of Abraham Lincoln. Although Logan was still a Democrat, a transition was occurring.

In early December 1864, he was in Washington for meetings with Lincoln, then to City Point, VA to meet with Grant at his request. Grant's concern was General George Thomas. Rebel General Hood was outside Nashville besieging the city and Thomas with an army five times as large showed no inclination to attack the besiegers, according to Grant. (As it turned out Thomas had valid reasons to delay the battle, frozen ground making cavalry and troop movement hazards). Grant's orders to Logan were to go to Nashville and relieve Thomas. It is said that Logan purposely delayed in Cincinnati to permit the weather to improve. It did. Thomas attacked and won an overwhelming victory and Logan returned directly to Washington. The irony of all this is readily evident. Thomas was a key player in denying Logan a promotion; Grant was willing to give Logan an even greater promotion (the AOC was a much larger army than the AOT); and Logan saved Thomas' hide by not rushing to Nashville to relieve him.

In January 1865 Logan retook command of the XV Corps in Savannah after Sherman's March across Georgia. He moved North through the Carolinas with the Corps arriving in Petersburg, VA 6 April 65. On 12 April Howard was named head of the Freedman's Bureau and Logan became permanent Commanding General of the Army of the Tennessee. He had the honor of leading that Army in the Grand Review of the Western Armies on 24 April. After overseeing the mustering out of the AOT, he resigned his commission 17 August 65. He was offered a regular army BG commission but declined.

"Black Jack" Logan was, arguably, the finest of the nonprofessional general officers during the Civil War; and he certainly

should be considered to rank among the top five.

John Logan returned to Southern Illinois, changed his political party affiliation to Republican, ran and was reelected to Congress. He served in the House for four years and in the Senate for fourteen. Logan was active in veteran affairs. He was one of the founders of the Society of the Army of the Tennessee and of the Grand Army of the Republic, serving as its second commander 1868-70. His Illinois colleague Steven Hurlbut was the first G. A. R. Commander 1866-67. During his tenure Logan relocated the G. A. R. headquarters from Springfield, Illinois to Washington, D. C. to better nationalize it. His most endearing act was his designation of 30 May to become Memorial Day.

Logan was not a supporter President Johnson's reconstruction policy, considering them to be too lenient. He was one of the House floor managers for Johnson's impeachment. (He had earlier threatened to arm the G. A. R. and use them as a militia, if the action of Stanton's removal got out of control.) Logan became a member of President Grant's inner circle of advisers and agreed with him on most matters. Logan, along with Sherman, Sheridan and CSA General Joe Johnston, served as pallbearers at Grant's funeral in 1885.

In 1875 a bad thing occurred. W. T. Sherman published his *Memoirs*, in which he attempted to rationalize his 1864 selection of West Pointer O. O. Howard rather than Logan as AOT Commanding General. This opened up old wounds. Both his brother Senator John Sherman and Grant chastised him for this, but the damage was done. Senator John Logan was then serving as Chairman of the all-important Senate Military Affairs Committee and as a member of the Appropriations Committee. There is no record that he corresponded with Sherman directly, but he took after the Military Academy directly. He accused the instructors of being incompetent, the cadets as elitists; and he said that since the lower ranking graduates had proven to be the better combat leaders, the need for an overall change of emphasis in the course of study was needed. He further suggested that since so many volunteer officers had outperformed their professional counterparts during the war

that perhaps West Point was not needed at all. Unquestionably the Academy's budget suffered as a result of Sherman's untimely remarks. (Sherman later revised his *Memoirs* omitting the objectionable material.)

Logan was a power broker in the Garfield and Arthur Administrations. He refused several cabinet appointment offers, preferring to remain in the Senate. In 1884, Logan was James G. Blaine's Vice Presidential running mate against Cleveland, and he was favored by many for the top spot on the 1888 ticket. But time expired for him before that date arrived. After a short illness, "Black Jack" Logan died unexpectedly on 23 Dec 1886.

One eulogist said of John Logan; "He was the bravest of soldiers, an able statesman and an honest man. He was classed as a political general. I do not know that it was an unfriendly remark----It was a political war and he was as strong in one field as the other; the political generals did double duty".

By **Bob Williams**: 3 June 04

References:

"McClelland--Politician in Uniform" by R. L. Kiper 1999.

"Black Jack--John A. Logan and Southern Illinois in the Civil war Era" by J. P. Jones 1967.

"John A. Logan--Stalwart Republican from Illinois" by J. P. Jones 1982.

"The Volunteer Soldier of America" by J. A. Logan Published 1887.

Alberta Martin, last surviving widow of a Civil War veteran

Dead at 97 (the South finally wins!) Fittingly, Alberta Martin died on Memorial Day, May 31, 2004. She was 97 and died in a nursing home in Enterprise, Alabama of complications from a heart attack she'd suffered earlier that month. Alberta was 21 when her first husband died in a car accident, leaving her with an infant son. She married William Jasper Martin in 1927. William had been born in Georgia in 1845 and the 81-year old man had been a private in the Civil War and he received a

pension of \$50 a month. As the ranks of living Civil War spouses thinned- the last Union spouse, Gertrude Janeaway, was 93 when she died at her home in eastern Tennessee in January of 2003-Alberta Martin became the last living link to a war that ended nearly 140 years earlier. For over a decade, the Sons of Confederate Veterans took Martin to rallies and parades. She sat in her wheelchair, smiling and waving to hosts of visitors who'd clutch her hand and cry. Alberta described her second husband "as a cranky jealous man whose temper did not diminish with age." He only spoke of the War in terms of how miserable it had been. "Trenches full of water, hungry frightened men." (Heritage groups have confirmed William Jasper Martin was present during the siege of Petersburg.) The couple had a son, William Jr. William Jasper Martin was 86 in 1932 and he died that year. Two months after his death, Alberta married her late husband's grandson, Charles Martin, who was two years older than Alberta. Her remarriage made her ineligible to draw her late husband's pension. Charles Martin's death in 1983 made Alberta once again eligible to draw upon William's pension. But she didn't know it. Alberta was 89 in 1996, and a dentist who belonged to the Sons of Confederate Veterans convinced the state of Alabama to reinstate her pension. She even got a cost of living adjustment and received a monthly check of \$335. She immediately bought a new hearing aid and new false teeth. Alberta Martin was born a sharecropper's daughter in 1906 in Danley's Crossroads, a tiny settlement built around a sawmill 70 miles south of Montgomery, Alabama. She didn't die wealthy, but she died loved. Thousands of people respected and admired her. by Kit Knight

THE MOTHER OF THE ONLY CIVILIAN KILLED IN THE BATTLE OF GETTYSBURG, 1865

Folks said it was God's punishment that my Ginnie died because a neighbor saw her wavin' to Confederate troops. I can't conceive of my God being that mean. Besides, Ginnie only did it because her beau is off fightin' Rebel troops in Virginia and Ginnie hoped some southern woman waved to Union soldiers and reminded them --gently, softly-- this War will end. Ginnie made bread for Yankees and slipped it out a back window. I helped her bake, but the soldiers --some wounded, all weary-- liked the biscuits best if they came from Ginnie's hands. Ginnie's smile. Those men needed more than hardtack. The battle was in its third day. Yanks in back and Rebs out front. We'd grown used to the impossible--bullets whizzing by, but none had come through the walls. For 16 years my daughter has been here. With me. Near me. I called her Gin Gin when we shared my body. We are both blondes. My Gin Gin was in the kitchen, alone, when a bullet smashed through a door and into her back. She slumped over the bowl, and I got there in time to watch her kneaded dough turn crimson.

-- Kit Knight