

Battle Cry



Vol. 43 No. 7 July 2003 Newsletter of Sacramento Civil War Round Table

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Like all of you who were at June's, meeting I was very impressed with what Dr. William Gould IV had to tell us about his great grand father. I was very impressed with the pride in America that came through in the parts of the book Dr. Gould read. We have such preconceived ideas about the times of the civil war. A fresh look at the thoughts of someone who was there was very refreshing.

I am sure there were many slaves who could read and write like the original William B. Gould and his fiancée. I believe they were taught so they could read the bible. I also believe there were many whites who were illiterate. Illiteracy was probably more common in the South than in the North. There just weren't many schools in the rural south. But illiteracy was common in both armies.

I completed the book, The South Was Right!. The authors lament the systematic destruction of the southern culture. Unfortunately, they never really define what they mean by southern culture. They complain that they can't play "Dixie" at high school and college football games any more. They

complain the school busing didn't help black or white children and was part of a northern conspiracy while not recognizing it went on in the north and south.

One thing the authors of The South Was Right! said that I don't know about is whether the 14th Amendment was legally ratified. This got me curious. I'm sure our Sept. speaker Paul Wagstaff will have something to say about this. His topic is the Expanded U. S. Constitution. What got me extra curious is that the 14th amendment was cited by the Supreme Court last week in its decision on the admission policies at the University of Michigan.

Stay tuned members. It is not over yet.

P. S. Susan Williams was to be our speaker for July. She was to talk about Civil War Photography. Since she has a lot of slides, we agreed that Dec would be a better time for her. The room will be a lot darker then. Now Don Hayden is going to talk about General Lew Wallace.

MINUTES
SACRAMENTO CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25
Sizzler Restaurant, 2030 Fulton Avenue, Sacramento

Attendance – 32

Members – 27

Dennis Kohlmann – President
Kit Knight, Vice President
George Foxworth, Treasurer
Walt Bittle, Secretary
Dudley Albrecht
Claudia Andres
Jim Armstrong
Bob Baskerville
Fred Bohmfalk

Bernie Buenrostro
Alan Geiken
Jim Harper
Don Hayden
Ken Kitchen
Arthur Knight
Earl Martin
Virginia Martin
Les Michaels

Jim Middleton
Betty Mitchell
Maurice Mitchell
Douglas Reid
Elvin Roach
Paul Ruud
Brad Schall
Bob Williams
Susan Williams

Guests – 5

Terry Edwards
Kirk Fujikawa
Kyle Glasson
William B. Gould
David Jackson

1. President Kohlmann opened the meeting by reviewing this day in history. He then read postcards from Jerry Russell of CWRT Associates of Little Rock and from John and Bev Passerello who are on the road to Gettysburg. New members and guests were introduced and welcomed. The minutes of May 28 were approved as printed.

2. Program – Dr. William B. Gould IV, law professor at Stanford University and former chairman of the National Labor Relations Board during the Clinton Administration, presented the evening's program. With heartfelt conviction and warmth, Dr. Gould reviewed the circumstances from finding his great-grandfather's diary through the process of research and finally to publication of *Diary of a Contraband, the Civil War Passage of a Black Sailor*. The William B. Gould of the book was a remarkably literate man who escaped with seven other slaves from Wilmington to a Union vessel lying off the coast of North Carolina. Mr. Gould served in the Union Navy from 1862 to the end of the Civil War, and in his diary he described the capture of blockade-runners and other duty as far away as Europe. Following a question and answer period, copies of the book were available for purchase. This is a very special addition to Civil War resources, and we were most appreciative that Dr. Gould was able to bring it alive for us so personally.

3. Adjournment – There was a spirited raffle, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Walt Bittle

Secretary

Treasurer's Report

The cash balance following the meeting of June 25 was \$1935.58. Thanks to members and guests, the raffle brought in \$62.

George Foxworth

Treasurer

Upcoming Programs

- 30 July** Don Hayden on Lew Wallace.
27 Aug. Helen P. Trimpi on Harvard Grads in the Civil War-North and South.
24 Sept. Tom Gaffey on Santa Rosa and Peteluma during the Civil War.
29 Oct. Paul Wagstaff on the expanded U.S. Constitution as a result of the Civil War.
No meeting in November.
3 Dec. Susan Williams on a Civil War photographer.
-

Passing Of Long-Time SCWRT Member Gatha M. Lee

I noticed in the Wed. June 18th Sac Bee that Gatha M. Lee passed away on June 15, 2003.

According to the Bee, Gatha was born February 8, 1921 in Paris, Arkansas and passed away on June 15, 2003 in South Sacramento. I received a call from Connie Lee (Gatha's daughter from Stockton) and she confirmed the passing of Gatha. Connie was touched to hear from me and she was glad of Gatha's association with the Round Table. Connie and the rest of the family did not know of Gatha's tie to the Round Table. She said that history was Gatha's favorite pursuit.

The family is planning a memorial service sometime in the future. Connie will contact me.

George Foxworth

Book Review by Walt Bittle

According to author Philip Van Doren Stern, the outcome of the Civil War was determined in Europe and on the high seas: *"Not Antietam or Gettys-burg or Vicksburg decided the destiny of the United States. The decision was made in the chancellories of*

Europe, and except for a few major battles, the outcome was influenced more by what happened at sea than on the land".

With this in mind, I must recommend two books edited by this author. The first is *"The Confederate Raider Alabama"* by Admiral Raphael Semmes. [Edited selections from the original *"Memoirs of Service Afloat During The War Between the States"* (1868).] The only disappointing chapter is Admiral Semmes' account of the battle between the *Alabama* and the *Kearsarge* – perhaps because he lost his ship in the engagement. The rest of the book will make a fascinating addition to your Civil War knowledge.

The other book is even more fascinating because much of the information it covers was kept secret until published in 1884. James D. Bulloch was the CSA's agent in England, and he was responsible for buying and launching the careers of the *Alabama* and her sister ships – for which England paid the US \$15 million dollars in war reparations. Mr. Bulloch's account is called *"The Secret Service of the Confederate States in Europe (or – How the Confederate Cruisers Were Equipped)"*. Mr. Bulloch never returned to the states, but he was visited by a young nephew who was writing a book about the War of 1812. That nephew was future President Theodore Roosevelt.

How John Bell Hood Ruined the Army of Tennessee

Part One

The Battle of Franklin

The demise of the Confederate Army of Tennessee (AofT) was brought about in two phases, the Battle of Franklin (30 Nov 64) and the Battle of Nashville (19-20 Dec 64). However, some consider it to have been a continuing process beginning when John Bell Hood was first appointed that Army's Commanding General by Jefferson Davis on 17 July 64, replacing Joseph Johnston.

Hood had been a commendable brigade commander, a successful division commander, and mediocre corps commander; but as an army commander, he was a failure. Robert E. Lee had said of him, "He is a bold fighter, very industrious on the battlefield, careless off, (but) I am uncertain that he possesses some of the qualities necessary for a commanding general". His West Point classmate, O. O. Howard said more succinctly, "He is a stupid fellow but a hard fighter, and does very unexpected things". (Did Howard possibly mean "irrational things"?)

Hood's severe wounds from Gettysburg and Chickamauga did not dampen his desire for combat, strapped to the saddle, he led the AofT at Atlanta and into Tennessee in a series of gallant albeit disastrous offenses. But as an administrator and strategist, he did not measure up to the task of commanding a corps or an army. Evidence that he was not overburdened with brains and good judgement can be found in many places other than his low academic standing at West Point. On a positive side Hood had a generally pleasant personality, but two ugly features significantly detracted; these were his tendency to blame subordinates for his own failures and to lie when such action proved to be in his self-serving interest.

Others who undoubtedly would have performed much better as commanding general were W. J. Hardee (recommended by Lee), J. Longstreet, D. H. Hill, S. B. Buckner, P. R. Cleburne, and Richard Taylor. They were excluded from consideration, however, due to strong mutually felt hatreds of Braxton Bragg, then serving as military adviser to Jefferson Davis. Bragg was also a failed commander of the AofT. His contribution to the confederacy as an "adviser" and his relationship with Jefferson Davis defy a rational explanation.

Pat Cleburne, known as the "Stonewall of the West" was further excluded from consideration because he had submitted a proposal earlier that would have permitted slaves to enlist in the Confederate army in return for their freedom. Jeff Davis was appalled by this idea, which ran fully counter to his philosophies of a "Southern Slavocracy".

An extreme example of Hood's inept abilities was his command and control collapse at Spring Hill, Tenn. on 29 Nov 64, and the vindictive frontal attacks he ordered the next day against strong Union field fortifications in Franklin, Tenn. MG John Scofield's Union forces and supply trains (his 23rd Corps & MG David Stanley's 4th Corps) were moving northward on the Columbia-Franklin Turnpike (now US31). The AofT was trailing on converging routes, but near Spring Hill rebel units actually pulled abreast and ahead. It was nearly dark. Rather than making certain that the pike was blocked thus cutting off the union escape route, Hood called it a day, and the AofT bivouacked adjacent to the pike on each side, at a distance of ¼ to ½ mile. They apparently slept soundly.

Scofield, after finding the road to be open, marched his 23,00 infantrymen, 50 artillery pieces and 800 supply wagons the 12-mile distance into Franklin, the last units arriving just before dawn. The union forces immediately occupied and extended the well-prepared field fortifications that had been built in 1862 by Union MG Gordon Granger after the fall of Nashville. The union initial intent was not to fight a battle, but to gain time for improving the Harpeth River bridges for the wagon train and artillery.

Hood's reaction to this communication breakdown was typical. He blamed everyone except himself. Cheatham and Cleburne bore the brunt of his rage. After a council at the Harrison House just south of Winstead Hill (see map), Hood ordered a frontal attack. There was command discord. Forrest said that with his cavalry and a good infantry division he could flank Scofield. Others agreed, but the frontal assault order held. Moreover, Hood refused to do things that might have improved an assault's remote chance for success. He was lacking one of his three infantry corps, and all but two of 10 artillery batteries, which had not yet arrived. He would not wait for them to come up. The attack began at 4:00 p.m. and the tragedy lasted 5 hours.

Of the AofT's 23,000 infantrymen present for the assault, 20,000 participated with over 7,000 casualties and nearly 2,000 deaths. Fifteen of the rebel army's 28 general officers were wounded and 6 were killed. The casualties included 65 division, brigade and regimental commanders.

Of the approximately 17,000 Union soldiers within the 2½-mile defense perimeter, there were 2,400 casualties reported, and only 200 killed; but the latter figure must be increased to include a portion of the 1,100 reported missing. One federal general (Stanley) was wounded.

In the five-hour Battle of Franklin, John Bell Hood had lost one-third of the army's effective fighting force and over one-half of its key leadership. With the apparent continuing blessing of his superiors in Richmond, he moved north toward Nashville to complete the final phase of the destruction of the Army of Tennessee three weeks later.

The Battle of Franklin will live in history as a monument to southern valor, and to southern leadership obtuseness. Wiley Sword summed up very well (ref.1, p.263) when he wrote: "John Bell Hood was a sad anachronism, a disabled personality prone to miscalculation and misperception. Unfortunately, he was also a fool with a license to kill his own men".

Index to Photos:

Group 1 pictures are of M G John Scofield, Commanding, Union Forces; BG Jacob B. Cox, de facto Union Combat Commander; John B. Hood, CG Rebel Army of Tennessee; and MG Pat Cleburne killed while leading his Division near the cotton gin SW of the Carter House. Also pictured are the five confederate Brigadier Generals John Adams, John C. Carter, Hiram Granbury, States Rights Gist, and Otho F. Strahl who were killed-in-action while leading their brigades. The location map shows the federal fortifications extending about 2.5 miles from the Harpeth River NW of town to the River SE, and other features of the battlefield.

The country was open and federal artillery at Fort Granger effectively covered most of the field. Heaviest fighting occurred along the Columbia Pike near the Carter house and cotton gin. The John McGavock house ("Carnton") served as a rebel hospital and temporary morgue (the bodies of four of the dead generals were brought here for transfer to Columbia for burial. Winstead Hill was the rebel command center. It is now a memorial park, which includes "Brigadier's Walk" and a battle orientation map model. Harrison house was Hood's Headquarters. It is now a private residence. The Carter and McGovack houses are open to the public. Each has a visitor center and small museum. On the latter property is a two-acre cemetery containing 1481 confederate graves.

Group 2 pictures are recent ones, taken June 03 at many of the locations discussed above. A particularly touching story is that of Captain Theoderick (Tod) Carter who was mortally wounded within yards of his home. He was taken there the next morning, but not alive.

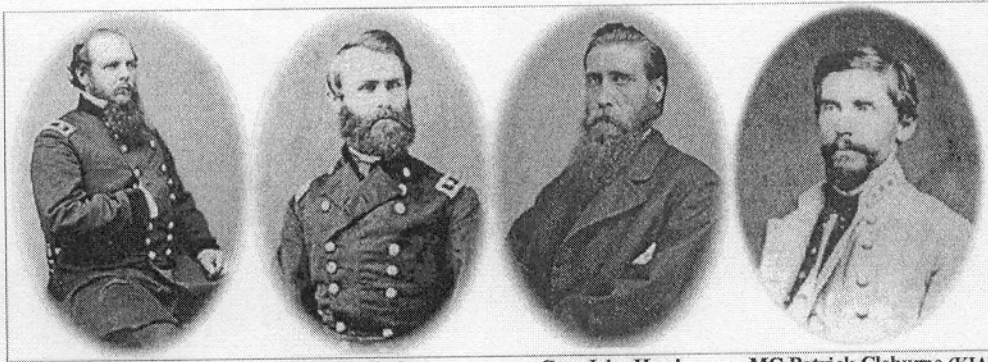
References:

1. "The Confederacy's Last Hurrah" or "Embrace an Angry Wind", by Wiley Sword, 1992
2. "Five Tragic Hours, The Battle of Franklin", by J.L. McDonough and T.L. Connelly, 1983
3. "Franklin and Nashville", by Jacob D. Cox, 1882
4. OR's Volume XLV (Series 93, 94)

Bob Williams: 7-15-03

Battle of Franklin Photo Group 1

RAW: 7-8-03

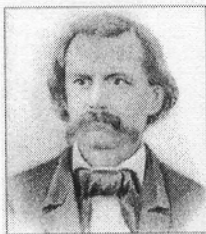


MG John Scofield

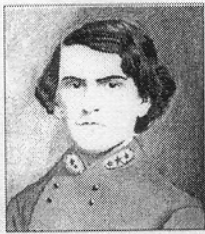
BG Jacob Cox

Gen. John Hood

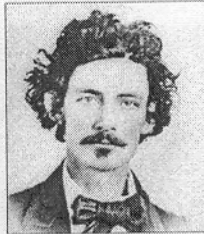
MG Patrick Cleburne (KIA)



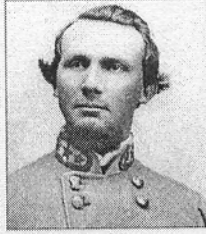
BG John Adams (KIA)



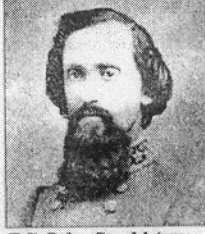
BG John Carter (KIA)



BG H. Granbury (KIA)

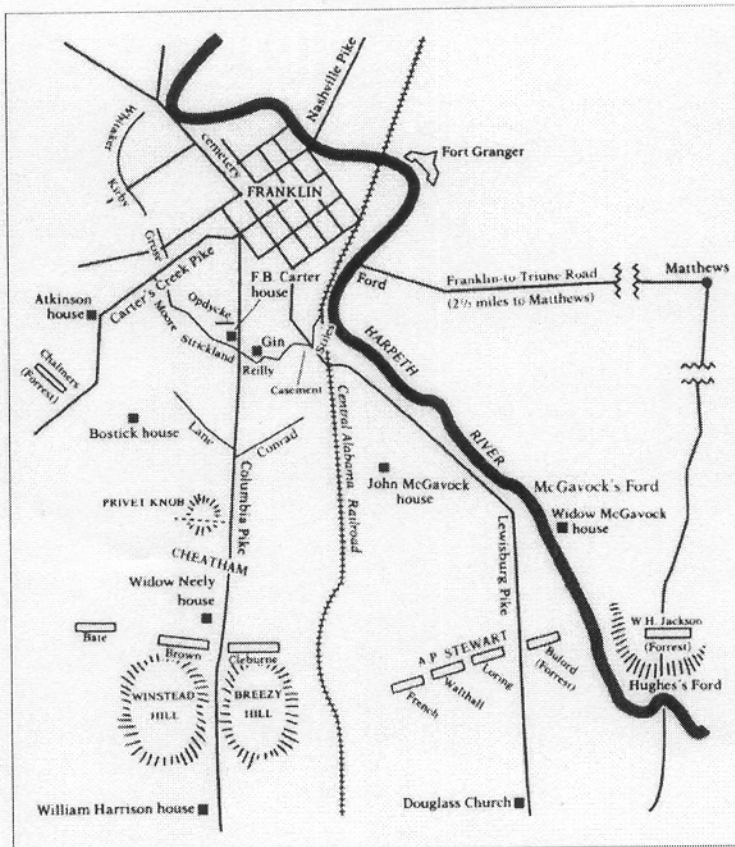


BG S. R. Gist (KIA)



BG Otho Strahl (KIA)

Franklin Battlefield Location Map



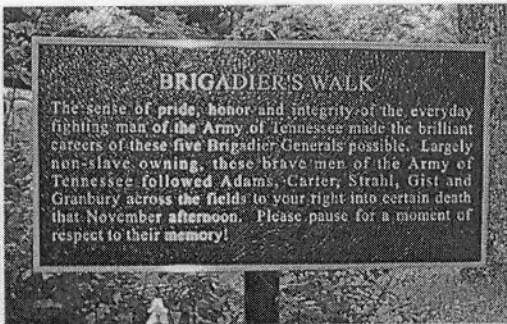
Scale: Harrison House to Carter House is 3.6 miles



Harrison House



Carter House



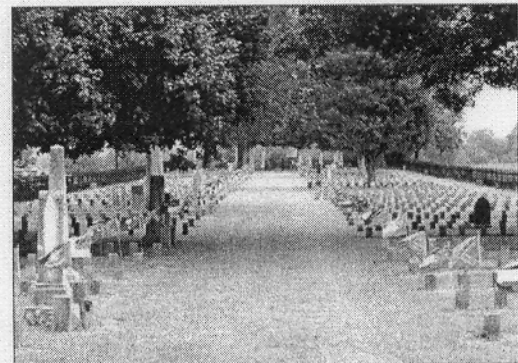
Winstead Hill Memorial Area



Memorial Tablets to Brigadiers



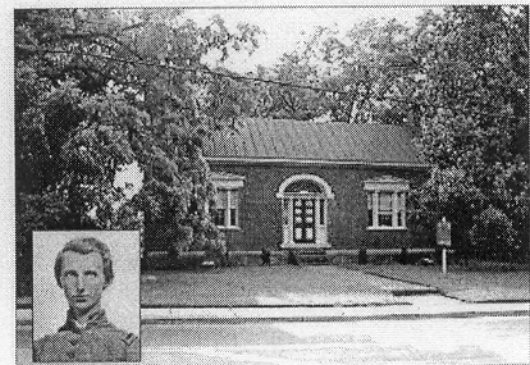
McGavock Mansion "Carnton"



McGavock Cemetery (1481 Confederate Graves)



Union Fortifications



Tod Carter (mortally wounded 525 feet from home)

Type of Registration

Full Registration

(All full registrations include the Friday evening welcome reception, Saturday luncheon, Saturday dinner, and morning coffee breaks.)

Early Bird Registration \$150.00
(through August 31)

Regular Registration \$165.00
(Sept. 1 – Oct. 15)

One-Day Registration

Saturday
(includes lunch & dinner) \$100.00

Friday or Sunday \$ 50.00
(Friday registration includes welcome reception; Sunday registration includes morning coffee break.)

Additional guest meal tickets:

Friday Reception \$ 25.00
Saturday Luncheon \$ 25.00
Saturday Dinner \$ 40.00

Total Registration Costs \$ _____

Payment

Detach and mail this section with your check.
Make checks payable to **CWRTSGV**, and mail it to:

West Coast Civil War Roundtable Conference
P. O. Box 61172
Pasadena, California 91116

Don't forget: Those attendees staying at the Marriott Hotel will be entered in a special exclusive raffle drawing.

2003 WEST COAST

Civil War

ROUNDTABLE CONFERENCE

On behalf of Civil War Roundtable of the San Gabriel Valley, Civil War Roundtable Associates and the Drum Barracks Civil War Museum in Wilmington, we welcome you to the 19th annual West Coast Civil War Roundtable Conference.

Conference Theme: 1863 - The Year that Made America

The year 2003 marks the 140th anniversary of this watershed year of the war. We chose it as the theme so that we might cover myriad topics of interest to our attendees.

Accommodations

This year's conference is set at the beautiful Warner Center Marriott Hotel at Warner Center in the San Fernando Valley. The conference has secured a remarkable room rate of only \$95 per night for the conference. Those attendees staying at the Marriott Hotel will be entered in a special exclusive raffle drawing.

Hotel Reservation Period

The Marriott is holding rooms at this rate through October 15. To register for a room, please call the Marriott at (800) 228-9290 or (818) 887-4800. Specify that you are registering for the West Coast Civil War Roundtable Conference.

The Civil War Roundtable of the San Gabriel Valley
and Civil War Roundtable Associates

Present

2003 WEST COAST

Civil War

ROUNDTABLE CONFERENCE

Co-sponsored by the
Drum Barracks Civil War Museum



November 7 – 9, 2003

Warner Center Marriott Hotel
Woodland Hills, California

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Civil War

ROUNDTABLE CONFERENCE

We have an outstanding program planned for you, and an exceptional array of speakers. Featured speakers include those listed below:

Featured Speakers

Herman Hattaway

Noted Historian and Author

Terry Winschel

Author and Historian
at Vicksburg National Military Park

Friday, November 7

Afternoon

- ❖ Welcome Reception at the Drum Barracks Civil War Museum
- ❖ Registration

Evening

- ❖ Social Hour
- ❖ Appetizers and Welcome
- ❖ Jerry Russell, National Chairman, Civil War Roundtable Associates

- ❖ Herman Hattaway: The Confederate Government
- ❖ Period Musical Entertainment

Saturday, November 8

Morning

- ❖ Jim Stanbery: 1863 Timeline
- ❖ Don McCue: The Emancipation Proclamation
- ❖ Herman Hattaway: Chickamauga

Afternoon

- ❖ Ted Savas: The H. L. Hunley
- ❖ Wayne Sherman: The California Battalion
- ❖ Jerry Russell: The Death of Stonewall Jackson at Chancellorsville
- ❖ Terry Winschel: Gettysburg

Evening

- ❖ Dinner
- ❖ Breakout Sessions

Sunday, November 9

Morning

- ❖ Terry Winschel: Vicksburg
- ❖ Herman Hattaway: Port Hudson
- ❖ Don McCue: The Gettysburg Address
- ❖ Closing Remarks
- ❖ Breakout Sessions

2003 CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE CONFERENCE

Register Now!

Early Registration Ends August 31, 2003

One registration form per registrant

Name, Rank and Serial Number, Please

Name

Address

Home Phone

Work Phone

Fax

E-Mail

Name as you would like it to appear on your name badge:

Roundtable Affiliation

Registration continues on reverse side ►►

The conference will also feature vendors, raffles, exhibits and displays. Check our web site for more detailed information and list of breakout sessions:

www.cwrtsgv.org