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**Battle Cry deadline is
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before the regular meeting.
Items can be given the editor
by hand, mail or e-mail.**

Battle Cry

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President's Message:

A special thank you to Bob Hanley for introducing us to Francis Channing Barlow! I say introducing since I assume that your knowledge of Barlow, like my own, was somewhat limited. The "are you related to the Barlow who was killed at Gettysburg?" story reminds me of the paucity and the travel speed of the news during that time.

Our July program will launch our Roundtable into a period of anticipated renewed interest in Lincoln and the Civil War. First, Abraham Lincoln would have been 200 years old next February and my guess is that the Lincoln related books will hit the market very soon if they aren't already there. I expect a Lincoln book by our friend, Craig Symonds, to be available soon. You will remember Craig as a favorite speaker from our "War on the Water" conference in 2006. We are also in the ramp up period for the 150 year anniversary of the beginning of it all at Fort Sumter.

July will see Don McCue, the curator of the Lincoln Memorial Shrine in Redlands, California, speak to our Roundtable. My guess is that Don is as familiar with Lincoln's life as anyone so I know this will be a special program. I often suggest that you come early to get a good seat, but this is the time to heed that advice.

George Foxworth has agreed to chair a Nominating Committee to come up with a slate of SCWRT officers for the year 2009. The positions of secretary, treasurer, and newsletter editor roll over from year to year as long as the incumbents wish to serve, but that still leaves a president, vice-president, and two members at large to be voted in come October. If you are interested in serving or if you want to recommend someone else, get his or her permission and then pass the name on to George. A Thank You to George for accepting this important assignment.

See you at the Hofbrau on Wednesday, July 9th! Come early for dinner—stay late for discussion! This will be a special evening.

Paul Ruud—President

Treasurer's Report

The cash balance following the June 11, 2008 meeting was \$2,567.10. Thanks to John Zasso, other members, and guests, the raffle brought in \$66.00.

George W. Foxworth, Treasurer

MINUTES
SACRAMENTO CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
JUNE 11, 2008
HOF BRAU RESTAURANT, WATT AVE, SACRAMENTO, CA

Attendance-37

Members-33

Paul Ruud, President
George Foxworth, Treasurer
Edie Keister, Secretary
Joan Beitzel
George Beitzel
Ken Berna
Roy Bishop
Walt Bittle
Marsha Cain
Harvey Cain
Alan Geiken
Bob Hanley
Don Hayden
Scottie Hayden

Pam Hubbard
Chuck Hubbard
Lowell Lardie
Victor Le
Cressie Mendes
Phil Mendes
Jim Middleton, Editor
Vivian Miller
Betty Mitchell
Maurice Mitchell
Horst Penning
Kris Scivoletto
Nicholas Scivoletto
Richard Sickert

Drew Van Winkle
Robert Williams
Silver Williams
Maxine Wollen
John Zasso
Guest-4
Flo Crawford
Fred Elenbass
Andrea Mullet
Mark Penning

1. Meeting started at 7:05. Guest and members welcomed by President Ruud. Gibson Ranch re-enactment discussed. Members thanked for volunteering. Special T-shirt made for our club from our friends at Gibson Ranch was shown and auctioned. Visiting member Walt Bittle will return to MO. And we will see him next spring. Our speaker on July 9th will be Don McCue, speaking on Abraham Lincoln.
2. Member Bob Hanley spoke on "Francis Channing Barlow, Boy General" Bob spoke mostly on his military advancements and battles. The presentation featured photos. Thank you Bob, for your well researched program, it was great!
3. Auction was held and meeting adjourned at 9:05.

Edie Keister
Secretary

Coming Programs 2008		
Date	Speaker	Topic
July 9 th	Don McCue	"Abraham Lincoln"
August 13 th	Harvey Cain	"Bicycling the Underground Railway"
Sept. 10 th	"Ted Savas"	"Lincoln and Davis at War"
Oct. 8 th	George Beitzel	"The Rubber Room"
Nov. 12 th	Tim Carlsberg	"Acting as Capt. of CA 100"
Dec. 10 th	Brad Schall	"Political Climate in 1860 California"

The San Joaquin Valley Civil War Round Table, American Legion Post 147 of Clovis, the Central California Chapter of the Association of the United States Army, and Civil War Round Table Associates of Little Rock, Arkansas, in memory of Jerry Russell, invite you to the

24th Annual West Coast **Civil War Round Table Conference** **November 7-9, 2008** **Clovis, California** (adjacent to and northeast of Fresno) **"Civil War in the Shenandoah Valley"**

Featuring:

Robert K. Krick, Jeffry Wert, Jim Stanbery, Peter Cozzens, Evan Jones, Don and Bill Bennett, David Paul Davenport, and Emily and Olivia Moats, in a one-act play based on the Civil War diaries of Laura Lee, Secessionist, and Julia Chase, a Unionist, residents of Winchester, Virginia.

The Brass Band of the Central California Chapter of the Association of the United States Army will regale registrants with music of the period on Friday the 7th before dinner.

A special showing of Shenandoah with Jimmy Stewart will be presented in the barely a year old theater/auditorium of the Veterans Memorial Building on Friday the 7th at 9 pm.

An optional tour on Saturday the 8th from 9 am to noon features a tour of the Fresno home of Dr. Meux (portrayed by Charles Baley), an assistant surgeon in the 9th Tennessee Vol. Inf. (C.S.A.) who moved to Fresno after losing his slaves and other valuables as a result of the war, and a tour to the Grand Army of the Republic Memorial and internments of Union Veterans of the War at Fresno's Mountain View Cemetery, led by G.A.R. historian Fred Bohmfalk of Elk Grove.

Bloody Shenandoah,. narrated by Burgess Meredith, will be shown at approximately 9 p.m. Following the Keynote Address after dinner on Saturday the 8th. Hundreds of books will be for sale, information about a tour of the Shenandoah Valley in 2009 will be available, and civil war artifacts and weaponry will be displayed.

(continued from page 3)

Comfort Suites (143 Clovis Ave, 559-299-9992) and Best Western Clovis Cole (415 Clovis Ave, 559-299-1547) hotels in Old Town Clovis have reserved blocks of rooms for us at only \$109.00 for a double room. Ask for the Civil War Conference Rate. The meeting will be held at the Veteran's Memorial Building at Hughes and 6th less than two blocks from the two hotels. The registration fee of \$175.00, includes six meals (Dinner Friday the 7th, breakfast, lunch, and dinner on Saturday the 8th, and breakfast and lunch on Sunday the 9th).

*Please fill in the information below to register for the conference.
Registrants should make hotel reservations by directly contacting the
conference hotels.*

Name_____

Street Address_____

City & Zip_____

E-mail_____

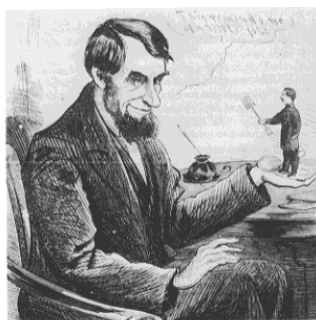
Attending Friday only, \$50.00

Attending Saturday only, \$100.00

Attending Sunday only, \$50.00

Those who wish to go on the tour of the home of Dr. Meux
add an additional \$10.00 to the registration fee.

Make checks for \$175.00 to SNCWRT P.O. Box 5695 Fresno,
CA 93755



The Civil War in Missouri

Part One

Background Events

and

The Battle of Wilson's Creek

The Battle of Wilson's Creek was fought 10 miles southwest of Springfield, Mo on 10 August 1861. It was a bitter struggle between Union and Rebel forces to control this border state in the first year of the War. Missouri's allegiance to the Federal Government was of vital concern to the Union due to the state's strategic location on the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers plus its abundant manpower and natural resources. It was imperative that this State remain loyal to the Union. Most Missourians desired neutrality, but many including the newly elected governor, Claiborne Jackson held strong Southern sympathies and planned to cooperate with the Confederacy.

When President Lincoln called on the states to provide troops to put down the rebellion, Missouri was asked to provide four regiments. The Governor refused and in turn ordered units of his state's militia to muster near St. Louis and prepare to capture the U. S. Arsenal. They had not counted on the resourcefulness of the Arsenal's commander, Union Captain Nathaniel Lyon, however. Lyon was a graduate of West Point, Class of 41 (11/52). He had served in the Seminole and Mexican Wars; on the frontier and during the "Bleeding Kansas Affair". The latter experience shaped his political views and he became an avid writer and supporter of Lincoln and the Republican Party.

Learning of the Governor's intentions, Lyon had most of the weapons stored in the arsenal moved across the river into Illinois. On 10 May with a strong force he then attacked and captured the State Militia in its encampment. With strong support and encouragement from Missouri Congressman Francis P. Blair, Jr., an avid Union supporter

who later provided outstanding federal military service as an Army of the Tennessee corps commander, they jointly met with Governor Jackson in a futile attempt to resolve differences. Blair's other Washington D. C. connections were that his brother Montgomery was Postmaster General, and his father an advisor to Lincoln.

In addition to the State Militia, later commanded by Sterling Price, there were two other military or militant-type organizations of rebel temperament operating in Missouri during the War. The first of these was the regular Confederate Army under command of General Benjamin McCulloch at this time, and later by General Earl Van Dorn. McCulloch, with little formal education, had been a frontier fighter and Texas Ranger. Although a good leader, he possessed little use for military protocol and theory. Price had been a former governor of Missouri and a U. S. Congressman, and had served honorably during the Mexican War.

Price and McCulloch had trouble getting along; however since neither wished to concede overall command to the other. This resulted in Van Dorn's assignment as commander of the then newly formed Confederate Trans-Mississippi Division. Although a West Point graduate, Class of 42 (52/56), Van Dorn's service was mediocre at best, and not unlike John Bell Hood, he became an early victim of the "Peter Principle". Moreover, he was also both a booze hound and a lady's man; getting himself killed in Tennessee on 7 May 1863, not by a Union minie ball, but by an irate husband.

The second type of military organization (perhaps it should better be called a militant group possessing criminal elements) operating in Missouri on the Rebel side during the Civil War was an inordinate number of guerilla bands known as irregulars. Confederate guerilla chieftains William Quantrill, "Bloody Bill" Anderson and George Todd became notorious bushwhackers, stage, train and bank robbers; and murderers,

torturers and rapists merely for the hell of it. The James and Younger brothers were just novices at this beginning, but grew talented into that line of work later. It is despicable that many of these guerilla leaders held confederate officer commissions ostensibly granted by J. F. Davis. Mosby, Morgan and perhaps other irregulars operating under the Confeds Partisan Rangers Act were real gentlemen compared to these Missouri rascals.

It should be noted, however that nearly three quarters of the white men from Missouri who fought during the Civil War did so on the side of the Union. After the Governor and many members of the legislature had “decamped”, a provisional government was formed consisting of a citizens “convention” which ruled the state until new elections were held in January 1865.

By 13 July 1861 Lyon was encamped at Springfield, Mo. with a force of about 6,000. They included the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 5th Missouri Infantry, the 1st Iowa and 2nd Kansas Infantry, several companies of regular army troops, and three artillery batteries. Meanwhile some 75 miles southwest MG Sterling Price had been occupied drilling the 5,000 militia men in his charge. By the end of July when troops under McCulloch rendezvoused with Price, the total Confederate force exceeded 12,000.

On 31 July after formulating plans to capture Lyons smaller force and regain control of the State, the Confeds moved northeast. Hoping to surprise the Rebels Lyon marched from Springfield on 1 August. The next day the Union troops mauled the Southern vanguard at Dug Springs, but Lyons, discovering that he was severely outnumbered, ordered a withdrawal back to Springfield. The Confederates followed and by 6 August were encamped near Wilson’s Creek.

Despite inferior numbers, Lyon decided to attack the Rebel encampments. Leaving some 1,000 men behind to guard supplies, he led 5,400 troops out of Springfield

the night of 9 August. His plan was for 1,200 men under Col. Franz Sigel to swing wide to the South, flanking the Rebel right, while the main body of Union troops struck from the North. Success hinged on surprise

. Ironically, the Confederate leaders had also planned a surprise attack on the Feds, but rains on the night of 9 August had caused them to cancel the operation... On the morning of the 10th, Lyon’s attack caught the Rebels off guard, driving them back. Forging rapidly ahead, the Federals overran several Rebel camps and occupied the crest of a ridge subsequently called “Bloody Hill”. Nearby a Rebel artillery battery opened fire, checking the Union advance. This gave Price’s infantry time to reform a defense line on the hill’s south slope.

For more than five hours the battle raged on Bloody Hill. Fighting was frequently at close quarters, and the tide turned with each charge and counter charge. Sigel’s flanking maneuver, initially successful lost momentum in the fields of the Sharp Farm (Refer to the Battle map) as it came under Rebel artillery fire. His attack collapsed completely upon McCulloch’s counter attack. Defeated, Sigel and his troops fled the field.

On Bloody Hill disaster happened at about 9:30 a.m. when General Lyon, who had been wounded twice earlier, was instantly killed while leading a countercharge. Major Sam Sturgis, the senior officer remaining on the field, assumed command; and by about 11:00 a.m. with ammunition nearly exhausted ordered a withdrawal back to Springfield. The Battle of Wilson’s Creek was over. Losses were about equal on both sides 1,317 for the Federal; 1,222 for the Confederates. The Rebels, although victorious, chose not to pursue the Northerners, for reasons not fully understood. Lyon had lost the battle and his life, becoming the first general officer to be killed during the War, but he achieved his goal. Missouri remained under Union control.

Lyon was subsequently replaced by BG Samuel R Curtis, an old professional soldier whose overall service was judged by most historians as exemplary.

The Battle of Wilson's Creek marked the beginning of the Civil War in Missouri. A very brief preview of succeeding events over the remaining war years is as follows: These may be discussed in more detail at a later date in the *Battle Cry* under a Part Two of this Article.

For the next 3.5 years, the State was the scene of savage and fierce fighting, mostly guerilla warfare, with small bands of raiders destroying anything military or civilian that could aid the enemy. By the time the War ended in the spring of 1865, Missouri had witnessed so many battles and skirmishes that it ranked third among the most fought-over State in the Nation, against Virginia and Tennessee.

The Confederates made only two large scale attempts to break the Union hold, both of them directed by Sterling Price. Shortly after Wilson's Creek, Price led his Missouri State Guard north and captured the Union garrison at Lexington. He and his followers remained in the State until 1862, when the Feds drove him back into Arkansas. The subsequent Union victory at the Battle of Pea Ridge on 7-8 March kept organized, but not guerilla, Rebel forces out of Missouri for nearly two years.

But in September 1864, Price returned to the State with an army of some 12,000. By the time this campaign ended he had marched nearly 1,500 miles, fought 43 battles or skirmishes, and destroyed 10 ± million dollars worth of property. Notwithstanding, the campaign ended in disaster. At Westport on 23 October, Price was soundly defeated in the largest battle fought west of the Missouri River and forced to again retreat south into Arkansas. His withdrawal ended organized Confederate military operations within the State of Missouri.

However, guerrilla operations continued in Missouri until long after the War, and some think they are not over yet. "Bloody Bill" was ambushed and killed 2 March 1864, and Quantrill 6 June 1865; but the James and Youngers were active for another 10 to 15 years. And much mythology and legend remains which claims that those folks were really not so bad after all?

There is an old adage about a fellow, who was going to his home in that State, who said, according to some: "Good, By God, I'm going to Missouri". Others have commented that what he really meant to say was: "Goodbye God, I'm going to Missouri".

(Note: Our Newsletter Editor is from Missouri. This may be my last article?)

Bob Williams: 6-25-08

References:

"Battles and Leaders", V 1 Pt 2 Pages 262-298, 1885; "Lectures Notes" by Edwin Bearss, 2001 Tour; "Civil War Dictionary" by M. Boatner, 1988; "Damn Yankee - Nathaniel Lyon" by C. Phillips, 1997.



The Civil War in Missouri

Graphics Page

Composite Drawing of Civil War Commanders in Missouri

The Commanders
Brig. Gen. Albert Pike 1 commanded the Confederate Indians who fought at Pea Ridge. Their performance in the battle, however, failed to impress Confederate commander Maj. Gen. Earl Van Dorn 2, who refused to acknowledge Pike in his official report. Van

Dorn's two other subordinate commanders, Maj. Gen. Sterling Price 3 and Brig. Gen. Ben McCulloch 4, had teamed

up once before, at Wilson's Creek, but their relationship was a stormy one, mainly because of McCulloch's indifference

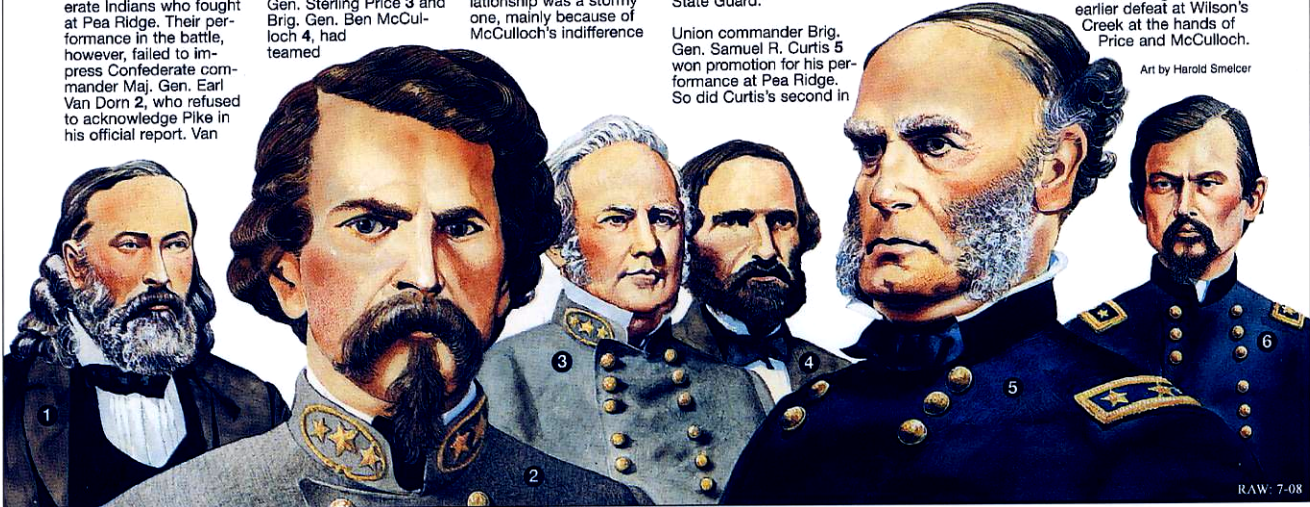
to Missouri's fate and his low opinion of Price's State Guard.

Union commander Brig. Gen. Samuel R. Curtis 5 won promotion for his performance at Pea Ridge. So did Curtis's second in

command, German-born Brig. Gen. Franz Sigel 6,

who saw the Federal victory at Pea Ridge as sweet revenge for his earlier defeat at Wilson's Creek at the hands of Price and McCulloch.

Art by Harold Smelser



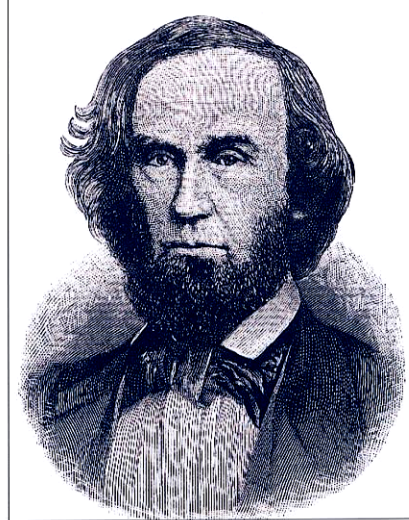
Francis Preston Blair, Jr.
U.S. Congressman and Union Major General



Brig. Gen. Nathaniel Lyon



Claiborne Jackson, Governor



Colonel Wm. Quantrill, CSA

