



**Volume 57, No 8  
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# Battle Cry

Founded 1961,  
Newsletter of the Sacramento Civil War Round Table  
P.O. BOX 254702  
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## President's Message

August is here and the sweltering heat wave continues. Two of my family members have had to replace air conditioning units and the long waits have been excruciating. I hope most of us avoided that crisis.

It was a pleasure to welcome Larry Tagg back to the fold again. I enjoyed his talk immensely.

I trust we are registering many attendees for our November Conference, the second weekend of November. That's not too far down the road and I hope to see the usual strong support we have always enjoyed from our members.

I will be out of town next week and will miss the Board and evening meetings. Paul Ruud has graciously agreed to fill in for me. Thanks Paul.

Richard Sickert will speak on "Wanna Be Johnny Rebs". Don't miss it.

**Don Hayden, Vice President**

**MINUTES**  
**SACRAMENTO CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE**  
**Wednesday, July 12, 2017**  
**HOF BRAU RESTAURANT, 2500 WATT AVENUE, SACRAMENTO**

**ATTENDANCE – 31**

**MEMBERS – 20:** Don Hayden, Vice President, George Foxworth, Treasurer, Barbara Leone, Secretary, Roy Bishop, Harvey Cain, Marsha Cain, Monica Foxworth, Arnd Gartner, Nina Henley, Wayne Henley, Chris Highsmith, Dennis Kohlmann (MAL), Arnold Kunst, Bernie Quinn, John Rice, Nancy Samuelson, Nick Scivoletto, Richard Sickert, Roxanne Spizzirri, John Zasso.

**GUESTS – 11:** Esther Boeck, Robert E. Hanley, Joe Matalone, Michelle Matalone, Larry Spizzirri, Richard Spizzirri, Katherine Stockley, Phil Stockley, Larry Tagg, Dan Wolfe, Faye Wolfe.

1. The meeting was called to order by Don Hayden and he led the Pledge. John Zasso conducted the raffle. Don introduced Larry Tagg who talked about his new book "The Generals of Shiloh." Larry brought to our attention the fictional book "Lincoln in the Bardot" by George Saunders. That author quoted material from Larry's book "The Unpopular Mr. Lincoln," giving him credit.
2. The Western Theater from the Appalachians to Missouri and Arkansas was wide open allowing more space to choose direction and maneuver. The people who directed the campaigns in the West were the planter aristocracy. That determined why the first big battle of the West was fought at Shiloh. Central Tennessee was the most defensible because the rivers were like highways. Much of the area west of the Appalachians was a muddy morass most of the year so travel was by boat.
3. At the beginning of 1862, the Union Army and its' gunboats "owned" the rivers. This determined the War would be fought in Western Tennessee. Early in the War, the Western decision makers, the cotton aristocracy, favored defending the Mississippi, Tennessee, and Cumberland Rivers. Memphis and the Mississippi Delta were where the money was. Larry pointed out the monetary value of slaves. It was worth more than the rest of the South's wealth combined. Such a huge investment had to be protected. So Memphis was essential.
4. Railroads were critical for transporting troops and goods. Corinth, Mississippi was where the North-South and East-West railroads met. The Confederates centered on Corinth to protect Memphis. Shiloh is between Corinth and the Tennessee River.
5. The tactics of the Confederate leaders were disorganized and brigades often didn't fight as a unit. Troops went where they were directed which was where the sound was the loudest.
6. The public was stunned by the enormous number of casualties; they were beginning to realize the cost in lives and the effect the War would have on everyone.
7. Grant was a fierce risk taker who managed to win. During the Civil War, he captured four armies. Larry finds him especially interesting because he could write clear orders; everyone knew what they had to do.
8. Most officers had no military education or experience but were wealthy and well-connected, often politically. David Stuart was a well-bred, well-educated lawyer in Detroit who was disgraced by an affair with a client. He tried to redeem himself by raising a regiment but the public was against him. When he moved to Chicago, he became a railroad lawyer and friend of Senator Stephen A. Douglas. He raised two regiments to form a brigade and after Fort Sumter, the War Department approved his brigade. He was elected Colonel of the 55<sup>th</sup> Illinois Infantry Regiment. He had a loud voice but no military skills. When the Confederates attacked his green troops, they retreated on the run but returned when Stuart's loud commanding voice brought them back to the fight. Albert Sidney Johnston tended to let others such as P.G.T. Beauregard make decisions. Johnston was killed because he should have been commanding from the rear, not from where a Brigade Commander belonged.
9. Once his book is published, Larry hopes to return for another talk.
10. The next Board of Directors' Meeting is Wednesday, August 9, 2017, at 10:00 AM at Brookfield's.

**Barbara Leone, Secretary**

**Treasurer's Report**

The cash balance following the July 12th meeting was \$5,856.83. Thanks to John Zasso, other members, and guests, the raffle brought in \$.48.00.

**George W. Foxworth, Treasurer**

# Coming Programs for 2017 & 2018

Date	Speaker	Topic
August 9th	Richard Sickert	"Wanna Be Johnny Rebs"
September 12th	Nancy B. Samuelson	"Three Brothers From Missouri"
October 11th	Arnold Kunst	"The Wit and Wisdom of Abraham Lincoln"
November 8th	Mike Werner	"The First Battle of Charleston Harbor 1863"
December 13th	To Be Determined	To Be Determined
January 10th	To Be Determined	To Be Determined

## **2017 Membership**

The 2017 membership renewal is due as of January 1, 2017. The dues are \$20.00 and you can renew at a monthly meeting or send to the Treasurer through the mail. For all checks, make them payable to **Sacramento Civil War Round Table** and send them to

George W. Foxworth  
 9463 Salishan Court  
 Sacramento, CA 95826-5233

Remember, you can also pay at any monthly meeting.

## **NEWSLETTER CIVIL WAR ARTICLES**

Civil War articles/book reviews are welcome. The submission deadline is the 1<sup>st</sup> of each month for that month's **Battle Cry**. However, you can submit articles at anytime. Please submit your items in Microsoft Word or regular email to:

[gwofforth@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gwofforth@sbcglobal.net)

Do not submit scanned files since I may need to edit files to combine the **Battle Cry**.

The **Battle Cry** is the monthly newsletter of the Sacramento CWRT. Submissions are subject to availability of space and size limitations. Submissions do not necessarily reflect the views of the organization or the Editor. The official address of this organization is: Sacramento Civil War Round Table, Post Office Box 254702, Sacramento, CA 95865-4702. <http://www.sacramentocwrt.org> is the web site address. Check the web for past newsletter editions and information about the group.

## A Splendid Expression of Civil War Symbolism

On a fairly recent sojourn to South-Central Tennessee, I revisited the Winstead Hill Memorial Park. First thing noticed was a new rock masonry entrance sign. Initial impression was that the sign had been severely damaged on its northern most one-third, probable by an accident with a large vehicle. But upon closer inspection it became apparent that the sign was “as built,” and only then did I realize that it reflected a splendid expression of Civil War symbolism. Indeed a message was being conveyed. The background is as follows.

Winstead Hill is located two miles south of Franklin along the old Nashville-Columbia Pike, now US 31. The small elevation, raising about 150 feet above the roadbed, was the headquarters location and observation post for Confederate General John Bell Hood during the 30 November 1864 Battle of Franklin. (See *Battle Cry* July 2014 article.) Hood, in a vindictive fit of rage, coupled by a generous sprinkling of stupidity, had ordered a series of six separate frontal attacks against well fortified Federal forces which resulted in 6,500 rebel casualties, one-third of his effective fighting

forces, over a four and one-half hour period. Hood had begun a process toward the total destruction of the Confederate Army of Tennessee which he completed 3 weeks later at the Battle of Nashville. (See *Battle Cry* May 2014 article.)

Purpose of the Winstead Hill Memorial Park is to honor those Confederate soldiers killed, including one major general, five brigadier generals, and 16 regimental commanders. The one-third rubble end of the sign depicts the one-third loss of the rebel army. (Had a similar symbolic sign been placed at Traveler’s Rest, Hood’s headquarters during the Battle of Nashville, it would need to have been 100 percent rubble.)

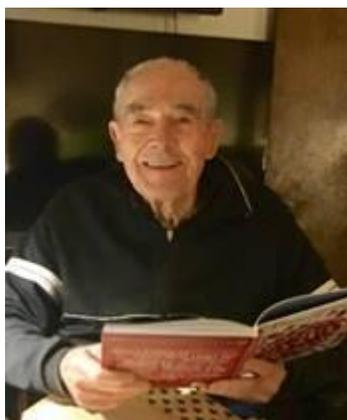
Indeed, the Battle of Franklin was the worst blunder of the entire Civil War, and it was brought about by the action of a single individual. Notwithstanding, that individual was later honored in 1942 by the naming of a major U. S Army installation in Texas after him. Some feel this to have been quite appropriate since John Bell Hood was the Confederate General who had done the most to help the Union win the Civil War.

**Bob Williams: 12-2014**



# The Porter Conspiracy

A book about the 1862, Second Battle of Bull Run (Manassas) and Union Major General Fitz-John Porter.



Gene Paleno (Author; *The Porter Conspiracy*)

## **SEGMENT ONE**

*During the early days of the Civil War, there were turning points for the North as well as the South. There were times and battles when an inept general fighting an enemy, who did all the right things, might have ended the War. Gettysburg was such a place and time. Had General Lee listened to Longstreet at Gettysburg, and gone around the Union Army instead of a hopeless direct attack up a hill covered with scores of accurate Union cannons, Lee might have reached Washington and forced a peace. The Battle of Malvern Hill, told below, was another such turning point... if Porter had been in charge of the Union strategy instead of McClellan.*

Malvern Hill is not a hill. It is more of a plateau a mile-and-a-half long and three-quarters of a mile wide. The crest is more than a hundred feet high. On the south, there is the swampy ground next to the James River. High ravines and creek runoff separate the Hill from the land below. If the Federals were looking for a good place to defend against an army, Malvern Hill was such a place.

Major General Fitz John Porter was at Malvern Hill, three miles ahead of Lee. Taking Malvern Hill and crushing Porter's men was another chance for Lee to smash the Union Army. However, this time Lee was up against Fitz John Porter and Porter was a different kind of soldier from George McClellan. Porter stood in his way and held the 150-foot-tall eminence known as Malvern Hill. He was not about to give way easily to anyone without a good fight.

This time Jackson was on the scene. He was more ready for battle than he had been for several days. Lee was overheard to say before the battle, "This battle will be the opportunity of my life."

If he could destroy Porter's Corps, he would be in position to overrun the remaining leaderless, disorganized Union forces as they struggled away from Glendale on their way to the defenses on the James River. Victory and recognition for the Confederacy was in sight.

One last obstacle to overcome would give Lee and the Confederacy that victory. That obstacle was Major General Fitz John Porter. Porter and his men had the assignment of holding Lee and the Confederate Army. He had stopped on Malvern Hill and he had made his place secure against the coming enemy forces. Then he waited for Lee.

## **SEGMENT TWO**

*On the Warrenton Turnpike near Groveton, Jackson's forces had settled on Stony Ridge. He was firmly established with his lines of Confederates behind the natural defenses of the abandoned railroad above the Warrenton Turnpike not far from Groveton.*

*The half-mile stretch of earth mounds along the half-finished construction of the abandoned railway, the cuts and ditches, were all that remained of the dream of the 1850 Manassas Gap Railroad Company. Meant to compete with the steep shipping fees of the much larger Orange and Alexandria Line, it had been abandoned after ten years of work when they ran out of money. Now it was a perfect place to wait for Longstreet.*

*Jackson's choice of position behind the abandoned railway had another plus. From his excellent vantage point half a mile from the Turnpike, and a hundred feet higher with a gently sloping, rock-strewn meadow in between, the rebels had an excellent view of the road within his artillery range. The Battle of Brawner's Farm was about to begin.*

At the edge of the woods just ahead, some nameless private spotted movement. He shouted out a warning. A sergeant confirmed the sighting and repeated the warning to an officer.

"Enemy on the hill."

Colonel Sullivan, riding next to General Hatch, trained his binoculars at the woods where the officer pointed. On the edge of a ridge of trees, rising in a dark bank against the hot dusty yellow sunshine a half-mile away, he saw men. They were moving about busily intent on some task. He and Hatch discussed what it might mean.

"They could be rebels. Perhaps part of a cavalry force," Hatch remarked.

He was concerned. As he watched, heads turned in the ranks. The troops had seen them.

The scene took on more significance as a rebel gun was wheeled out of the trees. More gray shirted men appeared. The artillery piece was set into firing position and the distant rebel gun crew went to work doing what gun crews do.

Hatch roared out an order, "Get Colonel Reynolds here with a battery... fast."

The regiment was given the order, "Break ranks and take cover."

The regiments fell out and looked for some sort of cover. Following a well-rehearsed drill, the first squad ran to the ditch at the side of the road. Shouting for courage, they tore down the split rail fencing that separated the road from the field beyond. The heavy posts were torn from the ground. In the space of three minutes, they had made a way across the shallow ditch into the field for the passage of the artillery teams and the limber wagons, already on their way.

The 1st New York light battery came forward at a gallop, the teamsters lashing the horses to make speed. The wagons tore across the makeshift planking and unlimbered the Parrott field piece under an embankment. More broken posts and rails were heaped before the guns to protect the gun crews from the fire of the rebel muskets. The entire brigade dived for cover against the enemy shelling that was shortly expected.

A moment later there was a puff of white smoke from the woods. The Federal crew aimed their weapons, loaded shells, touched fuses, and returned the rebel fire. Other men found more fencing and piled posts before them, or dropped to the ditches as shelter. The duel was on.

### **SEGMENT THREE**

*Just before four o'clock, on the third, and last, day of the Battle, Porter's Federals were giving way. Kemper's and D.R. Jones' Divisions moved ahead with Hood's Brigade leading the advance against Porter's exposed left flank.*

A soldier of the 5<sup>th</sup> New York, Andrew Coats, recalled, "Our officers hollered, 'Attention Battalion.' In the next second, bang! bang! bang! came the sound of shots from the woods directly at our front. There was a terrific volley of musket fire and the balls began to fly through the air like hail. It was a continuous hiss, snap, whiz, and slug."

"At first we couldn't see the Confederates. There were only streaks of smoke in and among the trees. Then all at once, there they were; hundreds of men in gray uniforms. Someone, thinking they were the remnants of fleeing Federals, shouted 'Don't fire. Those are men of the 10<sup>th</sup>.' It wasn't so. They were Confederates but we did not know that. The new arrivals of the 10<sup>th</sup> hid them from our view as they came from the woods."

"The Confederates loosed a volley at us that was devastating. We returned a ragged volley of musket fire but the Rebels cut us down as if at the hands of an executioner."

"As we fought on, our color guards were nearly all downed, yet the colors still flew in the wind. Sergeant Andrew Allison, bearing the flag, had his wrist smashed by a rebel bullet but held on to the flag. A moment later, he fell dead with a bullet through his heart. There was no hope of holding the line and the men ran for their lives."

Submitted by Gene Paleno, (genepaleno@gmail.com)



# 2017 West Coast Civil War Conference

Sponsored by Sacramento Civil War Round Table

## Lesser Known Civil War Battles

November 10 - 12, 2017, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Sacramento

### Our Speakers are:

**William C. Davis:** Retired in 2013 as Professor of History and Executive Director of the Virginia Center for Civil War Studies at Virginia Tech University. He is the author or editor of more than 60 books on the Civil War and Southern history, and consultant and commentator for A&E's "Civil War Journal," and several other television and film productions.

**Dr. Brian S. Wills:** Director of the Center for the Civil War Era at Kennesaw State University. Dr. Wills is a nationally recognized Civil War historian and author of books on Civil War topics.

**Thomas Cartwright:** Is a leading authority and author on the Battle of Franklin who conducted tours of Western Theater battlefields for 20 years. Appeared on many TV shows and is a frequent CWRT speaker.

**Jim Stanbery:** Professor of Political Science and History at Los Angeles Harbor College, and speaker at the West Coast Civil War Conference for more than twenty years. Is a frequent CWRT speaker.

**Theodore Savas:** Is an attorney, adjunct college instructor, award-winning author, Partner and Managing Director of Savas Beatie LLC. He specializes in military history and the American Civil War.

**Ron Perisho:** A member of the Sacramento CWRT and Center for Civil War Photography (CCWP), Co-Editor of "Gettysburg in 3-D," and a Soils Engineer who has collected Civil War Photography for 30 years.

The Conference cost is \$200 per person which includes Friday dinner, Saturday lunch and dinner, as well as all sessions. A full hotel breakfast buffet is included for guests staying at the hotel.

Partial day attendance: **Friday Only** is \$50; **Saturday Only** is \$125; **Saturday Dinner and Lecture Only** is \$50; **Sunday Only** is \$25.

There will be a no-host bar set-up Friday and Saturday evenings for your enjoyment before dinner.

For more information, contact Paul Ruud at 530-886-8806 or by contacting [www.sacramentocwrt.com](http://www.sacramentocwrt.com) where information and registration forms will be available.

Room reservations are available by calling Crowne Plaza directly 877-504-0054 or [www.crowneplaza.com](http://www.crowneplaza.com) Crowne Plaza Hotel has rooms set aside for us at \$124 per night, plus tax. Please mention the Conference.

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Please print this page, fill it out, and return the form with your check for your registration. Make checks payable to: **Sacramento CWRT** and mail to: George W. Foxworth, 9463 Salishan Court, Sacramento, CA 95826-5233.

### Organization and Name as you want it on your badge (Please Print):

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