



# Battle Cry



**Vol. 43 No. 11 November 2003 Newsletter of Sacramento Civil War Round Table**

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:**

Once again we had a super presentation. I thought Paul's thoughts on the Constitution and the Bill of Rights were very interesting. After the Revolutionary War, it was time to think about a new way to organize beyond the Articles of Confederation. Since the states had just gotten free of a strong central government, they were leery of another. That is why the Bill of rights was added. Paul was absolutely correct that all 10 of these amendments were restrictions on the central government and not on the states. The states were making sure that they were not creating a monster.

As the North entered the industrial revolution, it wanted a different kind of central government than the still agrarian South did. Senators and Congressman from Southern states tended to get reelected over and over again. The result was that Southerners were usually the heads of congressional

committees. In this way they could block Northern plans. Once the Southerners left, that restriction was missing. When the Southern Congressman and Senators finally did return, they had lost their seniorities and committee chairmanships. Actually it wasn't until the election of 1876 that all the states that had succeeded were allowed to vote for president. That meant some southern states were out of Congress for 15 years. The IX and X Amendments to the constitution were essentially meaningless. New amendments would be limitations on the states. The lion had been let out of the cage.

This month, we will have the long awaited presentation by Susan Williams on Civil War photography. I know it will be very interesting.

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**Next Meeting Wednesday  
December 3, 2003 featuring  
Susan Williams on *Civil War  
Photography.***

MINUTES  
SACRAMENTO CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE  
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2003  
Sizzler Restaurant, 2030 Fulton Avenue, Sacramento

Attendance – 31

Members – 27

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

Carol Breiter  
Steve Breiter  
Don Hayden  
Edie Keister  
Ken Kitchen  
Russ Knauer  
Leslie Michaels  
Jim Middleton  
Betty Mitchell

Maurice Mitchell  
Patty Ruud  
Paul Ruud  
Natalie Schafer  
Rudy Schafer  
Andrew Sneeringer  
Susan Williams  
Maxine Wollen  
John Zasso

Guests – 4

Kyle Glasson  
Susan Katt  
John Nevins  
Paul Wagstaffe

1. President Kohlmann opened the meeting by welcoming new members and guests. He then reviewed this day in Civil War History and encouraged members to attend the upcoming West Coast Civil War Conference in Woodland Hills. There was some discussion of program topics for 2004.
2. Carol Breiter, chair of the Nominations Committee, reviewed the slate of officers presented at the October meeting. There being no further nominations from the floor, she declared the slate elected by acclamation. The officers' names will appear in every issue of the *Battle Cry*.
3. Paul Wagstaffe, local attorney and student of history, presented a well thought-out program about "The expansion of the US Constitution as a result of the Civil War". First, Mr. Wagstaffe walked us through the Constitution itself, assuming it has been some time since any of us actually read it (he was right!). He expanded upon certain sections, particularly those that affected the thinking of those who produced the "irrepressible conflict". Paul paid special attention to the amendments that resulted from the Civil War – the 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, and 15<sup>th</sup>. Our sincere thanks go out to Paul Wagstaffe for giving of his time and expertise to demonstrate how a 200-year old document affects us personally.
4. Following the raffle, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40.

*Walt Bittle*

Secretary

Treasurer's Report

The cash balance following the meeting of October 29 was \$1874.07. Thanks to members and guests, the raffle brought in \$46.00.

*George Foxworth*, Treasurer



**A Report On The 19<sup>th</sup> Annual  
West Coast Civil War  
Conference**

by George W. Foxworth

The 19<sup>th</sup> Annual West Coast Civil War Conference was held on November 7-9, 2003, at the Warner Center Marriott in Woodland Hills, California.

The Conference was hosted by the Civil War Round Table (CWRT) of the San Gabriel Valley, CWRT Associates of Little Rock, Arkansas and Drum Barracks Civil War Museum in Wilmington, California. "1863--The Year That Made America" was the theme and many enlightening presentations by the distinguished speakers filled the weekend. The speakers were Herman Hattaway, Jim Stanbery, Don McCue, Wayne Sherman, Kathy Ralston, Terry Winschel, Donald M. Gelb, MD, Lee Meredith, Dr. Jeff Wissot, Jennifer Cain Bohrnstedt, Zoyd Luce, Steven Preston, and Jerry Russell, National Chairman, Civil War Round Table Associates of Little Rock, Arkansas. Also in attendance were Ted Savas, Shelley Jones, and other Civil War buffs throughout the West.

The Sacramento CWRT was represented by Paul Ruud, Walt Bittle, Dennis Kohlmann, Kit Knight, and George W. Foxworth.

All presentations were excellent. Herman Hattaway spoke on "The Confederate Government," "Chickamauga," and "Port Hudson." Jim

Stanbery spoke on "1863 Timeline." Don McCue spoke on "The Emancipation Proclamation" and "The Gettysburg Address." Wayne Sherman spoke on "The California Battalion." Kathy Ralston spoke on "The H. L. Hunley" and "Virtual Tour of the Drum Barracks." Terry Winschel spoke on "Mississippians at Gettysburg," "Living History—The Soldier's Life," and "The Vicksburg Campaign." Donald M. Gelb, MD spoke on "Civil War Medicine." Lee Meredith spoke on the "Strategic Impact of the Railroad at the Battles of Chickamauga and Chattanooga." Dr. Jeff Wissot spoke on "Lincoln, Gettysburg, and the American Conscience" and hosted a "Gettysburg Roundtable Discussion." Jennifer Cain Bohrnstedt spoke on "The War in Tennessee: Fodder for Foreign Newspapers." Zoyd Luce spoke on "The American Indian During the Civil War." Steven Preston spoke on "Southern California in The Civil War." Jerry Russell spoke on "The Death of Stonewall Jackson."

One highlight was the performance of The Band of the California Battalion. The Maestro was Dr. Gary Thomas Scott and the music was outstanding. Dr. Scott is the Dean of Creative Arts and Applied Sciences at Long Beach City College. Dr. Scott is well-known for his colorful, educational, and entertaining banner during performances. Union Major General Winfield Scott is an ancestor of Dr. Scott.

The Band portrayed a battalion/brigade-level band in the Union Army at the time of the Civil War. The Band was made entirely of a family of brass instruments called sax horns.

Another highlight was Civil War era music by the Cottonwood String Band. Some selections were taken by request, such as Ashokan Farewell from the Ken Burns series, The Civil War, Dixie, Lorena, When Johnnie Comes Marching Home, and others.

The final highlight was the recognition of Shelley Jones in the success of the West Coast Civil War Conference. Mr. Jones was recognized by Mr. Jerry Russell as the only person to have attended all 19 of the Conferences. Our hats are off to Mr. Shelley Jones.

The Conference was a complete success and the San Gabriel Valley CWRT is to be commended for their excellent work. The Warner Center Marriott was an excellent hotel.

Looking ahead to 2004, the 20th Annual West Coast Civil War Conference is scheduled for November 5-7, 2004. This Conference will be hosted by the Stanislaus Civil War Association in Modesto, California. The theme is "The Seven Days: The 1862 Peninsula Campaign" and all are invited to attend.

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## **Recent Conference on the Civil War**

SCWRT members Walt Bittle and Bob & Mearlne Williams attended a Conference at the Huntington Library in Santa Marino on Oct. 17-18, dealing with social and cultural aspects of the Civil War. The conference brought together some 20 scholars and authors from various universities throughout the country and including Oxford with over 200 participants attending for the presentation of papers, freewheeling discussion and wide ranging Q&A sessions. Titles of the 12 papers presented were listed in the August, 2003 edition of the *Battle Cry*.

All papers were extremely well done and in several instances represented previews of future books by their authors. Three in particular struck me as being outstanding. These were: James McPherson's work on "Religion in Civil War Armies", Drew Faust's outline on "Why we grow too fond of it: Why we love the Civil War", and Gary Gallagher's discussions on "Brushes, Canvases and the Lost Cause"; in which he develops the precepts of the "Lost Cause" mode of presenting Civil War history that remains so much alive even today in some circles.

The Huntington Library with its associated Art Museums and Botanical Gardens is a truly great place to hold conferences.



## HOT FALL SALE FOR CIVIL WAR BUFFS

Fall is the traditional time for sales on automobiles, bikinis and losing team's baseball caps. This fall, civil war enthusiasts also had a great sale as The Huntington, in Pasadena, sponsored a 2 day civil war conference with a registration fee of \$ 25 including hot scones and coffee. SCWRT members Bob Williams, Walt Bittle, Susan Williams and George and Joan Beitzel took advantage of this great offer.

The conference, entitled " Crossing Boundaries: New Perspectives on Civil War Military and Cultural History " offered non traditional presentations on the social, military and cultural aspects of the war. A dozen presenters offered their views including civil war icons James McPherson and Gary Gallagher. Most of the other presenters had also published books on the civil war.

The topics were very diverse ranging from " Onward Christian Soldiers: Religion in Civil War Armies" to " Impermissible Patriots: Women's Roles in Military History and the Civil War". Speakers gave 45 minute presentations followed by a Q. and A. session. The presentations ranged from truly outstanding to boring.

The speakers were approachable through out the 2 day session for individual questions and book signings. Both Walt and I were able to get numerous books autographed by their authors. About 125 people attended so it was easy to talk with the presenters during the conference.

To me one of the most interesting presentations was " The Soldiers of the Army of Northern Virginia: Who Were They? "The presentation was based on a statistical analysis of a random sample of soldiers. Some of the results were:

- The median birth date of the soldier was 1835.
- Over 50 % if the soldiers had been farmers.
- 14 % had been students
- 6 % had held professional jobs
- 25 % were poor ( assets of \$ 0 )
- 25 % were from wealthy households (assets over \$ 10,000 )
- 43 % of soldiers were from slave holding households compared to about 10 % slave holders in the white Confederacy.
- 85 + % of soldiers who served with the Army of Northern Virginia through out the war were killed, wounded, captured, or seriously ill during their time of service.

Each of the SCWRT attendees had a favorite speaker but all of us, found many things of interest during this very worth while conference. "Value" is over used in advertising, but in this case, we each got full value for our \$ 25.

Submitted by George Beitzel, SCWRT member

**Mrs. Jefferson Davis,  
1864:  
Last Confederate  
Christmas**

We roasted acorns for our coffee. Apple trees still grow and bear in spite of our war-tattered state, so the base of a precious mince meat pie is assured. Dried peaches stood in for raisins. But, brandy, a necessity for seasoning, was \$100 a bottle. A lady, holding a bag of memories that would never be made, donated it when she learned her husband would not be coming home. All presidents show their years while in office, but my husband has aged dramatically. Four years of constant worry and anxiety have given him neuralgia. Half his face is paralyzed. So white, as if it had been dipped in biscuit dough. He says, "How can I think about pies when our good soldiers are boiling their shoes for soup and melting nails for bullets?" I knitted him a wool cap that will—Oh, how I hope!—prevent further loss. But already, his right arm weakens and grows unresponsive. Our son died last spring. He fell off a balcony. My sweet baby was five, and he believed mince meat pie was precious.

**Book Review**

by Walt Bittle

*Brassey's Almanac—American Civil War*, by Philip Katcher (2003).

Brassey's Books (of London—price £20) has produced a large number of military-themed books. They should be good at it by now. Unfortunately, they forgot to have Katcher's work proofread and fact-checked.

This is a really good source of chronological events, military organization, biographies, and statistical data—which you will rarely find elsewhere. I was impressed, except I kept running into (mostly spelling) errors, such as Nathaniel Bedford Forrest, Henry Wagner Halleck, Meridan MS, Edward Stanton, Vallendigham, and Gouverneur K. Warren. If these simple errors exist, surely there must be others—perhaps of a more critical nature. I find it difficult to believe anybody who allows multiple mistakes in his text. It's a useful book (I think), but consider yourself forewarned.



## Mournful Tattoo

The drums of war rolled in syncopation  
A Battle call to arms was heard distinct and clear  
Grave markers decorate the mighty nation  
The monuments of souls and hearts so dear  
Memories recall the gallant heroes every one  
That excites, stirs and provokes the cheer  
Seemingly to be a clarion summon  
Phantom echoes of a faraway haunting call  
Come you Americans, those Blue and Gray alike  
A final tattoo; dark night's tattered dress ball  
Flags and banners, Zouave honor guard will hike  
And with colors stand as the soulful provost guard

"R.J." McGill 9/2003

## Book Review

By Walt Bittle

*What If? The World's Foremost Military Historians Imagine What Might Have Been* – Edited by Robert Cowley. (1999)

Mr. Cowley has brought together a very distinguished group of historians to speculate about various episodes of history (from 701 BCE to 1946). These historians include Stephen Sears, James McPherson, David McCullough, and Stephen Ambrose.

Nobody speculates about ridiculous situations like "What if Napoleon had an atomic bomb?" Each of these scenarios is based on a real event in history, most of which were affected in one way or

another by disease, weather, timing, and/or ordinary everyday luck (good and bad). Articles include "Thirteen ways the Americans could have lost the Revolution" and "What if Lee's Lost Order had not been lost before Antietam?"

I think you will enjoy how these articles make you think about history – and how who and what you are might have been changed – had those scenarios actually occurred the way they are imagined.

*"Counterfactual supposes, would-haves, might-haves, could-haves, possibly, perhapses, probablys, and maybes – in all their dizzying permutations."*

Time Magazine

**The Sacramento Civil War Round Table meets the last Wednesday of every month except November and December. (A meeting is held either at the end of Nov. or the beginning of Dec.) We meet at the Sizzler 2030 Fulton Ave. Sacramento, CA (Near Fulton and Cottage Way) at 7:00PM. Members and guests gather for food and conversation at 6:00PM. The Board of Directors meets at Carrows, 29<sup>th</sup> and J St. at 11:30AM to 1:00PM on the Wed. two weeks before the regular meeting for that month.**

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### **Battle Cry Editor**

The Battle Cry is the monthly newsletter of the Sacramento CWRT. Please submit items to the editor for publication no later than the meeting day of the Board of Directors, either at that meeting, (see above) by U.S. mail or by e-mail. [BattleCryEditor@aol.com](mailto:BattleCryEditor@aol.com) 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 P.O. Box 254702 Sacramento, CA 95865-4702. <http://www.sacramentocwrt.org> is the web site address. Check it for past newsletter editions and information about the group.

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### **Officers of the Sacramento Civil War Round Table for 2003**

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**The 2004 slate of officers will appear in the January issue.**