

"The Late Unpleasantness" February 2008



South Bay Civil War Round Table

San Jose, California

**March 25th Meeting Speaker:
Kyra Hubis, Jennifer Vermillion, and
Marilyn Comstock on "Scandals in
the Civil War"**

Holder's Country Inn (408) 244-2798
998 South De Anza Blvd. (near Bollinger) San
Jose, California

Board Members

President: Gary Moore
(408)356-6216 gkmmaats@comcast.net
Vice President: Larry Comstock
(408)268-5418 richard-comstock@att.net
Treasurer: Renee Accornero
(408)268-7363 marimac50@aol.com
Recording Secretary: Kevin Martinez
(408)455-3367 kevinmartinez452@aol.com

Publicity Director: Bill Noyes
(408)374-1541 trplducer@aol.com
Preservation Chairman: John Herberich
(408)506-6214 jlherberich@earthlick.net
Membership Chairman: Fred Rohrer
(510)651-4484 frohrer@comcast.net
Newsletter Editor: Bob Krauth
(408)578-0176 rgkrauth@yahoo.com

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Another encouraging "turn-out" for our February meeting. My appreciation to all who were in attendance. It was especially good to see a number of "new faces" as we welcomed Paul White, Tom McMahan, Gary Yee, and Tom Rodarte as first time visitors. It was also a pleasant surprise to have Debbie Clark, our former Publicity Chairperson, visiting with us. Debbie currently lives in Minnesota.

For those of you who missed the meeting, we missed you - and you missed a most thorough and informative presentation by our own Hal Hubis, who spoke on "Dan Sickles at Gettysburg". Our appreciation to Hal for his in-depth and well-researched presentation on the personal, political, and Civil War exploits of Dan Sickles. An outstanding job, Hal.

We are looking forward, with anticipation, to our March program, which we are billing as "ladies night" - with Kyra Hubis, Jennifer Vermillion, and Marilyn Comstock speaking on "Scandals of the Civil War". This is a program I am sure you will not want to miss.

Our Past President, Bob Hubbs, reported that the "Alcatraz Living History Day" proved to be a huge success - well attended and with an array of interesting programs and exhibits. Our visitor, Gary Yee, who is a member of both the San Francisco and Peninsula Civil War Round Table groups, indicated that planning is underway for the 2010 State Conference to be held on Alcatraz and hosted by the

four Bay Area Civil War Round Tables. Our thanks to both Bob and Gary for these informative updates.

Just a reminder, that in addition to our featured speakers there's our raffle, civil war quiz, announcements, discussions, and stimulating conversation related to all aspects of the Civil War. I look forward to seeing each of you at our at our March 25th meeting.

Gary Moore, President

March Quiz: "The Battle of Antietam" by Gary Moore

1. Prior to this battle, Jackson captured an important river junction on September 15th. What was it?

2. What was the name of the nearby town at the Battle of Antietam?

3. How badly was Lee outnumbered at Antietam?

4. In terms of casualties, what was Antietam noted for?

5. What was McClellan's battle plan at Antietam?



6. Who commanded the Union forces at the northern end of the battlefield?

7. The farthest limit of Hooker's advance against the Confederates was to what landmark?

8. What two Confederate generals finally stopped Hooker's attack?

9. What wound did Hooker suffer?

10. What was the nickname of the sunken road the Confederates defended at the center of their line?

11. What Union general was in charge of forces at the southern end of the battlefield?

12. Across what body of water did Burnside attack?

13. What landmark on the battlefield was later named after Burnside?

14. Who held the Confederate position overlooking the bridge? What kind of forces did he have?

15. What battlefield landmark did Hooker advance across?

16. When Burnside was taking the bluffs above Antietam Creek, whose division arrived in the nick of time to save the Confederates?

17. Where did that unit march from? Approximately how far away was that place?

18. Approximately how many men did McClellan lose in the battle?

19. Approximately how many men did Lee lose in the battle?

20. What political move resulted from the Union's holding its own in the battle?

Eyewitness Account at the Sunken Road

"The brave Union commander, superbly mounted, placed himself in front, while his band in rear cheered them with martial music. It was a thrilling spectacle. The entire force, I concluded, was composed of fresh troops from Washington or some camp of instruction. So far as I could see, every soldier wore white gaiters around his ankles. The banners above them had apparently never been discolored by the smoke and dust of battle. Their gleaming bayonets flashed like burnished silver in the sunlight. With the precision of step and perfect alignment of a holiday parade, this magnificent array moved to the charge, every step keeping time to the tap of the deep-sounding drum. As we stood looking upon that brilliant pageant, I thought, if I did not say, 'What a pity to spoil with bullets such a scene of martial beauty!' But there was nothing else to do. Mars is not an aesthetic god.

...Soon they were so close that we might have seen the eagles on their buttons; but my brave and eager boys still waited for the order. Now the front rank was within a few rods of where I stood. It would not do to wait another second, and with all my lung power I shouted ' Fire !'

My rifles flamed and roared in the Federals' faces like a blinding blaze of lightning accompanied by the quick and deadly thunderbolt. The effect was appalling. The entire front line, with few exceptions, went down in the consuming blast. The gallant commander and his horse fell in a heap near where I stood - the horse dead, the rider unhurt...



General John B. Gordon



Confederate artillery units (left) fire on Union General John Sedgwick's brigades coming out of the East Woods (right), to prevent them from capturing the high ground at the West Woods next to the Dunker Church. This large mural was painted by Captain James Hope who was injured in a previous battle and consigned to the sidelines as a map maker.

The photo of the Dunker Church, the **edited** excerpt of General Gordon's account, and the painting were found at <http://www.cob-net.org/antietam/faces>

February Quiz: BATTLE OF SHILOH answers

1. What distinguished Shiloh from the battles fought before it? ***It was the first "major" (or big, bloody) battle of the Civil War.***

2. Who commanded the Confederate Army at Shiloh? ***Albert Sidney Johnston***

3. U. S. Grant commanded one of the Union Armies at Shiloh. How old was he, approximately, at that time? ***39***

4. Grant and his Confederate counterpart had one political problem in common before Shiloh. What was it? ***Both generals were experiencing difficulties with their superiors.***

5. What important rail crossing might Grant had captured before Shiloh had he been give a free hand by Halleck? ***Corinth***

6. What was the name of Grant's army at Shiloh? What was the name of Johnston's army? ***Grant - "Army of the Tennessee" and Johnston - "Army of the Mississippi"***

7. What famous future Union commander commanded the Fifth Division? ***William T. Sherman***

8. What famous future Confederate commander was in charge of Johnston's Second Corps? ***Braxton Bragg***

9. What recent vice-president of the United States commanded a Confederate corps at Shiloh? ***John C. Breckenridge***

10. Name the first Union and Confederate units to trade shots at Shiloh? ***25th Missouri Infantry (Union) and 3rd Mississippi (Confederate)***

11. What was the name of the mongrel mascot of the 6th Iowa Regiment at Shiloh? ***Jeff Davis***

12. On the first day of the battle, the Confederate Army was blessed with one advantage that, for them, would be rare in the war. What was it? ***The Confederates outnumbered the Union (40,000 to 35,000)***

13. What were Johnston's famous words on the first day of the battle? ***"We must this day conquer or perish"***

14. What Confederate regiment was fired upon by their own comrades and why? ***The Orleans Guard Battalion (because they went into battle wearing blue uniforms)***

15. What medical "first" occurred at Shiloh? ***The first "Medical Field Hospital Tent"***

16. This area, held by Union commanders Hurlburt on the left and W.H.L. Wallace on the right, was the scene of some of the bloodiest fighting in the battle. What was this position nicknamed by the Confederates? ***"The Hornet's Nest"***

17. What tactic did Bragg use in trying to take this position? ***A Bayonet Charge***

18. Where, physically, did Johnston suffer his fatal wound? ***In the leg***

19. What Union division suffered the highest casualties from the battle? ***The 9th Illinois (Suffered 59% casualties)***

20. What Union army joined Grant in the battle and who commanded it? ***Army of the Ohio commanded by Don Carlos Buell***

PRESERVATION TRUST ANNOUNCES NATIONAL CAMPAIGN TO SAVE HALLOWED GROUND AT PARKER'S CROSS ROADS

(Parker's Cross Roads, Tenn., 2/15/2008) – The Civil War Preservation Trust (CWPT), the nation's largest nonprofit battlefield preservation group, announced earlier this month its first land acquisition campaign of 2008, the protection of 88 acres of hallowed ground at Parker's Cross Roads, Tenn., site of one of the war's most daring cavalry actions.

"Another key piece of battlefield puzzle at Parker's Cross Roads is falling into place," remarked CWPT president James Lighthizer. "Once we have secured this property, we can claim that 75 percent of the battlefield is now permanently protected."

For a copy of the release in its entirety, visit: ==> <http://www.civilwar.org/news/PressDetail.php?releaseID=157>

PARKER'S CROSS ROADS December 31, 1862

As Brig. General Nathan Bedford Forrest's expedition into West Tennessee neared its conclusion, Union Brig. General Jeremiah C. Sullivan, with the brigades of Col. Cyrus L. Dunham and Col. John W. Fuller, attempted to cut Forrest off from withdrawing across the Tennessee River.

Dunham's and Forrest's march routes, on December 31, 1862, brought them into contact at Parker's Cross Roads. Skirmishing began about 9:00 am, with Forrest taking an initial position along a wooded ridge northwest of Dunham at the intersection. Confederate artillery gained an early advantage. Dunham pulled his brigade back a half mile and redeployed, facing north.

His Federals repelled frontal feints until attacked on both flanks and rear by Forrest's mounted and dismounted troops. During a lull, Forrest sent Dunham a demand for an unconditional surrender. Dunham refused and was preparing for Forrest's next onset when Fuller's Union brigade arrived from the north and surprised the Confederates with an attack on their rear; Confederate security detachments had failed to warn of Fuller's approach. "Charge 'em both ways," ordered Forrest.

The Confederates briefly reversed front, repelled Fuller, then rushed past Dunham's demoralized force and withdrew south to Lexington and then across the Tennessee River. Both sides claimed victory, but the Confederate claims appear to have more credence.

Result(s): Confederate victory Location: Henderson County Campaign: Forrest's Expedition into West Tennessee (1862-63) Date(s): December 31, 1862

Principal Commanders: Brig. General Jeremiah C. Sullivan [US]; Brig. General Nathan Bedford Forrest [CS]

Forces Engaged: Two brigades (approx. 3,000 men) [US]; expeditionary brigade [CS]

Estimated Casualties: 737 total (US 237; CS 500)

Source: <http://americancivilwar.com/statepic/tn/tn011>

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT - LOOKING AHEAD

FUTURE PROGRAMS

MAY: "Stereoscopic Civil War Photography

APRIL: "The War Horse: From Hayburners to
Steam Engines in the Civil War"

SPEAKERS

Ron Perisho

Susan Williams

Editor message to my e-mail friends...let our co-CivilWar-riors know how nice the newsletters have been for graphics and background color, in addition to the much smaller file size (about 475kb) for quick download. Also, you receive the newsletter at least 2 days earlier than by mail. I would appreciate all of you helping me in this regard.

Much thanks, BobK

Bob Krauth
3940 Tuess Road
San Jose, Ca 95121

