

"The Late Unpleasantness" March 2009



# South Bay Civil War Round Table

San Jose, California

**March 31<sup>th</sup> Meeting Speaker:**  
**Brad Schall on "The Political  
Climate in California - 1850 -  
1870"**

Holder's Country Inn

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San Jose, California

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Firstly, a belated "Happy St. Patrick's Day" to each of you.

Secondly, it was good to see some "familiar faces" that we had not seen in quite awhile at our February meeting, notably among them was Past President Tony Corbellella and long time member, David Feild. It was good to see you both.

Thirdly, not only did we have one of the most well attended meetings of the year, with over 40 in attendance, we enjoyed a most interesting and informative presentation by our own Larry Comstock, speaking on "The Other End of the Line - The Union Right Flank at Gettysburg". Larry's presentation, utilizing a series of well planned and prepared transparencies, combined with excellent narration, gave some added insights, as well as a new perspective related to the importance of this aspect of the Battle of Gettysburg. My sincere appreciation to Larry for an outstanding job.

Our March meeting promises to be equally as interesting as our presenter, Brad Schall, will speak on "The Political Climate in California 1850 - 1870". Brad's presentation will focus on the events occurring in California during this crucial time and the impact of these events leading up to the Civil War, as well as the ramifications during and following the war. I'm sure this is a presentation you will not want to miss. A more comprehensive "preview" of Brad's presentation can be found on our web-site at [www.SBCWRT.org](http://www.SBCWRT.org)

Among the items of note during our brief business session, prior to Larry's presentation, were the following:

- An expression of appreciation to Hal Jespersen for all his assistance in developing, updating, and monitoring of our web-site.
- Communication/Transportation arrangements for Al Cribari.

- An update from our Preservation Chairman, John Herberich, relative to contributions to the CWPT, in memory of Armond Eckley.
- The purchase of a new, updated, more flexible/versatile sound system. A special "thanks" to Gary Campagna for his time, energy, and effort in doing all the "legwork" related to the purchase of the new system.
- An update, from Gary Yee, on the status/progress of the 2010 West Coast Civil War Conference on Alcatraz.
- A vote of the group, to participate, along with other Bay Area Round Tables, in the Annual Distinguished Author Award. Tom McMahon graciously volunteered to serve as the SBCWRT representative on the Award Committee. Thanks Tom.
- An announcement of the 13th Annual Civil War Forum Battlefield Conference, (March 26-29), at Winchester, Va.
- A preview of our upcoming programs for March, April, and May.

I will look forward to seeing each of you at our March 31st monthly meeting at Holder's Country Inn. In the meantime, remember that in addition to the evening's main presentation there's our raffle, civil war quiz, announcements, discussions, and stimulating conversation related to all aspects of the Civil War.

Gary Moore, President

FUTURE PROGRAMS - LOOKIN AHEAD		
<i>Month</i>	<i>Speaker</i>	<i>Topic</i>
April	Jack Mather	"Sherman-Fall 1864 to End of War-Myth and Reality"
May	Larry Tagg	"The Unpopular Mr. Lincoln"
June	Patrick Doyle	"Two Civil War Generals in Mexico"

## Announcements

- April 3rd**                      **Civil War Exhibit opens at the Saratoga History Museum**
- May 7th and 14th**           **Civil War Tours (Personal collection" of Bill Cleary at his Saratoga home)**
- October 23-25**               **West Coast Civil War Round Table Conference - 2009**

Ops, Correction: Two typographical errors in the President's Message last month should have read as follows: (1) ... as we had an average attendance of over 30 for our monthly meetings, 20 visitors for the year, 9 new members, a new web-site, and over \$ 1800.00 contributed to Civil War Battlefield Preservation. (2) An update by Gary Yee, President of the San Francisco Civil War Round Table, on the status of the 2010 West Coast Civil War Conference on Alcatraz.

## FEBRUARY QUIZ ANSWERS "Jeb" Stuart" submitted by Gary Moore

1. What did "Jeb" stand for? **James Ewell Brown**
2. In what war did Stuart's father fight? **War of 1812**
3. What was Stuart's class standing when he was graduated from West Point in 1854? **13th in a class of**
4. What was the highest cavalry rank Stuart held as a cadet? **Cadet Rank of Cavalry Sergeant**
5. What kind of regiment was Stuart first assigned to? With what rank? **Regiment of Mounted Riflemen in Texas, Rank of Brevet 2nd Lt.**

6. When Congress raised new cavalry regiments in 1855, to which one was Stuart assigned and with what rank? **1st Cavalry - 2nd Lt.**

7. In 1856, Stuart's regiment was sent to a territory that had not yet decided whether it would be free or a slave state. Name the state? **Kansas**

8. What famous abolitionist did he meet there? **John Brown**

9. In the winter of 1858 - 59, Stuart obtained a patent for what invention? **A saber attachment**

10. When the John Brown raid occurred, Stuart was ordered to deliver a set of secret orders to Arlington to whom? **Lt. Col. Robert E. Lee**

11. After Stuart quit the army in 1861, what notification did he receive from the army? **His promotion to Captain**

12. What was Stuart's first rank and command given to him by Virginia? **Lt. Col. of Infantry**

13. To whom did Stuart have to report, under his orders? **Col. T.J. "Stonewall" Jackson**

14. Within two months, Stuart received a different rank and command from Virginia. What was it? **Colonel of the Cavalry**

15. Two months after that he received a commission from the Confederate Army, for what rank? **Brig. General**

16. What "secret" did Jeb Stuart's beard hide? **A very "short and retiring" chin**

17. Because of his "secret" what was Jeb Stuart's nickname at West Point? **"Beauty"**

18. In what battle was Stuart killed and where? **Battle of Yellow Tavern**

19. Where is Jeb Stuart buried? **Hollywood Cemetery in Richmond, Va.**

20. What hymn did Stuart request be sang at his graveside? **"Rock of Ages"**

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## MARCH QUIZ submitted by Gary Moore

### NICKNAMES OF "CONFEDERATE GENERALS"

Match the Confederate General (on the left) with the "Nickname" (on the right)

- |                             |                                  |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. John Bratton             | "Old Buck"                       |
| 2. William Mahone           | "Noble Old Soldier"              |
| 3. William H.F. Lee         | "Little Powell"                  |
| 4. William Jackson          | "Old Jube"                       |
| 5. Jubal Early              | "Old Reliable"                   |
| 6. Thomas Rosser            | "Old Pap"                        |
| 7. William Terry            | "Rooney"                         |
| 8. Leonidas Polk            | "Shanks"                         |
| 9. Nathan Evans             | "Uncle Joe"                      |
| 10. Robert E. Lee           | "Young Napoleon of the Railways" |
| 11. Ambrose P. Hill         | "Old Pete"                       |
| 12. Joseph E. Johnston      | "The Fighting Bishop"            |
| 13. Richard Ewell           | "Prince John"                    |
| 14. Edward Porter Alexander | "Little Billy"                   |
| 15. James Longstreet        | "Blue Light"                     |
| 16. Sterling Price          | "Knight of the Golden Spurs"     |
| 17. John Magruder           | "Savior of the Valley"           |
| 18. Thomas Jackson          | "Fighting Dick"                  |
| 19. Jeb Stuart              | "Mudwall"                        |
| 20. Richard Anderson        | "Old Bald Head"                  |

# **Preserving History by John L. Herberich**

## **Embedded Reporters, Propaganda and Media Stars**

**There really is nothing new, at least since the Civil War. As we all know, technology was to play a significant role in the Civil War, from the telegraph to the use of railroads, from intelligence gathering to logistics, to the use of photography, and the print media. The War was to become a national media event, and, in August, 1861, the country was about to have its first media star - the Cavalry.**

**As volunteer regiments were raised by various cities, counties and states, it was common for the local newspaper to “embed” a reporter. Such was the case during the three week interval between the first two primary battles of the war, Bull Run (July 21st) in the East, and Wilson’s Creek (August 2nd) in the West. Bull Run was an unmitigated disaster for the Union. Public morale needed something quick. The opportunity came at a small watering hole in southwest Missouri, known as Dug Springs.**

**Newly appointed General Lyons was desperately, and almost single handedly, trying to keep Missouri for the Union. Confederate Generals McCulloch and Price were equally determined to wipe out the Union Army. With the exception of the companies of U. S. Infantry and two companies of Regular Cavalry, Co’s C & D of the Fourth United States, everyone else, on both sides, were “volunteers” and little more than “armed rabble.” Late in the afternoon of August 2nd, the 2nd U. S. Infantry was attacked by Confederate cavalry led by General Rains (mostly dismounted) and was almost overwhelmed.**

**The squadron of 4<sup>th</sup> U. S. Cavalry was nearby, and the 27 men of Company C, led by a newly appointed civilian lieutenant, charged the Confederate forces. As reported by General Lyon, “without orders from me, by a spontaneous emotion, the advance guard of my cavalry charged and drove back the rebels.” Captain Steele, 2nd U. S. Infantry estimated “some 200 or more of whom were on foot and about the same number mounted.” The startled Rebels scattered and fell back. What a story! The reporters were all over it. The number of Confederate forces grew to 2,000 and more. The young lieutenant slew 7 of the Rebels, and, after receiving a mortal wound, killed that one too! The story of the heroic charge and bravery**

of Company C, 4th U. S. Cavalry against such overwhelming odds made every major newspaper and warranted a glorious full page illustration in the Harpers Weekly entitled, "Splendid Charge of the United States Cavalry at the Battle of Dug Springs, Missouri." The reality? It appears the inexperienced lieutenant mistook a bugle call to "Halt!" for one to "Charge!" He lost five men and a number wounded. It seems only one Rebel was killed, and the young lieutenant survived, unscathed. But they sure scared the hell out of the Rebels!

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## Preservation Report

This past week Civil War Preservation Trust released its annual report entitled, [History Under Siege™: A Guide to America's Most Endangered Civil War Battlefields](#). This initial article covering 3 of them (other sites in future issues) is from a press release found at <http://civilwar.org>. (Italics and bold print added )

Among the sites included in the report is **Monocacy, Maryland, July 9, 1864**, an engagement often called the "battle that saved Washington." ***Monocacy is today threatened by a planned waste-to-energy facility with a proposed 350-foot-tall smokestack, which would be visible from much of the battlefield. The \$527 million facility would process trash from Frederick and Carroll counties, burning up to 1,500 tons per day.*** The battle at Monocacy occurred when the Confederate Army of the Valley marched down the Shenandoah Valley and into Maryland, during the third and final Confederate invasion of the North. An impromptu force of largely inexperienced soldiers moved to block the Southerners before they could threaten Washington or Baltimore. The Confederates, outnumbering their opponents nearly three to one, outflanked and overpowered the Union troops, inflicting more than 20 percent casualties before forcing their foe to retire. Although defeated, the Union stand had bought valuable time and enabled veteran troops to reinforce Washington before the Confederates arrived at its outskirts.

**The Battle of the Wilderness, Virginia, May 5–7, 1864**, was among the most significant engagements of the war and marked the first time two Civil War legends — Gen. Robert E. Lee and Lt. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant — faced each other in battle. Nearly 29,000 American soldiers were killed, wounded or captured in the horrendous, two-day struggle fought in scrub growth and among burning trees and earthworks. ***Today, preservationists in Orange County, Va., are facing an uphill battle to stop Wal-Mart from building a new 138,000-square foot supercenter across Route 3 from the battlefield. There are already several other Wal-Mart's within a 20-mile radius and, if built, the new store would ensure further commercial development in the area. Preservationists have offered to fund a comprehensive planning study that would preserve the battlefield while allowing the Orange County to meet its economic development needs.***

On the morning of **May 1, 1863**, Lt. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant's Union army had crossed the Mississippi River and was beginning its final push to capture Vicksburg. While 8,000 severely outnumbered Confederates fought savagely at **Port Gibson**, Mississippi, their sacrifice was in vain, and 800 of their number were killed, wounded or went missing that day. Grant lost slightly more men but secured a vital river crossing for his army, allowing him to press on to Vicksburg. Local lore has it that Union forces marching through Mississippi spared the town of Port Gibson from the torch because it was too beautiful to burn. ***Today the area retains its tree-lined streets and is home to a tourist industry centered on its quaint small-town charm and history. These very traits, however, are threatened by a proposal to widen U.S. Route 61, Church Street, through the heart of town. Local officials, including the mayor, are lobbying for a bypass to the east of town, which would skirt the battlefield more widely and avoid historic neighborhoods.***

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**Special Thanks to John and Gary for both their quick response to my last-minute phone calls and their contributions that made this month's edition possible.**

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