

"The Late Unpleasantness" June 2009



South Bay Civil War Round Table

San Jose, California

**June 30th Meeting Speaker:
Patrick Doyle on "Two Civil
War Generals in Mexico"**

Holder's Country Inn

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our May meeting was one of our most well attended meetings of the year as we had 37 in attendance. My thanks to each one of you for your continued interest and support of the SBCWRT.

Not only did we have an excellent "turn out", we also enjoyed a most interesting and informative presentation by Larry Tagg, speaking on his recently released book entitled "The Unpopular Mr. Lincoln". Larry's presentation was a combination of humor, quick-wit, and political satire and focused mainly on the factors, events, and personal perceptions of Lincoln that contributed to his immense lack of popularity as he assumed the Presidency in 1860. A most enjoyable presentation - our sincere appreciation for a job well done, Larry.

Our June 30th meeting will be Patrick Doyle speaking on "Two Civil War Generals in Mexico". Patrick's presentation will focus on the roles and relationship of Confederate

Gen. David E. Twigg and Union Gen. William S. Harney from the time of their service together in Mexico City in 1847 until both went on to play their respective roles in the Civil War. A more comprehensive "preview" of Patrick's presentation can be seen on our website at www.SBCWRT.org.

In the way of added "good news" was the announcement that our Treasurer, Rene Accornero (and his wife, Mary Ann) have, once again, offered to serve as hosts for our annual Picnic/ \Bar-B-Que. Our sincere appreciation to Rene and Mary Ann. The date of the picnic will be August 16th - so mark your calendar.

I will look forward to seeing each of you at our June 30th monthly meeting at Holder's Country Inn. In the meantime, remember that in addition to our featured Speaker there is our raffle, Civil War quiz, announcements, discussions, and stimulating conversation related to all aspects of the Civil War. See you at Holder's on the 30th.

Gary Moore, President

ANNOUNCEMENTS

October 23 - 25 West Coast Civil War Round Table Conference - 2009

ELECTION of OFFICERS for 2009 - 2010

Just a reminder: Officers for the 2009 - 2010 Program Year will be elected at our Annual August Picnic. Any member interested in serving as an Officer (or current Officer wishing to continuing serving for 2009 -2010) can contact our President, Gary Moore, Vice-President, Larry Comstock, or Past Presidents, Hal Hubis or Bob Hubbs.

PICNIC REMINDER

Our Annual Picnic/Bar-B-Que has been scheduled for Sunday, August 16, at the home of Rene and Mary Ann Accornero. Specifics, including location and time, as well as a map to Rene's home will be forthcoming in the July Newsletter. In the meantime place this date on your calendar.

Kyra Hubis will be circulating and monitoring a "sign-up" sheet with regard to names (of persons attending) and "pot luck" food items indicated.

ANSWERS TO May Quiz - Lincoln's Assassination (Gary Moore)

1. Where was Lincoln when he was fatally shot? **Ford's Theater**

2. What play was he seeing? "**Our American Cousin**"

3. Who were the other two men targeted for assassination? **Andrew Johnson (Vice-President) and William Seward (Sec. of State)**

4. Who shot Lincoln? What weapon did he use? **John Wilkes Booth. He used a derringer.**

5. President and Mrs. Lincoln were seeing the play with another couple. Who were they? **Major Rathbone and Miss Harris**

6. What happened to the male guest after Lincoln was shot? **Rathbone tried to stop Booth, but Booth stabbed him.**

7. What two phrases did the assassin utter after he shot the president? "**Sic Semper Tyrannis**" and "**Revenge for the South**"

8. What was the last line of dialogue in the play before the assassin pulled the trigger? "**Wal, I guess I know enough to turn you inside out, you sockdologizing old mantrap**".

9. What happened to the assassin when he jumped to the stage from the president's theater box? **Booth broke his leg.**

10. Which conspirator had the task of killing the Secretary of State? **Lewis Paine**

11. Who accompanied this conspirator to watch the horses? **David Herold**

12. Where the intended victim when his attacker tried to kill him? **In bed, recovering from a carriage accident**

13. Did the victim survive the attack? **Yes, Seward survived the attack.**

14. Who was supposed to kill the Vice-President? **George Atzerodt**

15. Did that conspirator go through with his mission? **No. He stopped at bar to have a drink**

16. Lincoln was taken across the street to a house where he later died. What was the name of the family that owned the house? **Petersen**

17. What cabinet official took effective control of the government while Lincoln was dying? **Sec. of War, Edwin Stanton**

18. Whom did that cabinet official think was behind the assassination? What was he expecting? **Stanton believed the plot was broad based (Confederate Terrorist Plot). The terrorist planned to slay other Cabinet members and burn the city.**

19. Who was the physician who unknowingly set the assassin's broken leg? **Dr. Samuel Mudd**

20. What happened to the assassin? What happened to the other conspirators? **Booth was cornered in a barn and shot by Federal troops. Atzerodt, Paine, and Herold were all tried and hanged.**

JUNE Quiz "Artillery" submitted by Gary Campagna

Cannons can be loaded from two directions:

- 1) Loading from the mouth of the barrel is called _____-loading.
- 2) Loading from the back of the barrel is called _____-loading.
- 3) Name the weapon that shoots projectiles in an arc trajectory?
- 4) Describe the two types of interior surfaces of gun barrels?
- 5) What features distinguish foreign cannon carriages from American cannon carriages?
- 6) Why are the wheels of cannons angled?
- 7) Name a vehicle that carries cannon accessories.
- 8) What word describes the reaction of a cannon after it is fired?
- 9) What order was given to start cannons firing?
- 10) What order was given to stop cannons from firing?
- 11) What were dummy cannons made of and what were they called?
- 12) What were hand-cranked, multi-shot

guns called?

- 13) Name three kinds of field guns that were transported on wheels?
 - 14) How many men were on a cannon gun crew?
 - 15) Name some of the projectiles that were fired from Civil War cannons?
 - 16) What is the technical name for the stubby arms on the exterior of a cannon barrels?
 - 17) How did artillerymen disable cannons that needed to be abandoned in the field?
 - 18) Cannons were designed to be used in which three places?
 - 19) What is an earthwork fortification called?
 - 20) What are the two methods used to identify a cannon?
- NOTE: This quiz was submitted in the memory of Ormand Eckley, cannon consultant.*
- 21) Describe Ormand Eckley's mustache.
 - 22) What kind of cannon did Ormand own?

FUTURE PROGRAMS - LOOKING AHEAD

<u>Month</u>	<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Topic</u>
July	Bob Hubbs	"How Lincoln Won the War without the Help of his Generals"
August	Gary Yee	"A Plan Gone Wrong: The Siege of Battery Wagner"
September	Tom McMahon	"Life, Death, and Religion in the Civil War"

Preservation Report

Three Brief Updates that may be of Interest

First, demolition of Gettysburg's old Cyclorama building that housed the 370ft mural of Pickett's Charge (since moved to a new visitor's center) has been held up by a lawsuit although a decision may be forthcoming. "A preservation group, The Recent Past Preservation Network, wants to protect the building, while the park wants to tear it down, and return that portion of the Civil War battlefield to its 1863 appearance." ([Gettysburg Times](#), 6/8/2009). Standby for further information.

Next, it has been reported that local political candidates of both Parties (along with nearly everyone else) are lining up against Wal-Mart's goal of building a superstore on an unprotected portion of the Wilderness Battlefield. They are in general agreement that a different nearby location would be preferable. It seems that this issue is a "no-brainer", but it's not that simple. Unfortunately, a majority (3 of 5) of the Board of Supervisors is currently supporting Wal-Mart's position, and the Board has the final say (Go to <http://blogs.nationaltrust.org/preservationnation/?p=4465>). It may be a cynical view, but it makes one wonder what these members are getting out of all of this.

Finally, on a positive note, the hurricane-devastated Sabine Pass Battleground Park (on the Most Endangered List) has received a major \$600,000 grant from the Texas Historical Commission and is on track to reopen sometime this summer to the glee of local residents and all others involved. (Source: "Civil War Battlefield Recovering After Hurricanes Rita, Ike" by Michael Graczyk - 5/30/2009 Associated Press (NAT))

List of the Threatened

In addition to the Civil War Preservation Trust's (CWPT) 10 Most Endangered Battlefields of 2009, 15 others have been identified as "threatened". Here are short descriptions of the first 5. (Source: www.civilwar.org)

Averasboro, N. CAROLINA – March 16, 1865

Located just 20 miles from Fayetteville, one of North Carolina's fastest-growing cities, Averasboro is poised to see an immense uptick in population and infrastructure as the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure decision to expand Fort Bragg takes effect. The military installation is expected to experience an influx of 40,000 new military and civilian personnel.

Bayou Fourche, ARKANSAS – September 10, 1863

The growth of Little Rock, Ark., has obscured many of the sites associated with the battle and subsequent evacuation of the city. Today, several markers and monuments are located inside Pratt Rammel Park, near Interstate 440, but further expansion of Little Rock National Airport threatens to consume additional battlefield land.

Camp Aleghany, W. VIRGINIA – December 13, 1861

Plans for a wind energy development in far western Highland County, Va., could have serious negative effects on this mountaintop battlefield and encampment site just one mile away, across the state border in West Virginia. The Virginia Department of Historic Resources' attempts to evaluate the project, which could include a score of 400-foot-tall turbines, have been hampered by a lack of cooperation from the developer.

Defenses of Washington – 1861–1865

Although interest in the 68 forts that once defended the Union capital appears to be growing, there is still a great lack of public education about these historic resources. The National Capital Planning Commission and others are studying strategies for integration of the various forts into education programs and community initiatives.

Fort Monroe, VIRGINIA – 1861–1865

As the deadline for the Army's departure approaches, the Commonwealth of Virginia, preservation groups and local citizens continue to grapple with how best to balance protecting the site's historic character with allowing for economic development. The proposed reuse plan under review by the Department of Defense has won praise from many quarters, but it does not specify which state or federal agency would oversee the site.

As usual, the editor encourages any comments, corrections, or additions for future newsletters.

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