

"The Late Unpleasantness" February 2010



South Bay Civil War Round Table

San Jose, California

February 23th Meeting

**Speaker: Jerry Henig on "Lincoln at
200 in Fact Rather Than Fiction"**

Holder's Country Inn

(408) 244-2798

998 South De Anza Blvd. (near Bollinger)

San Jose, California

Board Members

President: John Herberich

(408)264-0665 jlherberich@att.net

Vice President: Steve Wetlesen

Treasurer: Rene Accornero

(408)268-7363

reneaccornero@sbcglobal.net

Secretary: Larry Comstock

(408)268-5418 richard-comstock@att.net

Publicity Director: Fred Rohrer

(510)651-4484 frohrer@comcast.net

Preservation Chairman: Bill Noyes

(408)374-1541

Membership: Tom Miller

Newsletter Editor: Bob Krauth

(408)578-0176 rgkrauth@yahoo.com

Historian: Gary Moore

Web Master: Hal Jespersen

hlj@posix.com

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**Deborah Petite Presents her Book: "The
Women Will Howl"**

Slicing through Civil War history is not unlike cutting through a layer cake. The icing represents themes of grandeur and glory, the first layer, the epic battles and their heroic outcomes. The next layer represents the decorated heroes and martyrs, the major players. Following them are the histories of the Armies, Divisions, Brigades, and their bold leaders. Finally, and after all else, come the stories of the common soldier. What is frequently overlooked, however, is that the stage upon which these great battles are fought, the land across which armies of tens of thousands surge, also represents the lives of the millions of civilians who depend on that land for their industry and survival. Their

voices are rarely heard. And so it was with the women mill-workers of the small mill town of Roswell, Georgia, when William Tecumseh Sherman's Cavalry swept into town on July 5, 1864. After the mills were burned and all the industry destroyed, Sherman issued an unusual order, deporting nearly 1,000 of the female textile workers to cities in the North. The women did howl, but, until Deborah Petite discovered, their story in 1996, it was a silent cry. After years of research, which Deborah shared with us at last month's meeting, their story has been meticulously documented and told in her recently published book, The Women Will Howl. With passion and emotion, the women of Roswell have found their voice through Deborah Petite. It was an inspiring presentation!

Moving into the 21st Century

We had a unanimous vote to approve the purchase of a projector suitable for power point presentations. We hope to have it in time for our next speaker.

Gettysburg Battlefield Preservation: An Historic Opportunity

The last piece of privately owned property in the Gettysburg National Military Park recently became available for purchase. "This two acre parcel (along with two post-war, non-historic houses), sits directly on the Emmitsburg Road, was part of the 'Snyder Farm' in 1863. . . . It is absolutely core battlefield land that the Park Service was never able to acquire before." As privately owned land, new owners would have the right to build whatever type of residential property they desired - right among the many major landmarks of this "supremely historic" battlefield! The acquisition was made urgent by needs of the sellers which necessitated an immediate offer. The purchase price was \$375,000.

There is not enough time for the normal process of acquiring funding through Congress, so the CWPT purchased the property, using \$300,000 put up by the Gettysburg Park and the CWPT agreeing to donate the balance. Thus the immediate need and request for donations. Your SBCWRT sent in \$100 on behalf of its members. There is a \$5 to \$1 matching contribution for our donation, making it worth \$500.

A Casino at Gettysburg?

An issue the Park has been fighting for years is the location of a proposed casino just 1/2 mile from the southern end of Gettysburg National Park. The backers of the project have recently announced that they are applying for a state casino license, which has reactivated the fight to stop the casino and purchase the proposed site. For current information, go to www.civilwarnews.com. (Note: see Preservation Report – editor)

Scheduled Speakers

February: *Jerry Henig on "Lincoln in Fact Rather Than Fiction"*

March 30: *Tom Rosa "General Winfield Scott Hancock, A Man for the Ages"*

April 27: *Helen Trimpi On her recently published book: Crimson Confederates: Harvard Men Who Fought for the South*

May 25: *Open*

June 29: *Dr. Joe Wagner "Medicine in the Civil War"*

July 27: *Dr. Libra Hilde (SJSU) To be announced*

Dr. Gerald S. Henig is emeritus professor of history at California State University, East Bay, where he received the Outstanding Professor Award and was four-time winner of the Pi Kappa Delta Best Lecturer Award. As we commemorate the bicentennial anniversary of Lincoln's birth, our 16th president remains an enigmatic figure shrouded in myth and legend. Professor Henig will help us separate fact from fiction in order to better understand this uncommon common man.

Preservation Report

Here we go again – they just don't quit. Besides state budget needs, one additional complicating question seems to be whether or not the state legislature will authorize slot machines at existing resorts rather than building an additional casino, per say – editor.

Gettysburg Casino Project is Back; Emmitsburg Road Site Under Option

By Kathryn Jorgensen (January 2010 Civil War News)

GETTYSBURG, Pa. — The Eisenhower Hotel and Conference Center on the Emmitsburg Road, Business 15 North, could become a slots casino. The property includes the hotel, residential units and sports complex. The site is five miles from the center of Gettysburg, but less than a mile from the Gettysburg National Military Park boundary.

The potential of a casino in Gettysburg, where one was not licensed in 2006 after a heated anti-casino campaign, came to light with a Nov. 24 report from The Patriot-News in Harrisburg that an unidentified investment group was interested in a Category III resort casino license in Gettysburg. Supporters and opponents have dusted off their 2006 playbooks and are trying to influence the outcome, but much of it depends on state lawmakers.

It didn't take long after the story broke for area newspapers to report that Battlefield Harley-Davidson owner David LeVan, who lost the first casino battle, had a one-year option on the 100-acre Eisenhower property, which is owned by the estate of a Chambersburg businessman. He at first would not comment on whether he was involved and later was quoted as saying he hadn't intended to speak about the matter for a couple of months. His project is called Mason-Dixon Resort & Casino. LeVan's investment partner is Joseph Lashinger, a former state representative who works in the gaming industry.

LeVan's success depends on the state legislature. Legislators are considering a range of issues related to gambling and its revenues. One is if the number of state resort casino licenses will be increased from two to five, to accommodate all interested parties, including the Gettysburg group. A major issue is if the state will legalize table games (dice, roulette, blackjack) for resorts. Right now such games are restricted to racetrack/casinos and five stand-alone casinos. According to a Dec. 1 Pittsburgh Post-Gazette story by Tom Barnes lawmakers are also tied up on such issues as whether to raise the resorts limit of 500 slot machines, to allow public (as opposed to resort guests) use of them, what the one-time license fee of several million dollars should be, the state tax rate and whether host counties and towns should share some tax revenue. The state is counting on \$200 million in table games proceeds for budget commitments, but Barnes pointed out it takes six to nine months for a table games casino operation to get under way. The Gettysburg Times reported another debate between legislators is whether the tax revenues should be given to schools or used for property relief.

There's another problem for LeVan's project — the deadline for resort applications was in July. The Gaming Control Board would have to agree to reopen the application process in order for the Gettysburg proposal and one in Reading to be considered. LeVan's spokesman said the Gettysburg resort, if licensed, would target the Baltimore and Washington area and would go ahead as a slots casino, even if tables games were not approved for resorts.

The pressure on legislators was apparent in a Dec. 18 Associated Press story by Marc Levy that began: "Penn State and several other Pennsylvania universities will get their state subsidies that are nearly six months overdue, but hundreds of state government employees could lose their jobs if a casino-expansion measure continues to flounder in the Legislature." That was Gov. Ed Rendell's threat if the legislature doesn't approve the bill to legalize casino table games by Jan. 8 and also divert another \$50 million from slot machine tax

revenues. Levy's story said House Democrats wanted to add one more casino license and Republicans want to keep the number at 14. Also, there were differences on how to share the 2 percent gambling revenue tax earmarked for area communities.

Tommy Gilbert and Jeff Klein of Gettysburg reactivated Pro Casino Adams County, saying the economy has changed since 2006 and local jobs are important. Klein pointed out to the Gettysburg Times that if battlefield preservation were the issue, there should have been objection to the new motel built next to Soldiers' National Cemetery.

The No Casino Gettysburg grassroots movement headed by Susan Star Paddock also was reactivated. She summarized her objections in a Dec. 9 op ed piece in the Hanover Evening Sun. Paddock noted the Eisenhower Center location is even closer to the battlefield than the 2006 casino location on Route 30 was, just three minutes from the line of Pickett's Charge. She wrote that casino jobs could cost jobs elsewhere because a casino would hurt exiting businesses, a casino could keep heritage tourists from visiting and most of the players will be local, which could lead to social costs if addictions develop. Paddock said some state casinos have laid off workers and the mayors of Allentown and Pittsburgh said they were disappointed with their slots revenues.

From November 2006 through February 2009, during which time seven slots gaming facilities opened, more than \$3.6 billion was wagered at all state gaming facilities, according to an April 2009 report assessing how slots gaming affected the state lottery. The report, which can be read online, said Pennsylvania slots wagering in 2008 amounted to more than \$20 billion. In most cases the slots sites were generating more revenue than they had for the same month the year before. "This continued growth ... runs counter to a definite downturn that is occurring in the gaming industry nationally," noted the report. Despite the increase in slots wagering and the economy, the Pennsylvania Lottery had another records sales year of \$3.09 billion in fiscal year 2007-08.

Bob Krauth
3940 Tuers Road
San Jose, Ca 95121

