

"The Late Unpleasantness"

April 2010



South Bay Civil War Round Table

South Bay Civil War Round Table

April 27th Meeting Speaker:

Helen Trimpi on: Crimson Confederates:
Harvard Men Who Fought for the South

Holder's Country Inn

(408) 244-2798 998 South De Anza Blvd.
(near Bollinger) San Jose, California
Visit our website at: www.sbcwrt.org

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 billn61@yahoo.com

Membership: Tom Miller

Newsletter Editor: Bob Krauth

(408)578-0176 rgkrauth@yahoo.com

Historian: Gary Moore

Web Master: Hal Jespersen

hlj@posix.com

The President's Message

Gary Moore and his wife Pat, and Hal Jespersen, old friends who have been unable to be with us for a while, attended our March meeting. Hal is our Webmaster and globetrotter, frequently sharing with us his various trips to Civil War sites and seminars. He announced his retirement last month, and while he still has a conflicting Tuesday commitment, we hope to see more of him in the future. Gary, as most of you know, has been convalescing from his illness last year and we were all happy to have him and Pat in attendance.

We also had a special guest visitor, Thomas Christianson, U.S. Army, Retired. Tom has a

long and fascinating background in military history and is currently the 63d RSC Command Historian at Moffett Field. Bob Hubbs has already scheduled him as a guest speaker at the May 18 Peninsula Round Table meeting. We hope to have him speak at one of our future meetings as well.

At the March meeting, one of our own, Tom Rosa, gave an exceptional presentation on Winfield Scott Hancock. General Hancock led a charmed life and came through the Civil War - and his entire military career - unscathed, reputation intact, and still much admired, a rare feat. He was the democratic presidential candidate in 1880, and lost to JamesGarfield in

one of the closest popular vote margins in history. It was a most fascinating biography and well documented with the assistance of our new LCD projector.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Gettysburg Battlefield Preservation Association. If it wasn't for the dedication of

the members of organizations like this, including the work of all the Civil War Round Tables, one wonders if there would be anything left of the sacred battlegrounds of the Civil War for future generations to visit, to learn, and to be inspired.

John Herberich

Civil War Collection for Sale

Helen Trimpi is breaking up her Civil War book collection, acquired over the last 15 years. There are sets: **Papers of the Southern Historical Society, 52 vols.**, **Confederate Military History, 19 vols.**, **North Carolina Regiments, 5 vols.**, plus several other sets. I have offered my set of the **Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies, 130 vols.**, to a local university. If they don't want it, it will be available. Most of the many battle studies were published in recent years by the best historians, as were the many excellent biographies of men North and South). There are naval histories, art and photograph books, and also, long runs of **CW Times (Illustrated)**, **America's Civil War, Blue & Gray, Gettysburg**, and **North & South** magazines. Nearly all the books are in excellent condition, most with Mylar jackets. Helen will bring a detailed card catalogue, kept over the years of buying, to the meeting on April 27 for members to consult. Or members can phone and ask about items (650-325-7713), or visit her in Palo Alto and see for themselves what is available. Most soft covers will cost \$2.00, hardbacks \$5.00 and up, depending on size. Several encyclopedias and the multi-volume sets are "best offer." Some of the books have small pencil checks in margins connected with her research. These are not old beaten-up books but mostly the newest scholarship on the War, good reprints of older books, or some "oldie goldies" like Freeman's **R. E. Lee (4 vols.)** and Catton's **Army of the Potomac** trilogy. Some are hard-to-find Confederate items. She does not offer delivery on anything. You have to come and get them in Palo Alto.

Editor's note: At her request, Helen may be contacted at the above phone number, by e-mail at h.trimpi@att.net, and, of course, at the April 27th meeting.

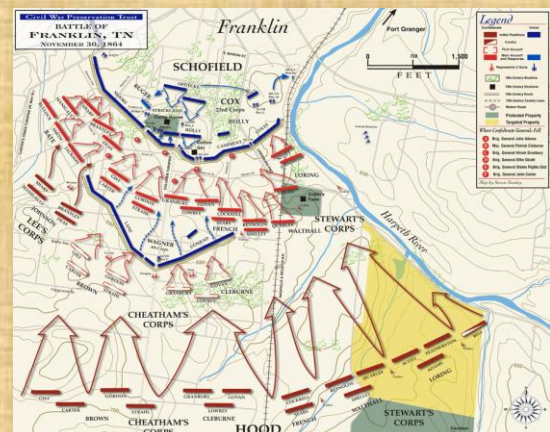
Preservation Report Franklin Tennessee

Submitted by Bill Noyes, Preservation Chairman

Private Sam Watkins facetiously referred to the Western combats of the Civil War as but "a side show to the big show." He knew differently having been present at many Western battles, in particular, Franklin in Tennessee. There he witnessed scenes as near to "hell on earth" as any Eastern combatant might have seen.

The Franklin battlefield is today the avatar of ignorance and historic aversion, when compared to Eastern equivalents regarding preservation. Little remains to cultivate any sense of what went on there. Even the feeble 19th century markers left by the men who

fought were disassembled and put to mundane use by later populations. Now it is time that this tragic trend be reversed. Now is the opportunity to rectify the past concerning Franklin's historic value.



The Civil War Preservation Trust is partnering with several groups to purchase important properties at Franklin as they become available. Their share in the purchase of the Holt house property – one acre at the apex of the battle site – is \$150,000. Bits and pieces of the narrow battlefield have already been saved. Where swarmed Confederate infantry greater than Picket's glorified minions, breaking the Yankee line more dangerously, more needs to be preserved. Where thousands bled and died in numbers equal to Malvern Hill, another acre can be added to the limited mosaic of the Franklin battle still restorable.

The gallant Hood wanted to destroy the Union 4th and 23rd corps at Franklin. He nearly

succeeded but for a few regiments in blue who counter charged and won the day and night. Had he won his gamble might he have somehow stormed Nashville? Imagine the howls from Washington and how Sherman's quixotic march or Grant's stalled maneuver might have been affected.

This one acre is a crucial piece to the over-all plan to secure this historically important battlefield, where began the complete destruction of a rebel army. It is a necessary step for us to consider with our group and personal donations, fostering awareness and appreciation of the important battle ground at Franklin.

March Summary submitted by Hal Jespersen

On March 31, Tom Roza conducted for the club members his presentation on Winfield Scott Hancock. Tom provided a very thorough and detailed description of Hancock from his childhood growing up in Pennsylvania, attending West Point, and participating in his first combat during the Mexican War. The

presentation included Hancock's extensive experience as an Army Quartermaster in duty assignments that ranged from Florida, to the Midwest and Rocky Mountain regions and California. Tom described the deep and warm friendships that Hancock developed with fellow soldiers such as Lewis Armistead, Richard Garnett and Harry Heth. The presentation covered Hancock's extensive Civil War experience in the Eastern Theater where he rose from a regimental commander to the best Corp commander in the Army of the Potomac. The Club members learned of Hancock's post war experiences dealing with the Plains Indians, labor strife, and as military Governor of Louisiana where Hancock was the first Northerner to reach out to Southern citizens in an act of reconciliation. The presentation concluded with Hancock's three attempts to become President of the United States and his final days as the ranking General in the Army up until his death in 1886.

Editor's Note: Mr. Roza's name was misspelled in the March newsletter. Editor wishes to express his apology <http://scriptorium.lib.duke.edu/americanvotes/hancock-music.jpeg>



April Quiz submitted by Tom Roza based on his March Talk

- 1: In what year was Winfield Scott Hancock born?
- 2: There were 25 cadets in Hancock's West Point graduating class. Where did Hancock place?
- 3: What was the name of the first battle that Hancock fought in the Mexican War?

- 4: While stationed in Mexico, who besides Lewis Armistead became Hancock's good friend?
- 5: Name the Federal Commander of California that Hancock reported to in 1861?
- 6: What Union General was instrumental in getting Hancock his first combat assignment in the Civil War?
- 7: What was the name of General Lee's orders that came into the hands of George B McClellan prior to the Battle of Antietam?
- 8: What was the name of the commander of Hancock's lead brigade on the assault of Marye's Heights at the Battle of Fredericksburg?
- 9: When General Hooker took command of the Army of the Potomac, he implemented an insignia for each of his Corps. What was the insignia of the 2nd Corp that Hancock's division was part of?
- 10: What was the name of the 2nd Corp commander who resigned out of frustration after the Battle of Chancellorsville and provided the opportunity to for Hancock to become a Corp commander?
- 11: At Gettysburg, east of what section of terrain did Hancock bivouac his 2nd Corp on the night of July 1st?
- 12: Which regiment did Hancock commandeer on July 2 to prevent a Confederate breakthrough on Cemetery Ridge?
- 13: On July 3, what event by the Union forces influenced General Longstreet to give George Pickett the approval to begin his famous charge?
- 14: How did Hancock describe the effect of Longstreet's flank attack at the Battle of the Wilderness?
- 15: What was the name of the Colonel in the Irish Brigade who was killed during one of the Union attacks at Petersburg?
- 16: In 1867 what action by Hancock sparked a long series on battles with the plains Indians in Kansas?
- 17: While Military Commander of the Fifth Military District based in New Orleans, what was the name of Hancock's first order?
- 18: Which state cost Hancock the 1880 presidential election?
- 19: What was the health problem that led to Hancock's death?
- 20: Which ex-President gave a speech commemorating Hancock in which he used these words "...we can say truthfully of Winfield Scott Hancock that he was through and through was pure gold"?

Bob Krauth
3940 Tuers Road
San Jose, Ca 95121

