

"The Late Unpleasantness" April 2008



South Bay Civil War Round Table

San Jose, California

April 29th Meeting Speaker:
**Ron Perisho on "Stereoscopic
Civil War Photography"**

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

Once again it was encouraging to see such a good response to our March meeting. I'm sure the topic, "Scandals of the Civil War", and the "Speakers", three lovely ladies from our own group, had much to do with the excellent "turn out". If you were unable to attend we missed you and you missed, not one, but three interesting and informative presentations. My sincere appreciation to Kyra Hubis, Jennifer Vermillion, and Marilyn Comstock for their well planned, researched, and presented talks. An outstanding job, ladies.

Our April program promises to be equally as interesting, as Ron Perisho will present "Stereoscopic Photography in the Civil War". Ron was in attendance at our March meeting and indicated that his presentation, in stereoscopic 3-D, was one, he felt, would be equally appealing to younger audiences and encouraged members to "bring along" children or grandchildren. We are definitely looking forward to Ron's presentation. It is one I am sure you will not want to miss.

Efforts are underway, courtesy of Jim Lyons, to update and activate our web-site. This endeavor will be another of our avenues to publicize the SBCWRT and, hopefully, will encourage others, with an interest in the Civil War, to attend our meetings and related activities.

Keep in mind, that in addition to our featured speakers, there is 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 April 29th meeting. **Gary Moore, President**

WELCOME

The SBCWRT extends a warm welcome to our newest member, Tom McMahon. Tom joined our group at the March meeting. WELCOME ABOARD, TOM

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT - LOOKING AHEAD

MAY: "THE WAR HORSE: FROM HAY-BURNERS TO STEAM ENGINES IN THE CIVIL WAR"

SUSAN WILLIAMS

JUNE: "CIVIL WAR SECRETS REVEALED"

SHARON POPE

April Quiz by Fred Rohrer

1. What July, 1864 engagement near Frederick, MD. was the only Confederate victory north of the Mason-Dixon line? Although a Union defeat, it became known as "the battle that saved Washington".
 2. Name the irascible Confederate General who led this last rebel invasion of the North.
 3. Which Union Corps was hurried north from Petersburg by Grant to meet Early's invasion? How were they transported in time to make a stand at the Monocacy?
 4. On the morning of the Battle of Monocacy, Gen. Early demanded and received a \$200,000 ransom from the Frederick City fathers. How long did it take for that debt to be paid off?
 5. This obscure private in the 9th NY Heavy Artillery won a measure of recognition for "shinning" up the wooden covered bridge over the Monocacy and setting it afire (upon the command of Gen. Lew Wallace), thus preventing the rebels from seizing it.
 6. This capable Confederate General led the third attack at Monocacy which finally routed the Union forces. At Appomattox, he was chosen by Gen. Lee to represent him at the formal surrender ceremony.
 7. This son and namesake of a prominent member of Lincoln's cabinet commanded the 9th NY Heavy Artillery at the Battle of Monocacy?
 8. What were the circumstances of the only occasion in U. S. history of a sitting President coming under enemy fire?
 9. After the war, Lew Wallace, the Union Commander at Monocacy, wrote the most popular novel of the 19th Century. What was it?
 10. Who was the brigadier general, who commanded the 3rd Division of the 6th Corp at Monocacy, had been wounded at First Bull Run and Antietam before being wounded again at the Battle of Cedar Creek?
 11. (a) Who said: "These men died to save the National Capital, and they did save it."?
(b) Who said: "We haven't taken Washington but we've scared Abe Lincoln like hell."?
 12. On Aug. 6, 1864, Gen. Grant met with Phil Sheridan to plan the Shenandoah Valley campaign against Gen. Early for the fall. What was the site of that crucial meeting?
 13. In Sept, 1862, written orders describing Gen. Lee's battle plans for Antietam were found in a clover field on what later became the Monocacy Battlefield. What was the name of that famous lost dispatch?
 14. Name the famous poem by John Greenleaf Whittier about the heroic actions of an elderly widow in Frederick.
- Bonus question:** When Lincoln was inaugurated in March of 1861, five former Presidents were still living, a situation which did not occur again until Bill Clinton's inauguration in 1993. Name these five Presidents.

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

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

Jackson captured Harper's Ferry, and eleven thousand Union troops.

2. What was the name of the nearby town at the Battle of Antietam? **Sharpsburg, Maryland**

3. How badly was Lee outnumbered at Antietam? **Lee was outnumbered two to one.**

4. In terms of casualties, what was Antietam noted for? **It had the bloodiest single day's fight in the Civil War**

5. What was McClellan's battle plan at Antietam? **McClellan wanted to hit hard at both flanks of the Confederate army., draw their troops from the center and then hit the weakened center with his reserves**

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

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

8. What two Confederate generals finally stopped Hooker's attack? **Hood and D.H. Hill**

9. What wound did Hooker suffer? **Hooker took a mini ball in the foot.**

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

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

12. Across what body of water did Burnside attack? **Antietam Creek**

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

14. Who held the Confederate position overlooking the bridge? What kind of forces did he have? **Brig. Gen. Robert Toombs, who had two regiments of Georgia infantry.**

15. What battlefield landmark did Hooker advance across? **Miller's Farm**

16. When Burnside was taking the bluffs above Antietam Creek, whose division arrived in the nick of time to save the Confederates? **A.P. Hill's division**

17. Where did that unit march from? Approximately how far away was that place? **Hill's division marched from Harpers Ferry, seventeen miles away**

18. Approximately how many men did McClellan lose in the battle? **McClellan lost twelve thousand men**

19. Approximately how many men did Lee lose in the battle? **Lee lost nine thousand men.**

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

And you think that you pay a lot of taxes...

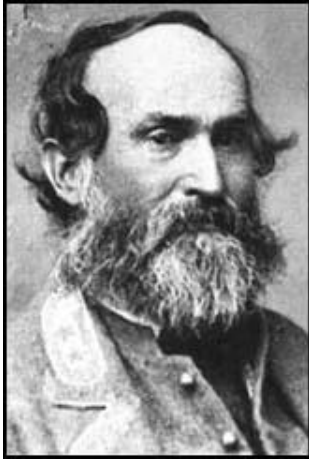
(This short article was found on the web at <http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,850141,00>. **Note the date.**)

One Town's War Debt

Out of little Frederick, Md. (pop. 15,802) last week came an object lesson in war financing. In the Civil War, the town was threatened with destruction by Confederate General Jubal Early, chose instead to meet his \$200,000 ransom demand, borrowed the money from its five banks. The debt could have been repaid by a \$25 emergency tax on each of the 8,000 residents in 1864. But last week the contemporary city fathers, struggling to repay the loan

out of ordinary revenues, figured they had already spent \$331,000 in interest, would not have their Civil War debt finally liquidated until 1951.

Time Magazine Monday, Oct. 26, 1942



That's neither the whole story nor the end of it. In *A Civil War Treasury* by Albert A. Nofi, Mr. Nofi provides some additional information. It seems that the city fathers in 1864 felt that Washington should reimburse the city for the ransom as a war expense. Essentially, the feds ignored their pleas and the city took on the whole burden as reported in Time Magazine in 1942.

Then, in the early 1960's, the people of the Congressional district that encompasses Frederick elected Charles Mathias, Jr., who, having knowledge of the Early ransom, brought the matter to an uninterested Congress. For the next 13 Congressional terms (26 years), he pressed for tax relief for the home folk. Finally, Congress relented and reimbursed the city for the original cost *excluding interest* 122 years after the fact.

To find the selection from Mr. Nofi's book I googled "*frederick, md and civil war debts*" and opened the result: [A Civil War Treasury: Being a Miscellany of Arms and Artillery, ... - Google Books Result...](#) by Albert A. Nofi - 1995 - History - 432 pages... of War War Debts On 9 July 1864 Lt. Gen. Jubal A. Early led 14000 of the Confederacy's doughtiest Into Frederick, Maryland, en route to Washington in an ...books.google.com/books?isbn=0306806223...

It made for entertaining reading...editor.

Ps. Coincidentally, I found this material prior to receiving the quiz. Sorry about that, Fred.

More on Taxes by Bob Krauth



A Union "greenback," authorized by the Legal Tender Act of 1862; note portrait of Salmon P. Chase in left.

To pay for the war effort both the North and the South sold bonds, issued notes, and collected taxes, but there were major differences with dramatically different results between the two systems.

The South, hamstrung by a "national" government not having a system or historic tradition of collecting taxes, initially raised money by issuing bonds to be repaid after victory over the North. Double digit inflation erased any incentive to invest after the first issue in 1861. Confederate notes accounted for about ¾ of revenue and were printed by the central government, however, there was no law requiring their use. Consequently, each state issued its own notes. Counterfeit notes added to the financial confusion. Finally, taxes, when imposed, were limited by laws, that, for example, exempted wealthy landlords from counting slaves as taxable "property" and accounted for only 5% of war revenue. The final line of all these actions was an astounding inflation rate at the end of the war of **9000%**.



A \$100 note issued by the Confederacy.

The North had a big advantage from the beginning with a central government that had an established Treasury Department. The government issued over \$3 billion worth of bonds that were backed by the Greenback, the government- issued note mandated by the Legal Tender Act of 1862. Unlike Southern notes, citizens, banks, and governments were required to accept Greenbacks for payment of debts, both public and private. Finally, a combination of stamp, value added, excise, and income taxes (21% of war revenue) imposed with the passage of the Internal Revenue Act had the long-lasting effect of holding inflation at war's end to a manageable rate of 80%.

For an interesting, easy-to-read, history of taxes in America from the colonial days to the present, I refer you to the source that I used for this article. Much more material than I could summarize on Civil War taxes is found at this site as well: <http://www.tax.org/Museum/1861-1865.htm>

Preservation Report by John Herberich

The Battle of Perryville, Kentucky

In my ongoing project to compile a history of the Fourth Regiment United States Cavalry, I'm currently researching and rewriting the year 1862. I had just come to the Battle of Perryville (October 8, 1862) only to find out that the battlefield was just put on the Civil War Preservation Trust's list of the nation's 10 most endangered Civil War battlefields.

Perryville is located about 85 miles southeast of Louisville. The battle fought there "has been long forgotten in Civil War history," but was significant for a number of reasons:

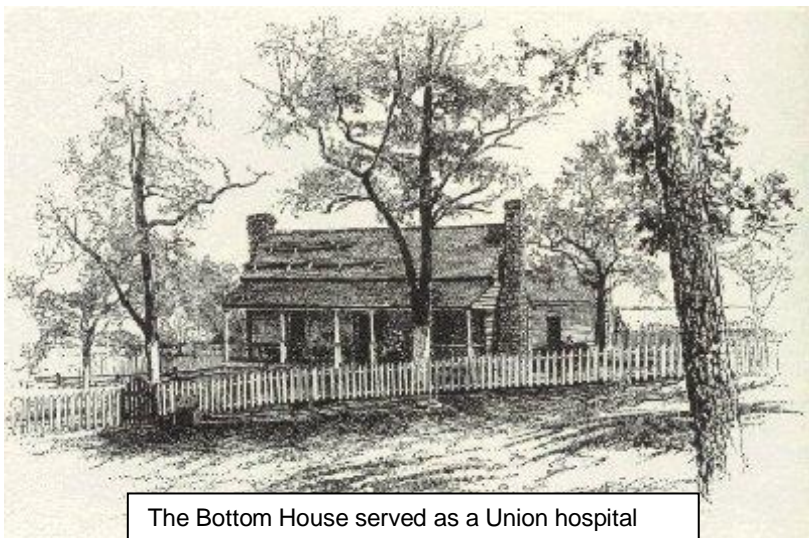
- 1) It was the most significant battle fought in Kentucky. It involved Don Carlos Buell's Northern troops and Braxton Bragg's Confederates.
- 2) It ended Bragg's failed "Kentucky Invasion," thus preserving the State for the Union.
- 3) It also helped to bring about the downfall of General Buell.

4) Six companies of the 4th Cavalry, including my great-grandfather's, served as Buell's escort. (At the same time, Companies A & E of the 4th Regiment were serving as escort for George McClellan, Commanding the Army of the Potomac against Lee's invasion toward Maryland.)

As recorded by Bruce Canon, "The Battle of Perryville... was a curious climax to Bragg's invasion of Kentucky. Neither commanding general intended to fight there, and neither exerted forceful control when the armies blundered into each other." The resulting five hour battle was an "indecisive

bloodbath." Aside from the appalling loss of life on both sides, the major effect of the battle was off the field.

Although a tactical victory for the Confederacy, Bragg's eventual retreat from Kentucky saved that state for the Union. For the Federals, Buell's ineffective command during the campaign and his "sluggish pursuit of Bragg... shattered moral" and left the Federal forces in "disarray". Buell was relieved of his command and replaced by Major General William S. Rosecrans on October 24, 1862.



The Bottom House served as a Union hospital after the battle. <http://www.battleofperryville.com>

Fortunately for posterity, the citizens of Perryville and the State of Kentucky have already preserved nearly 670 acres of this "pristine" battlefield site, which draws about 100,000 visitors annually. The 34 acres currently threatened with development, "wasn't the site of fighting but was a key transportation route as troops marched towards battle," and returned, "bloodied and wounded to be seen at makeshift hospitals."

From the Civil War Preservation Trust, Spring 2008 Report: "In the past 20 years our members helped save more than 25,000 acres of irreplaceable American history from becoming strip malls and housing developments."

Bob Krauth
3940 Tiers Road
San Jose, Ca 95121

