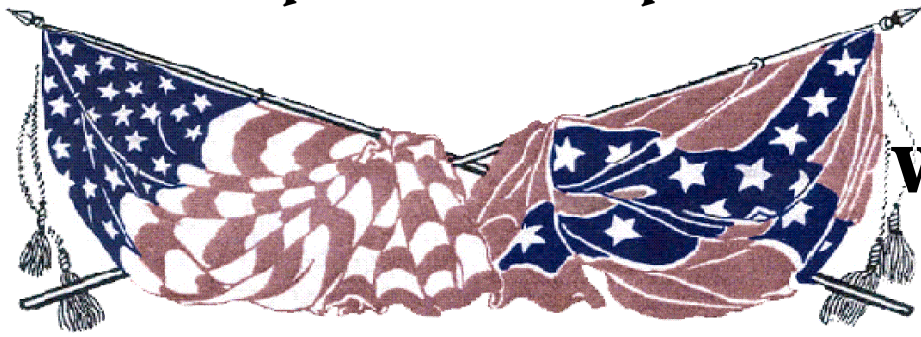


**"The Late Unpleasantness" September 2009**



## **South Bay Civil War Round Table**

**September 29th Meeting**

**Speaker: Tom McMahon on "Life, Death, and Religion in the Civil War"**

**Holder's Country Inn**

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

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**Historian: Gary Moore**

### **Message from the President:**

Thank you all for allowing me to hold the position so well handled by my predecessor Gary Moore, as well as all those preceding him through the past 20 years of this organization. And, I'm sure I speak for everyone when I thank those who have volunteered to fill the other Board Member positions over the years as well. I'd like to offer my personal thanks to Bob Krauth who is one of the few of the Board Members who actually has to produce something - this newsletter - every month. It's probably the biggest job of all! And a special thanks to Rene and Marianne Accornero who once again opened their beautiful home to our

August Picnic. They make the perfect host and hostess! Gary Yee was our speaker on a fascinating topic, "A Plan Gone Wrong: The Siege of Battery Wagner" during the Union attempt to take Charleston, S.C.

Gary Moore is in the process of compiling a history of the SBCWRT, and will share that information in future editions of our publication. Under Gary's leadership we not only had interesting speakers but growing attendance as well. With your help, I hope to continue these trends and spread the word about the South Bay Civil War Round Table.

Summary of the August Picnic Talk  
**The Siege of Battery Wagner**

Presentation by Gary Yee (Synopsis by Larry Comstock)

SBCWRT Picnic, 2009

Charleston harbor was defended in the Civil War by Fort Sumter in the middle of the channel and, in the north, on Sullivan's Island by Fort Moultrie and, to the south of Fort Sumter, on Morris Island by Battery Gregg. To defend Battery Gregg from attack from the south, Battery Wagner was established on Morris Island by the Confederates. The Federal commander of the attempt to capture Charleston was Brig. Gen. Quincy Gilmore and his plan was to land troops on Morris Island and capture both Batteries Wagner and Gregg and then reduce and capture Fort Sumter which would allow the navy to steam into Charleston harbor. Gary described the failed attempt by the famed black 54th Massachusetts regiment to capture Battery Wagner on July 18, 1863 (depicted in the movie "Glory"). After the failure to seize the battery by coup de main, Gary described Gilmore's plan to reduce it by a siege. He

discussed all the aspects of a siege, including how parallel trenches were dug and zigzag approaches were prepared with saps and artillery to suppress the defense. The siege started on July 20th and was assisted by naval guns under the command of Admiral John Dahlgren. Gary then focused on the use of sharpshooters by the Confederates using superior Whitworth rifles purchased from England to harass the Union engineers building the trenches. This was so effective that the Union was initially forced to build the trenches only at night. The Union responded by forming a sharpshooter corps using standard Springfield rifles. Gary went on to describe the different stages of the siege and the final success in establishing a parallel trench just 50 yards from Battery Wagner. On September 7th the Federal forces prepared to storm Battery Wagner, but the Confederates abandoned the battery as well as Battery Gregg. Gary mentioned that the campaign to capture Charleston was abandoned by orders of General Grant and the city was not captured until February, 1865.

The presentation was well received with many questions.



Incoming President John Herberich is seated on the right with his wife Jane.  
Past President Debbie Petite, host Rene Accornero, speaker Gary Yee.  
Outgoing President Gary Moore

Photos submitted by Larry Comstock

The San Joaquin Valley Civil War Round Table  
presents **The 2009 West Coast Civil War**

Round Table Conference **The**  
**Campaign for Chattanooga,**

October 23-25 2009 in Clovis, California.

**Event Schedule**

**Friday, October 23**

2:00-5:00 pm Registration.

Foyer of the Veterans Memorial Building,  
Clovis, CA. -

4:00-5:00 pm Socializing.

Book tables open. -

5:00 pm "Tullahoma, Chickamauga & Beyond:  
John Thomas Wilder & His Lightning Brigade."  
Christopher Young

6:00 pm Dinner.

Introductory Remarks (During Dinner)

Afterward: "I Think the Rebellion Must Die" The  
Strategic, Economic & Political Importance of  
Chattanooga in the American Civil War. Evan  
Jones

James Ogden

**Saturday, October 24**

8:00 am "Rosecrans Victory March and the  
Road to Chickamauga." Dr. Steven  
Woodworth

9:00 am "Clash at the River of Death,  
Chickamauga - Day One." Lee White

10:00 am Break

Refreshments and book tables open. -

10:30 am "Confederate Breakthrough,  
Chickamauga - Day Two." Dr. William Glenn  
Robertson

12:00 noon Lunch -

1:00 pm "William Oats and William Lytle -  
Bloody Crossroads at Chickamauga."  
Christopher Young

2:00 pm Debate: "The Generalship of Braxton  
Bragg" Wiley Sword

Steven Woodworth

3:00 pm "Rosecrans and His Enemies - The  
Federal High Command and the Campaign for  
Chattanooga" Evan Jones

4:00 pm "Bull of the Woods? James Longstreet  
in the Western Theater" Dr. Glenn Robertson

5:00 pm "The Cracker Line" Dr. Jim Stanbery

6:00 pm Social Hour. Book tables open, tour  
information available. -

7:00 pm Dinner Banquet -

8:00 pm Moderated Panel Discussion:

"The Importance of the Civil War's Western  
Theater" with Wiley Sword, William Glenn  
Robertson, James Ogden, Evan Jones, Lee  
White and Christopher Young. Moderator: Jim  
Stanbery

**Sunday, October 25**

8:00 am "The Battle for Lookout Mountain"  
James Ogden

9:00 am "The Battle for Missionary Ridge"  
Wiley Sword

10:00 am "The Confederate Retreat and Battle  
of Ringgold Gap" Lee White

11:00 am "The Consequences of the  
Campaign for Chattanooga." Wiley Sword

12:00 noon Lunch - 12:45 pm Farewell

**October 23 - 25**

**West Coast Civil War Round Table  
Conference – 2009  
REGISTRATION**

The registration fee of \$225.00 includes three meals, namely dinner Friday the 23<sup>rd</sup>, lunch and dinner on Saturday the 24<sup>th</sup>, as well as fifteen lectures. (The hotels offer complimentary breakfasts.)

Early registration, prior to September 15, is set at the reduced rate of \$199.00.

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City** \_\_\_\_\_ **State** \_\_\_\_\_

**Zip** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone: Home:** (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

**Work:**(\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks for \$225.00 (or \$199.00) payable to  
SJVCWRT

Send registration form and fee to:

**SJVCWRT  
P. O. Box 5695  
Fresno, California 93755**

# Preservation Report

*In addition to the Civil War Preservation Trust's (CWPT) 10 Most Endangered Battlefields of 2009, 15 others have been identified as "threatened". The last 5 of the "threatened battlefields are listed (Source: [www.civilwar.org](http://www.civilwar.org))*

**New Bern, N.C.**, where only 27 acres of the March 14, 1862, battlefield are protected and the remainder is giving way to sprawl along U.S. 70;

**Reed's Bridge, Ark.**, where only one-quarter of the Aug. 27, 1863, battlefield is protected and the rest is vulnerable to sprawl from Jacksonville and Little Rock;

**South Mountain, Md.**, Sept. 14, 1862, battlefield where the eastern side of the mountain "is becoming a bedroom community for commuters" from Washington;

**Spring Hill, Tenn.**, where development is quickly swallowing the battlefield of Nov. 29, 1864;

**Williamsburg, Va.**, May 5, 1862, where development around Colonial Williamsburg has destroyed much of the battlefield, leaving "only a few redoubts and other battle-scarred properties.

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## Editorial: Sacrificing History for the Sake of Convenience

*Culpeper Star-Exponent*

8/27/2009 *Culpeper Star-Exponent (VA)*

[http://www2.starexponent.com/cse/news/opinion/op\\_ed/article/our\\_view\\_sacrificing\\_history\\_for\\_the\\_sake\\_of\\_convenience/42201/](http://www2.starexponent.com/cse/news/opinion/op_ed/article/our_view_sacrificing_history_for_the_sake_of_convenience/42201/)

We are extremely disappointed in this week's news that Walmart has been approved to build near the Wilderness battlefield. The Orange County Board of Supervisors voted 4-1 in the early morning hours Tuesday to allow a Walmart Super Center to be built across the road from the Wilderness Civil War battlefield. It makes our stomachs churn.

Many Orange County residents pointed to the need for shopping outlets, new jobs and tax dollars that would remain in local coffers — all legitimate needs, just not at the expense of the hallowed ground where Robert E. Lee and Ulysses S. Grant first met in a horrific battle that saw tens of thousands killed or wounded. While it appears to be a done deal and construction could begin in a matter of months, we stand with local, state and national preservation groups whose new focus is to put pressure to Walmart headquarters to abandon plans for the store.

Will that work? We can only hope. Somehow, someone must convince the corporate giant to abandon this site and relocate a mile west, closer to the coveted population center at Lake of the Woods. If Walmart proceeds with plans to build at the intersection of routes 3 and 20, however, we implore the company to keep its word and do everything possible to minimize sight lines. Unfortunately, little can be done regarding traffic flow and the sprawl that will eventually overtake the serene battlefield area. Kudos to Teri L. Pace, the only supervisor who voted no.

*Editor's Opinion: Though preservation groups are still trying to convince WalMart to reconsider its decision to proceed, it is the view of this writer that they will ultimately fail; WalMart has shown no interest in changing its plans and is extremely unlikely to do so. For personal reasons this writer does not shop at WalMart. For its lack of concern for historic preservation, one may want to consider boycotting the store for patriotic reasons alone. Just a thought.*

**As usual, the editor encourages any comments, corrections, or additions for future newsletters. No September Quiz was submitted.**

## Quiz answers for August from Kevin Martinez

- 1) What Ship rescued sailors after the Alabama Sank? **The Deerhound**
- 2) How old was Raphael Semmes when he joined the navy? **16 years old**
- 3) Where did Raphael Semmes establish his permanent home? **Mobile, Al**
- 4) What is the name of the ship that was Semmes first command? **The Sumter**
- 5) What was the job that R Semmes had when he met Jefferson Davis? **Secretary of the Lighthouse Board**
- 6) What was the name of the ship that Semmes first captured in 1861? **The Golden Rocket**
- 7) Who was the US consul who stopped coal supplies from being sold to the Sumter? **Horatio Sprague**
- 8) What was the Foreign Enlistments Act? **English laws forbid the recruitment of British subjects for service with foreign belligerents.**
- 9) Who was the US captain that opposed Semmes off the coast of Cherbourg, France?  
(Your guess is as good as mine...no answer given.)

Bob Krauth  
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San Jose, Ca 95121

