

"The Late Unpleasantness" April 2009



# South Bay Civil War Round Table

San Jose, California

**April 28<sup>th</sup> Meeting Speaker:**  
**Jack Mather on "Sherman-Fall  
1864 to End of War-Myth and  
Reality"**

Holder's Country Inn

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

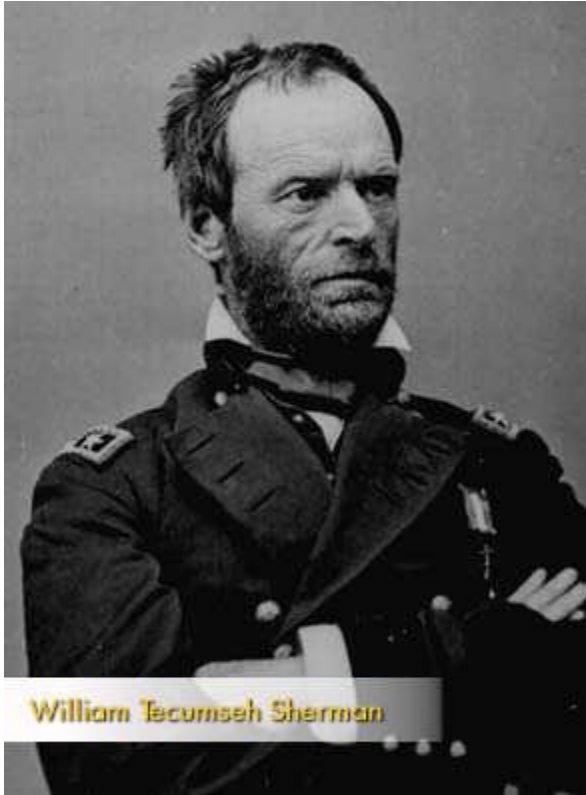
Gary Moore is still recovering from his recent illness. He has asked me to handle some of the affairs of the round table until he is well enough to resume his full duties.

Our March meeting was well attended and the presentation by Brad Schall on "The Political Climate in California" was well received. Brad is a major leader in the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and we had the secretary of the local camp—Bob Kadlec—in attendance. Brad's talk included a discussion on the large number of confederate sympathizers there were in the state during the Civil War, even though the state went strongly for Lincoln in both elections. He also discussed the strong desire of the South to have California be a slave state. More details can be found in our web site: [www.SBCWRT.org](http://www.SBCWRT.org).

Our April 28th meeting will be: **Jack Mather on "Sherman—Fall 1864 to the End of the War: Myth and Reality"**. Hal Jesperson, who manages our web site, has posted the following preview of Jack's presentation:

*"Jack's presentation will evolve around the two following communications:*

*Oct. 9, 1864, Sherman to Grant: "Until we can repopulate Georgia, it is useless to occupy it, but the utter destruction of its roads, horses and people will cripple their military resources ... I can make the march and make Georgia howl."*



**William Tecumseh Sherman**

*Nov. 9, 1864, Sherman to his troops: "In districts and neighborhoods where the army is unmolested, no destruction of such property should be permitted; but should the inhabitants burn bridges, obstruct roads, or otherwise manifest local hostility, the army commanders should order and enforce a devastation more or less relentless, according to measures of such hostility."*

*The questions to be addressed in Jack's presentation will focus on: 1) To what extent were Sherman's actions consistent with these communications and 2) Are the accounts of Sherman's actions a reality or mostly myth?*

*Jack's presentation is one I am sure you will not want to miss."*

Photo Source: [http://ngeorgia.com/ang/William\\_Tecumseh\\_Sherman](http://ngeorgia.com/ang/William_Tecumseh_Sherman)

#### FUTURE PROGRAMS - LOOKIN AHEAD

<b>Month</b>	<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Topic</b>
May	Larry Tagg	"The Unpopular Mr. Lincoln"
June	Patrick Doyle	"Two Civil War Generals in Mexico"
July	Bob Hubbs	"How Lincoln Won the War Without the Help of his Generals"

## Announcements

**May 7th and 14th**      **Civil War Tours (Personal collection" of Bill Cleary at his Saratoga home)**

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

# MARCH QUIZ answers submitted by Gary Moore

## NICKNAMES OF "CONFEDERATE GENERALS"

Match the Confederate General (on the left) with the "Nickname" (on the right)

- |                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| 1. John Bratton             | "Old Reliable"  |
| 2. William Mahone           | "Little Billy"  |
| 3. William H.F. Lee         | "Rooney"  |
| 4. William Jackson          | "Mudwall"   |
| 5. Jubal Early              | "Old Jube"  |
| 6. Thomas Rosser            | "Savior of the Valley"  |
| 7. William Terry            | "Old Buck" (note that there were two Confederate<br>generals named William Terry; Buck was William Richard Terry) |
| 8. Leonidas Polk            | "The Fighting Bishop"   |
| 9. Nathan Evans             | "Shanks"  |
| 10. Robert E. Lee           | "Noble Old Soldier"   |
| 11. Ambrose P. Hill         | "Little Powell"   |
| 12. Joseph E. Johnston      | "Uncle Joe"   |
| 13. Richard Ewell           | "Old Bald Head"   |
| 14. Edward Porter Alexander | "Young Napoleon of the Railways"  |
| 15. James Longstreet        | "Old Pete"  |
| 16. Sterling Price          | "Old Pap"   |
| 17. John Magruder           | "Prince John"   |
| 18. Thomas Jackson          | "Blue Light"  |
| 19. Jeb Stuart              | "Knight of the Golden Spurs"  |
| 20. Richard Anderson        | "Fighting Dick"   |

## The Union Right Flank at Gettysburg

April Quiz submitted by Larry Comstock

1. What was the major hill that formed the right flank of the Union line?
2. What Union Corps defended the largest part of the right flank of the union line?
3. What Confederate Corps attacked the Union right flank and who was its commander?
4. On the Second Day what Confederate division attacked the Union right flank?
5. A brigade from this division succeeded in penetrating the Union defenses during the evening of the Second Day. Who was the leader of this brigade?

6. One brigade was left to defend the Union right flank on the evening of the Second Day. Who was the brigade commander?
7. A division that was sent to assist the defense of the Union left flank became lost on the way. Who led this division?
8. This division commander had a connection to San Francisco. What was his role in the City?
9. On the morning of the Third Day the Confederates made one last desperate attempt to destroy the Union line on the Union right flank. The attack was across a field later named for a regimental commander. Who was that commander and hence the name of the field?

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## PRESERVATION REPORT

Last month Civil War Preservation Trust released its annual report entitled, [History Under Siege™: A Guide to America's Most Endangered Civil War Battlefields](#). This second article covering 4 more of the top 10 List ) is from a press release found at <http://civilwar.org>. (Italics and bold print added )

**Cedar Creek, Virginia**, October 19, 1864: The site of a Union victory that helped propel Abraham Lincoln to reelection in 1864 is today threatened by the expansion of a limestone mining operation on core battlefield land. Heavy machinery and slag piles from existing quarries are already visible. Despite vehement opposition and the recommendation of the county planning commission, the **Frederick County Board of Supervisors rezoned 394 acres, greatly increasing the size of the mine and threatening to destroy significant sections of the northern part of the battlefield**. In addition, Cedar Creek is one of approximately 15

battlefields across Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia potentially impacted by a proposed network of high-voltage electric transmission lines in the eastern U.S.

**Fort Gaines, Alabama**, August 5–8, 1864: Despite its strategic location on Dauphin Island at the entrance to Mobile Bay and its occupation by 800 Confederate troops in August of 1864, Fort Gaines was overpowered by Union Admiral David Farragut's fleet of 18 ships. Today, the fort faces another mighty foe: the Gulf of Mexico. **Recent dredging practices have significantly hastened the erosion of Dauphin Island, threatening to cut the island in two**. Some 400 feet of historic battlefield have already been erased.

**Gettysburg, Pennsylvania**, July 1–3, 1863: The largest and bloodiest battle of the Civil War raged for three days and claimed a horrific price — more than 50,000 killed, wounded and missing. Although it is the best-known of all Civil

War battlefields, Gettysburg still faces threats to its preservation and interpretation. ***Many historically significant locations on the battlefield lie outside the boundaries of Gettysburg National Military Park and are vulnerable to residential or commercial development.***

Preservationists are eager to protect one such area, known locally as the Gettysburg Country Club, but the high asking price has thus far put it out of their reach.

**New Market Heights, Virginia,**  
September 29, 1864: Outside Richmond, north of the James River, nearly 3,000 African American soldiers in Union blue were anxious to prove themselves. In a bloody but valorous

attack at New Market Heights, these United States Colored Troops lost more than 800 men in one hour. Of the 16 Medals of Honor awarded to African American troops in the Civil War, 14 were earned by soldiers fighting that day. Despite its indisputable historic significance, ***New Market Heights is completely at the mercy of development with no land protected by preservation organizations. Some significant portions of the battlefield have already been destroyed by a housing development, and growing traffic congestion on Virginia Route 5 will ultimately necessitate the widening of the highway,*** threatening approximately 75-acres of still-pristine battlefield land.

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