

"The Late Unpleasantness" February 2009



# South Bay Civil War Round Table

San Jose, California

## February 24<sup>th</sup> Meeting

**Speaker: Larry Comstock on  
"The Other End of the Line - The  
Union Right Flank at Gettysburg"**

## Holder's Country Inn

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

On a personal note, it was great to be back with you for the January Meeting.

As I look back over 2008, it was a good year for the SBCWRT - as we had an average attendance of over 30 for our monthly meetings, 20 visitors for the year, 9 new members, a new web-site, and over \$ 1800.00 contributed to Civil War Battlefield Preservation. I would like to commend each of you for your dedicated support, participation, and contributions to the SBCWRT.

The program for our first meeting of the New Year, 2009, was Charles Sweeny, speaking on "Aspects of Slavery". Charles's presentation examined slavery in its more comprehensive context - from an early look at the history of slavery, serfdom as compared to slavery, slavery and its ramifications during the Civil War, and Christianity's role in leading the fight against slavery. Our special thanks to Charles for a most enlightening presentation.



Cemetery Hill



Our February program will feature our own Larry Comstock, speaking on **"The Other End of the Line- The Union Right Flank at Gettysburg"**. Whereas many Civil War enthusiasts are more familiar and conversant with regard to the events occurring on the Left Flank (made popular by the movie "Gettysburg") and the center of the Union line (Pickett's Charge on July 3rd) Larry will address the lesser known, but equally important events occurring on the Union Right Flank. For a new perspective and added insights on this meaningful aspect of the Battle of Gettysburg I am sure you will not want to miss Larry's presentation. A more comprehensive "preview" of Larry's presentation can be found on our web-site at [www.SBCWRT.com](http://www.SBCWRT.com).

Among items of note during our brief business session, preceding Charles Sweeny's presentation, were the following:

- A donation, in memory of Ormand Eckley, of \$500.00 to the CWPT.
- Correspondence from former member, David Woodbury, related to compiling a history/background of the SBCWRT.
- An update by Gary Yee, President of the San Francisco Civil War Round Table, on the status of the 2010 West Coast Civil War Conference on Alcatraz.
- Communication from another former member, Bill Callahan, related to the donation of items (CD's and DVD's) for our monthly raffle.
- Announcement related to the upcoming "Lincoln and the West" two-day conference at Stanford University (Feb. 5 & 6) highlighted by James McPherson's talk on "Lincoln, Slavery, and the West".
- A preview of our upcoming programs for Feb., March, and April
- Announcement of the 13th Annual Civil War Forum Battlefield Conference (March 26-29) at Winchester, VA.

I will look forward to seeing each of you at our February 24th monthly meeting at Holder's Inn. In the meantime, remember that in addition to the evening's main presentation there's our raffle, civil war quiz, announcements, discussions, and stimulating conversation related to all aspects of the Civil War.

Gary Moore, President

#### FUTURE PROGRAMS - LOOKIN AHEAD

<i>Month</i>	<i>Speaker</i>	<i>Topic</i>
March	Brad Schall	"The Political Climate in California 1850 - 1870"
April	Jack Mather	"Sherman-Fall 1864 to End of War-Myth and Reality"
May	Larry Tagg	"The Unpopular Mr. Lincoln"

**13th Annual Civil War Forum Battlefield Conference March 26-29, 2009 ---- Winchester, Virginia; Topic: "The 1864 Shenandoah Valley Campaign"**

### Special Announcement

**The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, and its Auxiliary, will be celebrating Lincoln's Birthday on at Holders Country Inn 998 South De Anza Blvd., Saturday, February 21, 2009. Time: 5:00PM. Come and join the festivities.**



As a special treat, Brother Richard Staley, in the guise of Civil War Veteran and former commander of Sheridan/Dix GAR Post Number 7, C.L. Burdick, will provide an inspirational presentation on the life of our 16th President. The SUVCW and ASUVCW will provide the large Birthday Cake(s) for the occasion.

## JANUARY QUIZ Answers Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson

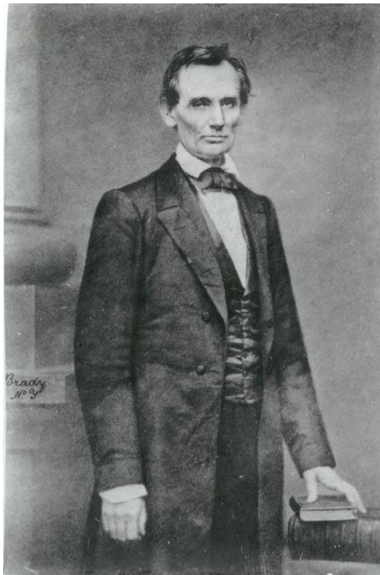
1. In 1842, an event occurred that changed Jackson's life. What was it? **A candidate had "withdrawn" his application for West Point, thus creating a vacancy for Jackson's admission.**
2. In his plebe year at West Point, what group did Jackson "fall in" with? **The "Immortals" - lowest group of cadets at West Point.**
3. Jackson was graduated from West Point in 1846 with a class of 59. In what subject was his lowest standing? **Infantry Tactics**
4. In his West Point graduating class of 1846 Jackson ranked (a.) 7th, (b.) 17th, (c.) 27th, or (d.) 47th? **17th**
5. To what unit was Jackson first assigned? **K company, 1st Artillery**
6. What was Jackson's first action of the Mexican War? **Siege of Vera Cruz**
7. To what rank was Jackson promoted after the Battle of Chapultepec? **Major**
8. In 1851, Jackson drew an academic assignment to which school? **V.M.I. (Virginia Military Institute)**
9. His position at that school was Professor of what subject? **Philosophy and Artillery Tactics**
10. What was Jackson's nickname at the Virginia Military Institute? **Tom Fool**
11. In 1854, Jackson was turned down for a professorship. By what school? Whose recommendation did he have? **University of Virginia; Robert E. Lee**
12. Jackson is renowned for his strong religious beliefs as he was a staunch (a.) Baptist, (b.) Methodist, (c.) Presbyterian? **Presbyterian**
13. In November 1854, Jackson's first wife died. How? **In childbirth - gave birth to a stillborn child**
14. When the Civil War broke out, what was Jackson ordered to do? **March the best cadets, among the Upper Classmen, to Richmond**
15. What was Jackson's rank shortly after the war began? Where was he first sent? **Colonel; Sent to Harper's Ferry**
16. Who relieved Jackson at Harpers Ferry? **Joseph E. Johnston**
17. At what battle did Jackson earn his nickname "Stonewall"? **First Manassas/Bull Run**
18. At what battle was Jackson fatally wounded? **Chancellorsville**
19. Jackson Died on May 10, 1863. What were his final words? **"Let us cross over the river and rest under the shade of the trees"**
20. Where is Jackson buried? **Stonewall Jackson Cemetery in Lexington, VA.**

## FEBRUARY QUIZ "Jeb" Stuart" submitted by Gary Moore

1. What did "Jeb" stand for?
2. In what war did Stuart's father fight?
3. What was Stuart's class standing when he was graduated from West Point in 1854?
4. What was the highest cavalry rank Stuart held as a cadet?
5. What kind of regiment was Stuart first assigned to? With what rank?
6. When Congress raised new cavalry regiments in 1855, to which one was Stuart assigned and with what rank?
7. In 1856, Stuart's regiment was sent to a territory that had not yet decided whether it would be free or a slave state. Name the state?

8. What famous abolitionist did he meet there?
9. In the winter of 1858 - 59, Stuart obtained a patent for what invention?
10. When the John Brown raid occurred, Stuart was ordered to deliver a set of secret orders to Arlington to whom?
11. After Stuart quit the army in 1861, what notification did he receive from the army?
12. What was Stuart's first rank and command given to him by Virginia?
13. To whom did Stuart have to report, under his orders?
14. Within two months, Stuart received a different rank and command from Virginia. What was it?
15. Two months after that he received a commission from the Confederate Army, for what rank?
16. What "secret" did Jeb Stuart's beard hide?
17. Because of his "secret" what was Jeb Stuart's nickname at West Point?
18. In what battle was Stuart killed and where?
19. Where is Jeb Stuart buried?
20. What hymn did Stuart request be sang at his graveside?

## Special Feature



In honor of President's Day and, specifically, Abraham Lincoln's 200<sup>th</sup> Birthday, three amusing stories are offered for the reader's pleasure. This is just a sampling of possibly hundreds(?) of stories (***A Complete Collection of the Funny and Witty Anecdotes that made Abraham Lincoln Famous as America's Greatest Story Teller***) found online as a free download at

***<http://www.wattpad.com/6941>***.

**(Photo: [www.abrahamlincolngallery.com](http://www.abrahamlincolngallery.com))**

### LINCOLN ASKED TO BE SHOT.

Lincoln was, naturally enough, much surprised one day, when a man of rather forbidding countenance drew a revolver and thrust the weapon almost into his face. In such circumstances "Abe" at once concluded that any attempt at debate or argument was a waste of time and words

"What seems to be the matter?" inquired Lincoln with all the calmness and self-possession he could muster.

"Well," replied the stranger, who did not appear at all excited, "some years ago I swore an oath that if I ever came across an uglier man than myself I'd shoot him on the spot."

A feeling of relief evidently took possession of Lincoln at this rejoinder, as the expression upon his countenance lost all suggestion of anxiety.

"Shoot me," he said to the stranger; "for if I am an uglier man than you I don't want to live."

## **NO VICES, NO VIRTUES.**

Lincoln always took great pleasure in relating this yarn:

Riding at one time in a stage with an old Kentuckian who was returning from Missouri, Lincoln excited the old gentleman's surprise by refusing to accept either of tobacco or French brandy.

When they separated that afternoon--the Kentuckian to take another stage bound for Louisville--he shook hands warmly with Lincoln, and said, good-humoredly:

"See here, stranger, you're a clever but strange companion. I may never see you again, and I don't want to offend you, but I want to say this: My experience has taught me that a man who has no vices has d--d few virtues. Good-day."

## **ABE" GOT THE WORST OF IT.**

When Lincoln was a young lawyer in Illinois, he and a certain Judge once got to bantering one another about trading horses; and it was agreed that the next morning at nine o'clock they should make a trade, the horses to be unseen up to that hour, and no backing out, under a forfeiture of \$25. At the hour appointed, the Judge came up, leading the sorriest-looking specimen of a horse ever seen in those parts. In a few minutes Mr. Lincoln was seen approaching with a wooden saw-horse upon his shoulders.

Great were the shouts and laughter of the crowd, and both were greatly increased when Lincoln, on surveying the Judge's animal, set down his saw-horse, and exclaimed:

"Well, Judge, this is the first time I ever got the worst of it in a horse trade."

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## **Preservation Report (Update on "Wilderness Wal-Mart")**

*Texas, Vermont Politicians Join Orange Wal-Mart Battle* by Clint Schemmer (edited for space)

1/31/2009 Fredericksburg Free Lance-Star (VA)

<http://fredericksburg.com/News/FLS/2009/012009/01312009/442901>

The so-called "Wilderness Wal-Mart" in Orange County is catching grief from both North and South--and elected officials on both ends of the political spectrum.

U.S. Rep. Ted Poe, a conservative Republican from eastern Texas, has expressed to Wal-Mart CEO Lee Scott his "profound disappointment" about the giant retailer's plan to build a Supercenter beside the Civil War battlefield. In a letter written last week, he urges Scott to give the matter "immediate reconsideration."

Meanwhile, lawmakers in Vermont --a haven for independent-minded Democrats--are holding hearings on the issue. Vermont troops suffered their worst casualties of the war in the Battle of the Wilderness, turning back a Confederate attack that threatened to split the Union Army.

The Vermont Senate and House are considering whether to ask Wal-Mart to move the store farther from the entrance to Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park, according to Howard Coffin, a Civil War historian and author who lives in Montpelier, the state capital.



Wal-Mart is proposing to build a 139,000-square-foot store atop a ridge less than a quarter mile from the park, on commercially zoned land.

Nationally significant Civil War sites, "such as the tract of land for your proposed development, are not where commercial development needs to be in America," Poe wrote Scott. "They should be set aside and untouched for present and future generations of Americans to visit so as to never let them forget the past and the lessons they taught."

Poe noted that the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission, established by Congress to study the historical significance of such places, "defined your proposed land for development as part of The Wilderness [battlefield]. There are countless other locations your company could look at for your development in this region."

Poe's legislative director, Alan Knapp, said in an interview yesterday that Poe hopes Wal-Mart will relocate away from the battlefield and the intersection of State Routes 3 and 20.

"The right thing to do is for Wal-Mart to exercise its higher corporate responsibility, even if the land is zoned accordingly and the final decision is up to the Orange County supervisors," Knapp said. "We're asking for them to step back and reconsider."

Scott has not yet responded to Poe's letter, he said.

Knapp said the Wilderness has a special place in the hearts of Texans, whose modern-day service members revere the courage of the state's troops fighting at the Wilderness on May 5-6, 1864, and throughout the Civil War. Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee praised the Texans' actions in the Virginia battle.

Russ Smith, superintendent of Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Park, welcomed Poe's intervention and the ongoing discussions among Vermont legislators.

"They are expressions from entirely different places showing people's interest across the country in these national treasures we have here," Smith said.

## IN MEMORIAL --- BILL BURCH

The SBCWRT wishes to extend its sincere condolences to Susan Ajax, and other family members, on the recent passing of Bill Burch. Both Bill and Susan have been long time members of the SBCWRT, and regularly attended our monthly meetings until Bill's declining health and related infirmities resulted in Bill being unable to attend. In fondness to Bill, and his affinity for the Confederate cause, we will all remember - "The South Shall Rise Again".

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