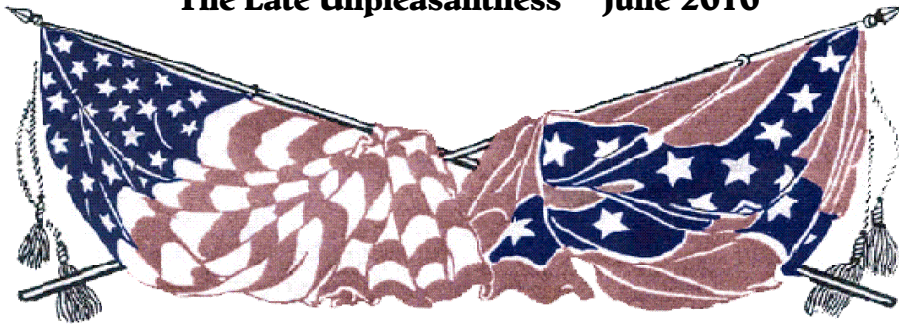


"The Late Unpleasantness" June 2010



# South Bay Civil War Round Table

**June 29th Meeting Speaker:  
Dr. Joe Wagner on "Civil War  
Medicine"**

**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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## The President's Message

### Dr. Helen Trimpi Honored with Life Membership

With unanimous consent, and appreciation for all of her contributions to the South Bay Civil War Round Table and to Civil War history, the SBCWRT has bestowed Life Membership on Helen Trimpi, a member of our organization since 1992. She is the 7th current or former member to receive this honor. The others are, Ted Savas, Publisher and Founding Member; David Woodbury, Founding Member; Lee Meredith, Author-Historian; Beverly and Armond Eckley; and Debbie Petite, Author.

### Annual Picnic - August 14

Marion Harkness has agreed to host our annual picnic at her home in Los Gatos on Sunday, August 14, co-hosted with her daughter and son-in-law, Jane and John Herberich. Further details will be discussed at our June and July meetings. There will also be sign-up sheets for hors d'oeuvres, salads, casseroles, and desserts.

John Herberich

## **The Lincoln Writ: Abraham Lincoln the New Almaden Mines R. Larry Comstock**

Larry discussed the writ issued by President Abraham Lincoln in May 1863 to be enforced by the U.S. Marshall in San Francisco :

***Whereas, Andres Castillero and divers persons have under a pretended grant from the Republic of Mexico occupied the New Almaden Quicksilver Mine. And , Whereas By the decision of the Supreme Court it has been adjudged that the grant is fraudulent and void.***

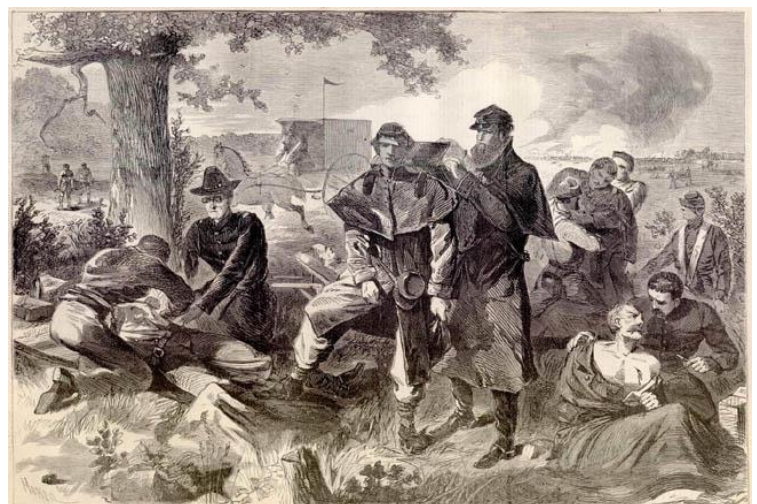
***Now, therefore I, Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States do hereby order you to seize the property and deliver it to Leonard Sweet, an agent who has been authorized by me to take possession of the same for the United States.***

Larry discussed the history of the New Almaden quicksilver mine located just to the south of San Jose. He then discussed the uses of Mercury in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century and then the litigation over the ownership of the mine that led to the issuance of the writ quoted above. Lastly, he showed how the writ was presented to the owners of the New Almaden Mine and the reaction of the miners in California. The writ was ultimately withdrawn because of the negative reaction.

### **Preview of the June 29 Meeting - Dr. Joe Wagner on "Civil War Medicine"**

Civil War Medicine, as practiced by both Union and Confederate Army surgeons, was still bound by primitive concepts in the era just before great scientific breakthroughs began to emerge. They had no knowledge of the bacterial cause of disease. Surgical instruments were not sterilized, hands were not washed, cleanliness and sanitation were unimportant. The consequences for the sick and injured were often disastrous. Yet the dedication of physicians to their patients and medical care provided was, for the time, remarkably effective.

As will be shown in this presentation on "Civil War Medicine", some of their success came about by mere chance. The most important scientific advance was, for the first time, the introduction of anesthesia. Surprisingly, this was initially met with resistance. Some die-hard surgeons maintained the shock of the knife in performing amputations was a brisk stimulus that prevented patients from silently fading away. Fortunately, they were soon dissuaded from such barbaric notions.



*Winslow Homer's Famous 1862 Drawing of a Civil War Surgeon at Work in the Field*

<http://www.sonofthesouth.net/leefoundation/civil-war-medicine>

*Joe received his M.D. from the University of Toronto in 1954 and had a distinguished career as an orthopedic surgery professor at UCLA and the California College of Medicine (later*

*University of California at Irvine School of Medicine) before his retirement. He and his wife, Dolores, have been married for 60 years.*

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## COMING IN NOVEMBER

The 26th Annual West Coast Civil War Conference presents

**BLOOD ON THE RAMPARTS: CIVIL WAR COASTAL DEFENSES**  
San Francisco, California November 12-14, 2010

For questions: [friends.of.civil.war.alcatraz@gmail.com](mailto:friends.of.civil.war.alcatraz@gmail.com)

Sponsored by Friends of Civil War Alcatraz and San Francisco Civil War Round Table

The Conference is a Friday evening of dinner and presentations by Craig Symonds, and James McPherson, all day Saturday of Civil War lectures, and a Sunday of tours of Historical Civil War sites including Alcatraz Island, Fort Point, Fort Mason, and The Presidio. You may attend all three days, any combination of two days, or any single day - the choice is yours. The Sunday event is unique in that the four Civil War site tours are visited in a single outing.

For more information: [www.friendsofcivilwaralcatraz.org](http://www.friendsofcivilwaralcatraz.org)  
26th Annual West Coast Civil War Conference

Please forward donated items for Raffles and Auctions to:

Robert R. Hubbs  
1537 South Mary Avenue, Sunnyvale, CA 94087-4156

Please include the completed following with donation.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_





# Blood on the Ramparts

## Civil War Coastal Defenses

### The 26th Annual 2010 West Coast Conference Registration Form

November 12-14, 2010

War Memorial Building, 401 Van Ness, San Francisco, CA 94102  
Across the street from San Francisco City Hall

The registration fee of \$199 includes dinner and lecture on Friday; lunch, dinner, and a full day of lectures on Saturday; and on Sunday, transportation from Alcatraz to Fort Point, the Presidio and Fort Mason, including a box lunch.

Register early - prior to October 1, 2010 - and get the reduced rate of \$179.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Guest: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

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

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ For confirmation and special announcements

Friday only (includes dinner) - Nov. 12	\$75 ___	Guest meals Friday \$40 ___
Saturday (lunch, dinner and lectures) Nov. 13	\$100 ___	Guest lunch Saturday \$15; dinner \$30 ___
Sunday (activities, bus, box lunch) Nov. 14	\$35 ___	No guest meals on Sunday
Sunday only	\$50 ___	
All three days	\$199 ___	

Check here if you are attending Sunday \_\_\_ We need this information for bus reservations.

Make checks for the days you will be attending payable to:

**FOCWA or West Coast Civil War Conference**  
Send registration form and check to:  
Brad Schall, Treasurer, FOCWA  
P.O. Box 893, Lincoln, CA 95648

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**FOR SALE: THE WAR OF THE REBELLION: THE OFFICIAL RECORDS OF THE UNION AND CONFEDERATE ARMIES**, 130 Vols, including Index. National Historical Society reprint, 1971. Purchased from Morningside Press in 1998. Excellent condition. \$250, money to be donated to War battlefield preservation. Must be picked up in Palo Alto; no delivery. Large collection of other Civil

books is available for purchase (\$2.00 each) or for donation to Round Tables for their raffles and auctions. Email to [h.trimpi@att.net](mailto:h.trimpi@att.net).

### Guest Speakers

**Tuesday, July 27:** Dr. Hilde Libra, Assistant Professor, Dept. of History, San Jose State University. Her topic will cover the cultural, social and political trends and events that led up to the Civil War

**Sunday, August 14:** Our own Military Historian, Thomas Christianson, will discuss the opening to the Battle of Chickamauga when Wilder's Brigade of Mounded Infantry and Minty's Cavalry Brigade held back the Confederate assault at Alexander's Bridge and Reed's Bridge.

## PRESERVATION REPORT

### *Perryville Battlefield State Historic Site Grows by 54 Acres*

*Greg Kocher 6/2/2010 **Lexington Herald-Leader***

*(KY)<http://www.kentucky.com/2010/06/01/1288541/perryville-battlefield-historic>.*

*Kentucky's largest Civil War battlefield continues to get bigger. On Tuesday the state accepted a 54-acre addition to Perryville Battlefield State Historic Site from the Civil War Preservation Trust, the largest nonprofit battlefield preservation organization in the United States. That brings the total acreage of Perryville battlefield to 745 acres. In addition, James Lighthizer, president of the preservation trust, said the organization is raising money for another 327 acres.*

*John Nau III, the chairman of the trust, said Perryville had only 17 or 19 acres when he first visited there in 1957 or 1958. "My hat's off to everyone who has been able to grow this park," Nau said. He called Perryville "an absolute jewel" because its vistas have remained relatively unchanged since the Civil War. The preservation trust paid \$156,679 for the 54-acre tract ceremonially donated Tuesday. The cost was partially offset by a federal grant for historic landscape protection.*



*The site marks where Confederate G. William J. Hardee launched an assault against the Union center. From the high ground, Capt. T.J. Stanford's Mississippi battery engaged in a lengthy artillery barrage with Gen. Don Carlos Buell's federal army. More than 7,500 soldiers were killed or wounded in the Battle of Perryville in October 1862. The lack of a decisive Confederate victory meant Kentucky remained in Union hands for the rest of the war. "Here in these fields ended the longest and most complex military operation ever undertaken by Confederate forces in the entire Civil War," said Kent Masterson Brown, a historian, Civil War author and Lexington attorney.*

*The battlefield is an important tourism draw for Boyle County. Some 20,000 people paid admission to its museum last year, but the total number of visitors to the park may be four times that.*

*(This article was edited for space – editor.)*

Bob Krauth  
3940 Tuers Road  
San Jose, Ca 95121

