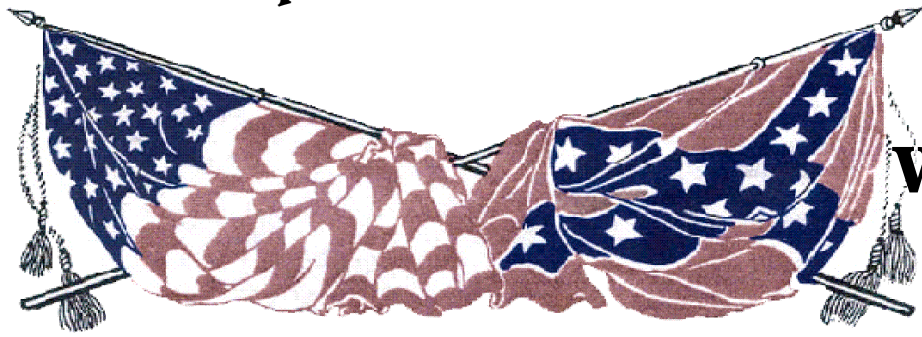


"The Late Unpleasantness" November 2009



South Bay Civil War Round Table

**November 24th Meeting Speaker:
Rene Accornero "Retreat from
Gettysburg"**

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President's Message

We had a well attended meeting in October with another outstanding presentation. Larry Comstock, using excellent graphics, gave us a very clear description of Pickett's Charge at Gettysburg. For those hearing of the charge for the first time or those well familiar with the events of the Third Day, it was very informative and well researched.

Several Members have had a chance to speak with Gary Moore, still recovering from the after affects of his stroke. The weakness on his right side has caused some serious pain issues which Gary has been dealing with for the past several months. Fortunately, his treatments are beginning to have a positive effect and he hopes to be able to join us again in the near future.

25th Annual West Coast Conference

One of the fascinating aspects of the Civil War is the continuing research which tends to alter or revise previously published works. The Chickamauga Campaign was the focus of the Conference with lectures and discussions from those most familiar with the battle and the battlefield. The keynote speaker, Professor Stephen Woodworth, has been described as the "Dean of Civil War Historians for the study of the Western Theater." Other speakers included Dr. William Glenn Robertson, Director of the Combat Studies Institute at the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. Professor Robinson is regarded as the world's expert on the battle of Chickamauga. Wiley Sword, author of the definitive book on the battle of Chattanooga

gave several lectures, in addition to four staff historians from the Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park. The event was hosted by the Central Valley Civil War Round Table led by Dr. Brian Clague, and there was just under two hundred in attendance.

Dr. William Glenn Robertson is currently writing a book on the Chickamauga Campaign and in 2007 and 2008 published an outstanding five part series in the "Blue & Gray" Civil War magazine.

Those attending from the SBCWRT included Bob and Judy Hubbs, Hal Jespersen, Gary Yee, William Yee, David Lang, Dick Smith, and John Herberich. Two Life Members of our

Round Table, Ted Savas and Lee Merideth were also in attendance as vendors, offering a great selection of books to the participants. Hal Jespersen has posted a detailed description of the event on our web site, SBCWRT.com.

On a personal note, it was an incredibly exciting and informative experience for me as my great-grandfather's regiment, the 4th U. S. Cavalry as part of Minty's Cavalry Brigade, held off the advance of Bushrod Johnson's Confederate forces at Reed's Bridge for over five hours, thus thwarting Braxton Bragg's "grand design," and "buying time for Rosecrans to craft a response."

Summary of October Presentation: Pickett's Charge submitted by R. Lawrence Comstock

In this talk the attacks by the Army of Northern Virginia and the response by the Union Army of the Potomac over the first two days of the battle of Gettysburg were outlined. The status of the Army of Virginia after the first two days and the alternatives perceived by General Robert E. Lee for the third day were presented. The factors that led Lee to choose a frontal attack on the center of the Union line on Cemetery Ridge were then discussed. The talk then detailed the massive artillery barrage followed by the advance of Pickett, Pettigrew and Trimble's divisions toward Cemetery Ridge. The "High-Water-Mark" of the advance and the actions by the Union Army that led to the repulse of the Charge were presented. All the reasons for the failure of the Charge followed by some observations by men who participated in the charge were then discussed.

The Power Point slides from the charge can be seen in the SBCWRT web site.

SBCWRT Authors Series

Among the past and present members of the South Bay Civil War Round Table are a number of published authors of Civil War Era history. This column will introduce them and their publications. We are pleased to start with our most recent author, Helen Trimpi. The following is taken from the University of Tennessee Press release on her new book, **Crimson Confederates: Harvard Men Who Fought for the South:**

"Though located in the heart of Unionist New England, Harvard produced 357 alumni who fought for the South during the Civil War - men not just from the South but from the North as well. This encyclopedic work gathers their stories together for the first time, providing unprecedented biographical coverage of the Crimson Confederates.

"Included are alumni of Harvard College, Law School, Medical School, and Lawrence Scientific School. The emphasis of the entries is on the alumnus's military career, whether as an infantry private or as a signal scout, as a surgeon or as a teacher in the Confederate Naval Academy, as an aide-de-camp or as an artillery captain. The range of participation took these men into all the major battles of the Eastern Theater under Robert E. Lee to the Trans-Mississippi under Richard Taylor and Sterling Price. Their careers spanned firing a gun at Fort Sumter and the earliest battles in Virginia to the closing shots at Bentonville and Mobile.

"Harvard's general officers included two major generals - W. H. F. "Rooney" Lee (one of Robert E. Lee's sons) and John Sappington Marmaduke - as well as thirteen brigadiers, among them James Rogers Cooke, Stephen Elliot, States Rights Gist, John Echols, Ben Hardin Helm, Albert Gallatin Jenkins, Bradley Tyler Johnson, and William Booth Taliaferro. Several engineers and scientists from

Lawrence Scientific School constructed major fortifications at Vicksburg and in Charleston Harbor, while other worked in the Nitre and Mining Bureau. An appendix of civilian Harvard alumni who served the Confederacy as congressmen, diplomats, jurists, editors, and in other ways is also included.

"Helen P. Trimpi has taught at Stanford, College of Notre Dame (Belmont, California), University of Alberta, and Michigan State University. She is the author of Melville's Confidence Men and American Politics in the 1850's, numerous essays on Melville and modern poetry, and five volumes of poetry. She received the Allen Tate Poetry Prize from Sewanee Review in 1999 for "Alike and Yet Unlike: General Taylor Writes to Henry Adams."

Brief Message on November Presentation: Retreat from Gettysburg Charge: I will discuss Lee's successful retreat from Gettysburg and how he maintained the balance of power in the Eastern Theater and left his army with enough forage, stores and fresh meat to ensure its continued existence as an effective force. Rene _____

Remembrance Day Ceremony
Oak Hill Memorial Park
300 Curtner Avenue, San Jose, California
Saturday, November 21, 2009 at 1:00pm

The Allied Orders of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) cordially invites you to the Remembrance Day Ceremony at Oak Hill Memorial Park in San Jose, California on the occasion of the 146th Anniversary of the dedication of the Gettysburg National Cemetery.

The Service will begin at 1:00PM on Saturday, November 21st at the Oak Hill GAR burial plot

where over 420 Union Veterans of the late unpleasantness are buried. A presentation on the establishment of the Gettysburg National Cemetery will be given along with the reading of Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address. Following the placement of wreaths at the GAR monument, the American Legion's District 13 Honor Guard will provide a three-volley salute.

Join us at Oak Hill on this Remembrance Day and bring the family and friends. If you have any questions, contact Bob Kadlec (Past Camp Commander), Ceremonial Observance Committee Chair, Sons of Union Veterans, at (408) 267-3249 or E-mail: philsheridan4@aol.com.

QUIZ: Pickett's Charge by Richard Comstock November 2009

*(Were you paying attention at the last talk?
Just kidding – editor)*

1. Where was a battle on the third day that preceded Pickett's Charge?
2. From what two corps in the Army of Northern Virginia did troops engage in Pickett's Charge?
3. Who were the three brigade commanders in Pickett's Division?
4. What general officer survived Pickett's Charge unwounded?
5. What geographical point separated Pickett's Division from Pettigrew's Division at the start of the Charge?
6. Who led Pickett's Charge?
7. What two brigades attacked after Pickett, Pettigrew and Trimble?
8. Where was the High-Water Mark?
9. How many guns were in the Confederate barrage?
10. What Union General was responsible for defending the center of the line on Cemetery Ridge?
11. What Union General organized the flanking maneuver on Pickett's right flank?
12. What Union battery was hidden from the Confederates in Pickett's Charge?

Preservation Report: Congress Gets on Board

The Civil War Preservation Trust (CWPT) today (October 28) applauded members of the U.S. House and Senate for including the largest ever single-year allocation for the federal Civil War Battlefield Preservation Program in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2010 Interior Appropriations Act Conference. "It is welcome news that our \$9 million funding request for battlefield preservation was accepted in the Interior Appropriations bill," said Senator (Jim) Webb. "As America prepares for the 150th anniversary commemoration of the Civil War, it is more important than ever that we preserve these landmarks for future generations to learn about the history of our nation."

Senator (Lamar) Alexander concurred, saying, "The Civil War was a heartbreaking time in our history that we should never forget. Protecting our Civil War battlefields and historic sites is important both to honor the thousands who fought and to allow future generations to learn their heritage by visiting sites like Shiloh, Lookout Mountain, Fort Donelson and Parker's Crossroads. I'm glad to see that this funding was included to support this important program."

The Civil War Battlefield Preservation Program was reauthorized in March 2009 as part of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (PL 111-11). The legislation, introduced in the Senate by Senators Webb and Sessions and in the House by Congressmen Miller, Israel and Gordon, reauthorized the program for \$10 million a year for five years. The popular bill enjoyed considerable bipartisan support, earning 33 cosponsors in the Senate and 108 cosponsors in the House. *(Edited for space...News Release CWPT)*

As usual, the editor encourages any comments, corrections, or additions for future newsletters. Thanks to all contributors to the newsletter; it makes life easier.

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