Our Favorite Books South Bay CWRT

At least, some of our favorite books about the Civil War

2012

An Alternative Exposition since the SV show fizzled

- And we had some great books to show!
- Gary and Sami Campagna couldn't decide on a book but they had a great set of Lee bookends which were put to good use for these pictures



Our web address as well as those of the SF and Peninsula Round Table would have been prominently displayed

- Peninsulacivilwarroundtable.org
- Sfcwrt.com
- Sbcwrt.org
- Of course, that's the whole idea!



Gary Moore had several books to show

Gary Moore wanted to show 3 books which he felt went a long way toward making Civil War history "real", the most important measure of success concerning any history. The Soldier's View. the Civil War art of Keith Rocco by Girardi and Cozzens, 2004, is the first and is displayed open to a painting of the 9th Winois regiment at the battle of Shiloh. Gods & Generals: the paintings of Mort Kunstler by James Robertson, jr. 2002, is opened to show Generals Lee and Jackson in the struggle to cross the Potomac River after Antietam. Civil War Battlefields and Landmarks by Frank Vandiver, 1996(2006), is just the sort of book to carry along on a visit to battle sites and landmarks.

Books that go a long way toward making history real

PETER COZZENS



PAMPLIN PARK MURALS



IL WENT FROM MOD

Gary Moore wanted to show 3 books which he felt went a long way toward making Civil War history "real", the most important measure of success concerning any history. The Soldier's View: the Civil War art of Keith Rocco by Girardi and Cozzens, 2004, is the first and is displayed open to a painting of the 9th Illinois regiment at the battle of Shiloh. <u>Gods & Generals: the paintings of Mort Kunstler</u> by James Robertson, jr. 2002, is opened to show Generals Lee and Jackson in the struggle to cross the Potomac River after Antietam. <u>Civil War Battlefields and Landmarks</u> by Frank Vandiver, 1996(2006), is just the sort of book to carry along on a visit to battle sites and landmarks.



SAVE THE COLORS!

Larry Gonzales gets credit for the largest book <u>Harper's History of the Great Rebellion</u>



The South, flanked at each corner by a Union man



Kyra Hubis had a recent and excellent book to recommend, <u>Reading the Man</u> : Lee through his personal letters



Hal Hubis chose a Stephen Sears book because he is such a good historian and writer



Tom Roza chose Pfanz's book as an important treatment of a sometimes overlooked but crucial battle



Tom Roza is showing <u>Gettysburg: Culps Hill and Cemetary Hill</u> by Harry Pfanz, 1993, as a top notch treatment of this important aspect of the famous battle known as Gettysburg.

Dan Renfroe says **Battle at Bull Run** is excellent



Rene Accornero narrowed it down to a whole bag of books, with <u>Team of Rivals</u> being one of the best



Alan Sissenwein chose <u>The Battle of the Wilderness</u>. He also displays a favorite few pages of his manuscript, which we all hope is to be published soon.

"How beautiful the Sun goes down."

As the men of Brig. Gen. Daniel Butterfield's Federal 5th Corps descended Stafford Heights, on their way to crossing the Rappahannock into Fredericksburg, they did so with a sense of fatalism. Congestion on the pontoon bridges and in the crowded streets beyond slowed their progress while the heights afforded them a veritable grandstand view of the assaults taking place went of the town "We could see the blue lines of infantry moving quickly up the hill, and then as quickly melt away," wrote Capt. Francis A. Donaldson of the 118th Pennsylvania Infantry Smoke obscured much of the battlefield from their view - most importantly the Confederate troops in the Sunken Road - but the awful futility of the Union attacks was clear. Lt. Col. Joshua L. Chamberlain of the 20th Maine Infantry, on the verge of fighting in a battle for the first time, glanced into the faces of the soldiers around him. "I see tears in the eyes of many a brave man looking on that sorrowful sight, yet all of us are eager to dash to the rescue," he recorded in his notebook. (Francis Adams, Inside the Army of the Potomac: The Civil War Experience of Capitain Francis Adams Donaldson, pgs 179-180, OR, Vol. 21, pg 399, A.M. Judson, History of the Eighty-Third Pennsylvania Volunteers, pg. 57; Erastus W. Everson, "Fredericksburg," in Boston Journal, Dec. 15, 1892; Joshua Chamberlain, Through Blood and Fire: Selected Civil War Papers of Major General Joshua Chamberlain, pg. 39)

The tears may have been real, but the eagerness existed only in Chamberlain's writing. Donaldson heard numerous soldiers voice the hope Summer's troops would capture Marye's Heights without them, "a wish that was just a trifle selfish, it is true, but, which expressed very generally the sentiments of the soldiers. They felt defeat before encountering it." The troops grew particularly anxious during occasional, fleeting lapses

Alan Sissenwein offers this page for viewing from his near completed manuscript on the battle of Fredericksburg, an infinitely detailed and researched work he will publish soon. The quote at the head of this chapter was uttered by a dyeing trooper as his regiment lay near him under fire that evening.

3) My own book: This is the beginning of the latest chapter 1'm writing in a narrative history about the Battle of Predericksburg, a Union defeat. I've tentatively named the book To Kival Hell Itself: The Battle of Fredericksburg, Dec. 11-15, 1862," but publishers usually get the final say on titles. Weaving quotations from participants' letters, diaries and memoirs into my own writing. I hope to give readers a sense of how the soldiers on both sides, as well as the residents of Fredericksburg. Virginia, experienced the battle. I also hope to explain how the decision-making processes of the commanders shaped the battle's course.

Each chapter draws its title from a participants' quote found within the chapter. For example, the title of Chapter 27, "How beautiful the Sun goes down," was the last words spoken by a Union officer killed at this stage of the battle. THE BATTLE OF THE WILDERNESS May 5-6, 1864

GORDON C. RHEA

Alan Sisseenwein recommends <u>The Battle of the Wilderness: May</u> 5-6, 1864 by Gordon Rhea, 1994, as a well done and memorable book.

2) The Battle of the Wilderness: Although this battle is not widely remembered today, it is among the war's most dramatic, marking the first time Robert E. Lee and U.S. Grant matched wits against each other. Through vivid writing and solid research, Gordon Rhea constructs a captivating piece of military history, conveying both the actions of the generals and the experiences of the men in the ranks.

OUR AUTHORs



Allies for Freedom



The South Bay Civil War Round Table Meets last Tuesday at Holder's Country Inn, Cupertino

At our Round Table we hear many speakers, often authors on a book tour or preparing one for publication. We are proudest of **OUR AUTHORs and Publishers**, those who have been members or associated with us over the years. To start, **Ted Savas** was the founder of our group and he has gone on to publish many CW books and materials. **Helen Trimpi** has been a founding member and has 3 books done, <u>Crimson Confederates</u>, and articles besides. **Gary Yee** has just finished his massive and important work on sharpshooting before, during and after the war. **Lee Merideth** has done several, a well-received book on the Titanic. **Debbie Petite** wrote the definitive account of the Roswell relocations, <u>The Women Will Howl</u>. **Jean Libby** has most recently done the John Brown Photo Chronology.

Two Works in the works are by John Herberich, a detailed study of the 4th US cavalry regiment, and Alan Sissenwein's study of the battle of Fredericksburg. I am sure there are others that I have overlooked, and my apologies to those members. Please consider this an invitation to other authors and would be authors who want to promote their interests and works, to come let us know about them at our round table meetings.

John Herberich will have a book out soon



Jean Libby had two books to display, one published just at the end of the war, <u>The Freeman's Book</u> by Maria Child.



More of Rene's



Bill Noyes shows Gary Yee's recent book as an important one for understanding CW tactics and weapons.



THE MEN, THEIR GUNS, THEIR STORY

Foreword by MSG "Rocky" Chandler Introduction by William Edwards Afterword by Maj. Jim Land (ret)

Gary Yee's <u>Sharpshooters 1750 – 1900</u> is a recent and indispensable resource about Civil War weapons and tactics. It is absolutely thorough yet explains it all so well. He turns "sniping" from a romantic notion into a Civil War battlefield reality of major importance.

Bill Noyes, SBCWRT

Gary Yee thought Grant's Memoirs the most important CW book

Alecticated to the amica COPYRIGHT, 1885, By ULYSSES S. GRANT. (All rights reserved.) Solden and Seiler. M.M. Brown . May 23 Rissi. Press of J. J. Little & Co., Nos. 10 to 20 Astor Place, New York, Gary Yee chose to display Grant's Memoirs, "the greatest book" on the Civil War.

Steve Wetleson applauds Troiani's art



Thanks for attending this, almost, Book Show during this Sesquicentennial year and thanks to those submitting their favorites.



THE NATIONAL GUARD HERITAGE SERIES

24 inches + 56 melies