

# BUGLE CALL ECHOES



Vol. 6 No 4, April 1998

San Joaquin Valley Civil War Round Table

## APRIL MEETING SPEAKER

San Joaquin Valley Civil War Round Table member Bob Wash will give a presentation at the April round table meeting on *Varina Davis, First Lady of the Confederacy*.

Bob is a retired lawyer who served as Fresno County Counsel for many years. His avocation has been primarily California and local history. He is a member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, the California Historical Society, the Garden of the Sun Corral Westerners International, and the SAR; past president of the Fresno County Historical Society; Ex Noble Grand Humbug, Jim Savage Chapter E Clampus Vitus; and author of many articles on California and local history.

Bob's connection with the Sons of Confederate Veterans is through his grandfather, who fought with the 14th Texas Cavalry. Wounded at Murfreesboro, Tennessee, and left for dead on the battlefield, he was discovered to be alive when some women checked for a pulse. Bob has in his possession Jefferson Davis' two volume work entitled, *Rise and Fall of the Confederate Government*, which Bob's grandfather purchased in 1881.

Interest in Jefferson Davis has led to Bob's portraying the Confederate President for the last eight years at the Civil War Revisited at Kearney Park in Fresno. Bob feels that the life Davis and his wife Varina shared is dramatic and interesting. With humor, this grandson of a Confederate veteran likes to say that it is his purpose to defend the "hanah" of the Old South. We believe he does that admirably.

**Thursday, April 30, 1998**, is the date of the April SJVCWRT meeting.

The get-together is scheduled for the Ramada Inn on Shaw at Highway 41 in Fresno. A no-host social hour begins at 6 p.m., followed by dinner and the program at 7 p.m.

Send your check for \$15 for dinner (\$10 for students under 25) to Wayne Bowen in care of the SJVCWRT, Box 5695, Fresno, CA 93755, or call him at 291-4885.

**Reservations are important**

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Last month I mentioned the controversy at Gettysburg over the proposed visitor center and museum and the fine piece of work done by Rich Rollins and Dave Shultz (both of California) to thwart development at Kinzie's Knoll. The battle is not over yet! The fight to save the rest of the Baltimore Pike area remains to be won. We need to keep informed, write, send money where it counts and enlist other RT's to do the same, and not just for Gettysburg. Here are some statistics from a video on battlefield preservation put out by the people who produce *Civil War Journal*.

"There are 58 battlefields under the supervision of the National Park Service. Another 37 are maintained by state and local governments and 164 more are privately owned. The rest--they're up to us."

I don't know the story of the observation tower at Gettysburg, how it managed to get built in the first place, but it's there, despoiling the land. The owner wants \$4 million for it. That's what it would cost for the right to tear it down. As we've seen, the National Park Service can't be counted on to know or to do the right thing and commercial developers are ever hungry for battlefield land. Conclusion: We the people need to make our voices heard.

Bob Wash will be our April speaker. He has portrayed Jefferson Davis at the Kearney Reenactment for several years and has answered countless questions for school children about Jefferson Davis, his family and the Civil War. Varina Howell Davis was supremely suited to be The First Lady of the Confederacy. Come find out why next time.

*Barbara Moats*

## MAY FUND RAISER

In 1994 our round table sponsored the Tenth Annual West Coast Civil War Conference--"The Gettysburg Campaign." Jerry Russell, Director of Civil War Round Table Associates, in his nation-wide newsletter stated that the conference was the largest and most successful ever held on the West Coast.

On November 6-8, 1998, we will host the Fourteenth Annual West Coast Civil War Conference. This year's theme will be "The Campaign for Vicksburg 1862-63." Our keynote speaker will be Edwin C. Bearss, superintendent emeritus of the National Park Service. He is the author of ten books and more than one hundred articles. Among his many works are "The Battle of Wilson's Creek," "Forrest at Brice's Cross Roads," and the "Vicksburg Campaign." The conference will be held in the beautiful Tenaya Lodge, gateway to Yosemite National Park.

On May 28, 1998, we will provide you with a special preview of the Vicksburg Campaign. Jim Stanbery, Professor of History and Political Science at Harbor College, will both inform and entertain us with his interpretation of this momentous event, the outcome of which so greatly shaped the American Civil War. Jim is one of the most dynamic speakers on the West Coast. His topic will be "Game of Doors: What the Confederacy Won at Vicksburg."

Mark your calendar today and plan to attend the dinner program on May 28, which will be held at the Ramada on Shaw and Highway 41, Fresno. You will receive a packet in the mail which will include information regarding the dinner and tickets to sell for a chance to win a two-night free stay at the Tenaya Lodge including dinner for two (a \$340 package).

Bring your friends and encourage others to share the evening with us. Remember, the purpose of the West Coast Civil War Conference is to raise money for preservation of our national Civil War sites. If we fail to act now, developers will turn our heritage into shopping malls, and we will have little left to pass on to our children and grandchildren.

Hope to see you on May 28th.



Confederate Private

## REMINDERS

- ➔ The Vicksburg trip is scheduled for May 16-22. For more information, contact Bill Head at 432-8746 or Tim Johnson at 431-4832.
- ➔ The next board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 7, 1998, at 4 p.m., 4780 N. Delno, Fresno.
- ➔ The Conference Planning Committee will meet at 7 p.m. on May 7, 1998, at 7 p.m. at 4780 N. Delno, Fresno.
- ➔ Have you renewed your membership? Dues are \$25 single; \$40 family; \$12.50 student; \$10 newsletter.
- ➔ If you are interested in filling the secretarial position on the SJVCWRT board, which is temporarily being held by Mike Carter, please contact Barbara Moats at 229-3654.

## MILLENNIUM COUNCIL

The mission of the White House Millennium Council is to set aside \$50 million in each of the next two years to aid national and local efforts "to protect the past." This would include such things as "the Star-Spangled Banner," which flew over Fort McHenry, "monuments on the Gettysburg Battlefield," and the "deteriorating letters, lab notes, prototypes and photographs" at Thomas Alva Edison's laboratory in New Jersey. The money is to be divided equally between the federal government and the 50 state governments.

Jerry Russell of the Civil War Round Table Associates and HeritagePac encourages each of you to write to your senators and congresspersons, asking them to contact Ellen McCulloch-Lovell, director of the White House Millennium Council, and request that Civil War museum items at National Parks be included in this program. Jerry writes, "Presumably, the mission could be stretched enough to encompass the artifacts at Gettysburg which is purportedly the underlying rationale for the new visitors center/museum complex (coupled with massive commercial development)."

Your senators can be reached c/o the US Senate, Washington, DC 20510, and your congresspersons c/o US House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515.

As Jerry says, "Do something! If you won't, who will?"

**INTRODUCTION TO THE FIRST  
VICKSBURG CAMPAIGN**

*by Barbara Moats*

Vicksburg stood on a 200 foot bluff on the eastern bank of the Mississippi River, just downstream from where the river made a hairpin curve. In 1860 it was a bustling commercial center of 4,500 with strong economic ties to the North. A majority of the citizens opposed secession. Across the river, on the Louisiana shore, the ground was often inundated, and nearly impassable for an army. From the north, the Yazoo River blocked the landward approach. To the east and south, staunchly Confederate Mississippians inhabited the countryside.

After Admiral Farragut seized New Orleans in April 1862, the Confederates began fortifying Vicksburg, first with batteries below the town to command the river approach from the south. Later, they mounted guns above the town and along the river, making Vicksburg impregnable to an attack from the water and creating a long gauntlet past which boats found it dangerous to run.

By October 1862 the Federals had control of the river from its mouth upstream to Port Hudson, in Louisiana, and from the river's sources down to Vicksburg. Besides New Orleans, New Madrid and Island No. 10 had fallen and the Confederates had abandoned Ft. Pillow and Memphis. In the 1,000 mile stretch from the Gulf to the Ohio, only Vicksburg and Port Hudson were in Confederate hands. This 130-mile stretch enabled the Confederacy to maintain communications with the western third of their nation and draw reinforcements and supplies. It also prevented Federal traffic between the Northwest and New Orleans. Lincoln said, "The war can never be brought to a close until that key is in our pocket."

Grant had been working on plans for the capture of Vicksburg as early as two years before, when he was a newly minted Brigadier General headquartered at Ironton, Missouri, in the summer of 1861. He himself began the strategic campaign that culminated in the fall of Vicksburg when he captured Forts Henry and Donelson in northwestern Tennessee in February of 1862. These victories pointed the way toward the opening of the Mississippi. Grant took command of the Department of the Tennessee on October 16, 1862. By November 4, he started out from the area of La Grange, in south-central Tennessee, with 40,000 troops with the intent of advancing south along the route of the Mississippi

Central RR to the capital at Jackson. He established a base of supplies at Holly Springs and set off for Grenada.

As he moved he got persistent reports of a combined army-navy operation designed to break the river defenses by direct assault. He finally learned that this was to be an attempt by Major General John McClernand, a political general from Illinois in good standing with the administration.

McClernand had gone directly to Lincoln and Stanton in September and argued his case. Because his theories coincided with what they had been hearing about the disenchantment with the war, especially in the Northwest, they gave McClernand top-secret orders to go ahead. There was, however, an escape clause which stated that the operation was to be done in Grant's department and that Grant could at any time assume overall command. This intelligence caused Grant to change plans. He telegraphed Sherman on December 8th to take command of all the troops in Memphis, including those recruited by McClernand, and move them down the river, with the cooperation of the gunboat fleet, to attack a few miles above Vicksburg. Pemberton would be unable to meet both threats at once.

Cavalry raids by Forrest and Van Dorn brought Grant's operations to a standstill and caused him to entirely change his plans. Because Sherman did not receive word of this change in plans in time, his troops attacked at Chickasaw Bluffs on December 29th and were decisively repulsed, losing more than 1700 men. The position proved to be too strong to storm and Pemberton was able to concentrate entirely on Sherman.

The day Sherman left Memphis--December 20--was the same day Van Dorn captured the Union supply depot at Holly Springs, capturing 1500 Federals and upwards of a million and a half dollars' worth of military supplies. On the 19th Forrest struck the railroad near Jackson, Tennessee, ripping up over sixty miles of track, destroying Federal supplies and pulling down telegraph lines as well. Grant retraced his steps to La Grange, Tennessee, convinced that it was futile trying to maintain supply and communication lines along the railroad or coordinate troop movements with a force on the other side of the river. Sherman withdrew to the Mississippi, where he came under the command of General McClernand. With Porter they proceeded up the Arkansas River on January 4th (an unauthorized expedition) and captured Ft. Hindman, AKA Arkansas Post.

At the end of the month, on 29 January, Grant traveled down river to Young's Point, Louisiana, just below Milliken's Bend, and took command of all the troops, numbering between 40,000 and 50,000. Situated above Vicksburg, Grant and the Army of the Tennessee were in a very difficult position, i.e., militarily--above Vicksburg, Pemberton had manned entrenchments along the Yazoo Bluffs. Beyond that the Yazoo Delta ran for 200 miles, cut by rivers, creeks and bayous, impossible for an army to cross with its guns and supplies. To the south, the Louisiana shore of the Mississippi was low, swampy and intersected by many streams. If they did go that way, they'd need many transports and there didn't seem to be a good way to get them past the Vicksburg batteries.

Politically, going back to Memphis was out of the question. It would be an admission of defeat. Furthermore, Grant never believed in going back. Additionally, another defeat would be one too many for the Northern public to swallow after the bad news from Fredericksburg and Murfreesboro.

Vicksburg I, the Overland Campaign, had ended in failure. At this point, in January 1863, it appeared that Grant was checkmated!

*Adapted from: Struggle for Vicksburg by Stephen E. Ambrose, 1994 Edition*

*The above article is an outgrowth of the Vicksburg Study Group, currently in session. The final class will be at the Moats' home on Tuesday, April 28, 1998.*

## **WHY STUDY?**

*by Mike Carter*

In the January newsletter Barbara Moats posed an obvious but interesting and introspective question, "Why do we study the Civil War?" The answers are most assuredly as numerous as those who have found a personal interest in the great conflict.

For some, the study of the Civil War is at the same time a pursuit of family history. For others the interest may come from an affinity for their ancestral state of origin. Still others see the war from the historical perspective of strategical military and weapons evolution. There are those who see the Civil War as the culmination of the great social struggle over slavery.

My interest revolves around the second "American Revolution," the four year life of the Southern Confederacy as a separate nation. This of course is the

essential question of the Civil War. Was the Confederacy truly a nation, or as the North saw it, states in rebellion against their government?

In the intellectual minds of the South, there was no doubt the Confederacy was a sovereign nation. Its right to exist was sanctioned in the Constitution itself. Southern politicians reasoned that constitutional law declared the Federal government to exist at the will of the states. Therefore, secession was their sacred duty when a centralized government overstepped its bounds and blatantly disregarded the rights of the states at whose collective whim it existed in the first place.

To affirm its independence, the Confederacy drafted its own constitution, minted and printed its own currency, conducted its own foreign policy, and struggled with its own economic and social dilemmas. During the proud yet tragic years of the Confederacy's existence, its navy sailed the world's oceans and it put in the field one of the greatest armies history has seen.

I am endlessly fascinated and intrigued by the passion with which the Southern people pursued their dream of a separate nation. In their quest, Southerners made sacrifices, endured hardships, and suffered depredations never before or since experienced by other Americans.

With few exceptions, the great battles of the Civil War were not fought on Northern soil. Rather, the placid countryside of the South bore witness to the terrible bloodletting. Sherman's savage march to the sea was previewed by John Pope in the Shenandoah Valley, rehearsed in Mississippi and Louisiana, then honed to a terrible science in the Carolinas. Evidence the gritty tenacity of the citizens and soldiers of Vicksburg who endured nearly fifty days of siege under the most horrible of human conditions. When Petersburg finally fell, Union soldiers found 13 year old boys and 70 year old men lying side by side in the ultimate sacrifice--their lives given in defense of their country. Indeed the South sent to war between 750,000 and 850,000 men, representing 75 to 85 percent of its draft age white population. At least 258,000 of them did not return to their homes. Thus the death rate was nearly one in three for all men who wore the grey.

Against this backdrop of patriotism, sacrifice and adversity that only Americans can understand, I am seduced to search out the stories of the people, the places and the events that were the Southern Confederacy.

☆☆☆

## LOOKOUT POINT, CHATTANOOGA

by Carol Berry

While making plans last June for a trip which would take me through several Southern states and to various Civil War sites, one picture in my photo album kept popping into my head. This particular photograph shows my mother and my grandmother standing in front of a large, unusual rock formation. Both women are dressed in their Sunday finest: large-brimmed hats, high heels, stylish dresses, purses tucked under their arms. My mother looks no older than 18 or 19. I had an idea that the black and white picture had been taken at Lookout Mountain. I'd heard stories growing up of visits made to Chattanooga by my mother's family. From the Jenkins' home in Blue Ridge, Georgia, the distance to Chattanooga was but 60 miles or so--at least as the crow flies.

Chattanooga was the third stop on the trip (first night, Corinth, Mississippi; the second, Clarksburg, Tennessee). Before visiting Lookout Point, I bought a copy of "The Civil War Battles of Chickamauga and Chattanooga" by J. L. Rogers, published in 1942. There on page 16 was a photograph entitled "The famous Umbrella Rock, Lookout Mountain." Clearly, this was the rock my mother and grandmother were standing in front of when their picture was taken some 60 years ago.

The morning of the visit to Lookout Point was rainy, and fog shrouded the mountain top. The weather reminded me of San Francisco summers. It also made me think of the day in November 1863 when Union forces assailed Bragg's troops on Lookout Mountain in an engagement later known as "The Battle Above the Clouds." From descriptions I'd read of the battle, weather conditions must have been very similar. My friend Gary and I walked through the park's gate--the US Army Corps of Engineers insignia enlarged and made out of stone--and began our tour. Chattanooga in the distance was hidden by the clouds. There would be no picture that day of Moccasin Bend like the one Ken and Barbara Moats had taken on their trip in May.

No rock formation in the park resembled Umbrella Rock. Returning to the Visitor Center, we consulted the woman at the desk. Admitting she wasn't too familiar with the park as she normally didn't work there (we had seen her the day before at Chickamauga), she directed us to a map of Point Park. Umbrella Rock was marked on the map. How did we miss it?

## **BUGLE CALL ECHOES**

Back to the Ochs Museum and down the steps to the left, we learned why the rock had remained hidden. It was inaccessible, located now behind a chain-link fence, the gate of which was locked. Where Gary and I were standing was an approximation of where the photographer was when he or she photographed my mother and grandmother. Gary took a picture of me standing in front of the fence which is in front of Umbrella Rock. I am holding the photograph of Mildred and her daughter Lois.

When first visiting Civil War sites a few years ago, I often thought about what drew me to these places of battle. One of the reasons was that it was a way to connect me to those soldiers who fought and died in America's Civil War. It was a way of remembering them, of honoring them. Standing near Umbrella Rock on Lookout Mountain where my grandmother and mother once stood, I felt another connection, almost palpable--a connection to these two special women. For a few moments there on Lookout Point in Chattanooga, Tennessee, I remembered and honored them as well.

## ATLANTA HISTORY CENTER

On display at the Atlanta History Center's *Turning Point--The American Civil War* exhibit: A sword presented to General Patrick Cleburne by the men of the 15th Arkansas Infantry on April 18, 1864, in Dalton, Georgia. The sword's pommel features the state seal of Arkansas; on the scabbard is a harp, which is the national symbol of Ireland. The scabbard and hilt were made in Atlanta by Hammond Marshall and Co., and the blade in Solingen, Germany. In Cleburne's personal baggage in a Confederate wagontrain when he was killed at Franklin, the sword was sent to Cleburne's fiancée, Susan Tarleton.

Also at the Center: gauntlets which belonged to Capt. J. S. Reed of California. Capt. Reed traveled east with a company of Californians and joined a Massachusetts cavalry regiment to fight for the Union.

## **SJVCWRT OFFICERS FOR 1998**

<i>President</i>	Barbara Moats
<i>Vice President</i>	Mike Carter
<i>Secretary</i>	Mike Carter (temporary)
<i>Treasurer</i>	Wayne Bowen
<i>Newsletter Editor</i>	Carol Berry
<i>Historian</i>	Verne Cole
<i>Past President</i>	Bill Head
<i>Directors-at-Large</i>	Ken Moats, Tim Johnson

## PICKETTS MILL HISTORIC SITE

by Scott Howell

After lengthy negotiations between the Friends of Pickett's Mill, Inc., Georgia DNR, and the US Corps of Engineers, the Corps has approved a massive government construction grant for the State DNR, and agreed to work with the FOPM Inc. to build a hydroelectric dam on Pickett's Mill Creek in 1998. This project has been somewhat controversial and vigorously fought against every step of the way by some extreme radical historians, but it is being built for the good of Paulding County and its citizens.

Current construction plans are to build the dam one-fourth mile below the site of the old grist mill. The water reservoir behind the dam will partially flood Pickett's Mill Creek to a point just past the grist mill site. It will also flood the "Battle Ravine" from Pickett's Mill Creek to the ravine's starting point near the Visitors Center. The flood water in the ravine will not detract from viewing the battlefield. In fact it will allow the visitor to take a comfortable steamboat ride (still in the planning stage) alongside the old grist mill road and trench lines. Loss of trench works will be kept at a minimum. As a cost effective measure, this small dam will be outfitted with a small Hydro-Electric Turbine to provide power for the many electrical needs of the Historic Site, such as the yet to be reconstructed Pickett's Grist Mill. The 500 foot tall Observation Tower to be built near the Visitors Center is still on the engineer's drawing board, but it has been decided to not use a rocket propulsion source of power for the elevator since we will now have much cheaper hydroelectric power readily available.

This project will make Pickett's Mill Historic Battlefield Site a fun park to visit, since Paulding County does not currently have any theme parks for its citizens to enjoy. Studies are being made to include a huge water slide on the eastern slopes of Pickett's Mill Creek, on the opposite side of the creek near the soon to be reconstructed Grist Mill. The City of Acworth has a waterslide for sale that they dismantled at their City Swim Beach on Lake Acworth. Behind the scene discussions with Acworth City officials suggest that the slide may be purchased at a fraction of its original cost.

Besides the waterslide, the FOPM is in discussions with a firm from Alabama about building a large championship "Putt Putt" golf course on the slopes of the corn field area where the Confederates were almost flanked by the 49th Ohio Volunteers.

## **BUGLE CALL ECHOES**

Because of the US Corps' all inclusive wetlands plan, the FOPM Inc. was able to secure another generous government grant for construction of a scaled down replica of a Mississippi River steamboat, identical to the *Robert E. Lee*, winner of the famous Mississippi steamboat race against the *Natchez*. Our replica paddle wheeled, steam operated riverboat, whistle screaming loudly, will steam from the reconstructed Grist Mill site, up the ravine and back to the Grist Mill, six times a day, carrying 20 passengers. We are currently negotiating a mutual Noise Abatement Agreement with the park's surrounding residential neighbors about the frequent steam whistle usage. A small fee of \$2 will be charged to patrons who take the cruise. There will be no overnight accommodations like those on the current Mississippi River steamboats. However, a weekly Candlelight Boat Ride is being discussed.

The initial idea by FOPM Inc. President Jackie W. Strickland to include riverboat gamblers operating the state's gambling and lottery system on the steamboat was declined by the FOPM Inc. Board of Directors. Jackie's idea was intended to reduce operational costs and was well received by the board, but was rejected as not being in the best historical interests of the Historic Battle Site.

Our two-month contest to name the new steamboat has been completed and the winner is Friends Group member Coly Adair. Coly chose the very original name *Pickett Queen*. As his reward, Coly will be the first citizen to officially ride the new steamboat. In tribute to General Patrick Cleburne, Coly will ride in the bow of the boat while he is sitting astride his favorite cavalry horse, "Cleburne."

When the steamboat reaches the head of the Battle Ravine, at the Ravine Overlook next to the Visitor's Center, the boat will pull against the ravine's sloping bank and lower its long gangplank to allow passengers to go ashore. They will visit the Visitors Center to view the Battle Video and see the numerous battlefield relics in the museum. For the comfort and convenience of our patrons, we are negotiating with the McDonald's Hamburger Restaurant chain to build a small satellite restaurant adjacent to the Visitors Center. All restaurant decor will conform to the Historic Site's authenticity requirements.

On the boat's return trip to the Grist Mill it will be necessary to reverse-paddle the steamboat down the ravine into a small, flooded side ravine, in order to turn the boat around, due to the narrowness of the main

## BUGLE CALL ECHOES

wooded Battle Ravine. The turn around point is the little ravine that leads in a northerly direction from the main ravine. It was in this little wooded gully that the badly bloodied 15th and 49th Ohio Volunteer Infantry Regiments and their wounded took refuge after their failed attacks in that area of the battle.

The volunteer skipper of the new paddle wheel steamer will be Captain Sue Ann Falco (also vice-president of the FOPM Inc.). Sue Ann recently flew to Vicksburg, Mississippi, and attended a two-week steamboat class to get her Captain's license. Sue Ann finished Number One in her class, and to honor her achievement the Mississippi Steamboat University awarded her the prestigious solid gold MSU Paddle Wheel, plus MSU's Confederate gray Captain's hat. She is currently the only person in Georgia to have a certified Mississippi Steamboat Captain's license from MSU. The FOPM Inc. is very proud of Sue Ann's achievements. Sue Ann has been nicknamed "Steamboat Annie" by some of the members of the Friends Group ever since she finished MSU. Mark Twain certainly would have been very proud of Sue Ann's achievements, considering where she grew up [New York]!

The wood burning steam boiler will be stoked by two brave volunteers. Sons of Confederate Veterans President Wayne Willingham, FOPM member, and another FOPM member, Hugh Walters, on the maiden voyage of the *Pickett Queen*. L. Douglas Griffith is donating all the necessary firewood needed to fuel the furnace for the boiler of the new steamboat, from his huge 40 acre supply of pre-cut fire wood in the field next to his home on State Highway 92.

When the project is completed, there will be a festive ribbon cutting to introduce these new changes. It is expected to be attended by many important dignitaries from Paulding County and the State Department of Natural Resources. Rumor has it that private enterprise companies are already lobbying the DNR to privatize this lucrative venture.

To cap off this event, a full scale re-enactment of the May 27, 1864, Battle of Pickett's Mill is planned during the gala occasion. We will serve Martha Jo Thomason's famous pinto beans, yellow hominy, corn bread, souse meat, chittlins, and tea, free of charge, as a treat to Historic Site guests. Also....

*Okay, so you're smart enough to know that I'm spoofing you, and this is NOT going to happen. Well, maybe, but*

*all over the United States, special interest groups are encroaching on our Nation's precious heritage. As ridiculous as the above article may be, if the right (or wrong) personality or group had determined that major dollars could have been made, the hallowed ground of Pickett's Mill Historic Site could have become a housing subdivision, hotel resort, conference center, or a theme park. Many of you have read about a Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, college bulldozing a major historic site on the hallowed Gettysburg Battlefield to build a parking lot and other school facilities. The battle still rages at Gettysburg, only this time it's to save various battle areas at the site and prevent commercialization of its new museum and other facilities.*

*It never ends. For several years we've heard about the attempt to build a major theme park on the Manassas (Bull Run) Battlefield. This has (so far) been headed off by a concerned citizen's group similar to our Friends Group. These are just two of many sites where attempts to destroy, or the actual destruction of, our national historical sites has occurred. I wrote this article to point out to you that the unthinkable can happen if we are not always vigilant as keepers of our heritage.*

### KEEP INFORMED!

Reprinted from The Pickett Line, a Friends of Pickett's Mill Inc. Publication. Used with permission.

### KENNESAW MOUNTAIN

One of the interpretive markers at Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park tells the story of Col. Daniel McCook Jr., who recited the poem "Horatius" to his troops before leading them into battle on Cheatham Hill on June 27, 1864.

"Horatius," very popular at the time of the Civil War, was written by Thomas Macaulay:

*Then out spoke brave Horatius,  
The Captain of the gate:  
To every man upon this earth  
Death cometh soon or late,  
And how can man die better  
Than facing fearful odds,  
For the ashes of his fathers  
And the temples of his gods."*

McCook, one of the 14 "Fighting McCooks," was mortally wounded in the battle.

**PROGRAM SCHEDULE FOR 1998**

The SJVCWRT's schedule of dates and speakers for the year is shown below. Mark your calendars so as not to miss any of these fine speakers. Schedule is subject to change.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Speaker</i>	<i>Topic/Event</i>
April 30, 1998	Bob Wash	Varina Davis, 1st Lady of the Confederacy
May 28, 1998	Jim Stanbery	West Coast Conference Fund Raiser
June 25, 1998	Mike Carter	Robert E. Rodes
July 30, 1998	Brian Clague, M. D.	Civil War Medicine at Vicksburg
August 27, 1998	Bill Head	Film on Vicksburg
September, 1998 (day to be announced)	Jeffrey Hummel	Why the North Should Have Seceded from the South
October 29, 1998	Fred Bohmfalk	Phil Sheridan
November 6-8, 1998	Ed Bearss, Keynote Speaker	West Coast Civil War Conference Topic: Vicksburg
December 6, 1998		Christmas Get Together

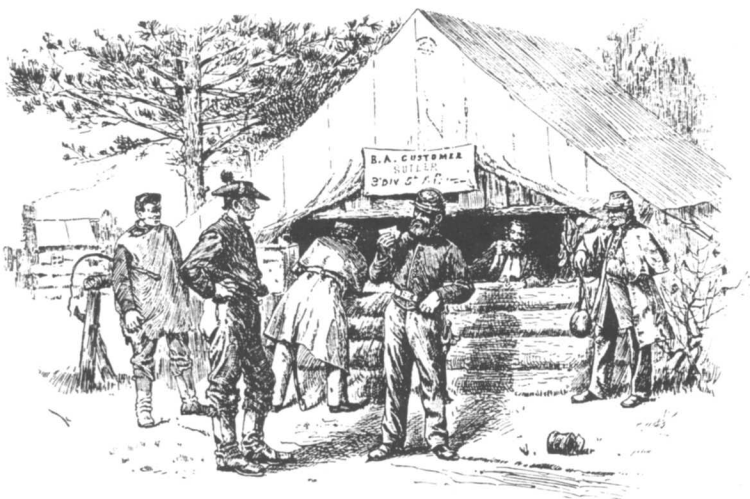
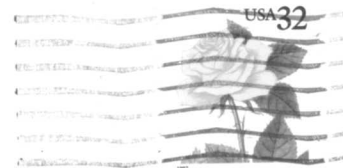
**CWRS 1998 SCHEDULE**

The Civil War Reenactment Society's schedule for the coming months includes:

May 2	Auberry	August 15-16	Fort Tejon	October 24-25	Rifle Range
May 16	Live Shot	September 12-13	Hickey Park	November 11	Vet. Parade
June 13	Muex Home	October 10-11	Kearney Park		

For more information, contact Roger Alexander at 209/299-1811.

SJVCWRT  
PO Box 5695  
Fresno, CA 93755



A Sutler's Tent