



**Volume 63, No. 1  
January, 2023**

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# *Battle Cry*

Founded 1961,  
Newsletter of the Sacramento Civil War Round Table  
P.O. BOX 254702  
Sacramento, CA 95865-4702  
<http://sacramentocwrt.com/>



## President's Message

**No Message until further notice.**

## President

**MINUTES**  
**SACRAMENTO CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE**  
**Wednesday, December 14, 2022**  
**DENNY'S RESTAURANT, 3520 AUBURN BOULEVARD, SACRAMENTO**

**ATTENDANCE – 19:**

**MEMBERS – 19:** James Juanitas, Vice President; George W. Foxworth, Treasurer; Carol Breiter, Jean Breiter, Harvey & Marsha J. Cain, Arnd Gartner, Chris Highsmith, Diana Lizarraga, Alejandro Lizarraga, Kim Grace Long, Allen Martin, Eric Norman, Bernie Quinn, Program Director; Nicholas Scivoletto, Stephen Shiflett, Larry Spizzirri, Richard Spizzirri, & Peggy Tveden.

**GUESTS – 00:** There were no guests.

1. The meeting was called to order by Vice President James Juanitas at 7:00 P.M. Election of officers for the Board was the lead. The people running for office are: President, **James Juanitas**; Vice President, **Carol Breiter**; Immediate Past President, **Paul Ruud**; Secretary, **Open**; Treasurer, **George W. Foxworth**; Program Director, **Bernie Quinn**; Members at Large, **Ron Grove & Joe Matalone**; & Editor, **Open**. A motion was made by George W. Foxworth to accept the slate. Nicholas Scivoletto seconded the motion. Vice President Juanitas asked if there were others interested in running. There was no response. The vote was given to all present who said Yeas. There were no Nays.
2. A discussion on returning to the Hof Brau when it returns to Wednesday nights. Also, a discussion about two non Civil War topics each year.
3. Two raffles were conducted by Nicholas Scivoletto.
4. The speaker was Nicholas Scivoletto. His topic was Civil War quiz. Those present enjoyed the quiz. There were thirty questions.
5. Christmas refreshments were served to all present.
6. The next Board Meeting is Wednesday, January 11, 2023.

**George W. Foxworth for Vacant, Secretary**

**Treasurer's Report**

The cash balance on December 14th was \$4,627.90. The raffle brought in \$52.00. Thanks to Nicholas Scivoletto and members.

**George W. Foxworth, Treasurer**

# Coming Programs for 2023

Date	Speaker	Topic
January 11th	"Arnd Gartner"	"Union Intelligence Services: Part 2"
February 8th	"To Be Determined"	"To Be Determined"
March 8th	"Jim Stanbery"	"Grant & Lee: The Similarities"
April 12	"To Be Determined"	"To Be Determined"
May 10	"To Be Determined"	"To Be Determined"
June 14	"To Be Determined"	"To Be Determined"

## 2023 Membership

The 2023 membership renewal is due on January 1, 2023. The dues are \$30.00 and you can renew at a meeting or send to the Treasurer through the mail. For all checks, make them payable to **Sacramento Civil War Round Table** and send them to:

George W. Foxworth  
9463 Salishan Court  
Sacramento, CA 95826-5233

## NEWSLETTER CIVIL WAR ARTICLES

Civil War articles/book reviews are welcome. The submission deadline is the first of each month for that month's **Battle Cry**. However, you can submit articles at anytime. Please submit your items in Microsoft Word or regular email to:

[gwofforth@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gwofforth@sbcglobal.net)

The **Battle Cry** is the monthly newsletter of the Sacramento CWRT. Submissions are subject to availability of space and size limitations. Submissions do not necessarily reflect the views of the organization or the Editor. The official address of this organization is: Sacramento Civil War Round Table, Post Office Box 254702, Sacramento, CA 95865-4702. <http://www.sacramentocwrt.org> is the web site address. Check the web for past newsletter editions and information about the group.

## **Friends of Civil War Alcatraz**

The Friends of Civil War Alcatraz (FOCWA) is a group of individuals interested in the Civil War history of Alcatraz island. We are made up of teachers, veterans, historians, and others who like to research and read about how Alcatraz became an important Fort for the protection of San Francisco during the Civil War.

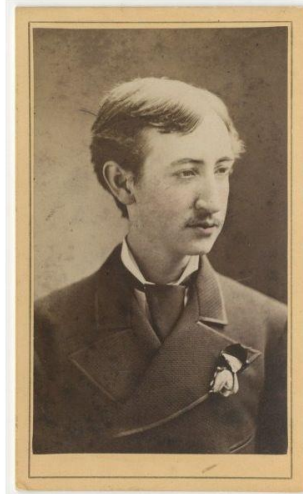
Some of our members are also National Park Service volunteers who assist the rangers in giving public programs, in uniform, about the Union soldiers stationed on the Island and interesting events that occurred there between 1859 and 1865. We publish a newsletter every month, which can be found on our website [www.friendsofcivilwaralcatraz.org](http://www.friendsofcivilwaralcatraz.org).

We also visit schools and organizations to tell that early history of the Island, long before it became the notorious Federal prison. And we conduct living history days twice a year, in conjunction with the American Civil War Association, to give the public an idea of what the Island was like as a Union Fort.

**Submitted by Steve Johnson**

# Thomas “Tad” Lincoln

Thomas Lincoln was born on April 4, 1853, the fourth son of Mary and Abraham Lincoln. He was named after Thomas Lincoln, his paternal grandfather, who had died in 1851. “Tad” received his nickname from his father who had laughingly commented on the baby’s large head and wiggling body.



Likely the last photograph of Tad Lincoln. He was eighteen, and promised to be tall and lanky, just like his father.

Mary Lincoln was in hard labor for hours with this birth and required two doctors to attend her. Tad was born with a cleft lip and palate, something repairable today. Milk dribbled from his mouth when he tried to suckle. His teeth were uneven so his meals were limited to foods that were easily chewed or prepared in a way that he could eat them without choking.

Frequently only Tad’s closest family and friends could understand his speech due to the impediment caused by his cleft palate. Rumors abounded that the President’s son was incapable of learning.

Tad’s three older brothers were Robert (1843-1926), Eddie, who died before Tad was born (1846-1850), and Willie (1850-1862). Willie and Tad, with only a two and a half year age difference between them, would be not only brothers but closest friends.

Tad and Willie were deemed “notorious troublemakers” when they lived in Springfield. Lincoln’s law partner, William Herndon, hated when Lincoln brought his sons to the office for the day to give Mary a respite. The boys climbed the wall of book shelves, tossed clients’ papers about, and turned the office topsy turvy. Lincoln appeared not to notice. Herndon said, “Had they “sh!t in Lincoln’s hat and rubbed it on his boots, he would have laughed and called it smart.” Herndon “wanted to wring their little necks and yet out of respect for Lincoln,” he kept his mouth shut.

When the Lincolns moved to the White House, Tad was not quite eight years old and Willie was 11. The Lincolns allowed their sons’ pet rabbits and cats to freely roam the hallways. The goats, Nanny and Nanko, were hitched to a cart and dragged Tad and Willie up and down the main floor of the Executive Mansion with the boys yelling, “Get out of the way there,” to any human obstacles. Visitors were charged admission to enter the White House by the two young

gatekeepers. They “sprayed dignitaries with the fire hose, broke mirrors, interrupted Cabinet meetings, constructed wagons, and sleds out of chairs, set up a food shop in the lobby, rang call bells and drilled the servants (as if they were soldiers.)” Most of the games played by the boys centered on war. Uniforms and toy guns were their playthings.

Tutors were hired but only Willie took to learning. Tad never received any formal education while his father was alive. Lincoln insisted that Tad “...has time enough to learn his letters and get pokey. Bob was just such a little rascal, and now he is a very decent boy.” Perhaps because of his disability, the Lincolns allowed their fourth son astounding freedom for a child of the Victorian Era.

Tad and Willie had no playmates at the White House. Mary bid her friend, Mrs. Mary Taft, to send her daughter, Julia, over with her two younger brothers, 14 year-old Horatio “Bud” and 11 year-old Halsey “Holly.” The two sets of brothers became a fast quartet, the Taft boys happy to join in the hi-jinx, including pinning the President of the United States to the floor in a wrestling match.

On February 20, 1862, Willie Lincoln died, probably from typhoid fever. Mary could not abide the sight of any children near her. She asked that the Taft boys not be allowed to attend Willie’s funeral. They were banished from the White House and Tad never saw his companions again.

Left to his own devices while his mother mourned alone in her bedroom, Tad became more impulsive, his behavior more disruptive. Lincoln’s Secretaries, John Hay and John Nicolay, referred to him as the “tyrant of the White House.” Lincoln kept the boy at his side and gave him free rein of the Presidential Office. Congressman would sometimes find him sitting on Lincoln’s knee during important wartime meetings or fast asleep under his father’s desk. At the end of the day, Lincoln would pick up his “infant-goblin” and carry him to bed.

On the night of April 14, 1865, Tad sat in a seat at Grover’s Theater with Alphonso Donn, a Metropolitan Washington police officer assigned to the White House. They were attending a showing of *Aladdin and the Wonderful Lamp*. Suddenly the theater manager burst onto the stage yelling that the President had been assassinated. It is not certain if Tad realized the import of the manager’s words.

A message had been hurriedly sent to the theater from Mary Lincoln pleading that Tad be brought to his father’s bedside at the Peterson House. “Bring Tad-he will speak to Tad-he loves him so.” The note was ignored. Tad was brought home and put to bed by Tom Pendel, the White House doorman. When he finally saw his mother the following morning, he rushed to her, put his arms around her neck and said, “Don’t cry so, Mamma! You will break my heart.”

Mary Lincoln lay prostrated by grief. It wasn’t until May 22 that she, Robert, and Tad left the White House to board a train to Chicago. Mary refused to return to Springfield where memories would assault her.

Tad was almost completely illiterate. On Robert’s insistence, he began to attend classes in Chicago in January of 1866. When the Lincolns moved to different lodgings, Tad was enrolled at the Brown School on Warren Avenue. Though initially dubbed “Stuttering Tad” by his classmates and looked at as “slow,” the boy began to excel and became editor of the school newspaper.

In 1867, Robert and Tad traveled back to Washington, DC to testify in the trial of John Surratt who had been accused of conspiracy in the assassination. It must have been traumatic for the brothers to appear and be gawked at in such a public way.

Mary Lincoln decided that it would be less expensive for her to live abroad. On October 1,

1868, she and Tad sailed on the steamer, The City of Baltimore, from Baltimore to Frankfurt, Germany. Tad was sent to board at the Dr. Johann Heimler Hohagen Institute. He developed a slight German accent from imitating his tutors. Mary resided at the Hotel d'Angleterre when she wasn't traveling from spa to spa trying to regain her health. Later she moved to the "more frugal environment" of the Hotel de Holland.

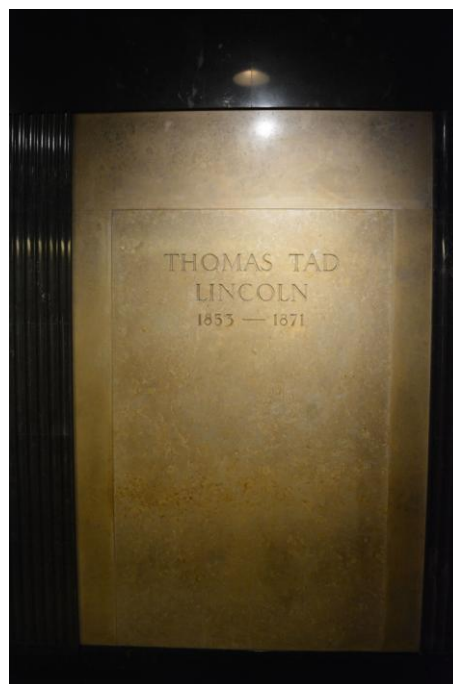
Mary and Tad had become extremely reliant on each other's company. Tad took on the role of Mary's protector. She wrote that "Taddie is like some old woman with regard to his care of me." It is not known if Tad ever made any friends his own age while living in Germany.

By 1870, the Lincolns were forced to relocate to England to escape the ravages of the Franco-Prussian War. Tad continued his education with the help of a private tutor. A year later, Mary realized that it was time to return to United States. They sailed on the Cunard Liner, Russia.

Mary and Tad settled in rooms in the Clifton House in Chicago. Tad had caught a terrible cold on the voyage home. The simple act of breathing became an agony. He was forced to sleep sitting in a chair, his body held upright with an iron bar to prevent him from slipping backward. In a prone position, breathing would be impossible. Doctors said Tad was suffering from a lung disease, calling it tuberculosis, pleurisy, or pneumonia.

On Saturday morning, July 15, 1871, after months of suffering, Tad died at 18 years-old at The Clifton House. His funeral was held the next day at Robert's home. In an obituary, John Hay referred to the young man as "little Taddie." In deference to Abraham Lincoln, the flag of the Illinois State House was flown at half-mast.

Robert boarded the train for Springfield, Illinois with Tad's remains. Mary Lincoln, inconsolable with sorrow, remained at home. A second private service was held at the home of Tad's Aunt and Uncle, Elizabeth and Ninian Edwards Jr. in Springfield. Close family and friends attended.



Tad was laid to rest in the Lincoln Tomb next to his father and brothers, Eddie and Willie, in Oak Ridge Cemetery.

**Submitted by Judith Breitstein**

# **National Register of Women's Service in the Civil War (NRWSCW):**

## **Woman of the Month**

**Sally Louisa Tompkins**

**Captain, CSA**



Born November 9, 1833 at Poplar Grove in Mathews County, Virginia.

Died July 25, 1916 in Richmond, Virginia.

Buried in the Christ Church Cemetery in Mathews County.

Sally Louisa Tompkins was the eighth and youngest child of Colonel Christopher Tompkins and Maria Patterson Tompkins. When Sally was nearly five years old, her father died, and when she was nine, she lost three of her sisters to illness in the space of a few weeks. Not much else is known of Sally's early years at Poplar Grove. In 1849, Sally moved with her mother and her sister, Maria, to Norfolk, Virginia, where the two girls were enrolled in the Norfolk Female Institute. In 1854, the three women moved to Richmond, where Sally's mother died shortly thereafter. Sally and Maria rented rooms in the City and were welcomed into elite society.

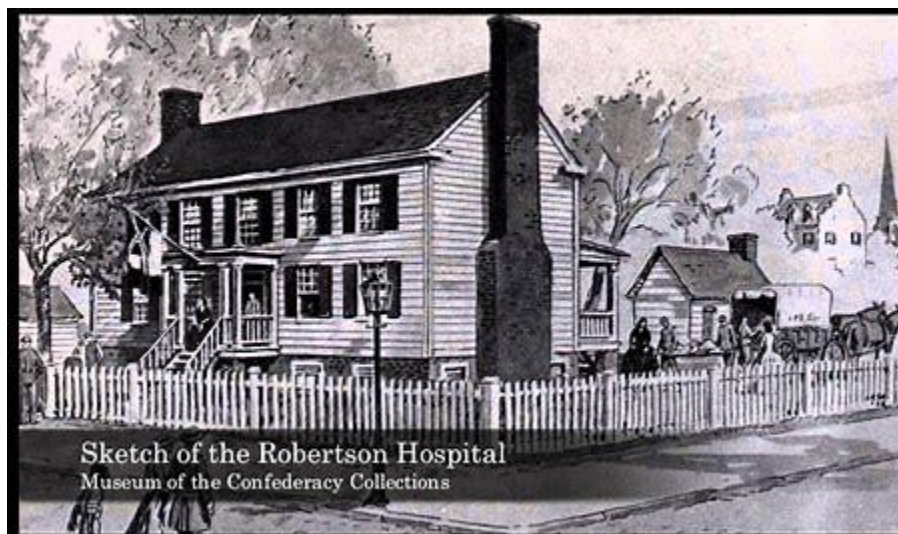
In July 1861, as the casualties of the Battle of First Manassas flooded into Richmond, Sally established a private hospital to tend to the wounded overflowing from the military hospitals. She procured the home of Judge John Robertson, who was leaving Richmond with his family, and organized a hospital staff comprised of women from the congregation of Saint James Episcopal Church, plus an unspecified number of enslaved persons. The White women became collectively known as The Ladies of Robertson Hospital.



After this initial hospital crisis, Confederate President Davis established regulations pertaining to hospitals, including the provision that all facilities be under military control. Recognizing the early success of Robertson Hospital in Richmond, and the Ladies' Relief Hospital in Lynchburg, Davis commissioned Sally Tompkins and Lucy Otey as Captains in the Confederate States Army, thus giving them authority to continue administering their hospitals. Sally's commission was dated September 9, 1861. Both women refused pay for their services.

Robertson Hospital operated throughout the War. As supplies to treat the patients became increasingly difficult to procure, Captain Sally (as the men called her) hired her own blockade runner. By all measures, Robertson Hospital was a well-run facility with good outcomes. The staff treated 1,334 wounded soldiers, with only 73 recorded deaths. The last patient was discharged on June 13, 1865. Many historians claim that Robertson Hospital had the lowest mortality rate of any Civil War military hospital. It is widely believed that Sally's "obsession" with cleanliness was a major factor in the recovery of her patients.

Sally Tompkins never married, despite the numerous proposals she received from current and former patients. She spent the post-War years traveling to visit friends throughout Virginia, but always returned to Richmond, where she was a local celebrity and active in charitable causes. She hosted a reunion for her patients during the Grand Confederate Reunion of 1896. By 1905, she had spent the last of her inheritance, and moved into the Confederate Women's Home, where she lived until her death. She was buried with full military honors.



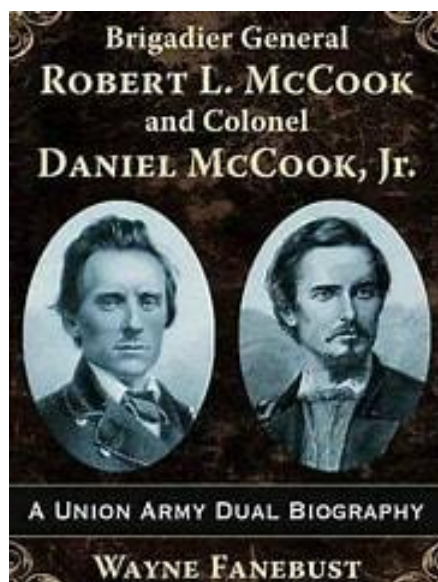
Submitted by the "Society for Women and the Civil War - [www.swcw.org](http://www.swcw.org)"



# Brigadier General Robert L. McCook and Colonel Daniel McCook, Jr.: A Union Army Dual Biography

By Wayne Fanebust. Jefferson McFarland, 2017. 242 pp. \$35.00 (paper), ISBN 978-1-4766-6986-1.

Reviewed by Ellen Neumann (Independent Scholar). Published on H-FedHist (February, 2021). Commissioned by Caryn E. Neumann.



The Fighting McCooks were the most prominent military family during the Civil War. They were loyal Union men from the Midwest who volunteered to serve and sometimes died in combat. It is this ordinariness that grabbed the public's attention rather than any exceptional event. After the War, the brothers and cousins, including Major General Alexander McCook, were soon forgotten. Wayne Fanebust, who wrote a biography of Major General McCook, turns his attention to two of the War dead in this book.

Brigadier General Robert L. McCook of Ohio was a Cincinnati lawyer who raised the entirely German-born 9th Ohio Infantry Regiment. The men elected him to serve as Colonel. Unlike many political Colonels, McCook proved quite competent and quite brave. He and his men helped push the Confederacy out of Western Virginia, leading to the formation of the State of West Virginia. McCook and the 9th Ohio were sent to Kentucky to block any Confederate incursions into the State. At the Battle of Mill Spring, McCook led a bayonet charge that resulted in the death of Confederate General Felix Zollicoffer. Now a war hero, McCook gained promotion in 1862 to Brigadier General in command of the 3rd Brigade of Major General George Thomas. Mostly,

McCook and his men marched while getting into the occasional fight with other Union troops. While marching toward Tennessee in August 1862, McCook picked up dysentery, the great killer of soldiers. He rode in an open carriage lying on a bed. The carriage was overtaken by Rebel cavalry, who mortally wounded McCook after he attempted to surrender. The Union viewed his death as a cowardly assassination.

McCook's killing was quickly laid at the feet of Captain Frank Gurley, who led guerrilla cavalry operations against the Union, raiding and destroying property. Fanebust includes a chapter on Gurley, who was captured by the Union in October 1863 and nearly lynched for killing McCook. Fanebust presents Gurley as a man who lived "quietly and peacefully" into old age and was known to fellow Southerners as a "good man and good citizen" (p. 99). He laments that Union men put Gurley through mental anguish by jailing and trying to execute him for McCook's murder. However, Fanebust notes earlier that Gurley helped organize the Ku Klux Klan in Madison County, Alabama (p. 95). This is not a man viewed by Black Southerners as a good and peaceful. Fanebust ignores the viewpoints of African Americans and while this does not seriously weaken the book, it does lead to some odd interpretations. A man willing to use violence to terrorize Black people is exactly the sort of bad character who would shoot a defenseless McCook. Fanebust's lack of historical knowledge with respect to African Americans is evident in both the long list of sources and his interpretation of events. His description of the impact of President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation only addresses the White viewpoint.

Colonel Daniel McCook Jr., brother of Robert, studied law at the firm of Lincoln's future Secretary of War, Edwin M. Stanton. He left Ohio for Kansas to form a law practice with William T. Sherman in 1859. At the outset of the Civil War, McCook joined the Union. He received a commission as a Captain and raised the Leavenworth State Guard, part of the 1st Kansas Infantry. McCook served bravely at Shiloh and Chickamauga. He died in June 1864 while leading his men in a futile assault up Kennesaw Mountain on the order of his former law partner, General Sherman. In later years, Sherman would lament that he got his friend killed.

Fanebust's account of the McCooks is well written and, mostly, well researched. It is likely to appeal to scholars interested in Midwestern and Ohio history as well as Civil War buffs. It is a good complement to Charles Whalen and Barbara Whalen's 2006 book on the entire family of Fighting McCooks.

**Submitted by Bruce A. Castleman, Ph.D.**