Volume 65, No. 1
January, 2025

2025 Officers:

Carol Breiter,
President
(916) 729-7644
carollovestoswim@outlook.com

James C, Juanitas,
Immediate Past President
(916) 600-4930
jcjuanitas@aol.com

Paul G. Ruud, Vice President
(530) 886-8806
paulgruud@gmail.com

VACANT,
Secretary

George W. Foxworth,
Treasurer
(916) 362-0178
gwfoxworth@sbcglobal.net

Ron Grove,
Program Director
(916) 397-0678
rgrove916@outlook.com

Joseph A. Matalone, MAL
(916) 837-7616
0425jam@comcast.net

VACANT
Member-at-Large

VACANT,
Editor

SCWRT Website
www.sacramentocwrt.com

Kim Knighton, Webmaster
kimknighton@sbcglobal.net

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

Once again, I find myself entrusted as the President of Sacramento's Civil War Round Table. Interest has waned over the last couple decades for one reason or another, however I feel that many of the issues that plagued the Country in the time of the Civil War are still alive and well today. Those who don't study the past are doomed to repeat it…. Several items I would like to accomplish as President is to build the membership, especially attendance to our monthly meetings. For members who are unable to attend (& have email), we will be setting up ZOOM access compliments of Ron Grove. Stay tuned for further developments!

Speaking of Ron, he has reluctantly taken over as Program Director. I have reassured him that we will pitch in and help as much as possible so if you know of anyone who has knowledge of an aspect of the Civil War and would like to share, please let him know. Also, I would like to encourage members to bring a guest or 3 to enjoy great food and programs to our meetings! Hope to see you on January 8!

Carol Breiter, President

MINUTES
SACRAMENTO CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
Wednesday, December 11, 2024
R Vida Cantina Restaurant, 7040 Sunrise Boulevard, Citrus Heights

ATTENDANCE – 13

MEMBERS – 10: James Juanitas, President; Carol Breiter, Vice President; George W. Foxworth, Treasurer; Steve Breiter, Jean Breiter, Ron Grove, (MAL); Paul (IPP) & Patty Ruud, & Stuart & Andrea Sheffield.

GUESTS – 3: Jeanette Calvin, Larry Spizzirri, & Richard Spizzirri.

1. The meeting was called to order by President James Juanitas at 7:09 PM and he led the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. President Juanitas notified the group that the Round Table still needs people to fill Secretary, Member-at-Large, and Editor positions. President Juanitas mentioned that 2025 membership fees are due.
3. Other announcements: The Round Table has a new Bank Account at Wells Fargo. The next Civil War Conference is in Monterey in March 2025. Finally, President Juanitas announced that this is his last meeting as President. Then he gave a short quiz on items involving the Civil War for fun. Paul Ruud won the door prize.
4. New members and guests were introduced. No new members and three guests.
5. The raffle was conducted by Steve and Carol Breiter. The raffle raised $18.00.
6. The Program (Saddles For War) was led by Jean Breiter, which presented the different types of saddles used during the Civil War and explained what the different attachments on the saddles held for battle. She had photos of Robert E. Lee's saddle which was more ornate than the lower ranked soldiers and cavalry. Jean also discussed English versus Western Saddles and Military Saddles. Military Saddles were a mix between the English and Western Saddles.
7. After discussions, the evening ended at 8:09 PM.
8. The next Executive Board Meeting is Wednesday, January 8, 2025, 10:00 AM, at Brookfields near Madison and I-80. Members and guests are welcome.

Submitted by Carol Breiter, Interim Secretary

Treasurer's Report

The cash balance on December 11th was $5,445.40. The raffle brought in $18.00. Many thanks to Steve and Carol Breiter, Members, and Guests.

George W. Foxworth, Treasurer

Coming Programs for 2025		
Date	**Speaker**	**Topic**
January 8th	"Bernie Quinn"	"Mystery Topic"
February 12th	"Tim Karlberg"	"To Be Determined"
March 12th	"To Be Determined"	"To Be Determined"
April 9th	"To Be Determined"	"To Be Determined"
May 14th	"To Be Determined"	"To Be Determined"
June 11th	"To Be Determined"	"To Be Determined"

2025 Membership

The 2025 membership renewal is due on January 1, 2025. 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 day 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:

gwfoxworth@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 Round Table or the Editor. The official address of this Round Table 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.

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

Charles H. Parker

Sometime in 1847, a male slave was born in Virginia. During the early years of the Civil War, he "freed himself" and on December 7, 1864, he enlisted in the Union Army at Chambersburg, Pennsylvania. He called himself "Charles H. Parker." Almost nothing is known of his early life except for what was written on his enlistment papers. He had signed up for service as a "substitute" for Washington Stover of Liberty Township. We can assume that Parker received what would have been to him a considerable sum of money from Stover. The papers reveal that Charles was an unmarried man, stood five feet eleven inches tall and had a brown complexion, brown eyes, and black hair. Charles listed his occupation as "laborer."

Fear of losing the support of the Border States had kept Lincoln from allowing Generals David Hunter and John Fremont to use "contrabands" to fight for the Union. But necessity and the outcry from Northern abolitionists, the growing number of Blacks who insisted on being allowed to fight, finally forced Lincoln's hand to allow Black military units to be formed. On July 17, 1862, the United States Congress passed two acts allowing the enlistment of African Americans. They did not go into effect until after the Emancipation Proclamation was issued. Approximately 180,000 African American soldiers served in the Union Army. Many others served in the Navy.

Camp William Penn was opened in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on July 26, 1863. Charles was sent there for basic training. William Penn was one of eight Northern camps that trained Black troops and was the only camp to train exclusively Black troops. Eleven United States Colored Troops (USCT) Regiments received training there. A military parade through the City had been planned with a great deal of hoopla for when the men finished their training. However, orders came down that the Black troops would not be allowed to march through the City.

Charles Parker was assigned to Company F, 3rd Regiment of the USCT. In February 1864, just two months after his entry into the Army, he was shot in the right leg at the Battle of Gainesville in Florida. Not healing well, he soon contracted "typhoid pneumonia." He managed to remain with his Unit until he was mustered out of service on October 31, 1865 with the rank of Private.

Returning home to Adams County, Charles married Sarah Butler two years later in 1867. They had four children…Mary Jane, William, Harriet, who died very young, and Elmer, the last, born in 1877.

Charles was never well after his discharge. He was unable to gain back his strength. Weak and wracked with a chronic cough, he was unable to work or support his family. He died "from his disabilities" on July 2, 1876, 29 years old.

*Charles was buried in Yellow Hill Cemetery, near Biglerville, Pennsylvania in Adams County. The word "Yellow" in the cemetery name was deliberately used in a derogatory sense to describe the skin tone of the original mixed race Negro families who lived there and had been listed in the census with an "**M**" for mulatto next to their names. The town was a frequent destination for runaway slaves who were taken in by the community of Quakers who lived there, the Menallen Friends. The main "stationmaster" of Yellow Hill was a "freed Negro," Edward Mathews, who owned 16 acres of land. Mathews had three*

sons serving in the USCT. The entire Black community of the town worked together to help fugitives move to the next stop on the Underground Railroad.

Charles's wife, Sarah Butler Parker, applied for his pension in 1895. She was living in York, Pennsylvania by this time and was described as "very poor and almost starving." Up until 1890, the Federal Government largely ignored the difficulties that African Americans encountered while applying for Government pensions. Many of the veterans or their families did not receive their benefits until the early 1900s.

Yellow Hill Cemetery was eventually abandoned after many years of neglect. Broken and weathered gravestones tumbled over and the names of those buried there were lost. In 1935, Dr. Henry Stewart, State Commander of the Gettysburg Chapter of the Sons of Union Veterans, was conducting research on the locations of graves of Adams County soldiers. It was during his research that the overgrown, untended grave of Charles Parker was rediscovered.

Rather than bury Parker in the segregated Lincoln Cemetery in Gettysburg, where 30 other Black Civil War veterans lay, Dr. Stewart petitioned the Government to rebury Parker in Gettysburg National Cemetery.

Only one Black soldier lay in the National Cemetery. Henry Gooden of Company C, 127th Regiment of the USCT, had died on August 3, 1876 and was buried in the Alms House Cemetery. On November 8, 1884, Gooden's remains were moved to his new grave in Gettysburg National Cemetery …the first Black soldier to be buried there since the day Lincoln gave his Gettysburg Address on November 19, 1863. He is interred in the main Civil War Section with the United States Regulars, Section 13 near the center of the Cemetery. Why Gooden was the one Black soldier chosen to lie in the hallowed ground of this Cemetery is unknown. Perhaps he had performed some heroic act? Perhaps he had saved a superior's life? The answer is lost to history.

Gooden remained the only Black soldier in the Civil War Section for 52 years, until Charles Parker was moved from Yellow Hill Cemetery in 1936. Charles was buried near the Northwestern Corner, Section 2, Site 115. No service was held at his reinterment. Authorities must have felt that the prayer said over him during his original burial at Yellow Hill was enough.

The Yellow Hill and Alms House Cemeteries are now "unowned, untaxed, and uncared for."

Submitted by Judith Breitstein

The Wife of the Wizard of the Saddle

Norman Dasinger, Jr., June 30, 2024 (originally published June 11, 2021)
blueandgrayeducation.org

Nathan Bedford Forrest and Mary Ann Montgomery in Hernando, Mississippi, August 1845 | *painting by John Paul Strain*

"She was a pretty, educated, petite, gentle, quiet, well-mannered, pious, Christian and introverted lady."
Mary Ann (Montgomery) Forrest as described by her uncle in 1845

Mary Ann (Montgomery) Forrest was born October 2, 1826, to William H. and Elizabeth (Cowan) Montgomery. Her father died in 1829 and is buried in the Cowan Cemetery, Franklin County, Tennessee. Sometime following his death, Mary Ann's widowed mother moved to Desoto County, Mississippi. Mary Ann's uncle was the Rev. Samuel Cowan, a well-known clergyman in the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, living in Desoto County. So, his widowed sister, Elizabeth (Cowan) Montgomery, eventually followed him in order to be near familiar faces.

Elizabeth's father, Mary Ann's grandfather, was James Cowan. He was a War of 1812 veteran and fought with Andrew Jackson at the battle of New Orleans. Afterward, he remained in the Army and was given command of an area of frontier Tennessee from what is now Chattanooga to a point north of present-day Huntsville, Alabama. At that time, it was land under control of the United States Government. It was stated in a letter in 1895 that "Captain James Cowan moved from Blount County, Tennessee to this

country (the Cowan area) in 1806 and was the second man to settle here.

In 1845 near Hernando, in Desoto County, Mississippi, Mary Ann Montgomery and Nathan Bedford Forrest would meet. On an August Sunday, Mary Ann and her mother were in their buggy on their way to church to hear her uncle preach. As Forrest encountered the two women, he noticed they were broken down in the middle of a creek. Some local young men were on the bank laughing and teasing the ladies. Twenty-three-year-old Bedford rode up on his horse and immediately waded across and carried Mary Ann and her mother to safety. After properly introducing himself, he asked permission to call on Mary Ann. Mrs. Montgomery agreed. Bedford proposed on his second visit. She hesitated, but accepted on the third. They were married September 24, 1845. Her uncle, the Reverend Cowan, performed the ceremony. They had two children: William (Willie) and Frances (Fanny), who died when she was five years old.

On July 3, 1863, Nathan Bedford Forrest was traveling through his wife's hometown of Cowan, Tennessee. His command was screening and defending Confederate General Braxton Bragg's Army as they made their retreat from middle Tennessee into northeastern Alabama. On that day, as the last units passed through Cowan, an elderly woman stepped from the Franklin Hotel and shouted to a passing cavalryman: "You big cowardly rascal, why don't you turn and fight? I wish old Forrest was here. He'd make you fight." The cavalryman was, in fact, Forrest. He just lowered his head, smiled, and kept moving.

Mrs. Mary Ann Forrest in her late 40s, with her grandson, Nathan Bedford Forrest II.

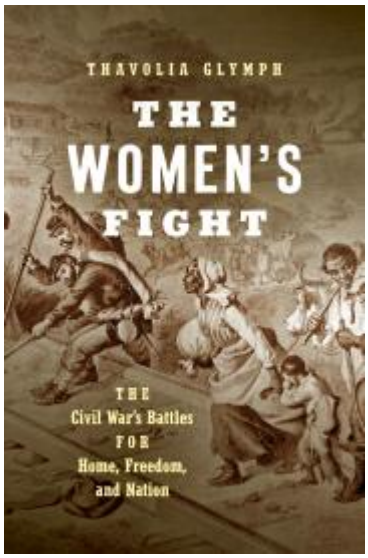
Mary Ann (Montgomery) Forrest died in 1882. Dr. Samuel Mitchem, in a 2020 article about her, wrote, "She was the love of Bedford's life and in many ways, exerted a profound influence on him"

Submitted by the Blue and Gray Education Association

The Women's Fight: The Civil War's Battles for Home, Freedom, and Nation

Littlefield History of the Civil War Era Series by Thavolia Glymph. Chapel Hill, University of North Carolina Press, 2020. Illustrations. 392 pp. $26.99 (e-book), ISBN 978-1-4696-5365-5; $34.95 (cloth), ISBN 978-1-4696-5363-1.

Reviewed by Shae Smith Cox (University of Nevada, Las Vegas). Published on H-Nationalism (July, 2020). Commissioned by Evan C. Rothera.



Adding to the ever-growing list of Civil War studies focusing on the contributions and sacrifices of women, Thavolia Glymph's ***The Women's Fight*** details the "women's fight across the divides of space, race, and class as they moved into each other's worlds" in varying capacities (pp. 4-5). Setting the stage for the book, Glymph poignantly states that the "War exposes in fine detail the politics of the most powerful and the smoldering demands of the most vulnerable and exploited" (pp. 3-4). In exploring the ways women fought in the Civil War, we see that the fight was "among and between women and with the men who sought to control how they could fight" (p. 15). In the introduction, Glymph cautions historians about the dangers of affixing labels to the people they study because that runs the risk of conflating their legal, political, and social standing.

Divided into three sections, Glymph's work tells the story of the divides within the South and North, parsing through the fractures within the respective regions instead of comparing regions. Section 1 discusses White, wealthy Southern women as refugees, poor White women and their role in the Confederacy, and enslaved women's dedication to escaping slavery, building better lives, and enduring brutality committed by both Union and Confederate soldiers.

In Chapter 1, Glymph argues that War made it "harder to hide the injuries that took place within and against White and Black homes or to shelter the plantation home's pretensions to domesticity wrapped in the claims of proslavery ideology" (p. 21). In

short, this Chapter provides a closer look at the shaken and shattered pillars of Southern society. She discusses women carrying contraband across lines and explains just how much they could hide and carry on their person. Furthermore, she analyzes how becoming refugees blurred the lines between wealthy White women and enslaved women on the road. In Chapter 2, Glymph investigates the pull for poor White women to go along with secession and the War on the premise of "defending the sanctity of the White homes and the honor of White women" (p. 58). Because this argument "allowed them to access Southern White womanhood in ways previously closed to them," they believed that they had a place in the Confederacy. However, when wealthy refugees invaded their spaces and attempted "to reconsitute their homes in exile" poor White women viewed them as threats and intruders, further demonstrating fractures in Southern society (p. 59). Chapter 3 makes a valuable contribution to the growing scholarship on the dark side of freedom and refugee camps, stating "while refugee camps could be places of hope and were often transformed by Black women into spaces for rebuilding community and ties of kinship, they were also spaces of suffering, disease, and death" (p. 120). Part of the beauty of what Glymph highlights in this Section is the resourcefulness of women.

Section 2 presents the stories, struggles, and sins of Northern women. Glymph exposes class tensions between wealthy, middle-class, and poor White women through their varying abilities and inability to contribute to the War effort. She artfully demonstrates how middle-class and wealthy women could be easily blinded to the challenges poor women faced and their inability "to contribute labor, money, or time" to the cause (p. 145). She also discusses the pull women felt to support local societies that aided regiments from their cities or states instead of focusing all of their efforts on the United States Sanitary Commission.

In addition to War efforts, Chapter 4 confronts "slavery's tentacles" in the North by explaining how complex financial investments in the Southern and Cuban economies such as slave-grown sugar or wealthy Northern families who financed cotton or rice remained entangled with slavery (p. 154). Glymph contends that these connections posed significant consequences for emancipation and equality because the "leisure and wealth won from the traffic in slaves and slave-grown commodities" shaped their interactions and understandings of Black people, which affected the debates around the abilities of Black men and women to be good citizens, soldiers, and parents (p. 155). While some Northern women employed their time and "resources to raise money and supplies for Union soldiers, to go to the front as nurses, and [to] work with Freedmen's Aid Societies, others, like the Northern 'secesh,' saw the War as wrong" (p. 158).

Yet another group of Northern women saw the War as a brief opportunity to "satisfy their yearning to be mistress of a plantation" because Northern society remained deeply divided by debates about emancipation and racial equality (p. 158). In Chapter 5, Glymph states that White women were not prepared for what they were getting themselves into when they went to the South on benevolence missions because they "believed they would witness degeneracy in the remains of slavery rather than evidence of humanity and viable Black family and community life." White women teachers and missionaries viewed "their role in part as ridding Black people of the 'vices which slavery

inevitably fosters,' the 'hideous companions of nakedness, famine, and disease,'" demonstrating that Northern White women saw this as a confirmation of racial superiority (p. 172). Indeed, "the ways White Northerners thought about enslaved and formerly enslaved women and judged how they talked and talked back, how they looked and dressed, how they cared for their children, and how they worked drew on long history of racist ideas," therefore making them "caricatures of true womanhood" (p. 194). These women refused "a sisterhood of equality with Black women;" instead "they helped to refurbish the racial ideology that had defended slavery and would work to constrain Black women's lives for decades to come" (p. 195).

The two Chapters in Section 3, "The Hard Hand of War," specifically cover the "convergence of home front and battlefront" (p. 201). Throughout the War, women across the country experienced a "borderless battlefield" as armies invaded their towns and homes. They quickly learned that "it mattered whether they were Black, White, or Native American, rich or poor, free or enslaved" (pp. 219-20).

In Chapter 6, Glymph discusses how many women drew on previous experiences and stories of the Revolutionary War because several women experienced harsh treatment by soldiers, exile, and life as refugees during that struggle for independence. She pays special attention to William Tecumseh Sherman, the man who personified the staunch stance the Union armies took as they "waged a war against Southern women and Southern homes" (pp. 199-200). Because of their patriotism for the Confederacy, the Union military viewed them as hostile and subjected them "to the laws of war," which "permitted women to be turned out of their homes and, if necessary, authorized the burning of those homes and the crops that sustained them" (pp. 207-8). In Chapter 7, Glymph provides important descriptions of what refugee camps looked like, where they were located, and how many people typically inhabited them. She reminds readers that Black women endured overwhelming circumstances because "their race, gender, and statelessness made them more vulnerable to the apathy or active hostility of Union commanders" (p. 248). Glymph demonstrates how Black women refugees created spaces behind Union lines capable of sustaining life, how ties from slavery assisted in supporting them in freedom and through the challenges they faced as refugees, and how "their efforts helped propel the Nation toward emancipation and an entirely new world of freedom" (p. 250).

Overall this book demonstrates the deep divisions among women within the same sections of the Country and highlights the contradictions of race and class in both North and South. Glymph adds to the important new work being conducted on how the War influenced many different groups of refugees and the specific issues they faced. Throughout the volume, she illuminates neglected narratives and provides suggestions on possible subjects for future studies about the lives of women during the era, such as what happened to the children of enslaved and refugee women raped by soldiers. This book would be a welcome addition to any undergraduate classroom dealing with this period because of the scope of experiences women encountered.

Submitted by Bruce A. Castleman, Ph.D.