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Battle Cry

Founded 1961,
Newsletter of the Sacramento Civil War Round Table
P.O. BOX 254702
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President's Message

THE WILL BE NO FEBRUARY MEETING. THE HOF BRAU IS REMODELING.

The short story on the writing of the Confederate Constitution is that it was pretty much the same as that for the Union. In regard to most articles of the Constitution, the document was a word-for-word duplicate of the United States Constitution. There were some significant differences. Number one being that the President was elected for one six-year term with a second term not possible. Another difference was it took 50,000 citizens for one Representative in the House of Representatives. It took 30,000 in the United States' Constitution.

Another little known fact is that there was a discussion about the 3/5th Rule. Remember, the Confederate Constitution Convention in Montgomery, Alabama, was in the deep South where most of the slaves lived. This change would give deep South states more control in Congress. There were seven states present and the vote was 4 to 3 against this change.

In 1861, a nervous Georgian, who worried that slaveholders were a majority, proposed that the new State Government should establish an upper house composed of slaveholders. In the end, this did not happen.

Since States Rights were very important, state governments could impeach Federal officials living in their state. Another interesting addition was that the Confederate President had a line-item veto.

Dennis Kohlmann, President

MINUTES
SACRAMENTO CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
Wednesday, January 9, 2019
HOF BRAU RESTAURANT, 2500 WATT AVENUE, SACRAMENTO

ATTENDANCE – 29

MEMBERS – 24: Dennis Kohlmann, President; Barbara Leone, Secretary; George W. Foxworth, Treasurer; Roy Bishop, Harvey & Marsha Cain, Arnd Garnter, Ron Grove, Chris Highsmith, Jane Jackson, James Juanitas, Arnold Kunst, Lloyd Limprecht, Grace Long, Joseph & Michelle Matalone, John Rice, Paul Ruud (MAL); Nicholas Scivoletto, Steve Shiflett, Richard Sickert (MAL); Roxanne Spizzirri, Ray Valdez, John Zasso.

GUESTS – 5: Esther Boeck, Tracy Claude, Theodore Savas, Larry Spizzirri, Richard Spizzirri.

1. Dennis Kohlmann led the Pledge, Nicholas Scivoletto conducted the raffle. Due to remodeling of the Hof Brau, there will **NOT** be a February meeting but Jim Lane's talk on "The Great Locomotive Chase" will be rescheduled. Dennis is going to Scottsdale, Arizona to hear Ed Bearss answer questions about the Civil War. The theme of the 2019 West Coast Civil War Conference is "Civil War Leadership."
2. Dennis introduced Theodore Savas, a major publisher of Civil War books. Ted told how he came to learn about and publish "The War Outside My Window," an original, unique diary. He was told about a 2012 article in the Washington Post about a young man's diary that wasn't published. The Editor, Janet Croon, is a genealogist, Ted is a military historian. Together, they revealed the life of LeRoy Wiley Gresham from 1860 - 1865.
3. Born in 1847 to a prominent slave-holding family in Macon Georgia, the diaries began when he was twelve. He was exposed to many influential politicians, newspaper editors, military men, etc, who visited the home regularly.
4. In 1856, LeRoy was climbing on the chimney of a burned building when it collapsed on him crushing his left leg. It never fully healed and he was pulled around in a wagon. He developed a cough in 1857 and back abscesses in 1860. His mother Mary gave him his first diary to record his experiences as he traveled to Philadelphia with his father (John) to be examined by Dr. Joseph Pancoast for his "condition." Then he could discuss them with her when he returned. The only photo of LeRoy was taken just before the trip.
5. Highly intelligent, he loved the sciences, literature, and especially chess. He recorded his opinions and his political thoughts developed as he aged. He gives an inside perspective of what life was like at the height of Southern culture as the War was about to begin. He continued to write about the War from a male non-combatant viewpoint. Details of family life are given on a daily basis. It shows the Southern aristocracy on the verge of collapse. His mood changed as the War progressed. He was exhilarated at first but as the South started to lose battles, he became depressed. Sherman's Georgia campaign involved fighting outside Macon and LeRoy watched it from the roof.
6. Not much is written about slavery which was the only way of life he knew. Julia Ann, the cook, helped care for him and Howard (a slave) brought foodstuffs from the two plantations. Later, he did not think that slavery was God's will as he was told in church.
7. He wrote about the extreme pain, the doctors and the medicines, often poisons with which he was treated. Back abscesses had to be lanced. Ted consulted with Dennis Rasbach, a general surgeon, who confirmed LeRoy had Pott's Disease, a type of tuberculosis that goes through the lung, eats away the spine, and causes crippling. This five-year account of his diminishing health is unique. Ted reflected that as LeRoy was recording his own physical decline; it matched the decline of the South. (LeRoy died on June 18, 1865 and was laid to rest in Rose Hill Cemetery, Macon GA.)
8. The next Board Meeting will be Wednesday, February 13, 2019, 10:00 AM at Brookfield's Restaurant.

Barbara Leone, Secretary

Treasurer's Report

The cash balance following the January 9th meeting was \$6,620.15. Thanks to Nicholas Scivoletto, other members, and guests, the raffle brought in \$38.00.

George W. Foxworth, Treasurer

Coming Programs for 2019

Date	Speaker	Topic
February 13th	CANCELLED	" CANCELLED "
March 13th	Bernie Quinn	"Engagements of Hiram Berdan's Sharpshooters"
April 10th	Nick K. Adams	"Two Sides of One Story as Minnesota Governor Alexander Ramsey"
May 8th	Chris Highsmith	"The Adventures of the Illinois 34th"
June 12th	Nancy Samuelson	"Colonel John S. "Rip" Ford, Ranger"
July 10th	Robert Bundy	"To Be Determined"

2019 Membership

The 2019 membership renewal is due as of January 1, 2019. The dues are \$20.00 and you can renew at a monthly 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

Remember, you can also pay at any monthly meeting.

NEWSLETTER CIVIL WAR ARTICLES

Civil War articles/book reviews are welcome. The submission deadline is the 1st 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 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.

Greetings Civil War Enthusiast(s),

I am John Potts, the Program Director of the Baton Rouge Civil War Round Table. We would like to invite members of the Sacramento Civil War Round Table to join us April 5 - 7, 2019, in Baton Rouge, Louisiana for the 3rd Annual Baton Rouge Civil War Symposium. It's an opportunity for a weekend of learning, fellowship, and fun. See or visit the website for details and to register. **"Fifty Shades of Blue and Grey:"**

<https://www.brcwrtcom/2019-symposium.html>

John Potts

The Myth of the Lost Cause and Civil War History

Edited by Gary Gallagher and Alan Nolan

Book Review by Michel Wolf

16 December 2006

It's been said that history is written by the winners, but the American Civil War was a unique exception. As these nine essays make clear, the former Confederates who established the Southern Historical Society and controlled its publications starting in the late 1860's established the Myth of the Lost Cause and promulgated it relentlessly. Its influence persists today, despite the efforts of modern historians (such as the authors of these essays) to set the record straight.

This enjoyable and informative collection provides a useful introduction to the Lost Cause and fascinating details of its formation. The essays, published in 2000, are by authors well-known to Round Table members, and are a pleasure to read.

To the myth-makers, the War was not about slavery, secession was justified and Constitutional, and the Southern armies were doomed from the start, due to the Northern juggernaut of manpower and materials. Mr. Nolan writes, "In the popular mind, the Lost Cause represents the national memory of the Civil War; it has been substituted for the history of the War." Gary Gallagher describes how Lieutenant General Jubal Early and others seized the historical initiative in formulating the Lost Cause legend, and cites examples of its existence in today's popular culture.

Charles Holden shows how cavalry General Wade Hampton's post-War conservative, elitist politics were repudiated by populists in South Carolina, but Hampton still became the "sometimes General, sometimes Governor, sometimes Senator, but always hero" in the public's imagination.

Just what were these Confederate soldiers' reunions like? Keith Bohannon focuses on reunions in Georgia from 1885 - 95, ranging from logistics to oratory. He notes that Lieutenant General James Longstreet was reviled by Early and his cohorts, but at Georgia reunions, "battle-scarred veterans hovered around Longstreet, hung upon every word the old General uttered, and in their eyes and faces could be seen the deep respect and true love they bore for their old commander."

Peter Carmichael's essay concerns the last generation of Virginia slaveholders, men born in the 1830s. Both before and after the War, they disdained the "moonlight and magnolias" view of the old South, and "understood the potential dangers of trying to recapture a golden age because of its stifling effect on intellectual creativity."

To Jeffrey Wert, "James Longstreet was undoubtedly the greatest victim of Lost Cause interpretation." His superb essay discusses historians' views of Longstreet, beginning with the first full-length biography in 1936, and continuing to today's detractors, Bob Krick and Bud Robertson, two of our present day neo-Confederate writers and talkers. He reviews Longstreet's actions at Gettysburg, the main focus of the unfair attacks on him.

Brooks Simpson assesses the many attempts to demean Grant's military achievements. "What was most troubling to (Lost Cause advocates) about Grant was that he had prevailed over Robert E. Lee. If one could no longer defeat Grant, at least one might take solace in denigrating him."

Lesley Gordon reviews the voluminous literary output of Major General George Pickett's widow, LaSalle, who survived him by more than fifty years. Beginning in the 1880s, she began her life's work of portraying an idyllic South that never existed, and the public, both North and South, lapped it up. Professor Lloyd Hunter ends with a look at the transformation of the Lost Cause into a secular religion. He cites the over-the-top oratory and verse that "marked a period of Southern flight from reality."

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James Tilton Pickett

George Edward Pickett was born into one of the First Families of Virginia on January 16, 1825. He was the oldest of eight children born to Robert and Mary Pickett. Six of his siblings would die before their second birthday. He was raised on his family's plantation outside of Richmond.

George was sent to Springfield, Illinois to study law. He dropped out and at age 17 was appointed to West Point by John Stuart, a law partner of Abraham Lincoln. The "goat" of the Class of 1846, Pickett graduated as the last ranking cadet in his class. Maybe it was a family trait. His cousin, Henry Heth, was the goat of the Class of 1847. A genial fellow, Pickett was well liked by his classmates. He had only worked hard enough to pass his classes. When he was handed his diploma, he was also handed the traditional "Goat Fund," a dollar collected from each graduating cadet. Its presentation was always received with great applause and hilarity. George probably wore a class ring, a tradition first instituted at West Point in 1835. In his pocket, he would carry a newly minted silver dollar to present to the first enlisted man who saluted him.

During the Mexican War, George fought at the Battle of Chapultepec. Handed a flag by his West Point classmate, James Longstreet, he fought his way to the roof of the Palace where he waved it to signal victory. His bravery earned him a brevet to Captain.

On January 28, 1851, George Pickett married 21 year old Sally Harrison Steward Minge, a great-great grandniece of President William Henry Harrison and great-great granddaughter of signer of the Declaration of Independence, Benjamin Harrison. Their families were delighted with the match. The young couple honeymooned in New Orleans at the Saint Charles Hotel and then went on to Fort Gates, Texas, where Pickett was to be stationed. Sadly, on November 28, 1851, Sally died in childbirth during an Indian raid. Pickett escorted her body and that of their infant back to Richmond. They were buried in Shockoe Cemetery in a Pickett family plot near George's maternal grandparents.

By 1855, Pickett was assigned to duty in Bellingham Bay, Washington Territory. He was to build a fort to protect settlers from hostile Indian tribes. He also built himself a two-story house at 910 Bancroft Street. This was the home to which Pickett brought his second wife, a Haida Indian woman, named Morning Mist. Perhaps to make the marriage more "official," the young couple was married twice, once in an Indian ceremony and once in a traditional "Boston" ceremony. Pickett insisted that any marriages between soldiers under his command and Indian women be deemed valid.

On December 31, 1857, Morning Mist gave birth to James Tilton Pickett. The delivery was difficult. Pickett summoned a doctor but it did no good. Morning Mist died a few weeks later. Care of the little boy was assumed by his Haida grandmother. He seemed to be well-loved by his father but the opening salvos of the Civil War spelled doom for any lasting relationship between them.



George Pickett could not blatantly proclaim that he had crossed the color line by bringing a mixed race child back to Virginia. He sent the boy to live with Catherine and William Collins, a childless couple chosen by his close friend, James Tilton. Tilton was also assigned to keeping Pickett abreast of the child's welfare. Pickett provided for his son financially and, in a poignant gesture, left Jimmie his own U.S. Army Commission, Jimmie's red and white baby calico dress, a lock of the boy's hair and a family Bible inscribed, "May the memory of your mother always remain dear. Your father, George E. Pickett." Also left to Jimmie were two white gloves worn by his parents at the Haida wedding ceremony. All were placed in a small red leather trunk.

By 1861, Pickett had left to fight for his home state and seek glory in the American Civil War. He never saw Jimmie again.

Jimmie Pickett grew up well loved by his foster parents. In personality, he was nothing like his biological father. Lonely, melancholy, and extremely shy, he chose art and drawing over friendship with other children. Paint, crayons, and colored pencils were costly options for him so he worked with charcoal. If he needed color, he made it from berries and leaves. His grades were always high, but his talent in art was what set him apart. By the time he was 19, his adoptive family had saved enough to send him to the Union Academy in Olympia, Washington. His artwork began to draw attention. He was able to manage to attend the San Francisco Institute of Art in California. It was here he was visited by his half-brother, George Pickett Jr., for the first time. Their father had already died. The two did not hit it off. There are suggestions that Jimmie thought he might be invited to become part of his Virginia family or at least offered a share of the

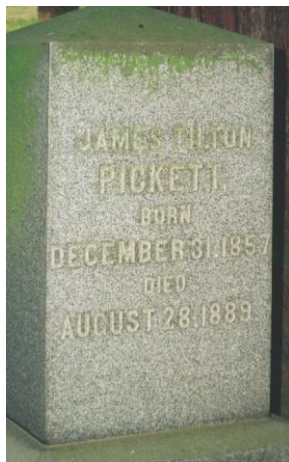
inheritance. Some believe that George Jr. was aghast at the very Indian appearance of his half sibling or that Jimmie demonstrated homosexual proclivities. Whatever it was, the two never met or spoke again. Some believe that LaSalle Pickett, George's third wife, sent Jimmie "hush" money to keep his existence and parentage a secret.

Jimmie worked as an artist, illustrator, and a reporter in Washington. His paintings appeared in art galleries and on magazine covers. He never married for he felt, "These crosses of race don't belong." It is not difficult to see that Jimmie hated his "half-breed" status and the color of his skin. He lived a lonely life substituting his paintings for family.

A wary but pleasant correspondence begun by Jimmie and La Salle Pickett had ended abruptly when George Pickett died of "gastric fever" on July 30, 1875. LaSalle did not believe that Jimmie should inherit anything. She sent him his father's cavalry saber, hoping this would placate him. When Jimmie threatened to sue for the house and land in Washington on Bancroft Street, LaSalle caved and deeded that property to him. Jimmie sold the property for \$750.

Jimmie's very last painting sold for \$600, an amazing price at the time. Unfortunately, the money earned was willed to his landlady, Mrs. Jones, to pay for overdue room and board in her home where he lived. He died on August 28, 1889 of typhoid fever aggravated by tuberculosis. He was 31 years old. The little red trunk with Jimmie's prized possessions also went to Mrs. Jones for arrears. The cavalry sword disappeared.

James Tilton Pickett is buried in Riverview Cemetery in Portland, Oregon.



LaSalle Corbell Pickett began her campaign to erase her husband's mixed race child from Pickett history. She told people that Jimmie had been a "gift" to her husband from the Haida Indians and was not a blood relation.

The little red leather trunk with Jimmie's prized possessions disappeared for many years. It was finally found and now rests at the Washington Capital Museum in Olympia. The letters of Jimmie's foster mother, Catherine Collins, and the letters from LaSalle were stolen from the red trunk during Jimmie's funeral and never recovered. The cavalry sword was never found.

The final resting place of Jimmie's mother, Morning Mist, is lost to history.

Submitted by Judith Breitstein

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FEATURING

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- Ed Ayers, *The Thin Line of Freedom: The Civil War and Emancipation in the Heart of America*
- Peter Carmichael, *The Combat Experience of Civil War Soldiers*
- Earl Hess, *Tactics, Terrain, and Trenches in the Atlanta Campaign*
- Amy Murrell Taylor, *Embattled Freedom: Journeys Through the Civil War's Refugee Camps*
- Patrick Breen, *Nat Turner's Rebellion*

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