



**Volume 56, No 3**  
**March, 2016**

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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**

Fellow Round Table Members,

As Vice-President, I am relieving Anne of her role to help free her up to accomplish other obligations. She has done a marvelous job the past years and will remain one of our loyal members.

I enjoyed Jim Lane's thorough and well researched presentation "The Free State of Jones." It is always a pleasure to welcome Jim for a fine program.

Our March speaker is George Beitzel who has enlivened our meetings for many years and is a long term SCWRT member as well as President of Elk Grove's Civil War Round Table. His topic is "Flight into Oblivion," about the fears of Confederate Cabinet Officers reacting to their situation after the War's end. Many paths were taken in a story little remembered, not often told, but of great interest. George has a gift of communication unrivaled in my experience.

Mr. Doug Ose met with our Board last month and explained to us his plans for the 2016 Gibson Ranch Experience. They have added another day for the students and relieve us of our long term responsibility to guide the students by obtaining the docents. He has asked us to maintain our table on Saturday and Sunday, and to provide a speaker for the weekend. The dates are April 28 – May 1. Our Board will continue to meet at 10:00 AM at Brookfields on Madison Avenue the day of our regular evening meeting. Board meetings are open to all our members.

On a personal note, I wish to extend my appreciation of the love and support of our members shown to us after the swift and unexpected illness of my dear wife and life-long companion, Scottie. I am grateful for the many cards, gifts, and offers to help me get through this and I'll never forget your sincere caring. It has meant much to me and my family.

For the near future, I intend to continue to serve this splendid organization and follow the example of our previous officers, excellent Board, and faithful members. With all our help, we can continue our success. Looking forward to seeing you at the next meeting.

**Don Hayden, Vice President**

**MINUTES**  
**SACRAMENTO CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE**  
**Wednesday, February 10, 2016**  
**HOF BRAU RESTAURANT, 2500 WATT AVENUE, SACRAMENTO**

**ATTENDANCE – 32**

**MEMBERS – 26:** Don Hayden, Vice President, George W. Foxworth, Treasurer, Barbara Leone, Secretary, Silver Williams, Program Director, Roy Bishop, Harvey Cain, Marsha Jutovsky Cain, Monica Foxworth, Arnd Gartner, Alan Geiken, Bob Hanley, Bill Jackson, Jane Jackson, Dennis Kohlmann (MAL), Arnold Kunst, Anne Peasley(IPP),Rick Peasley, Horst Penning, Bernie Quinn, John Rice, Ed Rill, Paul Ruud (MAL), Nancy Samuelson, Richard Sickert, Roxanne Spizzirri, Silver Williams, John Zasso, Vivian Zasso.

**GUESTS – 6:** Luann Higgs, Jim Lane, Larry Spizzirri, Richard Spizzirri, Ray Valdez, Don Zajic.

1. The meeting was called to order by Anne Peasley at 7:30 pm. Rick Peasley led the Pledge. Anne announced her resignation as President of the SCWRT.
2. John Zasso handled the raffle. Jim Lane, our speaker, kindly donated the 3 books he used to develop his talk. They will be in a future raffle.
3. Don Hayden offered a salute to Anne and introduced Jim Lane, a movie and TV actor, who spoke on “The Free State of Jones.”
4. A major character in the history of The Free State of Jones is Newton Knight. In 1822, His grandfather Jackie Knight, moved his family from North Carolina to the wild Piney Woods area of Mississippi to homestead and help form Jones County, MS. Jackie owned slaves but was not a plantation tycoon.
5. Newton was the eighth child of Albert Knight. Albert was the eldest son of Jackie Knight. Albert's wife was Mason Rainey. Newton married Serena Turner in 1858. Around this time, he met Rachel, one of Jackie's house slaves who was of mixed blood. Later, Newt would have a second family with her.
6. Jones County did not want to secede but it's representative to the State Convention voted in favor of secession.
7. From July, 1861, when Newt reluctantly enlisted as a battlefield medic to the surrender of Pemberton's Army at Vicksburg on July 4, 1863. Newt's life was a series of enlistment, desertion, capture, imprisonment, and unwilling participation in the War. He was present at Corinth, MS, May 1862, Snyder's Bluff 4/29 - 5/1/1863, and the Siege of Vicksburg. When Grant paroled Pemberton's Army after the siege of Vicksburg, Newt did not return to the Confederate Army. He was a Unionist in heart and deed.
8. During his times on the run, Newt felt more a part of the slave community than the White slave holders who considered him White trash. The slaves provided him with supplies and hiding places from the hounds. Rachel may have been helping him too. When at home, he tried to support and defend his families and his way of life in the Piney Woods. At times, this resulted in conflict with officials he considered corrupt and predatory.
9. One confrontation was with Major A. McLemore who was assigned to apprehend and return deserters. He was suspected of conniving with a tax-in-kind collector to take whatever they wanted. It is thought Newt shot McLemore. This turned him and his fellow Jones County deserters into insurrectionists. These men pledged their loyalty to the Union and organized into the Jones County Scouts with Newt Knight as their captain. They helped repair farms and capture supplies to give to the needy. The Scouts were pursued resulting in the capture of many and the execution of some.
10. On July 12, 1864, the Union-controlled publication, Natchez Courier, reported Jones County had seceded from the Confederacy and had formed their own government.
11. As the War ended, Newt split his time between his two families. He acknowledged his mulatto family and was considered a traitor to his White race. Rachel died in 1889 and Newt in 1922.
12. The next Board Meeting will be Wednesday, March 9, 2016, 10:00 AM at Brookfields, Madison Avenue.

**Barbara Leone, Secretary**

**Treasurer's Report**

The cash balance following the February 10th meeting was \$4,990.10. Thanks to John Zasso, other members, and guests, the raffle brought in \$51.00.

**George W. Foxworth, Treasurer**

# Coming Programs for 2016

<b>Date</b>	<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Topic</b>
March 9th	George Beitzel	"Flight Into Oblivion"
April 13th	Susan Williams	"Two Brothers in the Civil War"
May 11th	Ruthanne Lum McCunn	"Chinese Yankee"
June 8th	To Be Determined	To Be Determined
July 13th	To Be Determined	To Be Determined
August 10th	To Be Determined	To Be Determined

## **2016 Membership**

The 2016 membership renewal is due as of January 1, 2016. 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:gwfoxworth@sbcglobal.net)

Do not submit scanned files since I need to edit files to combine the **Battle Cry**.

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.

# Gibson Ranch 2016

The annual Civil War re-enactment this year will again be held at Gibson Ranch starting on Thursday, April 28<sup>th</sup> and ending on Sunday, May 1<sup>st</sup>. The current manager of activities at Gibson Ranch, Doug Ose, met with our Round Table Board of Directors in February to decide on the role that we will play in this year's program.

You no doubt recall that for years, there has been a student program on Friday with the typical re-enactment activities on Saturday and Sunday. We have for years provided docents on Friday to lead student groups between re-enactor stations where the students would learn about various aspects of the Civil War. The student portion of the program this year has been increased to two days – starting on Thursday and continuing on Friday. We were pleased to learn that Doug is able to get older students to volunteer on both Thursday and Friday to do the job that we have done in the past. Consequently, we have no requirement this year to provide volunteers for the student program. This is good news for us since there is no way we could generate enough volunteers to handle the physical challenges of escorting students on both days. Doug emphasized that our members would be welcomed on either day to join the festivities. I hope to go out on either Thursday or Friday and join a student group or two to learn more about the War from the re-enactors.

We will continue to have a presence at Gibson Ranch on Saturday and Sunday – our tradition there continues to be a booth where we have volunteers answering the public's questions about the War and spreading the word that our organization is open to the public and new members are always welcomed. I encourage you to volunteer to help staff our booth when sign-up lists are circulated at monthly Round Table meetings. I also encourage you to enjoy a day at Gibson Ranch to soak up the environment and watch the re-enacted battles.

**Paul Ruud**, SCWRT Member at Large

# Barging into the Old Northwest

The Erie Canal was the “Big Ditch” that gave the North the edge in the Civil War  
by Parke Pierson

Slavery, states’ rights, tariffs; all were obvious factors that distinguished the North from the South. But other issues – such as the search for a major East-West transportation corridor – played substantial but less evident roles in hastening sectional separation in the United States.

From the Colonial Era, American leaders had sought an expedient route from the East Coast through the Appalachian Mountains into the nation’s interior. George Washington pressed for such a development out of concern that any new states formed West of the Mountains might secede if they were not economically connected to the East. He spent much of his own time and money to build a canal in the Potomac River Valley, even though that waterway didn’t actually go through the mountains.

The Mohawk River in upstate New York, however, did form a natural pathway through the Appalachians. That River, in fact, was the only opening north of Alabama in the formidable mountain chain. But the River itself was not navigable; a canal through the valley that drew water from the Mohawk was needed.

The project was almost fathomlessly difficult and expensive, but construction began on July 4, 1817. Opponents derided (New York) Governor DeWitt Clinton’s project as “Clinton’s Folly,” but the jeers turned to cheers when the full stretch of the 363-mile-long Erie Canal, which ran from Buffalo to Albany on the Hudson River, opened for business on October 26, 1825.

The Canal’s impact was immediate. New York City became a massive immigration center, as hundreds of thousands of Irish and German hopefuls came to New York, sailed up the Hudson and headed along the Canal to Buffalo. From there, steamships could take them through the Great Lakes into the Northwestern interior.

Consequently, the North’s population far outpaced the South’s, allowing the Union to fill up blue-coated armies while enough men could stay home to keep the industrial fires burning. The wealth and population-generating power of the Canal made New York the “Empire State,” and it was little wonder that New York ultimately contributed the largest number of men to the Federal military.

Without the Canal, the citizens of the Northwest would have had to depend on the Mississippi River to get their products to distant markets, which likely would have made them more sympathetic to the Confederacy. But because the Canal linked the region to the Northeast, the West’s agricultural products went to feed New York and the other growing cities of the mid-Atlantic region. Conversely, products manufactured in Eastern cities were stuffed onto canal boats and sent West to eager families in Ohio, Indiana, and their sister states. Ideas as well as goods flowed along the Canal, and residents of the Northern regions became committed to the free-labor economy – and feared the expansion of slavery into their states as a threat to their well-being.

The Erie Canal set off a “canal fever” that further tied the regions together and helped to diversify the economy. And when railroads supplanted canals, the iron horses tended to expand the routes already made profitable by these waterways. When the Civil War began, hundreds of Union regiments would travel the West-to-East routes, pioneered by the Erie Canal, to fight for Father Abraham.

Published in America’s Civil War magazine  
January 2010 Edition

Submitted by Silver N. Williams

# ***Dr. Samuel Alexander Mudd***

*By Judith Breitstein*

It is believed that John Wilkes Booth met with Dr. Mudd, farmer, physician, and Confederate sympathizer, at least three times before Booth appeared at Mudd's door, in Bryantown, Maryland, at 4 AM on the morning on April 15, 1865. Mudd splinted and bandaged Booth's leg and allowed him to rest in an upstairs bedroom for 12 hours.

Booth was charged \$25 for the doctor's services and then headed out with his companion, David Herold, in the direction of Zekiah Swamp.

When he was arrested, Dr. Mudd claimed the two men used the names Tyson and Henston and Booth wore a false beard. Considering Mudd had met Booth three times previously, and the initials JWB were etched inside the boot he removed from the patient, it is hard to believe the good doctor was telling the absolute truth.

Dr. Mudd was found guilty of abetting Booth and imprisoned at Fort Jefferson, Florida.

During the summer of 1867, yellow fever swept through the prison. Michael O'Laughlen, another conspirator, died there of the disease. Dr. Mudd was a victim, too, but recovered, nursed back to health by Ned Spangler, also sentenced there for conspiracy. Due to his outstanding efforts helping to combat the disease, Mudd's sentence was commuted. Spangler was also let go, having aided Mudd in his ministrations and also for building 37 coffins for the prisoners that had succumbed to the disease.

Mudd returned home on March 20, 1869, a much broken man. He did manage to father another 5 children to add to the 4 he already had.

Dr. Mudd died of pneumonia on January 10, 1883. He was buried at Christ Church, in what is now Waldorf, Maryland. Over time, his original tombstone became moss covered and the cross broke off. Additionally, a mistake had been made on it putting his age at 48 instead of 49. His family replaced it in 1940. We lamented that we hadn't seen the original stone.

On our way to visit Mudd's home, we stopped at Old Saint Peter's Cemetery to see the tombstone of Ned Spangler, placed there in 1983 by the Mudd and Surratt Societies. After being released from prison, Dr. Mudd had given Spangler 5 acres of land to farm and recommended him for odd jobs in the neighborhood.



***The grave of Ned Spangler***

At the Mudd home, to our very great surprise, was the cleaned and repaired original head and footstone of Dr. Mudd, much more beautiful than the generic one that marks his grave today.



***The original headstone of Dr. Mudd***

No family ever fought longer or harder for the good name of one of their kinfolk than did the family of Dr. Mudd. They continue to support their ancestor's innocence and no matter how many times their appeals are turned down, they keep trying for complete exoneration of the doctor.

Submitted by Judith Breitstein.

# American Civil War Association

*Invites You*  
*To Enjoy and Participate in*  
**“Knights Ferry Civil War Days”**

*“Where the Civil War comes alive”*

**Main Event: Sat. & Sun, March 19 & 20, 2016**

**Gates open at 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM**

**Battles Times: Saturday 1:00 PM & 4:00 PM**

**Sunday 11:00 AM & 2:00 PM**



**“Located at the Historic Knights Ferry Covered Bridge”**

Stanislaus River Parks located in Knights Ferry, 17968 Covered Bridge Rd., Oakdale, CA 95361  
Twelve miles east of Oakdale on State Route 108/120. GPS Location: 37 49 19 N x 120 39 4 W.

*“Step back in time and experience how life was for the soldiers, women, and children,  
during the most trying time in history. Hear the sounds of the Battles and Experience  
Camp Life and enjoy living history!”*

American Civil War Association is a nonprofit organization 501 (c) (3).  
We do ask for a \$5 donation for parking areas.

[www.acwa.org](http://www.acwa.org)