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# Battle Cry

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



## President's Message

### THERE WILL BE NO MARCH MEETING. THE HOF BRAU IS STILL REMODELING.

In reading a new book, *“White Trash: The 400-Year History of Class in America,”* something occurred to me. The 13th Amendment to the Constitution did abolish slavery in America. However, it did not establish the status of freemen in the Country. This led to the 14th Amendment that said everyone born in the United States was a citizen.

The census of 1860 showed there were about four million slaves in the United States, North and South. For purposes of Members of the House of Representatives, the slaves had been under the 3/5th rule. Now they would be full citizens. What you may not have realized is that now 2/5 of four million were now counted. This was 1.6 million additional citizens. Since the Constitution then said one Representative for every 30,000 people, the end of the 3/5 rule meant 53 additional Representatives from the former slave states.

Tennessee was the first Confederate State re-admitted to the Union on July 24, 1866. Georgia was the last on July 15, 1870. The States re-entered the Union over a four-year period. During the War, the Republicans pretty much had their way. Now, the Democrats had a big say too.

**Dennis Kohlmann, President**

**MINUTES**  
**SACRAMENTO CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE**  
Wednesday, February 13, 2019  
HOF BRAU RESTAURANT, 2500 WATT AVENUE, SACRAMENTO

**ATTENDANCE – 0**

**MEMBERS – 0:**

**GUESTS – 0:**

1. There was no meeting in February due to the remodeling of the Hof Brau. The remodeling is still in progress and the March 13 meeting has been cancelled. The scheduled speaker for March 13 is **Bernie Quinn** and his topic is "**Engagements of Hiram Berdan's Sharpshooters.**" He will be re-scheduled at a future date.
2. The next Board Meeting will be Wednesday, March 13, 2019, 10 AM, at Brookfield's Restaurant.

**Barbara Leone, Secretary**

**Treasurer's Report**

The cash balance on February 13th was \$6,523.52.

**George W. Foxworth, Treasurer**

# Coming Programs for 2019

Date	Speaker	Topic
March 13th	NONE	"NONE"
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	"Rebel Hunters of the Cumberland- -In the Footsteps of the 15th Ohio Volunteer Infantry"
August 14th	Dr. Tad Smith	"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 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)

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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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>

## Judah Philip Benjamin

Judah Philip Benjamin was born a British subject on August 6, 1811 on the island of Saint Croix. His maternal side, the de Mendes family, can be traced back to the Spanish Inquisition. The family was forced to either convert from Judaism or face torture and death. They chose to flee to Portugal. Three hundred years later found them in England where Rebecca de Mendes met and married Philip Benjamin around the year 1808. For some years, the young couple ran a dried fruit store in London. Hoping to better their fortunes, they returned to Philip's home amid the large Sephardic Jewish community in Nevis in the Caribbean. Unable to eke out a living there, they decided to move to America where Rebecca's uncle was begging them to come and seek their fortune. The family could not set sail until the War of 1812 was over.



No better luck greeted the Benjamins in North Carolina. By 1822, they had relocated to Charleston, South Carolina, the largest Jewish community in the United States. They arrived just after the failed slave uprising led by Denmark Vesey. The bodies of the slaves convicted in the uprising were still swinging on the gallows when the Benjamins disembarked.

Judah's father, Philip Benjamin, never seemed to be able to earn a living. He was part of the new Reform Jewish movement in Charleston but was asked to leave the congregation because of non-payment of dues. Judah's parents separated when he was in his mid-teens. His early schooling was paid for by the Hebrew Orphan Society. Judah entered Yale when he was fourteen years old. His education there was financed by Moses Lopez, a wealthy Charleston merchant. Judah was considered a brilliant student and won prizes for academics and debating. But in 1827, at the top of his class and after 2 years of excellent grades, he was abruptly expelled for "ungentlemanly conduct." Rumors for his expulsion dogged him for the rest of his life. Was the expulsion due to gambling, drinking, or homosexual contact? After the expulsion, Judah and his father were permanently estranged.

Too ashamed to return to Charleston, Benjamin drifted until he ended up in New Orleans.

There, he began reading law and working as a notary to earn a living. At the time, Louisiana law required any applicant to the Bar be proficient in French and English. Judah began tutoring Natalie Saint Martin, a member of the wealthy Creole aristocracy. In turn, Natalie taught Judah French. Her family had fled Haiti in 1791 during the slave revolt there. By 1832, 21 year-old Judah Benjamin was admitted to the Louisiana Bar and had asked Auguste Saint Martin for the hand of his 16 year-old daughter.

The marital match was good for both sides. The Saint Martin family was happy to unload the sexually promiscuous Natalie even if her future husband was not of their faith. Judah needed acceptance into a society that would support him in his rise toward a profitable career. He consented for any children of the marriage to be raised Catholic. For this, he received Natalie's hand, a large dowry, and two female slaves, aged 11 and 16.

Judah purchased a townhouse (today a strip club called Temptations) in the French Quarter on Bourbon Street. Natalie settled in and immediately began having a series of affairs. Judah moved his faithless wife to his remote plantation, Belle Chasse, but she would have none of it. She returned to their home in the French Quarter and was soon up to her old tricks.

In 1843, after 10 years of marriage, Natalie gave birth to a daughter, Ninette. Meanwhile, Judah had entered the world of politics. Never supportive of her husband's interests, Natalie and Ninette moved to Paris when Ninette was five years-old. Judah bought Natalie a home there where she lived an extravagant lifestyle and continued her open infidelity. He continued to support his little family and visited them annually for one month each year.

By 1852, Judah Benjamin was the first Jewish Senator in the United States. Senator David Levy Yulee of Florida, born Jewish, had long before converted to Protestantism. Benjamin did not convert but he had never really practiced his religion anyway. Neither did he show any interest in the activities of the large Jewish community in New Orleans.

Judah turned down appointments from Millard Fillmore and Franklin Pierce to be on the United States Supreme Court. He could not afford to take an eighty percent pay cut to work for the government and still support Natalie's spending. Only one sentence from a fragment of a letter between them remains today. In a feminine hand it says, "Speak nor to me of economy. It is so fatiguing." Recently, the noted Civil War historian, William Davis, has hinted that Benjamin was homosexual. Many believe the reason Benjamin was so tolerant of Natalie's excesses was because of the guilt he felt for not sharing a marriage bed with her.

Natalie returned to the United States in 1852 when Judah entered the Senate. Two years later, she was back in France with stories of her marital betrayals leaving a dirty trail behind her.

When Louisiana seceded from the Union in 1861, Benjamin went with his home state. He served first as Attorney General, then Secretary of War, and finally, Secretary of State of the Confederacy. His face was on the Confederate \$2 bill. Though known as the "brains of the Confederacy," the virulent anti-Semitism of the time also made him well-hated. Senator Henry S. Foote of Tennessee referred to him as "Judas Iscariot Benjamin." Some citizens of Richmond felt that "Southern prayers would be better received by the Almighty if Benjamin were ousted from the Cabinet." Jefferson Davis, to his credit, stood by his friend, the brilliant barrister.

In 1865, Benjamin fled Richmond with the rest of the Confederate Cabinet. Fearing he would be hung as a traitor, he escaped to England. His genius was quickly recognized there and by 1866, he was called to the Bar. In 1872, he was made Queen's Counsel, the first Jew and man not born in England, ever to receive this honor. Once again, he was a very rich man. He wrote "Benjamin on Sales," which is still considered a classic on Commercial Law today. Judah built Natalie a magnificent home on the Rue d'Ilena in Paris and planned and oversaw every detail of Ninette's lavish wedding to Captain Henri de Boursignac.

Perhaps the most famous Jew of the Nineteenth Century, Judah seemed to wish to erase all traces of his past life. He avoided meeting old friends when they visited Europe. He burned all his personal papers and artifacts to thwart biographers. Much of his life is still a mystery to curious historians.

In 1881, Judah was in a tram accident in Paris where he severely injured his head. Overweight, suffering from diabetes and cardiac disease, he returned to England to close his open cases. Judah retired to Natalie's home in Paris to die. Against his direct wishes, Natalie had the last rites of the Catholic Church administered to him while he was in a coma. He died on May 6, 1884. Ninette arranged for him to be buried in her in-law's plot in Pere Lachaise Cemetery in Paris. A simple plaque reading Phillippe Benjamin with his birth and death dates was placed over him. In 1938, the Paris Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy placed a more prominent marker on his grave.



Ninette had three children that all died in infancy.

Judah Philip Benjamin has no direct descendants.

**Submitted by Judith Breitstein**

# 2019 CIVIL WAR INSTITUTE SUMMER CONFERENCE



CIVIL WAR INSTITUTE  
GETTYSBURG COLLEGE

## 2019 CIVIL WAR INSTITUTE SUMMER CONFERENCE

Join us, June 14-19, 2019, for a blockbuster year of CWI speakers! We are thrilled to feature eminent Civil War scholars, Gary W. Gallagher, Ed Ayers, Carol Reardon, and Peter Carmichael within our line-up of over 35 distinguished speakers and tour guides.

**Full-time and part-time packages available!**  
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### TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- Gettysburg: A Staff Ride
- Stonewall Jackson at Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville
- Mosby's Confederacy: Part II
- Treasures of the National Civil War Museum
- Voices of Antietam

with guides Carol Reardon, Dennis Frye, Greg Mertz, Wayne Motts, and more.

### FEATURING

- Gary Gallagher, *Edward Porter Alexander*
- 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*

**PLEASE NOTE: 15% discount for all Sacramento Civil War Round Table Members! Please see [www.gettysburg.edu/cwi/conference](http://www.gettysburg.edu/cwi/conference) for full details.**

# 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 23rd & 24th, 2019**

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

**Battles Times: Saturday 12:00 PM & 3:00 PM**

**Sunday 11:00 AM & 1:30 PM**



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

Stanislaus River Parks located in Knights Ferry, 17968 Covered Bridge Rd., Oakdale, CA 95361  
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*“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!”*

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