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Battle Cry

Founded 1961,
Newsletter of the Sacramento Civil War Round Table
P.O. BOX 254702
Sacramento, CA 95865-4702
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President's Message

No Message for now.

Vacant, President

MINUTES
SACRAMENTO CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
Wednesday, February 9, 2022
HOF BRAU RESTAURANT, 2500 WATT AVENUE, SACRAMENTO

ATTENDANCE – 0:

MEMBERS – 0: No meeting and no Members.

GUESTS – 0: No meeting and no Guests.

1. No meeting. Meetings are cancelled until further notice due to COVID-19. The Hof Brau is open to decreased inside dining and starts closing at 6:30 PM.
2. The next Board Meeting is Wednesday, March 9, 2022.

George W. Foxworth for Vacant, Secretary

Treasurer's Report

The cash balance on February 9th was \$4,159.86. No meeting and no raffle.

George W. Foxworth, Treasurer

SCWRT President Dennis Kohlmann

Our President, Dennis Kohlmann, has passed.

His Memorial Service will be March 26, 2022 (Saturday) at 11:00 AM, Christ the King Lutheran Church, 5811 Walnut Avenue, Orangevale, CA 95662-4821, 916-988-2484.

If you have questions, please contact any SCWRT Board Member.

March 9, 2022 In-Person Meeting

The Sacramento Civil War Round Table will resume in-person meetings on Wednesday, March 9, 2022, at Denny's Restaurant, 3520 Auburn Boulevard, Sacramento, CA 95821-2006; 916-481-1357. The meeting starts at 7:00 PM. This is near the corner of Auburn Boulevard and Watt Avenue. Each SCWRT Member will be contacted before March 9.

The speaker will be Dr. Tad Smith and his topic is the Dred-Scott Decision. If you have questions, please contact any SCWRT Board Member.

Coming Programs for 2022

Date	Speaker	Topic
March 9th	"Dr. Tad Smith"	"Dred-Scott Decision"
April 13th	"To Be Determined"	"To Be Determined"
May 11th	"To Be Determined"	"To Be Determined"
June 8th	"To Be Determined"	"To Be Determined"
July 13th	"To Be Determined"	"To Be Determined"
August 13th	"To Be Determined"	"To Be Determined"

2022 Membership

The 2022 membership renewal was due as of January 1, 2022. The dues are \$30.00 and you can renew and 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:

gwoffoxworth@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.

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

Albert D. J. Cashier

The strange and lonely double life of Jennie Irene Hodges began on Christmas Day, 1843, in Clogherhead, County Louth, Ireland. No one knows exactly how young she was when her mother died but it is said that her step-father began dressing her in boy's clothes early on so no questions were asked when he sent her out to work at hard labor.

By the time Jennie arrived in Illinois as a stowaway, she had decided to live her life as a man. She (this is the last time I will refer to Albert as "she") took the name Albert D.J. Cashier. When the Civil War broke out, Albert was living in Belvidere, Illinois working at a shoe factory. He enlisted and on September 4, 1862, was mustered into Company G, 95th Illinois, Infantry, which was part of the Army of Tennessee under Ulysses S. Grant. He signed his name with a large X, never having learned to read or write.



It has been proven that at least four hundred women served as soldiers during the Civil War. Some were found out after being wounded and others when their dead bodies were found on the battlefield. Some simply discarded their uniforms, returned home and wrote their tell-all memoirs. These women went to war for a variety of reasons—some went with brothers and fathers so as not to be left home alone without financial support. Some went for love, marching beside their husbands or sweethearts. Some were spinsters or widows who had decided to try on a different life. Some went for adventure, able to achieve a type of independence as a man that they could never hope to know as a woman in this era. Others saw an opportunity to earn a living and a pension. Some were just patriotic.

Transgender and cross dressing were practically unheard of during the Victorian Era. (Though there were Native American tribes who readily accepted these types of individuals, calling them "Two Spirit" and allowing them to dress as they chose.) Frail, even feminine appearances in boys this age were not unusual. Seeing a slightly built "lad" dressed in pants with short hair during the Victorian Era would never have raised the suspicion that it was a woman in disguise. Many Army recruits were boys of seventeen, or even younger, so smooth skin accompanied by a high pitched voice

would not have made an individual suspect. The Army Induction Center required no birth certificate, social security number, or any real proof of identity.

Army physicals during the Civil War were not rigorous. After all, quotas had to be met. Many exams did not even require the removal of clothing. Some women who enlisted as men were strong, coming from farming backgrounds where they did “men’s work.” They knew how to plow a field and shoot a rifle. Blood did not disgust them as they were used to killing their own chickens and often skinning larger animals.

Albert was seventeen years old, and at 5’3” the shortest man in his Company. He had a narrow build with “typically Irish” blue eyes and auburn hair. His skin was smooth. When his work was done, he preferred to spend his free hours alone. Albert requested “a single cot” in a corner, rather than a bunk bed, and he was granted his wish. He probably suffered from amenorrhea, the absence of monthly menstrual cycles, due to the intense physical activity, psychological stress, and poor nutrition that was usual during wartime. He enjoyed a “smoke” and could drink, cuss, gamble, and spit as well as any man. He was called “Half and Half” by members of his squad so perhaps they did sense something was amiss. It was said that Albert “could do as much work as anyone in the Company.” When he found himself physically unable to fulfill some of his duties, he traded off with his comrades, offering to do their washing and mending. Sergeant Charles W. Ives recalled years later, “Not knowing that she was a girl, I assigned her to picket duty and to carry water just as all the men did.”

Albert fought side by side with his companions in over forty battles-Vicksburg, the Red River Campaign, Mansfield, Kennesaw Mountain, Jonesborough, Nashville, and others. In 1863, “Little Al” climbed a tree to replace a war torn Union flag with a new one to the applause of the men of G Company. At Vicksburg, he was captured during a reconnaissance mission but escaped by overpowering the guard. After Vicksburg, he became severely ill and was placed in the hospital. Somehow he escaped detection. Perhaps his nurse agreed to keep his secret.

Albert was mustered out, along with his Unit, on August 17, 1865. One third of the men in Company G had been killed or died of disease by the end of the War. Albert returned to Belvidere, where he engaged in a series of menial jobs- grave digger, lamplighter, church janitor, and chauffeur-which helped him to keep body and soul together. He began moving around, working at odd jobs until he came to Saunemin, Illinois. There, he began to work for Joshua Chesebro as a shepherd. Chesebro built Albert a little one room house and treated him as one of his family. Albert remained in Saunemin for over forty years. He opened a bank account, voted in the elections, and joined the Grand Army of the Republic. He attended every veteran’s gathering held. In 1899, he applied for his veteran’s pension (which he finally received in 1907.) Albert remained close friends with his old army buddies for the rest of his life.

As he aged and became frailer, the lifetime of hard work took its toll. Albert began taking his meals with a neighboring family, the Lannons. When he became ill, the Lannons called in a nurse to tend to him. She quickly learned Albert’s secret and told the family but they kept mum.

In November 1910, Albert was hit by a car driven by State Senator Ira Lish, who he was doing odd jobs for. Albert’s leg was shattered. Amazingly enough, Dr. Leroy Scott, the

nurses, and even Senator Lish, conspired to keep his secret.

On May 5, 1911, no longer able to care for himself, Albert Cashier had to be moved to the Soldiers and Sailors Home in Quincy, Illinois. He remained there until March, 1913, when he was moved to the Waterston State Hospital for the Insane. On arrival, it was noted that he had “no memory, noisy at times, poor sleeper, and feeble.” He was taken for a bath and his true gender was discovered. His fifty year old secret was out.

The attendants forced Albert into a dress. He tried pinning it into a semblance of pants time and again but the pins were always taken away from him. He was forced to sleep in the Women’s Ward. Little by little, he slipped into a permanent dementia. Upon the discovery of his true sex, the Pension Bureau threatened to strip Albert of his stipend but the men of Company G came to his rescue. The Bureau dropped their case against this “proven soldier.”

Unused to the restrictive clothing he was now being forced to wear, Albert tripped on the hem of his dress, fell and broke his hip. He fell into a downward spiral and died on October 11, 1915.

Albert’s military family made sure that he was buried in his wartime uniform, carefully preserved by him over the years. He was placed in a flag draped coffin and buried with full military honors. A simple Army tombstone was placed on his grave at Sunny Slope Cemetery, Saunemin, Illinois. His name was engraved on the memorial plaque in Vicksburg dedicated to the 36,325 Illinois soldiers who served during the war.

No living member of Albert’s family could be found so after nine years his meager estate of \$418.46 was deposited in the Adams County Treasury.



In the 1970s, someone saw fit to place a second military stone nearby, (probably as a tourist attraction), reading, “Albert Cashier born as Jennie Hodges.” One can only hope that Albert was able to continue to rest in peace after the new stone was unveiled.

Submitted by Judith Breitstein

John Lincoln "Johnny" Clem



In May of 1861, 9 year-old John Lincoln "Johnny" Clem ran away from his home in Newark, Ohio, to join the Union Army, but found the Army was not interested in signing on a 9 year old boy when the Commander of the 3rd Ohio Regiment told him he "wasn't enlisting infants," and turned him down. Clem tried the 22nd Michigan Regiment next, and its Commander told him the same. Determined, Clem tagged after the Regiment, acted out the role of a drummer boy, and was allowed to remain. Though still not regularly enrolled, he performed camp duties and received a soldier's pay of \$13 a month, a sum collected and donated by the Regiment's officers.

The next April, at Shiloh, Clem's drum was smashed by an artillery round and he became a minor news item as "Johnny Shiloh, The Smallest Drummer." A year later, at the Battle Of Chickamauga, he rode an artillery caisson to the front and wielded a musket trimmed to his size. In one of the Union retreats a Confederate officer ran after the cannon Clem rode with, and yelled, "Surrender you damned little Yankee!" Johnny shot him dead. This pluck won for Clem national attention and the name "Drummer Boy of Chickamauga."

Clem stayed with the Army through the War, served as a courier, and was wounded twice. Between Shiloh and Chickamauga he was regularly enrolled in the service, began receiving his own pay, and was soon-after promoted to the rank of Sergeant. He was only 12 years-old. After the Civil War he tried to enter West Point, but was turned down because of his slim education. A personal appeal to President Ulysses S. Grant, his Commanding General at Shiloh, won him a 2nd Lieutenant's appointment in the Regular Army on 18 December 1871, and in 1903 he attained the rank of Colonel and served as Assistant Quartermaster General. He retired from the Army as a Major General in 1916, having served an astounding 55 years.

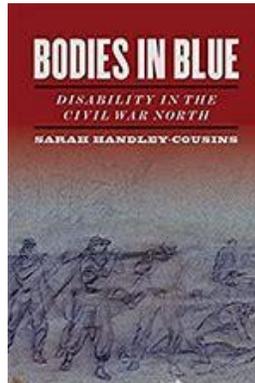


General Clem died in San Antonio, Texas, on 13 May 1937, exactly 3 months shy of his 86th birthday, and is buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

Bodies in Blue: Disability in the Civil War North

By Sarah Handley-Cousins. Athens, University of Georgia Press, 2019. xiii + 186 pp. \$39.95 (cloth), ISBN 978-0-8203-5519-1.

Reviewed by Angela Riotto (Army University Press). Published on H-SHGAPE (November, 2020). Commissioned by William S. Cossen.



In recent years, historians of the American Civil War have increasingly turned their attention to studying the "dark" side of the War: the trauma, the devastation, the ruin, and despair. Sarah Handley-Cousins adds to this growing scholarship with her consideration of the broader social and cultural understanding of War-related disabilities in the Civil War North. Building on the works of historians and scholars of disability, she analyzes Union soldiers' disabilities through the social model of disability. Instead of understanding disability as a problem that needs to be fixed, the social model considers disabilities as social and cultural constructs. By studying how the US Government, civilians, and United States soldiers understood and reacted to trauma and disability, *Bodies in Blue* reveals that these disabled men were "just as likely to be used, rejected, separated, and distrusted as they were to be honored" (p. 3).

To explore the multifaceted interpretations of War-related disability, Handley-Cousins begins her book with the War years and traces Union soldiers' and veterans' struggles into the Twentieth Century. She organizes her book into six chapters, each focusing on how Union soldiers, veterans, and institutions grappled with War-related disabilities. She begins with the Invalid Corps, later renamed the Veteran Reserve Corps. As the first institution established to respond to the growing numbers of disabled soldiers, the corps allowed for men to still serve the United States, even if not on the battlefield. Closely examining soldiers' accounts, Handley-Cousins argues that the Corps unknowingly created a hierarchy of disability and related anxieties. She further contends that

members of the Invalid Corps found themselves in the awkward space between soldier and invalid, where they were categorized simultaneously as able and unable. These wartime anxieties foreshadowed disabled veterans' later challenges with the pension system, the topic of a subsequent chapter.

Just like the soldiers serving in the Invalid Corps, those called the "walking sick" also occupied a liminal space between abled and disabled. Many of those who served in the former balked at being considered disabled. Handley-Cousins explains that the walking sick, however, actively sought the label. By examining courts-martial records, Handley-Cousins dives deep into society's expectations of "true" soldiers (p. 47). She finds that surgeons, officers, and civilians preferred, accepted, and propagated stories of idealized Union soldiers who bore suffering with grace, strength, and stoicism. The men who complained, straggled, or failed to do their duty did not fit this ideal. Even if sick or wounded, Union soldiers were expected to grin and bear it. Just as applicants for pensions later found, men who claimed impairment and asked for help--even if direly needed--were considered weak and unmanly soldiers.

The author then turns her attention to the Army Medical Department and Museum to examine the morbid interest in the War's destruction of men's bodies. The Army Medical Museum collected and displayed parts of soldiers' broken bodies to be studied, and once collected, these parts were no longer the property of those to whom they once belonged as long as they served in the United States Army. The author relates several heartbreaking stories of Union soldiers who were denied access to their own amputated limbs. Even more horrifying, she reveals that race compounded matters, and some surgeons considered themselves even more entitled to Black bodies. Dead or disabled, these bodies, Black and White, ceased to represent the honorable soldier and became objects to be used and studied.

The heartbreak continues with the case of Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain. By exploring Chamberlain's private suffering and his very public life as a War hero, Handley-Cousins complicates historians' understanding of manhood and sacrifice. Chamberlain is known for his valiant actions at Fredericksburg and Gettysburg and his postwar tenure at Bowdoin College, but few know of the severe hip wounds that plagued him for the rest of his life. Chamberlain lived for decades with a painful wound concealed under his clothing. By simultaneously existing as a War hero and disabled veteran, Chamberlain complicated the Civil War North's notion of the disabled, dependent veteran who needed a pension to survive. As Chamberlain's story proves, not all those who applied for pensions embodied the trope of the "empty sleeve" (p. 70). Chamberlain's experience illustrates the diversity of experiences of Civil War disability.

After her enlightening discussion of Chamberlain, Handley-Cousins shifts her focus to other disabled veterans and their fights with Northern institutions. On one hand, the author examines the Pension Bureau. Just like many of those walking sick who were labeled malingerers or weak for asking for help, disabled veterans also had to walk a fine line between worthy and weak. Pensioners had to appear honorable, and disabled enough, to be considered worthy of assistance, but not too broken or desperate. Veterans had to fit into the Bureau's and society's preconceived notions of how a disabled veteran should act and look. Adding further complication, Handley-Cousins explains that those who suffered from mental illness did not fit into any construct and thus struggled to obtain acknowledgment and support. Using patient case files from three institutions along with inmates' correspondence, Handley-Cousins considers how former Union soldiers and their families experienced War trauma and institutionalization. She notes that the mentally disabled also occupied a liminal space between living and dead. For many, "the vacant chair remained empty, but so too did the grave" (p. 132).

There are many strengths in this book and few weaknesses. One potential shortcoming is the author's choice to take soldiers and veterans at their word about their own experiences. She admits that it is possible that these accounts were embellished or fraudulent, but she contends that these sources are vital to understanding Union soldiers' experiences. While she supplements these sources with courts-martial proceedings, newspapers, and asylum records, it would have been interesting to see her analyze the accounts as constructed narratives. By analyzing them as constructions, perhaps she would have also revealed these soldiers' interpretations of their disabilities, real, fraudulent, or imagined. This, however, does not detract from the author's contribution to the study of Civil War-era disability. Handley-Cousins proves that soldiers, civilians, and institutions struggled to come to terms with War trauma and its many manifestations, both visible and nonvisible. Disabled veterans challenged cultural narratives of manhood, sacrifice, and what it meant to be an honorable citizen-soldier worthy of recognition and care. *Bodies in Blue* deserves to be on every Civil War reading list, as it highlights just how much the War affected many of those who fought in it.

Submitted by Bruce A, Castleman, Ph.D