



**Volume 63, No. 3  
March, 2023**

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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 question I would like to ask all of you is when did you first learn about the Civil War and when did you learn what side of the conflict your particular State was on?

As for myself, it was almost 60 years ago in 1965 when my Dad took me to what I believe was the first Civil War Movie that I ever saw - "Shenandoah" starring James Stewart. At first, I thought we were on the Confederate side because the Confederates were portrayed in the Movie as the good guys but to my dismay, I learned differently when my Dad said we were on the Blue (Union) side because California was on the Union side and having no Descendants in the War at all, I was confirmed to the Northern - Union side.

Though originally disappointed to learn I was on the Northern - Union side, I was later uplifted by learning that Abraham Lincoln ( which was the first book I ever read from the Library in 1965) was the leader of the U.S./North during the time of the Civil War and found out Lincoln's assassin and bad guy, John Wilkes Booth, was a Confederate sympathizer.

In the future years as I learned more and more about the Civil War, I would also learn that things weren't always so Blue and Gray and that the Civil War was a lot more complex than it originally appeared as a child. And it is this complexity and the learning of new Civil War information that forever keeps me attracted to the Civil War.

**James Juanitas, President**

**MINUTES**  
**SACRAMENTO CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE**  
**Wednesday, February 8, 2023**  
**DENNY'S RESTAURANT, 3520 AUBURN BOULEVARD, SACRAMENTO**

**ATTENDANCE – 19:**

**MEMBERS – 18:** James Juanitas, President; Carol Breiter, Vice President; George W. Foxworth, Treasurer; Jean Breiter, Steve Breiter, Harvey & Marsha Cain-Jutovsky, Arnd Gartner, Wayne & Nina Henley, Joseph (MAL) & Michelle Matalone, Bernie Quinn, Program Director; Paul (IPP) & Patty Ruud, Nicholas Scivoletto, Larry Spizzirri, & Richard Spizzirri.

**GUESTS – 01:** Corbin Cruthley.

1. The meeting was called to order by President James Juanitas at 7:03 P.M. The Hof Brau has burned and the Sacramento CWRT is searching for another meeting place.
2. President Juanitas talked with Ron Vaughan (Fresno) on the 2023 Civil War Conference. Ron Vaughan was not interested in hosting the 2023 Conference by himself.
3. The raffle was conducted by Nicholas Scivoletto.
4. The speaker was Bernie Quinn. His topic was "Ranald Slidell MacKenzie." Mackenzie was born in Westchester County, New York. He was the nephew of diplomat and politician John Slidell and the older brother of two United States Navy officers; Rear Admiral Morris Robinson Slidell Mackenzie and Lt. Commander Alexander Slidell MacKenzie. His grandfather was John Slidell, a bank president and a political power broker in New York City.
5. He accepted a nomination to West Point, where he graduated at the head of his class in 1862. He immediately joined the Union forces already fighting in the Civil War.
6. Commissioned a 2nd LT in the Corps of Engineers, Mackenzie served in many battles. He was wounded at Bull Run, Gettysburg, and Petersburg. His Petersburg wounding cost him the first two fingers of his right hand and was the probable cause for his nickname, "Bad Hand". By June, 1864, he had been brevetted to Lieutenant Colonel in the Regular Army due to bravery.
7. On November 30, 1864, President Lincoln appointed Mackenzie Brigadier General of Volunteers, to rank from October 19, 1864. After his appointment, Mackenzie assumed command of the Cavalry Division in the Army of the James, which he led at the battles of Five Forks and Appomattox Courthouse. General Grant regarded Mackenzie as the most promising young officer in the Army.
8. Mackenzie was mustered out of the volunteer service on January 15, 1866. On January 13, 1866, President Andrew Johnson appointed Mackenzie to the brevet grade of Major General of Volunteers, to rank from March 31, 1865.
9. After the Civil War, Mackenzie remained in the Regular Army and reverted to his permanent rank of Captain in the Army Corps of Engineers. Appointed Colonel of the 41st U.S. Infantry (later 24th U.S. Infantry, one of the Buffalo Soldier Regiments) in 1867, Mackenzie spent the rest of his career on the Frontier fighting against the Native Peoples.
10. Due to a fall from a wagon at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, in which he injured his head, MacKenzie was retired from the Army on March 24, 1884. He died at his sister's home in Staten Island, New York on January 19, 1889. He was 48. MacKenzie was laid to rest at West Point.
11. The next Board Meeting is Wednesday, March 8, 2023.

**George W. Foxworth for Vacant, Secretary**

**Treasurer's Report**

The cash balance on February 8, 2023 was \$4,683.89. Thanks to Nicholas Scivoletto and members, the raffle brought in \$38.00.

**George W. Foxworth, Treasurer**

# Coming Programs for 2023

Date	Speaker	Topic
March 8th	"Jim Stanbery"	"Grant & Lee: The Similarities"
April 12th	"To Be Determined"	"To Be Determined"
May 10th	"To Be Determined"	"To Be Determined"
June 14th	"To Be Determined"	"To Be Determined"
July 12th	"To Be Determined"	"To Be Determined"
August 9th	"To Be Determined"	"To Be Determined"

## **2023 Membership**

The 2023 membership renewal is due on January 1, 2023. 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 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:

[gwofforth@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gwofforth@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](http://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**

# Laura Ann Jackson Arnold

The great grandparents of General Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson came to the United States in the hold of a prison ship.

John Jackson, born in Ireland around 1719, immigrated to England with his father and two brothers after the death of his mother. Twenty years later, he was convicted of larceny and sentenced to seven years of indentured servitude in America.

Also tried and sentenced in Old Bailey Court was his future wife, Elizabeth Cummins (c.1723-1825), six feet tall, strong, intelligent, and brave. She was given a similar sentence for stealing silver, jewelry, and lace. The couple fell in love on the convict ship, Litchfield, which left London in May of 1749, but Elizabeth refused to marry while under such a sentence. Six years later, they finished their indentures and married on July 4, 1755. They eventually settled in West Virginia. John served in the Virginia militia. He attained the rank of Captain during the American Revolution. While he was away, Elizabeth turned their home into “Jackson’s Fort,” where neighbors took refuge during Indian attacks. People said that, “...she could load and fire a musket as coolly as a trained soldier.”

Jonathan Jackson, the grandson of John and Elizabeth, married Judith “Julia” Beckworth Neale in 1817. They had four children, Elizabeth, Warren, Thomas, and Laura Ann.

Stricken with typhoid fever at thirty six years old, Jonathan insisted on tending to his six year-old daughter, Elizabeth, who was suffering from the same disease. The rest of the family was kept away from them. The father and daughter died on the same day, March 26, 1826. The following morning, March 27, Julia gave birth to a daughter, who she named Laura Ann.



West Virginia & Regional History Center

Jonathan left his 28 year-old widow with a mountain of debts. His law business had failed and he had gambled away his children’s patrimony. Destitute, Julia rented a one-room house where she taught classes and took in sewing. Four years later, unable to feed and clothe her children, Julia accepted the offer of marriage from Blake Woodson.

Woodson disliked having Julia's children around. Heavily pregnant with her new husband's child and financially dependent on her new spouse, Julia had no recourse but to send her children off to live with relatives. Warren went to live with her kin, the Neales. Tom and Laura were sent to their paternal side. A month later, Julia gave birth to William Wirt Woodson but it soon became obvious that Julia could not long survive her ordeal. Childbirth, poor nutrition, and worry had taken its toll. Woodson had Tom and Laura Ann brought to see their mother before she died, on December 3, 1831. Julia was buried in a "homemade coffin in an unmarked grave."

Tom and Laura turned to each other for comfort. When they were 11 and nine, their Jackson grandmother died. Both sides of the family objected to the children being left to be raised by their bachelor uncles and slaves. Laura was sent to live with a Neale aunt. Tom ran away to live with his uncle, Cummins Jackson, back in Jackson's Mill.

As the years passed, Tom missed Laura desperately. Separated in age by only two years, they had learned to rely on each other. People said that Tom had a cold demeanor, was taciturn, stolid and without humor. However, he allowed his younger sister to tease him and call him "The Real Macaroni." When he left for West Point in 1842, Laura's letters helped him assuage the loneliness he felt living among strangers, wealthier, more educated and from backgrounds vastly different than his own. Their letter writing continued unabated for close to nineteen years. He always signed his epistles, "Your affectionate brother."

Older brother, Warren, had died of tuberculosis in 1841, at the age of 20. With Tom away at school, Laura had to pick a path for her own life. On September 1, 1844, eighteen year-old Laura Ann Jackson married twice-widowed, forty two year old Jonathan Arnold. He was wealthy, involved in local politics and the owner of a big brick corner house in Beverly, West Virginia. The couple had four children, Thomas Jackson, Anna Grace, Stark William, and Laura Zell (who died in infancy). Tom Jackson visited the Arnolds at their home several times, especially excited to see his young namesake. When young Thomas Jackson Arnold was thirteen, he was sent to school in Lexington, Virginia where he boarded with his uncle.

Laura had named her oldest son after her brother. Tom named his (only surviving) child Julia Laura after his mother and sister. When the Civil War began, the once close siblings became permanently estranged and never saw or spoke to each other again.

Beverly, West Virginia was occupied for most of the War by Union troops. Laura, a fervent Unionist, housed and cared for wounded Federal soldiers. A Colonel in the 28<sup>th</sup> Ohio Infantry called her, "...the most loyal woman in West Virginia." General George McClellan, an old schoolmate of her brother's, visited her twice. Laura refused to have Thomas's name mentioned in her presence. On the other hand, when General Jackson met any traveler who had passed through Beverly, he always inquired of his sister's welfare. Laura insisted that she "could take care of the wounded Feds as fast as Thomas could wound them."

The quarrel became moot when General Jackson was mistakenly shot and killed by his own men. When Laura learned of her brother's death at Chancellorsville, so great was her hatred for the Confederate cause that a Pennsylvania Cavalry officer related that she said in his presence "she would rather know that he was dead than to have him a leader in the rebel army." General Jackson's widow, Anna, wrote to Laura once. Laura never answered.

Laura's husband, Jonathan Arnold, his family, friends, and neighbors were all Confederates. They were furious that Laura continued to care for the wounded blue clad soldiers. Jonathan threw Laura out of their home and sued for divorce. He accused her of engaging in sexual congress with Yankees.

The scandal was huge. It was reported that, “Mrs. J. Arnold—sister of General Jackson—went off with the Yankees. Arnold stayed at home says he is a good Southern man, that his wife is crazy but Hell he says, could not govern a Jackson.”

In 1870, the divorce of Laura and Jonathan Arnold finally went to court. All in the town of Beverly agreed that the Arnolds had marital problems and were sleeping apart long before the War came. One neighbor testified Laura turned from her husband because he had no respect for the Bible, calling it “tomfoolery.” Other neighbors testified that the Arnolds slept apart due to Laura’s health problems, falling of the womb, breast, and bronchial troubles. But, her husband testified, that did not stop her from going against his wishes and gathering rocks to place on the graves of Federal soldiers.

By 1870, the War was long over. Folks wanted to get back to their lives. Neighbors testified they had never seen any improprieties between Laura and any soldier. Laura was given a divorce and alimony for life.

In 1897, Laura was named “Mother of the Regiment” by the veterans of the United States 5<sup>th</sup> West Virginia Cavalry who had been stationed in Beverly following the Battle of Rich Mountain on July 11, 1861.

Laura Ann Jackson Arnold spent the years 1881-1901 in Columbus, Ohio taking the “water cures” at Shepherd Sanitarium for Those Suffering from Chronic or Nervous Diseases. She died on September 24, 1911 at the home of her widowed daughter-in-law, Elizabeth Gohen Arnold. She is buried in Heavner Cemetery, Buckhannon, West Virginia.

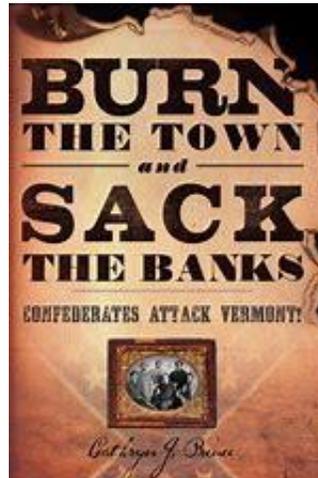


Laura’s son, the Reverend Stark William Arnold, took part in the religious revivals in the town of Ocean Grove, New Jersey. He died there on August 16, 1898, just forty seven years-old. He was taken home and buried in Heavner Cemetery. Daughter Ann had died twenty years earlier, in 1878, at thirty years-old. The Arnold’s oldest son, namesake of the illustrious, “Stonewall” died on January 10, 1933. He is buried in Maplewood Cemetery, West Virginia, in the Arnold family plot.

**Submitted by Judith Breitstein**

# **BURN the Town and SACK the Banks: Confederates Attack Vermont**

by Cathryn J. Prince



At the outbreak of the Civil War, patriotism coursed through the veins of Vermonters as syrup ran through the trunks of the State's maple trees. "Don't Tread On Me" was more than a slogan. It may have taken two days for Vermonters to learn that the Confederates had taken Fort Sumter on April 12, 1861, but it then took them perhaps two minutes to raise the Stars and Stripes in nearly every town, village, and city of the State.

As one of the smallest states in the Union, Vermont measures only about 9,609 square miles. But as a contributor of troops to the Union cause, it measured the largest. It sent more than 30,000 men into the service of the Union Army. All told, about one in ten Vermonters fought in the War, and the State lost a higher proportion of its men than any other. Towns across Vermont poured their sons into the conflict, towns like Woodstock, population 3,062 during the War, which sent 284 men to fight, thirty-nine of whom would die as soldiers in Company C of the 6th Vermont, a Regiment in the First Vermont Brigade. All told, Vermont delivered seventeen infantry regiments, three sharpshooter companies, and one cavalry regiment to the War, and more than six hundred Vermonters served in the United States Navy. Of all its units to serve, the greatest was perhaps the First Vermont Brigade, which remains one of the hardest-fighting brigades in American military history.

Yet more than being known just for a commitment to the Union, the State also had firm traditions rooted in abolition. Chapter One, Article One of the State's Constitution (written in 1777) outlawed slavery. Time and again, the citizens elected anti-slavery congressmen. There were numerous anti-slavery societies in the State, and a Sunday sermon might well preach the evils of slavery as much as the value of hard work.

The State of Vermont also passed laws that protected slaves who were able to reach her borders, decreeing that slave-owners could not have their fugitive slaves back, even

though that contradicted the Federal law. In 1786, Vermont had made it illegal for slave-catchers to remove slaves from the State without a trial.

The famous Underground Railroad ran through Vermont. There were two main routes for the Railroad and they worked for decades. One of the routes passed through Woodstock to Montpelier and up along the Western side of the State, eventually winding on to Canada. The other hugged the Eastern border and went from Brattleboro. There are records indicating that some slaves chose to remain in Vermont, but most were taken to Canada.

Abolition was part of the culture, of the upbringing experienced by many a Vermonter. Ezra Brainerd, for one, helped runaway slaves escape when he was growing up there. Born in 1844, Brainerd graduated from Middlebury College in 1864 and would later become President of the School. "Often these fugitive slaves were kept overnight at our house, and I was told to be up early and taken them in our carryall. ... The poor creatures seemed to suffer badly from the cold, and I recall hearing one of them praying, 'Lord, don't let me freeze to death so near freedom!'"

The thinking infused many Vermonters with the courage and conviction they would need on the battlefield. Yet, although ready for a fight in their hearts, the State was hardly prepared for what the War would demand from its boys. For many years, long before the War, all able-bodied men in Vermont had participated in the State's Militia, and on the first Tuesday of June, every year, afternoons when the leaves were turning a darker shade of green and the afternoons were stretching into evening, the men would drill on town greens across the State while the women would watch. Afterward, there would be celebrations and feasting. But the training day had been eliminated some years before, in 1846; by the time of the Civil War, most Vermont men had not even a smattering of military service.

Lincoln needed troops, but there were very few that could accurately be said to be ready. At the beginning of the War, about 16,000 men served in the U.S. Army, most of them not stationed on the East Coast but rather spread throughout the West.

"Washington is in grave danger. What may we expect from Vermont? A. Lincoln," read the telegram to Governor Erastus Fairbanks, who served from 1860 to 1861. "Vermont will do its full duty," went the reply. The Confederate guns had just forced Union soldiers to surrender Fort Sumter in the harbor of Charleston, South Carolina.

After answering Lincoln, Fairbanks summoned the State Legislature to a special session. Within eight days, all the legislators had assembled in Montpelier and a thirty-four-gun salute welcomed their arrival and solemn reason for their presence.

Four days after the meeting, Vermont voted to contribute two regiments, exceeding Lincoln's request for one regiment of 780 officers and privates. Governor Fairbanks had effectively appealed to the necessity to save the Union, the Capitol, the Government, and everything they stood for, from the South's destructive forces. In addition, the Legislature voted to appropriate one million dollars so that each private would receive

\$7 a month in addition to the \$13 offered by the Federal Government.

By the late spring of 1862, Vermont had already given eight infantry regiments, one cavalry regiment, and two artillery batteries to the Union cause; it would ultimately deliver seventeen infantry regiments. The State's only recruiting concern, in the midst of a War engulfing the entire country, seemed to be whether or not it would suffer the indignity of resorting to a draft.

Nevertheless, Green Mountain Boys of every age stepped forward, even those discouraged from doing so because of their young age, like five-foot-five, sixteen-year-old Dunham G. Burt, born in Catleton, Vermont, who won permission from his father to join up (some weeks later, Dunham's fifteen year-old brother Charles Burt would join the same unit).

Letters from the early months of the War show the magnitude of pride that Vermonters felt for the uniform and for their country. The letters also show how sincerely the Green Mountain Boys believed they were fighting to protect the serenity and freedom of their loved ones at home. Never would they think their homes would be, or could be, directly touched by the violence of this conflict.

Those too old to join up did what they could to help supply the young, while students at the University of Vermont and Middlebury College formed their own militia companies, tirelessly drilling in the school yards. The State's railroad and steamboats offered to provide free transport for troops and munitions. Each of the two Montpelier banks loaned an estimated \$25,000 to equip the troops. The State was sure to give its all for the boys who left it for the battlefields to the south.

Saving the Union was paramount for the citizens of this State; but for all that the State did to prepare its men and boys to fight, it hadn't given much thought to its own defense. The War was, after all, hundreds of miles away. It's true that late in the War, on October 12, 1864, Governor John Gregory Smith addressed the Legislature about organizing and equipping a militia: "Vermont stands today utterly destitute of any arm of defense or any effective power to resist or prevent invasion. The dangers to our frontiers are by no means inconsiderable." Those strong words might as well have been whispered, for those left behind in Vermont, and those already fighting down South, couldn't fathom the report of combat rifles sounding in their villages and hills.

"I am as safe here as I would be at home and if bad should come to worse I can return home at almost any time," wrote Samuel Sumner to his father in Troy, Vermont on April 27, 1861. The pages of the calendar had turned slowly as the conflict unfolded, with newly minted men sent to the front year after year. By 1864, the War was three years old, testing the political and emotional resolves on both sides of the Mason-Dixon Line. Casualties had seemed to grow exponentially: neither side seemed destined for decisive victory; and many had begun to question whether the War was worth the price paid in homes torn asunder, limbs ripped from bodies, and lives lost on the fields of battle.

The citizens of Vermont had little choice but to simply carry on in the autumn of 1864. Vermont women in particular became ever more industrious. Industry also contributed with vigor. During the War, the State manufactured about a hundred thousand rifles for the Union and gunpowder. The mills produced cloth for uniforms and tailors turned the fabric into uniforms. In truth, the War meant steady, and even profitable, business for Vermont.

Though autumn's brilliant colors were being tarnished by the news of ceaseless fighting in Spotsylvania, Cold Harbor, and Antietam unfolding hundreds of miles away, 1864 would ultimately come to define the waning power of the Confederacy, as total war became the battle hymn for the North. The South was facing an economic drain from an ever-tightening blockade; and the cessation of the prison exchange which had occurred in 1862, coupled with desertions, had left it fast running out of men.

Gloom for the Confederacy sat on the horizon like a fog, but the citizens of Vermont couldn't yet see the momentous trend of the time. The Civil War had become "total war" by late 1864. General William Tecumseh Sherman on his "March to the Sea," and General Philip Sheridan, during his Shenandoah Valley campaign – known as "The Burning" – brought armed conflict into the homes of Southern families. However, the attention of Vermont citizens in October 1864 was understandably drawn very narrowly to Virginia, to the Shenandoah Valley, and to the looming battle of Cedar Creek into which their volunteers, led by General Sheridan and his fine Morgan horse [Morgan horses brought gratitude and fame to Vermont] would soon plunge.

History has attributed such unrestricted warfare almost exclusively to Union troops on Southern soil. But as author Cathryn J. Prince explains in her thrilling historical narrative, there were some Southern gentlemen who sought "an eye for an eye." Twenty-one Confederate soldiers lived among the citizens of St. Albans, Vermont: then they unleashed terror.

On October 19, 1864, The Gentlemen Gray Raiders brought "Total War" to the small town of Saint Albans, Vermont.

Though working quickly, the Rebel raiders made certain nonetheless to sow the seeds of terror in the minds of the citizens. They proclaimed that hundreds, if not thousands, of like-minded villains waited at the border, ready to swoop into town. Some raiders said they were part of General Jubal Early's Army, whose sole mission in Saint Albans was supposedly to avenge Sherman's March through the South and Sheridan's destruction of the Shenandoah.

"We are Confederate soldiers, Sir. There are one hundred of us in town. We have come to rob the banks and burn your town! We are going to do it!" roared William Huntley Hutchinson.

– from *Burn the Town and Sack the Banks*

**Submitted by Silver N. Marvin**