



**Volume 65, No. 3  
March, 2025**

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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**

So far this year is going very well! All two meetings! I can't thank all the members enough who are helping to keep the Sacramento Civil War Round Table alive. I feel strongly that it is very important to keep not just the lessons and knowledge of the time but the memory of the total sacrifices that so many made for such important causes in reverence. Please, if you know of anyone who might be interested in exploring more about the Civil War, invite them to be guests! I am excited to get the ZOOM feature. I plan on inviting other Round Table members to join us – I see no reason one can't be a member of multiple Round Tables.

Don't forget about the 2<sup>nd</sup> West Coast Conference in beautiful Monterey, May 2, 3, & 4. Registration is limited to the first 100. I hope to see more of you at the March meeting – Bernie Quinn is going to be back with more on "Generals."

**Carol Breiter, President**

**MINUTES**  
**SACRAMENTO CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE**  
**Wednesday, February 12, 2025**  
**R Vida Cantina Restaurant, 7040 Sunrise Boulevard, Citrus Heights**

**ATTENDANCE – 18**

**MEMBERS – 12:** Carol Breiter, President; Paul Ruud, Vice President; George W. Foxworth, Treasurer; Jean Breiter, Steve Breiter, Arnd Gardner, James Juanitas, IPP; Joseph (MAL) & Michelle Matalone, Patty Ruud, & Stuart & Andrea Sheffield.

**GUESTS – 6:** Tim (Speaker) & Virginia Karlberg, John Kemna, Kate Phillips, Larry Spizzirri, & Richard Spizzirri.

1. The meeting was called to order by President Carol Breiter at 7:03 PM and she led the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. President Breiter shared this Day in History: Charles Darwin was born on this day in 1809. Abraham Lincoln was born 216 years ago. In 1733, Georgia became the 13th Colony. The NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) was established on this day.
3. There was no old business.
4. New Business/Announcements – ZOOM should be implemented for members for our March meeting. Ron Grove has kindly donated a tripod for the ZOOM camera. James Juanitas (IPP) reported that March 1 & 2 is Sacramento Museum Day and museums will be free or discounted.
5. New members and guests were introduced, six guests present.
6. The Raffle was done by Joe and Michelle Matalone. The Raffle brought in \$49.00.
7. Our Program (Lincoln) was presented by Tim Karlberg who chose to spend his birthday with our Round Table. He and his wife (Virginia) raved the three-hour round trip drive to share knowledge with some little known facts about Lincoln's younger years. More books have been written about Lincoln, save the Bible. He was from a Puritan background; his father was extremely abusive. He was first in his family to be literate. The family farm was a sustenance operation, and anything that was sold went back into the farm. Lincoln's father left the children alone for over a year with 10-year-old Abe in charge of his younger siblings after his wife died. Only 1 of Abe's children survived to age 18 (Robert).
8. After discussions, the evening ended at 8:05 PM.
9. The next Executive Board Meeting is Wednesday, March 12, 2025, 10:00 AM, at Brookfields near Madison and I-80. Members and guests are welcome.

**Submitted by Jean Breiter & Carol Breiter, Interim Secretaries**

**Treasurer's Report**

The cash balance on February 12th was \$5,143.04. There raffle brought in \$49.00. Thanks to Joe and Michelle Matalone.

**George W. Foxworth, Treasurer**

Doug Bonetti will be teaching a Civil War class, the US Civil War from Lincoln to personal insights from his visits to key battlefields said to be fun, educational, and fascinating. The classes will be held at the Sierra College Campus and will be on Thursdays March 6, March 13, March 20, April 3, and April 10 from 10 AM to noon. The cost is \$39. For more information go to [www.sierraolli.org](http://www.sierraolli.org) . Ron Grove: [rgrove916@outlook.com](mailto:rgrove916@outlook.com)

# Coming Programs for 2025

Date	Speaker	Topic
March 12th	"Bernie Quinn"	"High Water Mark of the Confederacy at Gettysburg"
April 9th	"To Be Determined"	"To Be Determined"
May 14th	"To Be Determined"	"To Be Determined"
June 11th	"To Be Determined"	"To Be Determined"
July 9th	"To Be Determined"	"To Be Determined"
August 13th	"To Be Determined"	"To Be Determined"

## 2025 Membership

The 2025 membership renewal is due on January 1, 2025. 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 day 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 Round Table or the Editor. The official address of this Round Table 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**

# **James (Jim) M. Armstrong**

**Reprint from November 2001 Battle Cry by Editor Walt Bittle**

James M. (Jim) Armstrong was born in Oakland in 1945 and moved to Sacramento with his parents a year later. A 1963 graduate of Hiram Johnson High School, he spent the summer of '63 as a State Forest Firefighter in Butte County. His 1964 - 68 enlistment in the Air Force included two brushes with American History. From March of 1964 through January 1965, he was stationed in Biloxi, Mississippi, a time that included what would be later referred to as "Mississippi Burning Summer." In 1967, he was stationed at Nakhon Phanom, Thailand and Bien Hoa, South Vietnam, where he was an Automatic Tracking Radar Operator, locating, tracking and guiding B-52s to their targets.

From 1968 through 1971, he went to school on the GI Bill. He attended Sacramento City College, Sacramento State University, and finally The University of Colorado, Boulder, where he received a BS in Finance, December 1971. From 1972 - 1989, he worked in the Federal Civil Service with the Department of the Army; one year Rock Island Arsenal, Illinois, five years Fort Monmouth, New Jersey, and 11 years at the Sacramento Army Depot. The last six years at the Army Depot, 1983 - 89, he was Chief of the Material Management Branch (Logistics Management Division, Television-Audio Support Activity).

Single, never married, and with no family to support, he "retired" in 1989 at 43. He has visited historical spots in all 48 lower states and currently keeps himself busy through membership in 29 organizations, mostly fraternal, service, or historical in nature. His loves are the Civil War, the Trans-Mississippi West, Old Highways, and the Emigrant Trail to Oregon and California, and Chess.

**(Sadly, Jim Armstrong passed in January 2025. He joined the Sacramento Civil War Round Table on June 28, 1995 and was a current member until his passing.)**

# The Mystery of George Cutter (or Cutler)

James W. Erwin, June 9, 2024 (originally published August 14, 2023),  
[blueandgrayeducation.org](http://blueandgrayeducation.org)



George Cutler's tombstone | courtesy of the author

Among more than a thousand graves of Confederate soldiers, guerrillas, and civilians in Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery is the grave of a lone Union soldier. And not just any Union soldier, but one who served in the United States Colored Troops. The inscription on the headstone is "Geo. Cutter, Lieut. USCT."

Who was George Cutter and why was he buried here instead of with his fellow Union soldiers? There was no officer named Cutter in the United States Colored Troops, but there was a George Cutler who was a Lieutenant in one of the regiments.



George Cutler was born in Buffalo, New York, in 1831. He had red hair and stood 5 foot 11¼ inches tall. In 1860, he was a carpenter living in Saint Louis. Serving in three short-term Missouri regiments, Cutler participated in the capture of Camp Jackson, and the Battles of Carthage and Wilson's Creek. He joined Company E, 30th Missouri Infantry, in the U.S. Army on September 25, 1862.

Cutler had a checkered military career in the 30th Missouri, being alternately promoted and busted over the next year. In August 1863, Colonel Bernard G. Farrar was given the opportunity to raise a regiment of former enslaved individuals from the Vicksburg area, the 2d Mississippi Colored Heavy Artillery (later the 5th United States Colored Heavy Artillery).

Despite a July demotion from First Sergeant to Sergeant in July for "desertion," George Cutler was appointed First Lieutenant and Commander of Company D in the new Regiment. Whatever peccadilloes led to Cutler's promotions and demotions in the 30th Missouri, he must have displayed strong leadership qualities to be approved as a new company commander.

Alas, Cutler was reported as absent without leave on December 2, 1863. Most likely, he went on a drunken bender. Cutler was dismissed from the service on March 25, 1863.

Cutler returned to Saint Louis, probably to serve a sentence in the Gratiot Street Prison, which principally housed Confederate prisoners of war, guerrillas, and civilians accused or convicted of assisting the Confederacy. Cutler was admitted to the U.S. General Prison Hospital in Saint Louis on July 7, 1864, suffering from *delirium tremens*, an often fatal condition experienced by heavy drinkers after withdrawal from alcohol. And sure enough, George Cutler died on Sunday, July 10, 1864. Cutler was buried with the other prisoners from Gratiot Street in a civilian cemetery in Saint Louis.

In 1867, Cutler's remains and those of Confederate soldiers, guerrillas, and civilians were re-buried in Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery in the "Confederate Section" of the Cemetery. In 1908, the distinctive pointed Confederate headstones were erected at Jefferson Barracks.

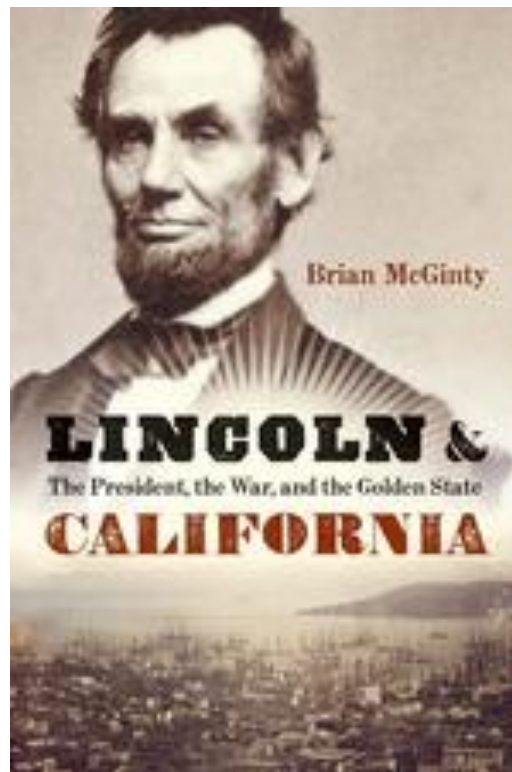
Someone must have checked the records on George Cutler because his headstone—alone among those in the Confederate Section—has the rounded top used for Union veterans. Whoever authorized the headstone got his name wrong by drawing a line through the "t" and the "l" in his last name, making it appear as "Cutter," not "Cutler." Unfortunately, the mistake was permanently engraved on George Cutler's tombstone.

**Submitted by the Blue and Gray Education Association**

# Lincoln and California: The President, the War, and the Golden State

By Brian McGinty. Lincoln. Potomac Books, 2023. Illustrations. 246 pp. \$34.95 (cloth), ISBN 978-1-64012-606-0.

Reviewed by Jeremy Knoll (Ohio State University). Published on H-War (October, 2024). Commissioned by Margaret Sankey.



Despite Abraham Lincoln's status as one of the most written-about historical figures of all time, authors continue to publish new works on previously unexamined Lincoln topics. One such novel entry is legal historian Brian McGinty's *Lincoln and California*. Although Lincoln never visited the State, McGinty catalogs a number of ways in which Lincoln and California influenced one another both before and during his presidency. Rather than narrowly focusing on his two subjects, McGinty contextualizes his narrative by including relevant historical developments in Oregon,

Nevada, and other western states or territories. The book consequently functions to some extent as a regional history of the West during the Civil War era, albeit one centered on California.

McGinty shows that Lincoln's earliest connections with California were formed primarily through his personal relationships. Lincoln was acquainted with a number of individuals who went on to either live in California for a time or settle there permanently. Chief among these were Lincoln's friend Edward D. Baker, who was active in California politics before representing Oregon in the Senate, and Noah Brooks, who met Lincoln in Illinois before becoming a reporter for the Sacramento Daily Union. Baker and Brooks are both treated at length in *Lincoln and California*, with McGinty singling out Baker in particular as "the man who most excited Lincoln's interest in California" (p. 9). At times, Lincoln's prewar acquaintances stood to benefit from his presidency. In the case of Charles Maltby, who had worked with Lincoln as a store clerk in New Salem, Illinois, this relationship evidently aided Maltby's appointment as the California Superintendent of Indian Affairs in 1865.

California was also relevant to some of Lincoln's prewar political positions. During his time as a Whig, Lincoln was a strong supporter of the proposed transcontinental railroad with a terminus in California. In keeping with his opposition to the expansion of slavery, Lincoln similarly warned against the legalization of slavery in California. This is evident in an 1855 message to Illinois legislators detailed by McGinty, in which Lincoln pushes them to "resist, to their utmost, the now threatened attempt to divide California, in order to erect one portion thereof into a slave-state" (p. 39).

While this division never came to be, McGinty demonstrates that this was not for any lack of effort by a vocal group of proslavery



Democrats. Although not all of the State's Democrats sought to have slavery brought to California, the party "dominated California's political life" up until the 1860 election (p. 29). Even then, Lincoln's victory in California was through an exceedingly narrow plurality, and Democratic candidates Stephen Douglas and John C. Breckenridge received a combined 60 percent of the vote. After Lincoln's election, McGinty depicts this Democratic support as having carried over to a movement in favor of California's declaring itself an independent "Pacific Republic," an effort that was ultimately defeated by both Republicans and pro-Union Democrats.

As President, Lincoln's policies and actions shaped the continuing development of California. McGinty discusses Lincoln's role in filling vacant government positions in the State, appointing Federal judges, and overseeing the management and distribution of Federal land. This final responsibility led to Lincoln's approval of the measure preserving the land that would eventually become Yosemite National Park. Besides its cultural and natural significance, McGinty notes that this was the first occasion on which "Federal land was set aside by Federal law for public use in perpetuity," thereby setting a precedent for the later creation of the first national parks (p. 100).

Beyond California-specific initiatives, other measures that were implemented during Lincoln's presidency still had a significant impact on the State. The issuing of paper currency in the form of "greenbacks" met a substantial backlash due to Californians' preference for the use of gold. McGinty represents the strength of California's opposition to greenbacks through the example of an 1862 California Supreme Court decision ruling that greenbacks did not have to be accepted as payments for State and local taxes, as well as an 1863 law that allowed "parties to a contract calling for the payment of money" to only accept payment in silver

or gold (p. 111). More positively, Lincoln's support for the transcontinental railroad carried over into his presidency, resulting in the Federal authorization of its construction in 1862. Lincoln also signed the Morrill Act of 1862, which resulted in the creation of the University of California in Berkeley, and the Homestead Act, which increased the flow of settlers to California.

California's contributions to the Civil War were inevitably limited by its distance from the fighting, but these too are represented in Lincoln and California. In the East, Senator Baker raised a Regiment that he christened the 1st California despite it consisting primarily of residents of eastern states, and a group known as the "California Battalion" traveled east to join a Massachusetts cavalry regiment. McGinty provides an overview of the efforts of California troops to defend the West from Confederate incursions, especially that of the "California Column" in Arizona and New Mexico. More importantly, California's gold helped to subsidize the massive cost of the War effort. In professing his desire to one day visit California, Lincoln declared that "the production of her gold mines has been a marvel to me," thus making clear his appreciation for the State's financial support (p. 5).

The relationship between Lincoln and California is not necessarily unique, but it is thoroughly investigated in this book. Readers already familiar with Lincoln's background are unlikely to find anything in Lincoln and California that would cause them to reassess their understanding of him. However, they will come away with a greater appreciation for the role played by California in Lincoln's presidency and the Civil War. McGinty's work should especially appeal to those already interested in California's history or the history of the West more generally.

**Submitted by Bruce A. Castleman, Ph.D.**

# Seldom Heard History of the Civil War Era

## Stanton Center, Monterey, California, May 2-4, 2025

A full weekend of presentations in the Stanton Center Theater in beautiful Monterey, California. The Stanton Center is situated on the Custom House Plaza, bordering the [Monterey State Historic Park](#).



## CENTRAL COAST CONFERENCE

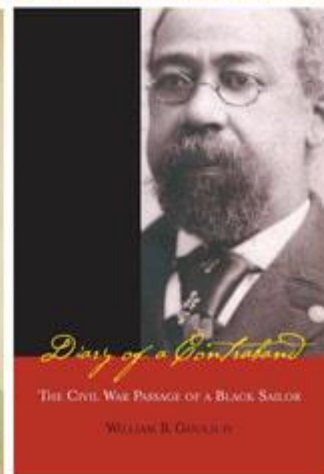
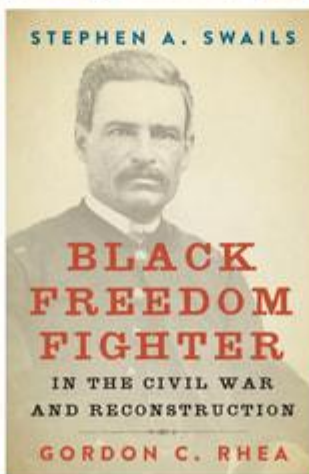
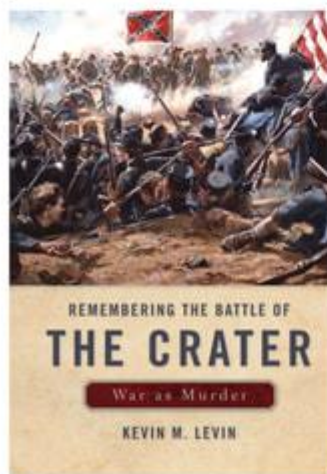
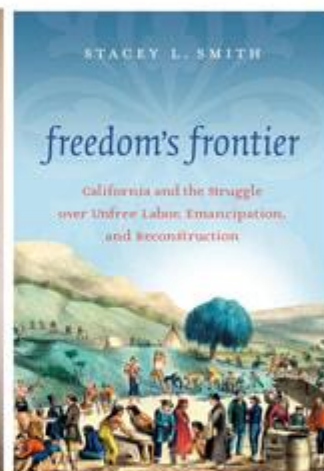
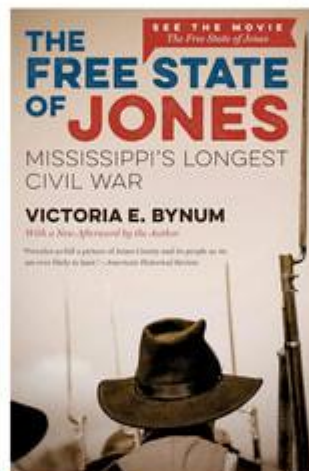
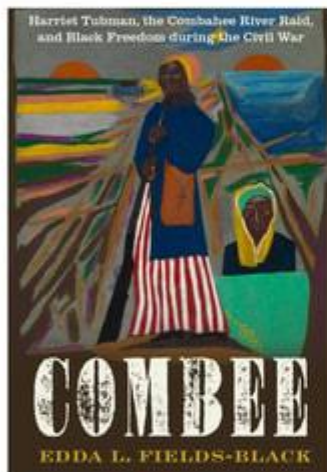
**Monterey History & Art at Stanton Center**  
5 Custom House Plaza, Monterey, CA 93955

Friday night reception and movie;  
Saturday and Sunday presentations & book signings

# SELDOM HEARD HISTORY

## of the Civil War Era

MAY 2, 3, 4  
— 2025 —



# Conference Schedule

## FRIDAY EVENING (May 2):

6:00 PM - 6:45 PM registration/meet & greet, local wine (in Stanton Center lobby)

6:45 - 7:00 opening remarks / welcome (in theater)

7:00 - 7:30 — **SASHA BISCOE**: "Africa to Allensworth:" Understanding the truth regarding Africa's suffering and her true contributions to America

7:45 - 8:30 — **GORDON RHEA**: Stephen A. Swails: Black Freedom Fighter in the Civil War and Reconstruction

## SATURDAY (May 3):

9:15 - 10:15 — **KEVIN LEVIN**: "It Was Cruel To Murder Them In Cold Blood:" Racial Violence at the Crater

10:30 - 11:30 — **EDDA L. FIELDS-BLACK**: Harriet Tubman, the Combahee Freedom Seekers, and the Combahee River Raid

### 11:45 - 1:15 Lunch Break

1:30 - 2:30 — **STACEY L. SMITH**: "Warriors are Entitled to the Honors They Win:" California's African American Military Units in the Civil War and Reconstruction

2:45 - 3:45 — **WILLIAM GOULD**: Diary of a Contraband, the Civil War Passage of a Black Sailor

4:00 - 5:00 — **VICTORIA BYNUM**: Mississippi's Free State of Jones: The Miss-Telling of a Class Insurrection

5:15 - 5:45 book sales & signing in Stanton Theater lobby  
(Saturday afternoon only)

## SUNDAY (May 4):

9:15 - 10:15 — **KEVIN LEVIN**: Before Glory: Robert Gould Shaw and the Second Massachusetts

10:30 - 11:30 — **VICTORIA BYNUM**: Movers and Shakers in Three Unionist Uprisings of the South

### 11:45 - 1:00 Lunch Break

1:15 - 2:15 — **STACEY L. SMITH**: Revisiting California's "Last Slave Case"

2:30 - 3:30 — **EDDA L. FIELDS-BLACK**: Making COMBEE, Finding the Freedom Seekers, Telling their Stories

3:45 - 4:45 — **GORDON RHEA**: An American Family Tree: Descendants of Slave Owners, and of the Enslaved, Re-Discover Family Ties

## Conference Registration:

<http://whtours.org/seldom-heard-history-2025.html>