



**Volume 58, No 4
April, 2018**

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Battle Cry

Founded 1961,
Newsletter of the Sacramento Civil War Round Table
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President's Message

It was a lot of fun for me to do the March presentation. It is something I haven't done in some time. When you do research on one topic, you often come upon other interesting things. I had never read anything about Stoneman's Raid except it was a failure and so was Stoneman. There is a lot more to that story. It was the same thing with General Alfred Pleasonton. I think Pleasonton's biggest problem is he just was not likable. These things occurred while he was in command of the Cavalry Corps of the Army of the Potomac: the Battle of Brandy Station, three Union Cavalry attacks on J.E.B. Stuart's men screening the Confederate move North and the Battle of Hanover. Stuart didn't get to Gettysburg late by accident. Pleasonton ordered General Buford's Division Northwest and General Kilpatrick's division Northeast. All these things are to Pleasonton's credit.

I thought Barbara Leone looked great in a lady's club shirt. Shirts build club spirit. Here are the details on how you can get one.

NOR-CAL LOGOS
4208 DOUGLAS BOULEVARD
GRANITE BAY, CA 95746-5902
(916)-786-3131

Ladies' Model LK 8000: Cotton Polo: \$26.33
Men's Model S658: Oxford style shirt: \$29.25
(Men's Polo shirt: \$25.00 to \$70.00)

Dennis Kohlmann, President

MINUTES
SACRAMENTO CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
Wednesday, March 14, 2018
HOF BRAU RESTAURANT, 2500 WATT AVENUE, SACRAMENTO

ATTENDANCE – 29

MEMBERS – 25: Dennis Kohlmann, President; Don Hayden, Vice President; Barbara Leone, Secretary; George W. Foxworth, Treasurer; Roy Bishop, Mark Carlson, Arnd Gartner, Alan Geiken, Ron Grove, Nina & Wayne Henley, Chris Highsmith, Larry & Silver (Program Director) Marvin; Michelle & Joseph Matalone, Horst Penning, Bernie Quinn, John Rice, Paul Ruud (MAL); Nancy Samuelson, Nick Scivoletto, Richard Sickert (MAL); Roxanne Spizzirri, Michael Werner.

GUESTS – 4: Esther Boeck, Larry Spizzirri, Richard Spizzirri, Don Zajic

1. Dennis Kohlmann called the meeting to order and led the Pledge. Nick Scivoletto conducted the raffle. Dennis talked about the making of the U.S. Cavalry. Despite their great strength and size, horses are fragile requiring constant care. Standing in water for long periods could result in hoof diseases. One horse consumed large quantities of hay, grain, and water daily. The hooves grow and must be trimmed every 6 weeks. The North made shoes at the rate of 60 per hour but the South had to make each shoe by hand and iron was scarce. A 100-man squadron traveled with a farrier and team and a mobile forge carrying 100 pounds of iron and 50 pounds of nails.
2. During the first 2 years, the Union Cavalry units were attached to Infantry, used as pickets, and running messages. The Rebel Cavalry was organized into a division with 5 brigades. General Alfred Pleasonton wrote a memorandum suggesting the Union Cavalry be made a separate Corps, making it a mainly offensive force.
3. General Joe Hooker became Commander of the Army of the Potomac in chaos. In 93 days, he made it a fighting force of 117,000 men. He issued General Order Number 6 stating the Cavalry will be consolidated into a Corps under Command of Brigadier General George Stoneman. He was given better weapons than the South.
4. The winter camps were across the Rappahannock River. On February 24, 1863, the Rebel Cavalry crossed at Kelly's Ford. Because he wanted to know more about Federal movements Robert E. Lee sent his nephew General Fitzhugh Lee to investigate. After some fighting, he reported the U.S. Army remained in camp. Hooker threatened to take over the Cavalry because Stoneman had let the Rebel Cavalry escape. Near Kelly's Ford and Culpepper Courthouse, the Southern Cavalry fled for the first time. For the Federal Cavalry, it was a morale booster. Technically, it was a Confederate win. Dennis believes Stoneman's Raid deserves more attention. Hooker felt his instructions were disregarded and that was the main reason why the Union was defeated at Chancellorsville. Stoneman was out and Buford was appointed Division Commander. Brigadier General Alfred Pleasonton was given command of the Cavalry. He had character flaws but he organized and led the Battle of Brandy Station. The Union Cavalry proved itself equal to J.E.B. Stuart's Cavalry which began a decline from which it did not recover. Dennis feels Pleasonton deserves the credit.
5. Hooker ordered Pleasonton to Aldie, Virginia to scout the enemy. General Kilpatrick captured 50 sharpshooters, the first time a body of Stuart's command had surrendered. At other battles, the Union Cavalry was the aggressor and J.E.B. Stuart suffered.
6. Stuart planned to be in Hanover, Pennsylvania and that it would take 3 days to catch up with Lee. He arrived in Westminster, Maryland. Action by a Union Cavalry captain caused him to remain another night depriving Lee of vital intelligence about Union troop movements. Lee felt he had to start the Battle of Gettysburg. Stuart went from Westminster to Hanover, PA. Fighting ensued between him and Kilpatrick. Stuart barely escaped.
7. Dennis concluded the Union Cavalry developed into a force that could defeat its enemy.
8. The next Board Meeting will be Wednesday, April 11, 2018, 10:00 AM at Brookfield's Restaurant.

Barbara Leone, Secretary

Treasurer's Report

The cash balance following the March 14th meeting was \$6,330.97. Thanks to Nicholas Scivoletto, other members, and guests, the raffle brought in \$59.00.

George W. Foxworth, Treasurer

Coming Programs for 2018

Date	Speaker	Topic
April 11th	Sue Pearson	"The Nancies"
May 9th	Lawrence Marvin III	"Civil War Innovations"
June 13th	Paul G. Ruud	"From the Battlefield to the Oval Office"
July 11th	Robert Orr	"Vicksburg Battlefield, Part A"
August 8th	Larry Tagg	"The Generals of Shiloh"
September 12th	Sherrie Patton	"Latinos Were in the Civil War"
October 10th	Tad Smith	"Fort Sumter, From the Southern Perspective"
November 14th	Joe Maxwell	"Union Cavalry"
December 12th	Nicholas Scivoletto	"Civil War Quiz"

2018 Membership

The 2018 membership renewal is due as of January 1, 2018. 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 1st 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:

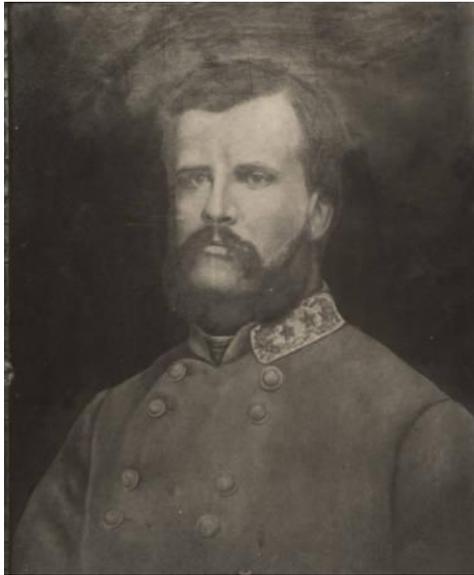
gwfoxworth@sbcglobal.net

Do not submit files that I cannot edit.

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.

Brigadier General Archibald Gracie III, CSA

Archibald Gracie III was born into a wealthy New York family on December 1, 1832. His grandfather, a Scottish immigrant, had made a fortune in international shipping. This first Archibald Gracie built a large country home in 1799 on a bend in the East River, five miles north of the City. Parties at the summer estate were attended by many luminaries of the new nation--- Alexander Hamilton, John Quincy Adams, Joseph Bonaparte, and Washington Irving. During the War of 1812, Archibald Gracie lost a fortune in the shipping trade. By 1823, the family's financial difficulties were dire and they were forced to sell Gracie Mansion. Archibald Gracie died of a rare and painful skin disease called Saint Anthony's Fire.



After his early education, Archibald Gracie III spent five years studying in Germany at the University of Heidelberg. Upon his return to the United States, and at his father's insistence, Gracie attended West Point while Robert E. Lee was Superintendent. In 1856, he married Josephine Mayo from Richmond, a niece of General Winfield Scott. Gracie enjoyed Army life but in 1857, he resigned his commission for the more lucrative job of working in his father's cotton brokerage firm in Mobile, Alabama. His mother, a former Southern Belle herself, loved her new Southern daughter-in-law and life in the South.

When the Civil War broke out, Gracie's family left their business and home in Alabama and returned to New York City. But Gracie was an ardent supporter of the Confederacy and he remained in the South. Many of his closest friends from his graduating class of 1854 at West Point would serve with him under the Rebel flag, J.E.B Stuart, Custis Lee, Stephen Lee, William D. Pender, and John Pegram. Somehow, his family in the North was able to maintain close ties with him while Gracie served in the Confederate Army throughout the War.

By 1862, Gracie was Major of the 11th Alabama. After helping to recruit and form the 43rd Alabama Regiment, he was elected their Colonel. The 43rd became known as "Gracie's Pride." On November 4, 1862, he was made Brigadier General. His command fought at the Battle at Chickamauga where he lost over two hundred men in two hours.

After recovering from wounds he received on the second day of the Battle of Bean's Station, Gracie served under General P.G.T. Beauregard during the May 1864 Campaign.

From July through December 1864, Gracie served in the siege of Petersburg. General Robert E. Lee was there to inspect the defenses. Lee stood and raised his head over the wall to observe the Union troops. Many believe that Gracie saved Lee's life when he leapt up onto the wall and yelled for Lee to duck down. "It is better I be killed than you. When you get down, I will," Gracie is purported to have scolded Lee. Gracie remained standing until Lee reluctantly obeyed.

A daughter was born to Gracie on December 1, 1864, his 32nd birthday. He wrote to his wife that he would take leave and arrive home in two days to see the new baby.

But on the next day, December 2, 1864, while observing the movements of Union troops, an artillery shell exploded directly in front of the trench Gracie was in. He was killed instantly. Gracie was buried in Hollywood Cemetery in Richmond, Virginia. After the War was over, his family arranged to have his remains moved to Woodlawn Cemetery in the Bronx, NY. Archibald Gracie III is one of four Confederate Generals buried there. The other three are Generals Mansfield Lowell, Lloyd Tilghman, and Zachariah Deas.



Gracie's son, Archibald Gracie IV, was five years old when his father was killed. He grew up to become a real estate investor and military historian. After seven years of working on his book exonerating his father, *The Truth about Chickamauga*, he was exhausted and took an extended European vacation. On his return home, Gracie IV sailed from Europe on the RMS Titanic. It is said he was the last one to leave the ship when it went down during the early morning hours of April 15, 1912. He is credited with helping to save many lives. Gracie never recovered from the hypothermia he suffered after being partially submerged for so many hours in the icy water. Due to complications from diabetes and the shock of his ordeal, he died eight months later on December 4, 1912. (Gracie IV was laid to rest in the family plot in Woodlawn Cemetery in the Bronx, NY.)

Gracie IV's youngest daughter, twelve year old Constance Julie, had been crushed to death in an elevator accident in Paris in 1903. His older daughter, Edith Temple, died in 1918, a victim of the Spanish Flu epidemic. She had been married only three months before to Captain Dunbar Burchell Adams, scion of the Adams Chewing Gum (Chiclets) Company. (Constance and Julie were laid to rest in Woodlawn Cemetery, Bronx, NY.)

Gracie IV's book about the sinking of the Titanic brought him real fame. Published posthumously in 1913, it is still in print today: *The Truth about the Titanic: A Survivor's Story*. It is said to still be the most accurate account of the tragedy.

Submitted by Judith Breitstein

Childbirth in the Nineteenth Century

In the 19th Century, there were a plethora of things that could kill you...Falling Sickness, Quinsy, Apoplexy, French Pox, Milk Leg, Bilious Fever, Bone Ache, Dropsy, King's Evil, Putrid Fever, Bloody Flux, Break Bone Fever, Bronze John or Brain Congestion. Puerperal Fever, also known as Childbed Fever, was 2nd only to Consumption in killing women of childbearing age. The women who died were healthy and in the prime of their childbearing years. Physicians were aware of Puerperal Fever as early as the 1700s but did not know the cause. The infection produced a raging fever, putrid pus and abscesses in the abdomen and chest. Early doctors believed the pus was infected mother's milk. Death usually followed within 3 - 10 days. Edwin Stanton, Stonewall Jackson, and P.G.T. Beauregard all lost their first wives due to this scourge. George Pickett lost his 1st and 2nd wives to Childbed Fever. Varina, the 2nd wife of Jefferson Davis, barely survived the disease after the birth of her 3rd child.

In the 19th Century, many women wrote out their wills when they discovered they were pregnant. As early as 1853, Queen Victoria was given chloroform to deliver her 8th child for a painless birth. But chloroform was often frowned upon. Clergymen of the day believed a painful labor was God's divine will. Women birthed an average of 7 children, not including those lost in childbirth. Many offspring were needed to help the working classes on their farms and their businesses. For the wealthy, large families enriched their fortunes through intermarriages with others of the upper classes. Though a woman could lose baby after baby to miscarriage, stillbirth, or childhood disease, she was expected to keep on reproducing until menopause gave her a reprieve...or she died.

For many women, the thought of another pregnancy was unbearable. If they survived a previous birth, it did not ensure that they would survive the next one. Everyone had an aunt, sister, or neighbor who had died in childbirth. Breast feeding was supposed to lessen the chance of conception but it was not reliable. Condoms, invented by Charles Goodyear, had been produced in this country since the 1840s. Men could visit pharmacies or even T.W. Strong's Book Store in Manhattan and select from a large array. However, condoms were mostly used outside of the marital bed to ward off disease. It was a rare man who tried to prevent his wife from becoming *enceinte* in the 19th Century.

By the 1860s, some women were able to discreetly obtain a cervical cap or "*womb veil*." In the South, slave midwives would often perform abortions or prevent conception by doling out roots or plugs of chopped grass to their mistresses. Slave midwives would need their mistresses to keep their secret as punishment would be severe. In the North, abortion was legal until 1860 and abortionists abounded...like the notorious Madame Restell who operated on some of the wealthiest women in New York City. Various probes and poisons were used for women who were willing to risk everything to prevent an unwanted pregnancy. Sometimes they were able to obtain the root of worm fern, "*the prostitute root*," that could produce a spontaneous abortion. When Confederate General Dorsey Pender's wife wrote to him that she was pregnant, he sent her pills obtained from the surgeon of his company which would "*relieve her*" of her problem. Most abortions were performed on married women in the 30 - 40 year-old range. Abortion had a much lower mortality rate than childbirth.

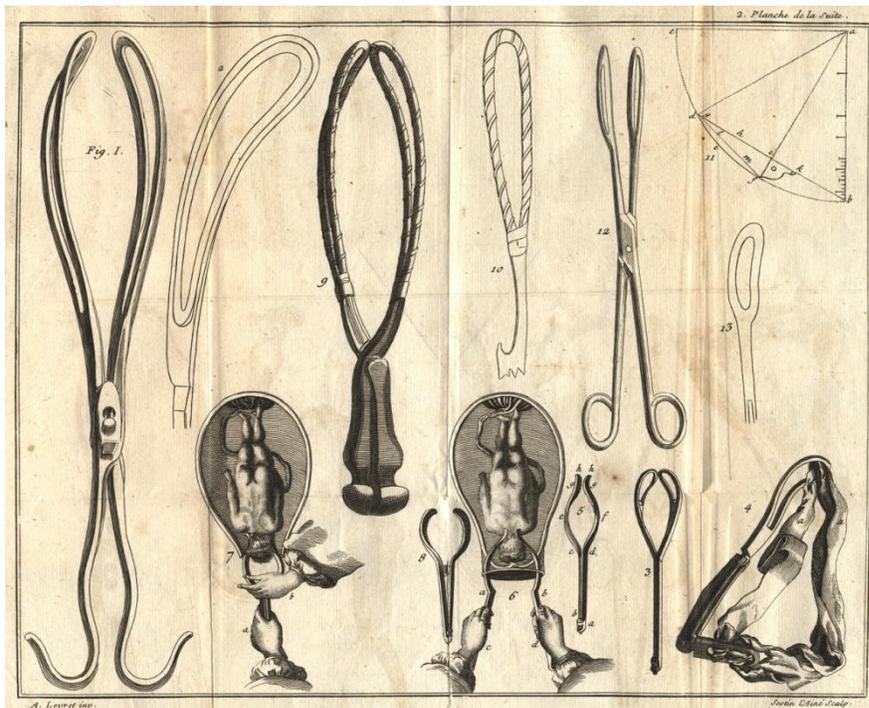
Once pregnant, women were urged to fast as a smaller baby meant an easier birth. They were advised against taking baths, which could harm or kill the baby, and to eat less meat, as meat strengthened the bones and umbilical cord which made delivering more difficult. Moderate exercise was taken to loosen the uterus and cervix. Tight corsets were

discouraged. Women were warned to think only pleasant thoughts as their state of mind could impact the baby's mental health. They were not to go out in public or look at anything or anyone ugly or deformed. If they did, the baby could be born disfigured. Both doctors and midwives believed in frequent blood-letting during pregnancy.

In the early 19th Century, most children were born at home, delivered by midwives. As physician assisted deliveries started to become more popular, death rates of mothers and infants soared. Wealthier women who could afford doctors died in higher numbers than their poorer sisters. Doctors carried contagion on their hands and clothes. Obstetrics was the bottom rung of the medical field and training was rudimentary and not compulsory. Yet as more men entered the field, they began to portray midwives as ignorant, dirty, drunk, and dangerous.

In 1846, a Hungarian obstetrician, Dr. Ignaz Semmelweiss, noticed that clinics where only midwives practiced had extremely low death rates. In clinics where doctors and medical students came directly from performing autopsies to deliver infants, the mortality rate soared. Semmelweiss insisted that physicians wash their hands in chloride of lime before entering maternity wards under his supervision. Deaths declined by 90%. Many doctors were insulted at being told to scrub their hands by this upstart Hungarian Jew. Semmelweiss did not publish his findings until 1861 and he was largely ignored. He grew depressed and was committed to an insane asylum on July 30, 1865. He died there 2 weeks later. It wasn't until many years later that Joseph Lister and Louis Pasteur were able to convince doctors to wash their hands in carbolic acid to prevent infection.

As delivery approached, Mother was put to bed in a blouse, petticoat and warm slippers. Her hair was braided. Children were sent to the neighbors so as not to hear her screams. Husbands hid. The room was heated. Hot water was brought in. The birth canal was swabbed with lard and towels were tied to the bedpost to pull on during labor pains.



Labor could be quick or last for days. If the baby became stuck in the birth canal, it was sometimes pulled out in pieces by the doctor or the midwife. Sometimes the pubic bone was broken, which saved the baby but killed the mother. If the mother was in imminent danger of dying, the baby's skull would be crushed making extraction easier. Doctors would perform episiotomies which resulted in infection and death. They began to invent instruments to help in these difficult births and to show their superiority over midwives. These instruments spread infection and were akin to torture.

If you survived the childbirth experience, you remained in bed for two weeks. If there was pain in the birthing area, a poultice of milk and bread was applied. If it persisted, leeches were called for. If the new mother died, a casket was placed in the parlor and a photographer was called for to take a post-mortem photo. For many people, this was the only visual image a family would ever have. If the infant survived, a wet nurse was found. Mourning jewelry was made of the deceased's hair.



www.alamy.com - DCB0RJ

The widower did not mourn long. He had half-orphaned children and business to attend to. He donned his best suit, added a black crepe band to his hat, a black armband and perhaps a cockade for his lapel. He was given an ornate glass vial called a "tear catcher." Perhaps accompanied by his second wife, he could sprinkle his tears on the grave of wife #1 on the first anniversary of her death.

Submitted by Judith Breitstein