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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 APRIL MEETING. THE HOF BRAU IS STILL REMODELING.

Unfortunately the Hof Brau renovation is not complete. It has been two months since our last meeting. Hopefully they will be ready by May.

This month, I will continue talking about Congress throughout the Civil War Period. For the duration of the War, 50 desks in the House were empty as well as 22 desks in the Senate. West Virginia and Nevada joined the Union and each added two Senators and one member of the House. The next census was in 1870. Here is where the 14th Amendment had an impact. The end of the 3/5 rule meant 50 more House of Representatives' members from the former slave states. Almost all of these new members were Democrats.

As the population of the Country kept growing, so did the number of House members. The US Constitution called for one Representative per state and that no more than one for every 30,000 persons. Gradually, however, the method used for calculating apportionment caused smaller rural states to lose representation to larger urban states. A battle erupted between rural and urban fractions, causing the House to fail to reapportion itself following the 1920 Census. Finally, the Permanent Act of 1929 capped House membership and created a procedure for automatically reapportioning House seats every 10 years. In 1929, the House membership was frozen at 435 members.

Dennis Kohlmann, President

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

ATTENDANCE – 0

MEMBERS – 0:

GUESTS – 0:

1. There was no meeting in March due to the remodeling of the Hof Brau. The remodeling was still in progress.
2. The next Board Meeting will be Wednesday, April 10, 2019, 10 AM, at Brookfield's Restaurant.

Barbara Leone, Secretary

Treasurer's Report

The cash balance on March 13th was \$6,513.39.

George W. Foxworth, Treasurer

Coming Programs for 2019

Date	Speaker	Topic
April 10th	None	"None"
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"
September 11th	Richard Sickert	"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 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:

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.

Annual Conference on Women & the Civil War

Friday, July 26 to Sunday, July 28, 2019 - The **Annual Conference on Women & the Civil War** will be held in Williamsburg, Virginia. The weekend's events include lectures by noted historians, and field trips to Historic Jamestowne and James River Plantation sites. This will be the **Society for Women & the Civil War's 20th Conference**, and it is sure to provide a wealth of information around the Conference Theme of "**Women of the Peninsula.**" For Conference information and registration, go to:

<http://www.swcw.org/annual-swcw-conference.html> or feel free to contact Pasadena CWRT member Janet Whaley at Janet1860@charter.net.

Carl Wilhelm Scheele's Green

At the beginning of the 19th century, fashion for the European and American middle and lower classes was fairly drab. Most women dressed in dark colors that would hide dirt. Dreary, serviceable, and uninspiring.

Brightly colored dyes had started to trickle into Europe from the Far East hundreds of years earlier. But they were extremely costly and hard to come by. In medieval times, as dye masters mixed new colors, guilds were formed to keep the formulas secret. When Columbus discovered America, he also discovered a huge supply of natural dyestuffs. But the type of dye that was most readily available and not prohibitive in cost, faded quickly after washing or exposure to the sun. And natural dyes tended to be dull and darkened over time.

In 1775, a Swedish chemist, Carl Wilhelm Scheele, was experimenting with copper arsenite. Scheele discovered oxygen but didn't publish a paper on it until after Joseph Priestley made the same claim...earning Scheele the nickname "Hard Luck Scheele." He finally hit pay-dirt when he came up with a beautiful shade of green that he named after himself, Scheele's Green. The intensity of the new color made one think of Spring, of renewal, and rebirth. It looked beautiful in candle light and, later, even better under oil lamps. It didn't bleed and was a brighter green than any other dye maker had managed to produce so far.



People went mad for Scheele's Green. Easy and cheap to make, it appeared everywhere... clothing, stockings, ribbons, playing cards, gloves, shoes, dinner plates, wallpaper, candles, carpets, soap, toys, candy, even in baked goods. Artificial flowers made with Scheele's Green adorned women's hair.

What was it about Scheele's that so enchanted? What gave Scheele's its distinctive color, its vibrancy?

Arsenic was the secret ingredient. It was so widely used that the 19th Century became known as "The Arsenic Century." It was no secret that arsenic was poisonous. Drugstores sold it to kill rats. But people also dipped their meat in it to keep flies away. Arsenic had been known as "the inheritance powder." It could be used to kill a king or cure syphilis. It was used widely for curing malaria, eczema, psoriasis, anemia, gastric ulcers, leukemia, rheumatism, tuberculosis, and cancer of the skin. Did it actually cure anyone? Probably not. What it did do was cause sores, scabs, skin cancer, liver disease, pounding headaches, fainting, bleeding, madness, low blood pressure, delirium, gastritis, pulmonary edema, extreme thirst, delusions, diarrhea, diabetes, nausea, convulsions, and death.

Arsenic, lead, and mercury were a huge part of the home and clothing fashion industry in the 19th Century. Children's toys were covered with Scheele's Green lead paint, which was said to have a sweet taste when licked. Scheele's Green wallpaper was not only beautiful, but seemed to have a special property that kept vermin away. Napoleon's favorite color was green and his bathroom on Saint Helena was papered in Scheele's Green wallpaper. Napoleon loved long, hot, steamy baths. When humid or damp, a vapor was produced from the arsenic in the wallpaper that was released into the air. Napoleon died of stomach cancer and his hair tested positive for large quantities of arsenic.

Children's rooms were wallpapered and carpeted with this poison. Flocked wallpaper dried up, flaked into dust, and motes of arsenic floated through the rooms where the children slept, did their lessons, and babies crawled on the poison green carpets.

Scheele's Green also seemed to be an excellent remedy for killing the lice that infested the clothing of so many of the population during the 19th Century. The Ladies' Sanitary Association found that the "*average headdress contained enough arsenic to poison 20 people.*" And the average woman "*carries in her skirts enough poison to slay the whole of the admirers she may meet with in half a dozen ballrooms.*" Stockings and gloves were especially toxic as they were worn close to the skin.

The pale complexion and red cheeks of women suffering from tuberculosis was much admired at this time. Wearing Scheele's Green clothing and accessories brought you a step closer to the ideal. Women also nibbled on arsenic wafers to keep their skin white. They simpered that the "*burning sensation meant it was working.*" Lead-based makeup helped to whiten their faces. Eye liner and eye shadow, containing mercury, accentuated their eyes. If that wasn't enough, the poison, nightshade, was in eye drops and gave the eyes a remarkable twinkle.

Did Elizabeth Keckley, Mary Lincoln's dressmaker, ever make a dress of this most fashionable color for her most famous client? Very Likely. It is a fact that Mrs. Keckley made dresses out of Scheele's Green cloth. Did Mary then have shoes, gloves, and a hat made to match? She probably did.

It was not the wealthiest people who were the largest group to suffer poisoning by fashion. The Industrial Revolution had come to the United States. Tens of thousands of men, women, and children worked in factories. Windows were shut while they spent countless hours breathing in the harsh chemicals. They worked dyeing clothes and draperies. They created artificial leaves for flowered hats. They plucked feathers from dead birds and dyed them green. In 1887, one fashion critic derided the habit of

sometimes using entire birds on ladies' hats. Not because of the murderous quality of arsenic but because, "*A corpse is never a really pleasant ornament.*"

Scheele's Green was especially popular at children's parties. Bakers used it to color icings. They put it in their marzipan and *blancmange*. One baker used twenty pounds of it for a huge holiday party. Two hundred people sickened and twenty died. At one party, fond parents took home Scheele's Green sugar leaves for their children. Three of the children died from that treat. Three children died at a festive Christmas party where Scheele's Green candles lit up the room.



When arsenic began to be widely used in insecticides in the 1870s, people started to take a second look at Scheele's. In 1879, Queen Victoria stripped Buckingham Palace of all its Scheele's wallpaper after a dignitary got sick. William Morris, the famous wallpaper designer who made large profits using Scheele's Green, sneered at doctors who he said were playing to the public's fears, warning them to rid their homes of Scheele's Green wallpaper or anything made with copper arsenite. He compared the nay-sayers to the people of Salem during the witchcraft hysteria saying, "...doctors were bitten as people were bitten by witch fever."

Scheele's Green started to be called "Arsenic Green" or "Poison Green." By the end of the 19th Century, the craze had faded. It had suddenly hit home that there really was something deadly wrong with Scheele's. Yet Scheele's Green was not outlawed in the United States until 1960.

Carl Wilhelm Scheele died of mercury poisoning, at the age of 43, on May 21, 1786 at his home in Koping, Sweden.

Submitted by Judith Breitstein

2019 CIVIL WAR INSTITUTE SUMMER CONFERENCE

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!
Register now at www.gettysburg.edu/cwi/conference



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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 for full details.



2019 West Coast Civil War Conference

Sponsored by Sacramento Civil War Round Table

Civil War Leadership, 1861 - 1865

November 8 - 10, 2019, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Sacramento

Our Speakers are:

Chris Mackowski: A Professor of Journalism & Mass Communication at Saint Bonaventure University, & the author of more than 10 books. He works with the National Parks Service & is the founder of the Emerging Civil War Blog.

David A. Powell: A Vice-President of Airsped, Inc., a delivery firm. He has published many articles in magazines & historical simulations of different battles. He specializes & leads tours on the Battle of Chickamauga.

Sarah Kay Bierle: A Managing Editor for Emerging Civil War's Blog. She has spent the last few years researching, writing, & speaking across the Country about the American Civil War.

Paul Kahan: An expert on the political, diplomatic, & economic history of the United States in the Nineteenth Century. Dr. Kahan has published several books & is a former resident of Sacramento.

Jim Stanbery: A retired Professor of Political Science and History at Los Angeles Harbor College, and speaker at the West Coast Civil War Conference for more than thirty years. He is a frequent CWRT speaker.

Theodore P. Savas: Is an attorney, adjunct college instructor, award-winning author, Partner and Managing Director of Savas Beatie LLC. He specializes in military history and the American Civil War.

Edwin L. Kennedy Jr.: A graduate of West Point & former Professor of the U.S. Army Command & General Staff College History Department & Combat Studies. He is the leader of staff rides, including the Battle of Chickamauga.

The Conference cost is \$200 per person which includes Friday dinner, Saturday lunch and dinner, as well as all sessions. A full hotel breakfast buffet is included for guests staying at the Hotel.

Partial day attendance: **Friday Only** is \$50; **Saturday Only** is \$125; **Saturday Dinner and Lecture Only** is \$50; **Sunday Only** is \$25.

There will be a no-host bar set-up Friday and Saturday evenings for your enjoyment before dinner.

For more information, contact Paul Ruud at 530-886-8806 or by contacting www.sacramentocwrt.com where information and registration forms will be available.

Room reservations are available by calling Crowne Plaza directly 877-504-0054 or www.crowneplaza.com
[Crowne Plaza Hotel](#) has rooms set aside for us at \$139 per night, plus tax. Please mention the Conference.

Please print this page, fill it out, and return the form with your check for your registration. Make checks payable to: **Sacramento CWRT** and mail to: George W. Foxworth, 9463 Salishan Court, Sacramento, CA 95826-5233.

Name / Organization as you want it on your badge (Please Print):

Organization: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Home Phone: _____ Other Phone _____

Email: _____