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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

I hope everyone is having or has had a Happy Easter and Happy Spring Break. Since this is April and it has been nearly 158 years ago when Abraham Lincoln died. I would like to ask all of you what influence do you think Lincoln had on you directly or indirectly or has had on the USA?

I remember reading in a movie magazine that when the famed Director John Ford was asking Henry Fonda to portray Lincoln in "Young Mr. Lincoln" in 1939, he knew Fonda was intimidated by the notion of portraying such a huge Historical Figure in American History, so Ford convinced Fonda that he would be portraying Lincoln as a young man and not as the "Great Emancipator" so Fonda agreed.

As for myself as I mentioned last month, the first adult book I ever read was about Abraham Lincoln when I was around 5 years old ( I had read a couple of Disney books my family owned prior to that). I remember seeing the photo's shown in the book depicting Lincoln after his death and it kind of scared me at the time. I knew Lincoln as the President that was on the Penny and the 5-Dollar Bill. Where I grew up in Stockton, CA in 1964, I knew of Lincoln Street; Lincoln Road; Lincoln High School; Lincoln Village ( a northern up-scale housing District ) and the Lincoln Continental were all named for him. Lincoln also had his own Holiday and it was near my Birthday in February and other than George Washington; the late John F. Kennedy and the current President at the time Lyndon Johnson, I didn't know of any other President's back in the early 1960's.

I also remember another thing when I went to the Library that there were more books in the Library about Abraham Lincoln than any other person in the Library at that time that I could remember even more than George Washington. That's how I knew Abraham Lincoln was a significant person at the age of 5 and other than the Book on Lincoln (which contained some Civil War information), I hadn't read a specific Book on the Civil War yet. I didn't know that California was on the Union side until I saw the Movie "Shenandoah" in 1965, but it was Abraham Lincoln that helped ignite my interest about the Civil War.

## James C. Juanitas, President

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

**ATTENDANCE – 26:**

**MEMBERS – 19:** James Juanitas, President; Carol Breiter, Vice President; James Armstrong, Jean Breiter, Harvey & Marsha Cain-Jutovsky, Mark Carlson, Arnd Gartner, Wayne & Nina Henley, Jaime & Diana Lizarraga, Grace Long, Bernie Quinn, Program Director; Nicholas Scivoletto, Larry Spizzirri, Richard Spizzirri, Peggy Tveden, & John Zasso.

**GUESTS – 07:** Jim Stanbery – Guest Speaker; Greg Jaso, Robert Kimball, Joyce King, Stuart & Andrea Sheffield, & Doug Van de Weyde.

1. The meeting was called to order by President James Juanitas at 7:00 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Juanitas.
2. President Juanitas asked those present to submit a Civil War related question with the correct answer so a back-up program can be implemented if the speaker no-shows. Please submit to Bernie Quinn, Program Director, at: [bwqcrypto@gmail.com](mailto:bwqcrypto@gmail.com).
3. Diana Lizarraga announced that (their son) our youngest SCWRT member Alejandro Lizarraga received a scholarship to attend the National Organization of American Historians Conference being held March 30 - April 1, 2023 in Los Angeles, California. In addition, Alejandro was accepted to Gettysburg Colleges' Civil War Camp in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, in July 2023.
4. The raffle was conducted by Nicholas Scivoletto. Eight books and 2 bottles of wine were offered as prizes. The raffle raised \$56.00.
5. Special Guest Speaker Jim Stanbery's Program was "Grant and Lee – Similarities and Differences." He began with the details of their appearances and dress – Grant being rumpled, and Lee being more formally dressed. Lee hated having his photo taken unless it was with his horse. Both denied the importance of each other.
6. Mr. Stanbery discussed the successes and failures of their frontal assaults. He said as horsemen, Grant was an excellent horseman and loved large horses. He held the high jump record at West Point for over 25 years. Grant's favorite horse was Cincinnati. Lee's favorite was Traveler - who had a rough, difficult gate. Both had many horses that they rode during the War.
7. Grant was named General-in-Chief (GIC) for the last 15 months of the War and Lee was named GIC in February of 1865. Lee was only in charge of the Army of Northern Virginia.
8. As husbands, both Lee and Grant were faithful to their wives – Mary and Julia respectively. However, Lee had a lifelong interest of females of all ages and his tributes often led to the recipients blushing. Lee invoked God's Will often and in writings; Grant did not, and he prayed in private.
9. Grant went on to become President of the United States and Lee became the President of Washington College. Grant's family faced poverty after the War and his memoirs eased the family after his death. Lee did not want to write memoirs and shunned political involvement. As President of Washington College, Lee secured funds from that position after the War.
- 10..Lee was born in 1807, Grant in 1828. Both died at the age of 63. Mr. Stanbery ended the program with a recording of the song about the ship named "Waiting for "The Robert E. Lee." This was followed by questions and answers. The meeting was adjourned at 8:13 PM.
11. The next Executive Board Meeting is April 12, 2023 at 10:00 AM, Brookfields at Madison and I-80.

**Submitted by your Humble Servant, Carol Breiter, for Secretary (Vacant)**

**Treasurer's Report**

The cash balance on March 8, 2023 was \$4,528.23. Thanks to Nicholas Scivoletto, members, & guests, the raffle brought in \$56.00.

**George W. Foxworth, Treasurer**

# Coming Programs for 2023

Date	Speaker	Topic
April 12th	"The Problem with Horses"	"Jean Breiter"
May 10th	"Johnny Clem - The Drummer Boy of Shiloh"	"James C. Juanitas"
June 14th	"To Be Determined"	"To Be Determined"
July 12th	"To Be Determined"	"To Be Determined"
August 9th	"To Be Determined"	"To Be Determined"
September 13th	"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**

# Dr. George Rogers Clark Todd

Born in 1791 into a prominent Southern family, Robert Smith Todd was destined to become a successful businessman. Todd was a lawyer, bank president, cotton merchant, and also sat on the Lexington City Council. He spent many years serving as clerk of the Kentucky House of Representatives and in the Kentucky Senate. In 1812, he married his second cousin, Elizabeth Ann "Eliza" Parker. Eliza's life began to ebb away as she gave birth to her sixth child, George Rogers Clark, on July 2, 1825, showing signs of puerperal sepsis almost immediately. Doctors tried to bleed the sickness out of her, but she died three days later, at thirty one years old.



Sixteen months later, lonely and in need of a mother for his young children, 34 year old Robert Todd married Elizabeth "Betsey" Humphreys. They had nine children together. The six children of Robert's first marriage were not particularly loved by their 26 year old stepmother. Even with the help of "Mammy Sally," raising a combined family while constantly pregnant could not have been easy for Betsey. Todd moved his brood to a large home on Main Street in Lexington, just down the block from the Widow Parker, maternal grandmother of the first set of Todd children. Mrs. Parker was furious at her son-in law's quick remarriage and fostered her grandchildren's resentment towards their stepmother.

Robert Todd died suddenly on July 16, 1849 during a cholera epidemic. His son, George Rogers Clark, was furious that larger sums of money had been left to Betsey and the second family. George contested the will on the grounds that it had been witnessed by only one person. He won and Betsey had to sell the family home in Lexington, the slaves, and all her household goods. The family was forced to move out of town to a small plantation they owned called Buena Vista. The rest of the estate was then divided equally between Betsey and the remaining 14 children. George also sued his sister, Mary Ann Todd Lincoln, for money gifted to her and her husband, Abraham Lincoln, by Robert Todd. That long ago wedding gift was deducted from her share of their father's estate.

In 1859, Mary Lincoln's oldest brother, Levi, was sued for divorce by his wife, Louise Searles. Louise claimed that Levi was "a drunkard" who treated her in "a cruel and inhuman manner." Levi Todd, unlike his brother George or his half-brothers, was a Union sympathizer. But he was too old and unfit for military service at the onset of the Civil War. Finding himself always

coming up short when measured against his successful father, Levi, afraid to commit suicide, dedicated his life to drinking himself to death. He died, alone and destitute, at the Broadway Hotel in Lexington on July 18, 1864. He is buried in an unmarked grave in the Todd family plot in Lexington, Kentucky.

George's sister, Ann Todd Smith, was said to be "the most vituperative" of all the Todd girls. People said that Frances Todd Wallace had a temperament equal only to that of her sister, Mary Todd Lincoln. Heavily tattooed half-brother, David, had run away from home at fourteen. He worked as an overseer prior to the Civil War and was said to be unmatched in his brutality to the slaves. During the Civil War, Jefferson Davis removed him from his position at Libby Prison after only two months due to his unspeakably cruel treatment of the men in his care.

A Springfield neighbor of Mary Lincoln said Mary was "...a bright woman, well educated, but so crazy and nervous acting..." Another neighbor blamed Mary's behavior on her "monthly derangements" while Abraham Lincoln's good friend, Orville Browning, simply said that Mary Todd was "demented." Half-sister Elodie told her fiancée that because she was a Todd, "I cannot govern my temper or tongue." A Springfield neighbor of Mary's sister, Elizabeth Edwards opined, "...the Todds had always been eccentric."

Elizabeth Todd Edward claimed that, "Insanity appeared in the case of my own daughter, (Julia) at the age of 13." Because of Julia's "bizarre and risqué behavior," she was married off at eighteen and sent to live in Argentina with her new husband. Julia's sister, Elizabeth Edwards Clover, received most of Mary Todd Lincoln's clothes when Mary died. Elizabeth wore her aunt's Civil War hoop skirts and parasols until her own death in 1910. Elizabeth Todd Edward's granddaughter died in "A Private Residential Home for the Treatment of Mental and Nervous Disorders."

The Todd family might have had reasons for their behaviors, but it seems that their behavior could at least be described as "odd."

George Todd seems to have been a mean drunk and the surliest of the lot. Short and myopic, he stuttered badly. He admitted to having an "explosive temper." A Union prisoner said he was "the most vicious wretch I ever knew." He had no love for his half-siblings or them for him. Perhaps being handed into the care of slave nannies after his mother's early death, might have crippled something inside him.

George claimed he had left home because of the "malignant and continued attempts of his stepmother to poison the mind of his father toward him." In 1848, George graduated from Transylvania University Medical School. Soon after, he moved 40 miles away to Cynthiana, Kentucky to begin his medical practice. He boarded with Major James Curry, Esquire. On October 22, 1851, George married Ann H. Curry, his landlord's daughter. The couple honeymooned in Niagara Falls and then returned to live with the bride's father. On September 19, 1853, Ann gave birth to a daughter, Martha "Mattie" Dee Todd. Soon after Mattie's birth, unable to cope with her husband's drunkenness, Ann divorced him for extreme cruelty. Her sisters' husbands ran George out of town.

George might have been a rotten husband but he was a superb doctor. While serving in the Confederate Army, he was the first doctor to perform a successful amputation at the hip joint. He also pioneered a quinine treatment for pneumonia. George had a pleasant bedside

manner with his CSA patients but he often operated on Federal prisoners while in a drunken stupor. His brutality towards them eventually ended in his arrest. Released, he was sent to serve at a hospital in Charleston, SC but his cruel mistreatment of prisoners continued. Union soldiers said George had “raving fits of madness” where he would kick dangerously ill patients almost to death. George insisted on severe punishments, even to the sickest of prisoners, for the slightest infraction.

George’s next placement was in Camden, SC. His vicious behavior softened when he met twenty four year old Martha Belton Lyles. The two married in 1865. George set up a private practice in Barnwell, SC, Martha’s hometown. They had a son, George Rogers Clark Todd Jr. The couple settled into an amiable marriage until Martha died in 1889. After her death, George began to drink excessively and started to slide into debt.

Perhaps the need for money drove him to the next big debacle of his life. On May 25, 1892, the State newspaper reported that a young woman and her unborn infant had been found dead. At the inquest, three physicians determined that the young woman came to her death “from the affects (sic) of a criminal operation performed by Dr. G.R.C.Todd.” It was bad enough to be a brother-in-law to Abraham Lincoln in South Carolina, but that added to abortion made George anathema in his town.

George died on April 1, 1900. Some whispered that he died from a self-administered overdose of chloroform. He is buried at the Camden Quaker Cemetery beside Martha. He outlived all but two of his many siblings.



Estranged from his father, George Todd Jr had left home immediately after Martha’s death. When he learned that his father had spitefully deeded all his property to a neighbor, he returned. The neighbor gladly handed everything over to George Jr. Junior sold everything, left town and was never heard from again.

George’s daughter from his first marriage, Mattie Dee Todd, became the first female postmistress of Cynthiana. Though born on the Confederate side of the Todd family, Mattie was said to owe her appointment to “the influence of her cousin, Robert Lincoln.” She never married and never had any contact with her father. Mattie died on January 12, 1909. She is buried in Battle Grove Cemetery, Kentucky.

**Submitted by Judith Breitstein**

# 'UNION SPY': The Forgotten Tale Behind the Presidio's Most Intriguing Grave

Katie Dowd, SFGATE

May 16, 2021. Updated: May 17, 2021 12:30 p.m.



**The gravestone of Pauline Cushman in the San Francisco National Cemetery in the Presidio. Cushman died in 1893.**

If you walk the serene rows of the San Francisco National Cemetery in the Presidio, you may eventually come upon an unusual tombstone. Carved into its aging marble face are the words:

**PAULINE C. FRYER  
UNION SPY**

How a Civil War spy came to be buried in San Francisco is a forgotten tale of adventure, intrigue and tragedy.

Pauline Cushman Fryer began life as Harriet Wood, a tomboyish daughter among seven sons in New Orleans. As a teenager, she was bit by the acting bug and set off on her own to New York City in the 1850s to pursue a career on the stage. Harriet Wood sounded a little dull to her ear, so she changed her name to Pauline Cushman, the moniker that would soon make her one of America's most famous women.

But the New York theater scene didn't work out for Pauline, a pretty but generally unremarkable actress. She met a theater musician named Charles Dickenson, though, and the pair married. Her career failing, they decided to move to Cleveland to be closer to his family. Heartbreak and War soon followed. The pair lost two babies in infancy

and Charles followed them in death in 1862, dying of dysentery far from home as a Union soldier.

Now on her own, Pauline returned to the stage. She made a modest comeback, and by 1863 was starring in a play in Kentucky. Louisville in 1863 was a tense place; Union troops were in control of the City but paroled Confederate prisoners walked the streets. As the legend goes, two such prisoners approached Pauline one day. They knew she gave a dinner toast during one scene of the play, and they said they'd pay her to change the script to dedicate the toast to the Confederacy.



**Pauline Cushman, Union spy, poses for a portrait taken in the 1860s. Brady-Handy photograph collection/Library of Congress**

Clever Pauline went straight to a Union Colonel and told him of their request. To her surprise, the Colonel told her to do it.

That night, when the toast scene came, Pauline stood up from the table, raised her glass, and proclaimed, "Here's to Jeff Davis and the Southern Confederacy; may the South always maintain her honor and her rights."

"The sentiment fell upon the audience like a bombshell," the San Francisco Call remembered three decades later. "All the Union persons present were mortified and indignant, while Southern sympathizers were delighted."

Among the mortified people was Pauline's boss, who promptly fired her after the performance. This was all part of the Colonel's plan, however.

"Romances of the lovely young actress who was persecuted and driven out of the two cities by the Union soldiers filled the South," the Examiner wrote, "and she was the Confederate heroine of the hour." Now a Southern star, Pauline was the perfect person to turn spy.



For the next few months, Pauline was one of the Union's most productive spies. Her usual ruse was pretending to be the sister of a missing Confederate soldier, using her sob story to sneak into Confederate Army camps. Once inside, she would assess their strength, supplies and plans. She drew maps from memory and wooed Southern soldiers into giving up intel.

Pauline was so good that in the Summer of 1863, she was sent to Nashville to scout for the upcoming Tullahoma Campaign, a sweeping plan to push the Confederates out of Middle Tennessee.

While on a mission, she met a young Confederate officer in possession of fortification plans. She took a risk and stole them. While hurrying back toward the Union camp, her luck ran out. She was captured by Southern troops and court-martialed in Shelbyville. The verdict: guilty. The sentence: death by hanging.

Pauline knew if she could stall just a little longer, the Union troops would be coming. So she mustered all her acting skill to fake an illness so severe her captors would delay her execution. "She used to laugh when she related how she played sick when General Bragg was going to hang her," Pauline's San Francisco landlady recalled years later.

Her plan worked. One day, she awoke to the sound of the Confederate camp around her in full retreat. She was left behind in the melee and rescued in the nick of time by her Union friends.

Her story made headlines across the nation, and soon Pauline Cushman was a household name, cursed by the Confederacy and venerated by the Union. The Army awarded her the title of "Major of Cavalry." It was said her exploits made it all the way to Abraham Lincoln himself, who allegedly remarked, "She has done more to earn her title than many a male who wore the shoulder straps of Major during the War."



**Pauline Cushman, Union spy, poses for a portrait taken in the 1860s. Here, she is dressed in full Union uniform. Brady-Handy photograph collection/Library of Congress**

Now outed as a spy, Pauline took to the stage once more, touring the nation as the "Spy of the Cumberland" with P.T. Barnum. Fame and glory did not last long, however. Although flowery prose at the time promised her name would never be forgotten, it quickly was. Other heroes and martyrs overtook her, and within the decade she was struggling once more. She married in San Francisco in 1872, but was widowed for a second time. She moved to Arizona Territory and married a man named Jere Fryer in 1877; their marriage dissolved, and she moved back by herself to San Francisco. In 1890, Pauline moved into a small, third-floor room in a boarding house at 1118 Market Street.

Her landlady, Mrs. Elizabeth Taylor, said sometimes Pauline didn't have enough money for food. She made a little cash by selling poetry, but her arthritis was so bad most of that money went toward buying painkillers. In April 1893, after 30 years of petitioning, the U.S. Government finally awarded Pauline her first husband's meager Army pension. As pain and poverty wore her down, Pauline's friends saw her bright personality fading.

"Taylor," Pauline told her landlady one day, "this world is not my home."

On the morning of December 2, 1893, Taylor went into Pauline's room to wake her. She found Pauline unconscious on the bed, her breathing labored. Two doctors were summoned, but nothing could be done for the ailing War hero. Major Pauline Cushman died at 2 p.m.

"A childless, gray-haired, penniless broken woman, almost without friends, died a lonely death in a Market Street lodging house yesterday," the Call wrote the next day. When the reporter asked Taylor if Pauline spoke of her War service, she replied, "It's been so long ago, and she's had so much trouble since, that I don't suppose she actually cares as much about her history as the school child who reads it."

A coroner's inquest found morphine and other painkillers on Pauline's bedside table and learned she frequently self-medicated for her debilitating arthritis. Although she was, understandably, depressed, she'd been making future plans and friends said she was not suicidal. The inquest ruled the death an accidental overdose.

Because of her destitute state, she would be buried in a potter's field in an unmarked grave, the papers reported. Luckily, this news horrified veterans groups, who rallied the funds to give her a proper funeral. The funeral home was thronged by visitors, who left so many flowers that her flag-covered casket was buried under them. A procession accompanied her to her gravesite. "A salute was fired across the grave and taps were sounded by Bugler Mitchell from the Presidio," the Call reported, "and the drama of the Federal spy's life was ended."

All of Pauline's children died in infancy, so she left behind only a few fond friends. On her bedside table was a letter, forever unsent, to one of them:

"We must live until we are called. God ordains in many ways," Pauline wrote. "There may be a bright future yet. We will hope for it."

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