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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

I am often very impressed with the quality of speakers in our local community. Sue Person was certainly an outstanding example of that. In my 20 years as a student of the Civil War, I had read nothing about THE NANCIES, A Civil War Woman's Brigade.

The book, Seizing Destiny, tells the story of systematic and frankly inspired military leadership by the generals, other officers, and enlisted men of the Army of the Potomac. By one estimate, that Army spent only 45 days during the roughly 1,500 existence in combat: Major battles involving the whole Army. Think Gettysburg (3) and Chancellorsville(2). The difference between a major and a minor battle is "if you are in it, it's major."

I was very impressed with our turnout for April. It may have something to do with the improved weather. Still, it shows that ours is a healthy Club. And that is becoming rarer and rarer. There was a recent book about this phenomena called Bowling Alone: The Collapse of American Community, by Robert D. Putnam. People in general just don't join anything anymore.

The May speaker is also our newest member. Lawrence Marvin III will talk about "Civil War Innovations." All wars bring new technologies. The United States' Civil War was no exception. This should be a very interesting presentation.

**Dennis Kohlmann, President**

**MINUTES**  
**SACRAMENTO CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE**  
**Wednesday, April 11, 2018**  
**HOF BRAU RESTAURANT, 2500 WATT AVENUE, SACRAMENTO**

**ATTENDANCE – 37**

**MEMBERS – 31:** Dennis Kohlmann, President; Don Hayden, Vice President; Barbara Leone, Secretary; George W. Foxworth, Treasurer; Roy Bishop, Harvey & Marsha Cain, Arnd Gartner, Alan Geiken, Nina & Wayne Henley, Chris Highsmith, Jane Jackson, James Juanitas, Arnold Kunst, Grace Long, Larry & Silver(Program Director) Marvin, Michelle & Joseph Matalone, Bernie Quinn, John Rice, Paul Ruud (MAL); Nancy Samuelson, Nick Scivoletto, Richard Sickert (MAL); Roxanne Spizzirri, Michael Werner, Dan & Faye Wolfe, John Zasso.

**GUESTS – 6:** Esther Boeck, Bill Lanterman, Sue Pearson, Larry Spizzirri, Richard Spizzirri, Don Zajic.

1. Dennis called the meeting to order and led the Pledge. Nick Scivoletto conducted the raffle. Our speaker, Sue Pearson, has been involved with many local TV stations and she gave us a history of her life in journalism. She began in radio in the Los Angeles area and then moved to the Central Coast to learn television. In 1979, she was hired to be the first night reporter in Sacramento with a live satellite band at 11:00 PM. From news anchor and reporter at commercial stations, she progressed to KVIE Public TV where she learned to make 30 - 60 minute documentary productions. Some of these were distributed nationally such as those on water, stroke, and weather. In 2004, she retired from KVIE for medical reasons but felt she could write a novel, *The Nancies*.
2. The inspiration for the *Nancies* came from a visit to La Grange, Georgia. Her sister lived in Atlanta and was in La Grange on business. Her sister believed their grandmother was hiding something scandalous so she went to the archives. With the help of historian Clark Johnson, she found there wasn't anything but their great grandmother was a member of the only all female militia in the Civil War. Her sister was disappointed but she took the paperwork and gave it to Sue. Their great grandmother and two great aunts were members and officers of the Nancy Hart Militia, named after the Revolutionary War heroine, also from Georgia. That Nancy Hart killed a British soldier after she was forced at gunpoint to slaughter and serve her hog to them.
4. The historical novel begins the day before the Union invasion when the 46 members must decide whether to fight as they had been trained or run as they were told.
5. Dr. H. C. Ware (a physician), who had military training, but for an unknown medical reason, was not allowed to fight, agreed to train them. They trained several times a week and some qualified as sharpshooters. Their weapons were what the soldiers left behind and were of questionable worth. At some time, they did get better rifles but it is not known how. True stories include an early shooting practice resulting in one member earning the name "Bull's-Eye Betsy" and another involving a hornet's nest.
6. Sue is descended from the Bulls: there were three sisters Addie, Adelia, and Sallie. Their brother Gus joined the Confederate Army at the beginning of the War. He was wounded at the Battle of Seven Pines, Virginia, his horse confiscated. A letter written by a Union officer from the camp where he died indicated what a gentleman and inspiration he was to both sides, officers and enlisted men alike. A photograph exists showing his horse in front of the family home. Perhaps it was taken when the horse was returned? Addie Bull, Sue's great grandmother married James Tomlinson, Gus's best friend. Their daughter, Adelaide, moved to Opelika, Alabama where she married E. O. Pearson. Their son, Earnest Oliver Pearson, Jr., is Sue's father.
7. As topics for future meetings, Dennis suggested more obscure subjects such as lesser known battles, personalities, etc.
8. The next Board Meeting will be Wednesday, May 9, 2018, 10 AM at Brookfield's Restaurant.

**Barbara Leone, Secretary**

**Treasurer's Report**

The cash balance following the April 11th meeting was \$6,411.33. 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  |
|----------------|---------------------|--|
| 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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)

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.

# Annual Conference on Women & the Civil War

Friday, July 27 to Sunday, July 29, 2018 - The **Annual Conference on Women & the Civil War** will be held in Alexandria, Virginia. The weekend's events include lectures by noted historians, and field trips to Washington, DC and Alexandria sites. This will be the **Society for Women & the Civil War's 19th Conference**, and it is sure to provide a wealth of information around the Conference Theme of "**Rebuilding Lives After the Civil War.**" For Conference information and registration, please go to:

<http://www.swcw.org/conference-details.html> or feel free to contact Janet Whaley at [Janet1860@charter.net](mailto:Janet1860@charter.net).

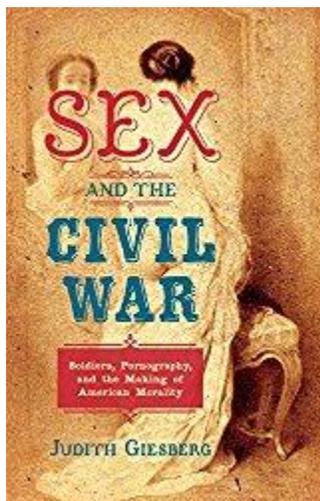
# **Sex in the Civil War: Soldiers, Pornography, and the Making of American Morality**

**By Judith Giesberg**

Review by Donald R. Shaffer, Upper Iowa University

Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2017. Pp. xiii, 135. ISBN 978-1-4696-3127-1.

In *Sex in the Civil War*, historian Judith Giesberg (Villanova University) brings the evidence of contemporary pornography to a trenchant scholarly analysis of gender identity among (mostly Union Army) soldiers and the larger civilian community in the North during and following the War. Much of her often explicit source material remains controversial even today, when the internet has made pornography ubiquitous in a way that would have horrified postbellum moral campaigners like Anthony Comstock. Giesberg argues that pornography and its intersection with other sexual controversies in Victorian America precipitated a crisis of gender during the Civil War and prompted an aggressive postwar campaign against what many Americans saw as an insidious moral threat to the nation.



The book comprises an introduction laying out its subject matter and analytic method, four chapters, and an epilogue. Chapter 1, "Lewd, Wicked, and Scandalous: American Pornography Comes of Age," begins with the tentative antebellum efforts of the United States Government to outlaw pornographic materials, which before the 1850s entered the country mostly from abroad. Giesberg notes that banning imported pornography merely encouraged enterprising Americans, mainly in New York City, to produce it domestically to meet demand. Innovations in the US Mail made it cheap to ship obscene materials across the nation and new technology allowed consumers to view them discreetly. Furthermore, Wartime postal regulations discounting and prioritizing parcel shipments to soldiers as a morale building measure, facilitated the spread of homegrown pornography into Union Army camps, to the point that it "came to be associated with the experience of soldiering" (31).

In Chapter 2, "Storming the Enemy's Breastworks: Civil War Courts-Martial and the Sexual Culture of the US Army Camp," Giesberg explores pornography's influence on the sexual culture of Union soldiers. She draws heavily on court-martial records, where evidence of pornography in military camps was most likely to be registered and preserved. Interestingly, she finds that both officers and enlisted men were tried for possessing pornography. Some officers tried to use pornography as one method among others to bond with their men and encourage enlisted men to bond with each other: "Sharing of erotic images between men served to negotiate lines of authority and trust.... [P]ornography served as a form of transaction among men who needed to know they could trust one another" (52).

Of course, not all Union soldiers welcomed pornographic materials in their camps. Giesberg discusses a noted postbellum moral crusader in chapter 3, "True Courage: Anthony Comstock and the Crisis of the War." She locates the roots of Comstock's postwar campaign against pornography and other forms of indecency in his experience of Civil War military camps. Comstock's older brother had been killed while serving in a Connecticut regiment that was decimated early on in the War. But, by the time the younger Comstock enlisted in the same unit, it was engaged in safe and rather boring garrison duty in Saint Augustine, Florida. Here the priggish Comstock, appalled by the ribald camp culture, did not get along with his comrades and deeply regretted not being tested in combat like his brother. That disappointment, the author suggests, motivated him to join postwar moral crusades and prove his manhood by bravely and zealously campaigning against the evildoers he believed were corrupting the nation's youth with licentious materials.

Chapter 4, "Outraged Manhood of Our Age: The Postwar Anti-Pornography Campaign," portrays Comstock's career as a champion of morality as part of a larger "postwar surge of interest in and legislation regularizing and regulating marriage and, in doing so, stabilizing a gender order that War had upset" (84). The US Congress and increasing numbers of state legislatures passed laws empowering both government officials and activists like Comstock (who eventually became a Federal postal inspector) to target pornographers, abortionists, and purveyors of birth control devices and sex education information. Although the activists had their detractors, Giesberg finds that they garnered much popular support in part because influential lobbies such as medical professionals found the anti-smut crusaders useful in their efforts to professionalize medicine by eliminating untrained practitioners, especially abortionists.

My only quibbles with the book are its brevity, likely a result of its origin in a set of lectures delivered at Penn State University, and (through no fault of the author) the paucity of its primary sources. Giesberg notes that extant specimens of Civil War-era pornography are mostly in private hands rather than institutional collections. And, too, the zeal of activists like Anthony Comstock likely removed much evidence that might have been useful to scholars and historians today. I hope that Judith Giesberg and other researchers will continue to uncover and analyze relevant materials. In the meantime, *Sex in the Civil War* has demonstrated that pornography can provide insights into both the changing moral universe and the inner worlds of its past consumers.

Submitted by Bruce A. Castleman, Ph.D.

# Harriet Beecher Stowe

Harriet Elizabeth Beecher, “the little lady who started the Civil War,” was born on June 14, 1811, into a religious, intellectually gifted family, the sixth of eleven children. Committed to the anti-slavery movement, the children, regardless of gender, were taught to strive for excellence and public service.



When Harriet was four years old, her mother died, marring her childhood. As she grew older and needed to earn a living, Harriet taught and co-wrote books with her sister, Catherine, a pioneer in female education.

Harriet's future husband, Calvin Stowe, was a professor, clergyman, and biblical scholar. Stowe had been the husband of Harriet's dear friend, Eliza Tyler, who had died of cholera in 1834. Harriet and Calvin's shared grief turned to love and they married in 1836. The family was always short of funds. Harriet, with her husband's encouragement, turned to writing articles for newspapers and magazines. In 1852, they hit the jackpot when *Uncle Tom's Cabin* became a literary and financial success. Thereafter, Harriet wrote a book every year for the next twenty nine years.

Harriet's personal life was suffused with tragedy. In 1849, her youngest child, Samuel Charles "Charley," died of cholera at eighteen months. Henry Ellis, her oldest son, drowned in 1857 at age nineteen while a student at Dartmouth College. Her son, Frederick, an alcoholic since he was sixteen, felt he could never measure up to the intellectual reputation of his mother's family. He dropped out of Harvard Medical School and enlisted in the Army. He never quite recovered from the head wound he received at Gettysburg. In 1870, he boarded a boat to San Francisco and was never heard from again. Harriet employed a string of detectives to search for him for years but he had vanished. In 1890, Harriet's daughter, Georgina, succumbed to her morphine addiction at forty seven years old.

Harriet's twin daughters, Eliza and Isabella, acted as secretaries and caretakers for their parents. They shared a room with twin beds until their parents died and then moved to live near their brother, Charles.

Harriet's brother, George, had several nervous breakdowns. In 1843, George went bird hunting and was later found dead of a gunshot wound to the head. The family chose to believe that his death was accidental. Her brother, Charles, a minister like his father and six brothers, was a strong believer in mysticism, spirituality, and music during services. He was found guilty of heresy by his church but his congregants fought and had the conviction overturned. In 1867, two of Charles' daughters, Hattie and Elizabeth, drowned in a sailing accident. In 1868, his son, Frederick, a Union Army veteran, was killed in a battle with the Cheyenne in Colorado.

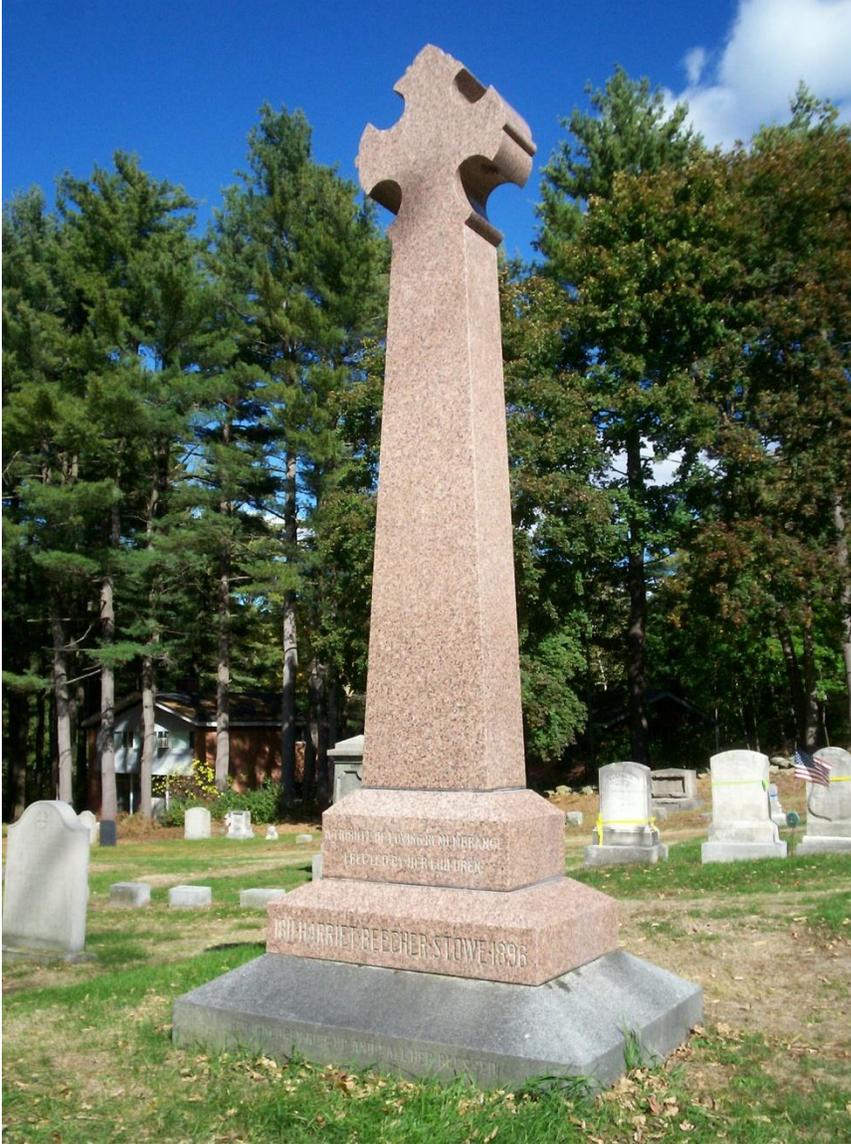
The famous preacher and Abolitionist, Henry Ward Beecher, was the most renowned of all Harriet's siblings. Henry caused a scandal when he was sued for adultery in 1875. Harriet stood beside her brother though her sister, Isabella, one of the founders of the Women's Suffrage Movement, remained estranged from him for many years. A mistrial was declared. So popular was Henry that when he died in 1887, Brooklyn held a day of mourning and the New York legislature adjourned its session. Harriet's brother, James, unable to cope with his wife's alcohol and morphine addiction and miserable because he was being coerced to take over Henry's ministry at Plymouth Church in Brooklyn, had a nervous breakdown. On August 25, 1886, he shot himself in the head while at a water cure sanitarium in Elmira, New York.

Harriet wrote to earn money and to take her mind off her troubles. Oddly enough, there was not one place in the Stowe home dedicated as Harriet's office.

Calvin died on August 22, 1886. He was eighty five years old. Harriet spent the rest of her life at home in Hartford, often enjoying several glasses of wine with her next door neighbor, Mark Twain. Sadly, in her last years, she suffered from what we now know is Alzheimer's disease. She would sit for hours writing the

words to *Uncle Tom's Cabin* over and over again, thinking she was writing them for the first time. In the summer, when front doors would customarily be left open, Twain and other neighbors would find Harriet wandering through their homes. Often she would jump out and surprise them with a loud "Boo."

Harriet died on July 1, 1896. She was eighty five years old. Her coffin was adorned with a wreath from the Boston Afro-American Community that read, "The Children of Uncle Tom." She is buried at Phillips Academy Cemetery in Andover, Massachusetts.



Submitted by Judith Breitstein