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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 have always said that history is a discipline where we apply today's morals to the past. Today, like the 1850's and 1860's, is a time of great disruption in our Country. Like then, people on both sides viewed themselves as good and loyal Americans.

Southerners viewed the Election of 1860 as a Sectional Presidential Election. Lincoln was only on the ballot in one state that succeeded. Southerners viewed that the legacy of the Revolutionary ideals like liberty and equality and the well being of society were in danger.

The immediate catalyst for the secession crisis was Abraham Lincoln's election to the presidency on a platform that pledged to halt the westward expansion of slavery. Weighing secession against the impact on the legacy of the Revolution, the best interest of the South lay in secession.

Our revolutionary fathers taught us to resist oppression, to declare and maintain independence, to govern ourselves as we think best. The British attempt to tax colonists' tea without colonial representation in Parliament constituted no more of an infringement on colonial rights than hostility toward slavery did on White Southern rights.

**Dennis Kohlmann, President**

**MINUTES**  
**SACRAMENTO CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE**  
Wednesday, April 14, 2021  
HOF BRAU RESTAURANT, 2500 WATT AVENUE, SACRAMENTO

**ATTENDANCE – 0:**

**MEMBERS – 0:** No meeting and no Members.

**GUESTS – 0:** No meeting and no Guests.

1. No meeting. Meetings are cancelled until further notice due to COVID-19. The Hof Brau is still closed to inside dining.
2. The next Board Meeting is unknown at this time.

**George W. Foxworth for Vacant, Secretary**

**Treasurer's Report**

The cash balance on April 14th was \$4,466.35. No meeting and no raffle.

**George W. Foxworth, Treasurer**

## **George D. Beitzel**

Recently, George Beitzel mailed an announcement of his new situation.

He is recovering from a serious illness and has been out of communication for six months. He has moved to an assisted living facility and re-establishing contact.

His current data is as follows:

George D. Beitzel  
8871 E. Stockton Blvd., Apt. #220  
Elk Grove, CA 95624

Cell Phone: 916 465-5444  
Email: [gjbeitzel@gmail.com](mailto:gjbeitzel@gmail.com)

**Submitted by Silver N. Marvin**

# Coming Programs for 2021

Date	Speaker	Topic
May 12th	"No Speaker"	"No Topic"
June 9th	"To Be Determined"	"To Be Determined"
July 14th	"To Be Determined"	"To Be Determined"
August 11th	"To Be Determined"	"To Be Determined"
September 8th	"To Be Determined"	"To Be Determined"
October 13th	"To Be Determined"	"To Be Determined"

## 2021 Membership

The 2021 membership renewal was due as of January 1, 2021. The dues are \$30.00 and you can renew and 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

**NOTE: 2020 memberships are good for 2021 due to COVID-19.**

## 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**

# The White Slave Children of New Orleans

In 1855, Senator Charles Sumner helped to free an eight year old slave girl. He had helped her father, a freed slave himself, purchase her. Mary Mildred Botts did not look like a slave for she appeared to be “perfectly White.”



“I think her presence among us (in Boston) will be a great deal more effective than any speech I could make,” wrote Sumner. The color of the girl’s skin brought up images of non-consensual sex and the vulnerability of any enslaved woman.

Lighter skinned slave women were most often assigned to work in the plantation home. Their chores were less arduous than those of their darker skinned sisters toiling in the fields, the rice paddies, or the hemp factories, but they were on duty 24 hours a day. They were also more accessible to the master and his sons.

Isolated plantation owners admitted that they never rested easy in their beds, afraid that their human possessions would slit their throats while they slept in retribution for harsh treatment. Many unexplained, sudden deaths of Whites were attributed to poisoning by their slaves. Masters and mistresses felt there was less to fear in the way of reprisals if a servant looked “more like us.”

The majority of free Blacks in the United States descended from slaves who were manumitted after fighting for the colonies during the American Revolution. The majority

of free Black women were lighter skinned than the men as a result of generations of forced sex.

By 1863, there were 95 schools open for freedmen and their children in Union-controlled Louisiana, with enrollment of about 9,500. Their owners had fled when General Benjamin Butler entered New Orleans. Butler, a leading abolitionist, became enraged when some of the children were revealed to be the slaves of their own fathers. It was said that he would shut himself in his office until he could calm down.

The Union Military Department of the Gulf joined with the American Missionary Association and the National Freedmen's Association, to arrange for a series of photographs of freed slaves. The revenue from the pictures would fund new schools for the recently emancipated people. Most of the children pictured had European features with no hint of Black ancestry. The pictures were sold as *carte des visites*, placed in magazines or used in posters advertising lectures. All the children were dressed in clothing that the average middle class child would wear, making them relatable to the readers. The pictures were mass-produced and designed to tug at the heart strings of Northerners. The larger ones sold for one dollar, the smaller ones for 25 cents.

The children most often featured were Rebecca Huger, Charley Taylor, Rosa (Rosina) Downs, Augusta Boujey, and Fannie Virginia Casseopia Lawrence. This period of their lives is well-documented. Almost nothing is known of what happened to them after their days in the spotlight were done. Harper's Weekly commented that they looked to be "the offspring of White fathers through two or three generations. They are as White, as intelligent, as docile, as most of our own children." There has been nothing written showing that these children received better treatment than any other slave owned by their fathers.

Slave children who were born "White" were either sold immediately if the mistress of the house had her say or simply kept at home and their skin color ignored. Mary Chestnut famously wrote, "Like the patriarchs of old, our men live all in one house with their wives and concubines, and the mulattoes one sees in every family exactly resemble the White children--Every lady tells you who is the father of all the mulatto children in everyone's household, but those in her own, she seems to think drop from the clouds..." The plight of girls with light skin and "white hair" was deemed especially dire. Many would find themselves sold as "fancy girls" to the bordellos in New Orleans where they fetched large sums of money.

Mr. Philip Bacon had traveled with the Army and was the Assistant Superintendent of Freedmen's Schools. He established the first school in Louisiana for emancipated slaves. It was decided that he would select the "whitest" of these children and travel North on a fund-raising publicity tour. Dark-skinned children traveled with them for "contrast." The sponsors felt that the children would appeal to the sentimentality of the Victorian public. Purse strings would be loosened, abolition would be furthered, and consciences assuaged. Though it was the middle of the War, with thousands of lives already lost in the fight for emancipation, sponsors knew that Black faces would not

elicit the sympathy or the philanthropy that they sought.

Within a few hours of registering at The Saint Lawrence Hotel on Chestnut Street in Philadelphia, the concierge approached Bacon and told him that he and his small entourage would have to leave. The children's history had preceded them and the Hotel religiously adhered to the "one drop" rule. Bacon moved to The Continental Hotel.

At the time the pictures were taken, Rebecca Huger was about 11 years old. She was one of 17 slaves in her father's household and cared for a girl slightly older than herself.

Charley Taylor was around eight years old. His father, Alexander Withers of Virginia, was his owner. Withers sold Charley to a slave trader in New Orleans. Charley was freed when his next owner fled at the approach of the Union Army.

Rosa Downs was about seven when her picture was taken to use for propaganda. Her master, who was her father, was serving in the Confederate Army.

Augusta Boujey was nine. She was owned by her half-brother, Solamon. Two of her siblings were still enslaved.

Fannie Fletcher's father, Charles Rufus Ayres, was the owner of a plantation and had been murdered by a neighbor. Catherine Lawrence, a nurse tending Union soldiers, found five year-old Fannie filthy and abandoned. Adopted by Mrs. Lawrence, the Reverend Henry Beecher baptized Fannie with a new name, Fannie Virginia Casseopia Lawrence. In her teens, Fannie ran away, married, had two children and died in 1895. It is assumed that she is buried somewhere in New York.



Fannie Virginia Casseopia Lawrence (left) & Mary Mildred Botts (right).

In New York and Philadelphia, the children were coached to smile and curtsy. They garnered sympathy and the money came rolling in.

And after that...they seemed to disappear.



Rebecca Huger, Charlie Taylor, & Rosa Downs (left) & White slave Uncle Jack (right).

Had they “passed” into White society? Were they aided by fond adoptive parents? Perhaps a census taker carelessly jotted down **W** (White) instead of **C** (Colored) or **M** (**M**ulatto), officially making them White and giving them a chance to change their names and move to where nary a soul knew them. Did they marry and reveal their secret to their spouse or choose celibacy to make sure their secret was never outed? Or did they move back to live in poor post-Civil War African American communities, die, and be buried in graves marked with their old slave names and the word “Colored?”

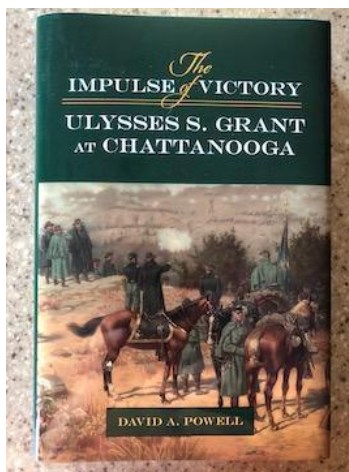
No record of any of the burial places of these children can be found.

An English visitor to the United States admitted, “I have seen slaves, men and women, sold at New Orleans who were very nearly as White as myself. Although it is not actually worse to buy and sell a man or woman who is nearly white, than it is to sell one some shades darker, yet there is something in it more revolting to one’s feelings.”

Even after Emancipation, that would have been the prevailing feeling in this Country. One can only hope that the children found safety, love, and happiness in whatever world they chose to live in.

**Submitted by Judith Breitstein**

## Emerging Civil War congratulates Dave Powell on the publication of his latest book, *Impulse of Victory: Ulysses S. Grant at Chattanooga*.



From the book jacket:

Union soldiers in the Army of the Cumberland, who were trapped and facing starvation or surrender in the fall of 1863, saw the arrival of Major General Ulysses S. Grant in Tennessee as an impetus to reverse the tides of war. David A. Powell's sophisticated strategic and operational analysis of Grant's command decisions and actions shows how his determined leadership relieved the siege and shattered the enemy, resulting in the creation of a new strategic base of Union operations and Grant's elevation to commander of all the Federal armies the following year.

Powell's detailed exploration of the Union Army of the Cumberland's six-week-long campaign for Chattanooga is complemented by his careful attention to the personal issues Grant faced at the time and his relationships with his superiors and subordinates. Though unfamiliar with the tactical situation, the Army, and its officers, Grant delivered another resounding victory. His success, explains Powell, was due to his tactical flexibility, communication with his superiors, perseverance despite setbacks, and dogged determination to win the campaign. Through attention to postwar accounts, Powell reconciles the differences between what happened and the participants' memories of the events. He focuses throughout on Grant's controversial decisions, revealing how they were made and their impact on the campaign. As Powell shows, Grant's choices demonstrate how he managed to be a thoughtful, deliberate commander despite the fog of war.

Submitted by Emerging Civil War ([www.emergingcivilwar.com](http://www.emergingcivilwar.com))



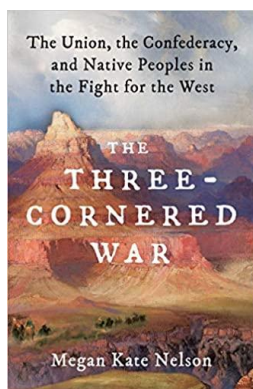
# The Three-Cornered War: The Union, the Confederacy, and Native Peoples in the Fight for the West

Michigan War Studies Review. 2020-035. 17 Apr. 2020.

By Megan Kate Nelson. Review by Jonathan Beard, New York City.

New York: Scribner, 2020. Pp. xx, 352. ISBN 978-1-5011-5254-2. Descriptors: Volume 2020, 19th Century, US Civil War.

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Most histories of the American Civil War divide the fighting between the Eastern Theater—the battles along the Potomac, Gettysburg, and finally Sherman's March—and the Western Theater, with Shiloh, Vicksburg, and the Union seizing control of the Mississippi. But the struggle to control what later became the forty-eight contiguous states extended all the way from Richmond to Los Angeles. In *The Three-Cornered War*, historian Megan Kate Nelson draws welcome attention to the Civil War as it was fought in (here and in what follows) present-day West Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, and California. She also includes both women and Native Americans in unexpected ways in her account of how complex the War could be when fought beyond the Mississippi.

Nelson's narrative centers on nine individuals who left traces in the historical record: three US Army soldiers, one of them Kit Carson; a noncombatant (Union) Government surveyor and an officer's wife; two (Confederate) Texans, one an officer; Mangas Coloradas, a famous Apache Chief; and Juanita, a Navajo woman. Being literate, the Anglos left letters or diaries. Proceeding chronologically, Nelson devotes a short chapter to each of the nine, beginning in the East in 1861 and ending with the ceremonial gold and silver spikes that sealed the transcontinental railroad in 1869.

Unlike historians of the War in the East, Nelson must begin by describing the landscape and ethnic map of the Western Theater. When John Baylor led his Confederate troops west from San Antonio to El Paso, he feared dying of thirst or at the hands of Comanche or Apache Indians far more than from any Union ambush; the railroads that moved soldiers to and from battlefields in the East were still hundreds of miles, and several years, away. Similarly, when a Union column marched from California to Tucson and New Mexico, they never saw a Confederate soldier but did lose several men to Chiefs Mangas Coloradas and Cochise and their warriors—the third side of *Nelson's Three-Cornered War*.

Native Americans, of course, did not care whether the soldiers wore blue or gray. Slavery was part of the picture in the West as well—but in a completely different context. One of the three ethnic groups that dominated New Mexico Territory was the Hispanos, descendants of Spanish

settlers who had arrived before Mexico achieved independence. For centuries, they had farmed, ranched, and traded in this land, and suffered raids from both Navajos and Apaches. In fighting back, they took and enslaved captives. Aware that the new Confederacy supported slavery and that the Union would probably abolish it, many Hispano slave-owners naturally sided with the South. Some left Santa Fe when Union troops arrived early in the War. But the combination of slavery and mutual Anglo vs. Native American hostility led to events unlike anything seen in the East. Consider this episode which came between the two battles fought in New Mexico: John Baylor, who had led his men from Texas, returned to Mesilla, New Mexico, after defeating Union forces at Valverde (20 February 1862). He then led a hundred men on a search for Chiricahua Apaches in Mexico:

After a ride of almost two hundred miles, Baylor's band entered the mining town of Corralitos, in Chihuahua.... [They] dismounted and began to break into houses, searching rooms and knocking over furniture. They told the townspeople they were looking for Chiricahuas, a group of raiders who had attacked farms, emigrant wagon trains, and Confederate army camps along the Rio Grande. In the end, Baylor found only three Apaches in Corralitos, two women and one man who were hiding in a mine owner's house. The owner protested that these Apaches were his house slaves, converted to Catholicism and at peace with the community. Baylor waved off the man's protestations, dragging the Apaches out from their hiding places and into the street. By this time, a crowd had gathered in the plaza. Baylor executed the women and man with his pistol, then strode out into the midst of the crowd. (87)

The interactions, hostile and otherwise, between Anglos and Indians that are at the heart of Nelson's book will be unfamiliar to most readers. But she limits herself to just two tribes. The Comanches who controlled much of West Texas are briefly mentioned, while the Apaches and their wars with both Confederate and Union soldiers are examined at length. In Northern New Mexico, the saga of the Navajo Nation and its forced removal to a reservation and subsequent return to its homeland occupies the longest section of the book, while the thousands of Pueblo Indians in the Rio Grande Valley are omitted altogether.

*The Three Cornered War* is a fine history of the Civil War period in New Mexico, extending up to the Navajos's July 1868 migration back to their homeland in the Four Corners, where Arizona, Utah, Colorado, and New Mexico now meet. Nelson does not complete the history of Apache hostilities: Geronimo and his band fought on until 1886. As military history, the book has strengths and weaknesses. Its author's use of contemporary letters and diaries give us an up-close-and-personal, if uneven, view of the two battles—Valverde and Glorieta Pass (26–28 Mar. 1862)—fought in New Mexico. The former is thoroughly described, while significant parts of the latter are glossed over. In both cases, maps would have helped readers better understand the fighting. (The book's lone map shows the entire United States in 1860.) In any case, the "military history" of the Civil War in this region did not last very long:

In early July, 1862, Bill Davidson and his comrades took one last look at the Rio Grande, and then turned their faces to the east.... [T]his was it, the end of the Confederate campaign for New Mexico. The Texans had mismanaged time, supplies, and natural resources in an unforgiving Theater of War, and they had suffered for it. The West remained in the hands of the Union, and the Confederacy was surrounded on all sides by states and territories loyal to Abraham Lincoln. (123)

Combat between Union and Confederate soldiers in the West ended two months before the Battle of Antietam (17 September 1862). The War, and Nelson's story, both continue. The rest of *The Three-Cornered War* concerns the efforts of Union forces to control Apaches and Navajos. An epilogue describes the fate of each of Megan Nelson's nine subjects. Juanita outlived all the Anglos to die in 1910.

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