



Volume 63, No. 5
May, 2023

2023 Officers:

James C. Juanitas,
President
(916) 600-4930
jcjuanitas@aol.com

Paul G. Ruud,
Immediate Past President
(530) 886-8806
paulgruud@gmail.com

Carol Breiter, Vice
President
(916) 729-7644
carollovestoswim@outlook.com

VACANT,
Secretary

George W. Foxworth,
Treasurer
(916) 362-0178
gwofforth@sbcglobal.net

Bernard Quinn,
Program Director
(916) 419-1197
bwqcrypto@gmail.com

Ron Grove, MAL
(916) 397-0678
rgrove916@outlook.com

Joseph A. Matalone, MAL
(916) 837-7616
0425jam@comcast.net

VACANT,
Editor

SCWRT Website
www.sacramentocwrt.com

Kim Knighton, Webmaster
webmaster@digitalthumbprint.com

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

NO MESSAGE

James C. Juanitas, President

MINUTES

SACRAMENTO CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Wednesday, April 12, 2023

DENNY'S RESTAURANT, 3520 AUBURN BOULEVARD, SACRAMENTO

ATTENDANCE – 27:

MEMBERS – 25: James C. Juanitas, President; Carol Breiter, Vice President; George W. Foxworth, Treasurer; Jean Breiter, Harvey & Marsha Cain-Jutovsky, Mark Carlson, Ron Grove, Wayne & Nina Henley, Diana Lizarraga, Kim Grace Long, Joseph (MAL) & Michelle Matalone, Eric Norman, Bernie Quinn, Program Director; Paul (IPP) & Patty Ruud, Nicholas Scivoletto, Stuart & Andrea Sheffield, Stephen Shiflett, Larry Spizzirri, Richard Spizzirri, & Peggy Tveden.

GUESTS – 02: Jennette Calvin & Corbin Cruthley.

1. The meeting was called to order by President James Juanitas at 7:06 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.
3. The Board is looking for a meeting place. The 2023 Civil War Conference is in Fresno in November 3 - 5. New members and guests were introduced.
4. The raffle was conducted by Nicholas Scivoletto. Books and bottles of wine were offered as prizes. The raffle raised \$41.00.
5. The speaker was Jean Breiter and her topic was "Horses' Impact and Health During the Civil War." Jean is a certified blacksmith since 2020. Three million horses died during the Civil War.
6. Multiple uses during the War: Calvary, pulling artillery, officer mounts, ambulance wagons, and supply wagons. Mules spooked from the artillery firings.
7. Henry Burden, engineer born in Scotland, emigrated to New York in 1819 and invented machine mass production of horseshoes in 1835. Burden could produce 60 horseshoes each minute and he became the chief supplier to the Union Army during the War.
8. Many mud marches during the War. The horses were rested every 100 yards as wagons and cannons sank to their axles. At times, the horses and mules were abandoned in the mud.
9. Common injuries in horses: going lame, cracks, white line, thrust, abscesses, bruises, and laminitis which killed Secretariat. Injuries are very painful to the horses.
10. Hoof maintenance and shoes help with balance, wear & tear, cracks, hoof wall infections, and other injuries. Lack of care can lead to the horse being put down.
11. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.
12. The next Executive Board Meeting is May 10, 2023 at 10:00 AM, Brookfields at Madison and I-80.

Submitted by George W. Foxworth for Secretary (Vacant)

Treasurer's Report

The cash balance on April 12, 2023 was \$4,550.73. Thanks to Nicholas Scivoletto, members, & guests, the raffle brought in \$41.00.

George W. Foxworth, Treasurer

Coming Programs for 2023

Date	Speaker	Topic
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"
October 11th	"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 day 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.

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.

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

John Lincoln "Johnny" Clem



In May of 1861, 9 year-old John Lincoln "Johnny" Clem ran away from his home in Newark, Ohio, to join the Union Army, but found the Army was not interested in signing on a 9 year old boy when the Commander of the 3rd Ohio Regiment told him he "wasn't enlisting infants," and turned him down. Clem tried the 22nd Michigan Regiment next, and its Commander told him the same. Determined, Clem tagged after the Regiment, acted out the role of a drummer boy, and was allowed to remain. Though still not regularly enrolled, he performed camp duties and received a soldier's pay of \$13 a month, a sum collected and donated by the Regiment's officers.

The next April, at Shiloh, Clem's drum was smashed by an artillery round and he became a minor news item as "Johnny Shiloh, The Smallest Drummer." A year later, at the Battle Of Chickamauga, he rode an artillery caisson to the front and wielded a musket trimmed to his size. In one of the Union retreats a Confederate officer ran after the cannon Clem rode with, and yelled, "Surrender you damned little Yankee!" Johnny shot him dead. This pluck won for Clem national attention and the name "Drummer Boy of Chickamauga."

Clem stayed with the Army through the War, served as a courier, and was wounded twice. Between Shiloh and Chickamauga, he was regularly enrolled in the service, began receiving his own pay, and was soon-after promoted to the rank of Sergeant. He was only 12 years-old. After the Civil War, he tried to enter West Point, but was turned down because of his slim education. A personal appeal to President Ulysses S. Grant, his Commanding General at Shiloh, won him a 2nd Lieutenant's appointment in the Regular Army on 18 December 1871, and in 1903 he attained the rank of Colonel and served as Assistant Quartermaster General. He retired from the Army as a Major General in 1916, having served an astounding 55 years.



General Clem died in San Antonio, Texas, on 13 May 1937, exactly 3 months shy of his 86th birthday, and is buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

Edward McIlhenny

Twenty eight year old John Marsh left his successful career as a merchant in the North sometime in 1818. He moved his family to Le Petit Anse, a remote island in Louisiana in Iberia Parish, 140 miles west of New Orleans.

John knew nothing about processing sugarcane or making molasses and rum. He purchased 13 slaves in his home State of New Jersey just as they were preparing a bill to “prohibit the exportation of slaves or servants of color out of this State.” It passed on November 5, 1818, a mere month after Marsh had shipped his human cargo to New Orleans. There he bought an experienced “Sugarmaker.” Gradually, John became a master of the sugar making art and was able to teach his son, George, an “affable hunchback,” how to run a plantation and get their money’s worth from their slaves.

Sarah Marsh, John’s daughter, married Daniel Dudley Avery in 1837. Yale educated, Avery, had practiced law, worked as a journalist, and eventually entered politics in Baton Rouge where he resided. After the wedding, he gave up his many careers and became a slave master.

On September 10, 1849, John Marsh sold his plantation to his son, George, and his two sons-in-law, Daniel Avery and Ashbel Burnham Henshaw. Avery eventually purchased Henshaw’s share for \$40,000.

Marsh died on April 25, 1858 of unknown causes. His unmarried son, George, followed him to the grave in December 1859. Daniel Avery was now the sole owner of what was now called Avery Island.

Edmund McIlhenny had been born on October 15, 1815 in Hagerstown, Maryland. When he was 17, his father died from Asiatic cholera. Edmund was forced to work to support his mother and brothers. He worked in financial institutions in Baltimore until he moved to New Orleans around 1840. He eventually bought three branches of the Bank of Louisiana. By the early 1860s, he was worth about \$112,000 (about \$2.5 million in today’s currency) and high up on New Orleans’s most eligible bachelor list.



Forty year old Edmund had no interest in pursuing *belles*. He had fallen in love with Mary Eliza Avery, the 15 year old daughter of his closest friend, Daniel Avery. When she turned 20 in 1858, he wrote to her father, "I respectfully ask your permission to make them (my feelings) known to her." Avery refused to approve a marriage. When Mary Eliza threatened to elope with her elderly suitor, he gave his consent. The couple married on June 30, 1859 in Saint James Episcopal Church in Baton Rouge.

The McIlhennys honeymooned in New Orleans. In December 1859, they returned to Avery Island to await the birth of their first child. Sara McIlhenny would be the first of eight children born to them, two of whom would die in early infancy.

The Avery plantations produced mostly sugar and molasses that were sold in New Orleans. When a huge salt dome was discovered on the island on September 10, 1862, it was looked upon as a "gift from heaven." The mine produced over 22 million pounds of salt for the Confederacy during the War. Dan Avery was exempted from military service in order to remain at home and supervise salt production. His new son-in-law, Edmund, put his financial acumen to work as the Avery accountant.

Though the rest of the South was fighting desperately once the nation was plunged into Civil War, the Avery and McIlhenny families remained on their remote island producing sugar and salt. When the Union found out that hundreds of teams of horses were being sent to the island daily to load and ship salt throughout the Confederacy, Avery Island became a military target. Salt was essential as it preserved the food the armies shipped. General Sherman said, "...an army that has salt can feed its men."

On April 15, 1863, the Avery and McIlhenny families fled to Texas accompanied by their slaves. The Union Army, under General Nathaniel Banks, "burned 18 buildings, smashed the steam engines and mining equipment, scattered six hundred barrels of salt awaiting shipping, and brought away a ton of gun powder left behind..." The Union was now in control of the salt works.

Edmund McIlhenny had lost his banks, his homes, everything. While "refugeeing" in Texas, he was able to find some work as a civilian employee for the Confederate Government. The pay was low but he was happy for any source of income. He worked as a commissary officer, and later, as a financial agent for the paymaster. He was separated from his family for long periods of time, forced to travel to distribute funds to the troops.

The family returned to their island at the end of the War. Some sugar cane fields remained intact as did the mountain of salt. Avery's son, Dudley (who had been wounded at Shiloh) advised his father to get the salt production underway quickly for "salt was selling for six dollars a sack in New Orleans." But securing laborers was a problem. Sarah Avery felt it would be impossible to get along with the "stupid children" who they had previously owned.

Edmund McIlhenny was forced to live off his in-laws. He tended to the family's fruit and vegetable gardens. Family legend says that he had been handed pepper seeds, *capsicum frutescens*, by a soldier named "Gleason" who had picked them up in either Mexico or Central America. "Gleason" advised McIlhenny to season his meals with them to enliven the "post-War monotonous and bland diet."

Edmund began experimenting with a fiery red pepper sauce. He crushed and strained the peppers, added Avery salt to the mix, and then aged the spicy mash. After 30 days, he scraped "a crusty layer of mold" off the top and added white wine vinegar to the mix. Putting the sauce into fancy, small cologne bottles, he gifted them to his friends and neighbors. The three ingredient sauce drew rave reviews.

McIlhenny grew his first commercial crop in 1868. He sold 658 bottles at one dollar a bottle, mostly to grocers in the New Orleans area. He marketed his concoction as "Tabasco" though locally it was called "Cajun Ketchup." In 1870, he tried to patent it under the name "Petit Anse" but his father-in-law objected to the use of his plantation's name. Edmund patented the recipe under the name "*Tabasco Pepper Sauce*."



McIlhenny went into business with a distant Yankee relative, John Henshaw, a former Union officer who lived in New York City. Henshaw had the bottles, labels, crates, and stoppers manufactured in the North, where they were many times more efficient than in New Orleans. He also suggested a warning label be attached for the "uninitiated." It read: "Caution-this sauce should always be mixed with your gravy, vinegar or other condiment. One or two drops are enough..." The bottle was fitted with a slotted slow release top that allowed the 720 drops of hot sauce to seep out slowly. The sauce with its special "kick" quickly became popular all throughout the Northeast.

Henshaw and McIlhenny abruptly parted ways in 1876 after a "business dispute." Henshaw died shortly after. Their breakup did not stop the spread of Tabasco. By the 1880s, Tabasco sauce had become the "gold standard" of pepper sauce not only in the United States but throughout Europe.

Edmund died on November 25, 1890, age 75. He had suffered greatly from various ailments during his last years. He was buried in the family plot on Avery Island, though no tombstone remains there today. His wife, Mary Eliza, died on December 26, 1915 and is buried beside him. Their son, John Avery McIlhenny, rode with the Rough Riders and became a lifelong friend of Teddy Roosevelt. He is buried in Arlington Cemetery.

The 150 year old McIlhenny Corporation remains a private company run by the sixth generation of Edmund's descendants. Tabasco sauce is sold in 195 countries in bottles labeled in 36 different languages and dialects. Over 700,000 bottles are produced daily.

Edmund's great grandson, Walter "Tabasco Mac" McIlhenny, reached the rank of Brigadier General before he retired from the military in 1949. He abhorred the bland C-rations. When he took over the Tabasco Company, he had them publish a cookbook called *No Food Is Too Good for the Man Upfront*. Wrapped within the book was a two ounce bottle of the hot sauce. When C-rations were replaced by MREs (Meals Ready to Eat), the US Army included Tabasco sauce in the mess kit.

General Norman Schwarzkopf wrote in a letter in 1991 to the McIlhenny Company, "I have enjoyed spicing up my own rations with your pepper sauce for many years." By 1992, the now 1/8 ounce glass bottle of the famous sauce had become part of a soldier's mess kit. In 2011, the bottle was replaced by a ketchup style packet.

Today you can find Tabasco sauce almost anywhere...from a food truck to the refrigerator on Air Force One.

The *Baltimore Sun* wrote, Tabasco sauce "...has made soldiers weep for joy. It has made other folks just plain cry. Its zealots claim it can bring "life to seafood, zest to beef, and personality to scrambled eggs."

The not-so swept away simply complain that it burns their lips. Everyone agrees that it opens sinuses.

Family historian, Shane Bernard, estimates the company's net worth at two to three billion dollars today.

Submitted by Judith Breitstein

The First Memorial Day—a Story Almost Lost to History (AMAC)

Posted Saturday, May 29, 2021



“Be it remembered, however, that liberty must at all hazards be supported. We have a right to it, derived from our Maker. But if we had not, our fathers have earned, and bought it for us, at the expense of their ease, their estates, their pleasure, and their blood.”

-John Adams

As Americans mark the unofficial start of summer with cookouts, getaways, and time with family and friends this Memorial Day weekend, it can be easy to forget what the holiday is truly about—honoring the untold thousands of selfless patriots who have laid down their lives for our country in wartime.

So amid the merriment and jubilation we feel at the coming of summer following a long pandemic, let us take a few moments to remember what Memorial Day is all about. There is no better way to do so than to recall the unexpected story of the holiday’s origins—a story that holds important lessons for our country today.

While Memorial Day did not become an official Federal holiday until 1971, its beginnings go all the way back to the immediate aftermath of the deadliest conflict in the history of our nation, the Civil War.

In Charleston, South Carolina, there was a horse racing track called the Washington Race Course and Jockey Club. During the Civil War, it was used by the Confederacy to imprison Union captives. Nearly 300 Union soldiers died of disease and exposure there

while being held in the open-air prison. Their bodies were placed in a nearby mass grave.

But almost immediately after the War came to an end, emancipated slaves came to do honor to those soldiers who had given their lives so that millions of formerly enslaved could know freedom. They exhumed the bodies of the fallen soldiers and gave them a proper burial in a new cemetery on the same site. On the whitewashed fence they erected around the cemetery, they inscribed the words, “Martyrs of the Race Course.”

Weeks later, on May 1, 1865, a crowd of approximately 10,000 people—mostly freed slaves, and some White missionaries—gathered at the same spot. Veterans of the black 54th Massachusetts Regiment (the heroes of the 1989 film *Glory*, starring Morgan Freeman, Matthew Broderick, and Denzel Washington), and other Black regiments were there, and performed double-time marches. Three thousand Black children brought bouquets of flowers while they sang “John Brown’s Body,” a popular Union marching song inspired by the famous abolitionist John Brown. Black ministers were also present, and recited parts of the Bible.

This remarkable event was reported in *The New York Tribune* and *The Charleston Courier*, and has since been recognized as the earliest Memorial Day commemoration on record. The newspaper reports also spoke about how freed slaves organized the first Memorial Day observances at least a year before other American cities, and three years prior to the first national observance.

Today, Memorial Day is celebrated on the last Monday of every May. That first observance on May 1 was on a Monday as well. By the late 1860’s, many American towns and cities were making similar tributes. One of them was Waterloo, New York, which first celebrated Memorial Day on May 5, 1866—about a year after the emancipated slaves of South Carolina conducted their ceremony at the race track. On May 5, 1868, former Union General John A. Logan called for a national Memorial Day holiday. He actually called it “Decoration Day,” given that on that day observers would decorate the graves of the soldiers who had perished, just as the emancipated slaves had done. Logan suggested May 30 be the date of the holiday, given that no noteworthy battle took place on that day. “Decoration Day” gradually became known as “Memorial Day.”

In 1966, the Federal Government officially recognized Waterloo as the official birthplace of Memorial Day. But thanks to researchers who discovered the earlier story, historians now recognize that the holiday originated with those liberated Black Americans in South Carolina, who came together to recognize the supreme sacrifice that so many had made to end the evil of slavery and secure their freedom.

Those who once lived in chains knew the value of what they honored on Memorial Day. Those of us who have never had to live in chains should honor the memory of countless American heroes who gave their lives to secure our own liberty all the more.

Submitted by Silver N. Marvin