



Volume 64, No. 5
May, 2024

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Battle Cry

Founded 1961,
Newsletter of the Sacramento Civil War Round Table
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President's Message

With this year's Memorial Day approaching, (a Holiday which originated from the Civil War), I recall seeing an episode of an old TV Series - "The Death Valley Days" about how two miners who were Mexican-American War Veterans were responsible in the naming of a Nevada City.

The two miners who had stopped at trading post in a small unnamed town on the banks of the Truckee River in the County of Washoe in the Territory of Nevada. They were looking for gold and silver when they told about how they had fought under a courageous Lieutenant in the U.S. Army during the Mexican-American War. At this time, the Civil War had started and in this small unnamed town, a handful of Confederate Sympathizers had tried to put up a Confederate Flag at the local hotel. However, the two Veteran miners had brought it down and then sent for help from the U.S. Army at the nearest Post at Fort Churchill to keep the Confederate Sympathizers under control in case of any future uprisings. When the Commanding Union Officer arrived with his troops, they easily took control. When the two miners inquired to the Fort Churchill Major about how their former C.O. was doing in the Civil War back in Virginia, they found out that their old C.O., who had become a Major-General had died valiantly in combat. The Army Major from Fort Churchill and the two miners had all been old friends with the deceased General. They thought that there was something they should do to memorialize their old friend and they knew that the small unnamed town on the Truckee River needed a name. So they decided to name the town after their friend, Jesse Lee Reno - which became Reno, Nevada - "The Biggest Little City in the World."

My question for all of you is can you think of any other cities named in memorial of any other Civil War Veterans?

Have a Happy Memorial Day.

James C. Juanitas, President

MINUTES
SACRAMENTO CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
Wednesday, April 10, 2024
Denny's Restaurant, 3520 Auburn Boulevard, Sacramento

ATTENDANCE – 17

MEMBERS – 12: James Juanitas, President; Carol Breiter, Vice President; James Armstrong, Steve Breiter, Sean Curtis, Ron Grove, (MAL); Joe (MAL) & Michelle Matalone, Stuart & Andrea Sheffield, Stephen Shiflett, & Peggy Tveden.

GUESTS – 5: Jim & Ginny Karlberg, Daniel Mora, Daniel & Angie Rooney.

1. The meeting was called to order by President James Juanitas at 7:07 PM and he led the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Vice President Carol Breiter may have found a new temporary meeting site. R Vida in Citrus Heights has a meeting room in the back of their restaurant and a full bar at the other end. Upside is that they are able to provide the needs of the SCWRT. Downside is that it is in Citrus Heights just north of Sunrise Mall and that it is a Mexican restaurant. (No objections from those present.) The Executive Board will try R Vida and report back to the members.
3. SCWRT Facebook site had 27 views.
4. Member-at-Large Ron Grove shared that there will be a class/tour of the Sacramento Cemetery on Thursday, April 18 for members of OLLI (Osher Lifelong Learning Institute).
5. The raffle was conducted by Ron Grove. Books, wine, and other items were offered as prizes. Everyone who bought a ticket won a prize. The raffle raised \$23.00.
6. The program was presented by Jim and Ginny Karlberg who were in period costumes. They covered Confederate groups who provided information for the War Efforts. Some were clandestine, others were in public. The Karlbergs provided participation in deciphering an encrypted code. Jim told the story of "Bittermans Flag" that was paraded in Sacramento in the Fourth of July Parade. This narrative is validated as follows:
7. Major George Phineas Gilliss had served in the Mexican-American War and then settled in California. At a Sacramento 4th of July 1861 celebration, Major Gilliss unwrapped this flag from a walking stick and marched around waving the flag. Afterwards, J.W. Biderman took the flag from him and then dared anyone to come and take it. The display at the California State Capitol Museum states it is "the only known Confederate flag captured in California during the Civil War."



8. Biderman Flag

9. After questions and answers, the evening ended at 8:17 PM.
10. The next Executive Board Meeting is Wednesday, May 8, 2024, 10:00 AM, at Brookfields near Madison and I-80. All members and guests are welcome.

Carol Breiter for Vacant, Secretary

Treasurer's Report

The cash balance on April 10th was \$5,281.71. Thanks to Ron Grove, members, and guests, the raffle brought in \$23.00.

George W. Foxworth, Treasurer

Coming Programs for 2024

Date	Speaker	Topic
May 8th	"Reverend James D. Richardson"	"Chaplain to the 7th U.S. Colored Heavy Artillery Regiment"
June 12th	"To Be Determined"	"To Be Determined"
July 10th	"To Be Determined"	"To Be Determined"
August 14th	"To Be Determined"	"To Be Determined"
September 11th	"To Be Determined"	"To Be Determined"
October 9th	"To Be Determined"	"To Be Determined"

2024 Membership

The 2024 membership renewal is due on January 1, 2024. 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:

gwfoxworth@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

The Wives and Children of the Abolitionist John Brown

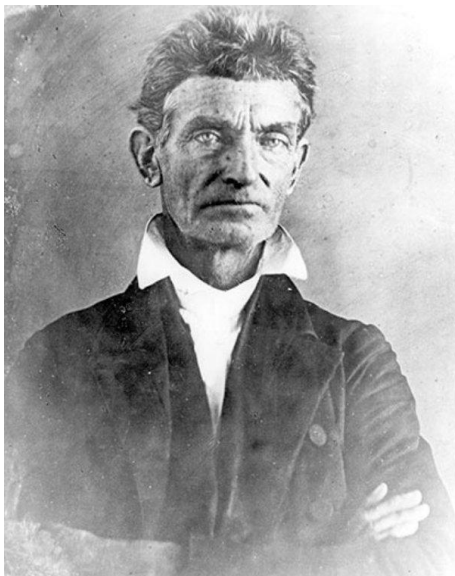
Was John Brown a righteous man who abhorred slavery or a monomaniacal abolitionist who lived by violence?

On Brown's orders, five men were hacked to death with broadswords at Pottawatomie Creek. And "Who but a madman could have concocted ...such a scheme as the raid on Harper's Ferry?" wrote Horace Greeley.

Brown has been described as a "narrow-minded possibly insane religious fanatic." He refused an insanity plea after he was tried and sentenced to death in Charles Town, Virginia for his role in the Harper's Ferry Raid. He felt a claim of madness would undermine his cause.

Who was this man? Who were the people who loved him?

John Brown married Dianthe Lusk, his housekeeper's daughter, on June 21, 1820. She was 19 years old, he was 20. Dianthe's father had died during the War of 1812. Her brother, Milton, wrote that that she was "plain, but attracted John Brown by her quiet, amiable disposition." Milton was against the marriage and refused to attend the wedding. He felt that Brown's "commanding disposition" would not make for a lovable husband. Dianthe meekly submitted to John's will. Within a year, they were parents of an infant son. Dianthe began to suffer from fits of melancholy. Her "blue moods," accompanied by poor health, turned into serious mental illness. As one pregnancy inexorably followed another, Dianthe's bouts of mental derangement came more frequently. In 1831, when their four year old son, Frederick, suddenly died of a fever, Dianthe was inconsolable. One year later, three days after delivering her seventh child, a stillborn infant, she was dead at 31 years old. She was buried in her wedding gown with the unnamed baby in her arms at the Brown Family Cemetery in New Richmond, Pennsylvania, next to Frederick. John objected to Dianthe's brother visiting his sons on the Sabbath. He ranted to Milton, "It is through you that I have lost my boys."



John Brown



Mary Ann Day

In less than a year, Brown proposed to his 17 year old housekeeper, Mary Ann Day. John was more than twice her age but Mary Ann accepted. They married on July 11, 1833. Mary Ann was a physically strong girl used to caring for her younger siblings. But now she was the stepmother of five children, the oldest a mere four years younger than her. She took on the role of “dutiful wife” according to the strict interpretation of the bible and birthed 13 children without complaint. Mary’s daughter later described her mother as coming from a background “of narrow means and hard work, with almost no schooling.”

In 1837, John Brown heard of the murder of abolitionist Elijah Lovejoy in Alton, Illinois by a mob of pro-slavers. He took a public oath. “Here before God, in the presence of these witnesses...I consecrate my life to the destruction of slavery.”

John Brown began to channel all his efforts into abolitionism rather than on how to make a living and feed his family. His homes had hidey holes for runaway slaves. His sons became his trusted lieutenants, his wife and daughters, his lookouts and informants. He was away from home a great deal, secretly gathering supporters for a proposed slave uprising. The family moved ten times before they finally settled in North Elba, New York, a freedmen’s community.

At Pottawatomie Creek, in May of 1856, Brown and his crew slaughtered five men in cold blood in their holy war. In October 1859, John Brown led a small group of men including his sons, Owen, Oliver, Frederick, Watson, Salmon and son-in-law, Henry Thompson, on a raid at Harper’s Ferry, Virginia. It was here that Brown was wounded and captured. He begged Mary Ann not to visit him as the cost of the trip would use up the “scanty means” she had left to support their family. Perhaps for the first time in their marriage, his wife defied him. They shared a last meal together on December 1, 1859.

Found guilty of murder, treason, and inciting slave insurrection, Brown was led to the gallows the following morning. He handed a note with his last words to the guard: “I, John Brown, am now quite certain that the crimes of this guilty land can never be purged away but with blood.” Then John Brown was hung by the neck until he was dead.

Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote, “He will make the gallows holy as the cross.” Henry Thoreau said Brown’s actions were, “in my opinion, the greatest service a man can render to God.” Harriet Tubman was quoted as saying, “He done more in dyin than 100 men would in living.”

Down South, the *Richmond Examiner* wrote that Brown should be “chopped into small pieces in the Chinese manner...” Another pro-slavery paper added, “Horse manure and guano would reject association with it: ...the noble buzzard would be driven from our state by the pestiferous stench of the carcass.”

Virginia Governor, Henry Wise, feared abolitionists would pack Brown in ice and exhibit him to raise funds for their cause. The corpse was not released to his wife

until she swore she would promptly bury him on their land in North Elba.

Shortly after, the family headed west. After a year spent in Iowa, during the coldest winter in its history, they pushed on to California. When Mary died on February 29, 1884, at 67 years old, her children felt it was more economical to bury her in California than to ship her body to be buried next to John as per her wishes.



Dianthe Lusk



Mary Ann Day

John Brown sired 20 children and “ruled his ...household with a rod in one hand and the Bible in the other.” At his death, he had eight living children, four from each wife. Only four of the large brood had children of their own. Rich abolitionists offered to educate two of his daughters from his second marriage, Sarah and Annie. They were schooled in Concord, Massachusetts and met many of the great writers and thinkers of their time: Bronson Alcott, Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry David Thoreau. Louisa May Alcott wrote that Brown’s widow, Mary Ann, was an ordinary woman and “drank from her saucer.”

Brown’s children had mixed feelings about their father. They remembered that the punishments dealt to them by him were “terribly severe.” As he thrashed them, he would pray aloud and tears ran down his cheeks. Brown’s wives never interfered in the beatings. Afterwards, the family fell to their knees and prayed together. The children felt their father often acted as if he was “afflicted.” Yet Ruth clearly remembered her father staying up all night to care for his “sick little chicks.”

The Children of Dianthe Lusk and John Brown:

1. John Brown Jr. (b. July 25, 1821) married Wealthy Hotchkiss in 1847. He moved to Kansas in 1855 but did not take part in the Pottawatomie Massacre. He was arrested for treason and murder anyway and held for months. Finally freed, he had a nervous breakdown he never fully

recovered from. He did not take part in the raid at Harper's Ferry though he did help to supply and hide the arms. He enlisted in the Union Army during the War but was asked to resign for his regiment felt they would be the target of Rebel sharpshooters if they learned of his parentage. John died of a heart attack on May 3, 1895.

2. Jason (January 19, 1823) married Ellen Sherbondy in 1847. They had four sons. On their way to Kansas, three and a half year old son, Austin, died of cholera. He was buried in Missouri but his grandfather later exhumed him and reburied him in Lawrence on October 6, 1855. Another infant, unnamed, was born and died on the same day in 1859. Fifteen year old Frank died of brain fever in 1875. The fourth son, Charles, lived to 1873. Jason, who had always objected to his father's violent agenda, refused to join him in the attack on Harper's Ferry. He died on December 24, 1912.
3. Owen (November 4, 1824) participated in the Pottawatomie Creek Massacre in Kansas. He hid during the raid on Harper's Ferry and was able to escape Colonel Robert E. Lee and the Virginia Militia. He died of pneumonia on January 9, 1889.
4. Frederick I (b. January 9, 1827) died of a fever at age four.
5. Ruth (b. February 18, 1829) married Henry Thompson in 1850 and they had five children. She accidentally scalded her 16 month old half-sister, Amelia, causing her death. Ruth suffered periods of intense mental anguish until the end of her life. She died on January 18, 1904.
6. Frederick II (b. December 21 or 31, 1830) suffered from periods of mental derangement attributed to an "accumulation of blood on the brain." He was shot and killed by Reverend White at Osawatomie, Kansas, on August 30, 1856.
7. Unnamed infant son (b. August 7, 1832) buried with his mother when she died on August 10, 1832.

The Children of Mary Ann Day and John Brown

8. Sarah I (b. May 11, 1834) died of dysentery at age nine on September 23, 1843.
9. Watson (b. October 7, 1835) married Isabella Thompson in 1856. He died on October 19, 1859 of wounds he received at Harper's Ferry. His skeleton was displayed for years at Winchester Medical College. It was returned to the family in 1882 and buried in North Elba, New York, at the Brown family farm.

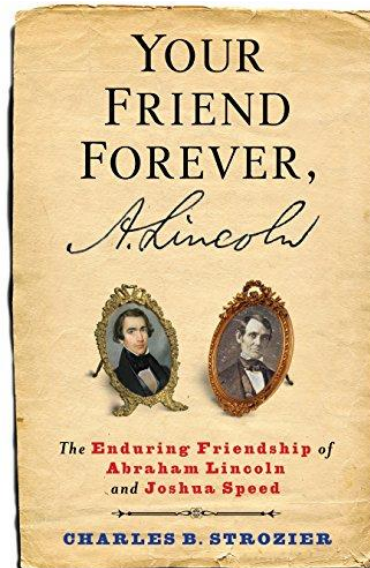
10. Salmon (b. October 2, 1836) took part in the fighting at Pottawatomie Creek but refused to participate in the raid on Harper's Ferry. He married Abbie Hinckley in September 1858 and they had ten children. Salmon was paralyzed after a fall from a horse. Depression, paranoia, and excruciating pain led to his suicide on May 10, 1919.
11. Charles (b. November 3, 1837) died of dysentery on September 11, 1843 at five years old.
12. Oliver (b. March 9, 1839) married Martha Brewster on April 7, 1858. He died in excruciating pain from wounds he received during the raid on Harper's Ferry on October 19, 1859. He was buried in a shallow grave on the banks of the Shenandoah River. His remains were finally sent to the Brown farm in 1899.
13. Peter (b. December 7, 1840) died of dysentery on September 22, 1843 at age 2.
14. Austin (b. September 14, 1842) died of dysentery on September 27, 1843 at age one.
15. Annie (b. December 23, 1843) had the job of diverting the neighbor's suspicions while the family stayed at the Kennedy farm planning their raid on Harper's Ferry. She was educated by friends of her father and lived among their families. Severely traumatized by the events at Harper's Ferry, many years later she would still lie on the floor of her room sobbing. She married Samuel Adams and died on October 2, 1926.
16. Amelia (b. June 22, 1845) died at 16 months old after being accidentally scalded by her half-sister, Ruth, on October 30, 1846.
17. Sarah II (b. September 11, 1846) took up the study of art and did well. She was able to help support her family using this talent. Some of her works, including portraits of her parents, can be seen in the Saratoga Museum, upstate New York. She never married, preferring to live with and care for her aging mother. She died in 1916.
18. Ellen I (b. April 26, 1848) died of consumption on April 30, 1849, 11 months old.
19. Unnamed infant son (b. April 26, 1852) died of whooping cough at 21 days old.
20. Ellen II (b. September 25, 1854), married James Fablinger in 1876 and had 11 children. She died on July 16, 1917.

Submitted by Judith Breitstein

Your Friend Forever, A. Lincoln: The Enduring Friendship of Abraham Lincoln and Joshua Speed.

By Charles B. Strozier, New York, Columbia University Press, 2016. xxv + 307 pp., \$35.00 (cloth), ISBN 978-0-231-17132-8.

Reviewed by Holly Pinheiro (University of Iowa). Published on H-CivWar (January, 2019). Commissioned by Susan N. Deily-Swearingen.



Abraham Lincoln remains one of the most analyzed figures in American history. Most analyses focus on various aspects of Lincoln's presidency, including his support of the colonization movement. Charles B. Strozier, with the assistance of Wayne Soini, provides a refreshing and captivating historical analysis of Lincoln's life long before his ascendance to the national political stage. Instead, Strozier's primary focus is on both the private and public relationship between Abraham Lincoln and Joshua Speed. Soini and Strozier's analysis illustrates how Lincoln and Speed's antebellum connection shaped the future President.

To be clear, *Your Friend Forever, A. Lincoln* is not a biography but an investigation of the link between these men during their formative years. It also examines the various individuals that they interacted with as young men. Included in that social network was William Herndon, an associate and later self-appointed Lincoln biographer. Herndon plays a vital role in Strozier's study, given his preoccupation with Lincoln's sexuality. His biography suggested that Lincoln had possibly contracted syphilis from a prostitute and noted that he shared a bed regularly with Speed, something Lincoln also did with other men. For Herndon, those scintillating tales were facts, but Strozier urges readers to remain cautious about accepting

Herndon's stories. Strozier states, "anything Herndon writes about Lincoln before his direct experience with him is open to question" (p. xii). Some modern Americans, including AIDS activist and playwright Larry Kramer, chose to take Herndon's work at face value and wrote about Speed and Lincoln's sexual intimacies in graphic detail. Kramer's claims frustrate Strozier since there is little evidence to bolster them. Strozier argues that Speed and Lincoln were close friends sharing intimate correspondences and living spaces but that this was typical for the time.

By applying a combined approach of historical and psychoanalytical methods, Strozier provides a detailed study of white masculinity and the partisan politics of prominent Americans, slaveholders and nonslaveholders, before and during the Civil War. Strozier accomplishes this by relying on numerous personal correspondences, census data, and testimony to shed light on the antebellum life of Abraham Lincoln. In many ways, Speed helped Lincoln to understand manhood as both men navigated their lives together. Speed even shared details of the consummation of his marriage to Fanny Henning after Lincoln prodded him for specifics. When Lincoln dealt with depression over the sudden death of his first fiancée, Ann Rutledge, or his failed first engagement to Mary Ann Todd, it was Speed who emotionally supported his friend. Both men, as Strozier repeatedly states, needed each other as these bachelors sought to establish relationships with women.

Speed's influence on Lincoln's life also included nurturing his friend's intellectual endeavors and political pursuits. Speed's store in Springfield, Illinois, became a de facto political training ground as young men, including Lincoln and Stephen A. Douglas, sparred over local and national issues before becoming politicians. Speed remained important to Lincoln, even though Speed continued to own slaves. The President hoped that appointing Speed to a cabinet position might dissuade Kentucky, Speed's home state, from leaving the Union. Lincoln even sent an early draft of the Emancipation Proclamation to Speed for his opinion before sharing it with his cabinet. Thus, Speed was more than just a friend; he nurtured Lincoln's talents and helped the President with Civil War policies.

Strozier's monograph is a valuable resource for those seeking to understand the complexity of Abraham Lincoln, not only as a President but as a man. For historians, this work not only provides a study of White masculinity but expertly explores Lincoln's life before he became President. As Strozier makes clear, the Abraham Lincoln who appeared in Illinois in 1858 to debate Stephen Douglas was not entirely a self-made man. Instead, he benefited from a relationship with Joshua Speed, his friend and confidant, who was integral in molding Lincoln. Strozier's clearly written prose and, at times, attention to salacious topics will grab the attention of non-academics. In short, *Your Friend Forever, A. Lincoln* is a must-read for Civil War scholars and enthusiasts.

Submitted by Bruce A, Castleman, Ph.D