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May, 2025**

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Battle Cry

Founded 1961,
Newsletter of the Sacramento Civil War Round Table
P.O. BOX 254702
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President's Message

Well once again we are working on ZOOM. Hopefully, May will bring better luck with electronics. Even the video player was a bit snarky for our (April) meeting.

I don't know where the name tags are going but I can't seem to find many. I'll be making more for all the members so check at the table at the entrance to our meeting room for yours. At the end of the meeting feel free to toss the tag on the table and I'll put it back in the box for next month. If it follows you home, don't forget to wear it next time! I know most of you but others might not!

If you are going to the Conference in Monterey, I'm hoping to have someone give a report on it at the May meeting. I'm sorry, I have a conflict and can't attend. It's been a long time since I've been able to go to a Civil War Conference – I really miss them.

Carol Breiter, President

MINUTES

SACRAMENTO CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Wednesday, April 9, 2025

R Vida Cantina Restaurant, 7040 Sunrise Boulevard, Citrus Heights

ATTENDANCE – 15

MEMBERS – 12: Carol Breiter, President; Paul Ruud, Vice President; George W. Foxworth, Treasurer; Jean Breiter, Steve Breiter, Marsha Juvotsky-Cain, Ron Grove (PD), Brendan Harris, Joseph (MAL) & Michelle Matalone, Patty Ruud, & Stephen Shiflett.

GUESTS – 3: Doug Bonetti (Speaker), Matthew Juvotsky, & Katherine Phillips.

1. The meeting was called to order by President Carol Breiter at 7:01 PM and she led the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. President Breiter shared this Day in History: General Robert E. Lee surrendered at Appomattox Court House, Virginia in 1865; Mark Twain earned his riverboat license in 1859; and Prince Charles married Camilla Parker-Bowles in 2005.
3. There was no old business.
4. New Business: Guest Brendan Harris became a member.
5. New members and guests were introduced, one new member and three guests present.
6. The Raffle was done by Joe and Michelle Matalone. The Raffle brought in \$58.00.
7. ZOOM was off to a start but technical difficulties ensued which affected both ZOOM and the video portion of the program. That will be addressed in the very near future.
8. The program was presented by our faithful presenter Doug Bonetti. He brought several authentic ammunitions' that were fired in the War as well as a Musket. Videos were shown on the steps necessary to load the various armaments.
9. After discussions, the evening ended at 8:00 PM.
10. The next Executive Board Meeting is Wednesday, May 14, 2025, 10:00 AM, at Brookfields near Madison and I-80. Members and guests are welcome.

Submitted by Jean Breiter & Carol Breiter, Interim Secretaries

Treasurer's Report

The cash balance on April 9th was \$5,279.52. Thanks to Joe and Michelle Matalone, the Raffle brought in \$58.00.

George W. Foxworth, Treasurer

Coming Programs for 2025

Date	Speaker	Topic
May 14th	"Martin Harris"	"Richard Etheridge"
June 11th	"Bernie Quinn"	"George Armstrong Custer"
July 9th	"To Be Determined"	"To Be Determined"
August 13th	"To Be Determined"	"To Be Determined"
September 10th	"To Be Determined"	"To Be Determined"
October 8th	"To Be Determined"	"To Be Determined"

2025 Membership

The 2025 membership renewal is due on January 1, 2025. 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 Round Table or the Editor. The official address of this Round Table 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

Woman of the Month

Abigail Hopper Gibbons

Social reformer and nurse, USA

Born: December 7, 1801 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Died: January 16, 1893 in New York, New York

Buried: Green-Wood Cemetery in Brooklyn, New York



Abigail Hopper was born December 7, 1801 in Philadelphia, to Isaac and Sarah Tatum Hopper, both of whom were Hicksite Quakers. The Quakers were well known for their abolitionist leanings and Abigail grew up as an abolitionist with visitors to her home such as Lucetia Mott.

In 1833, Abby met and married James Sloan Gibbons, also an abolitionist. They moved to New York City in 1836 and had six children - William, Sarah, Julia, Lucy, Isaac, and James. Isaac and James died in infancy and William died while a student at Harvard. Her daughter, Sarah, married the nephew of Ralph Waldo Emerson and became her mother's companion on her travels while during the Civil War.

In 1845, Abby became a leader in the Female Department of the Prison Association of New York City, an organization founded by her father to rehabilitate convicts. She lobbied for improvements in the City's prisons, advocated the hiring of police matrons, and urged the establishment of separate prisons for women. She frequently visited the various prisons in and around New York.

She was elected to a women's committee which oversaw The Home, a shelter for women who had just been released from prison. The name of this institution later became the Isaac T. Hopper Home, in honor of her father. In 1853, the Female Department became a separate society, the Women's Prison Association and Home, and Abby was involved for years in its management.



Abigail and James with their children, Lucy, William, Sarah, and Julia, 1854

Abby's participation during the Civil War started as a member of the U.S. Sanitary Commission. As a member of the USSC she and Sarah participated in the Falls Church and Winchester Campaigns. In 1862, she came to Hammond Hospital at Point Lookout, Maryland to work with the wounded there. She took control of the Protestant wing of the Hospital and became its matron.

At Point Lookout, she also assisted the contraband there by smuggling the men into the boats that took patients North. She made arrangements with the captains to take them to New York where she had friends to help them. Among her friends were Robert Gould Shaw, an officer in the 54th Massachusetts Infantry Regiment, who helped many of the smuggled men become soldiers in that Unit. Abby also harbored several contrabands in her cabin when they were at risk of being returned to their enslavers.

Abby remained at Hammond Hospital until late June of 1863 when her New York home was ransacked during the Draft Riots. She returned to New York City to clean up the home. When she returned to Point Lookout in October 1863, the area had been designated as a new prisoner-of-war camp, and all women, except the Daughters of Charity, were ordered to leave.

In 1864, Abby and Sarah traveled to Fredericksburg and Belle Plain, Virginia, under the auspices of the Sanitary Commission to help with the wounded there. She wrote "our business was to supply them with ice-ware, coffee, milk, punch, farina, bread, crackers or whiskey, according to their needs." When it was all over, the Sanitary Commission had attended to more than 3,000 wounded Union soldiers.



Hospital Yard in Fredericksburg, May 20, 1864. Photo by James Gardner. Abigail Gibbons is the woman in the center of the image.



Sanitary Commission Workers at Fredericksburg, May 20, 1864. Photo by James Gardner. Abigail Gibbons is seated at center; her daughter Sarah Gibbons Emerson is seated to her left.

In 1865, Abby was called to assist Dr. Clinton Wagner, whom she had met at Point Lookout, in the establishment of Beverly Hospital outside of Philadelphia. She remained at that hospital until the end of the War.

In the post-War years, Abby lived in New York City and continued her prison reform efforts. In addition, she was involved in several other charities, including the Labor and Aid Society, which helped returning veterans find work. Abby felt that the highlight of her life came in 1892, with the passage of The Police Matron's Bill, to establish a women's reformatory in New York City. She died of pneumonia in New York in 1893, aged 91.

Submitted by the "Society for Women and the Civil War - www.swcw.org"

Chinese Confederates

Norman Dasinger, Jr., August 25, 2024 (originally published April 5, 2021)
blueandgrayeducation.org



Chang and Eng Bunker around 60 years old

The Bunker Family was one of the most famous families in all of North Carolina. They were pro-Confederate slaveowners, with two sons fighting in the Civil War—and their patriarchs were the original Siamese twins, Chang and Eng Bunker. The two men, conjoined at the sternum by a flexible circular band of flesh and cartilage about five inches long, married White women and, between the two of them, had 22 children.

The two were born in 1811 in Siam (modern Thailand) of Chinese ancestry. They were “discovered” by a Scottish merchant named Hunter in 1824, who signed a contract with the boys and their mother that stipulated they would tour around the United States for five years. They were inspected by doctors upon their arrival and declared to be healthy xiphophagus twins. Their five-year touring contract was extended to ten years.



Lithograph of the Siamese twins by Currier and Ives, 1860

After their contract ended, in 1839, they bought land in Wilkes County, North Carolina, and settled down with their families. In 1845 they bought a larger farm and moved to Surry County. They spoke English fluently, became citizens, voted, and filed criminal charges against several White people. They were considered non-White but were afforded many of the privileges of whiteness, being wealthy Southern slaveholders with property rights. In 1850, it was estimated that they had invested \$10,000 in property and had a merchant in New York who managed another \$60,000 for importing, and they lived off the interest. The Bunker brothers were long-time supporters of the Whig Party and voted for John Bell in the 1860 Presidential election.

Chang and Eng's indifference about slavery is easy to understand, the practice being established in their home State. What's more striking is their acceptance into the surrounding community, where they lived as local gentry accommodated by neighbors and active in civic life. They were accepted as individuals. It was as individuals that the Bunkers approached the Civil War and, like so many other Southerners, they chose the defense of home and community over abstract principles. They supported the Confederate Government with their monetary resources, supporting foodstuffs and supplies—and two of their sons, who fought in the War.



Family portrait by Mathew Brady, circa 1865: (L-R) Sarah, her son Albert, Eng, Chang, his son Patrick Henry, Adelaide

Eng's son, Stephen Decatur Bunker, and Chang's son, Christopher Wren Bunker, were first cousins and both served in Company I, 37th Virginia Cavalry Battalion, CSA. Stephen was wounded on September 3, 1864, near Winchester, Virginia, and Christopher was captured and imprisoned for nearly a year at Camp Chase, Ohio. After the Civil War, both returned to Surry County and their large and prosperous family farm.

By 1865, the twins' finances had taken a hit, so they decided to resume touring. By now, Northern audiences were not so receptive—for they had been Confederate slaveholders. In 1870, they toured in Germany and Russia. On the ship coming home, Chang suffered a stroke. On the morning of January 17, 1874, one of Eng's sons checked on the twins. Chang was dead. Eng died only a few hours later.

They are buried at White Plains Baptist Church in Mount Airy—the fabled namesake of Andy Griffith's Mayberry.



The Bunkers, their wives, 18 of 22 children, and the first of their 33 slaves, Grace Gates.



The Bunker brothers' grave in Mount Airy, NC

Submitted by the Blue and Gray Education Association