



Battle Cry

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

I am truly sorry to have missed John McKinsey's presentation on his research for his book *The Lincoln Secret*. All my reports indicate it was favorably received and I am grateful to Vice-President Silver Williams for obtaining for me a copy which I have enjoyed immensely. It is a present day thriller impossible to put down employing genealogical and historical research, modern computer techniques, intrigue in high places, tension and danger. I highly recommend it on many levels and am looking forward to meeting Mr. McKinsey and hope we can persuade him to return and speak in the future.

Conference plans continue and we are in the process of preparing mailers announcing the program schedule, speakers and the registration form. The plan is to send emails as well as including relevant information on the website, sacramentocwrt.com. Included in this issue is the second of our speakers' biographies; William C. "Jack" Davis.

Gibson Ranch weekend proved to be a success due to the efforts of Doug Ose, Lois Meidinger and Dawn, re-enactors of The National Civil War Association, Keith Weber, and our volunteers. I especially wish to thank our members who escorted the students around the educational stations presented by the soldiers and civilians. These were Silver Williams, Maxine Wollen, Anne and Rick Peasley, Nina and Wayne Henley and their lovely daughters Elizabeth and Katharine, Roy Bishop and friend Bill Johnson, George Foxworth, Paul Ruud, and Bob Hanley. Bob also volunteered to help Abe Lincoln field questions Saturday and Sunday as well as staffing the booth both days along with George Foxworth. Other weekend volunteers included Silver Williams, Edie Keister, and Richard Sickert. I am immensely grateful to all.

At the next meeting on June 8th we will welcome for the third time the dynamic duo of Ginny and Tim Karlberg who consistently present fascinating discussions in costume and who never fail to maintain interest in their subject. This time it is Reconstruction which they will review from 1863 to the Hayes administration in the 70's. You must not miss this. Come early for dinner and meet fellow members, guests, and our speakers. I'll see you there.

Don Hayden, President

MINUTES
SACRAMENTO CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
Wednesday May 11, 2011
Hof Brau Restaurant, 2500 Watt Ave, Sacramento

ATTENDANCE – 36

Members-29

Silver Williams, Vice President	Jerry Cress
George Foxworth, Treasurer	Robert Hanley
Edie Keister, Secretary	Nancy Hayden
James Armstrong	Nina Henley
Joan Beitzel	Wayne Henley
George Beitzel	Jim Middleton
Roy Bishop	Bob Moore
Rose Browne	Anne Peasley
Ardith Cnota	Rick Peasley
Mitchell Cnota	Horst Penning
James Cress	Mark Penning

Paul Ruud
Nancy Samuelson
Robert Schroeder
Nicholas Scivoletto
Roxanne Spizzirri
Maxine Wollen
John Zasso

Guest-7

Gail Cretchen
Keith Cretchen
Carolyn Ewing
John McKinsey
Jim Rathlesberger
Richard Spizzirri
Larry Spizzirri

1. Meeting started at 6:58. Members and guest welcomed by Vice President Silver Williams.
2. Member George Beitzel, also a member of the Elk Grove CWRT, spoke on a fundraiser to be held at Denny's in Elk Grove, 7:00 pm May 18th, to raise money for new plates and post in the Old Cemetery. The quilt that will be auctioned was shown.
3. VP Silver Williams read important dates and events following Ft. Sumter on the 150th anniversary.
4. Sign-up sheets were passed around for volunteers at Gibson Ranch.
5. Our guest speaker, John McKinsey, from Davis, presented "The Lincoln Secret," based on his novel. He spoke on Lincoln's birth, parentage, the Gettysburg address, and many facts and myths. John brought copies of his book, which he autographed. Thank you John- it was great.
6. Raffle was held and meeting adjourned at 7:55.

Edie Keister
Secretary

Treasurer's Report

The cash balance following the May 11, 2011 meeting was \$2,397.22. Thanks to John Zasso, other members, and guests, the raffle brought in \$55.00.

George W. Foxworth, Treasurer

A Report on the 13th Annual Gibson Ranch Re-Enactment

By George W. Foxworth

The National Civil War Association (NCWA) continued its 2011 re-enactment season on May 20-22 at historic Gibson Ranch in Elverta, California. The theme was “Sesquicentennial Anniversary Commencement: American Civil War.” The NCWA is a private non-profit organization that uses “living history” to help the public to better understand the American Civil War. By portraying the manner in which the soldiers and civilians lived, worked, fought, and died during the Civil War era, the NCWA hopes to keep alive the spirit and sacrifice made by the men, women, and children of that time.

Gibson Ranch is a Sacramento County Park with rolling and grassy hills that allows excellent views of the battlefield and camps. The site accommodated the camps, horses, cannons, soldiers, civilians, and other attendees. In addition, the slight slope of the hillside gave an excellent view of the entire battlefield.

On May 20th, Friday, the NCWA and Gibson Ranch hosted approximately 1,700 students from Sacramento area schools. The Sacramento Civil War Round Table (SCWRT) served as tour guides for the school children. On May 21st and 22nd, the SCWRT hosted an event booth.

The following SCWRT members participated with the school children: Roy Bishop, George W. Foxworth, Bob Hanley, Don Hayden, Eric Henderson, Elizabeth Henley, Katharine Henley, Wayne and Nina Henley, Bill Johnson, Anne and Rick Peasley, Paul Ruud, Silver Williams, Maxine Wollen, and John Zasso. In addition, the following SCWRT members worked in the SCWRT booth: George W. Foxworth, Bob Hanley, Don Hayden, Edie Keister, Robert Schroeder, Richard Sickert, Silver Williams, and John Zasso. From the Elk Grove CWRT, Tim and Ginny Karlberg attended. Many thanks to all volunteers and attendees.

On Saturday and Sunday, President Abraham Lincoln (Don Ancell) and Bob Hanley conducted impromptu interview-type presentations with questions from the

audience on the life and times of Mr. Lincoln. In addition, the public was actively involved in the interviews. The presentations were excellent and well-received by the attendees.

The conditions were dry, cool, and pleasant, in other words, excellent.

The 2011 Gibson Ranch event was a complete success and the NCWA and Gibson Ranch are commended for their great work. A special thank you to Mr. Doug Ose for his part in keeping the Ranch open. We also thank L & M Concession Management for managing the event and John Nevins (NCWA) for coordinating the event. We look ahead to 2012.





BOOK REVIEWS



Stephanie McCurry. *Confederate Reckoning: Power and Politics in the Civil War South.* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2010. 456 pp.)

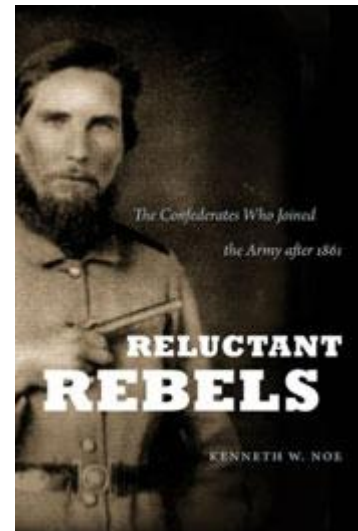
Kenneth W. Noe. *Reluctant Rebels: The Confederates Who Joined the Army after 1861.* Civil War America Series. (Chapel Hill: University of

Different Civil War Actors

Kenneth W. Noe's book continues the rich scholarly tradition of examining groups that demonstrated behavior varying from the norm. Noe is curious about the 180,000 men (22.5 percent of all Confederate soldiers), what he terms "reluctant rebels" or "later enlisters," who entered Confederate service between 1862 and the war's conclusion. His study is based on a sample of 320 later enlisters whose letters and diaries reveal their motivations.

Noe identifies basic statistical characteristics of these later enlisters. He finds that they were "slightly older" at the time of enlistment than the vast majority of those who had already joined and that about half of them were already married (p. 14). Two-thirds were from landholding families and about two-fifths from slaveholding families. Three-fifths were engaged in farming and one-fourth were professional men (especially teachers, clerks, merchants, and doctors). Therefore, collectively they appear to be twice as likely to have been "professional men in various white-collar occupations," but half as likely to be skilled laborers compared to all members of the Confederate army. Significantly, they do not completely fit James M. McPherson's description as "non-slaveholding Southern married farmer[s] with small children" as Noe discloses that half were simply too young before 1862 to serve.[1]

These later enlisters' words reveal five aspects of their motivations. One, since very few, perhaps only one-tenth, expressed words supporting nationalism or



defending liberty as major factors for entering the army, Noe concludes that "the ideological concerns that motivated the recruits of 1861 do not seem to have stirred most later recruits" (p. 37). Two, he notes that only 2.5 percent suggested that slavery was a reason why they fought--though virtually none criticized the institution. Three, they did not enlist because of feminine pressure; in fact, they were much more likely to delay entering the military because of it. Four, sentiments of hatred of the enemy, while surely present, did not dominate among them as only 17.2 percent cited Union invasion motivating their service. Five, very few mentioned enlisting for money or the fear of conscription.

The second half of Noe's book focuses on the role of religion, camaraderie, and war weariness. Noe finds relatively few later enlisters participating in the Confederate army revivals as most "remained oriented toward home and focused on a personal relationship with God" (pp. 142-143). Indeed, he suggests, "later enlisters still hesitated to let go of the spiritual center their homes had recently provided" (p. 143). Noe emphasizes that the role of their home also may have divided later enlisters from the ranks of veterans in terms of shaping camaraderie; of those who positively mentioned "relationships with comrades, just over half referred specifically to family members and friends from home" (p. 160). Thus,

Noe claims that primary group cohesion represented “an extension of antebellum Southern localism transferred to army camps rather than as a function of the camps themselves” and concludes that “Unit pride simply does not seem to have been a major sustaining motivator for them” (pp. 160, 163). Finally, despite the lesser motivating role of camaraderie, these men did not grow more weary than the veterans; once they faced combat there were few differences between their service and veterans especially regarding cowardice or desertion. By far the factor that most separated them from veterans was their age. As older men, they faced severe “sheer physical limitations,” and, as a result, “while youths came of age and grew up in uniform during the Civil War, older men simply aged” and constantly worried about those left at home (p. 209).

Despite his many valuable statistical measurements, Noe may have further examined exactly when later enlistees entered the military. He groups men who joined in early 1862 with some who did not do so for another year or two. Did these initial later enlistees share more in common with men who began serving in 1861 (the vast majority of whom had not yet faced combat) than the subsequent later enlistees? Nevertheless, Noe convincingly demonstrates that the new soldiers who entered the military beginning in 1862 were composed of two different demographic groups: very young men who were only in their mid-teens when the war began; and husbands in their late twenties and thirties who understandingly were reluctant to abandon their families unless it was absolutely necessary. By 1862, with the Confederacy being besieged on all fronts, Noe successfully proves, these two groups concluded that their time had come.

Stephanie McCurry investigates the unexpected consequences of the Confederacy--particularly in regard to white women and slaves. She stresses how the Confederate government was forced to deal with both groups in ways unanticipated at the war's outset.

McCurry identifies “a reconfiguration of Southern political life” when “white women emerged into authority and even leadership on a range of issues at the heart of popular politics in the Civil War South” (p. 135). By late 1862 and into 1863, it became clear

that the war would not be of short duration and that the absence of so many small farmers was devastating the welfare of their families, causing many women, particularly soldiers' wives, to write and petition



government officials pleading that their basic needs be met. These “women’s collective identification as soldier’s wives,” she explains, represented “a broad political reimagining” to which the government had to respond or face dire consequences (p. 145). This “distinctly Confederate development,” she asserts, “represented a significant rerouting of power and authority on the home front, and, at least for the duration of the war, a striking realignment of state-citizen relations” (pp. 153, 163).

Shifting to the topic of slavery, McCurry also examines to what degree Confederate authorities had to adjust their thinking as it quickly became apparent that those who had optimistically claimed that slavery would emerge as an asset for the Confederate cause were proven wrong. McCurry bases her conclusions on the abundant evidence that the one thing that slaveholders refused to contribute to the war effort was control over their slaves. Their reluctance, she stresses, endured from the issue of slave labor impressment through the debates over bringing slaves into the military. At each step, McCurry uncovers a strange and previously unrecognized coalition of slaveowner and slave which resisted the process to turn slaves into what might have been a Confederate strength.

One question left unanswered by McCurry, perhaps because the sources may not be helpful, is the relative concern or fear Confederate officials had regarding white women and slaves. She is entirely correct that women used the phrase “soldiers’ wives” to advance their cause by humiliating authorities into passing legislation to bring these women and their children relief. Clearly these women empowered themselves. But exactly what was it that the Confederate government feared if it failed to ease this situation? Was it the threat of further urban rioting by the impoverished women or the possibility that their husbands and sons would desert rather than let their loved ones continue to suffer? By contrast, it seems quite clear that the perception of potential slave insurrection proved a much more challenging concern for Confederate officials. While soldier’s wives were not likely to endanger the Confederacy directly except by encouraging their relatives to abandon the military, the slaves posed a much greater threat, especially once they benefited from their growing allies in the Union army. Though it may have been too late for many and may not have succeeded entirely, in the case of white women and children, the Confederacy clearly demonstrated its ability to adjust. By contrast, slavery was a much more intractable problem, because, as McCurry so convincingly shows, it was not just a problem with the slaves alone but their masters as well.

Though focusing on two different topics, these books share three things in common. One, they discuss the entire Confederacy both geographically and chronologically. Two, neither Noe nor McCurry claim that the Confederacy lost the war either because of the role of later enlistees or because of its failure to consider the role of women or slaves earlier. Three, Noe and McCurry constantly refer to the existing literature on their topics in their books. Here, however, they also differ. Since Noe investigates a topic that has received very little attention, he points to previous scholarship to explain exactly where earlier works ended and where he picks up, particularly when these previous works provide a statistical point of comparison to his findings. By contrast, McCurry often emphasizes the shortcoming of previous scholarship for not stressing the role of women and slaves. While most scholars will concede

that McCurry makes a major contribution to revealing the role of women and slaves in the war, some may ask if her work represents more of a synthesis of the existing scholarship than she asserts. For example, she points out early in the book that “historians and the public already know a great deal about this Civil War history of dissent, about its class and regional bases and political consequences in guerilla warfare, secret Unionist organizations, peace movements, and desertion. But the Confederate government would face a whole set of other challenges as well, arising not from the band of brothers but from the great mass of the Confederate people--women and slaves--who had been purposely disfranchised and excluded from the ranks of the political community. The challenges they posed would prove even more threatening to the political prospects of the regime and are more unknown to historians of it” (p. 82). Therefore, when she asserts that scholars have not ignored the welfare crisis that led women to empower themselves, she suggests that these historians have placed too much emphasis on the welfare component and too little on the empowerment aspect of this topic. Some scholars may disagree with her, but many more will wonder if these really are mutually exclusive perspectives. Ultimately, McCurry’s major contribution is her juxtaposition of the Confederate failure to adjust to the empowerment of both common white women and slaves and why women could be reckoned with (though rather late), while slaves, as well as perhaps their masters, could not be.

Scholars and the large audience of Civil War readers will find interesting insights in both books. Their varying approaches underscore how diverse actors shaped and were altered by the conflict.

Note

[1]. James M. McPherson, *For Cause and Comrades: Why Men Fought in the Civil War* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1998), 102.

Reviewed by **Robert Kenzer (University of Richmond)**
Published on **H-CivWar (February, 2011)**



2011 West Coast Civil War Conference

1861: The First Year

November 11 - 13, 2011, Doubletree Hotel,
Sacramento

Speaker Profile: William C. Davis

(This is the second installment of biographical profiles of speakers confirmed for the 2011 West Coast Civil War Conference)



William C. Davis, a native of Independence, Missouri, was educated in northern California, then spent twenty years in editorial management in the magazine and book publishing industry, before leaving in 1990 to spend the next ten years working as a writer and consultant. He is the author or editor of more than fifty books in the fields of Civil War and Southern history, as well as numerous documentary screenplays. He was the on-camera senior consultant for 52 episodes of the Arts & Entertainment Network/History Channel series "Civil War Journal," as well as a number of other productions on commercial and Public Television, as well as for the BBC abroad, and has acted as historical consultant for several television and film productions, including "The Blue and the Gray," "George Washington," and "The Perfect Tribute."

He is the only three-time winner of the Jefferson Davis Award given for book-length works in

Confederate History. His most recent book is *The Pirates Laffite: The Treacherous World of the Corsairs of the Gulf* published in 2005 by Harcourt.

Davis has come to Virginia Tech as Director of Programs for the new Virginia Center for Civil War Studies, as well as serving as Professor of History. In coming to Virginia he is in a way returning to his roots, since his Davis ancestors settled in nearby Carroll and Grayson Counties some 200 years ago, and virtually all of his ancestry goes back in the Old Dominion, some as far as 1608.

(source: <http://www.history.vt.edu/Davis/index.html>)



DID YOU KNOW?

The origin of the word Antietam is a Delaware Indian word meaning "swift flowing water."



JUNE

DURING THE CIVIL WAR

1861

8th Tennessee formally secedes

1862

1st Lee appointed Commander of army in Virginia

6th Memphis Surrenders

12th Stuart begins ride around McClellan

25th Seven Days Campaign begins

1863

9th Battle of Brandy Station

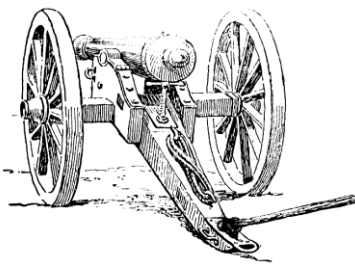
1864

1st- 3rd Battle of Cold Harbor

27th Battle of Kennesaw Mountain

26th Stoneman begins Atlanta raid

30th Early marches toward Washington, DC



CIVIL WAR BLOG SPOTLIGHT

Civil War Memory; Reflections of a Civil War Historian and a High School Teacher

Kevin Levin blogs on subjects "related to how Americans have chosen to remember and commemorate the Civil War.

Civil War Memory has received a number of honors, including the 2007 Cliopatria Award for Best Individual Blog, which is given by the History News Network:

Kevin Levin's Civil War Memory is an impressive individual blog, with a track record of several years. It commonly offers the best of both military history blogging and history blogging about the broader political, intellectual, and social context of regional conflict. This past year, for example, Civil War Memory has devoted considerable attention to the Lost Cause myth and the quest for Black Confederates.

You can find Civil War Memorial at <http://cwmemory.com/>