



**Volume 56, No 6
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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

Summer's heat is here. Let's cheer for the Delta Breeze. If anyone has a portable screen for our next weekly meeting, I wish he or she would let me know since mine has wandered away. I always kept it in the trunk of my car in the event the speaker preferred that as opposed to projecting on the wall. Our next speaker is gracing us with his presence and has requested one. Mine has disappeared in the recent changes.

On that subject, we are honored once again to a presentation by Dr. Tad Smith who has spoken several times since he initially presented an impressive talk May 11th, 2011 on "Financing the Confederacy." He is scheduled next week on June 8th when his subject will be "Lucy Pickens: Queen of the Confederacy." In the past several years, he has graced us with several splendid presentations. I highly recommend not missing this one since the others have been some of the best. He is a professor and researcher associated with the University of California Davis who received his degree from Virginia Tech. His avocation is history and his family heritage hails from the Shenandoah Valley in Virginia.

Again, if anyone has a screen, I would appreciate borrowing it and will be happy to drive over to pick it up if you may not plan to attend. My phone number is 916-485-1246.

I certainly enjoyed the gracious visit of our previous speaker and her husband. It is unfortunate that we cannot always meet their expectations for audio-visual assistance. The Board has discussed this problem on several occasions and may have to turn down some talks. If any of our members can suggest a solution, the assistance would be greatly appreciated.

I look forward to seeing you June 8th.

Don Hayden, Vice President

MINUTES
SACRAMENTO CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
Wednesday, May 11, 2016
HOF BRAU RESTAURANT, 2500 WATT AVENUE, SACRAMENTO

ATTENDANCE – 33

MEMBERS – 26: Don Hayden, Vice President, George W. Foxworth, Treasurer, Barbara Leone, Secretary, Silver Williams, Program Director, Roy Bishop, Harvey Cain, Marsha Jutovsky Cain, Alice Corley, Monica Foxworth, Ron Grove, Bob Hanley, Nina Henley, Wayne Henley, Chris Highsmith, Dennis Kohlmann (MAL), Kim Grace Long, Horst Penning, John Rice, Paul Ruud (MAL), Nicholas Scivoletto, Richard Sickert, Roxanne Spizzirri, Raymond Valdez, Michael Werner, John Zasso, Vivian Zasso.

GUESTS – 7: Esther Boeck, Tom Jacobs, Don McCunn, Ruthanne McCunn, Amy McKenzie, Larry Spizzirri, Richard Spizzirri.

1. The meeting was called to order by Don Hayden at 7:00 PM. He led the pledge and John Zasso conducted the raffle. Don introduced our guest, Rurhanne Lum McCunn who was suggested as a speaker by club member Alice Corley.
2. Ms. McCunn began her presentation with the statement “history is story.” She is interested in the hidden history that can become lost over time. She discovered 10 Chinese men who served during the Civil War; seven for the Union and three for the Confederacy. She obtained their military and post-War pension records. The affidavits required to substantiate their claims provided valuable information, sometimes even about their early lives. She learned these men were respected and at times regarded as friends even after the War. Her article “Ten Who Served in the Civil War” was published in the 1996 journal of the Chinese Historical Society of America. From this, she learned of two other researchers interested in the same material.
3. The motivation of those enlisting in the army included defense of homeland or adopted country, the promise of naturalization, opposition to slavery, and adventure. Any Asian Pacific Islander serving in a white outfit could be dismissed at any time. Thomas Sylvanus (Ah Yee Way), the Chinese Yankee, lived with that threat. His story was uncovered by Richard Hoover whose great grandfathers fought in the Civil War.
4. In a history of Indiana County, PA, he discovered that a Chinese Civil War veteran was buried in a local cemetery; he found the weathered gravestone of Thomas Sylvanus. The Sons of Union Veterans applied for new stones for Thomas and other veterans and on July 10, 2010, four new gravestones were dedicated.
5. Ruthanne decided to write about Ah Yee Way/Thomas Sylvanus. He was an orphan born in Hong Kong and brought to America to get an education when he was 8 years-old but ended up as a servant in Baltimore. He took the name Thomas to honor the sailor who had befriended him on the long voyage. In the 1860 Baltimore census, he was listed as 15 years-old but race is not given.
6. He ran away to Philadelphia when the War broke out and joined the 81st PA Volunteer Infantry. He saw heavy battle but was discharged in 1862 because of trauma cataracts that left him almost blind. Thomas was determined to rejoin and did so twice. He served at Spotsylvania, saving the company flag when all the color bearers were shot. At Cold Harbor, his leg was sliced open but he continued to fight. When he later tried to get disability there was no medical record of his injury.
7. He survived 9 months in Andersonville although virtually blind and lame. He ended up in Indiana, PA, where he was the only Chinese. He married an Irish woman whose illegitimate daughter he adopted. He was very poor and could only get jobs as a laborer to support his wife and 3 children.
8. In spite of racism, theft of wages, and accusation of rape, he refused to yield. He fought in court and would not accept the offenses others put upon him. His courage, persistence, and strong moral beliefs show he deserves to be honored and remembered.
9. The next Board Meeting will be Wednesday, June 8, 2016, 10:00 AM, at Brookfield's, Madison Avenue.

Barbara Leone, Secretary

Treasurer's Report

The cash balance following the May 11, 2016 meeting was \$5,183.23. Thanks to John Zasso, other members, and guests, the raffle brought in \$64.00.

George W. Foxworth, Treasurer

Coming Programs for 2016

Date	Speaker	Topic
June 8th	Dr. Tad Smith	"Lucy Pickens: Queen of the Confederacy"
July 13th	Ted Savas	"Last Clash of the Ironclads: The Desperate Battle of Trent's Reach, January 23 - 25, 1865"
August 10th	Bob Bundy	"The Stonewall Jackson - A.P. Hill Feud"
September 14th	Tim & Ginny Karlberg	"Do You Know More Than a 5 th Grader About the Civil War?"
October 12th	Sherri Patton	"Civil War Diplomacy"
November 9th	To Be Determined	To Be Determined

2016 Membership

The 2016 membership renewal is due as of January 1, 2016. The dues are \$20.00 and you can renew at a monthly 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

Remember, you can also pay at any monthly meeting.

NEWSLETTER CIVIL WAR ARTICLES

Civil War articles/book reviews are welcome. The submission deadline is the 1st 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

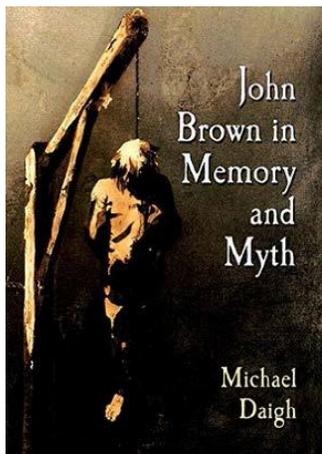
Do not submit scanned files since I need to edit files to combine the **Battle Cry**.

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.

JOHN BROWN IN MEMORY AND MYTH

Author: Michael Daigh -- Review by: Joseph Truglio

Illustrated, photos, notes, bibliography, index, 268pp, 2015, McFarland, www.mcfarlandpub.com, \$39.95, softcover.



There are some in the Civil War community who believe the War started in Harpers Ferry on 17 October 1859 and yet others who believe it started in “Bleeding Kansas” in the early 1850’s. Regardless of when it started, we can all assume that John Brown was a major player. There are many books available on Brown and his life. However, none to my knowledge delve into the psychological aspect of his reasoning and why he came to the conclusions that he did. Mr. Daigh dives into this aspect of John Brown with both feet and outlines not only the reasons for his actions, but also the effect they had on his family and the nation.

The story is told in three sections with twenty-three chapters. The first two sections deal with Brown’s life and the formation of his persona. The third presents the raid and actions in Kansas, along with the trial and its aftermath. It is well annotated and contains a strong bibliography of reference sources.

There is much to learn here on Brown’s mental makeup. The early chapters tell of his upbringing, love of family, and sense of justice. His life is hard. He fails in business often and has several episodes of bankruptcy. His appearance is shown to be austere and yet we learn of a compassionate and sentimental side. He is deeply religious yet not tolerant of churches. He is shown to be most resilient in the face of much tragedy and suffers constant pain due to the loss of several children and a wife. He is not an abolitionist in the concept of the day but rather a believer in true equality. To paraphrase the author of this book: “he may be the only man of the era who actually loved blacks and had them live with his family and consider them equals.”

John Brown was a very complicated man. He spent years devising a plan to free the slaves. He traveled the nation seeking funds from various groups to finance this “revolution.” Along the way, we see his dealings with such varied individuals as Charles Jamieson, the notorious guerilla in Kansas; wealthy abolitionists in New England; and his meeting on several occasions with Frederick Douglass. Not all, particularly Douglass, agreed with Brown and his methods. Neither did several of his sons, who after Potawatomie, Kansas, left his movement. This is a fascinating history of a man and his era. It does read like a textbook at times and can be a bit dry. However, it is a must and should be read by every serious student of the coming of Civil War.

The price is a bit steep for a paperback but it is well worth the cost. This is a most rewarding reading experience and I recommend it highly.

Submitted by Judith Breitstein.

GIBSON RANCH 2016



Strong winds blew apart the canopy, but not these folks: Vivian, Silver, George, and Wayne.



"Where's those Yankees?"

Photos and captions by Nina Henley.

GIBSON RANCH 2016



"I didn't figure on so much marching!"



The wind unfurled the flag!

Photos and captions by Nina Henley.

GIBSON RANCH 2016



This Pennsylvania regiment had California recruits. That's a bear on the flag.



Field Medic to the rescue.

WEST COAST CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE CONFERENCE

WAR AND REMEMBRANCE

October 28-30, 2016, Costa Mesa, CA ★ Jointly Hosted by the Orange County and Pasadena Civil War Round Tables

SPEAKERS AND TOPICS

Eric Wittenberg, Author/Historian

Custer – What If . . . ?

Little Phil: A Reassessment of the Leadership of General Phil Sheridan

James Hessler, Author/Historian

How Dan Sickles Declared Himself the Hero of Gettysburg

Paul Gillette, Author/Historian

Orange County CWRT

A Never-Ending War: The James-Younger Gang, 1866-1882

Meg Groeling, Author/Historian/Educator

These Honored Dead

Evan Jones, Author/Historian

The Road Home

Michael Oddenino – Historian/Attorney

Pasadena CWRT

Robert E. Lee After the War

Ted Savas, Author/Historian

Owner, Savas-Beatie Publishing

Rediscovering Hallowed Ground

Nick Smith, Historian

Sons of Union Veterans/Pasadena CWRT

Westward Bound: Veterans and Their Lives in California

James Stanbery, Historian

Professor, Los Angeles Harbor College

Orange County & Pasadena CWRTs

Left-Wing Confederates, In and Beyond the War

Joan Waugh, Author/Historian

Professor of History, UCLA

The Civil War in History and Memory

Cheryl Wilkinson, Author/Historian

Sawtelle: New Battles for Union Veterans

CONFERENCE HOTEL

Crowne Plaza Costa Mesa

3131 Bristol Street, Costa Mesa, CA

Group Rate of \$129/night includes free breakfast for two per room; free wi-fi and parking; free shuttle from John Wayne Airport. Group rate available pre/post event.

For details on the hotel and nearby activities/attractions, check their web site:

<http://www.ihg.com/crowneplaza/hotels/us/en/costa-mesa/laxcm/hoteldetail>

Group Reservations

(prior to Oct. 7, 2016): (866) 437-5657

Group Name:

Civil War Round Table (Code CWR)

Conference Registration

Early Bird Rate: \$215

(January 1 to July 31, 2016)

Regular Rate: \$225

(starting August 1, 2016)

Refunds

Refunds prior to Sept. 1, 2016 will be less a \$25 processing fee; no refunds will be made after September 1, 2016.

Questions?

Contact the Co-Chairs

Joann Knowles, *Orange County CWRT*

joannsbk@aol.com

Janet Whaley, *Pasadena CWRT*

janet1860@charter.net

REGISTRATION FORM

Make your check payable to Pasadena CWRT and mail to Janet Whaley, 1143 North Los Robles Ave., Pasadena, CA 91104-3558
Credit Card payments accepted via PayPal: <http://www.pasadenacwrt.org/westcoastconference2016>

NAME _____ AFFILIATION _____

ADDRESS/CITY/ZIP _____

PHONE _____ E-MAIL _____