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June, 2017**

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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**

It looks like summer is here and we have a little over five months to prepare for our November West Coast Civil War Conference. The announcements went out in May and thanks are due to Paul and George for doing the brunt of the work, the speakers are set, topics chosen, and with good fortune, we should repeat another sponsored Conference which will be as successful as those in the past. I intend to send my check promptly as we need to supplement the available cash to fund our speakers and expected expenses and encourage our members intending to attend to also register early.

Our recent meeting was well-attended and Joe Maxwell's discussion of the Alabama-Kearsage confrontation well received. Our next speaker had to postpone and fortunately Program Chairwoman Silver Williams is stepping in and her topic will be "The Rebel and The Rose and the Lost Confederate Gold." That sounds very interesting. I hope to see you there.

**Don Hayden, Vice President**

**MINUTES**  
**SACRAMENTO CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE**  
**Wednesday, May 10, 2017**  
**HOF BRAU RESTAURANT, 2500 WATT AVENUE, SACRAMENTO**

**ATTENDANCE – 33**

**MEMBERS – 24:** Don Hayden, Vice President, George W. Foxworth, Treasurer, Barbara Leone, Secretary, Silver Williams, Program Director, Roy Bishop, Marsha Cain, Monica Foxworth, Ron Grove, Bob Hanley, Chris Highsmith, Rebecca Highsmith, Jane Jackson, James Juanitas, Dennis Kohlmann (MAL), Arnold Kunst, Grace Long, Bernie Quinn, John Rice, Nancy Samuelson, Nick Scivoletto, Richard Sickert, Roxanne Spizzirri, Michael Werner, John Zasso.

**GUESTS – 9:** Esther Boeck, Joe Maxwell, Leslie Palmer, Ralph Palmer, David Richmond, Linda Richmond, Larry Spizzirri, Richard Spizzirri, Miles Young.

1. The meeting was called to order by Don Hayden and he led the Pledge. John Zasso conducted the raffle.
2. Joe Maxwell discussed the Battle of the USS Kearsarge vs the CSS Alabama on 6/19/1864. Joe was ably assisted by his friend Miles Young. The purpose of the talk was to discuss the Battle and to develop a theme of how it affected history up to 2012. It is considered the 2nd most important naval battle of the War.
3. Joe thinks Lincoln became the greatest naval commander when he declared the Southern blockade. He used the Treaty of Paris (ended Crimean War) to make European countries pirates if they broke the blockade with civilian or military ships. James Bulloch was considered the “most dangerous man in Europe” by the North. He was there to build and procure ships for the South.
4. The Alabama’s Captain Semmes, docked in Cherbourg, France, challenged the Kearsarge. Why did Semmes risk such a valuable ship? Perhaps it was honor/pride, he was ridiculed for never fighting a warship.
5. Both ships were similar. But the Kearsarge had 2 smooth bore cannon which Captain Winslow aimed short of the enemy; the shot skipped hitting the enemy’s hull. If the ball of the Alabama’s rifled cannon fell short of the target, it sank. The Kearsarge had a sort of chain mail made of anchor chain protecting the boiler and coal storage areas.
6. The Kearsarge lured the Alabama 6 miles out then turned. The ships circled 7 times. The Alabama sank after 1 hour and 2 minutes. Semmes, the first mate, and the midshipman, Irvine Bulloch (brother of James Bulloch), were taken aboard the yacht Deerhound. The Battle was so important because the Alabama had cost the North millions; it raised the morale of the South and Northern merchant ships could not get insurance.
7. Joe linked this naval battle to future President Teddy Roosevelt. James and Irvine Bulloch were his uncles.
8. Another result occurred in 1890; millions of dollars were approved to build concrete forts with pop-up guns, many in the Philippines. Aging Civil War period politicians feared blockade and sea invasion, thus 1890 technology was used to solve an 1865 problem that helped create a 1941 disaster. The Japanese attacked from the air resulting in 70,000 lives lost in the Philippines.
9. In 1984, the next link was Clive Cussler looking for the Alabama. Docked in Cherbourg, he could not get approval to search. Even with a French interpreter at the U.S. Embassy in Paris, he was denied. Hoping for help he flew to Washington, D.C. but was unsuccessful. Giving up on Alabama, he started looking for Leopoldville sunk in 1944. Using noisy side scan sonar they detected a large object. Ordered back to port, they went to England. Back in Colorado, he read that the Alabama was found by a French boat captained by the brother of Clive’s interpreter.
10. A call came from William Casey, Director of the CIA, ordering Clive to tell the CIA wherever he planned to research. The French were testing their first nuclear submarine outside Cherbourg. The U.S. and other spy agencies had spent millions to listen. Clive had created such a ruckus the French cancelled their testing.
11. The 2012 connection was Joe’s visit to Corregidor to see the pop-up guns with his friend who lives there.
12. The next Board of Directors’ Meeting is Wednesday, July 12, 2017, at 10:00 AM at Brookfield’s.

**Barbara Leone, Secretary**

**Treasurer’s Report**

The cash balance following the May 10th meeting was \$5,749.08. Thanks to John Zasso, other members, and guests, the raffle brought in \$56.00.

**George W. Foxworth, Treasurer**

# Coming Programs for 2017

<b>Date</b>	<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Topic</b>
June 14th	Silver N. Williams	"The Rebel, The Rose, & The Lost Confederate Gold"
July 12th	Larry Tagg	"The Generals of Gettysburg"
August 9th	Richard Sickert	"J. M. Chapman Affair"
September 12th	To Be Determined	To Be Determined
October 11th	To Be Determined	To Be Determined
November 8th	To Be Determined	To Be Determined

## **2017 Membership**

The 2017 membership renewal is due as of January 1, 2017. 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:gwfoxworth@sbcglobal.net)

Do not submit scanned files since I may 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.

## Carl Cannon's Morning Note

Good morning, it's Wednesday, March 1, 2017. On this date in 1872, President Ulysses S. Grant did a great thing for his country. It was hardly the first time, and along the way he'd earned numerous nicknames, not all of them flattering. "U.S. Grant," "Uncle Sam Grant," "Unconditional Surrender Grant." But after Cold Harbor, no less a personage than Mary Todd Lincoln called him "a butcher."

Mrs. Lincoln also called General Grant, not to his face, "an obstinate fool." She was half right -- Grant was no fool -- but his obstinacy is the trait that led the Union to victory in the Civil War, a result all but foretold by Confederate General James Longstreet. He knew how Grant performed in combat from their time in the Army together. "That man will fight us every day and every hour," Longstreet warned, 'til the end of the War."

By 1872, Grant's fighting days were over. He was in the White House, and 145 years ago today, with a stroke of the pen, President Grant became the father of the National Park Service.

Giving credit to the explorers who "discovered" the stunning landscape we call Yellowstone National Park is problematic. Referring to the great fishing streams in Montana, where he grew up, Norman Maclean wrote about rivers that flow "over rocks from the basement of time." The Yellowstone River is one of those bodies of water, flowing through a canyon cut by the great glaciers that covered present-day Montana and Wyoming 25 millennia ago.

Ten thousand years ago, people in search of new lands started crossing the Bering Sea on an ice bridge, some of their descendants eventually settling in the Grand Tetons. The land in those mountains was unsuitable for agriculture, but these were not farming people. We call them Native Americans, although they were originally pilgrims from Asia who, after thousands of years, would call themselves Shoshones.

Lewis and Clark passed through their lands -- Meriwether Lewis and three others in his party were the first White men the Shoshone people had ever seen -- and although they heard volcanic-sounding thunder at regular intervals, the explorers continued on their path to the Pacific. That noise was a geyser, perhaps the one we call Old Faithful, and its sound stuck in the memory of one member of the Lewis and Clark expedition. His name was John Colter, and he made up his mind to return.

Colter was a famous hunter and trapper, and probably the first White man to see Yellowstone's wonders. His reports were widely disbelieved. The hot geysers with their sulfuric smell in a country populated by grizzly bears and subject to extreme temperatures -- it all seemed to flat-landers an apt description of Hades, and the region was derisively nicknamed "Colter's Hell."

Its inaccessibility and lack of commercial appeal, not to mention the fact that one had to travel through Blackfoot tribal lands to get there, kept Yellowstone isolated. Still, those who managed to make the journey invariably sent back Colter-like descriptions.

Writing from what we now call the Lamar Valley, explorer (and future Oregon politician) Osborne Russell struggled to find the words. "There is something in the wild scenery of this Valley which I cannot describe," Russell wrote in 1835. "But the impressions made upon my mind while gazing from a high eminence on the surrounding landscape one evening as the sun was gently gliding behind the western mountain and casting its gigantic shadows across the vale were such as time can never efface."

The approaching Civil War delayed exploration of the area for many years, but finally, when the War was over, an expedition led by Charles W. Cook and David E. Folsom set out to answer the mysteries once and for all. And like John Colter and Osborne Russell, Cook and his party were nearly overcome with what they saw.

"I sat there in amazement, while my companions came up, and after that, it seemed to me it was five minutes before anyone spoke," Cook wrote in 1869. "Language is inadequate to convey a just conception of the grandeur and sublimity of this masterpiece of nature's handiwork."

Two years later, an expedition led by Ferdinand Hayden mapped out this masterpiece. Hayden was a Federal Government geologist who had spent the Civil War as a surgeon in the Union Army. He knew there were horrors of the battlefield that were hard to imagine for those who hadn't seen them. Conversely, there were also splendors of nature that seemed to defy description, and so Hayden brought with him an artist, Thomas Moran, and a landscape photographer named William Henry Jackson.

[Thomas Moran's paintings](#) and [William Jackson's pictures](#) redeemed John Colter's reputation as a faithful reporter, and lent themselves to a powerful cause that had been bubbling upwards with the force of a geyser's underground water: make this area a national park. Pushed by Hayden and others, including Nathaniel Pitt Langford, the first Yellowstone Superintendent, Congress set aside 2.2 million acres for a National Park in Yellowstone, the first such designation in the history of the world.

Waiting for this legislation at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue was President Ulysses S. Grant. As a Civil War General, he had helped preserve the Union. Now, on this date 145 years ago, March 1, 1872, Grant began the process, continued through the decades, of preserving the United States' version of crown jewels, the natural treasures we call our National Parks.

Here's a [nice montage](#) of the park's splendors, set to music. Ulysses S. Grant would appreciate the sights of this video, if not the sound. He was a man who generally needed no mood music to punctuate his patriotism. As Grant once confided to his friend Robert C. Winthrop, while both men took in a concert in Baltimore, "Why Mr. Winthrop, I only know two tunes. One is 'Yankee Doodle' and the other isn't."

Carl M. Cannon  
Washington Bureau Chief, RealClearPolitics

Submitted by Silver N. Williams

# The Ulysses S. Grant House

309 Wood Street  
Burlington, New Jersey 08016-4407

Julia Dent Grant had spent many of the Civil War years traveling to army bases to be at her husband's side. By 1864, the troubled times made Grant begin to fear for the safety of his family. He decided to buy a home in Burlington, New Jersey at 309 Wood Street where his family could live a less stressful life, his children safely attend the local schools, and he could visit as often as he possibly could. It was rare for him to be able to get away to spend time at home.



On April 14, 1865, the Lincolns extended an invitation to the Grants to attend Ford's Theater with them for a showing of the popular play, "The American Cousin." Ulysses S. Grant knew that his wife would refuse to go. Julia had many reasons to dislike Mary Lincoln. But perhaps the reason that Julia disliked Mary Lincoln so intensely was

because Mary called Ulysses S. Grant “the butcher” because of the unusually high casualty rate of his soldiers in battle.

Grant declined the invitation, saying he had promised to escort his wife to Burlington, NJ where they could spend some time with their children, Frederick, “Buck,” Nellie, and Jesse. On their trip home, Grant received the news that the President had been shot and was mortally wounded. Grant hastened to get Julia home. He was able to return on a special 6:00 AM train to Washington. By the time Grant reached the station in DC, the President was dead.

Afterwards, Julia reported that a man had been stalking her while she had lunch with General Rawlins’ wife on the day of the assassination. That same man followed her and General Grant later that day on their way to the train station, going so far as to peer into their carriage. From pictures she was shown, Julia identified the man as Booth.

Ford’s Theater had advertised that General and Mrs. Grant would be attending the theater with the Lincolns that evening. Did Booth find out the Grants were leaving town? If he didn’t, why would he go to the theater with only a knife and a small Derringer with a single bullet? Would he have dared to try to kill the President if General Grant was seated beside him? Surely, Grant would have been armed. If Grant had accepted the invitation, would he, too, have been killed? Or might he have killed Booth and changed the course of American history?



The Grant House is privately owned and not open to the public.

Submitted by Judith Breitstein



# 2017 West Coast Civil War Conference

Sponsored by Sacramento Civil War Round Table

## Lesser Known Civil War Battles

November 10 - 12, 2017, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Sacramento

### Our Speakers are:

**William C. Davis:** Retired in 2013 as Professor of History and Executive Director of the Virginia Center for Civil War Studies at Virginia Tech University. He is the author or editor of more than 60 books on the Civil War and Southern history, and consultant and commentator for A&E's "Civil War Journal," and several other television and film productions.

**Dr. Brian S. Wills:** Director of the Center for the Civil War Era at Kennesaw State University. Dr. Wills is a nationally recognized Civil War historian and author of books on Civil War topics.

**Thomas Cartwright:** Is a leading authority and author on the Battle of Franklin who conducted tours of Western Theater battlefields for 20 years. Appeared on many TV shows and is a frequent CWRT speaker.

**Jim Stanbery:** Professor of Political Science and History at Los Angeles Harbor College, and speaker at the West Coast Civil War Conference for more than twenty years. Is a frequent CWRT speaker.

**Theodore Savas:** Is an attorney, adjunct college instructor, award-winning author, Partner and Managing Director of Savas Beatie LLC. He specializes in military history and the American Civil War.

**Ron Perisho:** A member of the Sacramento CWRT and Center for Civil War Photography (CCWP), Co-Editor of "Gettysburg in 3-D," and a Soils Engineer who has collected Civil War Photography for 30 years.

The Conference cost is \$200 per person which includes Friday dinner, Saturday lunch and dinner, as well as all sessions. A full hotel breakfast buffet is included for guests staying at the hotel.

Partial day attendance: Friday Only \$50; Saturday Only \$125; Saturday Dinner and Lecture Only \$50; Sunday Only \$25.

There will be a no-host bar set-up Friday and Saturday evenings for your enjoyment before dinner.

For more information, contact Paul Ruud at 530-886-8806 or by contacting [www.sacramentocwrt.com](http://www.sacramentocwrt.com) where information and registration forms will be available.

Room reservations are available by calling Crowne Plaza directly 877-504-0054 or [www.crowneplaza.com](http://www.crowneplaza.com)  
[Crowne Plaza Hotel](#) has rooms set aside for us at \$124 per night, plus tax. Please mention the Conference.

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Please print this page, fill it out, and return the form with your check for your registration. Make checks payable to: **Sacramento CWRT** and mail to: George W. Foxworth, 9463 Salishan Court, Sacramento, CA 95826-5233.

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