



Volume 61, No. 6
June, 2021

2021 Officers:

Dennis Kohlmann, President
(916) 726-4432
gkohlma@aol.com

Anne M. Peasley, IPP
(530) 320-5112
apecasley22@gmail.com

James Juanitas, Vice
President
(916) 600-4930
jcjuanitas@aol.com

VACANT,
Secretary

George W. Foxworth,
Treasurer
(916) 362-0178
gwfoxworth@sbcglobal.net

Bernard Quinn,
Program Director
(916) 419-1197
bwqcrypto@gmail.com

Paul G. Ruud, MAL
(530) 886-8806
paulgruud@gmail.com

Richard E. Sickert, MAL
(916) 564-4608
r.sickert@comcast.net

VACANT,
Editor

SCWRT Website
www.sacramentocwrt.com

Kim Knighton, Webmaster
webmaster@digitalthumbprint.com

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

I just finished the most interesting book, *Break it Up, Secession, Division, and the Secret History of America's Imperfect Union*, by Richard Kreitner. In some ways, the surprise is not that we had a Civil War but that it didn't come sooner and hasn't happened more than once.

Before the Revolutionary War, the Colonies had little contact with each other. Often, they spoke different languages and practiced different religions. Other than being under England, they had little in common. Most people assumed they had banded together solely to fight a common enemy and would break up after the War.

Shortly after the War, the Colonists got together and wrote the Constitution. Once it was ratified by 9 States, it went into effect.

For over 200 years, the British and French were at war with each other. In June of 1807, A British ship fired on an American vessel off the coast of Virginia. At President Jefferson's urging, instead of a military response, Congress instituted an embargo on all foreign commerce. To Jefferson, it was the only way to keep the United States out of the latest European war without sacrificing national honor.

It didn't work out that way. The embargo fell almost exclusively on the New England commerce. The embargo hurt the United States far worse than it did either Britain or France. As the economy collapsed, support for secession began to rise.

Days before he yielded the Presidency to James Madison, Jefferson signed a bill repealing the embargo. For the first time, a mass separation movement was established.

Dennis Kohlmann, President

MINUTES
SACRAMENTO CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
Wednesday, May 12, 2021
HOF BRAU RESTAURANT, 2500 WATT AVENUE, SACRAMENTO

ATTENDANCE – 0:

MEMBERS – 0: No meeting and no Members.

GUESTS – 0: No meeting and no Guests.

1. No meeting. Meetings are cancelled until further notice due to COVID-19. The Hof Brau is still closed to inside dining.
2. The next Board Meeting is unknown at this time.

George W. Foxworth for Vacant, Secretary

Treasurer's Report

The cash balance on May 12th was \$4,470.84. No meeting and no raffle.

George W. Foxworth, Treasurer

George D. Beitzel

Recently, George Beitzel mailed an announcement of his new situation.

He is recovering from a serious illness and has been out of communication for six months. He has moved to an assisted living facility and re-establishing contact.

His current data is as follows:

George D. Beitzel
8871 E. Stockton Blvd., Apt. #220
Elk Grove, CA 95624

Cell Phone: 916 465-5444
Email: gjbeitzel@gmail.com

Submitted by Silver N. Marvin

Coming Programs for 2021

Date	Speaker	Topic
June 9th	"No Speaker"	"No Topic"
July 14th	"To Be Determined"	"To Be Determined"
August 11th	"To Be Determined"	"To Be Determined"
September 8th	"To Be Determined"	"To Be Determined"
October 13th	"To Be Determined"	"To Be Determined"
November 10th	"To Be Determined"	"To Be Determined"

2021 Membership

The 2021 membership renewal was due as of January 1, 2021. The dues are \$30.00 and you can renew and 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

NOTE: 2020 memberships are good for 2021 due to COVID-19.

NEWSLETTER CIVIL WAR ARTICLES

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

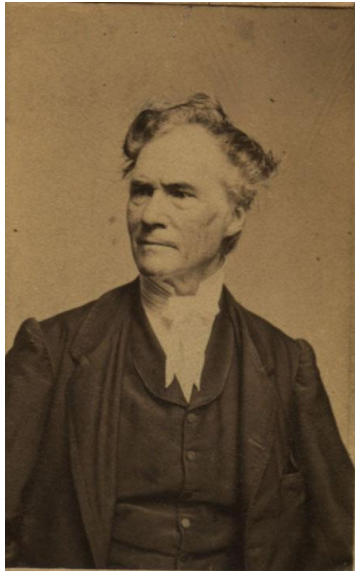
We also visit schools and organizations to tell that early history of the Island, long before it became the notorious Federal prison. And we conduct living history days twice a year, in conjunction with the American Civil War Association, to give the public an idea of what the Island was like as a Union Fort.

Submitted by Steve Johnson

Joseph Dixon

Who doesn't remember their first day of kindergarten? You were handed a brown paper bag that held an apple and a neatly wrapped peanut butter and jelly sandwich. The bag was placed into your new plaid briefcase next to a black and white composition notebook, a pack of tissues, and a plastic case with two sharpened No. 2 pencils. And your mother said, "Don't run with your pencil or you'll take your eye out."

Originally pencils were just a stick of graphite. Later, string was tied around them to get a better grip. The pencil was then sheathed in a thin block of wood. Germany was the largest producer of pencils and colonial Americans imported them through England. Benjamin Franklin and George Washington both advocated the use of pencils.



The man who perfected and popularized the pencil in the United States was Joseph Dixon. Dixon was born in Marblehead, Massachusetts on January 19, 1799 to Elizabeth Reed and Joseph Dixon Sr. Joseph's father was a ship owner. Even as a very young boy, Joseph would help his father load ships for their trips to the Far East. On their return, the ships would be filled with heavy graphite ballast to keep the vessels upright. Once home, the ballast was simply dumped into the Bay. At only thirteen years old, Joseph and his friend, Ebenezer Martin, a cabinet maker, started experimenting with the waste graphite. They mixed graphite dust, clay, and water and then placed it between two pieces of rounded wood. The stick was baked and the Dixon pencil was born.

Joseph married Hannah Martin, his friend Ebenezer's daughter, on July 28, 1822. They experimented on improving the pencil, making them by hand and then selling them door to door. Joseph had also designed a process for making

crucibles, a container used for melting graphite and other materials at high temperatures. The crucible business was successful. Needing larger quarters to set up a factory, in 1827 the young couple moved to Salem. Two years later, Joseph quite accidentally discovered that melted graphite, when dried, made an excellent stove polish. The sales from the crucibles and stove polish started making big profits. The Joseph Dixon Crucible Company was born.

Wanting to be nearer their customers, the Dixons moved to Jersey City, New Jersey in 1847. Joseph continued to produce pencils but no one wanted them. Within a year, the young entrepreneur had lost over \$5,000 on his graphite writing sticks. He continued to work on other inventions, coming up with a process that helped banks by using colored ink to detect counterfeit bills.

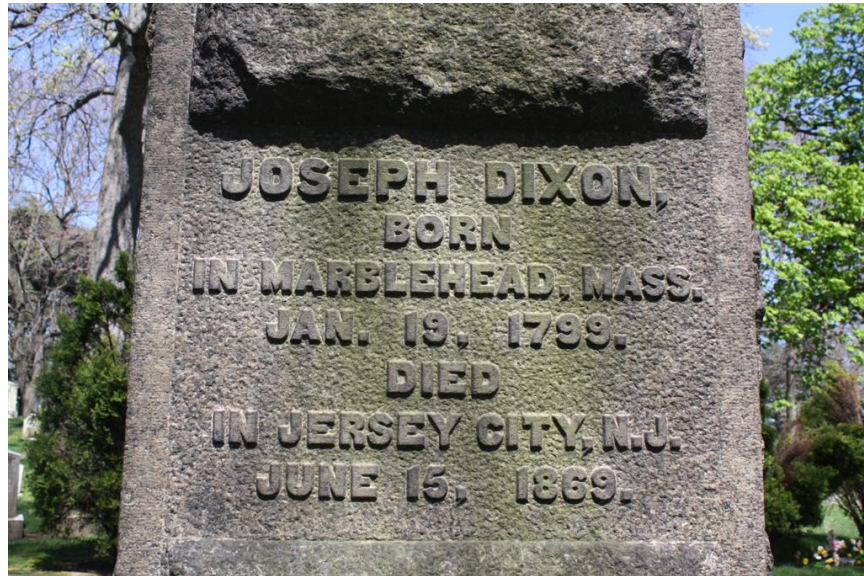
Americans were reluctant to give up their quills and berry juice. But with the coming of the Civil War, tens of thousands of literate men were leaving home for parts unknown. Sharpening a quill and hunting for berries to use as ink was impossible to do on the march. Soldiers needed something portable and cheap, something that didn't break or spill, was clean, and could be shipped easily. In 1858, Hyman Lipman invented an eraser that would attach to a pencil, making the small tool even more desirable. Elated with the upsurge in sales, Joseph designed an apparatus that could manufacture an astonishing 132 pencils a minute.

Tens of thousands of letters were written during the Civil War using Dixon pencils. Soldiers used their pencils to pen love letters. Some sketched their personal view of battles. Others noted in their diaries their fears and longings and kept daily journals of their wartime experiences. Parents began to receive descriptions of their sons' deaths and last words that were written with this handy new writing tool. Pencils were used to memorialize names on crude wooden boards over hastily dug graves. Mortally wounded men wrote their last good-byes with this small, uncomplicated piece of lead and wood. Picking up a pencil and signing your name on a wall validated that you were still alive. Drawing "dirty pictures" on a wall took your mind off the sight of your own amputated limb.

The U.S. Sanitary Commission and the Christian Sanitary Commission began to realize that pencils were as necessary to the common soldier as coffee, medical supplies, blankets, and dry socks. Pencils became standard issue.

The widespread use of the No. 2 pencil aided the "Special Artists" who traveled with both the Union and Confederate Armies. Pencils and charcoal afforded the artists ease of mobility, going where cameras could not be taken. Illustrating was dangerous work and artists like Edwin Forbes, Alfred Waud, and Frank Leslie put their lives at risk every day drawing pen, pencil, and charcoal sketches for the illustrated newspapers and magazines they worked for. These artists created pictorial accounts for families at home showing the stark reality of men at war and in the field.

Civil War pencil graffiti is still being discovered. In Brandy Station, Virginia, a house that was built in 1858 and had served as a hospital for both Union and Confederate boys, had been painted and wallpapered over many times. In 1993, a great renovation was done, stripping it of its wallpaper and layers of paint. Today it has become known as the Graffiti House. Civil War pencil drawings, inscriptions, and even famous signatures like that of Jeb Stuart, have survived. Jokes, pictures, and names of the many patients treated there can still be seen.



On June 15, 1869, at seventy years old, Joseph Dixon died. He was buried in Fairmount Cemetery in Newark, New Jersey. His son-in-law, Orestes Cleveland, took over the Dixon Company. Cleveland had served one term as a New Jersey Representative and went on to serve two separate terms as Mayor of Jersey City. He ran for Governor of the State in 1880 but lost when it was discovered he had committed malfeasance by stealing money from the Dixon Company to fund his campaigns. The Company survived the debacle.

In 1873, the Dixon Company purchased the American Graphite Company and their graphite mines in Ticonderoga, New York. The Dixon – Ticonderoga Company was born. By 1872, Dixon - Ticonderoga produced one third of all pencils used in the United States.

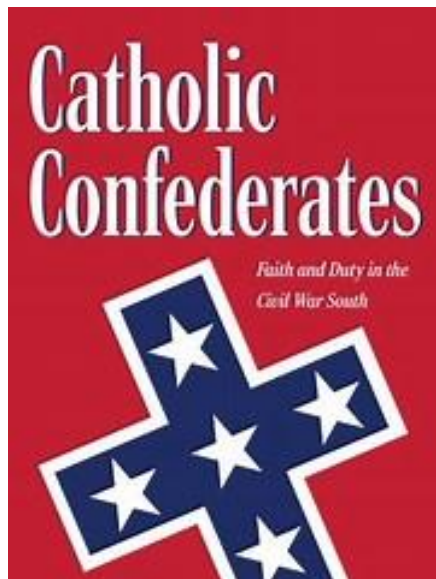
In 1986, the Dixon plant was moved from Jersey City to Florida. The old complex was converted into apartments, shops, and health clubs, and renamed Dixon Mills. Today the outside of the old red brick factory with its Dixon lettering and smokestacks looks exactly the same as it did when they were grinding out pencils for Civil War soldiers to write home with.

Submitted by Judith Breitstein

Catholic Confederates: Faith and Duty in the Civil War South

By Gracjan Kraszewski. The Civil War Era in the South Series. Kent State University Press, 2020. Illustrations. xxiii + 196 pp. \$45.00 (cloth), ISBN 978-1-60635-395-0.

Reviewed by Emily Davis (Loyola University of Chicago). Published on H-Nationalism (November, 2020). Commissioned by Evan C. Rothera.



Gracjan Kraszewski outlines the three historiographical goals of *Catholic Confederates: Faith and Duty in the Civil War* in the introduction: to expand Catholic Civil War scholarship, provide a southern view of American Catholicism, and add to works on Confederate loyalty. Kraszewski achieves each goal as he breaks away from the ethnic boundaries that usually define studies of Catholics during the Civil War. *Catholic Confederates* argues that "Southern Catholics were deeply committed to the Confederate nation" and that this produced Confederatization (p. xviii). "Confederatization" emphasizes a national identity above other identities and demonstrates the high level of integration Catholics achieved within Confederate society. Kraszewski uses Confederatization as a thread between the chapters exploring Southern Catholics' relationships with the Confederacy. The book ultimately challenges the Americanization theory of Catholic history. It did not take the election of President John F. Kennedy to integrate Catholics into American society since Catholics within the South were already seamlessly integrated. Given how much scholarship generally emphasizes the concurrent nativism occurring in the North, this new take about the ease of Catholic integration into Southern society raises the question of what made the Confederacy different.

Each chapter of *Catholic Confederates* uses characters to highlight broader points about Southern Catholics. The individual experiences of bishops, priests, lay soldiers, and religious sisters drive home the points made by Kraszewski. Not as much has been written about lay women, but information about their experiences can be gleaned from the letters between married couples. The first chapter examines how bishops reacted to the early years of Secession and War from 1860 to 1861. Four Southern bishops serve as characters for this chapter. Throughout their writings, bishops emphasized spiritual concerns over political ones, but that did not prevent them from expressing support for the young Confederate nation. Bishop Patrick Lynch of Charleston, South Carolina, supported the Confederacy from the beginning while Bishop William Henry Archer, whose territory included all of Mississippi, consistently emphasized spiritual matters over political ones, even as he slowly expressed statements that Mississippians should be loyal to their new nation. Catholics were part of the community before the Civil War and had to grapple with its implications like other Southerners.

The following two chapters examine Confederatization and Catholicism on the battlefield. They center on chaplains and soldiers during the years 1862 to 1864. Kraszewski focuses on three chaplains and three lay soldiers in each chapter. The author deliberately chose this approach as a way to study the thousands of Catholics within the Confederate Army. Kraszewski is clear that he would like to have "quality" primary source material to provide "a documentary-style window into the life of the Catholic-Confederate soldier and chaplain" (p. 26). Father John Bannon is one of the most exciting characters Kraszewski introduces. Bannon technically served as a Catholic chaplain during the Civil War and was forbidden by the church from using weapons. But, while stationed in Vicksburg, Mississippi, Bannon joined the Confederate soldiers in an artillery team while still performing his role as a chaplain. He balanced fighting with spiritual guidance. This demonstrated how successful Confederatization was: Bannon was a devoted Confederate willing to risk his life and a devoted chaplain seeking to save souls. He saw no reason these commitments could not function together.

Lay Catholics fighting in the War shared this same devotion to church and state. Soldier John Dooley kept a journal throughout his time in the Confederate Army. Dooley's Confederatization is evident through his voluntary enlistment and eagerness to join the fight. Like many other Confederates, Dooley expressed his respect for Robert E. Lee. His journal provides insights to the man's spiritual life. Dooley prayed the rosary and attended camp prayer meetings with Protestants, while also quietly developing his interior spiritual life. In fact, Dooley entered the Society of Jesus after the War ended but did not live to ordination. What these two chapters ultimately reveal is the ordinary nature of being Catholic and Confederate. Regardless of whether a person was a chaplain or soldier, these dual identities were not at odds with each other.

The Fourth Chapter, "The Ambiguities of Peace: The Bishops during the War," returns the reader to leadership within the Southern Catholic Church. Kraszewski examines documents for subtle pro-Confederacy language. Bishops urged peace in a way that favored the Confederacy. When Bishop Patrick Kenrick of Baltimore died, Catholic bishops in the North and South expressed sadness at his passing and communicated about who the replacement might be. Catholicism rose above state lines, yet the Confederate nation's desire for recognition from other national states centered attention on the Vatican. Pope Pius IX stated his willingness to mediate peace during the War. This chapter also explores the issue of race by looking at some of the views bishops held. Bishop Elder held paternalistic views of slavery, and while these bishops "were authentic in spiritual matters, [it] does not excuse their position on slavery" (p. 85).

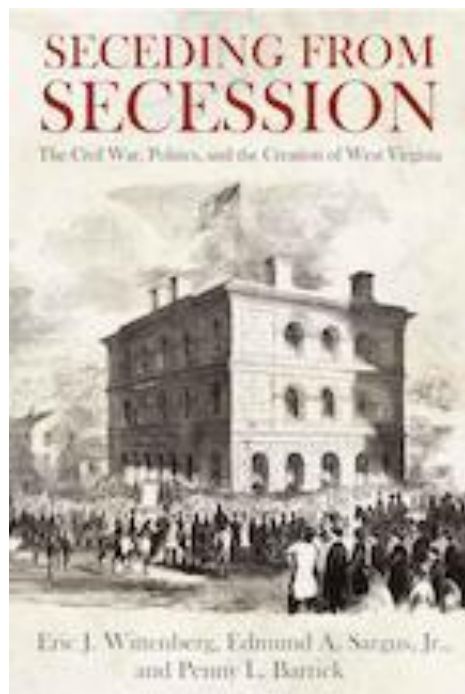
The book shifts briefly to the lives of religious sisters serving as nurses during the Civil War. This short chapter demonstrates the Confederatization of Catholic sisters through their apolitical approach to the War. Soldiers respected these women and Protestant men often expressed shock that these nurses could be part of the same Catholic Church they feared. Sisters' apolitical reaction and willingness to operate within the boundaries of the Confederacy, while serving wounded on both sides, demonstrated their Confederatization. This chapter feels lighter than the others in terms of evidence and argument. While Kraszewski illustrates well the women's lives, readers are left desiring more information about their experiences.

The Confederacy made its final attempt for international recognition. Bishop Lynch, the fully Confederatized individual from Chapter 1, traveled to Rome on behalf of the Confederacy. Other priests, such as the fighting Father Bannon, journeyed to Ireland to garner Irish support for the Confederacy by demonstrating how Northerners treated Catholics poorly. Bannon's trip met with more success than Bishop Lynch's. The Vatican Secretary of State informed Lynch that the Vatican recognized him as a bishop, not as a Confederate emissary. The Pope also expressed concern for the lives of slaves and their future freedom. Lynch responded with a pamphlet on slavery that "painted a classically paternalistic image of the master-slave relationship" and demonstrated how Lynch fully believed in the Confederate view of slavery (p. 128). This is Kraszewski's best section grappling with race, slavery, and the Catholic Church. Ultimately, Pope Pius IX refused to choose one side over the other but supported Catholics internationally.

Catholic Confederates provides a great resource for expanding contemporary understanding of Nineteenth-Century Southern Catholicism and a fantastic example of how using individuals' lives illustrates the past.

Submitted by Bruce A, Castleman, Ph.D

Emerging Civil War's **Eric Wittenberg** has a new co-authored book published in June 2020:



“West Virginia was the child of the storm,” concluded early Mountaineer historian and Civil War veteran, Major Theodore F. Lang. The northwestern third of the Commonwealth of Virginia finally broke away in 1863 to form the Union’s 35th State. In *Seceding from Secession: The Civil War, Politics, and the Creation of West Virginia*, authors Eric J. Wittenberg, Edmund A. Sargus, and Penny L. Barrick chronicle those events in an unprecedented study of the social, legal, military, and political factors that converged to bring about the birth of the West Virginia.

President Abraham Lincoln, an astute lawyer in his own right, played a critical role in birthing the new State. The constitutionality of the mechanism by which the new State would be created concerned the President, and he polled every member of his entire cabinet before signing the bill. *Seceding from Secession* includes a detailed discussion of the 1871 U.S. Supreme Court decision *Virginia v. West Virginia*, in which former Lincoln cabinet member Salmon Chase presided as Chief Justice over the Court that decided the constitutionality of the momentous event.

Seceding from Secession is grounded in a wide variety of sources and persuasively presented. Add in a brilliant Foreword by Frank J. Williams, former Chief Justice of the Rhode Island Supreme Court and Chairman Emeritus of the Lincoln Forum, and it is an indispensable source for everyone interested in understanding the convergence of military, political, social, and legal events that brought about the birth of the State of West Virginia.

Submitted by Emerging Civil War (www.emergingcivilwar.com)