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June, 2022

2022 Officers:

VACANT,
President

Anne M. Peasley, IPP
(530) 320-5112
apeasley22@gmail.com

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

VACANT,
Secretary

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

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

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

VACANT,
Member at Large

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

No Message until further notice.

Vacant, President

MINUTES
SACRAMENTO CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
Wednesday, May 11, 2022
DENNY'S RESTAURANT, 3520 AUBURN BOULEVARD, SACRAMENTO

ATTENDANCE – 21:

MEMBERS – 20: James Juanitas, Vice President; George W. Foxworth, Treasurer; Claude L. Alber, James M. Armstrong, Carol & Jean Breiter, Wayne & Nina Henley, Christopher Highsmith, Diana & Alejandro Lizarraga, Joseph & Michelle Matalone, Eric Norman, Bernie Quinn, Program Director; Paul G. Ruud, Member-at-Large; Nicholas Scivoletto, Larry Spizzirri, Richard Spizzirri, & Peggy Tveden.

GUESTS – 1: Carl J. Guarneri.

1. Vice President James Juanitas led the Pledge. Vice President Juanitas recognized new members and guests. He also announced the 2022 West Coast Conference in Fresno, CA in November. The raffle was conducted by Nicholas Scivoletto.
2. Vice President Juanitas introduced the speaker, Carl J. Guarneri. Mr. Guarneri's topic was "Lincoln's Informer."
3. Charles Anderson Dana was an American journalist (August 8, 1819 – October 17, 1897), author, and senior government official. He was a top aide to Horace Greeley as the managing editor of the powerful Republican newspaper *New York Tribune* until 1862.
4. Dana was born in Hinsdale, New Hampshire. At the age of twelve, he became a clerk in his uncle's general store at Buffalo, until the store failed in 1837. In 1839, he entered Harvard, but the impairment of his eyesight forced him to leave College in 1841. From September 1841 until March 1846, he lived at Brook Farm, where he was made one of the Trustees of the Farm, was head waiter when the Farm became a Fourierite phalanx, and was in charge of the Phalanx's finances when its buildings were burned in 1846. During his time with Brook Farm, he also wrote for the Transcendental publication, the *Harbinger*. In 1846, he married widow Eunice Macdanie.
5. In 1847, he joined the staff of the *New York Tribune*, and in 1848 he wrote from Europe letters to it and other papers on the revolutionary movements of that year. In Cologne, he visited Karl Marx and Ferdinand Freiligrath. (From 1852 to 1861, Marx was one of the main writers for the *New York Daily Tribune*.)
6. Dana returned to the *Tribune* in 1849 and became a proprietor and its managing editor, and in this capacity actively promoted the anti-slavery cause, shaping the paper's policy at a time when Horace Greeley was undecided and vacillating.
7. In 1861, Dana went to Albany to advance the cause of Greeley as a candidate for the U.S. Senate, and nearly succeeded in nominating him.
8. During the first year of the War, the ideas of Greeley and those of Dana in regard to the proper conduct of military operations were somewhat at variance; the Board of Managers of the *Tribune* asked for Dana's resignation in 1862, because of this disagreement and wide temperamental differences between him and Greeley.
9. During the American Civil War, he served as a Special Commissioner and became the Assistant Secretary of War (1863 - 1865), playing especially the role of the liaison between the War Department and General Ulysses S. Grant. He urged placing General Grant in Supreme Command of all the armies in the field, which Lincoln did in 1864.
10. After the War, Dana returned to journalism. He was interested in literature and became an art collector.
11. The next Board Meeting is Wednesday, June 8, 2022.

George W. Foxworth for Vacant, Secretary

Treasurer's Report

The cash balance on May 11th was \$4,649.35. The raffle brought in \$67.00. Many thanks to Nicholas Scivoletto, members, and guests.

George W. Foxworth, Treasurer

Coming Programs for 2022

Date	Speaker	Topic
June 8th	"James C. Juanitas"	"Admiral Farragut & the Battle of Mobile Bay"
July 13th	"Bernie Quinn"	"Lee's Sharpshooters by Major Dunlop, CSA"
August 10th	"Arnd Gartner"	"Union Intelligence Services"
September 14th	"To Be Determined"	"To Be Determined"
October 12th	"To Be Determined"	"To Be Determined"
November 9th	"To Be Determined"	"To Be Determined"

2022 Membership

The 2022 membership renewal was due as of January 1, 2022. 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

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

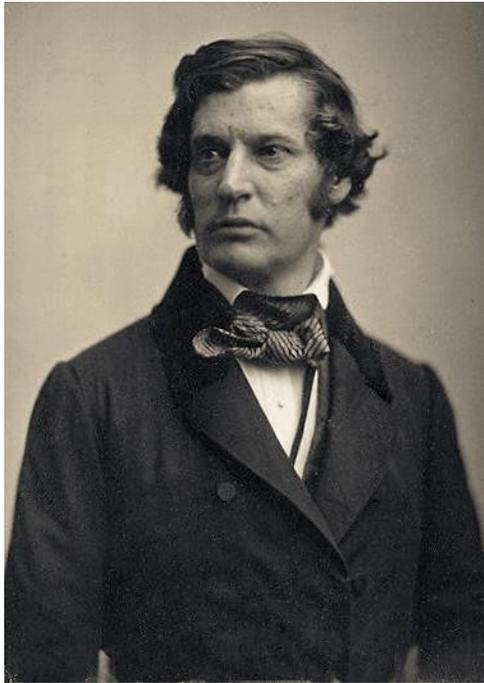
The Friends of Civil War Alcatraz (FOCWA) is a group of individuals interested in the Civil War history of Alcatraz island. We are made up of teachers, veterans, historians, and others who like to research and read about how Alcatraz became an important Fort for the protection of San Francisco during 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.

CHARLES SUMNER

Charles Sumner's family emigrated from England in 1637 and settled in what was to become Boston. His mother, Relief Jacobs, was a seamstress, descended from a line of Christianized Jews. She had been raised as a Puritan. Charles' father, Charles Pinckney Sumner, was also a Puritan. He'd been educated in the law at Harvard. It was difficult rearing nine children on an attorney's salary of \$1,000 a year.



Their eldest child, Charles Sumner, was born prematurely on January 6, 1811 along with his twin sister, Matilda. They weighed three and a half pounds at birth. Charles and Matilda had sickly childhoods and Matilda succumbed to consumption on March 6, 1832, at twenty one years old. Two other siblings, Mary and Henry, also died from tuberculosis. Sister Jane died at age seventeen of spinal disease. Brother Albert, a sea captain, drowned along with his wife and daughter on the way to France where they were seeking medical help for their daughter. Sumner's brother, Horace, was lost in a shipwreck when he was twenty six years old. His body was never found.

When Charles' father was appointed Sheriff in 1826, his salary doubled to \$2,000 a year. The family was able to move to a finer home and afford secondary school educations for their children. Charles wanted to attend the Military Academy at West Point but his father insisted on Harvard. Charles graduated Harvard in 1830 and Harvard Law School in 1834.

In 1837, Sumner chose to further his education in Europe. He learned to speak French, German, Italian, and Spanish fluently. More importantly, he noted that in Europe well-dressed, educated Blacks mingled freely and amiably with Whites.

Charles had been sickened by the sight of slavery on his first visit South. On his return home, he became a leading advocate in the anti-slavery movement. A powerful orator,

his height and good looks added to the imposing figure he cut. His oldest friend, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, wrote that Sumner delivered a speech like a "*cannoneer ramming down cartridges*." Sumner joined political parties according to their stand on abolition. Starting as a Whig, he was elected to the Senate as a Free Soiler in 1851. His most noted speech was "*The Crime against Kansas*" given in May 1856. He excoriated the two authors of the Kansas Nebraska Act, Stephen Douglas of Illinois and Andrew Butler of South Carolina. He said Butler was a "*pimp for slavery*." He called Douglass "... *a noise-some, squat, and nameless animal...not a proper model for an American senator*." Douglass spit back, "...*that damn fool will get himself killed by some other damned fool*."

Two days later, a kinsman of Andrew Butler's, Senator Preston Brooks, searched out Sumner in his office. Brooks refused to duel Sumner as he did not consider him to be a gentleman. Instead, he caned him almost to death, with the type of cane used to discipline dogs. The cane broke during the beating. Brooks was sent hundreds of canes, inscribed "*Hit him again*" by delighted Southerners and feted all over the South. He resigned his seat in the Senate but was re-elected the next term.

Northern tempers flared. William Cullen Bryant wrote, "*Are we to be chastised the way they chastise their slaves?*" Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote, "*I think we must get rid of slavery, or we must get rid of freedom*."

It cannot be underestimated how important this beating was in sharpening the North's focus on total abolition and bringing about the Civil War. Sumner's seat in the Senate was left empty during his long convalescence to serve as a powerful rebuke to the slave states. It took Sumner close to three years to recover. He suffered traumatic brain injury, debilitating spinal pain, headaches, and nightmares. He sailed to Europe but the "*cures*" worked upon him were pure quackery and made his condition worse.

Sumner had worked closely with Abraham Lincoln years earlier protesting the War in Mexico. Now a leading Radical Republican, Sumner grew discontented with Lincoln's slow pace towards emancipation. He chided Lincoln, "...*if you had commenced your policy about slavery, this thing could and would have come and gone*..." After Lincoln's murder, Sumner was one of the few people who befriended Mary Lincoln. He was eventually successful in getting her the pension she desperately desired.

Rumormongers whispered that Sumner was a "*confirmed bachelor*," the euphemism for homosexual in the mid-Nineteenth Century. It was said his paramour was Samuel Gridley Howe, head of The Perkins School for the Blind and the husband of Julia Ward Howe, author of *The Battle Hymn of the Republic*. Howe was a member of the Secret Six, an abolitionist group that had financed John Brown's raid on Harper's Ferry. It is not known if the affair was physical or just emotional. However, Samuel wrote so often to Charles during his honeymoon, that his frustrated new wife later wrote her husband, "*Sumner ought to have been a woman and you to have married her*." The Howes' marriage was not a happy one. After Samuel's death, Julia admitted they would have divorced if he hadn't threatened to take her children.

On October 17, 1866, Sumner shocked society when he suddenly married Alice Mason Hooper, twenty seven years his junior. Alice had been widowed during the Civil War.

The Sumner marriage was acrimonious from the start. Alice had a fierce temper. Sumner was inflexible and humorless. When Alice began to spend her evenings with a German diplomat, Frederick Von Holstein, Sumner's enemies dubbed him "*The Great Impotency.*" The couple separated the following September and were divorced by 1873. Sumner forevermore referred to Alice as "*that woman.*"

Sumner had few friends among his fellow senators. He was said to have an extremely formal disposition to the point of coldness and allowed his ego to rule over common sense. He was insensitive to the needs of others and exceedingly stubborn, not able to abide any other opinion but his own. He was furious when a memorial statue to Judge Roger Taney (the Dred Scott Decision) was proposed. He refused to compromise in his fight for equal rights for the newly freed Black population. He opposed U.S. Grant's attempt to annex Santo Domingo and said things about Grant that could not be forgiven. By 1872, Sumner was supporting Horace Greeley, the Liberal Republican candidate for President. This was the end of any of Sumner's power in the Republican Party and Congress.

Sumner had been experiencing bouts of angina for some time. On March 11, 1874, Sumner died of a heart attack at his home in Washington, DC. Hundreds of freedmen gathered outside to mourn his passing. All businesses in Boston closed the day of his funeral. Sumner received the rare honor of being laid out in the Rotunda of the US Capital, having been a senator from 1851 until his death. His pallbearers were his closest friends, the literary lions of Boston, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Oliver Wendell Holmes, John Greenleaf Whittier, and Henry Wadsworth Longfellow.



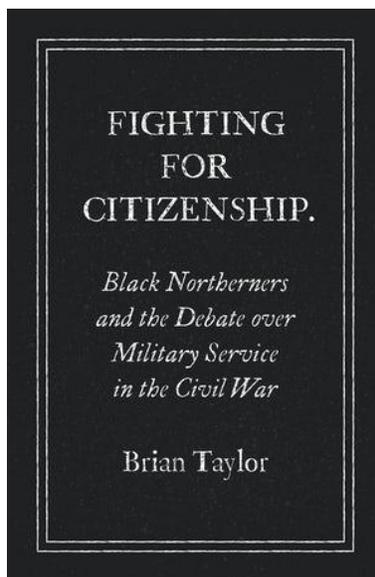
Charles Sumner is buried in Mount Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Submitted by Judith Breitstein

Fighting for Citizenship: Black Northerners and the Debate over Military Service in the Civil War

By Brian Taylor. Civil War America Series. Chapel Hill, University of North Carolina Press, 2020. 248 pp. \$29.95 (paper), ISBN 978-1-4696-5977-0; \$95.00 (cloth), ISBN 978-1-4696-5976-3; \$22.99 (e-book), ISBN 978-1-4696-5978-7.

Reviewed by Judith Giesberg (Villanova University). Published on H-CivWar (March, 2021). Commissioned by Stefanie Greenhill.



In *Fighting for Citizenship: Black Northerners and the Debate over Military Service in the Civil War*, Brian Taylor offers the astonishing statistic that "more than 70 percent of the Black males of military age living in states in which slavery had ended before the Civil War" served in the US Army during the Civil War (p. 94). This enthusiasm for donning the blue uniform tracks with the scholarly consensus about Black military service, that it was considerable and consequential and that it helped lead to an inclusive definition of citizenship. Frederick Douglass famously said, "Once let the Black man get upon his person the brass letters U.S., let him get an eagle on his button, and a musket on his shoulder, and bullets in his pocket, and there is no power on the earth or under the earth that can deny that he has earned the right to citizenship." This book seeks to complicate this story by exploring the skeptics, holdouts, and dissenters in Northern Black communities--men who cautioned against enlisting before the terms of Black service were clear and knotty questions about Black citizenship were answered. This is a worthwhile endeavor and Taylor makes a good case for why we should open our eyes to the diversity of opinion about military service

among African Americans in the North. Although we have focused attention on recruiters, we have overlooked evidence that they faced pressing questions from skeptical Black men in the North. Here Taylor does good work drawing out these challenges and shows how recruiters handled awkward questions and how they at times questioned the legitimacy of the messages they were delivering to free Black men about why they should risk their lives on behalf of a nation that promised them little in return.

But this very promising book has some rough spots. To start, the book's thesis drifts. Taylor's central claim is that Black soldiers forced the United States to recognize Black citizenship, rights, and equality. They achieved this through a "politics of service" that was articulated in the Black press in the form of debates about whether and when Black men should enlist and in recruitment rallies where attendees shouted back at recruiters, and, when enlisted in the United States Colored Troops (USCT), Black soldiers pressed for pay equity among other things. This process of redefining citizenship through Black military service--or the promise/potential thereof--scored two victories early in the War. The first came in the Militia Act of July 1862, when Congress removed the word "White" from the description of military eligibility, and the second in November 1862, when Attorney General Edward Bates issued an opinion that brushed aside Dred Scott to declare American citizenship race blind. So, when Abraham Lincoln issued the final Emancipation Proclamation that cleared the way for states to begin recruiting Black troops, his administration clearly signaled their openness to a racially inclusive interpretation of citizenship.

Before Black recruitment began, citizenship was already being redefined, at least for the purposes of filling the Union ranks. (Indeed, in her award-winning study, *Birtheright Citizens: A History of Race and Rights in Antebellum America* [2018], Martha Jones shows that Black Baltimoreans were contesting their second-class citizenship by the 1780s.) But, for the subjects of Taylor's book, much more was at stake than that. For the first half of 1863, Black Northerners demanded an end to the US Army's discriminatory policies, such as denying Black men promotion and paying them less, and a response to Confederate threats to execute Black prisoners of war. Some men made their enlistment decisions contingent on the answers to these questions. How many did? We will never know, but surely the high enlistment rate that Taylor quotes is proof of his own claim "that by 1863 opponents of immediate military service were in the minority among Black Northerners, although they remained a substantial, vocal minority" (p. 93). Even so, it is a curious claim to make in a book that asserts that these opponents were responsible for changing the definition of American citizenship.

Here is where some of the drift sets in. By 1863, most of the skeptics, holdouts,

and dissenters had enlisted or were busy enlisting others, so Taylor shifts focus to a discussion of how Black men fought on battlefields not only to save the nation but also to "refound" it, that is, to change it from within the ranks of the army, to force the nation to live up to its ideals (p. 97). This suggests that the "politics of service" lasted only as long as Black men were potential soldiers--until 1863--and not actual ones. It is not clear, either, if the distinction between those who embraced immediate enlistment and those who dragged their feet mattered once they were all in the ranks. I also wondered if it mattered if the men who were striking for equal pay were Northern Blacks or the numerically more significant Southern Blacks. Were they not all fighting for a new nation? Then, once the War was won, Black veterans "sought more" than the concessions they had managed to extract in the form of the Bates opinion, and so they took to the papers, organized in convention, and sometimes ran for office to lobby for amendments that guaranteed an expansive, egalitarian American citizenship (p. 131).

There is more drift in the conclusion when Taylor explains that "Civil War-era Black activists forced otherwise unwilling White officials to specifically define Black men and women as American citizens," for women do not figure into the study, which is about how Black men leveraged their potential military service to get concessions from the Federal Government, hopefully lasting ones, like equal pay and equal protection (p. 149). What exactly Taylor means by citizenship is not clear, but here Taylor claims that "it was never Black Northerners' intention, as they debated service, to use it to win citizenship only for veterans and their families; they had meant for service to win lasting gains for all African Americans" (p. 155). It may have been Northern activists' intention to employ the politics of service to extract a new definition of citizenship that was inclusive of women as well as men, but we would need to have had that introduced to us at the beginning. We know a great deal about the potentially tragic consequences to Black families, free and enslaved, when husbands and fathers enlisted. These personal considerations likely accounted for as much delayed enlistment as politics. When Black soldiers refused to accept lower pay than Whites, their families starved. And, in early congressional conversations about what rights Blacks would gain in the Postwar amendments, women entered the picture only as soldiers' wives. Were Taylor's activists able to see Black women as deserving of rights beyond those that accrued through their connection to Black soldiers?

These limitations aside, Taylor's *Fighting for Citizenship* has done important work for scholars of the Civil War North in complicating the picture of Black enlistment, in making space for dissenting voices within Northern Black communities, and by taking readers inside the work of Black recruitment, where things were not as easy as they might seem.

2022 WEST COAST CIVIL WAR CONFERENCE

November 4 - 6, 2022



WYNDHAM GARDEN HOTEL, 5090 East Clinton Way, FRESNO, CA 93727-1506, (1-559-252-3611 or 1-866-238-4218), \$103.00 per night, or wyndhamguestreservations.com, (Fresno Airport).

“Grant vs Lee: Combat Strategy & Tactics in 1864 Virginia.”

HOSTED BY THE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY CWRT. For more information, see Website: SJVCWRT2.com

SPEAKERS:

**Gordon Rhea;
Eric Wittenburg;
Chris Mackowski;
Jim Stanbery.**

Friday Night Dinner Begins at 5:30 PM.

Ron Vaughan, MA.; (Conference Coordinator: ronvaughan@prodigy.net).

ATTENDEE REGISTRATION: \$200.00 PER PERSON for Weekend, including meals. Breakfast on your own. Coffee, water, and pastries provided during the Conference.
(Non participants who wish Dinner Friday or Saturday nights: \$30.00 each meal.)

Name _____

Address _____

Phone(s) _____

Email _____

Member of which CWRT/ORG _____

Address Check to **San Joaquin Valley CWRT.**

Send Check and Registration to: **Ron Vaughan (Conference Coordinator), 730 East Tulare Avenue, Tulare, CA 93274-4336.**