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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

Greetings everyone, I hope everyone is trying to keep cool during this early summer-like heat.

I would just like to remind everyone of our meeting location change for next Month - July. The Sacramento CWRT General Membership Meeting for next Month on Wednesday, July 10th will be located at the "R Vida Cantina" - Restaurant located at 7040 Sunrise Blvd, Citrus Heights, CA 95610-3102. It will be held at the same time 7:00 PM and the Restaurant closes at 9:00PM. So if you want to eat there, I recommend you get there early around 6:00 PM. Their phone number is (916) 560-9019.

I will see you all at Denny's for the June Meeting on Wednesday, June 12th.

James C. Juanitas, President

MINUTES
SACRAMENTO CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
Wednesday, May 8, 2024
Denny's Restaurant, 3520 Auburn Boulevard, Sacramento

ATTENDANCE – 19

MEMBERS – 17: James Juanitas, President; Carol Breiter, Vice President; George W. Foxworth, Treasurer; James Armstrong, Steve Breiter, Harvey & Marsha J. Cain, Mark Carlson, Ron Grove, (MAL); Wayne & Nina Henley, Joe (MAL) & Michelle Matalone, Paul (IPP) & Patty Ruud, Stuart & Andrea Sheffield.

GUESTS – 2: Rev. James D. Richardson & Lori Richardson.

1. The meeting was called to order by President James Juanitas at 7:05 PM and he led the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. A vote was taken by all present to move our meeting location to R Vida in Citrus Heights starting in July 2024. The move was approved by a majority of the members present. Upside is that they are able to provide the needs of the SCWRT. Downside is that it is in Citrus Heights just north of Sunrise Mall and is a Mexican restaurant.
3. President Juanitas asked for volunteers for the vacant Board positions. There were no responses.
4. SCWRT Facebook site had many views per Carol Breiter.
5. Don Hayden passed on April 21, 2024 in Gardnerville, Nevada. Don's memorial service will be on May 20, 2024 at the Sacramento Valley National Cemetery near Dixon, CA. The time will be 1:30 PM. Don was a long-time member of the Sacramento CWRT, a US Navy veteran, and a retired Medical Doctor.
6. The raffle was conducted by Joe & Michelle Matalone. The raffle raised \$46.00.
7. The program was presented by Reverend James D. Richardson. The topic was George Richardson, Rev. James's great, great, grandfather a Reverend who served with Colored troops during the Civil War.
8. George Richardson (1824 - 1911) was a traveling Methodist preacher who rode on a circuit across the Midwestern frontier and was caught up in the abolitionist movement. He became a "station master" on the Underground Railroad and served as Chaplain to a Black Union Regiment during the Civil War. The soldiers under his care were survivors of the Fort Pillow Massacre.
9. After the War, George Richardson felt his mission was incomplete. He and his wife, Caroline, came to Texas with the dream of starting a school for the freed slaves. In 1875, he founded a College (Samuel Huston College) in Texas for the formerly enslaved with the help of the Episcopal Church. When the Ku Klux Klan burned the School down, he built another one and rode on a circuit to teach those who were unable to travel to the School. He once hid for 10 days in thick Texas woods from a murderous White posse angered by his support for Black people. Today, the School is known as Huston-Tillotson University in Austin, Texas.
10. George Richardson died in 1911 at the age of 86 in Denver, Colorado. Near the end of his life, he returned to Northfield, Minnesota, where he had spent much of his ministry before the Civil War. He preached one last sermon, recounting the many trials and miles he had traveled. He ended with this: "Not only is God's Almightyness in the sense of strength available; but his Almightyness in the form of love."
11. After questions and answers, the evening ended at 8:20 PM. Rev. Richardson then sold a few of his books; The Abolitionist's Journal: Memories of an American Antislavery Family.
12. The next Executive Board Meeting is Wednesday, June 12, 2024, 10:00 AM, at Brookfields near Madison and I-80. Members and guests are welcome.

George W. Foxworth for Vacant, Secretary

Treasurer's Report

The cash balance on May 8th was \$5,387.71. Thanks to Joe & Michelle Matalone, members, and guests, the raffle brought in \$46.00.

George W. Foxworth, Treasurer

Coming Programs for 2024

Date	Speaker	Topic
June 12th	"Bernie Quinn"	"Appomattox Campaign: Death of the Army of Northern Virginia"
July 10th	"To Be Determined"	"To Be Determined"
August 14th	"To Be Determined"	"To Be Determined"
September 11th	"To Be Determined"	"To Be Determined"
October 9th	"To Be Determined"	"To Be Determined"
November 13th	"To Be Determined"	"To Be Determined"

2024 Membership

The 2024 membership renewal is due on January 1, 2024. The dues are \$30.00 and you can renew at a 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

NEWSLETTER CIVIL WAR ARTICLES

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

Woman of the Month

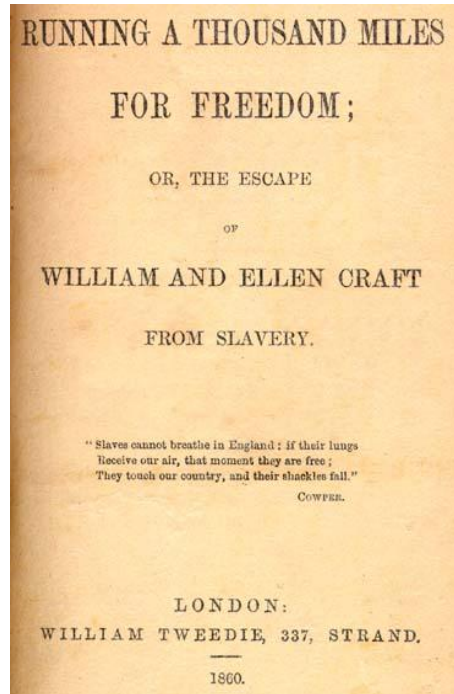


Ellen Craft (1826-1891) and William Craft (1824-1900)

For Ellen Craft and her husband William, the month of December 1848 promised more reason to celebrate than any they'd ever experienced. After years of careful planning and preparation, this was the optimal time, they decided, to implement their plan to gain freedom.

Their plan is heralded as one of the most brilliant escapes from slavery in American history; however, it's far less well known than the exploits of Harriet Tubman, Harriet Jacobs, or Frederick Douglass.

The Crafts' ingenious plan is documented in their 1860 narrative, *Running a Thousand Miles for Freedom; or, The Escape of William and Ellen Craft from Slavery*. From its preface, "It is true, our condition as slaves was not by any means the worst; but the mere idea that we were held as chattels, and deprived of all legal rights--the thought that we had to give up our hard earnings to a tyrant, to enable him to live in idleness and luxury--the thought that we could not call the bones and sinews that God gave us our own: but above all, the fact that another man had the power to tear from our cradle the new-born babe and sell it in the shambles like a brute, and then scourge us if we dared to lift a finger to save it from such a fate, haunted us for years."



Over the years since its initial publication, their narrative has been reprinted by four different publishers. It has been expanded, reconstructed and reformatted by various authors. Barbara McCaskill, Professor of English at the University of Georgia, researched a variety of primary sources to expand their narrative in her work *Love, Liberation, and Escaping Slavery: William and Ellen Craft in Cultural Memory*. The children's book editor, Donald Lemke, documents their escape from subjugation in a graphic history format titled, *The Brave Escape of Ellen and William Craft*. The writer, Ilyon Woo, reconstructs their escape with vivid detail in her 2023 New York Times best seller and prose reconsideration, *Master Slave Husband Wife: An Epic Journey from Slavery to Freedom*.

The Savannah College of Art and Design honored the bravery and originality of these two important figures by detailing their lives with a documentary film, *A Thousand Miles and Counting*.

When Ellen left her life as an enslaved person, she was dressed elegantly in a fashionable suit, stayed in the best hotels and traveled in first-class accommodations the entire route from Macon, Georgia, where she lived, to Philadelphia. But there was a twist: Ellen was disguised as a man, William Johnson, a very sick plantation owner traveling to Philadelphia for special treatment.

Resembling her father, Ellen could easily pass for White. She was the daughter of Major James Smith, a rich slaveholding cotton planter, and Maria, a young enslaved mulatto who was assigned to work in his house. Due to Ellen's appearance, the plantation mistress frequently brutalized her. Ellen's work in this wealthy household,

though painful, gave her the opportunity to absorb the language and observe the behavior and nuances of Southern Aristocracy. The escape plan she and William formulated required Ellen to disguise herself as Johnson, because a “Southern lady” surely would never travel alone with an enslaved male. She feigned illness during the trip, which discouraged conversation and interaction, justified dining alone in her room and provided a rationale for traveling North with her loyal manservant. Her right arm was placed in a sling to imply it was impaired, covering for her inability to write.

William took the role of Johnson’s devoted enslaved valet. His appearance was well suited for this role, and it enabled him to nurture the ailing Johnson. He was a skilled cabinet maker, and it was customary for him to travel throughout the region. This travel gave him the opportunity to acquire knowledge that was important for the journey North. Though the money he earned as a cabinet maker was confiscated by his owner, he was allowed to earn separate funds that he kept. He used this money to pay for the many expenses on the route to freedom.

They selected the Christmas season for their departure because it was one of the few time periods that “favored” enslaved persons could possibly get a pass. A pass provided documentation of their permission to be away from the plantation, usually to visit nearby relatives for a few days. The holiday pass also served as sufficient justification for their initial absence.

The Crafts’ quest for freedom was well designed, but failure would result in severe consequences: brutal whippings, mutilated bodies, sale to the “deep” South, or worse. From the beginning of their journey to the end, they faced harrowing experiences that caused them to question their ability to succeed.

The morning of departure, Ellen purchased train tickets to Savannah, the first leg of the journey. She chose a window seat in one of the best carriages but was filled with fear when she saw that the gentleman who approached to be her seat mate was Mr. Cray, a very close friend of her master who had known her for years. Her fears subsided when he greeted her, “It is a very fine morning, sir.”

Purchasing steamer tickets from Charleston, South Carolina, to Wilmington, North Carolina, proved to be a nearly unsurmountable challenge. To prevent White abolitionists from transporting and freeing enslaved persons, slaveholders purchasing tickets had to provide verification that each enslaved person with them was indeed their property. Often, this policy detained travelers for days. The Crafts were able to get around it only because a military officer from their previous steamer happened by and vouched for them.

With much joy and relief, Ellen and William arrived safely in Philadelphia precisely on December 25, 1848. Freedom, what a magnificent Christmas gift!

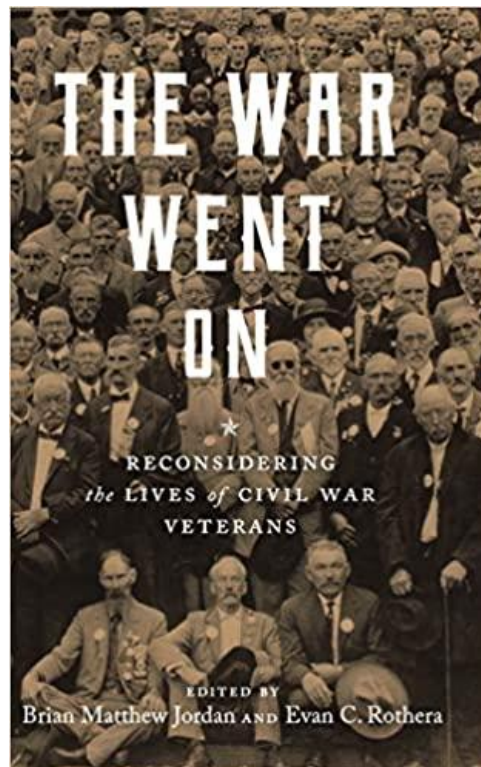
--SWCW Board Member Lavonda Broadnax

Submitted by the "Society for Women and the Civil War - www.swcw.org"

The War Went On: Reconsidering the Lives of Civil War Veterans

By Brian Matthew Jordan, Evan C. Rothera, eds. Baton Rouge, Louisiana State University Press, 2020. xii + 338 pp. \$55.00 (cloth), ISBN 978-0-8071-7198-1.

Reviewed by Jonathan S. Jones (George and Ann Richards Civil War Era Center, The Pennsylvania State University). Published on H-CivWar (January, 2021). Commissioned by Madeleine Forrest.



Once I picked up this splendid edited volume, I simply could not put it down, and I suspect that other readers will echo the sentiment. The diverse essays in this collection investigate the lives of Civil War veterans, uncovering fascinating--and often haunting--new insights into the experience(s) of veteranhood for the men who survived America's greatest military cataclysm.

Until recently, co-editor Brian Matthew Jordan observes, in standard histories of the Civil War, the ordinary soldiers who fought the War fell out of view after Appomattox. Generations of scholars assumed that veterans simply stacked arms and melted back into civilian life with ease. Over the last decade, however, historians have taken a fresh look at the postwar lives of Civil War veterans. This trend has gained considerable momentum as Civil War historians more broadly reconsider the

consequences and periodization of the Civil War, and as Americans today reflect on the often tragic postwar experiences of modern veterans. An outpouring of new, innovative studies investigates facets of veteranhood ranging from politics, pensions, and fraternal organizations to disability, psychological trauma, and suicide.

In this aptly titled volume, editors Brian Matthew Jordan and Evan C. Rothera continue this trend, noting "the development of veteran studies and offer[ing] suggestions about how the literature could develop in the future" (p. 1). Accordingly, the fifteen essays featured in *The War Went On: Reconsidering the Lives of Civil War Veterans* span several genres--social, cultural, political, memory, medical, and disability history--and mine diverse, underutilized sources to give a wide view of veterans' postwar activities and experiences. This genre-spanning approach is one of the volume's main strengths, underscoring how the millions of men who fought in the Civil War did not share a singular, uniform postwar experience. The essays also draw much-needed attention to themes that were, until recently, largely overlooked in veterans' studies, such as disability, war trauma, race, and veterans' roles in political activism and contests over the war's memory.

Jordan and Rothera identify four key themes apparent in the volume's fifteen essays. First, veterans did not "hibernate" immediately after the Civil War, an argument previously made by Gerald Linderman. Indeed, "rather than shrinking into self-imposed reverie, veterans inserted themselves (and often rather forcefully)" into diplomacy, partisan politics, civic discourse, and memory making (p. 2). Veterans also actively sought out and maintained community with other old soldiers, creating veterans' colonies out West, mutual support networks North and South, veterans' memorial halls that dotted Gilded Age towns and cities, and newspapers catering to veterans. Third, as the wide range of themes addressed in the volume implies, the experiences of Civil War veteranhood were "multivocal" (p. 4). Jordan and Rothera stress that there was no typical postwar trajectory for old soldiers, even among Union or Confederate cohorts. Finally, veterans were practically obsessed with their legacies. They were active in all areas of memory work, arguing over their units' roles in particular campaigns and forcing the reluctant public to grapple with atrocities committed in prisoner-of-war camps and by guerillas. Indeed, I see a fifth theme here, as well: veterans' postwar lives were often dominated by their wartime experiences, with many men unable or unwilling to let the Civil War go, even when other Americans wanted to move on.

Several essays stand out. Sarah Handley-Cousins's analysis of injured veterans and medical photography is a particularly engrossing and welcome addition to the growing literature on veterans, medicine, and disability. She convincingly argues that Union veterans used medical photography--images taken by army doctors, documenting gruesome injuries for the purpose of medical knowledge--to secure pensions, no easy task. Rothera's essay on veterans' interest and involvement in

the French invasion of Mexico is a must-read. Scholars have largely overlooked the significance of the French invasion in relation to the US Civil War. In contrast, Rothera convincingly argues, Union and Confederate veterans took a keen interest in the conflict in Mexico, which they interpreted as a continuity in the struggle between republicanism and slavery. Rothera's study is both a compelling nail in the coffin of the hibernation thesis and a much-needed corrective for a major oversight in the historiography of the Civil War's international dimensions. In line with recent scholarly emphasis on the Civil War in the West and "Greater Reconstruction," Kurt Hackemer's outstanding essay on Union veteran colonies in the postwar Great Plains provides a unique window into the coping mechanisms of traumatized veterans. Matthew Hulbert's analysis of the ex-guerrilla Frank James's struggles to put away violence after the War, Kelly D. Mezurek's study of Black US veterans in soldiers' homes, and Rebecca Howard's investigation of Union veterans living in postwar Arkansas likewise call attention to understudied areas. All three essays challenge historians to better incorporate marginalized veterans into the broader narrative of Civil War veteranhood. Mezurek's essay is a must-read for historians working on soldiers' homes, and represents perhaps the most robust analysis of Black veterans in the institutions published to date. Adam Dobby's unique essay on pension fraud rounds out the volume's discussion of memory, illuminating how the Lost Cause opened up avenues for Unionist North Carolinians to fraudulently procure Confederate pensions, despite having previously filed claims to the Southern Claims Commission.

There are many stellar contributions to the field here. That said, *The War Went On* falls short in a few places. Union veterans receive far more attention than ex-Confederates. This imbalance is understandable considering that vastly more primary sources, such as pension and soldiers' home records, generated by Union veterans are extant today than sources pertaining to ex-Confederates. But the lopsidedness nevertheless left me curious about how the four themes named by Jordan and Rothera in the introduction mapped on to the experiences of Confederate veterans. The volume also lacks images, which ordinarily would not be problematic. However, images were needed to illustrate the key themes of Handley-Cousins's otherwise strong essay on medical photography and Jonathan D. Neu's chapter on Grand Army of the Republic memorial halls. The only image included in *The War Went On* is the volume's cover, which depicts a reunion of Confederate veterans in 1922. A close look at this image reveals a handful of women and a Black man standing among a crowd of silver-haired old soldiers. Aside from the cover image, women and the institution of slavery are largely absent from *The War Went On*, leaving important questions--how did traumatized Civil War veterans interact with their wives? How did ex-Confederate men react to the demise of slavery?--unaddressed.

Some of the essays put also too much stock in the notion of the Three Hundred

Fighting Regiments to support assertions about veterans' war trauma, a subtle, but important shortcoming that limits historians' understanding of war trauma as experienced by Civil War veterans. According to research conducted by William F. Fox in the late Nineteenth Century, the vast majority of the Union army's fighting was done by a fraction of the men in blue. Considering Fox's findings, some scholars argue that the men who served in the "fighting regiments" would have suffered from a heightened degree of psychological and emotional distress compared to their comrades from other units. Indeed, Hackemer convincingly shows that veterans who served in high-combat units were more likely to engage in escapism by moving out West to veterans' colonies. However, implicit in this line of reasoning is the notion that old soldiers from outside the "fighting regiments" were less likely to suffer from invisible wounds. Yet, other studies have unearthed solid evidence that veterans who did not serve in particularly hard-fighting units were nonetheless exposed to traumatizing conditions during the Civil War. Some soldiers committed suicide before ever marching off to the front lines, simply because they feared the prospect of potentially failing the test of manhood that was battle. Witnessing friends and neighbors die of camp fevers or diarrheal diseases before ever coming under enemy fire was traumatic to men who firmly believed that one should die a "good death." Individuals caught up in the guerrilla war, as Hulbert rightfully observes, existed in a nightmarish world without clear borders between "home front" and "battlefield"--conditions every bit as traumatizing as any typical Civil War battle. Jordan, in his essay on new directions for the field, rightfully cautions that historians should not presume that there was a correlation between high-combat military service and postwar trauma, an observation that could have been more consistently applied in *The War Went On*.

These caveats aside, *The War Went On* is essential reading for historians of Civil War veterans. I strongly recommend Jordan's review essay, in particular, which closes out the volume with a reflection on underutilized sources and as-yet unanswered questions. Despite the flurry of veterans studies published in the last decade, Jordan calls attention to the fact that much about Civil War veteranhood remains unknown, including: the Gilded Age boom in niche industries catering to Civil War veterans, like pension lawyers; regional veterans' newspapers, which complemented the oft-cited *National Tribune* and *Confederate Veteran*; the depiction of veterans in pop culture, both in the postwar period and today; and points of similarity and difference between the lives of ex-Confederates and Black US veterans living in the postwar South, and White and Black Union veterans in the North. Addressing these and other questions, Jordan points out, will lead scholars both to a fuller understanding of what happened to the men who fought the Civil War, as well as a long-overdue integration of veterans into the broader narrative of the Civil War era.

Submitted by Bruce A. Castleman, Ph.D.