



**Volume 58, No 7
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Battle Cry

Founded 1961,
Newsletter of the Sacramento Civil War Round Table
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President's Message

Paul Ruud's presentation on "The Battlefield to the Oval Office" highlighted how military experience can play a great role in political life. Another super job by Paul.

Just as most historians believe once the Army of the Potomac crossed the Rappahannock River, it was only a matter of time before the War in the East was won. After seven attempts, General Grant took the surrender of Vicksburg, thus cutting off the Trans-Mississippi States from the Confederacy and sealing the fate of the South.

Our July speaker, Robert Orr, will speak about how Grant accomplished this. His topic is, "Vicksburg Battlefield, Part A."

It is seldom a man speaks such true words as Lincoln spoke on 27 February 1860 at the Cooper Union in New York City. He was asked to speak because, while they had read the Lincoln-Douglas Debates, no one East had ever seen or heard Lincoln speak.

This speech was in three parts. The first part concerns the Founding Fathers and the legal positions they supported on the question of slavery in the territories. The second part is addressed to the voters of the Southern States by clarifying the issues between Republicans and Democrats. He rebukes claims made by Democrats that they are "conservative," arguing instead that the Republicans' position on slavery is in fact the "conservative" policy, as Lincoln claims it coincides with the views of the American Founding Fathers, who he said were opposed to slavery. The third and final sections he addressed to the Republicans.

The speech ends with this line, "Let us have faith that right makes might, and in that faith, let us, to the end, dare to do our duty as we understand it."

Dennis Kohlmann, President

MINUTES
SACRAMENTO CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
Wednesday, June 13, 2018
HOF BRAU RESTAURANT, 2500 WATT AVENUE, SACRAMENTO

ATTENDANCE – 36

MEMBERS – 29: Don Hayden, Vice President; Barbara Leone, Secretary; George Foxworth, Treasurer; Roy Bishop, Harvey & Marsha Cain, Arnd Gartner, Alan Geiken, Ron Grove, Nina & Wayne Henley, Chris Highsmith, Jane Jackson, Arnold Kunst, Grace Long, Larry & Silver (Program Director) Marvin, Michelle Matalone, Bernie Quinn, John Rice, Patty & Paul Ruud (MAL); Nancy Samuelson, Nicholas Scivolletto, Roxanne Spizzirri, Ray Valdez, Dan & Faye Wolfe, John Zasso.

GUESTS – 7: Esther Boeck, Chuck & Mariel Gorkinski, Valerie Hankins, Frank Michny, Larry Spizzirri, Richard Spizzirri.

1. Don Hayden called the meeting to order, John Zasso led the Pledge, and Nicholas Scivoletto conducted the raffle.
2. Paul Ruud, a graduate of West Point, has a Ph.D. from Texas A&M in Math and Statistics. Paul has been instrumental in the SCWRT's successful West Coast Conferences since 2000. He discussed how four men went from the battlefield to the Oval Office from Touched by Fire by James M. Perry.
3. Was being a General in the War a good pathway to becoming President? Successful battles published in the newspapers brought name recognition. The four Presidents discussed were all born in Ohio, all were lawyers at some time, and all were Republicans.
4. Rutherford B. Hayes, the 19th President, was born in 1822. He was appointed Major to the 23rd Ohio Infantry. In 1861, the 23rd Ohio was sent to Western Virginia where they encountered Lee at South Mountain. Hayes was severely wounded preventing him from continuing to Antietam. He mustered out as a permanent Brigadier General and a Brevet Major General. After the War, Hayes became a lawyer, was in the House of Representatives, and Governor of Ohio twice. He was elected President by the Electoral College. The Compromise of 1877 was also instrumental in his election. This required the removal of all Federal troops still in the South; and some state governments that hadn't yet been recognized when Reconstruction ended.
5. James A. Garfield, the 20th President, was appointed Colonel of the 42nd Ohio Infantry in August 1861. He was made Commander of the 20th Brigade sent to support Grant who was heading for Corinth. Grant was surprised by the Confederates at the Battle of Shiloh where Garfield was a significant player on the second day. At Chickamauga, he remained in the field with General Thomas and was successful there, too. He resigned as a Major General after two years. He was wounded at Shiloh. He served in Congress for seventeen years. Because he was assassinated after six months, he accomplished little but supported the future life of the emancipated Blacks.
6. Benjamin Harrison, grandson on William H. Harrison, defeated Grover Cleveland to become the 23rd President; the electoral college made him President. Commissioned as a Colonel in the 70th Indiana in 1864, he joined General Sherman's Campaign to Atlanta. Harrison went to Chattanooga and mustered out as a Brigadier General. He was a prominent lawyer in the 1870's. During his Presidency, six states joined the Union; the Navy was modernized.
7. William McKinley, the 25th President, enlisted as a Private in the 23rd Ohio Infantry and was a Major at the end of the War. He fought at Antietam and South Mountain. He was in the House of Representatives for fourteen years and Ohio Governor for four years. While he was President, the USS Maine was blown up in Havana and the Spanish-American War was fought.
8. Of the four "political generals" Hayes and McKinley were governors. Benjamin Harrison was a Senator and the rest were in the House of Representatives. They were appointed General because there weren't enough Generals. Two were elected by the Electoral College. Two were assassinated.
9. The next Board Meeting will be Wednesday, July 12, 2018, 10:00 AM at Brookfield's Restaurant.

Barbara Leone, Secretary

Treasurer's Report

The cash balance following the June 13th meeting was \$6,511.64. Thanks to Nicholas Scivoletto, other members, and guests, the raffle brought in \$47.00.

George W. Foxworth, Treasurer

Coming Programs for 2018 & 2019

Date	Speaker	Topic
July 11th	Robert Orr	"Vicksburg Battlefield, Part A"
August 8th	Larry Tagg	"The Generals of Shiloh"
September 12th	Sherrie Patton	"Latinos Were in the Civil War"
October 10th	Tad Smith	"Fort Sumter, From the Southern Perspective"
November 14th	Joe Maxwell	"Union Cavalry"
December 12th	Nicholas Scivoletto	"Civil War Quiz"
January 9th	To Be Determined	To Be Determined

2018 Membership

The 2018 membership renewal is due as of January 1, 2018. 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:

gwfoxworth@sbcglobal.net

Do not submit files that I cannot edit.

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.

Annual Conference on Women & the Civil War

Friday, July 27 to Sunday, July 29, 2018 - The **Annual Conference on Women & the Civil War** will be held in Alexandria, Virginia. The weekend's events include lectures by noted historians, and field trips to Washington, DC and Alexandria sites. This will be the **Society for Women & the Civil War's 19th Conference**, and it is sure to provide a wealth of information around the Conference Theme of **"Rebuilding Lives After the Civil War."** For Conference information and registration, please go to:

<http://www.swcw.org/conference-details.html> or feel free to contact Janet Whaley at Janet1860@charter.net.

PRESERVING GETTYSBURG

Carl M. Cannon
Washington Bureau Chief, RealClearPolitics

Good morning, it's Wednesday, August 24, 2016. On this date in 1869, a handful of soldiers and officers who'd fought on the storied fields at Gettysburg returned to the scene of the Civil War's decisive Battle.

Six years after that bloody confrontation, only a few Southern combatants made the return trip to the rolling Pennsylvania countryside. For one thing, the barriers to trekking that distance were formidable. Complimentary train tickets had been offered to many Union veterans, but rail service in the South was spotty in 1869. It was also apparently too soon for the men who fought in Robert E. Lee's shattered Army to be attending reunions.

In the fullness of time, however, all that would change. Gettysburg would be an iconic destination for veterans on both sides -- and for millions of Americans not yet born. It would become one of the first four National Battlefield Parks and eventually a National Park itself.

How that happened entailed a battle all its own.

The idea for the 1869 Gettysburg reunion apparently originated with a Republican lawyer and local politician named David McConaughy. A Gettysburg College alum, McConaughy served in the Union Army as a scout and an intelligence officer. He was a committed abolitionist who'd supported Abraham Lincoln early in the 1860 election cycle. Yet, after the War, McConaughy took the initiative in preserving Gettysburg's Battlefields in a way that furthered reconciliation.

Those efforts really reached critical mass in 1888, the 25th anniversary of the Battle.

Here, from the National Park Service blog devoted to the Gettysburg Park, is a description of that occasion:

The veterans, averaging in their fifties, began arriving in Gettysburg in the last week of June 1888. Over the next several days, thousands of Union veterans once again descended upon the town, but just a little more than three hundred Confederates were able to attend. For most Confederate veterans, the journey was either too far, too expensive, or the invitations had arrived too late for some to make plans to attend. One newspaper estimated that there were up to 30,000 veterans, soldiers, and civilians, on the Battlefield. It was noted that no gathering since the Battle "has equaled that of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the great event."

The most notable headliner at the 1888 reunion was General James Longstreet. The unofficial masters of ceremonies for each side were Major General Daniel E. Sickles, a polarizing and controversial former (and future) congressman whose nickname — "Devil Dan" — said it all, and Georgia Governor John B. Gordon, who's commanded a brigade at Gettysburg as one of "Lee's Lieutenants."

When Gordon spoke, he expressed the hope that Gettysburg would become "a Mecca" for Southerners as well as Northerners.

If these officers carried great inner burdens about what they had ordered their men to do on the first three days of July in 1863, they also bore visible evidence of their own combat experiences. Governor Gordon's handsome face had been rendered cruel-looking courtesy of a deep scar from a Yankee bullet. Devil Dan lived half his life with one leg: He'd lost the other one in the fighting at Gettysburg.

"Twenty-five years have passed, and now the combatants of '63 come together again on your old field of battle to unite in pledges of love and devotion to one Constitution, one Union, and one flag," Sickles told the crowd at the 1888 gathering. "Today, there are no victors, no vanquished."

And under Sickles's leadership in Congress and David McConaughy's on the ground, the historic fields of Gettysburg were in the process of being acquired by the Federal Government.

A local railway company objected, eminent domain was invoked, and the case went all the way to the United States' Supreme Court. Writing for a unanimous high court, Justice Wheeler Peckham gave a pretty fair description of why Gettysburg belongs to all the people of this country — and why we have a National Park System itself:

The Battle of Gettysburg was one of the great battles of the world. ... The existence of the Government itself, and the perpetuity of our institutions depended upon the result. ... Can it be that the Government is without power to preserve the land, and properly mark out the various sites upon which this struggle took place? Can it not erect the monuments provided for by these acts of Congress, or even take possession of the field of Battle, in the name and for the benefit of all the citizens of the Country, for the present and for the future? Such a use seems necessarily not only a public use, but one so closely connected with the welfare of the Republic itself as to be within the powers granted Congress by the Constitution for the purpose of protecting and preserving the whole Country.

Submitted by Silver N. Marvin

Meet the heroic cross-dressing women warriors of the Civil War

Being outed as women, battlefield injuries, even death — nothing deterred these unsung soldiers.

When we think of women's roles during the Civil War, we imagine them as nurses, cooks, washerwomen, or spies. In fact, at least 400 women fought alongside men, but researchers believe that number may be greatly underestimated. These women ignored the social conventions and bravely fought for their beliefs, putting their lives and reputations at risk.

The military prohibited the recruitment of women for combat, so they took it upon themselves to get in by any means necessary. Women joined for many reasons, including the need to be with their husbands or other relatives or simply to heroically join the War effort.

Take, for example, Lizzie Hoffman, a Black woman from Winchester, Virginia, who joined the 45th U.S. Colored Infantry disguised as a man. She fought for two years, until her gender was discovered as she boarded a steamer with her fellow soldiers, a Regiment composed of both freedmen and escaped slaves. She was arrested and charged at the Central Guard House in Washington, D.C. for masquerading as a man, then forced to put on a dress.



Frances Clayton

Frances Clayton enlisted in the Union Army under the pseudonym "Jack Williams" in order to serve alongside her husband during the Civil War.

It wasn't so unheard of that a woman would gender-bend during this time. According to the book *They Fought Like Demons: Women Soldiers in the American Civil War*, by historians DeAnne Blanton and Lauren Cook Wike, "Cross-dressing female heroines, both fictional and real, were a standard commodity in popular culture. In fact, military and sailor women were celebrated in popular novels, ballads, and poetry, from the Seventeenth Century through the Victorian Age."

Most of the women creating new identities and marching off to War were White. However, researchers speculate that there were also a good number of African American women who fought in the Civil War and they were underreported. Like their male counterparts, they were motivated by a great cause: the liberation of their people.

Whatever the risks — being outed as a woman, battlefield injuries, even death — it was all worth it.

Maria Lewis was only 17 years old when she escaped slavery to join the Union Army. She was part of the 8th New York Cavalry, a White unit that fought in the Battle of Waynesboro — so she was apparently fair-skinned enough to also pass as White. This Cavalry succeeded in destroying the Confederate Army in the Shenandoah Valley. Lewis, using the alias George Harris, was among a group of soldiers who later presented the 17 flags and 500 prisoners they captured to Secretary of War Edwin Stanton in Washington, D.C. She chose her alias from a character from *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, a Black man who disguised himself as a Spaniard to escape slavery.

The only details about her life are contained in the diary entries of Julia Wilbur, a Rochester, New York, abolitionist whom Maria met at the end of the War. Wilbur described her as “very muscular and strong,” and someone who was constantly on the saddle during the Battle of Waynesboro, in March 1865.

Historians speculate that Wilbur's brother, Lewis V. Griffin, a Second Lieutenant in the 8th Cavalry and an abolitionist, protected her secret, which was why Lewis felt comfortable reaching out to Wilbur after the War.

On April 4, 1865, Wilbur wrote the following in her [diary](#):

“A colored woman has been here who has been with the 8th N.Y. Cav. for the last 18 months. She knows Mr. Griffin. She wore a uniform, rode a horse and carried a sword and carbine just like a man. The officers protected her and she was with them mostly. The Regiment didn't know that she was a woman. She was called Geo. Harris, but her real name is Maria Lewis. She is from Albermarle Co. Va. and escaped to the Union Army.”

Lewis alternated between her true identity and her alter ego. She was known to meet with Wilbur in full army regalia and also walk the streets in a dress. She initially saw joining the military as a way to gain freedom and intended to leave as soon as she could, but she found army life exciting. Still, she'd eventually return to her life as a woman.

“Maria Lewis has doffed her uniform and wishes to return to womanly ways and occupations,” Wilbur wrote. “I gave her a chemise, petticoat, and hoops, and we shall see that she has a good place to work.”

Like Lizzie Hoffman, Maria Lewis continues to puzzle historians. And like other Black soldiers of that time and beyond, their contributions to the War effort and the liberation of Black people are largely unsung.

Submitted by Bruce A, Castleman, Ph.D.

2018 WEST COAST CIVIL WAR CONFERENCE

November 9 - 11, 2018



WYNDOM GARDEN HOTEL, 5090 East Clinton Way, FRESNO, CA 93727-1506, (1-559-252-3611 or 1-866-238-4218), \$99.00 per night, or wydhamguestreservations.com.

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For more information, see Website: SJVCWRT2.com

SPEAKERS:

Thomas Cutrer, Ph.d., Theater of a Separate War
Richard Hatcher III, Park Ranger (Retired), Wilson’s Creek
General Parker Hills, Red River Campaign Tour Guide
Jim Stanbery, MA., Professor (Retired)
Dr. Brian Clague, MD.

TOPICS: Wilson’s Creek, Pea Ridge, Prairie Grove, Red River, Sibley’s Campaign, & others.

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

ATTENDEE REGISTRATION: \$200.00 PER PERSON for Weekend, including meals.

Dinner Entrees: () Beef, () Chicken, () Fish, () Veggie

_____ Spouse Friday Dinner \$35.00; _____ Spouse Saturday Dinner \$35.00

Name _____

Address _____

Phone(s) _____

Email _____

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

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