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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

On 31 May 2020, the last person to receive a Civil War-era pension died in North Carolina. Irene Tripplett died in a nursing home in Wilkesboro. She was 90 years old.

Tripplett's father, Moses, "Mose," Tripplett was a Confederate soldier who deserted in 1863 and joined the Union forces the following year. He married Irene's mother, Elide Hal, in 1924 when he was 78 and she was 28. He was 83 when his daughter was born.

It was common for young women to marry elderly pensioners to get a guaranteed lifetime widow's pension. Children of veterans also received them. He died in 1938 at age 92, just a few days after attending a reunion at Gettysburg marking the 75th Anniversary of the Battle.

Irene Tripplett had been receiving a monthly pension of \$73.13 from the Department of Veteran Affairs.

Dennis Kohlmann, President

MINUTES
SACRAMENTO CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
Wednesday, June 10, 2020
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. The next meeting is unknown at this time.
2. The next Board Meeting is unknown at this time.

George W. Foxworth for Vacant, Secretary

Treasurer's Report

The cash balance on June 10th was \$5,036.61. No meeting and no raffle.

George W. Foxworth, Treasurer

Coming Programs for 2020

Date	Speaker	Topic
July 8th	No Meeting	"No Topic, No Meeting"
August 12th	Arnd Gartner	"Union Intelligence Services"
September 9th	Nancy Samuelson	"To Be Determined"
October 14th	Tim & Ginny Karlberg	"Vicksburg"
November 11th	Richard Sickert	"To Be Determined"
December 9th	Nicholas Scivoletto	"Fighting Joe Hooker"

2020 Membership

The 2020 membership renewal is due as of January 1, 2020. The dues are \$30.00 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

Please 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 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:

qwfoxworth@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.

NORTH & SOUTH IS BACK!

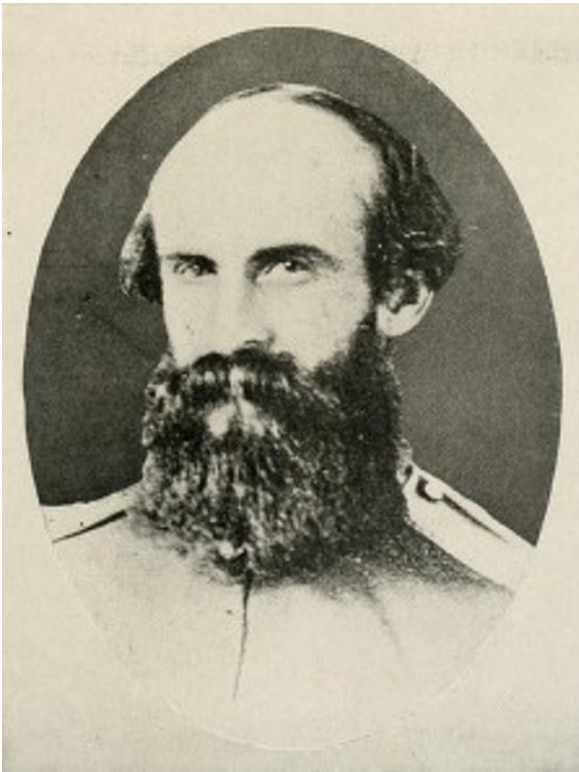
Re-Launched in July 2019, three issues have already appeared by December 31, 2019. Each 100-page issue is packed with 7 - 8 articles plus the familiar Departments--Knapsack, Crossfire, and Briefings-- and a new one, *Civil Warriors*, that looks at little known participants in the War.

Lead article in Issue 4 is a detailed examination of whether Meade could have - and should have - trapped and destroyed the Army of Northern Virginia. (Editor says yes, 98%.) There will be a follow-up discussion article.

To subscribe go to northandsouthmag.com or call Keith on (559) 260 3852 (Pacific time).

William Edmondson “Grumble” Jones

William Edmondson Jones was born on May 3, 1824 to Catherine and Robert Jones in Glade Spring, Virginia. William attended Emory and Henry College which was not far from his family’s farm. On May 21, 1844, he left home to enroll at West Point, graduating in 1848. He was a good student but his behavior and profanity laced conversations kept his demerit count high. After graduation, he served his tour of duty with the U.S. Mounted Rifles in Missouri, Kansas, and the Oregon and Washington Territories.



Granted a furlough near the end of 1851, he returned home. His father had died and his mother and siblings, Robert, Jane, and Sarah, had moved to Arkansas. But William had returned to see only one person...Eliza Margaret “Pink” Dunn. Pink was a distant cousin of William’s. They had known each other all their lives and now he had returned home to claim her as his wife. They married on January 15, 1852. Pink was seventeen, William was twenty seven. There was little time for honeymooning. William had to return to his new post in West Texas.

Pink bid her parents and eight siblings good-bye, not knowing if and when they would ever see each other again. The newlyweds boarded their boat in New Orleans on March 20, 1852. The steamship Independence was on its maiden voyage. On March 25, the ship hit a sandbar because the Captain refused to use a coastal pilot. All that day, the crew struggled to free the ship from where it was stranded. The following morning, the weather turned treacherous. Afraid the ship would founder, the crew tried lightening it by throwing all extra cargo overboard. As the weather worsened, it was decided to lower the women and children into lifeboats. Pink was placed in a lifeboat along with a Mrs. Minot, her two children and governess, and a male passenger. Immediately, the boat filled with water. Pink was wearing her bridal gown and hat. Mrs. Minot had gold sewn into the hem of her dress. Perhaps that is why they disappeared under the waves so quickly when the boat capsized. The last lifeboat was let down to help but only the male passenger and two crew members were saved.

As the Independence broke in half, there was no choice but for all on board to take their chances in the roiling sea. They grabbed anything that might keep them afloat. After several hours, they reached dry land. Miraculously, out of one hundred twenty passengers, only six had been lost to the sea. Sadly for William Jones, his new bride was among that number.

Pink's body was washed ashore near the village of Calhoun. She was buried there, still wearing her wedding dress with her gold broach pinned to its collar. William wrote her family describing the accident and enclosing a detailed map of where the shipwreck occurred, where Pink's body had been found and where she was interred. He swore that by 1855, she would be brought home and reinterred in their church cemetery. Then, heartbroken, he boarded another ship to take him to his post in Indianola, Texas.

William kept his promise. In 1855, Eliza was buried in Glade Spring Presbyterian Cemetery. He inscribed her marker, "She was personally beautiful, had a sweet disposition, and an intellect uncommonly brilliant."

Pink's death changed William drastically. Continually angry, he quarreled with other officers, was suspicious to the point of being paranoid, dressed slovenly, rejected any attempts at friendship, and was generally miserable. It was at this time he was given the sobriquet "Grumble." By 1857, tired of life on the frontier, he handed in his resignation. He returned to Virginia, purchased his father's estate and planted a vineyard on the plantation. He was always alone and insisted he would never marry again.

When the Civil War began, Jones was ready. Though not anxious for secession, he belied in slavery and States Rights and willing to fight for them. He raised a Company, the Washington Mounted Rifles, and was elected Captain. Not receiving enough money from the cash-strapped C.S.A. Government, Jones bought his men uniforms that were intended for state convicts. He took no notice of his men's shabby appearance or his own and ridiculed the foppishness of J.E.B. Stuart's plumed hats.

Jones was a harsh disciplinarian, unforgiving in his criticism. His men said that he was, "...a stranger to humor." People who knew him admitted that "...there was no more caustic a personality in the Confederate Army than Jones." Jones wasn't liked but men looked to him for leadership. John Mosby turned down a command so he could continue to be mentored by Grumble. In October, 1862, when Turner Ashby of the 7th Virginia Laurel Brigade was killed, Stonewall Jackson trusted Jones enough to immediately recommend him to Robert E. Lee for brigade command.

Jones and his men fought well at First Manassas and Jones continued to have success in the field...Cedar Mountain, Second Bull Run, and Antietam. But Jones detested his superior officer, J.E.B. Stuart. Though Stuart admitted that Jones was "the best outpost officer in the Army of Northern Virginia," he hated him in return and preferred Jones to be in someone else's brigade. Jones offered to resign before Gettysburg so as not to have to serve under J.E.B. Stuart. Lee adamantly refused his resignation. By the Fall of 1863, the animosity between the two officers was at the breaking point. Stuart alleged that Jones had written him a "disrespectful letter" and had Jones arrested and court martialed. Grumble was found guilty of "disobedience of orders and conduct ...and behaving with disrespect to his Commanding Officer." He was reprimanded and forced to write a letter of apology to General Stuart.

General Robert E. Lee decided it was time for him to intercede. He wrote to Jefferson Davis, "...Jones...feelings have become so opposed to General Stuart that I have lost all hope of his being useful in the cavalry here...he says he will no longer serve under Stuart and I do not think it would be advantageous for him to do so..." But Lee was not going to let Jones go. Jones knew how to fight and how to win. General John Imboden wrote, "...Jones was an old army officer, brave as a lion and had seen much service, and was known as a hard fighter. He was a man...of high temper, morose, and fretful. He held the fighting qualities of the enemy in great contempt and never would admit the possibility of defeat where the odds against him were not much over two to one."

General Lee reassigned Jones to Command the Department of Western Virginia. Jones routed Union forces in Tennessee and Virginia, capturing huge amounts of Federal supplies and taking hundreds of prisoners. The Richmond Whig called him the “Stonewall Jackson of East Tennessee.”

Jones was ordered to the Shenandoah Valley to intercept General David Hunter. On June 5, 1864, while leading a charge during the Battle of Piedmont, Grumble Jones received a bullet between his eyes. He died instantly. He was forty years old. His body was buried on the field. After the War, he was sent home and buried beside his beloved Pink.



All through the War, Grumble had continued to think about his home. Several letters to his overseer, Adam Rosenbalm, survive, directing him on where to plant new vines and fruit trees. Grumble enquired about the health of the one slave he owned, a boy who had been ten years old at the start of the War. In his letters, Jones worried if his grape vines were getting the special care they needed in order to thrive, he insisted that his fruit trees needed to be watered frequently in order to bud, and wanted to be updated on the feeding and currying of John Red, his prized stallion.

At least before he died, Old Grumble had found something to love.

Submitted by Judith Breitstein

The Guardian

Irene Triplett, last person to collect an American Civil War Pension, dies at 90

The last person to receive a US Government pension from the American Civil War has died. She was the daughter of a private who fought for both sides, had children in his 80s, and lived for years in a North Carolina nursing home.



Irene Triplett was 90 when she died on May 31, 2020 in Wilkesboro, North Carolina. Her father, Mose Triplett, fought for the Confederacy and the Union in the Civil War, which began in 1861 and ended with the defeat of the slave power in 1865. He applied for his Union pension 20 years after the War and on January 9, 1930, when his daughter was born, he was 83.

The Wall Street Journal, which spoke to Irene Triplett for a story in 2014, reported that she died “from complications following surgery for injuries from a fall, according to the nursing home where she lived.”

Dennis Saint Andrew, a Commander of the North Carolina Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, told the Journal Triplett was “a part of history.” “You’re talking to somebody whose father was in the Civil War,” he said. “Which is mind-bending.”

But to Stephanie McCurry, a historian of the Civil War and Reconstruction Era at Columbia University in New York, Triplett’s death acquired a deeper resonance by occurring in the midst of national civil unrest over the killing by Minneapolis police of George Floyd, an African American man. “Just like the Confederate monuments issue, which is blowing up right now, I think this is a reminder of the long reach of slavery, secession, and the Civil War,” she told the Washington Post. “It reminds you of the battle over slavery and its legitimacy in the United States.”

Each month, Triplett collected \$73.13 from the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA), a total of \$877.56 a year. Her father earned the sum by defecting North in 1863 after missing the Battle of Gettysburg, the turning point of the War. “Private Triplett enlisted in

the 53rd North Carolina Infantry Regiment in May 1862,” the Journal reported, citing Confederate records which showed he was then 16.

And Triplett “transferred to the 26th North Carolina Infantry Regiment early the following year,” “fell ill as his Regiment marched North,” then “ran away from the hospital ... while his Unit suffered devastating losses at Gettysburg.” A deserter, Triplett “made his way to Tennessee and, in 1864, enlisted in ... the 3rd North Carolina Mounted Infantry,” Kirk’s Raiders, which “carried out a campaign of sabotage against Confederate targets.”

Mose Triplett was unsurprisingly not popular in post-War North Carolina but eventually, in 1924, still childless, he married a second time. He was nearly 80. His new wife, Elida Hall, was 34. As the Journal put it, “such an age difference wasn’t rare, especially during the Great Depression when Civil War veterans found themselves with both a pension and a growing need for care.”

Triplett and Hall had five children but only two survived: Irene, who like her mother suffered from mental disabilities, and Everette, a son born when Mose Triplett was 87. As the Journal wrote in 2014, “Irene and Everette Triplett were born in tough country during tough times. The forested hills ran with white lightning from illegal stills. Ms. Triplett said she didn’t drink moonshine, but she got hooked on tobacco in first grade.” “I dipped snuff in school, and I chewed tobacco in school,” Triplett said then. “I raised homemade tobacco. I chewed that, too. I chewed it all.”

In 1938, aged 92, Mose Triplett attended a Reunion at Gettysburg. In his remarks, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt referred to the Gettysburg Address, delivered in November 1863: “Lincoln spoke in solace for all who fought upon this field; and the years have laid their balm upon their wounds. Men who wore the blue and men who wore the gray are here together, a fragment spared by time.” Newsreel footage posted to YouTube by CSPAN tells of “2,500 veterans, North and South,” Black and White, marking “the 75th Anniversary of America’s Armageddon.”

Housed in the Confederate Camp, Triplett reportedly kept quiet about the double service that placed him in rarefied company. The Victorian journalist and explorer Henry Morton Stanley, for example, also fought for both sides.

Triplett died shortly afterwards (July 18, 1938). His gravestone, in Wilkes County, says only: “He was a Civil War Soldier.” In 1943, Irene and her mother moved to the Wilkes County poor house. In 1960, they moved to a care home. Elida Hall died in 1967. Everette Triplett died in 1996. Irene lived on, her care paid for by Medicaid and the Civil War pension.

The Journal reported that though Irene “saw little of her relatives ... a pair of Civil War buffs visited and sent her money to spend on Dr. Pepper and chewing tobacco.” Jamie Phillips, the home’s activities director, told the Post Triplett liked gospel music, cream cheese cheeseballs, and laughing. “A lot of people were interested in her story,” Phillips said, “but she’d always deflect the conversation to something different going on in the news.”

Submitted by Bruce A. Castleman, Ph.D.

2020 WEST COAST CIVIL WAR CONFERENCE

November 6 - 8, 2020



WYNDHAM GARDEN HOTEL, 5090 East Clinton Way, FRESNO, CA 93727-1506, (1-559-252-3611 or 1-559-494-4992), \$99.00 per night, or wyndhamguestreservations.com, (Fresno Airport).

“COMBAT STRATEGY & TACTICS IN 1864 VIRGINIA: LOOKING WITH 2020 VISION AT GRANT VS LEE.”

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

SPEAKERS:

**Gordon Rhea;
Eric Wittenburg;
Chris Mackowski;
Dana Lombardi;
Jim Stanbery, MA.; Professor (Retired)
And Others.**

TOPICS: In Progress.

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

ATTENDEE REGISTRATION: \$200.00 PER PERSON for Weekend, including meals.
(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, 730 East Tulare Avenue, Tulare, CA 93274-4336.**