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Battle Cry

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

No Message for now.

James C. Juanitas, President

MINUTES
SACRAMENTO CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
Wednesday, July 10, 2024
R Vida Cantina Restaurant, 7040 Sunrise Boulevard, Citrus Heights

ATTENDANCE – 19

MEMBERS – 14: James Juanitas, President; Carol Breiter, Vice President; George W. Foxworth, Treasurer; Steve Breiter, Mark Carlson, Ron Grove, (MAL); Wayne & Nina Henley, Joseph (MAL) & Michelle Matalone, Stuart & Andrea Sheffield, Stephen Shiflett, & Peggy Tveden.

GUESTS – 5: Steve Andrews, Jeanette Calvin, Corbin Cruthley, Robert Orr, & Silvia Walkey.

1. The meeting was called to order by President James Juanitas at 7:01 PM and he led the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. President Juanitas announced that our meeting location to R Vida in Citrus Heights starting in July 2024.
3. President Juanitas asked for volunteers for the vacant Board positions. There were no responses.
4. .
5. New Members and Guests were introduced. Five Guests, including the presenters, Robert Orr & Silvia Walkey.
6. The raffle was conducted by Joseph & Michelle Matalone. The raffle raised $51.00.
7. The program was presented by Robert Orr and Silvia Walkey. The topic was: "Civil War Music." Robert Orr played a guitar and Silvis Walkey played a violin.
8. The songs in part were: Battle Cry of Freedom, Fought All the Way, Stonewall, Mr. Lincoln's Army, Saint Ann's Real, Whiskey Before Breakfast, etc..
9. After questions and answers, the evening ended at 8:17 PM.
10. The next Executive Board Meeting is Wednesday, August 14, 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 July 10th was $5,501.71. Thanks to Joseph & Michelle Matalone, members, and guests, the raffle brought in $51.00.

George W. Foxworth, Treasurer

Coming Programs for 2024 & 2025		
Date	**Speaker**	**Topic**
August 14th	"Bernie Quinn"	"Gaines Mills"
September 11th	"To Be Determined"	"To Be Determined"
October 9th	"To Be Determined"	"To Be Determined"
November 13th	"To Be Determined"	"To Be Determined"
December 11th	"To Be Determined"	"To Be Determined"
January 8th	"To Be Determined"	"To Be Determined"

2025 Membership

The 2025 membership renewal is due on January 1, 2025. 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

Dangerfield Newby

Dangerfield Newby was born in Culpepper County, Virginia around 1820. His father, Henry Newby, was a free White man and his mother, Elsey, was a slave who belonged to a neighboring landowner. Elsey and Henry had 11 children together. Whether their relationship was one of mutual love and respect or forced cohabitation can never be truly known.

On September 17, 1858, Henry Newby sold his land. For a long time now, he had been planning to leave the South behind him. The following month, Newby moved to Bridgeport, Ohio, taking Elsey and their children with him. Elsey's owner, John Fox, never tried to reclaim or capture them. Perhaps Newby had privately compensated him, whether for her and all the 11 children born of her body is unknown. Once living in the State of Ohio, Elsey and her children were free by law.

The oldest child of the Newbys, Dangerfield, was married to Harriet, an enslaved woman, belonging to Dr. Jesse Jennings of Prince William County, Virginia. Dangerfield chose to move North with his family but he was forced to leave his wife, Harriet, and their seven children behind. They were another man's property.

Dangerfield and Harriet had decided that he would buy her and their youngest child now. They would then save their earnings together and buy their other children one by one. But Harriet was frantic, afraid that her Master would sell her before Newby could save enough to buy her. She began to pen poignant letters to her husband:

"*Dear Husband*
Your kind letter came duly to hand and it gave me much pleasure to here from you…I want you to buy me as soon as possible for if you do not get me somebody else will the servents are very disagreeable thay do all thay can to set my mistress against me Dear Husband…it is

said Master is in want of money if so I know not what time he may sell me and then all my bright hops of the futer is blasted for there has ben one bright hope to cheer me in all my troubles that is to be with you if I thought I should never see you on this earth would have no charms for me…I want to see you so much the Chrildren are all well the baby cannot walk yet…you mus write soon and say when you think you Can Come Your affectionate wife
Harriet Newby"

Dangerfield Newby was six feet two inches tall. His body was hardened by years of enslaved labor as a blacksmith and boatman. He wanted his family and he was tired of waiting. Desperate, Dangerfield traveled through Ohio, begging loans from friends and family. He was ultimately able to amass the full amount, $1,500. When he arrived at the plantation, he was rebuffed. Told by the slave answering the front door that "Master has raised the price," Newby had no choice but to return home.

Dangerfield's brother, Gabriel, described his sibling: "He was a quiet man, upright, quick-tempered and devoted to his family. He never talked much about slavery and kept his intention of joining John Brown, whom he had met in Oberlin, Ohio, to himself." Dangerfield Newby had come to the realization that the only way he would have his wife and children at his side was to retrieve them by force.

Word had spread through the slave quarters that John Brown was attempting a raid on Harpers Ferry. Brown hoped to incite a rebellion among the slaves and freedmen. He believed that they would join him with whatever weapon came to hand, whether it be a rifle or a rake, and fight to liberate themselves.

Brown's party consisted of himself, five Black men and 16 White men, three of whom were his sons. The small party started out on October 16, 1859, crossed the Potomac from Maryland and reached Harpers Ferry at 4 AM. Brown's hope of a huge uprising began to dwindle as no other slaves joined them along the way.

Once in town, the raiders cut the telegraph wires, captured the Federal armory and arsenal and Hall's Rifle Works. Finally, they took 60 of the town's citizens for hostages and barricaded themselves together into the Town's firehouse.

Word of the uprising spread like wild fire. Local plantation owners and militia began to pour into town. Late on October 17, Colonel Robert E. Lee, along with a contingent of 90 United States Marines, galloped up and surrounded the firehouse. They planned to wait until the following morning to open fire so as to be able to distinguish the raiders from the hostages.

Dangerfield Newby killed two residents of the Town before he was struck through the neck by a six inch spike that had been shot by a sniper from an old blunderbuss. He was the first to fall of the rebels. The firehouse was soon riddled by bullets coming through the windows and sides of the building. Brown realized quickly that their situation had become impossible. He sent his son, Oliver, to the door with a white flag. Oliver was shot dead. Soon, another son, Watson, was mortally wounded. In his agony, the young man begged to be shot or allowed to commit suicide.

By the end of the raid, 10 men from Brown's group had been killed, including two African Americans and two of John Brown's sons. Seven men were captured and five escaped,

including Owen, another of Brown's sons.

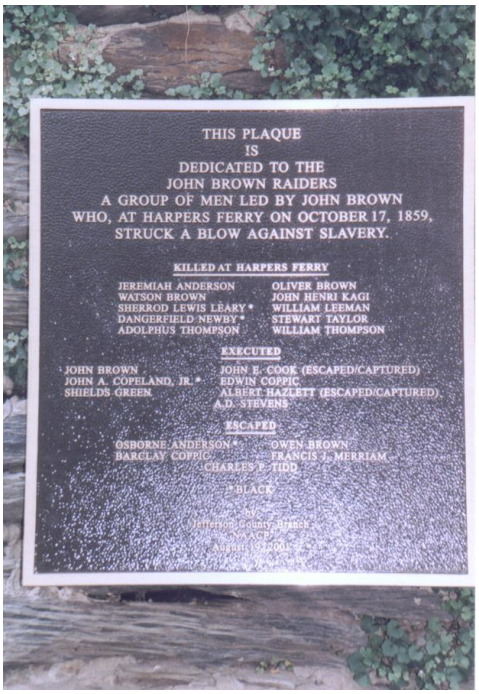
Dangerfield Newby's body was "exposed to every indignity that could be heaped upon it by the excited populace." His ears, legs and arms were cut off for trophies. The disfigured corpse was then dragged to Hog Alley for the pigs to dispose of. Somehow, someone was able to get Harriet Newby's letters from the pocket of her dead husband's bloody shirt.

What remained of Newby was dragged to the bank of the Shenandoah River and tossed into a common grave with nine other dead raiders. Forty years later, on August 30, 1899, all the bodies were reinterred and buried at an unknown location on the John Brown farm in North Elba, New York.

After the raid, Dr. Jennings sold Harriet Newby and her children to a plantation owner in Louisiana. They would return to Fairfax County after the War, with Harriet's second husband. Their descendants still live in the area today.

Four other Black men had joined Dangerfield Newby in the John Brown bid for freedom. Lewis Leary was killed at Harpers Ferry. Shields Green, a fugitive slave, and John Anthony Copeland were captured, tried, found guilty and hung in Charles Town on December 16, 1859, two weeks after the public hanging of John Brown. Osborne Perry Anderson escaped. He joined the Union Army and later wrote a book about the raid.

Of those killed that had sided with Brown, the bodies of Watson Brown, Shields Green, Lewis Leary, and John Anthony Copeland were claimed by Winchester Medical College in Winchester, Virginia. They were used as teaching cadavers. The body of Watson Brown was flayed of all skin, tissue and muscles and used as a classroom skeleton for many years.



John Brown's raid lasted a total of 36 hours. It set the stage for all-out Civil War.

Submitted by Judith Breitstein

WOMEN OF THE MONTH

The National Association of Army Nurses of the Civil War

Postcard, ca. 1911. National Library of Medicine.

In June 1881, Former Superintendent of Army Nurses, Dorothea Dix, founded the Ex-Nurses Association of the District of Columbia. The Association was primarily a social organization tasked with rendering assistance to its members, and working to secure Federal benefits and recognition for Union Army nurses. The group met annually, and also attended the encampments of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR).

Membership in the Association grew to former nurses outside of the DC area, and in 1892, it changed its name to the National Association of Army Nurses of the Late War. This was also the year that Congress finally granted pensions to Union Army nurses, a victory gained through the lobbying efforts of the Association and its allies in the GAR.

By 1897, membership had swelled to more than 500 former nurses, and included such luminaries as Harriet Dame, Annie Wittenmyer, Clara Barton, Cornelia Hancock, and Mary Ann Bickerdyke. Membership in the Organization was open to anyone who had served at least three months as a paid or volunteer nurse.

In 1901, the name changed again to the National Association of Army Nurses of the Civil War, to distinguish it from the Spanish-American War. The Association continued its fellowship and philanthropy until it disbanded in 1931 (when only five living members remained).

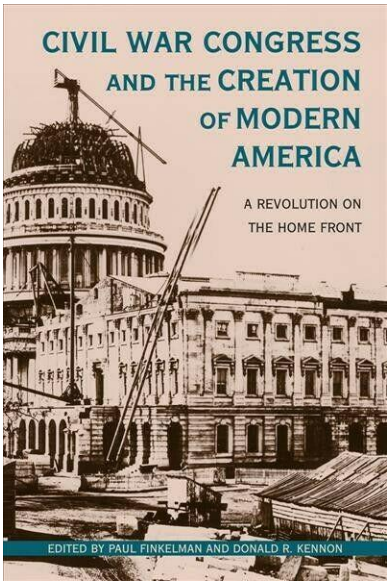
--DeAnne Blanton

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

Civil War Congress and the Creation of Modern America: A Revolution on the Home Front

By Paul Finkelman and Donald R. Kennon.Athens: Ohio Univ. Press, 2018. Pp. vi, 226. ISBN 978–0–8214–2338–7. Review by Michael E. Woods, Marshall University (woodsm@marshall.edu).

The Civil War transformed the United States. The movement of four million men, women, and children from chattelhood toward citizenship alone constituted a Second American Revolution. Besides eliminating slavery, a remarkable flurry of wartime legislation initiated other legal, political, and economic changes. The 37th US Congress (1861–63) authorized paper currency, imposed an income tax, commenced conscription, passed the Homestead Act, launched the land-grant college initiative, and promoted construction of a railroad to the Pacific. Now, editors Paul Finkelman and Donald Kennon have assembled an impressive team of scholars to revisit this multifaceted revolution.



Their wide-ranging anthology offers both more and less than its title suggests. Readers searching for detailed analysis of wartime lawmaking will not find it here. But anyone seeking fresh in-sights into how the War reshaped relations between the Federal Government and American citizens—workers, investors, students, conscripts, and voters—will discover in it much food for thought.

In her piece on conscription, historian Jennifer L. Weber (Univ. of Kansas) shows that the Enrollment Act (1863) fundamentally altered the relationship between state and Federal authority and between the nation and the citizen. Previously, the states had been responsible for mobilizing manpower for the Union Army, but the Enrollment Act established a new agency, the Provost Marshal General's Bureau, to oversee conscription and, eventually, volunteer enlistments. The law's ostensible bias against working-class men and its encroachment on individual and state prerogatives provoked ferocious backlash. But Weber also emphasizes another feature which went curiously unchallenged by contemporary critics—the Bureau's aggressive surveillance of potential conscripts and civilians who allegedly incited draft resistance—which set a precedent for later "incursions on civil liberties, not the least of which has been the Government's surveillance of its own people" (29).

Similarly, economist Jenny Bourne (Carleton College) traces the continuing influence of Congress's wartime reconfiguration of economic policy, including national banking, taxation, and borrowing. Although not all of these innovations persisted long after the War—the income tax ended in 1872, for instance—wartime economic legislation "planted seeds that grew strong roots. See Charles A. Beard and Mary R. Beard, The Rise of American Civilization, vol. 2 (NY: Macmillan, 1927) 52-121; James M. McPherson, Abraham Lincoln and the Second American Revolution (NY: Oxford U Pr, 1991). See, e.g., Leonard P. Curry, Blueprint for Modern America: Non-Military Legislation of the First Civil War Congress (Nashville: Vanderbilt U Pr, 1968); Heather Cox Richardson, The Greatest Nation of the Earth: Republican Economic Policies during the Civil War (Cambridge, MA: Harvard U Pr, 1997). "Conscription and Consolidation of Federal Power during the Civil War." "To Slip the Surly Bonds of States' Rights and Form a More Perfect (Financial) Union: One Legacy of the Thirty-Seventh Congress."

Woods - Michigan War Studies Review 2020–008 and bore later fruit" (55), from the return of income taxation in 1913 to the close ties between the Federal Government and the banking system which loomed large in 2008.

The book leaves other questions about Congress unaddressed: what, for example, were the alternatives to the new conscription, taxation, and banking laws, and how exactly did they assume their final form? Which consequences were intentional, which unforeseen? By looking past 1865, however, the collection makes a strong case for the War's long-term significance.

Prolific historian Peter Wallenstein (Virginia Polytechnic Inst. and State Univ. at Blacksburg) surveys the evolving relations between Congress, states, and students in a detailed essay on public higher education. When Congress passed the Morrill Land-Grant College Act in 1862, it earmarked revenues from the sale of public lands to fund colleges and universities nationwide. But the story does not end there. Implementation was largely left to the states, although subsequent Federal legislation and, crucially, pressure from students—including women and African Americans—dramatically changed the nature of land-grant institutions.

What typically began as colleges to train farmers and engineers (in many cases both White and male and nobody else) grew into a whole new complex: coeducational, multiracial research institutions offering a near universe of programs to a near universe of constituencies. (83)

Without gainsaying the significance of the initial 1862 law, Wallenstein shows that the Civil War Congress set the country on a new but not unalterable course.

Nor did Congress operate in isolation from the other branches of Government. In an insightful essay on gender, labor, and the wartime bureaucracy, Daniel W. Stowell explores the legislative and executive implications of women's employment in Federal offices, particularly in the Treasury Department. Scores of women wrote directly to President Lincoln seeking help in securing a Federal job. Stowell makes ingenious use of their letters to analyze the shifting relationship between Northern women, the President, and the Executive Departments. The presence of hundreds of female clerks working under the direction and at the discretion of male supervisors disturbed critics who imagined all sorts of corruption and immorality. In 1864, the House of Representatives appointed a special committee to investigate conditions in the Treasury Department. Predictably, the Republican majority found nothing amiss, while Democrats accused Spencer M. Clark, the Superintendent of the National Currency Bureau, of considerable wrongdoing. The War opened new opportunities for women in public employment, but problematic gender norms remained long afterward.

Other contributions bring new material to bear on Lincoln's presidency. In a thoughtful essay,

historian Jean H. Baker (Goucher College) situates the Lincoln family in the physical space of the White House, a multipurpose structure serving as private residence, public office, and ceremonial site. Nineteenth-Century Americans enjoyed a striking level of access to the First Family. While Lincoln is regularly praised for his common touch, Baker shows the political and emotional toll wrought by a chronic lack of privacy. Though comparative analyses would have clarified what the Lincolns did and did not have in common with other mid-Nineteenth-Century First Families, Baker succeeds in humanizing a man whose presence in Washington is now a 175-ton marble statue.

"The Morrill Land-Grant College Act of 1862: Seedbed of the American System of Public Universities." "Abraham Lincoln and 'Government Girls' in Wartime Washington." Former director and editor (2001–16) of The Papers of Abraham Lincoln. "Behind the Scenes: Abraham Lincoln's Life in the White House." Woods - Michigan War Studies Review 2020–008

Among Lincoln's myriad worries was the legal and humanitarian calamity that unfolded in Minnesota following horrific violence between Dakota peoples and Whites in late 1862. Despite having to deal with midterm elections, the process of emancipation, and the grinding War against the Confederacy, Lincoln carefully reviewed the convictions of Dakota captives, especially the capital sentences handed down to 303 of them. Braving stiff political headwinds, he refused to evade the controversy and pardoned all but thirty-eight of them. In an outstanding essay on Lincoln's handling of the "largest mass clemency of people sentenced to death in American history" (125), legal scholar Paul Finkelman (Gratz College) positions the case in its local, legal, military, and political contexts, demonstrating that Lincoln's courageous intervention marked a critical moment in the development of the law of war.

Lincoln's effort to restrain the use of lethal force cuts against the grain of many analyses of the Civil War, which stress the expansion of Federal powers as violence escalated. But the antebellum nation-state had not been uniformly anemic. It could move swiftly and forcefully, whether to recover fugitive slaves, conquer California and New Mexico, or capture John Brown. Rather than focusing on real or perceived Federal weakness or strength, it is worth considering just whose interests the Government served. Journalist and former Washington Post correspondent Guy Gugliotta raises these issues in his thought-provoking essay on the construction and completion of the US Capitol dome (1850–63). Now seen as the physical symbol of the nation's wartime maturation, the project was ardently supported by Jefferson Davis, as both Secretary of War and Senator from Mississippi, despite its high cost and (to some) ostentation. Davis objected only to the plan to grace the top of the dome with a statue wearing a liberty cap, traditionally the indicator of a freed slave. When the Davis-approved alternative (Statue of Freedom) was affixed to the dome in 1863, the Capitol project reflected "the design preferred by the President of the Confederacy" (210). Gugliotta's careful discussion of antebellum developments and the continuities across the 1850s and 1860s is a sobering reminder of the ability and eagerness of proslavery Southerners to shape Federal policy.

Persistent debates over the Civil War's meaning and legacy reflect its impacts on the diverse population that lived through it. No single volume can capture all of the changes wrought by the War, but the lucid and meticulously researched essays in Civil War Congress and the Creation of Modern America remind us of the conflict's sheer variety of intended and unintended consequences.

Submitted by Bruce A, Castleman, Ph.D