



**Volume 65, No. 8
August, 2025**

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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

First of all, I really need to thank Bernie Quinn for stepping up and presenting programs on short notice! He is a life saver as most of our members know we have a little trouble finding people that can commit. However, the rest of the year looks promising.

As I struggle with my tech skills well into the new millennium, I sent the Round Table members the Mormon Tabernacle Choirs' rendition of *The Battle Hymn of the Republic* at West Points Graduation via email. I hope it went through given my skills and that it was enjoyed!!! It gave me chills.

As for our August meeting on the 13th, I hope to see our regulars bring a friend that might enjoy some great food, conversation and perhaps learn a bit.

Carol Breiter, President

MINUTES
SACRAMENTO CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
Wednesday, July 9, 2025
R Vida Cantina Restaurant, 7040 Sunrise Boulevard, Citrus Heights

ATTENDANCE – 21

MEMBERS – 13: Carol Breiter, President; Paul Ruud, Vice President; Jean Breiter, Secretary; George W. Foxworth, Treasurer; Steve Breiter, Arnd Gartner, Ron Grove (PD), Brendan Harris, James Juanitas (IPP), Bernie Quinn (Speaker), Patty Ruud, & Stuart & Andrea Sheffield.

GUESTS – 7: Jason & Jennifer Crutchley, Wayne & Nina Henley, Katherine Phillips, Larry Spizzirri, & Richard Spizzirri.

ZOOM – 1: Janice Taylor-Klink.

1. The meeting was called to order by President Carol Breiter at 7:05 PM and she led the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. President Breiter shared this day in history.
3. President Breiter attempted to share a video of the Battle Hymn of the Republic. However, two minutes into the presentation, the loading failed.
4. There was no old business.
5. New Business/Announcements: Bernie Quinn was voted in as honorary member for his continuing service and aid for the Round Table – motion passed. Guests were introduced.
6. Our Program was presented by Bernie Quinn – Who Is This And What Did They Do? The room was divided in half (Blue and Grey) and competition commenced. Some characters were obvious, some obscure. The Grey side prevailed almost 2 to 1!
7. After discussions, the evening ended at 8:17 PM.
8. The next Executive Board Meeting is Wednesday, August 13, 2025, 10:00 AM, at Brookfields near Madison and I-80. Members and guests are welcome.

Submitted by Jean Breiter, Secretary

Treasurer's Report

The cash balance on July 9th was \$5,158.16. The raffle brought in \$33.00.

George W. Foxworth, Treasurer

Coming Programs for 2025 & 2026

Date	Speaker	Topic
August 13th	"Meg Gudgeirsson PhD"	"Children of the Civil War"
September 10th	"Arnd Gartner"	"Could the South Have Won--What If"
October 8th	"To Be Determined"	"To Be Determined"
November 12th	"To Be Determined"	"To Be Determined"
December 10th	"To Be Determined"	"To Be Determined"
January 10th	"To Be Determined"	"To Be Determined"

2026 Membership

The 2026 membership renewal is due on January 1, 2026. 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:

gwoffoxworth@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 Round Table or the Editor. The official address of this Round Table 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.

Barbara A. Leone 1/12/1948 – 5/11/2025

Barbara was born in Port Chester, New York and was raised in New Rochelle, New York. She graduated from the State University of New York at Stony Brook. She graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Biology. Shortly after graduation, hearing the call of the “flower children” in the Haight/Ashbury, she moved to San Francisco. She worked for awhile for the Federal Government in the San Francisco Passport Office. She then attended the University of California, San Francisco to obtain a credential as a Cytotechnologist. Shortly after achieving accreditation as a Cytotechnologist, she moved to warmer, sunnier climes of Sacramento.

She was bright and curious and she read a lot. She loved science and she was a very good Cytotechnologist. Her interests were varied. She attended Woodstock (August 1969) and has documentation including a photo taken of her there. She played softball in college and slow pitch softball in co-ed leagues. She was a skin diver and visited most of the popular diving spots in the Caribbean. She traveled numerous times to Europe. She loved cats and birds and she was conflicted when one of her cats brought her a bird visiting one of her bird feeders.

Barbara was not much of a joiner and it was surprising when she joined the Sacramento Civil War Round Table. She loved the SCWRT and religiously attended monthly meetings and conventions. She loved being the Secretary of SCWRT and felt enlightened by the new perspective of the Civil War and American History given to her by the SCWRT speakers.

Woman of the Month

Henrietta Cordelia Ray

Poet, Teacher, Activist

Born January 14, 1850 in New York City

Died January 5, 1916 in Brooklyn

Buried in Cypress Hills Cemetery in Brooklyn



On April 14, 1876, the eleventh anniversary of President Lincoln's assassination, an impressive ceremony was held in Lincoln Park, Washington, D.C. to unveil the Freedman's Memorial Monument to Abraham Lincoln. Charlotte Scott, a formerly enslaved woman, initiated the effort to build a monument to honor President Lincoln, immediately after he was assassinated. She made the first donation towards its construction. The total cost of the monument was financed by Freedmen, including many who were former U.S. Colored Troops.

John Mercer Langston, an African American, plus noted professor, lawyer, and politician, was Chairman of the National Unveiling Arrangements Committee. At the request of the Committee, Congress passed a joint resolution to make April 14, 1876 a general holiday so all government employees in the District of Columbia could attend the unveiling ceremony. Attendees at the celebration included President Ulysses Grant, Justices of the Supreme Court, cabinet members, congressmen, additional luminaries, and 25,000 audience members.

The festivities included the sounding of chimes from Metropolitan M.E. Church; the booming of cannons; a grand parade to Lincoln Park with several bands, numerous African American organizations, prominent dignitaries in decorated carriages; and much more. By special request, all flags were flown at half-mast. The Program included

musical compositions, various prayers, grand oratory, and a special poem in honor of President Lincoln that Henrietta Cordelia Ray was commissioned to write.

Miss Ray was an accomplished African American poet, a successful school teacher, and a committed activist. Her father, Charles Ray, initially a blacksmith, served as a Congregational minister after receiving training at the Wesleyan Academy in Wilbraham, Massachusetts. In addition, he was also an editor and owner of the abolitionist newspaper *Colored American*. Her mother, while managing six children, was co-founder of the African Dorcas Association, a support group for the free African schools, and the first President of the New York Female Literary Society (originally known as the Colored Ladies Literary Society). The family's home functioned as a station on the Underground Railroad.

At a time when doing so was uncommon, Miss Ray's parents provided intellectual opportunities for their daughters as well as their sons. She graduated from the University of the City of New York (now New York University) with a Master's Degree in Pedagogy. She was one of only three African American graduates in her class. Her academic endeavors included the study of French, Greek, Latin, and German at the Sauveur School of Languages where she earned a teaching certificate. She used her teaching skills at regional and national conferences for African American teachers and was active in community building, being especially noted for amassing funds to support the New York Colored Orphan Asylum.

Miss Ray's poems appeared regularly in African American publications such as the *AME Review* and the *Woman's Era*. Eventually, she compiled and published a collection of her poems, *Sonnets*, which received a flurry of reviews and high praise.

Samples:

Hallie Q. Brown wrote in *Homespun Heroines* that she "may be likened to the quaint, touching music a shell murmuring of the sea, a faint yet clear note sounding all the pathos and beauty of undying life."

Gertrude Bustill Mossell in *The Work of the Afro-American Woman* asserted that she has, "won for herself a place in the front rank of our literary workers."

Victoria Earle Matthews in a *Woman's Era* editorial called her, "our sweet-voiced poetess."

The praise from prominent African American women activist and writers, plus various commendations from literary circles was instrumental in the rise to prominence of her poetry.

But Miss Ray was most well known for her Lincoln poem. Various newspapers reprinted or excerpted it, facilitating its popularity. Numerous pamphlets were also printed to provide a full account of the celebratory day's proceedings. In addition to honoring Lincoln, her commemorative poems also honor Civil War era notables such as Frederick Douglass, William Lloyd Garrison, Charles Sumner, Robert G. Shaw, Toussaint L'Ouverture, Harriet Beecher Stowe, and her father, Rev. Charles Bennet

Ray.

Despite being acclaimed with much public recognition during her lifetime, her work, regrettably, fell into obscurity. Her ode to Lincoln was read after President Grant unveiled the Freedmen's Monument. February, the Month wherein we celebrate Black History as well as Lincoln's birthday, is an appropriate time to unveil and remember Henrietta Cordelia Ray's tribute to President Abraham Lincoln.

It begins:

*To-day, O martyred chief, beneath the sun
We would unveil thy form; to thee who won
Th' applause of nations for thy soul sincere,
A loving tribute we would offer here.
'T was thine not worlds to conquer, but men's hearts;
To change to balm the sting of slavery's darts;
In lowly charity thy joy to find,
And open "gates of mercy on mankind.
And so they come, the freed, with grateful gift,
From whose sad path the shadows thou didst lift.*

Henrietta Cordelia Ray's contribution to the unveiling celebration was indeed wonderful!

-- Lavonda Broadnax



Freedman's Memorial Monument to Abraham Lincoln

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

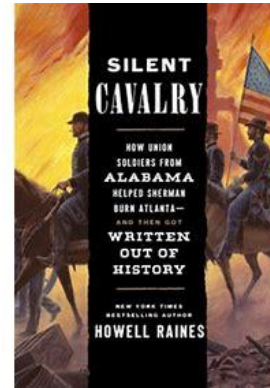
Silent Cavalry

By Howard Raines. Reviewed by Martin Pengelly, news editor for Guardian US.

In his new book, *Silent Cavalry*, the former New York Times editor tells of loyalties long suppressed in his native Alabama. *Silent Cavalry* is published by Crown.



Howard Raines



“Norman Mailer said every writer has one book that’s a gift from God.” So says Howell Raines, former Executive Editor of the New York Times, now author of a revelatory book on the Civil War, *Silent Cavalry: How Union Soldiers From Alabama Helped Sherman Burn Atlanta – And Then Got Written Out of History*.

“And agnostic as I am, I have to say this was such a gift, one way or another.”

Raines tells the story of the 1st Alabama Cavalry, loyalists who served under General William Tecumseh Sherman in campaigns that did much to end the War that ended slavery, only to be scorned by their own State and by historians as the “Lost Cause” myth, of a noble but traduced South, took hold.

For Raines, it is also a family story. As he wrote in the Washington Post, his name is a “version of the biblical middle name of James Hiel Abbott, who ... help[ed] his son slip through rebel lines to enlist in the 1st Alabama ... That son is buried in the National Military Cemetery at Chattanooga, Tennessee. Until a few years ago, I was among the thousands of Southerners who never knew they had kin buried under Union Army headstones.”

The 1st Alabama was organized in 1862 and fought to the end of the War, its duties including forming Sherman’s escort on his famous March to the Sea, its battles including Resaca, Atlanta, and Kennesaw Mountain.

To the Guardian, Raines, 80, describes how the 1st Alabama and the “Free State of Winston,” the anti-secession County from which many recruits came, have featured through his life.

“My paternal grandmother gave me my first hint, when I was about five or six, that our family didn’t support the Confederacy. It was a very oblique reference but it stuck in my mind. And then, in 1961, I ran across a reference ... in a wonderful book called *Stars Fell on Alabama* [by Carl Carmer, 1934], and it confirmed ... that there were Unionists in my mother’s ancestral County, Winston County, up in the Appalachian foothills.

“So those were the seeds, and I just kept over the years saving string, to use a newspaper

term. And I could never rid myself of curiosity about what the real story was. And then when I started reading enough Alabama history to see how these mountain unionists had been libeled in the Alabama history books, that, I suppose, fit my natural curiosity as a contrarian.

“... For years, I thought I would write it as a novel. I had done one novel set in that same County [Whiskey Man, 1977]. And it took me a long time to realize that the true story was better than anything I could make up.”

Raines has written history before: his first book, written in the 1970s when he was a reporter and editor in Georgia and Florida, was *My Soul Is Rested*, an oral history of the Civil Rights years. His new book is also inflected with autobiography and follows two memoirs, *Fly Fishing Through the Midlife Crisis* (1993) and *The One That Got Away* (2006), the latter published not long after his departure from the Times, in the aftermath of the Jayson Blair affair.

He had, he says, “a very unusual upbringing”, for Alabama in the 1940s and 50s.

“In no house of my extended family was there a single picture of Robert E Lee or any of the Confederate heroes. It didn’t strike me until I was much older that I lived in a different Southern world than most other White kids my age in Alabama. Our families not venerating these Confederate icons was the very subtle downstream effect of having had a significant number of Unionists and indeed some collateral kin and direct kin who were part of the Union Army.

“It’s a curious thing about Alabama. After segregation became such an inflamed issue in the South with the 1954 school desegregation decision [Brown v Board of Education], by the US Supreme Court], families with Unionist heritage quit telling those family stories on the front porch. The only way to find out about it was to dig them out. And it always struck me as the ultimate irony that many of the Klan members in North Alabama in the 1960s, and many of the supporters of George Wallace [the segregationist Governor], were actually descendants of Union soldiers without knowing it.”

Reading *Stars Fell on Alabama* “was a seminal moment. [Carmer’s] observation that Alabama could best be understood as if it was a separate nation within the continental United States: suddenly the quotidian realities that a child accepts as normal or even a young college student accepted as normal, I began to see as odd behavior.

“For example, Alabamians were always complaining in the 1950s and 60s about being looked down upon. And suddenly ... I said, ‘Well, there’s a reason for this. If you pick [the infamous Birmingham Commissioner of Public Safety] Bull Connor and George Wallace to be your representatives before the nation on the premier legal and moral issue of the decade” – Civil Rights – “then they’re going to think you’re strange.”

If Alabamians complained of being looked down upon, many Alabamians looked down on the Unionists of Winston County – people too poor to own enslaved workers.

“Even though the story of Unionism was suppressed, it survived enough in the political bloodstream of the State that the legislature continued to punish them for 100 plus years

after the War. So much so that my cousins in the country went to school in wooden schoolhouses while the schools in the rest of the State were modern, even in the rural counties. And up until I was 10 years old, we had to travel to my grandparents' farm, only 50 miles from Birmingham, via dirt roads. So this was a matter of punishing through the State Budget, this apostasy that sort of otherwise washed out of the civic memory."

As Raines writes in his introduction to *Silent Cavalry*, "History is not what happened. It is what gets written down in an imperfect, often underhanded process dominated by self-interested political, economic, and cultural authorities."

He "had to really dig deeply into historiography to understand how this odd thing came to be: that the losers of the Civil War got to write the dominant history ... [and how] that revisionist view ... became nationalized." That's what happened in the Lost Cause crusade of the 1870s to 1890s that in turn produced William Archibald Dunning" (1857 - 1922), a historian at Columbia University in New York who did much to embed the Lost Cause in American culture."

Raines discusses that process and its later manifestations, not least in relation to *The Civil War*, Ken Burns' great 1990 documentary series now subject to revisionist thinking. Burns, his brother Ric, and Geoffrey C. Ward, a historian who co-wrote the script, are quoted on why the 1st Alabama is absent from their work. But Raines also discusses historians who have begun to tell the stories of the Unionist South.

"Histories of the Confederacy were written by Dunning-trained scholars who delivered a warped version of Confederate history: very, very racist [and] very classist, in terms of their contempt for Southern poor Whites. And those became the fundamental references which national historians ... were writing off. A tainted version of Southern history.

"That obtained until the publication in 1992 of a book called *Lincoln's Loyalists*. Richard Nelson Current went back and actually discovered that there were 100,000 citizens of the Confederate States who volunteered in the Union Army – almost 5% that came from the South.

"The reviews at the time hailed Current's book as opening up an entire new field of scholarship. But in fact it was not until about 2000 that a new generation of Ph.D. students, hungry for unexplored topics, began to really dig into this new area of study. And it's a thriving field now, with a lot of really interesting books.

Asked how his book has been received back home, Raines laughs.

"I don't know about Alabama. I'm having a signing party in Birmingham in January but that'll be like-minded Southern progressives, for the most part. The defensiveness I referred to ... will cause many readers down there to say, 'Oh, this is just another chance to make Alabama look bad.'

"Alabamians take no responsibility for being on the wrong side of history since 1830, and they think anyone who points that out is being unfair. So that won't change."

Submitted by Bruce A. Castleman, Ph.D.