



Volume 62, No. 9  
September, 2022

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# Battle Cry

Founded 1961,  
Newsletter of the Sacramento Civil War Round Table  
P.O. BOX 254702  
Sacramento, CA 95865-4702  
<http://sacramentocwrt.com/>



## President's Message

**No Message until further notice.**

**Vacant, President**

**MINUTES**  
**SACRAMENTO CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE**  
Wednesday, August 10, 2022  
DENNY'S RESTAURANT, 3520 AUBURN BOULEVARD, SACRAMENTO

**ATTENDANCE – 16:**

**MEMBERS – 16:** James Armstrong, Harvey & Marsha Cain, Arnd Gartner, Ron Grove, Wayne & Nina Henley, Christopher Highsmith, Lloyd Limprecht, Eric Norman, Bernie Quinn, Program Director; Paul (Member at Large) & Patricia Ruud; Nicholas Scivoletto, Steve Shiflett, & Peggy Tveden.

**GUESTS – 00:** There were no guests.

1. Program Director Bernie Quinn led the Pledge. Program Director Quinn recognized new members and guests. He also announced the 2022 West Coast Conference in Fresno, CA in November. There was no raffle.
2. There were no additional minutes.
3. The next Board Meeting is Wednesday, September 14, 2022.

**George W. Foxworth for Vacant, Secretary**

**Treasurer's Report**

The cash balance on August 10th was \$4,613.40. There was no raffle.

**George W. Foxworth, Treasurer**

# Coming Programs for 2022 & 2023

| Date           | Speaker            | Topic                              |
|----------------|--------------------|------------------------------------|
| September 14th | "Bernie Quinn"     | "Wyman White, Berdan Sharpshooter" |
| October 12th   | "To Be Determined" | "To Be Determined"                 |
| November 9th   | "To Be Determined" | "To Be Determined"                 |
| December 14th  | "To Be Determined" | "To Be Determined"                 |
| January 11th   | "To Be Determined" | "To Be Determined"                 |
| February 8th   | "To Be Determined" | "To Be Determined"                 |

## 2022 Membership

The 2022 membership renewal was due as of January 1, 2022. The dues are \$30.00 and you can renew and 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 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:

[gwofforth@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gwofforth@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](http://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**

# Clarence Mackenzie

Clarence Mackenzie was born on February 8, 1849 in Brooklyn, New York. He grew up not far west of the Brooklyn Navy Yard. Clarence was 12 years-old when Confederate cannons opened fire on Fort Sumter. Wild with excitement, he begged his parents to be allowed to join the Army. Both Clarence and his older brother, William, were allowed to become part of the great adventure. The two brothers enlisted as drummer boys in Company D, 13<sup>th</sup> Regiment of the New York State Militia.

Drummer boys woke the troops and put them to bed. They tapped out alerts, assemblies, advances and retreats. Traditionally, they were supposed to be sent to the rear when fighting began but that did not usually happen. They were used as stretcher bearers, water carriers, and assistants to nurses and surgeons. In the Navy, young boys served as "powder monkeys," carrying sacks of highly flammable gunpowder wherever needed, praying they did not come into contact with any errant sparks.

In the midst of gunshot and shell, these boys were on their own. Along with the soldiers, they suffered through the long marches, bad weather, dysentery and diarrhea, and on the Confederate side, hunger, lack of proper clothing and shoes. If they did not have a relative in their unit, they would be considered lucky to have one of the older soldiers keep an eye on them.

Today we cannot possibly imagine a parent allowing children well under 18 years-old to march off to War. But during the Civil War, there were at least 100,000 boys under the age of 15 that went into service...that we know of.

Clarence and William might never have been able to wear their mother down but their father signed the necessary papers allowing them to go. It was nigh impossible for a mother to stop a young son from marching off alongside his father or brothers if the men in their family had no objections. Some parents agreed to their sons' enlistments because their salaries were desperately needed at home. Some boys were severe discipline problems, unmanageable, making family life a hell. These boys were easy to bid good-bye to. Then there were boys who just wanted out from under their parents' thumbs. Many of those parents were happy to see them go. There were mothers who did not want teenage boys underfoot who did not, and would not, get along with their new husbands or would ruin their chances for good second marriages.

Some boys just ran away and enlisted under assumed names. Later they had trouble receiving pensions because they had no legitimate documentation.

There were many orphans and street urchins roaming city streets, starving and stealing. The Army rid the cities of these troublemakers and provided three meals a day, clothing, and shelter, no questions asked. For many of these boys, the Army was their first and only true home.

Finally, many good parishioners believed that a merry three-month romp in the company of good, steady Christian men would do a young boy no harm. In fact, it would probably instill better character in some of the scalawags in their congregations.

Even with a myriad of reasons, today we are still aghast that any parent could let a child march off to War or that an Army would enlist them.

On June 11, 1861, two months after he had left home, Clarence and his Regiment were camped in Annapolis, Maryland. Clarence sat on the floor of his tent playing marbles with his brother. Somewhere in the camp, a shot was discharged accidentally. It hit a brick wall and ricocheted through the canvas of Clarence's tent. The bullet entered into the center of the boy's back and out through his stomach. He lingered for two long hours before he died. He was 12 years, four months and three days old.

The next morning, his brother, his Captain, and four soldiers put Clarence's body into an "ice coffin" and escorted it back to his home on Liberty Street in Brooklyn.

Clarence Mackenzie would become the first Civil War casualty from Brooklyn and the first Civil War casualty to be buried in Green-Wood Cemetery.

The funeral was held on June 14, 1861 at Saint John's Presbyterian Church on the corners of Washington and Johnson Streets in Brooklyn. After the services, the top half of the casket was opened so Clarence's family, friends and classmates from P.S. 8, many wearing emblems of mourning on their arms, could see him one last time.

On the road to the Cemetery, over three thousand people lined the streets, all trying to get a glimpse of the small coffin as it passed by, covered in wreaths of flowers and draped with an American flag. The members of the 13<sup>th</sup> Regiment escorted the casket to the Cemetery. After the coffin was lowered into the ground and covered with dirt, Clarence's dog, Jack, stretched out atop the grave and refused to be moved.



Clarence Mackenzie was buried in a public lot on the Hill of Graves in Green-Wood Cemetery. As his story became known, money was donated for a more prominent memorial. On Thanksgiving Day, 1886, Clarence's body was moved to the "Soldier's Lot," donated by Green-Wood Cemetery specifically for Civil War soldiers and veterans. A life sized white zinc replica statue of Clarence, with "Our Drummer Boy" etched onto it, was placed atop the grave.

**Submitted by Judith Breitstein**

# National Register of Women's Service in the Civil War (NRWSCW)

Woman of the Month, **Mary Sophia Hill**, Nurse & Matron, CSA

“The Florence Nightingale of The Army of Northern Virginia”



(Image from The Wild Geese Blogspot for Irish-American History)

Born on November 12 ,1819, in Dublin, Ireland; Died January 7, 1902, in Brooklyn, New York; Buried in Greenwood Cemetery, New Orleans, Louisiana.

Mary Sophia Hill and her twin brother Samuel William Hill were the children of an Irish physician working in Dublin. Not much is known about their childhood, except that they spent a part of their youth in England. Samuel immigrated to coastal Louisiana, probably in 1850, and Mary and her younger sister, Elizabeth, joined him in New Orleans on February 5, 1851. Mary had worked in England as a teacher of English, French, and music, and she continued that occupation in New Orleans. Her income was supplemented by quarterly transmission of funds from Ireland, sent to her via the British consul. Samuel worked as a civil engineer. At some point prior to the outbreak of the Civil War, Elizabeth married John Van Slooten, an engineer of Hanoverian nationality working in New Orleans. Mary moved in with the couple.

In 1861, at the outbreak of the Civil War, Samuel enlisted as a private in Co. F, 6th Louisiana Volunteer Infantry Regiment. Mary opposed the enlistment, believing that her brother was not fit for military service. She tried, and failed, to nullify the enlistment on grounds of Samuel's British citizenship, so she obtained permission from the Commander and Regimental Surgeon of the 6th Louisiana to serve as a nurse for the Regiment, so she could keep an eye on her twin. The Regiment was assigned to the Army of Northern Virginia and, in June of 1861, Mary traveled with it to Virginia.

From the diary of Mary Sophia Hill: *21st of June. Battle of Manassas began at half-past seven in the morning. Day very hot. Fighting all day. 22nd. Sunday. Plenty of prisoners*

*taken and Sherman's whole battery captured; I saw it with my own eyes. Water very scarce; troops suffered awfully for want of it. When Johnston's men came in the morning, at their halt at Manassas, I sent them buckets of water and a bag of crackers, that they might not face their enemy black fasting. Spent day at hospital with Dr. Nott of Mobile, and Dr. Williams. Tied up and staunched the bleeding of many a poor fellow. I remember being asked by some to pick Minie balls out of their legs and arms, while they waited their turn of the doctors, who of course had to attend to the most serious cases first. They have not half supplies. I tore down all the window blinds, and rolled them into bandages; nor was there half hospital accommodations. I made good chicken-soup, and flew around generally. The sights of the wounded were fearful to look at.*

Mary steadily worked as a field nurse with her Regiment until she received a furlough in December 1861-January 1862, and returned briefly to New Orleans to visit her sister. She was unable to collect her quarterly funds from abroad, due to the US Navy's blockade, but she nevertheless collected comfort supplies to be shipped back to Virginia for the soldiers of the 6th Louisiana. She then returned to her Regiment.

In April 1862, she separated from the 6th Louisiana and traveled to Richmond to visit the Confederate hospitals located there, and volunteered for service at the hospital at Camp Winder. But not long afterward, during the later part of the Spring 1862 campaigning in the Shenandoah Valley, she transferred to the hospital complex located in Charlottesville, where her grievously ill brother had been sent. When he was transferred to Chimborazo Hospital in Richmond, she followed. She then boarded him as an out-patient in Richmond, and began nursing in the Louisiana Hospital at Chimborazo. After her brother recovered, he was declared unfit for field service and assigned to map-making duties in the Confederate Corps of Engineers. Meanwhile, Mary had been promoted to the hospital's matron. Beloved by her patients, they bestowed upon her the sobriquet of "The Florence Nightingale of The Army of Northern Virginia."

After New Orleans was taken by Federal forces at the end of April 1862, the blockade of its port was lifted. Using her British passport, Mary travelled to New Orleans to obtain the funds being held for her by the British Consul. She returned to Richmond, then visited her brother at Culpeper, where she contracted smallpox. Fortunately, it was a mild form of the disease, since Mary had been previously inoculated. When she recovered, she resumed work at the Louisiana Hospital in Richmond.

She again traveled to New Orleans, this time carrying with her verbal messages from Louisiana soldiers to their families. Once in the city, she wrote hundreds of letters conveying those soldier messages to their families outside the area. She encountered difficulty obtaining a pass to exit the Federally-occupied territory, but eventually succeeded. Upon her return to Richmond, she worked in the Ladies Institute Hospital.

In 1863, Mary returned to New Orleans. Waiting for her there were letters from Ireland, the contents of which prompted her to travel to abroad to conduct some private family financial business. She embarked from the Port of New Orleans with a pass from the Federal Provost Marshal. Upon her return from Ireland, she made her way out of New Orleans, returned to Confederate-held territory, and resumed nursing and humanitarian activities.

In May 1864, Mary decided to return to New Orleans yet again. Mary had always traveled between Federal and Confederate lines with a pass from the British Consul, her British

passport, and an oath of neutrality, using flag of truce transit. While enroute, Federal regulations changed to require that all those crossing the lines must have a Federal pass. Unaware of the new requirement, she arrived without a Federal pass and was immediately arrested and sent to the Julia Street Prison. After two days, she was released due to her British citizenship, and paroled to the home of her sister. Weakened by her travails, she fell ill with scarlet fever and nearly died.

While bedridden, she was visited by a Federal detective identified as Ellen Williams, who tried to entrap Mary into violating her neutrality status. Long suspicious of Mary, due to her multiple travels in and out of Confederate territory, Federal officials arrested her on May 21, 1864, and she was once again confined to the Julia Street Prison, where conditions were deplorable. Mary's mental health deteriorated along with her physical health.

Mary was charged by the US Army with correspondence with the enemy by conveying food, clothing and letters – allegedly including a forged letter to an unknown Confederate general – across the lines to enemy forces. Taken before a military tribunal in July, she protested that the food, clothing, and letters – except the forgery, about which she knew nothing – were for her brother. Despite the evidence of her Federally-approved line-crossing passes, with specific approval of the items which she carried, coupled with her British passport, she was unsuccessful in fighting the charges. After a five day trial, she was convicted and sentenced to confinement in the Julia Street Prison for the duration of the War.

A campaign for her release reached the British Ambassador to the US, Lord Lyons. His demands influenced the final review of her sentence and, in August 1864, that sentence was commuted to permanent removal from New Orleans to territory under Confederate control. Her request to depart to England instead was denied. She arrived in Richmond on October 7, 1864. She delivered food and clothing to her brother, including a new uniform which she had made from woolen cloth which she had brought from Ireland – disguised as a cape worn during her travels. Ill and having run out of money, she procured a pass to visit the British Consul in Norfolk, where she received aid, including assistance in departing North America for Ireland. Mary remained abroad until her post-War return to New Orleans in October 1865.

Mary's health had suffered while in Federal custody, and she was considered an invalid. Her post-War claim for compensation in the amount of 2,000 British pounds sterling was denied by the US Government. In an international court, the Mixed Commission on British and American Claims, she eventually won her case against the US Government for false imprisonment. On September 3, 1873, the British government was awarded \$1,560.00 in gold on her behalf, a sum which she considered insufficient recompense for her mistreatment.

Despite her poor health, Mary worked as a nurse, then matron, at the newly-established Confederate Veterans Home in the New Orleans area. As the facility was privately funded until after Reconstruction, she refused to accept any wages for her work. At an unspecified date, Mary moved to the home of her nephew, William van Slooten, a mining engineer living in Brooklyn, New York. Although William committed suicide in 1901, Mary lived with his family until her own death from cancer at the age of 82. Her will stipulated that she be buried in New Orleans and, following her death, her remains were borne there

by train. Her brother Samuel, still residing in New Orleans, did not participate in her funeral due to ill-health.

From *The Times Picayune* of New Orleans, January 13, 1902: "When she died, aging Confederate veterans rallied to pay her homage. Eighteen of them provided an honor cortege for her casket, which had the flag of Camp 1, Army of Northern Virginia covering it.... A funeral at 9 o'clock in the morning is a rare occurrence in this City, and still more unusual is the sight of a large number of men in the twilight of life, some wearing the Confederate uniform of gray, reverently marching behind a hearse, while with martial tread a delegation of veterans walk along as pallbearers. Such a scene was witnessed yesterday morning, when, on the arrival of the 9:35 train of the Illinois Central, the remains of Miss Mary S. Hill were transferred to the hearse, and then accompanied to their last resting place in Greenwood Cemetery by veteran Confederates. Forty-one years ago, Miss Hill was one of those ministering angels who, leaving their homes and firesides, and impelled by a call from on high, sought the battle fields and the crowded hospitals and devoted themselves to taking care of the dying and the wounded soldiers. She was a true type of feminine gentleness, charity, and sympathy; with a sweet voice, a touch so light that care vanished at its charm, and footsteps as noiseless as a snowfall."

In 2005, the Louisiana Division of the United Daughters of the Confederacy sponsored the erection of a granite military-style marker at her previously unmarked gravesite.



(Image from The Wild Geese Blogspot for Irish-American History)

The principal source for this article is Mary Sophia Hill's wartime memoirs, published in 1875 by Turnbull Brothers of Baltimore as *A British Subject's Recollections of the Confederacy While a Visitor and Attendant in its Hospitals and Camps*. A number of secondary sources contain confusing contradictions. All sources are available upon request.

Submitted by the "Society for Women and the Civil War - [www.swcw.org](http://www.swcw.org)"

# 2022 WEST COAST CIVIL WAR CONFERENCE

## November 4 - 6, 2022



**WYNDHAM GARDEN HOTEL, 5090 East Clinton Way, FRESNO, CA 93727-1506, (1-559-252-3611 or 1-866-238-4218), \$103.00 per night, or [wyndhamguestreservations.com](http://wyndhamguestreservations.com), (Fresno Airport).**

**“Grant vs Lee: Combat Strategy & Tactics in 1864 Virginia.”**

**HOSTED BY THE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY CWRT.** For more information, see Website: [SJVCWRT2.com](http://SJVCWRT2.com)

### **SPEAKERS:**

**Gordon Rhea;  
Eric Wittenburg;  
Chris Mackowski;  
Jim Stanbery;  
Brian Clague.**

**Friday Night Dinner Begins at 5:30 PM.**

**Ron Vaughan, MA.;** (Conference Coordinator: [ronvaughan@prodigy.net](mailto:ronvaughan@prodigy.net)).

**ATTENDEE REGISTRATION: \$200.00 PER PERSON** for Weekend, including meals. Breakfast on your own. Coffee, water, and pastries provided during the Conference. (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 (Conference Coordinator), 730 East Tulare Avenue, Tulare, CA 93274-4336.**