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October, 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, September 14, 2022
DENNY'S RESTAURANT, 3520 AUBURN BOULEVARD, SACRAMENTO

ATTENDANCE – 12:

MEMBERS – 12: James Juanitas, Arnd Gartner, Wayne & Nina Henley, Christopher Highsmith, Alejandro, Kim Grace Long, Eric Norman, Joe & Michelle Matalone, Bernie Quinn, Program Director; & Peggy Tveden.

GUESTS – 00: There were no guests.

1. The meeting was called to order by Vice President James Juanitas at 7:05 P.M. He asked people to consider running for office in October 2022. He also spoke about the Fresno Conference in November 2022 and the need for people to attend.
2. Joseph & Michelle Matalone conducted the raffle.
3. The speaker was Bernie Quinn. He talked about the book *The Civil War Diary of Wyman White*. The diary was first published in 1979, but was written at the turn of the 20th Century. White was a sharpshooter from New Hampshire, Company F, 2nd US Sharpshooters, born August 11, 1841, died May 4, 1923, at age 81. He mustered out in March 1865 as 1st Sergeant before the War ended because his Company was joined with another Company. There were too many NCOs and the Company volunteered to be dismissed early. White's attitudes and behavior were very straight-laced. He was 6 feet tall, went through the 1st year of high school, but mostly worked at farming in New Hampshire.
4. White fought in 68 battles, including the trenches at Petersburg. When he mustered out, he weighed only 125 pounds because of injury and illness. His mother nursed him back to health and he was married 1 ½ years later. He became a policeman for a time and worked at farming.
5. When he tried out for the Sharpshooters, it was a difficult test. But for him, the test was made even more difficult. He passed with flying colors. He was immediately signed up. He was pleased for the first few weeks to be assigned to a nice hotel in New York City. Most of the New Hampshire Sharpshooters were not as disciplined as he was. There was trouble with the 63rd New York recruits.
6. During battles, the Sharpshooters made a square formation to repel cavalry. At Rappahannock Station, artillery fire hit his backpack, potentially killing him. Nearby, a Private named May was yelling in pain. Another Sergeant said, "God doesn't listen to cowards."
7. At Fredericksburg, the Sharpshooters were fired upon by artillery and cavalry. They returned fire, shooting into the woods and captured some rebels. There were no Sharpshooter casualties.
8. At Antietam, he wrote in his diary in his understated way, "We marched across an open field and took a great loss." They lost 67 men. Speaker Quinn said that it was caused by the bad decisions of the General in charge.
9. At Chancellorsville, they surrounded the 23rd Georgia and captured over 20.
10. At Gettysburg, the Sharpshooters were able to slow down the rebel advance, even though they were outnumbered 200 to 4,000. Later, they fought at Little Round Top with the 83rd Pennsylvania. They were next to the 20th Maine of Joshua L. Chamberlain. Of this, White writes, "I was able to do good work." He writes of the whooping and yelling of the Confederates. The Sharpshooters held their position. At another time, they were in front of Pickett's Charge. White had been sent back to get meat rations and was in the heavy shelling that preceded the charge. After Gettysburg, the Sharpshooters could not stop, but for 4 days had to find where the rebels were.
11. At the end of the War, White used a telescopic sight on his rifle. Speaker Quinn stated that White was a hero, one of the most underrated soldiers. The book was well written.
12. The next Board Meeting is unknown.

Nina Henley for Vacant, Secretary

Treasurer's Report

The cash balance on September 14th was \$4,617.02. The raffle brought in \$17.00.

George W. Foxworth, Treasurer

Coming Programs for 2022 & 2023

Date	Speaker	Topic
October 12th	"Carol Breiter"	"General Joe Hooker"
November 9th	"Paul Ruud"	"West Point Class of 1846"
December 14th	"Nicholas Scivoletto"	"Civil War Quiz"
January 11th	"Arnd Gartner"	"Union Intelligence Services: Part 2"
February 8th	"To Be Determined"	"To Be Determined"
March 8th	"To Be Determined"	"To Be Determined"

2023 Membership

The 2023 membership renewal is due on January 1, 2023. 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 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

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

Laura Buchanan Sickles

Laura Buchanan Sickles was born in New York City in 1853, approximately seven months after her parents' hasty marriage. Her mother was Teresa Da Ponte Bagioli, the daughter of a wealthy and well-respected New York family.



By her teens, Teresa was fluent in five languages. Her father, Antonio Bagioli, was a teacher, composer and professor of music. When Teresa was three years old, her father began to tutor Dan Sickles. His parents said that they believed him to be “unsettled and in need of special tutoring.” They hoped that Bagioli could smooth their son’s rough edges and pave a way for him into polite society. The 20 year-old would board with the family for one year. Sickles went on to study law under Benjamin Butler, and not long after, become a popular New York Congressman.

Sickles ran into his tutor’s daughter again in 1851 when he was 33 years old. Teresa was now a beautiful young woman of 16. Though both sets of parents forbade a marriage, the couple ran off and wed in a civil ceremony on September 17, 1852. It soon became obvious that Teresa was pregnant. The couple was quickly remarried in a religious ceremony performed by the Archbishop of New York.

James Buchanan, Dan Sickles’ close friend and future United States President, was chosen to be Laura’s godfather. Another dear family friend, Mary Lincoln, gave an engraved gold necklace to the baby.

Not long after his daughter’s birth, Sickles was named Assistant to the American Minister in London. He took Fanny White, a well-known New York “Madam,” to Europe with him. Fanny didn’t return home until news of Teresa and Laura’s imminent arrival in the capital city was delivered to her paramour.

The Sickles family returned to New York in 1854 after finding themselves unable to survive on the salary of an Assistant Minister in London. The following year, Sickles was elected to the New York Senate. When he won a seat in Congress in 1856, the family moved to Lafayette Square in Washington, DC. Teresa became known for her weekly entertainments, well attended by everyone except her philandering husband

who was off cavorting with prostitutes.

Preoccupied with his own dalliances, Sickles was ignorant of his wife's adulterous liaison with Philip Barton Key, the son of Francis Scott Key, until he was informed of their trysts in an anonymous letter. On February 27, 1859, he shot Key in cold blood directly in front of the family home. As he was led away, he told the constables, "Of course I did it. He deserved it."

Six year-old Laura was taken to visit her father in jail. The little girl burst into tears when she looked around the grim cell her father was being housed in. Sickles assured her that this was his "new office" and he'd be home soon. Teresa fled Washington with her daughter and tried to hide her shame behind the walls of her parents' 91st Street New York apartment.

The trial was a sensation and the attorney, Edwin Stanton, did a fine job. After 70 minutes the jury delivered a "Not Guilty" verdict on the basis of "temporary insanity." The crowd cheered as Sickles drove off in his carriage.

Sickles still loved his errant wife and believed that reconciliation with her would be tolerated by society. He publicly forgave her, he claimed, for his daughter's sake. When the public realized that no divorce was forthcoming, he was shunned. The diarist, Mary Boykin Chesnut, wrote that Sickles was "totally ostracized...as if he had the smallpox." With no fear of being sued, *The New York World* called him "a thief, a murderer, and a pimp."

A few friends remained true. Sickles was invited by the Lincolns to a séance in the White House in 1864.

The coming of the Civil War gave Sickles a chance for a new career. He soon became a Brigadier General in the Third District of New York where he raised the Excelsior Brigade. Teresa accepted her outcast status and remained hidden. Laura rarely saw her father. She was rejected by every reputable school in New York. With no children to interact with, the child became more and more morose. She took up painting as a solitary hobby.

Teresa died of tuberculosis on February 5, 1867, at the age of 31. With his 13 year-old daughter on his arm, Sickles made a grand entrance at the funeral of his estranged wife. The general took center stage rather than the corpse.

Laura had spent the last eight years under her maternal grandparents' care in New York City. Her father removed her to Charleston, where he was serving as Military Governor of the Carolinas. Laura was as much a pariah there as she had been in New York.

In 1869, the girl accompanied her father to Spain when he was appointed Minister by President Ulysses S. Grant. She was taken under the wing of Carmina "Caroline" de Creagh, a 20ish year old convent bred attendant at court. It was not a big surprise

when two years later Sickles married his daughter's mentor. Rumors said they wed "in the belief that the other party had plenty of money." Laura was a bridesmaid at the wedding but she refused to move in with the newlyweds.

Laura had inherited her father's headstrong nature. She began a love affair with a Spanish Military Officer. Sickles went into a rage and forbade Laura to see the man again. There was a huge row. No one knows what words were spoken in the heat of passion but the rupture would never be healed. Laura returned to live with her widowed grandmother in New York on the small allowance her father continued to grant her.

In 1875, Caroline gave birth to a daughter, Eda, and the following year a son, George Stanton. The family returned to New York but in 1879, Dan brought his wife and children back to Spain and left them there. He returned home, still determined to restore his reputation and revive his career. He did not see his second family again for 17 years.

Laura married William Carlton but the union was short-lived. By the time they divorced, she was a full-fledged alcoholic with barely any income. She sold some of her little paintings in a Brooklyn market but they brought in a paltry amount of money. When her grandfather, George Sickles, wrote his son begging him to have pity on Laura, Sickles responded, "I have done my whole duty to the person in whose behalf you write. As far as I am concerned she is dead and buried."

When George Sickles died in 1887, he left his granddaughter a small inheritance. She had fallen into a life of dissipation and self-indulgence, "reckless of her own and her family's name." Every now and then, a story would appear in the papers citing Laura's involvement with "bartenders and worthless young men." Dan Sickles threatened the press with lawsuits if they aired the story of his daughter living in one room in a boarding house in Brooklyn while he lorded over a \$100,000 mansion.

Laura became known as the "extravagant queen of the wildest set in New York, the Circe of backrooms in New York and Brooklyn groggeries." Due to her drug use, alcoholism, and poor diet, she started to deteriorate. "The lines of beauty disappeared...totally obliterated in gross obesity." She begged that her estranged father not be informed of her last illness or her sufferings.

On March 24, 1891, Laura Buchanan Sickles Carlton wrote her will, setting money aside for funeral expenses and headstones for herself and her mother. On December 10, she died of cirrhosis of the liver, at 38 years old. Her father did not attend her funeral and was never heard to mention her name again. Her wishes were ignored and her money disbursed to relatives and friends. She is buried in an unmarked grave in Green-Wood Cemetery in Brooklyn, New York.

Submitted by Judith Breitstein

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

Woman of the Month

Anna Ella Carroll

Author, Military Strategist, and Political Influencer, USA



Born August 29, 1815, at Kingston Plantation, Eastern Shore of Maryland
Died February 19, 1894 in Washington, DC

One of the most gifted, yet puzzling, individuals of Nineteenth Century America, Anna Ella Carroll was the eldest of eight children of Thomas King Carroll and Julianna Stevenson Carroll. She was born into one of America's most prominent families, counting several Founding Fathers amongst her ancestors. The Carrolls were the leading Roman Catholic family in the United States during the Eighteenth to mid-Nineteenth Century, yet her father's immediate branch was Episcopalian and anti-Catholic. Her father, an attorney, was the owner of a 2,000-acre tobacco plantation. He also served as a judge, as a member of the Maryland House of Delegates, and as the Governor of Maryland. Her mother was the daughter of a Baltimore physician.

Anna was educated at home by her father, who was an early leader in legislation for provision of free education for all children. He provided her with a classical education and is believed to have also trained her in the law. As his assistant, she became involved in legal activities and politics at an early age.

As a young woman, Anna operated a girl's school at the family plantation. But national politics would become her life's work. She became active in the development of the Whig Political Party, and corresponded with party leaders on subjects including the growth of the Party and policy development. According to one of her biographers, she could "scheme, connive, and maneuver as well as any man."

During the presidential elections prior to the Civil War, she was a vigorous campaigner, writing newspaper articles and pamphlets supporting her preferred candidates. With ease and speed, her political efforts gained her the confidence and support of Presidents Zachary Taylor and Millard Fillmore. In 1849, her political campaigning led to the appointment of her father (who had experienced financial reverses) as the Naval Officer of the Port of Baltimore, the Port's Chief Customs Officer. Anna supported

national political campaigning in 1856 with *The Great American Battle*, her first book. She would continue to be a popular writer with the American public.

Anna was an ardent abolitionist, supporting the anti-slavery cause with her writings. She also had a keen interest in constitutional law, and opposed emancipation by the Federal Government based on her interpretation of the constitutionally-imposed limitations upon the powers of the Government. She celebrated the election of Lincoln to the presidency by freeing the people she personally owned. Given her written opposition to slavery, her choice to wait until 1860 is perplexing.

Anna became a dedicated crusader for the preservation of the Union, and she understood that, in order to accomplish this goal, she needed to rally support for the new President. She was also deeply concerned with keeping her home State in the Union. Through newspaper articles and letter-writing campaigns, she helped influence Maryland politics in support of Lincoln and in opposition to secession. With the endorsement of the US Government, she wrote a series of pamphlets which provided constitutionally-based arguments for preservation of the Union and justification for application of presidential war powers. This work culminated in her 1861 book *The War Powers of The General Government*. The arguments put forward in her pamphlets and book were often cited in speeches by senior Government officials.

Prior to the outbreak of the Civil War, she had traveled extensively throughout the Midwest and the South. During her journeys, she observed the key roles of rail and water transport routes in national security, including the provision of links between natural resources and manufacturing sites. A particularly fateful trip in 1861 allowed her to make a reconnaissance of the Upper Mississippi Valley on behalf of her contacts in the US War Department. Armed with her own observations and the results of discussions with river pilots, she developed a detailed plan for a Federal military thrust into the South following the route of the Tennessee River. As submitted to the War Department, this plan is credited by a number of historians with influencing Grant's campaign which captured Vicksburg, along with key Confederate fortifications, river-transport junctions, and railroads. Yet there are also scholarly critics who believe that Anna received too much credit for her contribution to the military campaign planning. At the time, her participation was kept a secret, and her initial post-War crediting of a US Army officer for the contribution also undercut her later arguments for recognition.

In the immediate post-War years, Anna Ella Carroll largely devoted herself to political campaigning in Maryland. She also traveled to Texas to report on the development of a new State Constitution. However, by 1870, her attention was primarily focused on obtaining compensation from the Federal Government for her services to the US War effort. She remained frustrated with the insufficient degree of official recognition or monetary compensation. She continued to write, and her case eventually drew the attention of the women's suffrage movement. Its leadership brought attention to her service and lack of remuneration, using it as an example of an injustice which it claimed would not have happened if women were allowed to vote. Late in her life, as the result of a special bill which recognized the "important military service rendered by her during the late Civil War," the US Congress granted her a small pension of \$50.00 a month.

When Anna died, the epigraph carved upon her grave marker commended her as "A woman rarely gifted; an able and accomplished writer."

F. B. Carpenter's 1864 painting of Lincoln and his cabinet, which hangs in the Senate Wing of the US Capitol Building, alludes to Anna Ella Carroll's unrecognized role in the Lincoln Cabinet, by leaving a chair empty at the table. The chair is draped by the red shawl of a woman. On the table, in front of the chair, are shown maps and documents of the types with which she worked. In 2011, portrait artist Laura Era was commissioned by a group of Marylanders to paint a new version of the work, with Anna Ella Carroll depicted in that chair, wearing the red shawl. Considering Carroll's opposition to the Constitutional justification of the Emancipation Proclamation – the reading of which serves as the subject of the painting - the revised version adds to the complexity of her story.



The First Reading of the Emancipation Proclamation by President Lincoln, also known as The Empty Chair.
Francis Bicknell Carpenter, 1864



The First Reading of the Emancipation Proclamation by President Lincoln.
Laura Era, 2011

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

SPEAKERS:

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

Friday Night Dinner Begins at 5:30 PM.

Ron Vaughan, MA.; (Conference Coordinator: 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.**