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October, 2023

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Battle Cry

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

Greetings everyone and welcome to Autumn - Coolness; Falling Leaves; Football; and Halloween.

Does anyone know how the Maps for the Civil War Battle areas were made?

If the Battle was located on the Army's own land, that Army would get soldiers familiar with the locale and terrain (preferably Engineers) and each Engineer would be responsible for a section of the area. When all of the Engineers were done they would put their respective sections together to make one big Map then a Photographer would take Photo's of the completed Map and immediately distribute them to all of their Army's Field Commanders prior to the Battle.

If the Army was fighting on enemy land or territories, they would send out their Engineers accompanied by a Patrol of Soldiers in different sections of the Battle Area and when completed put their sections together to form one Map. Like the local enemy Army, they would then get a Photographer to take Photos and then distribute the Map Photos to the Field Commanders of their Army.

Have a cool October.

James C. Juanitas, President

MINUTES
SACRAMENTO CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
Wednesday, September 13, 2023
DENNY'S RESTAURANT, 3520 AUBURN BOULEVARD, SACRAMENTO

ATTENDANCE – 16:

MEMBERS – 15: James Juanitas, President; George W. Foxworth, Treasurer; James Armstrong, Harvey & Marsha J. Cain, Arnd Gartner, Ron Grove, (MAL); Chris Highsmith, Joseph (MAL) & Michelle Matalone, Paul (IPP) & Patty Ruud, Stuart & Andrea Sheffield, & Peggy Tveden.

GUESTS – 1: Milo Turaylich.

1. The meeting was called to order by President James Juanitas at 7:04 PM and he led the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. President Juanitas asked if anyone knew of a new meeting location. The latest is the Hof Brau may reopen in about two years. President Juanitas mentioned the November Civil War Conference in Fresno. He also noted our vacant Board of Directors positions. There were no volunteers.
3. Guests were introduced. One was present.
4. The raffle was conducted by Joe & Michelle Matalone. Books and bottles of wine were offered as prizes. The raffle raised \$51.00. President Juanitas introduced the speaker.
5. The speaker was Arnd Gartner and his topic was "**Charles Pomeroy Stone.**" Stone was born on September 30, 1824 in Greenfield Massachusetts and was one of ten children in a Protestant family of Puritan descent. He later converted to a Roman Catholic. In 1841, he entered West Point and graduated four years later, standing seventh out of 41 cadets. He was appointed a Brevet Second Lieutenant of ordnance on July 1, 1845.
6. Stone remained at West Point, serving as an Assistant Professor and teaching Geography, History, and Ethics. Later, he was posted to the Watervliet Arsenal in New York as Assistant Ordnance Officer, and then to Fortress Monroe, Virginia. While at Monroe, Stone worked in the facilities arsenal and was an Assistant to Captain Benjamin Huger, whom he would serve under in the War with Mexico.
7. Stone was a Civil Engineer and Surveyor. He fought with distinction in the Mexican-American War, earning two Brevet promotions for his performance in the Conflict. After resigning and performing many jobs, he returned to the U.S. Army to fight in the American Civil War. Before the War began, Stone provided Washington, DC security for the arrival and inauguration of President Abraham Lincoln at the request of General Winfield Scott.
8. Stone was reportedly the first Officer volunteer to enter the Union Army. During the War, he served as a General Officer, noted for his involvement at the Battle of Ball's Bluff in October 1861. Held responsible for the Union defeat, Stone was arrested and imprisoned for almost six months, mostly for political reasons. He never received a trial, and after his release in 1862, he would not hold a significant command again during the War. George McClellan was the reason Ball's Bluff was a defeat.
9. Stone served briefly as a Brigade Commander in the Army of the Potomac during the siege of Petersburg, but finally resigned from the Army on September 13, 1864, before the end of the War.
10. Stone later served with distinction as a General in the Egyptian Army for 13 years. He was recommended by General William T. Sherman. He returned to the United States in 1883.
11. In 1884, Stone accepted the position of Chief Engineer of the Statute of Liberty project in New York Harbor. He planned and supervised the construction of the Statue of Liberty's pedestal, concrete foundation, and the reassembly of the Statute of Liberty after its arrival from France. Stone served as the Grand Marshal of the dedication parade in Manhattan on October 28, 1886. He fell ill some months afterwards and died of pneumonia at his home in New York City on January 24, 1887. General Stone is buried in West Point National Cemetery.
12. The next Executive Board Meeting is Wednesday, October 11, 2023 at 10:00 AM, Brookfields near Madison and I-80.

George W. Foxworth for Vacant, Secretary

Treasurer's Report

The cash balance on September 13th was \$5,054.89. Thanks to Joe and Michelle Matalone, the raffle brought in \$51.00.

George W. Foxworth, Treasurer

Coming Programs for 2023 & 2024

Date	Speaker	Topic
October 11th	"James Juanitas"	"Union Jacks--Yankee Sailors in the Civil War"
November 8th	"To Be Determined"	"To Be Determined"
December 13th	"To Be Determined"	"To Be Determined"
January 10th	"To Be Determined"	"To Be Determined"
February 14th	"To Be Determined"	"To Be Determined"
March 13th	"To Be Determined"	"To Be Determined"

2024 Membership

The 2024 membership renewal is due on January 1, 2024. 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.

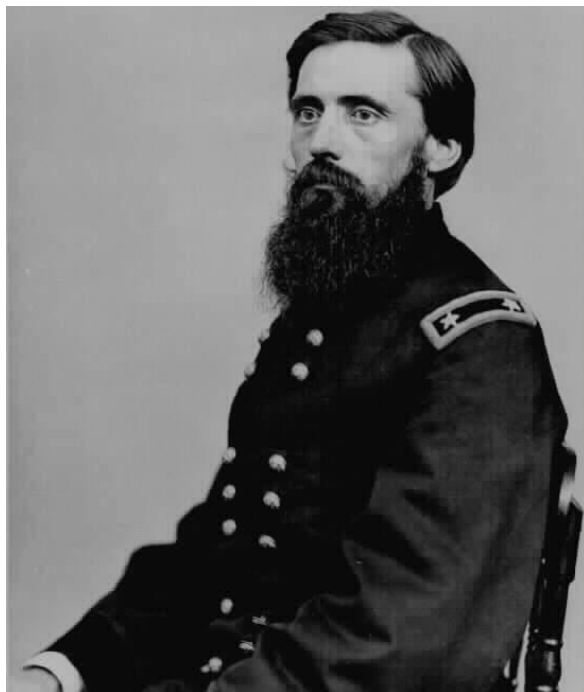
Some of our members are also National Park Service volunteers who assist the rangers in giving public programs, in uniform, about the Union soldiers stationed on the Island and interesting events that occurred there between 1859 and 1865. We publish a newsletter every month, which can be found on our 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

John Aaron Rawlins

In 1849, James Dawson Rawlins caught gold fever. He hitched his wagon to a team of oxen and headed to California with his oldest son, Jarrad, leaving his wife and six younger children behind in East Galena, Illinois. James did not return for three years. When he did, he came back with empty pockets and without his son. Jarrad chose to remain in California.



James took up farming and logging again. But he was more devoted to liquor than his family. His second son, John Aaron Rawlins, born on February 13, 1831, was forced to become the head of the household. John was disgusted by his father's alcoholism and swore he would never drink. He was forced to educate himself as best he could. He began to study law in his hometown under Isaac Stevens. Rawlins passed the Illinois State Bar in 1854 and went into practice with his mentor. He joined the Democratic Party and through his political connections, he was appointed City Attorney for the City of Galena.

On June 3, 1856, John married Emily Smith. They had a son, James Bradner, and two daughters, Jane "Jennie" Lovisa and Emily, named after her mother. Sadly, on August 30, 1861, John's wife died of tuberculosis at 28 years old. After her death, John developed a phobia. He was convinced that he would also succumb to consumption one day.

Two days after Fort Sumter was attacked, President Abraham Lincoln called for volunteers to fight for the Union. Mass rallies were held throughout the country. Oddly enough, Rawlins, the Democrat, spoke at a Republican meeting in his home town and caught the attention of another Galena native, Ulysses S. Grant. Grant knew Rawlins slightly from when John had done some legal work for Grant's father.

Rawlins began helping to raise the 45th Illinois Regiment. He became Grant's Aide-de-Camp and was appointed Captain in the Regular Army and Assistant Adjutant General of Volunteers. Rawlins rarely left Grant's side. As Grant rose in rank and power, so did Rawlins. By the end of the War, Rawlins was brevetted Major General in the Regular Army.

He was given a new title created for him, Chief of Staff of the Army.

On Christmas Eve, 1864, John married again. His new bride, Mary Emeline "Emma" Hurlburt, had been working as a governess for the Lum family in Vicksburg when she caught John's eye. He had been assigned to protect her from the unwanted attentions of roaming Union soldiers. After she returned to her home in Danbury, Connecticut, John continued to court her through the mail. Emma agreed to marry him even though he confessed that he would never forget his first wife.

Emma succeeded in ridding Rawlins of his habit of using profane language, which he was famous for in the Army.

As a young man, stationed on the West Coast and deeply missing his family, it was reported that Ulysses S. Grant went on drinking binges to such an extent that he was forced to resign from the Army in 1854. During the Civil War, a smear campaign about Grant's old drinking sprees began to spread. When Grant was away from his wife, Julia, and out from under the watchful eyes of John Rawlins, he did occasionally drink. However, reports of his drunkenness were greatly exaggerated. When John was forced to travel, he wrote to Grant, reminding him of his pledge to swear off alcohol. Rawlins also kept in touch with Julia apprising her of her husband's "health" and state of mind.

A doctor had prescribed the General two glasses of wine a day during the Vicksburg Campaign. Rawlins bullied Grant into foregoing his "prescription." He wrote, "Had you not pledged me the sincerity of your honor...that you would drink no more during the War, and kept that pledge during your recent campaign, you would not have stood first in the world's history as a successful military leader."

After his victory at Vicksburg, Grant sent Rawlins to Washington, DC, as his emissary. Both Lincoln and Henry Halleck endorsed Grant's future plans and praised Rawlins.

Rawlins developed an ominous cough in the winter of 1863 but he continued to work. Grant referred to him as "the most nearly indispensable man he had around him." When Grant became President, he appointed John Rawlins Secretary of War. John's health began to decline rapidly after taking office. He refused to go to Arizona for his health, insisting that Grant needed him.

In August 1869, Rawlins began hemorrhaging while at home in Danbury. But when called to a meeting with Grant in Washington, he set out. On his way, he hemorrhaged badly in New York and again in DC. The next day, he attended a cabinet meeting. Grant left for Saratoga, NY, to vacation with his family.

Alone in Washington, Rawlins was soon bedridden. His wife, Emma was told that John was hemorrhaging repeatedly. Emma had given birth 17 days previously and the new infant daughter, Violet, was dangerously ill. Emma could not leave the baby to go to nurse John.

President Grant was notified about John's weakening condition. Rawlins waited patiently, trying to hold onto life until Grant could return from Saratoga to be at his deathbed. Each time he asked for Grant, he was gently told, "Just ten more minutes." Rawlins's wartime friend, General Ely Parker, was at his side and so was William Tecumseh Sherman. Grant arrived an hour after Rawlins's death.

John Aaron Rawlins died of consumption on September 6, 1869 just five months after taking office and three days after his infant daughter, Violet (17 days old), also died. He was 38 years old. His last act in office was to give approval for the building of the Brooklyn Bridge. He was buried in Congressional Cemetery.



After John's death, Emma Rawlins and President Grant were given joint custody of the children from John's first marriage, James, Jennie, and Emily. When Emma remarried, Grant had the three children sent to live with their maternal grandparents in Goshen, NY. Emma passed away in 1874 while on a trip to Cheyenne, Wyoming, trying to cure her consumption. Emma and John's first child, Mary, died soon after birth. Their son, Willie, lived less than one year.

James, Rawlins's son from his first marriage, had been sickly since his teenage years. He died in 1917 after spending over 20 years at The Craig Colony for Epileptics. Jennie lived in Toms River, NJ until her death in 1941. Emily died in 1897 in Newburgh, NY.

In 1899, Jennie and James attended the reinterment of their father to Arlington National Cemetery. In August 1918, Jennie's son committed suicide while a patient at Payne Sanitarium in Spokane, WA, a facility for chronic and nervous cases.

Ulysses S. Grant only mentioned Rawlins twice in his memoirs, choosing to ignore their long-time history. Friends of Rawlins, remembering his loyalty, dedication, and deep personal friendship with Grant, were outraged. Rawlins had been called Grant's "alter ego." He had spent years defending Grant against allegations of insobriety. He had loved Grant, been loyal to him, and was his most vocal advocate.

Historian E.B. Long wrote, "It might be that Grant did not wish to praise Rawlins too profusely because of the current reports picturing Rawlins as the protector of Grant from his own bad habits."

President Ulysses S. Grant did not attend John Rawlins's funeral.

Submitted by Judith Breitstein

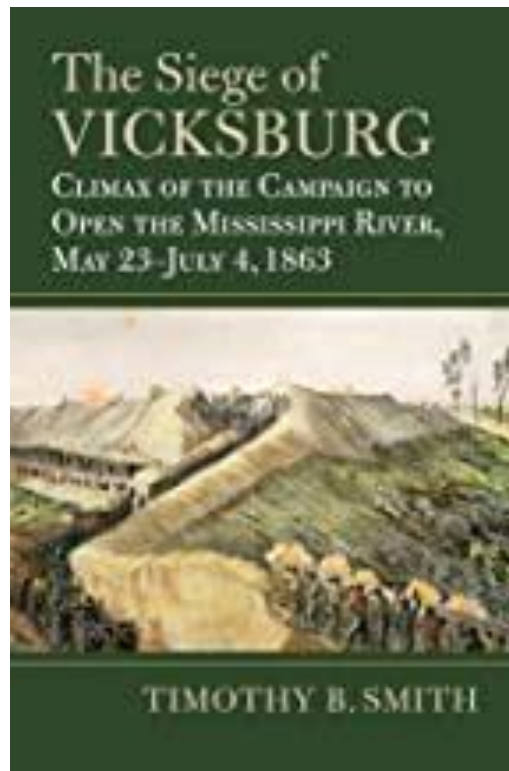


MICHIGAN WAR STUDIES REVIEW

2022-073. 14 July 2022

Review by Evan C. Rothera, University of Arkansas–Fort Smith. **The Siege of Vicksburg: Climax of the Campaign to Open the Mississippi River, May 23–July 4, 1863.** By Timothy B. Smith.

Timothy Smith is a prolific author of works on the US Civil War Era, with an emphasis on key battles and battlefield preservation. His most recent study is part of his multi-volume history of the Vicksburg Campaign a work meant to make good a deficit in the scholarship:



While historians have argued over that siege and the larger campaign and its importance in the Civil War, amazingly, the siege has not received its share of attention from historians.... [It] is often portrayed as a whimper at the end of the exciting land campaign leading to Vicksburg.... While the siege would not have been possible without the earlier efforts of the campaign, so the earlier gains in the campaign would not have netted much of anything without the final blow brought about by the siege. Often tacked on as a predestined or foreordained conclusion, the siege operations in and of themselves have a lot to offer to our understanding of the campaign and the War itself in terms of the extent of the operations, the complexity of the strategy and tactics, the grueling nature of the day-

by-day participation, and the effect on all involved (xv).

The first three chapters set the context by informing readers about the City of Vicksburg itself, the campaign, and the Union assaults of 19–22 May 1863. Vicksburg was a tough nut to crack.

[It] lay inside a cocoon of safety, shielded by the Mississippi River to the West, the Delta to the North, and the Big Black River to the East and South. One or more of these major water features would have to be breached, tamed, or conquered for the Union forces to even approach Vicksburg, and that did not even factor in the actual capture of the City, which was itself ringed with fortifications along the half-circle to the North, East, and South, especially on each major thoroughfare's entrance into the City. In actuality, just reaching Vicksburg was problematic enough, but then taking it would prove just as difficult (4).

General Ulysses Grant's various approaches included a particularly inventive and arduous idea involving constructing a canal across De Soto Peninsula in an attempt to re-route the Mississippi River. Grant, assisted by Admiral David Porter's fleet, eventually crossed the River below Vicksburg and fought a daring campaign that brought him to the very gates of the City. Smith reviews the campaign as well as the failed assaults on 19 and 22 May 1863. The failure of the assaults made it clear that a siege would be necessary and made both armies think "that nothing was likely to change for the foreseeable future" (48).

Smith's subsequent chapters analyze, in vivid and exhaustive detail, how the siege unfolded. Grant, perturbed that Vicksburg did not fall to his assaults, realized he would need to take the City by siege. As soldiers started digging, he called in reinforcements and fretted over what Confederate General Joseph Johnston, summoned to relieve Vicksburg, was doing. But "Johnson exhibited from the start a lethargic attitude" (73) and, Smith argues, missed the moment to strike Grant in early June, when his 31,000 soldiers together with General John Pemberton's 29,000 outnumbered Grant's 56,000 men (before reinforcements arrived). But the two spent most of the siege talking past each other; Smith concludes that "Johnston was probably not the right man for the job of relieving Vicksburg. It would take a bold leader willing to take a gamble for it to work—and Johnston was not that bold leader" (77). Nevertheless, Grant fretted on.

"If the first couple of days after the May 22 assault consumed both sides in getting their bearings and setting up more lengthy siege operations," Smith comments, "the last week in May saw those operations come in full force." As May turned into June, "almost all elements of the full-fledged siege became present" (89). Life assumed a monotonous rhythm for many soldiers. This did not mean that siege life was safe—"there was ... constant danger in the midst of the work on the front lines; the soldiers always being within range of the

Confederates and drawing closer every day" (139). Sharpshooting and artillery fire played an important role during the siege. Furthermore, Smith asserts, "one of the truly important but often overlooked aspects of the Vicksburg Campaign, including the siege in large part, was the Union naval contribution" (91).

By late June, US engineering efforts had reached what Smith calls a more professional stage. He discusses the effect of mines under the Rebel lines. Vicksburg surrendered on the Fourth of July, triggering great hatred, humiliation, and resentment among the Rebels, quite apart from charges that Pemberton was a traitor. After the surrender, however, "many Confederates were just glad to finally be out from the ordeal—win or lose" (509). The consequences of Grant's victory were profound: "the fall of Vicksburg severely damaged Confederate morale and military power in the Mississippi Valley, especially with a full army and all its weaponry and equipment lost" (533). That said, Vicksburg itself became a "backwater position" (535) as people turned their attention elsewhere. Smith's account of what happened in Vicksburg after the soldiers left is jejune. One misses comments about post-siege life in the City and how it has been remembered, misremembered, and commemorated.

The great strength of the book is the remarkable array of voices the author weaves into his narrative. His bibliography features hundreds of manuscript collections, government documents, memoirs, and newspapers. Smith discusses the usual suspects, of course—Grant, Sherman, and McPherson; Pemberton and Johnston talking past each other; and McClernand feeling slighted. But he also includes numerous observations by soldiers and civilians, known and unknown. Some Union soldiers sympathized with the civilians in Vicksburg; others did not. Samuel Irwin, for example, observed that Rebel "citizens are coming to grief—tired of their evil deeds now since it has overtaken them" (116). Smith includes examples of mordant humor. For example, US soldiers commented that rats fled from Vicksburg to avoid being eaten and that "if their rats are coming, the Rebels must also be soon tamed" (201). Grant himself joked about Pemberton being superseded in command by General Starvation. Rebels made sarcastic comments about "mule liver hashed, à la explosion" and "mule tongue, cold à la bray" (202).

In his engrossing new study of the Siege of Vicksburg, Timothy Smith offers a fascinating overview of how U.S. Grant, his generals, and his soldiers, captured the Gibraltar of the Confederacy.

Submitted by Bruce A, Castleman, Ph.D

2023 WEST COAST CIVIL WAR CONFERENCE

November 3 - 5, 2023



WYNDHAM GARDEN HOTEL, 5090 East Clinton Way, FRESNO, CA 93727-1506, (1-844-208-0446, 1-559-494-4992, or 1-559-252-3611), \$112.00 per night with Group Block ID# 141218, (Fresno Airport).

“160th Anniversary of the Vicksburg Campaign.”

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

SPEAKERS & TOPICS:

General Parker Hills; Author & Civil War Tour Guide; Various topics on Vicksburg. General U.S. Grant (Dr. Curt Fields); Grant Interpreter; Grant at Vicksburg. Jim Stanbery; Educator & Historian; Grant vs Pemberton. Ron Vaughan; San Joaquin Valley CWRT; Battle of Milliken's Bend & The Adventures of Bowen's Missouri Troops in the Bayous.

Friday Night Dinner Begins at 5:30 PM.

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

EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION: \$225.00 PER PERSON for Weekend, including meals until October 1, 2023. After October 1, \$250.00. Breakfast on your own. Coffee, water, and pastries provided during the Conference.

(Non participants who wish Dinner Friday or Saturday nights: \$35.00 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.**