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October, 2024

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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 for now.

James C. Juanitas, President

MINUTES
SACRAMENTO CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
Wednesday, September 11, 2024
R Vida Cantina Restaurant, 7040 Sunrise Boulevard, Citrus Heights

ATTENDANCE – 13

MEMBERS – 12: Carol Breiter, Vice President; James Armstrong, Jean Breiter, Harvey & Marsha J. Cain, Wayne & Nina Henley, Joseph (MAL) & Michelle Matalone, Stuart & Andrea Sheffield, & Peggy Tveden.

GUESTS – 1: Unknown guest.

1. The meeting was called to order by Vice President Carol Breiter at 7:00 PM. There was no Pledge of Allegiance or raffle.
2. Vice President Breiter showed a 1994 Episode of Civil War Journal featuring Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain. The Journal featured many facts about his personal and professional lives.
3. After discussions, the evening ended at 7:56 PM.
4. The next Executive Board Meeting is Wednesday, October 9, 2024, 10:00 AM, at Brookfields near Madison and I-80. Members and guests are welcome.

Submitted by Carol Breiter for Secretary (Vacant)

Treasurer's Report

The cash balance on September 11th was \$5,534.71. There was no raffle.

George W. Foxworth, Treasurer



Doug Bonetti will be doing five lectures this Spring at OLLI (Osher Lifelong Learning Institute) at Sierra College from 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM starting March 6, 2025 and finishing April 15, 2025. Check out <https://www.sierracollege.edu/about-sierra-college/employee-office-directory/osher-lifelong-learning-institute-olli-2/> for more information.

Coming Programs for 2024 & 2025

| Date | Speaker | Topic |
|---------------|--------------------|---|
| October 9th | "Doug Bonetti" | "The Battle of Franklin, TN & My Personal Travelogue" |
| November 13th | "To Be Determined" | "To Be Determined" |
| December 11th | "To Be Determined" | "To Be Determined" |
| January 8th | "To Be Determined" | "To Be Determined" |
| February 12th | "To Be Determined" | "To Be Determined" |
| March 12th | "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

Kate Warne

No one really knew if Kate Warne was a widow or if she had truly been born in 1833 in upstate New York. In fact, no one was ever able to ascertain whether Mrs. Kate Warne was really her true name. The young woman who appeared at the Chicago office of the Alan Pinkerton Detective Agency in answer to an advertisement for new agents could have come from anywhere. In the mid-19th Century, many single women chose to represent themselves as married or widowed in order to gain a foothold into the working world. Single women were expected to remain at home in the care of a relative until they were either wed or farmed out to a family member as a companion.



There were no female detectives at this time but that did not deter Kate. She insisted that a woman would be perfect for “worming out secrets in many places which would be impossible for a male detective.” She was a master at regional dialects, southern accents, and could change her appearance to suit her whim. Kate swore that she had a knack for working herself into people’s trust and gaining their confidence.

Her argument must have been convincing. Alan Pinkerton hired her on August 23, 1856...the first female detective. He was not disappointed in his new agent. Two days after being hired, Kate went to work on her first undercover assignment. She proved to be successful in case after case.

As fears grew that the country would erupt into a civil war, the Pinkerton Agency was hired by the Philadelphia, Wilmington, and Baltimore Railroad to ferret out any information they could find on covert secessionist activity in the Baltimore

area. Rumors began to circulate that an attempt would be made on the life of President-elect Lincoln as he traveled through Baltimore on his way to Washington. Kate was one of five undercover agents sent to Baltimore to discover if any of the rumblings of traitorous activity were true. Kate checked into the elegant Barnum's Hotel dressed as a southern belle with a secessionist cockade pinned to her dress. Speaking with a thick Alabaman accent, Kate soon discovered the details of the assassination plot.

Lincoln allowed himself to be put into Pinkerton's custody once the threat was verified by a second party via Frederick Seward, son of the Secretary of State. The attack was to take place on February 23 once Lincoln disembarked his train. All southbound trains required a transfer to be made in Baltimore, Maryland. Lincoln would need to take a carriage for the two-mile trip to the next train station at Camden Street (later Camden Yards.) It was during this time that the assassins would strike.

It was Kate who devised the actual scheme to get Lincoln safely to Washington in order to take his oath of office. The rest of the Lincoln entourage was to keep to their planned schedule. Meanwhile Kate reserved four berths for her "sick brother and his family" on an earlier train. She took the last car, giving her the easiest and least crowded entrance and exit. It was Kate who dressed Lincoln in a shawl and told him to walk with a stoop so his height would be disguised. Lincoln held Kate's arm, making him appear to be an invalid traveling with the help of a doting sister. Kate never slept a wink until Lincoln was safely delivered to his hotel. It is believed that the Pinkerton Detective Agency adopted their slogan "We Never Sleep" from this incident.

Kate was part of the covert operation that broke the Rose O'Neal Greenhow spy ring in the Capitol City. She continued to successfully collect military intelligence for the Government throughout the War.

Pinkerton's brother, Robert, believed that Alan and Kate were having a "sordid relationship" and the company should not be paying for her to accompany him all over the country under the guise of being a married couple. They argued bitterly over Kate's expense account. Pinkerton believed that she earned every cent she was paid. She had proven the worth of female detectives and was made supervisor of the new Pinkerton Female Detective Division. Meanwhile Pinkerton discovered that his brother and two other lead detectives were clandestinely plotting to rid the detective agency of all female operatives. Pinkerton quickly put a stop to their plans.

So good was Kate at her job, few people have ever heard of her today. Historians are still unsure of where she came from, her true name and exactly

what she did during the Civil War. Much of her Government work was highly classified and kept undocumented. She kept undercover and portrayed herself as Mrs. Cherry, Mrs. Barley, Mrs. Potter, Kay, Kitty, Kate or Angie Warn, Warne, Warren, Warner. The great Chicago fire of 1871 that destroyed precious letters from Abraham Lincoln to his son, Robert, in Robert's office, also destroyed all the records of the Pinkerton Agency.

Kate's career was stopped short when she suddenly came down with pneumonia. On January 28, 1868, Kate died at the home of Alan Pinkerton of "congestion of the lungs." She was 34 - 35 years old. Pinkerton was at her bedside holding her hand when she passed. Kate was buried in the Pinkerton family plot in Graceland Cemetery, Chicago, Illinois. Her last name, if it was her last name, is incorrectly spelled on her tombstone.



In his will, Alan Pinkerton stipulated that Kate's plot could never be resold (as was the custom of the time). He wrote, "She has never let me down." Pinkerton credited Kate and his other top agent, Timothy Webster, for turning the Pinkerton Agency into a great success. Webster had been unmasked as a Union agent and hung for espionage by the Confederates on April 22, 1862. A cenotaph to him is in the Pinkerton plot near Kate's burial place.

One icy winter day in Chicago, Alan Pinkerton slipped on the street and suffered a deep gash to his tongue which soon turned gangrenous. The wound proved to be fatal and Pinkerton died on July 1, 1884. He was buried beside Kate.

After Pinkerton's death, his sons, Robert and William, fired all Pinkerton female sleuths. Police departments did not begin to hire women until 1891.

Submitted by Judith Breitstein

Woman of the Month

Elizabeth Chester Fisk

Aid Worker, Teacher

Born February 18, 1846 in Vernon, CT

Died April 21, 1927 in Berkeley, CA

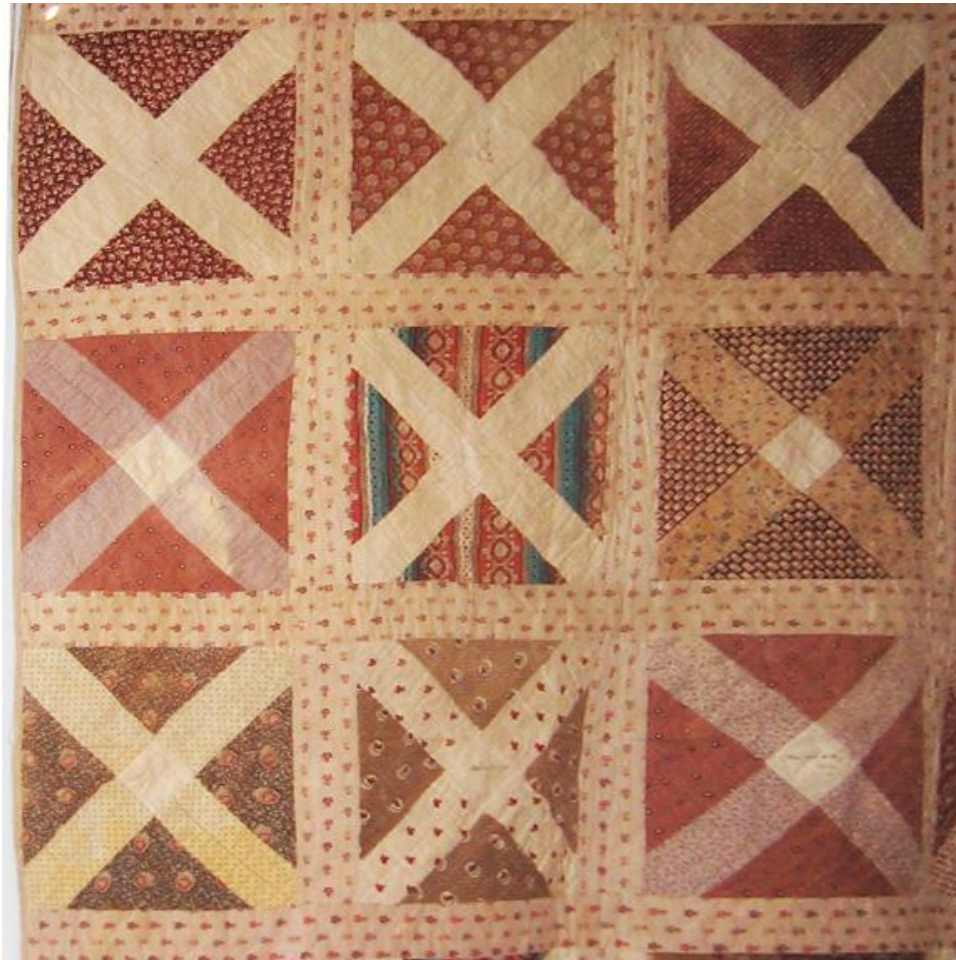


Elizabeth Chester was born in Vernon, Connecticut in February 1846 to Azubah Chester and her husband Isaac, a Congregationalist minister. The family expanded three years later with the addition of a daughter named Fanny. Fervent abolitionists, the Chesters were strong supporters of the Union cause throughout the Civil War.

Lizzie and her family joined the Patriotic Society of Vernon, an aid society largely comprised of parishioners of the First Congregational Church where her father ministered. Lizzie also worked as a teacher in the neighboring community of New Windsor.

One of the many activities of the Patriotic Society was sewing quilts for the Union Army. In the Fall of 1864, Captain Robert Fisk, 132nd New York Infantry, received one of these quilts from the U.S. Sanitary Commission, along with a note from Fanny Chester

identifying herself and the ladies of the Patriotic Society as the creators of the quilt. Robert sent a thank you note to Fanny, but since she was only 16 years old, it was improper for her to write a response. Lizzie replied to Robert, which began a correspondence lasting until the end of the War. Robert came to Vernon when he was discharged, and asked Lizzie to marry him. They wed in March 1867.



Quilt Sent to Captain Fisk by the Patriotic Society of Vernon.
Collection of the Lincoln Shrine, Redlands, CA

The newlyweds moved to the recently established mining town of Helena, Montana where Robert and his brothers owned a printing press. Lizzie and Robert lived in Helena for 32 years and had five children. The family moved to Berkeley, California in 1902. Robert died in 1908 and Lizzie passed away in 1927.

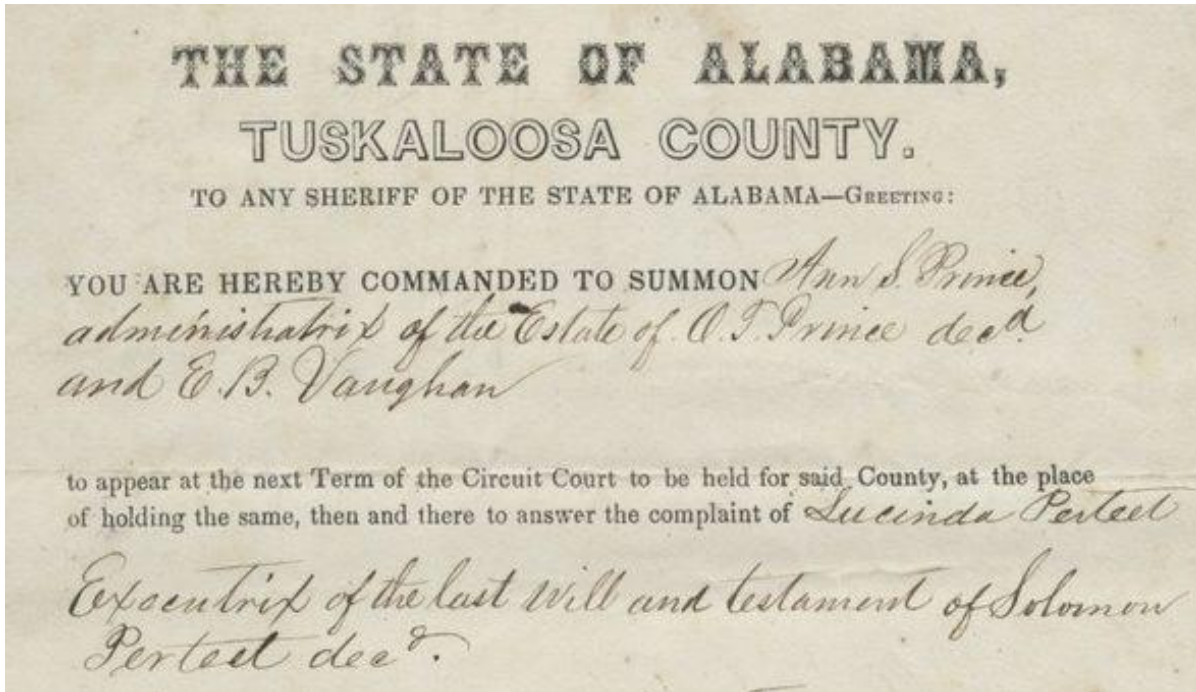
Lizzie's letters are archived at the Montana Historical Society. They paint a fascinating picture of life on the frontier during the second half of the 19th Century. Her letters were edited by Paula Petrik and published in 1991 as *Lizzie: The Letters of Elizabeth Chester Fisk, 1864-1893*. To learn even more about Lizzie, find "Mothers and Daughters of Eldorado: The Fisk Family of Helena, Montana, 1867-1902" in *Montana: The Magazine of History*.

--Maria Carrillo Colato

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

Solomon Perteet: "He Is Not Dead But Sleeping"

By Norman Dasinger, Jr., June 23, 2024 (originally published February 18, 2022)
Blue and Gray Education Society



Perteet paperwork | University of Alabama Libraries

In an August 13, 2020, commentary, the Tuscaloosa County (Alabama) Preservation Society wrote: "In 1860, there were 84 free African Americans in Tuscaloosa County . . . Solomon Perteet was the most well-known [of that group]."

Born in Wilkes County, Georgia, Solomon was the illegitimate son of a White mother named Ruth Perteet, who was a member of a family of small-scale slaveholders. At age 11, Solomon was bound out to serve as an apprentice bricklayer until age 21.

Perteet married his first wife, a free woman of color, in Georgia in 1818. By 1820, he had purchased a slave and by 1830 he had arrived in Tuscaloosa. Ben Windham, Editorial page Editor of *The Tuscaloosa News*, published an article about Solomon Perteet on March 18, 2001. In it, Windham wrote: "Around the time he arrived in Tuscaloosa, he bought another slave, Lucinda, but she was to become his second wife. Perteet petitioned the Alabama Legislature to free her and her son William, whom he bought at the same time. . . In 1860, on the eve of the Civil War, he owned six slaves."

The previously mentioned August 13, 2020, article stated: "In addition to being a skilled plasterer and brick layer, Perteet was a storekeeper, a real estate dealer and a partner in a tannery company . . . He made most of his money in real estate. He acquired 713 acres of land, 20 city lots, and one building. In seven recorded transactions, Perteet sold 589 acres of land and 7.5 city lots. . . [He] not only loaned money to Whites but when they did not repay, took them to court with the juries ruling in Perteet's favor in each of the eight cases."

He died on October 3, 1863. Windham wrote: "One of his daughters inherited \$8,000. The other received a paltry \$200. . . The building on University Boulevard [2221 University Blvd.] where he had his store for 20 years remains. It may be the only antebellum Black-owned building still standing in Tuscaloosa."



Gravestone of Solomon Perteet, Greenwood Cemetery, Tuscaloosa, AL

He was buried in the section of Greenwood Cemetery reserved for Whites. Due to his reasonable fortune, he was able to buy a plot for himself and family in the White section. His gravestone reads "Solomon Perteat [sic], a free man of color born in Wilkes County, Georgia, died at his home near this City, Oct. 3d 1863, aged 76 years. By an industrious, sober, frugal, and honest life, he earned and left his wife and children a handsome and comfortable estate. He is not dead but sleeping."

Submitted by the Blue and Gray Education Association