



**Volume 56, No 11
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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

The 32nd Annual West Coast Civil War Conference was held in Costa Mesa on October 28 - 30 and the turnout was good and several from Sacramento attended.

Many regular attendees from other clubs were present and we all felt it was very well-presented and quite successful. The theme was "War and Remembrance." The speakers were excellent and included Ted Savas, Janet Whaley, Jim Stanbery, Evan Jones, Eric Wittenberg, Michael Oddenino, James Hessler, Cheryl Wilkinson, Paul Gillette, Meg Groeling, and Nick Smith.

The Conference was excellent and organized by Joann Knowles, Janet Whaley, and their committee consisting of Duane and Miriam Benell, Carol Collacott, Ron Hyde, Ken Kurtz, Michael Oddenino (a superb auctioneer), Susan Sweet, John Schuetz, and speakers Nick Smith and Jim Stanbery. Lee Meredith and Ted Savas (also a speaker) were there and sold many books.

Also, attendees and supporters were there in abundance and it is always a pleasure to encounter old friends who help to keep the interest and support of the study of this important event in American History alive. Groups such as ours exist to preserve the battlefields and knowledge of the sacrifices of our forefathers who gave their all.

We welcome Carolyn Martin at our next meeting on November 9th, and her topic is "Women In The Civil War." I look forward to seeing you there.

Don Hayden, Vice President

MINUTES
SACRAMENTO CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
Wednesday, October 12, 2016
HOF BRAU RESTAURANT, 2500 WATT AVENUE, SACRAMENTO

ATTENDANCE – 30

MEMBERS – 24: Don Hayden, Vice President, George W. Foxworth, Treasurer, Barbara Leone, Secretary, Silver Williams, Program Director, Roy Bishop, Harvey Cain, Marsha Jutovsky, Monica Foxworth, Arnd Gartner, Ron Grove, Bob Hanley, Nina Henley, Wayne Henley, Arnold Kunst, Horst Penning, Bernie Quinn, John Rice, Nancy Samuelson, Nick Scivoletto, Roxanne Spizzirri, Raymond Valdez, Michael Werner, John Zasso, Vivian Zasso.

GUESTS – 6: Esther Boeck, Zack Holder, Sherri Patton, Larry Spizzirri, Richard Spizzirri, Matt Vega.

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Don Hayden and he led the Pledge of Allegiance. John Zasso supervised the raffle. Our speaker, Sherri Patton, teaches History and International Studies at Sacramento City College. She spoke to us about "Civil War Diplomacy."
2. We began by discussing what was necessary for the South to create a new nation. A constitution giving all power to the states was required. The establishment of a sense of identity was essential. This was done with shared values including national relics, a shared enemy, songs, and culture. Perhaps most important was international recognition. A new government needed to raise and supply a military including flags, uniforms, etc.
3. It was pointed out there was an internal contradiction as was demonstrated by the difficulty of levying and collecting taxes from all the states. Strong leadership was lacking (as some preferred) and politics consisted of a one-party system. Imposing the draft was another conflict.
4. Professor Patton discussed some lesser known personalities such as Charles Francis Adams, the son of President John Quincy Adams and grandson of President John Adams. He was the American minister in England who did not want Britain to recognize the South.
5. Britain did not support the South because of slavery. But there was more to the diplomacy than the obvious. The British felt a greater affinity with the aristocratic structure of Southern society. Social acceptability in British circles was important in diplomacy. Adams felt snubbed by the aristocracy and was offended by it. In addition, he was not that skilled a diplomat or politician.
6. The United States Secretary of State diplomacy was the responsibility of William H. Seward. He wanted to go to war with England thinking that would prevent the Civil War. He was more concerned with his own power and re-election. His decisions were directed at the domestic audience rather than international reality.
7. Senator Charles Sumner was considered a moralist and a fanatic. He was a rare Easterner who talked about the enslavement of Native Americans.
8. William Lowndes Yancey, a wealthy friend of Jefferson Davis, was one of the secessionist "fire eaters," another example of the failure of the South to choose good diplomats.
9. A Swiss American named Henry Hotze was a successful Southern propagandist who spoke at rallies in manufacturing areas, appealing to the British working class who were losing jobs due to the embargo.
10. The great celebrity Rose Greenhouse went to England and France as a diplomat. Although she had conferences with Napoleon III, she did not convince either country to recognize the South.
11. The British Prime Minister Lord Palmerston favored the South but the working class would not support a government based on slavery. Both the North and the South were unrealistic in thinking Britain would support either. Emperor Napoleon III was more concerned with invading Mexico and installing Maximilian as Emperor.
12. In 1861, two Confederate envoys were removed from a British steamer (Trent) by the US Navy ship USS San Jacinto. Known as the "Trent Affair," it was the closest the British came to supporting the South. However, Britain did build ships such as the very successful privateer CSS Alabama while proclaiming she supported neither side.
13. The South's inability to appreciate how their diplomacy did not work in their favor is a telling part of the War.
14. The next Board meeting will be Wednesday, November 9, 2016 at 10:00 AM at Brookfield's Restaurant.

Barbara Leone, Secretary

Treasurer's Report

The cash balance following the October 12th meeting was \$5,382.10. Thanks to John Zasso, other members, and guests, the raffle brought in \$50.00.

George W. Foxworth, Treasurer

Coming Programs for 2016 & 2017

Date	Speaker	Topic
November 9th	Carolyn Martin	"Women in the Civil War"
December 14th	Nicholas Scivoletto	"A Civil War Quiz"
January 11th	To Be Determined	To Be Determined
February 8th	To Be Determined	To Be Determined
March 8th	To Be Determined	To Be Determined
April 12th	To Be Determined	To Be Determined

2017 Membership

The 2017 membership renewal is due as of January 1, 2017. The dues are \$20.00 and you can renew at a monthly 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

Remember, you can also pay at any monthly meeting.

NEWSLETTER CIVIL WAR ARTICLES

Civil War articles/book reviews are welcome. The submission deadline is the 1st 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

Do not submit scanned files since I may need to edit files to combine the **Battle Cry**.

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.

IRA C. SHAW

Ira C. Shaw, a Union veteran of the Civil War, moved to Sacramento in the years after the War. He helped build our great city and is buried here.



Ira Shaw was born in Massachusetts in 1836 and enlisted in 1861. He fought in the Battles of Mechanicsville, Malvern Hill (where he was wounded), South Mountain, Antietam, and Fredericksburg, among others, with the 29th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry.

He was granted a medical discharge in March 1863. Shaw later worked for the Southern Pacific Railroad Company from 1865 until 1906.

Submitted by - Sebastian Nelson (sebnelson@gmail.com)

Mary Lincoln's Half Brothers

Submitted by Judith Breitstein

Mary Todd was born on December 13, 1818, the fourth child in a wealthy Southern, slaveholding family. She was 6 years-old when her mother, Eliza Parker Todd, passed away from complications in childbirth. Barely fourteen months later, her father married Elizabeth (Betsy) Humphreys. Betsy bore Robert Todd 9 children in quick succession. Mary's dislike of Betsy Humphreys was fostered by her maternal grandmother, who was infuriated by her son-in-law's hasty remarriage.

Mary moved in with her older sister, Elizabeth Edwards, in Springfield, Illinois in the fall of 1839. It was here she met and married Abraham Lincoln on November 4, 1842. Her father, Robert Todd, died during the cholera epidemic in Lexington in 1849. Betsy was forced to sell their Lexington city home and move onto their plantation.

During the White House years, many rumors spread that Mary Lincoln was pro-Confederate and sided with her Southern family. Her full brother, George Rogers Clark Todd, served as a surgeon with the Confederate Army. After the War, he was investigated for the brutal treatment of Union soldiers under his care. Three of Mary's half brothers and her brother-in-law served and died while in service in the Confederate Army.

People watched Mary closely to see if she mourned their passing. She was quoted as saying about her youngest brother Aleck... "...since he chose to be our deadly enemy, I see no special reason why I should bitterly mourn his death." Mary loved her second set of siblings and never referred to them as "half." However, once the War began, she turned her back on her Kentucky relations as she felt they had betrayed her and her husband.



Mary Lincoln's half-brothers

In her will, Betsy Humphreys left money to establish a memorial to honor her fallen sons. It is inscribed: "In Memory of My Boys, Samuel B. Todd, David H. Todd, Alexander H. Todd. All Confederate Soldiers."

Samuel Todd (1830-1862) was the first of Mary's brothers to die, killed at the Battle of Shiloh in April 1862.

Alexander (Aleck) Todd (1839-1862), youngest of Mary's brothers, served as an aide to his sister Emilie's husband, Confederate General Benjamin Helm (killed at Chickamauga 1863). Aleck was killed in a friendly fire incident outside Baton Rouge, Louisiana, in 1862.

David Todd (1832-1871) ran away from home at 14 to serve in the Mexican War. He was regarded as the black sheep of the family. Later, he enlisted in the Confederacy and was in charge of the captured Yankees at Libby Prison in Richmond. He was notorious for his unusually harsh and, some said, vicious treatment of the Union prisoners. After 2 months, he was removed by Jefferson Davis.

James B. Conroy Synopsis: Our One Common Country



Harper's Weekly, February 18, 1865

"Flying to Abraham's Bosom"

Courtesy of Applewood Books, Carlisle, MA

Shortly after breakfast on a false spring day in the winter of 1865, Abraham Lincoln slipped out of the White House alone and into a waiting carriage. To deceive passersby, his Irish-born valet, carpetbag in hand, lagged a minute or two behind him. A train with a single car had been summoned to take him to Annapolis, where the fastest ship on Chesapeake Bay would be ready to run him south to Hampton Roads, Virginia for a peaceful talk with the enemy in the midst of a shooting war. It had never happened before. It has never happened since. Apart from his Secretary of State, who had quietly gone ahead of him, neither his Cabinet nor his staff had been told that he was going.

After nearly four years of War, over 600,000 young Americans were dead, the battered Rebel armies were cornered, and the rebellion was nearly broken, but no one knew when it would end. A Federal push to victory would kill tens of thousands more, humiliate the South, and delay for generations what Lincoln wanted most -- a reunited nation healed of its painful wounds. Reasonable men on both sides were coming to Hampton Roads in search of a way out.



Abraham Lincoln. Photo taken on Sunday, February 5, 1865, two days after the peace conference.

As Lincoln headed south, three Rebel peace envoys were on their way to meet him in Ulysses S. Grant's dispatch boat. Evading his orders and exceeding his authority, Grant had passed them through his siege line to the cheers of the combatants on both sides and convinced the embattled President (using fair means and foul) that the three Southern doves were prepared to accept his surprising terms for peace.

On the other side of Grant's siege line, Robert E. Lee was praying for their success and Jefferson Davis was plotting their failure. Under pressure from his left to accept Lincoln's invitation to negotiate the restoration of "our one common country," the defiant Confederate president had chosen as his spokesmen three leaders of Richmond's growing peace movement and given them a mandate to bring peace to "two countries," expecting them to fail and incite the Southern people to a war of desperation. To avert a pointless death struggle, the President of the United States and the men in Grant's dispatch boat would have to square that circle.



John A. Campbell, the Confederate Assistant Secretary of War

It was Francis Preston Blair, the Southern-born patriarch of Blair House, a friend and collaborator of the late Andrew Jackson's, a confidant of Abraham Lincoln's, and a father figure to Jefferson Davis, who had set it all in motion with an audacious scheme to combine Grant's army with Lee's and attack a foreign foe as a glorious path to reunion. In a month of shuttle diplomacy, Blair had restored old friendships in Richmond and persuaded Jeff Davis to endorse the idea. With Washington full of intrigue over an imminent vote in Congress on a Constitutional Amendment banning slavery, Lincoln agreed to the peace talks surreptitiously, misleading pro-Southern Democrats and enraging the Republican right.



Senator Robert M. T. Hunter of Virginia

On February 3, 1865, Lincoln and his charming Secretary of State, William H. Seward, sat down with Davis's emissaries on the paddle-wheeler "*River Queen*," the Air Force One of its day. It was a gathering of old friends. Davis's eccentric Vice President, Alexander Hamilton Stephens, led the Southern delegation. Weighing less than 100 pounds, "Little Alec" had been Lincoln's ally in the Congress of 1848 in a movement to end the Mexican War. The aristocratic Senator Robert M. T. Hunter of Virginia had been Seward's friend and colleague in the Old Senate. The third Rebel negotiator, the brilliant Alabamian John Archibald

Campbell, a former Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court, now the Confederacy's Assistant Secretary of War, had worked hard with Seward to stop the fighting before it started. Their reunion at Hampton Roads began in a glow of nostalgia, descended into threats, and ended with a glimpse of Lincoln's startling compromise, which was sure to enrage his own party.



Secretary of State William H. Seward

With a prologue drawn from vivid accounts of the suffering on the battlefield and the jubilation that greeted the Rebel peacemakers when they crossed the Union lines, *"Our One Common Country"* is a character-driven story, never told at book length before, meticulously researched in the primary sources. In captivating detail, it explores the peace conference's origins, its failure, and its aftermath, including Lincoln's alliance with Stephens in the Old House; Seward's friendship with Davis in the Old Senate; Blair's wartime maneuverings in Richmond with the leaders of the Southern peace movement; Secretary of War Edwin Stanton's attempts to sabotage the peace talks; the outrage they provoked in Congress and in Lincoln's own cabinet; the Northern leaders' moving conversations with their old Southern friends on the *"River Queen"*; Grant's surreptitious efforts to negotiate peace with Lee and evade Stanton's efforts to derail them; and Lincoln's poignant search for a path to reconciliation in the smoking ruins of Richmond after the peace conference failed.



Alexander Hamilton Stephens, Vice President of the Confederate States of America

Shedding new light on Lincoln, Davis, the powerful men, and influential women around them, the tragedy of the Civil War, and its meaning for the intractable political wars of our own troubled times, *"Our One Common Country"* tells the fascinating story of how Lincoln and his contemporaries tried to break the political logjams in Washington and Richmond, find a peaceful compromise, save tens of thousands of lives, and change American history.