



**Volume 57, No 11
November, 2017**

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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

November has arrived and our Conference is upon us. The speakers are scheduled, hotel arrangements made and confirmed, and we are anticipating a successful Conference. Our Committee, headed by Paul Ruud, has worked diligently. Success still depends on attendance and I encourage those interested to register today or at the Conference.

In October, we had the election of officers for the next two years starting in January, 2018. Dennis Kohlmann will be President having done a two-year term in the past decade. I will remain as Vice-President. Barbara Leone will remain as Secretary. George W. Foxworth will remain as our Treasurer. Silver Williams will remain as the Program Chair. Paul Ruud will remain as Member at Large and joined by Richard Sickert as Member-at-Large. The Battle Cry Editor remains open.

This Round Table has profited from many loyal members and officers over the years and will depend on continued support from our members if we intend to survive.

Many thanks to fellow member Arnold Kunst who discussed "The Wit and Wisdom of Abraham Lincoln."

Due to the annual 2017 West Coast Civil War Conference, there will be no meeting in November. However, we hope that many of you can attend the Conference, November 10 - 12, 2017. We hope to see you there.

Don Hayden, Vice President

MINUTES
SACRAMENTO CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
Wednesday, October 11, 2017
HOF BRAU RESTAURANT, 2500 WATT AVENUE, SACRAMENTO

ATTENDANCE – 25

MEMBERS – 18: Don Hayden, Vice President, George W. Foxworth, Treasurer, Barbara Leone, Secretary, Jim Armstrong, Roy Bishop, Alan Geiken, Nina Henley, Wayne Henley, Chris Highsmith, Arnold Kunst, Horst Penning, John Rice, Paul Ruud (MAL), Nick Scivoletto, Richard Sickert, Roxanne Spizzirri, Ray Valdez, John Zasso.

GUESTS – 7: Dudley Albrecht, Esther Boeck, Larry Spizzirri, Richard Spizzirri, Dan Wolfe, Faye Wolfe, Don A. Zajic.

1. The meeting was called to order by Don Hayden who led the Pledge. John Zasso conducted the raffle. Don announced the slate of the new Board: Dennis Kohlmann-President, Don Hayden-Vice President, George W. Foxworth-Treasurer, Barbara Leone-Secretary, Silver Williams-Program Director, Richard Sickert-Member at Large, Paul Ruud-Member at Large. (No member volunteered for Editor.) John Zasso moved to accept the slate and it was seconded. There will be no evening meeting in November. Dudley Albrecht requests a ride home after the Conference on Saturday night to the Arden Fair, Howe Avenue/Cottage Way area.
2. Our speaker, Club member Arnold Kunst has written a book, Lincoln 365 A Primer in Patriotism as Lived by Abraham Lincoln. His presentation centered on a discussion of Lincoln's philosophies and how he was able to communicate them in a unique style. Arnold's fascination with Lincoln began in high school. He noted many would say Lincoln lived in a state of chronic depression; laughter was his coping mechanism. "Laughter is the joyful, beautiful universal evergreen of life." Abraham Lincoln. He constantly found humor in his own appearance. He was "country" and at times would answer the White House door himself. He polished his own boots, astounding a Cabinet member.
3. He often began a response with "That reminds me of a story"...He was able to store innumerable jokes and stories in his mind and pull out the one that best fit the situation.
4. When in the Summer of 1862 he read the first draft of the Emancipation Proclamation to the Cabinet, they were stunned. He prefaced the reading saying he was not asking for discussion; he was convinced of his decision. Arnold believes this presidential decision had the greatest impact of any policy decision in the country's history.
5. Near the end of the War, Grant asked Lincoln if Jefferson Davis should be captured or allowed to escape. Lincoln related a story indicating he was required to order capture but wouldn't mind if Davis escaped. The quote paired with this is from Josh Billings: "There is no revenge so complete as forgiveness."
6. In order to reduce the time needed to receive and respond to telegraphs from the front, Lincoln spent considerable time in the telegraph office. When his son Tad ruined a marble table, he did not scold him but stated Tad was being abused by the head telegrapher. Both Lincolns believed their boys should be allowed to be children before the troubles of adulthood were upon them.
7. The President was besieged daily by those looking for appointment. One man asked to take the place of the postal inspector who had just died. Lincoln responded "It's alright with me if it's alright with the undertaker."
8. The next Board Meeting will be Wednesday, December 13, 2017 at Brookfield's Restaurant.

Barbara Leone, Secretary

Treasurer's Report

The cash balance following the October 11th meeting was \$6,053.64. Thanks to John Zasso, other members, and guests, the raffle brought in \$29.00.

George W. Foxworth, Treasurer

Coming Programs for 2017 & 2018		
Date	Speaker	Topic
November 8th	Meeting is cancelled due to the West Coast Civil War Conference	N/A
December 13th	Robert Bundy	"Rebel Hunters of The Cumberland: In The Footsteps of The 15th Ohio Volunteer Infantry"
January 10th	Don Hayden	"Major Jonathan Letterman"
February 14th	Bernie Quinn	"Wyman White, Sharpshooter"
March 14th	To Be Determined	To Be Determined
April 11th	To Be Determined	To Be Determined

2017 Membership

The 2018 membership renewal is due as of January 1, 2018. 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 files that I cannot edit.

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.

Chaos in Lincoln's High Command

The President struggled to find a leader who could match Robert E. Lee. Russell S. Bonds reviews "Lincoln's Lieutenants" by Stephen W. Sear

By Russell S. Bonds

May 5, 2017, 1:57 PM ET

On April 15, 1861, three days after Confederate forces fired on Fort Sumter, President Abraham Lincoln issued a proclamation calling for 75,000 militiamen to oppose "combinations too powerful to be suppressed by the ordinary course of judicial proceedings." As men across the North rallied to the Old Flag, the focus turned from manpower to leadership. The U.S. Army's General-in-Chief was 74 year-old Winfield Scott, "Old Fuss and Feathers," whose best days were plainly behind him. A national hero who had served every president since Thomas Jefferson, Scott weighed 300 pounds and could no longer mount his horse. His contributions to the War effort would be strategic and administrative, his posting a desk in the War Department, or a corner table at Delmonico's.

LINCOLN'S LIEUTENANTS

By Stephen W. Sears

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 884 pages, \$38

He opens with Fort Sumter and marches apace to the White House and the halls of the War Department as Lincoln and Scott struggle to settle on a grand strategy. Rivalries flare as veteran officers seek out new commands and squabble over seniority and brevets and backdated promotions. Ohioan Irvin McDowell emerged from the pack to take command of the Army of Northeastern Virginia, a handful of brigades assembled near Washington. Soon to be renamed the Army of the Potomac, these bluecoats would become "somewhat the army of everyone," as one memoirist noted. "Everybody meddled in its affairs, blamed this one, praised that one, exalted such a one, abused such a one." In July, prodded by the President and the press, McDowell marched against the Confederate force posted just 25 miles from the Capital on the banks of a stream called Bull Run—and came back bloodied. This would be no 90-day War.

Thus begins the first in a series of Union setbacks: the embarrassing skedaddle at Manassas, a subsequent debacle at Ball's Bluff, and then a catalogue of failures by Generals from John Pope to Ambrose Burnside to Joseph Hooker. The first half of the book is dominated by the figure of George McClellan, elevated by Lincoln in November 1861 to replace the aging Scott and promptly anointed "the Young Napoleon" by the newspapers. Mr. Sears charges McClellan with all manner of military sins, from sluggishness to outright cowardice, as the General builds and trains a magnificent army and then for months fails to use it. Urged by Senator Benjamin Wade to replace him, Lincoln asked, "If I relieve McClellan, who shall I put in command?" Anybody, Wade cried. "Wade," Lincoln replied, "anybody will do for you, but not for me. I must have somebody."



Union Catalogue: Covers of brief biographies of Civil War leaders included in Duke cigarette packs beginning in 1888. PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES.

Gideon Welles

Everyone agreed that Gideon Welles could remain calm during a crisis, was scrupulously honest, incredibly efficient, and wore a really, really ill-fitting wig.



Gideon Welles (1802-1878) was a seventh generation American. His first ancestor, Thomas Welles, arrived here in 1635 and was the only man in Connecticut's history to serve as Governor, Deputy Governor, Treasurer, and Secretary. Gideon Welles married his first cousin, Mary Jane Hale (1817-1886), on June 16, 1835. He was 33, she was just 18.

Welles was vehemently against slavery. He would purchase slaves and then give them their freedom along with employment in his home. One such man, Henry Green, worked for the Welles family until 1911. Upon his death, it was discovered that Gideon Welles had provided a spot for him in the Welles family cemetery plot. Though there was much opposition to an ex-slave being buried in the prestigious Cedar Hill Cemetery, Welles' family made sure that his wishes were carried out.

Originally a Democrat, Welles clashed with his party over his strong anti-slavery views. In 1854, Welles helped to form the new Republican Party and supported Lincoln in the 1860 election. In March 1861, the new President appointed Welles to the cabinet position of Secretary of the Navy. Lincoln nicknamed Welles "Father Neptune." Welles had never wanted to be President himself. Many of the other cabinet members Lincoln had appointed, Secretary of State Frederick Seward, Attorney General Edward Bates, Secretary of the Treasury Salmon Chase, and Secretary of War Simon Cameron, had all sought the Presidential Nomination in 1860.

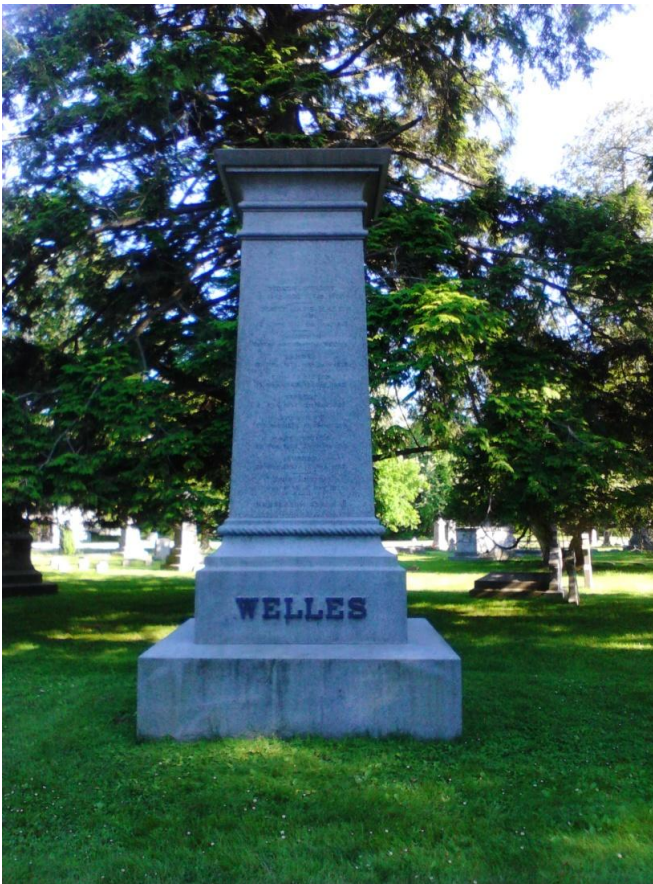
Welles hugely expanded the Navy. He was responsible for the creation of the Navy's Medal of Honor, fostered the creation of ironclad ships, urged blockading Confederate shipping, and pushed to improve steam technology. He also authorized enlistment of freed slaves to become naval officers. Welles continually butted heads with William Seward, who he felt meddled in what was Welles' territory, and Welles was very territorial.

Welles refused to become Lincoln's "yes" man. When Lincoln forwarded names to be nominated, Welles simply turned them down if he was at loggerheads with Lincoln. Welles also felt Lincoln was sentimental in his liberal pardoning of soldiers condemned to execution. He believes it sapped the fear out of military discipline.

Mary Jane Welles was one of the few close friends Mary Lincoln made and kept during her husband's term of office. Perhaps because Mrs. Welles lost so many of her own children to early deaths (six of their nine children predeceased her and her husband), she could pity Mrs. Lincoln and understand her depression. Mary Jane was the one Edwin Stanton summoned on the night of the Lincoln assassination to be at Mary Lincoln's side. Though ill herself, Mary Jane remained at the side of Mary Lincoln throughout that long night and the next day.

Of all the things he did, perhaps the most important was that Gideon Welles kept a careful diary of the Civil War years. The diary, constantly referred to by historians because of its very open, honest insider's view, is considered an invaluable, historical document. Welles' assessment of Lincoln was that he was "...in every way large...brain included."

After Lincoln's murder, Welles retained his position as Secretary of the Navy under President Andrew Johnson until the end of Johnson's term. He retired after that and returned home to Hartford, Connecticut. Ten years later, on February 12, 1878, Welles died of a strep infection. He is buried at Cedar Hill Cemetery in Hartford, Connecticut.



Submitted by Judith Breitstein



2017 West Coast Civil War Conference

Sponsored by Sacramento Civil War Round Table

Lesser Known Civil War Battles

November 10 - 12, 2017, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Sacramento

Our Speakers are:

William C. Davis: Retired in 2013 as Professor of History and Executive Director of the Virginia Center for Civil War Studies at Virginia Tech University. He is the author or editor of more than 60 books on the Civil War and Southern history, and consultant and commentator for A&E's "Civil War Journal," and several other television and film productions.

Dr. Brian S. Wills: Director of the Center for the Civil War Era at Kennesaw State University. Dr. Wills is a nationally recognized Civil War historian and author of books on Civil War topics.

Thomas Y. Cartwright: Is a leading authority and author on the Battle of Franklin who conducted tours of Western Theater battlefields for 20 years. Appeared on many TV shows and is a frequent CWRT speaker.

Jim Stanbery: Professor of Political Science and History at Los Angeles Harbor College, and speaker at the West Coast Civil War Conference for more than twenty years. Is a frequent CWRT speaker.

Theodore P. Savas: Is an attorney, adjunct college instructor, award-winning author, Partner and Managing Director of Savas Beatie LLC. He specializes in military history and the American Civil War.

Ronald Perisho: A member of the Sacramento CWRT and Center for Civil War Photography (CCWP), Co-Editor of "Gettysburg in 3-D," and a Soils Engineer who has collected Civil War Photography for 30 years.

The Conference cost is \$200 per person which includes Friday dinner, Saturday lunch and dinner, as well as all sessions. A full hotel breakfast buffet is included for guests staying at the hotel.

Partial day attendance: **Friday Only** is \$50; **Saturday Only** is \$125; **Saturday Dinner and Lecture Only** is \$50; **Sunday Only** is \$25.

There will be a no-host bar set-up Friday and Saturday evenings for your enjoyment before dinner.

For more information, contact Paul Ruud at 530-886-8806 or by contacting www.sacramentocwrt.com where information and registration forms will be available.

Room reservations are available by calling Crowne Plaza directly 877-504-0054 or www.crowneplaza.com Crowne Plaza Hotel has rooms set aside for us at \$124 per night, plus tax. Please mention the Conference.

Please print this page, fill it out, and return the form with your check for your registration. Make checks payable to: **Sacramento CWRT** and mail to: George W. Foxworth, 9463 Salishan Court, Sacramento, CA 95826-5233.

Name / Organization as you want it on your badge (Please Print):

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