



**Volume 59, 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 great seal of the Confederacy contained an image of George Washington. Many Southerners viewed the Civil War as the second American Revolution.

Just as the colonies in 1776 thought the British Government was abusing the colonies with laws that were against their best interests, the Southern States were unhappy with Federal policies. The two parts were pursuing different goals. The North needed things like national roads, canals and ports as they moved into industrialization more exporting of finished goods. The South was still an agrarian society.

As Richard Sickert pointed out in his presentation of financing the War, 90% of the Federal revenue came from taxes on imports, and most of it was spent in the North on improvements there. The South did not get a fair share of the improvements. Southern roads were terrible. Everyone knows that New Orleans was the largest city in the South. Few know that from 1861 to 1865, the second largest city in the South was wherever the Army of the Potomac was camped.

Dennis Kohlmann, President

MINUTES
SACRAMENTO CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
Wednesday, October 9, 2019
HOF BRAU RESTAURANT, 2500 WATT AVENUE, SACRAMENTO

ATTENDANCE – :

The October 2019 Minutes will be published at a later time.

Barbara Leone, Secretary

Treasurer's Report

The cash balance on October 9th was \$6,248.29. Thanks to Nicholas Scivoletto, other members, and guests, the raffle brought in \$28.00.

George W. Foxworth, Treasurer

Coming Programs for 2019 & 2020

Date	Speaker	Topic
November 13th	Jim Lane	"The Great Locomotive Chase"
December 11th	Nicholas Scivoletto	"General Order 100"
January 8th	Michael Werner	"The First Battle of Charleston Harbor, 1863"
February 12th	Robert Orr	"Civil War Music"
March 11th	Abigail Eller	"Benjamin Judah: The Brains of the Confederacy"
April 8th	Joe Maxwell & Jack Tucker	"What Happened After the War? Flights of the Confederates"

2020 Membership

The 2020 membership renewal is due as of January 1, 2020. 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

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.

The Beecher-Tilton Affair

After receiving his divinity degree, the Reverend Henry Ward Beecher honed his craft for the next ten years. He moved to Brooklyn, New York, already known as the “*city of churches*,” where he’d been hired to be the first pastor of the new Plymouth Congregational Church in Brooklyn Heights. As a boy, Henry had stuttered badly, perhaps due to the severe discipline practiced on him by his step mother. But he had outgrown this childhood defect and the Elders believed that this charismatic thirty three year-old preacher would fill every empty seat in their church.

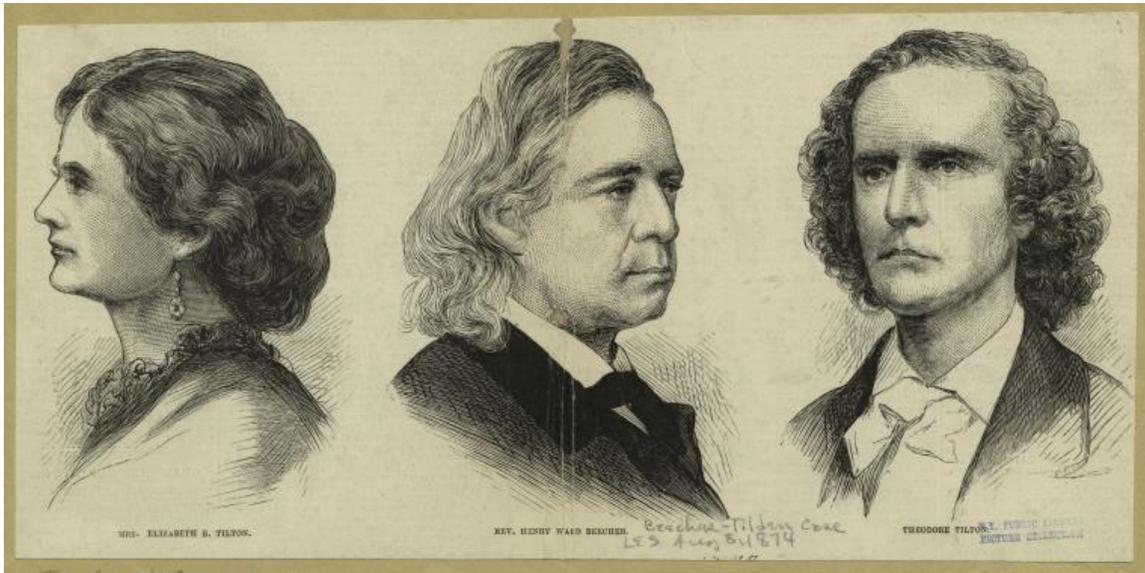
On October 10, 1847, Beecher gave his first sermon. The Congregation adored him. Soon there would be as many as three thousand congregants crowded into the two-story building every Sunday. Unlike other preachers of the day, he used simple language. Mark Twain said Beecher would occasionally, “...*stamp his foot three times in succession to emphasize a point.*” No one had seen his like before. Beecher had moved away from strict Calvinism and urged his congregants to concentrate on love. “*Man was made for enjoyment,*” he insisted from the pulpit. “*I don’t like these cold, precise, perfect people, who, in order not to speak wrong, never speak at all, and in order not to do wrong, never do anything.*”

Beecher, master of the *bon mot*, was earning the unheard of sum for a pastor of \$100,000 a year. Monday mornings found parishioners repeating his homilies, “*Into each life some rain must fall,*” “*A man never has good luck with a bad wife.*” Ferries from Manhattan put on extra boats to accommodate New Yorkers flocking to Brooklyn to hear him speak. He championed women’s rights, temperance, and better treatment of American Indians. He railed against anti-Semitism. He made his Church a stop on the Underground Railroad. He sent rifles (called Beecher’s Babies) to Kansas and Nebraska. He bought slaves and set them free. During the Civil War, at the request of Lincoln, he toured Europe, raising support for the Union cause. At War’s end, Lincoln personally asked him to speak at the flag-raising at Fort Sumter, saying, “*If it hadn’t been for Beecher there would have been no flag to raise.*”

Mark Twain wrote “*Mr. Beecher is a remarkably handsome man when he is in the full tide of sermonizing...but he is as homely as a singed cat when he isn’t...*” Homely or not, it was whispered that on any given Sunday evening, Beecher could be heard “*preaching to seven or eight of his mistresses.*” Women on their death beds confessed to “*criminal conversation*” with the pastor. Henry believed, “*It is not well for a man to pray cream and live skim milk.*” But no one could fill a collection plate faster than the Reverend Beecher. The Elders looked away.

So did Beecher’s wife. Henry had married Eunice White Bullard in 1837 after a five-year engagement. The marriage was an unhappy one. The couple had eight children, four of them, including a set of twins, dying before their first birthdays. Eunice was a published author, well read and very much aware of her husband’s adultery. Though Beecher insisted, “*The most important thing a father can do for his children is to love their mother,*” he didn’t practice what he preached.

No one seemed too surprised when Henry was sued for “*alienation of affections.*” What was shocking was that the plaintiff was Theodore Tilton, Beecher’s close friend and assistant editor at the Independent, a church journal, where they both worked.



Intelligent, cultured, and physically beautiful, both Tilton and his wife, Elizabeth Richards, were ardent devotees of Beecher's Church. Beecher had officiated at their wedding on October 10, 1835, Theodore's twentieth birthday. Like Beecher, Tilton was radical in his support of Abolition. He also supported female suffrage and the reform of divorce laws.

Though Beecher was the editor of the Independent, it was in name only. Theodore took on the full onus of writing and running the Journal. The two men considered each other "*the closest of soul-lovers.*" Along with Henry Bowen, the owner of the paper, they became known as the "*Trinity of Plymouth Church.*" Beecher was constantly at the Tilton home. Theodore excused it saying that Beecher had a "*wife who was not a mate.*" Elizabeth Tilton welcomed Beecher's visits as her husband traveled extensively, giving lectures on the evils of slavery. Beecher wrote to Tilton, "*When you come home...I will put my arms around your neck and kiss you on both cheeks.*" Apparently, what he was going to do with Tilton, he was already doing with Tilton's wife.

The guilt must have been too much for the delicate conscience of Elizabeth. On December 26, 1870, she confessed to her husband that since 1868 she had been having "*improper relations*" with their dearest friend. At first, Theodore kept his wife's shameful admission a secret. But soon enough he confided in his friend, the suffragette, Elizabeth Cady Stanton. Stanton repeated it to Victoria Woodhull, Free Love advocate, the first female Presidential candidate in the United States and Tilton's some-time lover. Victoria thought she could use this tidbit as blackmail to force Beecher to escort her to a lecture where she was to speak on Free Love. His presence would afford her a respectability she was missing. When he refused, she wrote an open letter about his debauchery to all the local papers. None would publish it, so she and her sister printed it in their own newspaper, Woodhull & Claflin's Weekly. Henry Bowen, whose wife was also one of Beecher's conquests, slyly mailed copies of the paper out-of-state. The sisters were arrested for sending obscene material through the U.S. mail.

The scandal had broken. Banned copies of Woodhull's paper were selling for as much as \$40 a copy. Tickets to the trial were being scalped for as much as \$5 each. Theodore had no choice but to sue. On June 21, 1874, he wrote a letter in his newspaper openly accusing Beecher of seducing his wife.

The trial began in January 1875. Elizabeth submitted a written statement but was not allowed to testify. Eunice Beecher stood by her husband, appearing at his side in court each day. Beecher's sister, Harriet Beecher Stowe, author of *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, almost bankrupted herself paying for her brother's lawyers. Henry Beecher declared that Elizabeth was mentally deranged and the entire Congregation knew her to be "*prone to delusions and infatuations.*" When asked direct questions, nine hundred times Beecher answered that he "*couldn't remember.*"



The trial lasted 112 days and ended in a hung jury. The Plymouth Church excommunicated Elizabeth Tilton but kept the Reverend Beecher on as their pastor. Some cried the verdict was a "*holocaust against womanhood.*" But in 1876, the largest Congregational Council ever held in the U.S. gave Beecher a vote of full confidence.

Theodore Tilton was granted a divorce and not required to pay alimony. He moved to Paris where he continued his writing and occasionally played chess with another expatriate, Judah Benjamin. He returned to the United States only once: to bury Elizabeth at Green-Wood Cemetery in Brooklyn after her death on April 14, 1897. Before her coffin was closed, he removed the gold wedding band that she still wore.

With his heel, he ground it into the newly turned earth over her grave. Caretakers at Green-Wood say people continue to come to her graveside with metal detectors hoping to find the ring. Elizabeth is buried apart from her children and family. No name or date marks her grave. Only the anonymous word *Grandmother* marks her resting place.



Theodore died of heart trouble complicated by double pneumonia in Paris on May 29, 1907. His surviving children did not go to France for his funeral nor make any attempt to bring him home for burial. He is interred in the Cimetiere de Chailly en Biere in Paris.

As for Beecher, Mark Twain bemoaned the fact that plain, little Elizabeth Tilton could “*clip the locks of this Samson and make him as other men...*” Twain would not allow his wife, once a close friend of Elizabeth’s, to speak to her again. But the scandal that was called The Trial of the Century did not seem to hurt Beecher’s reputation. In New York, a saying arose, “*Mankind is divisible into three classes—the good, the bad, and the Beechers.*”



Henry Ward Beecher died in his sleep of a stroke on March 8, 1887. He, too, is buried at Green-Wood Cemetery. His trial had divided his family. His wife refused to allow Henry’s sister, Isabella, to attend his funeral. Isabella was an acolyte of Victoria Woodhull and had stopped speaking to Henry years before---after he declared her insane for advocating a woman’s right to birth control.

“*No man is sane who does not know how to be insane on the proper occasion.*”
Henry Ward Beecher

Submitted by Judith Breitstein



2019 West Coast Civil War Conference

Sponsored by Sacramento Civil War Round Table

Civil War Leadership, 1861 - 1865

November 8 - 10, 2019, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Sacramento

Our Speakers are:

Chris Mackowski: A Professor of Journalism & Mass Communication at Saint Bonaventure University, & the author of more than 10 books. He works with the National Parks Service & is the founder of the Emerging Civil War Blog.

David A. Powell: A Vice-President of Airsped, Inc., a delivery firm. He has published many articles in magazines & historical simulations of different battles. He specializes & leads tours on the Battle of Chickamauga.

Sarah Kay Bierle: A Managing Editor for Emerging Civil War's Blog. She has spent the last few years researching, writing, & speaking across the Country about the American Civil War.

Paul Kahan: An expert on the political, diplomatic, & economic history of the United States in the Nineteenth Century. Dr. Kahan has published several books & is a former resident of Sacramento.

Jim Stanbery: A retired Professor of Political Science and History at Los Angeles Harbor College, and speaker at the West Coast Civil War Conference for more than thirty years. He 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.

Edwin L. Kennedy Jr.: A graduate of West Point & former Professor of the U.S. Army Command & General Staff College History Department & Combat Studies. He is the leader of staff rides, including the Battle of Chickamauga.

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 \$139 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):

Organization: _____

Name: _____

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