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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

Happy Veterans' Day

&

Happy

Thanksgiving

Dennis Kohlmann, President

MINUTES
SACRAMENTO CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
Wednesday, October 13, 2021
HOF BRAU RESTAURANT, 2500 WATT AVENUE, SACRAMENTO

ATTENDANCE – 0:

MEMBERS – 0: No meeting and no Members.

GUESTS – 0: No meeting and no Guests.

1. No meeting. Meetings are cancelled until further notice due to COVID-19. The Hof Brau is open to decreased inside dining but closes at 6:30 PM.
2. The next Board Meeting is Wednesday, November 10, 2021.

George W. Foxworth for Vacant, Secretary

Treasurer's Report

The cash balance on October 13th was \$4,258.55. No meeting and no raffle.

George W. Foxworth, Treasurer

Chuck Davis

Long-time Elk Grove resident Chuck Davis passed on October 17, 2021 in Sacramento. He was born in Sacramento on May 20, 1937. Chuck was 84 and is survived by his wife, Becky.

Chuck Davis was a native of Elk Grove and a retired Elk Grove fireman. He was co-founder of the Elk Grove CWRT and George Wright Camp 22, Sons of Union Veterans. He was very active with the Sacramento City Cemetery leading Civil War Tours and doing research and placing headstones on Civil War veterans' graves, and leading the search for the Civil War trees in the Memorial Grove in Capitol Park. He owned a Civil War cannon and was an active re-enactor. He also co-wrote two books on Sacramento and the Civil War Era. He was tireless as Newsletter Editor for the Elk Grove CWRT and Wright Camp 22.

Submitted by Robert Bundy

Coming Programs for 2021 & 2022

Date	Speaker	Topic
November 10th	"No Speaker"	"No Topic"
December 8th	"To Be Determined"	"To Be Determined"
January 12th	"To Be Determined"	"To Be Determined"
February 9th	"To Be Determined"	"To Be Determined"
March 9th	"To Be Determined"	"To Be Determined"
April 13th	"To Be Determined"	"To Be Determined"

2022 Membership

The 2022 membership renewal was due as of January 1, 2022. The dues are \$30.00 and you can renew and 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 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:

gwofforth@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

Mary Smith Owens Vineyard

There is no written proof, no letters, diaries or journals, that have ever been found to prove that there was a love affair between Ann Rutledge and Abraham Lincoln. Yet the legend of their love stubbornly persists. The tale was advanced by Lincoln's longtime law partner, William Herndon, in a series of lectures given after Lincoln's death. Herndon based his lectures on oral histories given to him when he went to New Salem, Illinois, to interview anyone who had known Ann and Lincoln. Reports of Herndon's lectures exacerbated Mary Lincoln's fragile mental state by his insistence that Ann Rutledge "was the only woman Lincoln ever truly loved."

Ann Rutledge's father co-founded the town of New Salem and then went on to build a gristmill, sawmill, and dam. As the town grew, he added a tavern and inn. James Rutledge then hired a teacher, Mentor Graham, and paid for a school for the children of New Salem.

Abraham Lincoln arrived in New Salem in 1831, penniless but ambitious and eager to start a life where he could support himself by his wits. He boarded at the Rutledge tavern where he was also tutored by Mentor Graham and met Ann Rutledge, the vivacious, blue-eyed, auburn-haired daughter of the tavern owner. Ann was engaged to John MacNamar, aka McNeil, owner of a general store and a gentleman of "dubious" reputation. In 1832, MacNamar left town suddenly to "take care of business" back East. His letters were few and became "less ardent." Ann and Lincoln found each other's company so convivial that soon they were secretly betrothed. Ann insisted that she needed to break her engagement with MacNamar face to face before she felt free to marry Lincoln. The couple waited for the wayward fiancé's return to no avail.

On August 22, 1835, twenty two year-old Ann died of typhoid fever, probably caused by contaminated well water. Many years later, townspeople said that her death brought Lincoln to the edge of madness. They remembered that he remained at her burial plot each day for hours, claiming that the thought of it "raining on her Grave" was unbearable.

New Salem had become Lincoln's home. At the time of Ann's death, Lincoln was boarding at the home of Dr. Bennett and Elizabeth Abell. When Ann died, Elizabeth said that Lincoln was "desponding for a long time." Lincoln had met Elizabeth's sister, Mary Smith Owens, briefly in 1833, while in the throes of love with the now deceased Ann. Mary had come to New Salem to visit her sister, and as was the custom, look for a future husband.



Back in Salem, Elizabeth Abell was thinking that Abraham Lincoln and her sister, Mary Owens, would make a perfect match. Mary was “polished in her manners, pleasing in her dress” and well-educated while Lincoln was “the best natured man I ever got acquainted with.” In 1836, before paying a visit to her family in Kentucky, Elizabeth told Lincoln she would bring Mary back to New Salem if he promised to marry her. Lincoln said “I saw no good objections to plodding life through hand in hand with her.”

Upon their return, Lincoln was shocked at Mary’s appearance. He wrote that, “she now appeared a fair match for Falstaff...when I beheld her, I could not for my life avoid thinking of my mother: ...from her want of teeth, weather beaten appearance...nothing that could have commenced at the size of infancy and reached her present bulk in less than thirty-five or forty years... I was...convinced that no other man on earth would have her, and hence...they were bent on holding me to my bargain.”

Neither Lincoln nor Mary seemed excited at the prospect of a union. Mary wrote, “...he was a little too presumptuous when he told his friend if I ever came back to New Salem he was going to marry me. That is a bargain that it takes two to make.”

Lincoln was gone from town a good deal at that time as he was a State Representative in Vandalia, Illinois. He moved to Springfield in April of 1837 and began telling folks that the “proposal” had been a joke. He said, “...he supposed Mrs. Abell’s sister had come up to catch him, but he’d show her a thing or two.” When Mary heard what he’d said, she decided to “teach him a lesson.” Lincoln continued to woo Mary half-heartedly through the mail but she didn’t respond. When he finally “mustered my resolution, and made the proposal to her direct,” he included reasons why theirs would not be a good match, telling Mary that “she would have to be poor.” He encouraged her to break off the relationship. “My opinion is that you had better not do it.” She could “drop the subject, dismiss your thoughts...from me forever, and leave this letter unanswered...If it suits you best not to answer this—farewell—a long and merry one attend you.”

And then he proposed again.

To Lincoln’s shock, Mary Owens declined his proposals of marriage. She said that “his training and upbringing had been so different from my own and his awkward and uncouth behavior was most disagreeable...hence there was not that congeniality which would otherwise have existed.” Years later, Mary wrote William Herndon that Lincoln “was deficient in those little links which make up the great chain of womans' happiness.”

Lincoln found his vanity sorely wounded. “I was mortified...she whom I had taught myself to believe nobody else would have, had actually rejected me with all my fancied greatness...I, then, began to suspect that I was really a little in love with her...I have now come to the conclusion never again to think of marrying...I can never be satisfied with anyone who would be block-head enough to have me.”

After a year and a half in New Salem, Mary Owens returned home unwed. Lincoln told Elizabeth, “Tell your sister that I think she was a great fool, because she did not stay here and marry me.” Lincoln held no grudge against the family, giving Elizabeth’s son, Oliver Abell, a plum political appointment when he became President.

Mary married Jesse Vineyard around 1841. Two of their sons served in the Confederate Army. Jesse was a teacher. He and his two brothers founded Pleasant Ridge College in Weston, Missouri. In 1854, Jesse and his brother-in-law, both slave owners, fraudulently voted in Leavenworth to make slavery the law in Kansas.

Jesse died in 1862, aged fifty six, and was buried in Pleasant Ridge Cemetery, Missouri. Their son, John Vineyard committed suicide, at age twenty eight, on September 30, 1872 by ingesting poison.



Mary Smith Owens Vineyard died on July 4, 1877, aged sixty eight, and is buried next to her husband. In 1999, a new monument was placed adjacent to her original one. It reads:

Abraham Lincoln's Other Mary

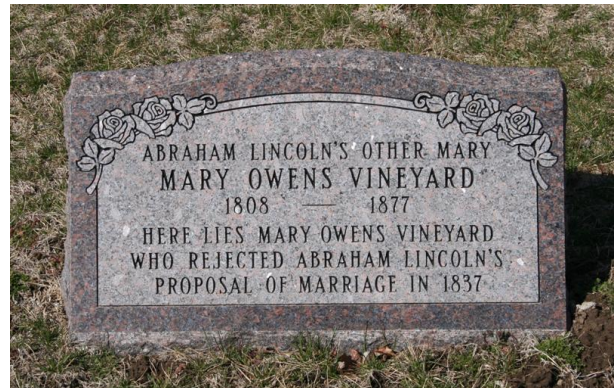
Mary Owens Vineyard

1808 -- 1877

Here Lies Mary Owens Vineyard

Who Rejected Abraham Lincoln's

Proposal of Marriage in 1837



Submitted by Judith Breitstein

National Registry of Women's Service in the Civil War

Woman of the Month

Kate Hulbert Warne



Born in 1833, in Erin, New York; died on January 28, 1868, in Chicago, Illinois.

In 1856, a 23-year-old widow presented herself at the Pinkerton Detective Agency's offices in Chicago, Illinois. She was responding to an advertisement in a local newspaper offering the position of detective. Allan Pinkerton told her that it was not the custom to employ women detectives, but after several interviews, she succeeded in convincing him that a woman detective would be good at "worming out secrets in many places which would be impossible for a male detective." Of medium height, with blue eyes "filled with fire," the new detective was described by Pinkerton as "slender, graceful in her movements, and perfectly self-possessed in her manner." Warne immediately proved her worth in solving difficult embezzlement and railroad security cases by obtaining information through undercover access to the women family members of criminals.

To build upon her success, in 1860, Warne and Pinkerton created Pinkerton's Female Detective Branch, nicknamed "Lady Pinkertons," or "Pinks," comprised of more than fifteen agents. Warne served as Superintendent of Women Agents. Pinkerton told the new women recruits that "in my service, you will serve your country better than on the field. I have several female operatives. If you agree to come aboard, you will go in training with the head of my female detectives, Kate Warne. She has

never let me down.”

In 1861, Pinkerton, then Chief of Intelligence for the Army of the Potomac, made Warne the head of the Union Intelligence Service, a predecessor of today’s Secret Service. The UIS was responsible for obtaining intelligence regarding Southern military resources and plans. The Pinkerton women detectives were exceptionally successful in conducting this mission.

One of Kate Warne’s most notable successes came on the eve of the Civil War, when she and a team of four were assigned the responsibility of identifying threats to President-elect Lincoln on the rail journey to his inauguration. Deployed to Baltimore, she masqueraded as a wealthy secessionist socialite visiting from out of town. She uncovered a plot to assassinate Lincoln while on his lunch-time stopover in Baltimore. With difficulty, Lincoln was convinced of the threat and acquiesced to Kate Warne’s plan to safely deliver him to Washington. Warne took several measures, including disguising Lincoln as her invalid brother and providing armed guards to surround him. She refused to sleep a wink until she completed her mission. Not only did this potentially save the life of the President-elect, but also reportedly led to the adoption of the motto “We Never Sleep,” which accompanies the Pinkerton Agency’s traditional eye logo.

Throughout the Civil War, the fearless Kate Warne continued to use her talents at disguise and adoption of different aliases to collect crucial military intelligence. With the additional task of her UIS management responsibility, she became the most important wartime spy for Federal military forces.

In addition to her professional responsibilities, she quietly performed charitable work with the formerly enslaved persons who fled to Washington.

Succumbing to pneumonia in 1868, Kate Warne died, still in service as a detective. Allan Pinkerton, who was by her side at her death, considered her a member of his family, and had her buried in his family plot.

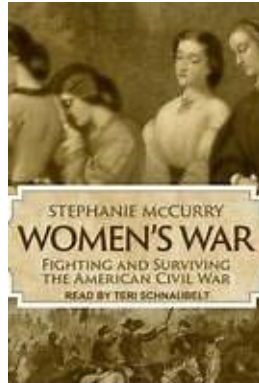
An obituary in the March 19, 1868 issue of the *Democratic Enquirer* of McArthur, Ohio, described Kate Warne thusly: “Up to the time of her death, her whole life had been devoted to the service into which she had entered in her younger years. She was undoubtedly the best female detective in America, if not the world.”

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

Women's War: Fighting and Surviving the American Civil War

By Stephanie McCurry. Cambridge, MA Belknap Press: An Imprint of Harvard University Press, 2019. xii + 297 pages. \$26.95 (cloth), ISBN 978-0-674-98797-5.

Reviewed by Judith Giesberg (Villanova University). Published on H-SAWH (December, 2019). Commissioned by Lisa A. Francavilla.



Stephanie McCurry's new book is an unapologetically personal look at women in war, one that McCurry has been thinking about for a long time and that she traces back to her youth growing up in Northern Ireland under British occupation. Some of the terrain covered in the book extends or completes work that McCurry started elsewhere. Other parts of the work are wholly new, such as the Chapter on Georgia diarist Ella Gertrude Clanton Thomas. Still, one gets the sense this is not the last that McCurry has to say on any of the subjects covered in this book, and that is good news.

Though the book's title does not say as much, *Women's War* is about Southern women who were subjected to the US Army's gendered laws of war and who navigated its gendered path to Emancipation, and who made their way forward in a Postwar South in which all the rules of social hierarchy had been remade by the Union victory. The book reads as a series of lectures that are connected by one thread: the patriarchal family served (and continues to serve) as an elemental form of governance that survived the Civil War, and became central to Union Emancipation Policy. Patriarchy crushed Ella Gertrude Clanton Thomas--the Georgian plantation mistress whose writings are at the center of McCurry's third chapter--but it also served as a useful cipher through which she channeled her White supremacy.

The thread is admittedly a little thinner in the Thomas Chapter, but McCurry's untangling of the twisted bonds of blood and love and hate that held that family together despite the patriarch's death is fascinating. So is McCurry's taking to task the historians who "scrubbed clean" Thomas's diary of references to her husband's and brother's participation in the Klan (p. 173). The published, cleaned-up version of Thomas's diary, *The Secret Eye* (1990), has fed the continued misreading of her as, at heart, an abolitionist and, sympathetic to the plight of women, as a feminist. Admittedly, feminists such as Susan B. Anthony embraced Thomas for her suffrage activism. This was not difficult because of the endemic racism of suffragists like Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton. But Thomas's racism came from a deep, intimate place, and so did her obsession with Black women's bodies. Their bodies betrayed White racial purity and because of that, and the poverty that nipped at her door, Thomas saw mixed-race women--some of whom were her own half-siblings--as a continued threat to the

status of her children. So she supported and sustained White supremacist violence. Yet this story has yet to dislodge the one that portrays her as a hero to her own family and as a feminist icon, a narrative that was established by Mary Elizabeth Massey, whose 1972 Southern Historical Association Presidential Address about Thomas was titled, "The Making of a Feminist." Maybe McCurry's *Women's War* will help do that work.

The Chapter on the "Black Soldier's Wife" revisits the soldiers' wives of McCurry's 2009 *Confederate Reckoning*. In that book, McCurry showed how poor Southern White women pressed Southern governors to respond to their needs. Soldiers' wives were an unconsulted and unexpected constituency, and their demands became consequential as they helped to bring down the nascent Confederacy. In *Women's War*, the "Black Soldier's Wife" emerges as a creation of the US Government. Because, as a legal matter, enslaved people could not marry, the "Black Soldier's Wife" was a way for the army and for Congress to contain the revolutionary potential unleashed in Emancipation, a shoring up of other inequalities that might have been inadvertently shaken loose when the slaves went free. By freeing enslaved women into marriage, the United States preserved and extended patriarchy. And in focusing so much on the United States Colored Troops, the author claims, historians have missed how enslaved women made the transition to freedom "as laborers on Union-held plantations, or unwelcome dependents in contraband camps" (p. 103). Here McCurry joins other historians who have made or are making that point, including Chandra Manning, Amy Murrell Taylor, and Thavolia Glymph.

In a way, the Chapter on "Legal and Political Theorist," Francis Lieber extends McCurry's 2009 discussion of the Confederate War on Unionist women in the South to examine the US Army's War on enemy women. This War took place both on the ground in the turn to hard war, and in the *Laws of War*, in what became known as Lieber's Code. McCurry challenges John Fabian Witt's claim that Lieber's Code was principally driven by the need for a new set of rules that took account of Emancipation. Instead, the Code emerged from the need for new rules that reflected the War the US Army was waging against enemy women in Kentucky, Missouri, and Union-occupied Tennessee. McCurry portrays Lieber, like her a survivor of Civil War, as reluctant to write a new set of *Laws of War* that would strip women of the protections granted to them as presumptive noncombatants, but who was pushed to do so by Union General-in-Chief Henry Halleck, who was busily arresting and imprisoning women for "War Treason," a new category of war crime invented for them (p. 44). Lieber went along and wrote the Code that wrecked gender conventions, but then regretted it, denied it, and tried to will women back to the patriarchal family, where he thought they belonged and could be best protected. It did not work, and the *Laws of War* that Francis Lieber wrote helped to escalate violence, drawing in more women, children, and other "noncombatants" rather than constrain it in the wars that followed.

Stephanie McCurry's *Women's War*, in the end, makes a compelling case that women have never been outside of war. Yet, like Lieber and other Civil War-era warmakers, after each generation's war, survivors seek to cover up that truth, thereby making it easier to justify the next war. Reading books like Stephanie McCurry's latest should make us think carefully about the wars we are fighting today and the stories we will tell about them when they are over.

Submitted by Bruce A. Castleman, Ph.D.