



**Volume 62, No. 11
November, 2022**

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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

No Message until further notice.

Vacant, President

MINUTES
SACRAMENTO CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
Wednesday, October 12, 2022
DENNY'S RESTAURANT, 3520 AUBURN BOULEVARD, SACRAMENTO

ATTENDANCE – 22:

MEMBERS – 22: James Juanitas, Vice President; George W. Foxworth, Treasurer; James Armstrong, Steve & Carol Breiter, Jean Breiter, Harvey & Marsha J. Cain, Mark Carlson, Arnd Gartner, Ron Grove, Wayne & Nina Henley, Alejandro Lizarraga, Kim Grace Long, , Joe & Michelle Matalone, Eric Norman, Bernie Quinn, Program Director; Paul (MAL) & Patty Ruud, & Peggy Tveden.

GUESTS – 00: There were no guests.

1. The meeting was called to order by Vice President James Juanitas at 7:00 P.M. He asked people to consider running for office in November 2022. He also spoke about the Fresno Conference in November 2022. Finally, VP Juanitas mentioned changing the meeting night to a Thursday so the monthly meetings can return to the Hof Brau. Joseph Matalone conducted the raffle.
2. The speaker was Carol & Jean Breiter. Their topic was General Joseph Hooker, a distant relative of Carol.
3. Hooker was born in Hadley, Massachusetts (November 13, 1814 – October 31, 1879), the grandson of a Captain in the American Revolutionary War. He graduated from West Point in 1837, ranked 29th out of a class of 50, and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the 1st U.S. Artillery.
4. His initial assignment was in Florida fighting in the second of the Seminole Wars. He served in the Mexican–American War in staff positions in the campaigns of both Zachary Taylor and Winfield Scott.
5. After the Mexican–American War , he served as an Assistant Adjutant General of the Pacific Division, but resigned his commission in 1853; his military reputation had been damaged when he testified against his former commander, General Scott, in the court-martial for insubordination of Gideon Johnson Pillow. Hooker settled in Sonoma, California and became a Colonel in the Militia.
6. At the start of the Civil War in 1861, Hooker requested a commission, but his first application was rejected, possibly because of the lingering resentment harbored by Winfield Scott, General-in-Chief of the Army. After he witnessed the Union Army defeat at the First Battle of Bull Run, he wrote a letter to President Lincoln that complained of military mismanagement, promoted his own qualifications, and again requested a commission. He was appointed, in August 1861, as Brigadier General of volunteers to rank from May 17. He commanded a Brigade and then Division around Washington, D.C., as part of the effort to organize and train the new Army of the Potomac, under major General George B. McClellan.
7. Hooker's actions quickly transformed the General's reputation of a love affair with a notorious madam, Bella Hay, who also happened to be an agent of the Confederacy. Bella Hay ran The Haystack, a place where Hooker and Union soldiers drank and pursued women.
8. During the War, General Hooker was undermined by Generals Scott, Halleck, Howard, Slocum, and Edward Stanton (Secretary of War).
9. Hooker was defeated by General Lee at Chancellorsville. He chased Lee to Gettysburg and resigned three days before the Battle. Meade was given the command after Reynolds turned it down.
10. Hooker was assigned to Grant and Sherman and was at the Battle of Lookout Mountain in Tennessee. He resigned a few days before Sherman took Atlanta. After Georgia, Hooker commanded the Northern Department in Cincinnati, Ohio the rest of the War.
11. After the War, Hooker led Lincoln's funeral procession in Springfield on May 4, 1865. He served in Command of the Department of the East and Department of the Lakes following the War. His postbellum life was marred by poor health and he was partially paralyzed by a stroke. He was mustered out of the volunteer service on September 1, 1866, and retired from the U.S. Army on October 15, 1868, with the regular Army rank of Major General. He died on October 31, 1879, while on a visit to Garden City, New York, and is buried in Spring Grove Cemetery, Cincinnati, Ohio, his wife's hometown.
12. The next Board Meeting is Wednesday, November 9.

George W. Foxworth for Vacant, Secretary

Treasurer's Report

The cash balance on October 12th was \$4,478.86. The raffle brought in \$52.00. Thanks to Joseph Matalone and members.

George W. Foxworth, Treasurer

Coming Programs for 2022 & 2023

Date	Speaker	Topic
November 9th	"Bernie Quinn"	"The Battle of Little Round Top"
December 14th	"Nicholas Scivoletto"	"Civil War Quiz"
January 11th	"Arnd Gartner"	"Union Intelligence Services: Part 2"
February 8th	"To Be Determined"	"To Be Determined"
March 8th	"To Be Determined"	"To Be Determined"
April 12	"To Be Determined"	"To Be Determined"

2023 Membership

The 2023 membership renewal is due on January 1, 2023. 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 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:

qwfoxworth@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

The Brooks Brothers

Henry Sands Brooks was born on September 7, 1772. As he grew, he showed no interest in following in the footsteps of his father, Dr. David Brooks. The doctor, a Loyalist on George Washington's list of "noxious vermin," was forced to leave the colonies and flee to England. He returned to America and was allowed to resume his medical practice by 1778.

Even as a young boy, Henry had shown an interest in commerce. He moved to New York City from Long Island and began provisioning seamen and travelers with dry goods and groceries. The War of 1812 put an end to his business but he returned to New York in 1817 with a new vision. The 45 year-old dandy had decided to become a purveyor of men's clothing, "to make and deal only in merchandise of the finest body, to sell it at a fair profit, and to deal with people who seek and appreciate such merchandise."

Henry purchased a building on "Quality Row" in downtown Manhattan on the corner of Cherry and Catherine Streets. The property cost \$15,250, approximately \$300,000 in today's economy. He set up a home for himself, his wife, Lavinia Lyon Brooks, and their large family only a few doors down at 159 Cherry Street.

On April 7, 1818, H. & D.S. Brooks & Co. (Henry and son Daniel) opened for business. Clothing sold there would be made "of every new style of cloth, of the finest quality, made to order in the best and most fashionable mode." By 1825, H. & D.S. Brooks & Co. was making an average of \$50,000 a year, \$1.2 million in today's market. Henry pursued high quality customers but never forgot his beginnings. When a sailor came in to purchase a suit, he was still offered a complimentary dram of rum.

Henry Brooks died on December 21, 1833, aged 61. He was buried in Sands Point Cemetery in Nassau, New York, in an old family plot. It was originally believed that he was buried next to his father. But Dr. Brooks had died of yellow fever in the 1795 New York Yellow Fever Epidemic and was probably cremated and buried in a mass grave.

Two sons, Henry and Daniel, now ran the business. In 1850, when Henry died at age 43, the three remaining brothers, John, Elisha and Edward, joined the firm. The aging building on Cherry Street was renovated and refurbished and the name of the enterprise officially changed to Brooks Brothers. The personal service and innovative styling remained the same.

Gentlemen had traditionally purchased clothing made abroad. But by the mid-19th Century, "a man of a certain pedigree would buy his first Brooks Brothers suit in adolescence and would likely be buried in one." The gentry and prosperous businessmen began to shop exclusively at the store on Cherry Street.

With the discovery of gold at Sutter's Mill in 1848, the brand began to design for the wealthy "California Trade." The following year, Brooks Brothers revolutionized the garment industry by introducing fashionable, well-made "Ready-Wear" suits. The new "inch tape measure" and industrial sewing machines made producing clothing on a grand scale practicable and put ready-to-wear clothes within reach of the middle class.

Brooks Brothers had a darker side. They did a lively business selling "servant clothing" made of "Negro cloth." The waterfront proximity of the store's location made transportation below the Mason Dixon line easy and efficient. Many slave owners opted to have Brooks Brothers outfit their "domestic servants," coachmen and valets, in ornate uniforms as a way to show off their wealth.

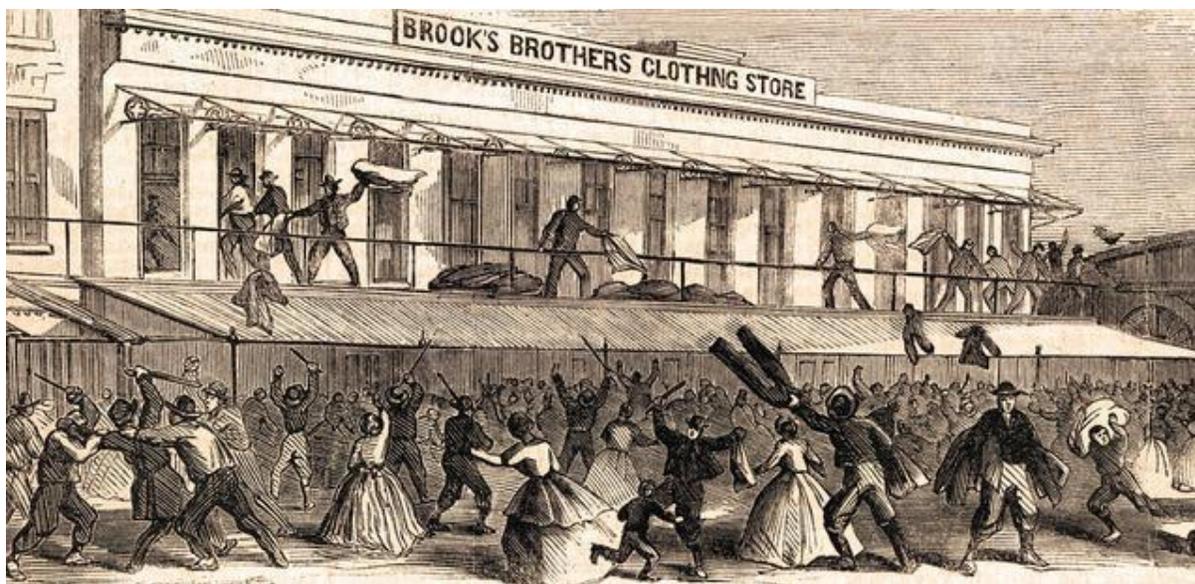
Lower Manhattan was flooded with immigrants by the mid-19th Century. As the neighborhood began to decay, a decision was made in 1858 to retain the original shop and open a second one on Broadway and Grand near the Ladies' Mile, the most fashionable shopping district in the City. It was here during the Civil War that Northern Generals Ulysses S. Grant, Joseph Hooker, William Tecumseh Sherman, and Phillip Sheridan had their suits and uniforms made. President Lincoln was a customer and was wearing a Brooks Brothers frock coat on the night of his assassination.

Brooks Brothers had become the largest men's clothing manufacturer in the Country. After the Battle of Bull Run, they were offered a military contract to make uniforms, caps, belts, boots, shoes, and backpacks for the Union Army. However, there was a shortage of cloth in the North. Instead of wool, Brooks Brothers used a mix of "pressed rags, sawdust, scrap, and threads, glued and ironed together" that fell apart in the first rain. The sub-standard material, known in the industry as "shoddy," was scorned by any reputable manufacturer. The uniforms were ill-fitting, irregular in color, missing buttons and buttonholes and had a distinctly uncomfortable texture. New York volunteers were jeered at by other soldiers when their uniforms melted back into rags at the first raindrop.

The New York Legislature immediately called for an inquiry into the poorly executed garments. Brooks Brothers was forced to replace over \$45,000 worth of uniforms.

The Nation passed its first "Draft Act" in March of 1863. The rich were allowed to hire a "substitute" to serve in their place for \$300. The Irish, who had come to this Country to escape famine in their own, were mostly uneducated and unskilled. They feared that if drafted, their jobs would be given to the slaves they'd be fighting to free. African Americans and the Irish had long been vying for the same low paying jobs in the North.

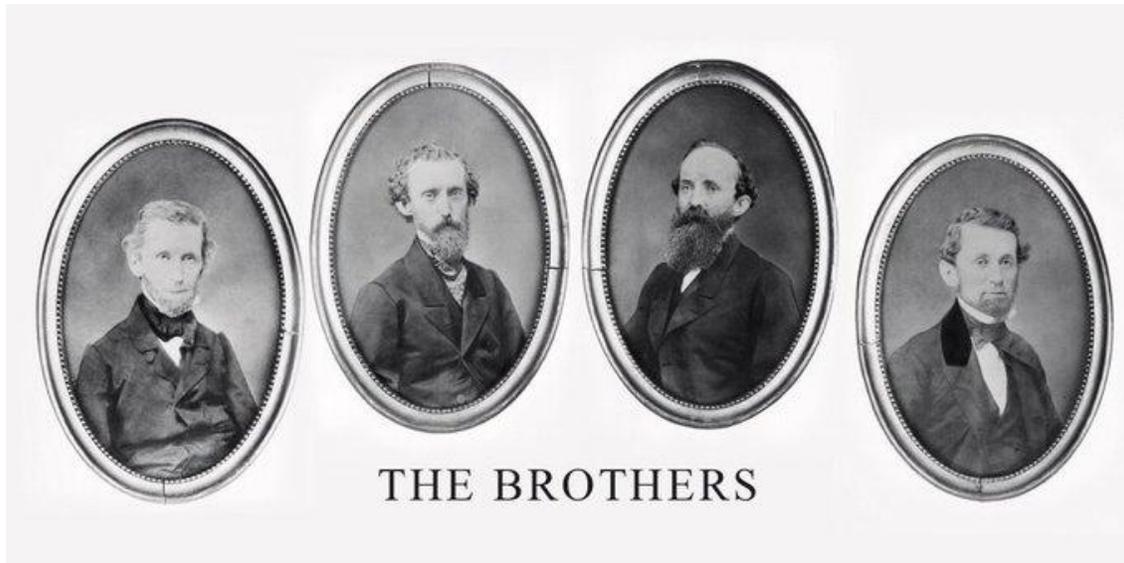
The first draft picks in New York on July 11 passed largely without incident. But on Monday, July 13, an angry mob began to grow as names were called. The crowd soon began spreading across the City, smashing windows, looting, and setting homes on fire. Two Black churches were burned, as was the Colored Orphan Asylum. Rioters attacked the police and destroyed firefighting equipment. If a well-dressed person appeared, the yell "There goes a \$300 man" would ring out. The crowd chanted "Rich Man's War, Poor Man's Fight" as they marched.



On the night of July 14, at 9:30 p.m., the rioters ransacked the Brooks Brothers Cherry Street store. They tore apart fixtures and displays and fired over 100 shots at the police, who were badly outnumbered. Torches were carried by the rabble rousers "so as to enable them to select and carry off the most valuable of goods...the street outside was festooned with lengths of material." In all, the marauders made off with over \$70,000 of "ill-gotten booty." The warehouses and factories were also looted and burned. Brooks Brothers had been a contractor for the despised Government for over two years.

By July 15, the looting and destruction had spread to Staten Island and Brooklyn.

In the end, about 115 lives were lost with one and a half million dollars of property damage. The rioting was not quelled until 4,000 Federal troops, fresh from the Gettysburg Battlefield, arrived on July 16.



Brooks brothers left to right: Daniel, Edward, John, & Elisha.

After the War, it was business as usual. Edward and Elisha Brooks passed away in 1875 and 1876, Daniel in 1884. John retired in 1896 after many years of running the business and died in 1899.

From 1865 to 2003, Brooks Brothers did not produce a ready to wear black suit. Some said it was out of respect for the murdered President. Others opined that only servants and the deceased wore all black. In 1870, Brooks Brothers introduced the seersucker suit. John Brooks introduced the Oxford button down collar, inspired by rugby players pinning down their collars while on the field. Brooks Brothers made the first non-iron shirt in 1953. They introduced Argyle socks, Madras shirts, the looser "sack suit" that fit different body shapes and the #2 suit favored by President John F. Kennedy. Forty of forty-five American Presidents have worn Brooks Brothers clothing.



With the exception of the founder, his wife and the entire Brooks clan are buried in a large plot in Green-Wood Cemetery in Brooklyn, New York. The writing on almost all their gravestones has worn away with time.

Submitted by Judith Breitstein

Arlington

We toured Arlington in downtown Birmingham today to celebrate my birthday. Intrigued by the Munger family which was responsible for the restoration of the magnificent home. There is no documentation of a personal visit to the property by Robert E. Lee during the Civil War, but its name, The Grove, was changed to Arlington in his honor. A 2-story house was built on 475 acres by Stephen Hall in 1822 and bought by attorney, then Judge William Mudd, one of the ten founders of Birmingham, in 1842 at auction. He commissioned the building of the original Greek Revival style mansion. It is the only antebellum mansion remaining in Birmingham, and is a good example of Greek Revival style.



In March 28-31, 1865, Union General Wilson with 13,000 cavalymen arrived at the property. When General Wilson learned that Judge Mudd was a fellow Mason, he respected him and spared the house. Instead, he used the house as his headquarters. However, General Wilson destroyed Confederate facilities at Irondale, Oxmoor, Selma, and Tuscaloosa.

Robert Munger bought the house at auction in 1902, for \$12,200; the house was then in very bad shape, having been owned by several individuals and turned into a boarding house. Munger and his wife raised their 8 children in the home. Over the next 20 years, he made many renovations, including plumbing, steam heat, and electric lights. The Mungers had the means to bring into the home luxurious furnishings, china and crystal, marble fireplaces, and elegant decorations reflecting the best artists of Europe and America. The house held an early typewriter, many costumed dolls, a sewing machine, and a record player. Mr. Munger also owned several motor cars, replacing horses and carriages. Despite the modern upgrades in the house, historians have maintained highlights of the Civil War era, including weapons, furnishings, and belongings of occupants who lived, and died, during the War. The property sits on 6 acres in the heart of an area known as Old Elyton, the first County Seat of Jefferson County.

Munger was an amazingly patriotic and community-minded individual, a spirit that his great-granddaughters exemplified in creating an introductory video for tourists to the house, now owned by the City of Birmingham. We were very impressed that the restoration and updating of the property improved its function while maintaining its historic significance.

Robert Sylvester Munger

Robert Sylvester Munger (1854 - 1923) was an inventor, entrepreneur and philanthropist who was known for his contributions to Birmingham, Alabama, educational institutions, churches and other entities during the early decades of the 20th Century. Of his many achievements, Munger was best known for his ginning patents which revolutionized the cotton process and created a safer environment for workers, replacing antiquated hand and foot operations. Munger accomplished this while working at his father's cotton mill in Texas. He exhibited his system at the New Orleans Exposition, and later moved to Birmingham in the 1890s and partnered to form Northington-Munger-Pratt Company. In 1899, that company merged with six other factories to establish Continental Gin, with Munger at its helm.



Munger believed in the importance of higher education and religious institutions. In Dallas, he gave land and was a significant donor in establishing Southern Methodist University. Later, when Birmingham College, also a Methodist school, needed financial assistance, Munger was a member of the committee that gave significant monetary support. He was then instrumental in the merger of Birmingham College and Southern University in Greensboro, Alabama, to form Birmingham-Southern College. He was a prominent member of the School's Board. When President Warren G. Harding visited Birmingham-Southern in 1921 for the inauguration of new college President Guy Snaveley, Munger presented the U.S. President a "Key to the College."

Munger also made a difference in his community by supporting local Methodist churches. When he arrived in Birmingham in 1892, he and his family joined the new First Methodist. He was later instrument in establishing Highlands Methodist, and he also attended Walker Memorial Methodist near the Birmingham-Southern College campus.

Munger and his family, which included eight children, also bought, refurbished and moved into Arlington Antebellum Home, which dated from the 1840s.

Munger's philanthropies also supported such diverse beneficiaries as an assistance fund for Continental Gin employees, the Belgian Relief Fund after World War I, and the Birmingham YMCA, to which he contributed the largest contribution to the building committee.

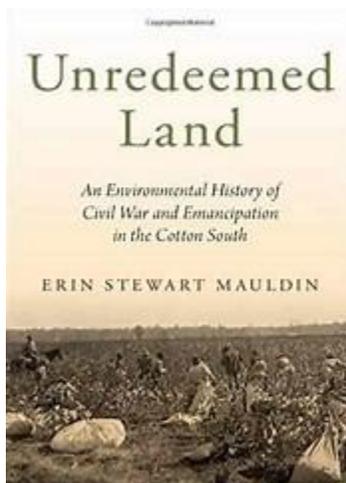
Among his many awards, Munger received 10 gold medals at the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago for his innovative ginning process.

Submitted by Silver N. Marvin

Unredeemed Land: An Environmental History of Civil War and Emancipation in the Cotton South

Erin Stewart Mauldin. New York. Oxford University Press, 2018. 256 pp. \$35.00 (cloth), ISBN 978-0-19-086517-7.

Reviewed by Matthew M. Stith (University of Texas at Tyler). Published on H-CivWar (July, 2019). Commissioned by G. David Schieffler.



The best ideas often refocus our attention on what was there all along. Erin Stewart Mauldin's *Unredeemed Land* is no exception. At its heart, Mauldin's work is a story of the tumultuous evolution of the cotton South from 1840 to 1880 through a carefully focused environmental, primarily agricultural, lens. Along with R. Douglas Hurt's *Agriculture and the Confederacy: Policy, Productivity, and Power in the Civil War South* (2015), Mauldin's contribution is among the first to fully examine Southern agriculture and landscapes and how they shaped the War--and how they were shaped by it. While Hurt focuses primarily on the Civil War years, Mauldin places the cotton South in wider chronological perspective. Few works on the Civil War South do not, at least in the periphery, invoke landscapes, agriculture, or the environment in general. To be sure, the South's natural and built environment underscored the military, political, cultural, and economic course of the conflict. But, to date, surprisingly little attention has been allotted to the environment as a key, perhaps the key, player in influencing the War and its aftermath. To this end, Mauldin injects fresh and valuable insight into our understanding of the interplay between Southern agriculture and the Civil War.

The Civil War era marked a significant shift in the natural and economic contours of Southern landscapes. Mauldin makes clear that the War highlighted inherent weaknesses in the Southern agricultural system--problems that had been masked and "delayed by territorial expansion and the use of slave labor to create and maintain agricultural landscapes" (p. 9). In sum, she explains, the Southern system needed to grow to live. Built squarely on agriculture-based slavery, the prewar South relied on

continuous expansion and land exploitation to survive. The War exacerbated and accelerated the built environment's devolution, leaving in its wake a shattered land and broken economy. For Mauldin, the conflict "drastically altered the rhythms of Southern agricultural life and livelihood by accelerating prewar environmental change, removing necessary resources and labor, and preventing expansion" (p. 160).

Environmental historians of the Civil War have made clear the environment's ubiquitous role in the conflict. Mauldin appropriately engages this historiographical discussion, and she contends that wartime Southern agriculture served at once to help Union soldiers and to hurt their Confederate counterparts. Free range livestock, food crops, fence rails, and a variety of other agricultural products helped supply occupying Federal Armies. By mid-War, the slave-based labor system that had sustained Southern agriculture began to dissolve. And the South's dogged reliance on a primarily agricultural, slave-based economy meant that other necessities for War might only come from a great distance. The Union blockade and protruding military movements deep into the South effectively rendered such supply chains problematic. For Mauldin, all this "made the region particularly vulnerable to standard military practices" and "helps to explain why the South was affected so dramatically by the Civil War" (p. 160). She is right. A society and culture based so intensely on the built environment will invariably fall much harder when war is focused as much on the home front as on the battlefield.

Although the land's War wounds quickly healed, they were reopened by intensive, exploitive, and expansive agricultural practices in the decades following the War. This era of "King Cotton" flooded the market with far more cotton than ever before. It reoriented the political, social, and racial systems nearer prewar levels with a new energy toward White Southern redemption. But it also brought the Southern agricultural system (and the Southern environment) to its knees. Indeed, as Mauldin argues, "because of the ecological legacies of the Civil War and emancipation, the Southern environment remained unredeemed" (p. 7). Such analysis of the New South's direct and problematic ties to prewar Southern agricultural practices and destructive wartime changes serves as a useful addition to our understanding of postwar Southern politics and culture.

Historians too often lose sight of the environment for what happened because of it. ***Unredeemed Land*** helps correct this. Agriculture, and nature generally, formed the nucleus of the Nineteenth-Century South and the Civil War. Politics, economics, warfare, and all other factors revolved around, atop, and because of the environment. Mauldin's greatest contribution is the clarity with which she conveys an unbroken narrative about a broken slave-based agricultural system--and the Southern environment in general--that served as the cornerstone for the causes, course, and consequences of the Civil War.

Submitted by Bruce A, Castleman, Ph.D