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Battle Cry

Founded 1961,
Newsletter of the Sacramento Civil War Round Table
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President's Message

Greetings everyone. I am sorry I missed the October Meeting but am grateful to the Officers and Members who participated, especially Ron Grove.

After the fall of Vicksburg on July 4th, 1863, the Mississippi River was once again open to all Union commerce while at the same time closing the door to Confederate trade coming from the West. General Parker Hills, US Army Retired, described Vicksburg at the 2023 West Coast Civil War Conference as being not only General U.S. Grant's greatest victory but also greatest victory ever on U.S. soil because it was not only a Strategic Victory by the opening of Union Commerce and the closing of Confederate Commerce on the Mississippi River. But it was also a Tactical Victory because General Grant (USA) captured an entire Confederate Army when General Pemberton (CSA) at Vicksburg surrendered.

Question: Up to the time of the fall of Vicksburg, the Confederacy was getting most of its beef/cattle from Texas. Does anyone know where the Confederacy was getting its beef after Vicksburg?

Answer: If you said Florida, you would be correct.

At first, the Confederacy was buying the cattle from the Florida ranchers and farmers but later due to a lack of money, they started confiscating cattle and other livestock which angered the Florida ranchers and farmers so much that by the end of 1864, there were more Floridians enlisting in the Union Army than the Confederate Army.

Lesson to be learned: Don't steal someone's cattle because they might one day fight against you.

James C. Juanitas, President

MINUTES
SACRAMENTO CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Wednesday, October 11, 2023
Denny's Restaurant, 3520 Auburn Boulevard, Sacramento

ATTENDANCE – 13:

MEMBERS – 12: Carol Breiter, Vice President; George W. Foxworth, Treasurer; Harvey & Marsha J. Cain, Ron Grove, (MAL); Wayne & Nina Henley, Joseph (MAL) & Michelle Matalone, Paul (IPP) & Patty Ruud, & Nicholas Scivoletto.

GUESTS – 1: Jennette Calvin.

1. The meeting was called to order by Vice President Carol Breiter at 7:03 PM and she led the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Vice President Breiter got an update from Ron Grove on the progress of the Hof Brau. The latest is the Hof Brau may reopen in about two years. She mentioned the November Civil War Conference in Fresno and got a show of hands of people attending. There were three.
3. Guests were introduced. One was present.
4. The raffle was conducted by Nicholas Scivoletto. Books and other items were offered as prizes. The raffle raised \$42.00. Vice President Breiter introduced the speaker.
5. The speaker was Ron Grove and his topic was an Apple Podcast between Don Wildman and Aaron Sheehan-Dean, Department Chair of History at Louisiana State University. The topic was "**What if the South Won the Civil War?**" Professor Sheehan-Dean specializes on the Civil War and Reconstruction.
6. What if the Civil War had ended differently, with the South seceding from the Union? Would slavery have continued? Would the Southern states have continued as a whole? Would any other states have followed suit? What may have happened in other countries that had slaves, such as Brazil. What would happen to President Lincoln? Would the Northern States still have a country?
7. Would the South move west to the Pacific? Would the South move to annex Cuba, Haiti, Mexico, etc.
8. The Podcast was enjoyed by all.
9. The next Executive Board Meeting is Wednesday, November 8, 2023 at 10:00 AM, at Brookfields near Madison and I-80.

George W. Foxworth for Vacant, Secretary

Treasurer's Report

The cash balance on October 11th was \$4,904.13. Thanks to Nicholas Scivoletto, members, and guest, the raffle brought in \$42.00.

George W. Foxworth, Treasurer

Coming Programs for 2023 & 2024		
Date	Speaker	Topic
November 8th	"James Juanitas"	"Admiral Farragut & the Battle of Mobile Bay"
December 13th	"Ron Grove"	"Civil War Trivia"
January 10th	"To Be Determined"	"To Be Determined"
February 14th	"To Be Determined"	"To Be Determined"
March 13th	"To Be Determined"	"To Be Determined"
April 10th	"To Be Determined"	"To Be Determined"

2024 Membership

The 2024 membership renewal is due on January 1, 2024. 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 day 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:

gfoxworth@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.

A Report On The Annual West Coast Civil War Conference

by George W. Foxworth

The 2023 Annual West Coast Civil War Conference was held on November 3 - 5, 2023, at the Wyndham Garden Airport Hotel in Fresno, California.

The Conference was hosted by the San Joaquin Valley Civil War Round Table (CWRT). "**Pemberton and Grant: Vicksburg Campaign of 1863**" was the theme and many enlightening presentations by the distinguished speakers filled the weekend. The speakers were General Parker Hills, E. C. Fields Jr., Ph.D, James Stanbery, and Ron Vaughan. Dr. Curt Fields was General Ulysses. S. Grant or "Sam" throughout the Conference. Also in attendance were Karen Eckerson, Michael Hoover, Joe & Susan Inderkum, David Lang, Theresa Lehan, Steve Madden, Robert Orr, and other Civil War enthusiasts throughout the West.

The Sacramento CWRT was represented by Mark Carlson, George W. Foxworth, Ron Grove, and James Juanitas.

All presentations were excellent. General Parker Hills spoke on "Grant's Hard Lesson: First Attempts Against Vicksburg;" "A Series of Experiments;" "Forward to Victory, Parts 1 and 2;" "To the Railroads (Battles of Grand Gulf, Raymond, and Jackson);" "West to Vicksburg (Champion Hill, Big Black, on to Vicksburg);" Grant's Assaults on Vicksburg;" and "Siege and Second Front." Dr. Curt Fields (Sam) spoke on "Meet General Grant;" "Grant vs Sherman;" and "An Evening With Grant." Jim Stanbery introduced the Conference with the topic of "Grant vs Pemberton." Ron Vaughan spoke on "Cat and Mouse in the Swamps" and "Battle of Milliken's Bend." The Conference ended with a Panel Discussion hosted by Michael Green.

The Conference was a complete success and the San Joaquin Valley CWRT is commended for their excellent work. Special recognition goes to Michael Green, Ron and Linda Vaughan, Patricia Spencer, Michael Spencer, Dr. Marty Klien, Wyndham Garden Hotel, and others from the San Joaquin Valley CWRT. Also, General Parker Hills, James Stanbery, and Doug van der Weyde supplied us with outstanding fireworks on their PowerPoint presentations. All were pleased. Finally, Michael Green presented the 2023 "Jerry Russell Award" to General Parker Hills and Dr. Curt Fields.

Looking ahead to 2024, the Annual West Coast Civil War Conference may or may not happen. If there is a Conference, it will be announced at a future date.

William Seagrove Smith

In the 1820s, Cherokee tribes inhabited the land that a mere 20 years later would become the busy little town of Roswell, Georgia. Roswell King had brought this uncultivated land and invited his close friends, James Dunwoody, James Bulloch (the grandfather of Theodore Roosevelt), and Archibald Smith to move there and build their plantations. He promised them free shares in his already flourishing textile mills.

In 1838, the Archibald Smith family left their two flagging plantations in Camden County on the Georgia coast to take up King's offer. They brought with them about 30 slaves and received 300 acres of prime cotton planting land just north of the new town of Roswell.

Archibald Smith had married his first cousin, Anne "Annie" Margaret Magill, on March 16, 1830. They were direct opposites in personality and disliked each other intensely. These picayune problems in the days of arranged marriages did not prevent "a good match." The couple had four children, Elizabeth "Lizzie" (1831-1915), William "Willie" Seagrove (1834-1865), Helen "Sissie" Zubly (1841-1896) and Archibald "Archie" (1844-1923). Their home, erected by slave labor, would house three generations of Smiths.



William Smith Family Tree



In the 1830s, Archibald Smith became "infected with abolitionist ideas and designed to free his Negroes." He began teaching his slaves to read in preparation for their emancipation. Most of his slaves had been given their "free papers" by 1860. Annie was furious at her husband. Her daughters agreed with her insisting that bondage was the only way to protect good Southern women from their "servants." Lizzie wrote, "...war is our duty and our salvation." Annie raged against the "diabolical deeds of emancipated slaves." When a group of "insurrectionists" were captured, she laughed when told of their execution.

In 1861, at the beginning of the Civil War, Willie enlisted in the Confederate Army. He became a telegrapher in Company A, Signal Corps, 18th Georgia Infantry Battalion. Though Annie, and ultimately Archie, would both support secession and the Southern cause, that did not mean they wanted to lose both sons to Union guns.

The Smiths did everything in their power to help Archie avoid the draft. One year after Willie had joined the Army, they enrolled 18 year-old Archie into the Georgia Military Institute (GMI). He would be exempt from active service but would retain his honor by attending a military academy.

Roswell's location near the Chattahoochee River made it an attractive stop for General William Tecumseh Sherman on his March to the Sea. By 1864, Archibald, Annie, and their two daughters were forced to flee as the Union Army soon marched in and used the town's homes for their headquarters. The Smiths were forced to "refugee" in Valdosta until the end of the War.

Archie, and the other GMI cadets, were called into action to defend Atlanta and Savannah. Towards the end of the War, Archie was granted leave to return to his family in order to recover from an illness contracted during his service with the Confederate Army.

Willie was part of the force defending Savannah until it fell in late 1864. He retreated with General William J. Hardee through the Carolinas. In 1865, he fell ill with typhus. Already near death, it was a certainty that he would die if he tried to reach home on his own. The Mason family of Raleigh, North Carolina offered to take him in and care for him there. Willie insisted that he stay in a tent in their yard. Though the family tended to him assiduously, his condition worsened. The Masons wrote as often as they could to Willie's parents keeping them informed of his progress.

Willie's illness was soon exacerbated by severe attacks of dysentery. Feeling death was near, he had the Masons pack his trunk with all his worldly goods and send it to his family. Thirty year-old William Seagrove Smith died in the yard of the Mason family home on July 7, 1865, months after the end of the Civil War.



The Masons buried Willie's body in their family plot in Oakwood Cemetery, Raleigh, North Carolina, Battle Section 20. The Smith family paid for Willie's grave marker which was designed according to their written specifications.

The Smith and Mason families continued to correspond over the years. Archibald and Annie begged the Masons over and over again to give minute accounts of Willie's last days, hours and words. The Masons complied graciously. The only family member to ever visit Willie's grave was his brother, Archie, on his way to Baltimore Business College in May 1869.

Willie's trunk had been sent home with a letter from him. It instructed that his two sisters should share his microscope. A slave, Luke, should have his good woolen shirt. These two items were taken from the trunk. The family, unable to cope with their grief upon seeing their son's personal possessions, then sealed the trunk and stored it in their attic. The Smiths were the equivalents of 19th Century hoarders. When you visit the house today almost all the original furniture is still there.

After the War, the Smith family returned to Roswell to a vastly different life. Neither Lizzie nor Sissie ever married. There were only two eligible bachelors in town...their brother, Archie, was one of them. Archie married Willie's fiancé, Gulielma. It proved to be a true love match.

Archie and Gulielma had four children. They had their two sons promise to never marry and remain at home to care for their sisters. The brothers agreed. Their son, Dr. Archibald Smith, became an ob/gyn and dedicated his life to finding a cure for morning sickness. He did not succeed.

After the deaths of his sisters, Arthur finally wed. He was 60 years-old. The bride was Mary Norwell, a 50 year-old spinster schoolteacher. She had always lived in boarding houses and taken her meals there. She told Arthur on the eve of their wedding that it was too late for her to learn to cook. In 1940, Arthur and Mary reopened the Smith family home, lovingly restored to its original 1845 condition. It had been shuttered for over 25 years. Arthur died in 1960. Mary continued to live in the house, with her companion and caretaker, Mamie Cotton. After Mary's death, the house was deeded to her niece and namesake, Mary Norvell. When Mary sold the plantation to be used as a house museum, she stipulated that Mamie be allowed to remain in the house until her death. Mamie Cotton, the descendant of slaves, was the last living contact of the Smiths to live in the house until she died in 1994. All Mamie ever asked was that the Smith Plantation end their tours by 2:00 PM so as not to interfere with her favorite soap opera, General Hospital.

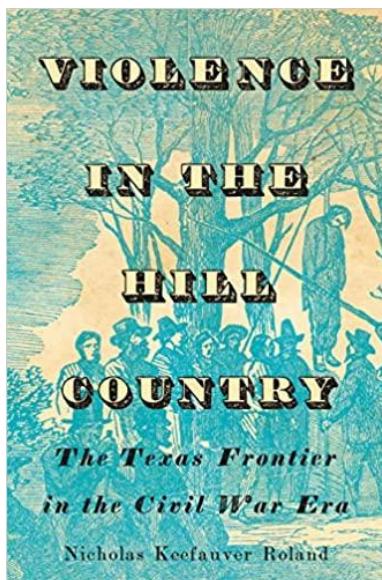
Willie's trunk remained untouched until 1986 when curators discovered it stored in the rear of the attic. When it was opened, curators found family letters, a lock of brown hair, a gray wool uniform coat, sand paper used for striking matches, a blue wool shirt, blue wool pants with white cord stripes on the legs, long underwear with Wm. Smith, Roswell, written on the inside, two handkerchiefs, one white sock with holes in heel and toe, 24 black pills, a silver pocket knife, two hand knit tampons, and a ten-cent Confederate stamp with an image of Jefferson Davis.

Submitted by Judith Breitstein

Violence in the Hill Country: The Texas Frontier in the Civil War Era

By Nicholas Keefauver Roland. Clifton and Shirley Caldwell Texas. Heritage Endowment Series. Austin, University of Texas Press, 2021. 288 pp., \$45.00 (cloth), ISBN 978-1-4773-2175-1.

Reviewed by Richard B. McCaslin (University of North Texas). Published on H-CivWar (September, 2021). Commissioned by G. David Schieffler.



For more than a century after the end of the Civil War, a simple monument in Comfort, Texas, claimed the sad honor of being the only public memorial to Unionists that stood within the former Confederacy. It honored nineteen men killed during and after an engagement with Confederate troops on the Nueces River in August 1862. Some called this a battle, but more remembered it as a massacre since many were shot after they had been captured. Regardless of perspectives, this event and its monument symbolized the violence that swept the Hill Country frontier during the War, setting it apart as one of several regions that experienced the dark side of Confederate nationalism. In this book, Nicholas Keefauver Roland provides a good narrative of what happened in the Hill Country, and he should be commended as the first to place these well-known violent events, especially the aptly named Nueces River Massacre, within a broader historical context. Questions arise, though, in his analysis of these atrocities, specifically in explaining why there was an increase in violence during the War that eclipsed what occurred both before and after. Unfortunately, a failure to consult many good secondary works produced in the past twenty years or so further weakens his analysis and leads to some factual errors, which will annoy some readers but should not distract from the great contribution this book makes.

The author's well-written, detailed narrative of events before, during, and after the Civil War, from roughly 1850 to 1880, focuses on twelve Texas counties within or partially within the Hill Country, all of which were noted for wartime violence. Readers may agree or disagree with his county selection and question whether making choices by level of violence may taint his sample, but in so doing Roland does manage to include the major events in the region during

the period, and he thus defines an effective geographic context for his discussion. After correctly declaring that "specific historical conditions" led to violence, Roland discusses four primary factors: conflicts between settlers and Indians, banditry, weak political institutions, and efforts by the Confederate States of America to win the War (p. 3). Time after time, the readiness of parties on all sides to use violence created a volatile culture that imploded when the Confederacy mandated support from the local populace during a time of economic collapse and military defeat. From 1862--when new laws for taxes, conscription, and impressment made criminals of dissenters--to 1865, more than eighty men died within the White community in the Hill Country, which more than doubled the annual number of deaths per one hundred thousand residents before the War, exclusive of Indian raids. Interestingly, a resurgence in Indian raids after the War, together with the demise of the Confederacy, led to a decline in violence within the White community, which united to fight the raiders. This distinguished the Hill Country from other areas of Texas that endured more Reconstruction turmoil.

Roland discusses many other factors that contributed to wartime violence in the Hill Country. These include geographic isolation; poverty due to a lack of marketable resources and arable land; the fluidity of herding culture (livestock, especially cattle, provided the most income); the departure of the United States Army; and several characteristics that apparently are unique to Anglo males: a culture of honor, a sense of racial superiority, hyper-masculinity, a "tradition of vigilantism," and a "robust martial tradition" (pp. 5, 6). To link all of these, and the previously mentioned four primary factors, together in a coherent analytical framework, the author uses David Kilcullen's model, which he developed to explain urban insurgencies, as a useful paradigm for analyzing conflict in the isolated, rural Hill Country. He thus defines the violence as a fight between Confederates and Unionists for power. But perhaps the wartime clashes that are the focus of his book were the result of Confederate efforts to impose order and compel support on a frontier where the most active prewar governmental institution, the United States Army, focused its efforts on controlling only the Indians, while local government agencies collected few taxes and apparently did little to enforce the law. What if the source of Hill Country violence was not a fight between two groups for control but instead a rejection by a significant part of the population of an external attempt to impose power through taxes, draft, and impressment? Previously there had been no such laws. And the conflict became violent because participants on both sides had become used to such measures, for many of the reasons the author discusses.

According to Roland's appendices, partisan violence claimed the lives of eighty-eight men in the Hill Country from July 1862 to May 1865. While a loss of less than half a percent of the population was far less than that suffered by many other American communities in this era, the death of so many men in such a sparsely settled region still had a horrific impact, which can be better understood by looking, as the author asks, at the historical context. If that is done, then the imposition of martial law by Brigadier General Paul O. Hebert, the Confederate Department Commander for Texas, in May 1862 becomes the primary factor in sparking Hill Country violence. Before Richmond authorities ended martial law in Texas almost five months later, forty-seven men died in partisan violence in the Hill Country, most of them German settlers killed during or after the Nueces River Massacre. Three-fourths of the forty-one victims of partisan violence in the Hill Country from November 1862 through the end of the War were targeted as opponents of the Confederacy by military units operating under

Confederate authority or vigilantes who took advantage of the fact that anyone accused of dissent lost the protection of the law. Arguably these killers followed a template established under martial law, and postwar events proved them right, as few were ever convicted for their crimes. Furthermore, the secession referendum in the Hill Country, which preceded the imposition of martial law, and the first year of the War proceeded relatively peacefully, emphasizing the impact of the tragic decision made by Hebert in May 1862.

Roland does an excellent job of using a variety of primary resources--including government records, newspapers, letters, and memoirs--to create a thorough narrative. But his declaration that his analysis of Hill Country violence during the Civil War can serve as a case study for understanding similar events elsewhere in the United States at that time is undermined by his apparent failure to consult many good secondary works on Civil War violence elsewhere in the country. While he occasionally remarks on how partisan violence in the Hill Country is similar to Union operations in the border states of Missouri and Kentucky, and even Tennessee, he does not cite works on those topics. Nor does he cite recent works on Confederate suppression of dissent throughout the South. Finally, he does not mention violence against those who dissented against the Confederacy in other parts of Texas, even though the cover art for his book is drawn from a contemporary account of the Great Hanging at Gainesville, in which more than forty alleged Unionists lost their lives. Using more secondary sources on wartime events to provide an effective context, especially those that focus on martial law in the Confederacy, would have made this work a better case study to employ in analyzing Civil War violence elsewhere, and it might have improved his insights into why such events occurred in the Hill Country during the War.

A greater use of secondary sources would also have helped Roland avoid some errors that may only matter to specialists. Comanches were not the only Indians who clashed with Hill Country settlers, with whom they shared the distinction of being invaders, having arrived about one century earlier, as well as a sense of racial superiority and masculine honor that led to violent actions. To write that Germans were peaceful and had "no honor culture to speak of" invites harsh criticism that can overshadow the more important points made in this work (p. 6). The same can be said of Roland's claims that the Rio Grande border was peaceful until the outbreak of the Civil War and that other regions of Texas with large pro-Union populations remained relatively quiet during the conflict. Finally, the strong possibility remains that many of those in the Hill Country whom he labels as "Unionist" just wanted to be left alone. But despite these quibbles, and the likelihood that a more thorough review of the secondary literature and a reshuffling of contributing factors might have led to a better analysis, this is a good scholarly work on the violence in the Texas Hill Country during the Civil War. It also happens to be a first book from an author with a distinguished academic lineage. Roland is a great-nephew of the late Charles P. Roland, the fine Southern historian from the University of Kentucky, and this work began as his dissertation. I think his great-uncle should be proud.

Submitted by Bruce A. Castleman, Ph.D.